



MPA

Mississippi Psychological Association Newsletter

Executive Director's Report

Amy Wilson

The first quarter of 2022 has been a busy start to 2022. In this newsletter, you will learn a lot about your President's, Dr. Danielle Maack, 2022 initiatives: MPA's Legislative efforts, Committee Chair appointments, an APA Grant award, plans for September's annual convention, December Trust Ethics workshop, and acceptance into The Trust Leadership Development Academy pilot program.

I would like every member of MPA to know that your Executive Council and Committee work hard on your behalf to protect and advance the practice of psychologists in our state. Please look at the various committees (on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter) and email Dr. Maack, djmaack@deltaautumn.com, or me, mpa@mpassoc.org if you see an area in which you would like to be involved and contribute.

Annual Convention

Dr. Mallory Malkin is in the throes of planning an exciting and informative convention for psychologists. MPA will convene at the Thad Cochran Center on the University of Southern Mississippi campus in Hattiesburg, September 28 – 30, 2022.

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[Click this link to follow your Opening Keynote Speaker, Mike Veny.](#) This year's theme addresses the stigma of mental health and those seeking help or treatment. "Confident and Courageous: Confront Stigma"

Consider sharing your knowledge with fellow psychologists by submitting a proposal to present a program or research at the convention. Act now; the deadline to submit proposals is May 26, 2022 (11:59 PM CST).

Click the links below for submission information:

- [Call for Proposals & Submission Guidelines](#)
- [CE Workshop Submission Form](#)
- [Presentation/Symposium/Panel Discussion Submission Form](#)
- [Poster Presentation Submission Form](#)

The Trust

Mark time on December 2, 2022, to participate in the Trust Insurance Ethics Webinar. Details coming to your inboxes soon.

Speaking of the Trust Insurance program, it is important that members know that this agency offers several opportunities not only for their clients but also for state psychological associations. One such program is the launch of a Pilot Leadership Development Academy (LDA). Mississippi is one of the four states selected to participate in the LDA. We will be recruiting participants and mentors for this program in June. Details will follow, and the inaugural participants will be announced in September at the Annual Convention.

From the President's Desk

by Danielle J. Maack, Ph.D.

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022! I am looking forward to this year as your president working to continue promoting our profession as scientifically trained and informed health service providers, and actively advocating to elected officials to ensure that psychologists have a seat at the health care table! This year your MPA-Executive council has seen many changes with new faces, new positions, and new opportunities! I want to start by giving the membership a list of the Executive Council and Committee Chairs, so you all have the names to put with the different positions in our organization (and the ability to connect with committee chairs if you want



to be more active with MPA initiatives as we move towards increasing committee involvement!) These individuals are instrumental in keeping the MPA moving forward and volunteer their time and energy to help with initiatives that are important to the profession of psychology. Through newsletter updates and the use of the MPA listserv, we hope to stay connected with all members and encourage active involvement and engagement.

I also want to recognize and give appreciation to two committee chairs, Dr. Penni Foster and Dr. Kaye Sly, who stepped down from their positions within the MPA after being appointed to the Mississippi Board of Psychology (MSBOP). Although they will be missed, we are grateful for their dedication to the profession of serving on the MSBOP! Speaking of the MSBOP, there will be an opening on the board later this year for which MPA is charged with submitting several names of qualified individuals willing to serve for a five-year term (for more information see the board's website: <https://www.psychologyboard.ms.gov/about-board>). If you are interested in serving on the board or know of an MPA member you would like to send forward for consideration, please let me know. We will be asked to complete a slate and send it to the Governor's office later this year.

Executive Council 2022

President: Dr. Danielle Maack

President-Elect and Early Career Chair: Dr. Kristy McRaney

Past-President: Dr. Mallory Malkin

Financial Officer: Dr. Jeff Parker

Communications Officer: Dr. Brian Thomas

Region 1 Representative: Dr. Karen Christoff

Region 2 Representative and Business Practice Chair: Dr. Liz Woodruff

Region 3 Representative and Public Education Chair: Dr. David Gavel

Region 4 Representative: Dr. Kathryn Waggoner

APA Council Representative & Federal Advocacy Chair: Dr. Emily Thomas Johnson

Government Relations Officer: Dr. Natalie Gaughf

Continuing Education Coordinator: Dr. Pamela Banks

Diversity Chair: Dr. Bryman Williams

Membership Chair: Dr. Barbara Martin

Telehealth/Rural Health Chair: Dr. Josh Fulwiler

Historian: Dr. Angela Herzog

Academic/Training Ad hoc Chair: Dr. Sara Jordan

Executive Director: Amy Wilson



Presidential Initiatives

As I outlined to the Executive Council and Committee Chairs during the planning retreat, there are three initiatives that I would like to emphasize during my presidential year: Embracing MPA History, Increasing/Enhancing Government Relations, and Increasing Member Recruitment, Retainment, and Engagement.

