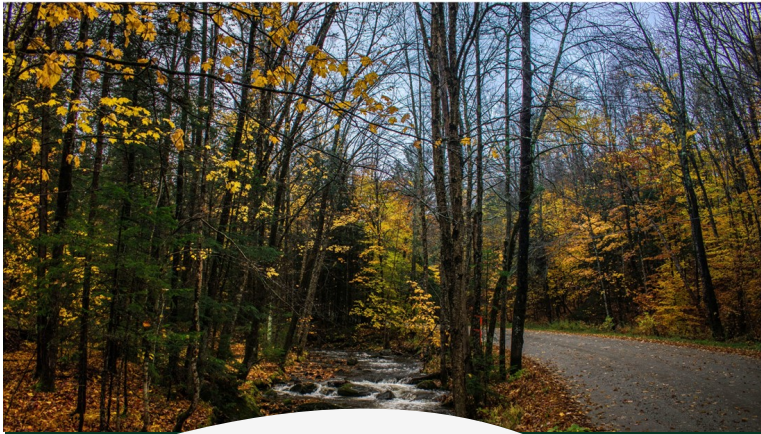
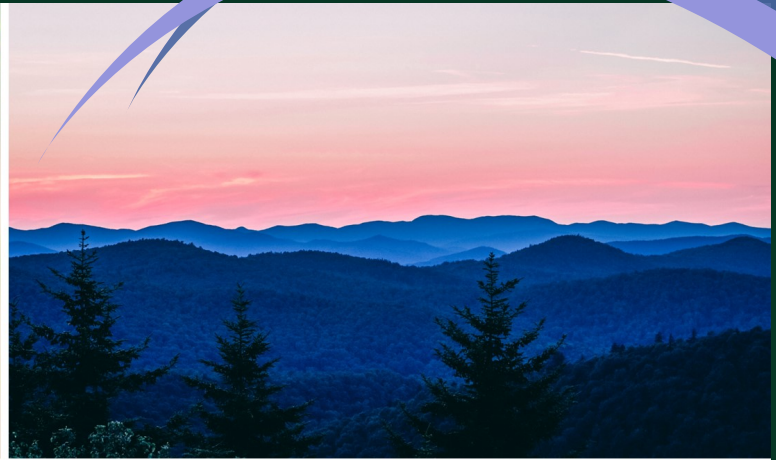


# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Vermont Psychological Association

# Vermont Psychological Association

## 2020 Annual Report



Jeffrey D. McKee, Psy.D.	President
Danielle Bergeron Ingram, M.S.	Vice-President CE Committee Chair Southwest Regional Representative
Sara M. Clements, Psy.D.	Treasurer
Gus Jordan, Ph.D.	Past President
Richard T. Barnett, Psy.D., M.S.	Legislative Committee Chair
Andrew D. Blair, Psy.D.	Diversity & Social Justice Committee Chair
Melody B. Frank, Psy.D.	Disaster Preparedness & Response Committee Chair
Karen J. Hack, Ph.D.	Northeast Regional Representative
Milton J. Marasch, Ph.D.	Insurance Committee Chair APA Council Representative



Jeffrey D. McKee, Psy.D.  
Board President

## From the President

For many of us, 2020 has been a new, and not entirely pleasant, experience. VPA has adapted and continues to provide our members with the best service and resources we can.

In January, the VPA board of directors met to create a strategic plan and goals for the year. Even with interruptions caused by pandemic, we have been able to meet some of those goals.

We have implemented a new online CE catalog, CE21, that makes new makes registration much easier and more efficient, allows us to offer pre-recorded content, and helps us make the most of our limited administrative resources. After a short interruption at the beginning of the year, we have been able to continue providing interesting, quality continuing education for mental health professionals.

We've also been able to maintain and create some new partnerships with the New Hampshire Psychological Association, the Vermont Mental Health Counselors Association, The Trust, and the Vermont chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. We are working with UVM to find ways to collaborate with their programs as well.

