



Time Flies When You're Having Fun

by Philip R. Laughlin, Ph.D.

The summative net income for IPA for 1995-2010 was \$15. The summative net income for IPA for 2011-2016 was -\$50,000.00. This significant problem was addressed in the development of the 2017-2020 strategic plan in 2016. An examination of the financial status of the organization was not easy and a number of people who had been on the executive council for some years asked themselves repeatedly throughout the process why this was the first time that they had truly understood the financial state of the association.

The question brought about a great deal of awareness that the members of the association had to take more ownership for managing and governing the association. Too many responsibilities had been left to the Executive Director, who had repeatedly reminded the governance that the course the association was on was not financially sustainable over the long run.

It was admittedly a very difficult process to “take hold” of the situation and some of the unfortunate consequences of taking such steps were experienced. There were positive outcomes as well with the establishment of a comprehensive strategic plan for 2017-2020. Also, the financial status of the association was completely understood by the end of 2016 and plans were put into place for responsible management of the finances going forward.

One of the unfortunate consequences was the loss of the executive director, who chose not to maintain her position as of the end of 2016. The position remained vacant until Oct. 1, 2017, when Suzanne Hull assumed the office. Two of the three members of the presidential triad resigned by midyear. IPA was extremely fortunate to have several members step forward during the year to be appointed to fill the past-president and president-elect positions and to assist with some executive office support. However, many months went by when the positions were unfilled. President Molly Nikolas has done a tremendous job of maintaining the association on a constructive course throughout the year, permitting going into 2018 in a position of strength.

Molly's column in the fall issue of TIP clearly articulates steps that have been taken this year to address a number of issues needing addressing. The positive response of many members has been excellent. The work of the membership committee under its new chair, Suzanne Zilber, is presented in another article in the fall issue of TIP, authored by Suzanne. One can easily sense the renewed spirit emanating from the activities of this group. Another article in the fall issue of TIP, authored by Joyce Goins, the new co-chair of the diversity committee, points to further activities that a renewed IPA is moving forward with

enthusiasm. The article authored by the APAGS member of the executive council, Mallory Bolenbaugh, focuses on pro bono activities that psychologists engage in, and particularly specifies IPA as one setting for psychologists to display pro bono services. All in all, the fall issue of TIP was most inspiring and everyone is encouraged to read or reread it.

IPA had significant upheavals thirty years ago and again fifteen years ago. The association has managed to survive throughout and has accomplished many positive results because of the quality of the leadership and the outstanding support provided by the executive office. There is no reason to believe that such will not continue as we move into the future. The strategic plan for

2017-2020 is comprehensive and the management of its implementation should now move forward after a year of upheaval that delayed the attention needed for its furtherance.

The association will need to periodically address the fact that it is the members who ultimately are responsible for its management. An outstanding executive director will support this reality.