

GUIDELINES | Ohio Counseling Association

The mission of OCA is to promote and advance the profession of counseling.



VOLUME 33, NUMBER 1

FALL 2006



COUNSELOR ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS—"You Can Make a Difference"

Bill Nemeč, Chair, OCA Government Relations Committee

It is an honor and privilege to be able to serve the membership of the Ohio Counseling Association as the Chair of the Government Relations Committee. As you can see by the excellent legislative report prepared by our lobbyist Carolyn Towner and her staff, OCA is working on a number of different state policy issues to advance the profession and better serve clients.

Be an Advocate for your Profession

I have always been a firm believer in the importance of counselors advocating for their profession as well as for their clients. Throughout my career I've tried to model the importance of counselor advocacy to my counseling students and colleagues.

Today, more than ever before, we need the involvement of all counselors to carry our profession to the next level in gaining parity with other mental health providers in school and mental health settings. Much progress has been made in these areas in recent years. However, much more needs to be accomplished. Counselors should be reimbursed for Medicare. Schools should be required to have counselors on staff. These are just two areas that are critical to our future. I believe more needs to be done to educate, inform and promote the counseling profession to legislators, employers, third party payers and the public at large. If professional counselors do not become more proactive in the marketplace, I am not sure they can maintain the professional gains they have achieved to date.

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Don't sit back and assume others will take the lead. The "State House Report by Towner Policy Group" on page 4 of this issue of *Guidelines* includes a number of practical ways counselors can become involved in helping OCA achieve its legislative goals. Being a member of the Ohio Counseling Association should mean much more than paying your dues and attending the All Ohio Counselors Conference. We need your help. Remember, **you can make a difference!**

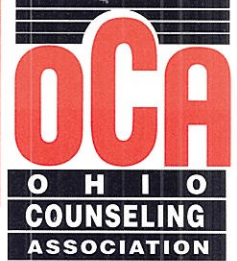
"Counselor Advocacy" continued on page 8



Be sure to register for the **2006 All Ohio Counselors Conference** being held at the Hilton Columbus, November 1-3.

See page 8 for more details!

Ohio Counseling Association 2006-2007



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Caryn Griffen
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Kathy Goins
Parliamentarian

Convention Dates

| | |
|--------------|--|
| October 5-7 | ACA Midwest Region Leadership Training Grand Rapids, MI |
| November 1-3 | All Ohio Counselors Conference Columbus, OH Hilton Columbus—Easton Town Center |
| March 21-25 | ACA 2007 Annual Convention Detroit, MI |

Guidelines

FALL 2006: VOLUME 33, NUMBER 1

Guidelines is the Ohio Counseling Association's quarterly newsletter published for its members. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and news. **Deadlines for submission are August 1; November 15; February 1; and May 2 of each year.**

Advertisements and articles are subject to editorial approval and revision. OCA reserves the right to reject any ad or article for any reason.

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The Ohio Counseling Association is a branch of the American Counseling Association.



Join OCA for Life!

Effective July 2005, a **Lifetime Membership in OCA** is available. This new membership category was approved by the OCA Executive Council and voted on by OCA membership in the spring of this year. The OCA Finance Committee has set the Lifetime Membership fee at \$500.00 for 2005-06. This will provide members with the opportunity to be members of OCA for life, without ever needing to renew their membership! Please obtain the new OCA Membership Form by accessing the OCA website at www.ohiocounselingassoc.com

Another new OCA membership category is **Legacy Member** (what had previously been referred to as Lifetime Member). This is an honor extended only by the OCA Executive Council and reserved for those OCA members who have demonstrated outstanding service and leadership to OCA during their careers.

A Message from Our President Thelma Greaser



“Building bridges to promote the profession and practice of counseling” is the theme for the 2006-2007 OCA year. As a practitioner in the field of professional counseling, I am often aware of the need to build bridges—bridges needed to form positive working relationships with the children, adolescents and families who come to my office seeking assistance in navigating the difficulties in their lives. To be successful in our profession we not only need to build bridges to our clients and students, but also to each other and to other professionals in our schools, communities and organizations.

It is my experience that this process can often be challenging, yet it can also be very rewarding and validating when I am witness to personal growth in my clients and students and professional growth among my colleagues.

