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2023

2023-01-23 Meeting Minutes

Pennsylvania Counseling Association

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNSELING
ASSOCIATION

A Branch of the American Counseling Association

Executive Council Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2023
Virtual via Zoom

As a state branch of the American Counseling Association, the Pennsylvania Counseling Association accepts the responsibility to serve and represent Pennsylvania's professional counselors by providing leadership and professional development. The purpose of the association is to enhance human development throughout the lifespan and to promote professional counseling.

Meeting commenced at 10:16am

Introductions/Roll Call:

Officers of the Pennsylvania Counseling Association

Present

- President: Matthew Nice
- President-Elect: Ashley Deurlein
- Treasurer: Jennifer Park

Branch Chapter Officers

Present

- GPACA: Becky Wills
- NEPCA: Sonja Lund (past-president)

Branch Division Officers

Present

- PASERVIC: Tim Hanna
- PAMCD: Cathy Lee
- PS-SAIGE: Dominic Petitto

Not Present

- Secretary: Patricia Obilo-Azandegbe
- Immediate Past-President: Deborah Duenyes
- GPCA: Mary Matlak
- PACES: Derek Parker
- PAMGCA: Michelle Steimer
- PACAC: Amy Halter
- PASGW: Brittany Pollard-Kosidowski
- PCCA: Victoria Wright

Special Interest Group - N/A

Standing Committees (non-voting)

Present

- Government Relations: Madeleine (Maddie) Stevens
- Policies and Procedures: Joe Behun
- Graduate Student Liaison: Stephanie Onkst
- Professional Development: Joy Gray
- Nominations and Elections: Samantha Urbanik

Not Present

- Conference: Patricia Obilo-Azandegbe and Jill Krahwinkel
- Finance/Budget: Derek Parker
- Ethics/By-Laws: Gregory Roth
- Archives: Deborah Duenyes
- Membership: Stephanie DePalmer/Kelley McNicols

Special Committees (non-voting)

Present

- Committee for Anti-Racism and Inclusive Action (CARIA): Christina Green
- Journal: Holly Branthoover
- Marketing and PR: Steve Kuniak

Not Present

- Awards: Lisa Corbin
- Past Presidents: Paul Datti

Guests

None

Quorum present with 8/15 voting members. (as of 10:16 am) (5 votes needed to pass)

MOTION (Ashley Deurlein): Approve the meeting agenda listed below (second by two people), 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. Consent Agenda has been adopted.

Approval of October 14, 2022 Minutes

Copies were distributed in advance of the meeting for board review. The president asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes that were distributed in advance of this meeting. Motion (Ashley), Second (Samatha Urbanik), Abstention (Joe Behun). The minutes stood approved as read.

Officer Item/Action/Discussion Items:

President – Matthew Nice

Updates:

- Feedback from 2022 Conference Pittsburgh- Positive
 - Positive feedback was through word of mouth as well as empirical data
- ACA compliance information- worked with ACA to provide them all current information on PCA, and assuring all officers are compliant with ACA Membership, etc.
- PCA Exhibitor Table at NARACES- update
 - It went well and PCA mugs were distributed there
- State Legislation in Session- Potential visit
- Will attend ACA Conference in Toronto with President-Elect Ashley Deurlein to attend NAR meetings.
- Leadership Manual on website under PCA Leadership section. For all future leaders/committee members of your branch/division, please provide them the manual to help them better understand their position/role and PCA functioning in general.
 - Good resource for future leaders to learn about their roles, Robert Rules, policies, bylaws etc.
 - It will have to be updated overtime
 - Working with Government Relationships (new leadership Maddie) regarding a State visit in Harrisburg as well as Joe.
 - Tim inquired about whether the leadership training will occur this year and Matt responded that it is done yearly by NAR region and will likely take place in April. PCA will send out the information to everyone once NAR reaches out.
- CSI-PA Conference at IUP in April.
 - 11th edition of the conference is hosted this year in IUP in Indiana.
 - PCA will have a sponsored session to recruit leadership again.

