Beginning in 2022, two new membership categories, “Semi-retired” and “Retired,” will be available to members. These two new categories were approved by the Board of Trustees and Assembly in 2018. Members who qualify may now go ahead and opt-in online at my.psychiatry.org by clicking on the Retired Opt-in tab through July 31, 2021 for the 2022 membership renewal year.

A Semi-retired member is defined as a general or life member who is near retirement age and works less than 15 hours a week in all administrative or clinical roles, including consulting. A Retired member is defined as a general member who has reached retirement age and is fully retired from all administrative or clinical roles. Each category also has reduced APA and District Branch dues rates. The Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association has set the 2022 dues rate for a Semi-retired member at $115 and for a Retired member the dues rate is $76.

Members who opt-in to these categories will continue to be eligible to vote and to hold office. Life status will be earned after 30 years of membership and will become a badge instead of a product or dues category. Also starting in 2022, Inactive status will not be used to accommodate Semi-retired or Retired members. Those who are retired or limiting work due to an ongoing situation should opt for the Semi-retired or Retired categories.

These categories will replace the Rule of 95 starting with the 2022 renewal year. Those in the Life category prior to 2022 can remain there or can move into one of the new categories.

A fond farewell

We seem to say, “it seems like only yesterday” when memories bring warm feelings. So let me begin by saying, “it seems like only yesterday” when I was asked to use my journalism training to write a news release about an upcoming annual meeting of the Oklahoma Psychiatric Association. It was 1985 and Dr. Hayden Donahue was the CME Chair for the OPA. The meeting attendance had been low the past year and he wanted to get the word out in the newspapers across the state.

That simple request blossomed into a wonderful career first as a contract employee primarily working with the Public Information Committee and then as your Executive Director since July 1, 2003 when your Executive Director Claudene Channell decided to step aside. Now it is my turn to make way for another. You may still see me around. I will continue supporting the Donahue-Shadid Psychiatric Alumni Society and the Oklahoma Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry by coordinating their member, educational, and special events.

Many of you have become my friends and for that I am truly thankful. I have enjoyed getting to know the organization and am grateful to have played a small part in the work you do for psychiatry and the health of the citizens of Oklahoma.

Renée Davenport Mixon
2021 BUSINESS MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

For the second time, the Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association held its annual business meeting via Zoom conferencing made necessary due to the Covid pandemic. The 2020 annual meeting had been postponed until Saturday, November 7, 2020 and it was hoped the 2021 Continuing Medical Education (CME) conference and annual business meeting could be held in person this spring. However, things did not work out.

With the coronavirus in decline, the 2021 CME Conference is now planned as an in-person event on September 24-25, 2021 at the RAPP Conference Center, St. Anthony Medical Center in Oklahoma City. The annual business meeting, which is tied to the APA annual meeting, was held the evening of May 20th via Zoom in order for the newly elected officers and councilors to begin their terms of office on schedule. It also gave us the opportunity to recognize members who have advanced in membership status, honor the two medical students with their Exemplary Psychiatry Student Awards (formerly known as the Benjamin Rush Awards) and catch up on hot Legislative issues discussed during the final days of the Oklahoma Legislative session.

OFFICERS AND COUNCILORS

Newly elected 2021-2022 Officers and Councilors are Shannon Thomas, D.O., President, Oklahoma City; Britta Ostermeyer, M.D., President-Elect, Oklahoma City; Tessa Manning, M.D., Vice President, Tulsa; Robyn Cowperthwaite, M.D., Secretary, Oklahoma City; Rachel Dalthorp, M.D., Treasurer, Oklahoma City and Shree Vinekar, M.D., APA Delegate (2021-2023).

Newly elected Councilors-at-Large elected are J. Bryan Cates, D.O., Tulsa; Hashib Faruque, M.D, Oklahoma City; Heather Geis, M.D., Oklahoma City; Joseph Michie, M.D., Tulsa; Courtney Nixon, M.D., Oklahoma City; Jed Perdue, M.D., Oklahoma City; Art Rousseau, M.D., Oklahoma City; Lauren Schwartz, M.D., Oklahoma City; Haiwang Tang, M.D., Oklahoma City; and Ashley Walker, M.D., Tulsa.

MEMBERSHIP HONORS

Members honored during the business meeting were Melanie Barrett, M.D. and Rachel Dalthorp, M.D. who received their Fellowship member status in 2021; Jay Lensgraf, M.D. who was honored this year with a Life Membership and Mark Rathgeber, M.D. who was honored this year with a Life Fellowship. Congratulations!

