



AGLP
Opening Minds

VOLUME XXXIV(4) · DECEMBER 2008

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APA Candidate Interviews

George Harrison, M.D.

If you thought that you were done with elections, hold up. APA members have a bit more work to do.

The APA elections for officers has just started online and via the mail and continues until February 5, 2009. This year there are 17 candidates running for seven offices.

This is a particularly critical year as the APA and the nation faces the financial crisis. This comes at a time of mounting public and governmental concern about the relationship physicians have with Pharma, efforts to achieve parity for mental health, and the consideration of finding better solutions for the entire health system. These officers will participate in the organization at a critical which will have a profound effect on minority affairs, the structure of the organization, and the overall agenda for the APA.

Sources of information to aid you in making this important decision can be found in the Psychiatric News election issue coverage (<http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/content/vol43/issue23/index.dtl>) or the links for the individual candidate campaign websites (<http://www.psych.org/Resources/Governance/2009APAElections/CandidateHomepages.aspx>).

The Newsletter annually publishes interviews with the candidates to further assist you. We canvassed all the candidates on a couple of questions. The candidates were contacted at the email address as listed in their APA membership. Below you will find a listing of the individuals running for the contested offices and all the statements which were submitted.

We have this opportunity to magnify the impact of our representation by simply casting a vote. So

Continued on page 9

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 IBM compatible 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 February 23, 2009.

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
Business Card	\$100

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

So much has happened in the past months it's hard to make a coherent statement about the recent past and the immediate future. We have a new president (well, all most. I've been suggesting that we just elope with Obama and get it over with). Smack-dab next to this, our civil rights have been stripped from us here in California and we are all the lesser because of this. The superlatives have been exhausted describing the Great Recession. And Rick Warren has been announced as solemnizing the inauguration.

It is safe to say that the swirl of events has produced an unexpected positive result: our problems have never been so clear. Our country that couldn't seem to attend to all the misery that we created over the last years is at last waking from slumber and focusing on the layers of issues that we now face. For years I have wondered what it would take to get people at all levels of the system to engage with the disastrous direction that things have been moving. Money as it turns out still is a good motivator.

Years from now, I think that we will look back at this moment and see it as a turning point. What the shape of the changes we are to undergo is unknown from this vantage but the United States and the world is entering a different time. Just as with a stable dysfunctional family system the reparative changes usually come with crisis and at a high cost.

At my local level this is also true as the San Francisco and California budget shortfalls take a toll that is yet to be calculated. Services are being cut and changes of significant proportion are being considered. As regards our profession, the APA is experiencing a financial meltdown and our own organization which has teetered on insolvency for some time has a parallel process with the larger systems.

At all these levels there will be a reinvigorated desire to connect with a sense of mission and purpose. This will allow us to meet the challenges presented to us by the economy, the passage of Proposition 8 here in California, and the drastic changes contemplated for the profession and practice of mental health. We have many opportunities to formulate a better more responsive system; one that may be severely limited by finance but not by intention.

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We are living in time of tumult and change which is full of hope and potential. This issue is filled with just these things. Ubaldo Leli's column captures the emotions that we have all felt with the recent elections. The joy, relief and the investment in something that has been lost for sometime, hope for a better future. Kenn Ashley points to the potential for finding different solutions to the differences that separate us. David Scasta writes about the APAclyptic changes on the horizon for our sister organization. And the APA candidate column gives our readers a chance to elect the people who will determine the shape of this change for the APA.

As we all move into the New Year with its challenges and landmines I want so much for us to do the right thing, to be smart and true to the best that we can be.

This is a common sentiment for the New Year but never more true or timely.

• • •

President's Column

Ubaldo, Leli, M.D.

ULeli@aglp.org



Ubaldo Leli, MD

"NESSUN DORMA"**THE NIGHT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.**

It is the night of November 4, 2008. I am in Cantiano, my hometown in the mountains of Italy, at the border between Umbria and Marche. I have been fed to capacity by my brothers' wives, and I have undergone an evening of intense querying by my family and also by many of the childhood friends I've encountered over the past few hours.

Since my arrival on November 1, I have been interrogated by nearly everybody I've encountered in the streets, public squares and living rooms, asking if I voted before leaving the US, whom I voted for, and whether I shared the apparently universal hope that Barack Obama would be elected the new President of the US. Even in this remote village of three thousand souls in the central Apennines, parties have been planned to spend the night of the US presidential election in anticipation of cheering the new leader, whom everybody hopes will be the handsome black man with the Harvard education and the beautiful smile. It's not unlike the vigilia of a major religious holiday here in Italy.

Larry, my partner of twenty-three years has been waking me up repeatedly through the night, claiming I've been snoring. "I don't snore," I protest each time. But Larry insists I'm keeping him awake. It must be dinner, I think. All that prosciutto, parmigiano, vino rosso and pizza al rosmarino must be making my sleep deeper and my breathing labored. After the fourth awakening I decide that I cannot sleep any longer. I leave the bed in which I was conceived and born, and in which my parents slept until they passed away, and go downstairs to the living room/kitchen on the second floor of my family home.

"Obama has won," the TV announcer declares. He has now 273 votes, with more yet to come in. Even North Carolina voted for him. I feel tears well up. Perhaps a new time has really come. Yes, the economy, the wars, the terrorism, the oil drilling, the prejudice...all that is still with us. But at the same time we are witnessing an unheard-of turn of events. Perhaps now, Americans will again be respected by the rest of the world. Perhaps—I think on a more personal note—gay people we will not be bashed, killed, berated, mocked, ridiculed and pathologized any longer.

The weather has been chilly and rainy, and the house is humid. As I light the fireplace, I realize that it is about 1:00 AM: 7:00 PM in New York. I turn on the TV. On RAI, the national Italian news station, I find continuous, all-night coverage of the US election. As votes come in and are tallied, maps are shown, indicating the red, blue and uncertain states. McCain has 136 votes; Obama 207. Commentators are announcing that even though the west coast states' results have yet to come in the presidency is sure to go to Obama. I sip a glass of Vecchia Romagna, the preferred local brandy, while the votes keep coming in. My throat is tight, my eyes are wet. Is it the smoke coming from the fireplace that is slowly filling the room? Or is it my reaction to an inchoate mixture of hopes, expectations, and memories of discrimination and pain—my own and those of innumerable others? Have I finally become a real American? I will never recognize breakfast cereal as food; I will never eat pork with applesauce: I will never accept a course of pasta as a complete meal; but perhaps somehow I have finally made the transition: I think I am American now. I cry, contemplating a new president from a minority background: a black President. It makes me believe that in the future I might even see a gay president occupy the White House.

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Vice President's Column

Kenn Ashley, M.D.

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Kenn Ashley, MD

Yes We Can! Well, Not Yet!

Tuesday 04 November 2008 was a historic day with the election of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America. Unfortunately, it was also the day of passage of anti-LGBT legislation in several states.

Walking home after watching the election returns with friends, the streets of downtown New York City were filled with revelers, people celebrating both the reality of election of Barack Obama, and the possibilities and opportunities that his victory

represents. I could not, however, forget that in several states anti-LGBT legislation had passed.