Our standing committees continue their work as well. Along with the ongoing work of the Ethics, Insurance, and Legislative Committees, our Diversity & Social Justice Committee has been actively gathering resources and identifying ways to help VPA and its members become more informed on issues surrounding diversity and social justice. Our Disaster Preparedness & Response Committee has developed a plan with the state in responding to disasters and is working on those projects.

On the financial side, VPA began the year in excellent financial situation with an unexpected surplus of nearly \$10,000. When the pandemic started to impact the United States, it impacted VPA as well.

VPA had to cancel its first 3 conferences and, as a result, cash flow was very uncertain for the remainder of 2020. The board of directors collaborated with our executive director to structure a three-month layoff in order to protect VPA's continued operations. As a result and because our workshops since June have been successful, we are currently in excellent financial position. VPA is starting to slowly build a reserve and build budgets that are realistic reflections not only of revenue, but also of the expenses required to move VPA forward and provide service and resource to our members.

I want to personally thank all our VPA members for their support and participation throughout this unpredictable year. You make all the difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey D. McKee, Psy.D." The signature is written in a cursive style.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS THIS YEAR



## New Members (since November 2019)

Julie E. Dauth, M.A.  
Mary Ann Donnelly-DeBay, Psy. D.  
Lindsay Furlong-O'Hara  
Brandon L. Gray, Ph.D.  
Lori P. Gurney, M.S.  
David J. Helfand, Psy.D.  
Jessica R. Houser, Ph.D.

Gregory P. Korgeski, Ph.D.  
Danielle M. LeRiche-Ferkey, M.A.  
Ed Loewenton, M.A.  
Erin K. McKenney, M.S.  
Robert Steiner, Psy.D.  
Benjamin S. Stillman, Psy.D.



## Highlights of 2020

Implementation of CE21 online learning management system

Engaging with our community partners in continuing education

Expanded, active CE Committee

## CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Although the restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic were initially damaging to our educational program, we were able to recover from that initial impact and begin presenting our workshops virtually.

The most significant news for 2020 is that we have been implementing an online learning management system, called CE21, so that we can more seamlessly present virtual events, increase the efficiency of registration, and—most importantly—begin offering shorter on-demand continuing education content. VPA is collaborating with the New Hampshire Psychological Association in presenting courses on this platform.

VPA has also partnered with other organizations, most notably the Vermont Mental Health Counselors Association, in presenting continuing education workshops, and we will continue to look for those types of opportunities in the future.

Along with our full-day workshops, VPA has begun producing shorter pre-recorded content that we can include on our on-line catalog in partnership with the NHPA, which is an APA-approved sponsor for homestudy. NHPA will also make its content available on our catalog.

The members of the VPA Continuing Education Committee are:

- Danielle Bergeron Ingram (Middlebury), Chair
- Katherine Schlageter (Winhall)
- Tracy Loysen (Berlin)
- Catherine Burns (Essex Junction)
- Anne Unangst (Montpelier)



