



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

MCA  
PO BOX 353  
LONG BEACH, MS 39560

SUMMER 2017

## 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** takes the minutes of MCA meetings. The position works closely with the Executive Director and Administrative Council to manage the minutes of the association. This position requires a good mind for detail and accuracy in reporting.

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 Jayme Sullivan, Election Committee Chair, for information related to Officer elections and voting at: [jaymesullivan@aol.com](mailto:jaymesullivan@aol.com)

**Now for a look at this year's candidates!**

THE COMPASS

## Candidate for President Elect-Elect

### Dr. Mandy Perryman

Mandy Perryman has a BS in Psychology from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. She received her MA in Psychological Counseling from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana and PhD in Counseling from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Since that time, Mandy has been a counselor educator in New Mexico, Virginia, and Mississippi. Since joining the faculty at the University of Mississippi three years ago, she has taught graduate counseling courses to students in the M.Ed. clinical mental health counseling and school counseling programs, as well as Ph.D. students in the counselor education and supervision program, and Ed.S. students in the online play therapy program.



Mandy is an active member of the Mississippi Counseling Association, American Counseling Association, Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, Association for Play Therapy, and Mississippi Association for Play Therapy, where she also serves on the board of directors. She also serves on the board of the Lafayette Literacy Council, which seeks to improve the quality of life in Oxford and Lafayette County through literacy and reading. Mandy also works with Team 36, which is dedicated to ensuring that underserved high school students in Mississippi have the opportunity to attend college and access scholarships.

In addition to teaching, researching, and volunteering, Mandy enjoys providing counseling services to adolescents and adults, and play therapy to children in the Clinic for Outreach and Personal Enrichment (COPE) at the University of Mississippi. She fully endorses MCA's mission to encourage the personal and professional development of counselors, influence decisions that affect the counseling profession, and promote progress, understanding and improvement of counseling.

## Candidate for President Elect-Elect

### **Dr. Melissa Windham**

Melissa Windham has served as a counselor both in mental health and schools since 2003. Her experiences include working at the elementary, high school, community college and university levels. Melissa previously served as LPC and Lead Counselor at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Jackson County Campus and is currently in her sixth year at Pascagoula High School where she plays an active role in the implementation of the school's first data driven comprehensive school counseling program and is involved in research relevant regarding best practices for the role of mental health in schools.

Melissa serves as adjunct faculty for The University of Southern Mississippi in the School Counseling M.Ed. Program and Regent University in the M.A. Counseling Program and the Counselor Education and Supervision Ph.D. Program. She is an active member in the American Counseling Association (ACA), American School Counseling Association (ASCA), Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA), Mississippi Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (MACES) and Mississippi School Counselors Association (MSCA). Melissa believes being an active member in professional organizations is essential for professional growth.

Melissa has served MCA in numerous leadership capacities and has enjoyed her time involved in these roles. Currently serving as Secretary, Melissa has had the opportunity to work with all region and division leaders. 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; an Emerging Leader; and co-chair of the First Timers Breakfast at the MCA Conference. Her experience with MCA makes her a strong candidate for President Elect.



## Candidate for Secretary

### Leigh Bartlett

Leigh Earnest Bartlett attended the University of Alabama and Mississippi College where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education (K-12: Math & English) and a Master's Degree in Counselor Education. She also holds a Special Education endorsement. Leigh earned a Specialist's Degree from the University of Mississippi in Counselor Education with an emphasis in Play Therapy. She is currently working on completing her RPT-SB credential. Leigh is a National Board Certified Counselor (NCC) and a National Board Certified School Counselor (NCSC), and she is now pursuing her doctorate in education.



Leigh has worked for Madison County Schools for twelve years as a teacher, then as an elementary counselor at East Flora Elementary School, and currently as a high school counselor at Rosa Scott School in Madison, MS.

While at East Flora, she led the school through the beginning phases of PBIS and successfully spearheaded a variety of other initiatives. She is a member of the Rosa Scott School Leadership Team.

Leigh has contributed to the Mississippi Counseling Association by serving the past three years as the National Career Development Association's Mississippi liaison for the annual Poetry and Poster contest where she recruits Mississippi students and adults to participate and compete nationally for awards and recognition. She makes it a priority of serving as a leader in her community. She is a "Wish Granter" for the Mississippi chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and takes great pride in raising funds to contribute to this outstanding organization that touches the lives of Mississippi children.

Leigh enjoys actively participating in the Junior League of Jackson where she has served in a variety of leadership roles from organizing and delivering hot meals to the families of foster children, to guiding new provisional members through their first year of membership, to working with the finance department for Mistletoe Marketplace, and to serving as Finance Chair for Touch a Truck Jackson where children from all over the metropolitan area gather to explore and learn. Giving back to the community is a job that Leigh takes to heart.

