



AMERICANBOARD OF PROFESSIONAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the (re) inauguration of the ABN Newsletter. Published quarterly, the Newsletter will bring news and information regarding matters of concern to our diplomates. Members who have interesting information to contribute can email that information to the editor, Dr. Sue Antell at seantell@forensicneuroscience.net

PERSONNEL TRANSITIONS

Recently, the Executive Board was saddened to receive the resignation of Dr. Marie Volbrecht, our President Elect. Marie has been a long time diplomate and contributor to ABN, serving previously as Treasurer. Marie had a number of family and personal challenges which prevented her from devoting as much time as she wished to the board, and she has decided to withdraw rather than risk impeding progress on our many new initiatives. We keenly feel the loss of Marie's input and experience, and look forward to an increased role for her as her other responsibilities diminish over time

When such a vacancy occurs on the Executive Board, our by-laws instruct that the Executive Board may appoint, by majority vote, a person from the ABN membership to fill that vacancy. To that end, the Executive Board has unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Karen Wilhelm to assume the role of President Elect. Karen has been a diplomate since 2007 and has served in many critical "behind-the-scenes roles," during which she has had an opportunity to become quite familiar with the workings of the Board and the issues we face going forward. Karen will complete Marie's current term as President-Elect, and will then move to the presidency in January of 2016. This will permit a smooth transition to the presidency when Dr. Meyers' term ends. We look forward to Karen's assumption of this new, more visible role, and feel fortunate to have someone of her caliber ready and able to step into this challenging position. Karen's introductory statement can be found in the next section of this newsletter.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FROM ABN'S NEW PRESIDENT ELECT **Karen L. Wilhelm, Ph.D.**

I am pleased to have this opportunity to introduce myself as your new president elect, and am honored to have been appointed by ABN's Executive Board of Directors. I first began working with the Board several years ago in the capacities of Work Sample Examiner and applicant mentor. I have been working with the ABN Board in the capacity of Chair of the Mentor and

Examiner Committee since that committee's inception in 2012. In that role, I arrange for and monitor the training of all new ABN mentors and examiners, and assign mentors to new applicants. During this time, I have worked closely with the Board to update and implement new mentor and examiner training methods and have been actively participating in board meetings. On a personal note, I have been a practicing neuropsychologist since completing my post-doctoral fellowship in 1995, and attained my ABN diplomate in 2007. I have been employed since 1995 by WakeMed Health and Hospitals, a large multi-site private not-for profit hospital system in Raleigh, North Carolina that has amongst its services a Level I trauma center, and a large, state-of-the art rehabilitation hospital that is CARF-accredited in general rehabilitation, brain injury, stroke, and spinal cord injury. I see patients across this hospital system, as well as in our outpatient neuropsychology clinic with areas of expertise including TBI, stroke, and dementia.

In assuming this new role as president elect, and eventually president of ABN, I know I have very big shoes to fill. We have begun to see the fruits of our strong leadership; ABN has made great strides in recent years, including attainment of CRSPPP recognition. This achievement, however, does not signal an opportunity for us to relax our efforts. Indeed, it marks an opportunity for us to increase our efforts in a number of other areas. I know that there is much more work ahead, including continuing the fight for recognition of parity with other boards, maintaining our CRSPPP recognition, and continuation of ABN's collaborative work with other neuropsychological organizations to help chart the future of neuropsychology in these new and uncertain times. Our efforts include maintaining and expanding our membership base with a number of upcoming membership initiatives, as well as increasing the visibility of ABN among students and the public.

I recognize that I am coming into this position having been appointed by the Executive Board as opposed to having been elected by the general membership, and many of you do not know me. Be assured that together with the Board of Directors, I will strive to continue to advance the goals of the organization, and to maintain ABN as a strong, growing organization that not only provides you with a credential, but positions itself in a place of leadership in the field of neuropsychology, with a spirit of cooperation and inclusiveness. Still, your Board of Directors cannot achieve these goals alone. ABN is a volunteer organization that cannot survive without the hard work and dedication of its membership. The organization is fortunate to have a membership that is as talented as it is diverse, and we have many important ongoing projects, with many more in our future. I will be calling on you to share your talents, and to consider how you can contribute to the future success of ABN.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Wilhelm, Ph.D., ABN
President Elect, The American Board of Professional Neuropsychology

MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVES

ABN recognizes that the health and success of an organization relies entirely upon its ability to not only attract new members, but to groom them for leadership positions within the organization. Our new Membership Committee, headed by Dr. Renee Low, has been actively developing a number of new outreach activities to identify and encourage advanced graduate students and early career psychologists to consider the ABN diplomate as the logical next step in their education and credentialing. Stay tuned for more information about these initiatives, and please contact Renee at RLow001@yahoo.com if you would like to help.