Embracing MPA History:

Did you know that the MPA was conceived in April 1948 under a tree near Peabody Hall on the Ole Miss Campus? The MPA has a wealth of history that unfortunately has not been consistently recorded. This year an ad hoc History Committee was created with the inaugural position of Historian filled by Dr. Angela Herzog. In this position she is tasked to begin the processes of backtracking milestones and important historical dates for the MPA, creating an electronic archive of names of officers and positions over the years, and compiling any old pictures and newsletters (or really anything that will help to get us started at recording MPA events past and present). I am hopeful that this will be an endeavor that many members will want to help with and eventually the ad hoc committee will be voted in as a standing committee.

Increasing/Enhancing Government Relations

As we have seen with the removal of the postdoctoral training requirement, advocacy and government relations are essential for getting our profession's needs met. Having a team of individuals ready and organized for advocacy in our association is not just important, but an absolute necessity if we want the profession of psychology and our professional interests to be heard. To this end, expanding the emphasis on government relations and having a team of MPA members who are well versed and ready to express the interests of MPA when legislators need a last-minute meeting or consult (especially during the legislative session) is another 2022 initiative. We need to increase the number of eyes who are reviewing legislative bills, increase knowledge and understanding of the Mississippi legislative process, and increase the coordinated effort with our lobbyist, membership, and legislators when bills that impact our profession are introduced. Having a solid Government Relations Committee of knowledgeable



members who are “ready to act” when needed will help us with these endeavors. Our lobbyist, Chip Reno, has helped to provide us with foundational knowledge of Mississippi legislative sessions with “Legislation 101” presentations. These presentations have been recorded for anyone in the membership who is interested to view. As we have more MPA members engaged in the Government Relations committee, we will be able to expand our grassroots advocacy, improve our relationships with legislators, and ensure that we will have a seat at the table. In the legislative update, in addition to the happenings this past legislative session, you will be introduced to our new Government Relations Chair, Dr. Natalie Gaughf. I’m very appreciative that she agreed to take on this role after just now rolling off the MSBOP and look forward to having her take the lead in this position!

Increasing Member Recruitment, Retainment, & Engagement

From our membership roster in June of 2021, the MPA membership consisted of 109 members. Our 2021 budget sheet (dues renewals) provided the breakdown of membership of 121 as follows: 11 Academic, 5 Exempt, 21 Student, 3 Early Career, and 81 Health Services/Clinical. This is not nearly representative of the number of licensed psychologists in Mississippi. Reaching these individuals and figuring out what we can do to recruit new members, while also ensuring that we are retaining members is key. I am excited to work with our new Membership Chair, Dr. Barbara Martin to not just emphasize why people should join MPA, but to understand why professionals haven't joined MPA. To this end, with the new list of licensed psychologists in Mississippi, I intend to connect with everyone who is not yet a member of the MPA and begin these conversations.

As you were reading through these initiatives, if any of these areas piqued your interest, please don't hesitate to contact the Committee Chairs, or myself to see how you can become more involved! Additionally, there are other Committee Chairs who will also be working on different projects and areas of promotion- we will be using the listserv to make announcements and have calls for committee membership recruitment. If you are wanting to become more engaged or involved, we are happy to accommodate! If you have any questions, or professional issues that you would like to see the executive council address please don't hesitate to contact me! djmaack@deltaautumn.com

Danielle J. Maack, PhD
President, Mississippi Psychological Association

MPA proudly supports and endorses:



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



Financial Report

It's a pleasure to report that the Mississippi Psychological Association ended the 2021 calendar/fiscal year with three pieces of excellent financial news:

- We achieved a modest increase in assets
- We had a financially successful virtual convention and
- We had an increase in membership dues.

