



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

MCA
PO BOX 353
LONG BEACH, MS 39560

ELECTION SPECIAL EDITION 2015

MCA Officer Candidate Process:

This year we are voting on candidates for **President Elect-Elect** and **Secretary**.

- The **President Elect** is responsible for coordinating conference programs and has the opportunity to shadow the President and Strategic Planning Committee in order to learn the role and continue the forward progress towards MCA's mission and goals.
- The **Secretary** is responsible for taking the official minutes of the organization and maintaining the records of the organization. This position requires a good mind for detail and numbers.

Below is the process that candidates will follow for the election.

- Candidates are to make their OWN election poster, mounted on foam board. Size: No larger than 16"x16"
- Bring candidate boards Wednesday 11/04 to display on an easel in the main lobby, near voting station. NOTE: Posters are the responsibility and at the expense of the candidate, not MCA.
- Contact Lynn Etheridge, Election Committee Chair, for information related to Officer elections and voting at: lynthridge41@gmail.com

Now for a look at this year's candidates!

THE COMPASS



Candidate for President Elect-Elect

Rachel Lacy

Rachel Lacy has been a member of MCA since 1997, when she first attended conference as a graduate student. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, a Bachelor of Science in Sociology, and a Master of Education in Counseling at Delta State University, graduating in 1998.

Rachel then spent nearly 10 years in community mental health as a Children's Therapist, first at Singing River Services, then at Gulf Coast Mental Health Center. A lifelong resident of the Gulf Coast, she counts the two years following Hurricane Katrina as the most challenging of her professional career.

Since 2007 Rachel has been an elementary school counselor at Thomas L. Reeves Elementary School in Long Beach. In 2010 she was awarded MCA's Outstanding Elementary/Middle School Program. Also in 2010 she completed a Specialist in Education degree in Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Rachel currently holds the credentials of Licensed Professional Counselor, MDE Certified School Counselor, National Board Certified Counselor, and National Board Certified School Counselor.

Rachel is currently in her second year serving MCA as Secretary on the Executive Board. She has also been a member of the Gulf Coast Region of MCA, MSCA, MLPCA and ACA. As part of her duties as MCA Secretary, Rachel was recently part of the team that represented Mississippi at the ACA Annual Conference in Orlando and the ACA Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C. Rachel's professional experience and dedication to the organization make her a highly qualified candidate for MCA's next President Elect-Elect.



Candidate for President Elect-Elect

Dr. Kimberly Hall

Kimberly Hall is an Associate Professor in Counseling at Mississippi State University, currently serving on the Meridian Campus teaching courses in the Master's and Educational Specialist's degree programs in school counseling and clinical mental health. In this role, she encourages future counselors to make a difference in not only the lives of their clients but also in the counseling field itself.

Kimberly is a true believer that counselors must advocate for our profession. She believes we need to help others understand mental health issues and the many ways that counselors can help clients achieve overall wellness and a better life.

Kimberly would be honored to serve as MCA President. This role is extremely important for the field of counseling, and her goal is to see the field more united. We all aim to best serve our clients in the areas that we specialize in, whether it's vocational, clinical mental health, K-12, rehabilitation, career, etc. We want to help our clients and make this world a better place. One voice - that's the vision she has for MCA. This one voice can help us with organized advocacy efforts so that our legislators and the public recognize the rigorous training that we have all undergone to serve our clients better.

Kimberly is passionate about helping clients succeed and about improving the field of counseling across Mississippi. She believes that her vision and passion are shared by MCA members across the state and that together we can make a difference in the profession.



Candidate for Secretary

Karla Weir

Karla Weir is an experienced counselor holding the credentials of Licensed Professional Counselor, MDE Certified School Counselor, National Board Certified Counselor and, National Board Certified School Counselor. Karla earned a Bachelor of Science in Education, English and Social Work, a Masters in School counseling, and a Specialist degree in Counselor Education, all from Mississippi State University. Currently she is pursuing a doctorate degree through Mississippi State University as well.

Karla became a member of the Mississippi Counseling Association as a graduate student more than 15 years ago. During her membership she has been an active member holding office as treasurer for the Mid-Eastern region of MCA, the Co-Chairman of the Government Relations and Advocacy Committee, and as a member of the MCA Executive Board.

Currently Karla is working as a Behavioral Counselor and Interventionist for the Choctaw Tribal Schools where she was awarded Support Staff of the Year for 2013-14. Previously she worked in private practice for four years, as an adjunct instructor at Mississippi State University for two years, as a K-12 counselor for 8 years, and teacher and counselor for an additional four years. During this time she was an active member of MCA, ACA, MSCA and MLPCA.

