

Revised January 16, 2017

**COMMENTS AND BRIEF SUMMARIES OF THE  
CONTENTS OF THE PRINTED NEWSLETTERS  
OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF VA CHIEF PSYCHOLOGISTS (AVACP)  
AND THE  
ASSOCIATION OF VA PSYCHOLOGIST LEADERS (AVAPL):  
JANUARY 1978 THROUGH 2003**

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**By**

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## Author Notes

### Background

The Association of VA Chiefs of Psychology (AVACP) traces its roots to the August 1977 organizational meeting of over 50 VA chiefs of psychology at the APA convention in San Francisco. A governing board was formed with Oakley Ray, chief of psychology at the VA medical center in Nashville, TN as its chairperson. The governing board was tasked with developing by-laws for the new association with the proposed organizational title of “Association of Psychology Chiefs in VA.” The by-laws were presented to members with the revised title of “Association of VA Chief Psychologists” and approved by the members in December 1977. Those actions completed a year-long series of discussions and meetings among chiefs of psychology in the then-named Veterans Administration (VA) about the value of an independent association to represent and help meet the many challenges for VA psychologists and the mental health needs of the veterans they served.

Perhaps the most important decision made during the organizational meeting in August 1977, aside from the decision to form the association and selecting Oakley Ray to chair the governing board, was to begin an AVACP Newsletter to keep members informed about the activities of the AVACP and other things happening in the VA that affect its members. Philip Laughlin, chief of psychology at the VA medical center in Knoxville, IA, stepped forward to serve as editor and had the first issue mailed to VA chiefs of psychology in January 1978.

The newsletters of the AVACP and its renamed successor, the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders (AVAPL), were published in printed form for the first 25 years of its history before turning to an electronic format in 2002 with a dual printed and electronic version through 2003. During that time, 91 issues were published with over 2200 pages. In 2004, those newsletters were added to the new VA psychology archives that had been established at the Drs. Nicholas and Dorothy Cummings Center for the History of Psychology (CCHP) at the University of Akron.

The actual printing of the newsletter editions was often negotiated with the patients and staff of the VA’s Incentive Therapy and Compensated Work Therapy programs. With the printing and special binding of the January 1990 and later issues, for example, the patients and staff of the Graphics Arts Clinic at the VA medical center in St. Cloud, MN produced the newsletters.

In 2016, the printed newsletters were converted to digital form by the CCHP and are now available for viewing and downloading by links on their Special Interest Collection at <http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15960coll1> (select *Newsletters of the*

*Association of Veterans Administration (VA) Chief Psychologists & Association of Veterans Affairs (VA) Psychologist Leaders* from the listed subcollections. The newsletters may also be viewed and downloaded by using links to the CCHP website on the website of AVAPL (<http://www.avapl.org/>). This summary of the contents of the printed newsletters serves as a companion to that digital collection.

## **Acknowledgements**

In beginning this project, I wanted to first note a number of people who deserve acknowledgement for the newsletter collection itself. The list includes past presidents and everyone else who wrote articles for the newsletters, of course, but the ultimate credit for this collection must go to the eight Association newsletter editors who produced the 91 printed newsletters (who were also ex-officio members of the AVACP Executive Committee.) Their names, medical centers, and dates served as newsletter editor for the printed issues are listed below.

Philip Laughlin (VA Knoxville, IA) – January 1978 to October 1983  
Tom Miller (VA Lexington, KY) – January 1984 to May 1986  
William Klett (VA St. Cloud, MN) – August 1986 to January 1987  
Kenneth Kuhn (VA Tomah, WI) – May 1987 to August 1989  
Barry Kinney (VA Asheville, NC) – January 1990 to January 1993  
Phyllis Williams (VA Lyons, NJ) – June 1993 to October 1996  
Stephen Cavicchia (VA Coatesville, PA) – November 1997 to Fall 2000  
June Malone (VA Milwaukee, WI) – Winter 2001 to 2005

The preservation and existence of these newsletters today, however, is due to the foresight and efforts of Jonathan (Jon) Cummings, the chief of psychology at the VA hospital in Washington, DC, who was one of the VA chiefs involved in the early discussions of the formation of the AVACP. He told me once that he always was somewhat of a pack rat and just started saving letters and survey data that were being sent around with ideas about forming the association and what were its high priority needs. He not only saved everything he got about the planning for establishing the Association but also started collecting the newsletters he was receiving. When he finished his term as the fourth president of the AVACP from 1981-1982, he continued collecting newsletters and other documents that he stored in the basement of his home.

Following his retirement from the VA, Jon decided that AVACP needed someone to serve as archivist for the association and retain for history the many challenges facing VA psychology and the contributions the association was making. He volunteered for that role and, for the next 15 years during his retirement from the VA, he served as AVACP/AVAPL archivist/historian and added to the almost 10 years of archival material he had already collected. The archive material included collected letters written by association presidents, surveys of psychology staff and leadership (chiefs and training directors), position papers developed by the association, lists of those receiving association awards, all association newsletters, and other items which were neatly filed by subject matter in folders and boxes and added to the collection in his home basement.

In 2003 the association, now called the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders, decided to officially establish an archive home for this material at the CCHP. Jon retired from his role as association

archivist/historian that year and, following that retirement, I assumed the role of archivist/historian for AVAPL and helped him catalogue and ship nine large boxes of archival material to CCHP. I can personally attest to the fact that over two-thirds of the VA psychology archives currently stored at Akron exists only because of Jon's devoted attention to documenting association activities over the years.

As Jon's successor, I was personally grateful to him for his "pack rat" personality and almost 25 years of work in collecting and preserving these newsletters and other archival material, a gratitude likely to be voiced by future VA psychology historians and others interested in that history. As I have noted elsewhere, I credit the AVACP/AVAPL newsletters for providing a record of both Association and VA psychology activities critical for understanding the rich history of VA psychology from the late 70s to the turn of the century. Without the content of those newsletters, the history of VA psychology that I co-authored for APA books in 2007 could not have been written with the same scope of information and detail.

Final thanks are extended to David Baker, director of the CCHP, and his staff for storing and maintaining the VA psychology archive collection and for converting the AVACP/AVAPL newsletters to digital format.

Rodney R. Baker  
Former Archivist/Historian  
Association of VA Psychologist Leaders  
January 2017

## COMMENTS ON SUMMARIES OF NEWSLETTER CONTENT

### Some General Features (and Quirks) About the Newsletters

A new editor for the newsletter felt free to change the format of the AVACP/AVAPL newsletters and a volume and number system was imperfectly used to identify newsletter issues. I chose to sequentially itemize and annotate the newsletters by year and month or, in case no month or season of the year was given, would use the editor's name for the newsletter issue, e.g., Mid-Winter Meeting issue or APA Meeting issue. The former was the title sometimes given an issue without a month identified that reported on meetings in Washington, DC that the AVACP or AVAPL Executive Committee had just completed with VA and APA officials, veterans groups, and congressional individuals and/or their staff. Similarly, an APA Meeting issue would report on activities of the Association (Executive Committee and member business meetings) after an APA meeting. There were also leadership conference meeting issues sometimes separately put out after the VA Psychology Leadership Conferences began in 1998.

Several newsletter issues were originally printed with errors in the year of publication and a higher number of issues failed to correctly provide the appropriate sequential volume or issue number. With the year of issue being more accurate, the printed volume and issue number was ignored in sequentially listing the newsletters. For inaccurate or missing year-of-publication date, the actual year was used to sequentially list the issue, first using the incorrect/printed year followed by a reference to what was the actual year publication.

The masthead for the first newsletters would include *Newsletter* and *Association of VA Chief Psychologists* and also had the Greek letter psi ( $\psi$ ) and a Veterans Administration (VA) logo. The newsletter was given a new name, *The VA Chief Psychologist*, which appeared in its masthead for the October 1983 issue. In 1989, the new logo for the VA was used when the VA became a cabinet level department and was renamed the Department of Veteran Affairs. Although the acronym of the new department name was DVA, most media articles and other publications still used the "VA" acronym to identify the Department. The final newsletter name change appeared on the November 1997 issue when AVACP expanded the definition of a VA psychology leader eligible for membership, and the new association and newsletter name became *Association of VA Psychologist Leaders*. For simplicity, the generic name of "AVACP/AVAPL newsletters" is used in the summaries of all newsletters.

Although the original plan was to publish the newsletter quarterly, this varied widely from six issues published in 1978, the first year these newsletters were distributed, to one year (1997) with only two issues.

## **Decisions Applied in Summarizing Newsletters**

The goal of summarizing the contents of the 2200 pages of newsletters in the collection had to be some balance of brevity and specificity of what material to summarize from newsletter issues. Some newsletter editors featured an introductory editorial describing the contents of the newsletter and some had a contents page with a list of article titles. Both were brief, but not always useful in letting the reader know what content or type of information was included without actually reading the article. I finally decided to identify and summarize what I believed was important in understanding association and VA psychology history from my historian view while including a sampling of other interested material in the issues. That obviously introduced a subject and personal bias. Someone else faced with the decision of what to summarize might choose another focus.

Another decision to limit the size and scope of material of summaries that I made was not to include election results for the seven regional representatives on the AVACP Executive Committee from 1978 to 2001 when reporting elections for president-elect and other officers nor would I report other candidates for election to either regional representative position or for others on the slate of officers to be selected in elections. This decision was not to diminish their roles in leadership activities. The regional representatives provided another important voice for members with groupings of medical centers in each of the VA's Regional Medical Education Centers (RMECs) having members in those regions elect them. They also became an important part of a telephone cascade system to get out important and timely information from the Executive Committee to those members in each region and, on occasion, the cascade was used to poll members on important topics. Many of these regional representatives also served on task forces and committees for the top officer position and later became officers in the organization, as did candidates for officer positions. I did not believe that adding their names in the summaries would by itself, contribute to an understanding of the role of AVACP/AVAPL in history. In newsletter summaries announcing the election of president-elect and regional representative, the previous newsletter almost universally listed candidates for all elections for all vacancies with a candidate statement and can be now viewed in the digital collection. Similarly, a newsletter issue reporting the election of a new president-elect or the following issue usually listed the names of those who were elected to vacant positions.

With the realization that the perfect is often the enemy of the good, I proceeded to summarize these newsletters using the same focus that met my historical interest in VA psychology for the APA book I co-authored and for the article I plan to write on the history of AVACP/AVAPL for its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary to be celebrated in 2017. Not a perfect focus, but a good one. I hope most will find my summaries of the newsletter collection to be useful.

## **History Search Limitations and Possibilities**

It can be noted that the summaries of the printed newsletters are presented in order of printing and represents a timeline of AVACP/AVAPL activities. The basis limitation of a timeline is that it cannot be easily used to research a specific topic over time without reading all newsletters.

Since this document is stored as a pdf file, however, the entire document can be downloaded to begin a rudimentary search of newsletters that include an topic in its summary by using the pdf's search function (Edit>Find or ctrl-F for PCs and <command+F> for Macs). By locating/finding subjects such as Title 38, internship, NOVA Psi, clinical executive boards, by-laws, and clinical privileges, you can identify which newsletters have that subject annotated. Not a perfect search, but a good start.

To fully research a historical subject in AVACP/AVAPL's history from 1978 through 2003, the best start is by reading all of the newsletters themselves (now possible with their digital conversion by CCHP). The more serious student of history, however, will want to have access to the entire AVACP/AVAPL archive collection.

The first archivist for AVACP/AVAPL, Jon Cummings, collected 25 years of material focusing on the association activities. He describes the contents of what he collected in an article in the 1998 Winter, Vol 21, Issue 3 newsletter (considered the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative issue for AVACP/AVAPL). In that article, he notes that in addition to the newsletter collection, there are five other broad categories of archival material.

What Jon calls the Acts/Programs category contains 34 folders which he describes as a paper trail of a task/concern/vigil covering the gamut of the association's activities over the years which, of course, closely parallels what was going on in VA psychology from 1978 through 2003. The folders contain position papers, letters to/from association officers and VACO and APA, program evaluation data and reports for all of the psychology chief's training programs from 1983 to 2003, and large numbers of surveys and survey data. Jon also notes that the amount of material in a folder is quite variable and describes the folders containing material on Title 38 to be seven inches high to the Space Utilization folder having only one piece of paper.

Because only the newsletters are digitized, access to non-newsletter material in the AVACP/AVAPL archives is only available by contacting [ahap@uakron.edu](mailto:ahap@uakron.edu) requesting that CCHP staff search for and scan that material to send you for a fee based on the time taken by archive staff for the requested search (please give them time to do this—only the newsletters are digitized at this point). You may also visit the CCHP archives in Akron, OH yourself to view the raw data of the association archives (an appointment is necessary, see the CCHP website at <http://www.uakron.edu/chp/archives/visit.dot> when planning a visit.)

I will parenthetically note that the VA psychology archives contain more than just AVACP/AVAPL material. VA mental health policies and program guides and other official VA documents and reports focusing on mental health issues are included dating from the 1940s. This non-association material includes a set of newsletters that VACO mental health leaders sent to the field for several years starting in 1946 that updated psychologists and psychiatrists on the planning for and steady growth of mental health programs and funding for care of veterans as VA mental health got its start in those early years following World War II. This material was collected from offices in the VACO building in Washington as I was doing research on the history of psychology for APA books and was turned over to the VA psychology archives when I finished with them.



Before ending these comments, I want to thank Robert W. Goldberg, current historian for AVAPL, for his review and comments on the introduction to these summaries and the summaries themselves. The scope and detail of this document clearly needed a second look, and Bob provided that for me.

