

## **HISTORY OF LPCAGA: Reviewing the Past And Building the Future**

*“An organization without a history is like a tree without roots” (W.T. Sherman)*

*George E. Rolle, Ph.D., LPC, (Historian, 2002)*

*Abstract: At the Annual Convention of 2002 Phil Foster, President of LPCA, the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia, Inc. commissioned George Rolle to serve as the first historian of the organization with the task of locating and recording LPCA historical roots. This action was later approved by the LPCA board. This report is the first recorded documentation of LPCAGA history and development and should be viewed as only the beginning.*

For several years LPCAGA (Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia, Inc) a non-profit association, members and officers have discussed the need for written Documentation and recorded history regarding the growth and development of the organization. The task of locating and recovering significant pieces of our history and communicating with key individuals involved in the early development of the organization has been a challenging and undaunted process. Hence, gaining knowledge and understanding from whence we come (our past) could very well help establish a pathway for our future. This historical overview provides an outline of information obtained from several sources and is an attempt to design a template for collecting and properly recording significant events & developments in the life of LPCA. Special thanks and acknowledgement to Gale Macke (Executive Director) for providing selected LPCA files for review; to Dr. Linda Painter (Past President) for information provided from the power point presentation “Past Presidents Forum” (2002); to Dr. Chuck Goodrum (Organizational Leader and Past President); and Elizabeth Goff, University of West Georgia Graduate Research Assistant, for providing help in finishing this document. If you have questions or would like to provide valuable information to this process, please to not hesitate to contact me or Gale Macke at the LPCA office, 404-370-0200 or [www.LPCAGA.org](http://www.LPCAGA.org)

### **GMHCA (Pre-LPCA Era 1981-1987):**

- A statewide annual conference for the Georgia Mental Health Counseling Association (GMHCA) was held at the Ramada Inn (I-85 @ Monroe, Ave, Atlanta) on December 5&6, 1981. Pre-registration = \$4.00 for members... \$6.00 for non-members. At the door = \$ 7.00 for members ... \$ 10.00 for non-members. (Non-members spouse Free) © !!! President, Tim Kirby, Ph.D. (Warner Robbins, GA); President-Elect, William “Bill” Waters, Ph.D. (Albany, GA). Key-Note Speaker: The Honorable Mr. Billy Randall, State Representative and Chair of the Black Caucus. Theme: **Licensure Issues.**
- Chuck Goodrum, GMHCA President and AMHCA Georgia State Coordinator, secured financial assistance from AMHCA to establish state affiliated association and to purchase stationery and promotional brochures. A steering committee was formed to accomplish the necessary steps to have the Georgia Association chartered by March 1989 as a state division of the American Mental Health Counselors Association, after being turned down by ACA. Executive Director Mark Hamilton, of AMHCA provided the \$400 seed money to create a Georgia Chapter. Additionally, the steering committee developed a set of By-Laws and the Governing Body structure for the new state division, and had consensus of believes in the importance of establishing professional parity on matters of third party payments, clarifying private and state employment practices, and raising public awareness of the services to be offered.

In a strong appeal to mental health professionals state-wide, **Goodrum stated ...“I personally know of no other professional association that addresses the concerns of the Mental Health Counselor as our new association can. You will be among the Association’s charter members who are now seizing the opportunity to build a mutually supporting Mental Health Counselors statewide network” (October, 1988).**

The first state division convention was held at Ridgeview Institute, Smyrna, Ga., with 25 attendees (1988) and established free continuing education workshops as a primary membership benefit. Goodrum served as president 1987-1990.

