Advocacy Initiative - Society for Military Psychology

Division 19 Military Psychology Summit
23 June 2022

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President-elect, Division 19
Topics

- Organization profile
- Division 19 advocacy priorities
- Needs assessment - advocacy
- Proposed advocacy initiative
- Action steps
Division 19 profile

• Over 1,400 active members
• Psychologists who currently work, have worked, or will work for the Department of Defense and national security organizations
• Uniformed, civil service, contractors, students
• Diverse duties & missions: I/O, personnel, clinical, social, aviation, human performance, research, teaching, consulting…and much more!
• Diverse advocacy priorities
• Disproportionate national support & influence
Current priorities – on website

1. Service Members, DoD Employees, and Veterans Pay and Benefits

2. Support Increased Funding for Practice and DoD Scientific Research Funding for Applied Psychology Practice, Necessary Research, and Research Offering innovation in Evidence Based Approaches

3. Veteran and Family Transition

4. Support Increased Scientific Funding for Treatment and Research in Evidence-Based Approaches
Dear Dr. Kelly and Dr. Puente,

Please see our updated advocacy priorities for APA to promote psychology within and outside the DoD/VA for the Advocacy Coordinating Committee. Additionally, encourage legislators and staff to rely on federally employed and contracted subject-matter experts within the DoD, VA, and other agencies.

- Annually – APA asks divisions to identify their priorities
- Current Div 19 priorities developed THREE YEARS AGO
- No cohesive strategy or continuity of effort to achieve priorities over time
- Div 19 structure does not provide sustained advocacy capability
Division 19 advocacy initiative

- Steering committee formed March 2022 (Ann Landes, Joe Troiani, Stephen Bowles, Bruce Crow)
- Task: identify & propose course of action to develop sustained advocacy presence for Division 19
- Monthly meetings – coordinated with APA Advocacy Office, reviewed options within by-laws, proposed COA to division leadership
Division 19 advocacy proposal

- Div 19 president appoints ad hoc Advocacy Committee – EXCOM approves (by-laws)
- Steering committee recruits for Committee Chair – term begins Jan 2023
- Steering committee transitions to advisory panel – Jan 2023
- Advocacy committee operates ad hoc 1-2 years, prepares to become standing committee thru by-laws amendment
Advocacy Committee - goals

• Synchronize with APA Advocacy Office
• Conduct member advocacy assessments
• Identify annual advocacy priorities
• Develop advocacy action plans
• Procure / provide advocacy skills
• Establish advocacy continuity across years
Committee chair – recruiting now!

- Division 19 Member / Fellow in good standing
- Any career status (early, mid-, senior)
- Leadership opportunity: 3-5 committee members
- Advocacy experience a plus - enthusiasm and persistence count more!

Information request / declare interest:
- Email: president-elect@militarypsych.org
- Webform contact: https://www.militarypsych.org/contact/