ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

2022 NEWSLETTER

BOARD MEMBERS

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ADMINISTRATIVE & LEGAL STAFF

Lori H. Rall, Executive Director Angela D. Ledbetter, Executive Assistant Brice M. Johnston. General Counsel

MISSION STATEMENT

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology seeks to promote and protect the public's health, welfare and quality of life by licensing and regulating the practice of psychology and by promoting access to psychological services delivered in a safe, competent and ethical manner.

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NEW BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED



MICHAEL A. CARLTON, PH.D.

Psychologist Member Appointed February 2022 - January 2027

Dr. Carlton has been a licensed Psychologist in Alabama since 2000 and is currently employed by the Gulf Coast Veterans Healthcare System as a Primary Care Psychologist. Dr. Carlton completed his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of South Alabama and earned his Doctoral degree at the University of Southern Mississippi. As an active Alpha Phi Alpha Brother in the Mobile area, Dr. Carlton assists with voter registration drives, participates in blood drives and contributes toward scholarship projects. Dr. Carlton brings a federal perspective long missing from the Board composition. Welcome, Dr. Carlton!



CANDICE D. LEWIS, M.S.

Psychological Technician Member Appointed February 2022 - January 2027

A licensed Psychological Technician since 2019, Ms. Lewis specializes in psychoeducational test administration, working in Mobile with children and adolescents experiencing an array of issues such as ADHD, anxiety and depression. Ms. Lewis completed her Bachelor's degree at Spring Hill College and her Master's degree at the University of South Alabama. In addition to meeting the demands of a thriving practice, Ms. Lewis keeps busy with her own children's activities and sports, and has served on special Board committees and task forces. Thank you for your perspective and strong voice, Ms. Lewis!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED



DALE WISELY, PH.D.

Psychologist Member Appointed February 2022 - January 2027

Dr. Wisely, Director of Family Life at Prince of Peace Catholic Church & School in Hoover, was issued a Psychologist license in Alabama in 1983. Since, Dr. Wisely has worked with children and adolescents, serving his Greater-Birmingham community in numerous ways, including as President of the Alabama Psychological Association, and was Director of Student Services & Community Education at Mountain Brook, a non-profit that helps protect and enhance the lives of youth... oh, and ask him about teenaged drivers! Dr. Wisely earned both his Master's and Doctoral degrees from the University of Memphis (and, later, a Master's in Theological Studies from Spring Hill College) and internship saw him in Charleston, WV. We're thankful, Dr. Wisely, that you path brought you to and kept you in Alabama!



KIMBERLEY S. ACKERSON, PH.D., ABPP

Psychologist Member Appointed November 2022 - January 2027

Licensed to practice Psychology since November 1994, Dr. Ackerson became Board Certified in Forensic Psychology through ABPP in 2006, Dr. Ackerson earned a Bachelor's degree from Lawrence University, a M.A. in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice-CUNY, and then both a M.A. and Ph.D. degree in Law and Psychology from the University of Alabama; internship and post-doc took her to Arkansas State Hospital and UMass Medical School. The Birmingham-transplant has generated over 1,500 forensic-based reports, dozens of which have been presented in State, Federal, and Domestic/Family Courts. Her professional interests are in legal competencies, capital case mitigation and child custody cases. Dr. Ackerson is a past Executive Council member of the Alabama Psychological Association and is active in her church, in the Ladies Auxiliary, and Alabama Women in Business. We welcome your leadership skills, Dr. Ackerson!

