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Photo courtesy of the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau

AGLP meets in Boston for IPS, October 14 - 17, 2010

See meeting and accommodation information on page 10.

2010 AGLP Award Winners

George Harrison, MD

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This year Annual Awards broke out of its mold, leaving the sit down dinner for stepping out. The Annual Awards Reception was held at the Arthur Roger Gallery at the Renaissance Arts Hotel in New Orleans. And as this as New Orleans, we were treated to music and songs from Mary Flynn and Her New Orleans Jazz Band courtesy of a generous donation from Local Arrangements Chair, Stephan Carlson.

The center piece of the Reception was the Awards Presentation. This was the first year that five Awards were acknowledged. For many years the Distinguished Service Award, James Paulsen Award and the Stuart Nichols Award have been presented. This year marks the first presentation for the Annual Barbara Gittings Award to recognize the achievement of a woman who has made a significant contribution to the work that concerns our organization. We also had the opportunity to acknowledge the first Outstanding Resident Paper Award given by the *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health*. In this edition of the Newsletter we interview the winners of the Distinguished Service Award and James Paulsen Award.

2010 Distinguished Service Award

Extraordinary describes the work of Dr. Roger Peele, winner of the 2010 Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented to an individual whose body of work demonstrates an outstanding commitment to LGBT mental health. Through the decades, Roger has been on the frontlines for us in his role as an educator and maybe most importantly, as an influential member of the APA. He has served on the Task Forces for several different versions of the DSM, in the Assembly including his

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The Newsletter of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists

Editor, George Harrison, MD

Published quarterly from 4514 Chester Avenue,
Philadelphia, PA 19143-3707.

The views expressed in the *Newsletter* are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists. The sexual orientation of any writer or any person mentioned in the *Newsletter* should not be inferred unless specifically stated. Mailing lists for the *Newsletter* are confidential, to be used only by the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists, and do not imply sexual orientation.

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

Persons wishing to submit articles for publication should send them to: George Harrison, MD, Editor, *Newsletter* of AGLP; UCSF AIDS Health Project, 1930 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. (Phone: 415-502-4818, FAX 415-502-7240, E-mail: gharrison@aglp.org). Submissions should be clearly readable. Submissions on electronic media in Word document formats are appreciated. A hard copy should be included along with a notation indicating which word processing program was used. Submissions become the property of AGLP and will not be returned unless requested and accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope. The *Newsletter* reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Name, address, daytime telephone number, and a short biographical statement about the author should accompany the submission even if the author requests anonymity in publication (which is discouraged). The deadline for inclusion in the next issue is November 1, 2010.

ADVERTISING RATES

The *Newsletter* of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists accepts limited advertising depending upon space and applicability to issues affecting psychiatrists who either are gay or lesbian or treat gay and lesbian patients. The mailing lists for AGLP are confidential and never sold or provided to any vendor.

Full Page Ad \$300
Half-Page Ad \$200
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Community service announcements are printed without charge, but are accepted only on a limited basis depending upon space limitations and applicability.

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Editor's Column George Harrison, MD

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George Harrison, MD

I have a confession to make. I've never been to Hawaii. This may not seem as bad as some sins of omission but I have been California for the last 20 years and somehow haven't quite gotten around to exploring the next state to our west. Of course Hawaii is on my mind as we look forward to the next convention in Honolulu. For most people here in California, Hawaii doesn't seem so far away although in truth that's probably because there's just not a lot between the Golden Gate and the islands. Roughly speaking it's about as far to Honolulu as it is to Washington, D.C. So those of you who live east of here have got to be thinking, "We're going to Hawaii, because . . .?"

The obvious reason is the APA decided some years ago that the convention should return to the 50th State after many years. And where the APA goes, AGLP follows. There are more solid reasons to hold our event there next year which I'll share in future columns. The one that I want to focus on here is that we will return 38 years later to a place of historic transformation in the relationship between the APA and homosexuals.

The 1973 Honolulu Convention saw a turning point in the battle to depathologize homosexual behavior. Oddly this tipping point might be best seen in the events surrounding a straight man, Dr. Robert Spitzer, who held a position on the Nomenclature Committee which was responsible for delineating diagnoses for the DSM. Dr. Spitzer held the common opinion that homosexuality was a disease but he had also attempted to facilitate a dialog between the increasingly contentious sides of the psychiatric community, those that supported the traditional view of homosexuality as a deviant and pathologic state which was amenable to treatment and those advocating that it was a normal variant of sexual behavior and desire.

Dr. Spitzer helped organize a conference during the convention between the two sides and it proved to be electric. Finally the need for a change appeared to be gaining traction. But perhaps the most significant event happened later that night. Dr. Spitzer had famously said that he hadn't ever met a homosexual and didn't believe that there were any gay psychiatrists. In an inspired moment, the gay rights advocate, Ron Gold, invited Dr. Spitzer to join him at the Gay Psychiatric Association's (Gay-PA) party that night at a local bar. In what must have been an Alice Through the Looking Glass moment, he not only met homosexuals but recognized them as his colleagues many of whom held revered positions in government and in academia as well as the APA.

Reportedly, that night he and Ron Gold drafted the first version of what became Sexual Orientation Disturbance (Homosexuality). This diagnosis focused on those people who experienced distress in their efforts to have a more socially acceptable sexual desire. This change was made in a revision to DSM II. By DSM III it had changed to become Egodystonic Homosexuality and was finally removed in 1987 with the publication of DSM III-R under Dr. Spitzer's direction.

So much has changed it's hard for us to really understand what it was like. The Gay-PA was nothing like our organization as the members were closeted and the organization had no public presence and didn't want one. What hasn't changed? Just this month the Republican Governor of Hawaii, Linda Lingle, vetoed the state bill allowing same sex unions, saying that this was a decision that should be made by the voting public. The LGBT community continues to struggle for civil rights and the impact of oppression is a persistent part of our work. Looking at our history, it's critical for each person to play a role, the first part of which is to show up.

So it's summer. And hot, at least everywhere but San Francisco. There are many delightful distractions occupying your attention but I just want to plant this idea in your consciousness. Think about making that big effort to come all the way from where ever you are to a place called Paradise next year. Besides if a straight man from the east coast could have a profound transformation which affected the lives of all homosexuals what kind of transformation awaits you?

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President's Column

Ubaldo, Leli, M.D.

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Ubaldo Leli, MD

About six weeks have elapsed since our annual meeting. This year's, in New Orleans, was one of the most successful, exciting and emotionally fulfilling conventions I have participated in as a member of AGLP. Now, with its memory fresh, it is time for us to refocus, to keep our momentum going.

My thoughts as I prepared to visit that extraordinary city were of its resilience and stamina in confronting the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. During my stay, however, New Orleans—the entire region, in fact—was just beginning to face an even more ominous threat: the poisoning of the environment brought about by the unchecked gush of crude oil from the broken British Petroleum Deepwater Horizon well. Despite its minimization by the conservative media, this unprecedented disaster is proving far worse than the Eyjafjallajökull volcano eruption in Iceland, or of the Chernobyl accident from some years back. It is sad that New Orleans had to confront this new ecological catastrophe just as it is recovering from another, and it served as a stern reminder that the struggle must continue despite any setback.

During my stay, however, New Orleans—the entire region, in fact—was just beginning to face an even more ominous threat: the poisoning of the environment brought about by the unchecked gush of crude oil from the broken British Petroleum Deepwater Horizon well... It is sad that New Orleans had to confront this new ecological catastrophe just as it is recovering from another, and it served as a stern reminder that the struggle must continue despite any setback.

The grim backdrop and the severe, humid heat, however, did not detract from the pleasure and business of the visit. Much was happening in AGLP—new presidential and officers' elections, a new student reps selection, the weathering of our complex and perennially developing relationship with APA—but all played out smoothly. AGLP has maintained stability in the volume of its membership, and it has been running reliably in the black for some time now. Although AGLP's role as a professional organization within the mental health profession is changing, considering the increasing role that the Gay and Lesbian APA Caucus is assuming because of the elimination of the LGBT Committee from the APA, AGLP remains still the prime site of networking, socialization, education and identity consolidation for LGBT mental health professionals.

