

A History of the New York State Psychological Association:
The Early Years

First Draft
March 1, 1994

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Some early sections of this account draw heavily from a history of NYSPA prepared by Dorothea McCarthy, PhD, of Fordham University, dated January 1956.

The New York State Psychological Association:
A Brief Overview

The New York State Psychological Association (NYSPA) has been a pioneer organization for psychology in America. The association has been in the forefront of most professional advances and has established many firsts in psychology. It was the first state psychological association, it was the first group to press for legislation recognizing the professional of psychology, and it was the first psychological organization to adopt an official code of ethics (McCarthy, 1956). But the organization has had a convoluted and bumpy evolution, as the history which follows will demonstrate.

Since its founding in 1921, as the New York State Association of Consulting Psychologists, the organization has gone through several changes of name and organization. On one occasion, the New York group formed the core of a new national association and the state-based group had to reestablish itself as an organization. In part because of these changes, the history of NYSPA is best understood as divided into several distinct periods (McCarthy, 1956). These periods are more fully explained in the pages that follow.

Setting the Stage

Psychology in the first decades of the 20th century was a small and youthful discipline, confined mostly to colleges and universities. The entire membership of the American Psychological Association could be counted in the hundreds. Even the production of new psychologists was meager. In the period from 1911 to 1915, for instance, there were only 120 new doctoral degrees in psychology granted in the entire United States (Clark, 1957).

Psychology did not stay small for long. It had begun to redefine itself virtually from the beginning. Before long, psychology had established another home outside of the laboratory and outside of the university. The new fields of psychology were applied fields and, although these innovations were not well-accepted at first, they continued to grow.

The success of the new intelligence tests advanced applied psychology even further, particularly among women, for whom university positions were usually not available. Common titles in applied psychology in those years were “consulting psychologist” and “clinical psychologist,” but they were not commonly understood titles. Nor, for that matter, was the term “psychologist” itself.

Leta Stetter Hollingworth, PhD, one of the early leaders in applied psychology in New York, described the following incident.

“In 1914 the city of New York established the first position for psychologist in Civil Service, and I was appointed to fill this unique post. When I was transferred to the Psychopathic Service, at Bellevue Hospital in 1915, Dr. Menas S. Gregory, then head of the service, said to me, “And what do you do?” I answered, “I am a psychologist.” “And what is that?” “I give mental tests.” This conversation shows how new mental tests were at that time” (Hollingworth, 1943, p. 102).

The field of clinical psychology, as it was originally conceived, did not emphasize psychotherapy, and its founder was not Sigmund Freud. One of the founders in the U.S. is usually identified as Lightner Witmer, a name unknown to most psychologists. Witmer had been a student of Wilhelm Wundt, the founder of experimental psychology, at Leipzig. But when Witmer returned to the University of Pennsylvania to teach, he began to work in areas that were unknown to Wundt. Witmer came to believe that psychologists were in the best position to provide guidance for many practical problems of childhood. So, in addition to the more traditional experimental psychology, Witmer began working with children referred to him from public schools (Hilgard, 1987).

In 1896, just four years after he had served as a founding member of the American Psychological Association, Witmer established the first psychological clinic, as part of his psychology laboratory. In 1907, he formally named the new field “clinical psychology” and, in the same year, began a journal called “The Psychological Clinic.” In fact, this new field more closely resembled what is now known as “school psychology,” of which Witmer is also considered the founder. Two of Witmer’s doctoral students, David Mitchell and Robert Brottemarkle, later became prominent figures in the ancestral organizations of NYSPA. (For a more complete review of the contributions of Witmer, see McReynolds, 1987.)

When the new mental tests began to emerge in 1908 and 1911 (with the translations of the Binet-Simon Scales in the US), clinical psychologists found a very useful tool. Because of this influence, clinical psychology in the decades leading up to World War II was heavily linked to psychological testing; it did not involve psychotherapy to the degree it does now. The concept of “private practice,” for example, although typical of the psychoanalyst, was rare among most clinical psychologists.

Even before World War I, applied psychology held a prominent place in the new profession. Walter Dill Scott had begun his work in the psychology of advertising and, in 1909, Northwestern University added “professor of advertising” to his university title. Hugo Munsterberg wrote of the significance of psychology to law and to industry in two books (Munsterber, 1908; 1913). In 1915, G. Stanley Hall began a new journal, the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, devoted to the specialty. Also, in 1915, the Carnegie Institute of Technology established a new division of applied psychology (Napoli, 1981). Clearly, applied psychology was on the move.

After World War I, applied psychology experienced yet another burst of growth, its greatest eruption so far. Later, in 1921, a corporation, “The Psychological Corporation,” was formed for “the promotion and useful applications of psychology” (Gray, 1941, p.6). And as the number of applied psychologists began to grow, they looked to their national organization for leadership. But the American Psychological Association (APA) was not greatly interested. Although members of the APA hierarchy had stressed the potential application of psychology in the effort surrounding World War I, their organization was still strongly committed to the scientific side of psychology. If the practitioners were looking for organizational support, they would have to look elsewhere.

In 1917, the American Association of Clinical Psychologists (AACP) was formed at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Pittsburgh. Leta Stetter Hollingworth was largely responsible for initiating the undertaking (Symonds, 1937), and there were many prominent psychologists among her supporters. They numbered forty-five in all, and included such well-known figures as Arnold Gesell, Henry H. Goddard, Rudolph Pintner, Lewis M. Terman, Robert Yerkes, and Lightner Witmer (Symonds, 1937).

But the new organization faced strong opposition, principally because some psychologists thought it would undercut the strength of APA. Finally, in 1919, the APA offered to study the problem of certifying “consulting psychologists” and to establish a section on “clinical psychology” to pursue professional issues. The AACP was dissolved in favor of a “Clinical Section” within APA (Napoli, 1981). Two years later, when the first New York state organization was developed, it was organized along the lines established by the AACP, except for its focus within New York State (Symonds, 1937).

The search for organizational support had been going on the local level for some time. “Some psychologists in the New York area had been meeting regularly in a local group since 1896” (Benjamin, 1991, p. 1003). But when they sought to organize in a more formal fashion, they associated with the New York Academy of Sciences, although few psychologists actually joined the organization because of the high dues (Benjamin, 1991, p. 1003). When a New York Branch of the APA was formed in 1903, many psychologists joined that group. And, although, there was a stated attempt not to discriminate between “pure and applied research” in the annual program, the applied areas were not as highly valued, which became clear later. Applied psychologists in New York still had not found a comfortable home.

The situation changed in 1921 with the establishment of the New York State Association of Consulting Psychologists (NYSACP), the first in a series of organizations leading to the current New York State Psychological Association.

The New York State Association of Consulting Psychological: 1921-1930

The New York State Association of Consulting Psychologists was founded in the spring of 1921 under the leadership of David Mitchell, PhD. An announcement appeared in the *Psychological Bulletin* which read as follows:

“The New York State Association of Consulting Psychologists has been organized for the purposes of: ‘The promotion for consulting psychologists’ and ‘Stimulating research work in the field of psychological analysis and evaluation.’ Membership is limited to those who have the

minimum requirement of two years graduate work in psychology. The Executive Committee for the current year are: D. Mitchell, President; L.A. Pechstein, Vice-president; E.A. Walsh, secretary-treasurer; E.E. Farrell; S.B. Heckman; L.S. Hollingworth; and R.S. Woodworth” (Notes and News, 1921, p. 439)

Also listed on the Executive Committee were James McKeen Cattail, Warren Coxe, E.L. Thorndike, and Helen T. Woolley (Symonds, 1937)

There had been an earlier attempt in New York to organize applied psychologists when the APA met at Columbia University in 1916. The leaders in that effort were Leta Hollingworth, Elizabeth Farrell, and Elizabeth Walsh, all of whom were working with children in ungraded classes in New York City. However, no lasting organization emerged from those discussions (McCarthy, 1956)

David Mitchell served as founding president of the association in 1921, and he remained president of the organization until 1930. During this time, groups of psychologists from the New York area would simply come together to exchange ideas and experiences. There were usually a dozen to 25 people in attendance at the monthly meetings, typically dinner meetings, which were held at Mitchell’s home in upper Manhattan, NY (225 West 86th Street).

