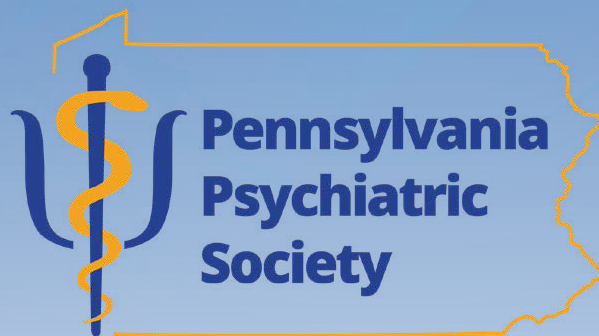


**Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society Newsletter**

# Special Edition

**Meet the New Management Team**



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dhanalakshmi Ramasamy, MD, DFAPA  
PaPS President

Dear PaPS members,

I wish every one of you a happy New Year! The change in the year is the perfect time to reflect on what we have accomplished and to have a new perspective towards the new year. While the COVID-19 crisis continues to wreak havoc on our lives, the need for accessible and equitable mental health supports has never been greater. Social isolation and economic impacts, the important social determinants of mental health, may exacerbate or trigger new incidences of psychiatric disability. A national shortage of mental health providers and other coverage challenges will make it difficult for people with mental illness to access care. These pandemic years have provided an opportunity for us to move forward in new ways and to grow and adapt.

On the societal level, we have faced the challenges and sought ways to manage them to pursue our mission. For some time, we have been looking at ways to engage members while addressing budget concerns. After careful discussion with the Board and the Long-Range Planning Committee, it was decided to move forward with a new association management service, starting January 1, 2022. It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you our new management team, Next Wave Group (NWG). With more than 20 years of experience in managing medical associations in various states, the team brings unique expertise and skills to the table. We look forward to increased flexibility in working with the NWG in furthering our mission.

The Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society (PaPS) founded in 1939 by William Charles Sandy, MD, as a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association. PaPS proudly draws members involved in various psychiatric practices, research, the public sector, the military, and academia while subsequently representing the diverse patients for whom they care. The mission of PaPS is to provide advocacy for psychiatrists and their patients, and to assure access to high quality psychiatric services through education, the shaping of legislation, and the upholding of ethical standards.

Throughout 2021, the PaPS has remained active during a COVID-19 pandemic that has enabled us to meet our goals, help our members network and stay abreast of current advocacy and practice issues. I am humbled to report our association's outstanding work thus far.

Highlights of member service include:

- The Philadelphia Psychiatric Society (the biggest chapter within our district branch) held a Philadelphia Colloquium of Scholars as a virtual meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Topics addressed by experts in the field of mood disorders, sleep disorders, psychodynamic practice, and the integration of physical and psychiatric care. The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Addictions symposium was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, offered a primer course addressing varied topics in addiction medicine and the annual Women's Brunch, held in May 22<sup>nd</sup>, addressing Climate Crisis and Mental Health, Mental Health Benefits of Nature & Nature-Based Interventions and Climate Justice and Mental Health. A resident networking event was held the on October at a local orchard, was well attended.
- The Pittsburgh Psychiatric Society held their virtual symposium on March 13<sup>th</sup> on topics related to Physician Burnout, Private practice, Atypical Antipsychotics forms and profiles and Brain behavior correlated in Dementia. They held their annual residents/awards evening on November 8, 2021: The Pittsburgh Chapter presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Melvin P. Melnick, MD, DLFAPA. As this was the first face-to-face event of the chapter in almost two years, the program was well attended.
- Small Chapter Coalition (Central, Lehigh, Northwestern and Western), conducted a virtual webinar on April 22, 2021, and October 27, 2021. Subsequently covered topics are on Psychological Aspects of

Survivorship and Resilience and Risk Management and Legal Basics. The Central Chapter with the Lehigh Valley Chapter co-hosted a virtual event on August 19, 2021. Residents presented posters and the awards were handed out. For the second year in a row Lehigh Valley Chapter held a virtual Summer Advocacy event for their two psychiatric residency programs on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

- Our District Branch successfully hosted Patient Safety & Risk Management on November 13th. Speakers presented topics on Clinically significant Drug Interactions, Reducing the risk on psychiatric Practice Litigation, and weighing the benefits/risks of using Ketamine and Esketamine and Risk Management in Telepsychiatry. At the State Education Meeting, we honored the winner of the PAPS Presidential Award, George Wohleisch, MD.

