



May 29, 2020

LPA Virtual Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order by president, Dr. Alan Coulter, at 1:06pm. Dr. Coulter gave greetings, the order by which the virtual meeting would proceed, and read the mission of LPA as “to support and advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as means of promoting health, education, and human welfare.” Dr. Coulter also read the purpose of the Executive Council (EC), and then introduced the guest speaker for the afternoon, Dr. Larry Dilks, chair of LPA Non-Doctoral Issues sub-committee. Dr. Dilks address was entitled; The Time Has Come the Walrus Said... Or Has It? The general theme of the address was the “need to work together.” The following are highlights of the address:

- *A history of psychology, as a field, and the re-organization that seems to occur every 50 years,
 - *The need to adapt to necessary changes, as well as giving examples of how these changes have historically come about,
 - *Examples of how various state boards have addressed the concern of non-Doctoral level clinicians and their ability to practice independently,
 - *APA’s establishment of a national committee to develop accreditation Standards for master’s-level programs, as well as president Arthur Evans’ Comments regarding such,
 - *Dilemmas specific to LPA,
 - *Those who most benefit from non-doctoral level persons practicing Under the title of psychologist,
 - *What special privileges do the non-doctoral level person receive by using the title of psychologist,
- and, he posed the question, “what course of action should LPA take?”

Responses were:

- 1) no immediate position, will probably take years before a real threat,
- 2) oppose any movements to create bills, etc. proposing this change,
- 3) hope master-level clinicians remain “unorganized” as a group and continue to not meet those standards to practice independently that currently exists, and
- 4) Join forces with organizations like LSBEP, and APA and form a consensus on specific requirements needed to practice independently.

Dr. Dilks took questions from participants for 25minutes before summarizing his address and cautioning members that, as a body, LPA needed to get “in front and manage the problem versus reacting to it.” Thoughts and comments from participants were centered on:

*LPA focusing on the competencies required to practice as a psychologist as well as make psychologists unique from other clinicians,

*The need for evidence-based research that should be designed by psychologists,

*LPA taking the lead in setting standards, and requirements versus waiting for a court to stipulate what should be done, and

*Psychologists' unique role for being in the field of psychology, i.e., to help and protect the public.

Dr. Coulter called **LPA Business Meeting** to order at 2:04 by reading the purpose of LPA, and sharing that the new organizational chart would take effect on July 1, 2020 with Dr. Erin Reuther presiding as its president for the 2020-2021 year. The first order of business was the results of the recent elections.

Old Business: Election Results: Dr. Julie Nelson- Dr. Nelson gave the results of the election as: President-elect: Dr. Christopher Parkinson, Treasurer: Dr. Matthew Holcomb, Directors: Drs. Kim VanGeffen, Paula Zeanah, and Melissa Kunimatsu. Dr. Nelson will distribute a full report of the election results later.

New Business: LPA Awards: Drs. Mike Chafetz, and Kim VanGeffen

The following awards were presented;

Distinguished Psychologist: Dr. John Simmoneaux

Early Career: Dr. Amanda Raines

Distinguished Service: Dr. Erin Reuther

Janet Matthews Outstanding Psychology Mentor: Dr. Lee Matthews

LPA Outgoing Presidential Award presented by Dr. VanGeffen to Dr. Alan Coulter

Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award: Given by Dr. Alan Coulter to Drs.

Ron Boudreaux, and Julie Nelson

Committee Reports:

Convention and Education: Drs. Julie Nelson, and Amanda Raines

The 2020 Annual Convention is cancelled due to the pandemic. Dr. Nelson hasn't been in contact with the hotel but strongly felt the organization would not incur any additional losses other than the deposit, already made. Dr. Nelson shared the committee's efforts to continue providing FREE CDPs through webinars. Dr. VanGeffen also mentioned that based on her research, LPA was the only professional organization doing so. Finally, Dr. Nelson asked the EC whether LPA would be offering CDPs for Dr. Dilkes' presentation. She expressed some concerns/glitches in working through this process but stated her commitment in doing so. Dr. Nelson also reminded the EC that the Organizational Development and Advisory Committee (ODAC) would soon conclude its assigned responsibilities. And, she had granted the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Ron Boudreaux of the Office of Mental Health.

