



ASSOCIATION FOR POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

Newsletter

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2008

Association for
Positive Behavior
Support

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APBS President's Update

Here are a few updates on current APBS activities:

Conference News

We are all looking forward to the 2009 APBS conference on March 26 and 27 in Jacksonville, Florida. The keynote speaker will be Rob Horner, and we will have many exceptional speakers at the conference. Don't forget to register early! Please see our website (www.apbs.org) for more details.

Member Website Open House

The website committee would like everyone to visit the Member's Home Page to see all the added attractions on the Members Only part of the website. Eventually to be available only to members, this section of the site will include information on upcoming conferences, training opportunities, and job postings. For a short time only, you can visit this section of the website without becoming an APBS member, but subscribe now so you don't miss out when the Open House is over!

Network Finder

Are you interested in connecting with an APBS Network in your state? Use the hyperlinks on the APBS website to find the primary contact person in your state. Interested in starting your own network? Let the website help you with additional information on developing a network for your own state or region. Just go to the APBS website and click on APBS Network Finder.

APBS Board Elections

APBS Board Elections are upon us. Please carefully review the statements that follow and use the ballot on page 4 to indicate your preference. Ballots must be postmarked by November 1, 2008.

Nominees

Susan Barrett

I have been working in alternative education settings for over 15 years as a classroom teacher, administrator, and PBS state coordinator. These experiences have provided me with a unique skill set. Under my leadership as the state coordinator, Maryland's initiative has grown from 14 schools to 600 schools. The growth and success of PBIS Maryland is a direct result of the systems of support established through district capacity-building, coaching networks, and leadership team development. I have had the opportunity to learn from experts in various roles about the importance of supportive networking and dissemination of best practices. PBIS Maryland serves as a model for other states and is now reaching a new implementation phase as a second generation of leaders steps in to continue to scale up and sustain the model.

Currently, I work with multiple states in my role as a regional facilitator, providing technical assistance to other PBS coordinators. I have a new opportunity to learn about large-scale implementation and have initiated a Mid-South Regional Network to support this growth.

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(“APBS Board Elections” continued from p. 1)

I am honored to be nominated, and I plan to use this opportunity, if appointed, to continue to build professional learning networks across states in order to share resources and strategies. I want to ensure that PBS practices are widely disseminated to all professionals, including community and parent partners.

Nila Benito

If elected as a member of APBS board of directors, I would truly embrace the opportunity to give back to the PBS community that has given so much to me, my family, and the numerous individuals whose lives have been forever enhanced as a result of PBS. Being a voting board member would offer me the chance to have an integral role in APBS—one that is focused on fulfilling its mission and vision of improving the lives of individuals with behavioral challenges. Over the past 14 years, I’ve had extensive experience in the field of PBS both personally and professionally. In my most important role as mom to my teenage boys, Vincent and Joseph, who have autism, I use all the tools of PBS to support them and others like them to have a quality of life and opportunities where they can live, learn, work, and play in the community.

In my current position as coordinator of community supports for the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities, UCEDD at USEF, I work on numerous systems change, advocacy, and capacity-building projects and initiatives that support people with disabilities to live self-determined lives. Working on public policy issues and legislative initiatives at the federal, state, and local levels is also an integral part of my responsibilities. I would be honored to share my skills, knowledge, and dedication to make a difference as an elected board member of APBS.

Hank Bohanon

The Association for Positive Behavior Support has provided a great deal of leadership to our field. This network for implementers, researchers, and other constituents has advanced the technology of support from student-level initiatives to state-wide coalitions. Through this cohesive network, schools, districts, and states have created consortiums of mutual interest that have sustained best practice. I have seen the members of this board work to sustain the activities and roles vital to the health of the organization. I would cherish the opportunity to provide support to the ongoing health and sustainability of APBS. I believe the opportunity for the professional growth of our community is dependent on the efforts of our colleagues in the field who have shouldered these responsibilities. I would

like to make a similar contribution through membership on this board. I would therefore respectfully request consideration for board membership.