Our society advocates on behalf of our membership and our patients through our participation in the APA Assembly and other regional initiatives. As a society, we regularly adjust our advocacy strategy at the grassroots level, in response to the changing political landscape and the COVID-19 outbreak. Our legislative activities and advocacy work as detailed in the lobbyist report, a few highlights of the advocacy work include:

- Scope of practice efforts including opposing psychological prescribing efforts, Collaborative Care (CoCM) legislation in Pennsylvania, gun control/gun violence initiatives, reviewing recently introduced proposed cannabis legalization, monitoring cost containment initiatives related to pharmaceuticals and tracking scope of practice expansion initiatives. PaPS appointed a working group on the legalization of marijuana and supervised injection sites and presented a position paper outlining safety and health concerns. The working group continues to discuss safe injections and safe observation sites. We collaborate with the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Leadership Council as part of our efforts to provide equitable care and a host of other discussions on structural and institutional racism.

I am truly grateful to the valuable membership and leadership of the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society for their support and commitment to advancing the vision of our organization. Our committees and task force continues their work on a variety of matters related to the mission of our organization, including by-laws, clinical concerns, education, ethics, government relations, membership, and strategic objectives. We are continuing our efforts in addressing early career/future psychiatrists their unique needs, by fostering leadership and mentorship activities, providing exposure to legislative activities, and so forth, allowing them to network, connect, and learn from colleagues.

The Pennsylvania Medical Society has played an integral role over the past 50 years, and we look forward to working together on similar issues affecting the medical profession. I would like to thank the former management company "TEAM" for their support. I would like to especially thank, Jennifer Redmond, former executive director, for her excellent professionalism, Deborah Shoemaker, a former lobbyist, for her impassioned advocacy work, and Dawn Losiewicz, for her untiring efforts in support of the chapters. The PaPS flourished with the commitment and longstanding friends of the society. This was reflected in recent collaborations with Gwen and Dave Lehman. I would like to express our gratitude, for having helped us with valuable thoughts when needed.

Individuals with mental health issues face many barriers to accessing quality and culturally affirmed care; the recent crisis has only exacerbated these inequities. Pandemics underscore the importance of transforming mental health care and the need to engage local, state and federal governments to address emerging challenges. PaPS continues to find ways to engage members, to foster learning among colleagues, to join forces to face urgently needed challenges in our field and inspire the next generation of psychiatrists. Collectively, we can make it better!

Stay tuned for our upcoming events. If you are interested in joining or have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us. I look forward to the continued enthusiasm and engagement of our members throughout the new year! Stay safe and stay healthy.



Dhana

## INTRODUCTION TO NEXT WAVE GROUP (NWG)



Patricia H. Troy, IOM, CAE  
Executive Administrator



As president of Next Wave Group, I am delighted that your PaPS leaders have selected our firm to lead your organization going forward. We have assembled a dynamic team of professionals to work on your behalf. Please review their bios in this special edition of your newsletter.

NWG is different from most association management companies in a few very important ways.

- **Virtual Operations** - We have operated virtually since 2006 and all our processes and resources are optimized for this environment.
- **Network of Contractors** - We use independent contractors, a good match for our culture of autonomy and accountability.
- **Six Systems Approach** - We define our policies, procedures, metrics, evaluation and more based on Six Systems - Governance, Finance, Membership, Communications, Programs and Events.
- **Teams of Specialists** - We utilize specialists in each of the Six Systems, working for multiple clients, which ensures high level skills, necessary backups, and collegial problem-solving.
- **Virtual Venue** - We have our own proprietary Horizon Virtual Venue that may be utilized by our clients for seamless virtual and hybrid events.
- **Special Expertise** - Areas where NWG has special expertise including strategic planning, CME, websites, event management, graphic design, branding, and print/digital publications.

