



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

*The Division of State,
Provincial & Territorial
Psychological Association Affairs*

2023 Officers

PRESIDENT (2023)

Paul T. Korte, Ph.D.
Harry Truman Mem. Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive (BH)
Columbia, MO 65201
Phone: 573-355-2084
pkorte@paloualto.edu

PRESIDENT-ELECT (2023)

Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD
645 Water Garden Way
Roswell, GA 30075
Phone: 917-363-5706
Zoe07470@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT (2023)

Elena Eisman, EdD
25 Clover Way
Eastham, MA 02642
Phone: 617-680-5302
elena.eisman@gmail.com

SECRETARY (2021-23)

Tyler Bradstreet, PhD
2503 6th Street
Lubbock, TX 79409
Phone: 903-631-9319
tyler.bradstreet@ttu.edu

TREASURER (2023-2025)

Nanci Klein, PhD
265 East 100 South, Suite 275
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Phone: 801-350-0116
nklein@sisna.com

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (2023-25)

Michele McKinnie, PsyD
1648 Ellis Street #302
Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: 406-582-1321
michelecatherine@hotmail.com

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (2021-23)

Lawrence Perlman, PhD
623 W. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Phone: 73-846-7949
perlman44@gmail.com

APA COUNCIL REP (2023-25)

Chuck Hollister, Ph.D.
1051 S Freemont Avenue
Springfield, MO 65804
Phone: 417-227-0960
chuckatmopa@gmail.com

CESPPA REP (2022-24)

Danna Fowble, CCM, IOM
PO Box 1585

Norman, OK 73070

Phone: 405-664-0270

okpsychassociation@gmail.com

STUDENT REP (2020-22)

Erika Brink Mesojednik, PsyD
55 Beechwood Dr., Cornish, NH 03745
emesojednik@hanovercibt.com

Focus on 31

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A New Home for Rural Health



**By Paul
Korte, PhD
Division 31
President**

Division 31 has a new Section – Rural Health. My early time with the Division 31 Board of Directors correlated with my own personal thoughts about how I could better connect my personal values with my professional values. I grew up on a farm in Northeast Missouri. We raised cattle, hogs, corn, soybeans, and wheat. My dad worked alongside his father and siblings while modeling for myself, brother, and cousins a good work-ethic and value of family relationships. Farming is a lot of hard work, but very fulfilling to have tangible evidence of your work the moment you complete a task. You can look back at a tilled field or watch livestock grow each day and know that your efforts directly influenced that outcome. Similarly, our local farming community models hard work and has always supported close ties with the land and one another, often helping each other out, particularly in times of need. My family

received this community support just a few years ago when my aunt died unexpectedly in the midst of harvest season. As my uncle was in the midst of processing the sudden death of his wife and planning a funeral, the community supported him by showing up with their own harvesting equipment to bring in all of my uncle's crop in just a few days, allowing my uncle and cousins the time and space to grieve.

When news of tragedy or struggle spread in a rural or frontier community, people come to help. But what happens when that struggle is kept quiet? An individual suffers alone. As psychologists, we are well aware of the ongoing battle against mental health stigma. Rural communities appear to experience mental health stigma to a greater degree. The lack of access to care only perpetuates the problem in our communities leading to staggering data on rural mental illness, addiction, and suicide. Telehealth can greatly improve access, but lack of broadband internet in rural areas remain an obstacle to care.

Psychologists serving rural communities can also feel isolated

New Home for Rural Health

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"Catch a Wave and You're Sitting on Top of the World"



**By Pat
De Leon,
PhD,
former APA
President**

The Perfect Storm? Bob McGrath, the founding chair of the RxP training program at Fairleigh Dickinson University: "Though barely two months old, 2023 is already an exciting year for prescriptive authority (RxP) for psychologists. Bills have already passed in the Arizona Senate Committee, Hawaii House Committee, and both Houses of the Colorado legislature for the Governor's consideration. Why this dramatic progress so quickly? I think two primary factors are the mental health crisis set off by the COVID pandemic, and the continuing growth of suicide rates across the country. Between 2000 and 2018, the U.S. suicide rate increased by 35.2%, affecting every state. Rates dropped in 2019 and 2020, but 2021 saw the rate go up again. Legislators know they need to take action, and RxP is a remarkably cost-effective option. "Supporters of RxP should also be aware that we finally have some evidence about the impact of RxP. Contrary to claims by opponents that prescribing psychologists will be unsafe, the evidence shows we seem to be saving lives. Two studies have been completed so far on suicide rates in New Mex-

ico and Louisiana since the introduction of prescriptive authority, with both demonstrating reduced rates of suicide compared to what would have been expected without RxP. Notably, in neither case were the data analyzed by psychologists. Two economists at the Center for Growth and Opportunity, Utah State University, compared New Mexico and Louisiana to all other U.S. jurisdictions. Their data demonstrates lower increases in suicide rates in both states in most years, with differences appearing two years after passage of the legislation.

"The second study, on which I am a co-author, compared New Mexico and Louisiana to a select group of similar states. The analyses were conducted completely by Phil Hughes, a Doctoral Fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who is developing an impressive research program in unmet mental health needs. This study found the overall mortality rate associated with mental illness decreased by 4.5% in New Mexico when psychologists started prescribing and the increase in suicide rate in Louisiana was lower than that of comparable states. Suicide rates in New Mexico were lower as well in most years, though the overall mean didn't differ significantly.

"I'm excited to say we have another article in preparation looking at parents' report of unmet mental health need in their children. Pooling data over five years, passage of RxP legislation was associated with a 5.5% reduction in parents

indicating their children did not receive needed mental health care. I would be happy to share copies of the materials if anyone would like to see them (mcgrath@fdu.edu)."