ACPN ACTIVITIES

As many of you know, the BOD has decided to forgo large annual conferences in favor of smaller regional efforts. In June of 2013 we sponsored a Meyers Neuropsychological Battery conference in Sarasota, Florida. There will be another Meyers Neuropsychological Battery conference in Chicago, July 18th and 19th. If you'd like to attend, please contact Dr. John Meyers at jmeyersneuro@yahoo.com.

We are also staging a regional conference in Long Beach California.

Title: ACPN West Coast Conference on Symptom Validity Assessment.
The conference will address methods and implications in assessment and service delivery.

Faculty: Paul Green, Roger Gervais, Jeffrey Webster, and a Panel Discussants.

Time: Sept 13-14.

Place: Old Ranch Country Club, Seal Beach, CA

Registration: TBA, check in with the web site for final announcements and opening of registration in the near future. www.acpn.myshopify.com

Discounts for students and ACPN affiliates will be announced.

POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAM CREDENTIALING

Recognizing that strong postdoctoral training is the key to identifying, developing, and encouraging talented young neuropsychologists, ABN has initiated a postdoctoral residency credentialing program. Postdoctoral programs accredited by ABN will meet the criterion established by the HOUSTON Conference, but permit far greater flexibility in satisfaction of those requirements. In so doing, it makes high quality post doctoral education available to a higher number and wider variety of new graduates and supports our commitment to diversity. Individuals coming through these ABN accredited programs will be prepared for applying for board certification immediately after completing the fellowship. Both institutional and private

practices are eligible for accreditation by ABN, and are encouraged to apply. If you have a large private practice with a variety of patients, an institutional practice, or a hospital based practice that already has a postdoctoral program, please consider finding out whether your program can be accredited. Contact Paula Cooper, paulacooperphd@gmail.com.

LICENSURE MOBILITY

We have undertaken a massive effort to identify states that give license reciprocity or other benefits for board certification, and make efforts to have ABN be given the same benefit. This is a long term project. Under the direction of Dr. Sue Antell, ABN's Secretary, we are asking diplomates to identify whether there are any exclusionary practices within their own state licensing laws or practice acts, or in other organizations that give special benefit for board certification. Where these practices are found, we are asking our members to take the lead on the local level, with the support of the ABN Board, to begin the process of also having ABN listed and given the same benefit. Please contact Sue at seantell@forensicneuroscience.net for further details, and consider participating in this critical effort. Please do not take any other steps until you reach Dr. Antell, as many of these efforts are quite sensitive, and we have developed a coordinated approach to dealing with them.

POLITICS

The ABN Board has thrown its support behind Dr. Tony Puente in his bid for APA president. It is our feeling that Tony has the unique combination of experiences and skills necessary to lead psychology into the future, especially with the full implementation of the ACA. Beyond this, Tony has a reputation for fairness and an ability to work with psychologists of all stripes to develop solutions to problems which are common to all of us. We encourage all of you to cast your vote for Tony.

Our own president, Dr. John Meyers, has been nominated to run for president of NAN. John's skills and accomplishments are well known to all ABN members. While his input and leadership on the ABN board will be sorely missed if/ when he is elected to the presidency of NAN, the ABN Board hopes all of you will actively work to support him in his effort. Rest assured that should John be elected to the NAN presidency, the ABN Executive Board already has a contingency plan in place to provide for a smooth transition in leadership that will avoid any disruption of the many activities and initiatives in which the board is currently engaged.

UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING AT NAN, AND NAN ACTIVITIES

Do not forget the general membership meeting planned for NAN in the fall in Puerto Rico. Watch ACPN Talk for an announcement of the exact date and time. We would love to have a good showing of ABN members at NAN. If you are coming to Puerto Rico, please try to attend this meeting where you will have a chance to hear about all of the current activities of the organization, and will have an opportunity to meet the BOD and committee members. We also

encourage you to volunteer some of your time to ABN for activities at NAN, including manning our table and being the “face and voice of ABN.”

Also, for members interested in becoming mentors for incoming applicants, there will likely be a 1 hour mentor training class at NAN that will be scheduled so as not to interfere with NAN CE's. For members interested in becoming oral examiners, there will likely be an opportunity to begin (or continue) training. Stay tuned for more details. Please contact Dr. Karen Wilhelm at KarenLynneWilhelm@gmail.com if you think you might be interested in attending either of these trainings.

FINALLY....

Remember that CRSPPP has allowed ABN members to list the ABN credential beside their names in the APA directory. If you have not already done so, please adjust your credentials to reflect your ABN status and proudly fly our flag.