### **GMHCA (Pre-LPCA Era 1988-1994)**

- **A PROCLAMATION:** I, Joe Frank Harris, Governor of the State of Georgia, do proclaim the week of May 7-13, 1989, as “MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS WEEK” in honor and recognition of these health care professionals and the vital services they render. Signed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 1989(see Appendix A).
- GMHCA membership now provides free continuing education workshops for licensure, expanded association and collaboration with other counselors, a strong advocate to negotiate with other professional groups, and a lobbyist to look after LPCA interests.
- **New Licensure Law:** On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1986 the Georgia House of Representatives passed Senate Bill 137 without amendments. The passage of this act was significant because, for the first time, Georgia has a true licensing law (with the scope of practice statement) and mental health counseling is included.
- **A PROCLAMATION:** Zell Miller, Governor of the State of Georgia proclaim the week of May 5-11, 1991, as “MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS WEEK” in recognition that mental health counselors’ work is a specialized field of counseling which emphasizes the developmental and adjustive nature of mental health services. Signed, April 25<sup>th</sup> 1991(see Appendix B).
- **Overhaul of Licensure Rues:** 1992-94 LPCA Board members served on the Secretary of State Georgia Composite Board of LPC, SW, and MFT. And were instrumental in working with Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapist in streamlining the licensure process insuring parity.

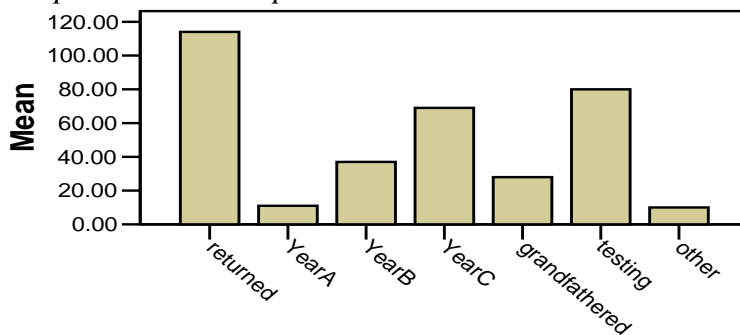
### **LPCA Era (1995-2007-2008)**

- **LPCA Annual Legislative Breakfast:** LPCA invites all Georgia Legislators (House Representatives and Senators) to a special breakfast with LPCA membership during the opening legislative session. This event begun in 1995 and spearheaded by the *Government Relations Committee* as become as annual event. At the overwhelming request from the LPCA membership, 1998 event was the first late afternoon/evening function held from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. The degree of

legislative recognition and involvement with LPCA have helped determine the economic well-being of all LPCs and the quality of treatment that can be provided.

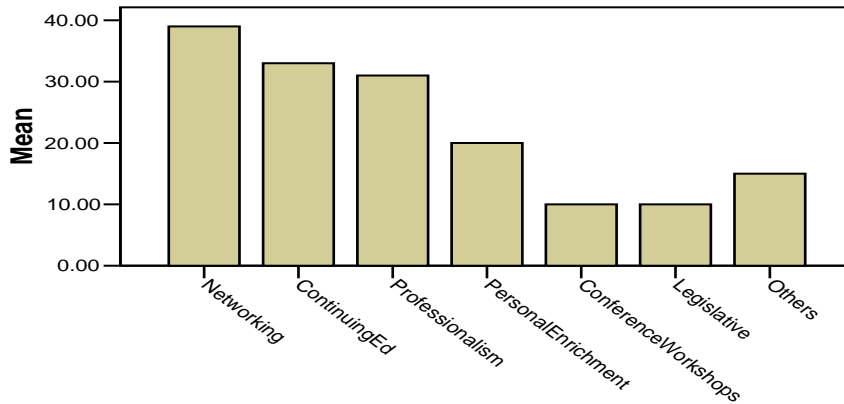
- **Name Changed:** dedicated to promoting the profession and the professionalism of LPCs in Georgia, the organization's new name became **Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia (LPCA of GA)**. The LPCA Board of Directors during a very controversial vote felt the name change would reflect the times and meet the new licensing law verbiage. LPCA lost membership over the issue.
- **Privileged Communication LAW:** 1995 the Georgia Legislature passed this law which LPCA lobbied to include LPC's in this law that would protect Mental Health Professional in matters of professional duties.
- **Business Location for LPCA Office, Downtown Decatur, GA 250 E Ponce de Leon Avenue, Suite # 427, in the beautiful 8 story Glass and Marble Bank Building since July 1998.**
- **2002 National Recognition for LPCA of Georgia:** At the Annual Conference of the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), LPCA of Georgia received the **2002 National Award as the Outstanding State Chapter** with over 500 members and exemplary service to consumers and membership.
- **Membership Survey Results:** A membership survey, pertaining to purpose for joining and strength of LPCA, was conducted at the 2002 Annual Conference and the results as indicated below are quite revealing:
  - a) 210 survey forms were distributed and 114 were returned (54.286%)
    - roughly 67 or (60%) of attendees who returned a completed survey became affiliated with LPCA of GA. Between t 1995-2003; Plus, 70% became affiliated through testing certification (see graph 1)
  - b) Responding to their purpose(s) for joining LPCA, 35% indicated their first desire was networking; 32% indicated their second reason was for continuing education opportunities; 30% for professionalism; and 20% for personal enrichment (see graph 2)
  - c) Responding to perceived strengths of LPCA, roughly 23% indicated that networking and continuing education opportunities were top strengths; 20% felt that legislative initiatives and conferences/workshops were strengths; and 9 to 17% indicated that leadership, advocacy, and communications (newsletter, emails, journals, etc) were strengths (see graph 3).