I will not elaborate on the specific developments in the administration, governance and social and political presence of AGLP, because I would prefer to share my subjective experience of visiting New Orleans as the outgoing AGLP President, and a gay man, happy in my primary relationship, my work, my interests and my friends. My responsibilities during the meeting were made more manageable not only by the usual assistance of my partner, Larry, but also by the extraordinary efforts of my longtime friend and colleague, Stephan Carlson, who, along with the other members of the Local Organizing Committee, provided us visitors with a rich taste of New Orleans culture and hospitality. I cannot express enough my gratitude for the special flavor Stephan's efforts brought to the meeting.

Simply walking through the streets, one is caught up in the city's atmosphere, thick with passion, noise, music and humanity. We were lucky enough, however, to be treated to a fuller immersion in local culture that only a native could provide. The Welcoming Reception, held at Stephan's home, offered a sumptuous buffet and a captivating chanteuse to give us a taste of New Orleans' two passions: great food and music. The Awards Party at the Art Gallery of the Renaissance Hotel also featured food and music, but this time the latter was in the ragtime, rather than cabaret, vein. On our meeting's final night, the VIP Reception for AGLP's generous supporters was held in the historic home of two of Stephan's close friends. Here guests were treated not only to a luxurious selection of local culinary

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Vice President's Column

Andy Tompkins, MD

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Andy Tompkins, MD

Education Is Key

I am extremely grateful to the membership of AGLP for this opportunity to continue to serve you, now as AGLP Vice President. It has been almost 10 years since my first AGLP board meeting in September 2001 as a second year medical student, and I am hopefully still as excited with our possibilities as then!

This year, I have been asked to head the newly founded Education Committee in addition to my other duties. We are a committee with the sole goal of uniting the educational components of AGLP and are made up currently with representa-

tives from the Executive Committee, the Journal, APA leadership, and select general members. We could always use more help and more ideas! Contact me through my AGLP email above if you are willing to assist in any capacity.

We have already had our first telephone conference to discuss the annual meeting in Hawaii. We concluded in that first meeting that it would best serve the current and future members if our education events would be submitted to the APA scientific committee for inclusion in the APA program. We have proposed at least one symposium on the "Mental Health Aspects of Gay Marriage" and are currently accepting requests from members to serve as co-presenters. If everything comes together, we also may be able to have an AGLP track for the program to coincide with the John Fryer Award Lecture.

The reasons for this important decision were many. We did not want to conflict with future official APA convention activities, which now start on Saturdays. As well, there has been a declining participation in a Saturday Symposium, except in larger GLB-friendly cities. Finally, it will motivate us to complete the details of the educational events way in advance of May – giving us proper time to raise funds for outside speakers and promote the talks. This will be a trial, though, for the upcoming convention. Based upon the results, we can certainly consider returning to the former AGLP Symposium format for 2012.

The committee has also revived the important concept of an AGLP speaker's bureau. With the help of GAP (Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry), Eric Yarbrough and many others there are already two PowerPoint presentations useful for AGLP members giving invited grand rounds talks or at scientific meetings. The two current presentations are Psychotherapy with Gay and Lesbian Patients and Psychological Development and Life Cycle of the LGB Population. We now need to solicit individuals willing to speak on behalf of AGLP on these important mental health issues. I am hoping we can place at least two speakers in the upcoming year to start. And much more participation is possible!!!

Finally, I wanted to let everyone know that I am now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University. I have a special interest in substance abuse, which is quite prevalent in Baltimore, MD. My time is split between NIH funded clinical trials for cocaine and opioid dependence, including a novel vaccine against cocaine. In addition, I am medical director of an area methadone

clinic and continue to see patients one day a week in a dual diagnosis clinic. Needless to say, I am quite busy – but much enjoying the pace. Everyone, please enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing many of you in Boston at IPS.

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International News

Gene Nakajima, MD



Gene Nakajima, MD

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The European Psychiatric Association (EPA) held the 18th European Congress of Psychiatry this spring in Munich. Along with psychiatrists from Austria and the Germany Association for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (DGPPN), I organized a symposium titled, "Recent Developments in Affirmative Mental Health Care for Gay and Lesbians - European and US Perspectives" which was well received.

Looking forward there are a few international meetings of interest to AGLP members. One LGBT workshop has been accepted for the DGPPN Congress in Berlin, November 24-27, 2010. This meeting is the largest annual convention of psychiatrists in Europe, and is mostly in German with some English language sessions. <http://www.psychiatry-congress-berlin.org/>

Along with some German psychiatrists, we have submitted a LGBT symposium for the EPA's 19th European Congress of Psychiatry in Vienna which will take place March 12-15, 2011. <http://www2.kenes.com/epa/Pages/Home.aspx>. Beyond that the 2012 Congress will be in Prague from March 3rd to the 6th.

The 15th World Congress of Psychiatry will be held in Buenos Aires from Sep 18-22, 2011. This is a triennial event is organized by the World Psychiatric Association. Submissions for symposia and workshops are due on October 31, 2010. If you are interested in presenting in a LGBT workshop or symposia in Buenos Aires, please contact Gene Nakajima, MD by October 1, 2010 at GNakajima@aglp.org. http://www.wpanet.org/uploads/Meetings_Page/Major_Future_Meetings/2011-Argentina-Congress-2nd-Announcement-Eng.pdf.

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George Harrison and Ubaldo Leli at the Awards Reception.

More photos from the Annual Meeting continue on page 8

News from the Basement

Allied Assembly Organization Representative Report

David L. Scasta, MD

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David Scasta, MD

It has been a very frenetic time in the APA. So much has happened and I could not be happier with the APA.

Readers may recall that on November 15, 2009 AGLP requested reinstatement of the APA's Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues, which had been sunsetted for budgetary reasons. President-elect at the time, Carol Bernstein, M.D., let me know at the end of April that our request for reinstatement was turned down.

Before I could respond, I got a call on April 29 at 1:30 am, from Hawaii from Dr. Jeffrey Akaka informing me that the Hawaiian Legislature had reversed itself late that night in closing session and approved a same sex civil union bill. Dr. Akaka is a former Speaker of the APA Assembly who comes from a very prominent family in Hawaii. His uncle is a US senator, his brother is a US representative, and he is a Democratic precinct official. He cautioned, knowing the politics that were involved, that Hawaiian Governor Linda Lingle might veto the bill. In the past, the APA Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues could be tapped to put pressure on the governor to do what is best for the mental health of gay and lesbian couples by allowing the Civil Union Bill to become law. I lamented to Dr. Bernstein that the Civil Union Bill was just the type of issue that called for reinstatement of the APA committee. She then proposed an alternative model for dealing with such critical, emerging issues, entailing the use of what is unofficially called, "SWAT Teams." That model may prove to be a more effective in dealing with critical issues affecting the mental health of LGBT communities than the former Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues was able to be, and may have the benefit of getting more AGLP members involved in APA policy and leadership.

The SWAT Team model entails selecting a small group of ad hoc APA members to serve on a rapid response team that quickly develops (via the internet and telephone calls) a strategy for the APA to address a specific issue that is problematic. The team's recommendations are promptly submitted to the Council on Minority Mental Health and Mental Health Disparities or other APA governance for possible action.

When Dr. Akaka e-mailed me to let me know they Governor Lingle was giving signals that she was about to veto the Hawaiian Civil Union Bill, I contacted Dr. Bernstein, noting that a Council would be unlikely to be able to do anything in time to try to prevent the veto. I asked Dr. Bernstein if she would be willing to write a letter to Governor Lingle conveying APA's official policy supporting lesbian and gay unions. After consulting with APA's staff, the Hawaiian District Branch, and Dr. Akaka, she got the go ahead and sent a letter to Governor Lingle asking her not to veto the bill. Dr. Akaka facilitated the letter's conveyance. The president of the American Psychoanalytical Association, Prudence L. Gourguechon, M.D., followed suit.

Unfortunately, despite Dr. Bernstein's letter, Governor Lingle vetoed the legislation on July 6, 2010. Governor Lingle reportedly received 36,000 comments, of which 60% were in favor of her veto. The APA hierarchy reacted instantly to

the veto, and, in a flurry of e-mails among APA staff, APA officers and former officers, and pivotal people (such as Drs. Sandra Walker, Jack Drescher, Francis Lu, and Mark Townsend), quickly developed an APA response. President Bernstein issued a press release condemning the veto and re-stating the APA's support of civil unions as benefiting the mental health of gay and lesbian couples.

