



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

MCA
PO BOX 353
LONG BEACH, MS 39560

WINTER 2016

Day At The Capitol

Mississippi Counselors will once again spend a day at the Capitol. This year because the legislators were not in session in January on our scheduled day, MCA will be at the Capitol on March 9. The delay in our event does not lessen the importance of as many members attending as possible.

Even though most of what we will be doing that day is meet and greet, it is important that MCA create a strong presence during the legislative session. We will have our exhibit table which will open at noon and will remain open until 4 pm. For our exhibit table to be a success, we need member volunteers to host the table and talk to legislators throughout the hours we are open.

Additionally, members of MCA will be introduced in the Senate at 10 a.m. and in House at 1 pm. We need a strong showing for both of these activities. Please plan to spend the day at the Capitol promoting MCA and what our members do.

We would like for all the counselors present to wear an MCA name badge. The MCA office will provide badges. If you plan to attend on the 9th, please email the MCA office at Carolyn.anderson@mscounselor.org so we can ensure you have an official badge.

Carolyn Anderson
MCA Executive Director

THE COMPASS

CAPITOL RESOURCES WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mississippi Legislators, facing a Thursday, March 3, deadline for first approval of general bills, are pushing through floor debates on hundreds of topics. General bills (all legislation not dealing with taxation and appropriation) must be approved by adjournment Thursday. The House of Representatives slowed dramatically as members of the Legislative Black Caucus invoked the rare Constitutional option of having the text of bills read to protest legislative efforts by House leadership to change the makeup of Mississippi's Central Supreme Court district. Leadership began revising House rules in an attempt to speed the pace of debate and engaged in private discussions to alleviate the slowdown. This legislative standoff threatens hundreds of pieces of legislation still pending for consideration on the House calendar.

Meanwhile, economists told lawmakers to plan for an approximate 2% growth in tax collections in the coming fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016. State Economist Darren Webb pointed to three factors leading to struggles to meet this current year's projections for 2.4% growth in tax collections, namely:

- Negative impact from the decline of the oil and gas industry
- Inventory corrections (inventory oversupply hurting some manufacturers)
- Sluggish exports.

Mississippi legislative leaders will begin next week turning attention to first consideration of issues of taxation and appropriation, including whether there is a consensus developing on highway maintenance funding. Here is a link to media coverage of a briefing on the topic:

Clarion Ledger: <http://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/2016/02/25/lawmakers-hear-mec-infrastructure/80921408/>

Daily Journal: <https://djournal.com/news/transportation-committees-will-begin-considering-mec-infrastructure-plan/>

The Compass, Spring 2016

Article Submission Deadlines

Publication Date: May 30, 2016

Editorial content and photos due

May 20, 2016

Email to susan@nonprofit-growth.com

INSTITUTE OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING CHANGES COMING

This year MCA ILT will be held July 6-8th in Biloxi, MS at the Imperial Palace Resort and Casino. New officers from across our state will gather to do the business of MCA and take part in leadership training. For the first time ever, Mississippi will not be alone. Arkansas has asked to join us at our leadership conference. While both states will work on many of the same issues there will be times when the states will focus within their own group.

By meeting together, Mississippi and Arkansas hope to share and expand ideas on making our professional organization great. This conference could be the beginning of a new era of sharing within our ACA Southern Region. Speakers from both Arkansas will be providing the training sessions. More information and emerging leader applications.

MCA 2016 FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENING EARLY

Have any spare money left in your budget this fiscal year? Looking for an opportunity to gain Contact Hours and CEUs? Then look no more. Our fall conference will once again be in Biloxi, MS. Registration will be open on March 4, 2016 .

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Jeremy Richman who will be the opening keynote at the ACA Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada in March 2016. At our conference, Dr. Richmond will be speaking on the neuroscience of the criminal mind. He and his wife, Jennifer Hensel, started the Avielle Foundation in honor of their 6-year-old daughter who was killed in the Newtown, Conn. shootings of 2012. The foundation is dedicated to supporting research into the forces that increase a person's risk of violence and aggression, as well as building compassion through brain health research, community education, and engagement .