PaPS is being managed under our NWG Mental Health Society Services Division. This division also manages the Washington Psychiatric Society, the Society of Uniform Services Psychiatrists, and the Senior Psychiatrists. NWG also provides web site services and virtual venue events for a wide range of psychiatry-related organizations. We have been managing APA District Branches since 2007. We also have an oncology division and a division serving a range of clients in different specialties, for a total of 22 management clients.

We are looking forward to much success for PaPS in 2022.



Patricia H. Troy, IOM, CAE  
Executive Administrator



### Robbi Cook, Executive Director



Happy New Year! As your new PaPS Executive Director, I am looking forward to working with the executive leadership team, chapter leaders, and members to build a solid foundation for moving PaPS forward into 2022 and beyond. By the time you are reading this special edition newsletter, the PaPS staff team has met with the executive leaders and are meeting with each individual chapter's leadership team to begin mapping out the focus and goals for 2022, planning events, and maintaining transparency and open communications with the members. I encourage you to reach out to me ([rcook@nextwavegroup.net](mailto:rcook@nextwavegroup.net)) at any time if you have suggestions or comments on how we can provide you, the member, increased opportunities for engagement.

I hold a BS degree (graduating summa cum laude) in Business Administration from Central Penn College and a paralegal degree from Penn State University. I am also a Certified Association Executive (CAE) through the American Society of Association Executives and am a Leadership inEnergy & Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP®) with the U.S. Green Building Council.

My journey into association management began 25 years ago when I contracted to take over a large construction trade association based in Harrisburg after spending nine years as a construction paralegal for a large Philadelphia-based law firm. In 2015, I joined the association management team at the Pennsylvania Medical Society and moved from construction into the healthcare community. During my tenure at PAMED, I served as executive director for eight specialty societies, including the Pennsylvania Society of Gastroenterology, the Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters of the American College of Surgeons, the Pennsylvania Society of Oncology and Hematology, the Pennsylvania College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Pennsylvania Association of Pathologists, the Pennsylvania Medical Society Alliance, and the Pennsylvania Society of Association Executives. In 2019, I became an independent healthcare consultant and joined the team at Next Wave Group in 2021 to provide association management services to various healthcare clients. I am pleased to be able to work with the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society and look forward to getting to know our members.

When not working on behalf of my physician clients, I spend my time with my two rescue Boxers (Rockman and Roxy), advocating for animal rights, traveling, house renovating, gardening, and spending time with my daughter, her wife, and three teenage grandsons. In the fall of 2020, I was privileged to walk the decks and have a private tour of the USS Wisconsin battleship where my father served during the Korean Conflict with one of his shipmates and four other veterans who served during the Gulf War. It was an extremely humbling experience and I continue to honor all veterans through volunteering with Wreaths Across America. I look forward to meeting you at an upcoming PaPS event.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robbi Ann M. Cook".

Robbi-Ann (Robbi) M. Cook, CAE  
Executive Director, Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society



**Joyce Kutzner, PaPS Administrator.**

**Education /Certifications:** Paralegal/Legal Assistant degree from Central Penn College

**City, State of Current Residence:** Enola, Pennsylvania

**Two or Three Career Highlights:**

- My work journey has included working for the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Pennsylvania State Police, and several state associations.
- I joined the Next Wave Group this past July as an independent healthcare consultant and assist with corporate compliance, legal filings and miscellaneous projects for the group.

**Personal Interests:**

- gardening
  - exercising, working on home projects for my new home
  - spending time with my two grown children and my six (6) year old granddaughter
- I look forward to working and meeting you in the new year!



## **Judy Lyle, PaPS Western & Pittsburgh Chapter Coordinator**

**City, State of Current Residence:** Cranberry Township, PA

### **Two or three career highlights:**

- Help non-profit organizations by developing working relationships with board leaders to work towards stated goals
- Supporting development of non-dues revenue streams: engaging vendors to increase support to non-profit clients.

### **Professional interests:**

- Working with board leaders to increase awareness of nonprofit organization that leads to increased membership and accomplishment of stated goals.