In the interim, the APA Section Council of the American Medical Association took similar actions in the plenary of the House of Delegates last month in supporting Resolution 219: Adverse Effects of "the Defense of Marriage Act" on Children and Other Dependents of Military Personnel. The bill mandated that the AMA recommend repeal of national DOMA legislation due to its adverse impact on the dependents of military personnel. The AMA is already on record as supporting gay unions. The APA Section Council strongly supported the resolution. Dr. Akaka spoke for the Council in front of the reference committee hearings on the resolution and received the unconditional endorsement of that reference committee. Dr. Nada Stotland, a past APA president, spoke for the Council in favor of the resolution on the floor of the House of Delegates. Another former APA president and member of the APA's delegation, Dr. Carol Robinowitz, sent me an e-mail reminding me to make certain to note that the efforts of AGLP past presidents, Drs. David Kessler and Jim Krajieski, paved the way many years ago for changes in the AMA's attitude to one that is less hostile to LGBT interests. Despite the APA Section Council's strong support, opposition to the resolution was raised on religious grounds and the bill was tabled for further consideration. The tabling of the bill, however, was not because of lack of trying by the APA leadership.

When Dr. Bernstein suggested the SWAT Team model concept, I raised two other issues that were percolating and needed the APA's attention.

The first issue was the situation in Uganda. Rev. Martin Ssempe, an American trained Christian pastor in Uganda, pushed legislation that called for draconian prison sentences for Ugandans who engaged in homosexual activity, death sentences for HIV-positive Ugandans who engage in homosexual activity, and long prison sentences for individuals who harbor homosexuals. Uganda is 85% Christian; however, even the Christian right in America took a firm stance against the Anti-Homosexuality Bill, admonishing their Christian brethren in Uganda that the death penalty is hardly a Christian response to homosexuality. The Ugandan religious community responded angrily that American Christian groups were not going to foist Western homosexuality on the Ugandan people. The Ugandan National Social Workers Association (UNSWA) then wrote a position paper supporting the legislation and calling for therapy for people who are "afflicted" with homosexuality. The document was filled with 60s era psychobabble that sounded very official and well researched. Dr. Ellen Haller and I, with Warren Throckmorton, Ph.D., as a consultant, formed a SWAT Team to address the misinformation characterized by the UNSWA as science. Dr. Throckmorton had been pleading with gay advocacy groups as well as social conservatives to intervene and was monitoring the situation closely. He reported that international pressure, particularly from Germany (which threatened to withhold economic aid), pressured parliamentary leadership in Uganda to table the bill. The International Association of Social Workers also condemned the bill. African religious groups, however, are attempting to revitalize the bill. The swat team elected to monitor the situation for now since that attempt seems unlikely to be successful. If the bill comes up for a second reading, that will be a signal for the APA to act.

The third swat team was assigned it to address a document released by the

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Looking for Speakers for the Annual Meeting in Hawaii

Gene Nakajima, MD

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AGLP is planning to organize LGBT sessions for the next APA annual meeting in Honolulu. Traditionally, AGLP organizes a Saturday educational meeting. In addition, AGLP is hoping to organize a few workshops and symposia at the annual meeting. If we get enough submissions, we hope to have a LGBT tract at the annual meeting.

We are currently looking for AGLP members and their spouses who might be interested in speaking at the annual meeting on LGBT issues. If you would like to speak, please send us your contact information, a title of your talk and a 50 word mini abstract. We will try to group as many of the talks that we receive together as submissions. If you are planning to submit your own workshop or symposia, please let us know so we won't duplicate your effort. We may want to organize a workshop or symposium about the last APA meeting in Honolulu in 1973 where an important symposium took place concerning removing homosexuality from DSM. If you know of anyone who was at the 1973 meeting that might be willing to talk about that historic symposium or about the removal of homosexuality as a disease later in 1973, please let us know.

AGLP is currently organizing an Education Committee to help plan future annual meeting educational activities, such as workshops and symposia. If you are interested in serving on this committee please contact us.

Because the APA deadline for submission is September 14, 2010, and it takes a while to organize submissions please let us know by August 14 your interest in speaking. Send information to: Andy Tompkins, MD, at ATompkins@aglp.org.

Seeking Inpatient Psychiatrist North of New York City

Rockland Psychiatric Center is seeking an inpatient psychiatrist for our women's unit. Located 30 minutes north of Manhattan in the beautiful Hudson Valley, RPC is a 470 bed state psychiatric hospital serving Manhattan and the 4 counties to the north.

RPC has a large network of outpatient services in addition to the inpatient hospital, so there are opportunities for movement or advancement. We have an NYU affiliation and also place fellows from Columbia.

This is an inpatient job with regular hours, state benefits including NYS pension and deferred comp. On-call is voluntary and for extra pay.

Please email CV or call:

Mary Barber, MD, Clinical Director,
rpmeb01@omh.state.ny.us, 845-680-8062

Seeking Presentations for Case Conference on Children of Same Sex Parents

The Psychoanalytic Research and Development Fund is an independent psychoanalytic organization devoted to research and scholarship in psychoanalysis. It has no institutional ties to any other psychoanalytic organization and is independently funded. It was founded about 50 years ago. Projects have included seminars studying child development, anti-Semitism, a pioneering study of the use of pharmacological agents in conjunction with psychoanalysis, a psychoanalytic perspective involving the events of September 11, 2001, psychoanalytic perspectives on trauma, and many others. Participants have included psychoanalysts from many institutes and from many parts of the world.

We are interested in starting a seminar/study group to expand knowledge about psychoanalytic concepts of child development. Given the increasing numbers of children with same-sex parents and the increased interest among same-sex couples looking for information and guidance, we would like to learn more about the subset of children in treatment whose parents are same-sex couples. The format is a psychoanalytic case conference. We are looking for clinicians to present case material of psychoanalysis or psychodynamic psychotherapy of children of same-sex couples. Confidentiality and anonymity is of paramount importance, as in all our groups.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please address inquiries to:

Dr. Henry Nunberg, Professional Director
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AGLP Congratulates Caucus President Dan Hicks and his husband, John McCall on their June wedding.

AGLP Award Winners*Continued from page 1*

time as Speaker of the Assembly, and on the Board of Trustees in a variety of capacities including his current position as Secretary. In all of these roles, he has been an ardent supporter for our issues. His continued advocacy has made a difference in APA positions about LGBT mental health, the significance of which cannot be underestimated. Roger backs up that commitment to our community by his membership with AGLP.

What did it mean to you to receive the Distinguished Service Award for 2010 from AGLP?

Being told of the Award last spring was a major, marvelous surprise. While I have been involved in a number of advocacies, the huge challenge that gays and lesbians have faced -- forever -- makes their advocacy uniquely significant.



Dr. Roger Peele, winner of the 2010 Distinguished Service Award, accepting from Roy Harker, AGLP Executive Director

I do not recall the details exactly but in the early 1960's while at Saint Elizabeths Hospital I had a number of gay patients hospitalized mostly for depression and anxiety. They taught me about their exposure to danger, humiliation and discrimination. By the mid-1960's, I was teaching the medical students and residents at Saint Elizabeths that homosexuality was like left-handedness. It was something that 10% of the population was born with and was not the subject for treatment. I also taught them about the consequences of facing the unexplainable hatred which homosexuals experienced.

When the gay and lesbian community within the Washington Psychiatric Society suggested about three decades ago I use my Assembly role to help that group achieve recognition in the Assembly, I was eager to help. Since then, I have supported

other gay/lesbian issues in the Assembly or on the Board. In accepting the Award, I regretted that I could not share the Award with those gay patients, who have since died.

In New Orleans, I was impressed that there was more love and laughter at the AGLP event than at any other event at the Annual meeting.

The concerns of AGLP have been your concerns. You have been a strong advocate for our community as well as a wide variety of other concerns in your extensive work within the APA. As Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the APA, what do you see as the most important LGBT concerns facing the APA?

As to the immediate issues within the APA, we want to be sure that any APA reorganizations now being considered leave the AGLP a voice in the governance. Even if the AGLP membership is down, AGLP is still larger than many a District Branch and a voice that is more unique than any District Branch's. As to the Secretary position per se, I would be interested in any thoughts AGLP has as to being sure any members are as fully and easily informed about the APA's governance as they wish. Most generally, as I said over the years, "the only major institution based on love is marriage, and that institution should be available to all." I am aware that in order to achieve that goal everywhere I will need specific directions from the AGLP.