WELLNESS COMMITTEE Chair of CHAIR ADDRESS

It is my honor to serve as the first incoming Chair of the Alabama Psychology Professionals Wellness Committee [Code of Alabama, 1975 Section 34-26-4] under the auspices of the Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology [ABP]. The Committee was established January 1, 2022 to promote the early identification, treatment and rehabilitation of any licensee who may be impaired. For the purposes of the Committee, impairment is defined as the inability of a licensed psychologist or licensed psychological technician to practice with reasonable skill and safety by reason of illness, inebriation, substance dependence, excessive use of drugs, narcotics, controlled substances, alcohol, chemicals, or other dependence forming substances, or as a result of any physical or mental condition, rendering the licensee unable to meet the standards of his or her profession. In general, the goal of the Committee is not to penalize impaired practitioners but to safeguard the welfare of the public, while facilitating effective amelioration of any problematic behavior and to allow the provider to continue to practice in a safe and effective manner.

In order to assist the Committee, the Board has contracted with [Dr. Garver] a nonprofit organization, health professional, or professional association to undertake those functions and responsibilities specified in the agreement, including:

- (1)Receiving and evaluating reports of suspected impairment from any source.
- (2) Intervening in cases of verified impairment.
- (3) Contracting with providers of treatment programs.
- (4) Referring impaired licensees to treatment programs.
- (5) Monitoring the treatment and rehabilitation of impaired licensees.
- (6) Providing post-treatment monitoring and support of rehabilitated impaired licensees.
- (7) Performing other related activities prescribed by Board rule.

Merida M. Grant-Garcia, Ph.D.

The Committee will report to the Board the following:

- (1) Any licensee, who in the opinion of the Committee, is unable to practice as a psychologist or as a psychological technician with reasonable skill and safety by reason of impairment.
- (2) Any licensee who in the opinion of the Committee, is in need of intervention, treatment, or rehabilitation and who has failed or refused to participate in programs of treatment or rehabilitation recommended by the committee.

Crucially, we would like practitioners with potential issues related to impairment to know that all information and/or documents furnished to or produced by the Committee and any findings or reports or other proceedings of the Committee are confidential. Similarly, all records and proceedings of the Committee pertaining to an impaired licensee are confidential and may only be used by the Committee and the members of the Committee, and are not public records, nor available for court subpoena or for discovery proceedings.

I would also like to acknowledged my fellow Committee members, which consists of licensed psychologists and technicians appointed by the ABP. Voting Members include Catalina Arata, PhD, Shannon LaFramboise, M.A., Denton McKinnon Scott, Psy.D., Daniel Sullivan, Psy.D., Gregory Vander Wal, PhD., and Delisa West, PhD. Non-voting Members include Nancy Berland, PhD., Michael Garver, DMD [Ex Officio], Angie Ledbetter [Executive Administrative Assistant and Lori Rall [Executive Director]. Lastly, I am optimistic that the Committee will be viewed by practitioners as a constructive means of addressing impairment and that the upcoming year will demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach.

Merida M. Grant-Garcia, Ph.D. Wellness Committee Chair, 2022 & 2023

ALABAMA BY THE NUMBERS

Total Licensees 1,150

1,124 Psychologists

26 Psychological Technicians

53 Inactive Licensees

60% In State

40% Out of State

*Totals as of January 31, 2023

You, or any credentialing unit, may obtain Verification of your Alabama Licensure on our website at: https://psychology.alabama.gov/licensee.aspx.

The data on this website is provided by and controlled entirely by the Board and therefore constitutes a Primary Source Verification of licensure status as authentic as a direct inquiry to the Board.

To send Verification of your Alabama Licensure to another Jurisdiction that requires additional forms for Verification, please email the Board Office. Include the following in the request: your name & license number, contact information for the recipient organization or Board, and specifications about whether the Verification should be sent electronically or by regular mail.



NOT QUITE 'SWEET HOME' ALABAMA?

Psychologists licensed in other states have had a major influence on the future of mental healthcare services as the field has been reshaped by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to ALA. CODE § 34-26-41(f), if an individual possesses a license to practice psychology in another state, they may practice in Alabama for no more than thirty (30) days per calendar year without applying for an Alabama license.

This authority to practice does not apply if they:

- 1. have ever been denied licensure in Alabama;
- 2. if they are a legal resident of Alabama; or,
- 3. if they intend to practice full-time or a major portion of their time in Alabama.