Graph 1- Membership Status

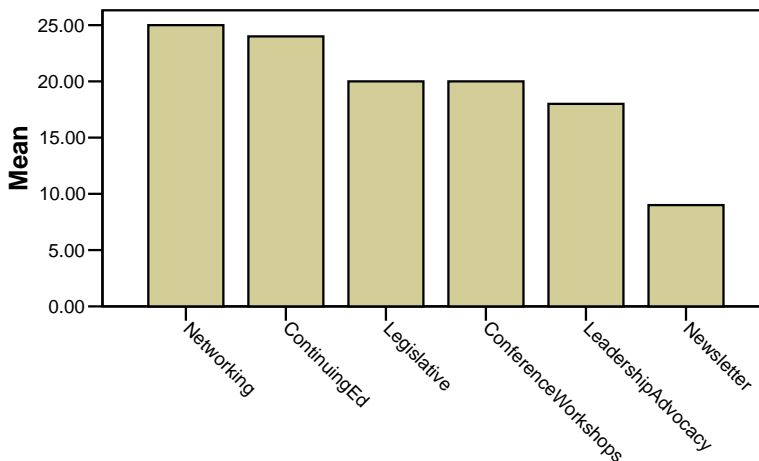


Key: YearA= 1982-1987  
YearB= 1988-1994

Graph 2- Purpose for Joining LPCA



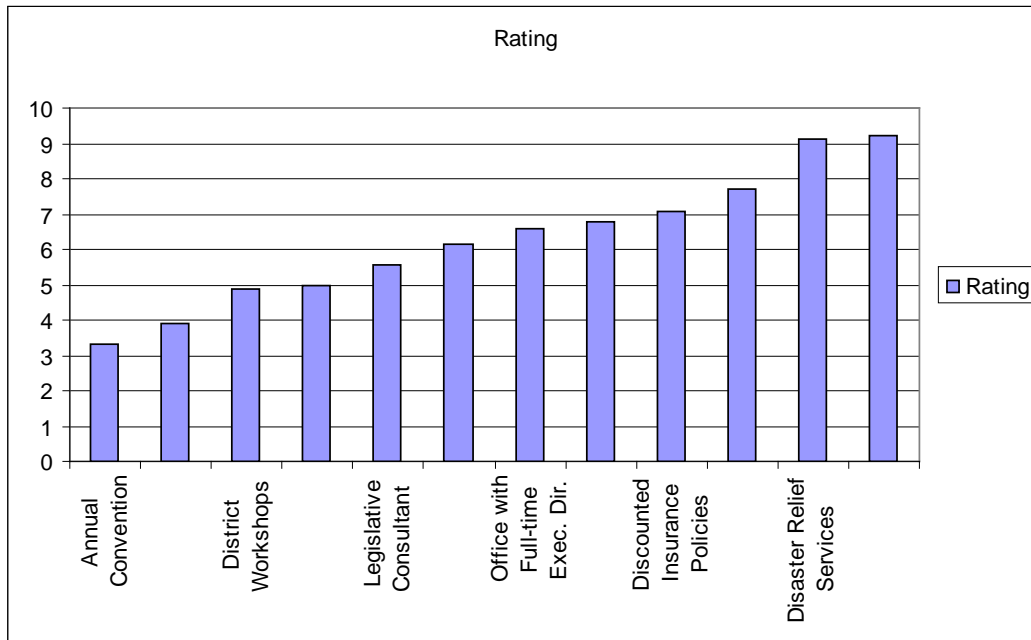
Graph 3- Perceived Strength of LPCA



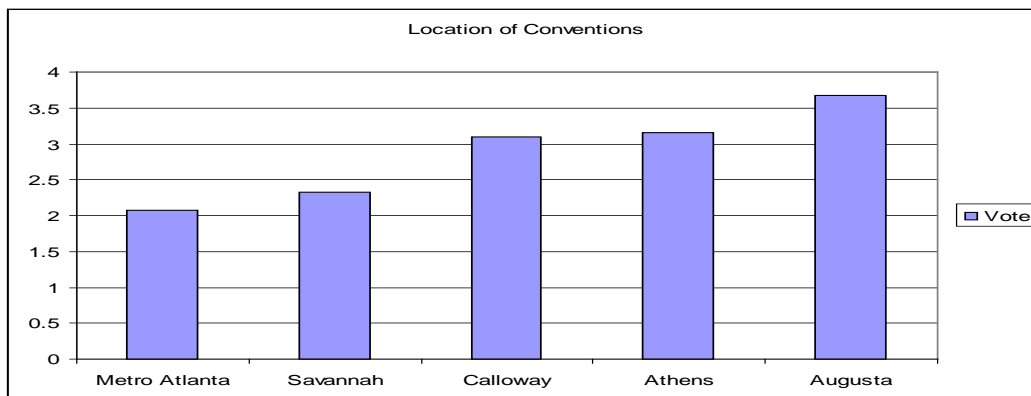
- **2003-2004 National Recognition for LPCA of Georgia:** At the Annual Conference of the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), LPCA of Georgia received the *2003-2004 National Award as the Outstanding Service to Members Large State Chapter* with over 500 members and exemplary service to consumers and membership. Membership is over 1600 members.
- **2005-2008 Legislative Consultant:** Annette Bowling is considered one of the most influential mental health, developmentally disabled and substance abuse advocates in the state of Georgia. Georgia Trend Magazine voted her one of the 100<sup>th</sup> MOST INFLUENTIAL GEORGIANS. She has made major contributions in the behavioral health care field for over 30-years. Her determination and passion for consumer rights and for community-based best practice to be brought to Georgia has been legendary for anyone who watches the dynamics of a General Assembly. She is actively sought out by healthcare professionals, state legislators, family members of the disabled, and law enforcement officials for consultation.

- **National Recognition for LPCA of Georgia:** At the Annual Conference of the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), LPCA of Georgia received the *2003-2004 National Award as the Outstanding Service to Members Large State Chapter* with over 500 members and exemplary service to consumers and membership. Membership is over 1600 members.
- **Membership Needs Assessment Survey Results: 2005 and 2006** A membership survey, pertaining to purpose for joining and strength of LPCA, the results as indicated below are quite revealing. They rated members services, locations of conventions, subjects and speakers suggested.

### Members rate importance of Services



### Locations of Future Conventions



- **A PROCLAMATION:** Sonny Perdue, Governor of the State of Georgia proclaim the February 6, 2006 as "MENTAL HEALTH DAY" in recognition of the efforts of LPCA in joining NASW-GA and GAMFT support of educating the public about Mental Health and to reduce the stigma that discriminates against those with mental illness.. Signed, February 6, 2006 (see Appendix C).

