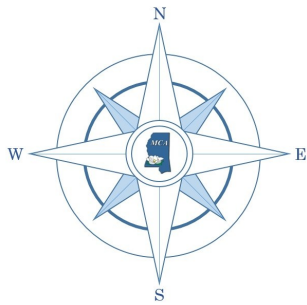


August 2026



MISSISSIPPI COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

THE COMPASS 2026 ELECTION ISSUE

Message from the Editor

Dear Mississippi Counseling Association members,

Welcome to this special election edition of **The Compass**, where we celebrate the leadership, service, and vision that continue to move the Mississippi Counseling Association forward.

One of the greatest strengths of MCA is the dedication of members who step forward to serve our profession and our association. In this issue, we are pleased to introduce the candidates for **President-Elect** and **Treasurer**, two important leadership positions that help shape the future of MCA and guide our efforts to support counselors across Mississippi.

Each candidate brings unique experiences, professional expertise, and a passion for advocating on behalf of counselors and the individuals, families, and communities we serve. As you review their biographies and statements, we encourage you to consider their visions for MCA and the ways they hope to enhance our mission of promoting professional excellence, ethical practice, advocacy, and leadership.

Your participation in this election is an important part of our collective success. By voting, you help ensure that MCA remains a strong, responsive, and forward-thinking organization that reflects the diverse voices of counseling professionals throughout our state.

And while you're thinking about the future of our association, be sure to mark your calendars for our **2026 MCA Fall Conference on the Mississippi Gulf Coast this November 4-6, 2026**. We are excited to once again gather for professional learning, collaboration, networking, and fellowship in one of Mississippi's most beautiful locations.

I look forward to seeing many of you on the Coast this fall and to celebrating another successful year of growth and service together.



**Remember: Your voice matters. Your vote matters.
Together, we shape the future of MCA.**

Mary Bess Pannel
Editor
The Compass



Candidate for MCA President Elect-Elect

Michelle Cresap

It is an honor to be considered for the role of President-Elect-Elect of the Mississippi Counseling Association. As I begin my 35th year in education, I remain passionate about serving counselors, advocating for our profession, and supporting the students, schools, and communities of Mississippi.

I earned an Education Specialist in Guidance Counseling and a Master of Education in School Counseling from Mississippi College, along with a Bachelor of Science in Education (K–8) from Belhaven College. I have been a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) since 2002.



I recently retired as the School Counselor at Richland High School, my alma mater, where I graduated in 1985. While retiring from school counseling, I continue serving students as the school's Career Coach, helping prepare the next generation for college, careers, and life after high school.

Throughout my career, I have been committed to leadership and service within our professional organizations. My involvement with the Mississippi Counseling Association and its divisions has included serving as:

- Magnolia Region President (2004–2005)
- Capitol Area Region President-Elect (2013)
- Capitol Area Region President (2015–2017)
- Mississippi High School Counselors Association Vice President (2013)
- Mississippi School Counselor Association President (2017–2019)
- ACT Council Member
- Organizer of conference facilitators and coordinator of the Question Booth for the 2025 MCA Conference

In addition to my professional life, I have been blessed with a wonderful family. My husband, Robert, has been my best friend and sweetheart since junior high, and we recently celebrated 25 years of marriage. Our son, Landon, is pursuing his law degree at the University of Mississippi School of Law, and we are incredibly proud of him.

If elected President-Elect-Elect, I will lead with a servant's heart, a collaborative spirit, and a commitment to strengthening our profession. I believe in empowering counselors through advocacy, professional development, mentorship, and meaningful connections across our state. Together, we can continue building an association that supports every counselor and promotes the success and well-being of every person in Mississippi.

I would be honored to serve the members of the Mississippi Counseling Association as your next President-Elect-Elect.

Candidate for MCA President Elect-Elect

Walter Frazier

It is an honor to be considered for the office of President-Elect-Elect of the Mississippi Counseling Association. Throughout my professional career, I have been committed to advancing the counseling profession through clinical practice, counselor education, leadership, research, and professional service. I would be grateful for the opportunity to continue that commitment by serving the members of MCA.

For nearly thirty years, I have served the counseling profession in a variety of leadership capacities. I have had the privilege of serving as President of the Mississippi Licensed Professional Counselors Association, contributing to the *Mississippi Counseling Association Journal*, President of the Mississippi Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors, and working alongside counselors from diverse professional settings to strengthen our profession throughout Mississippi. These experiences have reinforced my belief that our greatest strength lies in collaboration, professional excellence, and a shared commitment to serving others.

Professionally, I serve as Executive Director of Grace Christian Counseling Center while also serving as the Associate Dean and Director of Academic Quality for the School of Counseling at Walden University, preparing and mentoring the next generation of professional counselors. Throughout my career as an educator, I have had the privilege of teaching and mentoring both clinical mental health counselors and school counselors. Although my professional background is rooted in clinical practice, I deeply value the unique and indispensable contributions of school counselors, counselor educators, supervisors, and every professional represented within the Mississippi Counseling Association. Each specialty brings distinct strengths to our profession, and together we provide a continuum of care and support across the lifespan.

As President-Elect-Elect, I will work with the other leaders in MCA to strengthen the connections among all of MCA's divisions. Whether through the Mississippi Licensed Professional Counselors Association, the Mississippi School Counselor Association, the Mississippi Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, or our other divisions and interest groups, we are strongest when we learn from one another, advocate together, and celebrate one another's successes. While each division and interest group has its own priorities, we also share a common identity as professional counselors committed to improving the lives of those we serve.