As long as the circumstance is temporary and does not exceed 30 days of cross-jurisdictional practice in a year (nonconsecutive), psychologists licensed in other jurisdictions may provide Tele-services to Alabama clients, including tele-practice. If a provider anticipates that they will exceed this 30 day limit, they should contact the Board Office.

Find our law here: https://psychology.alabama.gov/law.aspx

NEW LICENSES ISSUED

JULY 2021 TO JANUARY 2023

PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFESSIONALS

Armstrong, Amanda Kay, Ph.D, #2256, Montgomery, AL Barry, Nashedra Shonte, Ph.D., #2292, Birmingham, AL Biney, Fedora Orleans, Ph.D., #2265, Birmingham, AL Blunt, Charley Shannon, Psy.D., #2240, White City, OR Boppana, Shilpa, Ph.D., #2257, Irondale, AL Boswell, Kwoneathia Rasha, Ph.D., #2285 Montgomery, AL Bridendolph, Nathan Calvin, Ph.D., #2248, Syracuse, NY Bromberg, Caroline Christian, Psy.D., #2290, New York, NY Brown, Tiffany A, Ph.D., #2258, Auburn, AL Bucknor, Carmen B, Ph.D., #2259, Huntsville, AL Campbell, Robert Bruce, Psy.D., #2291, Park Ridge, IL Carbonell, Diana M, Ph.D., #2260, Aliceville, AL Clements, Alyssa L, Ph.D., #2270, Clarksville, TN Cole, Levi Edward, Psy.D., #2297, Montgomery, AL Cordell, Jonathan David, Psy.D., #2249, Fort Bragg, NC Cox Gibbons, Lisa R, Ph.D., #2271, Hoover, AL Cranston, Christopher Charles, Ph.D., #2235, Baltimore, MD Cribbet, Matthew Robert, Ph.D., #2282, Tuscaloosa, AL Cundiff, Jeanne Marie, Ph.D., #2293, Tuscaloosa, AL Dickinson, Katherine Marie, Ph.D., 2272, Huntsville, AL Dyer, Vincent David, Psy.D., #2229, Houston, TX Edwards, Jeffrey Michael, Psy.D., #2236, Fayette, AL Ellis, Brandi Michelle, Ph.D., #2281, Birmingham, AL Gibson, Margaret Andrews Holland, Ph.D., #2280, Birmingham, AL Greenfield, Melissa J, Psy.D., #2261, Birmingham, AL Grommet, Erich Kolmer, Ph.D., #2289, Montgomery, AL Hendricks, Peter S, Ph.D., #2267, Birmingham, AL Hill, Sarah Frances, Psy.D., #2275, Birmingham, AL Howard, Jackson McCall, Ph.D., #2283, Auburn, AL Hufstedler, Amy Elizabeth, Ph.D., #2230, Anchorage, AK Johnson, Michael Bruce, Ph.D., #2295, Austin, TX Jondle, Brittany E, Psy.D., #2269, Birmingham, AL Kidd, Malinda Renee, Psy.D., #2273, Tampa, FL LaMar, Kristy Lynette, M.S., #2247, Huntsville, AL Landerfelt-Ozbolt, Melani R, Ph.D., #2262, Huntsville, AL Lockman, Jennifer Danielle, Ph.D., #2296, Birmingham, AL Lucas, Colby Newton, Ph.D., #2241, Rochester, MN Martin, Karli Marie, Psy.D., #2237, Helena, AL Mellen, Ronald Roy, Ph.D., #2252, Jacksonville, AL Michaels, Michelle Jeanette, Psy.D., #2238, Tuscaloosa, AL Mishalanie, Jason Farrow, Ph.D., #2231, Dallas, TX Morais, Calia Arglod, Ph.D., #2253, Birmingham, AL Mueller, Stephanie Christina, Ph.D., #2279, Birmingham, AL O'Neil, Katherine Elizabeth, Ph.D., #2266, Dallas, TX Parker, Christina Pierpaoli, Ph.D., #2242, Gardendale, AL Pillai, Amanda Jayne, Psy.D., #2254, Birmingham, AL Prather, Courtney Caroline, Ph.D., #2250, Flagstaff, AZ Preston, Patrick Mark, Psy.D., #2284, Spanish Fort, AL Reno, Ashley J, Psy.D., #2263, Birmingham, AL Reyes, Shelby Morgan, Ph.D., #2232, Nashville, TN Roberts, Tarryn Elizabeth, Ed.S., #2255, Auburn, AL Sandberg Patton, Karen L, Ph.D., #2268, Vestavia Hills, AL Sanderson, Susan Lyn, Ph.D., #2243, O'Fallon, MO Schwartz, Sarah Elizabeth, Psy.D., #2251, Auburn, AL Scott, Denton McKinnon, Psy.D., #2239, Birmingham, AL Scully, Kray Alexander, Ph.D., #2244, Biloxi, MS Seidler, Dustin Alan, Ph.D., #2233, New Orleans, LA Smith, April Rose, Ph.D., #2287, Auburn University, AL Stewart, Karen Elaine, Ph.D., #2274, Chesapeake, VA Tate, Larissa Leigh, Ph.D., #2286, Guntersville, AL Thomas, Paul Andrew, Psy.D., #2294, Hampton, VA Truss, Autumn LaShea, Psy.D., #2245, Huntsville, AL Tulloch-Dent, Elizabeth Ann, Ph.D., #2278, Madison, AL Vining Jr., Odell George, Ph.D., #2288, Columbus, GA Warren, Emily Anastasia Huston, Ph.D., #2246, Birmingham, AL Washington, Aryssa Zyniche, Ph.D., #2277, Tuscaloosa, AL Zickgraf, Hannah F, Ph.D., #2264, Mobile, AL Zieman, Jr., Stephen Francis Xavier, Ph.D., #2234, Pensacola, FL Zito, Ashlee Elizabeth, Ph.D., #2276, Atlanta, GA