The day after the election, as a Black, gay man, I was proud and thrilled by Obama's victory. My sadness and anger over the passage of Proposition 8 in California began to grow. This was related to so many issues, but the most significant were the actual passage of the Proposition, that civil rights were put to a vote, and that California's Black voters were being blamed for its passage.

During those initial days after the election I spent a significant amount of time in discussions about Proposition 8 with many people. I understood their initial emotional reaction, but the scapegoating of the Black community was difficult to accept.

I was in the position of explaining and defending the Black community, a community that is already viewed by the larger LGBT community as being more homophobic. Subsequently, the analysis of the election results in California has shown that the difference in the vote on Proposition 8 was significantly related to age, and religious and political affiliation. It also showed that there was an issue of complacency among many voters because of a predicted victory by Obama.

Regardless of the reasons for the passage of Proposition 8 (and the other anti-LGBT legislation), it is time for the LGBT community to take this opportunity to be work together with all elements of the community, to forge new and stronger alliances, to address issues of discrimination within our community. The LGBT community must also work more closely with those outside of our community to attain the goals of ending discrimination and maintaining human dignity. I believe that these seem within reach with the election of Barack Obama.

Now that the election is behind us, it is time to look forward to the next APA Annual Meeting in San Francisco 16-21 May 2009. Members of AGLP are planning the various educational and social events that we sponsor, including: the AGLP Annual Symposium on Saturday 16 May 2009 in San Francisco, entitled "Women's Work: Lesbian Perspectives on LGBT Mental Health," the Opening Reception, the Closing Awards Banquet, and other events in the Hospitality Suite. Given the popularity of the APA Annual meeting when it is in San Francisco, I am hoping that I will see many of you at our events in San

Francisco next May.

If anyone has any ideas or recommendations about events that AGLP might sponsor, please contact me: kashley@aglp.org.

Optimistically,

Kenn Ashley
Vice-President, AGLP

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Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health

Mary Barber and Alan Schwartz

mbarber@aglp.org and aschwartz@aglp.org

We are thrilled to have stepped up to the posts of co-editors of the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health, AGLP's peer-reviewed journal. For any who don't know us, Alan is from NYC, Mary is from upstate NY (well, the Hudson Valley, anyway). Alan is in private psychiatric and psychoanalytic practice (White Institute), and Mary is the clinical director of a state hospital (Rockland Psych Center). Jack Drescher, who has carried the Journal for the past 10 years to its present great shape, will stay on as Emeritus Editor.

This is an exciting transitional year for the Journal, whose name was recently changed to more accurately reflect its scope – from the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Psychotherapy to the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health. At the same time, Haworth, the former publisher, has been acquired by Taylor and Francis, a larger publishing company with many more resources available to help expand our quality, audience and efficiency in meeting the scientific needs of our community. One change that readers will notice right away is that the journal will be a larger 7 x 10 inch format, allowing potentially more content in each issue.

The January 2009 issue will be our first issue as editors. It contains a detailed and comprehensive report of the psychoanalytic treatment of a gay man by none other than Dr. Jack Drescher himself, with discussions by analysts of different backgrounds. Upcoming issues will also include a paper by the late Michael Shernoff describing in intimate detail his experience of having to abruptly terminate a psychotherapy practice when he learned of his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. Some important AGLP and APA symposia have also been reformatted for publication, allowing our readers who may have missed these presentations to benefit from the scholarship that went into them, and allowing that scholarship to enter the written record.

This is your journal as well as ours, and its strength depends on getting quality submissions. Please consider writing for the journal. If you have ideas but need help putting them down or organizing them into a publishable paper, don't hesitate to contact either of us. We are excited about continuing and expanding the field of LGBT mental health, and helping our colleagues get published in the process!

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News from the Basement

David L. Scasta, MD, DFAPA

AGLP's Representative to the Assembly of the APA

It's hard to keep the cursor still. Amtrak has power for the computer but the track is rougher than the proverbial Harley on a bad stretch of road. The APA's road is going to be equally as rough. A few hours ago I left the Assembly meetings in the basement of the JW Marriott in Washington carrying with me a sense of trepidation about the future. Plummeting advertising revenues in the face of increasing criticism of drug company support portends drastic, draconian cuts in the budget. Everything is going to be put to the axe.

The APA has come under substantial fire for its co-dependent relationship with drug manufacturers. The APA is going to sever many of its lucrative contracts with drug manufacturers for annual meeting programs, resulting in a significant loss of income. Combined with the impact of the economy, there is a call for a major revamping of the governance of the APA – which likely will diminish the influence of topic specific groups such as the LGB caucus, the Allied Organizations, and AGLP. The call for restructuring the governance has set off a power struggle as contingencies with long standing hostilities attempt to finally exclude one or the other contingency from the power structure of the APA. There is a sense of urgency to make lightning surgical excisions while the budget is in crisis and before the DSM-V starts bringing in substantial revenue in 2012. It is believed that when it is finally published that it will reverse the financial crisis and the urgency to do major restructuring.

The governance of the APA admittedly is convoluted, Byzantine, and expensive. The cost of flying in, feeding, and lodging all of the movers and shakers in the APA for face to face meetings is enormous. The number of component committees (the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues is one such committee) has grown over the years to the point that there are now almost 100 of them. Some are “corresponding committees” and pay their own way except for meeting rooms. The rest generally meet twice a year, for which the APA pays all the costs for the October meeting and some costs associated with the annual meeting in May. The cost of governance of the APA is as follows:

Assembly	\$1,021,000
Board of Trustees	\$689,000
District Branches governance	\$432,000
District Branches infrastructure support	\$100,000
Standing Committees	\$503,000
Joint Reference Committee Fund for Additional Meetings	\$100,000
Components	\$726,000
Total	\$3,571,000

The loss of revenue from limiting ties with the drug companies and falling advertising revenue is expected to reach almost \$3 million.

As the title indicates, I serve as AGLP's representative to the Assembly. As an Assembly Allied Organizational Liaison (AAOL rep), I pay my own way to the Assembly but I do get my meals free. There are 18 AAOL's in the Assembly. Only the AAOL's pay their own way. Besides the AAOL's there are other Specialty groups: the Minority Under-Represented (MUR's) representatives (the APA's LGB caucus sends an MUR representative to the Assembly); the Members-in-Training (MIT's), and the Early Career Psychiatrists (ECP's) currently headed by one of our members, Eric Williams. Most of the representatives, however, come out of geographic representation from their district

branches. Each district sends one representative for every 450 members in the branch. The size of the Assembly therefore numbers almost 150 members plus another 50 to 100 deputy representatives and a litany of various area and Assembly officers. Area II (the New York branch) has proposed reducing the Assembly to 100 members based almost entirely on geography (e.g., two representatives for each state) effectively eliminating the AAOL's. The Speakers of the Assembly have been talking about retaining one representative for all the minority groups (MUR) and perhaps one for all the AAOLs. The current speaker, Ron Burd, has been persuaded to consider keeping the AAOL reps, but the Speaker-Elect, Gary Weinstein, will ultimately be responsible for recommendations for cutting out \$1 million from the APA budget. Roger Peele, one of the president-elect candidates (and one of the first non-gay members of AGLP), has pointed out that \$1 million is not going to rescue the budget – which leads to another battle front.