2010 James Paulsen Award

For his outstanding contributions to AGLP, Dr. Mark Townsend received the 2010

James Paulsen Award. Through his many years of membership and service he has demonstrated a deep commitment to the goals of the organization participating on the several different Local Arrangements Committees through the years, working on the AGLP Board and acting as the Representative for the Caucus of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists. Mark continues to be a vital presence in AGLP and his work deeply appreciated.

The Paulson Award provides a chance to focus attention on how AGLP has benefited by your participation as a member. What would you tell members, especially those considering becoming more active, what your work for AGLP has meant to you?

I joined AGLP as a medical student, an AMSA member who believed that lesbian and gay physicians were the ones who would identify and describe gay-specific patterns of health and illness. It seemed to me at the time (the early 80's) that not only were no other physicians interested in LGB health, very little research was being performed. Additionally, APA was to me an enormous group of psychiatrists with whom I had very little in common. AGLP became one place at the Annual Meeting where I could expect to find friends, old and new. I'm not sure I would have become so involved in APA without AGLP.

Given that you have just completed your service as the LGB Caucus Representative, you have a particular vantage on the relationship between AGLP and the APA. What are the most important things that AGLP can do to enhance the connection between the two organizations?



Mark Townsend, MD, accepts the 2010 James Paulsen Award from Ubaldo Leli, MD, AGLP President.

It was a huge victory for AGLP when we won a seat in the Assembly. However, it meant the uncoupling of the LGB Caucus and AGLP. For the first time we had two presidents, two executive committees, and two separate, dedicated votes on the Assembly. AGLP and the Caucus will always be in danger of drifting apart, to the detriment of both. While the Caucuses are flimsy--with relatively little staff and financial APA support, and with a vaguely defined mandate to pick up the slack of the sunset Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues--it is the one vehicle for GLB psychiatrists to exert a gay-specific voice within the Association. The Caucuses are ours to shape, while the Committee is gone, perhaps forever. I think we need to retool and update our focus and

do all we can to ensure that the Caucus grows and is supported. A good example of synergy is the positive relation between the Black Caucus and the Black Psychiatrists of America. BPA uses the Caucus to further policy within APA, and among the M/UR Caucuses has the largest percentage of self-identified M/UR members.

What do you think are the most significant ways that AGLP can be of service to our community as we go forward?

I think I may be in the minority in this, but with AGLP members reduced in number, this is not a time to embark upon major public service projects. We need to return to our roots as an organization where LGB--now LGBT--psychiatrists can support one another in friendship and solidarity. Sometimes the Zodiac fits--strange, isn't it--and the Cancer in me always draws me back to the home that AGLP represents, and not the larger battles outside our walls. It's time for the group to return to its simpler, homier form, a place where LGBT psychiatrists' (not psychiatry's) issues are celebrated and discussed.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED AGLP FOR 2010-2011**EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION**

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We'll help you find the strength to seek care for yourself or someone you love--and the support you need to overcome your challenges.



The Brattleboro Retreat, Brattleboro, VT

The Brattleboro Retreat, located in Brattleboro, Vermont, is pleased to announce immediate opportunities for three medical staff positions in our comprehensive psychiatric facility. We are seeking leaders in the following positions:

- Inpatient adult psychiatry
- Inpatient Psychiatry for lesbian, gay, bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) patients
- Outpatient psychiatry

We are seeking compassionate and motivated physician care-givers who wish to make a difference in the lives of our patients. With a census that averages nine patients per provider, the Retreat will provide you that opportunity. We treat more than 2200 inpatients annually, and in the first quarter of 2010 our admissions have increased by 25 percent. Each inpatient's mental and physical intake examination is performed by our admitting staff, allowing you, the inpatient psychiatrist, to concentrate on the inpatient experience. Our outpatient psychiatry position will find you working with a talented and diverse group of clinicians who serve children, adolescents and adults experiencing a wide range of difficulties.

The Brattleboro Retreat is located in the southeastern corner of Vermont and is situated on the banks of the Connecticut River. With the Green Mountains as our backdrop, the Retreat offers a soothing, restorative environment of care that is conducive to healing.

The Retreat has been providing mental health care and addictions treatment since 1834. Our facility was one of the first 10 psychiatric hospitals in the United States and is nationally recognized for providing a full range of high quality diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitation services for individuals of all ages and their families.

Our philosophy of care is patterned on the Quaker concept of moral treatment, and we

continue to remain true to that spirit by including not only standard psychiatric and addiction treatment services, but outdoor activities, art, substance abuse counseling, yoga, animal assisted therapy, and other enrichments, as appropriate, for each patient.

We offer medical staff candidates an opportunity to join a tremendous, collegial environment in a facility that fosters healing in a unique setting. Salaries are extremely competitive and our comprehensive benefits plan includes medical, dental, short and long term disability, malpractice and life insurances. We offer 34 paid days off annually, tax deferred savings programs and on-site child care. The State of Vermont offers a student loan program as well.

The town of Brattleboro is located in the Connecticut River Valley at the base of the Green Mountains. A regional center for commerce, finance, and technology, Brattleboro also has been cited in several publications as one of the top arts and cultural locations in the country.

Numerous parks are nearby, and recreational opportunities range from hiking and winter skiing to fall drives and popular music, arts, and crafts festivals. Our central proximity in New England is close to Interstate 91 providing easy access to major cities like Boston, New York and Montreal, as well as the coast of Maine, Cape Cod and the Adirondack mountains. With affordable housing and moderate cost of living, Brattleboro's cosmopolitan rural setting remains a tremendous setting to call home.

If you are seeking a unique opportunity to join a dedicated team of professionals interested in making a difference with patients and their families, please contact Mr. Gene Corbett. Gene is knowledgeable about our facility, our location and the position(s) available at the Retreat. You can contact him immediately at 800-229-9759. You may also respond via email to Gene.Corbett@physicianfinders.com.

Statement from the APA Concerning the Veto of Hawaiian Civil Unions

AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION TO HAWAII LEGISLATURE: KEEP TRYING FOR CIVIL UNIONS

ARLINGTON, Va. (July 8, 2010) —The American Psychiatric Association strongly supports legislation recently approved by the Hawaii legislature that would have made Hawaii the 11th state, along with the District of Columbia, to recognize same-sex civil marriage, civil unions or domestic partnerships.

"We regret Gov. Lingle's veto and pledge our ongoing support for enactment of same-sex civil marriage or civil union laws in Hawaii and throughout the United States," said APA President Carol A. Bernstein, M.D.

"As physicians who specialize in psychiatry, we recognize the positive influence of a stable, adult partnership on the health of all family members," Dr. Bernstein said. "Marriage and family, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, are among the cornerstones of social relationships and other supports that help us face life's challenges. All Americans should be able to enjoy these benefits."

In 2004, the APA Board of Trustees approved a Position Statement that "supports the legal recognition of same sex union and their associated legal rights, benefits, and responsibilities, and opposes restrictions to those same rights, benefits, and responsibilities."

In 2005, the APA Board of Trustees approved a Position Statement strongly in favor of the legal recognition of same-sex civil marriage, declaring that "In the interest of maintaining and promoting mental health, the American Psychiatric Association supports the legal recognition of same-sex civil marriage with all rights, benefits, and responsibilities conferred by civil marriage, and opposes restrictions to those same rights, benefits, and responsibilities."

The American Psychiatric Association is a national medical specialty society whose physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. Visit the APA at www.psych.org and www.HealthyMinds.org.

•••

AGLP Fall Meeting at IPS Boston

Roy Harker, Executive Director

RHarker@aglp.org

This year AGLP will hold its annual **Fall Business Meeting** in conjunction with IPS in Boston. If you are a member of the Executive Committee or the Advisory Committee I hope you are planning on attending. The meeting will take place in the Boston Marriott Copley Square, Regis Room, Third Floor, beginning at 8:30am with breakfast. An AGLP block of rooms is available through our website at www.AGLP.org. The room rate is the same rate offered to all APA members - \$272/night single/double.

In addition to the business meetings, AGLP will also be presenting our **2010 John Fryer Award** to Evan Wolfson, an American civil rights attorney and advocate, and founder and executive director of Freedom to Marry, a national non-profit organization that advocates legalization of same-sex marriage. The award presentation and Mr. Wolfson's lecture is scheduled for Friday, October 15, 1:30- 3:00pm.