- **Legislative Work on HR49:** : A Outstanding Lobbying efforts by the LPCA Legislative Consultant and the PAC (Political Action Committee) President resulted in a statewide study of the Mental Health Professionals available for Rural Georgia. The results of this study are entered into public records and will help create more professional opportunities for those seeking services.
- **2007-2008 Historic 34 workshops were offered to member:** Thirty Four FREE Continuing Educations workshops were offered to members covering the entire state of Georgia. The subjects covered Ethics, Trauma, Disaster Training, Supervision issues, Play Therapy, Addiction,
- **2007-2008 National Recognition for LPCA of Georgia:** At the Annual Conference of the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), LPCA of Georgia received the *2007-2008 National Award as the Most Outstanding State Chapter* with over 2199 members and exemplary service to consumers and membership.
- **Pending Membership Survey Results:** A membership survey, the first to be done electronically will be available to members 2008 in an effort to continue to meet the growing needs of the Professional Counselor

#### LPCA Era (2009 to Present)

- **2009- National Recognition for LPCA of Georgia:** At the Annual Conference of the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), LPCA of Georgia received the *2007-2008 National Award as the Most Outstanding State Chapter* with over 2200 members and exemplary service to consumers and membership.
- **Pending Membership Survey Results:** A membership survey, the first to be done electronically will be available to members 2009 in an effort to continue to meet the growing needs of the Professional Counselor
- **2010 National Recognition for LPCA of Georgia:** At the Annual Conference of the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), LPCA of Georgia received the *2009-2010 National Award as the Most Outstanding State Chapter* with over 3300 members and exemplary service to consumers and membership.
- **Pending Membership Survey Results:** A membership survey, the first to be done electronically will be available to members 2010 in an effort to continue to meet the growing needs of the Professional Counselor
- **2011-2012 National Recognition for LPCA of Georgia:** At the Annual Conference of the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), LPCA of Georgia received the *2010-2011 National Award as the Most Outstanding State Chapter* with over 3600 members and exemplary service to consumers and membership.
- **2013 National Recognition for LPCA of Georgia:** At the Annual Conference of the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), LPCA of Georgia received the *2012-2014 National Award as the Most Outstanding State Chapter* with over 3200 members and exemplary service to consumers and membership.

- **Pending Membership Survey Results:** A membership survey, the first to be done electronically will be available to members 2014 in an effort to continue to meet the growing needs of the Professional Counselor
- **2014 PASS LEGISLATION FOR THE 1013 PRIVILEGE! With sunset clause. Legislation carried by Senator Renee' Unterman.**
- **FIRST LPC to become a Georgia Senator, Greg Kirk, November 4, 2014, representing District 13. Past President of LPCA of GA**
- **Senate Bill 65 carried by Senator Renee Unterman and presented in the House of Representatives by Penny Houston Passed with a sunset of March 15, 2015.** The SB 65 passed the Senate with only 4 NO votes and passed the House of Representatives with only 38 “no” votes and 119 “Yes” votes
- **2015 REMOVAL of Sunset Clause. Legislation carry by Senator PK Martin**
- **2015 Successful in working with the Licensing board Rule Committee to bring Georgia license requirement up to the 2010 Federal requirements. To be implemented on 09/30/2018**
- **2016 PASS LEGISLATION FOR THE DIAGNOSE PRIVILEGE! Georgia's Scope of Practice for LPCs meets Federal Requirements and VA job requirements for LPCs.**

**LPCA (Licensed Professional Counselor Association of Georgia)**

<u>PRESIDENTS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATIONS</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
Chuck Goodrum, Ph D	GMHCA	1987-1990
Peter Risdon	GMHCA	1990-1991
Russ Terwilliger, Ph D	GMHCA	1991-1992
Jerry Hall, Ph D	GMHCA	1992-1993
Carolyn Wierson, Ph D	GMHCA	1993-1994
Mark Van Tuyl	GMHCA	1994-1995
Joel Bagby	LPCA	1995-1996
Jan Disney	LPCA	1996-1997

