



MAINE COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

A State Branch of the American Counseling Association

Annual Business Meeting Minutes April 4 & 5, 2016

The mission of the American Counseling Association is to enhance the quality of life in society by promoting the development of professional counselors, advancing the counseling profession, and using the profession and practice of counseling to promote respect for human dignity and diversity.

Please note: The business meeting is divided into two days. The order of the meeting is at the discretion of the president

MONDAY, APRIL 4

- **Call to Order**- Meeting started at 11:02am
- **Review of agenda and adjustments**
- **Review & approval of 2015 Annual Meeting minutes** Tracy First- Andrea Second, All in favor
- **Recognition of special guests**- Again would like to thank our Keynote Speaker
- **Recognition of Sponsors, recognition of Samoset**- Thank to to everyone who has helped in making this another great year. We could not do it without you.
- **President's Message**-
- **Elections for President-Elect / other positions as needed**- Nick Umphrey elected- All in Favor
- **Presentation of Awards**-Marty Gallant- Martin Gallant Professional Counselor Award, recipient was Bette Ann Buchan and the John Parkman- Maine Counseling Association Parkman Award- Bernadette Willette.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

- **Committee Reports**
 - **Treasurer**, Andrea Hallett- see attached report We are doing well. Some extra expenses this year but we are still ahead.



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- **Membership**, Beth Doane- We continue to do well and have had an increase in numbers over the year.
- **Public Policy**, Ben Milster- see attached report-Continue to have many bills in front of Legislature. Many carried over from the first session.
- **Public Relations / Newsletter**, Jill Cairns- We continue sending out the newsletter. Submissions for articles is slow. Please make sure to visit the website for the dates for submission.
- **Public Relations / Website**, Amanda Card- Will be stepping down and Dean Collins will be taking over. It has been a good year and we are still working on the issues with the website but it certainly helped streamline registrations as well as membership dues. Thank you for letting me be part of this experience
- **Professional Standards and Ethics**, Deb Drew- Continue to encourage using the Ethics committee for any issues. It has been slow but we have had some activity this year. Please let your colleagues know that we are available to them. We also continue to work on NBCC credit for our workshops. There needs to be an application completed.
- **Historian**, Kevin O'Reilly- Retirees: Mike Ellis, Sandy Robinson, Bette Ann Buchan, Colleen Fitzgerald, Kathleen Tremblay. Colleagues who have passed: Donna Godfrey, Edward Ranaghan, Timothy Adams, Vaughn Steadman, Nathaniel Crowley, Sr., Dr. Robert Southworth,
- **ACA/NAR/NARACES**,_John Yasenchak-Branch awards were announced. CT got the best leadership development. PA best innovative practice award. Some of the projects submitted this year were outstanding. MeCA got these awards two years in a row. New Governing council rep. Terri Mitchell will be leaving that position. ACA leadership July 22-. Jon sent in a registration but unsure he will be able to attend. Policy part is a huge part to it. ACA in Nashville April 5-9. Medicare bill is moving forward. Slowly having more people signing on to NBCC. Two Senators have signed on to it. Poliquin has not signed on yet. Still unsure what their stance will be. Good relationship building helped us to bring this forward to the two Senators. Branch having issues in regards to leadership and board issues in which ACA has stepped in. ACA bylaw requirement is that 50 members



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also be ACA members. To be legal branch 50 members needs to be ACA members. Jon is leaving the chair position and there is an empty seat for chair elect for NAR. 3-year commitment. Responsible to attend the conference and provide organization and direction to the NAR. This branch can nominate someone. President elect July 1. No nominations at the present time.

- Regional Reports
- **Northern Maine**, Erin Benson- Had a good year. Continue to meet in Sept, Nov, Jan, and in April. Hosted Career Day and Administrative Assistant Day with Husson. Membership continues to be steady. Still looking to increase our mental health, LCPC population.
- **Downeast**, Cara Cirrilo-no report
- **Eastern**, Rena Lolar- Another good year, less meeting and workshops as last year due to schedules. Facebook group to post workshops and other upcoming events.
- **Central**, Lisa Ellrich -no report
- **Southern**, Open Position- no report
- **Graduate Student Representatives**, Jack Flanagan, Shannon Charrette-nothing to report
- **Admissions**, Carlena Bean- Nothing to report- Carlena stepping down at the end of this year. This position will be open. Thanks everyone. Erin Benson will be Admissions contact person.
- **Maine School Counselor Association (MeSCA)**, Tara Kierstead- nothing to report
- **Maine Career Development Association (MCDA)**, James Westhoff-We have a lot going on. Upcoming workshop April 29 USM with Sabrina Woods- 2 separate workshops on that day. 1 workshop for innovation for counselors and 1 workshop for holistic methods in your counseling. June 10 annual conference Lessons from Human Resources- bring HR and ask what we need to know to help our clients in the job search process. Giovani Twigge Senior VP of IDEXX. Career cafes in four regions- free professional development. 7-15 people attend. First every statewide career café with watching a pre



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recorded webinar with 4 times with activities during the webinar. 40 people around the state were involved. Maine-CDA.org pass through from MeCA to this website. We can highlight these workshops on our website and send out an email blast. Maine CDA will help us in return. Facebook and LinkedIn for MCDA

- **Maine Association for Specialists in Group Work (MASGW)**, Joel Lavenson- Headway with VA with a program in Lewiston training regarding ethical roles for groups. Presenting at conference this year. More interest in group training in Belgrade and offering it to other therapist/clinicians.
- **Maine Mental Health Counselors Association (MeMCHA)**, Marylena Chaisson/Lois LeBlanc- no report
- New Business
 - Conference Evaluations Reminder, MECA Dates for 2017 April 10-11
 - Summer Leadership reminder – Mon. 7/18/16 - Wed. 7/20/16 at MMA
 - Introduction of incoming MeCA President- Tracy Corbin
 - Door prizes – MeCA conference registration for 2016 & Samoset gift package
 - Adjournment--thanks for joining us this year and for your continued work and commitment!