Danielle Bergeron Ingram, M.S.  
Continuing Education Committee  
Chair

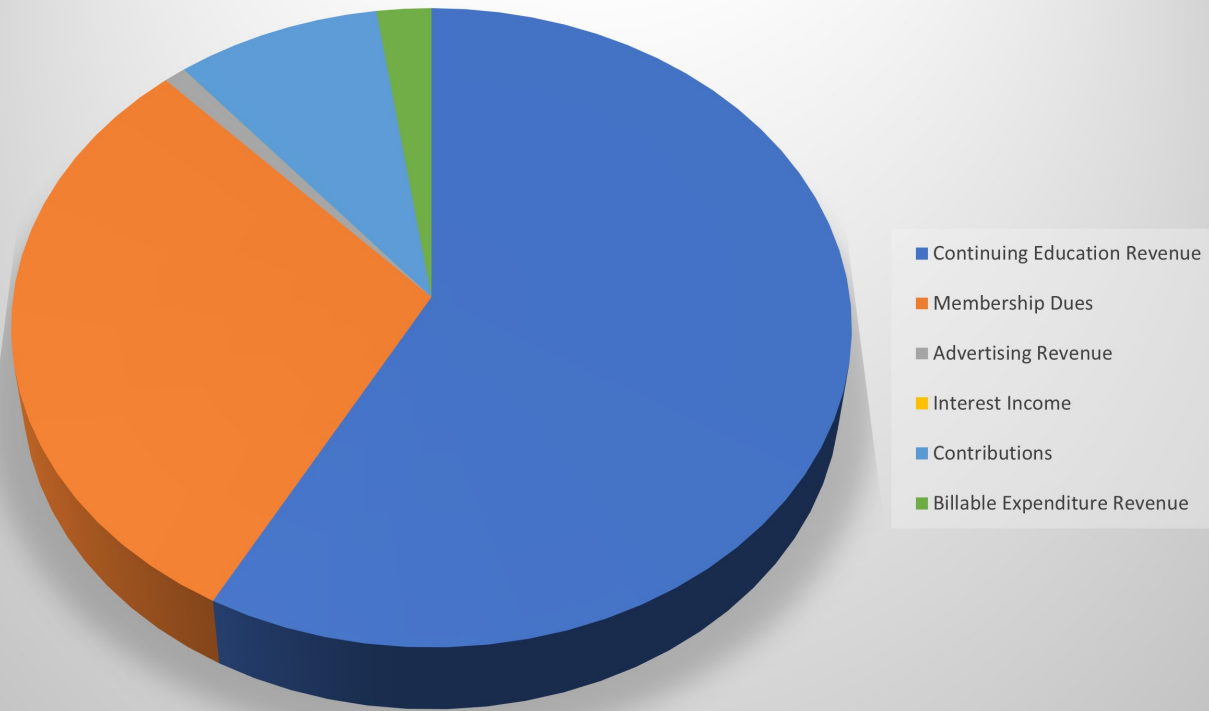
The CE Committee has already begun to plan events for next year, and we are excited about the topics and speakers we've already identified.

## CE Committee Members

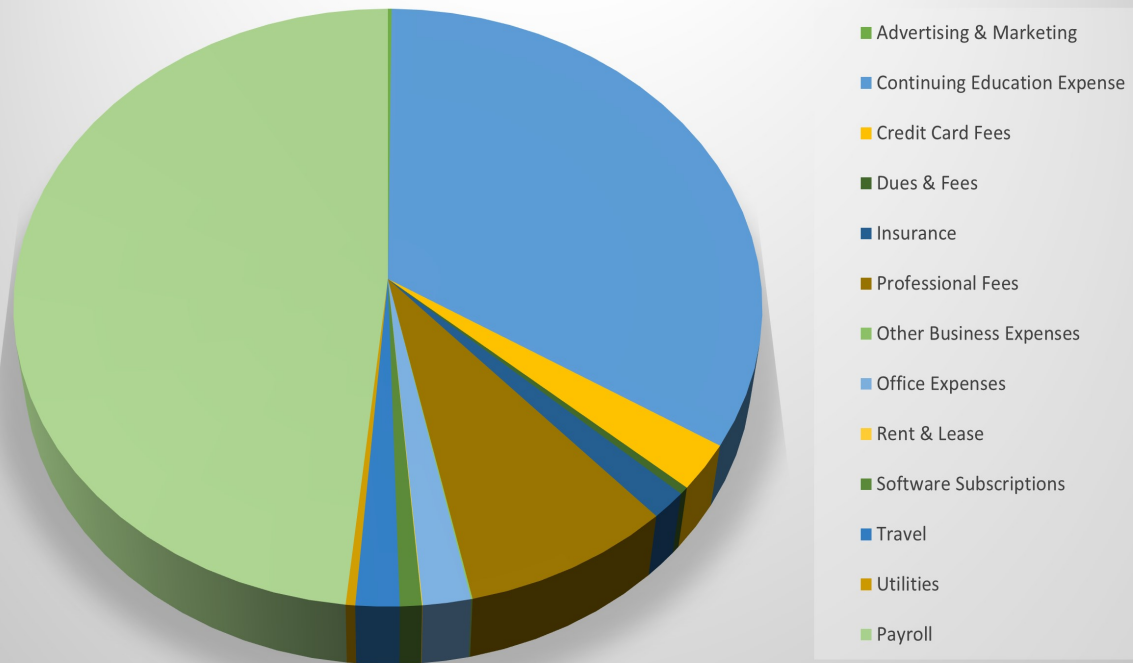
- Danielle Bergeron Ingram, Chair
- Katherine Schlageter
- Tracy Loysen
- Catherine Burns
- Anne Unangst