Discussion Item(s):

- Membership Meeting
- Will hold a general PCA membership Zoom meeting. Purpose is to answer Q&A, be accessible to membership, hear from members about what they want from PCA. Would like to bring Government Relations and Membership chairs to meeting. Potential second meeting with list from government relations of counselors in the field who are not members of PCA.
 - Matt had an idea of holding a PCA zoom meeting to hear from members about what they want from PCA and thinks it will be a good idea to bring it up to the Government Relations and Membership chairs. He would like to schedule the meeting soon.
 - Matt also brought the idea of holding meetings for non-members who have an invested interest in the counseling compact and counseling in general and want to contribute their thoughts.
 - Tim echoed the sentiment stating that many non-board members attended the PASERVIC meeting and they moved forward to opening up their board meetings to members as a result. He also expressed liking the idea of the newsletter to get more involvement from members.
 - Tim also asked if we wanted to call the meeting a “Town Hall?” Matt asked Maddie what other states (Ohio) call it.
 - Maddie responded that they also use the same term “Town Hall.”

- o Tim proposed an idea of asking members to submit their questions prior to the meeting and Matt responded that it could be helpful in the case that many people show up, as it will be challenging to hear from everyone.
- 50% off first time membership (1 year in)- Do we want to continue using this? Check in.
 - 612 Members (increase)
 - 164 members currently using 50% new discount
 - o Maddie asked Matt to state the numbers again and also asked how many LPCs are in PCA. Matt responded that the number of LPCs in PCA is on the membership report but he does not have that at hand.
 - o (Ashley responded in the chat that only 57 LPCs of 613 were indicated in the last report).
 - o Ashley stated that it is a good initiative but it would be good to see how many people are actually sustaining their membership as that is the ultimate goal. We consistently hovered around 500 members in the past so it is nice to see the increase in membership.
 - o Jennifer expressed thoughts about what the impact may be on the total finance budget longevity wise but deferred to Derek regarding that.
 - o Matt stated that this is a good point and he finds it to be helpful when talking to his students about joining PCA.
 - o Maddie stated that at the GRC event, she captured info about people who are PCA members and those who want to know more about PCA. Maddie wants to know who to ask about that and Matt told her to reach out to either Travis or Kelly (membership co-chairs).

No action items.

President-Elect – Ashley Duerlin

Updates:

- 2023 Conference
 - o We were finally able to find a place despite challenges of trying to balance out other conferences such as NARCES, ACES, and PSCA conferences.
- Harrisburg Hilton, November 3, 4, 5, 2023. The Penn Stater fell through as they were not able to offer the entire weekend and wanted it to be a week day conference. Feedback indicates a high preference for a weekend conference.
- Anyone interested in helping on the Conference Committee, please let me know. I do have a few people that volunteered at the conference for Programs and Logistics, but welcome anyone that would like to be of assistance (prior to and boots on the ground).
- Ashley & Derek will be touring the venue (Steve also, virtually) in February. The tentative contract has been received.
- A lot of great overall conference feedback has been provided for attendees from 2022
 - o This includes bringing back QPR
 - o Has been in contact with people from NAR to bring in others for Ethics etc.
- Followed up on emails from ACA & NAR regarding compliance and upcoming meetings.

Discussion Item(s):

- Reinstate a newsletter through Marketing & PR Committee to disseminate monthly with a summary of upcoming events and what has been happening to limit the number of e-blasts sent out by Deneen.