Rodney R. Baker  
January 2017

### Additional Notes on Summary Entries

- ▶ These summaries provide a sequential listing of published newsletters and ignores errors in printed year of publication for four issues—see entry for October 1985 and the summaries of the newsletters with missing printed year for the three 2001 issues. I chose to list the incorrect issue data first and then added the correction. Errors in volume and issue numbers, not used in sequential listing, are similarly listed, first by original printing data and then what should have been the correct issue identification.
  - ▶ Several summary paragraphs have an Author Note in brackets which provides additional historical information or clarification by the Author not included in the newsletter.
  - ▶ The end of each newsletter summary includes the URL in brackets for each issue on the CCHP repository so that the entire newsletter can be viewed and/or downloaded.
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#### 1978 January (Vol 1, #1)

The inaugural issue of the newsletter included the name of Oakley Ray as association president, announced the election for other officers, and presented the goals for the newsletter and introduced the associate editor and five assistant editors who agreed to help Phil Laughlin with the planned quarterly issues. The issue additionally included a list of appointments of new chiefs of psychology and transfers of chiefs to new stations. Also included are the results of a survey of the numbers of VA doctoral psychologists providing patient care who are licensed, eligible for licensure, and have ABEPP credentials. A list of 22 psychologists working in VA Central Office (VACO) in Washington, DC and their positions was provided by Cecil Peck, deputy director of the Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service, who promised an article from VACO for each future issue. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31282>}

#### 1978 May (Vol 1, #2)

The second issue listed AVACP offices filled with the election of Harold Dickman, chief at Palo Alto, selected as the association's first president-elect and Joseph Schenkel, chief at Albuquerque, selected as the first secretary/treasurer. The issue also presented detailed information throughout about Title 38 employment issues, a critical issue being discussed by VA chiefs and staff at the time. An article in this issue included by Charles Stenger in VACO mental health (not identified in the newsletter as the author of the article) about practical implications of moving psychologists to Title 38, and an article Cecil Peck in VACO mental health (not identified in the newsletter as the author of the article) added some brief historical notes about employment of psychologists in 1946 and gave his answers to a number of related questions regarding qualification standards, career development, grievances, retirement, etc. [Author Note: Most of the information on Title 38 in this issue is outdated and no longer applies with the legislative changes to Title 38 over time.] Oakley Ray's first presidential column was also included in this issue with his thoughts about the future of AVACP and some reservations about Title 38 being pushed for VA psychologists by APA. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31283>}

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### 1978 August (Vol 1, #3)

Oakley Ray's president's column spoke to strides forward in psychology professional standards boards with unexpected help from the Joint Accreditation of Hospitals. He also encouraged members to continue to examine ways to meet the challenges of their profession, encouraged members to vote for some proposed changes in the Association's constitution (see last sentence in this summary), and commented on excerpts from a resolution by departments of psychiatry sent to the VA administrator encouraging the acknowledgement of authority of the psychiatrist over non-physicians in the delivery of patient care. [Author Note: See the October 1978 newsletter summary for the VA's response.] Civil Service Commission reforms affecting with-in-grade salary increases for psychologists and other disciplines are also included in this issue along with proposed APA accreditation changes in another article that would affect the number of training hours required in an internship. This issue also included three Articles from the AVACP constitution and proposed changes primarily dealing with terms of office of members of the Executive Committee.  
{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31284>}

### 1978 September (Vol 1, #4)

This was a supplemental newsletter issue with more information on Title 38 provided by Donald Schimmel, the personnel officer at the VA medical center in Minneapolis, MN. It covers history and provisions (the latter annotated by sections in the VA Personnel Policy Manual) at the time to answering concerns about proposed Civil Service Commission reforms. [Author Note: Most of the information on Title 38 in this issue is outdated and no longer applies with the legislative changes to Title 38 over time.] {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31285>}

### 1978 October (Vol 1, #5)

This issue highlighted the planning activities of the association in special meetings of VA psychology chiefs held in Buffalo, NY just prior to the 1978 annual meeting of APA in Toronto, and additionally covered what took place at the following Toronto meeting. The articles included an overview of the AVACP Task Force on the selection and training of VA psychology chiefs and a president's column from Oakley Ray noting that VACO was moving forward on legislation that would require a VA psychologist to be licensed in a state and added his worry about the future of VA research psychologists paid out of research funds but who were not clinically trained. That column also announced that the Executive Committee decided to assess \$5 dues per member. The newsletter also published a response to the letter Senator Inouye wrote to the VA administrator expressing concern over the request of Departments of Psychiatry advocating that policy should be changed to give psychiatrists the "exclusive and executive authority" for patient care. The Secretary noted that the VA current policy of the VA would not be changed and encouraged the role of Mental Health Councils in medical centers.  
{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31286>}

### 1978 November (Vol 1, #6)

This brief issue was devoted to the activity and reports of the AVACP Affirmative Action Task Force, including survey data of the number and percent of chiefs, doctoral staff, and non-doctoral staff who were disabled.  
{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31287>}

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### 1979 January (Vol 2, #1)

Oakley Ray's president's column summarized some of the new directions for JCAH standards, his concerns that VA's psychology training funds may be cut 10-25% for FY80, and noted the importance of the emerging field of medical psychology/behavioral medicine. He added a belief that the new Office of Personnel Management might define a supervisor in ways that might negatively impact with-in-grade increases for GS-13 psychology chiefs. The editor introduced guest columns on IG audits, the tax-exempt status of VA training funds, license reciprocity, encounters with JCAH, and an article from Sid Cleveland in his liaison role with Division 18. Members were asked to respond to a survey in this issue regarding the degree and impact of academic affiliations. The news section announced the change with fiscal years starting October 1, and included more information on retirement of psychology chiefs, transfers and chief's openings <http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31372>.

### 1979 April (Vol 2, #2)

Dana Moore's VACO internship training column alerted the membership to what was happening with the VA's psychology training budget and Charlie Stenger wrote an article on things happening in VACO mental health, including an update of the likelihood of legislation on licensing requirements for hiring of new VA psychologists. Oakley Ray's president's column outlined questions he asked in a letter to JCAH inquiring if any JCAH standards related to psychologists being full members of the medical staff in VA hospitals. [Author's Note: See response in August 1979 newsletter below.] Sid Cleveland and Tom Patterson included an article on applying for APA approval of internships. <http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31322>

### 1979 August (Vol 2, #3)

The editor announced that Sidney Cleveland, chief at the Houston VA was selected president-elect in the recent elections and added notice of a survey in the newsletter on degree and types of academic affiliations. Oakley Ray wrote his final column as president and updated members on the spring 1977 survey he sent to chiefs asking to rank concerns they would hope be addressed by the proposed chief's organization. He then reported the current status of those concerns. Oakley also submitted an article on how he believes the new performance appraisal system might affect merit pay for chief with the future development of performance standards. The response from JCAH to Oakley's letter was printed in which he asked for what JCAH standards might affect psychology membership on the medical staff. The JCAH response said what was permitted or restricted was largely due to state licensing laws. An article by Ed Cohen summarized Jack Davis' presentation at the 1978 Toronto meeting of APA on "What makes a successful psychologist/administrator in a health care system. [Author Note: The 10 items became "must read" to follow for anyone wanting to become a chief for the next decade or so, probably still having good criteria for selecting chiefs.] <http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31323>

### 1979 November (Vol 2, #4)

Harold (Hal) Dickman, the new AVACP president, reviewed the issues facing the membership in the coming year with the future of the psychology training program a major concern. He reported that the Senate directed the VA to restore \$900,000 to the VA psychology training program in FY80. The report of the AVACP business meeting at the New York APA convention was

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presented in this issue, and Dana Moore provided a list of 27 VA psychology internships that are APA approved or in APA approved consortia.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31324>}

### 1980 January (Vol 3, #1)

In his president's column, Hal Dickman described the five standing AVACP committees and their charge, including the Psychology Training Committee and committee on development of a Chief's Training Program and announced a soon-to-be appointed Merit Pay Committee. This issue also included an interview with the Deputy Assistant Chief Medical Director for Rehabilitation Services. The interview focused on his responsibility for implementing a new VA circular entitled "An integrated approach to rehabilitation in the VA." He expressed the hope and expectation that psychologists would assume case management roles and conduct vocational counseling. An article follows that interview on the Veterans Employment Program at the North Chicago VA. An announcement was included in the newsletter that legislation was signed into law on December 20, 1979 requiring that new psychology hires be licensed, have a doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology, and have an internship acceptable to the VA Administrator. [Author Note: the latter was defined as an APA-accredited internship. No non-APA-accredited internship applicants were ever approved by the Administrator with numerous appeals made to the Administrator over the years.] In the news and notes column, a recent appointment of a psychologist as VA Research Career Scientist was announced along with the names of three other psychologists given the same recognition during the past year. The column also reported on chief appointments, transfers, and deaths.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31343>}

### 1980 May (Vol 3, #2)

This issue announced the appointment of Joe Mancusi to replace Charlie Stenger in VACO. Hal Dickman's president's column challenged members when thwarted in administrative activities to keep an eye on what we stand for and our goal of making the VA a place where we would want our brother to go to get help. Another article provided data from a biofeedback survey.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31344>}

### 1980 July (Vol 3, #3)

The newsletter editor began this issue announcing that Jonathan (Jon) Cummings, chief at the VA medical center in Washington, DC, was chosen president-elect in the last election. In what was Hal Dickman's last president's column, members were informed that an appellate court in Virginia ruled that Blue Cross/Shield's denial of psychologists filing for reimbursement of services while functioning as independent practitioners was a restraint of trade and must be discontinued. The president's column also looked forward to the maturing of health psychology and advances in counseling/rehabilitation in the year ahead. Dana Moore updated members with a list of VA internships or in consortia with APA accreditation (n=47.) A column on Title 38 reviewed a law introduced in Congress by APA that would have put VA psychologists in Title 38 but was withdrawn when many VA psychologists indicated they would want to testify against the legislation. [Author Note: At the time Title 38 prohibited full-time staff psychologists from outside employment, a major concern by staff for conversion from their current Title 5 employment status to Title 38.] The article on Title 38 updated members on likely new efforts toward Title 38

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conversion and suggested that members might want to focus on what direction a Title 38 authority for VA psychologist might take.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31345>}

### 1980 October (Vol 3, #4)

Sid Cleveland's first president's column identified some of his top priorities: dealing with apathy among the ranks on important AVACP matters, beginning a central clearing house for VA interns wanting VA jobs, and doing more to recruit new chiefs with the current post-war generation of chiefs entering the retirement range nearly simultaneously. An invited article is included in the issue by Jack Ewalt, psychiatrist and director of the VACO Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service. In the article Ewalt decried the occasional absurd competition between chiefs of psychology and psychiatry. He noted that competition for program excellence was healthy but that competition over territoriality was non-productive. He outlined four areas in which he hoped that psychology would provide leadership, including Vietnam veterans outreach programs and biofeedback treatment. Data was presented from Sid Cleveland's summer 1980 survey ranking 10 areas of professional issues of importance to VA psychologists. Over 800 staff responded to the survey with 75% opposed to Title 38 status for psychologists. The top priority (97%) was to get the chief psychologist as a voting member on the Clinical Executive Board at VA hospitals.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31346>}

### 1981 February (Vol 4, #1)

In his president's column, Sid Cleveland encouraged chiefs to share the AVACP newsletter with staff (citing complaints that some chiefs don't.) [Author's note: the first association president, Oakley Ray, made that same request of members in his first president's column in May 1978.] The president added that he believes that directors and chiefs of staff should also be the first to see the newsletter and that they read it by invitation from psychology chiefs rather than have them hear directly and perhaps imperfectly about something printed that might be controversial. Further noted was Rodney Baker's task force report on Title 38 which had developed a position paper (included in this issue) based on survey responses from 901 chiefs and staff who would be part of a VACO Title 38 study mandated by Congress. Dana Moore listed in her column 56 VA facilities that have APA accredited internships as of 11/15/80. In the news and notes column, 20 open VA chief positions are listed (with the position grade.) A letter from the VA's chief medical director to Senator Inouye appeared in this issue with a response to the senator on expressing an interest in having psychologists included as voting members of the VA hospital's Clinical Executive Board and having clinical privileges. The chief medical director indicated in his letter that this was in fact a position already supported by the VA and that psychology was already on over half of the Clinical Executive Boards in VA hospitals.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31347>}

### 1981 May (Vol 4, #2)

Sid Cleveland's president's column reported on key issues the Executive Committee discussed with APA, AAP, and VACO officials during their Washington, DC mid-winter visit. The future of the VA psychology training program was discussed in most of these meetings with all allied health training in the VA being considered for reductions in funding. A VACO task force will be surveying patient care contributions of the psychology internship program. Survey data on merit

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pay from 74 chiefs is summarized on such issues as the performance standards used to rate chiefs and ratings received. The administrative issues column described a mandated new system of performance standards under the Civil Service Reform Act that requires implementation by October 1981. These standards will become the basis for performance ratings and quality step increases for all non-Title 38 employees, including psychologists.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31348>}

### 1981 August (Vol 4, #3)

Sid Cleveland's last president's column reviewed the activities of AVACP the past year. He was most pleased with the strong relationship formed with Academic Affairs in VACO and its upcoming report on the contributions and value of the psychology training program. He also added an article in this issue reporting the result of his summer 1981 survey of chiefs (82% return) that over two-thirds of the chiefs were members of their hospital's Clinical Executive Board. The chiefs also responded to queries about professional standards boards, staff turn-over, and length of time it took to recruit/hire new staff. Dana Moore's VACO report on internship training listed 67 VA facilities having APA internship approval or part of consortia programs approved by APA as of 7/1/81. A letter in this issue was included from Leila Foster, staff psychologist and proponent of establishing a National Organization of VA Psychologists (NOVA Psi), which invited VA psychologists to attend an organization planning meeting at in Los Angeles at APA.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31349>}

### 1981 October (Vol 4, #4)

Jon Cumming's first president's column looked to two major issues he would like the Executive Committee to work on this year: chief's training and Title 38. Reports on activity at APA are covered in this issue, including an article by Leila Foster noting that NOVA Psi had formed a steering committee to develop/distribute by-laws, and an article by Hal Dickman describing symposia by VA psychologists. The news and notes column listed only five current vacancies in chief positions with seven named to fill chief vacancies.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31350>}

### 1982 February (Vol 5, #1)

In his president's column, Jon Cummings continued to expand his thoughts on Title 38 and additionally called for all chiefs to join AVACP with two-thirds now belonging. The news and notes column listed seven new chief appointments with only two vacancies. In his administrative column, Rod Baker updated membership on the failed attempts to obtain funding for training of chiefs, one of the key needs identified by members in forming AVACP. A guest article by Patrick DeLeon, executive assistant for Senator Inouye, was featured in this issue. In addition to praising the VA psychology training program, he summarized recent congressional support given by the U.S. Senate in directing the VA to increase its budget for psychology training in FY80 and FY 81.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31351>}

### 1982 April (Vol 5, #2)

Jon Cummings' president's column primarily focused on the Executive Committee's meeting in Washington with APA and VACO officials, a meeting inaugurated last year by Sid Cleveland during his president's term. [Author's Note: This meeting, usually referred to as the mid-winter

