

Senate Next Hurdle

Licensure Bill Passes House, 70 to 20

Where we are now

On May 26, the Ohio House of Representatives passed Substitute H.B. 205 by a vote of 70-20. This action came just three weeks after the House Economic Affairs and Federal Relations Committee voted the Bill out of Committee by a 10-1 vote. The wide margin of victory in both the Committee and on the House floor is an indication of the strong support for the legal recognition of Counselors and Social Workers in Ohio. Representative Dean Conley, the Prime Sponsor of H.B. 205 and the Social Worker and Counselor Coalition (SWACC) are to be commended for the great effort they put forth in gaining House passage of the Bill.

Where we go next

Substitute House Bill 205 now goes to the Senate State Government, Health and Human Resources Committee for further hearings and action. If the Bill is acted on promptly and favorably by the Senate Committee it could conceivably go to a floor vote in the Senate prior to the Legislature's summer recess.

Psychologists are critical

The Ohio Psychological Association poses the major opposition to the licensure effort as proposed by the Counselors and Social Workers. OPA does not object to licensing Social Workers. However, they oppose the licensing of Counselors unless there are stringent limitations placed on the psychological procedures Counselors can use. Through OPA's lobbying efforts they were able to have the definition of Professional Counseling amended in the House version of the Bill so it would prohibit Counselors licensed under the Bill from diagnosing or treating mental disorders. Since virtually any problem can be classified as a mental disorder, the Social Worker and Counselor Coalition strongly feels this clause would severely restrict counselors from providing services for which they are adequately trained. The Bill as originally proposed does ensure that Counselors could only utilize those techniques and psychological procedures that are allowed and within the preparation standards and ethical practices of the Counseling Profession. SWACC with your help will make every effort to have this restrictive clause taken out of the Bill during the Senate Committee hearings.

What counselors need to do NOW

1. Contact members of the Senate State Government, Health and Human Resources Com-

mittee as soon as possible (whether or not they are in your district). Urge their support for Substitute H.B. 205. See page 3 of this issue for a summary of the Bill and for questions legislators often ask about counselor licensure. This information will be helpful in forming your own reasons for supporting the Bill. Also see page 3 for a listing of the Senate Committee members hearing the Bill.

2. Contact your own state senator. Write or call him/her, attend meetings where your senator will appear, or set up a meeting with him/her. Explain how the legislation will protect the public from unqualified persons who hold themselves as counselors as well as providing legal accountability to the public and the counseling profession. If your senator is not a member of the State Government, Health and Human Resources Committee, ask him/her to talk to the Chair of that Committee (Marigene Valiquette) and voice his/her hope that the Committee will report the Bill out for floor action.

3. After you state your reasons for supporting the bill indicate your objection to the restrictive amendment to the definition of Professional Counseling supported by the Ohio Psychological Association and added in the House Committee. This amendment reads as follows: "Practice of Professional Counseling does not include the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders." The legislators need to understand how this clause would limit counselors qualified and trained in Professional Counseling to only counseling individuals with problems not considered mental disorders. As you communicate with your legislators it is important to let them know the qualifications and training you have for the position for which you would be seeking licensure. Psychology is not the only profession that can or should deal with mental disorders. If you have questions or need clarification on this issue contact Charlotte Huddle, OPGA Licensure Chairperson.

4. Stress the importance of the Privileged Communication provision of the Bill. The Prosecuting Attorneys' Association is attempting to have this provision deleted.

5. Become knowledgeable about the Bill. Request a copy of the Bill from your senator.

Remember

Communication is the key to a successful campaign. None of us can do it alone. If you have questions contact Charlotte Huddle, OPGA Licensure Chairperson, 140 E. Town Street #1200, Columbus, Ohio 43215, Phone: 614-252-8421 or Mary Ellen Ludlum, SWACC, 40 West Long Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, Phone: 614-461-4484.

For those of you who have already done this — THANKS!

