The Legacy Society: What is that?

In every edition of Group Assets in the right-hand side of the page, there is a space dedicated to the members of the Legacy Society. It’s not too familiar with it, you may wonder “what is this Legacy Society about?” In this issue, I’m going to revisit what the Legacy Society is and why you may be interested in becoming a member of this group.

The Legacy Society is a distinguished growing group of people who have decided to donate to the Group Foundation by planned giving, such as bequests in their wills or a charitable gift annuity. Planned giving is a way many donors choose because it reflects what you want to leave behind as part of your personal and professional legacy. Giving in this way allows you to leave an enduring legacy in support of the work of the group in healing and creating healthy communities.

The Legacy Society has become an integral part of the Foundation’s long-term sustainability goals. It ensures that the next generation of group therapists will have the opportunity to get the best group psychotherapy training and resources than I had had. The people I had connected with, and the valuable things I have had.

I’ve thought about the progress of my involvement here and the “AGPA has been my professional home for decades, so, several years ago I received an email that had come to me. The people I had connected with, and the valuable things I had learned. Allan and I both realized that there was something special about the experiences I had had at AGPA, and I began to attend every year. I made friends here and started attending Affiliate Society Meetings. Once our children were all in college, Allan began attending with me, finding

Jerry Gans, MD, CGP, DLFAAGP

"AGPA has been my professional home where I have had the opportunity to grow and develop both personally and professionally. Through participation in a variety of AGPA activities, I have honed my teaching and writing abilities, developed leadership skills, become comfortable in assuming positions of power and influence, increased my referral base by developing a national reputation, and, most importantly, made wonderful collegial relationships and treasured lifetime friendships.

"Legacy Giving has afforded me a way to give back to an organization that has meant so much to me. Since there are often competing demands on one’s financial resources, I considered many factors in making the decision to give. It has always been important to me to support my three children financially when possible. When I made the bequest, I had two grandchildren, now I have five, increasing my sense of financial obligation to my family. I also had to consider the possibility that I could become disabled and would need money to make sure that my medical expenses would be covered and my wife taken care of. There are other institutions and charities that I also support. And the stock market is never a sure thing.

"Considering all these many factors, I realized that my strongest institutional allegiance was to AGPA. Participating in Legacy Giving provided me with a tangible way to express my gratitude to AGPA at a level I’m comfortable with, while still being able to honor my primary connection to my family."

Shari Baron, MSN, CGP, FAGPA

"AGPA has been my professional home for decades, so, several years ago when Allan and I decided to rework our wills, it just made sense that we decided to include a donation to AGPA in our plans. In reflecting on that decision, I’ve thought about the progress of my involvement here and the clear path that led us to our commitment to AGPA.

"I attended my first AGPA Annual Meeting (now known as AGPA Connect) when I was still in graduate school and have returned dozens of times to the one conference where I invariably learn a great deal about myself while advancing my clinical skills in invaluable ways. Initially, I came by myself; we had young children, and it just wasn’t practical for Allan to accompany me. Over the years, each time I returned from attending the AGPA Institute and Conference, I talked about the dynamic experience I had had with the people I had connected with, and the valuable things I had learned. Allan and I both realized that there was something special about the experiences I had had at AGPA, and I began to attend every year. I made friends here and started attending Affiliate Society Meetings. Once our children were all in college, Allan began attending with me, finding

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The warmth of the friendships, and the learning atmosphere. My position as SIG Task Force Co-Chair and Board Member and my work on the AGPA Connect Committee provided me with one opportunity to give back to the organization where I have gotten so much. It followed naturally that Allen and I would make the decision to support the future of AGPA by including this professional home in our wills.

Kathy Reedy, MSW, LCSW, LCMFT, CGP

"It is of utmost importance for me to give back to this incredible organization. I have been a member since 1989 and have attended most of the annual meetings since that time. I have grown up here, and I want others to be provided with the opportunities that I have to grow and contribute to the profession. I feel so lucky to have found this organization while I was raising my children. It has provided me with a supportive environment for me to learn and grow both professionally and personally, in a challenging, and encouraging, way. Since day one I felt welcomed with open arms."

To this day, I remember J. Scott Rutter, PhD, CGP, DFAGPA, the then-President of AGPA, who attended my very first annual meeting in San Francisco. After the meeting had ended, he checked with me throughout the week about my experience. He was so encouraging and supportive. Yet, even in his passing, he has continued to support me."

I have not found any other professional organization for me that can match what I have found in AGPA and be as committed to supporting the next generation of therapists. It is our professional home."

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