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The number of component committees (the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues is one such committee) has grown over the years to the point that there are now almost 100 of them.

For the last several years, the Assembly has been fighting with the Board of Trustees for more control over the APA. The Board has the financial and fiduciary responsibility for the APA, giving it the final say so in most matters of significance. The Assembly has been arguing that it is more representative of the membership and should be able to overrule the Board of Trustees with a supermajority in the Assembly. The Board of Trustees, with past presidents holding the major power on the Board, has been passive-aggressive in its response. With the budget cuts, there are proposals in the Board to dramatically curtail the Assembly (e.g., eliminating the November Plenary Sessions, leaving only the Annual Meeting sessions) and dramatically reducing its costs. The Board reportedly has been a bit less enthusiastic about cutting its own budget. Since the Board ultimately decides the budget, the Assembly likely will take a major hit. And, the LGBT pieces of the APA will also take major hits. Our component committee will likely be limited to telephone/video conferencing with the only face to face meeting being at the Annual Meeting. Our position as an AAOL group and the MUR representatives (currently Mark Townsend with Phil Bialer as deputy representative) probably will be eliminated. These outcomes are not good for LGBT issues.

I am not certain where our current president, Nada Stotland, will play a role. Among a couple of the vocal AAOL members (not necessarily agreed with by the rest), Dr. Stotland is clearly on the Board of Trustee side of the equation. She has been very sympathetic to AGLP, however.

At this point in time, my approach has been to quietly plead our case with candidates for office (president, Assembly speaker). We have our strongest leverage now, just before the elections. I hope that members will view my private recommendations for candidates favorably. While we can adapt to electronically transmitted meetings, I do not want to see the LGBT presence diluted to the point that we can no longer influence the APA on LGBT matters.

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AGLP RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE BAY AREA PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (BAPHER)

From the BAPHER email release:

The BAPHER BOARD recently reviewed, scored and selected 12 non-profit agencies in the nine county Bay Area to receive Foundation Fund grants for projects/programs promoting GLBT health and wellness. These twelve agencies shared \$78K:

AIDS Legal Referral Panel
 Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists
 Family Builders - Pride And Joy (Oakland And San Francisco)
 Lavender Seniors - East Bay
 Lyric
 New Leaf
 Pacific Center - Berkeley
 PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support)
 Positive Resource Center
 Rainbow Community Center - Contra Costa County
 AIDS Health Project (UCSF)
 LGBT Center (UCSF)

Maitri, a beneficiary many times in the past, was the only grant proposal rejected.

This 2008 Granting Cycle pushed over total grants awarded since 1986 to over \$1 million! These monies are income generated from our professionally managed Foundation Fund which has accrued from individual gifts during our End of Year Campaigns (recently mailed to each of you), bequests from members and friends, and limited fundraising in the early years of the Foundation. The Foundation Fund currently totals about \$1 Million with the portfolio shrinkage from the recession <25%. End of year gifting letters available from our Vice Chairperson, Rod Rogers, at rodman-srogers@yahoo.com.

To celebrate our \$1 Million Milestone and to award the grant checks to the agencies, BAPHR will host a wine/water/nibbler monthly mixer at Davies Medical Center's Gazebo on Fri 9 Jan @ 6:30. Giving added specialness to the event - BAPHR will honor its past presidents - 13 in total - since its founding in 1977. Additionally, the charter members of the Foundation Fund will be honored. A very special time - plan to attend and invite a professional colleague - physician, dentist, podiatrist or osteopath.

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AND THEN THERE WERE THREE



The Newsletter Congratulates Mason Turner and his partner Ricardo Nunez on the September arrival of their new son, Eli.

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**AGLP welcomes
 these new members:**

Bryan Chamberlain

Houston, TX

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Bethell, WA

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Title of Article

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Suddenly I find myself re-experiencing my intensely negative reaction when I first moved to this country. It had been a shock to me that I was educated in the classics, that I knew Greek and Latin, that I liked Kant, and that I was Roman Catholic was all regarded with suspicion. Even gay people regarded me as an alien. It was during this same period of transition that I discovered that racism actually—and palpably—existed in the US. (Such a thing had been an abstract concept for me, coming from a country with a population so homogeneous that I remember seeing my first black man at 18.) It was disappointing, to say the least, to encounter education per se regarded with suspicion here (a fundamentalist religious patient of mine once explained to me that “reading keeps one away from God”); to comprehend Americans’ gross ignorance of geography, or their astonishment that other nations actually speak a language different from English; and to come to terms with this country’s alienation from the essential properties of food, and the population’s fetishistic dedication to the most unhealthy aspects of consumption. This morning, however, all my quarrels with American culture have suddenly dissolved. I see light at the kitchen window. The night is over.

I see my America now—one that values education, and offers opportunity to everyone. I moved there from one of the most beautiful countries in the world, felt lost for a long time, but now regard it as my home. After many years, I am proud to be an American Citizen.

“Obama has won,” the TV announcer declares. He has now 273 votes, with more yet to come in. Even North Carolina voted for him. I feel tears well up. Perhaps a new time has really come. Yes, the economy, the wars, the terrorism, the oil drilling, the prejudice...all that is still with us. But at the same time we are witnessing an unheard-of turn of events. Perhaps now, Americans will again be respected by the rest of the world. Perhaps—I think on a more personal note—gay people we will not be bashed, killed, berated, mocked, ridiculed and pathologized any longer. Perhaps we can begin to struggle less to protect ourselves from the wrath of the conservatives, the religious radicals, the Ku Klux Klan, the Evangelists, the American Gun Association, the justices who have upheld anti-sodomy laws throughout the years. Sitting in front of the fireplace in my ancient home in the mountains of Italy, with tears running down my face, I feel hope for a better world. I made this visit to Italy, by the way, to honor my dead parents, who are both gone now. On November second—All Soul’s Day in the Roman Catholic calendar—I went to the cemetery to pray for the departed—as did the Etruscans, as the local priest noted in his homily during the memorial service. Death, which prompted the visit, has turned out to signal a new beginning, just as the Death card of the Tarot deck often does. My visit for the commemoration of my family dead has become a time to mark a new beginning. Obama will be President of the United States. A black man will be President for the first time in US history. Americans have finally caught up.

If you wonder why I share this hemorrhage of emotion in the AGLP President’s column, I can only say it is because I believe our lives will never be the same after now. There will still be struggle, but it will never be the same.

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AGLP Annual Meeting 2009

San Francisco, CA

AGLP’s block of rooms is conveniently located at The Westin San Francisco Market Street, 50 Third Street, San Francisco, California 94103 [Phone: (415)974-6400, Fax: (415)543-8268]. Don't delay making reservations as this fabulous hotel will fill quickly. For reservations at the APA rate of \$254.00/night go to www.aglp.org. or call Travel Planners at 212-532-1660.

Candidate Interviews

Continued on page 1

read on, consider your options, and vote.