During this period, there was a relaxed air about the association. No formal minutes of the meetings were kept and no elections were held. And yet there is at least one example of a less casual approach to meetings. In October, 1921, the *Psychological Bulletin* printed the following item:

“At a meeting of the New York State Association of Consulting Psychologists held in New York City on September 24th, Professor Wm. McDougal was the guest of honor and Professors Cattell and Thorndike spoke. Dr. M.F. Washburn has been elected as honorary president.” (Notes and News, 1921, p. 568)

The stature of those mentioned is at least circumstantial evidence of the importance of the fledgling organization and, perhaps, of its serious intentions as well. The assemblage was particularly noteworthy since Margaret Floy Washburn, PhD, a native New Yorker, then teaching at Vassar College, was serving

that year as president of the APA, the second woman to be so honored. (Washburn is generally acknowledged to be the first woman to receive a PhD in psychology.)

David Mitchell, the NYSCAP founder, is not well-known to the psychological community at large. And, in fact, his visibility seems to have decreased further after his term as president. However, some information about him is available.

Mitchell was born in Aldershott, Canada, in 1884, received an A.B. degree from the University of Toronto in 1910, and then went to the University of Pennsylvania where he received an A.M. in 1911, and a PhD in 1913 (Murchison, 1932). His doctoral mentor was the distinguished Lightner Witmer, the early leader of applied psychology. Although Mitchell's doctoral dissertation explored a traditional topic of the time (it was entitled "The Influence of Distractions on the Formation of Judgments in Lifted Weight Experiments"), he received training in the new "clinical" psychology, and worked as an "examiner" in Witmer's Clinic from 1913 to 1916.

An "examiner" was always an individual with a doctoral degree in psychology, with clinical training at the University, working under an assistant director of the clinic, who worked under Witmer himself. During Mitchell's tenure in the clinic, there were only two examiners. (Later, Robert A. Brotemarkle, also a Witmer student, worked as an examiner for more than a dozen years. Brotemarkle served as association president from 1937-38, at another crucial time in its history.)

Mitchell remained at the University of Pennsylvania for six years after completing his degree. In addition to his work as an examiner in the clinic, he was an instructor in psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, and then director of psychological research for the Bureau of Educational Experiments. In 1921, the year he founded the association, he transferred to Rutgers University where he became an Associate Professor of Psychology, remaining until 1927. During this period he lectured at Teachers College of Columbia University. He was also in "private practice" as a consulting psychologist, an unusual occurrence for the time. Later, while still in New York, he was Professor of Psychology for the Child Education Foundation.

In 1931, Mitchell contributed to a volume honoring Lightner Witmer and the 35th anniversary of the founding of the first psychological clinic (Brotemarkle, 1931). (He refers to Witmer in his chapter as “our Chief”.) Mitchell’s chapter was titled “Private Practice” (Mitchell, 1931) and in it he describes the role of the clinical psychologist of that era. The range of activities he depicts is of almost heroic proportions, and is certainly beyond that of today’s typical practitioner. For example, he seems equally at ease with the roles of clinical psychologist, school psychologist, and industrial psychologist, the three major areas of applied psychology at the time. And, although he speaks of reeducation as a primary aspect of his responsibility, the word “psychotherapy” could be substituted without too much damage to his meaning. In fact, practitioners will find some of his ideas about “reeducation” remarkably current.

Mitchell retired to New Milford, Connecticut when he was in his late fifties, and died there thirteen years later at the age of 71 (“David Mitchell, ex-educator,” 1956; “Dr. David Mitchell,” 1956). He died only three months after the first psychology certification bill was approved in New York.

At various times during Mitchell’s tenure as association president, Edith Achilles, PhD, and Richard H. Paynter, PhD, served as corresponding secretary. (Paynter later served as chair of the reorganization committee in 1930, leading to the association’s first major transformation. Later still, he became president of the organization, 1932-33.) An early membership list shows there were four honorary members: James McKeen Cattell, Edward L. Thorndike, Margaret F. Washburn, and Robert M. Yerkes. These honorary members apparently gave the young organization their blessing, but they did not all actively participate.

Listed among the active members during this period were: Edith Achilles, Elsie O. Bregman, Emily T. Burr, Clara F. Chassell, Ethel L. Cornell, Warren W. Coxe, George V. Dearborn, Elizabeth E. Farrell, Arthur I. Gates, Katherine B. Graves, Samuel B. Heckman, Leta and Harry Hollingworth, Buford Johnson, Harold E. and Mary C. Jones, James E. Lough, Arthur I. Otis, Alice E. Paulsen, Richard H. Paynter, Rudolph Pintner, A.T. Poffenberger, Louise E. Poull, Henry A. Ruger, John L. Stenquist, Gladys Tallman, Clara H. Towne, Elizabeth A. Walsh, Elizabeth T. Wood, and Robert S. Woodworth. (McCarthy, 1956) Almost half of this group were also members of the New York Branch of the APA. (See Benjamin, 1991, p.1008, for 1925 membership list of the New York Branch.) Many of these members remained with the local organization as officers in its subsequent transformation.

It was during this period that psychologists in New York State were listed as certified examiners to sign commitment papers for the mentally retarded. Medical authorities in the state would typically contact Dr. Achilles, as corresponding secretary, to inquire about the training and qualifications of individuals seeking to obtain this certification. Several early members of the association recalled that in the 1920s Dr Woodworth and Dr. Mitchell made a trip to Albany in the interest of legislation concerning psychologists. (McCarthy, 1956)

“Perhaps the most significant accomplishment of this period in the development of the association is recorded in a little known pamphlet issued in June 1922 by the Health Service of the New York County Chapter of the American Red Cross. The booklet was entitled *Examination of Pre-School Age Children: Examinations to Children Upon Registration Before Entering School*. On pages 16-25 of this pamphlet, under the authorship of David Mitchell, may be found data on the administration of individual mental tests to 1113 entering school children in New York City. This is more extensive than the original standardization of the Stanford-Binet tests.” (McCarthy, 1956, p. 3)

Part of the Pamphlet reads:

“Aside from the unqualified success of the demonstration as feasible, the desirability of an extension of this form of practical service is emphasized in the notable and illuminating report of the New York State Association of Consulting Psychologists. Members of this organization leaped into the breach that existed by reason of the inadequate personnel in the office of the Inspector of Ungraded Classes. The leadership of Miss Farrell and Dr. Mitchell and the enthusiastic interest of their co-workers gave rise to an unusually important contribution to our knowledge concerning the mental potentials of our registrants in kindergartens and 1A grades. The significance of this experiment in extensive individual mental scaling is obvious to those cognizant of the possibilities of the psychological examination of children. . . . The work of examining 1000 pre-school age children who would enter kindergarten or 1A grade in September was undertaken by members of the New York State Association of Consulting Psychologists in the month of June 1921. The purpose of the psychological examination was to place in the hands

of school principals' data which could be used in the scientific classification of these children.”
(McCarthy, 1956, p. 3)

“Two centers of examination were maintained each school day. To each center four psychologists were assigned for service each morning. Each psychologist was asked to examine five children a day . . . Twenty children were to be examined in each center each morning.”
(McCarthy, 1956, p.3) “These volunteers of our first state psychological association were therefore the first school psychologists of New York City.” (McCarthy, 1956, p.3)

The results of this volunteer effort by members of the association also appeared in an article in a scholarly, educational journal, *School and Society*, under the authorship of David Mitchell, with the association listed as his affiliation (Mitchell, 1922). Dorothea McCarthy (1906-1974) who, in the account above, is so obviously impressed with the scope of the project, was an expert in the testing of children and, therefore, in a strong position to evaluate the merits of the venture. She was a professor of psychology at Fordham University for many years. She was also a past-president of the association: 1943-44, and the author of the early history of the organization frequently referenced here.

The Association of Consulting Psychological: 1930-1937

After nine years under the same leadership, many members of the association felt that a change was needed. The profession was changing and a new association was needed to reflect those changes. (As one index of that change, in 1930, ten years after the founding of NYSACP, there were twice as many psychologists in the US as there had been in 1921.) (Napoli, 1981)

In 1930, a reorganization committee, with Richard Paynter as chairman, initiated plans for reorganization (Symonds, 1937). Subsequently, a meeting was called on October 19, 1930, at the Men's Faculty Club of Columbia University. This was essentially a reorganization meeting at which a new association, the Association of Consulting Psychologists (ACP), was formed.