The Executive Committee thanks each of you for your part in this! Here's a little more detail. Our assets increased by 5.7% over the previous year. A little over half of that was accounted for by the 2021 Convention. While falling far under budget revenue-wise, expenses for the second straight virtual Convention dropped even more, resulting in a positive margin that exceeded our budget. Another 22% of our modest asset increase was from membership activity that surpassed what we budgeted. "Operations" was the one area where we were over budget (by \$502 to be exact). Seeing this as a sign of the general inflation afflicting our national economy, we have approved a 2022 budget that includes an approximately 1% (or \$1,825) increase over 2021.

As always, if you have any questions about MPA finances, please don't hesitate to contact us. And once again, thank you for your support and engagement.

Jefferson D. Parker, Ph.D.

Financial Officer, Mississippi Psychological Association

MPA is Awarded APA Services

Please note the following announcement from APA Services.

"We are pleased to inform you that APA Services has awarded the Mississippi Psychological Association a Small State Operational Grant in the amount of \$11,500 to help fund the salary for the Executive Director or to support the cost of hiring an association management firm.

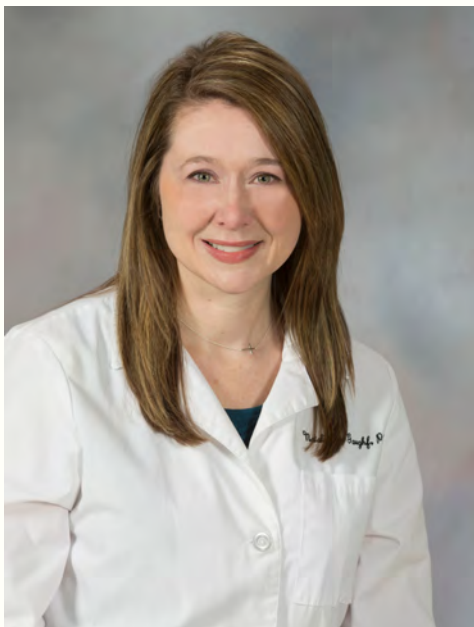
APA Services is providing \$250,000 for Small State Operational Grants in 2022 to small state psychological associations to support the professional needs of psychologists. These grants are administered by the APA Practice Directorate and the Committee for State Leaders (CSL). We received 23 applications requesting a total greater than the amount of funds available. CSL weighed important factors such as each state's grant history and financial status to ensure that funding was distributed fairly."

MPA leadership appreciates APA for continuing to support Mississippi Psychological Association in providing important financial operating funding.



Legislative Update:

We appreciate all the leg work and behind-the-scenes meetings and effort that our lobbyist, Chip Reno, Past- Government Relations Chair Dr. Foster, and Past-President Dr. Malkin have done for us this past year and during this legislative session. Unfortunately, as the 2022 Mississippi Legislative Session is coming to an end, even with the dedicated efforts of our group, the result is that no exemption language, strike all, or amendment for exclusion of psychologists to the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses was able to pass (or even come out of committee). Chip indicated that there is nothing more to be done during this legislative session and that we can regroup and discuss a plan for being ready to address this again next legislative session. As we are regrouping, this is also a great time to introduce and welcome Dr. Natalie Gaughf who is stepping in as Government Relations Chair!



Dr. Gaughf, who joined the Medical Center faculty in 2003, has served in a variety of leadership and faculty roles, including interim dean and associate dean for student affairs for the School of Population Health, acting executive director of the Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities, and director of the Office of Academic Support. Beginning April 1, 2022, Dr. Gaughf will assume the role of assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs for the institution. In 2002, Dr. Gaughf earned a Ph.D. in counseling psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi and completed a residency in clinical psychology at the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System in Biloxi. A year later, at UMMC, she completed

a health psychology postdoctoral fellowship in primary care. In the School of Dentistry at UMMC, she has held faculty or leadership positions in the Department of Care Planning and Restorative Sciences, the ACT Center for Tobacco Treatment, Education and Research; the Department of Pediatric and Public Health Dentistry; and Faculty Research Development. In the School of Medicine, she has had faculty appointments in the Department of Family Medicine and the Department of Otolaryngology & Communicative Sciences. Her honors include the President's Award for Dedication and Commitment to the Organization from the Mississippi Psychological Association. She served on the Mississippi Board of Psychology from 2016 to 2022.