



LSCA Annual Report 2008-2009

By: Wendy Rock, Outgoing LSCA President



Number of Members as of April 1, 2009: **624**

Summary of Year's Activities:

- President and Treasurer attended ASCA National Conference in June 2008 in Atlanta, GA
- President attended LDI in July 2008 in Tucson, AZ
- 323 school counselors attended the state conference in October 2008, the theme was **Gratitude: the Power to Heal, to Energize and to Change Lives**
- Held the annual LSCA Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting during the annual LCA Fall Conference October, 2008
- Awards luncheon, presented awards for Elementary School Counselor of the Year, Middle School Counselor of the Year, High School Counselor of

(LSCA Annual Report, continued on page 2)

Incoming President's First Article

Happy New Year!

By Dee Piazza, LSCA President 2009-10



On July 13th while I participated in the transitional LSCA Board Meeting, it was the start of my new year with a new board. As I look back on the past three years, as I moved through being Elementary Vice President, to President Elect-Elect, to President Elect, I am very grateful for this exceptional journey. The process of becoming president in an organization which helps to guide the growth of our profession has been wonderful for me. This process has not only increased my passion for school counseling but has also truly encouraged me to be all I can possibly be ... while continuing to ask "Why not?" I am so looking forward to meeting each of you at the annual

LCA Conference October 4th - 7th. It is a time that allows us to increase our skills and have time for fellowship with others who truly understand what we do and face on a daily basis.

It is my hope that as the year unfolds LSCA will accomplish several specific goals: outreach several under-served parishes in north Louisiana by offering more opportunities for professional growth; have a stronger presence in the legislative process to influence issues that affect LSCA membership; and

(Happy New Year, 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.

Happy New Year, continued from page 1

creating a strong positive understanding of both school counseling and school counselors among the public. I see each of these goals as an integral part of our professional growth and truly serving all of our membership.

My theme for this year is "Gratitude: Having A Grateful Heart." As I approached this year, I spent a long time reflecting on last year's conference and all the sessions I attended. But as I reflected, I remembered a greater inspiration for cultivating gratitude in my life. During a time of a great loss in my life I read, *Living a Life of Gratitude* by Louise Hay and et al. The book helped me to become and remain so very grateful for the gift that I and my children had rather than focusing on mourning our loss. Gratitude is something I have practiced consciously for the last 10 years of my life. My hope for each of you is that you can maintain gratefulness in your heart and know that you are in the right place, being the right person for that time. Gratitude is not just a concept or random thought; it is the very soul of our existence.

I look forward to this year we will share together. I ask you to join me in bringing our strategic goals to fruition. And I hope you will renew or cultivate a grateful heart of your own. Happy New Year!



Anitra Boyd, Dee Piazza and Alice Cryer-Sumler at the Transitional LSCA Board Meeting held at Baton Rouge Community College.



Outgoing LSCA President Wendy rock passes the gavel to Incoming LSCA President Dee Piazza at the

LSCA Annual Report, continued from page 1

the Year, and School Counselor Advocate of the Year.

- Voted on By-Laws changes recommended by ASCA: addition of an indemnification statement in Article X; Sections 1, 2, and 3. The second change was Article III: Section 4, Rights and Privileges. The final change was in Article III: Sections 3 and 5, Dues and Severance of Membership.
- Created a new Strategic Action Plan at a meeting on November 24, 2008.
- Celebrated National School Counselor Week at local district and statewide levels.
- Held first board elections via email balloting
- Past-President and President-Elect attended APPI in March 8-9, 2009 in Virginia
- Published high quality quarterly newsletters for membership
- Two Master's Level Scholarships were awarded
- Launched LSCA Scene
- Collaborated with the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education/High School Redesign Commission by assignment of LSCA President to the Professional School Counseling Task Force

(LSCA Annual Report, continued on page 4)

Meet the LSCA Candidates for Office



Michael J. Lefort,
Candidate for President Elect

Michael Lefort is a National Certified Counselor, School Counselor and Psychologist. He is also an LPC, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Board approved Counselor Supervisor. He currently as coordinator/Director of Counseling and Counseling as well as adjunct instructor of Psychology at both Fletcher Community College/Young Memorial Technical College .