Mack D. Burke

Mack D. Burke, PhD, is being nominated for a position on the executive board of APBS. He is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at Texas A&M University. He obtained his PhD from the University of Oregon, where he studied positive behavioral support, emotional and behavioral disorders, and research-based assessment and instructional practices. Since graduating, he has focused on the development of integrated and comprehensive systems of academic and behavioral support within the context of a multi-tiered prevention model. As part of his teaching responsibilities, he regularly teaches undergraduate and graduate courses related to positive behavioral support and emotional/behavioral disorders and has presented at numerous professional conferences on positive behavioral support. He has been involved in the implementation of positive behavioral support at multiple levels (classroom, school, district), including several state-level implementations of school-wide positive behavior support. He currently is project director of an Office of Special Education Programs personnel preparation grant (Project CABS: Comprehensive Academic and Behavioral Support) that is focused on developing behavioral and instructional leaders for school-based settings.

Anne F. Farrell

The field of positive behavior supports, including its founding values, scientific basis, and expanding applications, is a central focus of my professional life. In my position at the University of Connecticut (and formerly at a University Center), I collaborate with colleagues, school teams, interventionists, and students to develop and implement supports and systems that improve outcomes for students with disabilities and their families. I have led and co-led PBS training initiatives, developed and tailored PBS curricula, and served the education and disability communities on advisory boards, workgroups, and related service and advocacy organizations. As an instructor, I help prepare individuals from several disciplines to partner with families and fellow professionals, establish effective learning environments, and provide quality supports. My research focuses on PBS, family-centered practices, and interventions for vulnerable populations; I recently co-authored a book on individualized PBS. My experience also includes disability policy analysis and advocacy from the local to the federal levels.

I believe PBS has demonstrated—but not yet fully realized—its potential to enhance education and improve quality of life. As a member of the Board, I'd like to encourage the further dissemination and diffusion of research-supported strategies, improve the visibility and accessibility of PBS to the professions and the public, and advocate for the broader inclusion of PBS in professional preparation, community training, and education. It would be my honor and pleasure to serve APBS, an organization whose mission is so consonant with my own values and aspirations.

Heather George

As one of the first APBS members, I am excited at the growing interest in APBS as evidenced by the increase in attendance at the annual international conference. PBS has changed from being viewed as a fad to a best practice, with evidenced-based strategies expanding beyond the individual student to incorporate classrooms and whole settings. Increased research has continued to produce more effective and efficient tools for supporting individuals for success in the classroom, home, and community. We need to celebrate our efforts, yet understand that there is still so much to do! As PBS “scales up” nationally and internationally, efforts need to be made in continuing to perfect tools for simplicity across settings, expand evaluation methods across the continuum, collaborate efforts across stakeholders, examine implementation factors, and disseminate our findings. For almost 15 years, I have been providing training and technical assistance in PBS across individual, classroom, targeted group, and school-wide levels within elementary, middle, high, center, and alternative schools, and home settings. As an assistant professor at the University of South Florida, co-principal investigator and program coordinator for Florida's PBS Project, and research partner for the OSEP TA Center on PBIS, much of my professional activity involves coordinating systems-change efforts at local, state, and national levels to support the implementation of PBS. I completed my doctoral degree at Louisiana State University in curriculum and instruction, with an emphasis in special education, and completed my master's degree in psychology at Indiana State University. I would be honored to contribute the next three years as an APBS Board Member.

Don Kincaid

It has been my privilege to serve as a Board Member for APBS for the past few years. During this time, I have assumed the chair for the Conference Committee and have been involved in all phases of the annual Positive Behavior

Support Conference planning and implementation. The conference is such a critical event for the growth of the Association and the networking of our members. I hope to continue to support the growth and expansion of the annual conference and to develop other regional training and conference activities sponsored through APBS. I am also excited about the future directions of APBS in terms of advocacy, policy development, technical assistance, and information dissemination. The mission, values, and activities of the Association for Positive Behavior Support have the potential to have an even more significant impact on the lives of children, adults, families, and professionals in the future. I am excited about collaborating on those future activities and am honored to be nominated again for consideration for a position on the APBS Board of Directors.