LICENSES NOT RENEWED FOR FY 2022

VOLUNTARY NON-RENEWAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Arnold, Mary R. Psy.D., # 812, Delano TN
Cawthra, Julia Nicole, Ph.D., #2212, Auburn, AL
Cranston, Christopher C., Ph.D., #2235, Rosedale, MD
Crook-Abel, Wendy M. Ph.D., #1819, Corpus Christi, TX
Dell, Adam David, Psy.D., #1925, Syracuse, IN
Dixon, Joe Wheeler, Ph.D., #1747, Orange Beach, AL
Evans, John Porter, Psy.D., #1370, Norfolk, VA
Gam, John, Ph.D., #339, Birmingham, AL
George, James M., Psy.D., #895, Fayetteville, TN
Gressard, Tabitha Aillene, Psy.D., #1725, Aurora, CO
Hankins, Shirley L., Ph.D., #644, Birmingham, AL
Kondilis, Linda Maria, Ph.D., #2199, Atlanta, GA
Kringel, William F., Ph.D., #407, Theodore, AL
LaMarche, Judith A., Ph.D., #268, Eugene, OR
Marshall, Nancy B., Ph.D., #1085, Harrodsburg, KY
Mitchell, Mitzi Marie, Ph.D., #1303, San Antonio, TX
Naylor, Paige Danielle, Ph.D., #2141, Richmond, VA
Nosen, Elizabeth, Ph.D., #1896, Jackson, MS
Oatsvall, Robert D., Ph.D., #500, Mobile, AL
Prial, Elizabeth M., Psy.D., #1382, APO, AP
Provan, Amy Sanders, Psy.D., #2182, Towson, MD
Ramkumar, Neeta Anjali, Ph.D., #1812, Conroe, TX
Stainback, Robert Barry, Psy.D., #911, Columbus, TX
Scholes, Robert Barry, Psy.D., #1812, Conroe, TX
Stainback, Robert, Ph.D., #1443, Santa Rosa Beach, FL
Swinson, Karyn Crystal, Ph.D., #1927, Denver, CO
Thompson, David Alan, Ph.D., #1927, Denver, CO
Thompson, David Alan, Ph.D., #1940, Chattanooga, TN
Waggoner, John W., Psy.D., #1561, Ocean Springs, MS
Walker Ill, Jerry Vanzant, Ph.D., #1906, Omaha, NE
Williams, Daniel Clark, Ph.D., #593, Mobile, AL

