



## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL HYPNOSIS

### **PRESIDENT'S UPDATE FOR ASCH**

July 27, 2021

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Dear ASCH Members:

Good morning to all my colleagues at ASCH! I am writing you to give you an update on the progress made to streamline and position ASCH to continue to be the leader in the delivery of hypnosis to our clients/patients, and provide the most up to date educational offerings for professionals to achieve this goal. This is our mission and we are honored that you are a part of this work, to alleviate suffering and help our clients/patients have a better quality of life through our work.

**Here is what we have accomplished so far since our new management team SEVEN12 began collaborating with us to achieve our goals at the end of March 2021.**

- 1) Creation of a **new** upgraded ASCH website that went live 7/1/21, to make things easier for you to be a member, easily view all educational offerings, register and pay dues online, be able to download membership and other certifications, and have them processed expeditiously. Please note that we inherited a back log of membership applications that have now been processed and we are almost up to being able to quickly and efficiently get your applications through in real time. There were also new portals created for educational workshops for teachers as well as students, with programs, assessments, zoom pages etc., all there in one easy click.
- 2) The Component Societies (CS) now have an annual invitation to engage with our Executive Committee and we are working together with Deb Bensching, who was appointed Chair of the CS Division. We upgraded the CS tab on the website as well as the toolbar so that there is now a map with all CS listed as stars that can be clicked, and the viewer taken directly to that CS website! CS educational offerings are also being included on the main ASCH calendar. It is my hope that each student taking training whether it be an ASCH or CS training, can then be guided to an affiliate with a local CS for support as well as hopefully become an ASCH member, to supporting our joint mission. The CS have been wonderful to meet with us via "Town Hall Meetings" to explore ways to achieve collaboration, that benefits all.
- 3) There is now an entire Educational Division whose chair is Dr. Lane Wagaman, who is pulling together all educational components, including updates for the standards of training that are the benchmarks for our educational programs: advanced, level 1 and 2 workshops that run year-round, the Teaching Consultation Workshops held every six months, the Annual Scientific Meeting held yearly, and more.
- 4) ASCH-ERF met with the ACCME, a national accreditation board for CME, and we look forward to being again certified for the next three years, due to our constant attention and improvement of our educational programs that lead to well-trained practitioners... even with the challenge of providing virtual programming formats.



- 5) Your ASCH Journal is now also online on the website. Please note there was a change in our liaison at the publication house (Taylor and Francis) and people who want to download the full article were being asked to pay for each. You should *NOT* have to pay for an article from the journal as this is a benefit of being an ASCH member. This issue has since been resolved and if you have any future troubles, please contact ASCH Executive Director Molly Alton Mullins at [mmullins@asch.net](mailto:mmullins@asch.net). Journals will continue to be sent to you quarterly with the latest in research from not only the USA, but also globally.
- 6) We also are working on revamping the 75-year-old ASCH Bylaws that have been responsibly amended to try and keep up with the increasing tempo and changes of our current time. With great shifts occurring now in conducting business, many of the bylaws hinder business function and the ability to make timely decisions. Previously with some of the bylaws it could take up to two years to have a necessary process change ratified as the recommendation from the Executive Committee went to the Board of Governors which only met on a yearly basis (unless emergently convened for a truly imperative decision).

We are looking at taking a fresh look at a good standard template of Bylaws that supports most businesses and modify these to suit the special needs of ASCH, rather than redoing and rewriting the old ASCH bylaws yet again. We will be sending the updated copy out to you for your input and perusal in the future.

- 7) We are also considering sunseting the Board of Governors (BG), as many of the BG key members are now invited to be involved with the Executive Committee to help us expedite business. We also propose renaming the Executive Committee to ASCH's Board of Directors, which more aptly describes the role of this governing body. More on this later.
- 8) Lastly, we are proposing to reorganize the way business is conducted on the Executive Committee (proposed to be renamed the Board of Directors). We are putting together a sensible organizational chart that includes the functional divisions of ASCH, with either a member elected or appointed chairperson to oversee the business and programs under each of the divisions (formerly committees).

Here is the restructuring proposal to date but please know this is still a work in progress.

