



New LCA President Elect-Elect for 2018

Dr. Iman Ennabut-Nawash,
Past President

As is often stated, competition is healthy and is a sign of a growing organization! LCA's candidates for Presidency, Eric Odom and Kenneth Schmitt, ran a very tight race. Both are very active and are leaders in their own right. I would like to thank both candidates for their commitment and numerous contributions to LCA.

As immediate past president and currently nominations and elections chair, I am honored to officially announce the LCA President for 2020-2021 as Mr. Eric Odom! He currently holds the position of By-laws chair on the LCA executive board and we are excited to see him step into the position of presidency in a few years. Congratulations Eric!

We are always looking for leaders. Please consider becoming actively involved in LCA's leadership and learning the inner workings of LCA and building life-long friendships along the way. Be on the look out for more information on Dr. Ebrahim and Dr Roland's leadership institute. 👤 👤 👤

Presidential Perspective

Thank YOU For Our Fantastic Conference!

*Christine Ebrahim, Ph.D.,
LPC-S, NCC
Louisiana Counseling
Association President
2017-2018*



Photo by 10-year-old Adley Ebrahim

Greetings! I think I have finally recovered from all the fun I had at this year's LCA conference! First, on behalf of the entire board and staff, I want to thank all 1,230 of you who attended the conference. This was the largest number of attendees ever at an LCA conference and it was wonderful to see so many graduate students, new and seasoned professionals, as well as retired counselors there. Thank you, thank you, thank you! We had so many great things going on at the conference. For those of you who were unable to attend, you missed a wonderful time. Our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Kevin Fall did a fantastic job taking us on his personal journey of mentorship. I tried very hard not to completely lose it when he spoke about how his relationships with three mentors began (and how much of an impact they had on "Lost Kevin"), especially when he talked about Justin Levitov; Justin is also a special mentor to me. I did feel *a little* better, however, when almost everyone who talked to me at the conference about Kevin's keynote, admitted that they had gotten teary eyed too! It will be very hard for me to forget the "Triple Ps"....His mentors were Passionate, Present, and Pathfinders. Thank you, Dr. Fall for sharing such a deeply personal (and at times humorous) glimpse in to your most significant mentoring experiences. I'd like to also say thank you to the many other pre-

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Another Silver Lining

By Vinetta Frie, LPC, Newsletter Editor



If you have noticed, my article has had the same title for the last two issues! I feel the need to make a concerted effort to focus on the positive. The temperature of so many conversations in person, online, in the media is so polarized. It seems impossible that the divides which separate us from each other may never be bridged.

So I have make a conscious decision to focus on the positive. What can I add to the proverbial half full glass to make it more complete. I had that experience at our Fall Conference.

I had the pleasure of facilitating the First-Timers Session just before the President’s Reception. It was an idea I borrowed from the National Orientation Directors Association Conference when I first served as onsite conference chair in 1986. First-timers often would not attend the reception because they didn’t know anyone. This session has become a warm welcome. It has provided an opportunity to pick up hints about how to navigate the conference and the app to meet Association leadership. Using simple ice breakers allows them to meet each other and to encourage the beginnings of networking. At the least, it gave first timers someone to attend the reception with. Another glass filled! 👥 ≤

senters who provided content sessions for our participants. There were so many interesting presentations and I have heard really great feedback from counselors who felt energized and inspired by the content session presenters. We also had a great turnout for the poster board presentations. The First, Second and Third place winners of the poster board contest were invited to submit articles on their research to the Louisiana Journal of Counseling; so be on the lookout for those articles soon! We also introduced the concept of Roundtable presentations this year. Eleven roundtable presentations were given in one of the ballrooms and feedback was very positive. I hope you all enjoyed the opportunity to have smaller group discussion with your presenters!



A big thank you to all of you who posted pictures of yourselves with your mentors and showed us how you LCAed on the LCA Facebook page. Speaking of pictures, I think one of the things I was really (secretly, most) excited about was the photo booth at the President’s Reception. I saw a lot of really fun pictures so I hope everyone had a fun time listening to the music and taking photos in the photo booth!



Congratulations to all the recipients of the various LCA
(Presidential Perspective, continued on page 3)



L-R: Vinetta Frie, President Elect and On-Site Chair, Dr. Kevin Fall, Key Note Speaker, Dr. Christine Ebrahim, LCA President, and Adrienne Trogden, LCA President Elect-Elect. Photo by Jenny Petty, Archives Chair

awards, including Dr. Gloria Bockrath, who received a well-deserved standing ovation when she was awarded the Louisiana Counseling Association Professional Development Award. Dr. Bockrath is a Past President of LCA who worked diligently to bring licensure to the state of Louisiana; her personal LPC license contains the number 1 indicating that she was the first counselor to become an LPC in Louisiana. She has also been an inspirational mentor to many professional counselors. Thank you, Gloria, for all you've done to advance the counseling profession in the state of Louisiana!



Finally, I know I've mentioned this many times before, but, I am really excited and passionate about the theme of this year's conference

and the theme that will remain throughout the year; that centers on mentorship. Mentoring: Enriching and Empowering Lives. Continuing with that theme, I am pleased to remind everyone about the **Inaugural Leadership Development and Mentoring Institute (LDMI)**. LDMI connects counseling professionals and Counselor Educators with less than 5 years of experience as well as graduate counseling students to state and national mentors over the course of a year, for intentional collaboration on creating a professional development project. The Institute begins with the day-long workshop on February 23 at Loyola University in New Orleans, and after months of collaborative mentoring, concludes at the 2018 LCA conference. Below is the link to the application for those who would like to be considered for the first cohort of mentees:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LDMIapplication>

Finally, congratulations to all the newly elected LCA division officers. I look forward to working with you and the current board members to continue serving the LCA membership. It is certainly an honor. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like information on how you can be more involved in LCA, please send me an email at cebrahim@loyno.edu.

Sincerely,
Christine

Christine H. Ebrahim, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC
LCA President, 2017-2018

Through the Eyes of a First-Timer

What a Pleasant Surprise!

Theresa D. Colton, PLPC

Currently, I am a PLPC and will be fully licensed at the first of the year. I was hesitant at first to attend the conference for various reasons. Mainly, pursuing licensure usually means limited funds during those two years, yet I pressed on and registered. I'm glad I did. It was an opportunity to network and meet new people in the profession as well as being pleasantly surprised by so many familiar faces from my Alma Mater Northwestern State University and from work experiences in the profession.