Hotel reservations at the host hotel, Beau Rivage, will not open until mid-August.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

March 9, 2016, MCA Day at the Capitol, Jackson, MS

March 10 - 12, 2016, [IAMFC World Conference](#), New Orleans, LA

March 23, 2016, Magnolia Region Meeting, Wesson, MS

May

May 21, 2016, MLPCA Annual Conference, Oxford, MS

November

November 2-4, 2016
MCA Annual Fall Conference, Biloxi, MS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MENTAL HEALTH

PROVIDER ENROLLMENT

Effective January 1, 2016, Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) can submit an application to become an individual MS Medicaid provider. The application is located at <https://msmedicaid.acs-inc.com/msenvision/pef/Login.do>

**SHOWING OUR TRUE COLORS:
“YEAH BUT WHAT COLOR ARE YOU??”
KAHNE SIMMONS, LPC/BQS/LCMHT/NCC**

Ryan’s mom, the CACA - Capital Area Counseling Association’s President, had already told her she’d be joining her at the “counselor workshop” on Friday. There was no getting out of it, but six year old Ryan wasn’t at all excited about joining her Mom, Ayanna, for a day long “counselor’s workshop”. Once they got to the Conference Center, Ryan got busy helping her Mom and some other ladies setting up for the event. There was a flurry of activity. Ryan thought, “Hey, this is fun”.

A couple of the ladies were familiar to Ryan through her Mom; like, CeCe, a young, tall, attractive African American lady who helped organized the registration table. She and her Mom seemed to work well together.

Ryan hadn’t paid much attention to the short, fast-moving older white lady helping CeCe and her Mom set up until now. As her Mom enlisted the lady’s help to make copies for the event, she introduced herself to Ryan as, “Kahne ‘pronounced “Connie””. Kahne asked if Ryan would like to help her make the copies for her Mom. Ryan eagerly left her Mom’s side and Ayanna nodded an approval. Off Kahne and Ryan went. “This lady walks fast!”, thought Ryan.

The building was huge and yellow on the inside. People were friendly and asked Kahne if Ryan was her child. Kahne would say, “This is Ryan, she’s the CACA President’s daughter and my helper”. Ryan nodded in affirmation.

All morning, Ryan and Kahne worked together, making copies on the copy machine, making certificates, then checking the names against the list. Ryan quickly volunteered to be the rolling A/V cart “driver”, pushing it back-and-forth to the event then back to Kahne’s office. While she waited between jobs, Ryan noticed all the cool stuff in Kahne’s office. As they chatted like they’d known each other for years, Ryan played with all the stress balls, the calculator, a magic 8-ball (new to her) and a craft puncher that made cool dragonflies, but was hard to punch. Time passed quickly and she was having fun.

When lunch rolled around, Ryan hung out with several other ladies and her Mom. Unobserved, Ryan quietly she nibbled at her sandwich and crunched her chips, taking in the conversations and interactions between these women. Her Mom got pulled away, but the three ladies, two of which were past CACA President’s, were chatting and laughing together. Ryan knew two of them, CeCe and now, Kahne.

She enjoyed Cenovia, who was probably her Mom’s age, she guessed. Cenovia wore glasses, had a broad smile, an easy laugh and great sense of humor. Another lady, younger than all three, was being introduced to Kahne by CeCe. After a while of joining in, the newcomer asked Kahne how she and Cenovia knew each other.

SHOWING OUR TRUE COLORS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

In unison, Cenovia and Kahne answered with, “Through this Association; we’ve both been CACA Presidents”.

Cenovia went on to say, “Kahne recruited me to take her place, like we’re recruiting CeCe to take Ayanna’s now”.

“Y’all seem like good friends...”, the newcomer added, as much a question than an observation.

“Yeah”, Kahne answered, “We were instant friends - Cenovia’s just a black version of me”...

Cenovia laughed, gently shoved Kahne’s arm, saying, “Naw, YOU’RE just a white version of ME!”. Everyone laughed and went back to their event related activities.