Our Societal Responsibility: Diana Prescott, State of Maine: "When people think of rural life, they often think of pastoral scenes with beautiful weather and serenity. Rarely would a person automatically connect rural living with committing suicide, getting drunk and shooting up, sexually and physically abusing women and children, suffering hate crimes, and/or experiencing poverty and homelessness. These tragedies often considered to be urban ones are all too common in rural America, frequently invisible and hidden, and now at a crisis level. This in our United States with a workforce shortage, far too few psychologists and mental health providers living and working in rural areas, and strapped hospitals closing their doors after experiencing the crushing financial, physical, and emotional burden of the COVID pandemic. Rural America right now has lost or is at risk of losing critical emergency medical services which provide a lifeline for rural communities to the urban hospital centers. Urban voices in places of power like Washington, D.C. are far too plentiful and loud, resulting in critical resources being distributed to the more populated areas where most Americans are living and working.

Catch a Wave
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Division 31 SPTA Updates



**Jennifer Kelly,
PhD, ABPP
Past President
APA**

Alberta

The Psychologists' Association of Alberta has launched several new programs over the past year. This has included hiring our first Director of Professional Affairs, a formal mentorship program, and a full professional guidance program. We also launched a full Human Rights Audit of our organization beginning with a three-part training series for board, staff, and key volunteer leaders to challenge our own roles, understanding, and professional engagement in Human Rights. Membership continues to grow, and our members are juggling significant increasing demand for services along with enhanced support for engagement in social justice issues.

Arizona

In Arizona, we are ready for spring and the renewed energy this time of year brings. Our focus this year is Empowering through Community: Building Access and Equity. Illustrations of this theme can be seen all across our organization. Examples include maintaining a strong connection to APA as several members just returned from the annual Practice Leadership Conference in Washington

DC. State-wide, we stay connected to the AZ Board of Psychologist Examiners through our liaison and AzPA members who sit on the board. Legislatively, there has been tremendous effort and collaboration across professions to move the process forward that will hopefully lead to Arizona becoming the 7th state in the U.S. with prescribing psychologists. And lastly, our individual committee agendas include things like a statewide mentorship program, play dates for psychologist parents and their kids and ongoing planning for our yearly convention. Through our combined efforts, we all benefit.

District of Colombia

District of Colombia Psychological Association has continued to develop community alliances to promote the field of psychology. We have participated in the Capital Pride Festival, Military and Veteran Summit, Congressional Office of International Leadership meetings, American Foundation for Suicide Walk out of Darkness, and the National Practice Conference. Additionally, we have partnered with the Catholic University of America Psychology Department to host a CE series to address behavioral health, telehealth, and SUD. Our Board and Committees continue to serve with dedication and passion. We look to continue making strides in this dynamic field and supporting psychologists.

Georgia

The Georgia Psychological Association has been very busy with

the legislative session and preparation for its annual conference in April. On March 7, GPA held its first Legislative Town Hall. Approximately 30 members attended the 90-minute event, hosted by the chair of the Legal and Legislative Committee, Dr. Daniel Rogers. Dr. Rogers presented information about the process by which GPA reaches its legislative positions, as well as a "quiz" about the Georgia legislature, and the Voter Voice platform for facilitating communication between GPA members and targeted members of the legislature. Even experienced members left the event commenting on what they learned and how beneficial it was.

The strong delegation of GPA members who attended PLC, convened Monday night to for a "debriefing" of our experiences and take-aways. It seems important to capture the energy and enthusiasm that comes from attending PLC to the benefit of GPA. On April 21 and 22, GPA will host its annual conference in Athens, Georgia. The theme is "Being and Becoming : Embracing Values, Intersectionality, and Evidence-Based Practice". In addition to the typical programming, the GPA PAC will host a Derby-themed fund-raiser one evening and the Georgia Psychological Foundation will give awards for student posters, a doctoral research award, and an award to a psychologist who has been generous with their time to pro-bono activities. The GPA ECP commit-

SPTA Updates

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CESPPA Midwinter Report



Danna Fowble,
CCM, IOM,
CESPPA Rep.

Practice Leadership and First Two Months of 2023

CESPPA has met twice this year as a Board, and all attended the most recent Practice Leadership Conference. Here are noteworthy items:

- CESPPA has been discussing various ways to communicate more effectively across various channels and groups within APA with the goal of enhancing collaboration and information to all that touch aspects of SPTAs.
 - CESPPA had a great gathering which was most of the second day of PLC covering topics related to SPTA membership, DPAs, List Serv clutter, Collaborative Continuing Education offerings, Governance Documents and Organizational Management.
1. Additionally, CESPPA's new logo was announced at the SPTA meeting. There is also a new website with more information available soon. Also, Oklahoma's delegation really wanted to engage more with surrounding states and suggested table tents being placed like the US map layout to engage collaboration among neighboring states. I suggested that lightly

to Maddie but certainly didn't want the task of being responsible for table tents BACK. Lots of take aways for me from PLC but one that truly resonated was living in your head rent free relating to being in legislators and CMS's head so that every time they pass a law or consider changes, they think about what psychologists would think or how would this affect them.

2. The group honored the work Jo Linder Crow, California Psych Association as she announced retirement effective June 2023. She has started a consulting company where she will provide services to not for profits on board governance, etc. APA also honored Jo for her service with the Distinguished Service Award. She's given more than 18 years to the profession of psychology through her work in California and APA.
3. I heard just a few folks ask about Division 31 ribbons for name badges at PLC and other APA events. Not sure if this is something Div. 31 pays for or APA pays for. If they don't do it for other divisions, it might be because so many people would have ribbons to their knees.
4. Division 31 was very visible at PLC with membership

brochures and new information about rural health section. Awards were great highlighting some great stuff. There was small talk about awards for Exec. Directors of SPTA's.