—Gene Wysong and Bill Nemeo

Charlotte Huddle new OPGA President-elect

The 1983 OPGA election returns have been tallied and the new President-elect is Charlotte Huddle. Ms. Huddle, currently a counselor in private practice in Columbus, brings to the office not only a broad range of experience in school, community and college counseling, but service and commitment to OPGA and other professional organizations.

Huddle's counseling experience has included ten years as an elementary school counselor. In addition to her private counseling practice she works part-time as a counselor in a community mental health clinic in Columbus. She has served OPGA as Chairperson of its Licensure Committee for the past two years and is currently doing an out-

standing job of lobbying for the passage of the Counselor/Social Worker Licensure Bill.

As she serves her term of office, which begins on July 1, 1983, Ms. Huddle hopes to see the passage of the Licensure Bill before the end of 1983.

She also feels strongly that ... "all counseling and guidance professionals must unite and speak with one strong voice for the improvement of human services for children, youth and adults in Ohio."

OPGA is looking forward to the professional leadership and commitment that Ms. Huddle brings to the organization.

—Bill Nemeo

Dzur, Richter, Takacs receive 1983 awards

Jack Cochran presented the 1983 OPGA Awards Saturday afternoon to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to counseling in Ohio.

The "You Done Good" Award, given for outstanding service to OPGA, was presented to Barb Dzur, a counselor at Medina County Joint Vocational School in Medina. Barb has spent hundreds of hours doing quality work in OPGA. She has served as Convention Co-Chair, secretary, membership chair, conven-

tion registrar, and head of convention exhibits. She was also president-elect until other work commitments made it necessary for her to resign.

The Dermot Schnack Meritorious Service Award was presented to Patrick Richter for his outstanding service to promote the counseling profession—on the job and in professional organizations. As a school counselor, Pat is praised by administrators, colleagues, and students for his dedication, competence, creativity, and caring. In terms of professional involvement, he helped build a chapter to the point that it won the "Outstanding Ohio Chapter" award during his presidency.

Daisy Takacs received the Chuck Weaver Award. This award is presented to a person who has long and distinguished service to the counseling profession and who demonstrates exemplary caring for persons. Daisy definitely exemplifies these qualities. She has spent more than 30 years as a school counselor besides holding professional leadership positions which included OPGA President and, in APGA, member of the Senate and Board of Directors, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, Senate Parliamentary Chair, Chair of the Midwest Branch Council, and Hostess annually of "The Party."

Speakers, awards highlight 1983 Convention

Lovett keynotes opening session

Dr. Tom Lovett, Associate Dean of Students, Southeast Missouri State University, spoke on the topic "Legal Liability" during the opening session of the 1983 OPGA Convention at the Dayton Stouffer's Plaza Hotel on Friday, April 22. Dr. Lovett informed the audience of over 300 school counselors and mental health professionals of the three sources of law and how they relate to counselors' legal liability.

He named negligence, malpractice, and defamation of character as the three areas in which counselors are most likely to incur legal liability and reviewed some recent cases and their impact on the counseling profession.



Dr. Tom Lovett

Dr. Lovett concluded his address by presenting the following "Nine Commandments":

1. Keep accurate records;
2. Be aware that correspondence tends to be read by many

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APGA President Helen Washburn addresses changes

Helen Washburn, APGA President, spoke on present and future directions for APGA at the Friday luncheon. She announced that the APGA Senate has voted to change the name of APGA to American Association for Counseling and Development (AACD). The proposed change will go to the Senators for a written vote shortly and if they approve again the name change will be final. She also discussed the streamlining of the APGA governance structure into one body rather than the present structure of a Board of Directors and a Senate.

Mrs. Washburn also updated the conference participants on the professional issues of registry, accreditation and licensure. She particularly praised Ohio's progress in getting a Counselor Licensure Bill passed.