A reception for AGLP members and local psychiatrists and medical students is planned for Friday evening, October 15. More details will follow shortly.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Andrew Anson, M.D.
New York, NY

Francis Lu, M.D.
Rancho Cordova, CA

Joanna Arch, D.O.
Portland, ME

Albert Marrero, M.D.
Ventura, CA

Kyle Benner, M.D.
Madison, WI

Danielle Martin, D.O.
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James Montgomery, M.D.
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Matthew Conner, M.D.
Durham, NC

Sarah Noble, D.O.
Philadelphia, PA

Brett Coulson, M.B.
Richmond, Victoria, Australia

William Riccardelli, M.D.
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Anand Desai, M.D.
New York, NY

Phillip Rowden, M.D.
Natchez, MS

Mark Everard, M.D.
Seattle, WA

James Rundell, M.D.
Oronoco, MN

Jesus Exposito-Cespedes, M.D.
Studio City, CA

Wynelle Snow, M.D.
Ketchikan, AK

Daniel Hall-Flavin, M.D.
Rochester, MN

Patrick Teverbaugh, M.D.
Santa Cruz, CA

Jason Lambrese, M.D.
Cambridge, MA

Jonathan Weiss, M.D.
Brooklyn, NY

Scott Leibowitz, M.D.
Boston, MA

Mohammad Zaman, M.D.
Somerville, MA

AGLP Board and Advisory Council Meeting 2010 New Orleans, Louisiana

Sunday, May 23, 2010

8:30am to 12:00pm

Sheraton New Orleans, Edgewood Rooms A/B, Fourth Floor

Those Present: Ubaldo Leli, M.D., Kenn Ashley M.D., Roy Harker, Alan Schwartz, M.D., Eric Yarbrough M.D., Karl Jefferies M.D., Chris McIntosh M.D., George Harrison M.D., Ellen Haller, M.D., Dan Hicks M.D., Jack Drescher M.D.

Welcome: Ubaldo Leli, M.D., President -

- Thanks to local arrangements: Stephan Carlson, MD, Chair, Mark Townsend, MD, and Jamie Hanna, MD.
- Thanks to Kenn Ashley, MD, for hospitality suite and symposium coordination

Announcements:

Staffing Booth volunteers were asked for. A new format for Awards Reception was discussed with the closing and opening reception happening together on Monday evening.

Nomination Committee Report:

Nominations would be discussed at the members meeting in the afternoon.

Symposium Report:

Kenn Ashley, MD – The upcoming symposium was discussed. Rethinking the symposium. The APA starts on Saturday and there is direct competition with the APA. The idea was raised about doing away with the symposium and adding it into the APA schedule. The symposium is a necessary expense vs. addition to the APA. There were mixed views among the board.

George – support to add to APA for increased presence wider audience and exposure. People that show up to current symposium already pay their dues.

Roy – meeting deadlines for submission may be difficult because they are due in September.

Ellen – On Saturday, we are preaching to the choir. We need a wider audience.

Ubaldo – Concern that we will lose individuality as an organization. Don't know if merging with the APA will maintain a better viability. There is concern that we will be dissolved eventually. It would be an AGLP event in the symposium. The average attendance to the symposium is 30, 16, 120... varies. Larger cities create larger crowds.

Gene – Coordinate more submissions to the APA. It's difficult getting people together to form a topic and submit it. There are limited LGBT topics in the APA. Need someone to coordinate more among our members.

Chris - Continue to have the social events and hospitality suite. That will help maintain our identity.

Jack – Certain cities we get better attendance, do it those years. Rethink the format of how to do educational programs at the APA. Selected targeted symposium to decide if we do an event or not. Structure to help the new vice-president. Offer the editors of the journal as consultants to the program.

Ubaldo – create an educational committee to increase presence in other venues. The vice-president should cover this committee. The Vice-president is mandated as the chair of the education committee for APA related symposium and our own symposium coordinated with the journal.

Jack – Mary and I are going to talk about the GAP curriculum.

Ubaldo – committee on education which will plan all activities of an educational nature.

Treasurer's Report and Budget: Andy Tompkins, MD, Roy Harker (copied from a letter to the board)

For the fiscal year ending May 2010, we have a projected \$748 surplus, which is great considering the ongoing economic times. However, it is still down from the days of budgets with excess of \$100,000. A large part is our continued reliance on membership dues. As our membership goes up and down, our ability to be an advocate for our mission will also fluctuate. We need to continue to increase the amount of outside funding. Roy has done a great job investigating and writing external grant opportunities (with the help of Mary Barber and other AGLP members). Specifically, I encouraged an investigation into federal and state government grants. We have yet to find a way for AGLP as an organization to qualify but I plan to work hard on this if I am granted an opportunity to serve as Vice-President. Some opportunities include – 1) challenge grants from the National Endowment of the Humanities to help collate the AGLP historical documents/artifacts for use as a traveling exhibit; 2) grants to fund our Symposium from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association) or other appropriate agencies. For this fiscal year, we fell \$3000 short of our goal of \$5000 in grants. We should prioritize exceeding this every year for the next 5 years. This is a lofty goal but could be done with the full participation of the executive committee.

We have agreed to end the closing banquet, and with it an opportunity to fund raise. Although this is fiscally responsible, we need to explore other fund raising opportunities. These need to be web based or involve committed members on a regional basis. I for one would love to host a dinner party in which members and non-members mix together. This would increase opportunities for new members to learn about and join AGLP. The goals of these intimate meals would be to increase membership and also to increase the number of members re-enrolling at a higher membership level. These dinners could also be another member benefit – if the meals are noteworthy. I can discuss the exact details in a future conference call.

Finally, I would like to encourage the next treasurer to join with Roy to detail in a user-friendly manner where the membership monies go. This could be placed in the newsletter and also be a useful tool when discussing member benefits. People really want to know that their money is going to a good cause, not just to ensure select members have a good social experience at convention.

In regards to FY2011 budget, please look at Convention expenses closely. We may need to revise shipping expenses and other items to reflect the Hawaii location. It may also be beneficial to poll members on their willingness to attend Hawaii. This information could then better guide the financial planning for the convention. Whatever the final numbers, we should agree to stick to it! As well, please look at the credit card processing line item and clarify the need for 3% of our budget to go to collecting dues. This seems high.

Thanks again for allowing me to serve as AGLP secretary and treasurer. I look forward to future involvement and work on behalf of all members and future members.
(END OF LETTER)

Roy – Discussed moving the budget planning to the fall meeting. For planning it might be wise in that we will see what we have spent from the previous years meeting.

Ubaldo – later time of approving the budget will make us more accurate

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about what we can and can't do. I think we wouldn't lose anything but gain accuracy. Fiscal year ends December 31st. The majority of the expenses are from the convention.

Roy – the other expenses are the newsletters, journals, postage, and are pretty well distributed throughout the rest of the year. We can table the approval of the budget to the fall meeting.

Kenn – agrees to make budgetary decisions to be made in the fall. Jack – counsel can delegate to the executive board to make the decision with everyone to understand the limitations.

Roy – we tend to overspend on the convention. San Francisco was over budget 11%. Will be deferred to the executive decision.

Newsletter Editor: George Harrison, MD

George – Thanks to Roy Harker for his help in the Newsletter. It's hard to get members to respond to requests for contributions. The newsletter gets very little feedback. We are looking for material for the website and journal.

Kenn – Add where medical students match for residency or for fellowships. Publishing that each year.

George – letter to membership. Announce publications in the newsletter.

Karl – use the newsletter to connect to external sources. The idea is of expanding the visibility and function for our members. Residents would likely look to the newsletter for a connection to a larger academia.

Kenn – use the website to list potential speakers that people can search for.

George – the newsletter could also list articles that members found compelling.

Jack – will start a task force about listing the bibliography online.

Journal Editor: Mary Barber, MD, and Alan Schwartz, MD

Alan – thanks for Roy for administrative support. The journal is doing very well. Starting to have a good paper flow as compared to previous. We currently have all content through 15:1. The current symposium will be included into the journal. On average we have 1-2 submissions per month. Word is getting out that we are looking for articles. Content-wise we are looking to publish an oral history – looking for significant people in gay history and interview them and publish it in the journal. We need interviewers for these. Alan and Mary would take care of the administrative things requiring the interviewer to turn the transcription into the article. Interview those involved early in the organization, past presidents, etc. George and Chris volunteer to interview. This information would be added to the newsletter for further volunteers. We are also looking for someone who would be a good guest-editor or series editor. This would be someone who takes on a subject matter who gets others to write an article and edits that article. Movie reviews are potential for subject matter.

