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Jouisiana Jagniappe

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LCA is the state branch of the American Counseling Association

Winter 2022

A message from ACA

Uncharted Waters In Medicare Reimbursement: All Hands-on Deck to Support Bill Passage in 2022

For the first time in over a decade the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate are seriously considering passing the Mental Health Access Improvement Act (H.R. 432/ S. 828).

ALL COUNSELORS working in ALL SPECIALTY AREAS are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to UNITE AND SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION. We must fight together to gain the needed progress to support the counseling profession and the clients you serve. Please stand with your colleagues by asking Congress to vote to pass the MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS IMPROVEMENT ACT! After years of frustration your voice has moved the needle. BUT this is not enough. America needs your activism today to improve our system tomorrow!

Here is what you need to know:

- The Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee have already made decisions that improve access and opportunities for counselors in their edits of the Medicare Reimbursement Bills.
- If the bill were to pass both the House and the Senate this calendar year, we can expect the bill to go in effect for

(Uncharted Waters in Medicare Reimbursement, continued on page 2) **Presidential Perspective**

Moving Forward — Together!

Thomas Fonseca, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT, NCSC, NCC, LCA President 2022-2023

We made it! The 2022 LCA Conference is now in the books. Reflecting on the conference, I want to emphasize that it was amazing to reconnect with



Dr. Fonseca presenting the Past President Award to Dr. Reshelle Marino at the conference. Photo by Dr. Rashunda Reed Miller.

friends live and in person. While I appreciate technology and the ability to conduct videoconferencing, I also acknowledge how wonderful it was to shake hands and offer hugs to like-minded mental health professionals.

The theme for this year's conference was "Together Again" and wow, I sure was happy to be together again with my LCA family! With more than 1000 registered participants at this year's conference, my only regret is that I could not speak to everyone. But how about we make a pact: let's get together again at the 2023 LCA Conference in Baton Rouge. As for me, it's a deal — I'll be there! I thank our main speaker, Dr. Mary Hermann, who presented 3 workshops centered around legal and ethical issues in counseling. Dr. Hermann's legal mind, combined with her knowledge of current ethical standards of professional organizations, made her presentations so enjoyable and informative.

I also thank ALL of the presenters for this year's content sessions. We had so many fantastic sessions offered, and I hope everyone learned something from each of them. As long as I am thanking folks, I am grateful for every person who worked to pull off a live conference after

(Presidential Perspective, continued on page 2)

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This issue's features ...

- Conference wrap up from On-Site chair. See page 3
- LCA Government Relations Update, on page 4.
- LCA Bulletin Board on Tradewing. See page 4
- Mini Minutes from last LCA Board Meeting. See page 5.
- Appreciating our conference exhibitors on page 6.
- A wonderful feature reborn: photos from our in-person LCA Fall Conference! See on pages 7 & 8
- LCA's LDMI is up and running AGAIN!! see more on page 9.
- Professional Development Committee article on page 9.
- Outcome of LCA election on page 10.
- The conference from a first-timer's view, on page 11
- 12 Division President Reports begin on page 12.
- From Me To You, a member editorial on page 20.
- See who won the LCA Awards at the Conference on page 21
- Want to become a more active LCA member?! Contact a leader: 2022-23 LCA Leadership Roster on page 24.
- 50 Thoughts and prayers requested for these LCA Members and their families. See page 23
- Lagniappe submission info will depend on the spring board meeting. Look for email in the spring.

Presidential Perspective, continued from page 1

two years of virtual conferencing.

Until we meet again, please hold close to your heart my opening message to everyone at the main session and the luncheon, that while we are thankful to be together again, let us live the second theme for the rest of the year: "Hold On To Each Other". Considering the toll taken on us by the pandemic, the social injustices in the world, and the hurricanes that have hit Louisiana so hard, now – more than ever – we need to Hold On To Each Other.

Blessings,

Tommy

Thomas Fonseca, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT, NCSC, NCC

Uncharted Waters in Medicare Reimbursement, continued from page 1

counselors interested enrolling as a Medicare provider by January 1, 2024.

• The passage of this bill would allow Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselors to serve Medicare clients without any restrictions and be reimbursed for your services. NOTE: The term Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselors is generic for the purpose of this communication. If you are a mental health counselor of any title as defined by your state licensure board you would be eligible to enroll.

NOW WHAT?

These bills will not pass without your advocacy. Please complete this action alert by sending the prepared message. It is important that you take time to customize the message with your experiences and share how this bill will help the constituents in need of your services.

Forward this alert to your colleagues, friends and family members and ask them to support you in improving our nations Mental Health system by responding to the alert. Thank you for your support!

This is the first of two requests ACA will send. Please support our strategy by responding to both requests. The American Counseling Association thanks you for your continued support. If you have questions on Medicare Reimbursement, or any issue, or would like to become an ACA member please contact us at: 1-800-347-6647 or advocacy@counseling.org

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Conference Highlights -- Together Again

Rashunda Reed Miller, Ph.D., LCA President Elect

When our 2022 LCA President, Tommy Fonseca thought about the theme Together Again, he really catapulted the organized into much needed connection with one another. His theme seemed to resonate with many members attending conference. I saw members laughing, sharing, and getting lost — TOGETHER!

Many Thanks

First of all, I want to thank members who attended conference and those who wanted to attend but couldn't. You really showed up and showed out. Next, I want to thank Tommy for his vision of *Together Again* and giving us reasons to be together again. He was unwavering in his commitment to keep LCA members connected. I also want to thank everyone who assisted with conference, especially the Conference Committee Chairs: Vicki (Conference Co-Chair), Joey (Exhibitor Chair), Dymphna (T-Shirt Chair), Ledora (Decorations-Chair), Christine (Door Prize Chair), and Robyn, Tessa, and Emma (Volunteer Coordinators).