During the conference, I was surprised by the wonderful ethics seminars and that topics such as this were plentiful. Yet, my favorite was the one on Alderian Based Theory working with African American males presented by Dr. Ariel Mitchell, Shaiyotta Winters, and Mary Speed. It was well presented and opened dialogue between professionals. At the end of the conference, I realized I now belong to a wonderful network of professionals and now look forward to the years to come in the LCA organization. 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻



LCA Conference Closing Session a Big Success

By Joan Gallagher, ADA Compliance

What a wonderful conference! The content sessions, roundtables and poster sessions were terrific learning moments for all who participated and our presenters and guest speakers gave us so much to grow on! This year also brought a major change to the closing session.

Back in early spring, the executive board decided it was time to make the closing session something more memorable. This year's closing session would include a speaker who would bring our 3-4 day experience, focused on Mentoring, to a climax, sending off our attendees empowered with a mission to be mentors to our clients, our community and one another in the counseling field.

Dr. Peter Emerson opened the session with his usual flair and inspiring stories. Our invited speaker, Ryann Denham, Executive Director of City Year Baton Rouge, told the story of the successes of her organization that provides 90 young adults who commit one year to community service, serving as mentors in Baton Rouge's low income schools. City Year provides mentors throughout the country. Research shows that they have made significant contributions to closing the achievement gap for students in urban schools of greatest need, changing the success trajectory for students and their communities. And Dr. Christine Ebrahim reminded us about the LCA Mentor Institute that will be held in New Orleans this February and invited new professionals and seasoned professionals to consider applying as mentors or mentees.

We were thrilled to see that a large number of our members stayed for this "new and improved" closing session and hope that you were inspired to consider how each of us serves as both counselor and mentor in our work and in our communities. We hope that next year we will continue this new tradition of closing the LCA conference with that final opportunity to come together, to be inspired and to go out and make a difference! 👥 ↩

LCA Strategic Planning Gets Under Way

Leah Rosa, Strategic Planning Chair

The LCA Conference was amazing. It was wonderful to experience the programs that were offered. It was also wonderful to catch up with colleagues and friends.

As the strategic planning chair, one of the things I've been working on is putting together a committee of volunteers. So far, we have four wonderful volunteers and the list is growing. Our current volunteers are Wendy Rock, Wendy Durrant, Vicki Guilbeau and Nikolya Sparks.

We continue to look for volunteers to work as strategic planning committee members. The position will primarily include establishing and coordinating lines of communication, and working to make people aware of how they can contribute to advancing the LCA board's strategic plan. Please consider volunteering for this opportunity to help us move forward!

One of our upcoming goals is to update the current strategic plan and then determine what should be prioritized in the coming year.

This is very exciting and I look forward to working with everyone to advance the strategic plan. ↩



Candid shot from the hall in between sessions.
Photo by Jenny Petty



Meet our new partner...

LCA and Wecounsel Join Forces

Submitted by Diane Austin, LCA Executive Director

Louisiana Counseling Association is proud to announce our new partnership with Wecounsel, the premier client engagement and lead generation software for behavioral health providers. Wecounsel is undoubtedly one of the oldest and most experienced cloud-based software providing modern telehealth solutions to connect behavioral health providers and their clients.

This partnership allows the LCA network of providers to join Wecounsel at a discounted rate. Utilizing the Wecounsel software allows providers to become more connected to their existing clients online by leveraging the engagement toolset and broadening their reach to new clients across the country in the Wecounsel Directory.

Wecounsel's engagement toolset includes a myriad of features that help to connect clients and their behavioral health providers. Tools like HIPAA complaint video conferencing, secure email, instant chat, E-Sign, document storage, and sharing and whiteboard are just a few of the revolutionary capabilities you get with the Wecounsel platform. Tools like these are proven to help improve practice outcomes by improving the level of connection and ease of engagement that clients have with their providers regardless of distance, physical mobility or schedule restrictions.

In addition to the software solutions Wecounsel offers its members and partners, they also have the Wecounsel Directory which allows clients to search for a listed provider who can meet their needs and engage directly and immediately with the provider. This service bridges the lack of access to behavioral health services for clients everywhere. It also allows providers to increase their clientele and add additional streams of revenue to their practice.

(LCA and Wecounsel, continued on page 6)

Louisiana Lagniappe

LACGS Has Arrived and is Here to Stay!

By Michelle Robichaux, M.Ed. and Ida Ansell, 2017-2018 Graduate Student Co-Representatives



What an amazing and eventful conference it has been this year! This year the LCA conference offered students and counseling professionals many interesting and educational sessions to choose from and we know that next conference will be sure to impress! At this year's conference Co- Graduate Student Representative, Ida Ansell and Graduate Student Committee member, Ashley Lopez, both received the LCA Presidential Award for all their hard work during this past year. Congratulations to both of them for this huge honor and achievement! In addition to the many wonderful sessions and awards that the conference had to offer, this year the conference also marked an important achievement for all current and future graduate students within LCA by announcing that the Louisiana Association of Counselor Graduate Students or LACGS has officially been approved as an Affiliate of LCA!

For the past three months the Graduate Student Committee has been hard at work preparing the conference and for the Fall Executive Board Meeting. On September 30th, 2017, Co-Graduate Student Representative, Michelle Robichaux, M.Ed., PLPC, was given the honor to present LACGS to the board on behalf of the Graduate Student Committee. The Board decided to move that LACGS become an "Affiliate" for the next three years, in hopes that it will officially become a division within LCA by fall 2020. Any graduate student who is currently enrolled in a counseling program and is a member of LCA will automatically be enrolled in LACGS. We would personally like to thank the entire Graduate Student Committee for all of

(LACGS Has Arrived, continued on page 6)



Going Green at Fall Conference

Adrienne Trogden, LCA President Elect-Elect

The Conference App was a HUGE success this year! There were more users this year than ever with 755 people accessing the app! We had great engagement with 3.64K of attendee messages and social media shares! AMAZING! Thank you to all who used the app and helped us “go green” at conference!

