



Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards

Serving member jurisdictions by promoting excellence in regulation and advancing public protection.

MEMO

TO: ASPPB Member Jurisdictions, Board Administrators/Registrars, Individual Members, Other Psychology Organizations

FROM: Stephen T. DeMers, ASPPB Executive Officer

DATE: October 1, 2009

RE: Important News About ASPPB

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I have important and exciting news about the future of ASPPB: the administrative offices of ASPPB will be moving to the Atlanta metropolitan area. In April, 2009, the Board asked me to conduct a preliminary examination of the feasibility of relocating the ASPPB Central Office to a major metropolitan area. The Board and I felt that this move was necessary to consider in order to enhance our ability to achieve the goals in the ASPPB Strategic Plan. I investigated both the financial and organizational costs of moving our office to a number of major metropolitan locations. After careful analysis and deliberation, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to relocate the Central Office to the Atlanta metropolitan area.

Some of the main reasons underlying this decision include:

- a. Atlanta has excellent air service. With more staff traveling to membership and committee meetings and visiting jurisdictions, the Central Office needs to have better access to more efficient and less expensive airline service.
- b. The Central Office will be more accessible to the Association leadership. Moving to a more accessible location will allow more committee and Board of Directors' meetings to be hosted at the Central Office and allow more staff to participate in such meetings thus, reduce the cost of meetings.
- c. The move to Atlanta will allow ASPPB to retain valued staff. Since Atlanta is relatively close to Montgomery compared to other cities explored, moving the Central Office there will make it easier and less expensive for the Association to retain our current valued staff.
- d. Atlanta will help ASPPB recruit staff. The move to Atlanta will facilitate the ability of ASPPB to recruit staff (as the need arises) who desire to live and work in a more metropolitan location with better transportation services and a broader range of social and cultural opportunities.

- e. The time to move is now. Atlanta is currently an undervalued real estate market making this the time to move the Central Office.

As I reported to you earlier, the Association paid off its mortgage on the Montgomery building in 2006 in order to protect ASPPB from any further interest rate increases under the original adjustable rate mortgage. This turned out to be a very wise decision in light of what happened in the real estate market over the next two years. Also, we are fortunate that Montgomery has not experienced the significant decline in real estate values that has occurred in other cities. Our current building has significantly increased in value since it was built in 2001 and occupies a prime location in East Montgomery where many businesses desire to locate in light of projected development. Once the Central Office completes its move, the Board of Directors will investigate the available options for the Montgomery building including selling or leasing the property.

As of this date, the Association is in the process of negotiating a purchase agreement on a vacant office building and an adjacent undeveloped lot in the Atlanta area. The vacant building is smaller than the current building but comparable to the amount of square footage we use on a regular basis. The vacant lot allows ASPPB the opportunity to grow as needed in the future while still taking advantage of the depressed prices for property in the current Atlanta real estate market. Once the transition is complete, ASPPB will be well positioned organizationally and geographically to better accomplish its mission to serve member jurisdictions by promoting excellence in regulation and advancing public protection.

We will keep you posted on future developments as they occur. For now, our operations and contact information remain unchanged. I expect that this move to the new location will occur slowly over the next year in order to allow for a smooth transition of our staff and uninterrupted services to our member jurisdictions.