Recently, while in a counseling session with a family, the father talked to his son about the importance of learning to trust a counselor so that he can talk about what is really bothering him and causing him to feel angry. The father said, “Son, it’s like this, you have to build a bridge, then have the courage to walk across it if you really want to feel better about life.”

An integral bridge building project for OCA during the upcoming year is our continued efforts to develop positive working relationships with legislators who will support our efforts to maintain our independent practice privileges. This bridge needs constant maintenance as we learned earlier this year when legislation was introduced to take away our ability to diagnose and treat biologically based illnesses and to change our current counseling law. As you read elsewhere in this newsletter, this continues to be an area of concern for professional counselors in Ohio.

I challenge all of us as professional counselors to make a concerted effort to build a bridge to someone who will be impacted in a positive way as a result of our efforts. I commit to continue working with my clients to develop the tools and the strength to work at the bridge building process in counseling sessions. I will also do this with individuals and organizations who can make a difference. As my client said, you have to build a bridge, then have the courage to walk across it. It is my hope that each of you will accept this challenge, get out your bridge building tools, then have the courage to take that walk.



FIRST RESPONDERS

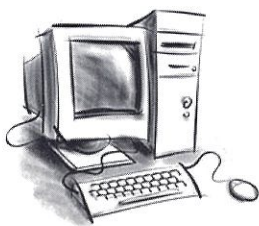
Amber Lange, All Hazards Task Force

OCA is seeking individuals to become First Responders. Are you a licensed counselor who might be interested in training to become a first responder for when a disaster or crisis develops in the state? Requirements include: licensed clinician, completion of training course, completion of evaluation and role plays, and completion of a form indicating your willingness to be a first responder. Completing these requirements allows you to be placed on Ohio’s list of qualified individuals who can participate during a crisis or disaster.

OCA is also seeking individuals interested in becoming a Trainer of Trainers. This is a one day training that qualifies you to train others as first responders when a disaster or crisis occurs in Ohio.

If you are interested in either becoming a First Responder or a Trainer of Trainers, please contact Amber Lange at ami71@buckeye-express.com.

Check out OCA’s new and improved website at its new web address www.ohiocounseling.org



- Membership application
- Links to chapters and divisions
- Member services
- Upcoming events
- Executive Council members and their contact information



OCA Lobbyists (L to R) Amanda Sines, Carolyn Towner, and Kristy Smith

Mental Health Hold Legislation May Be Voted on After Election

On March 14, 2006, Senate Bill 213, OCA's mental health hold legislation, passed the Ohio Senate by a vote of 33 – 0, and following referral to the Ohio House had two hearings in the House Health Committee in May. The Ohio Psychiatric Association (OPA) tried to get the bill removed from the Committee's agenda on May 24, 2006 because OPA could not get their witness to the hearing to testify. Chairman John White went ahead with the hearing and Carol Pohly (former Chair of OCA's Government Relations Committee) and Bob Wilson (Chair of the Government Relations Committee for the Ohio Mental Health Counselors' Association) testified in favor of Senate Bill 213.

Both Pohly and Wilson told the Committee that from their experience the police will not detain and transport a client to a hospital unless they have been given a statement of observation or statement of belief signed by a qualified person. At the hearing, State Representative Shawn Webster suggested the bill should be expanded to include any medical health professional who has the ability to diagnose and treat mental illness. Bob Wilson noted that if the person is authorized to do that kind of work then they are obliged to carry out their duty to protect. In response to a question from State Representative Earl Martin regarding personally transporting a client, Bob Wilson said he did not anticipate that happening since the normal procedure would be to fill out the form and call the police. When the bill was in the Senate Health Committee, Carol Pohly and Bob Wilson testified, as well as, Cornelia Wilson, a licensed professional clinical counselor and advanced practice registered nurse and nursing professor at the University of Cincinnati.

Senate Bill 213 will amend the current mental health hold law that applies to psychiatrists, psychologists, physicians, health officers, parole officers, police officers, and sheriffs to allow a licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC) to have a person taken into custody and immediately transport the person to a hospital where the person may be held if the LPCC has reason to believe the person is mentally ill and represents a substantial risk of physical harm to self or others if allowed to remain at liberty pending examination. The LPCC would be required to give the hospital a written statement detailing the circumstances under which such person was taken into custody and the reasons for the LPCC's belief.