Be on the lookout in the next couple of months for our brand new LCA website! We hope it will be much more user-friendly with great content that will be updated regularly. It’s the same website url: www.lacounseling.org, just with a facelift! Don’t be surprised one day when you go to the LCA website and see a glamorous makeover! 👥 ⚡

LACGS Has Arrived, continued from page 5

their hard work preparing for the conference and helping to make LACGS a reality!

In the future, the former Graduate Student Committee (Now the LACGS Division!) will be hard at work creating professional development and social events for graduate students. In fact, the LACGS Social Committee is already planning a winter social event for graduate students. Look for more information on this event in the Fall Graduate Student Newsletter. We are so excited to officially be a part of the LCA family and we can’t wait to show everyone the great plans we have in store for Louisiana’s graduate students. 👥 ⚡

[Editor’s Note: Beginning next issue, LACGS reports will be listed with the Divisions. The Leadership Roster will also be updated.]

LCA and Wecounsel, continued from page 5

You can learn more about our partnership and the services offered by visiting Wecounsel at <http://marketing.com/LCA/> 👥 ⚡

With Gratitude

Eric Odom, LCA President Elect-Elect for 2018-19



I wish to take this opportunity to thank the membership of the Louisiana Counseling Association for the honor of making me its President Elect-Elect in the election held during our recent conference. It will be a tremendous pleasure to serve LCA in this new role, and I take the responsibility awarded to me very seriously.

In the upcoming time leading to my Presidency, I am looking forward to the new duties that come with being the President Elect-Elect and then the President Elect. I am happy to make myself available for any questions or feedback from the membership of LCA to help assure that I am serving LCA to the best of my ability.

When the time comes to assume the Presidency, I intend to make the following the focal points of my time:

- Fully empower all of the Divisions to continue their remarkable work at the grass-roots level. Their work serves two distinct purposes: to educate counseling professionals and the public at-large, and to serve as the living embodiment of the kind of quality professionals that represent our discipline
- Continue our work with the Louisiana Legislature to help them to understand that, in side-by-side analysis of academic and training curricula, LPCs operate on a level playing field with other clinical disciplines

(With Gratitude, continued on page 7)





With Gratitude, continued from page 6

- Assure that the managed care industry continues to recognize LPC as a clinically viable and 'billable' entity
- Engage counseling education programs around the state on what LCA is and the role it plays in assuring the clinical and economic viability of our profession

I thank you again for the honor of being elected, and I look forward to all of the great work we will do together in the upcoming years. 🙏👥



And the Winner Is....
2017 Awards Presented to Outstanding LCA Members and Supporters!

Asha Murphy, Awards Chair

This year I had the happy task of helping to recognize several outstanding LCA Members. But you don't have to take my word for it. You will hear from their nominators:

Distinguished Legislative Service Award: Senator Jean Paul Morrell

Nominated by Dr. Mary Feduccia



Senator JP Morrell sponsored a critically important bill in the 2017 legislature that impacts counselors in Louisiana; this resulted in the successful approval for SB 38 to

(And the Winner Is, continued on page 8)

9 Division Presidents Report

Compiled by Vinetta Frie, Lagniappe Editor

You will hear from some outgoing and some incoming Division Presidents in this section. 7 Division Presidents summarize their terms of office or share their hopes for the future. Look for these divisions at the LCA Fall Conference at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge!

ALGBTIC-LA: Growing, Developing and Collaborating

Brian Knight Ph.D, LPC-s, NCC



ALGBTIC-Louisiana held its first Board Meeting as well as its Meet and Greet at the 2017 conference. The Division is happy to report a fully functional Board and one eager to move forward in the new-year. To begin, membership dues will increase from five dollars to ten dollars to bring us in line with other Conference Divisions. This increase will enable the Division to advance its Mission in the coming months. Other agenda items for the new-year are: forming collaborative relationships with other LCA Divisions and other LGTBIQ organizations/allies Statewide, increasing visibility, increasing professional and regular membership, development of a quarterly newsletter, development of a graduate student scholarship to promote future participation within the Conference, and for our Division to have more of a presence at the State Conferences.

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LAMFC Update

*Donnie Underwood, Ed.S., LPC,
LMFT, President*

At the LCA conference we elected Tralana Eugene as the president elect of LAMFC. Tralana has worked in the social service field for 7 years. She worked as a Case Manager for five years while simultaneously receiving a Masters in Counseling with a dual concentration in Marriage and Family & School Counseling at Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans, LA. She is currently enrolled at the University of Holy Cross pursuing a doctoral degree in Counseling Education. She currently works as a Site Coordinator at Communities In Schools, a non-profit organization. She is currently working on her dissertation to explore effective school counseling programs within the charter network in New Orleans.

Also, during the executive board meeting Dr. Brian Canfield presented the topic of "Ethical Considerations when working with couples." Finally, next years IAMFC World conference will be in New Orleans on February 1-3.



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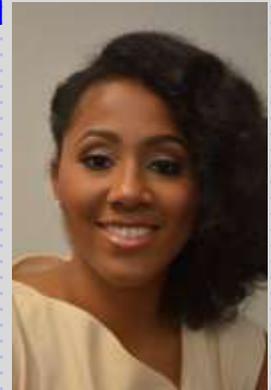
become law. He worked tirelessly for us and he is a stellar example of a legislator who is capable, efficient, and an excellent friend of counselors in Louisiana.

Distinguished Professional Service Award:

Dr. Ariel Mitchell

Nominated by Tallace Medina

As a woman of color in the academy, she serves as an inspiration for so many others that are seeking to reach her level of achievement. She maintains a counseling and training practice (Cognitive Solutions, LLC), a full time teaching load (Xavier University), scholarship, volunteer activities, and her familial responsibilities with no signs of slowing down.



Graduate Student Award & \$200 grant:

Sean Brite

Nominated by Stephanie Robinson

Sean is a dedicated counseling student at Loyola University and an advocate for his clients and for the counseling profession as a whole. He is president of Loyola's Chi Sigma Iota chapter, and has organized numerous community engagement events that has raised both awareness and money for mental health.

Additionally, Sean has presented original and collaborative research at the Loyola Graduate Research Symposium, LCA Conference, Law and Ethics Conference Louisiana Play Therapy Conference, and the AMHCA Conference.

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A Perfect Opportunity

Dr. Thomas Fonseca, LASERVIC President

Well, the 2017 LCA Conference has come and gone. This year's conference provided the perfect opportunity for counselors to catch up with one another. So I want to get everyone caught up on some of the great things that occurred at the LASERVIC gatherings.

