



Mississippi Counseling Association
A Branch of American Counseling Association
Serving Mississippi since 1950

MCA
PO BOX 353
LONG BEACH, MS 39560

FALL 2014

MCA Day at the Capitol

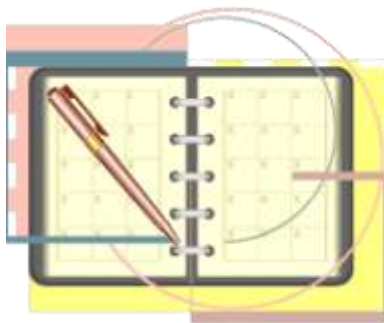
Karla Weir & Jayme Sullivan, Co-Chairs
MCA's Government Relations Committee

Mark your calendars now! January 21, 2015 is the date for the MCA Day at the Capitol. This is a very important date for our government relations activities and one of the best ways to get our message across to legislators. For more information on the issues important to MCA read the Government Relations Update on page 4. We would like to have as many counselors as possible participate.

The day will run from 9:30 am until 3:00 pm. Below is our agenda for the day.

- 9:30 – Meet at the Capitol Rotunda
- 10:00 – Attend the morning session
- 11:30am – MCA will set up a table to provide snacks to our legislators
- 2:30pm – Attend the afternoon session

We need you to attend to make this day a success; so please schedule an appointment with your legislators and provide information about what you do in your worksite. If you plan to attend the Day at the Capitol, please email Karla Weir



THE COMPASS

FROM THE DESK OF HOLLIE MCCOLISTER

Dear Friends and Family of MCA,

It is with heartfelt regret that I must resign my position as MCA President-elect. My husband has accepted a position with Lockheed Martin and we will soon be moving to Okinawa, Japan. The new adventure is truly exciting, but bittersweet.

I remember my first MCA conference as if it were yesterday. I was a new counselor at the time, and thought how exciting and rewarding it would be to be involved with such a dynamic group. I have traveled all over the country with this wonderful group, and enjoyed every minute of it. Little did I know when I became involved that I would start as a volunteer in the facilitator's booth, follow it with registration volunteer, Award's chairperson for a few years, Conference chair for a few more, and then an officer.



It has truly been an amazing experience! I have met some of the hardest working, caring, kind, and compassionate professionals that have become some of my dearest friends and family. As I said, this is truly a bittersweet moment in my life.

I will continue to keep you updated on our adventure, posting many pictures on my Facebook page. Please keep in touch with me there or via e-mail at maaluka1988@gmail.com. I have applied to teach at a university in Okinawa, and will continue my doctoral studies online. Please wish me and my husband luck in this opportunity to embrace a new culture.

I know that MCA will be in good hands!!

Love you all,

Hollie Krohn McCollister

The Compass, Winter 2015

Article Submission Deadlines

Publication Date: February 28, 2015

Editorial content and photos due
February 3, 2015

Email to susan@nonprofit-growth.com

CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES OF 2014!

DAWN M. HOSEY, MCA 2014-15 PAST-PRESIDENT

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season celebrating with friends and family with time for a fair amount of rest. As we wind down 2014 and move forward to the New Year, I would like to express my gratitude to all the counselors who have put forth that extra effort in their schools, agencies, and communities to make a positive impact. When we were at the ACA Conference in March, the opening session began with a song entitled “*What have you done today to make you feel proud?*” in which three people told stories of how a counselor helped them through a difficult time to be healthier. The chorus was the title repeated several times. By the time the third person told her story, we were all on our feet, moved to tears, and singing together ‘*What have you done today to make you feel proud?*’ I think of Robin William’s passing with sadness that he was such a talented and gifted person who brought so much laughter and light to this world but, while in his depression, could not remember the positive impact he had on those who loved him.

Too often we as counselors, teachers and educators do not recognize the impact we have on those with whom we work. We think it prideful to own our gifts and celebrate successes; however, we have no shortage of critique of ourselves and sometimes even for others. We encourage our students and clients to shift negative perspectives by naming the positive and being grateful for the good in their lives. What additional impact might we have if we modeled this behavior? Please go to the MCA Facebook page and share a short story of success or gratitude you experienced in 2014. It could be that you taught a family healthy communication, helped a student define her future path, or helped someone be able to grieve and say good-bye. You may have helped coordinate recovery and relief efforts. It may be a story of a coworker or friend who impacted you. Keep client information confidential (of course) and keep it to a few bullet points or a short paragraph. (continued page 4)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

January 24 - 25, 2015,
Enneagram Workshop
Jackson, MS

January 31, 2015

Exploring the Mind-Body
Connection
Starkville, MS

November

November 4-6, 2015
MCA Annual Fall Conference,
Biloxi, MS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCA T-shirts for Sale

For those of you who did not get to purchase your MCA T-shirt at the Fall Conference, we still have some left. If you are interested in a shirt, email me at susan@nonprofit-growth.com for pricing and size availability.

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS WANTED

The Compass is searching for individuals who are interested in writing articles for the newsletter. If you are interested in contributing your expertise through an article, please contact Susan Nicolais at the following email. Thanks for your help!

susan@nonprofit-growth.com

Government Relations Update

Karla Weir & Jayme Sullivan, Co-Chairs

This is a very explosive time for the counseling field in Mississippi. There are many changes for school counselors with three main areas of change and many of you have been involved in this process.

The first change is an update to the counselor statute that went into law July 1, 2014. This change was an update to the statute already in Mississippi law. There have been many positive and negative responses to this statute. Interpretations to this update are varied. The main concern has been the interpretation of the wording of 80% of contractual time. The government relations committee is working with our lobbyist and MDE to address the concern.

The second change for school counselors is the implementation of the MCAR by the Mississippi Department of Education. This is an evaluation system created by MDE to provide an evaluation system for school counselors in line with the one for school teachers and school administrators. This instrument is totally separate from the new counselor statute. MDE will be conducting training to help school districts understand this instrument.

The third change will be an update of policies and procedures for counselors created by MDE. The intent of the school counselor update was to help enhance the role of school counselors not cause confusion. The government relations committee along with our lobbyist will continue to work to clarify these issues.

The MCA government relations committee is also continuing to work with our lobbyist to seek LPC reimbursement by Medicaid. We made progress last year, and we are currently pursuing various avenues including those involving legislation and those involving policy change to attain our goal. As always, we need advocates! The government relations committee would like to have a representative from every region/county in Mississippi to help with our process. We would like at least one school counselor and one MLPCA to serve on our committee from each region. We are at a very critical time in our profession in Mississippi and we need advocates. It is important for us to work together with accurate information. We all need to be sharing the same message.

Celebrating Our Successes cont.

Let's see how many we can list that might also help jog other's memories of their impact in 2014.

Let's celebrate counselors and counseling this year!! I thank you each and celebrate you for your gifts to Mississippi Counseling Association and to the people of our state. I look forward to seeing you at the Capitol on Wednesday, January 21, 2015. I wish you a peaceful and productive 2015. May you know your worth and be a gift to those on your path!

With Great Respect,

Dawn