

Message from the IPA President

Margo Jacquot, PsyD

Psychology Unbound Starts with You

Every day across Illinois, psychologists make a difference.

You help children find their voice.

You support families through difficult transitions.

You guide individuals through grief, trauma, anxiety, and depression.

You advance research.

You train the next generation of psychologists.

You lead organizations and influence public policy.

You build healthier workplaces and communities.

The work you do matters!

In a profession often focused on caring for others, it can be easy to forget that you deserve



opportunities to learn, connect, celebrate, and be inspired as well.

That is why I hope you will join us for **IPA Convention 2026: Psychology Unbound.**

This convention is more than a series of presentations. It is a gathering of the people shaping the future of psychology in Illinois. It is a place where your

challenges are understood because others have faced them too. It is a place where your ideas can spark innovation, your experiences can help a colleague, and your voice can influence the future direction of our profession.

Whether you are early in your career or have decades of experience, you have something valuable to contribute—and something valuable to gain.

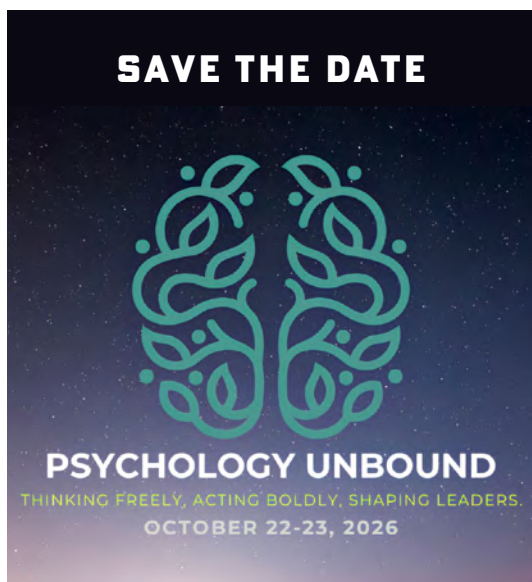
At **Psychology Unbound**, you will:

- Discover practical strategies that can strengthen your work and your impact.
- Connect with colleagues who understand both the rewards and challenges of being a psychologist today.
- Explore new ideas that will help you adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing healthcare landscape.
- Celebrate the accomplishments of psychologists making a difference throughout our state.

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President's Message

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- Leave with renewed energy, inspiration, and a stronger sense of community.

Most importantly, this convention is about recognizing the extraordinary contributions of IPA members.

You are the clinicians improving lives.

You are the educators shaping future psychologists.

You are the researchers advancing knowledge.

You are the leaders helping our profession evolve.

You are the reason IPA exists.

Psychology Unbound is an opportunity to come together, learn from one another, and celebrate what is possible when talented, passionate psychologists unite around a shared purpose.

Thank you for the work you do every day. Thank you for your commitment to our profession. And thank you for being part of the IPA community! ■

Ethics Consultations Available for IPA Members

While the IPA Ethics Committee has discontinued any adjudication function, the Committee will continue to offer individual telephone consultation to IPA members on ethical issues. Members can access this service by contacting the IPA office at 312/372-7610 x201. Other educational functions provided by the Committee include ethics presentations, workshops, and seminars for psychologists, agencies, and academic programs. Contact the IPA if you are interested in arranging such programs.

Illinois Psychological Association

The *Illinois Psychologist* is published four times a year and distributed to members of the Association. Single issues and library copies are \$5.00 per issue (price subject to change).

Publication of an article, an ad, or an announcement does not imply that it represents the policy or position of the Illinois Psychological Association and does not constitute endorsement of the articles or products advertised. IPA reserves the right to edit all materials selected for publication. Classified and display advertisements are accepted subject to editorial approval.

For advertising rates and deadlines Please contact the IPA Office at:

312/372-7610 x201

or jthomas@illinoispsychology.org

IPA reserves the right to decline ads or typeset ads to fit the newsletter's format.

Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor.

Matters pertaining to membership applications, subscriptions, changes of address and advertising should be directed to:

Illinois Psychological Association
67 E. Madison, Suite 1904
Chicago, IL 60603
Voice: 312/372-7610

Deadline for the next issue:
September 11, 2026

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Mary Kay Pribyl, PhD



Thank you!

IPA would like to thank Organizational Member,
The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Message from the President-Elect

Erin Alexander, PsyD

I am honored to be stepping into the role of IPA President-Elect, and I want to take a moment to introduce myself to those I may not yet know across our membership.

I am a Licensed Clinical Psychologist with over two decades of experience spanning private practice, state-level systems leadership, and national professional governance. In my current role as Chief Psychologist and Psychology & Psychiatry Program Director at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, I work daily to translate clinical expertise into policy and program impact for some of Illinois's most vulnerable children and families. I have also maintained a private practice since 2007, which keeps me grounded in the realities that so many of our members navigate every day.

My commitment to the profession extends beyond Illinois. I currently serve as APA Council Representative for Division 42, Psychologists



in Independent Practice, and previously chaired the APA Committee of State Leaders, where I worked to support state-level advocacy and access to APA resources. I am a proud recipient of the 2021 IPA Presidential Recognition Award and the 2025 IPA Lifetime Achievement Award.

As your President, I will focus on three priorities: continuing to strengthen IPA's advocacy presence in Springfield and beyond; deepening member engagement so that every Illinois psychologist has

the opportunity to feel connected to and represented by this association; and building leadership development pathways, particularly for psychologists from underrepresented communities, to ensure a strong, diverse profession for years to come.

