



Letter from the President

Dear MCA Members,

Contactless is not a new word, but definitely holds a new meaning for us today. Even as many strive to perform contactless interactions for the health and safety of our communities, we continue to find ways to connect and serve others. I am encouraged to see the innovative measures counselors are using while working within the framework of best practices at this time.



*Dr. Melissa Windham
MCA President*

Thank you to the 2019-2020 MCA leadership team for your service and dedication to the counseling profession. Not only did you offer numerous CE opportunities through your roles as leaders, you all continued to offer support to counselors throughout the state. Great job! Your work makes a difference in the services provided to MCA membership.

Leadership in a service organization is a rewarding experience. I encourage those of you who are interested in leadership to join us as we work together to better serve our members in an effort to support their work with clients and students. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the counseling profession. Together we can continue to impact positive changes in our communities.

All the best,

Melissa Windham

Melissa Windham, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, NCSC
2019-20 MCA President

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Awards Nominations Due

Do you know an outstanding new counselor on the block? Do you think your supervisor with many years of experience is exceptional? Do you believe your school program or region deserves to be recognized for their hard work? Awards application forms and information can be downloaded from the MCA website. Completed application packets should be emailed to the awards chair at MSCounselingAwards@gmail.com by June 15, 2020.

Message from the President-Elect-Elect

In times of hardship and not, as counseling professionals we are trained to be helpers. We educate and we advocate for students and school personnel/family to look for the helpers. We should heed our own advice. Look for the helpers...and the silver lining, the best case scenario, the most optimistic outcome. Helpers are people identified in times of want and need, but more importantly helpers can be identified through the actions of a simple thought or gesture, a kind word, or deed. As helpers, school counselors have always worn invisible red capes. It is our mental strength, our preparedness, creativity, and expertise that embody these metaphorical capes.

With this past spring's events, school counselors have a new task...to add to their list of roles and responsibilities. We are now tasked with a different opportunity, a different challenge-to be the helpers

to navigate change. School counselors, I implore you, look for the helpers, look for the people in the community and life of your school to meet the new challenges of the new school year. These turn-of-events have provided a unique opportunity to meet the needs of your students. School counselors have been trained, are up to the task, and ready to meet any challenge that stands in the way of student achievement and academic success. Take this opportunity to build momentum, to move forward with the development your comprehensive school counseling program as a platform to advocate, to change, and to lead future generations.

Mary Bess Pannel

Mary Bess Pannel, PhD, LPC, NCC
MCA President-Elect-Elect

Spotlight on Delta Region *by T.J. Hendrix*

MCA members within the Delta Region have recently come up with creative ways to serve their populations. Raven Thomas who is a school counselor at T. R. Sanders Elementary School in Hollandale, MS has been working closely with a former classmate Rodricka Robinson-Warren. Rodricka is a school counselor at Simmons High School in Hollandale, MS. They have been collaborating and completing wellness check-ins with the students they serve on a daily basis. They have utilized the tools they have at their disposal by doing check-ins within the school, video calls, and drive-bys. Students had the ability to have one-on-one sessions

with their counselor and get help with academic work if needed. Services such as social skills were also offered via Zoom to those individual students with IEPs to help them continue to remain successful during this transitional period. These check-ins were not only offered to the students that they serve but their parents as well, who also have access to the counselors.

Lamisha Johnson who is a school counselor at Carver Elementary School in Indianola, MS has not only helped the students she serves but also the teachers and parents during these challenging times. She gathered ideas from both parents and teach-

ers and resources provided by the American School Counselor Association to help create virtual classrooms which include a website link where students were able to check-in. Teleconferencing was a key component in her office, which allowed her students to sign-in through the website and check in with her. These tools also allowed parent teacher conferences to be help to better helped students succeed. Parents with students who have IEP's (Individual Education Plan) and ESY (Extended School Year), were able to collaborate in order to help them continuously succeed in an academic setting.

MASERVIC Continues Rebuilding *by Capri Brooks*

The Mississippi Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (MASERVIC) is an active division of the Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA). One of the primary goals of MASERVIC is to promote continuing education in the focus areas of spiritual, ethical, and religious values in counseling by combining the knowledge and skills of both the MASERVIC and MCA member resources. MASERVIC leadership desires to collaborate both with other divisions and with MCA committees and regions to work together in this effort.

