



*Presidential View*

**Reflections on 2010-11 Professional School Counselors' Year**

*By Brenda Eccles, LSCA President 2010-2011*

*"Never walk away from someone who deserves help: your hand is God's hand for that person".  
Proverbs 3:28*



As Professional School Counselors, we certainly live up to those inspiring words. That's the core of our foundation – extending our hand to help others. I am so proud of who we are and the work we do. It's amazing how we find strength and encouragement to give to others.

As I look back at this past administration, thank you for making my presidential year a wonderful year!

- We have grown in membership.
- We held an awesome summer workshop in Baton Rouge in June on

*(Presidential View, continued on page 2)*



*A message from Incoming LSCA President ...*  
**Growing Old?**

*By Mike Lefort, LSCA President 2010-2011*

When one hears the term "growing old," connotations of the natural aging process typically ensue: graying hair, aching joints, rocking chair, and passing time. Although my hair is losing its pigment, my joints sometimes ache, and time seems to go by more quickly, to me "growing old" is now bringing a different connotation. For me, it is changing to: "old and growing."

In addition to becoming your president, this year marks my 39th year in education, 32 years of that time as a school counselor. Professional pride and personal humility have brought me to serve as the President of the Louisiana School Counselor Association for the 2011—2012 term. Holding this position, at this point in my life, was unimaginable three years ago as most education professionals are winding down or retiring.

*(Growing Old, continued on page 2)*

*Louisiana School Counselor Association Mission:*

**To support professional school counselors as they assist students and their families in their academic, career, personal/social development.**



## **Former LSCA President Seeks National Office**

*By Wendy Rock,  
Candidate for ASCA  
Secondary Vice President*

For the past 13 ½ years I have worked as a high school counselor in a small school district southwest of New Orleans. Each year I find myself feeling more fulfilled by my chosen vocation. School counselors are critical to student success, seeing the big picture for each child and providing support and guidance, nurturing and care, helping every student reach their potential academically, socially, personally, and in choosing fulfilling vocations of their own.

Passionate about school counseling, I am committed to continuous improvement. My success will contribute to my students' successes as lifelong learners. I have been a member of professional counseling associations including ASCA since 1998. The professional development I have received has been invaluable in helping me improve my skills. I have learned to collect and use data to guide the school counseling program as well as techniques to help me reach, motivate, and encourage each student to achieve his or her potential. Realizing the importance of school counselors as leaders, I began my leadership experience as Department Chair in my school. I became a member of several advisory committees at the District and community level and in 2006 was voted President-Elect of LSCA. During these years of leadership experience I have continued to grow professionally and have come to understand the importance of collaboration and advocacy.

In addition to being effective school counselors and leaders we must encourage and inspire the newest people joining our profession, as they too will be in a position to help each student reach his or her potential. Since 2003 I have had the enriching opportunity to supervise five interns. I hope that my passion for school counseling has inspired them to want to be effective school counselors, school counselor leaders.

*(Former LSCA President Seeks, continued on page 3)*

## *Presidential View, continued from page 1*

“Highly Effective School Counselors: Value Added Practice in Contemporary Louisiana Schools.

- We advocated strongly on the Blue Ribbon Commission for Education Excellence as we identified the role of school counselors and identified changes in counselor certification, preparation, and delivery to drive increases in college and career readiness/attainment among PK-16 students. Several recommendations were presented to BESE for approval.

The Task Force met this summer and completed the first draft for school counselors' curriculum guidance lesson with GLE's alignment with the standards and benchmarks in our LCSCM and ASCA Model.

Without the teamwork, collaboration and networking, we would not have been able to achieve the success we have today. We are in a profession that requires unity and a vision where we are all on one accord. Thank you for making my year as your president memorable; one I will cherish always. ♦

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## *Growing Old, continued from page 3*

Professional growth and development have long been twin priorities in my life. In my opinion, these priorities are critical if we are to provide quality services to students, parents and teachers. In our state, LSCA has always been a primary venue for professional growth opportunities. The events LSCA sponsors at the annual LCA Fall conference are second to none. LSCA Workshops featuring the current trends in school counseling, presented by knowledgeable school counseling professionals, who work here in our state as well as nationally acclaimed guest speakers are perhaps one of our finest contributions to professional development. Equally important are the state advocacy efforts which have made LSCA the voice of school counselors statewide! I am so grateful to you, our faithful members for your affiliation in this outstanding

*(Growing Old, continued on page 3)*

## *Growing Old, continued from page 1*

association! In today's arena of rampant budget cuts and swinging axes, our purpose in education must continue to be communicated loudly and clearly to lawmakers. In addition, the networking opportunities with people who share the passion of school counseling are an added benefit as well.