- People have been complaining about receiving specific emails from the email blast for things like support groups etc. They want to continue receiving emails but not to that degree.
- Ashley added that it should be approved by the President before going out to members; We get 3 per month.
- This led to the idea of the newsletter. The idea is to send information about things that are coming up each month. Ashley also suggested that people can sign up for the groups that they would like to get emails from and they can be emailed directly from that division/chapter. This would require somebody from each division/chapter/committee to work directly with Steve so that people will only receive the information that they would like (specific complaints were made regarding PASERVIC Support Group emails).
- (Maddie stated in the chat that she likes the idea of niche-specific email lists).
- (Joe included the policy in the chat which states that email blasts to membership must be first approved by the President to avoid email fatigue and ensure that members receive and read important information.) Joe also commented that the newsletter stopped about 5-6 years ago and it was difficult to find someone new to do it.
- Ashley responded that she would not put that as a task for marketing and does not mind helping to compile it and send it to Deneen.
- Joe stated that the conversation from the past was about email fatigue and supports the newsletter idea but monthly may become a burden, although ideal. Joe later clarified that he thinks the newsletter may work.
- Ashley asked if we should have a canned response for people who are complaining about getting too many emails. Ashley asked if it would be something that perhaps her, Steve, and Matt can discuss further.
- Maddie shared that the messages may be confusing based on her experience and suggested a quarterly newsletter.
- Joe shared that he is not suggesting that it should be limited to quarterly as that was the case in the past and it was still challenging to manage, but it should be infrequent enough that people will be likely to read it when they receive it.
- Ashley said that it will be based on the format Deneen sent out (1 page). The person in charge of that will compile the list of events and then send it to Deneen to send out each month.
- Joe stated that it seems feasible and Ashley and Matt clarified the idea/format of a digest.
- Tim also echoed that the idea sounds good as it is being discussed. He also expressed what may happen if someone missed a deadline and whether they would have to wait for the next digest.
- Joe expressed thoughts about staying firm to the deadline and reiterated that divisions/chapters can send things out to their members directly as they see fit. Matt echoed that and Joe referred to the policy, stating that Matt can make that decision.
- Matt stated that he is fine with using email blasts for time-sensitive things such as Government Relations and Nominations/Elections but other events can be sent out by individual divisions/chapters to their membership and/or included in the PCA digest.
- Ashley is stating that it should not be an added responsibility and may be organically included in the role of the President as the President needs to approve it anyway.
- Matt agreed and Ashley referred to it as an “info blast” to accurately reflect the idea. Other name suggestions in the chat were (“A snapshot” - Jennifer and “Monthly Announcements - Tim).
- Tim asked if we needed to vote on it and Ashley asked if we needed to create an addendum to the policy if it creates a conflict.

- Joe stated that he does not believe that it conflicts with the policy but we could potentially add more specifics to the communication portion of the policy regarding communication with members.

No action items.

Immediate Past-President – Deborah Duenyas

Updates:

- Provided direction on PCA email inquiries, division emails and advertisements, and any other outside contacts to PCA.
- Met with PCA President, Matthew Nice, discussed planning for Spring events (i.e., Advocacy Day, PCA Elections, etc.). We also reviewed the PCA conference highlights and areas for future growth.

No discussion or action items.

Secretary – Patricia Obilo-Azandegbe

No updates, discussion items or action items.

Treasurer – Jennifer Park

Updates:

- Previous Treasurer and Current Treasurer transferred the PNC account on 1/9/23
- New Debit card has been ordered, will take about a month
- Working on getting a new PO box established
- Treasurer Financial Report has been completed, and sent out.
 - There is a small error in the top line of the CD. It should be \$6860 instead of \$5860 for the last quarter.

Discussion Item(s):

- Treasurer Financial Report

Action Item(s):

- While switching the bank information we found out that our CD is currently at a rate of .02. The current rate available is 3.2 percent. We were informed that we could close our current account, take a penalty; however, would immediately make it back with the increase. This would also help our growth. We would need a board vote to approve closing our current CD and redistributing that into a new CD of 3.2 percent as opposed to our current .02 percent.
 - We will send out an email for a vote later.
 - The post CD was really low so the teller suggested we close that. We would lose 68 cents and reopen a new one with a term for 13 months at 6.3% yield. When that matures we can leave it as is or see if there is a better rate and close it and create a new CD.
 - This gives us a better rate for future things we need to do.
 - Matt stated that due to the policy, we have to wait a little longer to vote on that in order to adhere to the timeline of the policy procedures.