Treasurers: Dr. Gig Costelloe stated that LPA is in great shape! The checking account currently has \$50,042.41, and the saving has \$21,568.69; totaling \$71,611.10. He recognized Dr.

VanGeffen for receiving the APA Grant again this year. The amount this year was \$12,000. Major changes to this year's budget were noted as:

- 1) Increased dollars for a much-needed webpage design,
- 2) Increased lobbyist dollars from \$6,000 to 12,000,
- 3) Dr. Costelloe's transition off the EC as treasurer and being replaced by Dr. Matt Holcomb.

Legislative & Governmental Affairs: Dr. Reuther began with a discussion of HB 317, and 871. She also discussed the difficulties experienced during this Legislative Session due to COVID-19, including the fact that the Session would probably conclude on June 30th with a Special Session to follow. In spite of the challenges of this Session she felt good about LPAs visibility and presence.

Public Affairs: Dr. Chaney shared his written report that had been distributed earlier. However, he mentioned that the August 22, 2020 Men's Health Conference sponsored by Pennington was still set to proceed.

Professional Affairs: Dr. VanGeffen shared that the list of psychologists offering teletherapy was ready to be posted to LPA's Facebook page. She also gave the date of LSBEP open meeting.

Communications: Dr. Parkinson thanked everyone who has volunteered to work with the committee and stated he feels very positive about the direction of the work at this point. The committee continues to work on various links, for example, the find a psychologist link. Dr. Parkinson is hopeful that the site will "go live" in May. Concerns shared were: the webpage needs an official statement on diversity. The new chair of the Diversity is Dr. Stephanie Grant of Xavier University of Louisiana. Dr. Parkinson stated he would contact Dr. Grant and ask for a statement on diversity and present to the EC during our April meeting. He anticipates the statement being on the webpage by May. Additional concerns were the placement of sponsorships, and CEP application fee. In the matter of the former, it was suggested that all sponsorships be placed on the convention page and, in the latter, it was suggested that the recommendation to increase the CEP application fee to \$150, as well as asking the convention committee to approve CEP requests, should be brought back to the committee by Dr. Raines for discussion.

Membership and Membership Services: Drs. Randy Lemoine, and Matt Holcomb-presented by Dr. Holcomb; the committee has been busy attempting to update, including correct the membership roster. Dr. Holcomb stated that ALL members had been contacted through phone who hadn't renewed their membership to confirm their intent to do so. According to Dr. Holcomb, there were approximately 40 unpaid members. Because of the lack of clerical support this committee has had a difficult time gathering accurate data on LPA's membership. Dr. Holcomb stated that clarity on how to move forward is necessary. He asked the full ECs support in accomplishing this task.

At 5:13pm Dr. Coulter passed the gavel to Dr. Reuther, incoming president starting July 2020-2021. Dr. Reuther expressed her reason and purpose for getting involved with LPA, highlighting both its role in science and practice. She further emphasized concerns about how best to promote psychology to our community, as well as LPA's "brand." Her future goals are:

1. Holding bi-monthly EC meetings
2. Promoting LPA as the "go to, and authority" in the field of psychology
3. Empowering sub-committees to work, and speak on behalf of the organization
4. Establish enhanced efficiency within the EC
5. Increasing public knowledge about the "value" in what we do
6. Establish structured "on-boarding" procedures for new Board Members including making available copies of By-Laws, Organizational Chart, and Job Descriptions.

The next virtual EC meeting is July 11, 2020 at 10:00am. Dr. Reuther adjourned the meeting at 5:28pm