



NSPA NEWS

The Voice of Psychology in Nevada

April 2007

Upcoming Events

4/13/ -4/14/07 Parent
Coordination Training in
Las Vegas- 12 CEs

5/4/07 Ethics in Supervi-
sion (6 Ethics CEs), NSPA
Annual NSPA Awards and
Business Luncheon in Las
Vegas

5/4/07 Southern Social-
follows Annual Meeting

5/5/07 Join us for Strategic
Planning in Las Vegas. All
are welcome.

10/5/07 Pain Management
and Treatment in Reno- 6
CEs

11/3/07 Acceptance and
Commitment Therapy
(ACT) in Vegas- 6 CEs

Watch for more local
workshops and gatherings!



Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority Receives National Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award and Best Practice Honors

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) was recently recognized by the American Psychological Association (APA) for its workplace practices promoting employee health and well-being. LVCVA was among six organizations to receive the National Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award (PHWA) in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on March 3rd. The organization is a previous winner of the Nevada State Psychological Association's state-level Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award, qualifying them for the national award nomination.

"We were enormously proud when LVCVA came on the stage to receive the Award. Forty-eight states nominated their winners for this year's National Awards and LVCVA was one of 6 in the country to receive the award. In addition, they received a National Best Practices Award," Dr. Roberta Ferguson, Chair of Nevada's Psychologically Healthy Workplace Awards Program stated.

Combined, this year's six National PHWA winners report an average turnover rate of just 14 percent that trounces the national average of 40 percent as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Additionally, surveys completed by the six winning organizations show that only 19 percent of employees report high levels of work stress compared to 33 percent nationally.¹

"The cost of stress to employers is huge," says Russ Newman, PhD, JD, APA executive director for professional practice. "Employers spend an estimated 300 billion dollars a year on stress-related absenteeism, turnover, lowered productivity, and direct medical, legal and insurance costs."²

Psychologically healthy workplace practices fall into five categories: employee involvement; health and safety; employee growth and development; work-life balance; and employee recognition. Employee participation in decision making, skills training and leadership development, flexible work arrangements, and programs promoting healthy lifestyle and behavior choices are just a few of the qualities that define a psychologically healthy workplace.

"Although it has been reported that Nevada is one of the most stressful states in the Nation, there are many companies which merit recognition for their psychologically healthy workplaces. During the last two years, we have given awards to LVCVA; New York, New York Hotel and Casino; Shred-It Las Vegas; High Sierra Industries; HSBC Card Services; Nevada Federal Credit Union; Renown Medical Center; St. Mary's Regional Medical Center; and Vitals, Inc." stated Dr. Ferguson.

More information about Nevada's PHWA winners can be found on our website, www.nevadapsychologists.org. More information about the National PHWA winners is available at <http://apahelpcenter.mediaroom.com>.

¹American Psychological Association National Survey 2005

²American Institute of Stress

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Judy Phoenix, Ph.D.

I will be completing my term as President of NSPA in May and handing the reins over to the very capable Michelle Carro. Thank you all for your support this year.

I started the year with several goals in mind: Build community, upgrade the website, and get us financially in better shape. I think I've made some small progress in all these, but find that my primary task this year was to see us through a major transition, and in the process to become the new executive director.

Before I go I'd like to express my gratitude to a long list of our wonderful volunteer board and committee members. My deepest thanks to our board members: Michelle Carro as Pres. Elect, Gary Lenkeit as Treasurer, Leanne Earnest as Treasurer, Laurie Drucker as Northern Regional President, Jo Velasquez as Southern Regional President, Abraham Amaya as Diversity Chair, and our student representatives Alisha Carpenter and Amy Lykins from UNLV and Kara Bunting from UNR. Of course I include in this Bryan Gresh our lobbyist, who remains an integral and important part of NSPAs suc-

cess. I'd also like to thank Karen Shelton as Newsletter Editor. All were invaluable in helping NSPA to

grow and prosper in the last year. They all worked long hours and helped in many, many large and small ways.

I can't say enough good things about the Continuing Education Committee. Michelle Carro, Jo Velasquez, Nancy McNaull, Karen Shelton, and Laurie Drucker have all taken on major tasks. Many others participated in the CE meetings and helped us put together the 2007 calendar and begin to build the 2008 calendar. They include Abraham Amaya and DeVon Stokes who each hosted the 2006-07 Strategic Planning Conferences. And I don't want to forget the other northern board members, John Friel and Erin Oksol who have also lent a hand more than once. Thanks to all of you in a big way!