RENEWED FOR FY 2023 VOLUNTARY NON-RENEWAL

<u>PSYCHOLOGISTS</u>

LICENSES NOT

Alexander, Craig Joseph, Ph.D., #1408, Palm Coast, FL DeFilippis, Nick Anthony, Ph.D., #1727, Atlanta, GA Edwards, Larissa-Jayne, Ph.D., #2177, Amherst, NY Griffin, Michael Paul, Ph.D., #1496, Cary, NC Hudak Jr., Daniel Victor, Psy.D., #2095, Tucson, AZ Juraszek, Laurie Diane, Psy.D., #1979, Eagle River, AK Longo, Thomas Joseph, Psy.D., #1481, Waipahu, HI Purvis, Bruce L., Ph.D., #802, Asheville, NC Rodriguez, Christina Maria, Ph.D., #1847, Norfolk, VA Rubenzer, Steven James, Ph.D., #2056, Orem, UT Sukowicz, Elizabeth A., Ph.D. #515, Harvard, IL Summerlin, Robert, G., Ph.D., #210, Anniston, AL Titus, Meredith A., Ph.D., #848, Birmingham, AL Vujnovich, Daniel Joseph, Ph.D., #1014, Mobile, AL Woolley, Kristin K., Ph.D., #1065, Colorado Springs, CO

LICENSE RENEWAL

Renewal Season has ended.

All licenses are renewed annually no later than October 15, even new licenses issued in the early portion of a Fiscal Year.

Failure to comply with ALL renewal requirements by October 15 date shall result in a Lapsed license. Lapsed licensees are prohibited from practice until reinstatement requirements have been met, unless working in an exempt setting. Late fees accumulate by \$20.00 per month, or portion thereof, that the license is lapsed.

A Lapsed license that is not renewed within two (2) years will not be eligible for reinstatement; a new Application for licensure will be required, and the former licensee/new applicant will be required to meet the statutory requirements for licensure in effect at the time the new Application is submitted.

Contact the Board Office with questions about reinstating a Lapsed license, or about Inactive Status.

INTERESTED N INACTIVE?

A licensee may request that the Board designate their license as Inactive at any time. Licenses may be reinstated to Active status at any time during the year but must first be requested by the licensee and granted by the Board Office.

TO REQUEST INACTIVE STATUS:

- 1. Contact the Board Office to request the Application for Inactive Status form.
- 2. Complete the Application for Inactive Status form & Mail to the Board Office with the Fee.
- 3. Upon receipt of the request, the Board will respond in writing.

Reference: ALA. CODE § 34-26-41; & Admin. Code Rule 750-X-4-.02

ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Please DO NOT E-MAIL or FAX Continuing Education (CE) submissions to the Board office unless the Board contacts you to do so in reply to a random CE audit.

The Board's online *Personal Continuing Education Application* system replaced the need for licensees to mail proof of completion Certificates and the completed Individual Reporting Forms to the Board. Licensees are now able to access their CE information and make updates to their contact information at any time.

<u>Licensees should maintain CE documentation in case they are</u> contacted by the Board to submit for an annual random CE audit.

Online CE submissions are required before your license can be renewed each year. Psychologists are required to complete twenty (20) CE hours annually and Psychological Technicians are required to complete ten (10) CE hours annually, unless specifically instructed otherwise by Board Action or Order.

