

American Psychological Association
Office of Public Communications
July 21, 2006

APA Board of Directors Authorizes the Relocation of
APA Governance Meetings Out of Virginia

Due to the possible impact of a Virginia law (the 2004 Affirmation of Marriage Act) on APA members or staff and their domestic partners in the case of illness or hospitalization, the APA Board of Directors has authorized that APA governance meetings that were scheduled to be held in Virginia in 2007 and 2008 will be moved to Washington, DC.

The APA Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns (CLGBC) had raised concerns about the Virginia law's possible impact and that of a state constitutional amendment that will be before Virginia voters this November. The specific impact of the Virginia law is difficult to know – actual cases will determine its ultimate impact. However, CLGBC has strong concerns that facilities in the state might refuse to honor legal documents, such as a medical power of attorney, between non-married partners. The fear is that hospitals in the state might construe such documents that have been executed by gay or lesbian couples as prohibited by state law and thus refuse to honor them.

The APA Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns Office is working with the Virginia Psychological Association Societal Issues Committee to provide support to psychologists in Virginia who wish to become involved in the public debate over the constitutional amendment. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Office at lgbc@apa.org or 202-336-6041.

###