

Dear Colleagues,

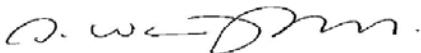
Like all volunteer organizations, the Maryland Psychiatric Society depends upon its members to deliver its full worth. Apart from the support of our small and extremely dedicated staff, whatever we accomplish, we must do together. Through our various committees, MPS is able to address matters of professional concern from a cohesive and collective perspective.

I suspect however that like me, many MPS members feel a little intimidated at the prospect of getting more involved. It's always a little difficult to make that leap, not knowing what the time commitment might be, or whether you have the right skill set, or the correct amount of gravitas. I can assure you that any help is greatly appreciated and, with one or two exceptions, the time commitment averages less than a few hours a month.

As a solo practitioner, I will always be grateful to the person (and I know who you are!) who "shanghaied" me on to a committee; it has proven to be an incredible way to network, to stay current with all that is going on in psychiatry in Maryland, and even to make long and lasting friendships.

For those of you who are currently volunteering your time, I thank you and hope that you will continue your great work. For everyone else, consider this my impassioned plea – I urge you to read through the following list of Committees and select your first three choices. If you have any questions or concerns, contact me at [swaddingtonmd@live.com](mailto:swaddingtonmd@live.com).

Yours sincerely,



Sally Waddington, M.D., President  
Maryland Psychiatric Society

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.

\_\_\_ 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.

\_\_\_ CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY - represents the Society's interest and concern on issues in child and adolescent psychiatry, and acts in liaison with other committees and organizations with related concerns.

\_\_\_ COMMUNICATIONS - coordinates promotion of the MPS and its value to members, non-member psychiatrists and others. Its focus is on improving communications, especially enhancing the MPS's ability to communicate more effectively via the website, and developing the MPS's "public face," working with other committees to put out messages about issues important to the psychiatric community.

\_\_\_ DISASTER PSYCHIATRY – works to advocate for patients, support education and training in disaster psychiatry, enhance the scientific basis of psychiatric care for victims of disaster, and develop a disaster readiness plan.

\_\_\_\_ 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.

\_\_\_\_ DIVERSITY – advocates for integrating the elements of diversity into the MPS by acting as a liaison to other community organizations with related interests both clinically and academically.

\_\_\_\_ 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.

\_\_\_\_ 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.

\_\_\_\_ 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.

\_\_\_\_ GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY - represents the Society's interest and concern on issues in geriatric psychiatry and acts in liaison with other committees and organizations with related concerns.

\_\_\_\_ 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.

\_\_\_\_ 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.

\_\_\_\_ 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.

\_\_\_\_ 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.

\_\_\_\_ 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.

\_\_\_\_ 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.