He holds Bachelors, Masters, Second language specialist and +30 degrees/credentials all from Nicholls State University between 1973 and 1983. His work experiences range from junior high to college and include clinical experience on a part time basis in a psychiatric hospital. He has numerous memberships including: Lafourche Parish School Counselors Association (*president for 18 years*); Louisiana Counseling Association; Louisiana School Counselors Association; American School Counselors Association; Louisiana Association of Career and Technical Education (*past president-guidance division*); National Association of Career and Technical Education; Chi Sigma Iota Counselor Honor Society; LSCA Executive Board (*currently Ethics and Professional Standards Committee Chair*); LA High School Redesign (*currently serving on Professional School Counseling Task Force*); and Nicholls State University Masters in School Counseling Advisory Committee.



Jacquelin Broussard
Candidate for Middle School Vice President

Jacquelin Broussard is a National Certified School Counselor. She is a professional school counselor at Armstrong Middle School in Rayne , LA where she and the school staff have implemented a school counseling program using the framework in the ASCA Model. Her first counseling position was at a high school from January 2005- 2007. She was a middle school teacher for 7 years and an elementary teacher for 4 years.

She has two undergraduate degrees from UL Lafayette in Human Resources and Elementary Education, a master's degree from UL Lafayette in School Counseling, and she is currently a doctoral candidate at UL Lafayette in the Educational Leadership program. Her research focus is on the impact of school counselors as educational leaders. Jacquelin has presented her research findings on the impact of school counselors on student achievement at the Southwest Educational Research Association's Meeting In February 2009.

Jennifer Curry
Candidate for Post-Secondary Vice President



Jennifer Curry is an assistant professor of counselor education at Louisiana State University where she is the coordinator of the school counseling program. Her education background includes a Bachelors of Science degree from Western Kentucky University, a Masters of Education in Human Development Counseling from Vanderbilt University, and a doctorate in counselor education from University of Central Florida. Her work experience includes being an investigator for the Louisville Police Department's Crimes Against Children unit where she investigated sexual assault to children eleven and under, and she has served as a professional school counselor in elementary, middle, and high school. Her research interests include holistic wellness and school counselor development particularly in the areas of advocacy, leadership and social justice. She has presented her work at over 50 na-

(Meet the Candidates, continued on page 4)

LSCA Annual Report, *continued from page 2*

- LSCA Board meetings held in September and October 2008, and March 2009.
- Attended the Fall, Spring, and Summer Executive Board Meetings of the LCA.
- Policy Governance was revisited and discussed at the September Board meeting
- Service project was initiated.
- A financial audit is currently being conducted.
- Spring conference held in Lafayette, LA on May 2, 2009 on ASCA Model.

Advocacy/Public Policy Activities:

- Governor Bobby Jindal Signed Proclamation declaring February 4-8 as National School Counselor Week.
- Two LSCA Board members attended APPI March 8-9, 2009 in Virginia
- In response to a reduction in the supplement paid to National Certified School Counselors, the LSCA President co-signed a letter with the Louisiana Counseling Association President and mailed the letter to the School Board Presidents and Superintendents of districts who cut NCSC supplemental pay. The purpose of the letter was to notify the districts of the requirement of Louisiana ACT 682 for school systems to pay qualified counselors in the absence of reimbursement by the State Department of Education. An opinion on the matter that was given by the Attorney General in 2003 was included with the letter.
- President testified before the House Appropriations Committee.
- Utilized email blast to inform members and encourage participation in grassroots advocacy and PR activities.
- Collaborated with other professional organizations including NASW, APEL, and LFT.
- LSCA Board is gathering information and an appropriate response to a concern of some school counselors that they are not being paid fairly for extended employment. This is still being discussed; no action has yet been taken.

