

NAPsaC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
June 18, 2017

Officers:

Chair – Lee Jaffe (APsaA)  
Co-Chair – Drew Tillotson (PINC)  
Secretary – Caron Harrang (NPSI)  
Treasurer – Sandra Borden (APsaA)

Directors:

Lee Jaffe and Harriet Wolfe (APsaA)  
Louis Brunet (Canadian Psychoanalytic Society)  
Judith Felton and Paula Ellman (Contemporary Freudian Society)  
Randi Wirth and Phyllis Sloate (interim) (Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research)  
Kenichiro Okano (Japanese Psychoanalytic Society)  
Tak Yoo Hong (Korean Psychoanalytic Society)  
Beth Kalish and Terry McBride (Los Angeles Institute and Society for Psychoanalytic Study)  
Caron Harrang and Maxine Nelson (Northwestern Psychoanalytic Society and Institute)  
Andrea Kahn and Leigh Tobias (Psychoanalytic Center of California)  
Judith Lewis (Vermont Study Group/non-voting)  
Maureen Murphy and Drew Tillotson (Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California)  
Yuhua Clare Lin (Taiwan Study Group/non-voting)

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Absent: Yu-hua Clare Lin, Tak Yoo Hong, Judith Lewis, Maxine Nelson, Kenichiro Okano  
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The meeting (Zoom videoconference) was called at 3:00 pm Pacific/6:00 pm Eastern Time.

**I. March 19, 2017 Minutes**

The March 19, 2017 minutes were reviewed, corrected, and unanimously approved.

**II. Treasurer's Report**

Sandra Borden reported that we have \$19,939.03 in checking. All dues for 2017 have been paid by member societies. Federal taxes and New York State taxes for charitable organizations have been filed, with nothing owed for either return. Additionally, budget categories have been added including Constant Contact (software for email communications with members) and domain name hosting.

Sandra clarified travel expenses NAPsaC currently pays for visitors and IPA Board members and suggested the Board should review our present commitments given our limited finances and the fact that APsaA already pays for EPF and FEPAL visits to North America:

- NAPsaC pays hotel and conference registration fees for two visitors per region per year;
- NAPsaC pays airfare for one of our reps to attend both EPF and FEPAL meetings per year. It can be a different person attending each meeting;
- APsaA pays for EPF and FEPAL visitors to their January and June meetings.

Further discussion of our budget was postponed until our face-to-face meeting in February 2018.

### **III. Current Business**

#### **1. Outreach: Expanding Awareness of NAPsaC to Outside Organizations**

In exploring ways to increase NAPsaC visibility, Lee investigated whether we could apply to join The Psychoanalytic Consortium (American Psychoanalytic Association, the American Academy for Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychotherapy, the American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work, CIPS and Division 39). Directors pointed out that this is an organization concerned with psychoanalytic education in the United States only and thus not relevant to NAPsaC, which is international in scope.

#### **2. Electing versus Appointment of Officers**

The IPA Board has suggested that NAPsaC should consider electing officers by a vote of our members to promote a democratic process. In researching procedures in the other IPA regional organizations, Lee learned that in no case are officers elected by a vote of the membership. The following description of the voting or appointment protocols were obtained from EPF President Jorge Canestri and FEPAL President Roberto Miguel Scerpella Robinson.

EPF: According to EPF President Jorge Canestri, “The Executive Committee comprised of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, a General Editor and a Treasurer is elected by a vote of the Council. The Council is composed of the Presidents of the European Component Societies. The Executive Committee is elected for four years and the next ExCom is elected one year before the end of the current administration.”

FEPAL: According to FEPAL President Roberto Miguel Scerpella Robinson, “The election of authorities is a complex issue and is not always bred by a democratic process. In FEPAL, the statutes consider a rotating system by countries. However, the election of the President has not necessarily involved the concurrence of the Societies altogether.

The latter was bound to happen just when it was Peru's [turn] to assume the leadership of FEPAL. Nevertheless, a significant number of members of my Society requested [of] the Board of Directors that a universal selection process [be] called in order to open my candidacy. I was summoned to assume the Presidency in response to a not so democratic system. Following the process of election, which we won by a large majority, I find myself working for our dear profession. [Previously], I was not even aware that it was the turn of Peru to lead FEPAL.

In every institutional event, I have forwarded my opinion regarding the election of the President as a democratic process where all the psychoanalyst members of the corresponding elective country should vote.”

NAPsaC: The Chair rotates every term (two years) from one member Society to the next in alphabetical order (APsaA, CFS, IPTAR, LAISPS, NPSI, PCC, PINC). The Chair appoints the other officers (Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer).