The other committee that worked exceptionally hard and had wonderful results this year was the Psychologically Healthy Workplace Committee. Chaired by Roberta Ferguson with the able assistance of her dedicated committee and helpers, this committee made awards for the second year to several Nevada companies as Psychologically Healthy

Workplaces and to several others for Best Practices in this area. They also submitted a winner to the National PHWA – Las Vegas Convention and Visitor's Authority, as you'll read elsewhere received one of 6 National PHWAs and a Best Practices Award. BIG applause to Roberta and her committee of dedicated volunteers for their long effort that has paid off wonderfully for us all this year.

Finally, I'd like to mention our Legislative Committee and their work in the last year. Michelle Carro was a participant in the Healthcare Summit of the Nevada Legislature's Interim Committee on Healthcare. She was able, through her persistence and fine representation of our profession, to have two recommendations of the committee included in the final plan that will have major impact on mental health in Nevada. The first was the inclusion of full mental health parity in insurance coverage. The second was the support of both pre- and post-doctoral training positions in the state. These are long term goals and we continue the work necessary to implement both these recommendations.

Thank you all for your continued support this year. I look forward to working with you in my new capacity, and to remaining a part of NSPAs future!

NORTHERN REGION NEWS

Laurie Drucker, Psy.D., Northern Region President

The 2006-2007 board for the NSPA Northern Region consists of Laurie Drucker as President, Erin Oksol as Vice-President, and John Friel as Secretary/Treasurer. We sponsored another successful Student Social in September, welcoming students from UNR and Fielding as well as newly licensed psychologists to our community. On March 28th we sponsored a legislative reception with NSPA's lobbyist Bryan Gresh, and Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, to discuss issues relevant to the practice of psychology in Nevada. The northern board has also been working with students at UNR to continue the presentations by community members about the practice of psychology. The meetings began in March with a presentation by Dr. John Altrocchi and will continue until the end of the academic year with presentations by Dr. Karen Shelton and Dr. Erin Oksol. Individuals interested in presenting on clinical issues may contact any board member to volunteer their time when the program resumes in the fall. Additionally, the northern board has addressed the need for "mentorship" of students and newly licensed psychologists. We are working with the state board to link interested students and newly licensed psychologists with practicing psychologists in the community. Again, we encourage anyone who is interested in participating in this program to contact any board member.

Nominations are in for next year's officers. Erin Oksol will continue on the northern board as President, John Friel will continue as Treasurer, and we are pleased to welcome new members Melanie Crawford as Vice-President and Mandra Rassmussen-Hall as Secretary. Please contact Laurie Drucker at 323-2255 or lvdrucker@charter.net with questions, suggestions, or an interest in becoming more involved in northern regional activities.

NSPA LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Thank you for your interest in NSPA, the legislative process, and learning more about this system. To help you find out more if you are interested we are providing the following links. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact our legislative committee for updates on the legislature or a paper copy of the information below.

Website for the legislature: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/>

As the session progresses, you may find information about bills introduced, committee assignments, and committee meetings at this link also.

Information about the Senate including a link to find your district and your Senator may be found here: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/74th/Legislators/Senators/slist.cfm>

Information about the Assembly including a link to find your district and your assemblyman may be found here: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/74th/Legislators/Assembly/alist.cfm>

NSPA Lobbyist, Bryan Gresh

NSPA Legislative Committee: Michelle Carro, Judy Phoenix, Gary Lenkeit, Karen Shelton

Carson City Focus By Bryan Gresh, NSPA Lobbyist

As the 74th Regular Session of the Nevada State Legislature commences in Carson City, NSPA enters the session having supported 15 lawmakers who won on Election Day this past November. To each and every member who donated to our political action committee, PSYCH PAC, congratulations—and thank you!

We have a new governor, and, for the first time in the state's history, a female Speaker of the Assembly. We have 10 new members of the Assembly and one new Senator. We have a nearly veto-proof Democrat dominance in the lower house and a razor-thin, one vote Republican majority in the Senate. Add to the mix nearly 1,100 bill draft requests (BDRs) at press time and we are ready to go!