### **Personal interests:**

- Traveling
- gardening
- hiking
- gym workouts
- reading
- working with kids struggling with social anxiety and bullying

**What you hope to accomplish in your role with PaPS:** As a chapter coordinator, my goal is to assist board and members in realizing the value of membership in the society.



**Kery Hummel, Western State Chapters Support/NWG Legislative Coordinator**

**City, State of Residence:** Cumberland MD, and Baltimore MD

**Education/Certifications:** Master of Health Care Administration from Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas in 1977.

**Two or Three Career Highlights:**

- Federal Health Planning in Western Maryland area
- School of Medicine with the University of Maryland as Director of the Western Maryland Area Health Education Center
- Executive Director of the Maryland Psychiatry Society:

**Professional Highlights:**

- President of the National Area Health Education Centers
- District Branch Executive Director with Area 3 of the American Psychiatric Society

**Personal Interests:**

- Church Organist for over 50 years

**Achieve for PaPS:** Bring my skills as a previous DB EX to the Western PA Chapter and assist as needed.



### **Kevin Feldman, Website Manager**

**Education/Certifications:** B.A. University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 11 years of Psychiatric Society website experience (not a certification, but relevant and very specific!)

**City, State of Current Residence:** Austin, Texas

#### **Two or three career highlights:**

- Achieving and not relinquishing work-from-home freedom in 2011
- On-going success with psychiatric moonlighting business management
- Accepting a larger role with the Society of Uniformed Services Psychiatry in 2022.

#### **Professional interests:**

- Mastering Club Express, our new website association management system for PaPS

#### **Personal interests:**

- Team pub trivia
- early American non-fiction
- genealogical research
- playing with my infant son

**What you hope to accomplish in your role with PaPS:** Be as helpful, responsive and timely as I can be with web support and projects.





### **Bev Dupuis, Director of Society Initiative (MHSS)**

**Education/Certifications:** BA Human Services (Northeastern University) BS Computer Information Systems, (Bentley College) MBA (Nichols College)

**City, State of Current Residence:** Hudson, Florida

#### **Two or three career highlights:**

- Executive Director of Massachusetts Psychiatric Society
- Over 35 years of Administrative Experience in Mental Health with both the Private and Public Sectors

#### **Professional interests:**

- Organizational Development
- Maximizing the use of technology

#### **Personal interests:**

- Scrapbooking
- Cardmaking
- Reading
- Traveling

**What you hope to accomplish in your role with PaPS:** Be a supportive and active team member to enhance the services provided to PaPS.



Founded in 2003, State Street Advisors integrates government experience, political involvement, and public policy expertise in a single consulting firm. With offices in Harrisburg and Philadelphia, State Street Advisors is anchored by principals Dick Hayden and Lois Hagarty, both former members of the state House of Representatives, and veteran lobbyist Jeff Sharp. Their combined experience and expertise covers a broad range of policy areas, including health care and insurance, energy and environmental issues, economic development, public sector marketing, and transportation.

Our Professionals who will work primarily with Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society are:

Lois Sherman Hagarty, Principal



### **Lois Haggerty, JD, lobbyist and government relations consultant for PaPS**

**Education/Certifications:** B. S. in Education, Master of Science in Education, Juris Doctor

**City, State of Current Residence:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

#### **Professional Highlights:**

- First Assistant District Attorney of Montgomery County
- State Representative ( 148th Legislative District ) 1980-1992

#### **Professional Interests:**

- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse Disorder
- Criminal Justice Reform

#### **Personal Interests:**

- Civil Liberties
- Golf
- Hiking

**What you hope to accomplish in your role with PAPS:** have represented PaPS since 1992. I hope to continue to offer PaPS a resource to elected officials and educate these officials on mental health issues and advocate successfully for responsible legislation in the area of mental illness



## **Angela Ladner, PaPS Coordinator for DFAPA**

**Education/Certifications:** Bachelor of Arts in English/Journalism: University of Mississippi; Master of Arts in Broadcast Journalism: University of Mississippi City, State of Current Residence Jackson, MS

### **Two or three career highlights:**

- Executive Director and Lobbyist for DB-23 Mississippi for 22 years;
- Exec Director MS Oncology Society for 4 years;
- Principal Strategist at Changing History Promotions, LLC since 2010;
- Served on the American Medical Association Council on Legislation as the only non-physician member from 2007-2008.