COMMON QUESTIONS

EDITS TO SUBMISSIONS

As of currently, edits and corrections to CE submissions must be made on the administrative end of the program. Please contact the Board Office via email to have these corrections made.

PRESENTER HOURS

Unless you were the presenter or instructor of the program you are submitting, please enter "0" for this field.

C.E. 'YEAR'

Please input the Fiscal Year (F.Y.) during which the program was attended. The F.Y. changes on October 1st of each year. (This year should be listed as 2023.)

MISSING INFORMATION

If any information requested on the form is not available to you (Address of Provider, for example), please feel free to input 'N/A'. This program was designed as a repository of information for your benefit.

APA-ACCREDITATION

Any program submission that is not held in a Live format should be APA-accredited. Please see the Admin. Code Rule for more details about submission requirements.

ANSWERED

COMPLAINTS & INVESTIGATIONS

Status for Fiscal Year Ending 2022:

One (1) Complaint remains open from Fiscal Year 2019 and three (3) remain open from Fiscal Year 2020 as on-going investigations.

In Fiscal Year 2021, the Board received thirteen (13) Complaints against licensees, six (6) of which remain open as on-going investigations.

The Board received fifteen (15) Complaints against licensees during Fiscal Year 2022; six (6) remain open as on-going investigations.

To date in Fiscal Year 2023:

The Board has received five (5) Complaints against licensees. All are on-going investigations.

The Board must make available Public documents created when a Board Action is taken against a Licensee. Please contact the Board Office if you have questions about Public information in accordance with the Alabama Open Records Act.

Federal and State law mandates the Board's processes of investigation and publication of information for disciplinary and ethical concerns. The Board prioritizes the pursuance of thorough, fair, productive, and positive outcomes for all investigative cases.



Licensee: Nicole Lynn Steiner-Pappalardo, Psy.D., #1514

Status: Inactive/Suspended

Action Type Description: Suspension of Licensure

Action Description: Suspension of Licensure

Action Reason: Suspension of Licensure per Alabama Code Section 34-26-46(a)(20) and Administrative Code

Rule 750- X-5-.03(1)(s) **Begin Date**: 11/12/2021 **End Date**: Ongoing

Licensee: Courtney Caroline Prather, Ph.D., #2250

Status: Active

Action Type Description: Discipline

Action Description: Letter of Reprimand; Monetary Fine **Action Reason**: Letter of Reprimand and Monetary Fine for violation of Alabama Code Section 34-26-46(1)(1) and (16) and and the Board's Administrative Code Rule 750-X-

5-.03(l)(a) and (p)

Begin Date: 01/14/2022 **End Date**: 02/14/2022

Are you interested in seeing the Board in action? The Board's regular business meetings are open to the public. Let us know if you want to stop by.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

JANUARY 20, 2023 MARCH 10, 2023 MAY 12, 2023 JULY 14, 2023 SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 NOVEMBER 10, 2023



UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Board meets on the 2nd Friday in January, March, May, July, September and November. Meetings take place at the Board Office. Notices of regularly-scheduled & emergency meetings are published at the Secretary of State's website at:

https://openmeetings.alabama.gov.



Interjurisdictional Practice Legislation – PSYPACT – passed in the 2021 Legislative Session. Are you interested in working under the Compact? PSYPACT is a way you can provide services across state (or, jurisdiction) lines.

There are 2 types of applications that must be completed to practice under the authority of PSYPACT – one for telepsychology & one for temporary in-person, face-to-face practice. Psychologists licensed in PSYPACT States may apply for either application, or both! Each function requires a separate application with different application requirements.

www.https://psypact.org

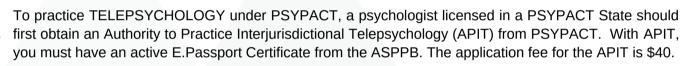
Psychologists licensed in a PSYPACT state can practice under PSYPACT via two (2) different methods:

Telepsychology:

Psychologists obtain an Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology from the PSYPACT Commission, which requires an active ASPPB E.Passport.