Summary of Future Plans and Goals of the Association for the Year:

- Contract with a new webmaster for annual maintenance of LSCA website.
- Maintain and improve PR activities including public service announcements, visits to counselor education programs, and packets for new hires in school districts.
- Summer workshop to be held in Shreveport, LA on August 8, 2009 on ASCA Model.
- Increase membership
- Establish regional representation
- Continue to develop and maintain partnership with the Department of Education, High School Redesign, Workforce Commission
- Continue advocacy effort on issues such as NCSC supplemental pay and equitable pay for extended employment by arranging and encouraging meetings with legislators and BESE members, and providing professional development to school counselors on advocacy.
- Collaborate with the Department of Education on Professional Development for School counselors across the state.
- Begin implementation of Policy Governance. ☞



Happy Autumn!

Meet the Candidates, *continued from page 3*

tional, and 20 International conferences, has published articles in peer-reviewed, refereed national and international counseling journals and has served as guest editor of ASCA's *Professional School Counseling* journal. Currently she serves on the LSU faculty senate and is president-elect of the national Association for Spiritual, Ethical and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC). In addition, she is the recipient of the Roger Aubrey Northstar award for the counselor most likely to change the field of counseling, the American Counseling Association's Ross Trust Award for school counseling, and ASERVIC's national service award. ☞

Article continued in the next column



New Career Diploma

*By Brenda Eccles,
President Elect-Elect*

The Legislative Law that goes into effect this school year was passed in June to reduce dropout rates in high schools. The law provided incoming 9th graders a new career diploma opportunity for students who want to pursue a skill instead of college.

The State of Louisiana has 70 school districts and approximately 23 districts have already filed a waiver for the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to grant them permission to “stay out of the program for the 2009/10 school year.

The new law does allow BESE to iron out the details on criteria that the 9th graders will need to meet to be eligible as a candidate for the new career diploma which is reflected in the Pupil Progression Guidelines – Bulletin 1566. Incoming Freshmen could not have more than five (5) days of unexcused absences last year as an 8th grader. The incoming Freshman wanting to pursue the new diploma could not have been suspended or expelled for “certain school offenses”. However, the BESE board did vote unanimously for a more “generalized attendance/discipline policy” for the upcoming 2009/10 school year; allowing local school districts to set their own attendance rules for 9th graders desiring to pursue the new diploma. As Professional School Counselors, you should check to see if your school district has been approved for the waiver. School counselors also need to be knowledgeable as to what the new career diploma entails and what directive your district has established relating to the new career diploma. Counselors need to stay up-to-date on the progress of the new career diploma as parents may call or come in inquiring about the new career diploma and how it will affect their child. ☹



Ethics:

More Than Personal Interpretation!

*By Mike Lefort,
Ethics Committee Chair*



Ethics defined is a study of good and moral duty; moral principles or practice. A simplified definition of the word, no doubt, but when put to the test and with no guidelines, it is often left to personal interpretation. And it is there, where we can often get into trouble! As professional school counselors today, seemingly more than ever, we are presented with a wide variety of issues students share with us. Added to this, we have an array of responsibilities of which we are accountable as we help our students in academic, personal/social, and career areas. As a result, ethical dilemmas occur and therefore it is crucial that we abide by a standard code of ethics.

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA), our national professional organization, has the Code of Ethics posted on its website. It is easily obtained by going to www.schoolcounselor.org. On the task bar, click on “School Counselors and Members.” On the drop down on the left side, hit “Legal and Ethical.” In the beginning of the second paragraph, you will find “ASCA’s Ethical Standards for School Counselors.” Click on it and you have found our guidelines for ethical practice. As a professional colleague I suggest that you become very familiar with the contents of the standards and that you keep a copy of them readily at hand, especially if you are relatively new to the career of professional school counseling. A PDF version is available for your convenience. For seasoned practitioners, an occasional review of the standards is indeed warranted. While perusing the ASCA website, if you are not already a member, I recommend that you give membership some consideration. This organization is our national voice and as a member, you will continue to grow as a professional school counselor! ☹