Questions posed to the candidates this year:

1). *Minority issues have been a clear priority for the APA. How do you feel that you will help the APA to best meet the needs of the minority represented by AGLP?*

2). *Our profession and the APA itself have come under increasing fire recently. What will you do to address the ongoing concerns about management of the organization as well as our image in the public?*

President-Elect:

CAROL A. BERNSTEIN, M.D.



Carol Bernstein, M.D.

1) The AGLP constituency is dedicated to addressing the mental health needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and the psychiatrists who treat this patient group. I would plan to have a strong and collaborative relationship with the AGLP so that we can work together to address the needs and concerns of this segment of the psychiatric community. In addition, I believe that the APA must advocate vigorously in the legislative and public relations arenas to ensure that the AGLP patient population has adequate access to psychiatric providers who are particularly sensitive to the unique issues they face. With the recent disappointing passage of Proposition 8

and other anti-gay rights ballot measures, we need to work together to make sure that the APA's positions on same-sex civil marriage and adoption of children by same-sex couples are a part of the national discussion. In terms of issues within the APA infrastructure, I am also committed to working closely with the AGLP to guarantee that appropriate measures are taken to ensure participation in DSM V. I will also assure that our annual meetings include a sufficient number of presentations addressing the health needs of this particular patient group. I will turn to the AGLP for advice and direction on the positions that the APA should take on both national and local levels as they pertain to the health care of the AGLP community as well as to ensure that AGLP psychiatrists are appropriately represented on APA Councils and Committees and in the Assembly.

2) The recent concerns raised in the national media and by congressional leadership regarding the nature of the relationship between physicians and the pharmaceutical industry are both complex and important. While I believe that psychiatrists may have been unfairly singled out, I also believe that transparency is critical if our treatments are going to be perceived as acceptable by the general public. I currently chair a Task Force of the APA Board of Trustees which has been charged to consolidate all of our conflict of interest forms and to develop a clear policy regarding conflict of interest for the Association. No person is ever free from "conflict of interest" whether he or she works in the public sector, in an academic setting, in the military, in private practice, for a managed care company or for the pharmaceutical industry. What is critical is that these conflicts or "competing interests" be clearly identified and transparent. We will be recommending a new process which will require full disclosure of all sources of income from entities related

to psychiatry for all physicians participating in the organization. We will also be recommending "caps" of \$10,000/year on monies received from the pharmaceutical industry for all those occupying leadership positions such as the members of the Board of Trustees, the Boards of the C3s and the Steering Committee for Practice Guidelines as well as the members of the DSM V Task Forces. I believe that the APA should assume a leadership position in the effort to separate medicine from inappropriate relationships and the undue influence of the pharmaceutical industry and biomedical device companies so that we can assure that our patients receive treatment that is scientifically sound as well as appropriate.

MICHAEL BLUMENFIELD, M.D.



Michael Blumenfield, M.D.

1) I am concerned that there are various groups of minority psychiatrists who are underrepresented in the membership of the APA. As a general principle, I have proposed setting up small membership teams to develop outreach programs to diverse groups to increase their membership in the APA. I believe that doing outreach in collaboration with AGLP to reach out to LGBT psychiatrists should be part of that process.

I believe it also important for the APA leadership to be available and to keep open channels of communication with the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual caucus and its Assembly reps, with the Committee on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues

as with Dr. Annelle Primm, APA's staff person assigned to GLB and other minority issues. I also believe it is important for AGLP members to be appointed to important committees throughout the APA.

Finally, I was an Assembly officer and Speaker when the Assembly took a position supporting Civil Unions and Same Sex Civil Marriage. Unfortunately in this past election, my state of California voted to support Proposition 8, which is obviously harmful to recently married gay and lesbian couples, those who were intending to marry as well as to the entire GLB community and their families. I believe that APA should always weigh in on marriage equality from a social and political point of view, but APA could also take a leadership role in disseminating information on the potential mental health impact of this devastating vote in California. Toward that end, I would prevail upon the Scientific Program Committee to organize a "rapid response" symposium at the 2009 annual meeting in San Francisco to address this subject.

2) There is no doubt that it is time for the APA Ethical Guidelines be revised so that it is clearly spelled out that there must be transparency in regard to relationships with the pharmaceutical industry and any other association if a member presents research, gives talks, teaches or interacts with the public. We will need to monitor that these guidelines are followed at our annual meeting, in regard to DSM V, in future APA elections as well as in other APA activities. We can also set guidelines how this can be monitored at the local DB and local medical school/hospital level.

Educating the public about mental health and our profession has always been a high priority for me. I used to write a syndicated newspaper column and host a local radio program in which I discussed mental health issues. More recently I've done podcasts which included an interview with Alfred

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Candidate Interviews

Continued from page 9

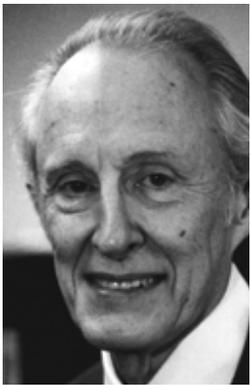
Freedman, WHO on his 90th birthday told the inside story of his 1973 APA presidency when homosexuality was removed from the DSM

(www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Alfred+Freedman&search_type=&aq=f) or
(http://cdn2.libsyn.com/shrinkpod/Shrinkpod_ep_3_Audio_Only_.mp3?nvb=20081116172557&nva=20081117172557&t=0553d87642c1265c25b89)

The interview will also be published in AGLP's *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health* in 2009.

Again, it is important that APA recruit its GLB members to serve on committees such as Public Affairs where they can help APA deal with some of the sensitive issues mentioned in these two questions.

ROGER PEELE, M.D.



Roger Peele, M.D.

1) As a long-time member of AGLP, I have fought for its representation in the APA's governance since the early 1980s. Over the past quarter of a century, I have continued to encourage APA leaders to recognize the importance of AGLP and other allied organizations in the APA's governance. Your question is very well-timed, as the APA is reconsidering its governance, with "need to downsize" being commonly expressed. Actually, rather than downside, we need to use voluntarism as a mechanism to do more, voluntarism of individuals and voluntarism of organizations. Thus, when I become President, I will be looking for ways in which AGLP can step into important

roles now done by other parts of the APA – so I hope AGLP will be ready to propose ways in which the AGLP can enhance the positions and products of the APA.

2) The APA's management at the present time is excellent under Jay Scully; but as your question infers, there is a substantial issue as to the degree that the APA should receive money from pharmaceutical firms. About a third of the APA's revenues directly or indirectly come from pharmaceutical firms. Key is to separate advertisement income from our scientific statements and stances. The *NY Times* does not suffer in reputation because of income from advertisements, as it is clear that the content of the *Times* is independent of the ads. The *New England Journal of Medicine* does not suffer in reputation because of income from advertisement. Both have strict policies that separate ads from content. We must do the same. Such a policy might decrease some of our revenue from the Annual Meetings, but the over-all impact would not be large. I oppose the proposals to divorce ourselves completely from such income.

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Vice President

JEFFREY AKAKA, M.D.

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JEFFREY L. GELLER, M.D., M.P.H.



Jeffrey Geller, M.D.