The effect of this reorganization on the founding president, David Mitchell, was not recorded, but it may be worth noting that he left the state to become a visiting psychologist at Ohio State University in 1931 and 1932. His name continues to appear in the records of the association, although infrequently. After his visiting professorship at Ohio State University, he returned to live and work in New York City.

The first officers elected to positions in the newly formed society were: Dr. Douglas Fryer, President; Dr. Elsie O. Bregman, First Vice-President; Dr. Richard H. Paynter, Second Vice-President; and Dr. Alice E. Paulsen as Secretary-Treasurer.

“The ACP’s constitution listed the organization’s objectives: mutual benefit to consulting psychologists in all fields of applied work, the education of the public about psychological services, and the stimulation of research in consulting psychology.” (Napoli, 1981, p. 75)

The leadership of the new group apparently took to their new tasks with a great deal of enthusiasm, and the results were quickly seen. McCarthy (1956) wrote:

“The group was small, well-trained, and geographically concentrated. They had high standards, and were well motivated to advance the status of psychology as a profession. The newly formed organization seems to have gotten off to a vigorous start, for a mimeographed *Newsletter* came out only three months later which reported, ‘Twelve committees at work . . . over fifty psychologists serving on committees . . . membership doubled, executive committee meeting twice monthly, plans underway for establishing permanent headquarters . . . arrangements for spring meeting’” (p. 4)

The Association soon began to work in an area that had been largely neglected, but which would be a significant milestone for the newly emerging profession.

“The ACP also took up a professional matter that had previously received little formal attention: an ethical code for psychologists. In 1933 the organization proposed some general rules for its members, violations of which could lead to expulsion. The code began with the twin premises

that ‘the work of the practicing psychologist constitutes a profession’ and ‘the first aim of a profession is the service it can render humanity.’” (Napoli, 1981, p. 75)

The ACP issued yearbooks which were published annually from 1931 to 1936-37, with the exception of 1935-36. The first yearbook described the reorganized society as follows:

“The Association is a reorganization of the New York State Association of Consulting Psychologists. It was founded in the spring of 1921 by a small group of practicing psychologists. Dr. David Mitchell was elected the first president of the Association and remained in office until 1930.

The Association is undertaking to become an effective force in the professional practice of psychology in the fields of medicine, education, industry, law, social work and guidance. Executive Committee meetings throughout the past year have been devoted to conferences with the various professional committees and to the consideration of problems connected with the reorganization. The foundation has been laid in such a way that the future of the Association was assured.

The Association of Consulting Psychologists is organized for the purpose of establishing and maintaining professional standards of work in the various fields of applied psychology. Its membership consists of those who, by training and experience, are best qualified to represent the profession. Consulting psychologists in medicine, industry, education, law, social work and vocational guidance are included in the membership. The membership area is at present confined to territory within a hundred miles of New York City. The Association concerns itself with problems of training, standards, remuneration, legal status and group ethics of the profession.” (McCarthy, 1956, p. 4)

The first yearbook also contained information on membership requirements. The two classes of membership were known as Members and Associates. Member status required two full years of graduate study in psychology in a college or university, and two years of Experience or its equivalent. Associate

status required one year of graduate study in psychology and one year of experience. Experience was defined as “work in the applications of psychology.” The requirements stated further: “The professional standing of the candidates must be acceptable to the association.” (quoted in McCarthy, 1956, p. 5).

The second Yearbook, which appeared in 1932-33, began to explore new territory. It included a constitution but, more importantly, it included a suggested program for training clinical psychologists and the proposed code of ethics, mentioned earlier which had been prepared under supervision of Warren W. Coxe, PhD (NYSAAP President, 1937-38). By this time membership standards had been raised. Now members were required to have an earned PhD in psychology or education and two years of experience, although the Executive committee could waive those requirements if they felt the applicant was otherwise qualified.

The necessity for the greater communication among its far-flung membership was also verbalized.

“Following the organization of the Association of Consulting Psychologist the need has frequently been expressed for publication which would serve as a medium of communication between the widespread of membership. The first attempt to this need was by means of a mimeographed news letter in 1930, edited by Lorine Pruette. Later, in 1934, communication news letter was resumed. These was followed in 1935 by *The Consulting Psychologist*, a publication reproduced by a photostatic process” (Symonds, 1937, p.24).

In 1937, this journal became the *Journal of Consulting Psychology*, which is still published today. The Association also sponsored a series of radio talks as early as 1933, which were devoted solely to the applications of psychology. (A more detailed account of the activities of the Association in this period may be found in the Presidential address of Richard H. Paynter, PhD, Published in the *Psychological Exchange* in 1933) (McCarthy, 1956).

While applied psychology in New York was finding new life in one organization, its strength was waning in another. The New York Branch of the American Psychological Association, which had previously stated its openness to the presentation of applied research in its programs, began to have second thoughts. At a meeting in 1931 it clarified its intentions by excluding “paper dealing with

consulting practice” from its programs. At that meeting the group unanimously approved a resolution which read:

“That no distinction be made in the scientific programs of New York Branch between pure and applied psychology; that the association emphasize the presentation of experimental (including mental measurement) research whether preformed with pure of applied intent; that research performed with either *scientific* fields of research. To avoid duplication of the activities of the Association of Consulting Psychologist it is recommended that papers dealing with consulting practice be presented at the meetings of that Association or some similar body” (“Proceedings of the New York Branch,” 1931, p. 615) (quoted in Benjamin, 1991, p.1009).

The effect of that statement was immediate.

“The New York State Association of Consulting Psychologists was not listed in the 1931 program; there was no session on consulting psychology, nor was there a single presentation by a psychologist not affiliated with a university. The members of the branch had voted to narrow its program domain – psychologists who were not presenting the results of experimental investigations were not welcome, consulting psychologist withdrew to their own organization” (Benjamin, 1991, p. 1009).

This action is particularly curious since Douglas H. Fryer, PhD, Secretary-Treasurer of the New York Branch of APA, 1930-1931, was also the first president of the new Association of Consulting Psychologists 1930-1931. In addition, it was Fryer who, at the New York Branch meeting in 1931, asked the group to decide whether it wanted to be a scientific organization (Benjamin, 1991, p. 1007). He would later serve on the executive committee of the Branch as they awaited the development of bylaws of the reorganized group, bylaws which effectively shut the ACP of the programs of the Branch.

Later Fryer would write:

“Those with serious interests in the science of psychology felt that the New York Branch as it was conceived during the previous decade had served all too inadequately the professional

interest of psychologists in the area centering around New York City” (Fryer, 1940, p. 1. quoted in Benjamin, 1991, p. 1007).

Of course, Fryer was not focusing only on members of the ACP in this statement. Because the New York Branch had an open membership, it became increasingly dominated by non-psychologists. The effect of the bylaws “was to restore control of the Branch to university-based psychologists and to reestablish the scientific goals that characterize the organization today” (Benjamin, 1991, p. 1003). (In the early 1930s, the New York Branch of the APA was transformed into the organization now known as the Eastern Psychological Association.)

It would also appear that the separation of the activities of the New York Branch and ACP was not simply an attempt to remove “consulting psychology” from the New York Branch. Rather it was an attempt to give each their separate identities. Immediately after the separation, ACP held its first annual meeting at New York University. The engineer for the separation was Douglas Fryer, PhD, a faculty member at New York University, and, as pointed out earlier, an officer of both organizations.

The ACP continued to establish a formal identity after its rebirth.

“Two and one-half years after its reorganizational meeting was held, the Association of Consulting Psychologists was incorporated in the State of New York, on July 14, 1932. The signers of the articles of incorporation were: Clairette P. Armstrong, Emily T. Burr, Henry E. Garrett, Charles W. Manzer and Richard H. Paynter” (McCarthy, 1956, p. 5).

The new organization, having confirmed its identity and independence, began to grow further in size and geographic influence.

“In the first published membership list of the one-hundred fifty-nine members of the Association, slightly under twenty per cent were residents of the states other than New York. By the time of publication of the 1934-35 Yearbook, however, the membership has increased to 234 of which only one-third was outside New York. In the most recent (1936-37) directory those outside New York constituted over one-third of the membership, and the number from states not adjacent to

New York had nearly doubled, twenty two states in all being represented” (Brotemarkle & Kinder, 1937, pp. 93-94).