I am deeply committed to honoring the legacy of those who have led IPA before me, and to building upon this legacy together. I look forward to serving you and to the conversations ahead. ■


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Reflections on a Year of Service and Looking Ahead

Kristina Pecora, PsyD, MPP, IPA Immediate Past-President

As I conclude my year as IPA President and begin my term as Immediate Past President, I find myself reflecting on the many people who made this year meaningful, productive, and rewarding. Serving as President has been an honor, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside so many dedicated members who generously contribute their time, expertise, and passion to our profession and our association.



I am especially grateful to Pres-Elect Margo Jacquot, whose partnership, thoughtfulness, and dedication have been invaluable throughout this year. I am additionally ever so grateful to the following recipients of Presidential Citations recognized at the in-person Council meeting on June 26:

• **Samen Nadeem, Julia Gioacomin, Celia Zanayed and Gabby Miniscalco**—Social Media Coordinators and Supervisors

One of the greatest privileges of this role has been the chance to connect with members across IPA. Over the past year, I attended committee, section, regional, and special interest group meetings throughout the organization. These conversations gave me a deeper appreciation for the incredible work happening across IPA and the many ways our members support one another, advocate for psychology, and strengthen our profession.

Together, we accomplished a great deal. We successfully launched IPA's new website, creating a stronger platform for member engagement and organizational growth. We developed new processes to support ongoing programming and member involvement, including outreach to non-renewing members and strategic planning discussions designed to better orient and engage Council members. We watched as our new Social Media Coordinators spotlighted members and activities of IPA to the public. We hosted a well-attended and vibrant Convention. We continued important leadership development and advocacy efforts through initiatives such as Leadership Development Program meetings and Advocacy Day in Springfield. And we established regular special interest meetings that allowed leadership to hear directly from members and respond collaboratively to their needs and ideas.

While these accomplishments are important, what stands out most to me is the commitment and generosity of the people who made them possible. IPA's successes are always the result of collective effort.

- **Eric Currence**—for the work and dedication in his inaugural year as Elections Chair
- **Terrence Koller**—truly, the backbone of IPA and de facto Historian, for his role in supporting the new Executive Director and EC this year
- **Blair Brown and Keith Buescher**—for their work in piloting a new program to reach out to non-renewing members to gain valuable insights toward making IPA better
- **Jeffrey Kellogg**—a stalwart IPA representative, Dr. Kellogg is honored for his years of service to the psychologists of the Southern Region of Illinois
- **Samantha Chiariello**—for actively leading both the PSYPACT Committee and the Clinical Section with passion, persistence, and self-awareness

Thank you for your service to IPA and for the countless ways you have contributed to our members and our mission.

As I transition into the role of Immediate Past President, my priorities will be twofold. First, I look forward to supporting our new President and President-Elect as advisors and partners while also encouraging them to shape their leadership roles in ways that reflect their own strengths, perspectives, and vision for IPA. Strong organizations depend on leadership continuity, but they also thrive when new leaders are empowered to innovate and grow.

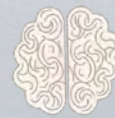
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Report from the IPA Past-President

Sue H. Bae, Ph.D.

With the warmth of summer here at last, I extend a hearty welcome to all our members and a special greeting to our new Council members who are joining this upcoming year.

A huge and warm welcome to our esteemed colleague, Dr. Margo Jaquot, who steps into the role of President. It has been a pleasure getting to know her this year and she is an amazing leader! I look forward to supporting her presidency in the future. I am also very excited to welcome our president elect, Dr. Erin Alexander who is a fearless and a dedicated advocate for increasing the representation of minoritized individuals in the field of psychology. I am confident that both Drs. Jaquot and Alexander will be a wonderful and steady presence in their leadership roles. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the outgoing President, Dr. Kristina Pecora for all her dedication and commitment to IPA. We have had a challenging year, and I applaud Dr. Pecora for her leadership in developing innovative projects while maintaining stability in our IPA community.



My formal tenure in the presidential cycle and executive committee is ending. However, I remain deeply committed to supporting our Executive Committee and Council. Over the past year, it has been a privilege to assist and support President Kristina Pecora and President-Elect Margo Jaquot as they navigated their crucial leadership roles.

A substantial portion of my time this year was spent working closely with our incredible

Legislative Committee, and I am ecstatic to share some phenomenal news if you have not heard. Thanks to the collective effort, the IPA has won the prestigious SPTA Advocacy Award, recently announced by the National Register and APA Division 31! This national honor comes with a \$5,000 award, and our association will be officially recognized at the upcoming APA meeting. This is a massive win that highlights Illinois as a blueprint for professional advocacy nationwide. Click here to view the press release about the award: <https://www.nationalregister.org/illinois-state-psychological-association-named-national-register-spta-advocacy-award-winner/>

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Reflections on a Year of Service *Continued from page 4*

Second, I will be focusing significant energy on membership growth and engagement. Like many professional associations, IPA's future depends on attracting new members, welcoming back former members, and ensuring that psychologists across Illinois understand the value of belonging to this community. In the coming months, you'll be hearing much more from me about these efforts.

