

E-REPORT

MGCA

A Division of the American Counseling Association



Volume 5, Issue 2 Spring Edition

MGCA Business and General Meeting Recap

The MGCA Executive Board met with constituents of MGCA to respond to the current needs of the membership and highlight areas of advocacy for those who we serve. The Board listened to the membership and will take suggestions and ideas to ACA for consideration. Minutes from both the [Business Meeting](#) and [Membership Meeting](#) are included in this newsletter.

ACA/CCA Conference

Another exciting ACA National Conference is in the books. MGCA hosted it's yearly Professional Development Institute and Awards Luncheon before the conference. During the conference, MGCA hosted a booth in the convention exhibitor hall.

Memories from the Conference, [here](#).

Inside this Issue

Non-medical Counseling Program

[p. 9](#)

Helping Survivors of Sexual Assault

[p.10](#)

Research Request

[p. 11](#)

Join MGCA

[p. 12](#)

Questions, comments, or to submit to the newsletter ? Email us at legreen@wtamu.edu

View the MGCA Journal here: <http://acegonline.org/wp-cont.../2013/02/JMGC-Vol-3-Is-2.pdf>

MGCA Business Meeting

Minutes from MGCA Board Meeting, 1 April 2016

2:05 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. with a roll call. Eight members were present in Montreal: Ben Noah, Andrea Sloan, Eric Price, Jill Zesiger, Judith Mathewson, Sharon Guild-Stitt, Kevin Vance, Tom Watson and Neil Duchac.

Annual Report (Dr. Ben Noah) – Ben mentioned that Arkansas Counseling Association would like to become a Branch of MGCA. It is a two-year process, and Janene Alexander stated that the Arkansas (ArCA) By-Laws and Constitution were modeled after the Oklahoma Counseling Association. There are presently 20 members from the VA in Little Rock and Henderson State University.

A motion was made to add Arkansas to the list of Branches of MGCA by Sharon Guild-Stitt and seconded by Kevin Vance. It was unanimously voted to allow Arkansas Counseling Association to become a Branch of MGCA.

Ben stated that TX and NC were also interested in becoming a Branch of MGCA. The Texas Counseling Association, under Dr. Hendricks, has a lot of interest in becoming a Branch. Jill Zesiger and Leigh Green will follow up with Dr. Hendricks, President of TCA. They will need 21 members to sign a petition to become a Branch.

The two MGCA Award winners for 2015 were Lynna Meadows-Morton for Lifetime Achievement and Judith Mathewson for Notable Achievement Award. For 2016, Sharon Guild-Stitt won the Lifetime Achievement Award and Larry Ashley won the Notable Achievement Award.

Lynna Meadows-Morton did an outstanding job as Past President. She moved the organization forward from ACEG to the better-identified MGCA name, among other accomplishments.

The PDI for Nashville in 2017 will continue to be held on the day prior to the ACA conference. It was recommended that in lieu of a luncheon that the Board and General Membership meeting be held at breakfast on the morning prior to the General Session, allowing MGCA members to help with the exhibit table and attend/support more educational sessions and poster sessions. It was discussed, but not voted on, for this change of scheduling.

Minutes were read and approved/accepted by the Board from both the January 21, 2016 and March meetings.

Sharon Guild-Stitt gave an updated report from the Governing Council. She stated that IAMFC (International Association for Marital and Family Counseling) will be having a Division meeting in New Orleans in October. Brandi Flamez, Professor at University of TX Corpus Christi, would like to invite MGCA to have a table and present during their conference.

Financially, we are doing well; there is approximately \$21,000. in the MGCA account, according to Treasurer Linda Parker.

Current membership in ACA is 56,000. MGCA Members must also be ACA members to remain as a Division.

Sharon also mentioned two political issues (from ACA Governmental Affairs, Art Terrazas). State Portability of Licenses is still an issue. ACA supports CACREP schools. If a person got their PhD at a university, ACA will go back 18 months to allow an individual to become CACREP-certified.

Citing its deep disappointment, the American Counseling Association condemned Wednesday's vote by the Tennessee House Health Committee approving House Bill 1840, legislation that would permit Licensed (and unlicensed) Professional Counselors to deny services and refer clients based on their own "strongly held religious beliefs." Tennessee, like many states, includes ACA's *Code of Ethics* in their state counselor licensure law. This bill, if signed into law, would allow professional counselors in Tennessee to disregard section A.11.b. of the 2014 *ACA Code of Ethics* and essentially permit discrimination. The needs of the client are always a top priority, according to universally taught principles in counselor education, rather than the personally held beliefs of the counselor. This tenet is a civic and professional responsibility for those who are professional counselors.

The *ACA Code of Ethics* clearly states that professional counselors may not deny services to a client regardless of that person's "age, culture, disability, ethnicity, race, religion/spirituality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital/partnership status, language preference, socioeconomic status, immigration status, or any basis proscribed by law." (Section C.5). Counselors put aside their own needs in order to understand those of their clients.

HB 1840 is an unprecedented attack on the American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics, something to which nearly 60,000 counselors abide. It is also an unwanted and unnecessary blow to the counseling profession and those who benefit from the services of a professional counselor.

ACA further states that allowing any health care provider to deny services based on their own "strongly held religious belief" would have a deleterious effect on countless people who seek mental and physical health services. If HB 1840 is signed into law, its enactment could also jeopardize federal healthcare funding for Tennessee because the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has clearly stated that no state has the authority to deny healthcare to anyone based on religion, race, sexual orientation, or other federally protected populations. More to follow on that issue.

Get on first-name basis with your legislators to advocate for all mental health counselors/therapists for our clients.