The growth in size and influence did not go unnoticed. In 1934, the secretary of the Clinical Section of the APA, Edward B. Greene, wrote to the APA secretary, Donald G. Paterson, to ask if the activities of the ACP could be curtailed. Greene argued the split between academic and applied psychology was not good for psychology. Further, he wrote the Clinical Section of the APA had been established to handle professional issues (Napoli, 1981, p. 76).

Patterson wrote back to Green: “the Association of Consulting Psychologists is a natural response to the repeated refusal of the A.P.A. to make attempts, in any sustained manner, to control applied or professional work in psychology.” In short, Patterson did not find the ACP in competition with the APA. In fact, he supported it (quoted in Napoli, 1981, p. 76.)

Later, there were meetings to consider the merger of the Clinical Section of the APA, and other applied organizations, with ACP. There was little agreement in the beginning because of differences among the organizations in standards of membership, goals, and influence. The ACP was by far the most powerful of the contributing organizations. Later meetings were more successful in reaching accord, finally resulting in the events of 1937. (See Napoli, 1981, for a more complete review of this period, particularly the relationship between APA and ACP).

Despite their concentration in the New York City metropolitan area, some association members had held this wider geographic view for the organization virtually from the start of the organization.

“As far back as 1930, when the question of reorganization of the then New York State Association of Consulting Psychology was first considered, the question was raised as to the possibility of the development of a national association to represent the varied interests of the applied fields. As result of these discussions, there appeared in the Articles of Incorporation of the A.C.P. The following: ‘That the territory in which operations of said corporation are to be principally conducted are the State of New York, the United States of America, and foreign countries’” (Brotemarkle & Kinder, 1937)

New York State Association for
Applied Psychology: 1938-47

The growth and geographic expansion of the ACP contained the seeds of its own destruction. Workers in many applied fields continued to feel the need for a national organization to represent them, and an expanded ACP represented a strong possibility. The Clinical Section of the APA had not been successful in achieving the kinds of goals that most members had in mind, e.g., licensing and certification. Attempts to form sections in APA for other applied areas had failed and the pursuit of a national association to represent applied psychology continued.

At the annual meeting of the Association of Consulting Psychologists, on May 7th and 8th, 1937, in Albany, NY, the Executive Committee approved the formation of a national association in applied psychology. The Association expressed its readiness to endorse the plans for a national association at the APA meeting in Minnesota August 30th and 31st, 1937 (Kinder, 1937). At the Minnesota meeting, the association further clarified its position. They wrote:

“The Association has already indicated willingness to make such sacrifices as may be required in behalf of the development of a larger organization which will represent the entire field of applied and professional psychology in this country” (News Notes, p. 64).

Eventually, the ACP formed the nucleus of the new national group, the American Association of Applied Psychology, (AAAP). In effect, the ACP split into two groups – the new national group, the AAAP and a newly organized local group, called the New York State Association for Applied Psychology (NYSAAP).

It is important to note the continuity between the Association of Consulting Psychologists and the New York State Association for Applied Psychology. Unless this link exists, it is possible to conclude that the New York State Psychological Association (NYSPA) had its earliest incarnation in 1937. But several links do exist. For example, in a report written as secretary of the ACP in 1937, Kinder discussed the files of the organization which would soon be defunct. She wrote:

“Division of the material in the files between the American Association of Applied Psychologists and the New York State Association which is in the process of organization was discussed and preliminary steps were taken for transferring this material” (Kinder, 1937, p. 94).

Clearly, what is taking place is the split of the ACP into two new organizations, of which the New York State Association for Applied Psychology, not yet fully named, is one. Later, in fact the AAAP returned many of the files of the ACP to the new state organization after concluding that the files concerned mostly local issues.

There is another statement attesting to the split in the same issue of the *Journal of Consulting Psychology*. Brotemarkle and Kinder (1937) wrote:

“It is, therefore, with a deep sense of an obligation of the Association of Consulting Psychologists to the new organization that the officers and executive committee of the A.C.P. are preparing for transfer of the properties which represent all except the strictly local or regional aspects of the A.C.P. activities. In the opinion of those who have encouraged this development, the American Association of Applied Psychologists will be in a position to greatly advance all of the fields of applied psychology. In addition it is hoped that it may aid the organization of such local and regional groups as will serve the more immediate interests of those whose problems are in part defined by relationships dependent upon geographical or other boundaries.”

In one sense the reorganization of 1937 was forced upon the ACP by developments on the national scene. But the leaders of the old ACP were aware of the implications of the new organization. In planning the spring meeting of the ACP at the Albany State College for Teachers they made provision for the establishment of the new state organization.

A special meeting was held on Friday evening May 7, 1937, in the Regents Room of the State Education Building in Albany. The program contained the following listing:

“Conference: The organization of a New York State Association of Psychologists in Clinical and Applied Fields. Under the Direction of the New York State Committee: Charles A. Drake, Warren W. Coxe, John J. Jenkins, Chairman” (Cited in McCarthy, 1956, p. 8).

The most important leader in the establishment of the American Association for Applied Psychology was Douglas Fryer, PhD (1890-1960). Although one of the early practitioners to apply psychological principles to management, he also taught for many years at New York University (D.H. Fryer, 1960). In 1930, he had been the first president of the Association of Consulting Psychologists, and he was active with the Eastern Branch of the American Psychological Association, as previously noted. In 1936, he headed a National Committee on Federation and Affiliation which led to the establishment of the new American Association of Applied Psychologists. In 1937, he became president of the AAAP.

The final Executive Committee meeting of the Association of Consulting Psychologists was held on October 15, 1937. The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the newly formed New York State Association was held at Fordham University in the Woolworth Building in New York City on January 10, 1938. The first annual meeting of the reborn New York State Association of Applied Psychologists was held at Columbia University on May 7, 1938, with an attendance of thirty-three members at the business meeting, and over one-hundred at the entire program (McCarthy, 1956, p.9).

By December 4, 1937, a new constitution had been adopted by the newly formed New York State Association for Applied Psychologists and the following news item appeared in the *Journal of Consulting Psychology*:

“The New York State Association for Applied Psychology completed its organization by the adoption of a constitution and the election of officers at a meeting of the New York Members of the A.C.P. held at Columbia University Dec, 4, 1937. This association will take over from the A.C.P. such activities as pertain especially to the development of psychological interest within New York State” (quoted in McCarthy, 1956, p. 8).

A later issue of the same year states:

“The New York State Association for Applied Psychology plans to continue many of the activities previously carried on by the A.C.P., and looks forward to becoming affiliated with the A.A.A.P.” (quoted in McCarthy, 1956, p. 8).

At the first meeting of the executive committee of the new association, all members of the ACP residing or working in New York State were invited to become members of the New York State Association without further filing of credentials. More than one hundred members had already transferred from ACP to NYSAP with the first year (McCarthy, 1956, p. 9).

Standards for membership were still controversial item. Some members wanted to retain the relatively high standards which had been maintained by the ACP; others felt that the association should be more representative of psychology as it was being practiced in the state at the time. The AAAP had two classes of membership, Associates and Fellows, and state membership was closer to the Associate level. The general feeling was that a state organization was not developed to promote high standards, although this was a useful goal. Rather, the intent of a state organization was to represent psychology as it was practiced.

The issue was resurrected at the April 2, 1938 meeting at New York University. A new constitution was considered with particular emphasis on membership requirements. A spirited debate arose. One group was in favor of a single class of membership based on a PhD with two years of experience. A second group favored a more open membership with the MA as an acceptable credential, in combination with or more years of experience. The second group won the debate.

During this period in the history of the association there was typically one annual meeting, usually held alternately in New York City and in upstate New York. A *Bulletin* was established. It was printed in mimeograph form by a committee consisting of Elaine Kinder, Nine Ridenour, and Dorothea McCarthy. In 1940, it went into print under the editorship of Walter Durost and Roger T. Lennon. After Dr. Durost left the state, Roger Lennon continued as editor for approximately two years. Subsequent issues were handled for a short time by Dr. Joseph V. Hanna, assisted by Audrey Shuey (McCarthy, 1956, p. 10.).