CESPPA 2023 Executive Committee

- Chair:
Chuck Hollister
- Chair-Elect:
Martha Turner-Quest
- Past-Chair:
Ray Folen
- Secretary:
Kelly Wetzel
- BPA Representative:
Judi Malone
- Division 31 Representative:
Danna Fowble
- Member at Large:
Ann Marie Frakes
- Member at Large:
Jack Hutson

Visit the
[Div. 31 web site](#)
for current
important
information and
informative
blog posts.

Division 31 Council Summary February 2022

Chuck Hollister, PhD
APA Council Representative

The following is a summary of actions taken by the APA's Council of Representatives meeting February 24-25, 2022 that was provided by APA along with additional information provided by Peter Oppenheimer, a member of Council Effectiveness Implementation Oversight Task Force, and by the Indigenous Apology Work Group. I have added a few comments of my own that are displayed in italics that draws from the Task Force and Work Group information and from my own experience at Council.

APA's Council of Representatives held a hybrid meeting Feb. 24-25, with most Council members convening in person in Washington, DC.

Council passed a number of important items.

Confidentiality and Reproductive Health

The Council passed a [policy](#) asserting that confidentiality is central to the practice of psychology, and that psychologists should follow the APA Ethics Code when it comes to patient confidentiality surrounding reproductive health. The policy reaffirms "that a psychologist's allegiance to the Ethics Code, including ethical standards related to patient confidentiality, should be given the utmost attention and significance especially when psychologists are faced with ethical conflicts with a law requiring the disclosure of confidential information regarding sexual and reproductive health, including

birth control; fertility treatment; contemplating, seeking, or having had an abortion; and related issues."

The vote was 148-4, with one abstention. This measure follows on a [resolution](#) the Council passed in February 2022 reaffirming APA's commitment to reproductive justice as a human right, including equal access to legal abortion, affordable contraception, comprehensive sex education and freedom from sexual violence, with a particular emphasis on individuals from marginalized communities.

Establishment of a Committee for the Advancement of General Applied Psychology

The Council voted 144-13, with one abstention, to amend the Association Rules to establish a Committee for the Advancement of General Applied Psychology. The committee's purpose will be to promote, in settings outside the direct delivery of health care services, the utilization, application and advancement of science where psychologists work to enhance performance, learning, and well-being of individuals, groups, organizations, and society as a whole. *There was considerable debate as to whom the Committee should report. The Committee will report directly to APA's Board of Directors.*

Adoption of Policies

The Council unanimously adopted revised [APA Principles for Quality Undergraduate Education in Psychology](#) and approved December 2032 as the expiration date. These principles offer best

practices that faculty members, programs, and departments can adopt to facilitate student learning and development, in ways that fit their institutional needs and missions. This document is designed to complement, and to be used in conjunction with, the [APA Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major](#).

The Council voted by 151-4, with one abstention, to adopt [Educational Guidelines for Equitable and Respectful Treatment of Students in Graduate Psychology Training Programs](#). These guidelines encourage graduate psychology programs to promote the equitable and respectful treatment of graduate students throughout their education and training so that students may fully benefit from their graduate education and maximize their potential within and beyond their graduate programs. *There was some discussion that a parallel policy is needed that would require respectful treatment by graduate students towards faculty.*

The Council adopted a resolution on [Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Quality Continuing Education and Professional Development](#) by a vote of 139-8, with two abstentions. This resolution is aimed at providing CE sponsors and the broader public evidence-based recommendations to support the integration of equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility in continuing education. The policy may be used as a foundation to develop additional resources that build on this docu-

Council Report
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ECP Interests

by Ryan Flinn, PhD
Division 31 Early Career
Psychologist and Student
Committee Co-Chair

Greetings from Augusta, GA! My name is Ryan Flinn, and I am the newly appointed State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Associations Representative on the APA Committee on Early Career Psychologists. I earned my doctorate degree in counseling psychology with a minor in integrated behavioral healthcare from New Mexico State University in 2021.

In this role, I am delighted to liaise with Division 31's Executive Committee and write content for Division 31's Newsletter. I also had a chance to meet many Division 31 Members at the 2023 Practice Leadership Conference (PLC) in March, and wished to offer my reflections as a first-time attendee at PLC. I hope my words inspire other ECPs to get excited about attending future PLCs.

PLC was a blast! The programming consisted of invited talks from various APA staff members, including our president and CEO,

as well as leaders of APA boards and committees. Topics of discussion included current trends in training of psychologists, professional practice issues, and various advocacy efforts. I especially enjoyed being involved in the ECP affinity group where early career psychologists sent to represent their SPTAs worked together to identify issues impacting ECPs, brainstorm solutions, and forge connections to support ongoing action. I had a great time, and hope to meet more members of Division 31 at a future PLC!



Early Career Psychologists Affinity Group at Practice Leadership Conference, Washington, DC, March 2023

Interdivisional Healthcare Committee Updates



**by Elena
Eisman,
EdD,
Division 31
Immediate
Past-
President**

The Inter-Divisional Healthcare Committee (IHC) met for their winter meeting in January. IHC a coalition of APA divisions with healthcare in their missions. It has been meeting twice- yearly for two decades and includes Divisions 17, 22, 31, 38, 40, 42, 43, 54, and members of the APA practice staff (Dr. Stephen Gillaspay this meeting). This group, which is a coalition and not part of the APA governance system, has been very effective working collaboratively with APA over the years. It was the group responsible for creating the Health and Behavior billing code concept then working with APA to implement them. Divisions 31 (and 42) were recent additions to this group which I came to appreciate when I was a staff person at APA and realized that the voice of SPTAs and state healthcare policy was missing from their discussions. Our division is represented by me, and Dr. Paul Korte was added this year as alternate (next year these roles will be reversed).

