

*Dear LPMA members,  
Dr. Mark Townsend and I were privileged to represent the LPMA at the Fall Assembly meeting, November 4-6, in Washington, DC. Interspersed with Assembly meetings, Area V met as a group. I will include those highlights in a separate report. In general, neither Mark nor I considered this meeting to be very contentious, and we discussed close to 40 action papers and position statements in a timely, concise fashion. Thank you for allowing us to represent you. I've included photos and highlights from the meeting.*

## **Speaker's Welcome and Report — Dan Anzia, M.D.**



Speaker Dan Anzia welcomed everyone to the fall 2016 meeting of the APA Assembly. Dr. Anzia and the executive leadership personally greeted several new members to the Assembly. As an inspiration, Dr. Anzia recited a poem by Robert Frost to the members and guests present before the work of the Assembly would begin.

### **There Are Roughly Zones**

*We sit indoors and talk of the cold outside.  
And every gust that gathers strength and heaves  
Is a threat to the house. But the house has long been tried.  
We think of the tree. If it never again has leaves,  
We'll know, we say, that this was the night it died.  
It is very far north, we admit, to have brought the peach.  
What comes over a man, is it soul or mind  
That to no limits and bounds he can stay confined?  
You would say his ambition was to extend the reach  
Clear to the Arctic of every living kind.  
Why is his nature forever so hard to teach  
That though there is no fixed line between wrong and right,  
There are roughly zones whose laws must be obeyed.  
There is nothing much we can do for the tree tonight.  
But we can't help feeling more than a little betrayed  
That the northwest wind should rise to such a height  
Just when the cold went down so many below.  
The tree has no leaves and may never have them again.*

*We must wait till some months hence in the spring to know.  
But if it is destined never again to grow,  
It can blame this limitless trait in the hearts of men.*

### **Report from the APA President — Maria Oquendo, M.D.**

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Dr. Oquendo described the recent and upcoming efforts by the APA to streamline the development and updating of Treatment Guidelines, to make them more user friendly to clinicians. Also, the DSM is evolving into a “living document” which will be updated in a more easily and timely manner. Her recent attendance at a “listening session” with the FDA revealed that they are not interested in enforcing medication use exclusively for FDA indicated disorders. Rather, the FDA is relying on professional groups, like the APA, to develop guidelines for off-label use of medications already approved by the FDA. She also spoke of developing a “tree” algorithm to promote the multi-modal treatment of distinct Mental Health disorders.



### **Report of the CEO/Medical Director of the APA — Saul Levin, MD, MPA**

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Dr. Levin presented his report. At the APA Annual Meeting, the White House Task Force on Mental Health Parity heard testimony from several leaders and members of the APA, who voiced concerns and ideas to ensure full implementation of the law. Current initiatives include: health plan network adequacy, funding to audit health plans, public reporting on parity investigations, and producing a consumer guide to disclosure rights. APA is making [MACRA](#) implementation for Medicare providers as user-friendly as possible. This includes reporting exemptions for practices treating less than 100 Medicare beneficiaries, decreasing and making reporting requirements more flexible, and developing a registry – called [PsychPRO](#) – to facilitate MACRA reporting for members. With the rapidly changing political climate, Dr. Levin encourages members who can advise the president-elect and newly elected members of Congress to reach out to their transitional teams. APA is using their [TCPI-SAN](#) Grant to facilitate over 500 psychiatrists to date in Integrated Health Care, and plans to train several hundred more. Also, kudos goes to APA member Peter Yellowlees, M.D, recently elected president of the American Telemedicine Association. APA will be taking occupancy of its recently purchased new office space in 2018, after completion of construction and renovation.

### **Assembly Nominating Committee — Glenn Martin, M.D.**

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Dr. Martin announced the candidates nominated for Assembly office.  
For Speaker-elect: Bob Batterson, MD from Area 4 and James Polo, MD from Area 7

For Recorder: Steven Daviss, MD from Area 3 and Paul O'Leary, MD from Area 5  
Hearing no other nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. Best of  
luck to all nominees

### **Report from the APA President-elect — Anita Everett, M.D.**

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Dr. Everett presented her report as chair of the JRC, including upcoming new business for the Assembly of a position statement on psychiatrist participation in euthanasia, an Autism Spectrum Disorder medication guide for parents, and increasing psychiatrist participation in treatment of persons with mental illness in prisons. She then outlined an agenda of initiatives for her upcoming presidency, including increasing access to psychiatric care, making the APA a “go to” place for psychiatrists everywhere, improving treatment of first-episode psychosis, and addressing physician burnout and improving resilience.

### **Treasurer’s Report — Bruce Schwartz, M.D.**

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Dr. Schwartz reported on the APAF and the APA. APA is generally on target with forecasted budget. Key points include better than expected revenue from DSM licensing and royalty fees, along with lower than expected overall book sales, lower than expected Annual Meeting attendance, some cost reductions due to personnel vacancies, and excellent investment portfolio performance.



### **American Psychiatric Association Foundation — Saul Levin, MD, MPA Chairperson/Chief Executive Officer and Medical Director, and Dan Gilleson, Executive Director**

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APF, APIRE, and APPI have all now been combined into APAF. [Daniel Gilleson](#) is the APAF’s new Executive Director, who promises to bring great enthusiasm and passion to his job. The APAF wants to increase relevance to members and increase efforts at education and fundraising.

### **Report from APAPAC — Paul O’Leary, M.D.**

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Dr. O’Leary described the work the [APAPAC](#) has done over the past year. The PAC has contributed \$410K to various federal candidates and committees, with about 54% going to GOP and 46% to DNC .

## Action Papers/Items

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Among the more notable Actions taken during this session, the Assembly voted to:

- Approve (on consent) proposed APA Position Statements on Out-of-Network Restriction of Psychiatrists, Location of Civil Commitment Hearings, Mental Health and Climate Change – all based on previous Assembly Action Papers;
- Approve the improved communication between outpatient and inpatient (hospitalist) physicians;
- Explore (with AMA) models for single payer and universal healthcare access delivery;
- Ensure privacy of protected health information in access of PDMP databases by law enforcement;
- Urge APA develop Position Statements on Screening and Treatment of MH Disorders during Pregnancy and Post-Partum and increase Parity of MH Care for persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities;
- Urge APA to improve liaison between APA fellowship applicants and recipients and their local DBs;
- Urge APA to support smart-gun technology as part of an effort to reduce gun violence as a public health concern;
- Urge APA to advocate for improved quality and access to medical and psychiatric care in correctional and institutional settings;
- Urge the APA to collaborate with other state and national groups to combat the consequences of childhood poverty and to end this public health problem;
- Have the BOT form a Task Force on combatting Discrimination and its MH consequences;
- Reaffirm the requirement of medical training for anyone who prescribes psychotropic medications;
- Develop a fund with APAF help to pay costs of consumer speakers who present at APA meetings;
- Reaffirm several current APA Position Statements, which can be found in the Assembly Packet;
- Approve the proposed Position Statement opposing Psychiatrist prescribing or administering any euthanizing intervention to a non-terminally ill person.
- Refer a Position Statement on Confidentiality of Medical Records of Physicians who have previously been in treatment back to JRC for revision to address practices of state Medical Boards publically posting such information on their websites.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Mary Jo Fitz-Gerald, MD, MBA, DLFAPA and Mark Townsend, MD, DFAPA*

*LPMA Representatives to the APA Assembly*