EXEMPLARY PSYCHIATRY STUDENT AWARDS

This year we celebrated the 54th anniversary of the Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association’s Medical Student Awards. In 1967, the Oklahoma District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association established what was originally named the Benjamin Rush Award.

This year, the award was renamed the Exemplary Psychiatry Student Award in order to better recognize outstanding medical students in the field of psychiatry in the graduating class at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Tulsa and the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Oklahoma City. This award distinguishes each recipient as an exemplary student and honors the outstanding accomplishments each has made during the four years of medical school study. When the first award was presented, Dr. Jay Shurley, Oklahoma District Branch President, said:

“The Oklahoma District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association deems it highly fitting that such interest and aptitude be tangibly recognized in the form of this award, which carries with it a cash prize, and will be awarded annually beginning this year.

“Capacity for, and talent in the unique skills required by the practice of psychiatry, is a special gift not evenly distributed among the population of our future physicians and not possessed in equal measure by them.

“Whether the student upon whom this award is bestowed in recognition of his /or her/ demonstrated excellence and interest in psychiatry chooses eventually to pursue specialization in this field, is of course, a personal decision to make. But this award indicates that such a choice would be widely open.”

The Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association had the privilege of honoring two students as recipients of the 2021 Exemplary Psychiatry Student Awards. Each received a certificate and a $250 cash award. It is an honor to recognize:

- **Harsh Patel**, as the outstanding medical student in psychiatry from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Tulsa campus, and
- **Riley Darby-McClure**, as the outstanding medical student in psychiatry from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Oklahoma City campus.

**Harsh Patel**

Harsh Patel performed exceptionally well and with enthusiasm during his third-year clerkship. He knew the criteria, established good therapeutic alliance with patients, and did a good job obtaining information from patients. He also participated in the Psychiatry Interest Group. Harsh is a well-motivated, hard-working medical student. He has impressed our attending faculty with his knowledge base, clinical skills, attitude, and diligence. He is expected to receive his Doctor of Medicine degree in May from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine-Tulsa. The Department of Psychiatry faculty feels that he will be an excellent physician and are delighted to give him this award.

**Riley Darby-McClure**

Riley has gone above and beyond in the medical student role to help others. Riley’s comments from site supervisors on the Psychiatry Clerkship were stellar. “Great work on the Consultation-Liaison Team!” “Displayed uncommon understanding of psychiatric considerations at the community and system level.” “Hard-working and dedicated. Will make a great psychiatrist resident.” During psychiatry electives, Riley took the initiative to do a Special Studies in Psychiatry and will write a paper based on reading the Beginning Psychotherapist Companion by Jane Willer. Site supervisors noted it was a pleasure to work with such an excellent student who will make an exceptional psychiatrist resident. “We believe Riley represents all the qualities embodied by this award.”

❖
“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens . . . a time to weep and a time to laugh.” [Ecclesiastes 3:1,4].

Such words apply to all of us and the organizations we belong to. As many of you know, I am a transplant from elsewhere. When I arrived in Oklahoma, from Louisiana, I joined OPPA. While it may have been predestined that I would continue to be involved in APA politics at the local and national level, I had not thought about becoming the editor of the OPPA newsletter. After several conversations with Renée Davenport Mixon, and with encouragement from Dr. Jenny Boyer, and others, I agreed to write a column for the OPPA newsletter and become its newsletter editor. For the more than a decade I have been so engaged, it is only because of the Executive Director’s cooperation, support and on occasion, even moving the deadlines a bit to accommodate my schedule. Renée was a contract public information representative for OPPA from 1984-2003 and, in that year, 2003 she became the Executive Director of OPPA and has continued to hold that post for the next 18 years, until the end of this month.

Over the past decade I have learned to respect Renée’s judgment and determination to keep the OPPA afloat. Keeping anything afloat in Oklahoma is no easy chore. Keeping a professional organization afloat in an era when individual practitioners are diminishing and organized medicine and scope of service and MOC and struggles with insurance companies proliferate, has been no easy task; it will not be an easy task in the future. This past year, the year of COVID, has been stressful for the members and staff of OPPA; hundreds of members, one Renée. Renée has met the challenge and then some. She worked closely with the now past president, Dr. Beaman, and facilitated OPPA’s annual meeting to occur, though in a different form – a virtual forum. And, more to the point, because of Renée’s involvement and guidance, the meeting was successful, the most successful in many years; it was not a virtual success it was an actual success. Technology upgrades have allowed Renée to obtain grants from the APA to support continuing education activities and outreach. She has been able to consistently ensure that all elected positions, including Councilor positions, have been filed and dissemination of educational information continued not during the previous year, but during her entire tenure with OPPA, 37 years.

