Outgoing Presidential Message

What a Year...
Dr. Adrianne Trogden, LCA President, 2019-2020

Wow! I can’t believe a year has passed so quickly! And what a strange year it has been! I never dreamed that my LCA presidency would be marked with so much tragedy and community unrest. While we had a wonderful first half of the year, the second half has proven to be markedly different. I don’t know about you, but I’m just plain tired! It seems like the hits keep coming and the unknowns are continuing to be unknown.

In the midst of a global pandemic and racial unrest in our communities, I’m so proud of the work that LCA has done and continues to do in response to these issues. LCA was able to quickly shift to online offerings for CEUs via webinars throughout the stay-at-home orders and continues to do so with a virtual conference this year.

Additionally, an LCA committee has been formed called the People’s Committee for Reconciliation and Progress (PCRP) that is looking at issues of discrimination and oppression, and specifically how LCA can address these issues. Board members have begun to engage in training activities around these issues and the conference this year will have specific sessions about these topics. The work doesn’t stop there though, the PCRP committee is dedicated to incorporating this work into the larger strategic plan of LCA so it can continue for years to come. While this work of addressing discrimination and oppression has been born out of tragedy across our country, I believe that LCA is in a unique

(What A Year … continued on page 2)

Presidental Perspective

Welcome!
W. Eric Odom, MHS, LPC-S, LCA President, 2020-2021

Hello, everyone. It is truly my honor to be serving as the President of the Louisiana Counseling Association for the 2020-2021 term. I thank each of you for your interest and membership in LCA. We truly are a strong association and will remain so for many years to come.

We enter the new term in such challenging times. There is so much social unrest in our country right now, with important and needed dialogues occurring that our profession can and should play a role in having. We are also living in COVID times; an experience that none of us saw coming at the end of last year. These experiences are testing all of us on a professional and personal level, and it is hugely important that we are all looking towards good self-care so that we can continue to stand strong as a profession, an association, and a society.

We are getting a lot of questions about our annual conference in October. There has been a lot of work being done to determine what we should do regarding the conference during the COVID times. We find ourselves being torn between sentimentally wanting to have a full conference so that we can celebrate ourselves as a profession, while knowing that we have safety concerns to look after. We

(Presidential Perspective, continued on page 2)
absolutely intend to take a safety-first approach to this. As of this writing, we are planning to have a virtual conference. This will be a totally new experience for us. We are working very hard to help assure that our conference remains an opportunity that is worthy of your valuable time and that it occurs with as few “hitches” as possible. Please bear with us as we go through this experience together. Your feedback after the conference will be extremely valuable to us.

The theme for this year’s conference is “How Do We Know We Are Good at What We Do?” We are trained to ask our clients the hard questions, but how often do we ask the hard questions of ourselves? How often do we take stock of where we are in our professional development and ascertain where we truly stand? How often do we ask ourselves if we are doing all that we can do to assure that we are truly good at what we do? It is my hope that while you are participating in our conference this year, you are shooting the presentations that you will be participating in through the lens of how these presentations can make you/us better at what we do. There will be presentations available for you that are geared towards the types of things that can be utilized to make us all better professionals. Topics included, but not limited to the following, are:

- The role that data can play in our counseling work.
- The use of evidence-based treatment modalities.
- The role that ethics play in everything we do.
- The importance of clinical supervision and ongoing consultation.
- The importance of self-care practices in our everyday lives.

We hope that this year’s conference will be fun and will provide us all with an opportunity to re-connect to the extent that we can in a virtual format. We also hope that this year’s conference will be thought-provoking, especially with regards to this year’s theme.
With Crisis Comes Opportunity?
Dr. Reshelle Marino, Ph.D., LPC-S, LCA President Elect

To be the LCA conference chair during the first ever online conference has been quite the experience. But with ‘crisis comes opportunity’. That was one of my favorite quotes learned in graduate school from Richard James. The counseling profession is now presented with countless opportunities. While we are having to learn and grow in a difficult time, we are also experiencing opportunities that are globally strengthening our professional identity and profession as a whole. Deciding on a virtual conference was one of the aforementioned opportunities that came out of a crisis. The decision to move our traditional conference to an online conference was not taken lightly.

The LCA administrative council discussed for several months about the implications this would have for our membership. Thankfully, we were presented with many great opportunities through TPN, hotel providers, app providers, band members, and many other stakeholders for the 2021 conference that allowed us to proceed with virtual conference this year. We were able to negotiate the best options moving forward while protecting our budget. It was so wonderful and refreshing to see how many stakeholders were willing to accommodate us and not hold us financially responsible for the varied cancellations. Our first online conference in the fall will be LCA’s new opportunity to reach professionals not only in Louisiana, but to professionals all over the nation. It is possible that some challenges will come up along the way, but we are confident in our board members and dedicated to making sure we have a successful conference. After all, who better can clients turn to in times of need than a healthy mental health professional who has overcome the adversities associated with personal and professional trials and tribulations during and after a pandemic? WE ARE. It is so important that we are healthy, educated, and

(With Crisis Come Opportunity, continued on page 4)
Advocacy: A Voice from the Mouths of Many
Katie Blum, LPC, Government Relations, Chair

In 2019, an LPC working at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) was informed that she and the other LPCs would be let go in 30 days. It seems that the reimbursement for FQHCs did not include LPCs, and the facility would have to let go of their licensed counseling staff. Confused and impassioned, the LPC reached out to the LCA Government Relations Committee to ask for assistance. She fought tirelessly, using the resources the GR committee provided, educating herself on policy, grants, and waivers, and working with local officials. Because of her work, she was able to help ensure LPCs would be reimbursed at FQHCs and not lose their jobs.