Karen Wolfe	LPCA	1997-1998
Charles Good, Ph D	LPCA	1998-1999
Linda Painter, Ph D	LPCA	1999-2000
Fred Pauli	LPCA	2000
Nancy Reeves	LPCA	2000-2002
Phil Foster	LPCA	2002-2003
André Marria	LPCA	2003-2004
Sonia Torretto	LPCA	2004-2005
John C Burns, III, Ed D, FAPA	LPCA	2005-2006
Dawn Collinge, LPC, NCC, MAC	LPCA	2006-2007
Leon E Spencer, Ed D, LPC, NCC, MAC	LPCA	2007-2008
Mary Jackson, Ed D, LPC, NCC	LPCA	2008-2009
Shelley Hankins, LPC, NCC, CFC	LPCA	2009-2010
Don Durkee, EdS, LPC, CPCS, NCC	LPCA	2010-2011
Greg Kirk, LPC (2014 Senator Kirk)	LPCA	2011-2012
Diane Clark, PhD, LPC, CPCS, NCC	LPCA	2012-2013
Jo Abney, LPC, NCC, CAADC	LPCA	2013-2014
Theresa Holt, EdD, LPC, NCC, CPCS	LPCA	2014-2015
Katie Tolleson, MS, LPC	LPCA	2015-2016
Galen Cole, PhD, MPH, LPC, CPCS, DAPA	LPCA	2016-2017
Darrell Brooks, MPA, MEd, LPC, CPCS	LPCA	2017-2018
Lisa King, EdS, LPC	LPCA	2018-2019
Carolyn Ramp, LPC, NCC, ACS, CPCS	LPCA	2019-2020



## **LPCA Conventions, Keynote Speakers, Locations, Dates, and Theme:**

- 1 1988 Ridgeview Institute, Smyrna, Ga,
- 2 1990 Atlanta Legislative
- 3 1990 Atlanta Legislative
- 4 1992 Atlanta Legislative
- 5 1993 Richard M Smith, PHD Wyndham Peachtree City May 14 -15  
*Empowering, Sustaining and Ennobling the Helping Professional*
- 6 1994 John Nestor, PH D Peachtree Executive Conference Center May 6-7  
*Elements of Practice: Professional, Clinical, Ethical*
- 7 1995 Atlanta Legislative
- 8 1996 Atlanta Legislative
- 9 1997 Nancy Benz, MA CCHMC Wyndham Peachtree City May 16 -17  
*Charting a New Course, Navigating Professional & Personal Change*
- 10<sup>th</sup> 1998 Pat Love, ED D LPC NCC LMFT Jekyll Island, GA May 7-10  
*The attachment Crisis in America*
- 11<sup>th</sup> 1999 Donald Meichendbaum PHD Jekyll Inn, May 13 -16  
*The Heart of Counseling*
- 12 2000 Jeffery K Zeig, PhD Savannah May 11 – 14  
*Counseling in the Millennium Building Skills to work with the Challenging Client*
- 13 2001 Dr. Judith Orloff, MD Callaway Gardens May 17 – 20  
*Putting Healing into Practice*
- 14 2002 Thomas Moore, PH D Savannah Riverfront Marriott May9 -12  
*Serving the Soul*
- 15 2003 Patrick J Carnes, Ph D CAS Wyndham Peachtree City May 15-18  
*Moving from Addiction to Wellness: Tapping into Resiliency*
- 16 2004 Alvin E Poussaint Savannah Riverfront Marriott May 6 – 9  
*Balance*
- 17 2005 Martha Manning, Ph D Wyndham Peachtree City May 5-8  
*Resilience of the Mind and Heart*
- 18 2006 Dr. Merrill Norton, Ph D Callaway Gardens, May 18-21  
*Synchronicity: the meaningful coincidence*
- 19 2007 Dr. Derald Wing Sue Savannah Riverfront Marriott, May 17-20  
*Counseling: A Journey Toward Liberation*
- 20 2008 Dr. Sam Gladding, Ph D Marriott Evergreen Four Star Conference Resort  
May 8-11, 2008. *The Spirit of Counseling: Becoming More Inclusive*
- 21 2009 Keynote Speaker TBA Callaway Gardens Resort, May 7-10, 2009  
*Ingenuity: A New Generation of Mental Health Counseling*
- 22 2010 Jane E Smith, EdD and Stephen Howard, MD Hilton Marietta Hotel May 6-9  
*Raising the Bar: The Pursuit of Excellence in Mental Health Counseling*