“In 1942 James D. Page then became editor until his departure from Rochester for Temple University, and the editorship was ably carried by Louis Long from 1944 to 1947. LaVange Richardson became editor of the *Bulletin* and began renumbering it from Volume 1, No. 1, because of the change of the name in the association at that time. Roger T. Lennon again assumed the editorship of the *Bulletin* in 1948 and served in that capacity for another period of five years.” (McCarthy, 1956, p. 10).

The organization was incorporated in the State of New York in 1938, and shortly thereafter went through a minor change of name, to New York State Association of Applied Psychologists.

World War II brought many changes to the national scene, some of which would have an effect on the local organization. Other state organizations had begun to spring up. The American Association of Applied Psychology merged into the APA in 1946, as part of that organization’s new divisional structure. For a time NYSAAP, which had been affiliated with AAAP, had no national affiliation. Members of the Association argued for representation on the APA’s new Council, but that governing body represented interest areas, not geographic regions, and so their petition was denied. (McCarthy, 1956)

A major concern of the organization had been the establishment of a system of self certification. The matter was taken up at the annual meeting in Albany on January 26, 1946. The requirements were described in the *Bulletin* of February, 1946, were approved by mail vote, and were in effect by February, 1947. By May, 1947, a total of 46 psychologists had been certified in clinical psychology, and by May, 1948, 181 certificates had been issued.

During this period, State Senator Desmond proposed a certification bill to the State Legislature. Despite support from the state association, the bill died in committee because of objections from the State Department of Education. (Senator Desmond introduced a second certification bill in 1948 which was also unsuccessful.) In the March, 1947, issue of the *Bulletin*, John Peatman, PhD, reviewed the status of legal certification in the state. The drive toward licensing, which had been diffuse and unfocused for so long, was beginning to strengthen.

In November, 1947, a committee was appointed, under the chairmanship of J. McV. Hunt, PhD, to redraft the constitution of the state association. In part, this effort was due to the changes taking place within the APA. The *Bulletin* for November, 1947, speaks to this issue.

“At the last Annual Meeting of the New York State Association for Applied Psychology, the membership passed a motion to broaden its scope so that it may properly represent all aspects of psychology within the borders of the State. Such a move is directly in line with the policy of the American Psychological Association, for it is generally agreed that the State Societies should be organized to foster the professional and scientific interests of psychology within the various states” (McCarthy, 1956, p. 10.).

The constitution resulted in a major reorganization of the association, and the name of the association was again changed. In 1948, the organization was chartered as the New York State Psychological Association, Inc. The new by-laws were adopted on December 31, 1947.

New York State Psychological Association: 1948-1962

The next period in the history of the state association was being dominated by the quest for licensing. Attempts were made to bring various factions of psychologists around the state together to present a united front to the state legislature. This included the academic psychologists, many of whom had remained aloof from the state organization.

The APA established a Conference of State Psychological Associations in 1948. Associations around the country sent delegates to the national meeting, their numbers determined by the size of the association. In New York these delegates were added to the Board of Directors of the association.

At Harriman, NY, in May, 1951, and then at Vassar College, on July 7-8, 1951, meetings were held for another purpose. Their goal was to stress the need for greater unification among psychological organizations throughout the state. An article in October, 1951 *Bulletin* read:

“There are approximately 1800 psychologists living or working in the state of New York. There are at least 11 different organizations of psychologists, with some overlapping among their respective memberships, and there is a considerable number of psychologists not affiliates with any state or local organizations. The New York State Psychological Association although the largest of the individual groups still includes fewer then half of the state’s total number of psychologists among its membership.”(quoted in McCarthy, 1956, p.11.).

“The Directors of NYSPA have been much concern by this lack of any body which may claim to speak authoritatively for the profession in the state. Late in 1950, they decided to take the initiative in bringing together representatives of other psychological groups in the state to explore the matter of a unified state organization. Dr. Louis Long, President of NYSPA, was authorized to send invitations to representatives of other psychological groups in the state, these groups being for most the part, those that had been represented during the preceding year on the Joint Council of Psychologists on Legislation. This meeting was the Harriman Conference. At it, the groundwork was laid for an approach to the problem of unification” (quoted in McCarthy, 1956, p.11.).

One outgrowth of the Harriman Conference was a proposal for a divisional structure within the organization another proposal suggested a revision of a constitution.

The new constitution was adopted in 1953 and it included the plan for a divisional structure. The four divisions created at that time were : (1) General Psychology, which was concerned with teaching and research; (2) Applied Social Psychology; (3) Personnel Psychology, and (4) Clinical and Abnormal Psychology. Each of the divisions was represented on the Board of Directors, based on the size of the division. The Clinical-Abnormal division was the largest. Each division had a chair and secretary and functioned autonomously, somewhat like the divisions of the APA (McCarthy, 1956).

In 1951, the association adopted a Code of Ethics. It was the first state association to adopt such a code officially, and it preceded the publication of a code of ethics by the APA by approximately two years.

One of the first and most sought after goals of NYSPA, from its earliest days, was to obtain some form of official recognition for applied psychology. Certification had been available earlier from both the state and the APA, but the power of such verification was limited. What was needed was a law which both defined psychological services and controlled their availability to the public.

The first state to achieve certification/licensing for psychologists was Connecticut in 1945. But the issue of licensing had been formally explored in New York State since 1937 and, most certainly, in some fashion, before then. Unfortunately, the early attempts are not well documented. In any case, those attempts were unsuccessful. It was not until the mid- 1940's that genuine progress could be seen.

“In 1946 Senator Desmond, of the New York State Legislature, became interested in the problem. On investigation, he found that there was no means under the law by which the public could distinguish the trained and qualified practitioner of psychology from the untrained or the charlatan. Accordingly he approached several of the New York State psychological organizations with a request for assistance in drawing up legislation designed to control the practice of psychology. The New York State Psychological Association responded to his request by setting up a committee on Legislation under the chairmanship of John Peatman” (Combs, 1952 p. 541).

The committee responded by writing a licensing bill. After a period of discussion, the bill was brought to Albany for review by the Division of Licensure of the State Department of Education. Unfortunately, the Division decided that it was “too soon for the psychologists to seek a licensing bill and advised the Committee to see a certification bill instead” (Combs, 1952, p. 541).

“The following year (1948-49) a certification bill was prepared and presented to the department only to find that the department had changed its mind and now felt that a certification bill would not adequately protect the public or make prosecution of questionable practitioners possible. They, therefore, demanded a licensing bill with ‘teeth in it’ and the following year took the leadership in developing such a bill” (Combs, 1952, p.541).

“In 1949, the State Department of Education called together a meeting of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, members of the medical profession, vocational guidance personnel

and representatives of interested state departments. This committee unanimously agreed that the problem was a serious one and that some licensing should be set up to protect the public. It appointed a subcommittee with G. R. Wendt, who was then chairman of the Committee on Legislation of the New York State Psychological Association as chairman”(Combs, 1952, p.541).

The subcommittee, consisting of representatives from social work, the medical profession, and state psychological organizations, worked for several months to draw up a licensing bill. A satisfactory draft was not completed until late in the 1950 legislative session. By then, there was inadequate time for discussion. Consequently, “the bill died in committee largely because of the opposition of the number of psychology groups” (Combs, 1951, p. 541)

Still, the effort continued, although with a somewhat different constituency. One of the difficulties in dealing with the licensing issue in New York State was the lack of a single state organization of psychologists sufficiently representative to speak for all psychologists in the state (Combs, 1951). At that time, in addition to NYSPA, there were nine other psychological organizations active in the state.

“Early in 1950, therefore, J. McV. Hunt, president of NYSPA, suggested the formation of a truly representative body of psychologists drawn from all recognizable sources to take over the responsibility of writing and introducing a licensing bill to the legislature.” (Combs, 1951, p. 542)

“Early in the summer of 1950, 35 psychologists, carefully chosen to represent (1) psychological organizations of the state, (2) training centers, (3) geographical areas, and (4) special interests in applied psychology, including psychoanalytic groups, were invited to participate in a conference on legislation. This group organized itself into the Joint Council of New York State Psychologists on Legislation, with the following officers: Arthur W. Combs, chairman; Harry Bone and Florence Halpern, vice chairman; Donald Super, secretary; and Wallace Wulfeck, treasurer” (Combs, 1951, p. 542)

One of the first acts of the new council was to establish a budget of \$15,000, an amount which some members felt would be difficult to raise from the approximately 1,700 psychologists then in the state. However, the campaign, under the supervision of Wallace Wulfeck, the Joint Council treasurer, reached its goal in December, 1950. In that same month the Joint Council completed a new draft of the licensing bill which was satisfactory to all of its members and to the officials of the various state departments. (Combs, 1951)

The next phase of the plan was to carry the bill to the other professions concerned. These discussions were conducted by the chairman, who met with each of the organizations, and reported to the Council (Combs, 1951).

