

## OPA: The Second Half Century

### *Addendum By Michael O. Ranney, MPA, OPA Executive Director*

In the 90's the pace of change in the profession increased and OPA kept up with it. OPA membership grew significantly, and mirroring trends in the profession, new members included more women and minorities. Third party management of patient access to mental health care created more and more problems for psychologists, leading OPA to create a special advocacy program to confront insurers about slow payments of claims and denials of treatment (Project FAIR). Legislation requiring prompt payment of claims had a significant impact on Ohio psychologists. Mandatory continuing education became the law in Ohio and OPA provided new services to help psychologists meet these requirements. Growth included an increase of graduate programs in psychology and professional schools and OPA responded by establishing a graduate student association with a voting seat on the Board of Directors. Staff grew with the addition of a Director of Professional Affairs and a psychologist/consultant to help with advocacy on behalf of the profession. OPA was recognized for the second time by APA as the outstanding psychological association and also received awards for its outstanding graduate student association and for its work in diversity.

The world of psychology did not slow down when OPA turned the page of the calendar to the 00's. The feminization of the profession became even more apparent. What also became evident was the aging of the profession. Those who had long served as leaders in OPA were retiring and pulling back. New leaders were emerging. An OPA president near the end of the decade had been an early career member at the beginning of the decade. Technology became a major focus and OPA was in the forefront, creating guidelines for the use of technology by psychologists. OPA modeled the effective use of technology and its website became a major resource. When APA modified the model licensure law to change the sequence of training, OPA took note and was among the first states to pass legislation that eliminated the requirement of a post doc for licensing, while keeping the required hours for supervised experience at the same high level. OPA's use of social media helped communicate with newer psychologists and spread the word to the public about the help psychologists offer. Growth in the Psychologically Healthy Workplace Awards program, with Ohio winners going on to capture national awards, helped underscore the positive impact of psychology in the workplace. Low turnover in OPA's central office staff from the late 90's through the decade of the 00's, translated into a dependable, effective and efficient team that was ready for the 10's. As the 00's came to a close OPA was updating its mission statement and creating a new strategic plan to guide it into the next decade.

More to come.

***Michael O. Ranney has been OPA's Executive Director since 1997.***