Saturday was a behind the scenes day for volunteers. I must recognize our esteemed volunteers who prepared hundreds of conference bags, monitored sessions, distributed t-shirts, welcomed members with their warm smiles, and so much more. I had the opportunity to work alongside a few volunteers (for a split second) and appreciate all that they did to make our time together again so special. Of course, I have to say thanks to Diane, Austin, Naomi, and Michelle who handled the logistics and details that would probably drive the rest of us to seek counseling ourselves.

Conference Highlights

Preconference sessions were held online with heavy hitters such as Drs. Gary Ginter and Brian Canfield. Other preconference sessions were hosted through Forensic and Telehealth Institutes.

Article continues in next column

Louisiana Lagniappe



Dr. Rashunda Reed Miller receiving a Presidential Award from Dr. Thomas Fonseca at the recent LCA conference.

Some members experienced difficulties logging in or staying in session. Anytime we use technology, there are opportunities for glitches. I appreciate members and volunteers for being patient.

Day 1 was a blast and included the General Session on Sunday with Dr. Mary Hermann, a native NOLA resident, who engaged members with her Keynote entitled, *Legal and Ethical Issues in Counseling*. We were grateful for the clarity and insights for counseling legally and ethically. Several door prizes were also awarded including conference registrations and memberships. Day 1 closed with the Presidential Reception...where Dr. Fonseca shared a few of his dance moves. It was all a blast.

Day 2 of the conference was packed with sessions and the Luncheon. This time was specifically designed for members to chat and recognize colleagues, past presidents, current leadership, and several other key people who support counselors in Louisiana through their own expertise. LCA was honored to host Dr. Kimberly Frazier, current president for the American Counseling

(Conference Highlights, concluded on page 4)

LCA Bulletin Board on Tradewing

The <u>LCA Bulletin Board</u> is ACTIVE!! Gather virtually with members to support and advance the mental health profession and their individual careers through collaboration, continuing education, volunteerism, and building relationships.

We welcome you to share a question, a challenge you are currently facing, or advice you wish you had learned earlier in your career in the discussions.

To access the LCA Bulletin Board, use this link: https://lca.tradewing.com/. Create your account today! b

Government Relations Update

Dr. Adrianne Trogden, Government Relations Advocate

The Government Relations Committee was busy at the 2022 Annual LCA Conference and it was so wonderful to be back in person with everyone! We gave the LCA Legislator of the Year award to Rep. Joe Stagni, who authored and championed our Counseling Compact bill that was unanimously passed. We also had a legislative forum with four New Orleans area legislators (see picture) Rep. Royce Duplessis, Rep. Laurie Schlegel, Rep. Joe Stagni, and Rep. Matthew Willard. It was amazing to have these four there to talk about mental health in our state and hear our thoughts about issues that impact counselors.

(Government Relations Update, Continued on page 5)

Conference Highlights, continued from page 3

Association (ACA), and another NOLA native, who shared her passion for counselor wellness and mentorship.

Day 3 closed out the conference with more content sessions. More appreciation to Tommy for ensuring ample opportunities for counselors to earn valuable CE's.

So many members talked about how exciting it was to reconnect and learn from presenters. In fact, many of the exhibitors expressed excitement regarding the conference. Of course, being in person had challenges, such as overflowing sessions. Currently, only a few hotel venues can accommodate LCA. We will be looking to members to discuss venue challenges in the future. I must slip in a call to action. Please email Vicki at vickiguilbeau@gmail.com if you live in the Baton Rouge area and want to get be more involved for the 2023 conference.

It was great seeing and being with everyone. Take care. 80



From L to R: Rep. Royce Duplessis, Dr. Adrianne Trogden, Rep. Joe Stagni, Rep. Laurie Schlegel, Rep. Matthew Ward. Rep. Joe Stagni won the 2022 LCA Legislator of the Year for authoring and advocating for our Counseling Compact Bill!



Summary from the LCA Board

Mini LCA Minutes

Felicie Gaddes

The Louisiana Counseling Association Executive Board held a meeting on Tradewing on September 16, 2022. The following business was conducted during this

meeting.

- volunteers available to support during the upcoming conference. Anyone looking to make donations should coordinate with Christine Ebrahim. All tables have been sold, and that more than 900 people have pre-registered, with an expected additional 100 on-site registrants. Everyone is invited to join the President's Reception taking place on Sunday. QR codes will be printed in session rooms for evaluations. Keith Wilkerson will be on-site taking pictures during the dinner and lunch, and Zach Hebert is still working to finalize the app.
- Government Relations Report: Medicaid
 Rates: The Louisiana Department of Health
 states that we will be in the first round of reimbursement rates to be reviewed once that process starts, which could be in early 2023. The
 Government Relations Committee meets
 monthly with LDH and other organizations.
- states with this legislation passed. Jamie Doming is the Louisiana Professional Counselors Board commissioner that will advocate for the compact nationally. Louisiana's tentative start date to join the database is 2024. Government Relations will have a meeting this Sunday at 8:00 to share more information, and to hear from members. There will also be a Town Hall following the luncheon where information can be shared about the compact and other Government Relations goals.

Article continues in next column

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- Bylaws Committee Report: The Ad Hoc Committee voted in favor of Executive Board members residing in Louisiana during their term, while Committee Chairs may reside outside of Louisiana. The motion to accept the bylaws from the previous meeting, and to vote on the topic of Board members' residency during the 2023 Conference was proposed and seconded.
- Tradewing Update: Bi-weekly meetings are being held on Tuesdays to discuss the LCA bulletin board on Tradewing. The "Ask the Expert" series will continue through December, and a scavenger hunt with prizes is being planned in efforts to increase traffic on Tradewing. Zach Hebert will contact Division Presidents to help promote on social media platforms.
- PLPC Information: Dr. Tommy Fonseca proposed that an Ad Hoc Committee should be formed in order to investigate whether PLPCs can be reimbursed through Medicaid. Zach Hebert offered to chair the Ad Hoc committee, while Dr. Fonseca, Nick Wallace, Kelle Faulterman, Dottie Martin, Adrienne Trogden, and Keith Wilkerson offered to serve on the committee as well.

