



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

MCA  
PO BOX 353  
LONG BEACH, MS 39560

FALL 2016

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Membership in the Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA) will provide an opportunity for you to grow in your commitment to the counseling profession. MCA would like to encourage all counselors to be a member of the organization while expanding your counseling network. Our organization provides services and resources throughout the year.

This year's MCA Fall Conference offered an outstanding selection of programs. Andrew FoFo Gillich, mayor of Biloxi, welcome us to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. We opened the conference on Wednesday,



November 2, 2016, with the Learning Institutes by providing a three- hour session for Supervision, a three- hour session on Ethics and additionally, MCA partnered with ACT to offer many sessions related to ACT. The Learning Institutes started at 8:45 which is a change in the time we usually start. We were pleased to have national speakers as well as state leaders in these sessions. Dr. Jeremy Richmond was our Keynote speaker at the opening session and Andrew FoFo Gillich, mayor of Biloxi, welcomed us to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. We had several other special guests join us this year including ACA President, Catherine; Dr. Lynn Linde, Senior Director of the ACA Center for Counseling Practice, Policy, and Research; Dr. David Whittinghill, NBCC Director of Testing Development Center for Credentialing and Education; Wes Gentry, Account Manager, ACT Client Relations; Rick Harris, ACT Lead Learning Specialist; James Williams, Mississippi's State Workforce Investment Board; Dr. Edward Franc Hudspeth; Fred McConnel; ACT Regional Manager Workforce Initiatives and Meredith Townley, ACT Senior Learning Specialist.

Continued on page 3

# THE COMPASS

## MCA 2017 FALL CONFERENCE

MCA 2016 was an amazing conference in Biloxi, and I am looking forward to MCA 2017 in Tupelo! We are already discussing some wonderful opportunities for our members and hope you will plan to join us. The theme for the conference, and the year, will be MCA: United to Serve All. It is my strong belief that we are all counselors first who provide a wide variety of services to people of all ages. As such, we need to support each other in all endeavors. I would love to see us recruit counselors in counseling fields that have typically been less represented in MCA, such as rehabilitation counselors, marriage and family therapists, and vocational/career counselors. Presentations at the conference will focus on the collaborative nature of counseling as we all work together to improve our communities. As we move forward in the new year, please consider who you can invite to join our great organization, who you can present with, and who you can bring to the conference!



Kim Hall, PhD, LPC-S, NCSC

### 2016 FALL CONFERENCE SURVEY RESULTS

Below are the percentage ratings on the following elements as meeting or exceeding expectations of the survey respondents.

Overall Conference Experience:	86.05%
Registration:	78.97%
Conference Tracker:	59.90%
Exhibit Hall:	83.41
Opening Session:	65.64%
Keynote Speaker, Jeremy Richman:	81.19%
Awards Luncheon:	84.18%

#### 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 [susan@nonprofit-growth.com](mailto:susan@nonprofit-growth.com). Thanks for your help!

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This year I am pleased to announce that we had thirty- five past MCA presidents attend a dinner in their honor and part of the conference. These individuals are the ones that have created our strong network while making our communities aware of the presence of counselors across the state. I would like to take time to thank all of the individuals that worked hard to plan and organize and those who served as volunteers to provide our members with an extraordinary experience and learning opportunity. We were fortunate to have a wide variety of sessions that addressed the needs of our members. A new conference tracker system was implemented to help provide individuals with a transcript of the sessions attended. Thank you for your patience in working through the problems of starting a new system on such a large scale. Thank you to all our members who attended.

It is really important to make sure we continue our education and enhance our skills. The conference is an opportunity to receive your professional development while providing you with a network of counselors. We need all of you to assist in advocating for counseling concerns. The conference was a place to learn of the current concerns and strengths is our profession. Now it is time to take the skills we learned and carry them to our communities. I would like to ask each of you to watch for upcoming information as we move into the legislative session. This year will be crucial in the direction of counseling in our state. Please make our legislative team aware of any issues you see unfold. Quick action to combat issues is critical. We need counselors from every county in the state to attend the Day at the Capitol on January 17. We will start the morning at 9:30. Please, plan to join us on this day. MCA is a strong organization due to the work you do in your areas. Please continue to represent our profession in a positive way.

**The Power in Professional Counseling Relationships is key to moving the counseling profession forward in Mississippi.**

Jayne Sullivan, NCC, NCSC, LPC  
MCA President

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### January

January 17, 2017 MCA  
Day at the Capitol, Jackson, MS

#### February

February 14 - 17, 2017,  
Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference, New Orleans, LA

#### November

2017 MCA Annual Fall  
Conference, Tupelo, MS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### JOB OPENINGS

A School Counselor position will be available on January 1, 2017 at Leflore County High School of the Leflore County School District. For additional information, please contact Dr. Ilean Richards, Conservator, at (662) 453-8566.

