

Regarding Psychoanalytic Governance

Farewell to APsaA: Post Four

Saturday, June 21, 2014

Glendale, California

My Dear New Center Friends and Colleagues,

I write in response to our Richard Tuch's June 15th posting entitled "Answer Me This."

I so appreciate the kindly and poetic nature of his posting. In the final analysis, however, it shouts out the undeniably moribund status of APsaA. He delineates APsaA's new rules and controversies that make the US Tax Code seem simple. Meanwhile, APsaA's Certification and TA process has already greatly harmed NCP. Literally in the last few months, you received, as I did, notes of even more deaths of members and desperate calls for Clinical Associates.

What other signs do we need?

Rather than waste precious time engaging with a professional organization that, ironically and tragically, poses a serious risk of destroying our beloved profession, I suggest that:

1. Someone initiate, as I did a year ago, a process to enact an NCP Bylaws change that will enable us to select our own TAs.
2. Resign from APsaA as well as IPA. These organizations are run by well-meaning people, but they are strangled by their organization's own unchangeable Bylaws. (After 20 years of loyal membership, including attending more than five of its conferences, I was summarily dismissed from the IPA at the end of 2013 ONLY because I had resigned from APsaA; again, do you need any other indication of lethal dysfunction?)
3. Stay tuned for the unveiling of a new psychoanalytic membership organization, the Alliance for International Psychoanalysis (AIP) that offers an inclusive ideology, is not affiliated with any theoretical school, and defers assessment of competencies to institutions.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer,

Alan

Farewell to APsaA: Post Three

Saturday, January 11, 2014

Glendale, California

Dearest New Center Colleagues and Friends,

Having exhausted all means of avoidance, and with immense ambivalence, I will be sending in my NCP dues for 2014 today — to the relief of some and to the annoyance of others. I do so ONLY because of

the wonderful experiences I've had with NCP as a community. My interactions with NCP members have been so positive; NCP remains my only psychoanalytic home.

On an altruistic basis, I'm motivated in part by a desire to prevent our seriously ill organization from losing yet another member. Events in just the last few months validate the trend of our members literally dying at a pace exceeding the rate of new members joining. I hope I may help some clinical associates, or interested persons in the broader community, through my teaching or my TA status.

I renew my membership for many selfish reasons. Some of you are my close friends, and NCP serves as one vehicle for our intimacy. I can use NCP as a platform for scholarship. I find teaching implicitly enjoyable. I also derive some sadistic pleasure from provoking some of our members who feel "broad-sided" by the thought — oh my ! — the psychoanalysts might have passion, or be open and vulnerable people. Sadly, they must brace themselves for more "incessant badgering."

My ambivalence should be obvious. I fear that half of our members behave in a zombie-like fashion. They seem awake. However, they continue to support an unethical, illegal, and unscientific method for selecting TAs. They fail to see how the current TA system contributes to the fragmentation in our profession — even right here in the Los Angeles area. They seem to care little that our group will soon fall below 200 members — a number smaller than, say, the number of Rotary Club members that live within a 200 foot radius of NCP.

Anyone who is awake, and still among the living, knows that the future of psychoanalysis lies in psychoanalytic psychotherapy, not in formal psychoanalysis. Our moribund APsaA and IPA do not support the former; their methods of identifying TAs harm the latter. The APsaA method for TA selection should have been abandoned decades ago.

Having devoted 14 months to achieve reform, I now turn to other matters. I have resigned from APsaA, causing me to lose my IPA status, and resulting in my pending lawsuit against the IPA for restraint of trade. I am in the process of incorporating a new psychoanalytic membership organization featuring an ideology of inclusion and integration.

NCP needs a completely revamped TA selection process. It needs to enlarge its psychoanalytic psychotherapy program. It needs to facilitate the process through which other LA psychoanalysts, and all persons interested in psychoanalysis, can join our little group. I know that you, Jeff, and many others, are working towards these changes. I am eager to help to wake up our NCP.

In the meantime, I send all of you my best wishes for the New Year, especially those of you who feel "broad-sided" and "badgered,"

Alan

Farewell to APsaA: Post Two

December 31, 2013
Seattle, Washington

I have begun the process of incorporating a new international psychoanalytic professional organization. Its mission will focus on unifying our profession, fractured during the 20th century, into an integrated one for the 21st century. It will utilize the internet, social media, and other cutting edge technologies to promote its mission, offer educational opportunities, and link its various affiliated institutions.

The new organization will feature an inclusive ideology, encouraging analysts from all schools, whether Freudian, Jungian, Kleinian, Intersubjective, Relational, or whatever, to come together in one organization. It will develop ethical methods for assessing psychoanalytic competency, accrediting educational institutions, and establishing the bases for training analyses. Membership categories will consist of psychoanalyst, psychoanalytic practitioner, interested layperson, and student.

The new organization will recognize two year psychoanalytic psychotherapy programs as well as four year psychoanalytic training programs. It will offer grandfather accreditation for all IPA and APsaA institutes and will, as quickly as possible, also offer accreditation to the many other institutes not yet accredited by those two professional organizations.

I was fired for union organizing in my early 20s and testified before the National Labor Relations Board, resulting in the firm that had employed me being disciplined. I therefore must have some skills in this area. I intend to only get the ball rolling, and then turn the organization over to a Board that can pursue its mission of integration and cohesion.

Please send me an email if you are interested in learning more about this new professional membership organization.

Wishing you all a happy new year,

Alan

Farewell to APsaA: Post One

Monday, December 31, 2013
Seattle, Washington

Dear Local, National, and International Friends and Colleagues,

After 21 years of dedicated APsaA membership, I quit.

If litigation would allow me to recover the \$22,000 I've spent on dues to date, I'd proceed in a heartbeat.

Whereas other professional organizations have worked to enliven their educational institutions, i.e. the AMA and the ABA, the APsaA has achieved precisely the opposite. Most professionals seeking psychoanalytic training in the US attend non-APsaA accredited institutions. Even taking into account the waning interest in psychoanalysis, APsaA has all but destroyed this amazing profession. Were it not for the sadness and the loss this brings, the parallels to the endings of civilizations in history would be intensely fascinating.

I eagerly await an opportunity to join a national psychoanalytic organization when it:

1. Radically changes the way TAs are selected. The current, unethical selection method fails to assess competency and establishes a hierarchical imbalance of power between peers.
2. Allows institutes to establish competency or develops an externalized method of assessing basic and advanced psychoanalytic competency.
3. Ends the absurd, unethical relationship that allows its members to join the IPA only through APsA.
4. Develops broader methods for accreditation to bring many more active, vibrant psychoanalytic institutes into its fold.

I applaud the efforts of those working towards reform, and I wish you the best of luck.

Alan