

ASK THE APA CANDIDATES ...

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Candidate for Trustee-at-Large

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

My number one priority if elected as Trustee at Large would revolve around creating a program to help improve recruitment and retention as it relates to our membership. I would propose developing an APA Membership Ambassador program. The purpose of this program would be to highlight the diverse faces of our organization (general members residents, fellows, and medical students) leading the charge toward mental health equity. Ambassadors are essential to the longevity of our organization and can help promote our brand. I would survey our members to gather their interests in this program. If there were an overwhelming positive response, then the next steps would be to engage various stakeholders in our organization (i.e. marketing and communications). Additionally, I would collaborate with other organizations who have implemented a program similar to the one I am proposing. We could develop proof points for our organization pertaining to “Why should I join the APA?” Furthermore, I believe having ambassadors provide video testimonials as to why they joined the APA and the benefits of such would be impactful in recruitment and retention. I would also advocate that members of our board of trustees consider providing video testimonials for visibility.

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

The topic of affiliate membership for non-physicians has been discussed in recent years within our organization. I will disclose that I am married to a psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner. Therefore, I do realize that could affect my optics of the situation. The benefits of an affiliate category of membership for colleagues such as PA's, NP's, and non-psychiatrist physicians, would include the following: potential increase in revenue for the organization and collaboration between specialties. However, I do recognize the potential consequences of establishing such a category. We as an organization could experience an identity crisis should we allow this membership category to be offered. If elected as Trustee at Large, I would want to survey our members to gather their thoughts on such a controversial topic before adopting a definitive position on this issue. I also believe that if an associate membership category were adopted, there needs to be restrictions in regards to voting rights and officer positions.

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

Our members must be equipped with the tools/resources in order to provide optimal care for patients. Our APA has a vast amount of resources (i.e. FOCUS, member course of month, and podcasts) to promote lifelong learning for members throughout their life cycle. We must develop innovative ways to engage members who have various diversity dimensions. If elected as Trustee at Large, I would implement initiatives for our members focusing on the concept of flourishing as a psychiatrist. These programs would evaluate several competencies as a way to measure emotional fulfillment, professionalism, and interpersonal skills.