

PSYCHIATRIST

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Newsletter of the Southern California Psychiatric Society

President's Column

The New Council Year

Steve Soldinger, M.D.



Our new year began with our installation event and the APA Convention in San Francisco. The APA was a great convention with a lot of excellent presentations. For me, the class on the DSM 5 and the presentations by Baroness Susan Greenfield were the highlights. DSM 5 was, as the British say, sorted out in quick order. The Baroness gave us a lot to consider for the 21st century, and how technology may disturb the individual psyche. She correctly warns of a world where people sitting right next to each other may text rather than talk to one another. We have no idea what this may mean for human development.

I will begin my term as president with a contest. The winner will receive a \$20 Starbucks gift card from me. All you have to do is email your best shots at appropriate humor and I will pick a winner each month. My e-mail address is seesteve@yahoo.com. The winner this month is

Dr. Colleen Copelan. Her joke was "What did the zero (0) say to the 8?" Answer "Nice belt."

One more new item will be a movie review section consisting of one to two lines, where members can share their opinions of movies. Feel free to email your reviews to Mindi and she will forward them to our Editor for inclusion in our newsletter.

Stepping into the shoes of Dr. Larry Lawrence will not be an easy task. He was an amazing and wonderful president. His year was filled with major accomplishments, and a lot of time staying up-to-date on all of the data and information involved in our organization. I only hope to be able to follow his example, and by that I mean, "I have big shoes to fill."

I am looking forward to an upcoming dinner meeting in June with NAMI. The dinner will be coordinated by Dr. David Fogelson and a NAMI representative. That particular dinner is always a great exchange of information. We usually spend a lot of time looking at the various issues that affect our patients, and how we as psychiatrists can respond to their needs. We also try to be supportive of NAMI, both in terms of our re-

(Continued on page 2)

In This Issue...

Letter from the Editor	3
Movie Corner	4
Council Highlights	6
Welcome New Members	8

sources and with the planned activities.

Later in June we will schedule a meeting to review DSM 5. DSM 5 is going to be quite extraordinary. I think the more you learn and hear about it, the more you will like it. The event we are planning will be very helpful. The time of transition may be somewhat difficult, however, in the final analysis I think DSM 5 will be probably one of the best things that has ever happened to psychiatry.

We are all keeping a close eye to see how the CPT coding is going to work out. I have found it very helpful to directly speak with insurance companies. They have been very instrumental in helping me understand the way to deal with my billing issues. During conversations with many of my colleagues, I have noticed that these changes vary from practice to practice. I encourage you to try to make these new codes work for you and your patients, and be tolerant of the learning curve involved.

At the beginning of our term, we had the opportunity to appoint new members to committees. If you have an interest in participating in one of the committees, please let me know and we will try to get you involved in the committee of your choice. The Ethics, Program, and Newsletter committees can always use new blood.

The more you get involved in your organization the more you will get out of it, which leads to a very important point. What is the value of membership? There are many valuable parts of your APA membership. We have great educational programs; we have opportunities for great social interaction and networking; we have the professional support of one another; we promote the well-being of our patients; we work in charitable ways for important programs; we give each other support when we can and through difficult life challenges; we are there for our residents and early career psychiatrists, and we work through our organization with many important issues in the legislature. When you add all of this up we are a very cost effective unit.

I am very proud to be the president of this organization. Together we are more than the sum of our parts. I encourage all of us to be a part of SCPS to the best of our abilities. We have a great office staff, and any call to Mindi is always met with the best support possible and a friendly conversation.

**There is still time to register for
SCPS' DSM 5 Course.**

**The meeting will be held Saturday, June 15, 2013
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Olympic Collection, 11301 W. Olympic Blvd, LA 90064**

**Please follow this link for full details and
to register:**

<http://www.socalpsych.org/events.html>

Letter from the Editor

MICRA

Colleen Copelan, M.D.



Raise your hand if you know what MICRA stands for.

Right! It stands for rational malpractice regulation, affordable premiums and access to medical care.

ical care.

You're also right if you said it stands for Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act of 1975.

Raise your checkbook if you know

that MICRA is under assault by trial attorneys.

Great! Write a check to our CPA Political Action Committee, and/or to CALPAC, or your hospital PAC or even your malpractice carrier's PAC. Organized medicine has partnered with hundreds of organizations as CAPP (Citizens Allied for Patient Protection) to defend MICRA and we need your support to NOW.

Raise your hand if you know what NOW means. Yes, it means now!