In 2016, counselors from across Louisiana gathered at town hall meetings in their cities to discuss an upcoming bill that would eradicate the SMI language from the counselor law. They spoke with their representatives, imploring them to support senate bill 38. Because of their work, the language of that law was changed to better reflect the competency and scope of counselors.

In 1976, counselors launched a concentrated effort to gain licensure in Louisiana. It took 10 years of

(Advocacy, continued on page 5)

LCA Journal: With Welcoming Gratitude
LCA Journal Co-Editors

As Adriane Trogden stated in March of 2020, “We Truly Thrive Together!” Drs. Dugan, Vaughn, & Camelford do thrive as well together at LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans. The professional trio assumed the role as co-editors of the LCA Journal in July 2020 after an over combined 39 years of editorial years proceeding Drs. Emerson and Nelson. We are now accepting manuscripts and will produce the journal this Fall 2020. For Guidelines for Authors and Manuscripts, please click here. Manuscripts can be submitted to us (following the guidelines) to lcajournal@lsuhsc.edu. Additionally, if you have ideas for themes in future journals or areas of interest, please email us at lcajournal@lsuhsc.edu. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer on our committee, please review the following APA link https://www.apa.org/monitor/2018/05/review-manuscript and if you believe you would be a good fit, please submit your resume or CV to lcajournal@lsuhsc.edu and Dr. Erin Dugan, Dr. Krystal Vaughn, Dr. Kellie Camelford LCA Journal Committee Co-Editors

With Crisis Comes Opportunity, continued from page 3

informed about current research and relevant clinical practice as it relates to life post COVID-19. The fall virtual conference will provide a plethora of advanced sessions to our attendees. We hope you will attend and further support our wonderful state counseling association. I truly wish you and your family comfort and peace as we all navigate these waters together.  

Fall 2020
advocacy, but because of their work, a license was established.

There are countless stories in Louisiana counselor history like the ones told here. Stories of counselors wanting recognition, representation, and legitimacy. And our stories are continuing today. Today, we fight for equal coverage under Medicare, for the improvement of mental health programs in schools, for veteran mental health support, for funding for substance abuse treatment. The Government Relations Committee works with lobbyists, senators, congressmen, representatives, government committees, and the LPC board to bring a voice to our profession. But the words we speak come from you.

Here is how you can be part of the next story, and have your words be part of the next sentence of change.

- Attend LCA Townhall meetings to learn about what our focus is and get a chance to let your voice be heard. Our next meeting will be during the 2020 conference.

- Regularly read the LCA email blasts and pay attention to any Calls to Action. This is the easiest way to be updated on legislative work.

- Contact your local representatives. Tell them about our profession and its importance. Let them know what causes you are passionate about, and what you ask of them as your representatives.

- Attend GR events such as Day at the Capital, where we guide you through engagement during the legislative session.

- Contact me at katieblumlpc@gmail.com, or other GR committee members. Tell us what you care about. Ask us questions and let us help you and advocate for your cause.

Advocacy, continued from page 4

It’s Your Turn!
Dr. Tommy Fonseca, LCA President Elect-Elect

Much planning and preparation have gone into providing conference participants with an informative and educational experience. If you are reading this newsletter, then you have heard that the 2020 LCA Annual Conference will be virtual. For me, attending a virtual conference will be a completely new experience. Nevertheless, let’s face it, 2020 has been a year full of new experiences for many of us. And if you are thinking what I am thinking, then you are looking for something that seems even remotely familiar. Well, this year’s conference will offer something we should all be familiar with, i.e., an election. Every year, at the conference, LCA members select their future leader when they cast their votes for the next LCA President-Elect-Elect.

I encourage you to read the bios of each candidate on page 6, reflect on what has been stated, and then exercise your role as an active member of LCA and vote. Through your vote, you have the opportunity to steer a counseling organization that celebrates an elected leadership. I believe that voting is the ultimate expression of a person’s ability to shape their future. Successful organizations and associations thrive by considering input from all of its members. So please help your state-level counseling association thrive by doing your part – VOTE!
I am pleased to announce the candidacy of two outstanding LCA members who are seeking to represent you as LCA President in three years. On this page you will find a brief bio of both candidates. Starting on page 7, you will find their answers to four questions, which communicates their goals and plans for LCA.

As this fall conference will be virtual, the election will be held by an online survey. The link will be sent to current LCA members.