Water Valley High School in Water Valley, Ms is in need of a school counselor. Contact Communicare at 662.989.4096 for more information.

## MEET YOUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

Elections were held at the 2016 Fall Conference for President Elect-Elect and Treasurer. Here are the newest MCA Officers.

### **President Elect-Elect – Doug Copeland**



Doug has a BS in Psychology and an M Ed/EdS in School Counseling from Mississippi College. He is in his 29th year in education. He has been a school counselor at Florence Middle School since 1992. Doug has been selected twice in 24 years as Educator of the Month for the Rankin County School District. He also obtained his National Board Certified Counselor in July 2000 and National Board Certified School Counselor in July 2000.

Doug has served in various positions with Mississippi Counseling Association, serving on the Executive Board, Emerging Leaders, Co-chair of Exhibits and Vendors, and Registration. He has also been active served in various positions with Mississippi School Counselor Association including Middle School VP (3 times in 24 years), President-Elect 2013-14, President 2014-15. Most recently Doug served as Co-Chair of School Crisis – Prevention and Intervention. Doug was also a Charter member of MCPAC has been active with MCPAC since its infancy.

### **Treasurer – Dr. Darren Wozny**

Darren is a Professor of Counselor Education at MSU-Meridian and has taught there for 15 years. He has published over 28 peer-reviewed articles and has given over 125 peer-reviewed presentations and professional workshops at local, state, regional, and national organizational levels. Darren received the 2009 Professional Development Award from the American Counseling Association for his professional work in developing the MSU-Meridian Suicide Prevention Program. He is past treasurer for MCA, past president of MACES, and has presented workshops annually at MCA for the past 14 years.



Darren received his B.A. in Psychology from the University of Manitoba; M.A. in Counselor Education/ Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Louisiana, Monroe, and Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies from Iowa State University.

## MCA DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Hello MCA members. I am looking forward to seeing you on January 17, 2016 at 9:30am for MCA Day at the Capitol. On this day we will have the opportunity to come in contact with legislators. It is very important that we have members from all regions present. I realize that you all have busy schedules, but I hope you will make this a priority. If you are interested in joining us please feel free contact me at [kwkar2@hotmail.com](mailto:kwkar2@hotmail.com); however, you do not need a reservation, you may just show up that morning. If you are unable to make it, you can still participate by contacting your senator or representative and asking for his or her support on future issues affecting our profession. This is an excellent opportunity to be an advocate for our profession and those we serve. I hope you can join us!



Karl Weir, Eds., LPC, NCC, NCSC  
Government Relations and Advocacy Co-Chair

### ***The Compass, Winter 2017***

#### **Article Submission Deadlines**

Publication Date: February 28, 2017

Editorial content and photos due

February 15, 2017

Email to [susan@nonprofit-growth.com](mailto:susan@nonprofit-growth.com)



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT-ELECT

Dear MCA Member,

As your new President Elect-Elect, I have a few things that I would like to address. For those that were able to attend the 66th Annual Convention of the Mississippi Counseling Association, it was a great conference. The sessions addressed topics that covered our needs and the needs of the populations that we serve. If you were not able to attend the conference, I hope you will consider joining us next year in Tupelo. I promise if you attend, you will have no regrets.

Next, I want to thank the membership for the vote of confidence in selecting me as your President Elect-Elect. I look forward to serving you in the coming years. The support system that exists in MCA is phenomenal and that is the reason I agreed to be a candidate in the first place. Our Executive Board is second to none and the foundation for which MCA is built upon is strong. I do not know or have all the answers, but I can help you find the person that does in most cases. I want you to feel free to contact me, and that information can be found at the bottom of this letter.

Third, I feel that this legislative session is/may be as critical as several of those in the past, due to the proposed change in the funding formula for public schools. Stay informed on the direction of our legislators and EdBuild in developing this new formula. We must band together as a strong and viable voice in this cause. We cannot sit back and wait. We ALL have to unite as one. I have worked with MCA Government Relations for many years; I have attended countless "Day at the Capitol" events. I have seen what being present and addressing the topics and concerns with legislators can do to bring about favorable change. I have also seen what resting on our laurels can bring about. We must be seen and we must be heard. Let's reach out together and have representation from every school district, every region of MCA, every division of MCA, every interest group of MCA. Mark your calendar for "Day at the Capitol" January 17, 9:30 am. This call to action is so important to our personal welfare and that of the client population that we serve across this great state of Mississippi.

Thank you for the many jobs you do and the hats that you wear in your professional setting and your community. You are doing great work that is needed to improve the lives of individuals not just for today, but also for the future.

Sincerely,

Doug Copeland, EdS, NCC, NCSC

Florence Middle School

dcopeland@rcsd.ms

Cell 601-954-4789