School counseling in Louisiana is currently at a significant crossroad position. Long gone are the "guidance counselor" days where we were viewed as "overpaid secretaries" and "quasi-administrators" who only reacted to the needs of students if paperwork was not in the way! Today's school counselor is a proactive professional, who addresses student competencies, and provides data driven delivery services to students utilizing the Louisiana School Counselor Model (LASCAM) as a blueprint. Our profession is becoming recognized as a key factor in student achievement ... it's **about time!**

Although we have finally established a professional identity and have a model to follow, by no means can we become complacent ... we must continue to validate our worth. Surely a joint effort, bringing professional school counseling to where it still needs to be cannot be accomplished alone ... we need your continued help and support as we have more journeys to travel. With your involvement, the following goals can be achieved. I need your active participation to:

- Increase membership
- Reach school counselors statewide
- Increase awareness, training and implementation of the *LaSCM*
- Promote the PSC Task Force and Blue Ribbon Committee Recommendations
- Update and maintain the LSCA Website
- Promote Counselor accountability and "Value Added"
- Continued development of our association.

I challenge you to join me and 699 current LSCA members on the path to making LSCA even better that it has been! Consider undertaking a leadership position! Encourage a colleague to join us. Its time for change ... it's time for action! See you in September at LCA ... and, "like" us on Facebook! ♦



## **Ethical Tips for School Counselors**

*Submitted by Walda Gibbs,  
Ethics Chair*

Sometimes we get so caught up with meeting the needs of our clientele that we do not take the time to stop and consider the ethical guidelines of our profession that protect us as well as our students. Additionally, with increased access to technology it has become necessary for our profession to make revisions to its ethical standards. More information will be made available during this year. These revisions as well as suggestions for handling a variety of situations that may occur in a school counseling relationship are available on the ASCA website.

The beginning of a new school year is probably the best time to review these guidelines. The tips below can get you started:

### **Ethical Tips for School Counselors\***

*From the ASCA Website*

1. Act in the best interests of the student clients at all times. Act in good faith and in the absence of malice.
2. Inform student clients of possible limitations on the counseling relationship prior to the

*(Ethical, Tips continued on page 4)*

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### **Former LSCA President Seeks National Office, continued from page 2**

Today I am seeking your support as I pursue the office of secondary level vice president. I promise to represent the interests, needs and concerns of current and future secondary school counselors, to make sure issues are brought to the board, to advocate for the profession and the association, to help identify and encourage future leaders and to continue to support ASCA's vision. I will do this with the passion and love I have for the school counseling profession. It is my vision that the **end** result will be the benefit all students will receive as their school counselor provides them the support they need to reach their potential. ♦

- beginning of the relationship.
3. Increase awareness of personal values, attitudes and beliefs; refer when personal characteristics hinder effectiveness.
  4. Actively attempt to understand the diverse cultural backgrounds of the clients with whom you work, including your own cultural/ethnic/racial identity and its impact on your values and beliefs about the counseling process.
  5. Function within the boundaries of personal competence. Be aware of personal skill levels and limitations.
  6. Be able to fully explain why you do what you do. A theoretical rationale should undergird counseling strategies and interventions.
  7. Encourage family involvement, where possible, when working with minors in sensitive areas that might be controversial.
  8. Follow written job descriptions. Be sure what you are doing is defined as an appropriate function in your work setting.
  9. Read and adhere to the ethical standards of your profession. Keep copies of the ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors on hand, review them periodically and act accordingly.
  10. Consult with other professionals (colleagues, supervisors, counselor educators, professional association ethics committee, etc.) Have a readily accessible support network of professionals.
  11. Join appropriate professional associations. Read association publications and participate in professional development opportunities.
  12. Stay up-to-date with laws and current court rulings, particularly those pertaining to counseling with minors.
  13. Consult with a knowledgeable attorney, when necessary. In questionable cases, seek legal advice prior to initiating action. ♦