She will be missed. She has set a high standard for the next Executive Director and for other Executive Directors of the smaller states, by membership. Her ability to have kept organized psychiatry at the grass roots, for us, the wind-swept grass roots, functional and productive is something she and the organization should be very proud indeed. ❖

Harold M. Ginzburg, M.D., J.D., M.P.H.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FAQ’S

If I have not opted-in to Semi-Retired or Retired categories, do I continue to pay full (GM) dues? Yes, you continue paying APA’s GM dues, and whatever the GM dues are for the District Branch unless or until you apply and are approved for the Semi-Retired or Retired categories.

What does clinical or administrative work mean? The intent is anyone that is semi or fully retired from work where they are continuing to earn an income, regardless of whether it is directly or not related to psychiatry. The individual will still need to meet the requirements of membership, as outlined in the Operations Manual.

What is the “retirement age” or “near retirement age” per the APA? (retired membership)? It was defined by leadership as the number of hours worked vs. age. However, there should be common sense parameters prompting additional investigations if someone is retiring under the age of 50.

If members still have an active medical license, can they still be considered “retired”? Yes, if the member has fully retired from all administrative or clinical responsibilities. If it is determined that the person is practicing, then they cannot be in this category. ❖
Treasurer’s Report (Dr. Tessa Manning) – Dr. Manning reported the 2020 membership dues received were $3,000 short of the budget which reflects we have lost members. We were able to make up some of this reduction due to the success of the July Webinar plus the application and receipt of the APA 2020 Expedited Grant. Since membership plays a huge part in the physical health of the organization, Dr. Phebe Tucker suggested the OPPA hold a formal membership drive much like the OSMA. Dr. Beaman suggested Council activate the Membership Committee that would systematically evaluate the problems and suggest solutions to historical membership problems, looking at residency programs, and formalizing a membership drive. Drs. Phebe Tucker, Tessa Manning, Shree Vinekar and Britta Ostermeyer volunteered. The current president serves as Chair.

APA Expedited Grant – The APA Expedited Grant, “COVID-19 Pandemic: Creating a New Normal,” was funded by the APA. The grant is funding the current electronic telecommunications network environment being used to keep in contact with OPPA members made critical by the Coronavirus pandemic for the fiscal year 2021.

Officer and Councilor 2021-2022 Ballot (Dr. Harold Ginzburg) – Dr. Ginzburg noted two vacant Officer positions including Secretary and Treasurer and one vacant Councilor-at-Large position. Dr. Ostermeyer nominated Dr. Robyn Cowperthwaite for the Secretary position and she accepted the nomination. Dr. Rachel Dalthorp volunteered to stand for election as Treasurer. Dr. Heather Geis agreed to stand for election as a Councilor-at-Large. Dr. Vinekar moved to approve the ballot as presented. Dr. Tang second. Approved.

CME Meeting 2021 (Dr. Shree Vinekar) – Even with the uncertainty of the Coronavirus extending into 2021, Dr. Vinekar reserved the RAPP Conference Center at St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City in case an in-person meeting is possible in April. However, it could also become a hybrid, part in person and part virtual. With the Zoom technology, many district branches are opening their CME meetings so any member, anywhere in the US can join. Dr. Vinekar will check the dates September 24-25, 2021 as alternative CME dates at the RAPP Center.

Child Psychiatry (Dr. Brent Bell) – Dr. Bell reported there is a problem with child/adolescent beds in Oklahoma. Hospitals have closed beds or closed units due to Covid outbreaks. Plus, designating Covid beds for children and adolescents have reduced overall capacity across the state. The lack of specialty beds for children and adolescents remains an issue but this will not be resolved until after managed care is resolved. The state is expected to award the bids around the first of February about the same time the legislature goes into session. Dr. Coffey reminded Council of the psychotropic resource guide that is out for providers who are prescribing outside of their typical community practice.

Legislative (Dr. Art Rousseau) – Dr. Rousseau reported due to the pandemic, we already know of bills introduced by the anti-mask and the anti-vaccine groups. We will also be dealing with expanding scope of practice legislation. There will be new opioid issues and telemedicine issues. Marsi Thrash, APA Regional Manager, has provided telemedicine information to the OSMA. She also offered to send an email action to members of the OPPA where members can easily send an engagement introduction to your individual senator and representative introducing yourself as a psychiatrist and offering expertise to them as a medical professional during the session. This is a first step in building a relationship with your state lawmakers.

Membership (Dr. Jason Beaman) – The year-end 2020 membership reported a total of 204 members. Throughout the year, the OPPA gained 18 new members, eight former members reinstated their membership. 11 members transferred to other district branches and 20 members were dropped due to non-payment of dues.

