

THE PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT SYSTEM INSTITUTE

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Periodically, during the 1970's, casual discussions were held with John Gittinger and others, concerning an organization that would pull together the knowledge and the research involved in the PAS effort, both nationwide and internationally. Even then, there were strong feelings that too much of what each individual PAS'er was doing and thinking might "fall through the cracks", particularly, the original concepts and the ideas continuously being created by John Gittinger himself. Often these casual conversations would end with "we do a lot of talking but we really don't do much about it".

During the 1970's, especially, most of the PAS'ers were heavily engaged in full-time activities, government or private, in which PAS played a strong part and exerted strong influences on both clinical methodology and practice. Slowly, time became significantly more important in this quest for organization, as a number of the PAS'ers reached retirement or began to prepare for retirement. Real apprehension was expressed, that "retirement" might mean a partial or even complete loss of an individual's years of work with the PAS. On the other hand, retirement might be the time when a full-time effort could be made to bring together the work and knowledge of most everyone who had been involved with John Gittinger over the years.

As happens so many times, in specific developments of scientific inquiry, there were ideas developing concurrently in the minds of a number of people dealing with the question of organization and the establishment of an operating base for further development of the PAS, especially while John Gittinger himself was still active to support and reinforce such efforts. In the Fall of 1980, John Gittinger gave his permission to use the original name he had chosen years ago, to develop one such organization to operate full-time in bringing together individuals and ideas dedicated to the PAS.

In March, 1981, the Personality Assessment System Institute (PASI) was incorporated in Virginia with the following mission:

"PASI was founded to assist in the organization and coordination of the data from years of research and practice of contributing professionals, using John Gittinger's Personality Assessment System both in the United States and abroad. The Institute will develop programs for the use of PAS in industry, government, business, education, and in the rehabilitation fields. The Institute is committed to developing an increasing awareness of the potential use of Gittinger's PAS as a unique and sensitive tool for the evaluation of human potential".

Since March, 1981, PASI has reviewed past activities and consolidated current projects which include psychotherapy; career, marriage and family counseling; military projects; learning programs; sports aptitude and coaching; industrial management; substance abuse programs; and in fields where identification of high risk populations or predisposition factors are of critical importance.

The charter of PASI was conceived to support larger efforts to organize PAS'ers on a national or international basis and, in particular, was viewed as a first, tangible step in accelerating the combined efforts for expression of all those individuals who had become devoted to John Gittinger himself and the complex psychological system he created.