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meeting, continues through 2016 as an annual event, later including meetings with staff of veterans organizations and visits to congressional offices.] The president's column sadly reported no progress to report on merit pay, JCAH, and our Title 38 fate. In the administrative issues column, an update is provided to members on the VA's new Medical District organization. In her training column from VACO, Dana Moore listed 72 VA facilities with independent or consortia-based approval by APA and reports that 350 internship positions were funded in 82 facilities for FY83. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31352>}

### 1982 July (Vol 5, #3)

In his last president's column, Jon Cummings described a reliable rumor that psychology will not be placed in Title 38 at this times. [Author Note: see October 1982 issue for confirmation of that rumor.] He also described that Congressional action that provides a special incentive pay bonus for psychologists who achieve ABPP was being derailed by VACO because the special pay would cost too much money and was not needed for attracting and recruiting psychologists for VA medical centers. (The VACO letter to the Senate on their reasons was included elsewhere in this issue.) Elsewhere in this issue, Phil Laughlin's election as president-elect for next year was announced. New chief appointments and retirements were added to the news and notes column. Hal Dickman's article on "World War II and Post Traumatic Stress" addressed the need to include that veteran group in our PTSD programs. In another article, Ed Nightingale introduced most members to the VA's plans to use diagnostic-related-group (DRG) methodology for future funding of medical centers, and Rod Baker's administrative issues column highlighted VACO's plans to define productivity/workload standards for virtually all VA employees. Dana Moore's VACO internship training column outlined the consequences of the IRS ruling that psychology training stipends are taxable and subject to withholding. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31353>}

### 1982 October (Vol 5, #4)

Rod Baker's first president's column identified the projects and concerns that will occupy the attention of AVACP during the coming year. His list started with the announcement that Joe Mancusi will be leaving VACO for a year and, with his commitment to return, VACO has no plans to replace him during his absence and that AVACP members will need to help VACO mental health staff fill the void. He also noted that VACO will likely give programmatic approval to the training program for new chiefs but no funding and indicated that AVACP will look at the best way to start funding that program next year. He added that AVACP has tentative plans to produce and distribute a *Handbook for Chiefs of Psychology* to the field that will be added to training materials for new chiefs training as well as be available to experienced chiefs. This issue also has the announcement that the final report of the VACO Task Force studying Title 38 conversions recommends that only LPN/LVNs, physical therapists, and respiratory therapists be converted to Title 38. With Phil Laughlin's election as president-elect, he will be giving up his role as newsletter editor, a function he has served since the association was formed. Several other changes in the newsletter appear in this issue with some new chiefs writing material for existing columns. Dana Moore's training column discussed the impact on training of the new changes in hiring psychologists only with doctoral degrees from an APA accredited school and pointed out that students from non-APA accredited schools will not be eligible for funded training in the VA. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31354>}



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### 1983 January (Vol 6, #1)

Rod Baker reported in his president's column that he was pleased with his request of chiefs to express interest in being actively involved in one or more AVACP projects. Fifteen chiefs expressed an interest in working of the Chiefs Handbook and/or on the training of new chiefs. Sid Cleveland agreed to the president's request to serve as editor of the Handbook, and Sid was asking chiefs for samples of psychology service policies for clinical privileges, performance standards, and peer review. VACO has given programmatic approval to the chief's training program (but no funding), but the approval enables chiefs interested in the training program to request funding from their medical centers and/or authorized leave to attend. A preliminary announcement and date in April 1983 for the first chief's training program was included in this issue. The president's column additionally noted offers from chiefs to work on small station affairs, internship training, and the AVACP newsletter. Dana Moore's VACO internship training column listed 75 VA facilities with internships or consortia agreements with APA accreditation as of 11/30/82. Another article updated members on the taxation of VA training stipends, and an article was included that encourages VA psychology services to seek APA CE Sponsor approval. Sid Cleveland wrote an article describing research achievement by psychology interns from 1980-1982 with 170 independent research projects (114 representing doctoral dissertations.)

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31355>}

### 1983 April (Vol 6, #2)

This issue began with the announcement that Tom Miller at the Lexington VA had been appointed the new editor of the newsletter effective with the October 1983 issue. Rod Baker's president's column reported on the Washington, DC mid-winter meetings of the Executive Committee that were highlighted by meetings with VACO and APA officials. With the announced retirement by Cecil Peck, the director for mental health indicated his strong support for early hiring of his replacement, a commitment also supported by the chief medical director, Dr. Custis, who additionally requested that AVACP suggest names to him that we would like to have included for consideration. Jack Davis and Hal Dickman described Cecil Peck's accomplishments for mental health and psychology in his 36 years in the VA. This issue also included a list of nine PTSD inpatient units in the VA.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31356>}

### 1983 July (Vol 6, #3)

In his last president's column, Rod Baker looked with pride at the work done by members in reviewing AVACP's accomplishments during the year, including Sid Cleveland's committee that prepared and distributed the *Handbook for VA Chief Psychologists*, and the first chief's training program offered by AVACP. Orville Lips was also congratulated for his election as president-elect. Elsewhere in this newsletter, 17 research summaries were compiled by Patrick Boudewyns. In his news and notes column, which he labeled LIPSERVICE, Orv Lips described in his usual humorous style of writing a report of the first psychology chiefs training program. In her column, Dana Moore reported on the establishment of the VA's Special Examining Unit at the Richmond VA to fill psychology and other professional jobs throughout the VA. She added a comment about the popularity of the new psychology internship certificates and announced that the psychology service at the Palo Alto VA received an NIMH-funded postdoctoral training position in geriatric mental health. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31357>}

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1983 October (Vol 7, #1) Note: the new editorial staff gave the newsletter a new title/masthead for this and future newsletters: *The VA Chief Psychologist*. This issue also began a new volume naming system indicating the beginning of a new fiscal year.

This issue began with an introduction of Thomas Miller, chief at the Lexington VA, as the new newsletter editor with an introduction to his editorial staff. Phil Laughlin's first president's column started with a commitment to ensuring the continuation of AVACP's six-year history of excellence in serving its members and our patients. He added a list of seven initiatives for the following year that included the development of position papers on health psychology/neuropsychology and geropsychology, a study of AVACP's fiscal condition for developing projected budgets, and a continuation of involving members in AVACP activities. Joe Mancusi's article on his return to VA Central Office as associate director for psychology after a year's absence thanked Jack Davis and others for filling in for him. He promised future articles for the newsletter on mutual concern to VACO and AVACP. Ed Nightingale provided a progress report on the VA's two-year old resource allocation methodology (RAM) and attempts to correct its deficits in areas of long-term care, rehabilitation, and mental health services for patients with a "psychiatric" diagnosis. Seven new chiefs are listed in Orv Lips' news column LIPSERVICE with a list of two openings for chiefs. <http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31368>

1984 February (Vol 7, #2) Note: This issue has no page numbers, but researchers can note the pdf viewer has a built-in page counter for reference.

The issue began with an announcement of the appointment of Jack Davis to the position of deputy director of the Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service in VACO in replacing Cecil Peck. In his president's column, Phil Laughlin described a memo by AVACP and the National Association of VA Chiefs of Psychiatry (NAVACOP) establishing a joint task force of chiefs of psychology and chiefs of psychiatry to examine the relationships between psychology and psychiatry in the VA. Rod Baker's column on diagnostic-related-groups (DRGs) helps chiefs understand the process of converting medical chart data into DRG categories. Joe Mancusi's article noted the accomplishments of Jack Ewalt on his retirement as director of VA mental health in VACO two months ago and introduced Bob Custer as acting director until a replacement is found. Dale Cannon and Bob Fowler's article on computer applications for mental health treatment systems (the Mental Health Package or MHP) described its history, contents, and future directions. <http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31358>

1984 May (Vol 7, #2) Note: the last issue had the same volume and issue number and this issue should have been given a #3 issue number.

Responding to some concerns that AVACP has been elitist in its leadership, Phil Laughlin's president's column noted that there are currently 40 members of AVACP participating in one or more of AVACP's functions. (Later in this issue, 129 dues-paying members are counted in AVACP's membership of a total of about 150 eligible members.) The president indicated that he and the Executive Committee will continue to expand that number and encouraged all members to come forward to be involved in AVACP task groups and committees to add what they believe are things AVACP should and should not be doing. Art Bradley at the Minneapolis VA contributed an

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article on the struggle Ex-POWs have with statistical data outlining differences found in the backgrounds of different POW groups that participated in the VA's voluntary medical examination program. Two members of the Task Group on the Relationship Between Psychiatry and Psychology, a psychologist and psychiatrist, contributed an article in this issue asking for problems being experienced and areas of experienced positive relations that will be kept confidential as to source.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31370>}

1984 August (Vol 7, #3) Note: the previous issue # should have been issue #3 and this issue should have been given an issue #4 label.

In Phil Laughlin's last president's column, he reported the retirement of several chief psychologists and notes that 17 newer chiefs will soon complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> chief's training program. He added that almost 90% of those chiefs eligible for AVACP members are dues-paying members and that AVACP is ready for the tasks ahead of us. An APA member of the JCAH Professional and Technical Advisory Committee wrote an article on the JCAH medical staff standards. Dana Moore's VACO article on psychology's training programs focused on new geriatric-related training as well as funding for postdoctoral training. Georgette Bellucci wrote her first news and notes column listing three chiefs who have retired, three new chief appointments, and nine vacancies for chiefs now open. Joe Mancusi provided the latest statistics on doctoral chiefs employed by the VA (1435 in 155 psychology services in all 50 states.) He further reported that there are 61 staff at the GS-11 grade, 90 at the GS-12 grade, 1131 at the GS-13 grades, 117 at GS-14, and 36 at GS-15. Other facts he noted for FY83 included mention of 350 internships funded at 80 different VA facilities of which 78 have APA accreditation, psychology having representation on 65% of the Clinical Executive Boards in VA medical Centers and 78% of medical center Research Committees that have psychology services, that 250 psychology doctoral dissertations were completed in VA medical centers in the past three years, and that there were 735 research publications by VA psychologists.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31330>}

1984 October (Vol 8, #1)

This issue started with a description by Gene Zukowski, chief at San Francisco, of his experiences applying for and receiving a 6-month sabbatical from the VA. Rod Baker reported that the VA will identify staff guidelines and collect data from 30 test hospitals to produce a second generation of guidelines. Since there is no needs assessment built into the model, he added that the staffing guideline model will be more a productivity standard. Orv Lips' president's column described highlights of the recently held APA meeting in reporting that bonus pay for ABPP appears close to resolution, a recommendation by a federal commission (Grace Commission) would reduce managerial GS-11 to 15 jobs within federal government, and added updates from AVACP task groups to map out a strategy for involving more VA psychologists (not just chiefs) in governance activities of APA. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31359>}

1985 January (Vol 8, #2)

The issue's first article reviewed the historical basis for vocational counseling and job placement and further described the operation of these programs at the VA medical center in Houston.

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Another article presented a structured model for program planning by Mental Health Councils in VA facilities. Orv Lips' president's column commented that the current climate for veterans health care, the VA, and federal government in general is not a positive one. He listed significant efforts to control expenses with rumored pay cuts, reductions in GS grade 11-15, reductions in federal employment, a zero increment budget for FY86, reductions in veterans eligibility for care, and co-payments for veterans health care and added additional information about some of these topics. Dana Moore identified issues with VA internship program descriptions in the APPIC Directory. Joe Mancusi's article observed that a comparison of the APA meeting with that of another profession shows that the impact of politics is downplayed by psychologists and further notes that those who attend to and are interested in the political process will be better able to impact it. Dale Cannon announced that the first version of the Mental Health Package (MHP) with computer-assisted assessment will be released this winter and added that his future columns will be devoted to articles on MHP developments and the use of computers in VA mental health programs. Geropsychology training, research, and clinical practice is summarized in another article from the AVACP Ad Hoc Task Force on Geropsychology. Survey data on turn-over of psychologists in the VA is also presented in this issue.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31360>}

### 1985 May (Vol 8, #3)

Orv Lips' president's column focused on the AVACP mid-winter meeting in Washington with VACO, APA, and veterans organization officials where AVACP raised the issue of reductions for GS 11-15 grades being recommended in the VA. He further noted that hiring to replace Joe Mancusi in VACO mental health remains unsettled with reductions being proposed for 150 VACO staff. Sid Cleveland's article reported on the impact of a grade reduction among psychology staff and chiefs. A report on staffing guidelines was presented by Rod Baker who also announced and described the 1985 administrative chief's training program. Dana Moore announced that she will be leaving the Office of Academic Affairs and moving to head the Leadership VA program, and Joe Mancusi described his reasons and plans for leaving the VA. Ken Klauck's secretary/treasurer's report provided a detailed report of the business meeting of the Executive Committee that describes topics and activities during the Committee's mid-winter meetings at the end of February. Georgette Bellucci listed in her news and notes column the names of four new chief appointments, eight openings, and one retirement.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31361>}

### 1985 August (Vol 8, #4)

Orv Lips' last president's column was concerned with the loss of any psychology representation in VACO mental health with Joe Mancusi's departure and Jack Davis' retirement and no movement to recruit for either position. He was hopeful that AVACP testimony before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees would help focus attention on the Grade 11-15 reductions. He also was pleased with APA's response to the suggestion by AVACP that APA send letters to the commanders of over 20 veterans service organizations. APA gave support in those letters to the VA and psychology as a national resource for the care of our veterans. This newsletter contained the announcement of Paul Errera as the new director of the Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service and briefly described his psychiatry training and accomplishments. Phil Laughlin's article described the major components of APA and VACO that relate to education and training of

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psychology. Rod Baker's article on staffing guideline updated members on activities of that program and provided chiefs with a worksheet for calculating actual vs earned FTEE of their staffing guideline data. Pat DeLeon of the U.S. Senate staff wrote an article on Title 38 for VA psychologists giving his reasons for support of conversion to Title 38. NOVA Psi extended an invitation to all AVACP members to attend their awards ceremony at APA which will honor six VA psychologists, including Sid Cleveland following his recent retirement as chief at the Houston VA. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31362>}