### VPA Revenue (November 1, 2019-October 31, 2020)



### VPA Expenses (November 1, 2019-October 31, 2020)



## DIVERSITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Diversity and Social Justice Committee continues to meet regularly and has a vibrant and active group of members. We have discussed and worked on several projects in the last year. Early in the year we gathered feedback via a survey from VPA members about a proposal to require that all licensed psychologists in the state complete some continuing education credits in a topic related to diversity or multiculturalism as part of their current educational requirements. Based on VPA member feedback, we decided to instead look for ways to encourage psychologists to seek out these educational opportunities voluntarily. The committee is now working actively with VPA's Continuing Education Committee to co-sponsor learning opportunities which will focus on topics related to the competent practice of psychology with clients of various identities, as well as helping clinicians understand how their own racial, ethnic, and other identities impact and influence their clinical practice. Finally, the Diversity and Social Justice Committee is working to create a database of resources related to relevant topics for the VPA membership to access through the VPA website and via the listserv. We are always happy to hear from you if you have any interest in these or other projects or if you would like to get involved!



Dr. Andrew Blair  
Diversity & Social Justice  
Committee Chair

## Diversity & Social Justice Committee Members

Andrew Blair, Chair  
Karen Hack  
Reem Koinis  
Ann Reynolds  
Mark Reck

## ETHICS COMMITTEE

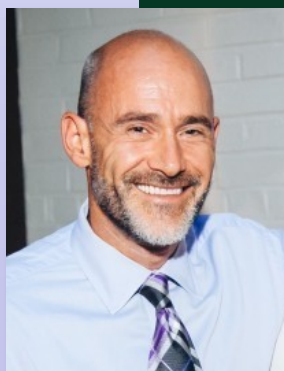
The ethics committee met via zoom this year and corresponded via email. We consulted with two VPA members on ethical concerns and offered resources and feedback. The committee remains active and invites members to consult with us regarding ethical concerns or challenging situations that may have ethical implications. Consultations are free and confidential.

## Ethics Committee Members

(Chair vacant)  
Martha Coulter  
Richard Finkelstein  
Gus Jordan  
Kirke McVay  
Jessica Ley Metcalf

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

In the midst of the pandemic, legislators scrambled to manage the budget and keep Vermont safe and running as smoothly as possible. Dr. Barnett has had brief interactions with several legislators who seem committed to signing onto another prescriptive authority bill for psychologist-doctorates with an additional Master of Science degree in Clinical Psychopharmacology, and who pass the Psychopharmacology Exam for Psychologists. There was much progress made on PSYPACT, an interjurisdictional licensing compact that would enable Vermont to join over 15 other states with licensing reciprocity. This initiative was included in an important legislative report in early 2020. We hope to have several sponsors for a PSYPACT bill for the next legislative session. Please contact your local legislator about these initiatives. Both bills will pass if legislators hear from a minimum of at least 10 different people on each bill. VPA plans to hire a new lobbyist this



Dr. Rick Barnett  
Legislative Committee Chair

# INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Milton Marasch  
Insurance Committee Chair  
APA Council Representative



The year 2020 has proven to be a record-breaking busy year for the VPA Insurance Committee. The two main categories of services offered to members this year include providing a COVID-19 telehealth billing matrix and the consultation service to members.

