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EDITOR'S NOTE



This is a year of transition of leadership in the Group Foundation. As with all transitions, there are many things to reflect on, to build on, and to appreciate. As group therapists, we know how significant the role of the leader is in facilitating growth, maintaining the focus on the group's task, and creating a healthy and robust group culture. Much of the teaching, training, and research in AGPA with the support of the Group Foundation has developed dynamic and dedicated leaders, and in this issue, you will hear from three of them. Karen Travis, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA, our outgoing Chair, Darryl Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, our incoming Chair, and Keith Rand, MA, CGP, FAGPA, our incoming Vice-Chair, who share their perspectives on their roles as leaders.

Connie Concannon, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA
Editor, Group Assets

A Year of Transition

KAREN TRAVIS, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA



As I reflect on my tenure of four years as Chair of the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, there is much to appreciate. I recall the Sunday afternoon when I was called and asked if I would consider the position. After careful consideration and candid

conversations with CEO Marsha Block, CAE, CFRE, I agreed to take the job. After serving on the AGPA Board of Directors for years, I was impressed with the dedication of my fellow Board members. This positively influenced my decision to take on this leadership role.

Phyllis Cohen, PhD, PsyD, CGP, LFAGPA, was outgoing Chair. She offered me much encouragement and showed confidence in me. Jeffrey Hudson, MEd, LPC, CGP, FAGPA, Vice-Chair at the time, was a steadfast support and was always available to me in the transition. After the first term, I knew it was the right fit for me and that I had a wonderful group to work with. Now, after serving two terms, I am ready to move on and turn the leadership over to Darryl Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, who has served as my Vice-Chair in my second term. In leaving, I particularly want to acknowledge Diane Feirman, CAE, AGPA Public Affairs Senior Director. Diane and I have worked very closely over these four years, and she has been a remarkable powerhouse of knowledge and support. I know in March as I announce the scholarship recipients, raffle winners, and then leave the podium at the AGPA Connect 2020 Luncheon, there will be feelings of bitter sweetness.

Serving during the AGPA's 75th Anniversary, an incredible time in our history as an organization, was a great privilege for me. The Group Foundation embarked on a three-year campaign in celebration of the anniversary, working to accomplish reaching the goal of having raised \$7.5 million over the course of the Foundation's existence, which meant \$1.3 million over a three-year campaign. We did it with the help of so many.

Every person's leadership style is different, and I had wonderful leaders before me to reflect upon. I am pleased to have developed a motto for myself and style: No gift is too small; it all adds up. We all know large gifts are very much sought after, desired, and appreciated. I wanted people to know that we all have different capacities and stretching abilities to give and that whatever they were able to give was appreciated.

So much of my own fund raising has not just been about giving but also wanting people to get something in the process. Giving feels good to me, whether it be in cash or in kind. I was able to create a space for people to talk about the awkwardness of asking for money and for people to understand it is what a philanthropic organization does: We raise money. Raising money enables us to support AGPA and help it accomplish its goals of providing education, scholarships, community outreach, research, agency training, as well as support AGPA's Affiliate Societies and our technology efforts. The belief in the advancement of mental health made my tenure all the more steadfast. I sincerely hope people who have fund raised and those who have given their time and gifts feel accomplished and appreciated. May I say again, thank you.

Upon further reflection, it was in 2007 at AGPA's meeting in Austin, Texas, where I really began my full understanding of the Group Foundation and my belief in students needing further training and scholarships. Nine students applied after I talked to a classroom full of MSW students. Nine students came to Austin with me that year and many more in the years that have followed. Our Scholarship Program has grown tremendously over the years. This warms my heart and gives me hope for the future of our profession and the hope for our organization—AGPA. Perhaps through receiving our scholarship, they will find their way to give to the cause that helped them and ultimately even serve on the Group Foundation Board of Directors. What a full circle that would create.

Much time has rolled away since 2007. There is a time to begin and a time to end. Although my term comes to a close, I will forever be grateful for this challenging and rewarding leadership position.

DARRYL PURE, PHD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA



I am flattered to have been elected Chair of the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health. I must admit that I was not eager to take on this role as it is so important to our tri-organizational structure and a large responsibility which I find daunting. I am honored

that my colleagues have placed their faith in me, though Karen Travis is leaving large shoes to fill. Karen and I go back many years. I watched as she took on this role four years ago and grew into it. Asking others for money is never an easy task, yet I am awed by the grace, humility,

and refinement which she brought to the task. Karen has been a wonderful mentor, and I hope that with her help, I will rise to the task before me.

I am also humbled as I look at all who have served as Chair of the Group Foundation. My first group consultant and mentor in AGPA, Emanuel (Manny) Hallowitz, MSW, DLFAGPA, was the first Chair of the Group Foundation. When I worked with him, little did I think that someday I would follow his lead. Many of the others have been my heroes: John Price, PhD, LFAGPA; Anne Alonso, PhD, DFAGPA; Ruth Hochberg, PhD, DLFAGPA; Walter Stone, MD, DLFAGPA; Patricia Barth, PhD, CGP, DLFAGPA; Lisa Mahon, PhD, CGP, FAGPA; and Phyllis Cohen, PhD, PsyD, CGP, LFAGPA. Each has taken the Group Foundation to new levels and, with Marsha Block's input, expanded the mission to where we stand now.

I strongly believe in the mission of the Group Foundation and the work we do. The Group Foundation has grown to support AGPA and all that it stands for. Through our Scholarship Program, we have added new, young, diverse voices to AGPA and assured that we have a future. The Group Foundation has made up for the lack of support early career clinicians used to get from their agencies, funding that aided in their professional development and growth. The foresight of the Group Foundation has also given AGPA a home in the office condo in New York City, which over the years has saved us a fortune in rent, in addition to being a great investment and asset.

Continued on back page

LEGACY SOCIETY

We appreciate the provisions these planned gift donors have made for the Group Foundation.

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