NSPA already has its eye on more than a dozen BDRs, including one

to license professional counselors. Nevada is one of two states without some form of professional counseling in statute and our continuing shortage of mental health providers has brought the issue to the forefront. Though the bill is being introduced by committee, its primary sponsor is Senator Joe Heck (R-Henderson). The senator has been a supporter of psychology since his election and has been sensitive to our position on this proposed legislation. As the bill makes its way through committee, NSPA will remain involved in ensuring our concerns over education standards and scope of practice are addressed. Other issues, too, will be on the table. Northern Nevada Senator Bernice Mathews (D-Reno) is taking a run again at Any Willing Provider language. The legislature will also look at the competency of defendants to stand trial.

Each session, our Nevada

State Legislature website becomes better and better. The folks at the Legislative Counsel Bureau are first rate, and work hard to ensure anyone with internet access can be plugged in to what's going on. Not only are all bills posted online, but you can even watch and listen to committee testimony and floor sessions. Here's the website address, it's all you need to know: www.leg.state.nv.us.

Michelle Carro, Judy Phoenix, Gary Lenkeit and Karen Shelton have committed their time and expertise to our Legislative Committee. With their help (and our thanks) and our members' continued involvement, NSPA is ready for the 120 days that comprise the 2007 legislative session.



Have you Applied for Your National Provider Identifier?

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a new number used for all electronic insurance billing. **The application deadline is May 23, 2007 for Medicare and most other insurers.** To “simplify” billing, HIPAA requires that all health care providers who bill third parties for health care get a new identification number. This is called your NPI (National Provider Identifier). It should replace the other provider numbers required by insurers, Medicare and Medicaid.

Here’s what CMS says about the NPI:

“If you are a health care provider who bills for services, you probably need an NPI. If you bill Medicare for services, you definitely need an NPI! Getting an NPI is easy. Getting an NPI is free. The first step is to get your NPI. Once you obtain your NPI, it is estimated that it will take 120 days to do the remaining work to use it. This includes working on your internal billing systems, coordinating with billing services, vendors, and clearinghouses, testing with payers. As outlined in the Federal Regulation, (The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)) you must also share their NPI with other providers, health plans, clearinghouses, and any entity that may need it for billing purposes. If you delay applying for your NPI, you risk your cash flow and that of your health care partners as well.”

You and your corporation both need an NPI, except if a sole proprietorship. There has been confusion about what entities need NPIs. Each provider needs an NPI and each corporation also needs one. However, if you start-up a new corporation—you will need a new NPI for it. The only exception is if you have an organization that is a sole proprietorship—it is not considered a separate organization and does not require a separate NPI.

You should never have to change your NPI. As with your social security number, it will not expire and

goes with you when you relocate, change employers or even change health professions. However, you will still need your tax payer ID number for tax purposes.

The application deadline is May 23, 2007 for Medicare and most other insurers. Apply online at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/StaticForward.do?forward=static.npistart> or call 1-800-485-3203 to request a hard copy of the application.

Taxonomy codes identify applicants by profession. The psychology specialties are limited, so you may want to stick to the basic “psychologist” code. APA has tried to work on the list to bring it more in line with common practice specialties; however, change is slow in this system. In the meantime, there are some subspecialties you may want to use if they aptly describe you, e.g. neuropsychologists. Unfortunately, no one knows how these taxonomy codes will be used. The enumerators claim it is a way to distinguish providers with the same name but different professions, but this seems like an ineffective method.

View taxonomy codes at <http://www.wpc-edi.com/codes/taxonomy> under “Behavioral Health & Social Service Providers” after clicking on Individual or Group. Psychologist as a general category is (103T0000X). There are 17 specialty codes. There is also a taxonomy code for Neuropsychology. Look over the Monitor article noted below before choosing a specialty area.

Keep a copy of your confirmation letter after you receive your NPI, as some insurers are requesting it.

There are new HCFA 1500 forms called CMS1500. They include new spaces for your NPI. The new HCFA forms (CMS 1500) cannot be copied, so you will have to use a billing program that includes the new form and your provider ID, or write in your NPI on each one.

There is an article in the APA’s Monitor on Psychology, March 2007 you may consult. Find online at <http://www.apa.org/monitor/mar07/national.html>

Thank you to Bobbie Celeste, Ph.D., Director of Professional Affairs, Ohio Psychological Association for use of her material on this subject.