My priorities would include strengthening member engagement, expanding high-quality professional development opportunities for all specialties, supporting students and early-career counselors, cultivating future leaders, and encouraging collaboration across every counseling specialty. I believe MCA should continue to be the place where counselors from every setting find professional community, meaningful resources, and a unified voice for advocacy.

The counseling profession continues to evolve through advances in technology, changes in education and healthcare, and emerging challenges affecting our clients and communities. MCA has an important responsibility to equip counselors with the knowledge, ethical guidance, professional relationships, and leadership opportunities necessary to meet those challenges with confidence.

I seek your support not simply to hold an office, but to serve our profession. My commitment is to listen carefully, lead collaboratively, and ensure that every division and interest group, every counselor, and every member recognizes that they have a valued place within our Association. By leading together, we can strengthen counselors, advance our profession, and better serve the people of Mississippi.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to serve the Mississippi Counseling Association.



Candidate for MCA Treasurer

Rosanne Nunnery

Dear MCA Members,

It is an honor to ask for your vote to serve as Treasurer of the Mississippi Counseling Association. Over my 25+ years as a counselor and 15 years as a counselor educator, I have experienced firsthand the vital role MCA plays in empowering our profession, protecting our clinicians, and advocating for the clients we serve.

An accomplished scholar, presenter, and author of several books through Cognella Publishing and Bloomsbury Publishing, her advocacy focuses on counselor-in-training self-efficacy, evidence-based practice, personality disorders, and trauma recovery. Beyond academia, Dr. Nunnery actively serves her community as a hospice volunteer and was recently selected to counsel cancer patients through the Cancer Support Community and Gilda's Club.



Dr. Nunnery has been married to her husband, Barrett, for 33 years. They have two children—John Alex (26) and Lillian (16)—and four beloved pets (dogs Teddy and Figment, and cats Mr. Tibbs and Short round). In her personal time, she enjoys working out with her husband, traveling and spending time with her children, tending her flower and vegetable gardens, and creating pottery—often contributing wheel-thrown pieces as door prizes for the annual MCA conference.

As Treasurer, my goal is to ensure MCA's financial health remains robust, transparent, and strategically aligned with the needs of our members. Having served as Treasurer for MASERVIC, as well as holding leadership and governance roles at the state and national levels (including ACA and MCA Ethics Committees), I bring a strong background in fiscal oversight, ethical compliance, and organizational management.

Whether through serving on committees, presentations at MCA, ethics consultation, advocacy for clients and the profession, or creating handmade pottery door prizes for our annual conference, I am deeply invested in our MCA family. I would be privileged to bring my experience, leadership, and dedication to the role of MCA Treasurer.

Thank you for your service to our field and for your support!

Candidate for MCA Treasurer

Barry Pickreign

I am honored to be a candidate for Treasurer of the Mississippi Counseling Association. As a Licensed Professional Counselor, and current doctoral student in the Counselor Education and Supervision program at Walden University, I have dedicated my career to serving others through leadership, education, and professional advocacy.

My commitment to professional service is matched by extensive experience in financial management and organizational governance. Throughout my years with NALS...The Association for Legal Professionals and its state and local affiliates, I have served as Treasurer at the local, state, and national levels, including Treasurer of the NALS Board of Directors. These roles required responsible budget oversight, financial reporting, strategic planning, and ensuring transparency and accountability in the stewardship of organizational resources.

Within the counseling profession, I have remained actively involved in leadership and service. I currently serve as Conference Technology Chair for the Mississippi Counseling Association, have participated on the Strategic Planning Committee, and was honored to be selected as an MCA Emerging Leader. Additionally, and I am a Past President of the Mississippi Licensed Professional Counselors Association, these experiences have strengthened my understanding of nonprofit leadership, fiscal responsibility, and member engagement for the Mississippi Counseling Association.

If elected Treasurer, I will bring integrity, accuracy, transparency, and sound financial stewardship to the Mississippi Counseling Association. I am committed to ensuring the Association's financial resources are managed responsibly while supporting MCA's mission of advancing the counseling profession, promoting professional development, and serving counselors across Mississippi.



Fall Conference: What you need to know

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MISSISSIPPI COUNSELING ASSOCIATION
A Branch of American Counseling Association
Serving Mississippi since 1950

76th MCA Fall 2026 Conference

You may register online under the conference tab of the MCA webpage, www.mica.memberclicks.net, or by printing a paper copy and mailing by the deadline.

- Hotel information with the code for room discounts is under the conference tab.
- Information about Exhibitor and Sponsor registration is under the conference tab.
- The Learning Institutes sessions will start at 8:45 am on Wednesday, November 4th.
- The Conference General Opening session will be at 5:00 p.m. on November 4th, followed by the President's Reception.
- You will have the ability to earn 14 CE hours at this conference if you attend all sessions.
- You will need to mark the selection if you want lunch on Thursday when you register.
- Please make sure you have a new W-9 form for your bookkeepers if your bookkeeper or office manager is completing your payment. If this is needed please email the MCA office for a copy of the most up to date W-9. Many of the registrations were mailed to the old address last year and were not received to be processed. The new mailing address is P.O. Box 5827, Brandon, Mississippi 39047. Please make sure anyone handling your registration has this correct address.
- Purchase orders and American Express are not accepted.

THE COMPASS

NEXT ISSUE:
FALL/WINTER 2026

SUBMISSIONS DUE
SEPT. 1
PUBLICATION
OCTOBER 1

PLEASE EMAIL
SUBMISSIONS TO
MPANNEL@DELTASTATE.EDU

MCA OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 12:00pm to 4:00pm
Tuesday: 8:30am to 4:30pm
Wednesday: 8:30am to 4:30pm
Thursday: 12:00pm to 4:00pm

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