



President's Column: Change We Can Believe In

By Randy J. Georgemiller

Regardless of our particular political stripe, over the course of our lives we have all been moved by powerful slogans, which capture the mood of historic events and periods, as well as resonate with our personal experience. Since we are in such historic times in our country, I would like to co-opt the saying, "Change we can believe in," not only because it was the trademark slogan of Chicago's adopted son (and my hometown) during his run for the Presidency of the U.S., but also because it expresses what I see as significant progress and transformation that is taking place within our Division.

At the most recent Midwinter Executive Committee (EC) meeting, which followed the conclusion of the Tenth National Multicultural Summit and Conference the EC labored to complete a very lengthy and ambitious agenda while attempting to be a good steward of our limited financial resources. Here is a small sample of what was accomplished:

Change 1: Name change and bylaws change to reflect greater inclusiveness. By now, you have read a series of *Newsletter* articles and have been solicited to participate in focus groups at our last convention and an online survey to capture your opinions about how to formalize inclusion of

transgender issues in the name, mission, and bylaws of the Division. The EC unanimously endorsed changing the name to: The Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues. By the time this issue of the *Newsletter* is published, you will have received a ballot so you can weigh in with your vote. The results will be posted soon; stay tuned. Also, please review the personal reflections of lore dickey (in this issue), a member of the EC and Transition Task Force, which formulated the name change recommendation.

Change 2: Task Force on Guidelines for Assessment and Treatment of Transgender and Gender Variant Clients. Consistent with our ongoing support of education, training, research, and practice as it relates to transgender issues, and to meet an unmet need in the practice community, the EC supported the development of guidelines for the assessment and treatment of transgender and gender variant clients. Our Division has been on the forefront of setting the standard for practice guidelines in general, and LGB practice guidelines in particular. We can expect the creation of an innovative document as we reach out to allies both within and outside of APA to complete this process.

Change 3: Policy and procedure for endorsing candidates for APA President-Elect to promote further diversity within APA. It is no braggadocio when I share with you that Division 44's impact on APA policies and practices is felt way beyond our meager membership numbers and budget. For example, we retain maximal representation by highly competent representatives on Council and our Division seeks opportunities and is sought out within APA as a voice for promoting diversity. To that end, the EC recognized the benefit of advancing our mission by endorsing worthy candidates for the position of APA President-Elect. Since there is no consistent process for endorsing candidates across the divisions of APA, the EC decided to implement a policy on a trial basis with ongoing review as to its desired effect. Please refer to the complete text of this policy in this issue of the *Newsletter*.

Change 4: Legacy Donor Program to ensure the continuation of our mission. The fuel that stokes the engine of any



In This Issue...

APA Convention 2009	2
From the Newsletter 5, 10, 15, and 20 Years Ago.....	3
Photos from the 2009 Midwinter Meeting	4
Division 44 Candidate Statements	6
Student Representative Column.....	8
APA Division 44 Annual Dinner 2008	8
First-Person History: Bonnie Ruth Strickland.....	9
Putting the "T" in Our Name, lore m. dickey	11
Call for Comments: State Licensure of Psychologists	11
Call for Division 44 Award Nominations.....	13
President-Elect Endorsement Policy	14
Committee Reports	
Education and Training	15
Fund-Raising Task Force	15
Membership	16
Science Committee News.....	17
Transgender and Gender Variation Issues	17
Treasurers's Report	18
Racial and Ethnic Diversity (CoRED).....	19

organization is its financial reserves. Through conservative stewardship, we have weathered hard times. To guarantee the continuation of the Division's good work for generations to come, the EC adopted a policy to encourage members to designate a portion of their estate as a bequest to the Division. This strategy is nothing new. In the past, Division 44 adopted a policy to encourage bequests. What is different now is that we are going to more carefully track our members' expressed intentions, publicize their willingness to support the Division if they so desire, and actively promote the program on an ongoing basis. Please refer to the "Make a Bequest to Division 44" entry in this issue of the

Newsletter and consider generously responding.

My sincerest thanks to all the devoted fellows, members, affiliates, and students who choose to make Division 44 their professional home and to the task force and committee chairs, members, and elected officials of the Division who do the work to realize our mission.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Toronto for convention. Please refer to the entry below from our Program Chair, Wendy Biss, informing you of plans for the upcoming convention. For those of you traveling to Toronto, I invite you to approach me and the rest of the EC to discuss how we can continue to work together to further LGBT psychology.

APA Convention 2009: Toronto, August 6–9

The Presidential theme for this year's convention is "Improving Healthcare Delivery and Services to LGBT individuals." This year's program is full of innovative research and practice offerings. Exciting highlights that address multiple intersecting identities include "Research Implications: Intersections of Race, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity" (with Mobley, Zea, Morales, Simoni, and Kuang), which is co-sponsored with Division 35, and "The Intersections of Transgender and Racial Identities" (with Pardo, Chung, and Munoz).

Fitting with the Presidential theme, several presentations also aim to address health disparities, such as "Innovations in Research on Sexual Orientation and Health" (with Ross, Russell, and Cochran) and "Assisted Living: Are Gender and Sexual Minority Aged Welcome?" (with Gauler & Carroll).

The invited address will be presented by Dr. Robb Travers from the University of Toronto. He will discuss utilizing collaborative partnerships in his speech titled "Making Research Relevant: Reflections from LGBT Community-Academic Partnerships in Ontario."

Please enjoy perusing the program when it is finally released in the coming months for other exciting programming highlights and dates and times for all events.

—Wendy Biss, Program Chair

Call for Division 44 Suite Program Proposals

Division 44 is calling for suite program proposals for the 2009 APA Convention to be held in Toronto August 6–9. Division 44 Suite Programming allows participants the opportunity to address LGBT topics in several forms. This allotted time has been used in the past as a space for informal discussions, committee meetings, and formal presentations.

Please forward electronic submission via e-mail to the Division 44 Suite Programming Co-Chair, Erin Deneke at the following e-mail address: edeneke@comcast.net or edeneke@caron.org. Submissions for Division 44 Suite Programming have a deadline of 11:59 p.m. EST, Friday, April 24, 2009.

When completing your requests for suite programming, specify the following in order to best accommodate everyone's needs:

- (1) What may be needed to accommodate your presentation needs,
- (2) A brief abstract of your program (less than 2 pages double-spaced),
- (3) Names and contact information for all representative sponsors of the program,
- (4) The amount of time requested for the program.

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your requests!

—Erin Deneke, Program Co-Chair

