At the February Council of Representatives meeting we learned that APA is suffering financially due to the economic downturn. APA will not be able to draw on their investment income as expected, and membership renewals are down. The Council adopted a budget with approximately $12 million dollars in spending cuts, and Executive Director Norman-Anderson has written to communicate about further savings.

**Update**

**APA Council**

Rhode Island has secured a voting seat on the APA Council for the first time in 25 years. APA finally accepted the principle that all states should have a vote. The additional seats will be proportional allotment, but it was never secured.

There are 26 of us (designated by APA as “small states”) and especially Ellen Gay, Ph.D. from the “very small states” (designated by APA Council Representative Peter Oppenheimer, Ph.D. and Military Experience)

We heard from the Executive Management Team and General Council Nathalie Gilfoyle about the military personnel.

At the February Council of Representatives meeting, we learned that APA is suffering financially due to the economic downturn. APA will not be able to draw on their investment income as expected, and membership renewals are down. The Council adopted a budget with approximately $12 million dollars in spending cuts, and Executive Director Norman-Anderson has written to communicate about further savings.

- Of significance to the very small state and territorial associations, Rhode Island has secured a voting seat on the APA Council for the first time in 25 years. APA finally accepted the principle that all states should have a vote. The additional seats will be proportional allotment, but it was never secured.

For an independent third party working to protect human rights or providing treatment to military personnel, we heard from the Executive Management Team and General Council Nathalie Gilfoyle about the role of psychologists in national security detention.

The council moved to make the results of last fall’s membership vote in support of a resolution prohibiting psychologists from working in settings where people are held outside of, or in violation of either International Law or the U.S. Constitution. The only exceptions to this prohibition are in cases in which a psychologist is working directly for the person being detained, the council moved to make the results of last fall’s membership vote in support of a resolution prohibiting psychologists from working in settings where people are held outside of, or in violation of either International Law or the U.S. Constitution.


- Received the final report of the Div. 19 (Military) and Div. 44 (Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues) Joint Task Force on Sexual Orientation and Military Experience.

Peter Oilstrom, Ph.D.

APA Council Representative

**President’s Note**

Dear Colleagues:

As I reflect on our recent elections for RIPA board members, I am grateful to all those who had agreed to let us put their names forward to provide service to the RIPA membership and to the profession. I also appreciate the many others who were nominated and, after thoughtful consideration, regretfully shared with us that this was not a good time for them to take on a new role. Most indicated that they would be interested in serving at some time in the future.

While RIPA board membership does require some commitment, it is a very rewarding experience and I encourage all members to consider becoming more involved with your association. I truly do mean all members.

Don’t rule yourself out simply because you are new to the profession or to the state. Some of our most effective and energetic board members and committee chairs are early career psychologists. If personal or professional commitments make that level of participation difficult at this point in time, consider being a member of one of our committees. It is a great way to network, learn, and have an impact. All committees would welcome your participation.

Several committees, the Business of Practice Network and the Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award committee, are looking for chairpersons. Board members and others who have been around awhile will be more than happy to help mentor you in these roles. All you need is a desire to get involved. Whether you are new to the profession or retired, an academic or in private practice, I can almost guarantee that you will find the experience highly rewarding and deeply satisfying. Please contact any of board members or committee chairs for more information.

You are also welcome to contact me:

Jim.Campbell@PsychologicalCenters.com or 401-490-8916.

Jim Campbell, Ph.D.
Legislative Chair

**Publisher’s Note**

The following text is not intended as a substitute for professional evaluation or treatment. This week’s* Insight* feature describes a potentially serious and life-threatening condition. Readers are encouraged to obtain medical/psychological evaluation if they are finding their experience similar to any of the symptoms described here.

RIPA in Washington

SCL 2009 & Federal Advocacy

On Wednesday, March 5th, the final day of the State Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., RIPA President, James Campbell, Ph.D., Federal Advocate, Marjorie Pelcovits, Ph.D. and Executive Director, Jack Hutson met with the R.I. congressional delegation to impress them on this essential to pass health reform that integrates psychological services in primary care, preventative services and benefit packages.