## **LSCA By-Laws Changes for 2011**

*By Wendy Rock, By-Laws Chair*

Every year the LSCA Governing Board reviews the By-Laws of the Association and makes recommendations for necessary revisions, either to improve the wording or to come more in line with our parent organizations the Louisiana Counseling Association (LCA) and the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). According to our By-Laws, any recommended changes must “be amended at any regular business meeting of the Louisiana School Counselor Association by a two thirds vote provided the proposed amendment or amendments are submitted in writing to the membership thirty (30) days prior to the meeting where they will be considered” or “be amended by a unanimous vote at the annual business meeting if no prior notice has been given.”

This article serves the purpose of providing amendments thirty days prior to our annual business meeting. While there is much work to be done on our By-Laws, we want to make changes that are well thought out and have been given the proper time and attention for revision, so rest assured, more will be forthcoming. There are six proposed changes to our current By-Laws, they are outlined below.

The first amendment the Governing Board recommends is to reword Article VI, Section 4b from “LSCA President shall name a proxy for an absent voting member of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE to establish a quorum,” to “LSCA President may approve a proxy designated by the absent voting member of the Governing Board to establish a quorum.” This decision was made to reduce the power held by the President and create checks and balances while still meeting the need for a quorum when Board members are absent.

The second amendment will be to remove Article VI, Section 4c “Voting members of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will lose their right to vote after missing two of the four regular scheduled meetings” to Policies and Procedures. It was felt this was more appropriately addressed In Policies and Procedures.

*(By-Laws Changes, continued on page 5)*

## *By-Laws Changes, continued from page 4*

In Article VII, Section 2j we recommend the removal of the word “Spring” issue of Cajun Counselor and it will simply read “in the Cajun Counselor.” This information does not always get presented in the Spring issue but may occur at another time of year.

The Governing Board recommends the removal of Article VII, Section 3: “Committee members present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Each Committee member shall be notified by the Chairman a minimum of seven (7) days prior to a scheduled meeting.” This recommendation is made on the basis that committees are meeting more regularly via use of technology such as email and telephone. Committee business can be conducted without the need for a quorum.

The removal of Article VIII, Section 3 is recommended for the same reason as above. At the annual business meetings it is assumed that the voting members can conduct business with their vote. Stating that they make a quorum is not necessary.

The final recommendation of the Governing Board is to strike Article XI from the By-Laws: **PARISH OR AREA ASSOCIATIONS**

Section 1. Parish or Area Associations are encouraged by the Association. The aim of the Parish or Area organization would be to further promote the purposes as set forth in these By-laws and to help secure membership for this Association.

Section 2. Parish or Area Associations may be chartered by this Association when they fulfill the following requirements: a) Application made to LSCA President; b) Submit names and addresses of members; c) Provide certification that at least (10) members are members of LSCA; d) Annual re-certification shall be granted upon submission of # a and c above.

While we encourage Parish or Area Associations, only one has been chartered in recent years. Few that are established adhere to Section 2. This has been a difficult task to oversee and police.

As per Article XII, Section 1, a vote will be taken at our regular business meeting in September. To be approved these amendments will require a two thirds vote. Recommendations for future By-Laws revisions are welcomed. Please contact Wendy Rock, By-Laws Chairperson, at [wendy.rock@att.net](mailto:wendy.rock@att.net), if you would like to serve on the By-Laws Committee or have any recommended changes. ♦

## **Welcome New and Returning LSCA Members!**

*By Diane Austin, LCA Executive Director*

Kimberly Billiot  
Ronette Bourque  
Monica Briscoe  
Susan Brocato  
Debbie Burrow  
Tai Cambre  
Tiffany Capps  
Leslie Corbin  
Amy Creel  
Tansha Dangerfield  
Jennifer Deason  
Barbara Droy  
Margaret Foley  
Lane Fryou  
Lacy Guidroz  
Williams Halsell  
Christie Kinchen  
Andrea Kuhn  
Leslie Manadier  
Jennifer Mire  
Melissa Mistrot  
Susan Norwood  
Tiffany Ochieng  
Victoria Penton  
Anne Perrone  
Karen Rothell  
Crystal Ryan  
Wendy-lyn Schlitz  
Kelli Schufft  
Lauren Settoon  
Natalie Thompson  
Natasha Walston  
Bridget Young

## Candidates and Proposals For Your Consideration

By Vinetta Frie, Publications Chair

As I finalize this issue of the newsletter I do not have all the candidate profiles. To be fair to all candidates, bios and platform statements will be placed on our website and at the voting table at the LCA Fall Conference in September.