According to legislators, they are hearing from more individuals opposed to the legislation than individuals in favor of the legislation. Please contact your State Representative and tell him/her why Senate Bill 213 is needed. If you do not know who your State Representative is, please go to www.legislature.state.oh.us and enter your zip code.

The Honorable _____:
Ohio House of Representatives
Riffe Center
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0603

Dear Representative _____:

Continued on Page 5



OCA Forms Political Action Committee

The Ohio Counseling Association is excited to announce the creation of the OCA PAC (political action committee)! A PAC is an excellent way for our association to stay actively engaged in the legislative process. The OCA has become increasingly active at the Statehouse. The following OCA members have been appointed to the OCA PAC Board of Trustees:

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Susan Sears, Chair | Carol Pohly, Vice Chair |
| Lynne Guillot-Miller, Secretary-Treasurer | Gretchen Turner |
| Bob Wilsor | Bill Nemec |

The purpose of the FAC is to promote and strive for the improvement of government by encouraging and stimulating counselors and others to take a more active and effective part in governmental affairs; to encourage counselors and others to understand the nature and actions of their state government, the important political issues, and the records of state officeholders and candidates for state representative, state senate, and statewide offices; and to assist counselors and others in organizing themselves for more effective political act on and in carrying out their civic responsibilities.

We need all of the members of the OCA to get involved. There are many ways for a member to be involved and contributing to our new PAC is one of the easiest ways. The OCA PAC enables Counselors to assist in the election of public officials who will be accessible and responsive to counselors and the needs of the patients and students we serve.

OCA's legislative involvement can only be successful with the dedication and help of its members. A contribution to our PAC will help our Association impact on important legislative and regulatory issues that affect counselors. We need all members of the Ohio Counseling Association to make the commitment to help in the efforts at the Statehouse. Increased political involvement through the creation of the OCA PAC will be an important addition to our legislative efforts.

Please consider donating to the OCA PAC. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated and put to good use. The recommended method of donation is a check; however, per Ohio Law, corporate checks cannot be accepted. Personal checks and checks from a partnership or a limited liability company are allowed. A PAC can accept cash, as long as the cash contribution does not exceed \$100 annually from an individual. Thank you for considering this request and understanding the importance of keeping advocates for the counseling profession in elected office.

Join OCA's PAC Today !

Name of PAC Contributor: _____

Address of Contributor: _____

Employer of Contributor: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Contribution Amount: _____

Send your check, payable to the CCA PAC, to:
OCA PAC
Lynne Guillot-Miller, Secretary/Treasurer
33 North Third Street, Suite 320
Columbus, OH 43215

OCA PAC is formed in accordance with Ohio Law. It is a voluntary, non-profit political organization and not affiliated with any political party. Ohio Law prohibits a political action committee from accepting donations from corporations. Donations made to OCA PAC are not tax deductible.

Chapters and Divisions



Ohio Mental Health Counselors Association (OMHCA)

Linda Barclay, President

We are proud to announce that OMHCA received the Outstanding State Chapter award (2005-06) at the American Mental Health Counselors Association annual conference in St. Louis, July 21st. Our chapter was recognized in several areas including: professional advocacy at the state government level; several co-sponsored professional development workshops on clinical topics (with member discounts); chapter website and newsletter improvements; involvement of students in professional development activities such as the student poster reception at 2005 AOCC which was co-sponsored with participating Ohio Chapters of CSI (we will be doing that again this year!); and member service to AMHCA committees and projects. Congratulations to our Past-President Amy Freadling who provided leadership for the Chapter's growth and development during 2005-06!

Two of our members, Dr. Linda Barclay and Dr. F. Robert Wilson, received individual awards at the AMHCA conference as well: the President's award for service to the Mental Health Counseling profession (Barclay) and the Government and Legislative award (Wilson).

The OMHCA Board held a retreat in Columbus on May 5th to transition officers and operations, and to brainstorm priorities for the 2006-07 year. We are working now on finalizing those goals and plans. We welcome two doctoral interns who will be working with us this year: Anne Defenbaugh M.A., LPC from OSU and Amber Lange M.A., LLPC from UT. We look forward to a busy year!

