



E-NEWSLETTER

October/November 2024

A Message from Our Former Treasurer, Jennifer Johnson, LCSW, RPT-S:

Thank you for the Guerney Award!

I was honored at the PA Play Therapy conference this past April to receive the Guerney Award, a recognition of my contribution to the advancement of Play Therapy in PA. At the time I was called up to receive the award, it was the very last day of my tenure on the PA APT Board and my emotions were churning, my words were inaccessible. But I do want to take the opportunity to express my gratitude now that my thoughts and emotions have settled.

First, I want to thank my friend Elyse Robinson. Eight or so years ago, I ran into her in the parking lot at Old Navy and she suggested that I would be a good fit for a new role – the idea was that the state would be carved into 4 smaller quadrants and a general member of PA APT would serve as a quadrant leader, encouraging member communication and participation. So, I took on that role for several months and I did not get much feedback from the members in my “central region” quadrant, but I did become introduced to the Board. I began attending meetings which I found really interesting. (Really, they are interesting – check one out!)

Second, I want to thank Jacque George. She was the Board President at that time and she was so very welcoming to me. I felt included from the very beginning in spite of my not knowing much of anything about this Board. The Board was heading toward mandated transition time and nobody was in line to take over the Treasurer position. Rather spontaneously, I volunteered and Jacque was enthusiastically supportive. (If you know Jacque, this will not stretch your imagination, it actually kind of describes her personality!) I did not know what I was getting into. There were some very, very, challenging experiences in that first year as Board Treasurer. But I have never regretted my choice. The Guerney Award was gifted to me in recognition of my efforts on the PA APT Board over 7 years.

During my tenure on this Board, I have been so privileged to participate in the

growth of this organization. Part of this growth has to do with the way the National APT has grown and is pushing all the State Boards toward a unified set of policies and procedures. But a large part of this growth has to do with us. All of us. When I joined the Board, we were struggling, both financially and in finding ways to bring in new leaders with fresh ideas.

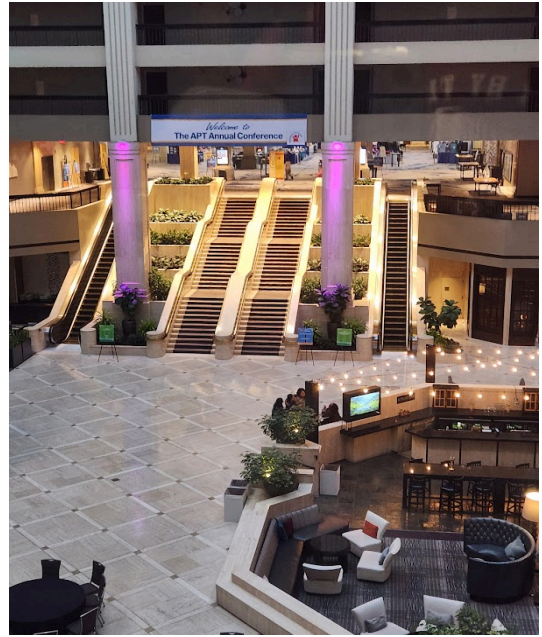
The conferences, through which we finance most of our yearly needs, were incredibly time consuming to put together. All of the work toward that effort was heaped onto just a few Board members who also had full time jobs. I spearheaded the effort to both centralize and anchor this conference in the same place every year. I know this was not universally accepted by the membership at large, but it has proven to be one of the best moves we made during my tenure. We are more able to anticipate the conference budget more than a year in the future and as a result are financially stable. Our Board members' time has been freed up so we have more time to devote to the business of building PA APT which has, in turn, permitted us to become a more inclusive and professional Board overall. We have much more consistent attendance at meetings, we have working committees, we have ideas flowing.

So, thirdly, I want to thank ALL the Board members, past and present, who believed in my ideas and supported me even when they did not like, or adopt, my ideas. I want to thank them for tolerating my need to anxiously control – everything – and for gently taking away my control of – everything ♦♦ And I want to share the main reason my brain was hijacked by my emotions at the conference, not permitting me to speak my truth. I am going to miss being on this Board. My work on this Board has provided me with some purpose beyond my daily work and the Board members have become my friends. So, Thank You for this honor, and for the Plaque which hangs on the wall of my office for all to see.

If any one of you reading this post have any interest in learning more about how this Board works or have any interest in trying something new, I strongly encourage you to join a committee. You may not have the time to commit to full membership on the Board and that is OK! The fresh ideas generated by smaller committees is what will make PA APT grow in ways that will serve all of us! And you never know, you may just find yourself in an unexpected leadership role that fills you up in places you did not realize were empty.

*In Gratitude,
Jennifer Johnson,*

Former Treasurer of PA APT and ongoing Finance Committee member at large.



Photos from the Annual International Association for Play Therapy Conference!





Interested in APT's Leadership Academy?

Academics, Practitioners, and Students Welcome! Participants learn about leadership attributes, the Policy Governance[®] Model, and how APT conducts its business.

Registration Opens November 20th and is limited to 30 participants.

Use this link to navigate to the Leadership Academy Fact Sheet:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.a4pt.org/resource/resmgr/leadership_academy/APT_Leadership_Academy_Fact_.pdf

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