- 23 2011 Dr Patricia (Pat) Love Savannah Riverfront Marriott Resort May 5-8  
*Relationships: The Key to Life!*
- 24 2012 Mary Bartlett, PhD, LPC, LPC-CS, CFLE Atlanta Marriott Perimeter Atlanta  
*Responding to the Call* June 7-10, 2012
- 25 2013 SILVER ANNIVERSARY Robert E. Wubbolding, EdD, LPCC June 13-16  
*Navigating the Future*
- 26 2014 William E Carter, Jr, MD and Jane E Smith, EdD May 8-11  
*Exploring Cultural Diversity*
- 27 2015 Terry Real, LICSW Augusta Marriott Resort May 7-10  
*The Challenge of Change*
- 28 2016 Carol L. Bobby, PhD, NCC, LPC; Urszula Klich, PhD; Richard Soutar, PhD;  
Ray Kotwicki, MD, MPH; Susan Blank, MD Atlanta Evergreen Marriott May 5-7  
*The Art & Science of Psychotherapy*
- 29 2017 Westin Savannah Harbor May 10-12  
*Mindfulness: Co-Self-Awareness*
- 30 2018 Howard A. Gold, MSW, JD Atlanta Marriott Century May 9-12  
*Synergy: Connect, Communicate, Collaborate*
- 31 2019 Several Special Keynote Speakers Savannah Marriott Riverfront May 7-10  
*Vision of the Future*

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **LPCA Master Therapist Series, Speakers, Locations, Dates:**

- 2004 **Scott D Miller, PhD**, Pathways to Possibility with Difficult Cases:  
Friday, October 22 and Saturday October 23, 2004
- 2005 **Denice Colson, MS, LPC, CTRT**, Stop Treating Symptoms and Start Resolving  
Trauma: Etiotropic Trauma Management and Trauma Resolution Therapy  
Friday, October 28 and Saturday October 29, 2005
- 2007 **Bessel von de Kolk, M.D.** World Leader in Trauma.  
Trauma, Attachment and the Body. Friday, March 30, 2007
- 2007 **Dr. J. Greg Sullivan, M.D.** Ethics and Addictions  
Friday, December 7, 2007
- 2008 **Merrill A Norton, D.Ph, NCACII, CCS**, Psychopharmacology

Friday, February 1, 2008

- 2010 **Wallace Jones**, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI)  
Friday, January 29 and Saturday January 30, 2010
- 2012 **Donna Johnson, CAS, ICADC, ICCJP, ICCPD, LADC** , Neuroscience and  
Treatment Friday, March 30, 2007 January 27, 2012
- 2012 **Susan Kossak, PhD, and Charlie Safford, LCSW** , Effective Clinical Supervision  
of the Mental Health Professional, Thursday – Saturday July 12-14
- 2013 **Dr. James Duffy, M and, Dr Mark Pirtle NPT** Five Medicines - The Science  
Foundations and Clinical Application of Integrative Mental Health Care  
Friday and Saturday April 12 and 13, 2013
- 2015 **Laura van Dernoot Lipsky, MSW** Transforming Trauma – How to Do This Work  
and Not Completely Lose Our Minds Friday, February 27, 2015

APPENDIX A



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**A PROCLAMATION**

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS WEEK

- WHEREAS: Mental health counselors work in a specialized field of counseling which emphasizes the developmental and adjustive nature of mental health service; and
- WHEREAS: Mental health counselors are required to earn either a master's or doctoral degree and to perform two years of supervised clinical counseling to be credentialed as Licensed Professional Counselors in Georgia; and
- WHEREAS: Mental health counselors provide professional counseling services such as the application of principles of psychotherapy, human development, learning theory, group dynamics and the etiology of mental illness and dysfunctional behavior; and
- WHEREAS: Mental health counselors work in conjunction with psychiatrists, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, clinical social workers and psychiatric nurses to determine the most appropriate counseling for each client; and
- WHEREAS: Mental health counselors work in psychiatric hospitals, community mental health agencies, private clinics, community hospitals, rehabilitation centers, private practice settings and on college campuses to provide direct delivery of mental health services; and
- WHEREAS: Mental health counselors are dedicated to the well-being of all citizens and work towards providing mental health services in all areas of our state; now
- THEREFORE: I, Joe Frank Harris, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim the week of May 7 - 13, 1989, as "MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS WEEK" in honor and recognition of these health care professionals and the vital services they render.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed. This 1st day of May 1989.