## Candidate for Secretary

### Sandi Creel

Sandi Creel is a career educator with 38 years of experience, 28 as a school counselor. She received her bachelor's degree from Millersville University in Pennsylvania and worked 10 years as an English teacher. She received her Master's degree from Loyola of Baltimore, Maryland with an emphasis in school and career counseling.

As a long-time member of MCA, Sandi has served as the MSCA secretary and received two MCA counseling program awards. She has been a nationally certified counselor (NCC & NCSC) since 2001 and has worked as a school counselor at the middle and high school level, as well as a career and technical counselor. Sandi retired as of June 2017 and looks forward to remaining active in MCA and MSCA.



### ***The Compass, Fall 2017***

#### **Article Submission Deadlines**

Publication Date: November 30, 2017

Editorial content and photos due  
November 25, 2017

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

**UTILITY CAREER INITIATIVE**  
**ALEXANDER WASHINGTON**  
**CENTRAL DISTRICT, MS PSC**

The Central District of the Mississippi Public Service Commission (PSC) is encouraging educational institutions and utility companies across the state to create partnerships to raise student awareness of the job opportunities in the utility industry within Mississippi. Students who are informed about the well paid, stable employment in all areas of the utility industry may elect to pursue working for a utility company as accountants, lawyers, human resource employees, cybersecurity employees, engineers or in many more technical and non-technical positions. In our state, which is plagued by unemployment and low wage positions, this initiative ensures that our own citizens are aware of the opportunity to stay in this state and be able to enjoy a comfortable standard of living.



The Central District Commissioner and senior staff are available to help utility companies and educational institutions find ways to create a pipeline that offers job placement and economic growth. The PSC has developed a new Utility Jobs website with links to current utility job openings in Mississippi:  
[www.psc.state.ms.us/mpsc/jobs.html](http://www.psc.state.ms.us/mpsc/jobs.html)

It is our hope that by working and planning together, the PSC and members of the utility industry can create some long term plans for student and minority recruitment that will be ongoing in high schools, community colleges, and universities.

There are opportunities for career fairs, field trips, meetings with student led groups, workshops, panels, internships, and many more ways to interact with students and schools to introduce the idea of making the utility field a career.

Once a plan of action is in place, we hope that the recruitment activities will become institutionalized so that this initiative will be ongoing. The PSC will survey the utilities annually to assess their recruitment and marketing strategies that bring awareness to the industry.

We encourage school counselors, recruiting officers, and career services personnel to creatively develop avenues for the utility companies to interact with students and alumni who are in search of careers in Mississippi. The PSC has a list of utility contacts who have expressed interest in working with institutions to develop utility-focused programs. This list can be shared upon request. The PSC will annually survey college/university Career Services offices to assess the efforts of the utility companies.

For more information contact:

MS Public Service Commission Central District • P.O. Box 1174, Jackson, MS 39215  
[central.district@psc.state.ms.us](mailto:central.district@psc.state.ms.us) • (601) 961-5430

## BADGE: MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT AT FALL CONFERENCE

All badges must be worn and visible to security and conference personnel for admission to all conference programs, ticketed events, and the Exhibit Hall. For your safety, no one will be allowed to enter without a proper badge.

One-day badges are clearly marked and will be valid for admission on that day only. Replacement badges will cost \$25.00 each and may be purchased at the Registration Desk.

MCA recently changed the way attendance is counted for CEUs and CEs. Our association moved to electronic tracking for credit. Your badge will contain a QR Code that is unique to you. This code will track which content sessions you went to and how long you stayed. More importantly we will have an accurate record of attendance for NBCC and Mississippi College.

You must be in a session 90% of the allotted time to get credit. Your badge will be scanned in and out of each session. If you must leave the session for any reason, you will scan out and back in and then out at the end of the session.

Finally, your badge will have a unique badge number that will serve as door prize numbers. Our computer will generate a random list of numbers and prizes will be given based on this list. You must be present to win.

## YOU MUST WEAR YOUR BADGE AT ALL TIMES

### *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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

September 22, 2017,  
MLPCA Clinical Supervision Training, Session 3,  
Hattiesburg, MS

September 23, 2017,  
MLPCA Clinical Supervision Training, Session 2,  
Hattiesburg, MS

### October

October 13, 2017, PBCA  
Fall Conference, Hattiesburg, MS

October 17, 2017 Cut-off  
date for hotel reservations  
for MCA Fall Conference

### November

November 8 - 10, 2017  
MCA Annual Fall Conference,  
Tupelo, MS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Please send all reports for the Executive Board Meeting to the following email:  
MSCounSec@gmail.com  
Thanks Melissa Windham