

President-Elect Message

Beth N. Rom-Rymer, Ph.D.

I am very much honored and grateful to have been elected IPA President for the 2013-2014 term. Together, as I had promised, we accomplished a great deal during my first term. Here are some highlights.

(1) Reversed the trend in IPA membership from declining to rising numbers. At our most recent Council meeting we were able to report that licensed psychologists' memberships were 155% of their numbers at the same time last year; non-licensed doctoral-level memberships were 116% of their numbers last year; affiliates' memberships were 160% of their numbers last year; total section memberships were 140% of their numbers last year and total IPA memberships were 136% of their numbers last year. My deepest gratitude goes to Blaine Lesnik, Membership Chair and our newly elected IPA Secretary (2012-2015). As Membership Chair, Blaine and her Membership team have worked tirelessly with me to solidify renewals and bring in scores of new members. I know that you have all seen and appreciated the beautiful graphics on Blaine's Constant Contact email blasts!

(2) Significantly increased the diversity of members represented in the leadership of IPA. Many IPA Governance members identify themselves as members of the LGBTQ community and as Early Career Psychologists (ECP). The 2011-2012 IPA Governing group had 7 out of 40 psychologists who are of color, or approximately 18% of all psychologists. In 2010-2011, the IPA Governing group had 3 psychologists of color and 1-2 psychologists of color in 2007-2010.

(3) We had a most successful Convention with exceptionally high numbers of attendees and revenue dollars. There was a great variety of programs that focused on a theme which is exceptionally important to me: psychologists making a difference in the lives of members of their communities outside of the therapy office. My Convention Committee, Patricia Jones Blessman and Cindy Forster, are to be heartily congratulated for all of their hard work.

(4) We have had a continuing series of very useful and extraordinarily well-attended workshops on a variety of topics, including "Opening

a Practice," "Practice Management: Marketing, Finances and Clinical Specialties," "All Things Electronic," "Working with Military Families," (co-sponsored by the Center for Deployment Psychology) and "Risk Management." The IPA Director of Public Affairs, Lynda Behrendt, deserves tremendous commendation for the success of these workshops. In addition, Mary Dellorto, Mike Schneider, Bob Intrieri, and Lisa Kinderman, all Council members, organized and implemented the very successful Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) Workshop in Bloomington.



(5) We moved to a beautiful suite of offices at 67 East Madison Street, Ste 1817 after having been told that our home of nearly 20 years at 203 North Wabash was being converted to a hotel property! Our Executive Director, Terrence Koller, our Director of Public Affairs, Lynda Behrendt, and our Office Manager, Linda Pruitt, executed this difficult but ultimately very successful move. Our new office suite is open for all to visit! As an added bonus, the spacious conference room down the hall has beautiful views of the City and Lake Michigan and is being well utilized for Council meetings and IPA workshops.

(6) The Healthcare Reimbursement Committee, Randy Georgemiller, Patricia Farrell, and Lynda Behrendt, has done a remarkable job in creating an important working relationship with Blue Cross Blue Shield and continues to keep at bay severe insurance reimbursement cuts and onerous review policies.

(7) Our Bylaws Committee, chaired by Steven Rothke, Armand Cerbone, and Greg Sarlo, has done a terrific service for IPA in updating our 1996 Bylaws with meticulous feedback from

Continued on page 10

President-Elect Message *Continued from page 2*

Council. Soon, the larger IPA community will be reviewing this update and providing feedback.

(8) At the June IPA Council meeting, a Listserv Policy and a Code of Conduct for all governance members were adopted by IPA Council and a listserv committee was appointed: Randy Geogemiller, Blaine Lesnik, and Bob Rinaldi. Both documents are currently available on our IPA website.

(9) In January, the IPA hired a well-regarded lobbying team, Taylor Uhe, to work with us to pass our RxP legislation. The hiring of the lobbying team was done on the recommendation of Bob Rinaldi, the Chair of our RxP Subcommittee, the Legislative Committee, chaired by Pat Pimental, and IPA Council. Between January and March, our RxP team worked with psychologists around the state to gather legislative support for our bill. Senator Don Harmon, the President Pro Tem of the Illinois Senate, agreed to be the chief sponsor of our bill. With tremendous gratitude for Senator Harmon's commitment to our RxP bill, it was passed out of the Public Health Committee of the Illinois Senate on March 6, 2012. It was the first time, in IPA history, that our RxP bill had been passed out of Committee. Since March, we have embarked on fundraising for RxP and we have continued meeting with our state legislators. We have also been educating psychologists about APA-designated training programs in Clinical Psychopharmacology, our RxP bill, and the implications, of the passage of our RxP bill, for psychologists who are interested in prescribing as well as for psychologists who are not interested in prescribing.

Many of our colleagues, on our listserv, have been commenting, recently, about the IPA culture of volunteerism. As an esteemed member of our community, Kirk Witherspoon, wrote, "Voluntary or not, we should welcome op-

portunities to support efforts of IPA and APA to represent our interests, without which we would not be half the clinical profession we are today, ..." I wholeheartedly agree with Kirk! There are many critical issues facing our profession, many of which are noted above. Engaging with IPA and helping IPA advocate for our interests in the larger community are essential to our growth and, ultimately, to our survival as an Association and as a profession. Other professional groups are vying for work that we already do (psychological testing and psychotherapy) and the healthcare climate is rapidly changing, as the recent Supreme Court decision on the Accountable Care Act has made abundantly clear. We must stay vigilant and respond, proactively, to the initiatives of our competitors. Working together to protect our interests creates a strong force within our larger community that will allow us to be successful. Weathering crises together, moving our Association forward, sharing common goals, values, ideals, hopes, and dreams, instills a strong sense of empowerment and accomplishment and gives us the feeling that we are a part of a warm, supportive community that is family.

As Patricia Farrell now leads us into the new IPA year, brimming with excitement and enthusiasm, all of us will be asked to respond to her calls for active engagement. I look forward to working with Pat to help her achieve her presidential goals. May we also count on you? ■