FINANCES AND ADVOCACY

2018-19 FISCAL YEAR

- Membership increased from 952 (2017-18) to 966.
- The Association’s revenue was $522,136 and its expenses were $433,184.
- New sponsorship packages for Annual Meeting increased revenue by $44,142.
- A balanced budget was approved for the fiscal year of July 2019-June 2020.

NEGOTIATED BETTER DEALS FOR MEMBERS

GPA partnered with Affinipay to offer members lower credit card processing fees.

PROTECTED TESTING REIMBURSEMENT

GPA’s Insurance and Managed Care Committee advocated for member reimbursement during the aftermath of the testing code changes by meeting with the Department of Community Health, WellCare, Peachstate, and Amerigroup.

SUBMITTED EXPERT TESTIMONY FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION

Dr. Laura Dilly, GPA President Elect, provided testimony to the GA House Appropriations Education Subcommittee. She advocated for parity for mental health services, the importance of psychologists in school climate and safety initiatives, and a raise for all certified school psychologists.

DR. ANITA BROWN HIRED AS GPA’S DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Anita Brown became Director of Professional Affairs in July 2019. Duties will focus on legal and legislative initiatives, insurance and managed care and other content related to psychology practice. She also will be a liaison to GPA lobbyists, the American Psychological Association and other external organizations with whom GPA shares a stakeholder interest.

PASSED THE PSYCHOLOGY INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT

The Georgia legislature enacted the Psychology Interstate Compact (PSYPACT) that allows enrolled psychologists to practice into other compact states using telepsychology methods. Georgia became PSYPACT’s 8th state after a two-year long endeavor, thus allowing the formation of a governing Commission and implementation of the credentialing process, expected to begin in early 2020.

COLLABORATED WITH GEORGIA LICENSING BOARD

GPA Liaison to the Georgia Licensing Board attended monthly meetings to exchange information and concerns for the benefit of Georgia psychologists.

GPA’s Insurance and Managed Care Committee advocated for member reimbursement during the aftermath of the testing code changes by meeting with the Department of Community Health, WellCare, Peachstate, and Amerigroup.

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DEVELOPED AND SUPPORTED AWARD-WINNING LEADERSHIP

GPA sent a delegation of 8 members to APA’s Practice Leadership Conference in DC for training, development, and mental health advocacy. At the conference, Dr. Jennifer Kelly received a Presidential Citation and Staci Bratcher was given the State Leadership Outstanding Staff Member Award.

GPA recently launched both a Leadership Academy and a Mentorship Program to enhance the professional development and growth of members in all career stages.

FACILITATED CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

Provided 52 Continuing Education programs for 2,808 registrants, including our highly-acclaimed program at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Atlanta. For the past two years, the Annual Meeting has had over 400 attendees.

PROVIDED NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

The GPA Listserv provides its 290 Premium and Platinum GPA members the ability to connect with each other, make and receive referrals, and share important information about coding, billing, office space, and more.

The Diversity Directorate, the Georgia Psychological Association of Graduate Students (GPAGS), and the Senior Psychologists Network held networking events for members throughout the year.

RAISED PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT PSYCHOLOGY

Howard Drutman, chair of the Public Education Committee (PEC), and a team of GPA Members represented GPA at the Atlanta Science Fair in March to promote the public’s knowledge of psychology with resources provided by GPA.

Last December, for the first time, GPA hosted a booth at the Biennial Institute for Georgia Legislators in Athens.

SUPPORTED GEORGIA’S FIRST RESPONDERS

The Georgia Psychological Foundation (GPF) hosted a free workshop for First Responders featuring Dr. Mark Evces and Dr. Carla Moore and is initiating efforts to support the mental health of Georgia’s emergency professionals.
A MESSAGE FROM GPA’S PAST PRESIDENT:  
DR. DORA SOUBLIS

The initiatives that were my focus this past year were to create a Leadership Academy, to establish a Mentorship Program, and to increase the financial sustainability for GPA. The Leadership Academy is thriving with eight vibrant Early Career Psychologists. The future of GPA is very bright, and maintaining the Leadership Academy will equip our Early Career Psychologists to pursue leadership roles throughout their careers and within GPA. The Mentorship Program was launched and based on the areas of growth that they were seeking, mentees were paired with experienced mentors.

Increasing financial sustainability was of the utmost importance during my Presidency. Throughout the years, GPA has maintained a very lean budget and relied on income from membership, continuing education, and the Annual Meeting. This past year these categories brought in more revenue than was initially projected. There were also increased donations from Day for GPA. These are all great steps towards increasing the financial sustainability of our organization. However, it was very important to me that we find other streams of revenue. We introduced a much stronger Sponsorship package for the Annual Meeting that collected 400% higher revenues than the previous year! We also began work on Advertising packages that will help to increase our income into the future. Through these efforts, I am happy to announce that we have successfully balanced GPA’s budget.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as GPA President this past year. I am deeply grateful to the kind, gifted, diverse, and caring individuals that gave their time and expertise to GPA. If you are interested in becoming more involved, please do so. All you have to do is send an email to anyone in a leadership role in GPA and we will work to find the right fit for your interests and talents. If you are not actively involved, please continue to support GPA and its mission as the only organization to advocate for Georgia psychologists and psychology students.

With appreciation,
Dora Soublis, Ph.D.
President (2018-19)