- Joe stated that the vote will not go to committees but rather to the voting members.
- Jennifer asked Joe what the current mileage reimbursement rate is. Joe did not have it at hand.
- Ashley responded that it is \$.655
- Joe stated that it was written as the GSA rate so we do not have to change the policy each time.
- Since most board meetings are via Zoom, reimbursement for travel has been minimal. Moving forward for the board meeting coinciding with the PCA conference, perhaps travel reimbursement can be taken off the table since committee members are already attending the conference in person.
 - Jennifer stated that not many people applied for reimbursement for the last meeting that coincided with the conference but she is curious about what would happen if many people applied.
 - Matt assumed that reimbursement was only for the June in-person meetings but not for the meeting during the conference.
 - Ashley asked for clarification about mileage and Joe stated that you can get reimbursed for mileage if you live within 50 miles to the conference location but not overnight accommodation.
 - Joe stated that it may be a longer conversation. We are saving money by holding two zoom meetings a month. Matt shared some thoughts about saving money as well.
 - Tim expressed considering this as it is helpful for clinicians who are not in academia. Joe expressed that those in academia may also experience difficulty securing funding for conference attendance. Matt added that it may be helpful for Masters and Doctoral students on the board as well.
 - Joe thinks that mileage should be reimbursable but it should be clear that there is no overnight accommodations whether one attends the conference or not.
 - Ashley clarified if mileage should be both ways and Joe affirmed that it is.
 - Matt clarified that there is lodging for the board meeting in June.
 - Cathy proposed that it could be helpful to reimburse for the night before the board meeting (Thursday night) for those coming from afar.
 - Jennifer stated that she is not keen on adding the overnight lodging for the conference meeting. She also expressed concerns about the checks becoming a lot to manage but will move toward sending electronic checks.
 - Jennifer also inquired about how many people attend the meeting and Matt responded that the most attended meeting is the June meeting and then October/November conference meeting. He stated that about 15 people attended the June meeting last year.
 - Joe reminded the board that the by-laws only require attendance of the June meeting and the conference meeting.
 - Matt stated that per the by-laws, individuals get reimbursed for lodging and overnight accommodations for the conference and June meeting. He is asking if there is a limit on how many nights should be accommodated for the conference as it stands right now.

- Ashley, Cathy, and Joe shared additional thoughts on that reaffirming their aforementioned thoughts.
- Joe shared that it is important to consider that we get charged by the hotel if we do not fill up the rooms we block and it is always for Friday or Saturday. He stated that reimbursing for one night may help cover the block in place for Friday and Saturday.
- Joe expressed that it may be a conversation to have with more people present to ensure that everyone weighs in on it. Ashley agreed and asked if we should wait for Derek to be present to weigh in based on his past experiences.
- Jennifer asked if we can table the topic for the next board meeting in that case and Joe agreed.
- Matt stated that covering the hotel stay for board members on Friday may be a good idea, reiterating Holly's statement in the chat that (PCA loses money if the blocked rooms are not filled).

Chapter Discussion/Action Items:

GPACA (Greater Philadelphia Area Counseling Association) – Rebecca Wills

Updates:

- The GPACA Trauma Conference is February 25th at PCOM. We are very excited to have our in person conference again this year. The Conference will focus on Health, Hope, and Healing. This year's GPACA Trauma conference will focus on the impact trauma has on health, both physical and mental, and how to facilitate healing and find hope in the aftermath of traumatic experience.
- We have someone interested in the position of President Elect

No discussion or action items.

GPCA (Greater Pittsburgh Counseling Association) – Mary Matlak

Updates:

Updates:

- The last meeting of the Greater Pittsburgh Counseling Association was held on 11/11/2022 virtually. Three members were in attendance. Next meeting is scheduled on 1/16/2023 after this report was submitted.
- We continue to have an opening for president-elect. Our graduate student representative, Jessica Snyder (Carlow), has graduated and we need 1-2 students for this position.
- There was discussion about the bylaws needing more detailed description of roles and responsibilities of board members.
- Courtney Alvarez reviewed plans for offering a case review in November and suicide prevention training in December. We are also planning for the 2023 Webinar series. Courtney has a zoom account that can host 100 people
- Discussed purchase of the LPC listing for the state for potential members.
- Mary Matlak discussed reestablishing liaison at the schools in our region with goal to promote increase graduate student participation and membership in professional organizations (ACA, PCA, GPCA). Also to encourage the counseling departments to lead by example with increased membership and leadership by faculty and doctoral students. Would like to see that enthusiasm and appreciation for moving Pennsylvania to licensure and future Medicare providers in our region and across the state.

