

February 29, 2016

Dear MPS members:

Over the years, the Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) has effectively represented psychiatrists and the patients we serve throughout the state. We can be proud to be members of an organization that plays a critical role in education, advocacy and professional development. As with all organizations, the strength of the MPS is dependent on the contributions of time and talent by our members.

As psychiatrists, we are faced with multiple challenges in our work and the care for our patients. Over the past few years, the MPS has dealt with a broad range of issues including parity, access to treatment, scope of practice, firearm legislation and managed care. The active participation of individual members in our various committees has served a critical role in the success of the MPS.

My initial involvement with the MPS was through our former peer review committee. I found the committee work rewarding and felt that I was able to give something back to my profession. Just as important, I was able to meet other psychiatrists throughout the state and form friendships with colleagues in different fields of psychiatry than I would have been exposed to otherwise. Working on a committee reinforced the importance of the MPS as an advocacy organization for all of us.

Below is a list of MPS committees. Some of these committees are more active than others, but all are important in serving the mission of our organization. There is an especial need for psychiatrist's to participate on the Editorial Advisory Board for *The Maryland Psychiatrist*. I would encourage you to consider joining one or more committees. I will be happy to speak with you to discuss any of the committees and answer of your questions. My email address is mmcann@sheppardpratt.org.

Thanks,

Merle C. McCann, MD, DFAPA

Merle McCann, MD
President-Elect, MPS

NAME: _____
(Please print)

____ ACADEMIC PSYCHIATRY – works to enhance collaboration between the MPS and the academic community, and focuses on the needs and highlights the accomplishments of the academic community. *Active*

____ BOOK CLUB - provides an opportunity for members to meet quarterly to discuss a book, fiction or non-fiction, chosen by the group in advance. It is our hope that Book Club meetings will attract members who want to get together socially for a stimulating discussion and light refreshment, whether or not they have previously been active in MPS activities. *Very Active*

____ DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP - selects the Society's nominees for APA Distinguished Fellowship each year in accordance with APA guidelines. Its members must be Distinguished Fellows or Distinguished Life Fellows. *Meets once per year.*

____ EARLY CAREER PSYCHIATRISTS - This committee, made up of ECPs, has the responsibility of planning and implementing educational, career planning, and social events for ECPs to engage them in MPS activities and convey Society information to the ECPs. *Active*

____ EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD - is responsible to the Council for supervising and advising the Editor of *The Maryland Psychiatrist* regarding policies, selections for publication, and general management of the publication. *Active*

____ FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY - represents those with an interest in the evaluation and treatment of the mentally ill in the criminal justice system. Members are engaged in the practice and teaching of forensic psychiatry and they are a resource for information regarding mental health law and public policy. *Active*

____ LEGISLATIVE - pursues the interests of the membership in all mental health matters, initiating and responding to proposed state and federal legislation. Liaison with other MPS committees, the Suburban Maryland Psychiatric Society, our common lobbyist, MedChi, and other patient and professional advocacy groups is integral to this committee's work. This is a very active committee, particularly during the legislative session from early January to early April each year. Members will critique bills and have the opportunity to testify in Annapolis on bills the committee feels are most important. *Very Active*

____ MEMBERSHIP - recruits and evaluates applicants for membership in the Society, in accordance with the Society's constitution and by-laws and APA policy. It also considers special member requests and works on recruitment initiatives, including outreach to Resident training programs in the area. *Very Active*

____ PAYER RELATIONS - represents the Society's interest and concern on issues relating to Third Party Payers and health care management. Its activities range from gathering information on and assisting with complaints, to recommending Society positions, to legislative, regulatory and public awareness initiatives. *Active*

____ PROGRAM AND CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION - plans and organizes the Society's scientific programs, ensures that programs qualify for CME credit, and complies with requirements for status as an accredited organization. *Very Active*

____ PUBLIC PSYCHIATRY - represents the Society in all issues related to public psychiatry, including the proper use and role of psychiatrists in public settings and advocacy for quality psychiatric care for patients treated in the public sector. *Less Active*

____ RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS - made up of Resident and Fellow Members (RFM) from the accredited training programs in Maryland, is responsible for planning and implementing educational, career planning, and social events for RFMs. It also brings RFM issues to the attention of the Council and conveys Society information to residents and fellows. *Active*