

The Society for the Teaching of Psychology (Division Two) has been having these monthly conversations for the past 3 or four years. It is extremely helpful. Our Past President and two Council Members also work together to recommend whether the Society should endorse a particular candidate for APA President and, if so, who.

We also have a reception at APA for the past presidents. Last year was the first one and it was very well received. We'll have one again this year.

Division 45 (Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues) uses a model similar to Division 17 (Counseling) and has the Presidential Trio (Past, Current and Elect) using regular conference calls to discuss important policy and planning issues. The Past President also serves as Chair of our Awards and Nominations Committee. We also try to find important roles for Past-Past Presidents (e.g., Eduardo Morales who was President 2004-2005 is serving as Chair of our Evidence Based Practice Conference Planning Committee).

The breakfast is a great idea which we have never done, but I agree that having a function would help with attendance. We lose valuable experience and wisdom.  
Div 49 has Past President on EC and chairing nominations committee. Some past presidents choose to run for a board seat and continue to serve. What a great discussion!

Great question. Division 37 has a variety of roles for the past-president including awards, and developing the slate of candidates to the board. We are interested in the ways other divisions have of maintaining more active involvement of the past-presidents!  
As far as archives, we have been actively archiving our agenda books, officer's manuals, publications, and other data and find this an incredibly helpful resource to reconstruct or history and to provide guidance.  
Good luck to you.

This note is in response to a query with multiple responses on the division officer's list, see initiating query below.

Division 28 has a moderately long history (4 decades), and we tried to capture some of it in a Centennial project ~1990.. There was also a chapter in an APA book on the history of divisions. We conducted several interviews with past presidents at that time, and it's now on the web when it didn't evolve into a book or monograph:

<http://www.apa.org/divisions/div28/history.html>

The division was formed in 1967, and a list of past presidents is maintained by apa and on our website.

<http://www.apa.org/about/division/div28pres.html>

<http://www.apa.org/divisions/div28/>

The website evolved with the web, of course, and there were early attempts to archive there (the chinese seem to be archiving it too:

<http://www.dpi.bnu.edu.cn/apa/divisions/div28/archive.html>

...it would be better to checkout the "wayback" machine for snapshots of the website)

A few years ago I was concerned about wheel reinvention I undertook scanning all the back newsletters, and now of course they are all pdf:

<http://www.apa.org/divisions/div28/newsletter.html>

here there is another list of presidents newsletter editors, program officers along with links to the newsletters

All of our electronic communication is archived. This started with my presidency.

Check out our divisional email architecture:

<http://www.apa.org/divisions/div28/email.html>

[http://www.apa.org/divisions/div28/images/div28\\_lists.jpg](http://www.apa.org/divisions/div28/images/div28_lists.jpg)

we have a "conference call" executive board email list, and we have an "executive board list" where all the past presidents and likely future presidents without present appointed positions are subscribers. The "conference call" list is nested under the "executive board" list. Both are archived. We can and do use the larger executive board list to solicit input from our experienced members... to not do so risks repeating history.. and there have been doozies at APA... incredible

We have a divisional archivist, but lots of correspondence gets lost. The secretary's files are incredible, and these move from secretary to secretary. When we did the "interviews", president's folders came out of drawers, and extraordinary information emerged.. ... paper is a great medium. no doubt some of our materials have made it to the APA archives. Materials will be lost, and attention must be paid to gathering documents from octogenarians.

I'm a believer in electronic archives, and DSPACE is a good current alternative for socking stuff away in bulk, plus just getting it on the web results in its preservation on servers around the world.

We do invite long past presidents to speak on occasion, a good thing. As a past president, a social event is attractive to me. Exploit electronic communication!

I have been involved in both Div 9 (SPSSI) of APA and the Canadian Psych Association (CPA). CPA has a past-presidents group. It meets at the association's convention and occasioannly offers a bit of advice. I think it is a nice way to honor past presidents and it is a knowledgeable body but in pratice it does very little.

SPSSI has a good historical archive (see [www.spssi.org](http://www.spssi.org)). In both SPSSI and CPA, it takes quite a bit of effort to keep up the historical information. SPSSI doesn't pay its historian; CPA does (part-time). These archives do get used. You could probably start by having an interested member perform this role. Larger organizations have people with special training in history but getting started simply would, in my opinion, be a good step.