The key item impacting Div.31 was the roll-out of the video training program on basic pain management for practitioners. It was developed to provide free to SPTAs who can charge for the participants as a funding opportunity. More importantly, it was developed to provide training on basic knowl-

edge about pain and pain management in a clinical situation, an area not widely taught in graduate school for any health profession. It was created with the intent to create a trained psychology workforce with knowledge of pain issues in part as a response to the continuing drug crisis and early precursors of addiction. It can also be combined with state level advocacy to publicize this to health regulators and insurers. It also might allow psychology to obtain some of the grant funding coming into states for opioid related prevention and treatment. The SPTAs have not picked up on this opportunity in substantial numbers so I would like to encourage you to add this free opportunity to your CE schedule this year. It is on video with pain experts Drs. Dan Bruns, Ravi Prasad and our own Jennifer Kelly. You can combine the video presentation with local pain experts to create a series for your members.

Other issues of particular significance to Div. 31 were Dr. Paul Korte's announcement of his Rural Health and Healthcare Accessibility initiative. This creates a section and listserv, something that is missing from APA structures. This resource was well received as needed by the group. We encourage any member to join this listserv which provides important information related to rural health.

An ongoing issue has been the work Dr. Dan Bruns and others were doing with Kathryn Mueller, MD, Past-President of AMA's Academy of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) to develop a protocol for evaluating

disability with integration of patient-reported functional status not just traditional medical condition data. This brings into the equation the importance of psychological data and demonstrates the importance of evaluating the functional and psychological impact on a patient of their injuries or disabilities, not just the traditional clinical medical evaluation. This related to the World Health Organization (WHO) initiative to develop The International Classification of Functioning (ICF), a system of functional classification parallel to the International Classification of Disease (ICD). Dr Bruns and colleagues from IHC and the AMA's rehabilitation medicine association have developed this language guidance to add to the AMA Guidelines to Impairment protocols. AMA recognized that psychology was the best discipline to determine which assessment instruments to use to determine functional impact of disability conditions, and in general seeing assessment as the purview of the profession of psychology.

Other issues raised and discussed were ones that impact psychology workforce, Long-Covid has created problems in access to neuropsychological services due to long waiting lists. A model is being piloted at VUMC, Mt Sinai and Duke for addressing triage and health workforce integration to address this need. Also, a model for interdisciplinary screening programs for cancer distress in patients addresses waiting lists for psychological services through

Interdivisional Health
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Division 31 President-elect Candidate Statements



Raymond A. Folen, PhD, ABPP

Aloha Division 31 colleagues! I am excited to have the opportunity to run for president-elect of the Division. Having recently served as Chair of CESPPA (the Council of Executives of State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Associations), I am aware of the many challenges our respective SPTAs are currently experiencing and am deeply appreciative of Division 31's Strategic Plan to ensure that our SPTAs remain healthy, effective and capable. If elected, my goal during the Presidential triad years (as President-Elect, President and Past-President) is to lend my wholehearted support to these

Strategic Plan initiatives.

Serving as CESPPA Chair has also given me the opportunity to appreciate the tremendous investment our colleagues in the SPTAs, Division 31, the APA Council of State Leaders, the APA Board of Directors and others within APA have made to our SPTA viability. These efforts will benefit from greater inter-organizational collaboration and communication, something that I will make a priority.

Supporting our SPTAs during these ever-changing times is critical. While advocacy at the federal level is extremely important, how the practice of psychology looks now - and how it will look in 10 years from now - is very often determined **at the state level**. SPTAs address the challenges our profession faces and are at the forefront of championing practice

initiatives that will advance us into the future. However, most psychologists in practice do not belong to their state or territorial psychological associations. I will be actively involved in Division 31's efforts to develop strategies to increase membership and active involvement in our SPTAs.

As a licensed psychologist, I served for many years as the civilian Chief of the US Army's largest Department of Psychology with a staff of 150 personnel. I was President and Chair of the National Register of Health Service Psychologists from 2013-2018 and am currently the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Psychological Association.

Mahalo,
Ray



Larry Perlman, PhD

I have been a working clinician for 50 years in diverse practice settings, both institutional and private, in New York City and Ann Arbor. I taught in several graduate programs and started my own training program in child and family therapy. I have a long history of organizational activity and advocacy.

As Member-at-Large for Division 31 for the past three years, I discovered that two dozen mostly rural SPTAs have little or no participation in Division 31. They suffer from limited financial resources, part-time administration, and few volunteer members. Our goal is to reach out and engage these needy state associations and provide them with mentoring and other resources to help build their organizations. They need better marketing, recruitment, and presentation of locally relevant services to grow their membership.

We plan to publicize the successes of well-run SPTAs and the best practices that they embody.

They can serve as role models for other associations. One idea that has been proposed is to spotlight a different SPTA every two months.

Finally, we wish to engage the leadership at APA to provide more visibility for the SPTAs and resources to further their growth and viability. This can be accomplished through larger operating and other grants. However, it can also take the form of cooperative arrangements that share resources. For example, an email swap arrangement that was piloted by the Membership office was mutually beneficial to the SPTA and APA.

As President Elect, I will be able to implement these initiatives.

Division 31 Secretary Candidate Statements



**Erika
Mesojednik,
Psy.D.**

It has been a real pleasure to serve as Student Chair in the past for Division 31. I would love the opportunity to continue as the Secretary since I am passionate about advocating for SPTA's. SPTA's have been relied upon to support the practice of

psychology, many times, with little resources. I welcome the opportunity to help advocate and develop additional resources that can be accessed by all.

I am currently in my own SPTA, the New Hampshire Psychological Association through their membership committee. This has been a great way for me to learn how a small SPTA works. Previously, I held many leadership roles within Minnesota Psychological Association including Student Division Co-Chair and Women's Division Chair.

