

Fall 2020
Newsletter

Rocky Mountain Psychological Association



“The RMPA Executive Committee has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 convention.”



Dear all RMPA Members and Annual Meeting Attendees,

Because protecting the health, safety and well-being of our members, attendees, and the broader community is paramount, the RMPA Executive Committee has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 convention. We considered several key factors before coming to this decision, including current restrictions on the size of gatherings that preclude our ability to meet together, a professional and ethical responsibility to model social distancing to act to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and the reduction of funding supporting student and faculty travel. Although the Executive Committee discussed holding a virtual

convention, we ultimately decided to forgo a virtual meeting because the elements that make RMPA special – you – would be missing. The RMPA convention has the distinct reputation of being a welcoming, student-centered event that provides the opportunity for rich engagement among students and faculty, and we do not believe we can reproduce this type of quality interaction in a virtual environment. For all of these reasons and more, we have regrettably cancelled the 2021 convention.

Although we will greatly miss being together in person this spring, we are excited about seeing you April 7-9th 2022, in Salt Lake City, UT.

RMPA Executive Committee

Rocky Mountain Psychological Association

**Message from
the President,
Dr. Nora Dunbar**

A warm welcome to all new, returning and prospective members of the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association (RMPA). Throughout its 91-year history, RMPA has been a warm and welcoming organization. It holds an annual conference where faculty and students gather to share and discuss recent and interesting research and teaching-related information. The conference has the reputation of being student-centered, and of providing an opportunity to promote collegiality and collaboration among junior and senior colleagues.

This year the RMPA conference will not be held face-to-face or virtually. This decision was made after consultation with other regional psychological organizations and careful consideration of the costs and benefits of meeting in either format. While there is the possibility a vaccine for COVID-19 may become available by spring, there is no guarantee its use will be widespread enough to be effective. We are unwilling to put attendees at risk of contracting the virus or contributing to its continued spread. Additionally, institutions of higher education continue to restrict travel, reducing the opportunity for students, early-career faculty, and faculty at less financially secure institutions to attend conferences in person.



The Executive is dedicated to the continued success of the organization and to the health and well-being of its members and community. Because of this we have launched “RMPA Gives Back” which will defer dues for the 2020 year.

I look forward to connecting with you next year, April 7-9, 2022 in Salt Lake City, UT.

Nora Dunbar, Ph.D.,
President, Rocky Mountain Psychological Association

The Rocky Mountain Psychological Association

understands that because of the COVID-19 Pandemic our professional membership has experienced a reduction in travel costs and support for professional membership. RMPA wants to give back to those who have supported the Organization in the past.

As a result, RMPA dues will be deferred for the 2021 year.

Candidates for Election

President Elect 2021

Are you interested in self nominating or do you have a peer you would like to nominate for President Elect of RMPA? [Please email us with specific contact information for that person.](#)

Other ways to get involved:

- 1) **Program Committee Members:** RMPA is looking for dedicated persons to serve on a newly forming program committee. If you are interested in self nominating or if you have a peer you would like to nominate [please email us.](#)
- 2) **Membership Engagement Coordinator:** RMPA is looking for a dedicated person to serve as a membership engagement coordinator. This person would be able to use technology to help build and maintain a member list, recruit members, and post on social media on behalf of the organization. If you are interested in self nominating or if you have a peer you would like to nominate [please email us.](#)
- 3) **Diversity Council:** Are you interested in becoming an integral part to diversity related programming for the upcoming 2021 RMPA Annual Meeting? If you are, please consider joining the Diversity Council. In this role, you could serve to generate ideas for diversity programming, ensuring a continued commitment to this ever-important topic for RMPA. Please contact the Diversity Council Chair, Nikki Jones at nnjones@coloradomesa.edu for information about how you can become involved.
- 4) **Seeking nominations for new Teaching Conference Coordinator:** Interested in the scholarship of teaching and learning in psychology? RMPA is seeking nominations for a new Teaching Conference Coordinator to serve a three-year term beginning in April, 2021. The Teaching Conference Coordinator is an officer of the executive council and is expected to attend the organization's Spring and Fall planning meetings. The Teaching Conference Coordinator's key responsibilities are to: (1) Put together the program for the annual Portenier-Wertheimer Teaching Conference at RMPA, including a keynote speaker (in conjunction with the Program Chair). (2) Conduct a meeting of interested members during the annual convention to solicit ideas for future teaching programming at RMPA. Send nominations to RMPA President Nora Dunbar (Dunbar@nau.edu) by December 1st, 2020. Please consider self-nominating! We need you!