The last meeting of the day was with Congressman Kennedy. The delegation expressed its gratitude for his significant effort to pass Mental Health Parity, and asked him to continue to expand the ability of psychologists to bring quality mental health care to all Rhode Islanders, specifically those on Medicare.

In addition to pushing for inclusion in any healthcare reform model, the delegation also asked that:

1. Congress extend the MPPA provision that restored 5% of the proposed 7% cut to outpatient mental health reimbursement made by CMS in the 5-year Review;
2. Allow psychologists to be eligible to provide evaluation and management (E&M) services to Medicare patients within their licensure;
3. Add psychologists to the Medicare “physician” definition. Over time, chiropractors, optometrists, dentists and podiatrists have been added to the “physician” definition - this would not result in an increase in the psychologist scope of practice - which is determined by state licensure.

Advocate for psychologists and the important services we provide, is a central reason you invest your membership dollars each year — and why you should ask your colleagues to be members as well. Without your support, and the future support of your colleagues, our efforts to advocate on your behalf would be impossible.

We are hopeful that you consider this advocacy efforts an important part of the protection of your practice, and we ask you consider the following:

1. If you have anything to add or suggest to make our efforts more effective, please let us know.
2. Ask a non-member colleague to join RIPA today to help keep our efforts on their behalf alive. http://ripsych.org/ join.html

Thank You!

RIPA SLC 2009 Delegation: President; Jim Campbell, Ph.D.; President-Elect; Marshall Robinson, Ph.D.; President-Elect; Jack Hutson, Executive Director

http://ripsych.org/ join.html

Publisher’s Note

This is the next-to-last regular issue of RIPA’s *Insight* that will be sent to non-members. If you want to continue to receive this quarterly newsletter, please complete the form in the back pages for psychologists in Rhode Island if you want to continue to receive this quarterly newsletter. If you wish to continue to promote psychology as a field in our state, please consider joining RIPA now. Visit www.ripsych.org for more information and an application.
Q: How should I respond to a subpoena?

A: This is one of the most common questions we receive, because there is often much confusion about what a subpoena is and whether one is obliged to respond. A “subpoena” or “subpoena does return” is simply a legal request for information signed by an attorney or by a clerk of the court and a regular summons for documents or testimony is a deposition or trial. Keep in mind that a request for information is not the same as a requirement to provide the information. While you must respond to a subpoena to avoid being held in contempt of court, a psychologist may not ethically release confidential information in response to a subpoena without a client’s consent, or a court order signed by a judge. If you feel strongly that the information requested by a court is not relevant or is not protected by legal privilege or wardship held in confidence of court, a psychologist may not ethically release confidential information without a client’s consent. Ensure that you do not confirm in any way that you have treated the client, as this information is already protected. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to consult with legal counsel or seek guidance from your client’s attorney, who may file a motion to quash the subpoena. A motion to quash is a formal request that the subpoena be vacated or made void if the client’s attorney does not file a motion to quash the subpoena. A motion to quash is a formal request that the attorney representing the client contact you with the request to quash the subpoena. If you do not receive a response from the judge, or the judge’s clerk, you may file an application to quash the subpoena. If you file an application to quash the subpoena, you must immediately notify the client and the client’s attorney. The client or the attorney are entitled to a hearing and, if a hearing is held, the client may have an opportunity to be heard. If the court determines that the client’s attorney does not represent your interests or the court determines that the client’s attorney does not represent your interests, you may be held in contempt of court. From an ethical perspective, psychologists should adhere to the APA Code of Ethics regarding the disclosure of information in response to a subpoena without a client’s consent. The first step to take after receiving a subpoena is to contact the client involved to notify them that you have received a subpoena. The second step is to see the client’s documentation to understand the possible ramifications of releasing the information, especially in the case where the client believes the information may be relevant to their legal needs. If the client agrees to release the information, they must sign a release statement allowing you to release the information. If the client does not agree to release the information, they must file a motion to quash the subpoena. If the client’s attorney does not agree to release the information, they must file a motion to quash the subpoena. If the client’s attorney does not agree to release the information, they must file a motion to quash the subpoena. If the client’s attorney does not agree to release the information, they must file a motion to quash the subpoena.