### 1985 November (Vol 9, #1)

Ken Klauck's secretary/treasure's report included another detailed description of the business meeting and activities of AVACP at the APA meeting. He announced a current membership of 125 dues-paying members and summarized reports on the AVACP newsletter by Tom Miller, the Task Force on Psychology Service Space Criteria by Bob Gresen, the Neuropsychology Task Force by Stan Berent, staffing guidelines by Rod Baker, the Committee on Resource Allocation Methodologies by Ed Nightingale, and Phil Laughlin's report on new chief's training. Tom Patterson assumed the office of AVACP president at the end of the meeting and commented on his upcoming term. The chief of operations at the Wood, WI Domiciliary provided an article containing a brief history of VA doms and focused on the treatment programs for the veteran alcoholic at his facility. The report of the Special Task Force on AVACP/APA Interactions focused on ways to increase interaction with a suggested plan of action for the next three years. Georgette Bellucci's news and notes column listed the retirement of three chiefs, two new chief appointments, and 10 openings for chiefs.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31366>}

### 1986 February (Vol 9, #2)

Tom Patterson's president's column outlined a survey he would be asking all chiefs to complete to guide him with member priorities. Most questions on the survey included previous topics (Title 38, ABPP bonuses, medical staff membership and voting rights.) Newly raised and included in the survey is whether AVACP should seek to have separate services in VACO for psychology and psychiatry. He plans to include chiefs not currently in AVACP in the survey. In her news and notes column, Georgette Bellucci listed four chief appointments and five vacancies and announced that Doug Gottfredson was appointed chief of automation and evaluation in VACO mental health. Dale Cannon's Computer Update column provided some background material on Doug Gottfredson and his new job in developing links between mental health and the field.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31363>}

### 1986 May (Vol 9, #3)

In his president's column, Tom Patterson reported on the Executive Committee's mid-winter meeting in Washington with APA and VACO officials, House and Senate Committee members on Veterans Affairs, and representatives of veterans services organization. He described the Washington scene by saying that change and reductions seemed to be more likely than growth and development. He added that the deputy director's position in VACO mental health still awaits a final evaluation of candidates to fill that position and also indicated that the House and Senate have yet to reconcile their budget proposals, that special pay for ABPP was being reviewed in VACO Personnel, and that a new newsletter editor would be appointed soon with Tom Miller's election as

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president-elect. Rod Baker announced the dates for the chief's training program for new chiefs of psychology and centrally appointed assistant chiefs and further reported that faculty will allow participants from previous training programs to attend a new follow-up component suggested by previous participants. Rod Baker also provided an article on second generation staffing guidelines, Doug Gottfredson added an article with more information on his new job developing applications for computers in mental health, and G. D. (Woody) Carnes wrote a report on the second meeting of the APA Committee of Psychology and Handicaps. Bob Gresen included a report on renewed interest in Title 38 conversion since the recent grade reductions in the field, including psychology positions, were not applied to Title 38 employees. The AVACP Training Committee provided statistics on the last three and the current internship classes.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31364>}

### 1986 August (Vol 9, #4)

Tom Miller began this issue with the explanation that he needed to step down as newsletter editor to assume the office of AVACP president and announced that Bill Klett will become the third newsletter editor for AVACP. In his president's column, Tom Patterson extended congratulations to newly chosen president-elect Kenneth Bloom. He added again that there was no movement on filling the position of deputy director of the Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service nor any word on implementing ABPP bonus pay, but that the Regional Medical Education Center in Minneapolis used VACO funds to partially fund the fourth annual chief's training program by providing room and meals for participants with participants and/or the participant's medical center still having to fund travel. The inclusion of past participants in the program attending a follow-up component was considered successful and will be continued. Three new chief appointments were listed in this issue along with three assistant chief positions. Six chief vacancies and one assistant chief vacancy were open.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31365>}

### 1985(6) October (Vol 9, #5) Note: a preparation error for this newsletter issue incorrectly identified the year of publication as 1985 and should have been 1986.

Tom Miller's first president's column reported on activities at the APA meeting in which the VA Coordinating Committee (representatives of AVACP, Division 18-Section 3, and NOVA Psi) reached agreement with all three parties on all topics discussed, including an acceptable proposal on Title 38 conversion with some exceptions regarding private practice. Information received from staff of Representative Edgars and Senator Cranston's office, however, indicated a dismal outlook for any efforts to broaden Title 38 for psychologists to include a private practice provision. The president also announced that the VA Coordinating Committee will be exploring possibilities of establishing VA psychology as a separate service in VACO. Dale Cannon reported that Doug Gottfredson is negotiating license agreements for the Mental Health Package's computer-assisted assessment program with 58 instruments copyrighted by 17 publishers (with one-half of the copyrights owned by four publishers.) He also announced that payment for use of these automated assessment instruments would be paid directly by VACO based on usage in the field. Ed Nightingale provided an article in this issue describing the impact of alternative management strategies in mental health under DRGs.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31367>}

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### 1987 Jan (Vol 10, #1)

In his president's column, Tom Miller focused on the issues and implications for the future of psychology in federal civil service as that system considers several issues for reform. He urged psychology and AVACP to consider and prepare for the likely changes in the future. In his column, Rod Baker reviewed an analysis of the second generation staffing guideline data for the third quarter of FY86 and reported an earned FTEE for all psychology services that was 20% higher than actual FTEE. That suggested a need for additional staffing in general but with large discrepancies among medical center services. He encouraged chiefs to examine a number of probable errors in their data to include an examination of data submitted that suggests 10 FTEE are doing the work of 20-30, a finding that would not be believed by their medical center management. A final article outlined 14 issues for the AVACP mid-winter meeting in Washington ranging from merit pay to the implications for psychology regarding the resource allocation model and distribution of psychology resources. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31288>}

### 1987 May (Vol 10, #2)

Tom Miller's updated members in his president's column on the mid-winter meeting in Washington with the VA's chief medical director supporting the presence of psychology as an integral part of the multidisciplinary team within the VA but still not agreeing with ABPP bonuses for psychologists. The president's column also commented on the changes in the resource allocation model (RAM) for FY87 and FY88 noted by Ed Nightingale in this issue, and added further comments on the chief medical director's task force on alternative management structures for mental health. He finally noted that AVACP is discouraging efforts to pursue a separate Psychology Service in VACO until a deputy director for mental health is appointed. Ken Klauck's secretary/treasurer's report again presented a detailed description of the Executive Committee mid-winter meeting topics and activities with VACO, APA, and congressional officials. Information on the next chief's training program and eligibility for attendance was included in the issue, and updated information on chief and assistant chief openings are presented in news and notes by Georgette Bellucci as well as accomplishments and awards received by chiefs. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31289>}

### 1987 August (Vol 10, #3)

Tom Miller used his last president's column to thank a list of AVACP members and friends of AVACP who made significant contributions during the past year. He added an article on APA's 1987 National Conference of Graduate Education in Psychology that contained four recommendations in areas ranging from core and individual training, levels of training, quality assurance, recruitment and retention, and ethical/cultural diversity. Dale Cannon's article updated members on the Mental Health Package and its computer-assisted assessment regarding issues of cost and the quality and use with expansion of instruments. A by-laws amendment recommended by the Executive Committee was presented to membership expressly adding assistant chiefs or acting assistant chief to AVACP membership status in addition to the current by-laws including only chiefs and acting chiefs. APA convention events in New York in August were listed and a brief report on the fifth annual chief's training held in June was presented along with dates for the 1988 program. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31290>}

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### 1987 November (Vol 10, #4)

Kenneth Bloom's first president's column emphasized that he sees his role as a facilitator and will not (himself) make the major decisions. He called on members to step forward to volunteer for AVACP task forces and committees. In a separate article, he commented on highlights of AVACP at the convention and included an announcement of Edward Sieracki being selected as the new deputy director of the Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service. Ken Klauck provided another detailed secretary/treasurer's report of the AVACP business meeting at APA. Tom Miller provided an article on psychology and chronic pain with references and a summary of techniques used in treating chronic pain. Survey data were presented by Ken Bloom on staffing losses in VA psychology services from October 1984-March 1987 with an overall loss of 7-8 % for doctoral level psychologists and with 38% of VA facilities having no losses. The data suggested that large psychology services who were DRG/RAM losers suffered the largest staff reductions with a greater proportion of cuts in the northwest and Midwest. The number of downgraded positions were few but several GM-15 chief positions were downgraded to GM-14 when the incumbent either resigned or retired. Several data tables were presented regarding the downgrades.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31291>}

### 1988 February (Vol 11, #1)

Ken Bloom's president's message reported on preparations for the Executive Committee mid-winter meeting in Washington with APA and VACO officials, legislative offices, and veterans service organizations. The lead issue was AVACP's quest for incentive pay for ABPP holders. He also gave a brief report on his liaison role for AVACP on the APA Education and Training Board and included a message sent by Ed Nightingale to assistant chiefs questioning the purpose of AVACP. Dale Cannon's computer update reviewed a new version of the Mental Health Package currently in final stages of completion. He reported changes to include a progress note program, changes from using DSM-III to DSM-III-R diagnoses, and a program for nursing staff to use record information now required in the Seclusion and Restraint Report. Ed Sieracki wrote in his VACO column that the Alternative Management Structures Task Force recommendation will not be accepted due to strong opposition by the Mental Health & Behavioral Sciences Service and the Program and Operations Office. Two new chief appointments were listed in the news and notes column along with 11 chief openings. The current by-laws and constitution of AVACP was reprinted in this issue. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31292>}

### 1988 May (Vol 11, #2)

The president's message by Ken Bloom described in detail the Health Psychology Program at the VA medical center in Bronx, NY. The newsletter editor, Ken Kuhn, noted that AVACP has extended its support to help the VACO AIDS Program and took the liberty to dedicate this issue to the AIDS/HIV subject with articles on ethical issues in treatment, issue on disclosure of information, and issues in AIDS research which were co-authored by Tom Miller and the VA District Counsel at the Lexington VA. Internship survey data on the class of 1988-1989 was included in this issue. With escalating costs of publication of the AVACP newsletter, a survey of members was attached regarding continuation of the newsletter and options to reduce publication costs (eliminate photos, reduce length of articles, etc.) The news and notes column reported that psychology chief Barbara Powell has been appointed to the Chief Medical Director's Clinical and Program Field Advisory Council that provides recommendations to the chief medical director on



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future directions in clinical practice in the VA. Georgette also included a request from Ed Sieracki, deputy director of VACO mental health, for input into several projects he was working on: plans for a national meeting of chiefs of psychology and psychiatry, an initiative discussed with the VACO Chief of Medicine Service to increase psychology involvement in preventive health (hypertension, obesity, smoking cessation), and discussions with Academic Affairs to develop postdoctoral fellowships in behavioral medicine, AIDS, gerontology, and neuropsychology. Two new chief appointments and 12 chief vacancies were included in the column.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31281>}

### 1988 August (Vol 11, #3)

Ken Bloom's last president's message covered AVACP's accomplishments over the year to include Cecil Peck's offer to coordinate a written history of VA psychology. [Author's Note: That history was never written.] An increase in AVACP membership was noted with now-eligible assistant chiefs added as members. Finally included in the president's message was a list of continuing issues to pursue: integrating staffing guideline data into AMIX, impact of RAM on psychology, and recruitment and retention problems. Rod Baker's article analyzed staffing guideline data collected over two years that showed stability in the time spent in direct patient care by VA psychologists in medical centers with and without training programs (52% vs 57%) and time spent in research, supervision, and medical center management activities. An analysis of time spent by interns in direct patient care activities was also considered stable over time at 43%.

Survey data regarding newsletter costs was reported with 97% of the members indicating the newsletter should be continued. Other data on options to reduce newsletter costs was presented.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31294>}

### 1988 November (Vol 11, #4)

Ken Klauck's first president's column noted that the AVACP regional representatives on the Executive Committee now had a few changes in medical centers in their region to conform more closely to the new borders for the VA's regional medical education centers. (See listing in this issue of which medical centers were now in each of the seven AVACP regions.) The president's column also announced that VACO will be requesting new proposals for treatment programs for PTSD along with the development of a national PTSD center, that Academic Affairs had selected Gloria Holland to handle the psychology internship program along with many other non-physician training programs, and that discussions have begun to develop postdoctoral training and to review the internship stipend. [Author's Note: Three years ago the internship stipend was raised to \$10,000 and \$13,000 was now being sought.] Detailed minutes of the AVACP business meeting at APA by secretary/treasurer Ed Nightingale were included in the newsletter. Ed Sieracki's presentation at APA representing VACO mental health was summarized in this issue to include: a resurgence in interest in CWT programs, the AMIS workload report will be suspended for one-year as staffing guideline date is integrated into that report, the addition of new MIRECCs will add new internship funding, and the expectation that the VA will be converted to department status in the president's cabinet. With APA membership rejecting the proposed APA restructuring plan, an article is included encouraging VA psychologists to join the APA Division of Psychologists in Public Service (Division 18) which was one of the founding divisions in APA. Four chief openings were listed in the news and notes column along with one assistant chief opening and appointments

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of three new chiefs and one assistant chief.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31295>}

1989 January (Vol 11, #1) Note: the preparation of the printing of this issue incorrectly identified the volume number which should have been Vol 12, #2.