Meet Wendy Q. Durant, LPC-S, NCC, BC-TMH, CSOTP

Education and Employment. Mrs. Durant is anticipating completing her Doctorate in 2021 and an Associate Degree in Nursing in May 2022. Since 2002, Mrs. Durant has worked as a middle and a high school teacher, and a high school counselor in St. Charles Parish and Jefferson Parish; high school counselor in Jefferson Parish Schools; Senior Care Advocate at United Health Care; and Behavioral Health Program Records Reviewer for CARF International. From March 2010 to the present, Mrs. Durant has been the Chief Executive Officer and Lead Therapist at DuraCARE Counseling & Consulting Services, a private practice she founded.

Professional Credentials. Mrs. Durant holds 6 professional certifications: Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor in LA; LPC in Texas; Board Certified Counselor, NCC; Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor; Board Certified-Tel-Mental Health Provider, BC-TMH; and Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provided, CSOTP. Mrs. Durant has shared her expertise as a presenter at 25 events since 2007 in Arlington, VA; Baton Rouge, Gretna, Jefferson, LaPlace, Marrero, and Metairie LA. Leadership Experiences, Professional Memberships, and Honors. LA Association for Play Thera-

Meet Dr. Rashunda Miller Reed, PhD, NCC, LPC, LMFT

Education and Employment. Dr. Reed earned her Ph.D. and Masters at the University of Holy Cross and Southeastern LA University respectively. She has spent the last four years as a professor at Walden University and Purdue University in Fort Wayne, IN. Since 2006, Dr. Reed has worked as a home-based therapist, a school counselor in St. Tammany Parish, and St. Mary’s Academy Middle School in NOLA. She also worked as a college counselor at SELU and is currently in private practice in Slidell, LA.

Professional Credentials. Dr. Reed currently holds 5 professional certifications: Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Indiana and Louisiana; Certified Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Provider; Licensed Professional Counselor in LA; and a National Certified Counselor. She has also given 11 presentations at professional conferences in Alabama, Indiana, and Louisiana 10 of them were peer-reviewed. In 2017 with several colleagues, she co-edited text through ASCA.

Leadership Experience and Professional Memberships, and Honors. American Counseling Association member and Branch Committee; LCA, Archives Chair 2014; LA Association of Marriage and Family
Meet Mrs. Durant, continued from page 6

py, board member and conference planning chair; LA Mental Health Counseling Association, past president, conference planning chair, and secretary; Louisiana Counseling Association, board member representing LMHCA; American Mental Health Counseling Association, conference planning, and awards committee member; Louisiana School Counselor Association, board member, Technology chair; Youth Challenge Mentor; New Orleans Learning Laboratory, Inc., founding board member.

Since 2006, Mrs. Durant has received several honors: Star Teacher Award from E.J. Landry Middle; CEO Award of Excellence from Kenner Business Alliance; Outstanding Service from LMHCA; Who’s Who in Small Business Recognition; and DuraCARE Counseling Community Partner Award from Jefferson Parish Public Schools.

Meet Dr. Reed, continued from page 6

Counselor, President in 2015; Secretary in 2013; Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, Southern Region, member; International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors.

Dr. Reed was recognized by LCA for Best of Show for a 2015 presentation at the Annual Fall Conference.

Conversation with the candidates...

My LCA Vision and Goals

Compiled by Dr. Adrianne Trogden, Past LCA President

Both candidates submitted very detailed answers to the three questions about their visions for LCA and goals if elected to office. Here in the newsletter, I am offering an excerpt of their answers. With your survey, you will also receive the unabridged text.

Q1. Elaborate how your background and qualifications have brought you to your decision to first become an LCA member, and now seek this leadership position.

Durant: My journey has always been that of one who strives for excellence, active engagement, advocacy, a passion for helping others, an unquenchable thirst to learn, and most importantly, striving to enrich the lives of children and families in Louisiana as a professional counselor.

Reed: Relationships with various members of LCA encouraged my pursuit as a presidential candidate. Early on, I had professors and supervisors who regularly shared the importance of being involved with LCA. Late in my career, I developed other relationships with LCA members that nudged me along the way. I also have observed the care and concern that leadership has for members.

Durant: My life’s work as an educator, school counselor, volunteer, advocate, therapist and CEO has always been shaped by the principles of humility, compassion, leadership, and the pursuit of excellence. These guiding principles and my many professional experiences have prepared me for the next opportunity to serve as the future President Elect for the Louisiana Counseling Association.

Reed: My interest in leadership developed quickly after joining LCA. I am a licensed professional counselor and licensed marriage and family therapist. I have experience providing family and mental health counseling in homes, schools, and agency settings. I teach at Walden University and have a

(My LCA Vision and Goals, continued on page 8)
small private practice. My greatest qualification is being a member of LCA. I know what it is like to be in the crowds. I have heard everything from cheers to complaints... These combined experiences and roles will help to inform my leadership role and deepen my dedication to meeting the needs of LCA members and divisions.

To maintain the integrity and economic stability of LCA and counseling as a viable profession, what initiatives would you undertake to educate the public and the Legislature about the importance of LCA?

Reed: Overall sustainability of LCA can be achieved through strategic initiatives. My starting point would be to discuss the effectiveness of existing initiatives designed to help educate the public and legislature about the importance of LCA and determine if changes are needed.