Attending the Leadership Development Institute

By Dr. Gerra Perkins, President-Elect

Where's the Tylenol and how many can I take? Now don't get me wrong – Tylenol is typically not my answer for everything, but after viewing the agenda for the ASCA Leadership Development Institute in Cleveland I was pretty sure that Tylenol was about to be my new best friend! Four, information-packed, non-stop days – that's LDI! It was truly a valuable learning experience that I would not trade. It was a great opportunity to meet the Presidents and President-Elects from other states as well as the ASCA leadership, and everyone was very friendly and willing to share information. In fact in many cases I found the "informal" learning from the other leaders over breakfast, lunch, and dinner more valuable than the "formal" sessions we attended. The first evening we learned about leadership skills and the importance of preparing for the future. One of the things that really stuck with me that night was a quote that was shared: Excellence is not an act, but a habit (Aristotle). Excellence is a habit! That is the vision that I have for myself and for our organization – LSCA should strive for excellence in everything that we do and in everything that we touch.

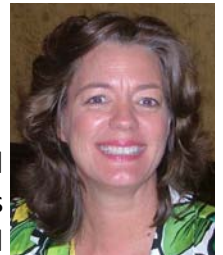
The second day was from 7:30 (yes, that's morning time) until 5:30 that evening. Most of the day was split track, Presidents having their own session and President-Elects in another session. The President-Elects learned about Association Management and more Leadership Training. The evening ended with general sessions in Public Policy and State Planning. Friday, the third day, was about how to run board meetings and how to be a board meeting, and Saturday really focused on technological resources for state leadership. On Saturday we twittered, we tweeted, dimdimed, bitled, and more. It really was a lot of information and I'm pretty sure there was some brain circuitry that showed signs of overload (Dee's, not mine of course). The final event of the conference was dinner and a tour of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. ☺



LSCA Needs Survey will be distributed via e-mail before the LCA Fall Conference. When you receive your e-mail, click the enclosed link.

Bylaws Changes

By Karen Russo, Chair



Bylaws are a set of rules adopted by an organization for governing its affairs. Last year ASCA requested that LSCA include an indemnification statement, clarify language regarding "Rights and Privileges" and add a statement regarding dues and severance of membership. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the bylaws committee who worked together to make the requested changes; Dawna Keys, Mike Lefort, Monica Lauterbach, Bonny Maise and Allyson Shulman.

This year there is one change to the bylaws that needs to be addressed, which is a change of Executive Board language. The changes will be made by the bylaws committee and voted on at the LSCA luncheon during the LCA conference in October of 2009. I ask that you consider volunteering for the 2009-2010 bylaws committee. It is a great way to learn more about our Association and only requires that you read the LSCA and ASCA bylaws and recommend needed changes. If you are interested in serving on the LSCA Bylaws Committee, please email me, Karen Russo, LSCA Bylaws Committee Chair at krusso1@stcharles.k12.la.us. Thank you in advance for your service. ☺

VOTE!! At the LCA Conference OR online via

info@louisianaschoolcounselors.org



On Our Honor: Educating for Character

By Sally Ann Connolly, Editor of the Massachusetts School Counselor Association's newsletter

According to the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), certain values “affirm basic human worth and dignity and support healthy communities.” These include honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

They sound like the traits of the perfect Boy Scout, but they are precisely what keeps the wheels of society running smoothly. And they are what I look for in my doctor, my automotive technician, and even my landscaper.

Recently, when I engaged the services of a landscaper, I did so expecting him to be courteous. Clean and cheerful would have been great. But above all, I expected him to be trustworthy. I wanted him to show up when he was supposed to and perform the work we had agreed upon for the price we had negotiated. I was looking for someone I could turn to for help throughout the year.

I didn't expect that the young man would call five hours after the appointed time to say that he wouldn't be able to come. I didn't expect that he would show up hours late the next time and that the price would increase substantially. Certainly I didn't expect that he would fail to show up for our final appointment.

Needless to say, the work in my yard did not get done on time, and my hopes for finding a permanent landscaper were dashed.