Ken Klauck's president's column outlined plans for the AVACP mid-winter meeting in Washington and listed some topics the Executive Committee (EC) would be addressing starting with APA's plans to establish an education directorate and the success of increased interactions by AVACP with APA at a number of levels. The president's column extended congratulations to Kenneth Adams, chief at the VA in Ann Arbor, MI, for his three-year appointment on the APA Committee on Accreditation and reminded members of other AVACP interactions with Martin Koretsky (Fort Howard VA) continuing to serve as AVACP liaison to the APA Education and Training Board and Bob Gresen's liaison role with the APA Board of Professional Affairs and Council of Chairs of Training Councils. Included on the EC's agenda will also be a review of the ad hoc committee report on costs for publishing the newsletter with a plan for continuing the newsletter and to have its production become a worthwhile compensated work therapy project at a VA medical center. Information from the 1987 annual report from VACO Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service (MHBSS) was included in this issues as was an official Information Letter sent to the field from MHBSS noting that the case management and incentive therapy programs in VACO have been transferred to mental health, previously managed by the Rehabilitation Medicine Service, and will be integrated with compensated work therapy and counseling psychology. The news and notes column lists awards and retirements of two chiefs, one new chief appointment, and seven chief openings.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31296>}

1989 May (Vol 12, #2)

In his president's column, Ken Klauck provided a report on the AVACP mid-winter meeting in Washington. He noted that not much warning was given for the cuts in the psychology internship program nor that summer training program funds were withdrawn to increase the internship stipends to \$13,000 over a three-year period. Those training reductions were raised by the AVACP Executive Committee (EC) in most meetings with VACO and APA officials and others. Also reported was the meeting with VA Secretary Derwinski, newly confirmed as the first VA head to receive that title with the upgrade of the VA to Department status in the president's cabinet. This was the first time the EC had a meeting with the head of the VA since the mid-winter meetings began [Author's Note: See May 1981 newsletter.] The new VA Secretary indicated his awareness of the need for additional funding of the VA which he plans to seek in supplemental funding for FY89. He also seemed especially concerned with providing care to veterans with chronic conditions. AVACP also found out in VACO meetings that the faculty for the 1989 chief's training program would be fully funded by VACO, an expense previously paid by AVACP for the past six years. Ed Sieracki's article from VACO mental health commented on the surprise in loss of internship positions between December and January. In the good news category, he reported success in upgrading some chief psychologist positions from GM-14 to 15 and GM-13 to 14, especially noteworthy since there had been no such upgrades of chief positions in the last three years. Ed Nightingale's secretary/treasurer's report provided a summary of activities of meetings

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and topics during the Mid-winter visits as well as reported 148 dues-pay members. Two chief retirements, one chief appointment, and eight chief openings were listed in the news and notes column. She also announced that Tom Miller had been granted a six month sabbatical with study and research responsibilities at the U of London and Oxford with a planned trip to the Soviet Union. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31297>}

### 1989 August (Vol 12, #3)

In Ken Klauck's last column as president, he noted several accomplishments over the past year. He described his Congressional testimony to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in June on behalf of AVACP and APA in which he supported the development of Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Centers (MIRECCs), enhancement of PTSD treatment programs, and added AVACP's support for dealing with the plight of the homeless, especially those who are veterans. He also used his column to note that VACO had funded expenses for faculty for the chief's training program for the first time for the June program this summer. He added that the level of salaries for GS federal employees was being reviewed by Congressional committees. Ed Sieracki's VACO column made members aware that two funded VACO committees were advising him and VACO mental health: The Psychology Service Advisory Committee for Mental Health and the Psychology Service Training Advisory Committee for which he listed current members. Martin Koretsky reviewed JCAHO's tens steps for quality assurance for which Region 4 took a major pounding from JCAHO. Elsewhere in this issue, Dale Cannon's election as AVACP president-elect was announced. Ken Kuhn announced that his term as newsletter editor had ended and that Barry Kinney would be taking over as editor. In her news and notes column, Georgette Bellucci listed seven chief positions that had been upgraded. She added a list of appointments of five new chiefs, one at a VA recently approved to establish a new psychology service. She also listed eight chief openings. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31298>}

1990 January (Vol 13, #1) This issue substituted the new Department of Veterans Affairs logo on a light blue colored stock paper cover following the designation of the VA as a department in the president's cabinet.

Georgette Bellucci's first president's column noted that the VA was entering a new fiscal year under a continuing resolution with an unknown budget. She additionally noted that until a budget is approved, the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law requires across the board cuts of 36% in the VA and other federal agencies not exempt from the law's provisions and that medical center operating budget cuts in starting FY90 will bring challenges and no funding for new programs until a budget law is signed. The president's column also reported that there will be a number of re-organization changes in the Department of Veterans Affairs. [Author's Note: The familiar VA acronym continued to be used in publications, even today, as well as DVA.] Four new regions have been announced to replace the current seven, but the president added that AVACP has no plans to replace any of the regional representatives or their medical center grouping on the Executive Committee. The president also noted that the AVACP Internship Task Force, chaired by Phil Laughlin, has recommended that internship stipends be raised and that funding for summer traineeships be restored when the VA budget is approved. The task force also recommended that funding for health benefits be included in the internship stipend. The president's column reported that legislation has been introduced to include psychologists in Part B of Medicare that would

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allow psychologists to be Medicare providers directly and independently. Finally noted was the success of some psychology services in getting special pay rate approval under recent changes allowing three steps at the GS-11 to 12 levels and two steps at the GS-13 level. Those chiefs having recruitment and retention problems were encouraged to seek approval for the special pay rates. Ed Sieracki's VACO mental health report also noted that an increase in training stipends was being sought and of successes with special pay. He added that Robert Kerns' task force has begun work on developing a Program Guide for Health Psychology and that VACO continues to have successes in upgrading chief positions. A guest article from John Presley, psychologist and VAMC director at the Tomah, WI medical center, is included in this issue with his observations of the perceptions/reality/concessions of psychologists as administrators. An alert by Rod Baker on the new VACO PRISM report is provided in another article He notes that the report for budget planning and performance is gaining attention by medical center directors but has serious flaws for psychology and some other services. The minutes of AVACP at the last APA meeting was prepared and included by secretary/treasurer Ed Nightingale. Rae Barnes took over the news and notes column, and she listed eight chief openings. An article by Randy Taylor discussed JCAHO's new quality assurance standards.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31299>}

### 1990 April (Vol 13, #2)

The president's column by Georgette Bellucci noted that an increase for internship stipends was approved in the amount of \$13,700 and that the summer trainee program funding would continue. She additionally reported that VACO mental health has been successful in securing funding for program initiatives in substance abuse, HCMI domiciliaries, and CWT/TR demonstration projects and that funding has been allocated for 20 more PCT Teams. With recruitment and retention continuing to be problem, she added that Ed Sieracki has been working on this issue with VACO and OPM offices with consideration being explored to including psychologists under a hybrid Title 38 similar to that currently in place for pharmacists in the VA and which permits a private practice. Ed Sieracki's VACO mental health column added more information on hybrid Title 38 describing its benefits in direct appointment of staff, flexibility in the pay schedule, and promotions but still using Title 5 provisions for leave and grievance procedures. He re-emphasized that conversion to hybrid Title 38 would permit psychologists to maintain a private practice. His VACO column also noted that the new approved stipend of \$13,700 was based on a \$12,700 average stipend in the country for internship stipends and that \$1,000 was to be used by interns to acquire health insurance. Rae Barnes' news and notes listed nine chief and assistant chief appointments and five chief and assistant chief openings. Information on dates and eligibility for the 1990 administrative chief's training program was included in this issue.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31300>}

### 1990 June (Vol 13, #3)

AVACP president Georgette Bellucci's column summarized the AVACP mid-winter meeting and added that Dale Cannon will be sending out a survey on recruitment and retention to chiefs. A 15-page report on topics and activities of the AVACP leadership mid-winter meetings in Washington was included in this issue by secretary/treasurer Ed Nightingale who included mention in his report that VA Secretary Derwinski was again on their schedule and remembered his meeting with AVACP leadership last year. Ed Sieracki's VACO column reported that the inclusion of

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psychologists in hybrid Title 38 was not approved by the VA's Policy Advisory Board nor was a similar request from Dietetics Service. He noted that the Board is interested in seeking legislation giving the Board authority to convert health professions in the VA to Title 38 without seeking separate legislation in the future and added that several other professions in the VA are eager to convert such as Chaplain and Social Work Services.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31301>}

### 1990 October (Vol 13, #4)

In her last column as president, Georgette Bellucci commented on the recent psychology recruitment and retention survey conducted by Dale Cannon that showed a 11.2% vacancy in VA psychology positions and that one-third of new hires were leaving after five years. Non-competitive salary rates were considered a significant contributor to this data with some recently published information that estimated GS 11-15 salaries were 33-39% lower than comparable private sector positions. The president's column also noted with discouragement hearing from chiefs whose requests were not approved for special pay. Data from two previous psychology recruitment and retention surveys was included in this issue as well as data from the most recent survey that showed an almost 50% increase in vacancies from October 1988 to March 1990. Several pages of other data and charts were included with regional data and other variables supporting the need for attention in this area. Also included in this issue was the testimony of Ken Klauck, on behalf of APA and AVACP, before the House Veterans Affairs Committee in which he argued for the need of funding in the VA for additional PTSD treatment programs. Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting at APA were included in this issue as were those of the AVACP business meeting noting the election of Ed Nightingale as AVACP president-elect. Finally, Ken Klauck's candidacy for president-elect of APA was announced to members.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31302>}

### 1991 January (Vol 14, #1)

Dale Cannon's first president's column invited members to let him know of suggestions and concern that they would like to see AVACP take on. He also noted that he received a copy of a letter from Senator Cranston in which he asked VA Secretary Derwinski to comment on the AVACP recruitment and retention survey completed last summer and plans the VA had to make improvements in that data. The president's column offered the opinion that a hybrid Title 38 appointment still provided the best hope for improvement and will be addressed in the upcoming mid-winter meeting in Washington. Also included in the column was his personal support for Ken Klauck's candidacy for election to the office of president of APA. Ed Sieracki's VACO column noted some pay increases for this and following years with passage of the Federal Employees Comparability Act. He noted that federal employees in the high living cost area of New York and Los Angeles would be getting an additional increase to the 4.1% cost-of-living increases that other federal employees would receive. He also described the calculation of locality pay adjustments that would begin in 1994. This issue also carried a description of the plans by the Program Evaluation and Resource Center (PERC) located at the Palo Alto VA to monitor and evaluate the impact of special funds received by some medical centers to enhance substance abuse treatment programs. The issue also listed eight chief openings and three chief appointments.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31303>}

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### 1991 April (Vol 14,#2)

Dale Cannon's president's column summarized the mid-winter's meeting of the AVACP Executive Committee in Washington promising the minutes of these meetings would be published in the next newsletter issue. He noted that the main issue on their agenda was hybrid Title 38 conversion for psychologists. Most of those they met with were at least willing to consider that move if initiated by the VACO Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service (MHBSS). Meetings with a Senate Veterans Committee staffer also indicated that legislation for that conversion would be introduced if there was a strong consensus of VA psychologists belonging to AVACP, NOVA Psi, and Section Three of Division 18. It was also pointed out to the Executive Committee that the legislation would be permissive rather than mandatory and that the VA Secretary could still decide whether to implement it or not. The president's column also mentioned that including psychologists as part of the medical staff was high on their agenda and that letters from JCAHO and VA printed in this issue permitted that inclusion. It was noted that some medical centers had actually dropped psychologists from the medical staff prior to a JCAHO site visit in order to reduce the number of professions scrutinized by JCAHO. Adding to the importance of having psychologists on the medical staff was the process already begun by the VA of writing a template for medical center by-laws, and AVACP was encouraging psychologists to be included in the template. Finally noted in the president's column was the Executive Committee's meeting with the director of MHBSS indicating the preference for most psychologists to remain in MHBSS and work closely with a unified service of psychology and psychiatry. Newsletter editor Barry Kinney noted that Ken Klauck had received a sufficient number of nominating votes to be placed on the ballot for APA president in the upcoming election. He included Ken Klauck's biography and requested/published his president's platform. Rae Barnes' Potpourri column listed five new chief appointments and five chief and assistant chief openings, Tom Miller wrote an article of postdoctoral training and specialization in psychology, and the dates and eligibility for the 1991 chief's training program were announced. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31304>}

### 1991 June (Vol 14, #3)

Dale Cannon reminded members in his president's column that they should be getting this newsletter issue and their APA election ballots at the same time and encouraged them to vote for Ken Klauck for president. The column also noted that Anthony Principi, the VA Deputy Secretary would deliver an invited address on "Veterans Health Care - Now and in the Future" at APA and added the announcement that Ed Sieracki would be retiring at the end of June. Secretary/treasurer Bob Gresen submitted detailed minutes of the mid-winter meetings of the Executive Committee last March, and Ed Sieracki's final VACO mental health column noted progress in a number of areas including the funding of postdoctoral training. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31305>}

### 1991 October (Vol 14, #4)

Dale Cannon took the liberty in his final president's column to make some personal remarks, not representing any official position of AVACP, about conflicts between and among three "houses" of VA psychology: within APA, within organized representatives of VA psychology in APA, NOVA Psi, and AVACP, and within the disciplines of psychiatry, social work and nursing who were all working in mental health programs for veterans. He respected the right of members to disagree with him and encouraged discussion. Also included in this issue were the remarks of Anthony

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Principi, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, at the San Francisco APA meeting in August on the future of health care where he also observed that VA psychologists were central to the VA's success. Minutes of the Executive Committee and business meetings of AVACP at APA were included. A report by Christine LaGana who attended the last chief's training program was added to this issue. { <http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31306>}

### 1992 February (Vol 15, #1)

In Ed Nightingale's first president's column, he looked ahead to concerns needing attention such as increased payment for mental health patient treatment in the VA's version of prospective reimbursement used to decide medical center budgets, the recruitment and retention of psychologists, clinical and medical staff membership, a national meeting of VA chiefs of psychology and psychiatry, and increased support for mental health research. He added brief comments about each in his column. Dates and attendance for the 10<sup>th</sup> chief's training program were announced, and this issue initiated a letters-to-the-editor column by editor Barry Kinney that published two letters in response to Dale Cannon's last president's column. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31307>}

### 1992 July (Vol 15, #2)

This issue began with remarks by Rae Barnes who was selected to replace Ed Sieracki as the new deputy director of the Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service in VACO. She noted that a milestone was reached in 1992 with the awarding of six postdoctoral fellowships in geropsychology to six VAs that brought the total to eight when added to the two awarded in substance abuse in 1991. She reported that the revised Psychology Manual (M-2, Part X) will be at facilities by the end of FY92 and noted that the manual had not changed since 1965. She added that a program guide for neuropsychology has also been finalized and will soon be available. Ed Nightingale's president's column congratulated Robert Kerns on his special election to fill the office of AVACP president-elect vacated by Rae Barnes' selection as deputy. He similarly congratulated Rae Barnes for her deputy director VACO mental health appointment and thanked the director and others responsible for expediting the selection and confirmation of her appointment. The president's column also reported that the leaders of AVACP, NOVA Psi, and the VA section of Division 18 had reached agreement in supporting the conversion of VA psychologists to hybrid Title 38. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31308>}

### 1993 January (Vol 16, #1)

Ed Nightingale's last president's column noted progress during the year on a number of issues such as privileging and medical staff membership, a national chiefs meeting, and recruitment and retention. He encouraged members to read Bob Gresen's review on hybrid Title 38 in this newsletter and noted a determination of the group's representing VA psychology to work more closely and to study proposals for an eventual merger to represent the concerns of all VA psychologists. Reports on the AVACP business meeting and Executive Committee meeting at APA were provided by Bob Gresen, and a report of the Division 18 meeting at APA was added by Bernhard Bloom. A report by Rod Baker on a decade of chief's training and its changes was included in this issue. Bob Gresen's article on advantages and disadvantages of Title 5 and hybrid Title 38 covered pay administration, rights of employment, and other issues. He referenced the