MICRA most famously caps non-economic damages ("pain and suffering")

at \$250,000. Pain and suffering is a vague and highly inflatable component of the malpractice payout. High stakes pain and suffering turns malpractice cases into a lottery that over-benefits a few—particularly trial attorneys—at the expense the many.

For the many, it's defensive medicine, increased overhead, increased cost of care and—for low-margin, low-cost clinics—no more care at all.

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Movie Corner

All members are welcome to send brief movie reviews for this section. You may send a review of current films or favorite old ones.

The Source Family - This is a (current) documentary about the white-robed hippies that could be seen wandering around the Source Restaurant on Sunset Boulevard in the 70s. The “spiritual” cult was led by Father Yod (James Edward Baker), who later changed his name to YaHoWha (a name for God). Although there is mention that many of the followers were looking for a “father figure,” it is a mostly sympathetic view of this cult. Interesting! Entertaining!

(Reviewed by Mindi Thelen)

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Council Highlights

May 9, 2013

Sophie Duriez, M.D., *Secretary*



The meeting was called to order on time by Dr. Lawrence, President.

The April meeting minutes, emailed to the Council members, were briefly reviewed by Dr. Duriez. No comment or addition requested. A motion was made to accept the previous April Council minutes. All voted in favor, and none opposed.

Dr. Lawrence first addressed the NAMI June dinner. It will be happening at Billingley's as NAMI has already been invited to that location. The NAMI dinner date is 06/13/13. Agenda for NAMI dinner will be set by Dr. Soldinger and Mark Gale from NAMI. Dr. Schaepper suggested having comments about the DSM 5. Those NAMI members who have already RSVPd for the joint dinner meeting will be offered one free admission to the DSM 5 Meeting on June 15.

Dr. Lawrence addressed the Distinguished Fellow Nominees Steven Horwitz M.D., Eleanor Lavretsky, M.D., Joshua Pretsky, M.D., Steve Soldinger, M.D. and, Saba Syed, M.D.. A motion was made to approve the Distinguished Fellow Nominees. All voted in favor, and none opposed.

The PRMS (Professional Risk Management Services, Inc.) follow up was addressed. Mindi read the PMRS email that was sent to the Council members, about a "What to do" presentation where several examples involving professional liability would be addressed. A discussion followed. Dan Willick suggested that other malpractice carriers could be invited as well as there are many recent changes regarding the laws of practicing psychiatry, i.e. prescription laws, internet privacy and communications (emails, etc.), CPT changes, laws regarding abuses and frauds. Dr. Soldinger, spoke about possibility of how to set up educational meetings. A motion was made to give this charge to the Program Committee; to consider a meeting with PRMS as well as inviting the other companies. All voted in favor, and none opposed.

Dr. Lawrence reminded the dates of the APA Annual Conference taking place in San Francisco this year from May 18th to May 22nd. A reminder was also given regarding the 2013 California Psychiatric Association 26th Annual Premier Conference taking place September 27th to September 29th in La Quinta at La Quinta Resort and Club. A motion was made to approve a \$500 grant to CPA and to identify 2 MITs for attending CPA meeting in September. All voted in favor, and none opposed.

The San Diego DSM 5 Meeting was addressed and a SCPS meeting on the DSM 5 changes was discussed. Details regarding registration for the SCPS DSM-5 Training- Practical Application Seminar with speakers: Dr. Folgelson, Dr. Gross, Dr. Lawrence, Dr. Schaepper and Dr. Soldinger, will take place on Saturday, June 15th at the Olympic Collection were emailed.

Dr. Sederer's Book event announcement was made by Dr. Lawrence. Dr. Lawrence addressed the Warren Williams and Ed Rudin awards. No questions asked.

Dr. Soldinger presented recommendations of the Membership Committee. Dr. Soldinger addressed the need of a diversion program in California. A motion was made to approve the Membership Committee recommendations, all voted in favor, and none opposed.

Dr. Soldinger addressed the possibility of having a "Brief Movie Reviews" section added to the Newsletter. "Movie Corner" where tiny reviews could be written. A motion was made to approve a newsletter "Movie Corner." All voted in favor, and none opposed.

Dr. Thurston gave his Legislative Report.

Dr. Silverman, replacing Dr. Forgey, gave the Treasurer's report, with the April financials, cash on hand. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Dr. Gales addressed the program committee report.

There was no new business to discuss or old business. After having asked if there were further questions or issues, Dr. Lawrence adjourned the May 2013 Council Meeting.

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**SCPS would like to welcome the following new members reinstated members
and members who have transferred into SCPS**

Erik Anderson, M.D.
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