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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO TAKE OFFICE IN NEW YORK CITY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016

**NEW YORK, February 22, 2016**— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced today the new Officers and members of the Board of Directors who will be installed at the AGPA Annual Meeting in New York City, February 22-27, 2016 at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel.

Eleanor F. Counselman, EdD., CGP, LFAGPA will be assuming the position of President of the American Group Psychotherapy Association. Dr. Counselman is an Assistant Clinical Professor at Harvard Medical School and has a private practice in Belmont, Massachusetts. She has served as Editor of *The Group Circle*, Co-Chair of the Institute Committee, Editorial Board member of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, and as President of the Northeastern Society for Group Psychotherapy. She has presented nationally and internationally on group therapy, has authored numerous articles and book chapters on individual, couple, and group psychotherapy, and has received both the Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Theory and the Affiliate Societies Assembly Award.

“AGPA is the professional home to thousands of group therapists who provide help to those in need,” said Les Greene, Ph.D., CGP, LFAGPA, AGPA President. “The organization is privileged to have the experience and strong leadership of Dr. Counselman in place to guide us over the coming years.”

Other members of the tri-organizations who will be taking office will be as follows:

#### AGPA Officers

Barry Helfmann, Psy.D., ABPP, CGP, DFAGPA, President-Elect

Darryl L. Pure, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, Treasurer, 2016-2018

Nina W. Brown, Ed.D., LPC, NCC, FAGPA, Secretary, 2016-2018

#### AGPA Newly Elected Board Members

Maria Sophia Aguirre, Ph.D., CGP (two-year term)

Hank Fallon, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA

Justin B. Hecht, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA

Barbara A. Keezell, M.S.W., CGP, FAGPA

Janice M. Morris, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA

Keith J. Rand, M.A., MFT, CGP, FAGPA

Joseph J. Shay, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA

#### AGPA Continuing Board Members

Les Greene, Ph.D., CGP, LFAGPA

Robert Hsiung, M.D.

Paul Kaye, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA

Nancy W. Kelly, Ph.D., MSSW, CGP

Farooq Mohyuddin, M.D., CGP

Dayne Narretta, MSW, LCSW, BCD, CGP

Darryl L. Pure, Ph.D., ABPP, FAGPA

**Affiliate Societies Assembly Officers**

Mary J. Krueger, MEd, CGP, Chair

Maryetta K. Andrews-Sachs, M.A., LICSW, CGP, FAGPA, Chair-Elect

Catherine M. Reedy, LCSW, LMFT, CADC, CGP, Member-at-Large

**Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health**

Karen S. Travis, MSW, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA, Chairwoman of the Board

Jeffrey Hudson, M.Ed., LPC, CGP, FAGPA, Vice-Chairman of the Board

**International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists**

Tony L. Sheppard, Psy.D., CGP, FAGPA, Chairman of the Board

Contributions in honor of Dr. Counselman or any of the new leadership may be made to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health at [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org), or via phone at (212) 477-2677 or mail to 25 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY, 10010; please indicate the individual to be notified regarding the receipt of the gift in their honor.

This leadership transition is a highlight of the AGPA's 2016 Annual Training in New York City. Entitled "Transformation in Group: From Isolation to Connection," this meeting attracts more than 1,000 group therapists, researchers and scientists from around the world. Group therapists of all disciplines will gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations in groups, an increasingly utilized modality due to its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. The theme reflects the meeting's emphasis on the power of groups to connect individuals, families and communities in meaningful ways to effect change on personal and societal levels. For more information, contact AGPA at (877) 668-AGPA (2472) or visit [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org).

EDITOR'S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of the AGPA 2016 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org) or call (212) 477-2677.

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***About AGPA***

The American Group Psychotherapy Association is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, its philanthropic arm; and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary association has over 2,500 members, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, clinical mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, pastoral counselors and creative arts therapists, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. The association has 26 local and regional societies located across the country. Its members are experienced mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and various non-clinical groups. Many are organizational specialists who work with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, communities and other "natural" groups to help them improve their functioning.

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