The Vermont Insurance Telehealth Matrix went through several iterations<sup>1</sup>, keeping me on my toes to try and keep up with various changes as they rolled out. The HHS determination of a “public health emergency,” under which many of the special instructions in the matrix are based, appears to continue to be relevant to psychologists and their billers. The emergency had been slated to expire October 23 of this year, but a quick review of PHE.gov<sup>2</sup> shows that HHS Secretary Azar has renewed the determination of a public health emergency, effective October 23 of this year. According to other sources on the web<sup>3</sup>, the emergency period has been extended through January 20, 2021.

The member consultation service has also kept me on my toes with a record number of consultations. I count 20 unique direct email or phone consultations with 15 VPA members served. This number does not include additional responses to members on the listserv. There were approximately 3 Medicare, 2 Medicaid, 7 commercial insurance, and 2 COVID stimulus check questions – with the remainder tending to be general billing questions.

The work was not done alone. Member Eric Aaronson has pitched in from time to time – helping me keep updated on new announcements. I am also thankful for the American Psychological Association Services staff resource persons, Diane Pedulla and Connie Galietti for their availability as consultants when I needed information that I could not readily locate.

As always, it has been a pleasure to be of service to the VPA community. I wish all health and wellness as we continue in our endeavors to serve the people of Vermont during these difficult times.

## REFERENCES:

- (1) <https://vermontpsych.org/members>
- (2) <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/covid19-2Oct2020.aspx>
- (3) <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/renewal-of-determination-that-a-public-91787/>



# APA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

*Milton J. Marasch, Ph.D.*

I attended APA's Council of Representatives meeting this year as the Vermont Representative. The meeting was from August 5 through 6. The session was in an online format this year due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

With current events of the COVID-19 pandemic and minority rights issues so prevalent in the news, these two topics were understandably represented in one form or another in Council deliberations. Regarding the pandemic, we adopted a COVID-19 policy/position statement. Among other points raised in the statement, the role of psychology as the science of behavior was highlighted with support of efforts to increase adherence to such risk-reducing behaviors as physical distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing.

With regard to minority issues, we voted to place a bylaws amendment before the APA membership that would seat five ethnic minority psychological associations on Council. The measure has overwhelming support as evidenced by its passing by a vote of 160 to 1. Ballots for bylaw amendment elections will be emailed on November 1—or mailed to those without an email on record.

This was one of two proposed bylaws measures voted on<sup>1</sup>. The other bylaws measure passed in Council was a proposed bylaw to allow graduate students the ability to vote in APA elections. This measure, too, passed by a sizable majority. A similar measure had passed Council last year, but did not receive sufficient numbers of membership support to pass in the general election. Last year's proposed measure would have given master's degree APA associate members a voting privileges after only required one year of membership before being able to vote – instead of the current five-year requirement. I note that the sponsors had removed the master's degree portion from this year's proposal. A pro and con statement will be included on this item again in this year's election.

Finally, there was a business item to change the name of APA Division 42 from the current name of Psychologists in Independent Practice. The item met with some push back, and was withdrawn by its sponsors for further stakeholder discussion.

As for future Council sessions, I anticipate there will eventually be a careful re-examining of the issue of finding a formal home for master's degree practitioners within the APA. Such a re-examination would be prompted by mental health counseling moves in some parts of the country to bar psychology instructors from counseling training programs, and to bar psychology master's program graduates from counseling licensure.

