



“He that would be a leader must also be a bridge.”

- Welsh Proverb

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Welcome to 2008. To lead, one must have vision. My vision for CPA, and for the profession, is that we build bridges, close gaps, and begin to eliminate disparities. In this column I would like to discuss some specific goals toward that end – *Building Coalitions*.

It is clear to me that in order for psychology, and CPA, to advance professionally we need to build stronger relationships both within and outside the association. It is increasingly important that we move away from talking only to ourselves and work toward engaging in collective discourse with others. This year, I want to be intentional about working collectively with others. Ultimately, we cannot do it alone. We have learned that we have much in common with other mental health professionals, and other professions in general. It is time that we approach our commonalities, intentionally and collaboratively. The following six areas outline my foundation for creating coalitions:

- 1) **Chapter Development Taskforce:** We need to begin from within. CPA is only as strong as the members who join, stay, and become advocates for the association. It is important that we continue to find ways to support our members through chapter connections and use our chapters to strengthen the overall mission of the association. I have implemented a taskforce charged with identifying ways we can develop mutually beneficial relationships amongst CPA and our local chapters. Dr. Nancy Gardner will chair this taskforce.
- 2) ***Who We Are and Why It Matters: The Many Faces of Psychology.*** The 2008 convention theme highlights CPA's seven divisions and provides an opportunity for them to be recognized for the areas of psychology they represent. We will also be “giving back” to the local Orange County community. It is important that we use our privilege and power wisely. We will be asking all convention attendees to bring books for children that will be donated to the local Head Start Program.
- 3) **Board of Psychology and Consumer Protection:** We are working with the BOP to organize a consumer protection conference in the area of cultural diversity. Board Members, educators and community members will be invited to this conference.
- 4) **Business Community Conference:** CPA will collaborate with Alliant International University, Division III, the Public Education Committee, and the Psychologically Healthy Workplace Committee to organize a one-day conference for businesses and organizations. Another effort in building coalitions.
- 5) **Inviting others into our house:** At each of our CPA Board meetings we will invite various organizations, agencies, and individuals to connect with us and identify ways we can work together. It is important that our “house” be welcoming and open to others.
- 6) **Public Education Campaign efforts:** I am committed to ensuring that we make progress in educating the public about who psychologists are and the impact we have throughout the social, political, and cultural fabric of our society. The public can be our greatest advocates.

As President, I look forward toward leading CPA into another successful year.