Recommendation that we have our own PDI and not join in with NECA, next year. Other Divisions who might be interested in teaming with MGCA could be the Association of Group Counseling, Child & Adolescent Counselors, LGBT, Adult and Aging Association, Marriage and Family, or just have our own PDI. Suggestion by Janet Morgan was to invite other Divisions and see who comes to Nashville and wants to team with MGCA. It was not voted on but discussed for future PDI considerations.

Meeting was adjourned following motion from Sharon Stitt-Guild and seconded by Eric Price. Motion carried. Board meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Mathewson

Present-Elect, MGCA

MGCA Membership Meeting

Minutes from MGCA General Membership Meeting, 1 April 2016

3:04 p.m.

Ben introduced the group to MGCA and its purpose. He is the journal editor for the third year and plans to research working with Routledge Press.

Eighteen members attended the general meeting. They introduced themselves and their interest in MGCA and military members/families.

Kevin Vance will work on the MGCA website. Leigh Green will continue to work with the newsletter.

There has been a 27% increase in membership this year due to the name change and all that MGCA offers. We currently have 287 members.

Financially, we are doing well; there is approximately \$21,000. In the MGCA account. The Professional Development Institute (PDI) is held the day before the General Session.

If a member would like to write for the journal, please contact Ben Noah at Benjamin.noah@capella.edu or Leigh Green at legreen@wtamu.edu for the newsletter.

Members were asked to sign up for assisting with Awards (Ben), publications/communications (Kevin), and PDI planning for Nashville (2017) (Michael Keim).

Members were reminded about the MGCA social held that evening (1 April) from 6-8 p.m. They were asked to bring other potentially interested friends, too, for food and liquid refreshments. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Mathewson

Present-Elect, MGCA

Snapshots from the PDI



Franc Hudspeth and Adaris Pickett

MGCA Board Member Neil Duchac with Catherine Stower



MGCA Board Member Angie Waliski

Awards Banquet



Larry Ashley
Professional of the Year



Sharon Guild- Stitt
Notable Achievement Award



American Military University
Notable Achievement Award

ACA/CCA Awards Reception



David Fennell with MGCA Board Members after his induction into the ranks of ACA Fellows



David Fennell hugs students after his induction as an ACA Fellow

MGCA Booth



MGCA Board Members: Grey Edwards and Andrea Sloan with Francis Guild-Stitt



MGCA Board Members Jill Zesiger and Eric Price



MGCA President-Elect: Judy Mathewson; MGCA President: Ben Noah, MGCA Members Bridget Purdy and Sharon Routledge, MGCA Governing Council Representative: Sharon Guild-Stitt, and MGCA Member Francis Guild-Stitt



MGCA President: Ben Noah and MGCA Member Bridget Purdy

Out and About in Montreal

Basilique Notre-Dame de
Montréal



Staring down a carriage
horse on Rue Notre-Dame



Saint-Sulpice Seminary



Place d'Armes

Non-Medical Counseling Program

The Non-Medical Counseling Program office is excited to offer a new series of webinars which will be hosted and archived on Military OneSource. These webinars, which are based OSD approved presentations, are presented by subject matter experts and are intended for service members, their families, and military service providers. Registration is required but the process is very easy and takes less than a minute to complete.

The list of upcoming and archived webinars is located on the Military OneSource website under the social media hub at <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/webinar>

New Resource Helps Sexual Assault Patients Understand Options

By Beth Schwinn, DCoE Public Affairs

April 25, 2016

The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, in support of the Military Health System, released a new resource to help those who experience a sexual assault understand military health options. The easy-to-follow brochure, “Sexual Assault Health Care Support for Patients,” is the result of collaboration and intensive research by various organizations throughout the Defense Department.

The brochure is available to download and health care providers can place bulk orders. It highlights Military Health System and service resources, and outlines:

- Sexual assault report options
- Eligibility for care
- Healthy coping strategies
- Crisis hotlines

Army Combat Veterans Research Request

Please consider participating in a ***confidential*** research study conducted by a George Washington University PhD student investigating the relationship between combat experiences and the phenomenon of moral injury among OIF/OEF veterans. Results from this study can help researchers and clinicians better understand the impacts of moral and ethical trauma beyond symptoms of PTSD, which will contribute to improved mental health treatment for those who serve.

Follow/copy and paste this link to participate:

http://gwu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_d1his04UdV7jTUh

Eligibility to Participate:

- *Male
- *Veteran status (**inactive**) in the U.S. Army
- *Served in OIF and/or OEF
- *Experienced combat during at least one deployment

If you have any questions or concerns about the study or your participation, please contact

Lisa Kruger at 414-520-3464 or Lkruger@gwu.edu.

How to Join MGCA

MGCA is dedicated to serving those who provide services to military, veterans, families throughout all disciplines of counseling.

The Association is currently made up of over 200 members from the following categories:

- Professional 53%
- Regular 2%
- Retired 5%
- Student 27%

Not only do we provide resources for your practice, there are also opportunities to serve on our leadership board!

We will also have a exhibitor table at ACA/CCA where you can learn more about us and how to become a member.

Click [here](#) for a printable registration form.

The purpose of MCGA is to encourage and deliver meaningful guidance, counseling, and educational programs to all members of the Armed Services, their family members, and civilian employees of State and Federal Governmental Agencies. Encourage development of professional monographs and convention/conference presentations by any of these agencies. Develop and promote the highest standards of professional conduct among counselors and educators working with Armed Services personnel and veterans. Establish, promote, and maintain improved communication with the nonmilitary community; and conduct and foster programs to enhance individual human development and increase recognition of humanistic values and goals within State and Federal Agencies.

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MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT COUNSELING ASSOCIATION
Visit us on the web at www.mgcaonline.org
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