Directors unanimously agreed that our current protocol is both democratic and orderly and that we do not need to change our procedure.

Action: Lee Jaffe will communicate to the IPA Board during the meeting with other regional organizations at the IPA Congress in Buenos Aires that we are pleased with our current election protocol and do not see any reason to change it at this time.

### 3. Leadership Titles: Chair versus President

At the last Board meeting it was noted in our minutes that Lee would appoint a Leadership Task Force to address titles and appointment versus election of officers and Board Directors. With the issue of appointment versus election resolved, the remaining issue of titles was considered. Discussion revealed that most Directors favor changing the title of Chair to President and Co-Chair to Vice President, parallel to titles used in the EPF and FEPAL, while others see no reason to change our nomenclature.

**Action:** Louis Brunet and Maureen Murphy were appointed to Co-Chair the Leadership Task Force to discern the pros and cons of making a change in titles and present their recommendations to the Board at the October meeting before calling for a vote.

### 4. In-Reach: Expanding Awareness of NAPsaC to our Members

Lee reported that following from Maureen Murphy's work as Chair, he is continuing to write a regular column for *Selected Facts: Newsletter of Northwestern Psychoanalytic Society and Institute* to inform readers about NAPsaC. Lee also submitted a report to APsaA for their recent Council meeting in Austin, Texas. He invited discussion of other publications that we might engage with to further the goal of expanding awareness of our activities to members.

We know of two other member Societies, PCC and PINC, who reported having regular NAPsaC news updates in their newsletters. Beth Kalish (LAISPS and N American Representative on the IPA Board) suggested initiating a regular column in *The American*

*Psychoanalyst*, APsaA's monthly news brief sent to full members.

**Action:** Lee will explore with APsaA the possibility of including a NAPsaC column in *The American Psychoanalyst*, and report back to the Board in October.

#### 5. Program Committee

Drew Tillotson (Chair) reported that this committee is in development open to additional members from the Board or from the membership.

Lee reported that Terry McBride (LAISPS and CIPS President-Elect) had reached out to him prior to this meeting and inquired if NAPsaC might be interested in sponsoring a conference on psychoanalytic education in light of proposed changes to the Eitingon model of training. Lee indicated that NAPsaC lacks the budget to mount a standalone conference and our strategic plan to co-sponsor events at existing conferences (e.g. APsaA, CIPS, CPS). Directors expressed interest in hearing more about Terry's concept and thought it might be clearer how to proceed after the IPA vote on proposed changes to the Eitingon model at the IPA Congress (July 2017).

**Action:** Terry will present a fuller picture of his proposal for a conference on psychoanalytic education at the October 15, 2017 Board meeting.

Louis Brunet (CPS) invited the Committee to consider having a presence at the 2018 Canadian Psychoanalytic Society Conference. The suggestion was made to consider using the NAPsaC Clinical Workshop as a model for our presence at the CPS Conference as has already been done at APsaA and IPA Congresses.

**Action:** Drew will follow up with Louis to discuss possibilities for a NAPsaC event at the 2018 CPS Conference.

#### 6. Annual Membership Dues

This agenda item was postponed until October due to time constraints and complexity of the issue requiring further discussion.

#### 7. Website (<https://napsac.info>)

Drew has been coordinating with NAPsaC Webmaster Donna Winter (Totera Web Systems) to oversee software updates and other administrative details related to the website.

Lee reported that he has arranged for his local Society, San Diego Psychoanalytic Center's Administrator, Michelle Spencer, to volunteer a few hours a month to help with adding content (e.g. NAPsaC History, Events Calendar, Board Meeting Minutes, etc.) to the website.

Leigh Tobias submitted an updated NAPsaC History to the Executive Committee (Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) based on an earlier lengthier version drafted by herself and Rick Perlman. Directors expressed an interest in reading this document before adding

it to the website. Caron suggested this document be added as Appendix A to these minutes.

**Action:** NAPsaC History will be reviewed by Directors and edits or corrections offered at the October Board meeting before being added to the website.

#### 8. Intra-Regional Relations (EPF, FEPAL and NAPsaC)

Lee wondered how widely read is the new IPA e-Journal (translated into several languages). This information is needed to assess the value of our financial commitment to fund the journal along with the other regional organizations. A fuller discussion of this agenda item was postponed until October due to time constraints.

**Action:** Lee will investigate how many NAPsaC members are reading the IPA e-Journal and report back at the October Board meeting.