Greater Cincinnati Counseling Association (GCCA)

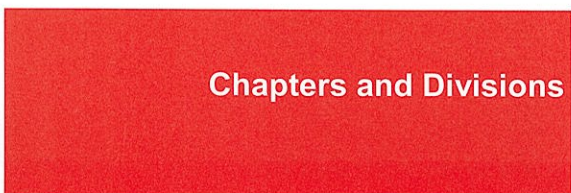
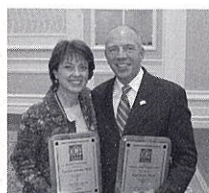
Jacqueline Smith, President

The Greater Cincinnati Counseling Association will hold the 31st annual Winter Workshop January 12-13, 2007 on the campus of Xavier University. The keynote speaker is Dr. Phil Johnson from Western Michigan University who will present a workshop based on his article entitled "Counseling African American Men: A Contextualized Humanistic Perspective." The article was published in *Counseling and Values*, 2006. Attendees will also have an opportunity to earn 3 CEU's in Counselor Ethics and attend breakout sessions. For more information, visit the website at www.cincycounseling.com or contact Dr. Jacqueline Smith, GCCA President at smithjac@nku.edu or Dr. Bill O'Connell, Workshop Chair at oconnell@xavier.edu

Ohio Association for Specialists in Group Work (OASGW)

Louisa Foss-Pierce, President

The Ohio Association for Specialists in Group Work (OASGW) is pleased to announce its new website: www.oasgw.org. The OASGW website will be a source of information about happenings within the organization and general group work resources. In addition, OASGW will continue to offer opportunities for networking, leadership, and training in group work in counseling. At this time, we are seeking energetic counselors, counselor educators, or counseling students to serve on committees to assist with our annual spring workshop, quarterly newsletter, membership, and other annual tasks. We hope that you will consider joining us, and don't forget to check us out on the web! For more information, contact Louisa Foss-Pierce at Walsh University: 330-490-7268 or lfossperce@walsh.edu.



Ohio School Counselors Association (OSCA)

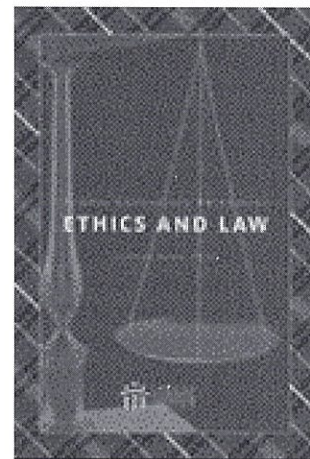
Kelley Schubert, President

Book Review

Title: School Counseling Principles: Ethics and Law

Author: Carolyn Stone, Ph.D.
American School Counselor Association
Alexandria, VA

Price: \$41.95 http://www.schoolcounselor.org/store_home.asp



Carolyn Stone, Ethics Chair for the American School Counselor Association, brings her talent and passion for the ethical practice of school counseling to everyone who reads this magnificent book. *School Counseling Principles: Ethics and Law* is written for practicing school counselors and students in counselor education programs. This book will raise awareness of legal and ethical issues and reduce the risk of unlawful or unethical behavior that could interfere with a school counselor's ability to effectively work with those they serve.

Dr. Stone frames the text in the first chapter as she lays out the foundation for ethical decision-making. Along with ASCA's ethical standards, a discussion of thirteen complicating factors relevant to those working with minors in a school setting is included. In addition, a nine-step process for considering the crucial elements of each case is explained. This process, Solutions to Ethical Problems in Schools (STEP), guides professional school counselors through a process of considering how the emotional, chronological and developmental stages of a student as well as the rights of parents impact a case.

In chapters 2-12, Dr. Stone grabs the reader's attention by presenting stimulating case studies and then helps the reader understand the concepts presented by providing an analysis of each scenario. Readers are given points to consider as they wrestle with the concepts discussed. The chapter topics reveal the multiplicity of issues and variety of situations examined (professionalism; family education rights and privacy act; negligence; obligations to the court; child abuse; individual and group counseling and classroom guidance; sexually active students; sexual harassment; bullying, violence and criminal activity; gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students; and ethics of advocacy).

Working with minors in a school setting presents numerous complications and Dr. Stone's contributions to the profession continue to guide professional school counselors along the path of ethical behavior. *Ethics and Law* is a "must-have" book for every professional school counselor.