Barry McCurdy

I would be honored to serve as a board member for the Association for Positive Behavior Support. The mission and vision of APBS are no more relevant or important than when serving children and youth in urban, inner-city schools. In my work at Devereux, a national provider of behavioral health-care services, and with the Devereux Center for Effective Schools, I have had the pleasure of collaborating with a team of researchers dedicated to advancing a community-based action research agenda to address and prevent the increasing prevalence of antisocial behavior among youths. This work, which embraces the core values of PBS, is centered on developing school-wide systems of positive behavior support, promoting behavioral expertise, and designing programs to promote effective parenting practices—all within the context of urban schools and their communities. Our work has been greatly enhanced by the existence of the APBS and its capacity to translate what we know to be effective practice with individuals to work with whole systems. My goals for participating as a member of the APBS board are to enrich the diversity of discussion at the board level by bringing attention to the needs of urban schools and communities, to provide leadership by representing the interests of provider agencies wanting to adopt a PBS approach both at the individual and systems levels, and to promote the sustainability of effective PBS practices.

STAY INFORMED!

Visit the Web site regularly for updates!

<http://www.apbs.org>

Ballot for APBS Board of Directors

Due by November 1, 2008

Vote for no more than 4 candidates

- Susan Barrett
 Nila Benito
 Hank Bohanon
 Mack D. Burke
 Anne F. Farrell
 Heather George
 Don Kincaid
 Barry McCurdy

Detach ballot and mail to:

Tim Knoster
 APBS
 PO Box 328
 Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Members Save by Joining at 3-Year Rate

Effective July 1, 2008, the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) announced that Regular membership rates increased from \$70.00 to \$80.00 and Agency membership rates from \$100.00 to \$125.00 per year. Membership rates for the Family, Student, Transitional, and Multi-Year categories remain the same. A recent comparison of similar associations/organizations indicated that APBS membership rates are considerably lower and constitute a good value for our membership.

Is it time for you to renew your membership? If so, maybe it is time to consider renewing at our 3-year membership rate? The 3-year rate is \$200.00 and saves members \$40.00 when compared to the 1-year rate at \$80.00 per year. Using our new web-based membership services section of the APBS website makes this process even easier. Consider saving a few dollars next time you renew your membership by using this cost-saving membership option.

Randall L. De Pry (rdepry@uccs.edu)
 Lisa Bowman-Perrott (lbperrott@tamu.edu)

BECOME AN APBS MEMBER NOW!
 See Web site for details. Contact Randall
 De Pry (rdepry@uccs.edu) or Jennifer Zarcone
 (Jennifer_Zarcone@urmc.rochester.edu)
 for more information about the benefits
 of becoming a member.

Don't Miss Out: Register Today!



The 6th International Conference on Positive Behavior Support is an international conference dedicated to promoting research-based strategies that combine applied behavior analysis and biomedical science with person-

centered values and systems change to increase quality of life and decrease problem behaviors. For information regarding the Conference, please visit our website (www.apbs.org).

APBS Newsletter

Please consider contributing to the APBS Newsletter. The newsletter is a mechanism for sharing perspectives on PBS. Please consider submitting:



- Innovative Applications
- Member Perspectives
- Training Events & Workshops
- Resources and Materials
- Success Stories

If you would like to submit to the newsletter, please contact:

Carie English, via phone: (813) 974-1898
 or via email (cenglish@fmhi.usf.edu)

Did You Know . . .

As one of your benefits of APBS membership, you are able to access the electronic version of the *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions* online. You will be able to view and search issues back to 1999.

Go to the SAGE website society member subscriptions activation page (<https://online.sagepub.com/cgi/activate/basic>). Enter your Your APBS Member Number in the appropriate field, select APBS from the drop-down menu, and click submit. Follow the instructions to complete your user set-up. Once complete, you can access JPBI online at the JPBI website (<http://jpbi.sagepub.com>). Please note, your online access begins with your first print issue. New members should wait to receive their first print issue before attempting to register for online access.

Another new feature is OnlineFirst, which posts online articles that have completed production ahead of print production. OnlineFirst is also available at SAGE's JPBI website (<http://jpbi.sagepub.com>).