

THEORETICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL PSYCHOLOGY

THE SOCIETY FOR THEORETICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL PSYCHOLOGY
DIVISION 24 OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Fall 2013 Presidential Newsletter



From Jeff Reber

December 12, 2013

Greetings Society Members and Affiliates,

I am pleased to share this newsletter with you and provide an update on some of the new and ongoing activities of the society.

2014 APA Convention Program

This year marks the beginning of a new era in APA convention programming. The new format of programming entails a commitment of a significant portion of programming hours to collaborative presentations that include presenters from different divisions of APA and topics of broad interest to the membership of the association. As you may know, this year there were two deadlines for presentation submissions, one for collaborative programming in November and one for division programming at the beginning of December.

Collaborative submissions are submitted to a division and are peer-reviewed by a team of reviewers within the division. If approved at that level, the submission is forwarded to the APA collaborative programming committee. This committee

reviews proposals and decides if they are suitable for presentation as part of the collaborative program. If they deem the proposal unsuitable for that level of programming, the submission is returned to the division program chair. The chair and division president may then choose to select the proposal as part of the division program or they can reject the proposal. Our division received several of these submissions and, following peer-review, all but 1 of them were forwarded to the APA collaborative programming committee for their review and decision. We have not yet heard back from this committee.

Division proposals are submitted in the traditional manner. The submissions we have received this year are currently being reviewed. The hours afforded to divisions for convention programming have been significantly curtailed to allow for collaborative programming. Furthermore, we expect some of the collaborative proposals we forwarded to the APA committee to be rejected for collaborative programming. If any of these collaborative submissions are then accepted for divisional programming the available hours for division submissions will be further reduced.

Thanks to the foresight of Blaine Fowers and David Goodman, a number of practices were initiated at last year's convention that will improve our chances of receiving collaborative programming hours this year and will offset the hours of divisional programming that have been lost. First, at the 2012 convention Blaine organized a coalition of foundational divisions (1, 24, 26, 32, and 39). The presidents and program chairs of these divisions met at that convention and took on the task of developing collaborative presentations for the 2013 convention, under the title of "Big Questions, Essential Conversations." Those of you who attended the two collaborative symposia in Hawaii last August know that these were extremely informative, interesting, and well attended events. Blaine has graciously agreed to continue heading up this coalition and the coalition has again submitted two very strong collaborative proposals for the 2014 convention. We look forward to "The Big Questions, Essential Conversations" symposium series becoming a mainstay of collaborative programming every year.

The second practice that was initiated by Blaine and David at the last convention was the inclusion of hospitality suite presentations and activities as part of the division's convention program. This programming included presentations, follow-up conversations on symposia and poster presentations, coalition and division social hours, and the division executive committee and business meetings. Moving some of these events to the hospitality suite freed up convention program hours for presentations, but we also had very good, high quality presentations and conversations in the hospitality suite itself. This year, we will continue to integrate hospitality suite programming and events with convention programming to create one overall,

hopefully seamless division program that will afford us the hours needed to engage the ideas that excite us and will allow us the time to have the meaningful conversations these ideas deserve. Details about hospitality suite programming will be shared via this and other listserves in the near future.

Before I leave this topic of the convention I want to acknowledge the great work of my program chair, Ed Gantt, who has had to learn everything from computer programming to APA administrative policies and politics in trying to figure out how all of these new features of the convention work. The role of program chair is already labor intensive, but this year it is especially burdensome, and I appreciate his perseverance and patience with the rollout of this new programming format. I also want to thank those who are reviewing submissions for their work. Finally, I want to thank all of you who have submitted proposals. They cover a range of interesting and creative topics and I hope we can include many of them in the program this August.

2014 Midwinter Meeting

This year the Society will hold its annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia from March 6-8 at the Embassy Suites hotel in Buckhead. I am pleased to report that we have arranged for a very reasonable room rate of \$129.00 per night, which includes a two-room suite, complimentary in-room wireless, complimentary meeting room wireless, and a complimentary cooked to order breakfast for all registered guests. I strongly encourage all attendees who are not local to the area to stay in the midwinter meeting hotel as we will have a number of evening events in the hotel alongside our daytime program. When making your reservation (ph. 404-261-7733) be sure to identify yourself with STPP to get the special midwinter meeting rate.

The call for proposals for the midwinter conference was sent out on various listserves and posted on the website in October. Please be reminded that the deadline for submissions is this Sunday, December 15th. We are eager to receive submissions from all society members and affiliates and hope you will include students, early career psychologists, and associates from other disciplines, practice domains, and professions as presenters or authors on your proposals. The meeting program co-chairs, Joseph Ostenson and Joshua Clegg, are busy creating a number of engaging events and activities, including evening gatherings and conversations in a hospitality suite at the hotel. The site hosts, Kareen Malone and Lisa Osbeck have organized a wonderful group dinner and other dining options that are sure to please any palate. We are also fortunate to have the psychology department at the University of West Georgia as a co-sponsor of the event. We look forward to receiving your submissions and to a stimulating program.

Strategic Planning

One of my presidential initiatives is to develop a strategic plan for our society. That process will begin with a series of conversations and action items regarding several core elements of the society, namely our mission statement, vision, brand, and executive committee structure. There are a number of reasons why the development of a strategic plan for our society is timely and important, including membership recruiting and retention challenges and, for lack of a better term, the marketing of the important and unique contributions we make to psychology. In the near future, I will initiate some conversations on the division listserv concerning our mission statement, vision, brand, and executive committee structure. I hope you will participate in the discussion and share your thoughts on these important foundational features of the society's identity, either on the listserv or by emailing me directly at jeff_reber@byu.edu.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to the members of the executive committee for their great work on the projects mentioned in this newsletter and so many other tasks and assignments they willingly take on. I would also like to thank each of you, the members and affiliates of the society, for your engagement with the society, whether it be through lively listserv discussions, participation in our conferences, voluntary service, or in some other way. If you would like to be more involved in the society or if I can be of service to you in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me. Also, don't forget to mark March 6-8 down on your calendars for the midwinter conference in Atlanta and August 7-10 for the annual convention in Washington, DC. I look forward to meeting with you there.

Best wishes and happy holidays,

Jeff Reber