How did he, like so many other workers, miss learning the importance of reliability?

When I was working as a counselor in a vocational school, teachers and administrators repeatedly advised students that a worker's most important trait is reliability. “You must show up for work,” they would say, “and you must show up on time. All the skill in the world is useless if you are not there to do your assigned job at the appointed time.”

The importance of dependability was reinforced



Brenda Eccles, Dee Piazza, and Gerra Perkins, LSCA President Elect-Elect, President, and President Elect, respectively.

daily in the students' shops, out on the job sites, and in their academic classes. Deadlines had to be met.

Reliable workers possess what is basic to successful social interaction: empathy. They can visualize the impact of their words and actions. And they care. My auto technician, for example, recognizes the importance of tightening the lug nuts on the wheels of my car and he follows through. I can depend upon him to accurately diagnose a problem, make the necessary repairs, and return to me a vehicle that is reliable to drive.

With a modicum of empathy, my landscaper would have imagined what it was like for me to rush home for our appointment and to wait, fruitlessly, hour after hour.

Character education plays an important role in our schools. Values may be taught as part of formal instructional units geared to age-specific groups or as part of discussions about what is important and worthwhile. The most significant teaching occurs, however, during everyday interactions. We teach by example.

Writing in *Today's School*, educators and TV producers David H. Elkind and Freddy Sweet, say: “Whether you are a teacher, administrator, custodian, or school bus driver, you are helping to shape the character of the kids you come in contact with. It's in the way you talk, the behaviors you model, the conduct you tolerate, the deeds you encourage, the expectations you transmit.”

In working with our students, let us strive to develop in them the traits promoted by ASCA. Let us work together to ensure that everyone grows up to be a Boy Scout. ☯

Article continued in the next column



Awards Nomination Deadline Extended

By Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler,
Awards Chair

Each year, LSCA accepts nominations for those persons who have made outstanding contributions to school counselors or to education with special emphasis on the school counseling profession. Nominations with accompanying paperwork must be received by the Awards Chair no later than September 14, 2009. However, they will be accepted by the chair at any time preceding that deadline. Awards are presented to the winners at the annual conference held the first week in October. All persons nominated, with the exception of advocacy and legislator *must be current members of LSCA*. State winners will be forwarded to the American School Counselor Association for consideration for national recognition if additional information is supplied by the winner.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION CATEGORIES:

- Advocacy
- Administrator/Supervisor
- Legislator
- Elementary Counselor
- Middle/Junior High Counselor
- Multi-level Counselor (i.e. Schools K-12 or 6/7-12)
- Secondary (High School) Counselor
- Post Secondary Counselor
- Writing (Professional Publication)

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Submit the Nomination Form below, along with two letters of recommendation stating your reasons for believing the nominee should be recognized by LSCA. The letter should/could include information about the nominee's career as a counselor, programs and activities initiated by the nominee within this school year or last school year, which benefit recipients of counseling, services rendered to the counseling profession, personal qualities, and other aspects that you feel make him/her an outstanding counselor, advocate, or legislator. Portfolios should NOT be presented.



If you will be unable to cast your vote in person at the annual LCA Fall Conference in October, e-mail your selection by September 14, 2009 to info@louisianaschoolcounselors.org. Send a **separate e-mail** for each election. Indicate in the subject line on which issue you are voting.

LSCA Officers

Write-In candidates must be LSCA members

President Elect-Elect

Michael Lefort or indicate your write in candidate

Elementary School Vice President

Jacquelin Broussard or indicate your write in candidate

Post-Secondary Vice President

Jennifer Curry or indicate your write in candidate

LSCA By-Laws Revision

Agree OR Disagree with ASCA proposed updates

Nominees for LSCA Awards

(Remember nominees must be LSCA Members, except for the two with asterisks)

- Advocacy*
- Administrator/Supervisor
- Legislator*
- Elementary Counselor
- Middle/Junior High Counselor
- Multi-level Counselor (i.e. Schools K-12 or 6/7-12)
- Secondary (High School) Counselor
- Post Secondary Counselor
- Writing

