



April 10, 2021

LPA Virtual Executive Council (EC) Meeting

**Virtual Sign-in:**

Erin Reuther, PhD

Christopher Parkinson, PhD

Matthew Holcomb, PhD

Paula Zeanah, PhD

Amanda Raines, PhD

Melissa Kunimatsu, PhD

W Alan Coulter, PhD

Richard Niolon, PhD

ValaRay J Irvin, PhD

**Guest:**

Courtland Chaney, PhD

Dr. Reuther called the meeting to order at 9:30am, and the purpose of the Executive Council (EC) was read by Dr. Zeanah as: *"The EC shall have general supervision of the affairs of the association between its business meetings, fix the hour and place of meetings, appoint all APA-established positions for association service, make recommendations to the membership, and perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws. The council shall be subject to the orders of the membership, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the membership."*

The purpose of LPA as stated is: "to support and advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health, education, and human welfare."

**Old Business:** The first order of business was to approve EC Minutes from past meetings:

September 19, 2020 EC minutes: Dr. Niolon moved to approve minutes pending corrections. *Motioned passed without dissent.*

November 14, 2020 EC minutes: Dr. Reuther moved to approve November minutes with the correction of "using last years' budget" as a guide for this year's budget. *Motioned passed with correction without dissent.*

February 13, 2021 "call-meeting:" Dr. Reuther moved to defer approval of minutes and approve via email. *Motioned passed without dissent.*

February 26 "call-meeting:" Dr. Coulter motioned to approve minutes with corrections. *Motioned passed without dissent.*

March 31, 2021 EC minutes: Dr. Kunimatsu motioned to approve minutes and the *motion was passed without dissent.*

## **Committee Reports:**

### Legislative & Governmental Affairs- Drs. Reuther & Coulter:

Dr. Reuther reported that all bills pertinent to LPA passed during the last Legislative Session. HB 204; the Disability Council was approved. And, that LA Mental Health Coalition is scheduled for Monday at 8:30am. Issues to be addressed are:

- \*Mental health associations in the state

- \*All professional organizations, i.e., LPCs, social workers, substance abuse counselors, ABAs,

- \*LMFTs, and psychologists all agreed to share bills relevant to their disciplines in order to keep Everyone abreast. Dr. Reuther commented that “sharing and coalition building” is the aim.

It was then suggested by Dr. Zeanah that the EC should post all relevant bills to the listserv for informational purposes, and for those members desiring to contact their respective legislator(s). Dr. Reuther emphasized that this will be a short session, i.e., 8-9 weeks, and that the number 1 priority of LPA is protecting the fee bill, as well as, advocating for the mental and psychological well-being of the citizens of LA.

Professional Affairs- Drs. Richard Niolon & VanGeffen: Dr. Niolon reminded the EC that all minutes from attendance of LSBEP meetings were previously emailed.

Public Affairs- Dr. Courtland Chaney: Dr. Chaney’s report was previously emailed, however he highlighted the following; the committee had considered developing short informational videos for placement of LPA site, however, after attending the November 14<sup>th</sup> EC meeting, the committee agreed that the “blogs” the EC had begun to place on the webpage served a very similar purpose. So, instead of videos, the committee would submit various “blogs” for the site. Dr. Chaney also shared that OLOL had previously requested a representative from LPA to participate in one of their ‘community informational,’ but due to COVID restrictions had to reduce the size of participants. Since July, the impact of COVID has prohibited many of the face to face activities of the committee. Dr. Chaney also informed the EC that Dr. Sonnier-Hillis would be stepping down from the committee. There has been no contact with Dr. Stephanie Grant. Dr. Reuther shared that she recently spoke at the regional meeting of the Business Professional Women Organization. The EC was reminded that these types of invitations also serve to highlight LPA in our community.

Membership & Member Services- Dr. Randall Lemoine: Dr. Lemoine was absent but submitted a written report. Some highlights were:

- \*current active memberships (all categories) now is 220

- \*student membership is up by 16% of total; up from 23 to 36

Convention and Education- Dr. Amanda Raines: Dr. Raines requested an accurate list of members participating on this committee. She’s leading the planning of a one-day spring convention. The keynote speaker is expected to be Dr. Michael Anestis, the executive director of New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center. Other speakers will include Dr. Kristin Fitch from the OCD Louisiana foundation. Dr. Raines stated the conference is expected to be shorter than previous ones, that is, the Lunch and Learn will be scaled down to two to three options with one including “ethnics” as a requirement. The Science Café’ will be kept, but there will be no Posters’ session. An EC member inquired about the \$3000 credit the Sheraton is holding for us. Dr. Raines will check to see if the credit, can again, be brought forward.

Communications-Drs. Chris Parkinson & Melissa Kunimatsu: Dr. Kunimatsu shared that they have been busy updating “Rules” for the listserv. They’re hopeful to have a completed templet for the Newsletter by summer. Dr. Parkinson also made a request for the EC to develop specific guidelines for the administrative position. He also stated he’s interested in surving the specific members who have, in recent weeks, made requests to be remove from the list.

*11:25am returned to order after a brief 10mins. break*

**New Business:**

Treasurer’s report: Dr. Matthew Holcomb announced that as of this meeting the budget was \$93,837.65. He continues to work on streamlining some of the budgetary issues, for example, he thinks its best to separate funds versus bundling them. This will allow one to see actual dollars for membership. He also wants to create one payment source for all fees/charges LPA may have. Thus, he requested that the secretary submit the necessary paperwork and fee amount for the Annual Report. He cautioned the EC about over spending, e.g., the conference awards were budgeted at \$500 last year but we spent \$800. He reminded the EC that LPA received the APA Grant (\$11,500) again thanks to Dr. VanGeffen. The final payment to Ms. Susan Brown in the amount of \$1041.20 has been paid. And, finally, it was agreed that the website design would remain at \$1500.00.

There was a discussion about the speaker’s fee, i.e, does the amount come from the Dr. Lee Matthews Fund, is it an honorarium for one or both speakers? Drs. Reuther and Holcomb will investigate and report back to the EC.

Specific to the earlier request to develop guidelines for an administrative assistant’s position, Dr. Reuther recommended creating a hiring committee to study the needs and write a job description. It was motioned by Dr. Reuther to create a hiring committee to study the necessary tasks needed for an administrative assistant, create a job description, and begin recruitment. *Motioned passed by without dissent.*

Dr. Parkinson motioned to accept the 2021 budget including \$6000 for an administrative assistant. *Motion passed without dissent.*

Dr. Reuther motioned to approve updated rules and procedures for membership manual. *Motioned passed without dissent.*

Dr. Parkinson motioned to approve updated rules and regulations for listserv and etiquette for communications. *Motioned passed without dissent.*

At 12:05pm Dr. Holcomb made a motion to move into executive session to discuss listserv emails.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40pm

Submitted by  
Dr. ValaRay J Irvin