### Mail In Ballot for LSCA Office

You may cast your vote using a photocopy of this ballot sent to Brenda Eccles, LSCA Past President, 101 Begnaud Drive, Lafayette, LA 70501. by Friday, September 9th. You may vote **either** by mail or in-person at the conference, not both.

#### President Elect-Elect

- Frank Phiney
- \_\_\_\_\_  
(write in candidate)

#### Middle & Junior High Vice President

- Tara Washington
- \_\_\_\_\_  
(write in candidate)

#### Post Secondary Vice President

- Mary Ballard
- Kim Mason
- \_\_\_\_\_  
(write in candidate)

### Proposed By-Laws Changes



The following 6 changes are detailed on page 4. Ratification will require a unanimous vote of the membership. This ballot must be submitted to Brenda Eccles, LSCA Past President, 101 Begnaud Drive, Lafayette, LA 70501. by Friday, September 9th. You may vote **either** by mail or in-person at the conference, not both.

YES	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Reword Article VI, Section 4b
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Remove Article VI, Section 4c
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Edit of Article VIII, Section 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Remove Article VII, Section 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Remove Article VIII, Section 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Strike Article XI

## ***More Detail about By-Laws Changes***

*by Wendy Rock, By-Laws Chair*

**Article II should be combined with Article I and called Name, Affiliation, and Mission.**

**Article I should read:**

### **ARTICLE I: NAME, AFFILIATION, AND MISSION**

ARTICLE I, SECTION 1. The name of the Association shall be the Louisiana School Counselor Association (LSCA).

ARTICLE I, SECTION 2. LSCA is a state division of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), and a division of the Louisiana Counseling Association (LCA). LSCA is organized in accordance with ASCA and LCA bylaws, but remain autonomous in the conduct of its affairs.

ARTICLE I, SECTION 3. The mission of LSCA is to support professional school counselors as they assist students and their families in academic, career, and personal/social development.

(Mission statement taken right off our website. No need to put in purpose here. ASCA has done away with purpose. If we want to keep purpose we can include it as LCA does and Article I, Section 3 becomes Mission and Purpose.)

### **PURPOSE**

The purposes of the Association shall be:

1. To foster a close personal and professional relationship among school counselors in Louisiana, public and private, and with counselors in other settings.
2. To advance the profession of school counseling in order to maximize the educational/academic, career, and personal-social growth of each individual.
3. To improve the standards of school counseling and the relationships with other pupil personnel services for students in elementary, middle and/or junior high, secondary and post-secondary settings.
4. To assume an active role in helping people to understand and improve such services.
5. To develop, implement, and foster interest in



*A special thank you to Dr. Jim Horton, Interim Chancellor of Baton Rouge Community College for hosting our Transitional Board Meeting in July. Dr. Horton began his three decade career in education as a counselor at El Centro Community College in Dallas, TX.*

career development programs.

6. To publish scientific, educational, and professional materials.

Article II then becomes Membership

Section 2 Requirements of Membership a) is Professional Membership. Our wording states: A Professional Member must hold a Masters' Degree in Guidance or related areas and have State Certification. ASCA's wording states: Professional Membership. School counseling professionals who hold a masters degree or higher in counseling or the substantial equivalent.

***The word Guidance is outdated, I think we should change it to say "a Master's Degree or higher in counseling or the substantial equivalent."***

***ASCA and LCA both have the membership type: Retired Members, we have Retiree Membership. I think the former sounds more professional. (This is a bit of word smithing and not necessary).***

In the Rights and Privileges section we refer to the LSCA delegate assembly. Should we strike that? I don't think we have a delegate assembly as ASCA does.

