

WHY I'M RUNNING FOR APA PRESIDENT

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I opened my clinical practice in the fall of 1983; by the following summer, I was completely full. I thought having a busy practice was what I wanted. And yet something seemed to be missing. What was wrong, I wondered? The answer did not come clear to me until I started getting involved in organized psychology: first in my state association, then in APA. Independent practice by itself was simply too isolating; I needed to work with others, to be part of a team – not just for my own sake, but because I could see first hand what psychology can do for people, their communities, and the culture as a whole.

In the years that have passed since, I've had the privilege of taking many journeys in our profession. Applying research to practice, guidelines and social policy has been of the utmost importance in my professional life. Almost all of my scholarly writing has been based on the wealth of psychological science. Working as an educator and supervisor, an aviation evaluator and an author of policies and guidelines have all been rooted in my passion for psychology's role in better understanding the human experience.

One of my greatest joys has been nearly three decades of service to organized psychology. I've had the pleasure of serving as a Council Rep from two different Divisions (42 & 44); served a term on the Board of Directors; numerous Committees and currently a Board Chairship (BAPPI). I've worked to bring the Military and LGBT psychologists to accord and a functional working relationship, and to facilitate the groups representing Social Justice, Ethics and the Military to craft more explicit and useful policy statements about psychology's role in interrogations. All of this work, and more, has been a pleasure.

So why run for APA President now? To strengthen our connections: not just within psychology, but with the society as a whole. I can bring our various elements together because I am a bridge-builder; a connector. In my work with different groups in our profession, that has been my primary strength and we need it now more than ever.

And at the same time, our work with our culture continues. As long as childrens' health and mental health suffers, our citizens suffer from interpersonal violence and other traumas, and our elders from neglect and disrespect, psychology has a leading role to play in ameliorating problems in the human condition.

I bring new ideas to the connection between the profession and the culture, along with the optimism and tenacity of the person that I am. As a marathon runner, I can tell you that you don't win races any other way – one mile at a time. I invite you to join me with your support for my candidacy at <http://president.drdoughaldeman.com>.