- Kathy Hays reported on membership and monthly emails to new and renewing members. Again we are reminding members that they need to be members of PCA to join GPCA.
- We are planning an internal audit and requesting GPCA dues from PCA. Balance on 11/11/2022 of \$5,967.33

Discussion Item(s):

- Does PCA have a contact person for each of the counseling programs in Pennsylvania? We would like to contact the same person regarding GPCA.
- If so, how can GPCA get access to that list? Is there a student contact at each school?
 - Maddie spoke to GPCA's discussion question about whether there is a contact person for each of the counseling programs in PA and stated that her committee has that. She also addressed an item in GPCA's update regarding the list of LPCs in PA that we can purchase from the board, asking if PCA has access to that.
 - Ashley responded that we had a list in the past but not currently.
 - Madeline stated that it appears that there may be an overlap in what GPCA and GRC are doing and asked if someone can provide Mary's email to her.
 - Matt rescinded that he will send an email to Madeline and Mary so that all three of them can connect to address these questions as Mary is absent.

No action items.

NEPCA (North Eastern Pennsylvania Counseling Association) – Mary Troy

No report submitted.

Division Discussion/Action Items:

PACAC (Pennsylvania Association of Child & Adolescent Counselors) – Amy Halter

No report submitted.

PACES (Pennsylvania Association for Counselor Education and Supervision) - Derek J. Parker

Updates:

- PACES will be sending out a survey by the end of January to membership to see if they would like to partner with the Spring CSI conference again this year.
- PACES will be working with the Gov. Relations Committee to create a list of Counselor Education programs in PA.
- We had a board meeting at the PCA conference. Discussed ideas that the division can do to increase our presence and increase membership benefits.
- May look at holding a track at next year's conference
- Looking for more ways to network/mentor new members

No discussion or action items

PAMCD (Pennsylvania Association of Multicultural Counseling and Development) – Hsin-Hua Cathy Lee

Updates:

- There are a total of 48 members, which is 8 less than what we had in the October report.
- We are in the process of putting together a series of ethics workshop.

No discussion or action items.

PASGW (Pennsylvania Association of Specialists in Group Work) – Brittany Pollard-Kosidowski

Updates:

- Our webinar series and virtual grad student support group will be starting up again for spring semester – look for February webinar announcement coming soon!
- Interested in joining the PASGW E-Board? Lots of positions coming open this summer.
- Doing something neat in group work? Interested in speaking at a PASGW webinar? Email us at pasgwexecutiveboard@gmail.com!

No discussion or action items

PASERVIC (Pennsylvania Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling) - Tim Hanna

Updates:

- Held our **second PASERVIC board meeting** on 10/15/23 at conference. Given high attendance from interested members, we agreed to open future board meetings as well, even to non-voting members.
- **Grounding Support Group (GSG)** – continues to be offered online once per month for PCA members and non-members (at cost; free to PASERVIC members), with bi-monthly reminders emailed via Deneen. Remaining schedule for the year is Friday 9am-9:55am, on the following dates: 1/20/23, 2/17, 3/17, 4/21, 5/19.
- **PCA Conference** – received a lot of interest through social table Friday night and division presentation on Saturday; followed-up via e-mail with 20+ individuals who signed interest sheet.
- **Spring webinar** – designated a team to finalize plans for upcoming Spring 2023 webinar; pursuing offering CE's via PCA; aiming for early April.

Membership/Structure – we are continuing to “shore up” our structure and membership, including streamlining internal policies and advancing our social media presence / networking&support; we are considering implementing a conference scholarship for a PASERVIC graduate student, and possibly co-hosting a pre-conference with another division(s) in the future.

- **Next(3rd) board meeting** to be held via Zoom, Saturday 2/18/23, 12:30-2pm.

No discussion or action items

PAMGCA (PA Military and Government Counseling Association) – Michelle Steimer

No report submitted

PCCA (Pennsylvania College Counseling Association) - Victoria Wright

Updates:

- Significant regression in leadership participation (no meetings scheduled since change in leadership)

Discussion Item(s):

- Next steps for PCCA with stalled leadership
- What have other divisions done when this has occurred?

No action items

PS-SAIGE (PA Society of Sexual, Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expansive Communities) - Dominic Petitto
No report submitted

Committee Discussion/Action Items

Archives – Deborah Duenyas

Updates:

Coordinated with Sue Czerny, Assistant Professor, Librarian at Kutztown University regarding the PCA archives

- Formatting and organizing PCA Archives in the digital database

No discussion or action items.

Awards – Lisa Corbin

No report submitted.

