



BOARD NEWS

Volume 46

December 2022

Number 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Scottie Urmey, LCSW, TEP



Dear current and future Certified Psychodramatists, As I write this I am aware we are in the season of gratitude. I am enormously grateful and honored to serve the psychodrama community as the new Board President. Over the last several months I have had the good fortune of being role trained and mentored by our amazing outgoing Board President Cathy Nugent. Cathy has

modeled a beautiful balance of strong leadership with calm and graceful presence. Having Cathy's inspiring example and the Board's steadfast support, I bring with me not only gratitude but dedication to serve with equal parts compassion and integrity.

I entered the board immediately following the height of the pandemic and during the transition of Executive Director leadership. Both events having enormous impacts on the Board, I am reminded that when we balance stressful situations with connection, goodwill, and the intention to work with one another well, we can get through tough times successfully. In that spirit, please know that I welcome and appreciate phone calls and emails from all in the psychodrama community. Your words of support, suggestions, and offers to help have been heartwarming and generous.

In September, the Board welcomed my new role as President and two new Board Directors; Lynne Bratcher as the CP representative and Amy Clarkson as the TEP representative. Julie Wells was re-elected for the other TEP position and continues to serve as Vice President.

The fall is typically a very busy time for the Board, but this year was one for the record books. Because the Board initiated a pilot project, Early Admissions to the 2022 Written Exam, as part of the Pandemic Accommodations to help those who had been stalled in their certification journey due to COVID-19, we received 500% more exam applicants than usual! To accommodate the applicants and to maintain the integrity of the examination process the
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NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hey, I am Jasmín Jimenez. I started my professional career with City Year, an education nonprofit, before pursuing a dual degree MBA and MA in Art Business. Since then, I have continued to build my skills in people-focused roles in the creative, corporate, and technology sectors. My recent experiences as a Product Designer for Colibri Counseling and Invisible Strengths have allowed me

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ELECTED BOARD DIRECTORS

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026

- President:* Scottie Urmey, LCSW, TEP
- Vice President:* Julie Wells, LCSW, TEP
- Secretary:* Fredilyn Sison, JD, CP
- Treasurer:* Lynne Jaban Bratcher, JD, CP
- Directors:*

- Amy Clarkson, MMT, LCAT, MT-BC, TEP
- Letitia Coburn, LCSW, CP
- Barbara Guest Hargin, MSW, TEP
- Catherine D. Nugent, LCPC, TEP
- Siyat Ulon, MD, TEP

On-sites Resume After 3 Years of COVID-19

Now that the COVID-19 pandemic is subsiding and many people are vaccinated, ABE is beginning to resume the scheduling of live, in-person, face-to-face on-site examinations. To assist with the large amount of provisional practitioners awaiting their on-site evaluations, ABE created an On-site Committee who would work to coordinate a match with a qualified volunteer on-site observer and help walk our members through the on-site process.

If you are a provisional practitioner who has had to put your on-site exam on hold, please notify the ABE On-site Committee and we will let you know what is needed to get the process started.



North America On-site Contacts:
Fred Sison fsison@gmail.com
Julie Wells journeywellness@aol.com
Scottie Urmey scottieurmey@gmail.com
Asia On-sites Contact: Siyat Ulon siyat.ulon@gmail.com

Siyat Joins ABE On-site Committee

As the North America on-sites are progressing, COVID-19 restrictions are beginning to be lifted in China; specifically Taiwan. Due to the large amount of Asia on-sites on hold, the On-site Committee realized the task requires more backing. We are pleased to announce that Board Director, Siyat Ulon will be joining the ABE On-site Committee. His



Siyat Ulon MA, MD, TEP

connections, skills, and knowledge of sociometry will be a welcomed asset to our existing ABE On-Site Committee. If you are an Asian provisional practitioner who has had to put your on-site exam on hold, please wait to notify the ABE on-site committee until an on-site evaluator can be coordinated; the Board will notify you when an evaluator is available.