Resident Program Directors – Dr. Ashley Walker reported for the OU Tulsa program. Recruitment is going well with the virtual interviews. The match will be in mid-March. One of the things the applicants have said they appreciated during the open house was the focus on diversity and inclusion efforts and acknowledging what has been going on in the world. The upcoming psychiatrists are interested in those things which will be affecting their future practice. In 2022 the Level 1 and Step 1 exams will be moving from a numerical score to a pass/fail and will affect the class of medical students who will graduate in 2024.

Dr. Jason Beaman reported for OSU Tulsa and for the Griffin Hospital program. Both programs have more applications and interviews that in years past. Also, there will be a new VA Hospital constructed in Tulsa and as part of that construction there will be a new psychiatric hospital built on the same property. Since the OSU residency began, the VA was a critical partner of that program. The VA in Muskogee will no longer be a hospital but turned in to a behavioral health hospital serving a several state area for veterans. The hospital is tentatively set to open its doors in 2024. Griffin Hospital is now under OSU’s institutional sponsorship.

Dr. Phebe Tucker reported for OU Oklahoma City program. Currently interviewing many good applicants. The virtual world has increased the numbers of applicants since there is no travel involved. Many great applicants from out of state. The residents have been dealing with the COVID issue as best they can.

COPS (Dr. Phebe Tucker) – Dr. Tucker announced another live virtual CME Zoom webinar will be held Thursday, February 25th from 7:00 to 9:15 pm. The program is compliments of AWAC Services Company, a member company of Allied World who is partnering with the APA and the OPPA for the 2 AMA PRA Category 1 credits™. The program is FREE to all psychiatrists and registration is required.

TPA (Dr. Sara Coffey) – Dr. Coffey reported since it is the new year, the Executive Staff for TPA will change. Dr. Tara Buck will become President, Dr. Jason Beaman will become Vice President and Dr. Kristy Griffith will become Treasurer.

Meeting adjourned. ❖
OPPA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Welcome New Members
Alyxandra Bui, DO, Resident Fellow, Tulsa
Kyle Siefers, DO, Resident Fellow, Tulsa

Reinstatements: Welcome Back!
Michael R. Collins, MD, General Member, Owasso

Goodbye and Good Luck: Transfers from Oklahoma
Gregory Shadid, MD, Fellow (to Indiana)
Kara Foster, MD, General Member (to Missouri)
Brandy Kalami-Augustine, DO, General Member (to Arkansas)

Expiration of Membership: Non-payment of 2021 Dues
Ernest Abunaw, MD, Resident Fellow, Norman
Adonis Al-Botros, MD, General Member, Oklahoma City
David Beck, MD, Fellow, Tulsa
Angela Ceesay, DO, Resident Fellow, Tulsa
Stephanie Christner, DO, General Member, Tulsa (SSP drop)
Nancy Handler MD, Resident Fellow, Oklahoma City
Kaelyn Lu, DO, Resident Fellow, Tulsa
Eric Monsebasis, DO, Resident Fellow, Tulsa

Nicholas Musso, DO, Resident Fellow, Tulsa
Surinder Randhawa, MD, Life Member, Edmond
Shrestha Sandeep, MD, General Member, Ardmore
Audra Scearce, DO, General Member, Norman (SSP drop)
Corey Spence, DO, Resident Fellow, Tulsa

ABMS DRAFT STANDARDS FOR BOARD OPEN FOR COMMENTS THROUGH JULY 8

APA encourages all members to review the new standards and submit comments directly to ABMS regarding how the revised MOC standards will impact physicians’ ability to practice medicine and care for patients.


APA QUICK NOTES: Check out our telepsychiatry blogs for new videos, visit the new Melvin Sabshin, M.D. Library and Archives, watch a video on the new mental health parity law.
2021 OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS

The Oklahoma Legislature officially adjourned Sine Die* Thursday May 27th making this the second session in which Covid had a considerable impact.

It is important to thank the Oklahoma State Medical Association, the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, the Oklahoma Patients Coalition and the American Psychiatric Association for their expertise and support this session. The Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association is also grateful for the leadership and commitment of Dr. Art Rousseau and his tireless work on behalf of not only psychiatry and psychiatric physicians, but all Oklahoma physicians. The following is information on a few of the many bills passed, vetoed or dead this session:

MEDICARE MANAGED CARE

Senate Bill 131 [McCortney/McEntire] – REDRAFTED – Provides requirements by which Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) must comply. (Conference Committee Report Adopted; Passed Senate; Passed House: Effective September 1, 2021 Without Governor’s Signature)

Governor Kevin Stitt refused to sign SB 131 which provides statutory requirements for Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). The measure goes into effect on September 1, 2021. Although the medical community continues to have grave concerns about the implications of managed care for Medicaid, the passage of SB 131 provides some allowances for our concerns. The following represents some of the statutory constraints placed on MCO governance:

- Clean claims are to be processed within 14 days.
- Minimum reimbursement fee schedule is based on the 1/1/21 Medicaid fee schedule.

