



Dear NYSPA Members and NYS Psychologists:

The New York State Psychological Association is committed to transparency, honesty and integrity, and is on record opposing torture. We are extremely troubled by the revelations in the Hoffman Report that there was collusion between senior members of the American Psychological Association and government officials which ultimately gave license to military operatives to use abusive interrogation techniques. This collusion, deception and dishonesty corrupted the very makeup and activities of the Presidential Task Force on Psychological Ethics and National Security (PENS) originally set up to study this issue. We learned that this was done to "curry favor" with the United States Department of Defense and also meant to protect psychologists rather than to protect the public. We condemn this behavior.

We are troubled by the lack of transparency, accountability and an inadequate set of checks and balances. Had there been a better system established, no small group or entity within the APA would have been able to hide crucial information from governance and the membership.

We are also extremely troubled to learn that attempts by those who strove to reveal inappropriate actions on the part of senior members of the APA, over many years were met with denial and ridicule.

We endorse the corrective actions that the APA has planned and the suggestions that are circulating in the areas of ethics, governance structure and checks and balances.

Our two NYSPA Representatives to APA Council, Drs. June Feder and Peter Kanaris, will be empowered to find solutions that include how to move through this organizational crisis and move forward in the future. They will be meeting in August.

We intend to monitor these developments and communicate with you periodically. Please make use of all avenues to communicate with us and to APA.

NYSPA has a proud history. Established in 1921 we were the first 'state' psychological association and the first psychological association to adopt an official code of ethics. The fact that trusted leaders of APA have tinkered with APA's code of ethics in order to carry out previously forbidden or illegal behaviors regarding the treatment of detainees is abhorrent. The pride we have as psychologists has been blunted.

Our own NYSPA leaders were wise enough in 2010 to bestow the Beacon Award upon a relentless fighter and a NYSPA member Dr. Steven Reisner. The Beacon is an award "presented to a psychologist whose leadership or advocacy has established a guiding light for the profession of psychology."

To our NYSPA members - whether you are a member of APA or not you are still our member, you are still psychologists, and we speak for you. Through us you indeed have a voice.

Finally we must learn from this tragedy the principle of never giving up despite the barriers and hurdles before us. Those who fought hard to expose these wrongdoings and never backed down - Stephen Soldz, Steven Reisner, Jean Maria Arrigo, and James Risen - have shown us what that means. We thank them.

On behalf of NYSPA's Executive Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonard Davidman, PhD".

Leonard Davidman, PhD  
President, New York State Psychological Association

Roy Aranda, PhD, JD (President-Elect), Dinelia Rosa, PhD (Past-President), Tanya Gesek, PhD (Secretary), Alan Hack, PhD (Treasurer), Antoinette DeLuca, PsyD (Member at Large), Herbert Gingold, PhD (Member at Large), June Feder, PhD (APA Council Rep), Peter Kanaris, PhD (APA Council Rep), Rochelle Balter, PhD, JD (Parliamentarian), Jerry Grodin, PhD (Director of Professional Affairs), Tom Coté, MBA, CAE (Executive Director)