GR Update, continued from page 4

With the Counseling Compact legislation passed in Louisiana, we are looking forward to the next legislative session in 2023 and will be hosting a Day at the Capitol, where LCA members can visit the Capitol and your area legislators. Be on the lookout for more information in the coming months!

Find out more information about the Counseling Compact at the following address: www.counselingcompact.org.

If you have any concerns or advocacy opportunities regarding government relations or legislation, or if you would like to join the Government Relations Committee, please reach out to Dr. Adrianne Trogden at lcagovtrelations@gmail.com.



Thank You Exhibitors! Diane Austin, LCA Executive Director

Exhibitors are an important part of the annual LCA Fall Conference. Some of them have

been with us for many years and some were new in 2022!



Colin Henry, representing ASVAB, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test, and a longtime exhibitor.

Conference attendees have the option to shop for useful resources, often at discounted prices. Exhibitors donate lovely door prizes — a much appreciated feature of the conference. And some exhibitors underwrite all or part of some Division luncheons to keep costs low for members. Thanks to the President-Elect, Dr. Rashunda Miller Reed, we have photos of many of the

Conversation continues in next column

exhibitors who were with us this year. We will say a special thank you to a few each issue. And if you have need to contact them for goods or services mention that you appreciated them attending the LCA Conference!



Matthew Thornton, representing The Center for Children and Families, a non-profit center serving clients in LA and MS.

A new LCA benefit ... **Ask The Expert!**



What do Tamyra Bourgeois, Dan
Jurek, and LCA President Elect Dr. Rashunda Miller Reed all have in common ... besides being counselors? They have been presenters for LCA's newest member benefit: Ask the Expert! This new series provides LCA Members with free, quality CE clock hour professional development, MONTHLY! What else could you ask for!! Register for the next event: https://lca.tradewing.com/home

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LCA's Fall Conference NOLA 2022...



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Together Again...

Photo Credits: L-R — Page 7: First two by Keith Wilkerson, Archives Chair; Second two: Dr. Rashunda Miller Reed, LCA President Elect. Page 8: Each of these photos by Dr. Miller Reed, who WAS also Archives Chair many moons ago!! Thank you Keith and Rashunda for capturing the feel of being **TOGETHER AGAIN!!**



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From left to right: Bernell Elzey, PLPC; Aisha Davis-Luke, Professional Development; Teneka Gash, LAMCD; Sonja Smith-Polley, LAMFC; Shannon Smith, SAIGE-LA; Shemeka Faulk, LCSJ; Shallene Joseph, LCDA; Kourtnie Baham, LAAOC; Deatrice Green, LMHCA; Christine Ebrahim (Chair of LDMI), Keith Wilkerson, Archives; Brittany Johnson (LCCA).



We're baaaaaak!
The 2022-2023 LDMI
Cohort Meets at LCA
Christine Ebrahim, PhD, LPC-S,
NCC, LDMI Chair

The Leadership Development and Mentoring Institute (LDMI) is BACK! Over the last couple of years, the LDMI looked a little different because of COVID and the lack of in person conferences. During both Eric and Reshelle's presidency, LDMI conducted workshops for new division leaders during the first board meetings of the year and assisted as needed when division leaders had questions and wanted guidance.

In consultation with LCA leadership, it was decided that this year's cohort would be made up entirely of new division leaders or committee chairs of LCA, many of whom are taking over leadership of divisions or committees for the first time ever and would benefit from mentorship and guidance. These emerging LCA leaders came together at the LCA conference this year to meet each other and discuss the goals they have for their divisions and committees this year.

Each cohort member will be paired with a mentor who will help guide them in reaching the goals.

(LDMI Cohort 20223, continued on page 10)

An Intentional Professional Development Approach

Allison Borel, LPC-S, PD Committee Member



Your 2022-2023 Professional Development (PD) committee is at work and has been working tirelessly to see how we can best serve you! After a successful 2022 Conference, we are already preparing for the 2023 LCA Conference. As a PD committee member, the development of us as counseling professionals is a very important matter as it can often be an afterthought. I propose we work to set time aside to plan out the areas we need to strengthen as professionals as well as gain new skills. With an intentional quarterly organizational approach, we can be more intentional in our professional development to better assist our community.

My question to you is how are you currently taking care of your professional development needs? Are you only looking at continuing education as a part of your professional development? I have included some additional items for you to consider being a part of your professional develop-

(PD Committee Update, continued on page 10)

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serve.

Election Outcome

And the Winners Are — All of You!!

Diane Austin, LCA Executive Director

The general election for LCA President Elect-Elect and to consider two proposed

bylaws changes occurred at the recent fall conference. I am glad to announce that Dr. Krystal Vaughn, Ph.D., NCC, LPC-S was selected. We are so appreciative of Mr. Sean Brite, LPC, NCC for also being willing to



You, the membership also

approved the two Bylaws proposals to relocate the dues structure to the Policies Manual and to have the person serving as Government Relations specialist also serve as the chair of that committee. The Executive Board agrees that both changes will improve the efficiency of our operations. We thank you for your agreement.

LDMI Cohort for 2022-23, continued from page 9

The 2022-2023 LDMI cohort was excited to share their ideas of what they are looking for in a mentor and what projects they were looking forward to working with their mentor on for the year. They are all looking forward to bringing their division and committees to the "next level" and offering more to the membership of LCA!

The 2022-2023 LDMI cohort include the following members: Kourtnie Baham (LAAOC), Bernell Elzey (PLCA), Shemeka Faulk (LCSJ), Teneka Gash (LAMCD), Deatrice Green (LMHCA), Aisha Davis-Luke (Professional Development), Brittany Johnson (LCCA), Shallene Joseph (LCDA), Shannon Smith (SAIGE-LA), Sonja Smith-Polley (LAMFC), and Keith Wilkerson (Archives).