Upcoming content of the journal was discussed. We attempted to be added to Medline again. Quality and importance is what they are looking for. They look at who writes the articles and how exciting they are. It's a combination of excitement and authorship. The score is higher than previous. The goal is to be medline indexed. Once you are indexed it is permanent. We are not allowed to apply for another three years. This review was based on Volume 13. The submission is based on one volume.

Resident Award Paper – Mary got a grant which will be repeating. Xavier Jimenez. This grant paid for his trip with a \$500 award. A total of six articles were submitted.

Roy – extra \$1000 added to budget for journal expenses.

Caucus Report: Dan Hicks, MD, President, Mark Townsend, MD, and Phil Bialer, MD

Dan – Issues coming up. Trying to solidify the award caucusing. The counsel will be "blessing" our choice for the award. They can also select who will be represented on the board. Mark Townsend was recently selected.

Moving forward, we need a policy statement on trans issues. We'll be working on that to get it approved by the fall meeting and submit for next year.

Jack – APA doesn't have any position statements on trans issues. A task force is meeting to decide whether the APA should have practice guidelines by the APA for trans treatment. Different committees from district branches need to submit a similar document regarding various LGBT topics.

GLB Committee Report: Ellen Haller, MD

Ellen – the counsel is going through thought about how to do its work. There is continued distress over the termination of the various minority committees. Work is difficult to get done because there is no organization support behind it. There is a proposal to develop task forces that are quick to act and respond, getting APA leadership to respond, to events such as the Governor of Hawaii vetoing the civil marriage bill. The present of APA has agreed to sign a letter to the governor.

APA Assembly Rep Report: David Scasta, MD
(from a letter to the board)

I did want to let the Board know a little about what is going on. I followed up on AGLP's request to fund the disbanded Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues of the APA. President-Elect, Carol Bernstein, apologized for not getting back to us, but said that our request was turned down. Before I could respond, I got a call at 1:30 in the morning from Dr. Jeffrey Akaka, informing me that the Hawaiian legislature had reversed itself late that night in closing session and approved a gay union bill. I met Dr. Akaka through the Assembly; he knew I was disappointed that the Hawaiian legislature earlier this year turned the gay union bill down. Dr. Akaka is a former speaker of the APA Assembly who comes from a very prominent family in Hawaii. His uncle is a US Senator, his brother is a US Representative, and he is a Democratic precinct official. Dr. Akaka noted that the Republican Governor might veto the bill and he was uncertain if there was enough resolve in the house to overrule the veto. I conveyed our frustration to Dr. Bernstein, citing the Hawaiian Union Bill as the type of crisis which for which a committee is needed to be on top of the issues and to generate an appropriate APA response. (The APA has a position paper supporting gay unions). She referred me to Sandra Walker, Chair of the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities (where we have one representative) and suggested that the Council develop a "swat team" approach to tackle the Hawaiian issue.

Dr. Walker asked about the time frame for a response. The note which I sent to Dr. Walker is as follows:

"Gov. Linda Lingle has until July 6, 2010 to sign or veto the Hawaiian civil union bill. According to Dr. Akaka, she is under heavy pressure from both sides of the fence complicated by labor unions which are enraged by state budgetary cutbacks and a Lt. Gov. who is very religious and has his eye on the governor's position. (It is nice to have the political scoop from a straight insider to Hawaiian politics.) Dr. Akaka feels that lobbying, particularly from someone who is Republican, might help.

"I would also point out that there are other LGBT issues simmering which could use the attention of the APA.

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"Uganda is in the process of considering new laws against homosexuality which initially called for the death penalty but has since been downgraded a bit to long prison sentences (e.g., 20 years). Uganda is about 85% Christian. Even the Christian Right in America (unlike the APA) has been actively admonishing their Christian brethren in Uganda that death penalties are hardly a Christian response to homosexuality. The National Social Work Association of Uganda has produced a white paper (attached) supporting the legislation and calling for therapy for people who are "afflicted" with homosexuality. The document is filled with 60s era psychobabble that sounds very official and well researched. An APA response regarding the current state of research on issues of homosexuality would be very helpful to counter the scapegoating of LGBT people in a country which still wrestles with preventing child slavery and child soldiers. Parenthetically, I noticed that the death penalty for gay people who are HIV positive and engage in sex is not extended to straight people who do the same thing in a continent where most HIV transmission is through straight sex.

"The American College of Pediatricians has just released a document on "Facts about Youth" which is touted as being uninfluenced by religious and other factors that states:

"In dealing with adolescents experiencing same-sex attraction, it is essential to understand there is no scientific evidence that an individual is born 'gay' or 'transgender.' Instead, the best available research points to multiple factors - primarily social and familial - that predispose children and adolescents to homosexual attraction and/or gender confusion. It is also critical to understand that these conditions can respond well to therapy. Dr. Francis Collins, former Director of the Genome Project, has stated that, while homosexuality may be genetically influenced, it is not hardwired by DNA, and that whatever genes are involved represent predispositions, not predeterminations. The prominent role of individual free will choices [has] a profound effect on us."

"Dr. Collins has issued a stinging rebuke of the misinterpretation of his work by this professional organization. I had the privilege of being the primary author of the APA's "Let's Talk Facts about Same Sex Orientation." I was rightly chastised by my committee members for using language that was above a six grade reading level. But what good does it do to have a basic, simply worded statement about the current thinking on homosexuality when there are organizations such as the American College of Pediatricians that are writing very official sounding expert opinion, for which, the unsophisticated public may not understand the content, but gets the message that sciences supports the view that sexual identity is a choice? A comment from the APA regarding the current state of the literature would be very helpful and timely in countering this misinformation.

"The American Psychological Association just finished publication of a 105 page document on "Appropriate Responses to Same Sex Attraction" which is the most thoroughly documented and balanced statement I have ever seen. I was embarrassed by it, however, because my collection of literature citations for support of the APA's current position statements on same sex orientation was so puny in comparison. An active committee with lots of participation by committed APA members would help with more timely and sophisticated approaches in addressing LGBT issues.

"Dr. Walker, thank you in advance for any help that you can give regarding these and other issues that are pending or will arise with regard to LGBT matters. I know that your attention is drawn by the demands of other minority groups; but anything that you can do will have a direct benefit to the mental health of LGBT people."

Dr. Walker asked me how I thought such a swat team should function. I suggested that she appoint a swat team (and gave her names of AGLP members who would be good for each issue and requested additional names from Ellen Haller, our Council representative) that would communicate by e-mail, come up with a quick action plan, and submit it to the Council for approval to move forward. Dr. Walker said that she wanted to discuss the process at the Council meeting here in New Orleans.

In the meantime, Dr. Akaka, e-mailed me to let me know that Governor Lingle was giving signals that she was about to veto the Hawaiian Civil Union Bill. I contacted Dr. Bernstein, noting that the Council was unlikely to be able to do anything in time since Dr. Walker was taking a measured approach. I asked Dr. Bernstein if she would be willing to write a letter to Gov. Lingle conveying APA policy supporting lesbian and gay unions. She was initially unsure if she could do so procedurally. After consulting with APA staff, the Hawaiian District Branch, and Dr. Akaka, she got the go ahead and sent a letter by E-mail to Gov. Lingle asking the Governor to not veto the bill. Dr. Akaka will hand deliver the hard copy of the letter to the Governor on Thursday when he is back in Hawaii. The president of the American Psychoanalytical Association, Dr. Purdy Gourguechon, followed suit.

Dr. Bernstein has been so pleased with the way the "swat team" approach worked (all of this happened in about four days), that she is using it as a model for the APA in dealing with issue that need the APA's attention quickly. Hopefully, teams will be appointed for the Ugandan situation and the American College of Pediatricians statement to determine what response is appropriate. I will be meeting with the Council on Tuesday to discuss the swat team approach. It may well be that swat teams will be much more effective and flexible than the former committee and will make broader use of AGLP members.