Running for secretary of Division 31, I hope to continue to support SPTA's role in advocacy, achieving their goals, and continuing to support the relationship with APA. Since joining Division 31, I have found the knowledge and kindness of the division to be unique as the members understand the balance of practice and advocacy. If elected, I would do my best to serve the members' needs to continue to advocate for the best interests of SPTA's.



**Jeanne
Slattery,
PhD**

Jeanne M. Slattery, Ph.D., is professor and assistant chair of Psychology at PennWest University and has authored or co-authored three books: *Empathic counseling: Building skills to empower change* (2020); *Trauma, meaning, and spirituality: Translating research into clinical practice* (2017); and *Counseling diverse clients:*

Bringing context into therapy (2004). She currently serves as president of Pennsylvania Psychological Association, which has just received Div. 31's Diversity Award. She has a small private practice working with adults and teens with mood and anxiety disorders, especially due to a history of trauma.

Division 31 Member at Large Candidate Statements



Rebecca Richey, Psy.D.

As the immediate past chair of the Committee on

Early Career Psychologists (CECP), and the State, Provincial and Territorial association representative of CECP for the last three years, I am eager to continue working with Division 31 to

further state/APA association collaborative efforts for ECPs as well as other psychologists. Also, a past president of my state association (Colorado Psychological Association), I have excellent insight into the link between state association needs and APA's resources. I am prepared to offer this insight as well as support for Division 31's mission and values. As the CECP representative to Division 31, I felt supported and encouraged, and noticed

that Division 31 members and leadership went out of their way to welcome ECPs in both state and national association leadership. I was included in important matters pertaining to ECPs and I felt my voice was heard and respected, which is sometimes difficult when one is an ECP. I hope to join the leadership of Division 31 in order to continue this encouraging, welcoming spirit for others and to support the mission and values of Division 31.



Jorge Wong, PhD

Greetings Div. 31 colleagues. I am Jorge Wong, PhD and honored to be a candidate for the Member at Large position on the Div 31 Board. I am a California licensed psychologist with experience in the public and private healthcare systems including small to large non-profit multiservice healthcare organizations. I have focused primarily on undeserved and ethnic minority communities through behavioral health services in the areas of corrections, community mental health, addiction, homelessness,

quality improvement and compliance. I have also been involved in graduate training, executive leadership, advocacy, policy development and community engagement. I currently serve as the CA Representative to APA Council of Representatives and the APA Minority Fellowship Program Mental Health Substance Abuse Services Training Advisory Council (MFP-MHSAS-TAC). Previously I served on the Committees on Professional Practices and Standards (COPPS), the Advancement of Professional Psychology (CAPP), and State Leadership Committee (SLC). I am also the past president of the California, San Francisco, and Santa Clara County Psychological Associations.

I am a proud Banana Slug from the University of California, Santa Cruz, an alum and trustee at Palo Alto University, and currently

focused on private practice providing psychotherapy and expert testimony for the probate court. I am the recipient of the 2022 California Psychological Association Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Award, and the 2020 Outstanding Psychologist Award from Division 31. Growing up in Cuba and in San Francisco's Chinatown, I am a first-generation college graduate and psychologist in my family. I always remembered the advice shared by my mentors of "*don't forget where you came from,*" "*always give back,*" and "*mediocrity is common, excellence is a must.*" In serving as a Member at Large on the Board of Div 31, I want to leverage my experience, collaborate with the Board, and contribute positively to Div 31's mission. I am here humbly asking for your vote.

Division 31 Member at Large Candidate Statements



**Julie B.
Wolter,
Psy.D.**

State associations provide such a critical function for professional communities through scientific and practice education, collaboration, advocacy for the profession and assisting the public regarding mental health whether by guiding them to psychologists or connecting with journalists. This work is so meaningful to me, I am active in RI and NH. In NH, I chair NHPA's

Behavioral Healthcare Advocacy Committee and Director of Professional Affairs, as well as the President of NHPA's Educational Foundation. For RIPA, I am the Federal Advocacy Coordinator and a previous Board Director. State associations provide that critical connection between APA and the states for grassroots understanding of local political issues, practice concerns, and workforce. I appreciate the struggles state associations can have financially as well as membership and working together with a group of devoted

colleagues in finding innovative ways to stay solvent. Division 31 is an essential division of APA to advocate for SPTAs for important things like increasing grants to state associations to hire Directors of Professional Affairs and lobbyists to advocate on the state level during a time of deregulation, anti-transgender bills, women's rights. I would be honored to participate on a national level on APA's Division 31 Board to support its mission of providing resources and services to SPTAs as well as advocating for SPTAs within APA governance.

Visit the [Division 31 web site](#)
to see these blogs for a variety of communities:
[Diversity Task Force](#)
[Early Career Psychologists](#)
[Ethics Education](#)
[Health Care Reform](#)
[Student Task Force](#)

Division 31 Student Member Candidate Statements



**Phoebe
Lewis, M.S.**

I am a Psy.D. candidate at Antioch University New England, where I am entering my fourth year. I am a member of the Vermont Psychological Association and serve as newsletter editor and an Executive Committee (EC) member for the Vermont Association for Psychoanalytic Studies (VAPS). I am the only student member on the VAPS EC and appreciate the opportunity to lend my perspectives to this organization.

If the APA is like a tree with extended branches representing its divisions, I see Div. 31 as the

roots. This Division anchors the APA by facilitating communication, promoting individual and collaborative Division-wide efforts, and connecting psychologists with opportunities to grow in leadership and contribute to the field. I would love to support Div. 31's important leadership efforts that contribute to the APA, and in turn, engender meaningful impact even beyond the Association.