*Joe Frank Harris*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Tom Lewin*

SENIOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS WEEK

WHEREAS: Mental health counselors' work is a specialized field of counseling which emphasizes the developmental and adjustive nature of mental health services; and

WHEREAS: Mental health counselors provide professional counseling services, including the application of principles of psychotherapy, human development, learning theory, group dynamics and the etiology of mental illness and dysfunctional behavior to individuals, couples, families, and groups for the purpose of treating psychopathology and promoting optimal mental health; and

WHEREAS: Mental health counselors work in psychiatric hospitals, community mental health agencies, private clinics, community hospitals, rehabilitation centers, private practice settings, and on college campuses, providing direct delivery of mental health services to the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS: Mental health counselors are providers of mental health services upon whom, by virtue of their education and extensive training, have been conferred master's or doctoral degrees in mental health counseling or closely related areas of study having a focus on mental health; now

THEREFORE: I, Zell Miller, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim the week of May 5 - 11, 1991, as "MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS WEEK" in Georgia.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed. This 25th day of April 1991.



*Zell Miller*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Arthur L. Mason*  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION MENTAL HEALTH DAY

- WHEREAS: It is estimated that as many as 2.8 million Americans suffer from severe mental illness, and 93,000 of these individuals reside in the State of Georgia; and
- WHEREAS: Mental health is fundamental to a person's overall health and personal well-being; and
- WHEREAS: It is important to educate the public about mental illness to reduce the stigma that motivates discrimination against those with mental illnesses, as well as to teach individuals to recognize the signs, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment options of common mental health disorders; and
- WHEREAS: Cultivating treatment awareness will help individuals avoid unnecessary negative consequences of untreated anxiety, depression and other mental illness; and
- WHEREAS: The Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia, the Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the Georgia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy are committed to raising awareness and understanding of mental health and mental illness; now
- THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 6, 2006, as MENTAL HEALTH DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this sixth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand six.



*Sonny Perdue*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*John K. Feltner*  
CHIEF OF STAFF

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia, Inc. is dedicated to the profession and the professionalism of Counselors in Georgia.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

The Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia, Inc, LPCA, is a dynamic, progressive organization promoting the role of professional counselors as leaders in mental health care.

We create a safe, nurturing association fostering the professional and personal growth of our members.

As the premier organization representing counselors in Georgia, we enhance the image and working environment of Professional Counselors by:

Maintaining the highest professional and ethical standards

Providing leadership through development of legislative initiatives

Initiating collaborative relationships based on our principles of inclusiveness and mutuality with any and all organizations vested in mental health

We provide services with respect and dignity to those we serve.

As counselors, we believe quality mental health care is crucial to the well being of our clients, our community, our nation and our planet.

## Scope of Practice

*Professional counseling means that specialty which utilizes counseling techniques based on principles, methods, and procedures of counseling that assist people in identifying and resolving personal, social, vocational, interpersonal and intrapersonal concerns; utilizes counseling and psychotherapy to evaluate, diagnose, treat and recommend a course of treatment for emotional and mental problems and conditions, whether cognitive, behavioral, or affective; provided that the counselor shall have training and experience working with people with mental illness, mental retardation, or substance abuse; administers and interprets educational and vocational assessment instruments and other tests which the professional counselor is qualified to employ by virtue of education, training, and experience; utilizes information and community resources and goal setting for personal, social, or vocational development; utilizes individual and group techniques for facilitating problem solving, decision making, and behavior change; utilizes functional assessment and vocational planning and guidance for persons requesting assistance in adjustment to a disability or handicapping condition; utilizes referral for persons who request counseling services; and utilizes and interprets counseling research.*

Scope of Practice as of July 1, 1993 as written into Law, thanks to the lobbying efforts of LPCA, your professional association.