1) If I might quote a "doctor" not often quoted in our field, Dr Seuss: "Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind." This should perhaps be the mission statement of the APA. But it isn't. And it won't be. So we need other ways to advance the careers of those in the minority in psychiatry. I support the AGLP having a louder voice in APA governance by giving the AGLP a stronger presence in the Assembly: the AGLP would have a vote based on the number of members, not a single vote as it is currently. The component within the APA, Committee on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues, should be the AGLP's for the AGLP to appoint all

the members and to serve as the AGLP's voice in APA. This measure should enhance gay and lesbian psychiatrists' abilities to directly impact on their practice and on all of psychiatry's treatment of gay, lesbian and bisexual patients. In my role as APA Vice President I would work diligently to make these changes within the APA. Such changes would then, among other outcomes, increase "mainstream" psychiatry's understanding, sensitivity to, and effectiveness in treating gay and lesbian patients.

2) I have worked within the APA for 25 years to improve our effectiveness, our humanity, and our image. I have done so through membership and chairmanships of APA committees and councils. I have been in the APA Assembly as a district branch representative (Massachusetts) and as an Area Representative (Area 1). I serve now on the APA Board of Trustees as the Area 1 Trustee. Currently, I chair the APA work group responsible to investigate, evaluate, and make recommendations to the BOT about the relationship between APA and Pharma. Our recommendations will have the potential to fundamentally alter that relationship, and perhaps the entire structure of the APA. This is not just a long-range plan. Action will happen before the end of 2008.

Charles Darwin once said, "If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature but by our institutions, great is the sin". The APA must be an institution that represents women and men who treat patients—ALL PATIENTS—in respectful ways with the goal of treatment being the patient's goal. There is nothing more important within the APA than that its leaders bring forward the values that American psychiatry must represent. I have, and I shall, strive to do that. The Vice President can do that by being a presence in district branch and APA activities nationwide. The Vice President can do that by being a political presence nationwide. I have experience in about half the states in public systems of care, interacting often with members of the state's mental health authority, division of health and human services and attorney general's office. I spent one year on Capitol Hill as a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow. As your Vice President, I would be an activist. How else can there be change? Thank you for considering these ideas.

SIDNEY H. WEISSMAN, M.D.

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Candidate Interviews

*Continued from page 10***E.C.P.-Trustee**

JOYCE A. SPURGEON, M.D.

*Joyce Spurgeon, M.D.*

1) The AGLP represents a large minority group within the realm of the APA. I believe that encouraging continued participation in the APA activities as well as awareness that leadership needs to be shared throughout all the groups in the APA are some of the easiest way to honor the diversity in the field of psychiatry.

2) I believe that continuing to strive towards more transparency in appropriate aspects of the APA business is one of the leading concerns that face the APA today. If we want people to continue to participate and feel represented by the APA, we have to demonstrate fiscal responsibility, integrity, and honor as an association as well as on a personal professional level.

HARSH K. TRIVEDI, M.D.

*Harsh Trivedi, M.D.*

I would like to begin by thanking the leadership of AGLP for providing me the opportunity to share my views with you. It is an honor to be running for the ECP Trustee position. Since becoming a medical student member of the APA in 1999, I have had the pleasure of learning from and working with many of you. The opportunity to network with and receive mentorship from senior APA members has been critical in developing my own professional identity and career path.

I cannot think of a more crucial time for the APA to be on the mark with its policies and its actions. With questions regarding conflicts of interest with pharmaceutical companies, with

Scientology's traveling road show about the horrors of our profession, with psychologists pushing scope of practice legislation in multiple states, with patients finding it harder to access our services - we need to elect people with proven leadership. We need leaders who can provide practical stepwise solutions to meet our challenges head on, to strengthen our profession, and to improve our APA.

As an ethnic minority, I understand the richness of experience that minority groups provide in creating our APA. As someone who commonly treats those who do not have a voice due to their serious mental illness, I cannot underscore enough how important it is to advocate for what is right. As a former Spurlock Congressional Fellow, I also understand what it takes to create change. I want to create an avenue for airing open discussions about the issues that matter to our minority groups. I want to be the stimulus that links open dialogue with meaningful change. I want to support AGLP actions and issues that will make a tangible difference for our patients, or profession, and our society.

Lastly, I also understand that the minority view, as right as it may be - will

not be accepted without having leaders with the highest professional integrity, who know the strength of our evidence-base, and can employ clear and concise messages to effect real change. As someone with experience working on Capitol Hill; with years of service to the APA (Area I Public Affairs Rep, APA PAC Board Member, and Member of the Council on Advocacy and Public Policy); with being editor of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America, and of being an associate training director at Brown - I feel that I have the right skill set for what APA needs right now and I ask you to give me your support by voting for me to be your next ECP Trustee.

Member-In-Training Trustee-Elect

ERICK H. CHEUNG, M.D.

*Erick Cheung, M.D.*

1) As a former national medical student chair for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I have been an advocate for the underserved and minorities. During my tenure we collaborated with medical students and Deans of Student Affairs from several medical schools across the nation to identify bias and prejudice concerning sexual orientation and gender identity in medical education. In addition to issuing recommendations to identify and eliminate discrimination among medical students and professionals, we also recommended that medical school curricula teach the skills, knowledge, and attitude necessary to provide comprehensive and high quality

care for GLBT patients. As an MIT trustee, I will continue to advocate for the professional equality and unique perspectives of every sub-specialty organization including the AGLP.

2) The APA, like many professional organizations, is constantly in the public eye, and has a duty to address any real or perceived conflicts of interest. An area that remains of acute concern is the pharmaceutical industry's subsidization of organizations and "educational" activities. As a member of the AAMC's Task Force on Industry Funding of Medical Education, I can attest to the intensely polarizing nature of this issue. Rectifying this problem will be difficult but necessary for our patients' best interest, and our profession's integrity and accountability. In the APA's ongoing efforts, we must develop sensible guidelines for industry interactions and CME, while working to increase federal funding for education and research. I believe in leadership by example, and we should continue to maintain the highest standards of ethics, transparency, accountability, and advocacy. While the APA may not take sides on strictly political issues, we can, and should, play an important role in influencing policy on social and ethical issues such as children's health insurance, health care reform, gay marriage, and research funding.

KAYLA M. POPE, M.D., J.D.

1) While not specific to the AGLP, I have been and would continue to be supportive of efforts to increase the participation of residents and early career psychiatrists on APA components. Under current policy, residents and ECPs have limited opportunity to participate on the committees and councils of the organization. I would support a policy that would encourage the participation of one resident and one ECP on every APA component. Failure to include people new to the field is missed opportunity for the APA as well as

Candidate Interviews

Continued from page 11

for trainees and people just out of training. I think the APA is well served when the voices of many are heard, and this would include the voice of the AGLP. Further, people who are new to the field benefit from the experience of learning how to bring an issue to the attention of the members and what it takes to translate ideas into action.

*Kayla Pope, M.D., J.D.*

ization. At the APA meeting in June, the APA Leadership Fellows will be presenting a workshop on how to seek support from alternate funding sources based on our personal experiences.