For me, clinical psychology and advocacy are symbiotic. I am passionate about working with refugee and displaced populations and am currently training at a clinic where I work exclusively with this population and survivors of torture. A widely recognized risk factor for suicide in this population – and the focus of my dissertation! – is post-migration living distress, or PMLD. The structural difficulties inherent to living in a new country can

be enormously consequential to people's mental health and overall well-being. The clients I work with are experiencing specific structural inequities that cannot be ignored when developing and implementing treatment.

I mention this clinical background to illustrate that I think systemically and holistically and that this will influence my contributions as a student representative. It goes without saying that we are living through a time in which laws are being wielded as a weapon against many groups, especially the LGBTQ community. The APA code of ethics calls on psychologists to practice beneficence and nonmaleficence, and I see Div. 31 as a driving force in this effort by supporting the field as a whole. I would be honored to be considered for this role.

New Home for Rural Health

Continued from page 1

at times, as one may be the only mental health professional, let alone psychologist, in a locality trying to bring a much-needed service to a community they love. My hope is that our SPTAs are providing a local home for psychologists to connect with each other regarding rural health needs and advocating at their state, provincial, or territorial level to improve rural mental health care. Now, Division 31 can serve as another source of commu-

nity, advocacy, and resource across geographic boundaries to build a community of psychologists interested in rural health.

This growing Section within Division 31 will also serve as a resource to others. Psychologists familiar with rural communities can educate colleagues on the unique culture associated with living outside an urban area and advocate for issues that matter to rural health professionals and the populations they serve. APA has already made inroads with groups such as Farm

Aid, and this new Section hopes to grow that outreach to more rural focused groups.

The 2023 Practice Leadership Conference was a wonderful opportunity to spread the word on this new Section and acknowledge the role each SPTA has with rural communities. I hope we can build on that message to strengthen our Division, our SPTAs, and communities we serve.

To join the Rural Health Section, contact our Section Chair, Dr. Emily Shelby-Nelson: Emily.Selby.Nelson@cchcwv.com.

Division 31 Student Member Candidate Statements



Kymbriona Taylor

It is an honor to be nominated to serve as the student representative for Division 31's Executive Board. Through my involvement in the Missouri Psychological Association (MOPA), I have been able to recognize the importance of students being involved in their SPTAs.

I deeply appreciate Division 31 for seeking a student voice in their governance. I believe Division 31 is a wonderful place for students to learn the significance of advocating for psychology, their patients, and

society's marginalized populations. I have served in leadership and advocacy roles at the local, state, and national level including positions as the President of the University of Missouri (MU) Counseling Psychology Student Organization and the Student Affiliates of Seventeen Tri-Chair in the Society of Counseling Psychology (SCP).

As a future psychologist and a woman of color, I have a strong commitment to EDI initiatives. I have been a student consultant for the MU Nurturing Minority Wellness program. I currently work as a research assistant on a photovoice project concerned with inclusion, diversity, and equity. I am a member of MOPA's Diversity Committee and have participated in our Association's advocacy efforts.

This past year I had the privilege to represent MOPA at the

Practice Leadership Conference. I was able to collaborate with other student leaders about increasing student involvement in SPTAs and improving the experience of current students and the future of our field. This is an endeavor that I plan to commit to in my goal to be an active leader in my SPTA after graduation. As future leaders of psychology, I strongly believe students can learn from our state leaders as well contribute our own insights and perspectives.

I am enthusiastic for the opportunity to collaborate with the leaders and esteemed members of Division 31 to facilitate advocacy and dialogue regarding the political, social, and multicultural issues that impact the work we do with our clients and colleagues in the profession. Thank you for your consideration.

Interdivisional Health

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triaging the core needs of the patient so they are referred to the most appropriate discipline, such as psychological, social services, spirituality or nursing.

Dr. Gillaspie described the changes in CPT coding changes for this year which will be communicated to APA members in separate messages and the creation of a CPT advisory group to work with him in addressing CMS, CPT and RUC funding-related issues. He also encouraged psychology to continue to respond to calls for comment to CMS. This is very important and last year psychology was the most

responsive discipline!

Dr. Cipriano, past DPA in Connecticut, discussed concerns with state sponsored Health Information Exchanges which require linkage of EMRs data. This is an issue that many providers and patients are unclear about, and she is encouraging everyone to find out what is happening at their state level and to address privacy concerns at the state and regional level.

Internship issues for marginalized populations was discussed. A plan was presented for discussing the low match rates for marginalized populations with the health

psychology communities and for reporting on this issue at future meetings. This situation relates to low rates of professional representation within the field. The discussion turned to finances both for cost of travel to interviews (made easier with video options) as well as the high cost of living in many areas as being barriers. Also disabled trainees typically cannot get needed accommodations.

The meeting ends with each of the member divisions sharing their most significant activities and initiatives. Please feel free to reach out to me if you want further information.

Division 31 Takes DC by Storm for PLC Conference

Division 31 leaders took the opportunity to meet with their Members of Congress during the 2023 Practice and SPTA Leadership Conference. They also took the opportunity to pose with “President Biden” and “Dr. Jill Biden” during breaks.



How many presidents can you name in the photo on the right?



SPTAs Honored for Their Work Throughout the Year



Division 31 President Dr. Paul Korte, upper left, presented awards to several SPTAs for their outstanding achievements.

Top right, Delaware was named the Outstanding SPTA for 2023. *Center*, Pennsylvania received the SPTA Diversity Program Award.

Bottom left, North Carolina received the Early Career Psychologist Award. *Below right*, Dr. Peter Oppenheimer was named the Outstanding SPTA Staff Person.

Congratulations to all the states and individuals recognized for their great work on behalf of psychology!