“The final draft of our licensing bill was completed January 15th and approved by a long list of supporting organizations and state interests including all of the psychological organizations of the state, the New York Vocational Guidance Association, most of the departments of psychology of the state’s universities, a large number of social work agencies, and varying statements of support from a number of state departments” (Combs, 1951, p. 543).

Several issues in the final bill were controversial. For example, the bill itself was really a form of certification, not a license. Licensing restricts the activity, regardless of the title used. Individuals who diagnose and treat disease are practicing medicine, irrespective of their label, and must have the proper credentials. But individuals who offer psychological services could properly use titles other than that of a psychologist, e.g., teacher, social worker, psychiatrist, minister.

The Joint Council agreed that regulation was a matter of grave concern in order to control quackery in the field of human relations.

“It argued, however, that the control of quackery in the entire field of human relationships ought not to be saddled upon the psychological profession alone. It pointed out that psychology is only one of the professions engaged in human relations and that the legitimate concern of the psychologist in licensing this profession was the control of these persons professing to be psychologists. This decision facilitated greatly the task of writing a definition and immediately

eliminated much of a opposition of other professions which had become uneasy over what looked to them like a pre-emption by psychology of the whole field of human relations” (Combs, 1951, p. 544).

The Joint Council also considered the issue of requirements for licensure. Legislators had become wary of licensing laws which established increasingly rigorous requirements in order to keep licensed members of the profession in short supply (Combs, 1951). The Joint Council found these concerns valid. They decided that the primary guiding rule for licensing in psychology was that requirements be consistent with the public interest. Because of this concern, they did not specifically require the doctoral degree for licensing. Instead, the bill required “a doctoral degree based on a program of studies whose content was primarily psychological, or its reasonable equivalent in both subject matter and extent of training.” (Quoted in Combs, 1951, p. 546).

“In the same manner, the interpretation of the adequacy of the two years of supervised experience required by the law would be based upon criteria established by the Board of Examiners” (Combs, 1951, p. 546).

A campaign was launched to promote the bill. Senator George Metcalf and Assemblyman Orlo Brees each sponsored the bill in their house of the legislature. Kits were assembled containing the bill, examples of malpractice, articles on malpractice, comparisons of the roles and training of psychologists and psychiatrists, a page of New York City telephone book with questionable listings, a list of organizations supporting the bill, and a short memorandum on the bill (Combs, 1951, p. 547).

The chairman of the Council, along with several other psychologists, called on individual legislators to discuss the bill. Friends and confidants of legislators were requested to speak in behalf of the bill. In addition, the Joint Council requested that each psychologist in the state write to Assemblymen and Senators to support the bill. The program was effective, and the bill was passed in both houses of the legislature. Unfortunately, on April 10, 1951, Governor Dewey vetoed the bill.

Part of that veto read as follows:

“...there is a very real danger that the license created by this bill to eliminate fraudulent psychologist would itself be in danger by being misunderstood by the public and even those receiving the license. The border line between psychology and psychiatry, although clear enough in the abstract, is very difficult to recognize in practice. The definitions included in this bill are not helpful.”

“Adequate recognition of this problem has not been given in the preparation of this bill, either in its definitions or in the provisions for its administration.” (Quoted in Combs, 1951, p. 548)

The Governor’s veto pointed to additional opposition from organized medical groups. In fact, a large number of individual physicians and psychiatrists strongly supported the bill (Combs, 1951).

The effect of working on the bill, even in the face of a veto was to bring about a greater coordination and cooperation among the groups participating in the Joint Council. Specifically, as a result of that effort, a plan was drawn up to establish a new constitution for NYSPA which would unite all New York State psychologists in a single organization. This proposal was submitted to membership in February, 1952, was approved, and took effect in January, 1953. The result was to create the divisional structure of NYSPA which is still in effect today.

For the next two years, the Joint Council attempted to carry on a discussion with representatives from psychiatry in order to clarify their differences. The effort met with only partial success. In the spring of 1953, a bill was introduced into the New York Legislature without prior knowledge of psychologists, which would have made all psychotherapy a part of the practice of medicine. Fortunately, the bill never came out of committee (May, 1953).

Rollo May, PhD, NYSPA President 1954-55, has referred to these years as the “dangerous years.” Psychologists were constantly under threat of being declared outlaws in the practice of their profession by the legislature. The enemy, as May saw it, was a narrow wing of the American Medical Association (May, 1992, xxiii).

“For 6 or 8 years, intense anxiety visited me and my colleagues almost continually when the legislature was in session. We employed a part-time psychologist, Arthur Combs, as our representative on the floor of the state legislature. I recall a special day, when we were to have a crucial meeting that evening in the ballroom of the Hotel New Yorker, on which I did not dare answer the phone for fear it would be Art Combs in Albany to announce that the “outlawing “ legislation had arrested him. When I finally did answer the phone it was Art simply wanting to tell us that he had gained promises from the leaders of the legislature that the medical bill would not be passed, at least in that session” (May, 1992 p. xxiii).

“Several months later, I concluded, along with a psychiatrist who sympathized with our cause that the best step for us as psychologists would be to clarify all the different branches of psychotherapy. The plan we then developed was to bring together selected members of the five professions that practice psychotherapy as part of their work: psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, ministers, and educators... Preparatory to this major conference, the five groups would study what kind of training was necessary for its members, and the aims each group sought The members of each group undertook to find out what persons in the other fields did in the form of training and practice, what safeguards they honored, and so on” (May, 1992, p. xxiv).

“The results were available in the regular *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. I do not know how many states made concrete use of the published results of the conference; I can only say that from that moment on, the fact that psychotherapy was conducted by psychologists and by each of the above groups was then accepted in the various legislatures around the country” (May, 1992, p. xxiv).

On April 23, 1956, Raymond Katzell, PhD, then presiding over the Joint Council, read a letter from Governor Harriman, dated April 19, 1956, stating that the Governor had signed the psychology licensing bill (Schonbar, 1956). The Governor’s message with regard to the bill was then read.

STATE OF NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

April 17, 1956

MEMORANDUM filed with Senate Bill, Introductory Number 3239, Print Number 4087, entitled:

“An ACT to amend the education law in relation to the profession of psychology, and making an appropriation to the education department for expenses in connection therewith”

APPROVED

This bill recognizes and gives status to the profession of psychology. It prohibits any person in the State of New York from calling or holding himself out as a psychologist and accepting pay for performing psychological services unless he has been certified by the State Education Department.

To accomplish this, a board of examiners in psychology is established under the State Education Department for the purpose of the establishing minimum requirements and appraising the qualifications of person applying for certification.

A certificate will be issued to any person with good moral character who meets the educational and experience requirements and satisfactorily passes an examination in psychology. However, such examination is not required of persons who meet the educational and experience requirements on or before July 1, 1957 or of honorably discharged veterans who meet such requirements on or before July 1, 1958.

This bill is the result of the joint efforts of the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, the State Education Department, the Joint Council of New York State Psychologists on Legislation, the New York State Medical Society, the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association.

The bill is approved by the following State departments and private organizations: Department of Mental Hygiene, the State Education Department, the Joint Council of New York Psychologists on Legislation, the New York State Medical Society, the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association.

The bill is approved by the following state departments and private organizations: Department of Mental Health, Department of Education, Department of Health, Division of the Budget, New York Society of Clinical Psychological Association, American Veterans Committee, Syracuse Psychological Association Nassau County Psychological Association, Brooklyn Psychological Association, Rochester Psychological Association, New York Personnel, and Guidance Association, New York State Psychological Association, Westchester County Association of Psychologists, Psychological Association of Western New York, Rockland County Psychological Association, Suffolk County Psychological Association, Individual Psychological Association of New York, National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis, Association

of Psychoanalytic Psychologists, Group for Freudian Psychotherapy, Post Graduate Center for Psychotherapy, Association of Psychologists in New York Schools and Syracuse-Onondaga Council of Social Agencies.