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to focus on projects that make an impact by understanding user needs and utilizing this knowledge to create efficient processes and better experiences. As the incoming Executive Director, I am excited to use design thinking in collaborating with the Board to support members.

During my time off, I enjoy art museums and galleries. I have even visited international art fairs in Hong Kong, Mexico City, Paris, and Shanghai. I also love spending time with friends and family and traveling to new locations.

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Board made plans to administer three separate exams on three separate dates (October 15, 2022; January 21, 2023; May 20, 2023). Therefore, the major agenda item of our meeting in September was the monumental task of creating not one but three written examinations. The goal of writing clear coherent questions which would allow candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding successfully was our primary goal. To the credit of our hardworking Board, not only did we complete the Herculean task of creating three well-constructed exams, we also addressed several other important items on our agenda.

In October the written exam was administered without the assistance of Dale Buchanan, our previous Executive Director of 37 years. Naturally, we experienced some bumps in the road but ultimately the exam was successfully administered to 21 CP and 6 TEP candidates in China, Taiwan, and North America. My congratulations go out to all 27 candidates that completed the exam! The exams are currently being reviewed by members of our psychodrama community who have donated their valuable time and expertise for the task. My thanks to all the reviewers with additional thanks to the reviewers who have already volunteered to be reviewers again for our upcoming January and May examinations.

In November we received the resignation of our Provisional Executive Director Nick Senzee, effective November 8, 2022. Spontaneity tests being plentiful, the work of the board has not been "business as usual." However, a Board and community that remains committed to our connections with one another, and remains open to our collective spontaneity and creativity, will without doubt, survive whatever challenges we face now or in the future. The influx of new candidates eager to sit for their examinations and the many volunteer reviewers generously offering more of their time, is a beautiful example of the abundance that exists in our psychodrama community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish everyone a peaceful, healthy, and joyous holiday season.

With Deepest Gratitude,

Scottie Urmey, LCSW, TEP, ABE President



ABE 2023 COVID 19 Certification

Accommodations*

Pandemic accommodations will remain in effect for test takers in 2023. Currently some of our candidates are in countries with isolation and quarantines.

Certified Practitioner Applicant			
	ABE Certification Standards	COVID Accommodations May 2020	COVID Accommodations for 2023 Written Exam Applicants
Distance Learning (maximum)	120	150	170
Minimum face-to-face in-person real time training with TEP or PAT	460	460	440
Maximum number of online practicum sessions	0	20	45
Minimum number of in-person, face-to-face group practicum sessions	41	41	20 (out of 41 minimum group practicum sessions)
Timeframe for Primary & Secondary observations	Within last 3 years: Primary, Secondary and Third Endorsements must be based on observing the applicant on at least two occasions that reveal the skills and knowledge relevant to directing psychodrama.	N/A	Within last 4 years: Primary and Secondary Endorsements must be based on observing the applicant on at least one face-to-face, in-person occasion that reveal the skills and knowledge relevant to directing psychodrama. No requirement for face-to-face, in-person observation for the Third Endorser.
Application Deadlines	All application materials must be received by July 15 th .	N/A	CP application must be received by July 15 th . Supporting Materials must be received by September 3 rd .

Trainer, Educator & Practitioner Applicant			
	ABE Certification Standards	COVID Accommodations May 2020	COVID Accommodations for 2023 Written Exam Applicants
Maximum number of online practicum training sessions	0	48	68
Timeframe for Primary & Secondary observations	Within last 3 years: Primary, Secondary and Third Endorsements must be based on observing the applicant on at least two occasions that reveal the skills and knowledge relevant to directing psychodrama.	N/A	Within last 4 years: Primary and Secondary Endorsements must be based on observing the applicant on at least one face-to-face, in-person occasion that reveal the skills and knowledge relevant to directing psychodrama. No requirement for face-to-face, in-person observation for the Third Endorser.
Application Deadlines	All application materials must be received by July 15 th .	N/A	TEP application must be received by July 15 th . Supporting Materials must be received by September 3 rd .