If you are interested in helping recruit new members, welcome returning members, or contribute to the future growth of IPA, I encourage you to consider joining the

Membership Committee. You can reach out to Amanda Ori, current Chair, using the Council contact information listed later in this newsletter. I look forward to collaborating with this group and building upon the energy, creativity, and innovative ideas they have already brought to this important work.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I am excited about what lies ahead for IPA. ■

Report from the IPA Legislative Liaison

Terrence Koller, PhD, ABPP

The Illinois General Assembly is now on a break for the Summer and I am pleased to report we had a very good Session. Here are some of the highlights.

- The Clinical Psychologist Licensing Act was renewed for another five years (HB5387).
- A bill authorizing Prescribing Psychologists who could only prescribe to people who are ages 17 to 65 has removed that upper limit. They now can prescribe to people over 17 years of age with no upper limit (SB1743).
- Some safeguards were placed on the use of AI in clinical practice (HB1806).
- Individuals can take the national psychology licensing exam (EPPP) immediately after graduation rather than waiting to complete their post-doctoral year (HB3373).
- A very important bill to strengthen the Parity Act (HB1085) was signed into law. As many of you already know this was a huge victory.

All of these bills can be viewed at www.ilga.gov. You can also see all 10,000 bills that were introduced. You might find it interesting to look at the scope of issues the General Assembly has to consider each session. With the help of our lobbyist we looked at each of these bills and found 129 that impact psychologists, other mental health professionals and the people we serve. Only a fraction of the bills that are introduced actually become law.

You are probably already hearing about the master's level practitioner movement

that is being spearheaded by the American Psychological Association. This movement would allow individuals with master's degrees in psychology to obtain a license to practice independently. The IPA has created a task force, which has sent comments about this movement to the APA.

The concern about this movement is what these people will be calling themselves and what will be their scope of practice.

The terms psychologic, psychologist, psychology and clinical psychologist are protected by law and can only be used by Licensed Clinical Psychologists.

The practice of Clinical Psychology is defined by law as the independent evaluation, classification, diagnosis and treatment of mental, emotional, behavioral nervous disorders or conditions, developmental disabilities, alcoholism and substance abuse disorders of habit or conduct, and the psychological aspects of physical illness. The practice of clinical psychology includes psychoeducational evaluation, therapy, remediation and consultation, the use of psychological and neuropsychological testing, assessment, psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, hypnosis, biofeedback, and behavioral modification when any of these are used for the purpose of preventing or eliminating psychopathology, or for the amelioration of the psychological disorders of individuals or groups.

We are very committed to protecting our title and scope of practice. Stay tuned. ■

IPA Meeting Schedule

IPA Executive Committee Meetings will be held at 3 PM on Fridays: July 24, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18, 2026 and January 22, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21, and June 25, 2027.

IPA Council Meetings will be held at 9 AM on Saturdays: September 19, 2026 and January 23, April 17, and June 26, 2027.

IPA Legislative Committee Meetings will be held at 2 pm on Fridays: July 24, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18, 2026 and January 22, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21, and June 25, 2027.

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- Elaine Carey, Chicago Psy.D. graduate



Tips to Support Your Billing and Reimbursement Work

HEALTH CARE REIMBURSEMENT COMMITTEE (HCRC)

Heidi Shikora, PsyD, Chair; HCRC Emeritus Member Lynda Behrendt, PsyD, RN. Abby Brown, PsyD, PMH-C; Blair Brown, PsyD*, Margo Jacquot, PsyD, CSADC, BCETS; Susan O'Grady, PsyD; & Theresa M. Schultz PhD, MBA*

HCRC expresses our gratitude to Dr. Lynda Behrendt, as she retires from "active duty" as an HCRC member, and warmly welcomes Dr. Blair Brown to our committee!

Hello everyone! For our Summer 2026 Newsletter, we offer some handy suggestions (i.e., "quick tips") to support your billing and reimbursement work for those members who are paneled with insurance carriers (including Medicare):

- Keep your provider contact information up to date for each insurance carrier with which you're paneled, and also with CAQH. (For further information, visit www.caqh.org, most recently renamed www.dataspring.org).
- Complete a benefits check for each of your patients *before* your first appointment, to confirm the scope of coverage for your services (e.g., which billing codes are covered, how many sessions are covered, the required process for getting additional sessions covered, etc.).
 - Yes, this takes time...BUT confirming benefits upfront saves time, effort, and frustrations later, and helps to ensure timely and appropriate reimbursement for your services.
 - And, of course, if you are in a solo independent practice, and you don't want to devote the time to billing and reimbursement work, you may wish to consider hiring a professional billing service to support your practice.
 - And for sure—no matter if you are in a solo or larger practice—consider taking full advantage of one of our IPA membership benefits, should you have specific questions about billing and reimbursement. IPA members are entitled annually to up to 1 hour of FREE, private consultations (total of 60 minutes/year of phone/virtual consultations about billing and/or practice issues) with ASCEND Practice Management. It's easy! Go to www.ascendpracticemanagement.com and click on the tab "IPA Members" for additional information.
- Save any/all contact information (including email addresses) for Provider Relations and Claims Processing for each insurance carrier with which you're paneled.
- Pay attention to routine email notifications sent out by each insurance carrier (including CMS Medicare/Medicaid) to all their providers (whether medical or mental health), usually on at least a monthly basis (e.g., BC/BS of Illinois' *Blue Review*).
 - Be sure to review each of these emails for any information specifically relevant to mental health/behavioral health care services.
 - In particular, watch for notifications that indicate specific insurance carrier expectations about coding, billing, and maintenance of patient records for mental health/behavioral health providers.
 - Also be on the lookout for webinars from insurance carriers and Medicare that may provide additional information of benefit to your practice offerings/specialties.

