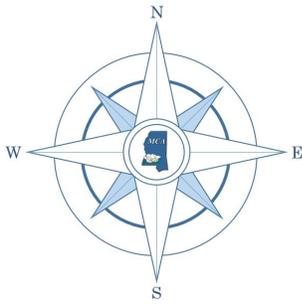


August 2025

Letter from the incoming



MISSISSIPPI COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

THE COMPASS SPECIAL EDITION

From the Editor's Desk: A Special Election Issue of *The Compass*,

Welcome to this special edition of *The Compass*, your trusted source for news, updates, and professional highlights from the Mississippi Counseling Association. In this issue, we are proud to spotlight an important moment in the life of our organization — the introduction of candidates running for positions on the MCA Administrative Council.



As members, your voice and your vote shape the direction of our association. The individuals featured in this issue have stepped forward in service and leadership, each bringing a unique perspective, wealth of experience, and deep commitment to the counseling profession in Mississippi. Whether their backgrounds lie in school counseling, mental health, higher education, or private practice, they all share a common goal: to advocate for our members, elevate our field, and strengthen our collective impact.

We invite you to learn more about each candidate — their professional journey, vision for MCA, and hopes for our future. As you read their statements, consider how their goals align with the values and direction you envision for our organization.

Thank you for your continued engagement and commitment to MCA. Let your voice be heard — your vote matters.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Tupelo!

Mary Bess Pannel
Editor
The Compass

Mississippi Counseling Association
75th Anniversary
Fall Conference

"Can't Help Falling in Love with Counseling"
November 5-7, 2025
Tupelo, Mississippi

Candidate for MCA President Elect-Elect

TJ Hendrix

My name is Todd “TJ” Hendrix, LPC-S, M.Ed., NCC, and I am honored to run for the position of President-Elect-Elect of the Mississippi Counseling Association. With years of clinical experience, leadership within MCA’s Northwest Region, and a passion for advancing the counseling profession, I am dedicated to fostering collaboration, professional growth, and advocacy for counselors across our state.

Todd “TJ” Hendrix, LPC-S, M.Ed., NCC, is a Licensed Professional Counselor, National Certified Counselor, and the owner of Hendrix Family Counseling in Oxford, Mississippi. With a Master of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Delta State University and over a decade of involvement in the counseling profession, Todd has developed a reputation for compassionate, client-centered care and leadership in both clinical and professional organizations.

TJ’s clinical experience spans diverse settings, including outpatient treatment centers, residential recovery programs, and private practice. He specializes in working with individuals, couples, and families facing challenges such as trauma, addiction, anxiety, depression, and relational concerns. At Oxford Treatment Center, where he currently serves as Counselor III, TJ provides evidence-based therapy, facilitates psychoeducational and therapeutic groups, and collaborates with multidisciplinary teams to ensure holistic care for clients. Through Hendrix Family Counseling, he combines clinical expertise with a passion for creating accessible, high-quality mental health services for his community.

As a dedicated leader, TJ has been an active member of the Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA) for many years, currently serving as the Northwest Region President. His leadership journey with MCA includes roles as Co-President, President-Elect, Social Media Chair, and Emerging Leader. He has also demonstrated a strong commitment to counselor education and mentorship, supervising graduate counseling interns and providing professional guidance to colleagues. His leadership experience extends to Chi Sigma Iota, where he served as Community Service Chair, President-Elect, and Chapter President.

TJ is also a passionate advocate for professional development and counselor wellness. He has presented at multiple MCA annual conferences on topics such as counselor identity, collaborative practice, and addressing addiction and sexual identity. His vision for MCA emphasizes growth, connection, advocacy, and inclusion—ensuring that all counselors have the resources, training, and community they need to thrive professionally and personally.

TJ lives in Water Valley, Mississippi with his husband, his younger brother, and their four beloved fur babies: Sunny, Sadie Mae, Potter, and Kevin. Outside of his professional roles, Todd enjoys reading, cooking, baking, and learning new crafts.



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Candidate for MCA President Elect-Elect

Amanda Desnoyers

Amanda Desnoyers is a National Board Certified Professional School Counselor with a decade of dedicated involvement in the Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA). Her journey began as a graduate student at The University of Mississippi, where she earned Master's degrees in both Community Mental Health and School Counseling. While at Ole Miss, she immediately stepped into leadership as president of the Mississippi Graduate Student Association and was a member of the Emerging Leaders Class of 2013. She was also honored as the Counseling Student of the Year and was an active leader of her local Chi Sigma Iota chapter.

Throughout her extensive involvement in MCA, Amanda has served in critical capacities, including past president and treasurer of the Gulf Coast Counseling Association, Awards Chair, and Conference Chair. Currently, she's the MCA Secretary, serving on numerous committees to update bylaws, enhance technology and the website, and explore ways to help regions thrive amidst recent population shifts in the state.

Her hands-on commitment is evident at the annual conference, where she's been instrumental in ensuring smooth operations since returning to the Gulf Coast from Southaven. You'll often find her handling everything from the membership table to behind-the-scenes tasks like making name badges, solving problems, or doing whatever it takes to make the conference a success.