I have been informed that the bylaws of the AAOL Committee state that my job as the deputy chair is to "mentor" new members. I will be meeting with the new members at breakfast at 7:00 a.m. tomorrow. I am not certain how much mentoring I can do at that ungodly hour in the morning. I will be lucky if I am even conscious. As the deputy chair I also will be attending my first Assembly Executive Committee meeting on Monday, substituting for the chair, Dr. Eric Plakun, who cannot be there.

I apologize for not keeping you more up to date about what has been happening. It has all been happening so fast that I can hardly keep up with what I have to do in response. Fortunately, what has been happening is all good for AGLP.

David L. Scasta, MD, DFAPA
Assembly Representative for AGLP
(END OF LETTER)

Committee Reports**Membership:** Karl Jeffries, MD

We are looking to increase the number on the membership committee. Visibility is a key thing to increase membership. Mary is working on a speaker's bureau. Karl is currently working with Ellen to do a presentation at the training directors convention to increase visibility. The hope is to have a presentation at AADPRT. The president would then send a letter out to all residency programs and directors. Membership targeting needs more people involved. There is the need for a task force or a membership drive. A key issues is looking at what we are doing for our members. What does AGLP provide?

Ubaldo – this may represent a larger structural problem. There may be a

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general feeling from the members as to what we provide them. If there is a specific project people are more likely to join.

Jack – the things AGLP is doing should be put in the newsletter to communicate to the members what is being done with their membership dues. Potentially have an AGLP application packet.

Kenn – a statement of what AGLP has been done over the past two years which will be attached as a document to go out with applications, online renewals, etc. Jack – a news banner on the AGLP website to communicate to the members.

Kenn – increase presence and social events at other meetings besides APA. There is a need at the additions and psychosomatics meetings.

Women: no report

Minority Outreach: no report

International: Gene Nakajima, MD – looking into organizing symposium for future international psychiatry conventions. Going to start a LGBT discussion group to meet regularly for international participants. IPS will be in San Francisco in 2011. December 2010 is when submissions would be needed. We need ideas about IPS prior to this.

Ubaldo – We need for the education program on Saturday with the board meeting on Sunday morning. These issues will be tabled until a phone conference board meeting. We need to make a decision by the October board meeting. We are starting to plan social events for next year's event in Hawaii

HIV: no report

Psychotherapy: Christopher McIntosh, MD – the case conference from last year was published in the journal. Will continue with the annual case conference. The resident award paper will follow our usual case conference for an increased presence of psychotherapy at our conference. Currently thinking of having an online case conference in which people will participate by e-mail. This could take place over a few weeks in which people could participate via e-mail.

Jack – use an already published paper, maybe one from our journal, invited people to be formal discussants. Everyone subscribed could join in through a moderated list serve. Roy will be setting up the list serve and cover the technical aspects.

LAGCAPA: no report

ECP: no report

MIT: Eric Yarbrough, MD, Karl Jeffries, MD – social events and event with Marshall Forstein will continue. There has been good attendance at the resident socials. We need a new resident rep. (volunteers) There is a need for regular symposium for LGBT 101 available through AGLP and the APA.

Medical Students: Marc W. Manseau, MPH, Laura Erickson-Schroth, Weston Fisher. No report.

Spirituality and Religion Committee: David Scasta, MD. No report.

Report from Vice-President: Kenn Ashley, MD. Upcoming symposium will be decided by the new vice-president.

Report from Executive Director: Roy Harker

Roy has been acknowledged to sign a new contract and stay on with AGLP.

There is a request for a web-editor. We need someone to devote time into looking at what we have and updating that.

The archives of AGLP are become large enough that we need a small rental space to store this information. Need for someone to catalogue this information.

Report from President: Ubaldo Leli, MD

Upcoming Meetings:

- 2011 Honolulu, HI – Two contacts present. Looking for a title of the symposium should we have it or not.

Gene – idea to repeat some of the AGLP material on the lesbian material from the previous meeting and put it into the APA.

Jack – removal from homosexuality from the APA. A historical related symposium may be a topic of interest.

George – discussing non-caucasian LGBT issues may be significant.

Gene - Topics on religion may be a good idea for a symposium.

- 2012 Philadelphia, PA

Fryer Award 2010: IPS, Boston, Evan Wolfson, In October. Will likely be Saturday morning of the IPS. This should be publicized for a press release. Need for nominations for the next aware in Hawaii.

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Annual AGLP Member's Meeting Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, LA

Sunday, May 23, 2010, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Recording: Andy Tompkins and George Harrison

President Ubaldo Leli called meeting to order.

Nominations Committee: The slate of candidates for offices was reviewed.

AGLP Member's Meeting was suspended for the Caucus Meeting and resumed at its conclusion. (The Caucus minutes are published separately.)

Annual Symposium:

Kenn reviewed the Annual AGLP Symposium. While the conference was well received it was sparsely attended. There was a short discussion of the form and topic for the Symposium in Hawaii.

Treasurer's Report:

The budget was reviewed showing a \$700 surplus. Going forward the need will be to focus on grants. An example of this was the Foundation for the Humanities, which can give up to \$50k. Other sources of grants may be possible. A goal would be to get at least \$5,000 more each year.

The only fund raising event AGLP previously had was the Closing Event, which now is merged without a fund raising element. Membership continues to be a critical area of need as the membership numbers continue to decline. One suggestion was the consideration of members having recruitment gatherings at their homes in a social or informative format.

Newsletter Report:

George Harrison reported that the Newsletter continued to publish regularly and is always interested in contributions from the members. George also noted that the Newsletter wouldn't be possible without the considerable contributions of Roy Harker. There was a proposal to highlight the residency matching ceremony next March.

AGLP Meeting Minutes*Continued from page 14***Journal Report:**

Roy Harker reported for Alan Schwartz and Mary Barber that the Journal had been doing very well. They have material through the January 2011 issue. The winner of the first Resident Paper Award was Xavier Jimenez. This award is made possible by a generous grant from the CARE foundation. Xavier was to present his paper on May 24th and later that night be acknowledged at the AGLP Awards Event.

The Journal was planning a series of interview with significant figures. They asked for anyone interested in conducted an interview to contact Alan or Mary directly.

APA Committee on GLB Issues:

Ellen Haller reported that the committee on LGB issues was disbanded. The MUR Council will meet May 25th. The major issue was to reinstate the committees. This was defeated and substituted with a plan to form SWAT teams based on the former committees to act on items requiring immediate action.

HIV Committee:

Marshall reported that the American Psychiatric Institute for Research and Education (APIRE) took over HIV committee and that CMHS renewed APIRE Training Contract for HIV for 5 years!

He suggested that LGB issues could be reformatted as training education issues, with help from APIRE and the Practice Research Network (PRN). This is a large network of psychiatrist that conducts practice-relevant research in the field of psychiatry.

AGLP Assembly Representative Report:

David Scasta reported that a formal proposal to the APA requesting to reestablish a Committee on GLB issues again was submitted. This and many others committees did this and they were all defeated. Jeff Akaka, former Speaker of the Assembly, had notified David that the Hawaiian Legislature had just passed civil unions. There was an expectation of a battle with Linda Lingle, the Republican governor of Hawaii, to see if she would sign the bill. David engaged the President-Elect of the APA, Carol Bernstein, to say that there needed to be an immediate response by the APA. Out of this grew her idea to form SWAT teams that could be mobilized rapidly to respond to critical issues. The outcome of this particular situation was that Dr. Bernstein agreed to send a formal response from the APA which Jeff Akaka would hand deliver to the Governor.

David reported on his experience of submitting his first action paper to the Assembly. This was his effort to have the Deputy Representatives reinstated at no cost to the APA. This is a critical issue as the lack of the Deputy decreases the representation in the Assembly voting structure. This Action Paper was narrowly defeated. The difficulty was because of a concern about unequal representation between district representation caused by the removal of the District Deputy Representatives. Mark Townsend noted that David had been a very effective representative for AGLP bringing his first Action Paper to the Assembly with a great deal of preparation which almost was passed.

Committees not reporting:

Membership, Medical Students, Psychiatric Residents and Fellows**President's Announcements:**

Ubaldo announced that the Board had formed the Education Committee during

the morning Board Meeting. This committee will oversee the AGLP presentations at the APA and our own Symposium and allow coordination with the journal. Members of the committee will be representative of the Journal, the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) and will be Chaired by the Vice President.

