

Content for SPTA Communications with Practitioner Members about APAPO and the Importance of Membership

November 2011

Basics about APAPO

The American Psychological Association Practice Organization (APA Practice Organization, or APAPO) is a companion organization to the American Psychological Association (APA). A legally distinct entity created as a 501(c)6 organization, APAPO is able to advocate free of restrictions and prohibitions that apply to activities of a 501(c)3 organization like APA.

The APA Practice Organization is dedicated to advancing and protecting the professional interests of practicing psychologists. APAPO is fighting for practitioners on Capitol Hill, in the courts and the marketplace.

Members of APAPO pay the Practice Assessment, which funds the organization's numerous advocacy activities. Key efforts include:

- Challenging payment cuts for psychological services by Medicare and private sector health insurers
- Supporting litigation against abusive managed care practices
- Advocating for professional psychology as the federal health care reform law – the Affordable Care Act -- is implemented
- Gaining support for pending federal legislation to include psychologists in the Medicare definition of physician
- Affirming the doctoral standard for independent psychology practice
- Confronting assaults on psychologists' scope of practice

You can learn more about these and other activities at Practice Central, the APA Practice Organization website. Details are available at

<http://www.apapracticecentral.org/about/assessment-work.aspx>.

Who belongs to APAPO

Members of APAPO comprise licensed APA members who provide health or mental health services or who supervise practitioners who provide these services. The Practice Assessment paid to the APA Practice Organization is included in a separate section in APA member dues statements. As noted on the dues statement, the Practice Assessment for 2012 is \$140.

Why membership in APAPO is crucial

Psychology needs a strong collective voice in order to truly make a difference for the profession. The larger its membership, the more APAPO can do on behalf of professional psychology.

APAPO relies on the support of practitioners in all practice settings and at all stages of their career. The need for practitioners to stand united is greater than ever.

Every Practice Assessment dollar is an investment in the future of psychology. The Practice Assessment amounts to less than 40 cents a day, but it translates into a powerful voice for the profession all year long.

The Partnership between APAPO and state psychological associations

APAPO and its Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP) collaborate closely with state psychological associations like ours. APAPO provides financial and consultative support for numerous advocacy activities at the state level. CAPP grants -- funded by Practice Assessment payments and totaling \$5.8 million dollars since 2001 -- have supported a variety of state legislative initiatives, organizational development and additional activities.

The state psychological associations are vital for achieving APAPO's legislative and other advocacy priorities.

How to pay the Practice Assessment

If you are an APA member who is licensed by the state board of psychology and haven't yet paid your Practice Assessment for 2012, you can do so online at my.apa.org. Log in using your APA user ID and password, and click on "Renew Your Membership for 2012." You also can call APA Membership Services at 1-800-374-2721.