*Please note too that ALL are VOLUNTEERS in each of these capacities, with the exception of the Editor in Chief of the ASCH Journal.*



## ASCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Currently designated as the ASCH Executive Committee*

**PRESIDENT: Previously Elected**

- Current: Dr. Bridget S. Bongaard (2021-22)
- Co-Chairs AJCH with the Editor in Chief
- Current Editor: Steve Lankton (three-year revolving contract)

**PRESIDENT-ELECT: Elected Annually by Membership**

- Current: Dr. Joe Tramontana (2021-22)
- Plans ASMW under Education Division

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Previously Elected**

- Current: Anita Jung (2021-22)
- Chairs Nominations & Elections Division

**PAST PAST PRESIDENT: Previously Elected**

- Current: Dr. Phil Shenefelt (2021-22)
- Chairs ASCH-ERF

**TREASURER: Elected Bi-Annually by Membership**

- Current: Dr. John Hall (2021-23)
- Chairs Finance Division

**SECRETARY: Elected Bi-Annually by Membership**

- Current: Dr. David Alter (2020-22)

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Elected Bi-Annually**

- Current: Dr. Cheryl Beighle (2020-22)

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Elected Bi-Annually**

- Current: Dr. Mary Wells (2020-22)

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Elected Bi-Annually**

- Current: Dr. Atousa Safavi (2021-23)

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Elected Bi-Annually**

- Current: Maggie Dickens (2021-23)

**EDUCATION DIVISION CHAIR: Appointed**

- Current: Dr. Lane Wagaman

**MEMBERSHIP DIVISION CHAIR: Appointed**

- Current: Maggie Dickens (individually, not through Member-at-Large Role)

**ETHICS DIVISION CHAIR: Appointed**

- Current: Dr. David Alter (individually, not through Secretary Role)

**COMPONENT SECTION DIVISION CHAIR:  
Elected by Component Section Representatives**

- Current: Debbie Benschung

**BYLAWS DIVISION CHAIR: Appointed**

- Current: Dr. Eric Willmarth

**CERTIFICATION APPROVAL DIVISION CHAIR: Appointed**

- Current: Dr. Mary Wells



**ETHICS DIVISION**  
 Appointed  
**Chair: Dr. David Alter**  
 Members: Ethics Committee

**NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS DIVISION**  
 Elected Past President  
**Chair: Anita Jung**  
 Members: Nominations & Elections Committee

**MEMBERSHIP DIVISION**  
 Appointed  
**Chair: Maggie Dickens**  
 Members: Membership Committee, Membership Expansion Task Force, Mentoring & Outreach Task Force

**AJCH DIVISION**  
 Elected President  
**Chair: Dr. Bridget Bongaard**  
 Members: Editor in Chief Steve Lankton (when applicable)

**ASCH-ERF DIVISION**  
 Past Past President  
**Chair: Dr. Phil Shenefelt**

**EDUCATION DIVISION**  
 Appointed  
**Chair: Dr. Lane Wagaman**  
 Members: Clinical Hypnosis Education & Training (CHET), ASMW, TCW, Standard of Training & Distance Learning Committees/Task Forces

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS\***

**COMPONENT SOCIETY DIVISION**  
 Elected by Component Societies  
**Chair: Deb Bensching**  
 Members: Component Societies

**FINANCE DIVISION**  
 Elected Treasurer  
**Chair: Dr. John Hall**  
 Members: Budget & Finance and Contract Committees

**CERTIFICATION APPROVAL DIVISION**  
 Appointed  
**Chair: Dr. Mary Wells**  
 Members: Certification, Recertification, Approved Consultants, Individual Consultations, Awards, Fellow Committees/Task Forces

**BYLAWS DIVISION**  
 Appointed  
**Chair: Dr. Eric Willmarth**  
 Members: Bylaws Committee

**\* CURRENTLY NAMED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
 President: Elected  
 President-Elect: Elected  
 Immediate Past President: Elected  
 Past Past President: Elected  
 Treasurer: Elected Bi-Annually  
 Secretary: Elected Bi-Annually  
 Four Members at Large: Elected Bi-Annually, Staggered Two Each Year  
 Education Chair: Appointed  
 Membership Chair: Appointed  
 Ethics Chair: Appointed  
 Component Chair: Elected by Components  
 Bylaws Chair: Appointed  
 Certification Chair: Appointed  
 Executive Director: Contracted Position



Eventually I would recommend that each Division Chair mentor their Division volunteers to become leaders in ASCH either within that Division or by also encouraging them to seek a position on the EC/Board of Directors (via the Nominations and Elections Division who set up ballots for the leaders mentioned above). The Chair position would be decided by a vote within each Division, with the term being at least two or three years so there is continuity of purpose for the Division.

We value all input from *ALL* our members so wanted to share these achievements and action plans with you now. I am open to any of my colleagues joining any of the divisions and sharing their vision. Please contact the Division Chair of that which you are interested in serving, or contact me to discuss your ideas for the future of ASCH.

Much Aloha,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Bridget S. Bongaard" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bridget S. Bongaard, MD, FACP, HCMD  
President of ASCH 2021-22