We started the week off with a most enjoyable prayer service. I would like to thank Dr. David Spruill for helping out with the service. All 47 people in attendance seemed to enjoy the fellowship as their lights shined. The 2017-18 Executive Board met later that Monday evening to handle all business matters. Remembering in prayer, and charity, those who experienced the disasters in Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico, the Executive Board unanimously voted to offer financial assistance to Catholic Charities USA so they can focus on the more immediate needs of the people - like water, food, and shelter. I am proud of LASERVIC for pitching-in at a time when so many are in need. And then at Tuesday's luncheon, Mrs. Vinetta Frie, President-Elect of LCA, spoke to everyone present on the importance of being a successful mentor. Mrs. Frie is a living example of a mentor in action.

Please make it a point to indicate LASERVIC as your primary division when you renew your LCA membership. I invite you to join us, grow with us, and share your faith. I pray that we continue to inspire one another as a source of strength as we strive to make our profession the best that it can be.



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And The Winner Is ... continued from page 8

Professional Development Award: Dr. Gloria Bockrath

Nominated by Lucy Rogers and Diane Marabella



Gloria has been described as "a force in the counseling field in Louisiana." We would not be where we are today if it weren't for her vision for counselors to be recognized as working professionals in the field of mental health. Gloria Bockrath, PhD, LPC, LMFT is the lighthouse for us as counselors. She has been president of LCA and on the Board of Directors and President of the Board and she has the 1st LPC license ever granted in Louisiana.

Humane and Caring Person Award:

Dr. Latifey LaFleur

Nominated by Zack Hebert



Dr. LaFleur has tirelessly worked as an educator, supervisor, and practitioner to aid graduate students and PLPCs in their endeavors, be it research, getting started in the field, or advocating for change. She offers compassionate, development-focused guidance to those around her, often placing their needs above her own wants, all while setting an exceptional standard for what a counselor educator, supervisor, and practitioner should be. Dr. LaFleur regularly offers new PLPCs a place at her practice at a cost well below market rate in order to help them to get a foothold and has worked in the past with

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LCCA Update!

By Joyce Fields, LCCA President Elect

Our annual LCA Conference always provides an awesome opportunity to connect, collaborate and learn. As college counselors, we sported our newly minted LCCA pins and we represented our individual colleges by wearing our school colors on Monday. We also gathered at our LCCA sponsored luncheon which included a terrific presentation (*Getting Our Students Back in the Flow: Using EQ, Brain-Spotting and Expressive Arts*) by our colleagues from Southeastern Louisiana University: Dr. Peter Emerson, Emily Moise and Paige Moody. We held our annual LCCA meeting where we introduced our Executive Board and reviewed our recent activities. We also recognized and thanked Robert Burt for his 26 plus years of service as Treasurer of LCCA! We truly appreciate his commitment and service to LCCA. We currently have a call out for President Elect-Elect (who will serve as LCCA President July 2018-19). We would love to have you step up to involvement and leadership. If you did not join LCCA when you renewed your annual LCA membership, you can still do so!



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CAC, among many other things.

**Research Award & \$500 grant:
Dr. Jennifer Curry**

Nominated by: Imre Emeric Csaszar



Dr. Curry has contributed to nearly \$70 million in grant proposals during her 10 years at LSU. She has over 40 peer reviewed publications and she is currently embarking on a project that is the first of its kind in the United States, primarily written for Career and Technical Education programs in high schools. She created a research consortium for counseling graduate students at LSU, creating a pipeline from the Master's program to Doctoral programs for interested students. Her willingness to mentor in the area of scholarship is a significant indication that research, for her, is more than part of her work, it is part of her legacy to the profession of counseling.

**Advocacy Award:
Dr. Mary Feduccia**

Nominated by Eric Odom



Dr. Feduccia has served the LCA community in so many capacities, advocating for our members in countless ways: as mentor, teacher, colleague and servant leader, al-

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ways advocating for professionalism within our profession. She is a change agent who has been tireless in her efforts as Government Relations Chair, but long before her official role in this committee, she was always there to support these efforts and rally others to participate in advocating for our profession.

Each LCA President recognizes outstanding members they met during their term. The following members were honored by our current LCA President. Dr. Christine Ebrahim.



Presidential Award
Ida Ansell

Ida has been working very hard with Michelle Robicheaux (last years' Presidential Award winner) to ensure that the Graduate Student Committee was successful in becoming the Louisiana Association of Counselor Graduate Students (LACGS). In less than 3 months, Ida worked on creating the LACGS by-laws, a Policies and Procedures manual and a signed petition of LCA members who supported the request for the committee to become an affiliate (and eventually a division).



Presidential Award
Ashley Lopez

A big "Thank You" to Ashley for helping create the conference logo and the t-shirt. Her creativity was really valuable and she didn't stop brainstorming with me until we had just the right "look". She has also been an inspiration to me in the way that she has mentored other students in

(And the Winner Is, continued on page 12)

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LCDA: Busy, Busy, Busy!

Lisa Hibner, LCDA President



Fall has been a busy time for LCDA! LCDA sponsored an information table for the LCA Conference along with a presentation on conducting a successful job search for our new professionals. This session, Jump Start Your Job Search was presented by Lisa Hibner, current LCDA President and Kerri Spears, past President of LCDA, and provided participants with resources and up to date information on resumes, interviewing, and job search techniques.

In addition, the LCDA member meeting was held during the conference, and 35 individuals attended. LCDA introduced Mary Boudreaux as the President Elect and Erin Rode-Fiorella, as a new Member at Large, and Sharon Walker, returning as Secretary. The planning for the 2018 Career Connections Conference is underway and is scheduled for January 26, 2018. Members were encouraged to review the LCDA By-Laws as they will be updated and submitted to LCA, and announcements were made about upcoming LCDA Board open positions. Ron Cathey, Director of LA Tech's Career Services and NCDCA Co-Chair of the November National Career Development Poetry and Poster Contest also shared updates on this event.

Longtime LCDA members, Lisa Launey, Director with ITI and Mary Feduccia of Careerworks360,

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her counseling program.



Best in Show Award
Stephanie Choy for her session at 2016 Conference, *When I Grow Up*.