LAURA K. KENT, M.D.

*Laura Kent, M.D.*

2) Education and transparency are the keys to cultivating the best possible relationship with the public. Aggressively educating the public about what we do - whether that is saving someone's life because they are in the depths of a life threatening depression, restoring their psychic equilibrium in the midst of a manic episode, or returning ordered thinking to a disordered psychotic mind - is essential to helping people to understand our profession. In addition, the public needs to fully understand the connection between psychiatric problems and medical illnesses. As MITTE, I will work with trainees and the board of trustees to generate novel ideas for communicating these concepts to the public. Given the recent economic downturn, it makes sense for the APA to become a leaner, but equally effective organization. Medications are an essential tool for treating mental illness and thus relationships between

2) Industry support of medicine has become an issue for the APA as well as the rest of medicine. While there are no easy answers to address the more fundamental problems of research support for the field, I do think we can increase our efforts to become less reliant on industry in meeting the educational needs of our profession. I would encourage the APA and the district branches to cultivate new sources of funding including foundations, non-pharmaceutical industry and community support. Be reaching out to these other organizations we broaden the financial base that supports our efforts and provides us with an opportunity to educate more of the public on the initiatives of the orga-

psychiatry and pharmaceutical companies are necessary - but we need to negotiate those relationships with clear, transparent goals that can be communicated to the companies and to the public at large. This will take careful guidance by the leadership and a widespread on-going effort to educate the public about the work of psychiatry and the APA.

The Nominees For Area Trustee From Areas 1, 4, And 7 Selected By Their Respective Area Councils, Are:

Area 1 Trustee

ROBERT E. FEDER, M.D.

*Robert Feder, M.D.*

1) If elected Area 1 trustee, I will try to represent the interests of all minority members of the APA. The APA must be a democratic organization and represent the needs of all of its members. At present, the only minority group with a seat on the Board is the Committee of Black Psychiatrists.

There are many other minorities who need to be heard. I will speak for them when I can and listen closely when others are speaking for them. The Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists represents a significant minority of the APA, and indirectly a significant portion of the patients we treat. The AGLP should have a voice at the Board level.

2) If elected I would work toward making the APA a more efficient organization by reducing the size of the Assembly as well as the Components.

I would expect similar reductions in the size of the home office staff.

The APA must work hard at maintaining the unique role of psychiatry in the world of medicine, as well as improving our image. This would include a continued strong effort at fighting psychologist prescribing and in public affairs. I also feel that the APA needs to advocate for the return of psychiatric research to academia with federal funding, and away from profit-motivated corporations.

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FREDERICK J. STODDARD, M.D.

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Area 4 Trustee:

JOHN J. WERNERT, M.D.

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SUL ROSS O. THORWARD, M.D.

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Area 7 Trustee:

WILLIAM M. WOMACK, M.D.

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CONSTANCE A. POW

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AGLP Executive Committee Phone Conference**Wednesday, August 13, 2008**

Attended: Ubaldo, Leli, Kenn Ashley, Roy Harker, Andy Tompkins, George Harrison, and Karl Jeffries

1) Approval of Minutes from 7/09/08 Executive Meeting – Kenn Ashley motioned to accept the minutes and George Harrison seconded the motion. The committee accepted the motion with a unanimous vote.

2) Local Arrangements – Gene Nakajima and Mason Turner were absent from this phone conference. George Harrison was not present at the previous local arrangements committee meeting so he could not present an update for this phone conference. Roy agreed to contact Mason Turner for a formal report of the last meeting. In terms of the symposium, Kenn had yet to find a chairperson. The board did agree that male speakers should be able to present at a conference on women's issues. In terms of the hospitality suite, APA has yet to identify an AGLP host hotel and probably will not until late October. In the meantime, Kenn will send out a request for presenters for a Sun-Tues schedule. In terms of closing banquet, opening reception, and awards nominations, there are no updates. Finally, Roy reminded the board that Stephan is moving to New Orleans and should be invited to be a part of local arrangements committee in this city.

3) Fundraising – Roy informed the committee that ARCUS was holding a phone conference to discuss grant submitted for a paid development director. Stephan, Rob, Roy, and two individuals from ARCUS would participate in the conference. Ubaldo may also want to take part.

4) Treasurer's report – We approved the July 2008 Treasurer and Membership reports. Roy has had some response from the mailings for expiring members (6/122 renewed). We have enough cash flow to last through August. He also reminded the committee that August and September are historically low months in terms of cash flow. However, AGLP has not completed an audit for FY 2007. Roy has applied successfully for extensions and the organization has no legal repercussions. However, no tax audits hinders the board's ability to apply for grants. This should be a priority of the organization in the near future.

5) Membership development – Roy wished to bring up that membership decline has correlated with our 2005 decision to perform membership drive electronically. He also pointed out that we have yet to survey our members about their response to the change. Karl Jeffries agreed to work on a survey format that addressed important questions on topics identified by the Board. Andy Tompkins agreed to assist. Once the survey was ready, Roy agreed to distribute and tabulate.

6) Newsletter – George plans to have the most recent edition of The Newsletter out by end of the week. There have been problems with pictures. However, there has been one advertisement sold for an educational opportunity to learn DBT on a cruise. This ad should appear in the next two issues of the journal. The ad will appear gratis in this current issue because of problems with the timeline. After this it will be billed at a regular rate.

7) Women's committee – no updates.

8) Journal – The board did receive the resignation of Howard Rubin from the editorial board of the journal. We discussed his resignation briefly and then gave approval for Mary to pursue a replacement.

9) Fall Business meeting – Roy has gotten us a meeting space through APA for our meeting in Chicago: October 5 from 9AM-1PM. Gene will be organizing a reception and sending out details soon.

10) AAOL- David Scasta was absent. No further updates were made.

11) New business- Kenn requested a copy of Abomination for meetings in Prague and Berlin. Roy would assist him. We gave personal updates of members and ended the meeting at 4:25 PM EDT

12) Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 3:45 EDT, 12:45 PDT

AGLP Executive Committee Phone Conference**Wednesday, September 10, 2008**

Members present: Ubaldo Leli, Kenn Ashley, Karl Jeffries, George Harrison, Roy Harker, Rob Lopatin, David Scasta, and Andy Tompkins

I. Approval of minutes. Andy Tompkins motioned to approve the August 2008 EC telephone meeting minutes. George Harrison seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

II. Local Arrangements. Mason Turner-Tree had forwarded an email to Roy Harker which detailed updates on Local Arrangements for San Francisco.

Symposium: We discussed many different aspects of the symposium, including venue and topic. Gene Nakajima and Ellen Haller have agreed to work with someone on organizing the symposium but do not want to spearhead the effort. Mason will look for someone locally to work with Kenn Ashley and Gene/Ellen for content preparation. Annabelle Chern will discuss venues with her contacts in the city and Mason with his at Kaiser. (Kenn Ashley suggested the symposium be composed of multiple tracts running simultaneously. Topics on women's issues could include Psychotherapy with lesbians, Lesbians in long-term relationships, children of lesbians, and suicidal ideation (SI) in mentally ill lesbians. Andy Tompkins volunteered to speak on SI in lesbians).

