

**Southern Psychiatric Association
Report to Area 3
Sept 2017**

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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.

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. So, besides word of mouth attempts to tell prospective members that “you don’t have to live in the South” to join, we have been vigorously discussing the possibility of a name change for the organization. That name has primarily historical significance and also refers to the geographic area in which we like to hold our annual CME conference. We have not yet reached a decision regarding a new name. I am personally a leader in that effort.

Advocacy

Since our members come from many states (primarily area 3 and area 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 Georgia Psychiatric Association who actually was responsible for one day of programming. It was held uncharacteristically early, August 2-5 at a resort on Amelia Island, just outside of Jacksonville, FL. Topics included: managing physician stress and aging, generational challenges in psychiatric practice, psychosis and cannabinoids, controversies surrounding involuntary outpatient treatment, and the history of Psychiatry’s “vulnerable ethics” as seen in psychiatrist’s robust participation in the U.S. Eugenics Movement and the Nazi T4 Program.

Strength of Organization/Group:

The organization is growing slowly, adding 4 new members this year. There were a number of non-members attending our CME meeting at Amelia Island, FL who expressed an interest in joining, and we are following up those interests. Again, we are hoping that a name change might enhance the strength of the organization. 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.