

ASK THE APA CANDIDATES ...

Ann Marie T. Sullivan, M.D.

Candidate for Treasurer

What is your number one priority, and how would you work towards achieving that?

As Treasurer of the APA my first priority is to keep the APA financially sound now and in the future.

My experience as Chair of the APA Finance and Budget Committee, Speaker of the Assembly and in running large mental health systems, including hospitals and a state mental health agency, equips me well for that task.

My number one policy priority is access to care for all our patients. As a public sector Psychiatrist I am well aware that access to care is not possible without enforcing parity in access and payment, decreasing disparities in our systems of care, expanding our psychiatrist workforce, ending the discrimination against individuals with mental illness and preventing our patients from living in jails and prisons. And finally real access to care also means access to prevention and early intervention.

I will be honored to be part of an APA leadership team fighting for these goals!

What is your position on affiliate membership for non-physicians? How will you advocate for your position within this organization?

APA is a member organization and any change in membership should be decided by our members.

I will advocate for a survey to all our members on possible affiliate membership categories including other physician members such as primary care and family physicians, as well as non-physician members, and in the survey outline various scenarios and their pros and cons.

The responses and level of interest in any affiliate membership category would inform next steps.

As leaders, it is sometimes important to check directly with our membership on significant actions that affect their association.

From a member services perspective, what would you do to meet the professional needs of psychiatrists throughout their career from training to retirement?

Throughout our professional lives the APA needs to continue to provide and enhance the educational benefits that enable us all to be well informed and effective psychiatrists. More rapidly producing and regularly updating critical practice guidelines, and the grant for the SMI Advisor to inform up to date treatment for individuals living with serious mental illness are just two examples of this important work.

But in addition, we also value collegial interactions and supports that both expand our knowledge and our social connectedness to fellow psychiatrists. I will work to expand creative ways that APA could use modern technology to bring members together for various experiences such as peer supervision groups, interest groups based on stage of career or practice interest, current thought and social trends or just to enjoy fellow members with mutual likes and activities.

Over the years I have greatly enjoyed the networking with colleagues through my district branch and leadership positions in the APA. With today's technology we can greatly expand that important collegial experience for members!