Opening Reception: Currently set for the host hotel. Mason will also review other restaurant venues nearby the convention center. Other venues were deemed too expensive.

Closing Banquet: Much discussion re: the location, with the final decision that if there are no Board objections, it will be held aboard the Hornblower Cruise. The committee did not feel that a ticket price of \$150 would be prohibitive. There is some concern that people would have to commit to a full evening, rather than just an hour or two, but this was outweighed by the quality of the venue. (Rob Lopatin has had mixed experience with a cruise.)

Miscellaneous Receptions: Two individuals have volunteered their homes for receptions to be held on Friday night and possibly, Monday night, of the meeting.

Hotel: Anticipated release of the hotel information will be in November. The importance of a cheaper hotel which is closer to the convention center was emphasized. Mason told committee members that he had given a potential list to Roy earlier in the year.

Nominations: Dan Karasic sent an email on 9/15/08 which provided the following nominations. Jamison Green for the Distinguished Service Award, for his pioneering efforts and advocacy for transgender rights; Gene Nakajima for the Paulsen Award because of his many contributions to AGLP over the past 20 years, and especially his leadership with international psychiatry and with psychiatrists of color; and the National Center for Lesbian Rights for the Stu Nichols Award due its many years of advocacy for LGBT rights, including their work with the recent California Supreme Court marriage equality decision

New Orleans: No chair had been chosen for annual meeting in 2010.

III. Fundraising: Rob Lopatin and Stephan Carlson spoke about their productive meeting with Cindy Rizzo of ARCUS. ARCUS has several main foci of funding including transgender policy issues, people of color, and the image of the LGBT community as projected by the religious community. AGLP does not fit nicely into those categories and so has not received a grant. Rob and Stephan then gave an update on a grant to Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights (BAPHR) for the overall operation of the annual meeting, including using this meeting as a way for members to reach out to other mental health/medical providers. Finally, Mary is also working on a grant to develop a speaker's bureau for the GAP curriculum.

IV. Treasurer's report. Roy reviewed membership and said that 12 renewals had occurred since the disastrous August 2008 membership report came out. In it, AGLP lost a net 83 members. He stressed that the audit should be a priority right now, and it is due by November 15th. He had yet to bill for his salary this month due to cash flow.

Meeting Minutes

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Andy reviewed the Budget Report which showed a net -18,860.18 in income. A real push for members was paramount in the near future.

V. Membership Development. Karl Jeffries had developed a task force to develop a member's survey. He had decided upon an online survey and the EC agreed. Ubaldo asked to be cc'd on all correspondence. As well, Ubaldo nominated Karl as the membership chair with a second from George Harrison. He was approved unanimously.

VI. Newsletter. George reminded the EC that the new deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is Monday, 11/10/08.

VII. Women's Committee. No report

VIII. Journal. Mary Barber was not present. It was noted that Taylor and Francis had revised guidelines for submissions and our journal currently meets them.

IX. Fall Meeting. The Fall Business meeting is to take place 10/5/08 from 9AM-5PM in the Palmer Hotel.

X. AAOL: David Scasta revealed there was a movement to eliminate the Allied Organizations but he was pretty confident this movement would not succeed. He also had been nominated the Associate Chair and this may be confirmed in November. Finally, Nada Stotland had received the AGLP requests for advocacy on the national level.

XI. New Business: We did not vote to agree with the boat for the closing ceremony in San Francisco. We were to email Mason and request more information.

The meeting ended at 4:30PM EST. Our next meeting will be the board meeting in Chicago on 10/5/08 from 9-5.

AGLP Fall Executive Committee Meeting**Sunday, October 5, 2008, 9:00am – 4:00pm**

Palmer House Hilton, Wilson Room, 3rd Floor, Chicago, IL

Present: Ubaldo Leli, Kenn Ashley, Roy Harker, Karl Jeffries, Petros Louvinos, Andy Tompkins, Gene Nakajima, George Harrison. By phone: Rob Lopatin and Stephan Carlson, Mark Townsend.

Welcome and announcements: George motioned to approve the minutes. Karl seconded this motion. It was a unanimous decision to approve.

I. Report on Annual meetings:

A. San Francisco 2009 (Local Arrangements Committee) – Mason Turner-Tree (not present but reported by Gene and George).

1) Hotel – APA will let us know the exact location in November.

2) Booth – same cost and timing for this year.

3) Booklet – George will make the guide. Roy will send George an electronic copy of the guide with \$1500 budget. 24 pages would be ideal and Roy would place a copy on website.

4) Women's events – Annabelle Chern will be organizing these events. Plan for a restaurant outing.

5) ECP/Residents – Gene offered up housing for social events. Decided to poll Resident and medical students on option of bringing back idea of Brunch social event. This event will need to avoid conflict with APA events.

6) Minority Outreach – not discussed.

7) Awards: Dan Karasic – We agreed on the nominations for the awards as discussed below.

8) Kenn Ashley – educational program and hospitality suite. The local organizing committee would prefer to have someone non-local organize the symposium. Kenn Ashley will contact Ellen Haller to generate a letter calling for AGLP speakers on the symposium. We decided not to offer CME. George offered Aids Health Project for space. The budget agreed upon was \$2500 for the symposium. Charges for attendance included \$45 for members, \$60 nonmembers, and \$5 for medical students and \$10 for residents. The title will be "agLp: The L Word on Mental Health." Roy will contact Rob and Stephan about writing a grant for covering cost of at least \$2000 of booth.

9) Opening and Closing Receptions – discussed below.

B. New Orleans, LA 2010

Local Arrangements Committee – Mark Townsend will be local arrangements chair.

C. Honolulu, HI 2011 – We will look for a local arrangements chair.

II. Board and Committee Reports

A. Executive Director - Roy Harker. He reiterated a call for Internet editor. Karl Jeffries was appointed as the Internet editor. Kenn moved to approve this appointment and Mark seconded that motion. The board unanimously agreed. The audit of fiscal year 2007 will start next week. First abomination royalty check arrived. Two new awards had been proposed: for Barbara Gittings (raising profile of lesbians in AGLP) and lifetime achievement award. We tabled the Lifetime achievement. Motioned proposed by Kenn and seconded by Mark for Barbara Gittings award. Passed unanimously. Awards will be nominated by immediate past president. Finally, Roy agreed to send out a communication to caucus describing role of AGLP within APA.

B. President - Ubaldo Leli. Karl Jeffries was announced as the membership chair. His two main foci include fiscal solvability and recruiting/maintaining members, especially younger members. He thanked everyone for their hard work, especially with the recent Fryer award. Ubaldo proposed that the fall business meetings be every year in Philadelphia. This would save \$1000. In discussion, we decided that the fall meeting would be at IPS starting in 2009. Mark moved and George seconded this motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

C. Vice-president - Kenn Ashley. He made a proposal that perhaps an educational committee should take care of organizing all educational events. Gene volunteered organizing IPS in NYC. Kenn recognized the recent WPA conference in Prague and GLBT Psychiatric convention in Berlin where Abomination was showed and a discussion on reparative therapy took place. He also spoke about organizing small AGLP social events at other national meetings. Mark said it would be helpful that members would tell him

D. Secretary - Andy Tompkins. He has reported the minutes and agrees to provide concise executive summaries for newsletter.