Fueled by a passion for the interconnectedness of counseling specializations, Amanda champions strong partnerships across school, private, community, and vocational counseling as essential to tackling Mississippi's mental health challenges. She further honed her expertise with a specialist degree from Mississippi State University Meridian, underscoring her commitment to advocating for the entire profession. Amanda's overarching goal is to continue elevating the counseling profession, celebrating its unique and vital specialized areas, and fostering robust relationships among them. She lives a legacy of servant leadership, deeply valuing integrity, diversity, and a shared commitment to collective growth.

Before her counseling career, Amanda excelled as a corporate trainer at a **Fortune 500 company**, focusing on developing human potential through enhanced leadership and communication skills. In her personal life, she proudly supports her two daughters as they navigate adulthood, enjoys time with her dachshund, cultivates her flower garden, and actively contributes to community projects addressing food insecurity and stable housing.



Candidate for MCA Secretary

Pacey Regan

Pacey Wigginton Regan respectfully seeks your support in electing her as the next Secretary of the Mississippi Counseling Association. For over 26 years, MCA has held a special place in Pacey's heart, shaping her professional journey and inspiring her continued advocacy for the counseling profession.

Pacey brings with her a strong record of service and leadership. She served two terms on the MCA Executive Board as President of the Mid-Mississippi Region and contributed to the MCA Advocacy Committee for one year. She is an active member of the American Counseling Association, the Mississippi Counseling Association, and the Mississippi Association of Career and Technical Educators.

If elected Secretary, Pacey is fully committed to serving with integrity, professionalism, and attention to detail. She views this role as both an honor and a responsibility—one she would carry out with diligence, dedication, and a genuine passion for supporting the mission and members of MCA.

Currently in her 26th year as a school counselor in Mississippi, Pacey has recently begun a new chapter as a career and technical counselor at the Kosciusko Attala Career Technical Center. Her school counseling career began at Olive Branch Middle School in Desoto County, followed by four years at McAdams Attendance Center in Attala County. She then served 11 years as senior counselor at Kosciusko High School and spent the past nine years counseling grades 6-8 at Kosciusko Junior High School.

A proud Mississippi native, Pacey grew up in Pickens and has called Kosciusko home for over two decades. She and her husband, Joey, have been married for 19 years and are proud parents of three children and one grandson. Pacey holds an Associate's Degree from Holmes Community College, a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Mississippi. She has been a National Certified Counselor and National Certified School Counselor since 2002.

With a deep-rooted passion for counseling, service, and leadership, Pacey Wigginton Regan is ready to contribute her experience and energy as MCA Secretary—and she would be honored to have your vote.



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Candidate for MCA Secretary

Holly Reeves

Holly Reeves has been a member of MCA since 2007, when she first attended conference as a graduate student. She completed a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi and completed her Master's in Counselor Education from Mississippi State University in Starkville.

Holly spent several years in community mental health as a school-based therapist, a college counselor, a military counselor, a school counselor, and now a LPC-S with Gulf Coast Family Counseling and a Counselor with Pascagoula-Gautier School District.



Holly currently holds the credentials of Licensed Professional Counselor- Supervisor , National Certified Counselor, and a National Certified School Counselor.

In 2011-2012 Holly was a member of the Emerging Leader class for Mississippi Counseling Association. Currently serving as treasurer of MLPCA. Since then she has been an officer in Mississippi Licensed Professional Counselor Association, Past president of Gulf Coast Counseling Association and a member of the Executive Board of MCA. In 2018 Holly was the recipient of the MCA Outstanding Contributor for the Kindness Revolution project. In 2023 she was awarded Clinical Mental health Counselor in Mississippi.

I decided to run for Secretary of MCA where I can use my leadership skills at the state level to advocate for Counselor's and Clients needs in Mississippi. MCA has been a great resource for me as a counselor over the last 18 years. I have built lasting friendships with counselors all across the State. Each year in November it is a family reunion seeing counselors @MCA Conference.



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Mississippi Counseling Association 75th Anniversary Fall Conference

"Can't Help Falling in Love with Counseling" November 5-7, 2025

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THE COMPASS

NEXT ISSUE:
FALL/WINTER 2025

SUBMISSIONS DUE
SEPT. 1
PUBLICATION
OCTOBER 1

PLEASE EMAIL
SUBMISSIONS TO
MPANNEL@DELTASTATE.EDU

What you need to know:

You may register online under the conference tab of the MCA webpage, www.mica.memberclicks.net, or by printing a paper copy and mailing by the deadline.

- Hotel information with the code for room discounts is under the conference tab.
- Information about Exhibitor and Sponsor registration is under the conference tab.
- The Learning Institutes sessions will start at 8:45 am on Wednesday, November 5th.
- The Conference General Opening session will be at 5:00 p.m. on November 5th, followed by the President's Reception.
- You will have the ability to earn 15.5 CE hours at this conference if you attend all sessions.
- You will need to mark the selection if you want lunch on Thursday when you register.
- Please make sure you have a new W-9 form for your bookkeepers if your bookkeeper or office manager is completing your payment. If this is needed email the the MCA office for a copy of the most up to date W-9. Many of the registrations were mailed to the old address last year and were not received to be processed. The new mailing address is P.O. Box 5827, Brandon, Mississippi 39047. Please make sure anyone handling your registration has this correct address.

Purchase orders and American Express are not accepted.

Contact Info:

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Office Hours: 9:00-3:00 Monday-Thursday