She commended OPGA for providing an outstanding conference for counselors in Ohio, particularly with the emphasis she saw being placed on government relations, and noted that it is very important that APGA and OPGA be very visible at the national and state levels of government.

Rep. Dean Conley optimistic about Licensure Bill now

Representative Dean Conley, prime sponsor for H.B. 205, the Counselors-Social Workers Licensure Bill, spoke optimistically as he addressed school counselors and mental health professionals attending the Saturday luncheon at the 1983 OPGA Convention. His words "This is the session when we're going to get that bill passed," were received enthusiastically by the audience.

Representative Conley credited the hard work of the Social Workers and Counselors Coalition for the relatively little opposition to the bill this session. He predicted that the bill would be voted out of Committee within 2 to 3 weeks, on the House floor by the end of May, and to the Senate by June. His predictions held true, this being the first time the bill has been voted out of the House or Senate.

He cautioned his audience, however, to "always expect the unexpected." Even though the future of the bill looks good now, we must keep the work going!

We must keep thinking about the Senate!

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Daisy Takacs, Patrick Richter, and Barb Dzur display awards they received at 1983 Convention. (See pages 4 and 5 for more Convention photos.)

Convention notes

I received my first hint that the 1983 OPGA Convention was going to be exciting and exceptionally well-organized on Thursday evening as I arrived for the board meeting and was greeted by Rick Hankinson and his "It's Great 'n Dayton" stickers. My second hint was that the convention folders were already stuffed due to the effort and teamwork of MVPGA that was evident throughout the weekend.

By 8:45 a.m. on Friday, I knew this was going to be an exciting weekend. The OMHCA balloons filled the registration area and many of the meeting rooms to create a festive atmosphere as school counselors and mental health professionals gathered for the 1983 OPGA Convention. The mood was enhanced by the Chamber of Commerce slide presentation accompanied by lively musical selections showing all attendees that Dayton is Great.



Nancy

Now was the time for E.T. The Extra Training began when keynote speaker Dr. Tom Lovett clarified a number of issues regarding legal liability. I was sorry I couldn't attend either of his small group sessions, but with 94 outstanding programs to select from, I wanted to absorb as many different ideas as possible. I wasn't disappointed. Robert E. Wubbolding, Xavier University, combined theory and application in speaking of "Reality Therapy: Trends, Issues and Applications to Client's Feelings and Excuses." The double session, using lecture and role playing techniques, moved quickly and was extremely informative.

The balloons seemed to multiply in the Van Cleve Room where the Friday luncheon was held. Enthusiasm still abounded, especially as Helen Washburn, APGA President, addressed the more than 300 professionals now present.

After a filling lunch, I again set out to attend Interest Sessions. H. Gene Wyson, University of Toledo, helped me overcome some of my anxiousness about Written Guidance Programs in his presentation "School Guidance Program Accountability: A Partnership in Quality." "Next I moved to hear Diane Frey, Wright State University, speak on "Enhancing Students' Self-Esteem." Another outstanding program with many new ideas.

My next stop was the exhibit area for the hospitality hour and licensure raffle that Joel Chermont and Frank O'Dell would once again be emceeing. This year their theme was Rock and Roll and they managed to increase the raffle sales by asking trivia questions of those present. From there we moved to the RETS Hospitality Suite where many of us were entertained by the conversation and movements of their robot.

Saturday morning, I enjoyed a Continental Breakfast in the Exhibit Area and rounded up the signatures of ten exhibitors to be eligible for the Exhibitors' raffle to be held at lunch. After this, I attended a program entitled "Time Management Techniques — Ways to have 25 Hours in Every Day." Peg Leaby, Wilmington College, presented many practical techniques for counselors to get the most out of their time: a timely topic since the clocks would soon move forward an hour. My second session was an enthusiastic presentation by Louise Breese entitled "The One Perfect Program." Mrs. Breese shared some of the techniques she uses as a counselor at Elyria High School.