In addition numerous eminent psychologists and educators have written urging approval of this bill.

Similar legislation has already been enacted by the States of Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, Virginia, Kentucky, Georgia, Washington, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

The bill is approved.

(signed) AVERELL HARRIMAN

Katzell had been in touch with the State Education Department indicating the willingness of the Joint Council to help in naming a slate for the board which would oversee licensing. A committee to consider the implementation was named consisting of McNeill, Zymore, Riess, and Katzell from the Joint Council, and Thompson, Cook, Halpern and Wendt from NYSPA (Schonbar, 1956). At the same meeting the Joint Council appointed a “Victory Party” committee and plans were made for a celebration in the Terrace Room of the Hotel New Yorker on Saturday May 19, 1956.

An Advisory Council in Psychology was established in 1956 to offer guidance to the Commissioner of Education and to the Board of Regents on matters pertinent to psychology. The council remained in existence for fifteen years before it was allowed to lapse (Pearlman, 1982). The fall of 1956 also saw the establishment of the first State Board of Examiners of Psychology. (Since 1971, this group has been called the State Board for Psychology.) The first Executive Secretary of the Board was Joseph R. Sanders (NYSPA president (1967-68). He was followed by Leonard Harber, Raymond D. Salman, Morton Berger, Judy E. Hall, and the current secretary, Kathleen Doyle.

Immediately After Licensing

By 1960, the Association was at a crossroads. Membership was increasing – it had grown more than 30 per cent between 1958 and 1960 – so the total membership in April, 1960, was almost 1600 members. And the annual meetings were well-attended; there were more than 700 advanced registrations for the 1960 meeting (which included a large number of non-NYSPA members). But the Association did not have a permanent office or a secretarial staff. Nor did it own a single typewriter or duplicating machine. It operated out of the office of Samuel Pearlman, PhD, its Executive-Secretary, a new position which had been created only two years before.

Pearlman’s job was to see to it that the policies established by the Board were put into effect. In addition, he coordinated all the committees, was in charge of all membership records and treasury records, and supervised all mailings to the membership. In the previous year those mailings had come to more than 25,000 pieces. Clearly, there was a need for a permanent Central Office staff, but NYSPA treasury could not support such a staff. It did not even pay rent for Pearlman’s office. In 1959-60, the total NSYPA budget was less than \$10,000. Some members began to speak of raising dues to build up a reserve fund so that eventually the Association could support a proper staff (Pearlman, 1960).

Concern was also expressed at the 1960 meeting regarding the divisional structure of the Association. The majority of members were clustered in the clinical division, and there was a question as to how well the other interests were being satisfied. In 1959-60, in an effort to offer some relief, members were allowed multiple divisional memberships for the first time. There were five divisions in the Association at that time. They were: the General Division, the Personnel Division, the School Psychologists Division, the Division of Applied Psychology, and the Division of Clinical Psychology. The School Psychologists Division, which has been formed only two years before, was the second largest Division in 1960.

The annual meeting continued to be the primary professional focus of the Association. At its meetings in 1960, there were exhibits, program advertising, and the promise of revenue-producing events. Because of the size of the gathering, it was no longer practical to hold the annual meeting at a university. APA had reached the same decision only a few years before. In fact, the arrangements were getting so intricate that the Executive-Secretary wrote:

“There is little question in my mind that the developing complexities in Annual Meeting organization will soon require the designation of a Convention Manager and the planning for these meetings respectively for two years in advance” (Pearlman, 1960, p. 4)

(By 1992, there was still no Convention Manager, other than the NYSPA President-elect, and planning continued to be done one year in advance. But the ideas were being discussed.)

Edward L. Siegel became the new editor of the *New York State Psychologist* in June 1961, succeeding Bernard Locke. Dr. Siegel appointed Sidney A. Orgel as Associate Editor. Color was introduced to the newsletter for the first time, using the blue from APA's *American Psychologist* as a model. (Justin Carey, a past president of the association, has said the truth of this is just the opposite. He argues that the *American Psychologist* took the blue color – and some of its design – from The New York State Psychologist.) Publication of the newsletter became more regular, with a twelve-page edition appearing every other month. (Unfortunately, Edward Siegel, who did so much to revitalize the newsletter, died in February 1962, only eight months after taking over the publication.)

In October, 1961, for the first time, the Association rented permanent quarters (340 West 58th Street). Fabian X. Schupper was hired as a part-time Executive Secretary, and a budget was provided for clerical support. The gains were modest but they were a beginning. The new office was a ten by eighteen foot basement space, and the total yearly budget of the Association came to approximately \$30,000 (Schupper, 1962). Total NYSPA membership for 1961-62 was 1,735, up from 1,589 in the 1959-60 period.

In 1962, a new NYSPA committee devoted to the subject of aging, was formed. Also in 1962, the possibility of merging the Personnel Division and the Applied Social Division was being discussed, but no action was taken because a review of the entire NYSPA divisional structure had been proposed.

That review took place at a three-day meeting in Kingston, NY, later referred to as the Kingston Conference. As a result of that meeting, a reorganization plan was formed which included a revised constitution and bylaws. One of the outcomes of the new proposals was a larger governing council, which would be composed of officers, and geographic and divisional representatives. A smaller group of members would serve as the Executive Council. It was hoped that the revisions would be complete and ready for a vote by the membership at the time of the 1963 Annual Meeting.

The Association, through its various committees, had become aware that a change in mental health care was taking place across the nation. It was expected that within ten years some form of coverage, either through private insurance companies or through governmental agencies, would be provided to take care of the mental health of the nation. The goal of NYSPA was to see to it that psychologists were included in all such proposals on an equal basis with other professionals in the mental health field.

NYSPA's role as a leader and model for the state psychology associations throughout the nation was taken seriously by the membership. For instance, the outgoing president of the clinical division 1961-62, Bernard F. Riess, wrote in his year-end report:

“We have initiated endeavors which should be of significance for the development of clinical psychology in New York State, and, as we know, for the profession in other states since we are a kind of bellwether for our colleagues elsewhere” (Reiss 1962, p. 7)

In 1962, the NYSPA Legal-Legislative Committee reported that every bill introduced into the State Legislature that was opposed by NYSPA was killed in Committee (Gomez, 1962, p. 18)

INTERMISSION

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RECORD OF PRESIDENTS

1921-30	David Mitchell
1930-31	Douglas H. Fryer
1931-32	Emily Burr
1932-33	Richard H. Paynter
1933-34	Louis E. Poull
1934-35	Percival M. Symonds
1935-36	Henry E. Starr*
	Miles Murphy
1936-37	Gertrude Hildreth
1937-38	Robert E. Brotemarkle
1937-38	Warren W. Coxe
1938-39	Walter V. Bingham
1939-40	Jack W. Dunlap
1940-41	Henry E. Garrett
1941-42	Ethel L. Cornell
1942-43	Warren G. Findley
1943-44	Dorothea McCarthy
1944-45	Morris Krugman
1945-46	Herbert D. Williams
1946-47	John G. Peatman
1947-48	Wallace H. Wulfeck
1948-49	George K. Bennett
1949-50	Arthur W. Combs
1950-51	J. McV. Hunt
1951-52	Louis Long
1952-53	L. Louis Stone
1953-54	Harold G. Seashore
1954-55	Rollo May
1955-56	Stuart W. Cook
1956-57	Albert S. Thompson
1957-58	Florence Halpern
1958-59	Raymond A. Katzell
1959-60	Gordon F. Derner
1960-61	Max Siegel
1961-62	Harry V. McNeill
1962-63	Bernard F. Riess
1963-64	Edward J. Shoben**
	Bernard F. Riess
1964-65	Isidor Chein
1965-66	Morton Deutsch
1966-67	Samuel Pearlman
1967-68	Joseph R. Sanders
1968-69	Bernard Saper

