



District of Columbia Psychological Association

PO Box 1448 • Cedar Park, TX 78630 • Phone: (512) 788-0207 • Fax: (800) 784-9034

Dear Members:

ON 7/22/15 and 7/25/15 DCPA's members of the Board of Directors and the Ethics Committee met both in person and by conference call to discuss the Hoffman Report, the independent report that investigated allegations regarding APA's involvement with the Department of Defense, including that department's treatment of detainees (see <http://www.apa.org/independent-review/>). We were surprised and upset by the information that has come to light regarding the behavior of senior APA staffers and officials. As most of you are probably aware, in the wake of this information, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Michael Honaker; Executive Director of Public and Member Communication, Rhea Farberman; and the Director of APA's Office of Ethics, Steve Behnke, have all resigned. Additionally, the Chief Executive Officer, Norm Anderson moved up his retirement date from December 2016 to December 2015. Although such high-level changes are a good start, the individuals at the DCPA meeting felt more needs to be done to address the transactions of the past and to ensure that APA does not engage in such behavior in the future.

One of the first steps will occur in early August at the APA Convention in Toronto. The APA Council of Representatives (CoR), the governing body of APA, will meet in Toronto for 2 days (this is one of their standard semi-annual meetings). Obviously, the Hoffman Report and the problematic behavior identified in the report will be the focus of the meeting. DCPA's representative, Walter Hillabrant, will be there. We will be forwarding to Walter, DCPA members' recommendations, suggestions, and their reactions to the report. Walter will be our voice. Because CoR actions will happen very quickly across the 2 days of meetings, we have asked Walter to keep in touch both with our members (by emailing brief summaries) as well as a DCPA taskforce to ensure that all of DCPA can both be informed and have input in what are likely to be major changes in APA. Beyond what occurs at the CoR meeting, DCPA is also organizing a taskforce to review the relevant material (Hoffman Report as well as other documents) and make further recommendations about actions we would want APA to undertake. Finally, this fall, we are planning to sponsor a meeting where we will review the latest information with our membership and provide a forum for discussing and planning actions.

DCPA is a local association and continues to welcome members who are not part of APA or who have resigned from APA. We do not support or condone the actions alleged in the Hoffman report. The DCPA will advocate in the strongest possible ways for integrity, transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights. Above all else, we will also recommend in the strongest possible manner that the APA and its members take the "Do no harm" principle as the foundation of our professional being.



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This crisis has brought forth pain, sadness, and hurt to our psychological community; however, it also brought forth wisdom, compassion, decency, and humanity that reflect the essence of who we are. The DCPA joins other state associations and organizations in their repudiation of torture.

It is DCPA's hope that APA remains a vibrant association that not only represents what is best for psychology but more importantly, what is best in psychology. May its strength be reflected in social justice, humanitarian idealism, and compassion and may it be a force to repair and heal the world.

Respectfully,

Stephen R Stein, Ph.D.
President
DCPA