We hope that these Summer tips are helpful to you. We look forward to continuing our good work together, on behalf of health care reimbursement challenges and needs. Please don't hesitate to reach out directly to us at HCRC@illinoispsychology.org. We are here to be of help to you! ■

Report from the Elections Committee

Eric Currence, PhD, Chair

The Elections Committee would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the members who participated in this year's election. Member engagement is essential to the strength of our Association, and your participation helps ensure that IPA's leadership reflects the voices, perspectives, and priorities of psychologists throughout Illinois.

Please join us in welcoming the following members to their newly elected positions:

IPA President-Elect

Dr. Erin Alexander

IPAGS Chair-Elect

Suvetha Ravichandran

Behavioral Medicine & Neuropsychology Chair

Dr. Daniel Laluna

Women's Issues Chair

Dr. Allyse Sturdivant Williams

IPA-APA Council Representative

Dr. Jessica Punzo

Metropolitan Regional Representatives

Dr. Gabby Miniscalco

Dr. Deja Alexander

North Region Representative

Dr. Cindy Stear

South Region Representative

Dr. Cynthia Clark

The Elections Committee is grateful for the willingness of these members to serve in leadership roles and contribute their expertise to the Association. Their dedication to psychology and professional service will help support IPA's ongoing efforts to advocate for the profession, foster professional development, and strengthen our psychological community.

Congratulations to our newly elected leaders. We look forward to the contributions they will make in the years ahead. ■



IPA 2026 June Quarterly Council Meeting

Membership Committee Report

Amanda Ori, PsyD, Chair

The Membership Committee aims to welcome new IPA members and educate them on the benefits and community that IPA can provide. We reach out to new members each month and

provide a point of connection. Currently, we are working towards offering the new membership presentation on a regular basis. ■



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Message from the Clinical Practice Section

Samantha Chiariello, PsyD, Chair and Monika Sharma, PsyD, Associate Chair

In May, we welcomed **Lipika Jain, PsyD** to join us as the communications officer for the CPS Officer Committee. Lipika has also kindly volunteered to be the psych testing coordinator. The CPS will be sponsoring some of the fall convention events. More information to come!

We are planning several fall presentations (non-CE) on professional wills, unexpected closure of a practice, and planned closure of a practice. We have started working on developing a section referral list and we are designing a quarterly newsletter for section members.

IPArenewal season is around the corner, 7/1/26! We hope you will renew your membership and continue your Clinical Practice Section membership. Going forward, membership renewal will take place on a rolling basis, depending on which date you have renewed. Events, newsletters and referral lists will only be accessible to section members. We hope more members will continue to join our section!

We are looking for another member who would like to volunteer for the position listed below. The Officer Committee Meetings will take place monthly, on the 2nd Tuesday of the month,

from 9:00AM-10:00AM CST. Please email drchiariello@gmail.com if you are interested. We would love more members to be active on our committee!

Event Coordinator (1-2 Positions):

The Event Coordinator(s) will

- Assist with the logistics of planning both in-person and remote CPS events.
- Collaborate with other sections and IPA to host in-person and remote events.
- Attend scheduled meetings to work in collaboration with appointed officers who serve on the CPS Officer Committee.

Retiring/Retired Psychologists

Alice Bernstein leads a support group for retiring psychologists. If you are interested in participating, please email Alice directly at abernstein@chicagoanalysis.org.

Please stay tuned for more information. Section updates are sent to members via email. If you have any ideas, please feel free to contact drchiariello@gmail.com. ■



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Report from the Social Responsibility Section

Holly Houston, PhD, Chair, and Connie Natvig, PhD, Co-Chair

For the past year, the Social Responsibility Section (SRS) has focused on immigration as its primary initiative. We provided information on the impact of immigration on mental health, resources for psychologists and patients, and the rights and responsibilities of psychologists and immigrants. We thought it was important to provide a personal, more psychological view of the immigration experience. In particular, we wanted to explore the intersection between professional practice and the immigration experience. Three Illinois psychologists generously agreed to share their unique perspectives as immigrant psychologists. Kin Kong, Ph.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist who emigrated from China and now is Associate Professor at The Chicago School. Gloria Balague, Ph.D. emigrated from Spain and has recently retired from a clinical assistant professorship at the University of Illinois at Chicago and from a prominent sports psychologist consultancy. Orson Morrison, Psy.D. emigrated from Toronto Canada and his parents emigrated from South Africa and Guyana. He is the Associate Director for Clinical Services at DePaul University's Counseling and Psychological Services and has a private practice. Their immigration stories share the hope, barriers, stress and resiliency of their journeys, highlighting the impact of immigration policy on individual lives. They enhance our understanding and compassion of the experience of immigration. Be sure to watch the taped interviews that will be shared on the IPA social media platform in the coming weeks.