SOUTHERN REGION SOCIAL

NSPA-Southern Region Board will host a Networking Social following the Ethics Conference on Friday, May 4, 2007. The Social is open to Nevada psychologists and all professionals attending the May 4th Ethics Conference. The social will be held at McCormick and Schmick’s on Hughes Center off Tropicana. There will be complimentary drinks, finger foods and awesome door prizes. Come enjoy an evening of networking and friendship. More details to follow.

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NSPA Goes to Washington, D.C.

Judy Phoenix, Ph.D., NSPA President and Executive Director

Do you feel like change is happening in our profession? I know I do, and I was anxious to understand more about the directions that APA is developing and encouraging. Nevada had six delegates this year to SLC. Judy Phoenix attended as President and as Executive Director, Gary Lenkeit as Federal Advocacy Coordinator, Greg Giron as the Public Education Coordinator, Roberta Ferguson as BOPN chair and member of the National BOPN committee, Abraham Amaya as diversity chair. Michelle Carro, as president-elect could not attend which meant we had room for another delegate. We asked Leanne Earnest to attend, and she was able to take part in the Early Career Psychologist meetings since she has been licensed fewer than seven years. Please ask for additional information on anything from SLC from any of us.

Here's an official view of what happens at SLC based on APA materials:

"The Annual APA State Leadership Conference is an important and unique opportunity to:

- *Learn the details of the APA Legislative Agenda*
- *Learn how to be advocates with Congress and the U S Senate, and carry important messages to the members of the Nevada Congressional Delegation*
- *Learn about trends and issues impacting across state lines that we need to be aware of in serving our membership*
- *Meet key APA Staff*

- *Advance the recognition of Nevada as a leading State Association*
- *Meet and network with leaders from other states, provinces and territories*
- *Learn about best practices for association governance, leadership and management*
- *Network with other Nevada leaders and build relationships that will make for a stronger governance team"*

What also happens is an amazing opportunity to talk with others about being a psychologist, our profession and where it's going, all the initiatives and networks, and state organizations. This year, in addition to hearing from APA leadership and talking with each other, we also heard from such diverse speakers as Newt Gingrich, currently the "founder of Center for Health Transformation," Geoffrey Colvin, Senior Editor at Fortune Magazine, Mark Shields, Washington Post Columnist and political analyst on PBS. There were also CEs on universal healthcare, parent coordination, no child left behind, National Provider Identification, critical issues for new practitioners, evidence-based practice, hospital practice, underserved populations, prescriptive authority, plus all the APA initiatives and networks, and of course **advocacy, advocacy, advocacy.**

I found the other EDs to be a great group: open, warm, and willing to share. I was among a class of 11 freshmen. It was very heartening to find such an enthusiastic, opti-

mistic, and supportive group with so many resources. The presidents and presidents-elect were a much quieter group. They were interesting and engaged, and clearly worried about our profession and where it is going.

I also developed a new appreciation of APA staff and the resources they are working to make available to us. They are out in front of us pulling to help powerful and productive change to happen that will hopefully keep psychology a vital profession into the future, without losing our basic values.

My special thanks and kudos to Abraham Amaya who represented NSPA by taking the floor microphone at the last plenary session of 800 or more people and thanked APA for its continuing support of diversity and diversity delegates in the field of psychology and at SLC. He spoke eloquently and sincerely, and received a standing ovation from the room. Way to go Abraham!

Altogether it was educational, exhilarating, terrifying, energizing, fun, exhausting, and wonderful. I hope all of you would consider going as one of our representatives at some point in the future.

Nevada's State Leadership Conference Delegates

Early Career

Psychologist Initiative,

Leanne Earnest, Ph.D.: At the American Psychological Association, State Leadership Conference every state, province and territory was represented by sometimes a handful and up to a dozen leaders. It is a conference where those involved in special initiatives and networks that APA has fostered to assist psychology, psychologists, and state, territory, and provincial associations (SPTAs) meet to see how we're doing as well as to plan for the future. One aspect of the future of psychology that APA and SPTAs have begun to offer support for is the Early Career Psychologist (ECP). Having finally received my doctorate in 2002, I still fell in the post seven-year period that is considered early career and so attended that track. It was for the most part a young group, but I was warmly welcomed and congratulated on starting a third career. Many different voices from around the country discussed the challenges following graduation. The consensus seemed to be that psychology has raised the bar too high for early career practitioners. For example, the research shows that it takes 1/3 time longer to make 2/3 less than physicians. In order to assist ECPs, APA and many SPTAs now offer a graduated dues structure based on years post-licensure. I signed up for the listserv and as I learn more, I will be happy to share with my colleagues so that we can support our newest colleagues and traverse these challenging times together.