PS I think it is very nice for each division to have on their website, a list of past presidents by year, as well as a list of those who have received division awards, list of Fellows, etc.

Colleagues,

I am plowing through emails of the day. I don't think I've yet seen a response that describes the

Division 17 tradition of having a Past President's breakfast at each APA convention, usually held on Sunday morning. It is typically hosted by the current past president; all living past presidents are invited a couple of months ahead of time. The current president-elect, president and past presidents attend, and the agenda is typically a discussion of the current state of counseling psychology, as well as future issues, etc. Stories of the past are often shared. It is a wonderful event.

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Division 50 (Addictions) maintains involvement of our past presidents in two main ways. First, they serve on the Board during their full year as Past President. We have monthly teleconferences and a meeting at the convention, in which the past presidents participate. During their year as Past President they also serve as the Liaison to the Education Directorate. It does seem, however, that after their term ends (Pres-elect, Pres, and Past Pres), they often drift away from active involvement in the Division. I would very much like to find ways to keep our past presidents involved because I believe it is good for the long-term health (and institutional memory) for the Division. The idea of a Past President's breakfast might be a way to do that.

In terms of archival information, we're attempting to improve in this area. Our current Secretary is gathering information from Past Presidents and Committee Chairs. We're trying to maintain better records (e.g., Award recipients). It's a slow process of playing "catch up," but as you said... we're not getting any younger, so we'll continue to make the effort.

I would certainly come to a breakfast or other meeting. You might even circulate a request for meeting content among the past presidents, sort of like a focus group, and let them help create the agenda

**To add my two cents .... I would strongly encourage all of us to consider starting a dialogue with the Archives of the History of Psychology at the University of Akron. David Baker, Ph.D. and his staff have put together a fabulous collection of "history stuff" relative to the birth and maturation of psychology in America. Check it out for yourself at: <http://www3.uakron.edu/ahap/> The 'Archives' would be a "one-stop" place to chronicle the journey all of us are now on relative to the history of our respective divisions and relative to APA.**

Division 17 has held a past-presidents' council and breakfast on the last morning of the annual convention for I don't know how many years. The breakfast is for all past presidents and the council is sometimes for a smaller subgroup. Any meeting time is hosted by the most recent past-president, and agenda may be formal or informal depending upon need. The group provides excellent consultation with historical perspective. The division keeps a list of all past presidents at APA Division Services. We also archive past meeting agenda books and other historical documents at the Psychology Archives at the University of Akron. Anything else I can provide?

Sounds like Div. 35 does a great job of keeping Past Presidents involved. Div. 27 (Community) has a breakfast at our Biennial conference with Past Presidents and EC members. Since I've never been to one before next month, I'm not sure whether this is more than a social event.

Past Presidents who choose to do so can remain on our EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S LISTSERV forever. They are rarely visible, but when asked they do respond promptly and very helpfully, both on the Listserv and back-channel. In this way they keep in touch with current issues and make wonderful suggestions on how to handle them. I'd recommend this. I'm unaware that it's ever caused problems. Of course, not all choose to stay on over the years, with many of the older ones gradually dropping off, as is to be expected.

I expect you're both aware of the APA Archives that I understand are available to all Divisions. Our division has not done a good job of keeping up over the years, but there are some documents on file for us. You might want to check with them (Wade Pickren, PhD, APA Historian, [wpickren@apa.org](mailto:wpickren@apa.org)). If you're new they can set up an archive for you--they collect Minutes of EC meetings, newsletters, etc.

This is a wonderful question and one which we struggled with a great deal a few years ago when I was Pres. of Div. 43. We noticed that after the pres's year as past-pres there often wasn't a place for him/her to stay involved in a meaningful way with the division. In my presidential year, I got in touch with all of the past presidents and formed a past-pres's council. However, since there wasn't a specific task attached with that, those folks soon moved on to other things. Keep in mind that Presidents become that because they are doers. My take on it is that some specific duty needs to be given to keep past presidents involved.

**Our group of past presidents is a tight one. Most of us have stayed quite involved in the Division and are often called upon for advice outside of formal channels. A more formal mechanism for involving past presidents is perhaps one that we can consider!**