

NWPPA

Northwestern Pennsylvania Psychological Association
Newsletter Vol. 16 ~ No.2 ~ Summer 2007

President's Message

Eric Schwartz, Ph.D., Sarah Reed Children's Center

Well I have completed my term as President of NWPPA. I look back on this past year with mostly positive feelings. I have enjoyed working closely with other psychologists in the community to bring opportunities for networking and learning to our community of psychologists and other mental health professionals. I will say to those of you who have supported NWPPA in your own way...Thank You and keep supporting this valuable resource. Personally, there are a couple of folks who I would like to publicly extend my sincerest appreciation to for their hard work and commitment this past year. Thank you Vicki Kazmerski (and her son) and Barb Edwards for those early morning meetings at Paneras and their incredible efforts and time to make NWPPA as successful as is possible. I would also like to thank Dr. Dennis Valone and Dr. Pat Hanna for allowing me to share my thoughts about NWPPA with each of you.

I have one last comment as President to leave with the reader of this newsletter. I would encourage you to get involved in NWPPA. Even if you do not choose to participate in a leadership role, your presence at our meetings would be most welcome and appreciated. The strength of NWPPA rests squarely on the shoulders of our community of psychologists and its viability as professional organization is incumbent upon each one of us to make a good faith effort to participate. I hope you do so.

Thank you and have a great summer,

Eric Schwartz, Psy.D.

NWPPA President

NWPPA Executive Board

President Eric Schwartz
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President-Elect Barbara Edwards
barbaraihs@velocity.net
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The Website for the NWPPA is:
<http://www.papsy.org/nwppa/Index.htm>

Send your submission for inclusion in
our next newsletter to:

Victoria Kazmerski, Newsletter Editor
vak1@psu.edu

President-Elect's Message

Barbara Edwards, M.A., Private Practice

I would like to take a brief moment and introduce myself. After receiving my master's degree from Mansfield University, I moved to Erie. I accepted a job as psychologist at the now defunct LEIR. After a year of working solely with head injury patients, I accepted a job at St. Vincent Health Center and spent the next 15 years working with medical and rehab patients. Subsequently I was employed by a group in private practice. For the last seven years, I have had my own solo practice. I also am an adjunct faculty member at Gannon University. Besides medical issues, I have a long standing interest in medical ethics, multiculturalism and the integration of psychology and spirituality.

My involvement on PPA's CE Committee led to me becoming a member of the Executive Committee of NWPPA. (PPA requires that a member of their CE committee be actively involved in the planning of co-sponsored events.) Over the past several years under the capable leadership of Drs. Jim Schierberl, Denny Valone, Vicki Kazmerski and Eric Schwartz, several CE programs have been offered. The meetings have had some excellent speakers and discussions. As of July, Dr. Bob Nelsen will join PPA's CE Committee. This will enable us to continue to co-sponsor CE programs through PPA. We have been asked about providing CE for the meetings. PPA does not co-sponsor for less than 3 hours.

Our next event will be in September. Dr. Sam Knapp will present 2 workshops on ethics. The first, on September 6, is Legal and Ethical Issues in the Treatment of Children. This workshop will be preceded by a social hour and brief meeting with food and beverages provided. On Friday, there will be a 6 hour workshop on the Five Step Ethical Decision Making Process. Sam's workshops are always well received and we are fortunate to have him. As we look at the coming year, we have planned our annual research seminar (November 14) and Dr. Andrea Deligati, PPA President Elect has agreed to do a CE Workshop for us next May. Plans are underway to have all the dates and topics for the 2007-2008 announced by the start of September. Hopefully, this will increase attendance at our meetings.

Over the last few years, there has been some discussion if NWPPA has outlived its usefulness. With people's busy schedules and family demands, the meeting becomes just one more thing competing for our attention. I personally have found informal discussions with colleagues helpful. You are vital to the success of NWPPA. There have been requests for more frequent newsletters and a printed directory of NWPPA members. To do this we need volunteers – to write articles and assume responsibility for the directory. If you are skilled in networking, our website could use you. Kate Strosser has been the treasurer for years and her efficient recording of CE attendees and handling our mailings has been a huge help. We also need volunteers to assume leadership roles. We welcome your input in making NWPPA a vibrant organization.