BOPN/Psychologically Healthy Workplace,

Roberta Ferguson, Ph.D.:

AND THE WINNER IS... Our Very Own Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority! That truly was the highlight of the State Leadership Conference for me this year. Seeing NSPA's nominee for the National Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award receive not only one of the six National Awards that

were given, but also a Best Practices Award was incredible! Called "The Academy Awards of Business" by one of last year's awards ceremony speakers, it was an extraordinary event attended by the more than 1700 delegates at the conference. Geoffrey Colvin, Senior Editor at Large, Fortune Magazine, was the Keynote speaker at the event. Our Nevada delegation was seated at the front of the ballroom along with representatives from both the Las Vegas and Washington D.C. offices of the LVCVA. They were ecstatic when they were announced as winners, receiving two major awards. In the six years I've been going to SLC as NSPA'S Business of Practice representative, this for me was by far the most exciting!

At the annual SLC, all of the BOPN representatives from the now 48 states that participate in the PHWA program spend an entire day meeting to share ideas and refine their state programs. Delegates also attend the opening sessions and other events at the SLC, and spend time with their state association delegates at various general meetings and functions. Along with serving as chair of the NSPA BOPN Committee, I was also selected to serve on the APA National Steering Committee this year, so my first live meeting with that group was also a plus at the conference. Contact me about the PHWA initiative at drro@sbcglobal.net

Diversity Initiative,

Abraham Amaya, Psy.D.:

I was very proud to be one of 33 diversity delegates at SLC this year. Among the many interesting activities and meetings were two of particular importance to diversity. The first was research that examines the path for organizations such as mental health agencies, hospitals, colleges and universities to become truly multicultural organizations which value diversity as opposed to just tolerating it. It was suggested

by the researchers that a crucial first step might be an internal audit including administering a Diversity Assessment Questionnaire to members/employees. There was also a discussion of new research on acculturation. Printed material will be sent and I will share with NSPA. Diversity delegates will stay in touch throughout the year by using email.

The meeting ended in a high tone and with a positive attitude. We all left feeling a sense of accomplishment and full of new ideas. I must say I am already missing all of the delegates. I find this Conference a fascinating encounter among brave and courageous people with one common interest: Value of diversity in the United States. Contact me for more information or to become involved in Nevada's Diversity Initiative at axamaya@dcs.state.nv.us

Public Education Network, Greg Giron, Psy.D.:

In 2006 the Mind/ Body Health campaign focused primarily on stress and the consequences of not managing stress in healthy ways. The Campaign messages emphasized the role of lifestyle and behavior in managing stress, the potential health complications related to stress, and how psychologists are best trained to help people address unhealthy behaviors and better manage stress.

The 2007 campaign continues this message and will promote psychologists as health practitioners best trained to support adoption of lifestyle and behavioral changes that improve overall mind/ body health. The APA Help Center is now available in Spanish and provides valuable information and material directly to the Spanish speaking public. I hope to provide a series of training seminars to demonstrate the usefulness and use of the mind/ body health campaign materials to help people in Nevada care for their mind/ body health and increase behaviors used to manage stress. (continued on p. 8)

MORE FROM NEVADA'S SLC DELEGATES

(continued from p. 7) I am working with Leanne Earnest in the south to increase our opportunities to bring this campaign to members in the Las Vegas area. We hope to develop a mentorship model for all of Nevada. I am participating in monthly conference calls with PEC's around the country to share resources, share successes and share ideas as we strategize over the next year. We have a series of monthly opportunities to carry this message forward and will use the news, local, regional and national, to promote Mind/ Body Health and psychologists. Contact me at greg.giron@ctrh.org for more information on the Mind/Body Health Campaign.