***(By-Laws Changes, continued on page 8)***

## *By-Laws Changes, continued from page 7*

We need to remove the i) in Article IV

Article IV Section 2 and Article V need to be combined. We don't need to do this now but let's look at this for the future. They are basically the same thing.

ASCA includes Meetings under Article V: Officers and Governing Board, we have a separate Article for Meetings (Article VIII). We could make Meetings a section of Article IV (Officers) like ASCA. However, we talk about our business meeting for general membership which would appropriately belong in a separate section. LCA separates it, there is an article for Administrative Council, and one for Executive Council each has a section on meetings. There is a separate article for Meetings of the general membership. We can work on this later.

The following are from ASCA Bylaws, we may want to consider adding similar sections to our bylaws:

### ARTICLE V, SECTION 7. Vacancies.

V-7a. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the President-Elect assumes the office of President.

V-7b. In the event of a vacancy in the office of a President-Elect who is serving a President's unexpired term, the Immediate Past President of the Governing Board shall assume the position of chairperson of the Governing Board until the Governing Board fills the vacancy by calling a special election of the general membership. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President-Elect who is not serving a President's unexpired term, the Governing Board shall fill the vacancy by calling a special election of the general membership and the new President-Elect shall serve as President upon completion of the unexpired term.

V-7c. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Immediate Past President, the most recent Past President may be asked to complete the unexpired term. If the Past President chooses not to complete the term or if the Governing Board chooses not to fill the vacancy, the Governing Board shall appoint a chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee and the Past President position shall be vacant for the remainder of the unexpired term.

V-7d. In the event of a vacancy in an office of vice president, the Governing Board may fill the vacancy.

V-7e. The Governing Board shall have the authority to fill any vacancy for which there are no other provisions.

ARTICLE V, SECTION 8. Removal from Office. An elected officer or member of the Governing Board may be removed from office, for cause, by a two-thirds majority vote of the Governing Board. At the discretion of the Governing Board, a due process committee may be appointed to review all charges and make recommendations. This committee shall complete its assignment and submit a final report within 30 days after appointment.

ARTICLE V, SECTION 9. Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses.

V-9a. Except for the President, none of the Governing Board members of ASCA shall receive any compensation for services, but their necessary expenses shall be paid in accordance with ASCA policies that address governance and finance.

V-9b. Compensation of the President shall be established annually in accordance with ASCA policies that address governance and finance.

It looks like we need to combine Article IV, V, and VI; there is a lot of redundancy. The "Executive Committee" (Article VI) AKA "Governing Board" is the same as the "Officers" (Article IV). And Nominations and Elections should be a section.

Article IV Section 1 and Article VI Section 1 say the same thing. Article IV Section 2 should be combined with Article V. Article 3 Section 3 should be combined with Article IX Section 2.



*From left to right: Brenda Eccles, Cathy Smith, Walda Gibbs, Mike Lefort, Frank Phinney, Jacquelin Broussard, and Robin Olivier, all at the July Board Meeting, at BRCC's Magnolia Library and Performing Arts Pavilion. Photo by Vinetta Frie*

# Cajun Counselor



## Louisiana School Counselor Association

*Cajun Counselor is the quarterly newsletter of the Louisiana School Counselor Association, LSCA. LSCA is the state branch of the American School Counselor Association, ASCA. LSCA is also the largest division in LCA, the LA Counseling Association. Total LSCA membership now exceeds 620 counselors statewide.*

### Submission Deadlines:

Aug. 14, Oct. 29, & Dec. 28, 2010

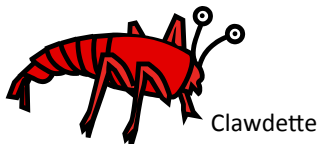
Feb. 12 & June TBA, 2010

Submit articles to Vinetta Frie,

Cajun Counselor Editor:

[frienews@yahoo.com](mailto:frienews@yahoo.com)

***One Voice, One Vision***



## We're on the Web:

[www.louisianaschoolcounselor.org](http://www.louisianaschoolcounselor.org)

Questions/Concerns or Comments please send to Wendy Durant, Technology Chair, [wendyqdurant@gmail.com](mailto:wendyqdurant@gmail.com)



## Louisiana School Counselor Association 2010-11 Leadership Roster

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Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler and

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