Due to the tumultuous political landscape which directly impacts our democracy, it is vitally important that psychologists be advocates and encourage others to be part of the political discourse. At the most fundamental level, we must vote and promote others to do the same. Voting is a way for individuals to have a say in decisions that affect their lives. Voting contributes to shaping policies that impact public health, education, social justice, and more. It is a constructive action that can counter feelings of powerlessness, giving individuals a way to influence positive change in their communities and beyond. Psychologists can help ensure that the voices of marginalized communities are represented in policymaking, which can

lead to more equitable outcomes. Voting is a core aspect of democratic participation, and by encouraging it, psychologists support the health of the democratic process, which in turn fosters a healthier society.

Social Responsibility Section Co-Chair Connie Natvig is pleased to highlight the work of doctoral students who are advancing patient advocacy through interdisciplinary education on the impact of immigration enforcement in healthcare settings. As part of a Social Justice Clerkship within Northwestern University's Clinical Psychology PsyD Program, students developed and delivered an educational workshop titled *Healthcare in a Changing Landscape: Responding to ICE Encounters*. The workshop generated exceptional interest across disciplines, drawing students from medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, dentistry, and psychology, resulting in a standing-room-only audience. This strong turnout reflected a shared commitment among future healthcare professionals to protecting vulnerable patients and promoting equitable care. Over two academic quarters, psychology trainees Abigail Cheek, Jillian Johnson, Rachel Moreno, Jenna Padro, Nell Pawlowski, Suhani Ravani, Maha Rizvi, and Caden Stalnaker researched the effects of immigration enforcement on healthcare environments and consulted with legal, security, and medical professionals to better understand the challenges faced by both patients and providers. Their efforts culminated in practical training focused on patient rights, confidentiality, and appropriate responses to ICE encounters within healthcare settings.

Through a combination of research, interactive learning activities, and role-play demonstrations, the workshop equipped participants with strategies for navigating complex situations while remaining ethical, compassionate, and legally compliant. Students also provided attendees with resources and a practical framework emphasizing calm communication, patient consent, de-escalation, and objective documentation. This initiative exemplifies how psychology trainees are extending their impact beyond traditional clinical roles by promoting advocacy, education, and equitable access to healthcare for vulnerable populations. ■

Report from the PSYPACT Committee

Samantha Chiariello, PsyD, Chair; Lori Bolnick, PsyD; Carroll Cradock, PhD; Eric Currence, PsyD; Hayley Van Serke, PsyD; and Bruce Frumkin, PhD, ABPP

Our primary focus is to identify significant nuances among the practice guidelines in PSYPACT states and create a list of links to the varying mental health laws. We will continue to collaborate with PSYPACT and other state psychological associations on how we can achieve this goal. We are also collaborating with our state PSYPACT commissioner and IPA's

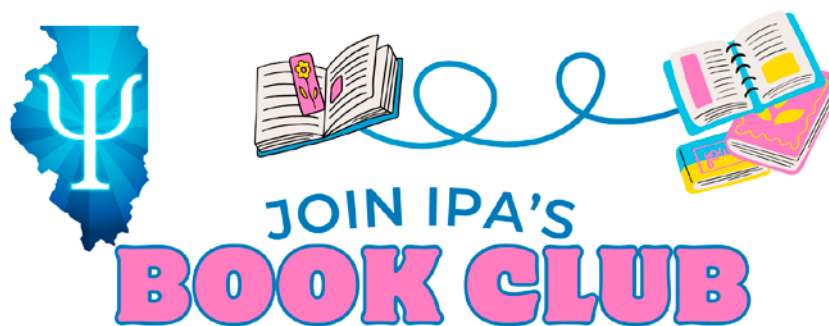
legislative committee for current information related to PSYPACT.

If you are licensed in other states, we can use your help to gather information about state specific practices. If you are willing to help provide guidance or connect us with other state psychological associations, please contact me at drchiariello@gmail.com. ■



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JOIN IPA'S **BOOK CLUB**

**JOIN YOUR FELLOW IPA PSYCHOLOGISTS
TO CRITICALLY DISCUSS
PSYCHOLOGY/MENTAL HEALTH LITERATURE**

WE ARE A ROTATING BOOK CLUB WHERE MEMBERS
TAKE TURNS CHOOSING AND "HOSTING" THE BOOK CLUB!

WHEN: MONDAYS
TIME: 12:00PM-1:00PM
WHERE: VIA ZOOM

WHO: ANY IPA MEMBER, STUDENTS INCLUDED!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ THE WHOLE BOOK TO JOIN IN ON THE CONVERSATION!
E-MAIL JESSICA PUNZO (MIDPATHPSYCH@GMAIL.COM) OR
GABBY MINISCALCO (DRMINISCALCO@GMAIL.COM) TO JOIN!

UPCOMING READS

June 29, 2026:

My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the
Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies by Resmaa
Menakem

July 27, 2026:

LOVE, LUCK, AND NARCISSISM: When Popular Culture
Gets It Wrong
by Geraldine K. Piorkowski (IPA MEMBER)

HELP THE IPA LEGISLATIVE EFFORT BY BECOMING A LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE*

**TIRED OF TRYING TO FIGURE OUT YOUR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
FROM YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION CARD?**

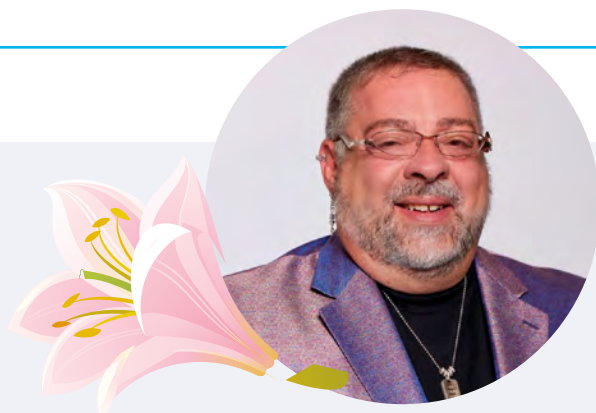
We'll make it easy.