Happy Thanksgiving

*Free clipart from Pixabay, https://pixabay.com/

PD Committee Update, continued from page 9

ment planning:

- Self-Care (physical, mental, spiritual health, etc.)
- Practice Awareness
- Formal Education
- Informal Learning (On the job, observing others, self-study, etc.)
- Volunteering
- Networking
- Being a part and interacting with a professional group
- Soliciting Feedback (peers, supervisors, etc.)
- Have a mentor and be a mentee
- Teaching others
- Stay up to date on the latest research in our field or specific area
- Know resources in and around our community
- Share your knowledge through writing, publishing and creating materials
- Practice what you preach

All of the above are just a few options you can commit to expanding your professional development as a professional in our Louisiana community! I challenge you to select two new development options from above to focus on consistently for the next 365 days.

As we continue to advocate for you, please reach out to let us know how you would like us to best serve you and just a shout out to see if you want us to keep doing what we are doing!

Remember! We are here every day for your professional development needs. Begin by emailing us at pdlca22@gmail.com.





LCA Conference 2022: A
Member's Perspective
Melvin Burrell, Scholarship Recipient &
Conference Volunteer

My name is Melvin Burrell, and I am a doctoral candidate in Counselor Education and Supervision at the University of Holy Cross. I recently

had the opportunity to attend the LCA Annual Conference held September 25-27, 2022, at the New Orleans Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel on Canal Street.

I was awarded a scholarship by LCA, which allowed me to attend the conference as a volunteer. I want to thank the LCA Volunteer Committee for giving me the scholarship.

A highlight of the conference was interacting with students from different universities, counselors, and retired professionals. It was exciting to hear their stories and accomplishments. Volunteering also allowed me to meet many classmates and teachers in person. Two professors that stood out to me were Dr. Tommy Fonseca and Dr. Patricia Thomas. It was a pleasure and honor to meet them in person. Their words during the conference were so kind and thoughtful; they made me feel appreciated as a volunteer and student.

Yes, the conference was a great place to network and learn about current issues affecting our field. I had a great time listening to the presenters, who were friendly, approachable, and knowledgeable about their subject matter. For example, one presentation that I remember is Exploring Emotions: A Tripartite Model of Black Male Masculinity Development with Dr. Walter Breaux III and Mr. Justin Owens. Their presentation was so exciting, informative, and content-rich that there was no empty seat in the room. I was fortunate to meet Ms. Debbie Lang, who presented on Exemplary Practices for the Military Population. We shared our memories of the time we spent at Fort Polk, The Joint Readiness Training Center in Leesville.

Once again, I would like to thank the LCA Volunteer Committee.

Louisiana Lagniappe

Editors Prerogative

Vinetta Frie, Lagniappe Editor

I hope you are enjoying this edition of the Louisiana Lagniappe! The post conference is always a favorite of mine because



it allows us to relive the LCA Annual Fall Conference. It is also a time when many of you, LCA members become inspired to contact or follow up with the leaders of your division to volunteer for more active service. You may be interested in networking with a broader group of counselors. If so, you should reach out to Dr. Miller Reed as she will be president next year and is already planning who she will appoint to her board. Dr. Guilbeau is also a proactive planner and she will be president in two years.

If you are approaching the winter holidays you celebrate with a bit of trepidation because of the family dynamics of your family, extended family or the struggles of your clients, there is a new guest editorial, From Me To You. This article focuses on mindfulness as a strategy that you or your clients may find helpful.

Of course there are pictures, galore all through the issue. In fact there are a few more I will share in the New Year. I was especially happy to see them as I was unable to be with you in person this year, for the first time in a very long time.

Be sure to take a look at the last page of the issue. There are several members who will face the holidays with an empty chair at their table. Reach out to them in whatever way you find most comfortable and appropriate.

On behalf of your newsletter committee and myself, we wish you restorative and happy Season's Greetings and a safe and prosperous New Year!

Division President Reports

ACACL, Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling in LA, no article submitted this quarter.

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The Mission, The Movement
Kourtnie Baham,
LAAOC President

It was so nice to share space with everybody at the 2022 LCA conference, IN PER-SON! I witnessed great conversations at LCA about the addictive-use disorder and the foren-

sic/criminal justice population. Fellow counselors that I had the honor of speaking with at LCA were very vocal about wanting to know more about divisions and their purpose so I felt this article would be a wonderful place for the proper introduction to LAAOC's mission. LAAOC aims to

- supply leadership.
- promote sound counseling practice by supporting prevention, treatment, training, and advocacy.
- improve the standard of care for our target population; and lastly,
- promote networking opportunities for the members.

There IS power in numbers, as we all know. If you have even the smallest interest in getting to know more about or taking part more actively in LAAOC, let's connect to advance this movement of addiction and offender counselors working towards the greater good! Join us in meeting our clients where they are and exposing them to the possibility of a quality life that goes beyond their current circumstances.

I can be reached on the Tradewing platform, on Instagram @eicnola_ or via email:

Division Reports continue in the next column

ko.baham@yahoo.com. Let's discuss how you might get involved!

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Update from LACES Dr. Christine Ebrahim, Past LACES President

Hello from the Louisiana Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (LACES)! As the Past President, I am excited



to introduce our newly elected 2022-2023 board members, Dr. Joey Pistorius (President Elect Elect), Dr. Deatrice Green (Treasurer), and Taylor Callais-Rusich Member-at-Large Supervisor.

Returning board members include: President Dr. Dottie Martin, President-Elect Dr. Princess Lanclos, Member at Large-Counselor Educator Dr. Michelle de la Paz, Member at Large-Graduate Student Ebony Clifton, and Past President Dr. Christine Ebrahim.