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Department of Veterans Affairs Circular 00-89-88, December 4, 1989 in documenting the hybrid Title 38 provisions currently used by pharmacists in the VA, including the absence of restrictions on private practice. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31309>}

### 1993 June (Vol 16, #2)

Robert Kerns' first president's column noted that since he had become AVACP president at the APA meeting last August that it was apparent to him that AVACP was at an important crossroad with regard to its goals, leadership, structure, and even its viability as a relevant organization. He was concerned that many of the traditions of the organization had been lost and that there was little documentation of policy to guide many decisions. He asked Alexander Boeringa in his role as president-elect to develop a task group to propose a response to these concerns. He noted that the task force has made many suggestions already reviewed by the Executive Committee that will be presented to the membership at this year's APA meeting for broader consideration. He also noted that after a flurry of activity, a bill has been introduced in the Senate for moving psychologists into hybrid Title 38 and is awaiting comment from VACO and others regarding the political viability of the legislation. He added that since Barry Kinney resigned as newsletter editor, a search for a new editor selected Carol Dye but because she could not continue in that role, Phyllis Williams was selected in a second search and that this was her first issue as editor. He finally reported the success of the mid-winter meetings with Bob Gresen's minutes included in this issue. Rae Barnes' first article from VACO mental health noted that with more postdoctoral fellowships awarded, that the number was now 12. She added her observation that the networking of chiefs of psychology at the national conference of chiefs of psychology and conference in March, a conference not held for many years, seemed to give a refreshing sense of empowerment and augured for even more strength and unity among chiefs of psychology. She added that efforts had been made at some medical centers to bring the supervision of professional disciplines under the control of the program director of the bed service chief. A detailed 14-page report of the Executive Committee's mid-winter meetings and activities was included in this issue by secretary/treasurer Bob Gresen who also included an article on hybrid Title 38 which noted that the APA practice directorate concluded that a pure Title 38 conversion would be more appropriate and desirable for VA psychologists than the hybrid version even with its restrictions on private practice. APA's reasons were outlined in a 7-page memo received by AVACP and was published in this issue. AVACP, however, reaffirmed its support for the hybrid conversion.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31310>}

### 1993 October (Vol 16, #3)

The incoming AVACP president, Alexander Boeringa wrote in his president's column about the need to find a way to monitor fast changing events, share information, and take more timely action. He planned to use the AVACP regional representatives in a more active role to re-establish a telephone cascade system to call chiefs in their region on important matters as well as to add more conference calls within geographical areas. He requested that members carefully consider the role that AVACP plays for them now and what they would like to see as association goals, and then let him or their regional representatives know what can be done to improve things for all of us. Robert Kerns wrote a past president's column outlining what he believes were important reasons for an independent psychology service in VACO. Bob Gresen submitted his reports for the minutes of



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both the Executive Committee and business meetings of AVACP at the August APA meeting. <http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31311>

### 1993 December (Vol 16, #4)

Alexander Boeringa's president's column reported on two recent examples of significant changes being made in psychology and the VA. He first noted that Rae Barnes had taken the initiative to submit a proposal in VACO that would create an independent psychology service in VACO and secondly gave the example of the acting chief of psychiatry at the Houston VA who completely reorganized his service that closed wards, opened new units, shifted staff, and focused on primary care and customer needs. The president's column added that these latter changes were made with multidisciplinary staff receiving a tremendous support of cooperation that transcended turf and guild issues that led to a psychologist heading an inpatient unit and FTEE and budgets being shared. The result became a clear benchmark for all disciplines in the hospital. He added the observation that psychology and the VA will be faced with similar innovations to meet enormous externally imposed changes. Rae Barnes' VACO mental health column suggested that in 1994 the VA may well face the most telling changes in its history with more flexibility and authority being given local medical management as opposed to VACO managers. She also cited a change toward more contracting out of patient care services as the VA moves to a primary care health care health care focus and noted some concerns for a number of psychology programs. Bob Gresen's update reported that OMB has recommended that the Senate initiative for hybrid Title 38 not go forward and that their position essentially means that the VA is not likely to support that initiative at this time. In a new column labeled "Visionaries' Views", Randy Taylor dedicated the column to the envisioning of future events with an open invitation for members to form ideas about changes they foresaw. He initially invited articles for this issue from Richard McCormack who offered his views on the VA undergoing a "Sea Change," Rod Baker who wrote on "The VA and Health Care Reform," and Bertram Rothschild describing "Ripples in the Pond" in creating new programs and preparing staff for those program directions.

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### 1994 March (Vol 17, #1)

Alexander Boeringa's president's column noted how impressed he was at the mid-winter meetings with the number of friends and supporters of VA psychology in VACO, APA, in the veterans service organizations, and on the Hill. He noted that the Executive Committee met with about 53 people and generally received a very favorable response with them on issues raised. He noted his awareness of how crucial it was right now that our patients, other disciplines, administration, professional organizations, and legislators know about the value of our profession to health care and the extent of our contributions. He noted in the mid-winter meetings, the Executive Committee presented a very positive image of psychology in their visits and carefully avoided narrow guild issues in favor of putting VA psychology in the big picture while still outlining our concerns and defining some of our needs as we saw them. He finally noted that Bob Gresen's minutes of those meetings makes good reading for a more detailed account of the people they met with and topics discussed. Rae Barnes' VACO mental health column noted hopefully that by the time this issue gets to members that the proposed downsizing of psychology services by 50% will have died a well-deserved death. She added other suggestions for preparing for policy making and implementation decisions at local facilities and added some comments on her departure from

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VACO. More visionary views were presented in Randy Taylor's column. The 1994 chief's training program was announced, and the promised detailed report of the AVACP mid-winter's meetings was published in this issue.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31313>}

### 1994 June Vol 17, #2)

Alexander Boeringa's last president's column noted that the buyout program was chosen by Dick Blumberg who was to have become the next AVACP president. The buyout program was considered good news in that it creates opportunities for many talented people to move up into leadership, but the downside in this atmosphere of cost cutting, right sizing, and restructuring also means that some positions may not be filled. He added that even if only a small number of the changes talked about ever occur, the VA will be radically different in the next few years with old structures swept away. He suggested that the best defense is not to get bogged down in protecting turf but to do what we in psychology do best: serve veterans. Bob Gresen's VACO column was the first and last for him as acting deputy director of mental health. He noted that he was on his way to Milwaukee to become chief psychologist. He also noted that the acting undersecretary of health in the VA had approved the recruitment of the deputy director position and that Christine LaGana would take over the acting deputy role when he departed. He added that the Farsetta Report no longer targets VA psychology for major downsizing and that Ed Nightingale and Rod Baker had written a white paper included in this issue with a brief overview of psychology's history and contributions to the VA as well as cost data that showed that psychological services would be much more costly if contracted out rather than provided by in-house psychology services. Segments of an article written by Laurent Lehman, director of VACO psychiatry in mental health, were published in this issue, previously written for the National Association of VA Chiefs of Psychiatry newsletter. He noted that health care reform in the VA would be featuring managed care and primary care and added that two medical center psychiatrists testified at the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearings and stressed the fact that psychiatrists were regularly providing primary care to our patients. Three primary care articles were published in the visionaries' views column, and elections for AVACP officers were announced. The white paper on VA psychology contributions and costs noted above by Bob Gresen was published that included data on workload performed by psychology service staff in FY93 and compared contracting out that workload at CHAMPUS reimbursement rates vs actual costs with salaried VA psychology staff. The \$261 million in outsourcing the data was 48% higher than the \$177 million in VA psychology costs (the latter using salaries, fringe benefit costs, and adding a 15% overhead estimate on psychology salaries to cover the medical center's costs for staff phones, office space, etc.)

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31314>}

### 1994 September (Vol 17, #3)

Christine LaGana's first president's column reported that although she did not have a year as president-elect to become oriented to the needs of AVACP that she had a quick apprenticeship during her time as acting deputy director of VACO mental health. She noted that efforts at reinventing government and health care reform had resulted in many losses for psychology in the field. Especially noted was that there were at least five facilities exploring subjugation of psychology services under psychiatry with other facilities considering a new associate chief of staff (ACOS) position to which both psychiatry and psychology would report. The VACO mental health

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column, also written by Christine LaGana, noted that the deputy director's position in mental health had not yet been announced. It was also noted that the VACO mental health service is adamantly opposed to subjugating psychology to psychiatry, establishing an ACOS for mental health position, or any other questionable matrix system that endangers the integrity of the psychology service. To coordinate mental health care, VACO mental health recommends a strong mental health council made up of chiefs of psychology, psychiatry, social work, and nursing. Seven articles were included in this newsletter on different state health care reforms as well as other VA health care reforms, and the minutes of the business and Executive Committee of AVACP at APA were included. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31315>}

### 1994 December (Vol 17, #4)

Christine LaGana's president's column described data obtained from a telephone cascade in August that reached all chiefs concerning the status of psychology services in the VA. Mostly receiving speculation and planning for service mergers, it was also found that there were 17 vacant psychology chief positions with only three advertised. Two more recruitment announcements came out after the cascade with one re-announced at a lower GS-14 level. Two letters from Senator Inouye about this data requested the VA Secretary to provide him information (both letters were printed at the end of the newsletter.) Neither of those letters has been responded to from VACO because of the controversy about service mergers that VACO mental health strongly opposes and with a strong push by others for these decisions to be made at the medical center level. It was also noted that Kizer [new Under Secretary for Health Kenneth Kizer] had appointed a committee to address the issue of medical center directors being able to make merger and other decisions without VACO interference. Her column also reported that position papers were being developed on many issues to help psychology chiefs respond to medical center director questions and local planning activities. The president's column also noted that the data on what's happening in VA psychology has been shared with the APA Board of Directors and the practice directorate with Russ Newman and Randy Phelps sending a letter of concern to the VA Secretary (also printed in this newsletter.) Planning for the AVACP mid-winter meeting has begun and a survey on primary care will be mailed to all chiefs. An interview with Thomas Horvath, the director of VACO mental health, with his answers to questions about the reorganizations and service mergers (to which he remains opposed). In the interview, he adds answers to questions on other aspects on health care reform in the VA. Another article in this issue adds information on new psychology training programs. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31316>}

### 1995 April (Vol 18, #1)

Christine LaGana's president's column commented on Dr. Kenneth Kizer's plan for reorganizing the VA which would allow for significant decentralization of power to 22 Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs). She later noted in commenting on the mid-winter meeting that all reports were that Kizer had assumed full control of VHA and further added that in the meeting with him that he was aware of the healthcare contributions of psychology in the VA and was supportive of our mission. Her column had to report, however, that the Deal Report delegating authority to medical center directors to reorganize their medical centers as they choose, have resulted in some reports of reorganization plans to have significantly impacted psychology. The president's column urged psychology to develop support systems within the VISN and within the medical center and look into setting up VISN mental health councils or a VISN chiefs of psychology network. More

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position papers had been developed that had helped the Executive Committee focus on their main mission for their mid-winter meeting: psychology's contributions to health care. Two of these papers are included in this issue. An 18-page report detailing people met, topics discussed, and responses received by the AVACP Executive Committee at the mid-winter meeting was submitted by secretary/treasurer Bob Gresen, and the two white papers previously mentioned were added at the end of the newsletter.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31317>}

### 1995 June (Vol 18, #2)

In her president's column, Christine LaGana noted that many (including herself) had begun looking for silver lining in the ominous clouds over our heads. She added that there are many models for matrix management that allow for professional autonomy with programmatic interdependence. Another telephone cascade call was in progress and, so far, the president reported that there are only a few "horror stories" but that most of our colleagues were using their creativity and expertise to both improve continuity of services to veterans and maintain the autonomy of psychology in their medical centers. Randy Taylor's column on visionaries' views compiled and described three organizational structures under which psychologists will operate in the foreseeable future. The newsletter ended by publishing testimony of APA on Reorganization of the Veterans Administration in the Department of Veterans Affairs for the May 1995 hearing held by the Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31318>}

1995 October (Vol 19, #3) Note: the preparation for the printing of this issue incorrectly identified the volume number which should have been Vol 18, #3.

Pat Boudewyns' first president's column indicated that his VA (Augusta) was among the first to be approved for a major reorganization. He noted that the original plans called for combining psychiatry and psychology. In the end, however, they were successful in maintaining autonomy for the psychology service. He shared three things that he had learned from his medical center reorganization: 1. begin by taking the offense, 2. get some feedback from the front lines, and 3. form allies to get consensus from all stakeholders chiefs. He goes on to briefly describe each. Writing in his visionaries' views column, Randy Taylor explored his own views of psychological practice and shared two other articles, one entitled "Survival Behaviors for VA Psychology" by Rod Baker and another one entitled "Psychology as an Independent Service" by Rod Baker, Mark Cohen, and Bob Gresen. A report on the 1995 chief's training program by participant Robert Phares appears in this issue as does Bob Gresen's secretary/treasurer report on the AVACP meetings at APA. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31369>}

### 1996 March (Vol 18, #4)

In his president's column, Pat Boudewyns noted the fact that some VA medical centers have already been organized into what has commonly been referred to as product lines. He noted that AVACP does not take an official stand for or against such reorganizations but will continue to resist any reorganization that jeopardizes the quality of psychology's product line (eg., providing psychological services) that compromises the quality of the work of psychologists in the VA. He

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outlines in his column what he believes the important quality issues are in monitoring psychology product line quality.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31319>}

### 1996 July (Vol 19, #1)

Pat Boudewyns notes in his president's column that the new product line management philosophy is clearly in the future for many if not most VA psychology services. He added that product line management does not necessarily mean the elimination of traditional services and service chiefs but that this is has happened in many medical centers. It was his view that AVACP needed to change its name and add other membership categories in a major by-laws overhaul. He added that this will be a major topic for discussion at the upcoming AVACP meetings at APA. Also noted in the president's column was that AVACP had appointed VISN Network representatives for each of the 22 VISNs to include the VISN agenda in planning (their names were listed in this issue) but that there were plans to drop the seven elected regional representatives. In VACO, now called VA Headquarters, the Mental Health and Behavioral Science Service has been re-named the Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group (MHSG), one of 10 strategic healthcare groups in VA Headquarters. Randy Taylor reviews the changes over the last decade leading to our marching orders to use primary care as our general model of healthcare delivery, a 25% reduction of inpatient beds, and a reduction of one-third of the VA work force. He then posed a series of questions starting with the concern by mental health in headquarters that whatever reductions occur in the field should not be born on the backs of mental health patients. The detailed minutes of the people, topics, and responses at the mid-winter meeting and activities of the Executive Committee were provided by Bob Gresen.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31320>}

### 1996 October (Vol 19, #2)

Steve Cavicchia's first president's column reported on AVACP activities at APA noting a strong consensus of the membership to move forward in broadening membership categories to include psychologists assuming leadership and management roles other than as chiefs and assistant chiefs. Since the APA meeting, a task force has been appointed to draft new by-laws expanding membership categories to present to the membership for a vote. In his past-president's column, Pat Boudewyns reported active discussion at open forums of the membership in making suggestions for membership expansion as well as the pros and cons of merging AVACP and NOVA-Psi. A briefing report on reductions in force (RIF) was added in this issue for those chiefs of psychology anticipating that their medical center would use forced terminations to reach goals of lower employee numbers. Randy Taylor announced that he would use his column as an editorial to offer his own opinions, not those of AVACP, to address two issues: the impact of reorganization on psychology leaders and line staff, and prescribing privileges for psychologists. He noted that the former would be addressed in a future survey and that his thoughts favoring the latter have emerged with arguments and debate over several years. A detailed report of the minutes of the AVACP Executive Committee meeting and the business meeting at APA was published in this issue. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31321>}

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Note that no newsletters were published between October 1966 and June 1997.