Budget & Finance - Derek Parker

Updates:

- Met with the new Treasurer and switched over the bank information.
- We were informed that we can really benefit from closing our current CD and opening a new one.
- Consulted with new Treasurer

Discussion Item(s):

- It's that time of year again when we need to begin to discuss next year's budget. If you are an officer, division, or committee that would like to see changes to their allocations, or make a new allocation, please schedule time to meet with me prior to May 2023.
 - (Matt asked Joe if there is a policy about addressing discussion items in the absence of a chairperson or designee and Joe expressed that he is not aware of that).
 - (Matt read the discussion item).

No action items

Committee for Anti-Racism and Inclusive Action (CARIA) - Christina Green & Anthony Vajda

No updates, discussion or action items

Conference Co-Chair – Patricia Obilo-Azandegbe

Updates:

- We concluded PCA's 54th annual conference with a high number of attendees and the program ran as smoothly as it possibly could, despite some challenges with registration, audio/visual in a few rooms etc. I will be working closely with the next president and conference co-chair (program) to ensure that we begin planning early for this year's conference, including discussing ways to better manage registration.

No discussion or action items.

Ethics/By Laws - Gregory Roth

Updates

- ACA has again asked to review our Bylaws. The most recent, updated version has been forwarded to them. Our Bylaws will be reviewed by the ACA ethics committee at their next meeting.

No discussion or action item.

Government Relations – Maddie Stevens

No report submitted.

Graduate Student Liaison – Stephanie Onkst

No report submitted.

Journal - Holly Branthoover

Updates:

- I took over as editor on January 1, 2023. I am in the process of setting up my own procedures and systems for managing the journal submissions and reviews for the spring issue.
- I attended the fall 2022 conference and the board meeting.
- I met with Terence Yee twice and Devon Bowser once to gain information on the position.
- I engaged in board emails and discussion regarding social media advertising of the journal.
- As of 1/13/2023, we have three new manuscripts submitted for review. I will be sending those to reviewers this week.
- There are two emails from people who submitted manuscripts in July that have not had any response. I am investigating those and have reached out to them and explained the leadership transition. I will make this a priority and can update the board at the meeting.

No discussion or action items.

Marketing and Outreach - Steve Kuniak

No report submitted.

Membership – Kelley McNichols & Stephanie DePalmer

No report submitted

Nominations & Elections – Samantha Urbanik

Discussion Item(s):

- Nominations are open for our next President-Elect. Please send nominations to samantha.urbanick@gmail.com. Submission due-date will be shared during meeting.
 - Email blast went out 1-2 weeks ago. One person reached out asking for clarifications on the role but no one else expressed interest. Samatha asked that we share the information to those who may be interested and ask that they email her.
 - Ashley stated that someone indicated interest in the President-elect position on the overall conference feedback form. She will forward any other indicated interest for leadership to other committees to Samantha.

- Matt stated that the deadline for president-elect nominations is Feb 10th.
- Samantha put her email address in the chat for anyone who may need it.

No updates or action items.

Past Presidents – Paul Datti

Updates:

- No updates, no report! Still open for business though...

No discussion or action items.

Policies and Procedures - Joe Behun

No updates, discussion or action items.

Professional Development – Kenya Johns & Joy Gray

Updates:

- Feedback from attendees for presenters at the 54th PCA annual conference sent.
- CE certificates distributed to attendees for the 54th PCA annual conference.
- Application received for PCA Government Relation Committee event in January 2023.

Discussion Item(s):

- Whether or not we will continue to offer CRC CE credits.
 - Continuation of past discussion.
 - Ashley stated that we generally have few people who request that at the conference so we are not making profit on that. We expressed that we discussed that we can no longer offer that but if anyone else is opposed to that, we can discuss it.
 - No one was opposed and Ashley stated that we can remove that from the list because it becomes very busy during the conference.
 - Joe expressed that he would like to include that in writing.
- Transitioning a new person into professional development co-chair role.
 - With Kenya transitioning out in the summer, Joy is wondering what it looks like to transition someone in before the conference.
 - Ashley stated that some people indicated interest in joining the professional development committee on the overall conference feedback form and she can connect them to Joy.
 - Ashley stated that can also continue the conversation with Joy about what works best for her and the organization.
 - Joe expressed that the June meeting will be a good time to have that transition meeting with the new co-chair and reiterated that new members should ideally transition in by July 1st.

