

**Southern Psychiatric Association (SPA)**  
**Report to Area 3**  
**September 2018**

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**SPA Assembly Rep**

**Member Services:**

As usual, the SPA has two main activities each year: our reception at the APA meetings in the Spring, and our Annual CME Symposium. In between these activities, we have a newsletter, *Southlands*, in which members write a variety of articles of clinical and organizational importance. Some of those articles pertain to the activities of the APA. Our annual symposium is typically in collaboration with the APA DB that is in or near the state where the meeting is held. The reception at the APA was at Rock & Reilly's in New York, and had over 200 attendees from throughout the APA. Our annual CME meeting was in Nashville, Sept 5-8, 2018 in collaboration with the Tennessee Psychiatric Association.

**Diversity:**

The primary dimension of our diversity focus is to increase our geographic diversity. Our name misrepresents our organization, as we are a high-end selective educational/professional organization offering programs and membership for ALL psychiatrists in the U.S. We tell prospective members that "you don't have to live in the South" to join. Our name has primarily historical significance and also refers to the geographic area in which we like to hold our annual CME conference.

**Advocacy**

Since our members come from many states (primarily area 3 and are 5) our advocacy efforts are deployed exclusively through those two DB's by individual members, rather than at the organization level.

**Education**

This year's annual CME conference was done in collaboration with the Tennessee Psychiatric Association. Entitled **Forging the Future in Psychiatry: From Practice Trends to HealthCare Delivery**, it was held Sept 5-8, 2018 in Nashville, TN. Topics included: delirium and acquired dementia, TMS, building a continuum of care, the evolving healthcare system, the controversy of the Goldwater Rule, childhood anxiety disorders, mindfulness meditation in clinical practice, and others. Daniel Sharfstein, professor of law at Vanderbilt (and son of Steve Sharfstein), spoke about his new book Thunder in the Mountains, a history of the Nez Perce war. The annual conference always includes a Saturday night banquet, with a lecture such as this that is of an entertaining and typically historical nature.

**Strength of Organization/Group:**

The organization is growing slowly, adding 6 new members this year. There were a number of non-members attending our CME meeting in Nashville, who expressed an interest in joining, and we are following up those interests. Analogous to the American College of Psychiatry, the SPA is joined through submission of letters of recommendation, helping to ensure a high quality of excellence and a certain selectivity.