**Email your Voter Registration Card. We'll put you on the list.
You'll be the first to know what's happening so you can Make the Future.**

IPA email: tkoller@illinoispsychology.org

* A *Legislative Advocate* is trained to meet his or her legislator.
After a relationship is established, the psychologist contacts the legislator when
issues relevant to psychology arise.

Dr. Gregory Sarlo



Dr. Gregory Michael Sarlo, 61, died peacefully at home on June 17th, 2026, in the gentle hands of his beloved husband Dr. Daniel Brewer, surrounded and survived by a multitude of friends and relatives near and far. He was predeceased by his late husband Dr. James Allen Reeder (they met singing with the Windy City Gay Men's Chorus); his parents Carmen and Rose Sarlo; his sister Carmen Cucinotta; his Aunt Mary Santino (who shared her recipes for braciole, ravioli, fig cookies, and the fruit Jello that nourished him when his pancreatic cancer made it difficult to eat much else); and many other aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends.

Gregory carved a unique path through life, from his early years in Melrose Park, IL and at Fenwick High School; he created a full, creative life in the process. Known by many as a licensed clinical psychologist and founder of Chicago-based Psychological Consultations, Gregory also has been a professor, forensic consultant, ethicist, Rorschach expert, author, actor, opera singer, concert pianist, yoga and spin instructor, sommelier, Reiki master, event planner, and in his younger days, an altar boy and church cantor, bank teller, landscaper, golf caddy, waiter, and retail menswear stylist. In the early years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Gregory worked at the forefront of medication research, forging professional relationships that have lasted decades and prioritizing excellent care for the LGBTQ+ community. Acutely aware of the thin line between life and death, Gregory studied for years with a Native American medicine man, and during that time, became a shaman and pipe carrier.

At any given time, Gregory was active on seven or eight professional boards — most related to psychology (IPA, APA

Division 44, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital Medical Staff) or the arts (Music Theater Works, Opera Festival of Chicago), and often for LGBTQ+ causes (DIFFA, Park Ridge Community Church/Social Justice/Open & Affirming). He's run for public office, and held an appointed position with the Des Plaines Public Library—serving as President of the Library Board since 2013, and leading efforts to fly the rainbow Pride flag at the library and then at Des Plaines City Hall during the month of June. For these and other achievements, Gregory was recently honored by the Illinois Psychological Association with their Enduring Contributions Award; by the American Psychological Association Division 44 with their Armand Cerbone Distinguished Lifetime Contribution Award; by the Cook County Board of Commissioners with a Resolution recognizing June 2026 as Dr. Gregory Sarlo Pride Month; and by Des Plaines Mayor Andrew Goczkowski naming June 15th, 2026 as Dr. Gregory Sarlo Recognition Day.

Many have commented about Gregory's big personality, his *joie de vivre*, and the bright light he shared with the world. Gregory was the kind of person whose style and energy attracted people wherever he went, and many chance encounters involving Disney, fashion, Broadway, wine, or nail art led to lifelong friendships. He adored dressing up for an evening out with Danny, often going to favorite restaurants where everyone knew them and their special orders. And he treasured his connection to Disney—he'd been a DVC member since 1991, and had dear friends throughout the parks and restaurants.

At home, he prepared elaborate meals, especially for his Sunday dinners for

those he called "family." He enjoyed hosting scores of people at annual holiday parties, preparing for weeks in advance, and organizing a weekend team of friends and family to decorate the 18-foot Christmas tree with thousands of sparkly lights and glorious ornaments—many from his mother or from Marshall Field's, each with stories of their own. Gregory was engaging and sharp, up-to-date on everything but sports; quick with a line from *The Golden Girls* or *The Devil Wears Prada*, and ready with a witty opinion, often about music or fashion or jewelry. He loved teaching and mentoring, sharing what he knew about psychology, organizations, relationships, wine; many turned to him for help, and were grateful for his wise counsel. In the end, Gregory lived as he loved—brightly, generously, remarkably, fully, and with few regrets.

Gregory's Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, August 8th, 2026, at 11:00am, at the Park Ridge Community Church, 100 Courtland Avenue, Park Ridge, IL, 60068. A reception with light refreshments will follow at the church. Gregory's family will inter his ashes privately at Queen of Heaven Cemetery and Mausoleum in Hillside, IL, the resting place for his parents, grandparents, sister, and other relatives; he will reside alongside his late husband Dr. James Reeder in the columbarium inside the Chapel of Mary.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to either of two organizations dear to Gregory's heart: (1) The Des Plaines Public Library (mail checks made out to the Des Plaines Public Library to DPPL, 1501 Ellinwood St. (ATTN: Admin/Gregory Sarlo memorial), Des Plaines, IL 60016 (or use credit card at the first floor desk); or (2) Music Theater Works (donate in memory of Gregory Sarlo [HERE](#)).



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Apply to be an IPA Fellow

Don't be shy. Be recognized for your outstanding contributions to the profession of psychology by applying for Fellow status with the Illinois Psychological Association.