Federal Advocacy Coordinator, Gary Lenkeit, Ph.D.: Four of us who attended SLC on behalf of NSPA spent a day on Capitol Hill talking with Nevada's Senators and Representa-

tives or their health legislative aides. We had spent the previous days learning about these issues from representatives of APA and Federal Advocacy Coordinators from other states. At the end of our day of meetings, we can say that most of our congressmen and women were supportive of these concerns, and hopefully will support our needs during the legislative process.

This year we may finally see a mental health parity bill signed into law. The Senate bill, introduced by Senators Domenici, Kennedy, and Enzi has passed out of committee and will likely come up for a vote within the next several months. This bill has broad support from the business community, hospital association and the insurance industry in addition to mental health groups. The House bill, sponsored by Representatives Kennedy and Ramsted, will be introduced within the next

several weeks. This bill has approximately 200 co-sponsors, including Shelley Berkley, Nevada's member of Congress from the first district.

Last year's attempt to reduce Medicare reimbursement to psychologists by 5% was defeated. However, due to the 5-year review of Medicare service's reimbursement, a 9% reduction in reimbursement has been implemented effective January 1, 2007. When we visited Nevada's Congressional delegation on March 6, we found broad support for eliminating this reduction. As these bills work their way through Congress, we will contact you to ask you to contact your Congressional representatives for support. Your participation in this process is essential. For those of you who want further information on these issues, go to www.apapractice.org or contact me at garylenkeit@cox.net.

Mind/Body Health: for a Healthy Mind and Body, Talk to a Psychologist

Gregory Giron Psy.D. , PEC Nevada

Mind/Body Health: for a Healthy Mind and Body, Talk to a Psychologist is the latest component of APA's Public Education Campaign (PEC). The Mind/Body Health Campaign educates the consumer, the employer, and primary care settings about the importance of looking at the psychological along with the physical; advocates for a consumer who knows what questions to ask about whether symptoms may have a psychological basis; and positions psychologists as uniquely trained to help at the intersection of the mind and the body. Mind/Body Health is the effective balance of physical and psychological health so that each works to support the other. Studies and media reports have shown that more people than ever realize the impact of mental health on physical well-being, and Mind/Body Health has been designed to place psychologists at the forefront of this public

awareness.

The popular media have given extensive coverage to mind-body issues, recognizing the importance of the impact of behavior and lifestyle on health and illness; there are high levels of reported discontent with the existing health care system; the stigma attached to seeking mental health treatment has declined; and our polls continue to show public understanding of the link between the mind and the body.

You can become involved as a Public Education provider. I will help you so you can help make psychology a household word by getting trained in how to use APA's Public Education Campaign materials and to conduct an outreach event. PEC materials are now posted and can be found at: <http://www.apapractice.org>. I will help you learn to use them.

The Mind/Body Health Campaign achieves several goals. It provides a framework that encompasses traditional mental health messages, as well as messages from other iterations of the PEC, including resilience and psychologically healthy workplaces. It educates about the breadth of psychology, from illness to health promotion, prevention, and wellness; from traditional mental health care to physical health care; from treatment of the traditional depression and anxiety to providing strategies on handling everyday stressors. And it provides more directive language that describes how psychologists in particular are THE mental health professionals best trained to bring together the research and practice to help people achieve mind/body health. I look forward to helping you become a part of this terrific public education campaign.

NSPA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS DONORS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS 2006-2007*:

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Student Fund *(in memory of Hillary Case)*

Dave Antonuccio and Yvonne
 Wood
 John Friel
 Martha Mahaffey

* Our apologies for anyone inadvertently left off the list.

Executive Director Column

Judy Phoenix, Ph.D.

I am pleased to have been chosen to be your new executive director. My assistant, Frances Spikes, and I have been working with you since September as volunteers and are happy to take this job as a permanent position. Thank you all for your tremendous support during this transition. I see this position as one of providing a central office that is a holder of information, an assistant to your plans and projects, a point of contact for psychologists and the public inquiring about psychologists, and as a support for the vision of what psychology is and can become. I hope to represent all of you fairly and accurately. In addition, the ED is a pivotal person in fund-raising for the organization. I plan to focus on helping the organization become fiscally strong and stable.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for all their help. Gary Lenkeit took care of money issues for four months. Michelle Carro, as always, was a huge help in all areas. I'd also like to thank Marilyn Etkoff for all her support during this transition. Marilyn was very well organized and it's been so very helpful to be able to use her systems to manage and monitor all the things that need it, as well as to speak with her regularly about the details. And last but not least, thank all of you for your patience in working out membership rolls.