We were proud to once again be involved with the LCA conference this year. The following presentations were offered as part of the LACES track. Preparing for LPC Supervision: Navigating Goals, Expectations, and Common Issues (Dr. Christine Ebrahim and Dr. Joseph Pistorius), Exploring Intentional Supervision: Ensuring Ethical Competencies of Clinical Supervision When Working with Post-graduates (Dr. Christine Ebrahim, Dr. Dottie Martin, and Dr. Joseph Pistorius, Panel Discussion: Navigating the Supervision Process (Dr. Michelle de la Paz, Dr. Christine Ebrahim, Dr. Deatrice Green, Dr. Dottie Martin and Dr. Joseph Pistorius), Ethical Considerations in Play Therapy Supervision (Dr. Reshelle Marino and Dr. Laura Fazio-Griffith. Teleplay Supervision: How to Incorporate Expressive Arts and Play Therapy into the Supervision Process Supervision (Dr. Laura Fazio-Griffith, Dr. Reshelle Marino, and Rebecca

(Division President Reports, continued on page 13)

Division Presidents Report, continued from page 12

Gill).

During the conference, LACES also offered a mixer during which current graduate students and recent graduates had an opportunity to meet and discuss potential supervisory relationships with LPC-Ss from across the state. We are planning a virtual supervision meet and greet/mixer again in the spring. This event will be free for graduate students (or those looking for an LPC-S) and LPCs who are LACES members. If you are an LPC-S and not a LACES member, please consider joining our division! We are also planning other free CEU events that appeal to the Counselor Educators in our division, so be on the lookout for more information coming soon!

As always, we encourage you to keep up with us on our IG page @louisiana a.c.e.s

If you would like to become involved in LAC-ES, please feel free to email President Dr. Dottie Martin at domartin@uhcno.edu

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President's Report Quintin Gustin, MS, LPC, LACGS President

It was gratifying to see so many of our graduate student members attend the conference. It is clear to me that many of these students will one day be leaders in LCA. Our dessert meeting was well-attended, especially by Masters-level students. It was nice to see so many of

them.

The current officers were announced, and they are as follows: President - Quintin Gustin, President-Elect - Brooke Gaspard, Secretary-Treasurer – Teneka Gash. Representatives for the different state regions include Tiffany Decou -Representative for South Louisiana, Emily Ruth -Representative for North Louisiana, Ryan Martin - Representative for Capital Area, Adekemi Eka-

Division Reports continue in the next column

Louisiana Lagniappe

noye – Representative for Central Louisiana. We do not currently have a representative for the Greater New Orleans Area. Interested members should contact Quintin Gustin.

LACGS had a terrific division track at the conference. I'd like to send a warm "thank you" to the following people who gave their time and knowledge in this regard: Dr. Christine Ebrahim (Loyola). Dr. Meredith Nelson (LSU-S), Bernell Elzey (University of Holy Cross), Jamie Doming (LPC Board), and Michel'le Williams (LSU). Each took time out of a busy schedule to help provide a superb track for our division.

Finally, we will be having a Board of Directors meeting soon to discuss some needed by-laws changes as well as to examine ways to increase membership and participation. We also plan to schedule a call for nominations and elections for 2023.

GG GG GG

LAMCD: So Great Being Together Again! Teneka Gash, M.Ed., PLPC,

RSW, LAMCD President

I bring you greetings from the division of the Louisiana Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (LAMCD)! ing the 2022 Gradu-Our hope is that you cultivate a ate Student Award multicultural atmosphere!

In attending the 2022 LCA Conference, it was great having Wilkerson. the opportunity to fellowship,



Teneka Gash receivfrom LCA President, Dr. Thomas Fonseca. Photo by Keith

network and learn as we strive in becoming educationally enhanced and in developing personally and professionally. It was also great presenting for the conference with Chelsea Johnson, Secretary and co -presenter, Colleen Thomas. I also enjoyed attending the LSCA Luncheon and LCA Luncheon as it was with great honor that I received the LCA Student Graduate Award.

Future LAMCD initiatives include hosting a virtual

(Division President Reports, continued on page 14)

Division President Reports, continued frompage 13

member/interest meeting via LCA Bulletin Board. We look forward to connecting with members and the opportunity of generating an increase in membership. Initiatives will also include a virtual luncheon for all past LAMCD Presidents, Division Board/Member Spotlight and publication/distribution of our division newsletter.

If you are interested in joining LAMCD to promote increased knowledge in multiculturalism, please reach out to our designated email: LAMCDivision@gmail.com and visit our Facebook page - @LAMCD1, as your participation is highly valuable.

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LAMFC, LA Assoc. of Marriage and Family Counselors, no article submitted this quarter.

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LASERVIC: Enjoyed Your Presence! *Sopheia Jones, Ph.D, LPC, NCC, LASERVIC President*

After two years of meeting virtually it was so wonderful to

be "Together Again" and enjoy each other's presence at this year's conference. It was refreshing to be able to see and interact with friends and colleagues that I have not seen since the beginning of the pandemic.

I want to thank Drs. Thomas Fonseca and Dustin Reed for their support and especially Ms. Brenda Eccles for her guidance, support and work behind the scenes to help make our luncheon and prayer service a success. As this was the first year the Louisiana Spiritual, Ethical and Religious Values in Counseling (LASERVIC) division had Apostle Adrienne J. Sumler, PhD, CST and KyNisha Murphy,

Division Reports continue in the next column

MA, LPC, NCC present on "The Many Faces of Trauma," we had numerous LCA members attempt to join our luncheon. Regretfully, most only had tickets for the LCA luncheon. Each year we push to have a presenter for our luncheon and welcome all to join, so if interested please make sure to buy a ticket for the LASERVIC luncheon when registering for the conference.

In accordance with the message shared during the prayer service, as this year's LASERVIC president I would be amiss if I did not take this opportunity to ask each of you to keep those affected by COVID, injustice and hurricanes Fiona and Ian in your prayers.

If you are not yet a member of the LASERVIC Division of LCA, we welcome you to join! If you are already a member, we invite you to become actively involved by joining the executive board.