2011 Meeting in Hawaii:

Ubaldo reported that there are two AGLP members in Hawaii. There will be a further discussion needed to formulate the LAC for Hawaii.

Election:

The candidate slate was reviewed. Ubaldo asked George to act in place of the Secretary because the current Secretary was on the slate.

President-elect: Kenn Ashley
Vice President: Andy Tompkins
Secretary: Eric Yarbrough
Treasurer: Serena Volpp

Ubaldo called for nominations from the floor and there were no additional submissions.

There was a unanimous vote of 16 of the membership present to accept the slate of officers.

Announcements: Marshall reported that the HIV Steering Committee would be meeting May 25th from 9 AM to 12 PM at the Riverside Hilton.

President Leli closed the meeting.

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Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) Caucus Report
President, Dan Hicks, MD

DHicks@aglp.org

The LGB Caucus met at the annual meeting in New Orleans on May 23rd, 2010. The officers of the Caucus are: Dan Hicks, President, Mark Townsend, representative to the Assembly and chair of the Minority and Underrepresented Groups, Phil Bialer, Deputy rep, George Harrison, recorder, David Scasta, the AGLP Representative to the Assembly, and Ellen Haller, liaison to the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities.

Mark reported that with the shrinking of the APA structure, the APA has created a position for the underrepresented groups on the Board of Trustees. However, this has led to a great degree of dissension and conflict between some of the underrepresented groups. There is now a work group that has been appointed to decide how this representative will be selected to the board, how long they will serve, and how they will fairly represent all of the groups. Mark has decided to step down as the Caucus Representative, so Phil Bialer will become the Representative, and Dan will appoint someone to be Deputy Representative to serve out the term until the next elections in the spring. Mark was commended for his hard work and representation of the Caucus in this trying time.

The Council on Minority Mental Health voted on finalizing a structure so that all of the Minority groups have a systematic way to select their Award recipients. The Fryer Award is basically proposed by AGLP, but the Caucus and Committee Representatives also are involved in the process. The Fryer award this year will be given at the IPS in Boston in October to Evan Wolfson, one of the leaders in the gay marriage movement. The award in 2011 will be presented at the annual meeting in Hawaii to Bishop Gene Robinson, first openly gay bishop of

President's Article*Continued from page 3*

specialties, but also to an intimate exposure to Southern culture and hospitality, as our hosts regaled us with tales of regional and family history, and pointed out some of the treasures and secrets of their of their tradition-rich home. Music in this case came courtesy of one of the hosts, whose impromptu harp concert provided a backdrop to much of the party.

My most touching and memorable experience during the meeting, however, was totally unexpected. It had been my longtime conviction that these President's Columns in the Newsletter serve solely an internal purpose. Who else except AGLP members would be even remotely interested in the vagaries of my quarterly commentaries? As it turns out, there actually are people who pay attention, not only to my column, but to AGLP in general, and to other factors affecting the lives of LGBT individuals.

During the dinner for Minority and International AGLP members, which Gene Nakajima organizes every year, I was accosted by a French-speaking younger colleague, a handsome young man I had met before at other such dinners. He shyly confided to me that his mother was a great fan of mine. At first I thought it was a benevolent joke, or a misunderstanding. "Am I hearing this right?" I asked. "Yes" he said. "My mother has been reading all your newsletter columns and she likes you a lot. Let's take a photo together. She will be happy to have it." Flattered, I posed for a photo with the young man, then and bid him good evening. A few days later, I received an email from Belgium from a certain Madame Francine Halkin. She was my young colleague's mother, and she was writing to introduce herself, explaining that she liked to follow developments in LGBT mental health, because she loves her son very much and cares about the well-being of our community.

I was touched. A wonderful mother indeed. And so unlike the many parents that object, condemn or are uncomfortable with our LGBT identities. God bless Madame Francine. It was an eye opener to realize that somebody is watching us from out there and for once not in a paranoid manner but in a loving way.

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Allied Assembly Organization Report*Continued from page 5*

American College of Pediatricians entitled, "Facts about Youth." The American College of Pediatricians is an offshoot pediatric group and should not be confused with the American Academy of Pediatricians that is the larger mainstream pediatrics group. The American College of Pediatricians touted their document is being unbiased by religious and other factors but concluding that:

"In dealing with adolescents experiencing same-sex attraction, it is essential to understand that there's no scientific evidence that an individual is born 'gay' or transgendered.' Instead, the best available research points to multiple factors — primarily social and familial — that predispose children and adolescents to homosexual attraction and/or gender confusion. It's also critical to understand that these conditions can respond well to therapy."

The larger American Academy of Pediatricians has endorsed the opposite conclusions:

"Scientists generally agree that several factors converge to form a person's sexual orientation. But there is increasing evidence that human beings may be genetically predisposed toward heterosexuality or homosexuality. These tendencies may even be established prior to birth, just as gender, hair color, and

complexion are all preprogrammed. Contrary to what some believe, we do not choose to be straight or gay. Come adolescence, a person is innately drawn toward one sex or the other... There is no evidence that being around gays and lesbians has any influence on a person's sexual orientation."

Nonetheless, parents researching on the Internet are likely to be directed by search engines to the American College of Pediatrician's statement which, on the surface, appears to be a well-documented reference that parents may not recognize as a statement by a splinter group of pediatricians. A three-person SWAT Team was put together. The head of the team was Dr. Robert Batterson, a child and adolescent psychiatrist and deputy representative for Missouri in the Assembly. Assisting him was Dr. William Martin, Jr., who is the president of the Lesbian and Gay Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Association (LAGCAPA) and Dr. Jack Drescher, an AGLP member and psychoanalyst who is highly experienced in working with the media and who often has served as an APA spokesperson for LGBT matters. Dr. Drescher had already written a paper in response to the American College of Pediatrician's statement. The paper will be presented to AGLP for endorsement. The SWAT Team will then ask Psychiatric News to do a feature article on Jack's paper. An article in Psychiatric News has the advantage of being easily accessed through internet search engines.

After a hiatus in which LGBT matters fell off the radar of the APA because of budgetary realities, the American Psychiatric Association has returned to its core values by taking the lead in advocating for the mental health needs of LGBT people. Substantial resources, both in leadership and APA staff, have been invested in the last two months to counter some of the discrimination and misinformation that is affecting our LGBT communities. We owe the APA a debt of gratitude.

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APA LGB Caucus Meeting Report*Continued from page 15*

the Episcopal Church.

AGLP is an allied component of the APA, so has no representation in the official APA structure except through our Assembly Representative, David Scasta, who has a voice but no vote. The Committee on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues, which did most of the work to develop and pass position statements in the past on gay marriage and gay parenting, has been terminated with many other committees. Ellen Haller, the former Chair still has a role on the Council, but obviously does not have the support to take on the committee work which involved developing workshops, symposia, and position statements. Therefore, the GLB Caucus is our main voice in the APA. We need all members of AGLP to make sure they are members of the caucus. If you are not sure, please submit the form that is in the back of this newsletter.

The Caucus is currently working to develop an APA position statement supporting transgender rights. We will also be working with AGLP's new education committee to submit an LGBT workshop or symposium for next year's annual meeting. We will be using the list serve for communication of important issues. The list serve is GLBNET@LISTS2.PSYCH.ORG, and if you are not already on it, send an email to our APA staff Alison Bondurant at ABondurant@psych.org, and she will add you to the list serve. If you are interested in getting involved in the Caucus and the APA, please let me know. We will need help in developing policy statements and educational ideas, and we will need to elect a new Representative and Deputy Representative next spring.

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AGLP New Orleans 2010



Dan Hicks, MD, presenting at the AGLP symposium Mental Health Issues in LGBT Seniors



Stephan Carlson, MD, Chair of the New Orleans Local Arrangements Committee, presenting at the Saturday Symposium



Mary Barber, MD and Alan Schwartz, MD, Editors of the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health, with this year's Student Resident Paper Award winner Xavier Jimenez, M.D. (center.)



Ellen Haller, MD, presenting at the symposium



AGLP members attending the Awards Reception at the Arthur Roger Gallery at the Renaissance Arts Hotel in New Orleans



Jody Gates (right), shown with partner Marilyn McConnell, receives the first AGLP Barbara Gittings Award



Newly-elected Vice-President Andy Tompkins (center) at the Awards Reception.