Criteria for Fellow status are:

1. Full Voting Member of IPA for at least seven years
2. Made outstanding contributions in the field of psychology
3. Nominated for Fellow status by two members of IPA who have submitted written endorsements
4. Elected to Fellow status by a majority vote of the IPA Council of Representatives

Application for Nomination as a Fellow in the IPA Attach Additional Sheets for Supporting Information

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

IPA Membership Status: _____

Number of Years as an IPA Member: _____

Sections in which Membership is Held: _____

Educational History (include undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral institutions):

A high level of competence or steady and continuing contributions are not sufficient to warrant Fellow status. Fellow status requires that a person's work have had impact in the field of psychology on the local, state, regional or national level. A detailed statement demonstrating this impact must accompany the Fellow application. **PLEASE NOTE THAT SUBMISSION OF A VITA ALONE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED A SUFFICIENT RESPONSE.**

For your statement, please describe in detail your outstanding contributions in any of the following ways (this list is not intended to be exhaustive).

Public Service: Describe exact nature of services performed, dates, names of community organizations

Service to the Profession: List offices and/or committee memberships held, dates, names of professional organizations, explanation of specific services performed.

Scholarly Contributions to the Profession: List publications in accordance with APA editorial style for reference lists.

Each application should be accompanied by an application fee of \$100.

Checks should be made out to **Illinois Psychological Association** and mailed to:

Fellow Application
Illinois Psychological Association
67 East Madison Street, Suite 1904
Chicago, Illinois 60603

A certificate of recognition of Fellow status will be awarded to successful applicants.



THE ILLINOIS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
90th Annual Convention
Sponsor – Exhibit – Advertise Form

October 22 & 23, 2026
 Sheraton Hotel, Lisle

The Illinois Psychological Association is offering you the opportunity to meet with your colleagues and customers at our 2026 Annual Convention, being held in person. We hope to see you there!

We expect this year's Convention to be highly successful. You will have the potential to reach mental health professionals across Illinois, as well as neighboring states. The Convention will contain program topics that will be attractive to a wide range of psychologists and psychology students.

Foundational				
Exhibit Table on Thursday and Friday	Logo/active link in email blasts advertising the Convention to 5000+ psychologists in Illinois (up to 10 email blasts)	Logo and link will be prominently displayed on the IPA website before and during the Convention	½ page Ad in Convention Brochure, plus IPA's Fall and Winter 2026 Newsletter	Listing in the Convention brochure
Foundational Sponsor \$2600				
Innovative				
Logo/active link in email blasts advertising the Convention to 5000+ psychologists in Illinois (up to 10 email blasts)	Logo and link will be prominently displayed on the IPA website before and during the Convention	½ page ad in Convention Brochure, plus Fall and Winter 2026 Newsletter	Listing in the Convention brochure	
Innovative Sponsor \$2100				
Steadfast				
Logo/active link in email blasts advertising the Convention to 5000+ psychologists in Illinois (up to 10 email blasts)	Logo and link will be prominently displayed on the IPA website before and during the Convention	Listing in Convention brochure		
Steadfast Sponsor \$1100				
Essential				
Logo/active link in email blasts advertising the convention to 5000+ psychologists in Illinois (up to 10 email blasts)	Listing in convention brochure			
Essential Sponsor \$750				
Training				
Support a student or intern by paying their fee. Discounted rate because students do not require CEs	Logo/active link in social media marketing highlighting this specific support			
Training Sponsor \$350				



THE ILLINOIS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
90th Annual Convention
Sponsor – Exhibit – Advertise Form

October 22 & 23, 2026
Sheraton Hotel, Lisle

Exhibit Table: \$600 Thursday & Friday *Reserve your exhibit table early, space is limited!*

- Exhibit tables will be set up in the area adjacent to the IPA Workshops to ensure maximum exposure.
- Refreshment breaks will be arranged in the exhibit area, and every booth will have a great location.
- Each table is 72" x 30", draped, with chairs for exhibitors.
- Each table will receive one complimentary attendance to lunch on Thursday and Friday, plus attendance at Friday's Presidents Reception.
- Each table includes complimentary attendance to one Convention session for one exhibitor; additional sessions may be purchased.

Advertise - Convention Brochure Ad & Ad Plus

The 2026 Annual IPA Convention program brochure will be emailed in early September to over 5,000 psychologists and mental health professionals in Illinois. This is a terrific way to advertise your company's services. Your ad will have an active link bringing the reader right to your website! Ads must be received by August 1st.

Ad size	Cost
¼ page ad (3.25" x 5")	\$400
Full page ad (8.5" x 11")	\$800
Inside front cover (8.5" x 11")	\$1000
½ page ad (7.5" x 5")	\$600
Inside back cover (8.5" x 11")	\$900

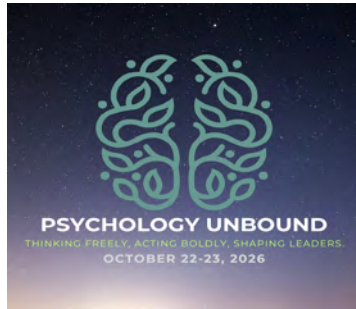
Ad Plus: For \$100 more, your ad will appear in the winter edition of the quarterly newsletter, *The Illinois Psychologist*, distributed to over 5000 psychologists in Illinois.