POSTERS PRESENTED AT APA

Two psychiatry residents from the University of Oklahoma, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in Oklahoma City were chosen to present three posters at the recent American Psychiatric Association virtual annual meeting held May 1-3, 2021.

Presenting virtual posters were Eleanor Lastrapes, MD, PGY 4, and Alexandra Rossi, MD. PGY 4. Dr. Lastrapes presented two posters, “1995 Oklahoma City Bombing: Effects of Terrorism Lingers A Quarter of a Century Later” and “Valproate-Induced Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus: A Rare Side Effect in an Atypical Patient.” Dr. Rossi presented “New Onset Seizure in a Pediatric Patient Without Psychiatric History Assumed to be Psychogenic.”

Faculty assisting in the research and preparation and of the posters included Phebe Tucker, MD and Robyn Cowperthwaite, MD.

- Audit & “scorecard” requirement.
- Uniform review and appeals process.
- “Peer to peer” review for denial cases.

Although the current MCO contracts are said to have some of these or similar provisions, statutory requirements are extremely important since these contracts (or any new MCO contacts) must be re-negotiated annually.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

House Bill 2009 [Townley/Coleman] – Permits certain death certificates to be signed by advanced practice registered nurses. (Passed House; Passed Senate; Signed by Governor)

House Bill 2164 [Roe/Pemberton] – Allows psychologists to be considered as a class of physician (Passed House Public Health; Failed on House Floor; Dormant)

House Bill 2595 [Roberts, J] – Expands from 30 days to 60 days the time period allowing physical therapists to evaluate and treat a patient without a referral from a licensed health care practitioner. (Passed House Public Health; Failed on House Floor; Dead this Session)

Senate Bill 388 [Rosino/West, Josh] – Directs that home care eligibility for patients be certified and overseen by healthcare providers, including physicians, physician assistants, or registered nurses and makes such eligibility and oversight retroactive. (Passed Senate; Passed House; Signed by Governor)

Senate Bill 516 [Montgomery/Pfeiffer] – Allows a delegating physician to supervise an unlimited number of physician assistants. Note: The Medical Licensure Board currently limits physician supervision of up to six P.A.s (Title and Enacting Clause Stricken*; Passed Senate; Passed House; Conference Committee Unable to Agree; Dormant)

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill 2874 [Wallace/Thompson] – Restores historic sales tax exemption allowing the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center to train 110 additional nursing graduates, 50 new nurse practitioners and 70 additional medical residents within three years (Passed House; Passed Senate; to Governor as part of budget)

TELEHEALTH

Senate Bill 673 [McCortney/McEntire] – Creates the Oklahoma Telemedicine Act which expands definitions and standards for telemedicine within statute (Passed Senate; Passed House; Signed by Governor)

Senate Bill 674 [McCortney/McEntire] – Requires health care plans to provide coverage for telemedicine and remote care services (Passed Senate; Floor Substitute Passed House; Passed Senate; Signed by Governor)

* Sine Die is a Latin term used on the last day of session meaning “with no appointed date for resumption.”
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Renée Davenport Mixon, Executive Director

The Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association, a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association, is a medical specialty society recognized world-wide. Our member physicians specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional illnesses and substance abuse disorders.

SAVE THE DATES

Friday & Saturday
SEPTEMBER
24-25

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2021 CME Conference
RAPP Conference Center, St. Anthony Hospital, Oklahoma City

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GRiffin Residency Graduates Three in 2021

Celebrating graduation are the three graduates of the Griffin Memorial Hospital Residency Training Program. Pictured left to right are Birinder Mann, MD, Shirin Vartak, DO, Clayton Morris, MD, Program Director and Amos Burks, MD.

Dr. Mann, PGY 3, is going to Toledo University in Ohio for a Child Fellowship. Dr. Vartak, PGY 3, has accepted a Child Fellowship at Tufts University in Chicago. Dr. Burks, PGY 4, is going to University of Minnesota for a Forensic Fellowship.

The residency graduation ceremony was sponsored by the Donahue-Shadid Psychiatric Alumni Society.

Congratulations!