



MOCPA 2018 BUSINESS MEETING

*Originally scheduled for December 9, 2018
and rescheduled for March 16, 2019*

2018 was our inaugural year of MOCPA 2.0, and as such, it was largely a year of infrastructure building.

MOCPA was previously an unincorporated association without formal bylaws. In our new form, we incorporated the association and became an official non-profit entity, specifically a 501(c)6, which is a typical structure for business leagues that are not charitable in nature. In so doing, we crafted articles of incorporation and formal bylaws with a mission statement. We also formed a new bank account and linked a PayPal account to it.

We created a new website with some enhanced features. The former website had a membership application, a member directory listing, and advertisements for events. Our new website continues to offer these features and additionally has an electronic payment option for events, and includes the meeting minutes, bylaws, and did include an online forum (now removed.) We may possibly consider Google Groups as an alternative, or we may just abandon a listserv option if there is not much interest in it. We decided to implement a Classifieds section for 2019, which will allow members to post ads for employment and office space, and will also allow MOCPA to generate a little additional income as well.

We have also crafted a new membership directory that departs from the former one and includes lots of additional information about members and their practices, specialties, populations, and interests, which we hope will help members get to know each other, facilitate referrals to each other, and possibly form consultation groups. We have also been discussing offering a searchable directory of more narrowly selected information to members so that they can manipulate the sorting criteria to find potential referrals. Regarding membership retention, we will be reaching out to former MOCPA members, both recent members who chose not to renew their memberships (there were just four out of fifty-four members who did not renew from 2018 to 2019), as well as old members from

MOCPA's first iteration, to entice them to join our reformed group, as well as inquire as to why they may not be interested in doing so, the data from which will hopefully be helpful to us in crafting an association that meets membership needs and expectations.

We have encouraged members who have expressed interest in forming consultation groups to do so. One member offered a two-hour time block in her office for such a meeting; however, responses to this offer did not materialize. We have also encouraged members who have expressed interest in supervising students or permit holders to do so; we disseminated contact information to several outside groups that could put interested students and permit holders in touch with our members. I do not have data on how many people may have pursued this.

We also make liberal use of email blasts to communicate with members and deliver announcements, important information, and requests, as well as receive questions and comments from members. We hope that this has made communications more direct, transparent, accessible, and informative.

Along these lines, we have been mindful that communication is a two-way street, and we have not wanted to merely inform from a top-down position, but we are also interested in the perspectives of our members. So we sent out several surveys to garner member interest: (1) an initial interest survey in the possibility of resurrecting the association, which included assessing the degree to which people would consider volunteering in the association if it were to reform, (2) a CE survey to assess what members were interested in learning about from future presenters, as well as their own areas of expertise, should they be so inclined to deliver a workshop themselves, and (3) a special events survey to assess what types of fun activities and settings members were most interested in pursuing. And we presented the results to the membership and have used the results as a guide to craft what kinds of events we hold.

We had just two events in 2018, and both were social events: the Welcome Luncheon in June and the Wine and Cheese in October. This very business meeting was also initially scheduled for December, but it needed to be rescheduled. And we had hoped to have at least one CE event in 2018, but given that CE events now must go through the NJPA approval process in order to be sanctioned by APA, it took time to learn the process for ourselves, then communicate it to the membership, and then find volunteers who were willing to go through the process. Add on the 60-day NJPA review/approval process, and

it stretched our first CE event into 2019. In the interim, however, we did furnish a list of resources where members may find APA-approved continuing education opportunities.

Our hope is that now that we are familiar with the new CE procedures, MOCPA can perhaps line up future CE presentations more quickly; however, that will still require a steady stream of volunteer presenters. And we are having some difficulty with that, perhaps due to the additional NJPA/APA application beyond the presentation itself, which may be daunting for both members and outside groups. We disseminated a list of ways that one may access peer-reviewed journal articles for free, some even remotely via Internet, in the hope that it may reduce members' fears that they may not be able to find current "empirical" research to meet the NJPA/APA requirements.

Going forward, we hope to offer at least three or four social events, three or four CE events, and the Annual Business Meeting each year. We will have to explore other ways to entice possible CE workshop presenters, and we suspect that this will probably be our biggest challenge. We are willing to pay a small honorarium to outside speakers, but we would prefer that our own members volunteer to present workshops if they can in order to reduce participant CE costs and to support our member presenters within the association.

And finally, throughout 2018, the MOCPA President functioned simultaneously as the MOCPA Representative to the NJPA Board, and this proved to be too onerous. So for 2019, MOCPA will continue to have a President, but no Representative to the NJPA Board, as there were no volunteers from the membership to take on this role. This means that the President will continue to attend Affiliate Caucus meetings three times per year, but there is no Representative to attend the monthly NJPA Executive Board meetings. Going forward, it will again be important to entice volunteers from among the membership to occupy this important role and to function as a conduit between the affiliate and the larger NJPA organization of which we are a part. We intend to host a spring social event at the home of Rick and Julie Zakreski in April, and we will invite the NJPA leadership to our event, as they like to participate in meet-and-greet events at each of the affiliate groups, so this will give us some contact with them. In addition, MOCPA member Deirdre Waters has been working very hard on NJPA's Mental Health Awareness initiative, which has required coordinating with other county affiliates and the NJPA leadership managing it, and we are grateful to her for her efforts.