The Ohio Counseling Association executive board met for their annual leadership training at the Buxton Inn on July 13 and 14. The focus of our time together was to discuss goals for this upcoming year and to learn to know one another to enhance our work for counselors in Ohio.

One of the activities was to watch the Fish philosophy video. We were challenged to "catch the energy ... release the potential" as we proceed with our work on behalf of counselors as well as the clients, students and professionals with whom we are in contact. The video description says, "Imagine a workplace where everyone chooses to bring energy, passion, and a positive attitude with them each day. An environment in which people are truly connected to their work, to their colleagues and to their customers." The four tools we can use to achieve this philosophy are "play, make their day, be there and choose your attitude". The next time you meet someone who is serving on the OCA Board, ask them about their attitude ... who knows what answer you will receive.



2006 All Ohio Counselors Conference November 1-3, Hilton Columbus

A counselor's ability to make strong, positive and meaningful connections with others is crucial to student/client success. The presidents of OCA and OSCA invite you to Columbus in November for the 2006 All Ohio Counselors Conference being held at the Hilton Columbus (Easton Town Center) and hope the conference will provide many opportunities to build new relationships and renew old ones. It is believed that the ideas you explore and the skills you gain will serve as a bridge to support your work with clients, students, and other professionals.

A number of Pre- and Post-Conference sessions will bookend nearly 130 session offerings over the three days. The keynote address will be given by Robert L. Williamson on the topic ***Five Popular Strategies for Handling Conflict (Which Are Guaranteed to Get Bridges Burning)***. For a downloadable version of the AOCC News Gazette please visit www.cdeducation.org/aocc/prog online.



Counselor Advocacy, continued from page 1

The Mission and Responsibilities of the OCA Government Relations Committee

In order to provide a clear focus to the work of the Government Relations Committee, the following statement of its mission and responsibilities has been developed:

Mission

The OCA Legislative Agenda is shaped by current or proposed federal and state issues that have an impact on: a.) the provision of counseling and mental health services to the citizens of Ohio, and b.) the practice of professional counseling by members of OCA and its chapters and divisions.

The OCA Government Relations Committee reviews, analyzes and adopts written policy positions on federal/state/local issues, bills, proposed rules/regulations and practices that impact the delivery of counseling and mental health services.

Responsibilities

1. Facilitate the formulation and writing of a common legislative platform/agenda with input and collaboration with all OCA Divisions.
2. Monitor legislation related to counseling in close liaison with OCA's lobbyists; help formulate strategies and positions; and direct lobbying efforts on state issues.
3. Provide assistance to legislators, and where appropriate, develop and influence the passage of legislation beneficial to the recipients of counseling and mental health services.
4. Articulate the views of OCA to legislators through contact by telephone, written correspondence, electronic communication and/or personal contact.
5. Work with the Ohio Department of Education, the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board, other state agencies, and the legislature on issues pertaining to the counseling profession.
6. Communicate OCA's legislative platform/agenda to the OCA PAC.
7. Disseminate legislative information to the OCA membership.
8. Seek input and opinions of OCA members to better represent their respective interests.
9. Maintain and strengthen effective liaisons/relationships with other professional organizations and groups such as the Coalition for Healthy Communities on matters of mutual interest and concern.
10. Facilitate the support of all OCA divisions for legislation related to specific clientele and settings even though one or more OCA divisions may be providing leadership for such efforts.
11. Develop government relations training for chapters and divisions.
12. Establish priorities of legislative issues of concern to OCA.

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Underfer Scholarship Fund



The **Underfer Scholarship Fund** is the legacy left by OCA Past-President, Jean Underfer-Babalis to honor the ideals of leadership instilled in her by her parents, Jerry and Jane Underfer. The first applications will be determined by the Awards Committee in 2005. Scholarships and grants will be awarded to assist both students and professional members of OCA in education, training, research and other related activities that will advance client welfare, strengthen the professional identity of counselors, and promote effective leadership. Tax deductible donations can be mailed to OCA. Checks should be made payable to OCA or the Ohio Counseling Association.

THE OCA DONOR ROLL UNDERFER LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jean Underfer-Babalis, 2004
EOCA Past -Presidents, 2004
Paul & Darcy Granello, 2005
Martin Ritchie 2005
Christopher Roseman, 2005
NWOCA, 2006



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