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1997 June (Vol 1, #1) Note: With the re-naming of the organization to Association of VA

Psychologist Leaders and the use of that name on the newsletter masthead, the editor started a new volume and issue numbering system. The next issue returned to the original volume/issue numbering system and this issue should be more appropriately given the label of Vol 20, #1.

Stephen Cavicchia's president's column noted that a primary AVAPL goal for this year was filling the position of deputy director (now deputy chief consultant) for the Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group, the only "designated" psychology position left in mental in VA Headquarters. Another goal was to conduct a survey of how reorganization was affecting discipline specific positions, a survey not yet completed. A final goal was to modify the organization and bylaws to be more inclusive of psychologists serving in greatly expanded roles. It was noted that the latter changes were approved by the membership with only minor modifications by the Executive Committee made to the original proposal and that the Executive Committee will move quickly to offer membership to those psychologists who are now eligible to join AVAPL such as supervisory psychologists and psychology program managers. Randy Taylor's visionaries' views column reported that he had been asked to describe the reorganized VA in the Division 18 newsletter and included his response to the Division 18 newsletter editor in this column. This newsletter also included an article by Rod Baker and Linda Johnson in her oversight role in guiding the VA psychology internship training program on alternate sources of funding for predoctoral and postdoctoral funding of psychology training in the VA that would not use designated patient care funds at the medical center. AVAPL also received a letter from the current president of NOVA Psi indicating a survey result that showed an overwhelming vote to merge their organization with AVAPL. AVAPL agreed to publish their survey results in this newsletter and place the issue on the discussion for the membership at the next APA meeting. The minutes and activities of the AVAPL mid-winter meetings of the Executive Committee last March are also published in this issue. <http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31325>

1997 November (Vol 20, #2)

This issue began with an open letter to members and prospective members of the re-named Association of VA Psychologist Leaders (AVAPL), formerly and familiarly known as the Chief's Association. The letter identified some accomplishments from the past and extended an invitation to others to join with the new expanded membership criteria. The second item in the newsletter was an announcement by Russell Lemle, the chief at the San Francisco VA, of a day and a half conference for VA psychology leadership in Dallas in January 1998 to discuss and become proactive in shaping the future of psychology in the VA. He noted that there would be presentations by APA practice directorate leaders, a conference co-sponsor, and that VA psychology leaders would address strategies with group discussions sharing what has worked, emerging roles for psychologists, and concerns. An invitation to participate in the conference was conveyed in an attached letter jointly signed by Russ Newman, APA Executive Director for the

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Practice Directorate and Bob Gresen, the AVAPL president. In his first president's column, Bob Gresen introduced a number of issues for his presidential year ranging from continued efforts to fill the vacant position of what is now called the deputy chief consultant of the Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group to efforts to reach out to a new membership base to the upcoming January conference for VA psychology leaders. He announced that AVAPL had decided to support Pat DeLeon for APA president, that AVAPL will continue to work with NOVA Psi and the VA Section of Division 18 on issues of mutual concern, and indicated how impressed he was with APA and its readiness to support VA psychology issues. He ended his column noting that the issue of prescription privileges for psychologists had been an important topic of conversation and questioned whether to change the AVAPL's silence on the issue should at least be changed to a dialogue among members. The minutes of the AVAPL Executive Committee meeting and the business meeting at APA were published in this issue. Also printed in this issue were the revised August 1997 bylaws and constitution of the AVAPL approved by members. Randy Taylor's visionaries' views column continued his remarks supporting prescription privileges for psychologists. A participant report by Peggy Cantrell of the June 1996 administrative chief's raining program for VA chiefs, assistant chiefs, and psychology program managers noted that the 1996 chief's training program included six program managers to evaluate whether the program might be successfully broadened to psychology leaders outside of traditional service lines. The training was considered to provide an extraordinary training experience by all participants with six participants adding a paragraph to the report describing their unique experiences. [Author's Note: Elsewhere in this issue it was reported that 12 psychology program managers were included in the 1997 chief's training program with all continuing to enjoy a positive training experience.] <http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31326>}

### 1998 April (Vol 21, #1)

Bob Gresen's president's column announced that Mary Jansen was appointed to the position of deputy chief consultant for mental health in VA Headquarters. He also thanked Christine LaGana for serving as acting deputy and acting deputy chief consultant for most of the last 3½ years. He added that the psychology leadership conference in Dallas in January was a resounding success with over 90 VA psychology leaders in attendance and thanked APA for its support of the conference noting that Norm Abeles, past president of APA gave the opening keynote address. The president's column finally commented on the support received by all they met with at the mid-winter meeting expressing support for VA psychology. Mary Jansen introduced herself in the deputy chief consultant's column and optimistically described the future of VA psychology despite the challenges we face. Thomas Horvath, chief consultant for the Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group added his comments on the long and difficult process for filling the deputy chief consultant position, his reasons for selecting her, and his plans for involving her in activities on behalf of mental health. An article by Pat DeLeon was included as part of his APA candidacy for president, Russell Lemle reported on the January Dallas conference, and an article by Russ Newman of the APA practice directorate was reprinted from the *APA Monitor* on his experience in attending the VA psychology leadership conference in January. Minutes of the AVACP mid-winter meeting and activities in March are published in this issue. A status report on employment of VA psychologists was added analyzing losses of psychology positions from FY95 to FY97. Losses in psychiatry and social work were also reported with no statistical differences with psychology losses. An overall loss of 8% in total VA workforce reductions during that time period showed no

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statistical differences between loss in overall VA employees and those in the three mental health professions. An announcement for the 1988 leadership chief's training program, now named "Training Leaders for Behavioral and Mental Health Programs," indicated that psychiatry leaders would be eligible for attendance at the program.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31327>}

### 1998 September (Vol 21, #2)

Matthew Blusewicz' first president's column thanked the veteran members of the association for hanging in during the AVAPL reorganization and extended a warm welcome to new members. He looked forward to building on the accomplishments of the past in the new year and indicated at the APA meeting in San Francisco that he heard about the progress of work groups formed at the Dallas leadership conference in January with planning already begun for a second conference in 1999 by a planning committee chaired by Russell Lemle. Mary Jansen's deputy chief consultant's column announced that Thomas Horvath has decided to accept the chief of staff position at the Houston VA and that Larry Lehmann would fill in as acting chief consultant until a new chief consultant was selected. She also announced that she was leaving VA Headquarters to accept a two-year transfer from the VA to the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland and that Bob Gresen has agreed to serve as the acting deputy chief consultant during the time she will be absent. Randy Taylor's visionaries' views column commented on the new technologies emerging in the VA from tele-health to informatics in health care. Ed Nightingale introduced members to the Veterans' Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) methodology, the newest method for determining medical center budgets based on prospective reimbursement of workload. The minutes of the AVAPL Executive Committee meeting and its business meeting at APA were added to this issue. A telephone survey responded to by 99 senior medical center psychology leaders found that the senior psychology at the VA facilities reporting was still called the chief of psychology in 38% of facilities with 62% having other position titles. The number of psychology staff positions over the past two years at the facilities responding to the survey indicated that staffing had decreased at 55% of facilities, stayed the same at 34% of facilities, and had increased at 11% of the facilities. Reports on two task groups formed at the Dallas leadership in January were published, one looking at leadership competencies and another on communications. A report on the July 1988 mental health leadership training program was added to this issue by participant James Beysner who noted that since 1996, the program has come to reflect the organizational climate in the VA by focusing on interdisciplinary leadership with the 1998 program including new psychiatry leaders and the first psychiatry faculty member. Although several participants, both psychologists and psychiatrists, expressed initial concerns with mixing the two professions in leadership training, all participants commented on the significant degree of comfort that evolved during the program due to the quality of the faculty.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31328>}

1998 Winter (Vol 21, #3) Note: Although the newsletter editor apparently expected to get this issue out to the field at the end of the year by giving it a 1998 Winter label and end-of-the year volume and issue number, delays in putting this issue together until after the first of the year are indicated in the comments of a number of newsletter columns.



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Matthew Blusewicz' president's column noted that a strong agenda is planned for the second Dallas meeting of VA psychology leaders and thanked Russell Lemle as chair of the planning committee and Randy Phelps from APA. Also thanked was Jeff Burk who established an AVAPL website. Congratulations were extended to Pat DeLeon who was elected APA president-elect. The president's column also noted that Jim Beysner informed AVAPL that the NOVA Psi members voted to disband that organization and was transferring its remaining funds to AVAPL to continue its advocacy on behalf of all VA psychologists. The acting deputy chief consultant's column by Bob Gresen reminded members that not only has mental health lost its deputy Mary Jansen for two years but had also lost its chief consultant Tom Horvath, and he expressed some concern during the next two years about doing a creditable job of representing VA psychology and mental health from Milwaukee. With this newsletter representing the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AVACP/AVAPL, retired archivist Jon Cummings wrote an article on the startup of AVACP at an August 1977 organizational meeting at the San Francisco APA with a member vote approving the by-laws in December 1977. In another article, he described the material which he had collected and stored in a basement bedroom in his home. [Author's Note: This material was transferred to the then named Center for the History of Psychology at the U. of Akron in 2003 when AVACP decided to establish a formal VA psychology archive at the Center.] This newsletter issue also provided photos of its first presidents from 1977-78 through 1998 president-elect Jeff Burk and provided lists of those receiving AVACP/AVAPL awards from 1979 through 1998 that were maintained by Jon Cummings in the categories of leadership, special contributions, professional service, and professional achievement. The newsletter ended with a report from regional representatives on the status of medical centers in their regions some of which were augmented from VISN reports in the region. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31329>}

### 1999 Spring (Vol 22, #1)

In his president's column, Matthew Blusewicz referred to the minutes of the mid-winter meeting elsewhere in this issue that reported on specific events and then gave his overview of that meeting. He first noted that the cumulative effort of past AVACP mid-winter meetings has made VA psychology visible in significant ways. As one indication of the value of psychology, in their meeting with Dr. Kizer, the Undersecretary for Health, AVACP presented survey data (see actual minutes for data) indicating that despite Kizer's clear statement that all qualified applicants for care line managers should be considered to fill those vacancies regardless of discipline that 75% of these managers came from psychiatry and 11% from psychology and noted a recent incident in which only Title 38 applicants could apply with about 60% of these vacancies similarly directed towards psychiatry applicants. Kizer reinforced his policies of a level playing field in appointing local and national mental health leaders without regard to discipline and noted that he had reaffirmed that policy in a recent letter to APA. He added that he would request the chief network officer to monitor this situation. The detailed minutes of the mid-winter meeting and activities of the Executive Committee were included in the newsletter with a number of writers in newsletter columns encouraging members to carefully read these minutes. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31293>}

### 1999 Summer (Vol 22, #2)

Matthew Blusewicz's last president's column noted that the Dallas II meeting of VA psychology leaders was a remarkable success. He noted that the fact that the under secretary of health and the

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chief network officer attended the meeting to speak with us as well as the past president and president-elect of APA was one indication of their respect of us as colleagues. In his acting deputy chief consultant role in Headquarters, Bob Gresen especially noted that Dr. Kizer brought copies of VHA Directive 99018 to the conference entitled "Filling Vacant Leadership Positions in Mental Health" that reaffirmed policy that the most qualified applicants be considered for leadership positions in mental health regardless of discipline (the directive was published in this issue.) In his remarks, Dr. Kizer expressed his hope that the directive would serve to eliminate unfair recruitment and appointment practices and indicated he would like to be informed of future recruitment processes not consistent with this policy statement. Russell Lemle submitted a report of activities and presentations during the leadership conference and verbatim transcripts were published in this issue of presentations by Norm Abeles (APA past president), Kenneth Clark (VA Chief Network Officer), Russ Newman (APA Executive Director for Professional Practice), and Kenneth Kizer (VA Under Secretary for Health).