## REFERENCES:

(1) <https://www.apa.org/about/governance/council/council-summary-august-2020.pdf>

## VPA SERVICE AWARD

Each year, the VPA Board of Directors recognizes a psychologist, VPA member, or other individual who has made outstanding contributions to the field of psychology. The 2020 recipient of this award is **Gus Jordan, Ph.D.**

After receiving his master of divinity degree from Yale University and serving as a Methodist minister for several years, Gus left that role to pursue his doctorate degree in psychology at the University of Notre Dame.

He was initially in private practice in Indiana and Vermont, and has been at Middlebury College for nearly 25 years. Since 2011, he has served as executive director of the Middlebury College Center for Health and Wellness. In that role, he oversees the delivery of medical health and mental health care, as well as sports medicine, for students from around the United States and over 50 foreign countries in addition to providing direct mental health care services for his student clients. He also teaches clinically-oriented courses in the department of psychology and has provided significant leadership to the College through difficult events, such as student injury and suicide and the current pandemic.



Gus Jordan, Ph.D.  
2020 Recipient of the VPA Service Award

Prior to his role at the Center for Health and Wellness, Gus has served as associate dean of the College, acting dean of the College, and dean of students, and professor of psychology. He has published on topics ranging from academic dishonesty and professional ethics to family structure and its relation to depression in children.

Gus has been generous in his volunteer work for VPA as well. He has been an active member of the VPA Ethics Committee for a number of years and in November 2017 stepped in to fill the vacant role of vice president of the VPA Board of Directors. After the resignation of the previous Board president, Gus took over the role of president in January 2018 and led VPA through a significant renewal with improvements in membership, financial stability, and participation. Through 2020, he has remained on the Board in his role as past president, sharing his wisdom, experience, and gentle leadership. Gus also serves on other boards of organizations whose mission he supports.

Gus has a long and distinguished record of exemplary professional service as service to VPA and its members, and we are pleased to be able to recognize his work with this reward.

## VPA PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Annually the VPA Board President may award the VPA President's Award to an individual who has exhibited exemplary dedication, commitment, and service to VPA.

The recipient of the 2020 VPA President's Award is Lynda Marshall.

Lynda started her professional career as an attorney focusing on labor and employment law and practiced law, both in Louisiana and Vermont, for nearly 15 years. She then worked in human resource management for a number of years, including three years as human resources director at a Vermont designated agency, before joining VPA as executive director in 2017.

Lynda's efforts as executive director have led to an increase in membership, as well as increased participation of members, a much-improved financial position, a more visible role for Vermont among other state psychological associations, partnerships with community organizations, and a renewed energy in VPA generally. Lynda would tell you that her efforts are no more than should be expected of an executive director.

Regardless whether Lynda is correct in that, her dedication, commitment, and service to VPA in

2020 has gone well beyond what any board of directors could reasonably expect. The COVID-19 pandemic and its accompanying restrictions dealt a significant blow to VPA and its financial situation when we had to cancel our first three events.

In deciding how to plan for the rest of 2020, Lynda worked hand-in-hand with the board to find a solution that would not affect VPA in the long term. As a result, Lynda graciously began a 3-month layoff in May, which was to last until the end of July. Even though she was unemployed, during that time she volunteered her time to pay bills, plan, market, and coordinate summer workshops, implement a new online learning management system, and essentially work to keep VPA's doors open for the rest of the year. Without her efforts, VPA would not still be operating the way it is today, and we'd be scrambling to repair the damage of 3 months' inactivity.

We are pleased to recognize and honor these extraordinary efforts, and we hope Lynda will be with us for the years to come.



Lynda L. Marshall, J.D.  
2020 Recipient of the VPA President's Award



Vermont Psychological Association

38 North Main Street, Box 127

Waterbury, VT 05676

(802) 229-5447

[vpaed@vermontpsych.org](mailto:vpaed@vermontpsych.org)

[www.vermontpsych.org](http://www.vermontpsych.org)

CE catalog: [twinstates.ce21.com](http://twinstates.ce21.com)