One last note. If you are not a member of PPA, please consider joining. They have been very active in reigning in managed care companies and lobbying legislators in issues that impact our daily lives as psychologists. Currently, the legislators are considering a bill to restrict authorizations for MH treatment. And don't forget to renew your membership in NWPPA. Together we can make a difference.

Barbara Edwards

Safety Issues: Reprinted from a ListServe message from Sam Knapp to the PPA

Two weeks ago a nurse (the wife and office manager of a psychiatrist) was shot and killed outside of Harrisburg. Such instances are rare, but they do occur. Two years ago a noted psychiatrist, Wayne Fenton, was killed by a patient in his office outside of Washington, DC. A psychologist outside of San Francisco was also killed, although it is not known if the murderer was a patient or not.

The likelihood of being assaulted by a patient is rare, but these things do occur. The incidence of assaults against mental health staff is highest in hospitals. Psychiatric nurses are often victims of these attacks.

What can we do to increase our personal safety? Here are some things that have crossed my mind. Please feel free to add to or edit these thoughts.

1. do not see new patients alone at night, unless you have screened them over the phone and feel comfortable seeing them alone
2. obtain a history of violence and involvement with law enforcement agencies as part of your initial assessment;
3. screen or refer out patients with serious problems in controlling violent behavior if you do not feel capable of helping them;
4. structure your physical office in such a way that it increases your sense of protection. For example, remove objects that could be used as weapons (e.g., letter openers), seat yourself (not your patients) close to the door);
5. deal with hostile behavior therapeutically; use clinical skills to de-escalate the situation;
6. maintain professional boundaries; do not let patients know where you live, etc. (one time 20+ years ago I took some of my old magazines and placed them in the waiting room; I had forgotten to remove my mailing address from one of the magazines which, I believe, gave one patient the information needed to contact me at my home).
7. if you share offices with others or have office staff, be certain that everyone knows how to alert others when there are threats of violence and
8. Learn basic techniques for self-defense.

Sam Knapp

Erie's Psychologists at The Association of Psychological Science

Erie, PA was extremely well represented at the annual meeting of the Association of Psychological Science May 24-27 in Washington DC by Penn State Erie, The Behrend College and Mercyhurst College. Both schools had a great showing at the teaching conference and the scientific conference. The scientific conference was preceded by the APS/Society of Teaching in Psychology Teaching Institute at which presentations were made by both schools. Penn State Erie was represented by Ms Jennifer Trich Kremer, lecturer in psychology, was a co-author with Dr. Blasko associate professor of psychology and Kathy Holliday-Darr instructor of engineering graphics along with students, Megan Miller, Crystal Willis, Jenna Beck, Elizabeth Sansone, and Jimmie Hodge for the presentation "Spatial Skills Across the Curriculum." Dr. Terry F. Pettijohn II of Mercyhurst College with his father/collaborator Dr. Terry F. Pettijohn (The Ohio State University-Marion) and Lauren McDermott (Mercyhurst College) presented "Effective Attribution Exercises Based on Classic Research for Social Psychology Courses" at the teaching conference. During the scientific conference both Mercyhurst College and Penn State Erie were represented every day of the conference. Friday included presentations from Penn State Erie by Ms. Jennifer Trich Kremer presented "Preference for Alcohol as a Coping Mechanism in a Task-Induced Stress Situation" with faculty from the University of Cincinnati and the University of Northern Kentucky. Student Amy Walzer (Mercyhurst College), Dr. Terry Pettijohn (Mercyhurst College) and Donald Sacco (Miami University-graduate student) presented "The Effects of College Student Employment Expectations on Eye Size Preference and Ideal Mate Personality Ratings." Former Penn State Erie student Holly Blasko-Drabik, currently in the Human Factors doctoral program at the University of Central Florida presented " Implications of Working Memory Capacity for Website Usability."

Saturday brought presentations by Dr. Blasko, and students, Lauren Wagner and Carrie Mc Neal presented "Individual Differences in Quality of Verbal Arguments." Greg Williams (Mercyhurst College) and Dr. Terry Pettijohn (Mercyhurst College) also presented "Songs for the Seasons: Music Preferences Change with the Season."