### **Professional interests:**

- Association of Society Executives Member
- American Medical Association Alliance
- MS State Medical Assn Council on Legislation Member for 15 years
- Central Medical Society Alliance Member for 27 years
- APAPAC

### **Personal interests:**

- Mom of 19-year-old-triplet girls who attend the University of Mississippi
- Football
- Baseball
- Tennis

**What you hope to accomplish in your role with PaPS:** My role is to assist all PaPS members who wish to apply for Distinguished Fellowship from the APA with their application process from beginning to submission so that all achieve the designation when they are fully qualified.



### **Debra (Mowbray) Conroy, Director of Corporate Relations**

**Education/Certifications:** She has over 25 years of experience working with medical societies, non-profit associations, government agencies and corporations in communications, sales and marketing.

**City, State of Current Residence:** Climax, North Carolina

#### **Two or Three Career Highlights:**

- Vice President of the Potomac Chapter of Meeting Planners international (MPI) in Washington, D.C. She is a past recipient of the MPI Potomac Chapter President's Award.
- Director of Sales for the Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce Business Guide for 6 years and served on the Chamber's nominating committee.
- Regional Sales Manager for a hotel and conference center in Washington, D.C. and then as the Director of National Sales for a major hotel and convention center. During this period, she served as the newsletter editor.

#### **Professional Interests:**

- advocacy of local business and community outreach

#### **Personal Interests:**

- Family and friends
- Church
- UNC basketball

**What do you hope to accomplish in your role with PaPS?:** Assist NWG if expanding non-dues revenue for PaPS.



**Patricia H. Troy, Executive Administrator**

**Education/Certifications:** M.Ed, CASE, IOM, CAE

**City, State of Current Residence:** Arnold, Maryland

**Two or three career highlights:**

- Co-founder Chesapeake Academy (independent elementary school)
- President, Next Wave Group, LLC (association management company)
- Author: Flex: The Virtual Office Advantage

**Professional interests:**

- Virtual operations
- Six Systems Approach to association management
- Virtual venue development

**Personal interests:**

- Family
- Photography
- Travel
- Boating

**What do you hope to accomplish in your role with PaPS?:** Ensure that PaPS fulfills its mission, engages its members, and operates in a smooth and cost-effective manner.





## **Doralee Billings, Accountant**

**Education/Certifications** QuickBooks Pro Advisor

**City, State of Current Residence:** Catonsville, MD

### **Two or three career highlights:**

- Started business in 2000
- With NWG since 2012 – Have a staff of four remote workers

### **Professional interests:**

- Keeping up with industry practices
- Streamlining workflow
- Developing greater insights for business owners

### **Personal interests:**

- Two grandbabies!

**What you hope to accomplish in your role with PaPS:** I look forward to learning and understanding current practices. Once I have done so, I will be in a position to streamline or otherwise improve the processes so we are producing reports that are meaningful and useful.



### **Don't Be a Surprised Psychiatrist!**

The federal "No Surprises Act" went into effect January 1, 2021. Check out the American Psychiatric Association Summary

<https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/practice>

Some out-patient psychiatrists may need to provide their cash patients and those shopping for care with a specific "Good Faith Estimate" of charges. Some out-of-network psychiatrists providing emergency care may be required to charge less than their usual fee. The APA summary is a good place to start learning about the new rules.



### **APA 2022 Election – Voting Now Open**

A quick reminder to all PaPS members to take a moment to cast your vote in the APA 2022 Election. Polls are open from January 3rd through January 31st. Casting your vote must be completed online ([www.psychiatry.org/election](http://www.psychiatry.org/election)). Your APA username and password are required to access the voting area.

Visit the [APA Election Website](http://www.psychiatry.org/election) to review the individuals running for office, learn more about their backgrounds, platforms, and vision for the future of psychiatry.

Questions on the election or voting process? Contact the APA Election Office at [election@psych.org](mailto:election@psych.org)