Durant: 2020 was wrought with significant social, economic, and mental health challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and social-racial unrest. Now more than ever, members of our community recognize and are embracing the importance of mental health awareness and treatment. Although 2020s social and health crises have drastically impacted the lives of thousands, as President of LCA, this tragedy presents an opportunity to advocate and educate and seek further opportunities for Louisiana counselors to provide access to mental health treatment to all Louisiana citizens including students and Medicare recipients.

Reed: I have two public relations initiatives that I would like to consider if elected for presidency. These initiatives are contingent on gaining a better understanding of circumstances. The first initiative is to launch a public learning community initiative geared toward providing complimentary in-services on relevant topics to various groups (i.e. teachers, parents, businesses, religious organizations, etc.).

Another initiative is to recognize site supervisors and/or sites (agencies, organizations, practices, etc.) who support current LCA members who are graduate students or PLPCs. I think these initiatives will extend to the reach of LCA to specifically pinpoint stakeholders and champions of counseling. I would like the public to consider LCA as a primary source for locating counselors and engage them in advocacy effort as well.

Durant: An important initiative is to educate Louisiana citizens and elected officials about the importance of mental health awareness, LCA, and facilitate access to treatment including rural regions using telemental health counseling platforms across the state.

[My second] initiative will also include publicity campaigns to also involve Louisiana citizens in learning the value of having choice and access to a mental health counselor, social worker, or psychologist that is credentialed with Medicare.

A third initiative of this future LCA president is to collaborate, educate, advocate and provide rationales with stakeholders, Louisiana parents, the LA BESE Board and school districts that there be at least one full-time professional school counselor on every public school campus in Louisiana to address the entire student (as professional school counseling training programs address).

As LCA President of 12 diverse divisions and one affiliate, provide a few short and long term plans for LCA -- addressing the needs of the diverse divisions to insure that each feels their collective voice is heard.

(My LCA Vision and Goals, continued on page 9)
**Editor’s Note:** Only three of LCA’s 13 Divisions are not represented by reports, LAAOC, LCCA, and SAIGE-LA.

**Introducing LCA’s Newest Division**

**Krystal Vaughn, ACACL President**

The Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling-Louisiana is excited to join as the newest division of Louisiana Counseling Association. We are one of five state branches of the national division of Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling. The mission of our division is to promote a greater awareness, advocacy, and understanding of children and adolescents.

The board Krystal Vaughn (President), Kellie Camelford (President-Elect), Adrianne Frischhertz (Secretary), Alexis Yankowski (Treasurer), and Emily McInnis (Membership) hopes that you will join us as we establish ACAC-L.

**LACES: Ready For Conference!**

**Dr. Christine Ebrahim, LACES President**

Greetings from the Louisiana Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (LACES)! I am honored to begin my term as LACES President 2020-2021. I am joined by other fantastic board members, includ-

(10 Division Presidents Report, continued on page 10)
Louisiana Lagniappe

10 Division Presidents Report, continued from page 9

We Are One!
Maintaining Equity and Inclusivity

Nikki D. Lee, M.MFT, LPC-S, NCC, LAMCD President

Greetings everyone! As we sort through unprecedented times, it is my pleasure to serve as President of the Louisiana Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development Division this year. I bring to this position 15 years of experience in working with various populations including housing homeless adults and families, providing school based mental health services, and advocating for equity in healthcare access for marginalized groups. Given my experience, as the Owner/LMHP of a private practice which specializes in relationship counseling with multicultural families, I am honored to serve you to the best of my ability and grateful to be a member of LCA.

Our society is certainly experiencing a major shift and it is up to us as mental health clinicians to ensure that we are maintaining our well-being in the midst of providing safe and inclusive environments for the various people we help. In keeping this principle at the forefront, we enhance our communities through the work we do and help uplift those working tirelessly to end discrimination.

(10 Division President Reports, continued on page 11)
We are all under an incredible amount of stress which can make accessing mental health care increasingly difficult, especially with limited known resources.

My goals for LAMCD this year are to increase engagement with members utilizing online platforms (since COVID-19 continues to be an ongoing challenge), organize resources for marginalized groups, and foster members’ interest in learning more about diverse populations to reduce bias. The LAMCD board is currently working on ways to have impact within our division and LCA as it is imperative we work together in unison to achieve equity and inclusivity in our profession.

We are always looking for new members for our committees and governing board. If you are interested in joining a committee, please reach out to me at NLee@solacechateau.com. Your participation is highly valuable to LAMCD and LCA, so please reach out with any inquiries.

LAMFC: Solving Problems, Promoting Healing
Tralana Eugene, LAMFC President

Hello, My name is Tralana Eugene and I am the President of the Louisiana Marriage and Family Counselor’s (LAMFC) division. This is my second time around as President and I am honored to serve and represent our division. Although these are unprecedented times, I am grateful for the opportunity to find unique ways of healing to promote wellness in our world. Our division is made up of professionals that promote systemic thinking. We believe that in order to solve a problem, we must find innovative approaches to understand the entire system, disrupt negative cycles, and then restructure the system to promote healing. We understand that we can better understand the presenting issue when there are more people in the room that are a part of that system. In the spirit of getting more people in the room, we are collaborating with SAIGE (formerly ALGBTIC) and The People’s Committee for Reconciliation & Progress in order to address important issues in our organization to promote restoration and reconciliation. Please see the sections submitted by The People’s Committee for Reconciliation & Progress for details about what LAMFC is planning for this year’s LCA conference. We are excited about this collaboration and will continue to seek more opportunities to conduct systemic work in our organization.