Poster Session Awards



1st place: Erica Herring and Jennifer Hiatt



2nd place: Sarah DeMarais



3rd place Emily Prevost 👤 ≤

discussed current trends in career development. Last, on October 13, Baton Rouge Community College hosted a training day for high school counselors, and Lisa Hibner was able to provide over 40 counselors with information on LCDA and NCDA membership and the upcoming NCDA Poster and Poetry contest. For more information on this annual event sponsored by NCDA, please visit <https://www.ncda.org/aws/NCDA/pt/sp/ncdmonth> or contact Ron Cathey at (318) 257-2488. You can also reach us at our email address: <http://www.louisianacareerdevelopment.org/>



**Steady Progress
Seen In
Louisiana**

**Louis Lowrey, M. A., LPC,
President Louisiana Counselors for Social Justice**



Thanks to all of you who demonstrated interest in social justice concerns during the LCA Conference which just concluded. And a special thanks to the stalwart folks who attended the eight a. m. presentation on Social and Restorative Justice on the last day of Conference. I began by asking the attendees to identify their passions on this field, because that usually is a motivator to get each of us involved in some way to make

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a difference in our practice, our neighborhood, our State and our Nation. I was impressed by the persons working in the school system who were interested in bringing these ideas into our schools.

A recent SHREVEPORT TIMES newspaper contains a good article on the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Act, set to take effect on November 1. It has the potential to save the corrections system \$262 million over the next decade and to reduce the Louisiana prison population by ten percent. That money is to be invested in rehabilitation and return programs to prepare released inmates to return to suitable life in the free world. The set of ten bills in the package even obtained the support of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, business and faith group leaders, and others, although some law enforcement professionals opposed it.

Each of us is different--some are quiet and methodical, some are more activist in our society. Each approach is worthwhile--thank you for all that you are doing, and please do what you can both within your counseling practice and in the community around you to advocate for social and restorative justice. It is working! And please encourage your colleagues to join our growing Division and also to support LCA. Louis Lowrey, LPC-S, President, Louisiana Counselors for Social Justice.



Get In Step With LMHCA!

N. T. Sparks, M.A., NCC, LPC, LMFT, LMHCA President

LMHCA has had an active fall. I would like to take a little of your time to highlight three key events and request regional representative nominations.

Article concludes in next column

The LMHCA Executive Board Meeting was held on Sunday, October 1, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. The LMHCA Strategic Planning and Bylaws documents will be revisited and possibly revised.

Legislation Alert from the Government Relations Committee: There is an impending Legislation (Title 28) that would allow PLPC's to be hired in the school settings just as LMSWs. Review: Title 28, Part CXXXI. Bulletin 746 – Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel.

LMHCA Luncheon

The LMHCA Luncheon was held on Monday, October 2, 2017 and it was a huge success. The Keynote Speaker, Dr. Lori Taunton, covered, "Treating PTST/Trauma in Adolescents" and offered unique treatment approaches to reaching the adolescent male. Our luncheon guests enjoyed the raffle of treatment-theme gift-baskets. There were six winners. Each winner was encouraged to take a photo using the items in their respective practices to share via social media.

We also honored each of the former Presidents and paid a special recognition to Dr. Gloria Bockrath for being the visionary to begin the Division and blazing the trails. We salute our Leadership!!

We encourage each member across the state to commit to participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer's Campaign. LMHCA has aligned with ALZ in an effort to raise awareness and raise funds. We will participate in walks across the state. You can find additional information at: Alzheimer's Association | Alzheimer's Association . **To find a walk near you, visit: act.alz.org, search Team "LMHCA."**

We will also have a complete list of walks posted on our Facebook page. *Note: There are several walks available/Teams based on your zip code.* Please promote and share within your own networks. *Use the hashtags (#) #EndALZ #Walk2End2017 #LMHCA*

Nominations – Regional Representatives

We had so much content that we did not have enough time to complete the nominations. Several
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persons have expressed an interest in having an active role in the association. We are currently in need of Regional Representatives in the following areas: Northwest Louisiana, Northeast Louisiana, Southwest, Bayou, Central.

As always, I would love to hear from you — email me @ LMHCA1@yahoo.com. LMHCA would not exist without your continued support.



LSCA: Up, Up, and Away!

Royce Hooks, Sr., LSCA President

Another LCA Conference in the record books and I would just like to give a huge thank you to everyone on the LSCA Executive board for making this Fall Conference a memorable occasion. Our Annual Luncheon was made memorable by the 171 members in attendance. Special thanks to ASVAB’s representatives, Mr. Colin Henry and Sgt. Sanders for supporting the LSCA luncheon and Ms. Juterh Nmah from LOSFA for providing an update on FAFSA. I could not fail to mention Dr. June Williams who shared very useful insights on Trauma as our keynote speaker. Everyone seemed to enjoy the special luncheon door prizes and the table centerpieces, the “Counselor Tool Boxes” filled with symbolic props for our work – all of which inspired and organized by Ms. Denise Latour, LSCA President Elect.

The danger in naming names is that in LSCA, it is hard to stop!! I am blessed as your President to be surrounded by so many who give so unselfishly of their time. I must thank Ms. Veronica Douglas for making sure the program very well represented

Article continues in next column

our luncheon. Dr. Sundy Barjon, LSCA Secretary and LSCA Treasurer, Jill Lockhart, thank you both for helping out at the door and for collecting tickets. Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler and Dr. Deona Austin, thank you for again managing and presenting awards for Counselors of the Year, Supervisor and Advocate of the Year, and all the nominees as well. Another special thank you to Dr. Reshelle Marino for being a great supporter. And last, but certainly not least, I want to thank all the personnel who helped staff our LSCA table, for selling our T-shirts and sweatshirts — everyone mentioned before plus Tristen Bergholtz, Brenda Eccles, Tanya Hebert, Vinetta Frie, Sharon Jackson, Reshelle Marino, Catherine Redden, Cathy Smith, Tara Washington, all took multiple turns staffing our table. One last thank you to Mrs. Tara Washington, for making multiple donations of the candy that brought so many to our table!! This Fall Conference was a great opportunity for all 1,230 professionals in attendance -- another new attendance record!