Catch a Wave

Continued from page 2

“Fortunately, there are some critically needed resources being identified to assist the rural underserved American. Telehealth has provided a solution for connecting rural people to health resources, much in the way the telephone did at one time. We are still working on improving broadband and equipment (such as the use of personal iPhones to provide mental health care to migrant farmworkers in California) to make this more widely available. Integrated primary care; that is, seeing a mental health provider at the doctor’s office, in an integrated mobile healthcare van, or in a school clinic, has offered an important solution in rural America to the stigma that still exists regarding seeking mental health care. Rural America deserves a corps of psychologists to hear their voices, address their mental health pain,

and provide hope, as Kirk Schneider advocated in his candidacy for APA President. I was encouraged to recently hear some details about President Biden’s comprehensive mental health plan, and I hope it will provide a multi-pronged agenda to assure critically needed mental health services are provided to rural Americans.” Decades ago, working with the U.S. Senate Rural Health Caucus, we observed that every state in our nation has rural citizens – unfortunately, often overlooked.

Investing in the Future: I recently had the pleasurable opportunity at the annual AMSUS conference to hear the Immediate AMA Past President call for increasing access to telehealth services and for addressing the stigma associated with receiving mental health and substance use care. For psychology, obtaining licensure mobility is a major policy issue and one critical to telehealth

practice. Alex Siegel, Director of Professional Affairs, Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB), reports that as of January 14, 2023, the Psychological Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) has been adopted in 35 jurisdictions, 33 of which are currently effective. Does the leadership of your state psychological association appreciate the long-term significance of this legislation? I might further note, that an outside observer could well wonder if psychology is serious about its professional future. During the 2021-2022 cycle, our Psychology PAC raised \$182,720, the Physical Therapists raised \$1,102,936, the Occupational Therapists \$306,127, and the Nurse Practitioners \$443,204; while Psychiatry raised \$429,280. Have you contributed? “And baby go catch some rays on the sunny surf” (*Catch A Wave*, The Beach Boys). Aloha,

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Council Report

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ment and provide tangible support to CE sponsors to infuse EDIA thoughtfully and intentionally in their offerings.

Amendments to Association Rules

The Council voted 147-2, with four abstentions, to amend the Association Rules to modify the review process for Board of Director member-at-large candidates and to apply that review process to all other members of the Board of Directors. Changes include asking prospective candidates, upon being slated, to disclose to the Election Committee claims made against them within the last 10 years for malpractice or unethical or unprofessional conduct, or if they are currently the subject of criminal indictment. The Election Committee will then evaluate the disclosures and determine whether the candidate can remain on the slate. The decision of the Election Committee can be appealed to the Board of Directors.

Guidelines

The Council voted unanimously to extend the effective date of the [APA Specialty Guidelines In Forensic Psychology](#) through December 2026. The purpose of these guidelines is “to improve the quality of forensic psychological services; enhance the practice and facilitate the systematic development of forensic psychology; encourage a high level of quality in professional practice; and encourage forensic practitioners to acknowledge and respect the rights of those they serve.”

Recommendations from the Council Effectiveness Implementation Oversight Task Force

The Council voted to accept recommendations to publicize new business items in advance of Council meetings and give the movers and any opponents time to address the new business items at the Council plenary session. The motion passed by 104-40, with eleven abstentions. This was part of a series of recommendations aimed at making it easier to get new business items on the Council agenda. Several recommendations related to this effort were postponed until the Council’s August meeting.

The Council voted 103-52, with two abstentions, to create a liaison program of Council members who would be assigned to up to eight selected boards and committees. *The program was recommended by the Council Effectiveness Implementation Oversight Task Force.* The program will be managed by the Council Leadership Team.

There has been longstanding criticism of Council related to its lack of productivity. A number of items designed by the Council Effectiveness Implementation Oversight Task Force to make it easier for members to bring up new business items to Council, particularly small coalition, failed. Arguments against the items were that it was already easy to bring up items to Council and that the current standards do a better job of requiring items to be better designed and vetted.

Report of An Offer of Apology, on behalf of APA, to First Peoples in the United States

The Council accepted a [Report of An Offer of Apology, on behalf of the American Psychological Association, to First Peoples in the United States](#). This report builds upon [APA’s Apology to People of Color for APA’s role in Promoting, Perpetuating, and Failing to Challenge Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Human Hierarchy in U.S.](#), which the Council adopted in October 2021. The offer of apology to First Peoples will be delivered by the APA president to the Society of Indian Psychologists at a time and place to be determined jointly with the SIP leadership. The report was received by a vote of 148-2, with three abstentions. *There was some discussion on how to refer to certain groups, particularly Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians.*

Reflecting on APA’s Strategic Plan and Progress To-Date

Council began the process of reviewing and updating APA’s current strategic plan. Since the strategic plan was adopted in 2019, APA has been regularly gathering information to assess progress in advancing its short- and long-term goals. Rooted in APA’s organizational foundation of science and belief in data-driven decision making, APA governance and staff are asking questions that probe the effectiveness of APA’s transformation in accomplishing the association’s mission and achieving impact.

Council Report

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Council Report

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Four years into the implementation and evaluation of the strategic vision, the data show APA is generating noticeable momentum as an association. A review of the

strategic plan and accomplishments are available publicly, [IMPACT in Action: Reflecting on APA's Strategic Plan and Progress To-Date](#).

Presidential Citations

APA President Thema Bryant, PhD, presented Presidential Citations to psychologists Gordon C. Nagayama Hall, PhD, and Wendi Sharee Williams, PhD, for their contributions to the field.

SPTA Updates

Continued from page 3

tee and the Senior Psychologist Network have partnered to offer mentoring opportunities in areas of practice as well and professional development. These events have been popular and well-attended and have promoted the expansion of relationships.

