

Assembly: *Fast Facts*

Area 3 (Mid –Atlantic) of the Assembly of the American Psychiatric Association

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Top Ten FAQs about the Assembly

1. **What is the Assembly?** “The Assembly is a deliberative, advisory body to the Board of Trustees. It represents the individual members of the Association and acts for them in the affairs of the Association.” It also shares decision-making authority in regard to APA position statements, Bylaw amendments, and the approval of the DSM.
 2. **Who are in the Assembly?** The Assembly is comprised of State Associations (SA) Representatives, District Branch (DB) Representatives, Assembly Allied Organization and Section Liaisons (AAOL), Early Career Psychiatrists (ECP) Representatives, Minority/Underrepresented (M/UR) Representatives, and Resident-Fellow Members Representatives. There are also Deputy Representatives for some of these. The Officers are Speaker, Speaker-Elect and Recorder. Each Area has a Representative and Deputy Representative.
 3. **What are Areas?** The Assembly is divided into seven geographical areas. Five of the areas are comprised of District Branches. The State Associations of California and New York State are each an Area.
 4. **When does the Assembly meet?** It meets twice a year – in May at the Annual Meeting and in fall.
 5. **Where does the Assembly Meet?** The May meeting is at the Annual Meeting city and the fall meeting is in Wash, DC
 6. **What is an Action Paper?** An Action Paper (AP) is a document that formulates a particular action that the Assembly is recommending.
 7. **May I write an Action Paper?** Yes, you may if you have an idea that might be of benefit to our APA, our members, and/or our patients. Although you may and should write the AP, please work with you representative(s), who can guide you and who needs to be involved because the Procedure Code of the Assembly requires that an Assembly member must be listed as the 1st author.
 8. **May I attend Assembly Meetings?** Yes, the Assembly welcomes guests who may observe.
 9. **How do I become a member of the Assembly?** SA and DB Representatives are elected by their SA or DB. AAOL’s are elected by their organizations. RFM and ECP Representatives and Deputy Representatives are elected for each Area by each Area Council. MU/R Representatives are elected by their respective groups.
 10. **What are other ways I can get involved in the APA?** You can be active on the chapter, DB, SA or national levels. You particularly could be active in advocacy. In addition, there are many committee roles that you might fulfill.
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