1969-70	Leonard Small
1970-71	Walter H. Wilke
1971-72	O. Bernard Leibman
1972-73	Florence L. Denmark
1973-74	George Stricker
1974-75	Doris K. Miller
1975-76	Cecil R. Forster
1976-77	Rosalea A. Schonbar
1977-78	Allen V. Williams, Jr.
1978-79	Jacob Chwast
1979-80	Howard M. Cohen
1980-81	Justin P. Carey
1981-82	Reuben J. Silver
1982-83	Virginia Staudt Sexton
1983-84	Ruth Ochroch
1984-85	Sidney A. Orgel
1985-86	Harry Sands
1986-87	Magda Denes
1987-88	Richard Cohen
1988-89	Stanley Graham
1989-90	Sheryl F. Jacobson
1990-91	Martin J. Coffey
1991-92	Michael Sullivan
1992-93	George Litchford, Jr.
1993-94	Esther Mullen
1994-95	David Nevin

*Died in Office

**Resigned

A Brief Chronology of the Organization

- 1921 Founded as the New York State Association of Consulting Psychologists by David Mitchell, PhD.
- 1930 Reorganized as The Association of Consulting Psychologists, it includes members from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, within 100 miles of New York City.
- 1932 Incorporated as The Association of Consulting Psychologists, Inc., in the State of New York.
- 1937 The Association of Consulting Psychologists, Inc., splits into two groups: the American Association of Applied Psychology, which becomes the national group, and the New York State Association of Applied Psychology, which becomes the local group.
- 1938 Incorporated as New York State Association of Applied Psychology, Inc., in the State of New York.
- 1940 Name changed to the New York State Association of Applied Psychologists, Inc.
- 1948 Reorganized and chartered as the New York State Psychological Association, Inc.
- 1952 Reorganized with divisional structure approved by mail ballot in February, 1952. The divisional structure goes into effect at the Annual Meeting, January, 1953.

ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING PSYCHOLOGISTS:
ANNUAL MEETINGS 1931-37

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| May 9, 1931 | New York University
Washington Square, NY |
| January 2, 1932 | YMCA, 5 West 63 rd St.
New York, NY |
| May 6, 1933 | University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA |
| May 12, 1934 | Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ |
| May 4, 1935 | Teachers College
Columbia University, NY |
| May 9, 1936 | Vineland Training School
Vineland, NJ |
| May 7-8, 1937 | New York State College
for Teachers, Albany, NY |

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF
APPLIED PSYCHOLOGISTS, INC.:
ANNUAL MEETINGS 1938-1946

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| May 7, 1938 | Columbia University, NY |
| April 29, 1939 | Cornell University, Ithaca, NY |
| February 10, 1940 | Fordham University, Bronx, NY |
| February 1, 1941 | Sagamore Hotel, Rochester, NY |
| January 31, 1942 | New York University, |

March 6, 1943*	Washington Square, NY
February, 19, 1944	Psychiatric Institute, NY
	College of the City of New York, New York, NY
February 3, 1945	Teachers College, Columbia University, NY
January 26, 1946	State College for Teachers, Albany, NY

* Regular annual meeting canceled because of the defense effort; this business meeting substituted and held in New York City because of wartime restrictions on travel.

THE NEW YORK STATE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.:
ANNUAL MEETINGS 1947-

February 1, 1947	Women's National Republican Club, New York City
January 31, 1948	Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
February 5, 1949	Hunter College, 68 th St., New York, NY
February 11, 1950	Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
January 26-27, 1951	Washington Irving High School New York, NY
January 18-19, 1952	DeWitt Clinton Hotel Albany, NY
January 30-31, 1953	New York University, Washington Square, NY
January 29-30, 1954	Hunter College, at 68 th St., New York, NY
January 28-29, 1955	Sheraton Hotel Rochester, NY
January 27-28, 1956	New York University, Washington Square, NY
February 1-2, 1957	Teachers College & Barnard College New York, NY
May 2-3, 1958	Hotel Onondaga, Syracuse, NY
May 8-10, 1959	Nevele Country Club Ellenville, NY
May 6-7, 1960	Hotel New Yorker New York City
May 4-6, 1961	Hotel Sheraton Rochester, NY
May 11-13, 1962	Hotel Raleigh

May 3-5, 1963	South Fallsburgh, NY Commodore Hotel New York City
May 1-3, 1964	Hotel Schine Ten Eyck Albany, NY
May 1-2, 1965	Grossinger's Liberty, NY
May 6-8, 1966	Statler-Hilton Hotel New York City
May 1967	
May 3-5, 1968	Buffalo, NY Statler-Hilton Hotel New York City
May 9-11, 1969	Concord Hotel Kiamesha Lake, NY
May 8-10, 1970	Hotel Syracuse Syracuse, NY
May 7-9, 1971	The Commodore Hotel New York City
May 12-14, 1972	March Hotel Lake Placid, NY
April 13-15, 1973	New York Hilton New York City
May 3-5, 1974	Statler-Hilton Hotel Buffalo, NY
April 18-20, 1975	Concord Hotel Kiamesha Lake, NY
April 30, May 1-2, 1976	New York Hilton New York City
May 13-16, 1977	Concord Hotel Kiamesha Lake, NY
May 5-7, 1978	Biltmore Hotel New York City
May 11-13, 1979	The Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs, NY
May 9-11, 1980	Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City
May 8-10, 1981	Kutsher's Country Club Monticello, NY
April 23-25, 1982	Vista International Hotel New York City
April 29-30, May 1, 1983	Grossinger's Liberty, NY
April 27-29, 1984	Grand Hyatt Hotel New York City
April 26-28, 1985	The Pines Hotel

May 2-4, 1986	South Fallsburg, NY Ramada Renaissance Hotel Saratoga Springs, NY
April 24-26, 1987	Roosevelt Hotel New York City
April 28, 30	Concord Resort Hotel
May 1, 1988	Kiamesha Lake, NY
April 28-30, 1989	Doral Inn New York City
April 27-29, 1990	Sagamore Resort Hotel Bolton Landing, NY
May 3-5, 1991	Gurney's Inn Montauk, NY
May 15-17, 1992	Sagamore Resort Hotel Bolton Landing, NY
May 14-16, 1993	Rye Town Hilton Rye Brook, NY
May 13-15, 1994	Sagamore Resort Hotel Bolton Landing, NY

NYSPA Awards

Allen V. Williams, Jr. Memorial Award	
1980	Doris K. Miller
1981	Samuel Pearlman
1982	Milton Theaman
1983	Justin P. Carey
1984	Virginia Staudt Sexton
1985	Helena Mallay Lesk
1986	Howard Cohen
1987	Ruth Ochroch
1988	Reuben Silver
1989	Bernard (Ted) Riess
1990	Joseph Zubin
1991	Sidney (Bud) Orgel
1992	Richard M. Cohen
1993	Harry Sands

Kurt Lewin Award

1978	Florence L. Denmark
1979	Marvin Werson
1980	Morton Deutsch
1981	Harold E. Yucker
1982	Morton Bard
1983	Richard Christie
1984	Otto Klineberg

1985	Leonore Loeb Adler
1986	Edwin Hollander
1987	Marshall Segall
1988	Justin P. Carey
1989	Albert Pepitone
1990	Harold Takooshian
1991	Stanley Schachter
1992	Vita Rabinowitz
1993	Uwe Gielen

Wilhelm Wundt Award

1987	Virginia Staudt Sexton
1988	Florence L. Denmark
1989	Leonore Loeb Adler
1990	Victor Sanua
1991	Helmut E. Adler
1992	John D. Hogan
1993	Gwendolyn Gerber

Margaret Floy Washburn Award

1994	Ruth Ochroch
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NYSPA Service Awards

1988: Daniel Ceranski, Laura Hines, John D. Hogan, and Sheila Kaplan,

1989: Laurence Bakerm Kathleen Doyle, Max Heinrich, Jay Land, and Herbert Robbins.

1990: Jefferson Fish, Shepard Goldberg, George Litchford, Robert Nachtman, Sandra Tars, and Bert Wolff.

1991: Leonore Loeb Adler, Judith Antrobus, Marilyn I. Geller, Franklin H. Goldberg. Special Citation: NYSPA Task Force on AIDS.

1992: Irene Deitch, Joan Einwohner, Therese Lack, and David Nevin.

1993: Elizabeth Carll, Carol Goldberg, Gisa Indenbaum, Geoffrey Porosoff, Joseph Turkel.