Welcome to LSCA's Newest and Reinstated Members

Diane Austin, LCA Executive Director is now providing the names of new and reinstated members to member divisions. We would like to mention the professionals who have chosen to join our Association or to renew their membership. If your name is missing from this listing and you would like to check, please contact Diane Austin via e-mail: lca_austin@bellsouth.net

Stacey L. Davis

Thomas Chambers

Camille Campbell

Jennifer Degruise

Laura Varnado

Melanie Pasqua

Mitzi Nix




Counselor Educators and the Creation of Leadership Density: From Privilege to Obligation to Promise

By Jennifer Curry, Interim Post-Secondary V.P.

Growing up in the underprivileged area of Appalachian Kentucky I was always taught that education was a gift, a privilege. When I graduated with my Bachelors degree my mother told me that the gift of education brought with it many responsibilities. She reiterated this message after I received my Masters and again when I graduated from my doctoral program.


What has the privilege of education obligated me to do? From my perspective, the education afforded to me and the opportunities I have received mean that I must give back to my profession by promoting the growth and development of future and in-service school counselors. In doing so, I am encouraging other counselors to be leaders of our profession; the more individuals that we have that can be potential leaders and advocates for the profession, the greater our ability to serve the constituency of schools—children, families, and communities.

In my first month of service on the LSCA board as Post Secondary VP, I would like to issue a challenge to counselor educators across the state: get involved in LSCA. Let your voice be heard and nurture the development of our future leaders. We need your presence, your talents, your leadership, and your commitment to our profession. Don't wait—join today and get involved! 



LSCA Award Luncheon and Business Meeting 2008
— see you in October, THIS year?

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. 16, & Dec. 28, 2009

Feb 5 & June TBA, 2010

Submit articles to Vinetta Frie,

Cajun Counselor Editor:

frienews@yahoo.com

One Voice, One Vision



Dee Piazza, LSCA President;
Tiffanie Lewis, Education Program
Consultant/Counselor from the LA
Department of Education, High School
Redesign;
Wendy Rock, Past LSCA President.

LSCA 2009-10 Leadership Roster

Dee Piazza, President

dpiazza@lpssonline.com

pcpiazza@bellsouth.net

Wendy Rock, Past President

wrock5@cox.net

Victoria Crawford, Secretary

missvickic@yahoo.com

Vicki.crawford@cpsb.org

Monica Talbot, Treasurer

moniatal3@yahoo.com

mtalbot@tpsd.org

Nancy Blanchard, Elementary V.P.

nblanch808@bellsouth.net

nblanchard@opsb.net

Cathy Smith, Middle Level V. P.

caz80@gmail.com

Angela Murry, Secondary V.P.

amurray@lsu.edu

Jennifer Curry, Post-Secondary
Vice President

jcurry@lsu.edu

Jeff Travasos, Parliamentarian

jtravasos@cox.net

Dr. Gerra Perkins, President Elect

gwperkins@bellsouth.net

Brenda Eccles, President Elect-Elect

bdeccles@yahoo.com

Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler,
Awards Chair

acryer-sumler@cox.net

Karen Russo, By-Laws Chair

karenr58@cox.net

Mike Lefort, Counselor Ethics &
Professional Standards Chair

millpcncc@cajunnet.com

Robin Olivier, Government Rela-
tions , co-chair

robin_m_olivier@hotmail.com

Dr. Iman En-Nabut, Government
Relations Co-chair

Iman97@aol.com

Vinetta Frie, Newsletter Editor

frienews@yahoo.com

Phillip Carroll, Public Relations &
Advocacy Chair

phillip_carroll@hotmail.com

Anitra Boyd, Technology

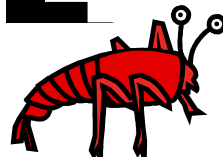
aboyd@stcharles.k12.la.us

Clawdette



We're on the Web:

www.louisianaschoolcounselor.org



Rouxfus