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31331>}

### 1999 Autumn (Vol 22, #3)

This issue began with another call for new members in the expanded membership criteria. Jeff Burk's first president's column noted that he was extremely proud of AVAPL when we felt alone and powerless and believed that the profession of psychology in the VA might come to an end. He noted, however, that after a period of mourning that we picked ourselves up and started to figure out how to regain some of what we had lost and how to redefine ourselves in the new VA era. He credited the first two leadership conferences that began to pro-actively develop and enhance leadership skills and notes that he and others were looking forward to Dallas III being even more successful. This issue also announced a FY2000 mentoring program to be started by AVAPL. Bob Gresen's acting deputy consultant's column continued to list past accomplishments in new predoctoral and postdoctoral programs and the activity of the Psychology Advisory Committee which he asked to develop a draft strategic plan for the year. Randy Taylor's visionaries' views column focused on several future changes quoting Dr. Kizer that "we have not yet begun to see the end of changes we (VHA) need to make." Minutes of the AVAPL business meeting were included, and Jeff Burk reported on the June 1999 Behavioral Health Leadership Training Program.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31332>}

1999 October (Vol 22, #3) Note: This issue had identical content from the 1999 Autumn newsletter and both were labeled the APA Edition. The Autumn issue had an Open Letter to Members and Prospective Members encouraging new members to join with the expanded membership criteria and AVAPL accomplishments that was missing from the October issue and the Autumn issue was used as a special mailing to non-members to promote membership in AVAPL.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31371>}

### 1999 Winter/2000 Spring (Vol 23, #1)

Jeff Burk's president's column commented on the highly successful AVAPL mid-winter meetings in Washington. He noted that APA had established a Commission on Training and Education Leading to Licensure in Psychology to consider what changes might be needed in preparing the next generation of psychologists. Although the VA was not originally included in this Commission, the VA was added after discussions with APA officials during the mid-winter meeting. The

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president's column noted that renewed life for Hybrid Title 38 for VA psychologists was indicated in an initiative by VA Headquarters to that effect was making its way to Congress for approval. The column also indicated one more change in AVAPL was being considered. A survey indicated an interest in replacing the AVAPL regional representative structure with special interest groupings organized by content area, i.e., what we do instead of where we do it. Acting deputy chief consultant Bob Gresen used his column to report on a survey of the current status of psychologists in the field that he had asked the Psychology Advisory Committee to conduct. He believed the data had mostly good news with psychology still providing high quality care, training, and research. Hershel Gober, the VA Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, wrote an article for the newsletter outlining what he saw as positive changes in the VA in improving patient care and gave the examples in care of women veterans and the homeless. He added that a national survey of veterans receiving care in the VA indicated that 80% reported more satisfaction with care than two years ago. The visionaries' views column pointed a future 10 years from now that included telehealth, practice guidelines, and psychologists having prescription privileges. The full report of the status of psychology survey at the end of 1999 was included in this issue with findings and recommendations in seven areas. Also included was the FY99 annual report of regional representatives. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31333>}

### 2000 Summer (Vol 23, #2)

Jeff Burk's president's column primarily focused on what he considered to be the most successful leadership conference in Dallas. He especially noted the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that began meeting at Dallas III were generating significant interest from members. He added that a by-laws amendment was in the mail to members that would replace regional representatives with SIG representation and encouraged members to approve the new by-laws change and then sign up for one or more SIGs. Bob Gresen's acting deputy chief consultant's column noted that Deputy Under Secretary for Health Thomas Garthwaite was one of the distinguished keynote speakers at the Dallas III leadership conference and during a Q&A discussion was told that the directive on recruiting local and national mental health leaders to vacancies without regard to discipline may still have recruitment efforts not in compliance. Garthwaite indicated that data on this issue would be welcome in his office, a request also made by the Chief Network Officer in his remarks. Members were encouraged to submit data on violations of the directive, preferably by site name although it could be anonymous if requested. Also announced in this column was the recent funding for postdoctoral research fellowships in psychiatry and psychology by the MIRECC. The visionaries' views column by Randy Taylor added that the APA Division 18 Board of Directors had approved a motion to establish a workgroup to move forward on prescription privileges for psychologists that he was part of and again noted his support for that direction. Russell Lemle submitted a report of the April leadership conference in Dallas. Transcripts of the presentations by former Deputy Secretary for Health Anthony Principi and that of Thomas Garthwaite, Acting Under Secretary for Health were published in this issue as were the comments by Bob Gresen and Kathy McNamaraas well comments by Linda Johnson representing the VA's Office of Academic Affiliations. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31334>}

### 2000 Autumn (Vol 23, #3)

Peggy Cantrell's first president's column listed several goals for the coming year including building on the AVAPL's existing structure to accommodate new members with what are now the

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first AVAPL's Special Interest Groups in Administration/Leadership, Primary Care and Behavioral Health, Geropsychology, and Research, Training, and Advocacy. With the recently approved by-laws changes, specific mention was made in defining active membership for directors of training and for those directing the provision of psychological services within a facility, program, or clinic with the new language for active membership published in the president's column. The president's column also included the statement that the theme for AVAPL this year was advocacy. Acting deputy chief consultant Bob Gresen noted in his column that Mary Jansen would be completing her two-year appointment with the World Health Organization and resuming her role as deputy chief consultant in October. He also noted that in his absence at APA that Dale Cannon conducted the meeting for the VA Mental Health Strategic Health Care Group and added Dale's minutes to his column. Randy Taylor's visionaries' views column focused on the meaning of adding value and added comments on who and what adds to the value of health care. Minutes of the AVAPL Executive Committee and business meetings at APA were added to this issue. Also provided were the listing of postdoctoral fellowships at 19 VA sites in 2000 as well as the four new predoctoral training programs. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31335>}

(2001) Mid-Winter (Vol 24, #1) Note: In preparations for publishing this issue, the year of issue is missing and should be 2001.

In Peggy Cantrell's president's column, the AVAPL mid-winter meeting was summarized with readers encouraged to read the minutes in this issue to learn about the many important topics discussed in VA Headquarters, the Veterans Service Organizations, the APA, and on Capitol Hill. She detailed some of the specific priorities the Executive Committee addressed in the meetings with concerns about 6-12 letters a month written to Headquarter officials using similar language expressing alarm about the VA possibly authorizing prescribing privileges for psychologists. A second concern in the letters was that VA psychologists have obtained independent practitioner status and were not being supervised and that increased the risk for patient endangerment. She noted that Dr. Holohan, chief patient care services officer, sends a letter to those writing that only those trained and state licensed for prescribing privileges can be considered for prescribing privileges and that psychologists are not authorized to write prescriptions in any state. She added that Under Secretary for Health Dr. Garthwaite sends letters out with the same message and adds that the VA has recognized psychologists as independent providers for many years and that this was consistent with state laws, VA policy, and accreditation bodies. The president's column also noted the arguments used by AVAPL to seek Hybrid Title 38 status for psychologists and added that VA Headquarters is putting forward a proposal to send to Congress for 18 professions, including psychologists, to be converted to Hybrid Title 38. She also indicated that the Executive Committee was advocating for priority services for mental health. Mr. Principi, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, voiced strong support of mental health services for veterans and has been extremely supportive to all requests and issues raised by AVAPL. The details of the mid-winter meeting were included in this issue. The newsletter editor, June Malone, published an interview with Randy Taylor in this issue after it was announced that he had been named the Baldrige Executive Director for the VA, a new VA position, to let members know about the Baldrige Award and the VA's interest in having facilities apply for this award. Steve Holliday and Peggy Cantrell asked members to comment on the proposed changes in accreditation by the APA Committee on Accreditation. Strongly supported by the VA was the change from two to one as the

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minimum number of residents allowed in a postdoctoral training program and the increase from five to seven years as the accreditation renewal period for internships.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31336>}

(2001) Leadership Conference Edition (Vol 24, #2) Note: In preparations for publishing this issue, the year of issue is missing and should be 2001.

In the president's column, Peggy Cantrell noted that this issue was devoted to the outstanding presentations and experiences of attendees at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual VA Psychology Leadership Conference in Las Vegas and used her column to include her introductory remarks at the conference. Deputy chief consultant Mary Jansen writes her first column since returning from her two-year VA absence spent at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland and begins by thanking Bob Gresen for serving as the acting deputy. She adds her thoughts on the outstanding leadership conference presentations and then comments on the changes she observed during her absence. The comments of VA Secretary Anthony Principi at the leadership conference were transcribed and published in this issue with his focus on advocacy issues for veterans. Russell Lemle's report on the leadership conference was published as were comments from four other speakers. Four reports from Special Interest Groups (SIGs) who met at the conference were published in this issue from the Addictions, Primary Care, Research, and Training SIGs. The editor noted that with the by-laws change approved by members to replace regional representatives with SIG chairs, this would be the last issue with the names of the regional representatives.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31337>}

(2001) APA Edition (Vol 24, #3) Note: In preparing this issue for publishing, the year of issue is missing and should be 2001.

In Judith Patterson's first president's column, she reflected on the many changes that have occurred in her life since taking over as AVAPL president a few months ago starting with the September 11 terrorist attacks that touched the lives of everyone. She spoke of her personal challenges driving into New York to get to work at the Brooklyn VA with increased security and uncertainties and remembered stories of psychologists assisting others to deal with the aftermath of the trauma. She talked about the renewed energy to treat veterans with their reactivated memories of events in their own past. She then moved on to comment about mental health being recognized as an essential component of health and noted that health itself was only a recently approved APA by-laws change that added "health" to its mission. She went on to talk about AVAPL's changes in structure with an Advisory Committee to the four AVAPL officers and noted an expanded membership to that committee including six Special Interest Group (SIG) chairs, the webmaster, the newsletter editor, and the leadership conference chair. She invited members to plan to attend the leadership conference in Atlanta that has served VA psychology so well. She added that the taped presentations from the fourth conference last year are being broadcast on the VA Knowledge Network. She also noted the excellence of presentations at APA and highlighted a symposium chaired by Dolly Sadow on Women and Leadership with comments by four other women who were VA psychologist leaders. In her deputy chief consultant column, Mary Jansen commented on several excellent presentations at APA and added two items of interest from mental health in Headquarters in its plans to update the psychosis guidelines and planning for training in

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psychosocial rehabilitation. The minutes of the AVAPL business meeting at APA are published in this newsletter issue as well as an update from the Addictions SIG. Also published were comments from the “Women and Leadership” symposium chaired by Dolly Sadow and four other VA psychologist women leaders: Mary Jansen, Judith Patterson, Kathy McNamara, and Peggy Cantrell. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31338>}

### 2002 Mid-Winter Edition (Vol 25, #1)

Judith Patterson’s president’s column highlighted the concerns presented during the Executive Committee’s mid-winter meeting ranging from maintaining quality mental health and behavioral health services with decreasing reserves to issues of retention and promotion opportunities for VA psychologists to Hybrid Title 38, C&P exams, and an improved VA budget that still would not fund care for all veterans expected to seek care in the VA next year. She added comments on each of these topics in her column. The issue ended with a detailed report of the Executive Committee’s meetings with officials and topics. In those minutes, the meeting with VA Secretary Principi covered issues of mergers and partnerships and an increased enrollment of veterans without sufficient funding to care for them and ended with the Secretary saying he was sorry for being unable to attend the AVAPL leadership conference this year as he did last year and asked to be informed of the dates for next year’s conference as he would like to attend if at all possible. {<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31340>}

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Note: The previous newsletter issue indicated there would be an issue published in June 2002 that would report on the 5<sup>th</sup> VA Psychology Leadership Conference. That issue would have been Vol 25, #2. The issue was either not published or is missing from the psychology archives at CCHP in Akron.

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2002 APA Edition (Vol 25, #3) This printed newsletter was also the first digital version of the newsletters and the printed and digital version would only continue and overlap through 2003.

In Ken Adams’ first president’s column, he noted that AVAPL celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and took the occasion to comment on the excellent relationship with APA over the years and gave special thanks to Ray Fowler, APA’s CEO, who he described as a staunch and positive friend of VA psychology. The column noted several ways APA and AVAPL have worked together over the years. Mary Jansen’s deputy chief consultant’s column reported on several issues ranging from meetings with HRM in identifying facilities not following Directive 99-018 recruitment guidelines when mental health leadership positions were vacant to her meeting with the VA’s classification unit to find ways to better classify a position when the psychologist is essentially appointed to carry out the function of a former chief’s position. One solution would be the development of a directive that would require each facility to appoint a psychologist administrator given the time to carry out

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these duties. The minutes of the AVAPL meetings at APA were published as well as an update report by the Training SIG.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31339>}

2003 Mid-Winter and Leadership Conference Edition (Vol 26, #1 & 2. This printed newsletter was also the second digital version of the newsletters and the printed version would only continue for one more issue.

Ken Adams' president's column reported that the VA Psychology Leadership Conference was a resounding success and thanked Russell Lemle and the planning committee. He added comments on increased communication and progress on common concerns with the VA Section of Division 18. He also commented on progress, goals, and momentum for conversion of psychologists to Hybrid Title 38. Mary Jansen added her comments on the success of the leadership conference in her deputy chief consultant's column. She additionally noted that the psychology executive directive has bogged down in Headquarters and acknowledged the importance of the AVAPL Executive Committee mid-winter's meetings for stressing the importance of the directive and receiving support for that position. She also noted that three sites were awarded an interdisciplinary fellowship in psychosocial rehabilitation all have successfully recruited psychology fellows. Minutes of the AVAPL Executive Committee mid-winter meetings and activities were published, and a report on the 2003 VA Psychology Leadership Conference was included by Russell Lemle. Also published were the presentations of Russ Newman of the APA Practice Directorate on building resilience and that of Robert Sternberg, APA president, who described a model for developing expert leaders.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31341>}

2003 APA Edition (Vol 26, #3) Note: This was also the third digital version of the newsletters and the final printed version.

Steve Holliday's first president's column reported that that legislation was signed into law by the president on December 6, 2003 that converted VA psychologists to Hybrid Title 38 as of that date. He added that the psychologist executive directive has been stalled in Headquarters even though Under Secretary Roswell offered to sign it on the spot when discussed with him last March. It is hoped that the directive will be approved in time for the 2004 mid-winter meeting. The president's column also noted that Mary Jansen's contract as deputy chief consultant would not be renewed. It was also announced that the 7<sup>th</sup> VA Psychology Leadership Conference in 2005 would be held in Washington next April. The minutes of the AVAPL meeting at APA in Toronto were published, and the editor noted that the 2004 APA meeting would be in Hawaii.

{<http://collections.uakron.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15960coll1/id/31342>}

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Author's Note: This ends the summaries of the printed newsletters. As noted above, the last three printed issues were also electronically published and stored on the AVAPL website at <http://www.avapl.org/newsletter.html> as were subsequent newsletter issues. It can be noted,

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however, that several problems interfered with the production of the electronic newsletter and that from 2004 to 2009, only one electronic version of the newsletter was published on the website, that of the 2006 APA Edition. From 2010 through 2012, four issues were published on the website. No issues were produced in 2013 or 2014. From 2015 to the present two issues are being produced annually and published on the website. Beginning in 2011 with a change of emphasis in newsletter content, minutes of the AVAPL business meetings at APA and the minutes of the Executive Committee mid-winter meetings are now published separately on the website. The most recent minutes are listed on the homepage at <http://www.avapl.org/> with older copies moved to the archives section at <http://www.avapl.org/archives.html>.