



MORXP/ MONAPPP

Recent News: Watch for Our Newsletter with complete stories on these items.

News Item #1: Our petition to equalize practitioner and academic dues in our state psychological association (MoPA) and its somewhere over 200 hundred paying members will be heard by the MoPA Board! After several contacts, MoPA has acknowledged that they will hear the MoNAPPP and several MoPA members' appeal to adjust dues for academics and practitioners to reflect of helping different types of psychologists during low-income periods. Obviously, APA and several research organizations have reported practitioner psychologists declining incomes during the "war on psychotherapy" that is becoming wide spread in the Governments "cost containment plans for health care (characteristically and predictably ignoring the two major health care inflation drivers-hospital corporate costs and drug company costs and profits).

While psychological associations generally deal with requests such as ours by various stalls (doing a study, confusing the issue by finding minor flaws or discrepancies in reported rates of income decline, confusing the issue by reporting complex first, second, and third and so on dues adjustments, and reporting figures of academics taking advantage of the lower dues-always low because of low academic participation in these organizations) the state practitioner association is hopeful that we can get MoPA to show the same traditional sensitivity for practitioners in difficult times as they did for academics when their salaries, benefit packages, summer breaks, sabbaticals, sideline grant and consulting income, and part-time practice income packages were much lower.

News Item #2: The Missouri practitioner organization (MoNAPPP) would like to thank Div 55 for working to collaborate with us on the up and coming division Mid-Winter Conference in KC. We are not big on conferences, poster sessions, and funded winter outings for boards and committees, but Div 55 really does a very different Conference that is focused on a specific legislative goal and plan and training advocates. This is a practice-oriented gathering that we support. However, our collaboration broke down when factions within Div 55 and other sponsors repeatedly put up roadblocks to our practice leader speakers and scheduling of our sponsored (funded) breakfast and free cocktail party and clear listing of these items on the Conference Brochure. While we appreciate the vision and wisdom of Div 55 trying to reach a collaborative effort on this conference, like so many things in APA, the dynamics of so many political forces made it clear that an efficient, streamline, and well articulated collaboration on important practice issues could not be accomplished within the current leadership style and infrastructure of this small and budding practice division. While MoNAPPP and NAPPP pulled out of the conference due to these inadequacies of organization and decision making, we applaud the "little division that roared" (Div 55) for attempting the important task of seeing whether factions within and outside of APA could collaborate for the ultimate good of practice. The answer was "no"-but the effort to lead was a shining light and rarity in APA. We applaud Div 55 for the effort.

News Item #3: MoPA continues to refuse to sponsor jointly a bill with the Missouri practitioner organization, and has not been willing to sit down and discuss such issues. While APA and the California Psychological Association maintained that introducing two separate bills is a "good strategy" in California, the opposition used the two bills and the unwillingness of CPA to collaborate with practitioner organizations to kill California's chances to pass RxP last year. MoNAPPP has maintained that practitioner associations and generalist psychological associations should collaborate and share resources to increase the chance of passing legislative agenda's. In MO, both MoNAPPP and MoPA have active PACs, both have developed considerable coalitions and grass roots networks, and both have considerable similarity regarding their bills, which will be presented. We have met with the leadership of the legislature, the MO Medical Association and their lobbyists, several governmental agencies, several major labor representatives, and many individual legislators and it is clear that the only way an RxP bill will pass in the next session is major coalitions forming,

major fund raising, and a strong united front. MoNAPPP continues to communicate this to MoPA and hope that they can find it within their corporate vision and mission, organizational personality, and strategic planning to respond to our and Div 55's recommendations that they learn to collaborate on an RxP Bill. Clearly, the MO Medical Association will be developing a strong alternative (such as general physician special education in psychopharmacology, increased telemedicine psychiatric consultation for general physicians, and a strong marketing campaign which attempts to face it that the numbers won't let psychiatrists meet the public need, but that general physicians with a little training and linkage can do so).

Psychology is not in a position to continue to fractionate, let internal APA politics, and personalities destroy their opportunities to help practitioners. Practitioners are not in a position to continue to send their resources to fund psychological organizations that cannot collaborate for their best interests.

News Item #3: NAPPP, the Missouri practitioner's association (MoNAPPP) parent organization has closed the deal among 17 disciplines and national entities to form coalitions for advocacy and defense of mental health practice. These groups, and others, will gather in Washington DC to congeal the coalition and formulate a collaborative and joint national strategy! Increasingly, practitioners of various types recognize that there is a "war on psychotherapy" and indeed a general "war on all but palliative health care"! They will begin the process of discussing guild issues and finding common national advocacy and legislative strategies. NAPPP is applauded for continued leadership in psychology practice. The growing numbers of practitioners joining our national and state chapters are allowing increasing action on behalf of practitioners. For more information see *The Clinical Practitioner* (Nov) at the NAPPP web site (<http://www.nappp.org/>).

We are asking you to become a member of MoRxP/MoNAPPP and enjoy its many benefits as well as help support this practice and RxP focused organization. At present (for a limited time) membership in MoRxP/MoNAPPP is free. If you also join the important national organization NAPPP you will gain its many benefits as well. Those include FREE APA approved CEUs, and many other benefits.

Please indicate if you would like to join our organization.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone, home _____
office _____
fax _____
EMAIL (very important) _____

Please email reply back to morris49@ipa.net