No action items.

Additional Report Items

A. Old Business – None noted.

B. New Business –

- Matt asked if Madeline's report (sent in the chat) can go under new business since it was not included in the cumulative report. Joe agreed.

Government Relations – Maddie Stevens

Updates:

- Dr. Maddie Stevens took over as GRC chair for Dr. Travis Schermer; Travis is now on membership committee.
- GRC presented a session at PCA 2022 conference and hosted a table to promote legislative advocacy among conference attendees regarding three top issues.
- GRC is hosting a CE event with presenter Dr. Kurt Kraus on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 12-2p via Zoom to provide 2 NBCC-approved CEs in ethics to attendees; also offering an asynchronous option with post-event learning quiz.
- Looking to host 2023 Advocacy Day either in-person at capital in Harrisburg or via Zoom with guest presenters/Q&A sessions with state representatives and senators.
- GRC divided itself into sub-committees in order to accommodate increased committee membership numbers and create structure for our work.
 - Digital communications sub-committee is supporting Steve Kuniak in developing GRC-related content for PCA social media as well as distributing at least monthly email newsletters
 - PA Contact sub-committee developed list of contacts at all PA counselor education/counseling psych programs to communicate events and provide learning opportunities to educators wanting to inspire students to engage in professional advocacy initiatives. Also aims to connect with mental health organizations in PA to develop relationships and join together on relevant initiatives
- Discussion items for Marketing and Outreach (not included in the report).
 - Steve stated that a lot of messages about promotion come through for marketing and outreach. These are non-members most of the time so he turns them away but encourages them to join PCA.
 - Steve received a request recently from a non-member who wants to promote their business to members as a member benefit. His initial reaction is to refuse the request because that has not been done in the past; If PCA does that, we are saying that PCA endorses these benefits and we can not properly vet everything that comes through.
 - One option to address this is to use the place designated on the discord server for promoting businesses. Another option is to offer paid sponsorships which will add more money to our budget but we have to label it as such as we can not endorse it.
 - Steve is wondering if we want to turn people away or create an avenue that benefits PCA, keeping in mind that some members may not be willing to pay for it.
 - Tim responded that this outreach feels like networking which would typically be done in person but believes that the online networking is a good option.
 - Joe expressed that it opens us up to liability, especially with non-members as there is no one designated to vet them. He believes that members should have a benefit that non-members have and non-members can pay to promote their business (i.e. as an ad) on our website.
 - Ashley asked if there is a statement in the sponsorship guidelines about that and Steve responded that it is in the disclosures for sponsorship for the conference. Additionally, there is a disclosure on discord currently which states that PCA does not endorse any businesses promoted on channels on discord but it is offered simply as a networking opportunity. People have to agree with that before they enter the channel.

- Steve expressed that this is somewhat of a new request from members who want to be a resource for people (i.e. providing supervision) as a member benefit.
- Joe responded that we can create a legal language to support Steve with his responses (i.e. PCA does not endorse anything or accept liability for that) so that it does not fall on him.
- Tim asked about whether we refer people to the career center on PCA's website and Steve responded that he does not due to issues in the past with people submitting jobs that were not properly vetted. The career center page was closed down as a result and changes were not made to the website due to costs associated with employing someone to manage it.
- Matt expressed receiving those requests as well and stated that it will be helpful to get some language to respond to that.
- Joe will work on submitting that by June.

C. As May Arise –

- Sonja spoke about the BIPOC scholarship for CARIA and will send it out before February with a deadline for mid to late March. Only new PCA members who have not received the award before are eligible; Those who applied before but did not receive the scholarship can try again.
- Sonja is now a resident of Virginia and this will be her last board meeting as a result. Antony Vajda will take on her role as co-chair of CARIA and she will mentor him in his new role.
- Becky stated that GPACA's trauma conference is coming up on February 25th.

D. Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- June in-person meeting will be held on IUP's campus in Monroeville. Date and time is TBD but it will likely be on a Saturday around 10:00am.

Motion to adjourn by Sonja Lund, second by Ashley Deurlein. 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Adjournment @ 11:42 am.