The officers of MASERVIC include: President: Mary Ann Hollingsworth; President-Elect: Tilda Neal; Past President/

Treasurer: Christina Miller; and Secretary: Ashley Polk. This year has been a year of rebuilding for MASERVIC. The team established four goals for the rebuilding process:

1. To increase membership
2. To conduct a needs assessment of the membership.
3. To facilitate the offering of a required number of ethics continuing education hours for Mississippi licensure renewal.
4. To facilitate conversation and collegial networking among members on integration of spiritual, religious, and ethical values and to develop an online forum for resources.

MASERVIC leadership conducted a needs assessment during the fall of 2019 to identify and meet the needs of its members and to help meet team goals for the year. The needs assessment identified desired areas for further exploration and training. In addition, during the Covid-19 pandemic MASERVIC leadership created a Blackboard course so members can stay involved with the organization.

MCA members are encouraged to join MASERVIC to take advantage of the collaborative virtual opportunities for networking in the field. The relationship will be beneficial for the profession and for your respective focus area of counseling.

Mid-Mississippi Region News

Mid-Mississippi is planning its Fall Workshop for October 16, 2020. More details will be provided about the meeting as the event draws closer. The region is pleased to announce Charlotte H. Burrell, LPC, as the newly elected Secretary. Mid-MS will also be seeking more candidates for President-Elect and Treasurer for 2021-2023. Nominations for these positions will be open June 1-July 31. Interested candidates must be a member of MCA for 2 years, must be a member of Mid-MS for 2 years, and must submit a biography, vita, and picture. Anyone interested in running for office can submit information to Semone Olive at semone.olive@kosciuskoschools.com by July 31, 2020. Elections will be held August 1 -September 1, 2020.



Mid-MS Region Members!

What strange and unprecedented times we are experiencing. I hope all of you and your families are healthy and well. As we all try and figure out how to traverse this unique situation, Mid-

MS Region wants to send thanks to all of the counselors in Mississippi who are continuing to work with clients and students in a variety of ways. As you continue to take care of others, remember to take care of yourself by practicing self-care. Thank you for being a member of Mid-MS Region!

Respectfully yours,
Dr. Chancey Fort, P-LPC
Mid-MS Region President



MISSISSIPPI COUNSELING ASSOCIATION
A Branch of American Counseling Association
Serving Mississippi since 1950

MISSISSIPPI COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

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THE COMPASS

NEXT ISSUE:
SUMMER 2020
SUBMISSIONS DUE AUG. 15
PUBLICATION AUG. 31

PLEASE SEND SUBMISSIONS
TO
MCACOMPASS@GMAIL.COM

Message from the President-Elect

Dear Colleagues,

This will be the second notice I have written for the Compass as our economic and health environment changes daily. I was truly hoping that we would be able to have the conference this fall, but after much research, the Administrative Council decided to move the conference to online and virtual. Even though we are so saddened by this, we are moving forward to make plans to provide our members with the needed CEUs. Knowing that most people go to conference to share friendships, to reunite with fellow counselors, and to be together with like-minded people, we are at a loss to provide these emotional constructs. We can, however, be united as an organization and advocate for the counseling profession at a time mental health and school counselors are so needed.



*Dr. Jan Lemon
MCA President-Elect*

As soon as we have definite plans for the fall, we will reveal this to the membership. We are hopeful that our regions and divisions will be able to enjoy their meetings in the spring. We will be posting some CEUs on the website over the next month as a trial for fall to test our new system. Finally, we would like to congratulate Dr. Melissa Windham for her appointment as Regional Chair for the American Counseling Association.

I love counselors—I love their hearts, their compassion, and their unlimited desire to help humanity.

Jan Lemon

Jan Lemon, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, NCSC
MCA President-Elect

Calendar at-a-Glance

Awards Applications Due	June 15
MCA Executive Board Meeting	June 30
Capitol Region Fall Conference	Oct. 2
Mid-Mississippi Fall Workshop	Oct. 16
MCA Annual Conference	TBA

70th Annual Conference
Virtual conference details coming soon!

Celebrating Seventy Years Together:
Honoring the Past, Treasuring the Present,
Shaping the Future