

Greetings AAPC Eastern Region Members:

I want to wish you the happiest of New Years and to bring you up to date on the AAPC transition process. This update will address:

- Introducing to you our new Eastern Region Administrator
- Information on the March AAPC Conference in Atlanta
- Changes at the Association level, including a new membership portal and a new management company handling Association business.
- Update on Member Dues
- And most importantly, our needs for ongoing Eastern Regional Leadership if we are to continue to exist as a vital professional resource for those valuing the integration of the spiritual/religious with psychological/clinical perspectives in pastoral counseling and pastoral care.

Eastern Region Administrator

We have selected Arlene Muzyka (who happens to be a neighbor of mine) to be our part-time Eastern Region Administrator. Arlene has a lifetime of experience in administrative support and event management. This has just happened, so we do not yet have regional contact information for her. That info will soon be prominently displayed on our website: aapceast.org

Arlene and I will attend the pre-conference AAPC leadership meetings in Atlanta in March.

AAPC Conference in Atlanta, March 23-25, 2017

Information and registration are now available for the conference. Please note that future Association-wide conferences will be rare, so I encourage you to attend this one. The theme is: *Vision and Opportunity; The Future of Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy and Care.*

You can find info here:

<http://aapc.org/Default.aspx?ssid=74&NavPTypeId=1204>

By the way, I will be offering a workshop on EMDR for pastoral counselors.

Association Management Changes

Transitional times are always more complex and challenging than any planning process can manage smoothly. Ours has been no exception. When the Association office closed last June, three members of the staff were retained on a part-time basis to work from their homes dealing with membership and financial issues. It turned out not to be a workable model. They were only available to be contacted during certain days of the week and they could not easily coordinate their efforts with each other. This resulted in too many delays and dropped tasks (including a difficult dues-paying situation for many of you.

Barbara, Brenda, and Melanie have all resigned and we are grateful for the service they have rendered to the Association over many years.

Management Company

Going forward, the Association has contracted with a management company that has considerable experience dealing with small associations. They will handle the fiscal responsibilities and will handle issues that affect the Association as a whole.

Here is their contact information:

RMK Productions

200 Little Falls Street

Falls Church, VA 22046

[703.884.9165](tel:703.884.9165)

www.rmktoproductions.com

Scott Punk scott@rmktoproductions.com

Reggie Kouba reggie@rmktoproductions.com

Scott will be our primary contact person. RMK personnel will be available by phone or email 5 days a week from 8 – 5.

For emails regarding financial matters, bookkeeper@aapc.org will work best.

Membership Portal

In the next couple of weeks, our new membership portal, YourMembership.com will be on line. It will include a simplified membership and dues process, eventual registration for Association and Regional events, a simplified process for regular communication with the membership, and it will host the Association Website.

Stay tuned for details as soon as this platform is activated.

Dues

Because AAPC is no longer in the certifying business, membership categories are being simplified. There is now one membership category—member—with lower dues for retired members and students.

Your Executive Committee is working on the budget for the next fiscal year that begins July 1. We will be reviewing the current financial picture to decide what level of dues will be necessary to remain viable. We will do our best to keep dues as low as possible, but meanwhile, you can help by talking to your colleagues who are interested in integration of the spiritual in their work about AAPC so that we can increase membership—the best way to keep dues manageable!

For those of you who have had difficulty with the process of paying your 2016-2017 dues, you will soon be able to pay through the new portal. Thanks for taking this opportunity to catch up with your payment.

AAPC Eastern Region Needs You!

A handful of Eastern Region members have been holding things together over the last almost two years during this transition. It has been confusing and difficult work. As you can imagine, such a level of responsibility can lead to burn out.

I am not trying to be alarmist or dramatic here, but it is essential that many of you begin participating in regional leadership. Your participation in leadership does not require you to have a long history with AAPC. Given the changing needs of our profession, new perspectives and vision are essential.

Also, leadership can mean participation in working groups that do not require being a member of the Executive Committee.

I am grateful for the few of you who have filled out the Eastern Region Interest Survey. Executive Committee members will soon be in touch with you regarding your indicated areas of interest.

But we need lots more of you to identify your interests. Leadership can be a lot of work, particularly if few people share the responsibilities, but it is more interesting, easier, and fun when many people participate.

AAPC is **our** Association, and the Eastern Region is **our** Region. They do not exist apart from you

So please take the interest survey at:

<http://entospress.com/limesurvey/index.php/456814?lang=en>

And consider joining your colleagues to lead the Eastern Region into its next phase in providing professional support for pastoral care and pastoral counseling to a world in need.

Thanks,

Wayne Gustafson, Chair
Eastern Region, AAPC