KAREN APGAR
Secretary Candidate

Statement 2

If elected NASP Secretary, what would your role be in promoting the work of the association?

I believe that it is the responsibility of every NASP member to promote the work of the association, but the expectation is increased for members who serve in leadership positions. Board of Directors members must be especially aware of speaking with one voice to advance the association’s messages and initiatives, as they, more than others, are viewed as having the imprimatur of the association. If re-elected NASP Secretary, I will continue to share the voice of the Board as I promote the work of the association through multiple venues.

The primary ingredient for successful advocacy and promotion of NASP’s work is strong, clear communication. I have demonstrated such skill through my three years as NASP Secretary, six years as the NASP Delegate for Oregon, and three years as Western Regional Delegate Representative to the NASP Board of Directors. In all roles, I continually worked to improve and maintain quality communication between the national association and the 13 western states, as well as my own state association’s Executive Board. I collaborated with many state leaders to help them align their state efforts with NASP’s national efforts, and assisted several state associations to become more involved with NASP. In addition, I have connected state leaders and other NASP members to the multitude of resources available from NASP, including print materials, webinars, conferences, and connections with Committee Chairs who provided guidance and training to meet state needs.

As a NASP leader, I plan to continue being a “top contributor” to the NASP Communities, where I emphasize NASP messages and help point members to salient NASP resources that may meet their needs. This requires careful messaging to express my personal and professional viewpoints while also supporting the official positions and standards of NASP. Similarly, to advocate with school psychologists who may not be members of NASP, I also plan to continue contributing to discussions on popular social media venues that engage practicing school psychologists. These media platforms provide an excellent opportunity for me to remind participants of NASP’s advocacy goals and efforts, and to encourage them to participate in NASP activities such as National School Psychology Week and professional development opportunities. These media platforms are also useful avenues to clarify or correct any misinformation about NASP. We cannot effectively engage in the work of the organization when misunderstandings abound how NASP functions or how NASP serves children and professionals.

Finally, I will continue to promote the work of the association by helping my fellow Board members refine their thinking in order to make strong decisions. From experience on the Board, I have learned that energetic and passionate conversations can lead to excellent decision-making. I have also learned that, after lengthy conversation and debate, having the Secretary read back a summary of the discussion can help participants reflect on the big picture, consider multiple angles, and continue the discussion toward a well-reasoned conclusion. I look forward to continuing to provide this contribution on the Board of Directors if re-elected NASP Secretary.