### IV. New Business

1. The Vermont Study Group (Judith Lewis, Director) has resigned from CIPS. However, the group is continuing with NAPsaC.

#### 2. Creating a Permanent Address for NAPsaC

Sandra Borden noted that we've been using the current Chair's address or the Treasurer's address for tax purposes and suggested NAPsaC establish a permanent address. Phyllis Sloate (IPTAR) indicated that CIPS had a permanent address and suggested Sandra could inquire of the protocol for doing so from Treasurer, Susan Light. Caron offered to check with NPSI attorney David Schoolcraft regarding legal procedure for establishing a permanent address for an international non-profit organization.

**Action:** Sandra will contact Susan Light to find out how CIPS established a permanent address and report back to the Board at the October meeting.

**Action:** Caron will contact NPSI attorney David Schoolcraft and inquire as to how this is done for non-profit organizations and report back to the Board at the October meeting.

#### 3. Working Parties

Lee and Drew will be meeting with Rugerio Levy in Buenos Aires on July 27 at the IPA to discuss NAPsaC's involvement in the IPA Working Parties. In the past, due to NAPsaC's legal status (not then having established Bylaws, non-profit status or a bank account) and limited budget precluded our involvement in the Working Parties.

**Action:** Lee and Drew will report on their meetings with Rugerio Levy at our October Board meeting.

#### 4. NAPsaC Board Meeting Schedule

Phyllis Sloate (IPTAR) indicated it was untenable for her to continue to attend the NAPsaC Board Meetings that occur quarterly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, as do monthly CIPS

Board meetings. This schedule was established through mutual agreement at the January 2017 NAPsaC face-to-face meeting so that Directors who serve on both boards would not have meetings on more than one Sunday in a given month. Time had run out and it was not possible to determine if others have concerns about our current meeting schedule.

**Action:** Directors will consult their schedules and come prepared to the October meeting to discuss and vote on retaining or establishing an alternate meeting schedule.

**V. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 15, 2017, 3:00 pm Pacific/6:00 pm Eastern Time**

Respectfully submitted,  
Caron Harrang  
Recording Secretary

## **Appendix A**

### **The North American Psychoanalytic Confederation (NAPsaC) History**

Co-authored by the 2017 NAPsaC Board

#### **Current Configuration**

North American Psychoanalytic Confederation, or NAPsaC, was formed in 2003 to enable the North American Component Societies of the International Psychoanalytical Association (IPA) to communicate with each other, to collaborate with each other on projects of mutual interest, and to facilitate scientific exchange among the three IPA *Regional Groups*: North America (NA), Latin America (LA), and Europe (EPF).

Although NAPsaC is composed solely of IPA Societies and Institutes ('groups'), and represents the collective intentions of the North American component groups of the IPA, the Regional Groups of the IPA are not themselves component organizations of the IPA, that is, they do not operate as training or membership institutions. The Component Societies, Provisional Societies and Study groups serve that function. There is one exception, which occurs in North America. Via a special decree in 1939, the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsaA) is considered a *Regional Association* by the IPA,

and APsaA does function as a vetting and governing umbrella organization for 40 Affiliate Societies.

The North American Region (NA) consists of: **Canada**, which contains 5 Societies under an umbrella society, the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society (CPS); the **United States**, which contains the American Psychoanalytic Society (APsaA), and the Confederation of Independent Societies (CIPS), which is a confederation rather than a governing body, of the Independent Societies in the United States; two **Asian** societies: the Japanese Society (JPS), and the Korean Society, and three Study groups: the Taiwan, the Korean, and Vermont study groups. The IPA assigns these members to the NA Region. NAPsaC has undergone several attempts to organize and function among these organizations that are diverse in size and geography.

## **History**

In 2003 the NAPsaC Board was made up of 2 representatives from Canada, 2 Representatives from APsaA, 2 Representatives from CIPS, and one representative each from PINC and one from what was then the New York Freudian Society; 8 Board members. No formal representation was made from Asia.

Then, since CIPS did not represent all the Independent groups, the CIPS Board withdrew from collective representation on the NAPsaC Board, and the Independent Societies began to represent themselves separately. The Asian Members were also invited to attend Board meetings regularly, at least by proxy, teleconference or videoconference, as available. As a result, the number of NAPsaC Board Members changed from 8 to 12. From that point on the NAPsaC Board was made up of 12 groups, each with one representative and one alternate, bringing the formal number of participating Board members to 24.