While I am happy to show gratitude for the good work that we do I can’t help but also think of the part of our work which is still unfinished. We as Professional School Counselors have the unfinished business to show the world that our profession should not be taken lightly or in vain. So, keep up the good work, keep striving for higher heights until next year, and have a great school year! See you next year same time same place. Until then, have a blessed one, everybody.

(9 Division Presidents Report, continued on page 15)

Candid shot of a content session. Photo by Jenny Petty.





Greetings from PLCA!

*Portia Gordon, LPC, RPT, PLCA
President, 2016-2018*

Greetings from PLCA. Thank you to all of those who participated in the Brown Bag Luncheon and to the Supervisor Match Up during the 2017 LCA Conference. For those who weren't able to attend, we would like to introduce the 2018-2019 PLCA Board:

- Audra Tousaint- President 2018-2019
- Cosha Hayes- President elect 2018-2019
- KC Flaker- New Orleans Regional Representative 2017-2019
- PA Fuller- Alexandria Regional Representative 2017-2019
- Andrea Sanders- Baton Rouge Regional Representative 2017-2019

This coming year, we will be transitioning the board and trying to engage more members on a more consistent basis. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for events that you would like to see in your region, please email the board at plcalouisiana@gmail.com.



Honoring Dr. Gloria Bockrath, bracketed by
Dr. Christine Ebrahim and Vinetta Frie.
Photo by Jenny Petty.



Mini Minutes of the Louisiana Counseling Association Executive Board Meeting

*By: Vickie S. Thompson, LPC, LCA
Board Secretary*

Your LCA Executive Board met at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge, LA on September 30, 2017 prior to the start of the Annual Fall Conference. Dr. Christine Ebrahim, President, called the meeting to order. This is an abbreviated version of the business conducted at the meeting and summarized at the general meeting for the membership at the closing session of our conference.

- In the interim report of the LCA conference, Mr. Austin White notes that LCA now has over 2000 members.
- Ms. Diane Austin, LCA Executive Director, recommended that we do not raise our dues this year. Registration fees have not gone up in three years. The Board passed a motion to leave dues unchanged for 2017-2018.
- Ms. Leah Rosa, Strategic Planning Committee Chair reported that our current strategic plan, is being edited to remove completed items to offer recommendation on how to prioritize the remaining needs.
- Dr. Ebrahim explained the current two vacancies on the LPC Board Appointment. After discussion, the Board agreed on six names to recommend to Governor Edwards. Three persons each will be recommended for consideration

(Mini-minutes continued on page 16)

*Mentoring: Enriching &
Empowering Relationships*

*Mentoring: Enriching &
Empowering Relationships*

Mini Minutes, continued from page 14

to fill the Counselor Educator and the LPC At-Large positions.

- Dr. Ebrahim also presented information about the LCA Leadership and Mentoring Institute which will start with a one day seminar on February 23rd Loyola University in New Orleans. Mentees and Mentors will work together for a year. Thereafter, the seminar will be during next annual LCA conference.
- Adrienne Trogden, LCA President Elect-Elect and Public Relations Chair, presented the job description of the Digital Media Specialist as part of the Public Relations Committee. It will be a salaried, part-time position. The job will handle various online marketing tools, like websites, podcasts, social media, blogs, and conference app. The Board accepted Ms. Trogden's report and accepted Mr. Zach Hebert for the Digital Media Specialist position.
- Mrs. Vinetta Frie, LCA President Elect, presented the 2017-18 proposed budget. The payroll tax needs to increase \$600 because of the hiring of the Digital Media Specialist position. The motion to accept the budget with the changes was made and approved.
- Ms. Michelle Robichaux, co-representative of Graduate Students introduced a request for Affiliate status for the Louisiana Association of Counselor Graduate Students, LACGS. Ms. Robichaux presented the required copy of the LACGS By-laws of LACGS and a list of 35 names of graduate students who want to be members of this LCA Affiliate. A motion was made and passed. LACGS has three years to achieve

Article continues in next column



the prerequisites to become the newest LCA Division.

- Dr. Mary Feduccia, Government Relations Chair, recommended a series of small raises over a three year period. The Board accepted Dr. Feduccia's recommendation. advocated for a raise for David Tatman, LCA's Legislative Representative.
- Dr. Feduccia also noted that LCA was successful in removing the mandate for LPC's to consult with a medical practitioner when treating a client with one of the twelve serious mental illnesses. SB38 is now officially law through Act 33 of the LA Legislature. She also shared that Ms. Mary Alice Olson, Executive Director of the LPC Board, has resigned to accept a position with NBCC.
- Dr. Feduccia announced that the Government Relations Committee was to meet with the LSCA leadership and the LCA Lobbyist. LSCA leadership has expressed concerns that the BESE Board and the Department of Education did not include the PLPC's as individuals to be hired for the MHP positions.





Responding to Recent Tragedies: With Gratitude for Mental Health Clinicians

Nikolya Sparks, LMHCA President

Clinicians have long taken pride in being vital members of the many local communities we serve, and we share in the experiences of those communities. The unprecedented violence and tragic loss of life in Las Vegas left all of us shaken and heart-broken. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the victims and their families in the Las Vegas community.

As we have seen with the recent hurricanes and flooding in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, Mississippi, and our very own state, we can always be

counted on to support our communities, especially in times of great need. We help to restore hope, compassion, and ignite energy in the lives of many who have been broken.

We may never be able to make sense of the tragedy that occurred in Las Vegas. Nor will we prevent natural disasters. Perhaps instead, we should focus on the heroism, strength of communities rallying to help communities in need, and the resilience of the human spirit. It also reminds us of the important role of the Mental Health Clinician plays in supporting the health and wellbeing of those we serve, and how we can make a difference for our clients when they are in great need.

Thank you for your compassion and dedication to serving our communities and our state during these difficult times. 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻 ➡

Article continues in the next column



Remembering the Opening Session at the Fall Conference ...

Opening Session Dais from l-r: Dr. Kevin Fall and Vinetta Frie, Dr. Christine Ebrahim at the podium, and Adrienne Trogden. Photo by Jenny Petty.



Special group photo of several award winners (from l – r) Vinetta Frie, LCA President Elect, Dr. Laftey LaFleur, Ida Ansley, Sean Brite, Ashley Lopez, and Dr. Christine Ebrahim, LCA President. Photo by Jenny Petty.