A Welcome Unlike Any Other
Dan Bowen, LACGS President

On behalf of Louisiana’s Counseling Grad Students, greetings LCA!! What a year it has been, and what a year it will be. I want to start off by saying that the Louisiana Association for Counselor Graduate Students (LACGS) will be hitting the ground running this year. Most of our spring events had to be cancelled on behalf of the pandemic, so we are moving forward more prepared in the face of adversity. When life hands you a pandemic...make Zoom programming?

As we are a division representing soon-to-be counselors, we will be looking to partner with established professionals and specialists to broaden our knowledge of the field and to prepare our fellow students for licensure and beyond. If you would like to give back through this avenue, you can email us at lcagsrep@gmail.com or me personally at dbowen5@lsu.edu. Speaking of giving back, I hope to get graduate students and programs across Louisiana more involved in our communities...
through acts of service, so look out for messaging through our social media and emails for more information.

Shortly after receiving my bachelor’s degree, I got a job in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (across the river from my hometown in New Jersey) where I learned the importance of giving back. Since then, a Muhammed Ali quote has followed me everywhere I go: “Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.” Especially today, the winds of change are blowing. More people are getting involved in causes near and dear to them and trying to help those who need it more than ever.

One small way LACGS would like to do this is through formulating a graduate program climate and culture survey, essentially a needs assessment for grad programs, for our students all over Louisiana to take. Thinking back over your graduate experience, what do you wish you had learned? What did you learn in your graduate program that was not very useful? If you are a current graduate student, what do you wish your program addressed more or in a different way? Is there anywhere you’d like to see your program grow to include? The information could help patch any holes in our curricula and be more responsive to the needs of our future counselors.

LASERVIC: Resilience, Hope and Ethics

Dustin Reed, PhD, LPC, NCC, CRC, ALICE, LASERVIC President

On behalf of the Louisiana Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (LASERVIC), I want to let everyone know our thoughts and prayers are with you all, your friends, families, and clients. As we continue to be engulfed with COVID-19 in the USA resilience, hope, and ethics come to my mind. Thinking about resilience and the conference theme “How do we know we are good at what we do?” makes me think about your continued support for all your clients and colleagues during this tough time. We know we are good at what we do because people come to us in times of need and continue to do so, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, in which many are emotionally affected for multiple reasons.

Next, looking at hope, we are a guiding light to many people during these dark times in our country; not only because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also due to the racism, prejudice, and hate that has been fueling both rage and despair. We must not lose hope that people can change and see the error of their ways; we must not lose hope that a brighter tomorrow, full of light, may be had through the Black Lives Matter Movement and the protests that are happening around the country in support of the movement. We must not lose hope that our scientists, researchers, and front-line personnel will effectively help reduce sickness, death, and isolation of all people around the world.

Last, I want to talk about ethics. It is part of our code of ethics as counselors to become knowledgeable with those populations we serve. This should be aspirational as well. It is in our ethics that counselors should be multiculturally competent. Thus, I challenge all of you to attend social justice CE trainings and multicultural competency trainings (especially at this year’s conference).

If we remain resilient in the face of crises, continue to have hope for a better world, and remain vigilant in our ethics, together, we as a profession will become a shining beacon for all those in need, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, religious and spiritual beliefs, or ability status.

I encourage all LASERVIC members and LCA members to become involved with LCA through volunteering or other means. I also invite all members of LCA to join LASERVIC and stand with your
10 Division President Reports, continued from page 12

colleagues in promoting spiritual, ethical, and religious values in counseling.

LCDA: Juggling, Coping, and Other Pandemic Skills!
Chris Belser, PhD, NCC, LCDA President

Greetings from the Louisiana Career Development Association! As the incoming President of LCDA, I’m excited to continue the work of our division. I remember starting 2020 with a mindset of 20/20 vision but had no idea what the year had in store for us to see. We’ve been able to see much more clearly issues of global health, racial injustice, and economic disparities, all which shows that counseling professionals are, indeed, essential workers. Along with that, we as counselors have had to learn more about our own work and careers. Counselors are navigating their own work loss, moves to virtual work, juggling working from home while caring for children, changes with client access, shifts in issues experienced by clients, working while experiencing grief and loss, and much more.

This year, LCDA hopes to find new ways to support all members of LCDA, LCA, and the larger counseling profession. We hope to build on momentum from our January 2020 LCDA Conference in which we learned from Dr. Seth Hayden about connections between career development and mental health. LCDA is sponsoring a track of sessions for the upcoming LCA conference featuring LCDA leaders and members that relate to COVID-19, racial injustice, changes within the counseling profession, and learning new ways to partner with and support each other. Most importantly, we want LCDA and LCA members to know that our LCDA leadership is here to support you. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me or to our other LCDA leaders if we can support your work.