Do you have any questions, concerns or are interested in becoming a member and/or officer of LASERVIC? Please feel free to contact me at Soopheia@abrighterpathcs.com.

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Let's Build Momentum Together Brittney Johnson, M.S., LPC, NCC, LCCA President

Greetings from the Louisiana College Counseling Association! It was wonderful to see

so many new and familiar faces at the LCA Conference last month. We appreciate the outpouring of positive feedback regarding the college counseling related presentations offered during the conference. We also hope the fantastic line-up of presentations at this year's conference planted seeds of curiosity and inspiration in each of you, as it did the leadership of our division.

We recognize this to be an opportunity to build momentum, especially as it relates to developing future opportunities for learning and connection. Our division already has planning underway for

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LCCA's upcoming fall workshop, the 2023 LCCA summer workshop, and college counseling-related presentations for next year's LCA conference. However, we want to hear from you. Each of you have experiences, expertise, questions, and ideas that are invaluable to divisions and general LCA leadership. The only way we can continue crafting meaningful events is to know what your needs are and how we may best serve you. And as you advocate for yourselves, your peers, and our profession – we promise to listen.

If you have any ideas, requests, or questions for our division, please contact us at lcca.leadership@gmail.com.

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Moving The LCDA Train Back On The Track Shallene Joseph, M.S., M.Ed., PLPC, NCC, LCDA President

Hello LCA! It was a pleasure seeing all who attended the conference. I hope that you enjoyed yourselves and gathered some

valuable information!

The Louisiana Career Development Association (LCDA) offered a track of 4 sessions this year, including Furthering Your Career with a Doctoral Degree: What, Why, and How? and Environmentally Focused Career Paths: Implications and Ideas for Louisiana School Counselors presented by Christopher Belser, Ph.D., NCC, as well as The Great Resignation and Your Clients and Compassion Fatigue: An Overview presented by myself, Shallene Joseph, M.S., M.Ed., PLPC, NCC. Our sessions were well attended, and I am told that Dr. Belser's Furthering Your Career with a Doctoral Degree: What, Why, and How? session was standing room only! We appreciate your support and attendance, and we hope to strengthen the LCDA track in 2023 with

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more offerings to hone career development for you and your clients.

LCDA held our general membership meeting at the conference on Monday during the conference. Though our attendance was small, it was strong and full of quality ideas on how to move the LCDA train back on the track. We are happy that Cheryl Fruge' was officially selected as LCDA Secretary and will serve for another two years.

The positions of President-Elect, Treasurer, and 2 Member At Large remain open. We will keep you updated via Tradewing and email in the coming months on the nominations and voting process. If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else, you can reach out to us at in-fo@louisianacareerdevelopment.org or to me directly at silcda@gmail.com.

Though we planned on holding our annual LCDA Career Connections Conference virtually in December of this year, attendees of our membership meeting expressed a desire to meet in person in early 2023. We are currently exploring our options on pushing back the conference and will update you all via Tradewing and email when the final decision is made.

I'd like to remind you that November is National Career Development Month, November 14-18 is National Career Development Week, and November 16 is National Career Development Day. Let us know what you are doing to celebrate at https://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/
SV 3I7OH8SfesQhv6e.

The theme for the National Career Development Association's (NCDA) 57th Annual Poetry and Art Contest is "Career Development Around the World: Making Connections and Increasing Access to Impact the Global Labor Market". We'd love for Louisiana residents to throw their submissions into the mix this year. Visit https://www.ncda.org/aws/NCDA/pt/sp/ncdmonth for more information on the requirements and rules. Reach out to us at info@louisianacareerdevelopment.org or to me directly at silcda@gmail.com. We'll update you

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about the details of our State Contest by the beginning of November via Tradewing and email.

We are looking forward to building and moving the LCDA train back on the track. We hope that you will join us on our journey!

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Let's Continue Bridging The Gap with LCSJ Shemeka Faulk, LCSJ President

Greetings from the Louisiana Counselors for Social Justice (LCSJ). It was a pleasure connecting and embracing familiar and new faces at the LCA Conference 2022. It was with great gratitude the outpouring of family like atmosphere

where the title for this year's conference "Together Again" was breath taking with so much valuable information given by the presenters of each session.

The Louisiana Counselors for Social Justice's very own Secretary Joelle Nixon Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC presented a session on Multicultural Counseling Competencies where the attendees reviewed essential terminology and definitions, as well as language to avoid while working with members of multicultural communities. The session was standing room only! We appreciate your support and attendance, and we hope to strengthen the LCSJ track in 2023 with valuable and informative information with ideas of bridging the gap dealing with social justice.

In closing, LCSJ is thankful for the continuing outpouring of support from the members now and the new members to come. The only way we can continue to bridge the gap is not focusing on the "what" but focusing on the "why." We must continue to advocate for clients when it comes to doing what is right and fair in the realm of social justice. And as you advocate for yourselves, your

Division Reports continue in the next column

peers, and your profession – we must all promise to listen.

If you have any ideas, requests, or questions for our division, please contact us:

<u>Shefaulk77@qmail.com</u> President;

lafittmr@yahoo.com Vice President; or

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LMHCA: Season of Renewal! Dr. Deatrice Green, LMHCA President

joellenx@aol.com Secretary.

Hello from the Louisiana Mental Health Counselors Association (LMHCA). It was such a pleasure to mingle with those



members that attended our social during this year's LCA conference. We are honored to again be a part of creating a specialized track that was inclusive of topics that you, our LMHCA membership requested. It was a privilege to be a presenter for our track once again. I would like to thank each of our presenters Dr. Sonia Blauvelt, Dr. Laura Fazio-Griffith, Dr. Princess Lanclos, Dr. Reshelle Marino, Dr. June Williams, and Janeczka Villalobos, for assisting us in delivering that very diverse and engaging track. This year's division collaboration was with SAIGE to provide content specific to marginalized populations to continue increasing multicultural competency within our division and profession.

