

Pittsburgher New President of Pennsylvania Psychological Association

Dr. Nancy Chubb is First PPA President with MBA

PITTSBURGH, PA—(June 24, 2008) Nancy Chubb, Ph.D., MBA assumed the presidency of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association (PPA) at its annual convention in Harrisburg last week. Dr. Chubb is the first MBA ever and the first from western Pennsylvania in 6 years to head PPA, which is the second largest state psychological organization in the country. It has 3100 members and is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2008. PPA serves as a voice for mental health issues in Pennsylvania as its members lobby to increase access to mental health treatment in the Commonwealth and in Washington.

Dr. Chubb, a graduate of Chatham University, began her career as a health and physical education teacher to middle school students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. After earning her MBA from the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business, she joined Mellon Bank as a financial analyst. "When I recognized the interpersonal dynamics of the organization were much more interesting to me than balance sheets, I returned to Pitt for a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology," explains Dr. Chubb.

For 13 years Dr. Chubb has had her own psychotherapy practice in Pittsburgh. She served as treasurer of the Greater Pittsburgh Psychological Association for five years and as treasurer of PPA for four years. In 2001, she volunteered with the Red Cross and was sent to Ground Zero to provide support to police, firefighters and construction workers at one of the respite centers. This led to starting Fourth River Associates, an executive coaching firm specializing in increasing resilience in organizations.

Dr. Chubb's goals for PPA during her term as president support the mission of PPA, advancing psychology in Pennsylvania as a means of promoting human welfare. She was involved in selecting two western Pennsylvania organizations, North Side Foods and the

Highmark Caring Place, as recipients of the Pennsylvania Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award. She advocates for psychology to be added to high school curriculum, because “Human behavior is central to everyone’s life. No matter what you do, you have to interact with others.” Other organizational objectives include increasing non-dues revenue such as grants, increasing diversity, implementing more technology, and increasing sustainable practices.

Dr. Chubb brings an interactive style to her leadership of PPA, as was evidenced in her address at last week’s PPA Convention. She provided the audience of psychologists with postcards and asked them, as they ask of their clients, to identify one incremental action they will take in the coming year to further the mission of PPA, and to mail it to her after completing the task. She also gave each attendee a ‘thank-you pillow’ and challenged them to pass it along to someone—whether colleague, service worker, family member, or friend—within the next 48 hours to express gratitude, which is a powerful tool of the positive psychology Dr. Chubb espouses.

“There is not a finer collection of smart, caring people and I am honored to be a part of such a group. My long-term vision for Pennsylvania is that we can become the most psychologically healthy state. PPA is part of making that happen.”

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