Unbeknownst to that group of women, Ryan had been listening to the whole exchange. Thirty or so minutes later, a soft knock sounded on Kahne’s office door. Ryan entered when invited, pulled out the tall black office chair across from Kahne, climbed up and crossed her arms in front of her on the desk. Pensively, she watched Kahne typing. Second’s passed and Kahne could feel her stare. Without looking over, Kahne asked, “What’s up?”

Ryan fixed a serious face, arms still folded, “Are you white or are you black?”, she asked.

Kahne stopped typing and turned to face Ryan, “I have a friend here at work that says ‘I’m a black woman in a white wrapper’”.

Undaunted, Ryan persisted, “Yeah, but what ARE you?”

Kahne answered, “Well, we’re all God’s kids on the inside, so does the outside really matter?”

Ryan screwed her face up, unsatisfied with this second response. More forcefully, she demanded, “...But are you BLACK or WHITE?!”

Kahne put her arm on the desk, mirroring Ryan’s own arms. She ran her hand across her own skin and said, “Well, as you can see, I’m glow-in-the-dark white skinned, but YOU decide what color I am on the inside. I’ll be fine with whatever you decide”.

Ryan’s frown eased as she considered that for a moment. Then without another word, she got out of the chair, pushed it under the desk and with a wave of her hand, said, “Okay, see you later.” With that, she left Kahne’s office.

Smiling to herself, she began typing again. As she typed, Kahne thought what a precious moment they had just shared and what a cool kid Ryan was.

“Goodbye’s” and “thank you’s” were exchanged when the conference ended. Ryan and her Mom were the last to leave. Once everyone had left, Kahne went back to her office to resume the workday, having completed her Conference Center hostess duties.

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After the Conference, Ayanna took Ryan and her brothers to the park to burn off energy. Ryan chattered on-and-on about the events of the day to her Mom. “Are all Presidents women?”

Her Mom answered, “No, but the last Presidents have been women. Why?” Ryan exclaimed, “I’m gonna be a doctor AND a President!”

The next day, Ayanna (Ryan’s mother) group emailed CeCe, Cenovia and Kahne saying a special ‘thank you’ for showing her daughter some great examples of “girl-power in action” during the conference. Ayanna wrote that Ryan was so impressed with what she observed, experienced and got to do at the workshop that she couldn’t stop talking about it. Ayanna told CeCe and Cenovia they’d been elevated to “Aunt” in Ryan’s support network and said that Ryan said she’d would work for Kahne any time she wanted her too! Almost as an afterthought, Ayanna went on to ask, “Kahne, why is my daughter convinced you are black?”....

A big smile spread across Kahne’s face and a warm glow filled her as she typed her email response back to Ayanna, recounting the day with Ryan. Kahne’s response started with, “What an amazing compliment! I think Ryan made the right choice, Ayanna”! She told the whole story and ended with, “I’m honored that Ryan thinks I am as amazing on the inside as all the strong, independent women she met at the counseling workshop. Thank you for sharing ‘the rest of the story’ with me, Ayanna”.

Ryan saw past color – she saw sameness... hard-working, fun-loving, movers-n-shakers, working together seamlessly, enjoying each other and drawing people to them effortlessly. Ryan wanted to be a part of that comradery. Kids have a way of seeing to the heart of things. Ryan, at age six, saw past the outer trappings of color and culture... She saw our hearts, discovering that inside we, the present and past Presidents of Capitol Area Counseling, were all strong women who get things done, have fun doing it and genuinely enjoy working together! Wow! Now that’s a message worth sharing!

You never know the impact you have on others when you’re just being yourself. Good hearts have the power to change the world, one encounter at a time. That’s how counselors roll...

Ryan has that heart. She will be a world-changer because she sees with her heart as well as her eyes. She’s already made a home in mine. Thank you, Ryan, for being such a cool kid; and to you Ayanna for being a terrific Mom to such a cool kid!

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. Thanks for your help!