

APAPO: THE BROAD VIEW
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Wendi O'Connor, Executive Director, NPA

A few weeks before our NPA delegation went off to the APA/APAPO State Leadership Conference in March, we got a letter about looming financial problems facing the APAPO. We got much more detailed information at the conference. It definitely impacts NPA in a big way.

Few people understand the distinction between APA and APAPO. APA is a 501(c)(3) organization. That non-profit classification has stringent limitations on lobbying. APA likes to say that its focus is on “psychology”...the big picture...the scientific and educational components of the profession.

APAPO is a 501 (c) (6) organization. This non-profit classification is allowed to do advocacy/lobbying. APAPO is all about “psychologists”, protecting the scope of practice, lobbying for insurance reform, working to make Medicare more practical for practitioners. This is your guild organization as practitioners. Advocacy is key to what APAPO does. Many of the issues you face in your practices, public sector work and consulting can be impacted by advocacy and legislation. You need what APAPO provides.

APA dues support APA, which is also supported by publishing and what it earns from its properties in DC. It is reasonably stable financially. Membership in APA is down about 5% and it is working to increase its membership.

APAPO is supported almost entirely by dues.....what used to be called the “Special Assessment” or “Practice Assessment”. For a variety of reasons APAPO’s membership is down over 35% and will probably be around 40% before all is said and done. I understand that people are angry and feel they were deceived. The impact is that this loss of members is forcing serious budget cuts. Important programs and services are being cut.

NPA and our Legislative Committee work closely with APAPO’s Government Relations staff on legislative issues and support their work on Medicare, Mental Health Access and Mental Health Reform. The annual State Leadership Conference has long been a cornerstone of our leadership development efforts to develop skilled leaders, who are also seasoned advocates. Some staff cuts are anticipated at APAPO and cuts in the State Leadership Conference are being discussed. Participation of leaders from the Practice Divisions of APA was discontinued for this year’s SLC.

Over the years I have been at NPA we have applied for grants from APAPO through the Committee for Advancement for Professional Practice almost every year. I calculate that during that time we have received over \$104,500 in grants. Here are some of the highlights of our APAPO support.

- APAPO continually supports our central office, which effectively kept our doors open in earlier years when NPA struggled financially.
- APAPO support has enabled us to maintain a relationship with a lobbyist, who has worked on a variety of issues and monitored the legislature on your behalf. This has helped us to build support for revisions to the NV Corporate Practice laws (NRS 89.050), follow legislation to include appropriately supervised predoctoral psychology interns as QMHPs in the State Plan/Medicaid Services Manual, and follow the newly developed Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT).
- APAPO funds the travel for our Executive Board to meet face-to-face once a year for our Strategic Planning meeting.

- APAPO also funds travel expenses to Washington DC each March so our Federal Advocacy Coordinator, Public Education Campaign chair, Executive Director and President/President-Elect can attend the State Leadership Conference.

When considering payment of your APAPO dues, and I hope you will consider this carefully and thoughtfully, think about some of the things above as great reasons to pay it! Nevada has really benefitted from the support we've gotten because of the dues you all have paid in the past.

Wendi O'Connor, NPA, Executive Director
Nevada Psychological Association