During this year's LMHCA social we also welcomed Dr. Princess Lanclos – President-Elect Elect and Dr. Christine Ebrahim – Treasure to the executive board and celebrated the recipients of our LMCHA awards and scholarship. The awards and scholarship recipients are listed below:

- Dr. Christine Ebrahim Community Service Award
- Dr. Christy Pennison Mental Health Counselor of the Year Award
- Leslie Fontenot The Gloria Bockrath

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Award

As we transition into the final quarter of this year, be on the lookout for the following on Tradewing and in your email inboxes:

- ◆ The second edition of LMHCA's Quarterly Newsletter
- Evaluations for both the Webinar Series and the Annual Spring Conference
- Surveys soliciting feedback and suggestions for topics of interest for upcoming CEU events and things that we can do to improve
- ◆ A call for proposals for 2023's Bi-Monthly Webinar Series
- ◆ A new and improved LMHCA website

Finally, I would like to encourage you all to spend this last quarter pouring into yourself the way that you pour into each of your clients. While you all are focusing on the renewal of your personal selfcare routines, LMHCA will be planning a season of renewal and revitalization for you, our members!

Thinking about becoming a member of LMHCA? Contact us, and we'll assist you throughout that process. We are always looking for new members for our committees and governing board. If you are interested in joining a committee or becoming a regional representative, please reach out to me at lmhcapresident1@gmail.com. Your engagement and participation are vital to LMHCA and LCA, so please reach out with any inquiries.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

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LMGCA: The Way We Were Kathy Lammert, LPC-S, LMFT, NCC, LMGCA President

Thank you Debbie Lang for sharing your personal story about your father and your experience working with the Army at Fort

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Polk during your LCA presentation, "Exemplary Practices for the Military Population." Deborah Allsbrook, LPC-S, Debbie Lang, and Kathy Lammert with LMGCA would like to thank all of our tract speakers for donating their time and expertise to the 2022 LCA Conference in New Orleans.

Deborah Allsbrook, Debbie Lang, and Kathy Lammert were excited to be at the 2022 LCA Conference LMGCA luncheon. Thank you Chaplain (Major) Jeremiah Snyder for your informative and interactive Military presentation. Our guests included: Emily Myers, Christian Dean, Audria Musgrove, Catherine Buffington,



Debbie Lang

Ron Cathey, Vicki Guilbeau, DeQuetta Sanders, Sean Brite, Kevin Rodrigue, Ron Dantin, Judy Petit and Tom Lang.



Army Chaplin (Major) Snyder, Kathy Lammert, and Debbie Allsbrook

Ron Cathey won the LMGCA Luncheon raffle.

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Dr. Ron Cathey



Dr. Christian Dean and Kathy Lammert

And finally, LMGCA wants to say "Thank You" to Dr. Christian Dean for his 24 years of Service in the Louisiana Army National Guard and for being part of our LMGCA Track Presenters at the 2022 LCA conference in New Orleans.

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LSCA, LA. School Counselor Assoc., no article submitted this quarter.

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Choose Kindness, Show Gratitude, and Demonstrate Leadership

Bernell L. Elzey, Jr., PLPC, NCC, PLCA President

Greetings LCA!!! It was great engaging with you all at the LCA Conference in September. I learned so much from the great presentations and networking opportunities at the Conference. As we transition into the holiday season, I want



you all remember to that there are so many of us that are experiencing many personal trials and tribulations. Thus, please be a rainbow in somebody's cloud by choosing kindness and showing gratitude.

Additionally, we are still accepting nominations for the 2023—2024 PLCA Division Board. Are you are you looking for an opportunity to serve as a gatekeeper for the professional field of counseling? We encourage you to give back to the counseling field through this professional opportunity.

To serve on the PLCA board or committee, one must hold a current active membership in LCA and the PLCA division.

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.

There are so many wonderful things that we have in store for the division this year and we cannot wait until you experience it. Stay safe! If you have any questions and/or concerns, please email us at <u>plcalouisiana.org</u>.

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YES YOU CAN BE
OUR ALLY!
Shannon E. Smith, LPC, NCC,
SAIGE-LA President

SAIGE-LA enjoyed "coming out" to the LCA community at the Conference. Not only did our Board members get to meet and spend time together face-to-face for the



first time, but we each got to network and spread the mission of our division. If you weren't there, you missed out on our colorful table and giveaways. We shared candy, pens, and progress pride flag buttons with the conference attendees, and we raffled off an insulated logo tumbler to one lucky division member!

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SAIGE-LA proudly sponsored a diverse and robust track at the conference. Thank you to all of the presenters, including Sonia Blauvelt, Ph.D.; Melissa Ray, MA, LPC-S; Chatrell Varnado-Johnson, Ph.D., LPC-S, RPT; Scotty Arceneaux, MS, PLPC; Hannah Crawford, MS, LPC; Wendy Rock, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, NCSC; Shelbie Jones, MS, PLPC, NCC; Ledora Yerks-Birdlow, LPC-s, NCC, ACS; Heather Goodman-D'Anna, MA, LPC; Catherine Schully, MS, LPC, RPT; Kenneth Schmitt, M.Ed., LPC-S, RPT; Kirsten Dantin, MS, PLPC; and, Tomeka Bennett Jackson, MA, LPC, NCC. Based on the attendance and level of participation for each session, it's safe to say that the Louisiana counseling community wants more education on issues related to sexuality, gender identity & expression, and relational identity. SAIGE-LA plans to bring the LCA community more opportunities for continuing education in this area, and we are pursuing several ideas, including collaborating with other divisions and the possibility of a Spring SAIGE-LA Symposium.

If you'd like to stay informed, please look for updates on the Tradewing site, follow us on social media, or contact us to be added to our mailing list. Be sure to join SAIGE-LA as a paying member to support our ongoing outreach efforts and to enjoy members-only benefits.