The conference ended Sunday morning but not before we had three more presentations. Dr. Terry Pettijohn (Mercyhurst College) and students Amy Walzer (Mercyhurst College) and Melissa Yerkes (West Virginia University-graduate student) presented "The Influence of Future Social and Economic Success Beliefs on Eye Size, Body Shape, and Hair Color Preferences." Dr. Blasko (Penn State Erie) also presented with recent graduate, Christopher Engelhardt "The Influence of Mortality Salience and Time Perspective on Leadership Choices." Dr. Charisse Nixon, assistant professor of psychology at Penn State Erie, had a presentation with Chivon Fitch, formerly of CORE, and students Elizabeth Keifer, Megan Miller, and Elizabeth Sansone, entitled "Forgiveness, Negative Emotional Processes, and Relational Aggression: An Exploratory Study."

Submitted by:

Jennifer Trich Kremer, Lecturer
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Future NWPPA Meetings and Events of Interest

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

Legal and Ethical Issues in the Treatment of Children. A 3-hour continuing education workshop for Psychologists, Educators and Certified Counselors. Presented by: Samuel Knapp, EdD., Director of Professional Affairs for the Pennsylvania Psychological Association, Thursday, September 6, 2007, 5:00p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Social, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Workshop, Ambassador Conference Center, 7792 Peach Street, Erie, PA

SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

The Five-Step Ethical Decision-Making Process. A 6-hour continuing education workshops for Psychologists, Educators and Certified Counselors. Presented by: Samuel Knapp, Ed.D., Director of Professional Affairs for the Pennsylvania Psychological Association, Friday, September 7, 2007.

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

Academic Research Panel. Local researchers will present their latest findings. If you would like to present, please contact Barbara Edwards, barbaraihs@velocity.net.

JANUARY 2008

Panel Discussion - Topic to be announced. This panel will feature local speakers on current topic of psychological interest. Ambassador Conference Center, Peach St., Erie. 6:00 Social Hour, 6:30 Business Meeting, 7:00 Presentation. If you have suggestions on a topic of local interest, please contact Barbara Edwards, barbaraihs@velocity.net.

APRIL 2008

Levan/Kebles Forum, Sarah Reed Children's Center.

APRIL 26, 2008

Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference, Penn State Erie

MAY, 2008

Dr. Andrea Deligati, PPA President Elect will conduct a CE workshop. Details to come.

Nominations for Officers Being Accepted

New NWPPA officers will be elected at the NWPPA meeting Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. preceding the Ethics Workshop at the Ambassador Conference Center, 7792 Peach Street, Erie, PA. If you are interested in running for one of the offices or taking on the newsletter or webpage editing, please contact one of the current officers. Nominations will be taken from now until the elections.

NWPPA

Northwestern Pennsylvania Psychological Association

2007-2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Member: Y N Professional ____ Student ____ Recruited by: _____

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

NOTE: Please print clearly and as you would like information to appear in the directory/on the web site. **RENEWING MEMBERS: IF ALL INFORMATION IS THE SAME AS LAST YEAR, PRINT NAME ONLY**

Name _____ Degree _____

Licenses/Certifications _____

Area(s) of Specialization _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone (office) _____ (home) _____

EMAIL _____ FAX _____

I *do / do not* agree to have the above information included in the membership directory and ON THE NWPPA WEB SITE (home phone #'s will not be used on the web). Directory information may be used for referrals or for mailings regarding professional opportunities.

REDUCE YOUR DUES: ATTENTION MEMBERS! FOR EVERY NEW PROFESSIONAL MEMBER YOU RECRUIT FOR NWPPA, YOUR DUES FOR NEXT YEAR WILL BE REDUCED BY \$5.00. Have the new professional member include your name on the top of the application form.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE COPIES OR REQUEST MORE APPLICATION FORMS FROM:

Kate Strosser, email strosser@edinboro.edu or call 868-1124 and leave a message.

PLEASE COMPLETE APPLICATION PRIOR TO 11/01/07 TO AVOID LATE FEE AND MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:

NWPPA
Kathleen K. Strosser
915 West 51st Street
Erie, PA 16509

DUES:

____ \$55.00 **PROFESSIONAL TWO YEAR MEMBERSHIP** ____ \$30.00 Professional
____ \$40.00 Professional (after 11/01/06, \$10 penalty added) ____ \$10.00 Student

Checks should be made out to NWPPA.
Additional Tax Deductible Contribution
Thank you for supporting NWPPA

____ Amount
____ Contribution
____ TOTAL Enclosed