This is a much more complicated job than I understood when I started, even though I've seen it up close as a board member for years. It helps that I know the organization and have familiarity with some of the processes, but it's still a little like juggling 10-12 full glasses of water while remembering to breathe. And while spilling isn't a disaster in the large scope of things, it surely might be in the health and life of the organization, at least short-term. I think I'm almost in a place where the central office is fully functioning – although there are still some pieces that need to be picked up!

In the next year I'll be working on the following projects in addition to the daily business of the central office and managing the continuing education programs:

Continue to improve the usefulness and accessibility of the website. I've already made quite a few changes and more are to come! We want to improve the information that is available for members, for example.

Plan the 2008 CE calendar, and begin the 2009 calendar. If you have requests or wish to present, please contact Michelle Carro or me. We are interested in having some smaller workshops of 3-4 hours and would be happy to hear from any of you about your willingness to present. It is a great way to showcase your research or market your practice. We encourage all of you to consider becoming CE presenters. At this time we know that Dr. Kearney has kindly consented to repeat his workshop on School Refusal in Las Vegas, and we hope to bring in APAIT's Jeffrey Youngren for Ethics in Reno.

I feel a very strong commitment to NSPA. The NV. Board of Psych. Ex. is for consumers. It is our board and speaks for us legally – but its primary focus must be on the safety and well-being of consumers. NSPA is for psychologists. It is our professional voice in Nevada, our link to APA as the national voice for psychologists. It is our voice in the legislature. It is the place we can look to for services we need and want, for support. If we think big, it is also the voice of the future of psychology. And with all that in mind, I believe NSPA is therefore the voice of support for mental health and for those with mental illness. That is why I want to be the ED. I believe our profession can use the kind of informed support that a psychologist ED can offer in helping us take the long view as an organization for our profession.

Questions or comments about the NSPA Newsletter?
Please contact Karen Shelton, Ph.D. at
karenselton@charter.net or (775) 826-1002 x13

The views and opinions expressed in each article of the NSPA news are those of the author and not necessarily shared by NSPA.

NSPA CLASSIFIED ADS

GREEN VALLEY PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATES

Dodge Slagle, D.O. Lawrence Kapel, Ph.D.
Rico Fontillas, M.D. William Slagle, Ph.D.
Nancy Clark, M.F.T.

Announcing their new location:
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NEVADA STATE
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The NSPA announces the adoption of Lifetime Member Status to any psychologist age 65 years or older who has been an NSPA member for 10

NSPA LIFETIME MEMBER STATUS

consecutive years or more. Lifetime Member status will begin for the 2006-2007 membership year. Self-referrals are encouraged. Please call the office with any questions at (702) 454-0050

**NEVADA STATE PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION**

216 Mt. Rose St.
Reno, NV 89509

Phone: 702-454-0050
Fax: 757-324-7849
Email: jphoenix@nevadapsychologists.org

NSPA Continuing Education Calendar

**Parent Coordination Training
Assisting High Conflict Parents to
Resolve Disputes**

Featuring

Gary Lenkeit, Ph.D. &

Stephanie Holland, Psy.D.

Friday & Saturday, April 13 & 14, 2007

David Zenoff Training Facility, Family Court Complex

601 N. Pecos Rd., Las Vegas

12 Continuing Education Credits

**Legal and Ethical Aspects of
Supervision and Consultation for
Psychologists**

Featuring

**Stephen Behnke, Ph.D., APA Ethics Office
and other Nevada Psychologists as Panel Members**

Annual Business and Awards Luncheon

Friday, May 4, 2007

Moyer Student Union, UNLV, Rooms 208AB

4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas

6 CE Ethics Credits

**October 2007, Reno
Pain Management**

Mike Lewandowski, Ph.D.

Details to be announced

**November 2007, Las Vegas
Introduction to Acceptance and
Commitment Therapy (ACT)**

Steven Hayes, Ph.D.

Details to be announced

Coming in 2008:

School Refusal

Chris Kearney, Ph.D.

Las Vegas

Ethics

APAIT's Jeff Youngren

Reno