



THE ALABAMA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

WHY JOIN?

Association memberships across all professions has been in steep decline over the past several years. Membership in our state psychological association is no exception. We understand that the “game has changed” and that psychologists can network, get CEs and find information on specific problems online. We get that it is easier and cheaper to not be a member of your professional association and that many wonder “why join?”.

aPA has made concerted efforts to support psychology as a profession and to provide for its members while positively affecting the profession for all, even those that choose to not join. As so many other mental health disciplines continue to encroach on our profession, as the third-party payor landscape changes, as legislative changes threaten to negatively impact access to quality care, your state association’s role to fulfill its mission is vital. We are not just the same old, same old. Did you know that aPA:

- Worked for three years to update our licensing law.
- Fought, and won, against the Medical Association for the State of Alabama (MASA) when they tried to eliminate psychologists’ *ability to diagnose and treat mental illness!* (YES, that actually happened)
- Lobbies at a national level for quality mental health coverage, parity and healthcare reform.
- Track legislative bills in our state that might impact the profession of psychology and respond as needed.
- Built positive relations with the BOEP to ensure fair due process when complaints are filed.
- Tracks and provides information to psychologists about insurance market changes.
- Provides annual ethics workshops and a network of colleagues to “consult” (for free) about sticky ethical situations.
- Has provided representatives to sit on insurance committees to advocate for psychology and provide evidenced based information to them on the necessity of various billing codes (e.g. 90846) and how we differ from other mental health providers.
- Has begun to develop an online CE library with discounted costs to members.
- Has built relationships with state colleges and universities to provide information, workshops, and newsletter articles on state of the art research.
- Has developed a large and active graduate student association within the association.
- Has a social media presence <https://www.facebook.com/alapsychorg>
- Continues to offer quality on site workshops throughout the year and at our annual convention.

It is, however, getting harder and harder to do these things without the support of psychologists in the state. We need you and we hope you believe that you need us too! For less than the income of three clients per YEAR, your membership in aPA helps support the profession of psychology. But it also impacts YOU in your individual career and ultimately your bottom line. Believing that state associations have little to offer is not evidenced based. Can the profession thrive without us? Can the association survive without you? We believe the answer is NO. Please support the profession of psychology by supporting your state association. To join us, please go to www.alapsych.org.