Missouri

The Missouri Psychological Association will have our first full-fledged conference since the start of the pandemic in July. We are pursuing legislation to better protect telehealth, particularly audio-only telehealth. We are hosting a national workshop for CESPPA concerned with helping adolescents struggling with depression and suicidal thoughts. Our Diversity Committee continues to provide expert testimony for clients of a large metropolitan-based public defender's office. We have begun a new Practice Committee and a revitalized Student Committee

to assist our private practice and student communities. We are planning in conjunction with a large community behavioral healthcare center a rural integrated healthcare conference for interns and their supervisors in September. We conducted an extensive advocacy survey and a separate diversity survey with membership.

Vermont

Vermont has recently become an approved provider of continuing education for psychologists in New York State. In addition, our advocacy efforts this year are focused on passing PSYPACT and on advance prescriptive authority for psychologists with advanced training. By statute, Vermont is assembling a group to study the feasibility and desirability of consolidating the mental health licensing boards. VPA intends to oppose that effort.

Virginia

The Virginia Academy of

Clinical Psychologists (VACP) just finished their 2023 legislative session where they introduced legislation to mandate reimbursement for audio-only telehealth services by managed care organizations. The legislation was advanced through the first part of the legislative process and has now been sent to the Virginia Health Insurance Reform Commission (HIRC) that is charged by law with studying any new insurance mandates. Additionally, VACP has just drafted an updated Position Statement Regarding the Use of Third-Party Observers (TPO) During Forensic Psychological/Neuropsychological Assessments that may be found here. In the next quarter, VACP will host their annual spring conference from April 14-15 in Alexandria, VA, and invites all others to attend. Information on the conference may be found at www.va-psych.org. During this conference, VACP will install its new President, Dr. Alicia Meyer of Chesapeake, VA

Nominations Wanted

Division 31 annual ***Outstanding Psychologist Award*** nominations due June 1.

Nominations are wanted for Div. 31's annual Outstanding Psychologist Award. Nominations and supporting materials should be sent to Awards Chair Elena Eisman, EdD at elena.eisman@gmail.com by June 1, 2023.

Supporting materials should include a letter of recommendation from the person(s) making the nomination stating reasons why the nominee should be considered. The letter should highlight some of the aspects mentioned below. Also, please forward the curriculum vitae of nominee. The Outstanding Psychologist Award honors a psychologist whose distinguished contributions might include:

- Demonstrating outstanding leadership in state, provincial, or territorial psychological associations.
- Advocating for psychology through state, provincial, or territorial psychological associations.
- Impacting psychology and our clients through distinguished service.
- Serving as a role model for active participation in organized psychology.
- Being a volunteer SPTA member (Required).



APA Division 31 Committee Chairs

Executive Director

Connie Paul, Ph.D.
5154 Stage Road, Suite 102
Memphis, TN 38122
Phone: 901-372-9133
TPAMember@juno.com

Advocacy

Felicia Smith, PhD
Phone: 502-614-7600
drfsmith@gmail.com

Awards

Elena Eisman, EdD
Phone: 617-680-5302
elena.eisman@gmail.com

Communication

Terrence Koller, PhD
Phone: 847-475-5551
tjkoller@gmail.com

Convention Program

Kendra Westerhaus, PhD
Phone: 208-232-3355 x 1508
kwesterhaus@healthwiseinc.org

Diversity

Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD
Phone: 917-363-5706
Zoe07470@gmail.com
Keisha Ross, PhD
Phone: 314-652-4100 x 55401
drkeishaross@gmail.com

ECP and Students

Ryan Flinn, PhD
Phone: 402-575-7016
ryanelliottflinn@gmail.com
Erika Brink Mesojednik, PsyD
Phone: 507-244-0014
emesojednik@hanovercvt.com

Federal Advocacy

Tyler Bradstreet, PhD
Phone: 903-631-9319
tyler.bradstreet@ttu.edu

Fellowship

Donald McAleer, PsyD, ABPP
Phone: 814-877-8013
DonPsyD@aol.com

Heiser Award

Tom J. Demaio, PhD
Phone: 434-971-6924
tjd@demaiopsychology.com

Membership

Dinelia Rosa, PhD
Phone: 646-283-2589
rosa@exchange.tc.columbia.edu

Newsletter Editor

Zoe Proctor-Weber, PhD
Phone: 727-398-6661, x4678
zoe.proctor-weber@va.gov

Newsletter Managing Editor

Diane Slaughter, APR, Fellow
Phone: 304-984-0308
homesteadcommunications@
frontier.com

Nominations/Elections

Elena Eisman, EdD
Phone: 617-680-5302
elena.eisman@gmail.com

Website Manager

Andy Benjamin, JD, PhD, ABPP
Phone: 206-616-6220
gahb54@u.washington.edu

Liaisons & Task Forces

APA Advocacy Coordinating
Danna Fowble
okpsychassociation@gmail.com

APA Interdivisional Healthcare

Elena Eisman, EdD
elena.eisman@gmail.com

BPA

Peter Oppenheimer, PhD
pmoppenheimer@bbhsri.com

Committee of State Leaders

Raymond Folen, PhD, ABPP
hpaexec@gmail.com

Diversity Leadership Program

Jennifer Kelly, PhD, ABPP
jfkphd@aol.com

Early Career Psychologists

Ryan Flinn, PhD
ranelliottflinn@gmail.com

Integrated Care Task Force

Stella Nelms, PhD
stella.d.nelms@emory.edu

Natalie Pilipenko, PhD, ABPP
np2615@cumc.columbia.edu

*LGBT Concerns Office/Comm on
Sexual Orientation-Gender Div.*

Lindsey Buckman, PsyD
buckmanconsulting@gmail.com

Regulatory Task Force

Peter Oppenheimer, PhD
pmoppenheimer@bbhsri.com

Rural Health

Emily Selby-Nelson, PhD
Emily.Selby.Nelson@cchswv.org