Temporary Practice:

Psychologists obtain a Temporary
Authorization to Practice from the
PSYPACT Commission, which requires an
active ASPPB IPC.



To practice TEMPORARY IN-PERSON PRACTICE for 30 days per calendar year in a PSYPACT State, a psychologist should first obtain a Temporary Authorization to Practice, or TAP, from the PSYPACT Commission. With TAP, you must have an active Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC) from the ASPPB. The application fee for the TAP is also \$40.

FOR APPLICANTS

EPPP Practice Exams

Candidates can now register for practice exams using this link:



https://home.pearsonvue.com/asppb/practice

FEE

| 6400 | Psychologist Application (Doctoral-level) | |
|-------|---|---|
| \$260 | Psychological Technician Application (M | 2 |

\$260 Psychological Technician Application (Masters-level) \$600 EPPP Fee (payable to ASPPB upon admission)

\$50 PSE Fee (payable to Board upon admission)

\$280 Psychologist License Renewal & CE Fee (combined)

\$200 Psychological Technician Renewal & CE Fee (combined)

\$50 Inactive Status, Psychologist

\$35 Inactive Status, Psychological Technician

\$20 Monthly Penalty for Delinquent Renewal (late fee*)

\$50 Replacement Licensure Certificate

\$25 Replacement Annual Renewal Card

\$30 Bad Check Fee

\$15 Roster of Licensees

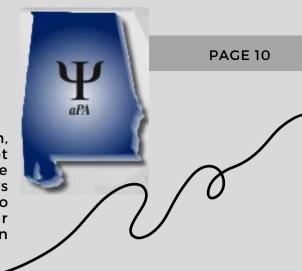
\$15 Roster of Psychological Technicians, only

\$10 Copy of Rules & Regulations

ALABAMA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Are you a member $^{?}$

This is an appeal to join the Alabama Psychological Association, affectionately known as the "little a-P-A". Many people do not understand the crucial importance of supporting your state association. Support is vital in ensuring psychology stays relevant and true to what the profession is supposed to represent. Amid all the other decisions you are making in your career, we want you to consider why your state association needs your support,



Why should you join?

No organization can advocate for psychology and psychologists when a state organization has few members. aPA has made concerted efforts to support psychology as a profession and to provide for its members while positively affecting the profession FOR ALL. As so many other mental health disciplines continue to encroach on the profession, as the third-party payor landscape changes, as legislative changes threaten to negatively impact access to quality care, your state association's role to fulfill its mission is vital.

<u>Advocacy</u>

- Lobby at a national level for quality mental health coverage, parity and healthcare reform.
- Track legislative bills in our state that impact the profession of psychology and respond as needed.
- Build positive relations with the Board of Examiners in Psychology to ensure due process when complaints are filed.
- Represent psychologists on insurance committees to advocate for us and provide evidenced based information on the necessity of various billing codes and differences between mental health providers.

Updated Practice Information

 Monitor and provide information to psychologists about insurance market changes.

Continuing Education

- Deliver annual ethics workshops and a network of colleagues to "consult" (for free) about sticky ethical situations.
- We have begun to develop an online CE library with discounted costs to members.
- We have built relationships with state colleges and universities to provide information, workshops, and newsletter articles on state-of-the-art research.
- We continue to offer quality on site workshops throughout the year and at our annual convention.

Networking

- We have developed a large and active graduate student association within the association.
- We have a social media presence http://www.facebook.com/alapsychorg. And we are working to have more.

It is getting harder and harder to accomplish goals that benefit our profession as a whole without your support. We need YOU, and we hope you believe that you need us, too. Your membership not only impacts you in your individual career, but it also helps support the profession of psychology in our state and country at large.

To join us, please go to www.alapsych.org. If you have any questions or reservations about joining, please give us a call at (334) 262-9245 or email us at execdir08@bellsouth.net. We hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,