

Frequently Asked Questions

How Does the VA Section of Division 18 Differ from the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders (AVAPL)?

Both organizations have roots in advocacy for both the mental health care of veterans and for those in the VA who deliver treatment, research, training and administrative functions. There are a couple of key differences:

- 1) Division 18 encourages all VA psychologists to join and be active members. AVAPL's focus is on VA psychologists who are leaders or who aspire to leadership roles (formal or informal).
- 2) AVAPL is an independent professional association, whereas the VA Section's governance and membership is embedded within Division 18, (all) psychologists in public service, and the Division is embedded in APA. The interrelatedness between VA Section and the Division and APA has both drawbacks and benefits.

Can I Join Division 18 without being a member of APA?


Absolutely! While non-APA members receive every perk of Division 18 membership, they are not able to vote on Division 18 issues. They can, however, vote on VA Section matters. Call (202)336-6013 to join.

Get in Touch

Want to Get Involved?


Email us at VADiv18@outlook.com to be added to our listserv, volunteer, or share your ideas on additional ways VA Section can further work towards its mission to promote psychology, clinical care, training and research to serve veterans, their families and communities.

Find Us on the Web & Social Media

 <https://www.apadivisions.org/division-18/sections/veterans/index.aspx>

 VADiv18@outlook.com

 <https://facebook.com/Div18VASection>

 [@Div18VASection](https://twitter.com/Div18VASection)

American Psychological Association

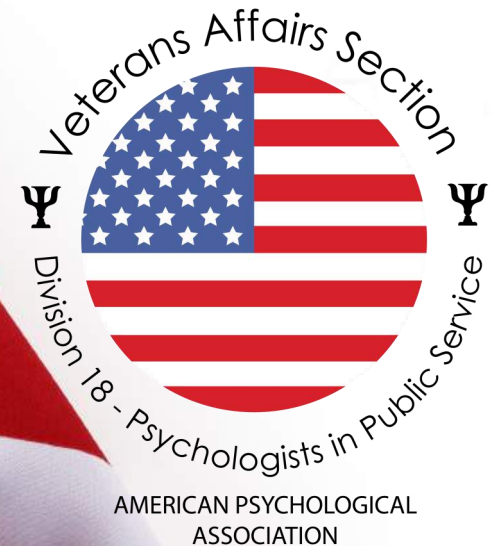
Advancing psychology to benefit society and improve people's lives.



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American Psychological
Association
Division 18
Psychologists in Public Service

Veterans Affairs Section



The Home for VA Psychologists within APA

What is VA Section?

Division 18 is *the* home division for VA psychologists within APA because it's the only division with a dedicated section for VA psychologists. VA Section members include psychologists and other stakeholders who promote the VA's mission through patient care, research, training, and consumer activities, and who form a national network to share ideas and address concerns.

Our Mission

Within the VA Section of Division 18, we promote psychology, clinical care, training, and research to serve veterans, their families, and communities. We do this by:

- Disseminating information about policy, education, research, and clinical care that is relevant to members of the psychology community within the VA Section.
- Providing educational opportunities that will help to enhance knowledge and skills of psychologists who work with the veteran population.
- Providing a forum for networking with other like-minded psychologists who work in the VA.
- Communicating information regarding pursuits and goals of the VA Section.

Member Benefits

- Professional networking through monthly conference calls, APA Convention events, VA Psychology Leadership Conference, and more
- Mentorship opportunities for students and early career psychologists
- Recognition of psychologists' work in the VA through eight annual VA Section awards
- Free CEs for educational webinars
- Reduced registration fee to attend the annual VA Psychology Leadership Conference
- Active discussion forum
- Advocacy that promotes policies to positively impact veteran mental health
- Connect with other VA psychologists
- Division 18 and VA Section leadership opportunities
- Free first year of membership for ECP members who engage in service to Division 18/VA Section
- Subscription to *Psychological Services*, the official Division 18 journal
- Quarterly VA Section newsletter

Educational Opportunities

One of many perks of being a member is receiving free continuing education credit through the VA Section Webinar Series. In addition to monthly webinars, VA Section collaborates with other Division 18 sections and professional organizations to offer webinars on special topics, like advocacy. Unable to attend the webinars live? You can view the recorded webinars through our website at your own convenience. The APA Convention is rich with educational sessions sponsored by Division 18, as well as interdivisional collaborative programming. Finally, many VA Section members appreciate the discounted registration fee to attend the annual VA Psychology Leadership Conference co-sponsored with APA and the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders (AVAPL).

More Reasons to Join

Not only can members benefit from the wide network of VA psychology colleagues, but also connect with psychologists working in other public service settings, including community and state hospitals and the Federal Bureau of Prisons, as well as with specific interests and populations, such as severe mental illness/severe emotional disturbance, police and public safety, and native people.