## **Voting**

For most of its history, the NAPsaC Board operated under a consensus model. Nonetheless, for a long time the discrepancy in the size represented by each Board member was a problem when it came to voting on any issue that represented discrepancy. In 2017, after years of discussion at the Board and Society levels, NAPsaC initiated the 'Two-Tier System of Voting' for measures representing controversial issues that demand more than consensus voting.

The Two-Tier System operates on a model similar to the United States Senate and House: one vote per society for one tier; 1-3 votes per society proportionate to membership numbers for the second tier. A majority of each tier must be achieved to pass a measure. When this type of vote is used, all Directors must vote, even by proxy, for the vote to be valid. It is hoped that this system will help all members of NAPsaC feel heard and counted, and that NAPsaC move toward a viable partnership with the other IPA Regions.

## **Projects Past and Present**

From 2003 to present, NAPsaC routinely selected the members of IPA Regional Nominating Committees, selected members to represent North America on a variety of IPA work groups and conferences, mounted two websites, endorsed a lobbying effort to maintain licensing standards in New York State, and lent its name as a “co-sponsor” of a number of conferences, such as the NAPsaC-EPF Conference and the Emory Conference on Creativity. In 2008 the NAPsaC Board voted to support the development of IPA Working Parties in North America, and provided both publicity and modest funding to cover the initial administrative costs of the Working Party project. NAPsaC also had been able to function as an interface between North American IPA Groups and the North American Representatives to the IPA Board. Since NAPsaC’s formation, IPA Board representatives have been invited to NAPsaC board meetings to discuss IPA activities. In 2010, the NAPsaC Board decided that it would serve as a formal “link” group to connect all North American IPA Representatives with the North American community.

Nonetheless, NAPsaC has been in a constant state of transition, inspired by a common ambition to expand the scope of its organizational functioning. From 2003-2012, NAPsaC was not formally incorporated; therefore it did not have its own bank account nor liability insurance. Prompted by a collective desire to undertake a fuller program of scientific activities, including but not limited to the IPA Working Parties, in January 2010, the NAPsaC Board voted to establish a formal Steering Committee to manage a North American Working Parties project and endorsed a plan to organize a NAPsaC Scientific Conference, to feature both Working Parties and other study groups, originally scheduled for the fall of 2012.

The adoption of this plan necessitated a concomitant decision to develop NAPsaC as an organization so that it would be capable of carrying out the plan for the Working Parties. Accordingly, the board voted on a plan to incorporate NAPsaC to enable the organization to obtain a bank account and necessary liability insurances. In addition, the Board voted to draft bylaws including a viable system for organizational governance. Pursuant to these decisions, NAPsaC pursued incorporation in New York State and, at its January 2011 meeting, the NAPsaC Board took up the challenge of establishing by-laws. The ensuing discussion, however, exposed intense conflicts with regard to organizational governance and decision-making.

In the face of these conflicts, NAPsaC Board was hesitant to proceed with further planning for the Working Parties and the proposed NAPsaC Scientific Conference. Since the previous NAPsaC Board required consensus decision-making, all further action with regard to the Working Parties and the planned Conference was suspended.

Recognizing the need for bylaws, the Board appointed a bylaw committee (Leigh Tobias, David Falk, Steve Rosenbloom, and Fredric Perlman). In the ensuing months, the bylaw committee succeeded in producing a set of proposed bylaws, including three alternative systems for voting.



NAPsaC finally became incorporated in March 2012, and finally moved funds from its temporary housing in APsaA's treasury into an independent NAPsaC account. At this time, however, no agreements had been reached with regard to voting; it was still difficult to begin any viable exchange efforts with the other Regions. The issue causing the most conflict was the amount of dues that would be set for NAPsaC members.

It must be emphasized that the recurrent problem with regard to voting, and by extension, dues-setting, was not a new problem for the NA Region. Since its inception, the component societies of NAPsaC had been divided with regard to governance and decision-making. This conflict arises because the component organizations of NAPsaC are of radically differing sizes, as well as geographically diverse. Therefore, the ability of all the Groups to participate, and feel the value of dues allocation, is challenging.

As a result, until the recent adoption of the Two-Tiered Voting System, NAPsaC has functioned primarily as an addition to other conference and initiatives, rather than implement an initiative or conference of its own. The dues are still very low; therefore it is quite challenging to operate as the other IPA Regional Groups do. It is hoped that as NAPsaC continues to be recognized for the several groups that it comprises, and if those groups decide to increase the collective dues, perhaps the value of NAPsaC will finally emerge as a cooperative Board within the NA Region, and an eager member with whom to exchange scientific projects.