



AMERICAN GROUP
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION
GROUP FOUNDATION
FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH
INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR
CERTIFICATION OF GROUP
PSYCHOTHERAPISTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO TAKE OFFICE FEBRUARY 29, 2024

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 29, 2024— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced today the new Officers and members of the Board of Directors who will be installed at AGPA Connect February 26 – March 2, 2024.

Lorraine Wodiska, PhD, ABPP-F, CGP, AGPA-F will be assuming the position of President of AGPA. Dr. Wodiska is in independent private practice in Arlington, VA, working with individuals, couples, and groups for over forty years. She taught group therapy at Johns Hopkins University, and has led process groups and workshops at Mid-Atlantic Group Psychotherapy Society (MAGPS), AGPA, DC and Maryland Psychological Associations, and a women's homeless shelter. A unique form of therapy she utilizes and teaches is Ethical Canine Assisted Psychotherapy, with her Shih-Tzus Stella and Teddy as her co-presenters in local, regional, and national workshops. This work has led to an interest in and extensive teaching on Polyvagal Theory as it relates to Groups on Zoom and Internal Bias, highly relevant topics in today's world. She is a Fellow of AGPA, served as Co-Chair of the Open Sessions Committee and is a Past President of MAGPS. She is also a Fellow of the American Board of Professional Psychology in Group Psychology and served as a Board Member for over ten years.

"AGPA is the professional home to thousands of group therapists who provide help to those in need," said Gary Burlingame, PhD, CGP, AGPA-DF, AGPA President. "The organization is privileged to have the experience and strong leadership of Dr. Wodiska in place to guide us over the coming years."

Other members of the organization who will be taking office will be as follows:

AGPA Officers

Leonardo (Leo) M. Leiderman, PsyD, ABPP, FAACP, CGP, AGPA-F, President-Elect, 2024-2026

M. Sophia Aguirre, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F, Secretary, 2024-2026

Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F, Treasurer, 2024-2026

AGPA Newly Elected Board Members 2024-2028

Stavros Charalambides, Diploma, MSc, CGP

Jacquelin Darby, PsyD, CGP

Rachelle Rene PhD, BCB, HSM, CGP, AGPA-F

David A. Songco, PsyD, LP, CGP, AGPA-F

Affiliate Societies Assembly 2024-2026

(nominated and voted on by the Assembly):

Donna J Harris, MA, LCSW, CGP, Chair-Elect

Jill Lewis, MA, LCSW, CEDS-S, CGP, Member-at-Large

Early Career Professionals and Students Board of Directors, 2024-2026

Jonathan "Jon" Lewis, PhD, CGP

Brandon D. "Diggs" Williams Sr., BSW, MSW

AGPA Continuing Board Members

Gary Burlingame, PhD, CGP, AGPA-DF

Retiring President

Deborah Sharp, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F,

Affiliate Societies Assembly Chair

Darryl Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F,

Chair, Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health

Steven Van Wagoner, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F,

Chair, International Board for Certification of

Group Psychotherapists

Eri Suzuki Bentley, PhD, CGP

Shemika Brooks, PsyD, CGP, AGPA-F

Marvin Evans, LCPC, CSOTP, CGP

Marcée Turner, PhD, CGP

Contributions in honor of Dr. Wodiska or any of the new leadership may be made to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health at www.agpa.org, or via phone at (212) 297-2190; please indicate the individual to be notified regarding the receipt of the gift in their honor.

This leadership transition is a highlight of AGPA Connect 2024 in National Harbor. Entitled “Turbulent Times: Using Groups to Overcome Divisions and Foster Engagement” this meeting attracts group therapists, researchers and scientists of all disciplines from around the world, as they gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations in groups, an increasingly utilized modality due to its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. The theme reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the power of groups to effect change in meaningful ways on personal and societal levels. For more information, contact AGPA at (212) 297-2190 or visit www.agpa.org.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend the Plenaries as well as other select sessions of AGPA Connect 2024. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call (212) 297-2190.

About AGPA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, its philanthropic arm; and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. AGPA represents over 2,000 mental health professional members including psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers, as well as mental health, family, and pastoral counselors, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. Its members are experienced mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and various non-clinical groups. Many are organizational specialists who work with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, communities and other "natural" groups to help them improve their functioning. The association also has 21 local and regional societies located across the country.

AGPA is committed to supporting the dignity and psychological safety of every individual without discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sex, age, or disability. Central to our mission is a belief in the power of groups to treat mental illness, heal the scars from traumatic events, and enhance the well-being of adults and children in their families, schools, corporate settings, and communities.

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