2017 Conference Sponsors

Diane Austin, LCA Executive Director

On behalf of LCA I extend a heart-felt "THANK YOU" to each of following sponsors and exhibitors at our 2017 Annual Fall Conference. This year we were honored to have one Silver Sponsor and three Bronze Sponsors. Please review their summaries and the entire list of this year's exhibitors on the next page.



SILVER SPONSOR:

Physicians Behavioral Hospital is a 24-bed behavioral health unit that offers both psychiatric and chemical dependency treatment in addition to extensive outpa-

tient services through our partial hospitalization program and intensive outpatient program. As a pillar of our community treating psychiatric concerns since 2008, we have successfully treated and transitioned over 1500 patients back into the community. a commitment to excellence in diagnosis, treatment and education- these concepts are at the core of physician's behavioral hospital's mission. offering the most advanced behavioral health treatments for individuals ages 18 and older, physicians is a place where lives are turned around and hope is restored. Individuals and families are placed on a path to healing, enabling patients to lead more productive, fulfilling lives.

Article continues in next column



BRONZE SPONSOR:



AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana is part of the AmeriHealth Caritas family of companies, a national leader in managed care. The name Caritas stands for care. That's because care is the heart of our work. Our name shows our commitment to our #1 priority: the health of you and your family. AmeriHealth is an expert in providing quality health care to people covered by publicly funded programs. These programs include Medicaid, Medicare, and Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP). AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana helps members get the care they need when they need it. We do this with: a coordinated approach to health care, leading-edge technology solutions and innovative community programs. Our goal is to improve health outcomes for our members and build healthy communities across Louisiana.

BRONZE SPONSOR:



HPSO Insurance takes care of counselors as they take care of their clients. HPSO offers a simple, affordable solution to help safeguard the professional's assets, license, and career.

BRONZE SPONSOR:



Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center Palmetto is a residential treatment center for males and females located in Rayville, Louisiana. Palmetto provides treatment for drugs and alcohol and co-occurring disorders. Palmetto is privately owned and operated and is in the network with many insurance companies.



With Thankfulness for our Conference

Louisiana Lagniappe

Exhibitors *Submitted by Diane Austin, Executive Director*

In this season of thanksgiving, we acknowledge our conference exhibitors who made our conference more beneficial. When you use their products and services, be sure

Addiction Recovery Resources

**Acadia Healthcare:
Children's Behavioral Solutions**

Acadiana Addiction Center

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana

ACER

**Ask Lela FAFSA Completion &
College Planning**

**ASVAB Career Exploration
Program**

Center for Children and Families

**Children's Hospital Behavioral
Health**

G.Bert Allain: Coping Skills

**Hallway Heroes: Chicken Soup
for the Soul**

ITI Technical College

**Louisiana Healthcare
Connections**

**Louisiana Health Information
Management Association**

Louisiana LPC PAC Silent Auction

MARCO Products

Molly Frank Foundation

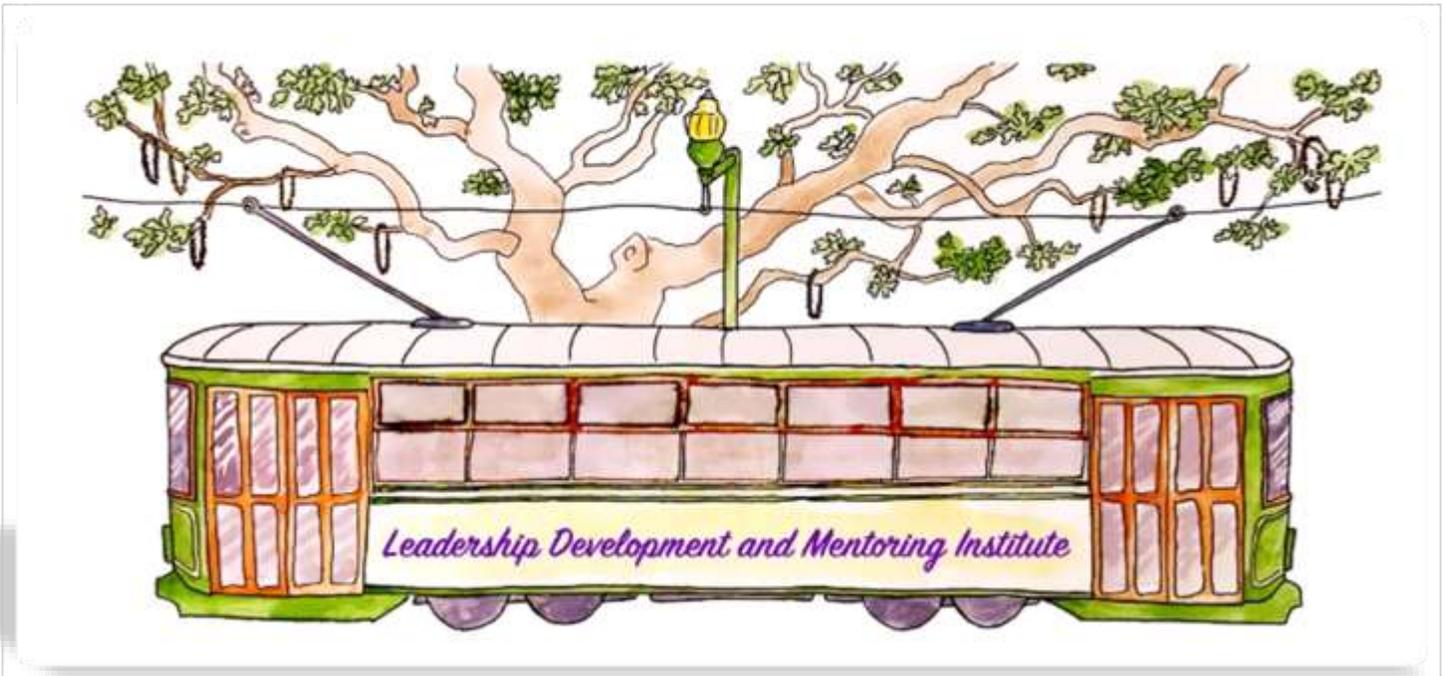
**Palmetto Addiction Recovery
Center**

Physicians Behavioral Hospital

**The Grove Counseling and
Wellness Center**

Twelve Oaks

Youthlights, Inc.