IG: saige la

FB: Saige-Louisiana

Email: saige.louisiana@gmail.com

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Lastly, if you picked up one of our progress pride flag buttons at the conference, we hope that you'll wear it often or place it in your office to display to clients and others that you are an ally. Studies have indicated that the presence of symbols of support, like the rainbow, are recognized by young people to denote a level of knowledge and understanding by professionals and may play a role in them being more comfortable talking about topics like their gender and sexuality. That little button says a lot, so please display it with PRIDE!



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From Me to You
Mindfulness: When
Does the Present Become the Past?
By Quintin Gustin, MS, LPC

Mindfulness is a popular idea that has taken hold in the world of counseling. This came about with the advent of approaches

that use the concept as a significant therapeutic tool (e.g., DBT and ACT). As early as 1971, Ram Dass (nee Richard Alpert), a former Harvard Psychology professor, published a book called <u>Be Here Now</u>, which extolled the virtues of mindfulness. Certainly, the idea has taken hold and is used in several "third-wave" therapies. Living in the present moment can be difficult, and I wonder how many of us — as counselors — truly attempt to practice it, and actually succeed at it.

It has been said that, instead of living in the present, many of us spend most of our waking hours either in regretting the past or worrying about the future. Think about this in reference to yourself. Is it true for you? If so, in which place do your thoughts



reside, rather than experiencing the present in its fullness?

Sometimes the past can seem very much like the present. Suppose that this morning you committed some faux pas or did something extremely embarrass-

Article continues in the next column



*From Me To You is a new series of member driven messages. If you have something you would like to share, please send it to me,

Vinetta Frie, newsletter editor, at my email address: lcanews@outlook.com



ing. It is afternoon now, and you are still lingering on experience. It's now living rentfree in your head, still bothering you and you continue to replay it in your mind. If you haven't let it go, you are not practicing mindfulness. What occurred this morning is now the past. Steven Hayes, who developed Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), has suggested that we have a strong tendency to make our thoughts our reality, when in fact, they are merely thoughts.

To elucidate this idea, ACT therapists used the metaphor of a chess board. On the top of the board, a war is raging: pawns are killing pawns, knights are destroying other knights, bishops are capturing other bishops and rooks. It is a bloody and terrible conflict. However, when all the pieces are removed from the board, the board itself remains unscathed. The pieces when atop the board are not the boards reality. So, if we don't allow our thoughts to hang around and become our reality, our minds can remain, like that chessboard, pristine and unmarred. Then can we experience the phenomenon of our present life.

I don't see this as an easy task. I think it cuts against the grain of how we have always dealt with our thoughts. We are quite used to allowing them to linger. It's a habit that is difficult to break. But we do expect it of our clients. And so, it is important that we learn to practice it ourselves. I think with the insights we can gain from doing this, we will be in a better position to help our clients in this aspect of mindfulness. Sometimes it's not just a case of do as I say, but rather a case of do as I say and do!

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Kudos to This Year's **Recipients!**

Dr. Kelle Falterman, Awards Chair

Like most things at this year's conference, the awards presentation felt extra special because we

were able to present the awards in-person for the first time in two years. Congratulations to this year's recipients:

Dr. Latifey LaFleur, Distinguished Professional Service Award; Dr. Christine Ebrahim, Humane and Caring Person Award; Ms. Kesha Sim-Advocacy Award; Ms. **Teneka** mons, Gash, Graduate Student Award; The Government Relations Committee, headed by Dr. Adrianne Trogden, recognized Representative Joe Stagni for his work on the Louisiana Counselor Compact. In addition, Dr. Tommy Fonseca's presidential recognition awards went to Dr. Vicki Guilbeau, Dr. Rashunda Miller Reed, Mr. Austin White, and Dr. Reshelle Marino.

Thank you to all who nominated individuals for awards. 80

LCA Presidential Awards



LCA **Awards** for 2022



Dr. Latifey LaFleur



Dr. Christine Ebrahim



Ms. Kesha Simmons



Ms. Teneka Gash

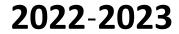


Rep. Joe Stagni

BANKER SHARES

Thank you Keith Wilkerson and Dr. Rashunda Miller Reed, photographers. Rep. Stagni's photo was sourced at: https://house.louisiana.gov/h reps/ members?ID=92

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2022-2023 LEADERSHIP ROSTER

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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 with two affiliates! 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 lcanews@outlook.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, Quintin Gustin, and Lisa Launey, Contributing Editors; Dr. Christine Ebrahim & Dr. Vicki Guilbeau, proofreaders.

SUBMISSIONS

Send all submissions to newsletter editor, Vinetta Frie via her e-mail address: lcanews@outlook.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:
Spring 2023*

* After the Spring board meeting.

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Past LCA President's Reception hosted by Thomas Fonseca, current LCA President, seated. From L to R: Dr. Mary Feduccia, Dr. June Williams, Mr. John Crawford, Ms. Lisa Newman, Dr. Reshelle Marino, Ms. Cindi Nardini, Dr. Adrianne Trogden, Dr. Calvin Williams, Dr. Paul "Buddy" Ceasar, Mr. Eric Odom. Photo taken by Keith Wilkerson, LCA Archives Chair.

With Heartfelt Thoughts and Prayers

Please remember all LCA Members and their loved ones whose passing has not been reported to us. Their loss is no less important to all of us than any mentioned here by name.*

Please remember Dr. Dorothy Martin, LACES President, for the loss of a family member in mid October.

Please remember the family of LCA member Tanya Carron Cormier. She lost both her father and her husband this past year.

During the LCA Conference, long-time LCA member and former LSCA President, Michael Lefort, lost his mother. Please remember him and his family.

*Please help us to recognize any member's serious illness, grieving, or recent death. Please share the information with either Diane @ lca_austin@bellsouth.net or Vinetta @ lcanews@outlook.com. If you have a photo of that member, please share that with us as well. It will help us all remember better. Thank you, in advance.



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