Karla also balances her career with family. She has been married for 19 years, and has two children ages 17 and 13. She is actively involved in the community where she is an active member of the church. She has volunteered her time through community, church and school activities. Karla's wealth of knowledge and experience qualifies her as a candidate to serve MCA as secretary.



Candidate for Secretary

Melissa Windham, PhD, LPC, NCSC, NCC

Melissa Windham's goal is to enhance the counseling profession through good practice, mentoring, teaching, and supervision. She strives to counsel, encourage, inform and involve others in relevant, practical and effective ways.

Melissa has been the school counselor at Pascagoula High School since 2012. Prior to that she was lead counselor at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Gautier from 2009 to 2012 and school counselor at Gautier High School from 2005 to 2009.

Melissa is a member of the following professional organizations.

- American Counseling Association (ACA)
- American School Counseling Association (ASCA)
- Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES)
- Christian Association of Psychological Sciences (CAPS)
- Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA)
- Mississippi School Counselors Association (MSCA)
- Mississippi Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (MACES)

Melissa has served MCA in numerous capacities. She was president of the Gulf Coast Counselors Association; co-coordinator of the MCA Conference; a member of the MCA conference planning committee multiple times; and co-chair of the First Timers Breakfast at the MCA Conference. Her experience with MCA makes her a strong candidate for Secretary.

Conference Reminder

Don't forget to renew your membership. If you have pre-registered for the MCA Fall Conference, your membership needs to be current at the time of the conference. If it is not, you will have to pay your membership fee prior to picking up your registration packet.



Countdown to Conference

Tic Toc! Tic Toc! The time for Conference is rapidly approaching so here are some helpful tips to make your experience memorable.

- ⇒ To show our colors and to support the Pink Heart Fund, our selected service project, Thursday has been designated as Pink Thursday so wear your favorite pink outfit. If the NFL can wear pink so can we!
- ⇒ A table will be set up to take donations for the Pink Heart Fund which we will present to them at the Awards Banquet on Thursday. The first 500 monetary donors will receive a free Pink Hearts pen.
- ⇒ Registration begins at 10:00am on Wednesday, November 4th.
- ⇒ President's Reception in the Exhibit Hall, Wednesday at 7:00 pm. You must be registered to attend.
- ⇒ Your membership must be current through the conference so if your membership is expiring prior to November 7th you will need to renew your membership. Do it prior to picking up your packet so you can avoid standing in multiple lines.
- ⇒ No purchase order numbers will be accepted at onsite registration. If you are paying by purchase order, you must have the purchase order with you. If you do not have it, you will have to pay for your registration and then submit for reimbursement from your school.
- ⇒ Pre-registration ends October 30, 2015. After that date onsite registration fees apply. Your purchase order must reflect the onsite price or be prepared to pay the difference.
- ⇒ Unsure if you are registered? Check the list of attendees that is on the website under Conference. www.ms counselor.org

The Compass, Winter 2015

Article Submission Deadlines

Publication Date: November 30, 2015

Editorial content and photos due
November 13, 2015

Email to susan@nonprofit-growth.com

65th Mississippi Counseling Association Conference Agenda

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

- 10:00 - 12:30pm Executive Board Meeting and Lunch
- 10:00 - 6:00pm Conference Registration
Exhibitor Set-Up
- 1:30 - 4:45pm Learning Institutes (choice of three, includes 15-minute break)
- 5:00 - 5:30pm Opening General Session
- 5:30 - 7:00pm Keynote Address (1.5 hour CE credit)
- 7:00 - 8:30pm President's Reception - Exhibit Hall Open (admission by ticket)

Thursday, November 5, 2015

- 7:45 - 8:45am First Timers' Breakfast (admission by ticket)
- 8:00 - 4:30pm Conference Registration (closed for lunch)closed for lunch)
Voting (closed for lunch)
- 8:00 - 5:00pm Exhibit Hall Open (closed for lunch)
- 8:30 - 11:45am Ethics Session (3 hours with 15 minute break)
- 10:15 - 10:30 am Break
- 10:30 - 11:45am Education Session B
- 12:00 - 1:30pm Awards Luncheon (admission by ticket)
- 1:45 - 3:00pm Education Session C
- 3:00 - 3:15pm Break
- 3:15 - 4:30pm Education Session D
- 4:35pm Division/Interest Group Meetings (no CEU credit given)

Friday, November 6, 2015

- 7:30 - 8:30am Past Presidents' Breakfast
- 8:00 - 10:00am Conference Registration
Voting
- 9:00 - 10:15am Education Session E
- 10:15 - 10:30am Break
- 10:30 - 11:45am Education Session F
- 12:00 noon Closing Session