Artwork by Claire Kohne, Graduate Assistant in Loyola's Counseling Program in New Orleans, La.

New LCA Initiative starting...

Inaugural Leadership Development and Mentoring Institute Announced

By Dr. Christine Ebrahim, LCA President and Dr. Catherine Roland, LDMI Coordinator and Immediate Past President of the American Counseling Association.

On behalf of the Louisiana Counseling Association, we are excited to introduce and start the Inaugural Leadership Development and Mentoring Institute, LDMI. LDMI is designed to connect graduate counseling students, new/early counseling professionals, and Counselor Educators to state and national mentors over the course of a year, or beyond. The purpose of this connection is intentional collaboration on a professional development project.

The Institute will begin in New Orleans on February 23, 2018, at Loyola University. After months of collaborative mentoring it will conclude at the 2018 LCA Fall Conference. At that time the chosen mentees will participate in poster presentations outlining each mentee's professional development project.

LDMI is designed to benefit both mentors and mentees as it creates an opportunity for mentorship, collaboration, and networking on various leadership levels. Dr. Ebrahim and Dr. Roland are working hard to gather the very best mentors in our profession and create the most meaningful experiences. Watch the [*Louisiana Lagniappe*](#) and our website for more details as soon as they are available.

What?

Leadership Development and Mentoring Institute

When?

February 23, 2018

Where?

*Loyola University
New Orleans, LA*

2017— 2018 LCA Leadership Roster

LCA Elected or Appointed Officers and Contract Workers

Dr. Christine Ebrahim, <i>President</i> cebrahim@loyno.edu	Vinetta Frie, <i>President Elect & Finance Chair</i> frienews@yahoo.com	<i>Stephanie Robinson,</i> <i>Parliamentarian</i> stephanierbnsn@yahoo.com	Diane Austin, <i>Executive Director</i> lca_austin@bellsouth.net
Adrienne Trogden <i>President Elect-Elect & Membership Chair</i> atrog2@uno.edu	<i>Dr. Iman Nawash</i> <i>Past President & Nominations Chair</i> iman97@aol.com	<i>Vickie Thompson,</i> <i>Secretary</i> vsthompson@suddenlink.net	Austin White, <i>Business Manager</i> austin@northdelta-management.com

LCA Division Presidents

ALGBTIC-LA Brian Knight, Assoc. of Lesbian, Gay, & Transgender Issues in Counseling of LA bknight225@gmail.com	LAAOC Brooke Keels, LA Assoc. of Addiction and Offender Counselors bkeels@pecahaven.com	LACES Dr. Krystal Vaughn, LA Assoc. of Counselor Educators and Supervisors krysvaughn@gmail.com	LAMCD Joell Nixon, LA Assoc. for Multicultural Counseling and Development joellenx@aol.com
LAMFC Donnie Underwood, LA Association of Marriage and Family Counselors monroe109@bellsouth.com	LASERVIC Dr. Thomas Fonseca, LA Assoc. for Spiritual, Religious & Ethical Values in Counseling tfonseca@uhcno.edu	LCCA Joyce Fields, LA College Counseling Association jwakef@lsu.edu	LCDA Lisa Hibner, LA Career Development Association hibnerl@bellsouth.net
LCSJ Louis Lowrey, LA Counselors for Social Justice lowrey@cp-tel.net	LMHCA Nikolya Sparks, LA Mental Health Counselors Association nikolyas@aol.com	LSCA Royce Hooks, Sr., LA School Counselor Association royce_hooks@yahoo.com	PLCA Portia Gordon, Provisional Licensed Counselor Association PLCALouisiana@gmail.com

Appointed Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

Archives Jenny Petty, jpetty0926@aol.com	Awards Asha Vyas Murphy ashamvyas@gmail.com	By-Laws Eric Odom, ericodom1@hotmail.com	Conference On-Site Chair Vinetta Frie, frienews@yahoo.com
ADA Compliance Joan Gallagher jgallag@lsu.edu & Kimberly Lachney kimbutterfly49@gmail.com	Government Relations Dr. Mary Feduccia, mary@careerworks360.com	LPC Board Liaison Mary Alice Olsan, lpboard@eatel.net	Mentoring Task Force Dr. Catherine Roland nj_buff@yahoo.com
	LCA Journal Dr. Peter Emerson, Co-Editor pemerson@selu.edu	LCA Newsletter Vinetta Frie, Editor frienews@yahoo.com	PLPC Manual Zach Hebert zjh9901@yahoo.com
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L to R: Austin White, Business Manager; Diane Austin, Executive Director; Inset: Vickie Thompson, Secretary.

LCA Member Services: 1-888-522-6362

LCA Website: www.lacounseling.org



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With Heartfelt Thoughts and Prayers

 Louise Leger, LPC died September 27. She was an excellent counselor and always attended LCA conference and had plans to attend this year as well. She had lots of friends associated with LCA. Thank you for letting me share this message about her death. She would appreciate that. Submitted by Gene Terracina, LPC

 Please remember the passing of longtime LCA member, Tammie Slawson. No other details were provided.

 Please remember Lynn Browning, a very active member of LCDA who recently suffered a massive bilateral stroke. Submitted by Dr. Karen Goodridge

We need your help to acknowledge the serious illness, grief, or recent death of any LCA member. Please share the information with either Vinetta Frie, frieneews@yahoo.com or Diane Austin lca_austin@bellsouth.net. Thank you, in advance.

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 2,000+ members and 12 Divisions and serves as an inclusive umbrella. LCA unites professional counselors from diverse work settings into a single statewide organization. LCA works to promote advocacy, collaboration, and networking amongst its membership for the good of Louisiana.

NEWSLETTER CORRECTION

Please contact Vinetta Frie, Editor via frieneews@yahoo.com. Please use **Lagniappe Error** in the subject line.

LAGNIAPPE TEAM

Your newsletter is the result of the following team: Vinetta Frie, Editor; Diane Austin, Contributing Editor; Vicki Guilbeau, proofreader; Jenny Petty, photographer and Archives Chair.

SUBMISSIONS

Send all submissions to newsletter editor, Vinetta Frie via her e-mail address: frieneews@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 file is preferred. Submission of hard copy photos or on disk or flash drives become the property of the newsletter and will not be returned.

NEWSLETTER 2017-2018

NEXT SUBMISSION

DEADLINE:

February 3, 2018