Developing the Division
Dr. John Dewell, LCSJ President

The board of the Social Justice division of LCA is continuing our work towards social justice in the state. At the upcoming LCA conference we will be looking for some new and active members. Now is the time to get involved in the division. Our distressed cultural climate needs counselors to step up and provide opportunities for community and advocacy. If you are interested in working towards inclusion and healthier discourse please send me an e-mail (jadewell@loyno.edu). We’d love to have you on board. In peace.

LMGCA: New Beginnings
Debbie Lang, M.Ed., LPC, NCC, NCSC, LMGCA President

I am so excited about the board of Louisiana Counseling Association allowing us to be part of their journey serving counselors in Louisiana. The name of the organization is the Louisiana Military and Government Counseling Association, (LMGCA). We are under the division of the American Counseling Association’s Military and Government Counseling Association. The organization promotes meaningful guidance, counseling, and educational programs to all members of the Armed Services, Veterans, their family members and civilian employees to Local, State, and Federal Government Agencies. I hope

(10 Division President Reports, continued on page 14)
Louisiana Lagniappe

Editors Prerogative
Vinetta Frie, Lagniappe Editor

For a week, I walked one lap around my block in a quiet, mixed race neighborhood -- a little over 1,000 steps. Thus, acclimated to the task, the next week, I did two laps a day. On the day I tried three laps, something different happened. I walked facing the oncoming traffic because I can hear cars coming from behind. Cars gave me wide berth and more or less friendly waves. Others I met along the path also waved or smiled as we moved to opposite sides of the street to properly social distance. The day of the 3rd lap, I met the white-haired but vigorous-looking husband and wife I had seen walk past my window daily since the pandemic sent us home. Now the three of us in person, I greeted them both, but there was no response. They had a more vigorous exercise regimen than mine, so as I was completing that 3rd lap, our paths crossed a second time as I assume, we were all heading for or respective homes. I gave them another opportunity to do the right thing. Again, no response as they passed me, now both heading down my street. From this vantage point, I saw them give a warm greeting and they both waved to a child, not of color, getting into a car.

I have lived in my neighborhood for more than 18 years. Never missed a mortgage, insurance, or tax payment. Always kept up our yard and protected property values, visiting none of the negatives one might fear when people who look like me move into “their” neighborhood. They took one look at my outside, who I am, not knowing I am a college professor, a counselor who has ushered a large part of a GENERATION of young adults through LSU and BRCC, even a past LCA President — they looked at my outside and did not deem me worthy to acknowledge as a human being. Being a black woman had negated their obligation to acknowledge my humanity.

I am glad LCA decided to start the conversation on race. Racism is an insidious “poison more

(Editors Prerogative, continued from page 10)
and we work closely with the intent to mirror cohesiveness and structure within our division.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you to a wonderful year and thank you for your continued support as I transition as President. During these troubled times, I sincerely applaud your service, tenacity and diligence in continuing to take care of the mental health needs of the clients you serve. While operating in uncertainty, we always persevere and move forward spreading hope and excellence. How will you reload professionally? Continue to be encouraged and know that you have support in your Board should you need any assistance along the way. Stay tuned for opportunities to connect with one another.

We are currently gearing up for nominations and elections to continue great work. If you or someone you know is interested in leadership and willing to serve in this capacity, please email me at lmhcapresident1@gmail.com. I am looking forward to your input and willingness to share your concern for our Board.

Lastly, please register for our 2020 conference. Our dynamic immediate past President Wendy Durant will be presenting within the track of Expressive Arts & Play Therapy. She will be sure to elevate our virtual experience. We hope to see you there!

LMHCA is committed to serving LPC’s with one vision and one voice. #WEareLMHCA.

To The Conference and Beyond!
Dr. Ariel Mitchell, LSCA President

I am proud to serve as Louisiana School Counseling Association (LSCA) president for the 2020-2021 term. My title captures the optimism of LSCA and LCA as we faced with the challenge of hosting the annual confer-

deadly to the hater than the hated” (Ann Carrol 1950) yet still pretty dangerous for the hated, too! And when institutionalized, racism operates on automatic pilot, grimly efficient, operating 24/7 to perform its prime directive: to degrade, defame, and defeat the “other.”

Who but counselors are brave enough to examine ourselves and identify when we have ingested that poison? Who but counselors can recognize that even if we have not intentionally poisoned anyone that by silently accepting the privileges of birth, also bear responsibility to treat the wounded? And who but counselors have the empathy, skill set, and unique position to help our families, clients, and communities to grow? Let’s get to work!

Mark Your Calendars ...
HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE GOOD AT WHAT WE DO?
Dr. Susan Thorton, LPC-S, RPT-S, NCC, LPP, Certified TeleMental Health Counselor, Public Relations Chair

Mark your calendar, grab your morning coffee, and plug into LCA’s first virtual conference. Same great content, new location! Now more than ever we must unite together in the updating, educating, and sharing of innovative methods and approaches within our profession. This year’s conference sessions will focus on techniques and approaches you might find helpful when working with your clients. Learn more about working with challenging clients, drug and alcohol addiction, depression, multicultural awareness and much more.