E. Treasurer - Andy Tompkins. Andy showed appreciation for Rob and Stephan's financial analysis. He also reminded that board members have a responsibility to increase their own giving in tight financial times.

F. Development Officer – Stephan Carlson/Rob Lopatin. We conference called Rob and Stephan. They had reviewed the past budgets from 2005-current to analyze the health of organization. The trend down in net worth occurred at about \$10,000/year -10% of net worth of the organization. Rob recommended reinvestment in membership and strong review of convention expenses. He suggested a \$10,000 cut in convention expenses. Stephan reminded us the BAPHR grant will be decided by 12/15 for \$10,000 for symposium in San Francisco.

Ubaldo wanted to focus on major convention expenses – opening reception, closing reception, symposium. The Board decided that \$80/person and goal of 100 guests would be the numbers for closing banquet. An offsite location with volunteer help from the board was unanimously agreed for the VIP reception. We reviewed the open reception's function and expenses. The Board agreed to stick to

Meeting Minutes

Continued on page 14

\$4000 budget. The Board also unanimously agreed to reduce hospitality suite hours to one day, Monday May 18th.

G. Newsletter - George Harrison. Next issue's deadline will be 11/10/08. The newsletter will attempt to balance informative and narrative articles. The next issue will be focusing on candidates for APA president. Future articles may include discussion of the isolation of members, website changes, membership survey, international meetings attended by AGLP members, importance of the caucus, recap of the Fryer award lecture, pictures of the social event.

H. Journal - Mary Barber, Alan Schwartz (Forwarded report is attached).

Howard Rubin has resigned as co-editor. Alan Schwartz has agreed to step in. Jack Drescher continues on as Editor Emeritus, and Bob Kertzner is Book Review Editor.

Volume 13 issue 1 is complete. It contains a case report by Jack Drescher with discussions by four analysts, a study on parenting attitudes which is the first in our ongoing series on LGBT parenting, and an interview with Al Freedman, who was APA president in 1973.

We have some other papers in the pipeline, including one written by therapist Michael Shernoff before his death from pancreatic cancer, about how he learned of his dx and closed his practice. We are getting discussion papers to accompany it. We also have a paper by McGill psychiatrist Karine Igartua, about her experiences as a lesbian parent, which we are also getting a discussion to accompany.

Volumes 2, 3, and 4 will include the AGLP symposium from last year ("The Gay Agenda"), and two symposia from APA ("Stop it you're making me sick" and one other). Getting these talks recorded and transcribed has greatly eased the pressure to get and process submissions, but it is an expense that we will need to budget for.

We are getting unsolicited submissions, and some are worthy of review and going out for blind review.

We are in discussion with Kathy Rutz of Taylor and Francis about Medline listing, and will try to set up a meeting for the two of us to go to Philadelphia and meet with the T&F marketing people.

In general, the transition from Haworth to Taylor & Francis has been smooth, and some procedures are even improved (online submission of papers and editing of proofs, for example).

AGLP board members are all invited to submit papers or even drafts of ideas. We are both happy to discuss ideas or mentor someone through the writing process.

Roy added - trying to plan a meeting with Taylor and Francis face to face.

I. Women - not present.

J. Minority Outreach - not present.

K. Early Career - Chris McIntosh

L. Residents - Karl Jeffries. See below.

M. Medical students - Marc Manseau. He was not present.

N. Membership. Karl was confirmed as chair. He presented data on survey of 144 current and lapsed members. The majority of AGLP members surveyed joined in medical school or residency, with 80% joined in ECP, residency, or medical school. Of 10 persons who said they were not rejoining, their reasons included retirement, price, not needed, need to be a member of APA, desire for local events, and little benefit for international members. As well, one person said AGLP functions often felt "cliquish." Important benefits recognized by members included advocacy, newsletter, networking, and the Journal. The Board agreed to form a list-serve of AGLP members with email access. Gene volunteered to help find out correct email

address of members. Karl reminded the board that prior bulletin boards have not been active.

O. International - Gene Nakjima. He spoke about his recent presentations at Prague and Berlin. He also spoke about a proposal for a joint English/German symposium at annual German national psychiatric meeting.

P. Psychoanalysis - Chris McIntosh (His emailed report follows.)

I am working on finding a discussant and case presenter for the San Francisco case conference. Gene has given me some suggestions for some San Francisco analysts but I thought since the focus of the symposium will be on women's mental health that we might try to find a female psycho-therapist and a female case presenter. If anyone would like to volunteer to be the presenter or knows of a good contact for the discussant, please e-mail me.

Q. HIV - No one had been attending the meeting for last three years. George said that increased interest could be garnered through the bulletin board and list serve.

R. Transgender - Richard Praus. Dr. Praus was not in attendance. Ubaldo will send a personal email to him in regards to his continued participation. As well, we will search out professional opinions on making an official AGLP statement on the issue of GID.

S. John Fryer, M.D. Award - Mary Barber (Her edited report follows)

The committee met by conference call, and nominated Gavin Newsome for 2008 (to be given at APA Annual Meeting in SF). The Board unanimously approved this nomination. Future awardees were also discussed.

III. Report from Committee - Ellen Haller. Dr. Haller was not present. Ubaldo will request a report from Ellen before the next telephone meeting in November.

IV. Report from Caucus - Mark Townsend, Phil Bialer. Mark spoke about nominating a new president. He will also try to coordinate with Alyson in the APA to make sure AGLP members can also be vigilant to joining caucus.

V. AGLP Representative to the APA Assembly - David Scasta (His edited written report follows.)

The Assembly will be meeting in the first week in December to consider all action papers. I have been reappointed to the Reference Committee on the scientific bases of psychiatry and APA governance. None of the action papers seem to be particularly applicable to AGLP. Most of the internet chatter among representatives has been about Dr. Herman's paper demanding that all DSM-V meetings be "transparent" - i.e., open with public minutes. I am not certain that that step is wise. I am afraid that, with too much public exposure, DSM-V committee members may not be candid in their assessment of the quality of the research being pulled together to come to a consensus about diagnostic criteria. Another area of chatter among the Assembly members has been Congress's scrutiny of the APA's drug funding and the particular scrutiny of the incoming president, Dr. Alan Schatzberg.

Of more importance to AGLP, the candidates for President-Elect of the APA are: Roger Peele, Michael Blumenfeld, Carol Burnstein

All will be favorable to AGLP's concern and all are quite competent and qualified. However, Roger Peele along with Mel Sabshin joined AGLP early in AGLP's history as our first two non-gay identified psychiatrists in support of AGLP.

VI. New Business - none.

The next executive phone conference will be Wednesday, November 12th at 3:45PM EST.

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- FULL MEMBER - \$225 MEMBER OF THE APA
- RESIDENT - \$45
- MEDICAL STUDENT - \$15
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- FRIEND/ALLY - \$100
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AGLP/APA Annual Meeting 2009; San Francisco, California, May 15 through May 21, 2009. Start making your plans today!