Refreshment Break Sponsorships

A sign displaying your company's name will be provided at the food station.

Breakfast and Refreshments Breaks provide good exposure for your group, as they are served in the Exhibit Area Thursday and Friday!

Event	Cost
Thursday or Friday Continental Breakfast Coffee & Baked goods	\$1000
Thursday or Friday Afternoon Refreshment Break	\$500
Thursday Evening Happy Hour	\$500
Friday Evening President's Reception	\$2000



THE ILLINOIS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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Swag Sponsorship

Attendee swag includes a tote bag and information or literature about your organization you would like to provide. We can fit up to 9 sponsors on tote bags. Tote Bag Giveaway Sponsors can include literature, fidget toys, stress management items, stationery, or other creative objects that will be placed in the totes.

Tote giveaway items or literature must be received by August 10.

Swag Sponsorships must be made by August 10 due to ordering and printing constraints.

Swag	Cost
Main Tote Bag Sponsor (Limit 1)	\$900
Tote Bag Giveaway Sponsor	\$150
Back of Tote Bag Sponsor (Limit 8)	\$100

To reserve your sponsorship or advertising spot

CLICK HERE!

Welcome New IPA Members

Licensed Members

Deja Alexander, PsyD
Violeta Cone, PhD
Maja Jakovljevic, PsyD
Caitlyn Jezowit, PhD
Miki Koyama, PhD
Rebecca Lotsoff, MS, LCSW

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Kanchan Parkash, PsyD
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Arturo Soto-Nevarez, PhD
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Out-of-State Members

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Ashley Paluska, PsyD

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Galilea Cortes
Rickiesha Dorsey
Tina Grubescic-Ibrisevic
Nadine Kdemoglou
Talia Kottler
Michelle Nalon
Jessica Nell

Rachel Pohle
Alexandra Porcaro
Amanda Ramirez
Suvetha Ravichandran
Jada Ray
Christel Sam
Anna Stephens
Gabrielle Verkhosh

OUR ACCOUNTANTS HAVE INFORMED US THAT 100% OF WHAT LICENSED MEMBERS PAID IN LEGISLATIVE ASSESSMENTS IS NOT DEDUCTIBLE FOR TAX PURPOSES. HOWEVER 100% OF EVERYONE'S MEMBERSHIP DUES IS DEDUCTIBLE FOR TAX PURPOSES. KEEP IN MIND THAT LEGISLATIVE ASSESSMENTS ARE THE ADDITIONAL FEES THAT LICENSED MEMBERS PAY (\$60 PLUS AN ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BASED ON INCOME).

IMPORTANT

Change to IPA's Late Dues Grace Period

Effective July 1, 2018, IPA members must pay their dues within 90 days of the due date in order to maintain their membership and access membership benefits such as the listserv.

Steven E. Rothke, PhD
IPA By-Laws Committee Chair

Numbers You Should Have

Illinois Psychological Association
67 East Madison Street, Suite 1904
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Phone: 312/372-7610

Executive Director e-mail:
Jessica Thomas
jthomas@illinoispsychology.org

IPA Web Site
www.illinoispsychology.org

**Illinois Department of
Professional Regulation**

Licensure Requirements
or Pending Applications: 217/785-0800

New Applications and Changes to
Current Licenses: 217/785-0800 ask
for *Licensure Maintenance Unit*

Complaints against licensed
professionals: 312/814-6910

Mailing Labels of Licensed Professionals:
[https://www.idfpr.com/LicenseLookup/
RosterRequest.asp](https://www.idfpr.com/LicenseLookup/RosterRequest.asp)

IDFPR Web Site
www.idfpr.com

Abuse Reporting Hotlines

Child Abuse
800/252-2873

Senior Abuse
[https://www.illinois.gov/aging/
ProtectionAdvocacy/Pages/abuse_reporting.aspx](https://www.illinois.gov/aging/ProtectionAdvocacy/Pages/abuse_reporting.aspx)

**Chicago Office of Healthcare Access
Chicago Department of Public Health
(formerly Office of Managed Care)**

312/745-2273

**Medicare
Applications**

www.ngsmedicare.com

American Psychological Association

800/374-2721

Web Page
www.apa.org

Medicaid Number Application

[http://www.illinois.gov/hfs/
impact/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.illinois.gov/hfs/impact/Pages/default.aspx)

**American Board of Professional
Psychology (ABPP)**

www.abpp.org
office@abpp.org
919/537-8031

ILLINOIS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Officers, Council Members and Committee Chairpersons—2026-2027

67 E. Madison St., Suite 1904, Chicago, IL 60603 312/372-7610 www.illinoispsychology.org

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APA Council Representative	Laura Faynor Ciha, PhD	630/548-0098

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Annual Convention	Kristina Pecora, PsyD, MPP	312/498-1166
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Ethics	Susan Zoline, PhD and Abby Sivan, PhD	847/721-5513 and 847/340-4783
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Parliamentarian:	Andrea Seefeldt, PsyD	312/598-0055

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APA Rural Psychology	Jeffrey Kellogg, PsyD	618/457-4488
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Federal Advocacy Coordinator	Kristina Pecora, PsyD	312/498-1166
Liaison from the Clinical Psychologists	Blaine Lesnik, PsyD	312/782-7600
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Illinois Psychologist

Editor	Terrence J. Koller, PhD, ABPP	312/372-7610 x202
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