(Continued on page 12)
This has been a trying time for us all due to the pandemic and current social justice climate. We hope that you all are staying well during these tough times and are taking time to care for yourselves.

In wake of the current social climate, PLCA has fully committed to contributing to LCA’s social justice initiative. In addition, PLCA is also committed to ensuring that our upcoming executive board reflects the same diversity and compassion regarding social justice issues as our current executive board. New Board members will be announced at this year’s conference!

If you’re a PLPC, please be sure to join LCA as a “Provisional Licensed Professional Counselor” and to register your division as “PLCA,” so that you can stay in the loop regarding PLCA information and conference updates. Emails will be sent soon to registered members regarding executive board announcements and any additional conference details.

We are greatly looking forward to seeing you all at this year’s virtual conference! Don’t miss our presentation on the Licensure Process and State Mandates for PLPCs and LPC-Supervisors. Stay safe!

Looking forward to seeing you at the Virtual conference on October 4-6, 2020.
Post licensure experience. Training in supervision must be consistent with ACA, LCA, NBCC or CACREP standards, and completed within five years of application for board-approved supervision. Please review rule for more details.

- Teletherapy (Chapter 5-505) - Please review on board website. All teletherapy rules are RESCINDED until November 20, 2020. New teletherapy guidelines have been proposed and are under review. The new proposed rules can be found on the board website at www.lpcboard.org

- Fees (Chapter 9) - All late fees increased.

Highlights from the LPC Board

Jamie S. Doming, MBA, Executive Director

The mission of the LPC Board of Examiners is to protect the public interest by regulating the practice of mental health counseling. Here are a few highlights from the last year:

- Board office relocated Summer 2019 to 11410 Lake Sherwood Ave N Ste A
- All licensee applications and fees are now online at www.lpcboard.org
- File copy, Name Change, Verification, Complaint and Public Request forms are online at www.lpcboard.org
- State-wide licensure awareness billboard campaign launched with Lamar Advertising
- Professional Assistance Program restructured to better assist impaired licensees

Additionally, there were several substantive LPC Rule Changes: https://www.lpcboard.org/rules

- Criminal History Record Information (Chapter 4) - all new applicants are required to submit fingerprint background checks (good for 90 days). All lapsed licensees are required to submit fingerprints. All forms are on the website and must be brought with applicant to fingerprinting location.
- Supervisor Privilege (Chapter 8, 801) - The supervisor must have been practicing mental health counseling a minimum of three years...
The People’s Committee for Reconciliation & Progress  
*Viveca Johnson and Keri Satterfield*

Following the last LCA Board Meeting of the 2019/2020 fiscal year, the People’s Committee for Reconciliation and Progress emerged. LCA’s now Past President, Adrianne Trogden, convened a small, committed group comprised of past and current LCA Board members to respond to and reckon with racial justice in 2020.

The committee quickly engaged in collaborative thought partnering and re-imagining the work of LCA to be grounded in anti-racism work, in philosophy and practice. The consensus of the committee and important Division thought leaders was to hire expertise to quickly move from thought to action.

The Committee identified Beloved Community as a conference partner, to deliver Racial Equity training to membership. The Committee’s hope is that community-based agencies, schools and counselor education programs will partner with Beloved Community in order to further anti-racist work in action. The Committee identified Overcoming Racism as a Board level partnership. This partnership will ensure effective strategic planning, leadership development and training and evaluation of policy and structure to reflect an anti-racist model, in thought and action.

At the first full Board meeting of the 2020/2021 cycle, Viveca Latham Johnson & Keri Satterfield presented a proposal to partner with two organizations, Beloved Community & Overcoming Racism. The Board moved to partner with both organizations and committed to anti-racism, at both the Board and membership level. Divisions were asked to financially support the Board level work and we have been so encouraged by the outpouring of monetary contributions, words of encouragement and willingness to engage in this process.

In a short time, we have learned so much about the importance of shared and redistributed power, collective re-imagining, trusting relationships, and how to co-create conditions necessary for collaborative work. We celebrate this important first step and anticipate lots of lessons as we move through the year.

**Notes on the LCA Conference:**

Re-envisioning our work as therapists, leaders and engaged members of community requires reckoning, redistribution of power, and intentional allocation of resources. Collectively, we are committing ourselves to this charge and we hope this year’s LCA conference reflects this shift.

The Louisiana Marriage & Family Counselors (LAMFC) Division, SAIGE (formerly ALGBTIC) & the People’s Committee will host a collaborative, self-titled track at this year’s LCA conference, with content sessions that center and amplify Black voices and experiences.

As a preview, the following sessions and presenters are included in this important track:

*(The People’s Committee, continued on page 19)*
Goings and Comings!
Submitted by Diane Austin, LCA Executive Director

As your LCA Executive Board represents counselors statewide, we nominate outstanding professionals to be considered by the governor to fill vacancies. On behalf of LCA, we would like to offer our sincere appreciation for Dr. Jessica Fanguy Cortez, Ph.D., LPC-s, LMFT, NCC and her service on the LPC Board of Examiners. We deeply value her commitment to our profession and her efforts to protect the public interest.