Treasurer's Report

The Association is in good financial standing, despite the challenging situation we've faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and having to cancel the 2020 annual meeting. RMPA currently has just over \$100,500 in total assets. While this represents a net loss over the past year, the organization remains in a solid position, given our financial obligations and anticipated revenues in the foreseeable future.

We issued refunds for continuing education and registration fees to all registrants, and we refunded all exhibitor's fees. Refunds were processed in April and the first week of May. A heartfelt thank you to registrants who donated their registration fees to the Association in lieu of receiving a refund.

With the cancelation of the 2021 annual meeting, and as part of the *RMPA Gives Back* initiative, 2021 annual membership dues will be waived. Watch for forthcoming communications regarding how to renew memberships or to join RMPA to establish or maintain active membership in the organization during this dues-free year.

Given that this is the last year of my term as Treasurer of RMPA, I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to this organization. It has been a distinct pleasure to serve the organization as its Treasurer over the past six years and to help provide the same enriching opportunities to our current students and members as I benefited from RMPA as a student, when earning my undergraduate degree at Colorado State University and my graduate degrees at the University of Colorado Boulder, and that I continue to benefit from as a professional at MSU Denver.

- Dr. Courtney Rocheleau

Announcements

Anniversary Celebration

RMPA will be celebrating its 90th Anniversary in Salt Lake City in 2022: [Learn More.](#)

Continuing Education Credits

APA Approved CE Credits will be a part of each convention at RMPA! At RMPA, we are interested in growing the CE programming. RMPA invites you to submit your ideas for Continuing Education Workshops for next year's Annual Meeting. We are soliciting proposals that relate to clinical/consulting practice in broad areas with diverse populations of clients, and those that cover various aspects of professional ethics. We are also pioneering a new Nuts and Bolts workshop series. The purpose of these one to two-hour workshops is to provide a basic overview of the theory and practice of specific evidence-based psychotherapy styles. [Read more details about CE Credits online.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Barney at barney@suu.edu.

Check out a new eBook written by current and former members of the RMPA EC

Woody, W. D., & Miller, R. L. (Eds.). (2020). *Administration of a student friendly psychology conference: Challenges and opportunities*. Electronic book: Society for the Teaching of Psychology. Retrieved from <http://teachpsych.org/ebooks/index.php>.

A Warm Welcome

RMPA would like to welcome our new program co-chairs, Dr. James Kole and Dr. William (Bill) Wozniak. Thank you for your service!



RMPA would like to welcome our new convention managers, Dr. Meredith Minear and Dr. Francie Murry. Thank you for your service!



A heartfelt thank you to Dr. Richard Miller

The Rocky Mountain Psychological Association extends great thanks to Richard L. Miller for thirty years of service to RMPA. At the fall RMPA Executive Committee meeting, Professor Miller reached the term limits of



his service to RMPA as Archivist/Historian. Professor Miller has formally served RMPA as President, Past-President, Teaching Conference Coordinator, Program Chair, APA Representative, Regional Coordinator for the Council of Teachers of Undergraduate Psychology, and Archivist/Historian, among other official roles. He is a recipient of the RMPA Service Award and the RMPA Faculty Mentor Award. Alongside his administrative duties, he has been an active presenter of scholarship at RMPA, with 122 presentations that have included 81 student co-authors or mentees. In addition to his service roles, recognitions, and scholarship, he has organized the popular Psych Bowl competitions, created Psych Follies with Professor Mitch Handelsman, invited too many nationally and internationally prominent speakers to count, and served as an active participant in *every single* Executive Committee meeting and RMPA convention in the past *thirty years*. The executive committee, and organization at large, thanks you Rick, for everything you have meant to RMPA. As an organization and as your friends we are grateful.

In honor of Dr. Miller's contributions, the RMPA Distinguished Service Award is now named the Richard L. Miller Distinguished Service Award.



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RMPA Executive Committee

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