*In the spirit of spontaneity and Creativity the Board of Directors created these accommodations to certification standards and policies. These accommodations are valid only for the 2023 CP & TEP applicants.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!



Our ABE membership has sustained the Psychodrama certification process for decades via the members' willingness to donate their expertise, time and commitment to the important grading of CP and TEP examinations and conducting on-site evaluations. We extend our sincere gratitude to these generous psychodramatists. We could not do this work without you! Looking forward to working with you again this coming season. **THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO TO SUPPORT THE ABE!**

Uneda Brewer helps the ABE Board with transitions



From left to right (top) Lynne Bratcher, Julie Wells, Siyat Ulon, Fredi Sison, Uneda Brewer, Letitia Coburn, Barbara Guest Hagin (Bottom) Scottie Urmev

During a sunny weekend in September, the ABE Board, met to tackle significant changes. We welcomed our new and returning board directors, Lynne Jaban Bratcher, Amy Clarkson and Barbara Guest Hargin. Directors grappled with agenda items varying from managing exams and on-sites during the post-COVID era to changes to our website and Policies and Procedures. Uneda Brewer, MSW, TEP presented a workshop, *Managing through Change and Transitions*. Ms. Brewer provided a framework for members to acclimate to the upcoming changes within the Board and its responsibilities. She also introduced research on 5 modes of handling conflict in a team. Board members used this information to learn about themselves and to ignite the group's spontaneity to manage variations in interaction styles effectively. The Board's next ABE semi-annual meeting is scheduled for February 3-5, 2023.

ABE Board of Director ELECTIONS NOTICE

Each year, the Board has openings for two TEP positions and one CP position, each for a three-year term. Transportation expenses are reimbursed up to ½ (not to exceed \$300 per meeting) to attend two yearly meetings. ZOOM meetings for Officers are monthly and other board members meet on a PRN basis during Executive Director transition. Positions require up to four hours per month on committee assignments and initiatives. The two-yearly meetings will be in-person if it remains safe enough by CDC standards. The date for the September 2023 meeting is 21-23 and the winter meeting is scheduled for January 18-21, 2024. The dates and locations for the meetings are set by the Board of Directors. The term of office is July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026. If you are interested in standing for election, please contact Julie Wells at journeywellness@aol.com and we will send you instructions for writing a brief biographical statement. Self-nominations must be received by January 15. **Once again, the ABE Election Ballot will be sent via email.**



ABE Laurel, MD in-person September 2022 Board Meeting
Left to right (Top) Nick Senzee, Cathy Nugent, Siyat Ulon, Lynne Bratcher (Middle) Julie Wells (Bottom) Fredi Sison, Scottie Urme, Amy Clarkson, Letitia Coburn, Barbara Hargin Guest

WHO DO I CONTACT?

For General Questions and Concerns:

202-483-0514*

Mailing Address:

**1629 K Street NW
Suite 300**

Washington, DC 20006

*During our transition please allow 72 hours for response

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS

The ABE went digital in 2022. In order to save future generations, the planet and expenses, all 2023 applications, updates and supporting materials must be submitted electronically. The ABE will no longer accept paper submissions.

SUBMIT MATERIAL TO: info@abepsychodrama.org

Board Conversation Hour SUNDAY April 2, 2023 8am-9am

If you are attending the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama, we invite you to come to our annual Conversation Hour. Board Directors will be present to answer your questions and address your concerns.

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Members are encouraged to submit Newsletter materials. The Board News does not accept stories or features that promote specific trainings or workshops. In Memoriums are printed in our May newsletter.



SAVE THE DATE!
**2023 ASGPP
Conference**
March 29 - April 2, 2023
**Fordham University,
The Bronx, New York, NY**