Recently, Dr. Amanda Johns, LPC-s, NCC, Associate Professor was selected by Governor John Bel Edwards to join the Board to replace Dr. Cortez. This article also serves as a welcome and congratulations to Dr. Johns!

Gratitude

The Committee would like to thank Diane Austin for her inspired support of our collective work. The Committee would also like to thank key individuals for helping this group form and take the actions we have outlined: Adrianne Trogden, Past President, for convening this group of committed individuals; Eric Odom, current LCA President for prioritizing anti-racist work in 2020/2021; the entire LCA Board for their commitment to anti-racist thought and action.

The Committee would like to extend a special thank you to Tralana Eugene, the LAMFC Division President and Kendra Williams, the LAMFC Division Past President, who generously shared their time, thought partnering, space and content sessions to ensure the collab track reflected this important opportunity to shift thought, conversation and action. And finally, the Committee would like to thank Dr. John Dewell, the Social Justice Division President, and Mark Leggett, SAIGE Division President, for allocation of resources for presenters.
# 2020—2021 LCA Leadership Roster*

## Elected Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Eric Odom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Elect</td>
<td>Dr. Reshelle Marino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Elect-Elect</td>
<td>Dr. Thomas Fonseca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Dr. Adrianne Trogden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Vacant) President Elect-Elect, 2021-22

## Ad Hoc Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Diane Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Manager</td>
<td>Austin White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliamentarian/Chaplain</td>
<td>Dr. Thomas Fonseca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Lisa Launey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## LCA Division Presidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACACL</td>
<td>Krystal Vaughn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAAOC</td>
<td>Sharon Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LACES</td>
<td>Dr. Christine Ebrahim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAMCD</td>
<td>Nikki Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAMFC</td>
<td>Tralana Eugene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LACGS</td>
<td>Dan Bowen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LASERVIC</td>
<td>Dr. Dustin Reed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCCA</td>
<td>Maya Galathe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCA</td>
<td>Dr. Chris Belser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCSJ</td>
<td>Dr. John Dewell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMGCA</td>
<td>Debbie Lang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMHCA</td>
<td>Myiesha Beard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSCA</td>
<td>Dr. Ariel Mitchell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLCA</td>
<td>Audra Tousaint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAIGE-LA</td>
<td>Mark Leggett</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Formerly ALGBTIC)

## Committee Chairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Katie Blum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archives</td>
<td>Jenny Petty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>Kellie Falterman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By-Laws</td>
<td>Alex Beltzer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Dr. Reshelle Marino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPC Board Liaison</td>
<td>Jamie Doming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>Kellie Camelford, Erin Dugan, Krystal Vaughn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentoring Task Force</td>
<td>Dr. Christine Ebrahim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Dr. Thomas Fonseca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominations</td>
<td>Dr. Adrianne Trogden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Vinetta Frie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>Vicki Guilbeau, Asha Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Dr. Susan Thornton, DeeDee Toney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>Zach Hebert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Planning</td>
<td>Vicki Guilbeau, Sierra Williams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Double click the name of the leader you wish to email*
**With Heartfelt Thoughts and Prayers**

_glyph_ So many Louisiana residents are battling, COVID-19 and many have lost that fight. Please remember all LCA Members who have not been mentioned by name.

_glyph_ Please keep Lisa Launey, LCA Secretary and her family in your prayers. She lost her Mom, **Leah Jacqueline Launey** on August 4.

_glyph_ Former LCA Member and a past LASERVIC President, **Gloria Larousse** passed away June 6 after a lengthy courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Thank you to Mary Ellen Stegal for sharing this loss with us. Please remember Gloria and her family.

_glyph_ LCA also lost another member in February, **Lataurus Richardson**, MA, LPC who practiced in Minden, LA. He will be missed by family, friends and clients.

We need your help to acknowledge any member’s serious illness, grieving, or recent death. Please share the information with either **Diane Austin** or me **Vinetta Frie**. If you have a photo, please share that as well. It will help us all remember. Thank you, in advance.

---

**Louisiana Lagniappe**

The **Louisiana Lagniappe** is the quarterly newsletter of the Louisiana Counseling Association, LCA. LCA is the state branch of the American Counseling Association, ACA. LCA includes 2,300+ members, and 13 Divisions! LCA unites professional counselors from diverse work settings into a single statewide organization. LCA works to promote advocacy, collaboration, and networking among its membership for the good of Louisiana’s multi-generational clients.

**NEWSLETTER CORRECTION**

Please contact Vinetta Frie, Editor via frienews@yahoo.com. Please use **Lagniappe Error** in the subject line to report an error.

**LAGNIAPPE TEAM**

Your newsletter is the result of the following team: Vinetta Frie, Editor; Diane Austin and Lisa Launey, Contributing Editors; Dr. Christine Ebrahim & Vicki Guilbeau, Proofreaders.

**SUBMISSIONS**

Send all submissions to newsletter editor, Vinetta Frie via her e-mail address: frienews@yahoo.com. To assure a speedy response, please include the words: **Lagniappe Article**, in the subject line. Electronic submission of photographs via e-mail as a .jpeg or .png file **is preferred**. Submission of hard copy photos or on disk or flash drives become the property of the newsletter.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

**October 16, 2020**