Finally, I joined the rest of the conventioners in Van Cleve I and II for the Exhibitors' Raffle manned by Rick Hankinson. Next came a delicious lunch, followed by Jack Cochran's presentation of the 1983 OPGA Awards. Representative Dean Conley then spoke optimistically on the Licensure Bill and Mary Ellen Ludlum echoed his thoughts. Jack Cochran closed the luncheon with a presentation of the 600th OPGA membership to Representative Conley. What an appropriate ending for a fantastic weekend of professional stimulation and growth!

—Nancy Bancheek

President's Message

OPGA membership reaches new high

My term as President of OPGA is nearly over. I look back with the wish that more could have been accomplished, but also with the feeling that it was a successful year. Among our accomplishments this past year:

A very successful spring conference. Many expressed to me their pleasure with the general session and the program workshop sessions. The credit for this conference goes to the Conference Chairperson, Susan Huss, and the Miami Valley Personnel and Guidance Association. Many people assisted. They all have earned our thanks.

Increased membership. OPGA membership has reached 600! An all time high! A big thanks is in order for Membership Chairperson, Sandra Weller, for an outstanding job. Many of our new members are graduate students. This is important. They become not only our future counselors but our future professional association leaders.

Leadership Development. OPGA and OSCA, with funding assistance from Midwest Personnel and Guidance Association, held a successful Leadership Training Conference. Over fifty new and returning officers and committee chairpersons in both organizations and affiliates were in attendance. A second Leadership Conference is scheduled for this summer. With the leadership and encouragement of Daisy Takacs, Chairperson of Midwest Personnel and Guidance, the officers of OPGA were able to keep abreast of national issues and directions in counseling at the Fall Midwest Leadership Training Conference in Minneapolis.

Combined Convention. The groundwork has been laid for OPGA, OSCA, and the Ohio Department of Education to have one large convention during the 1983-84 year. The convention, which will be held on November 10-11, will allow for greater cooperation among all counselor organizations as well as being more economical for practicing counselors.

Counselor Licensure. A major effort is being made to pass the Counselor/Social Worker Licensure Bill during the 115th session of the Ohio General Assembly. Under the leadership of Charlotte Huddle, Mel Witmer, Mary Ellen Ludlum and Gene Wyson, we are in the best position ever to see passage of the Bill. As stated elsewhere in this newsletter much more needs to be done. If we work together, Ohio can become the seventh state to enact a counselor licensure bill.

Government Relations. The OPGA Government Relations Committee, under the direction of Gene Wyson, has been very active in organizing counselors to be more politically effective. The Legislative Network has grown to nearly 100 counselors. A Political Action Coalition has been formed to identify organizations that can collectively voice their position on legislation and issues related to human services for children, youth and adults. Over 25 Ohio APGA/OPGA members participated in a Political Rally at the APGA convention in Washington, D.C. Many contacts were made with U.S. Senators and Representatives by the Ohio delegation while they were in Washington.

State Standards for School Guidance Program. OPGA has worked in cooperation with the Ohio School Counselors Association, the Ohio Association of Counselor Education and Supervision and the State Department to plan a series of university-based intensive workshops to assist local school counselors to develop a written K-12 Guidance Plan in accordance with the new State Minimum Standards.

Counselors need to take the leadership in this area to ensure that their program services and/or personnel will not be cut when limited resources for Educational Services Personnel are allocated.

Redistricting Plan Implemented. The new plan which goes into operation in Fall of 1983 will provide more equal representation of all counselors on OPGA's Executive Board. Under the new plan there will be eight districts with a regional board for each district. Based on Ohio's 33 Senate Districts, each of the eight regional boards will elect one representative to the OPGA state executive board. Frank O'Dell, the Redistricting Chairperson, has done yeoman's work in implementing this plan.

Newsletter. Nancy Bancheek, Helen Sutton and Barbara Allayaud have put in countless hours in making Guidelines a current, informative and stimulating newsletter. The newsletter is a major link between the membership and the organization and as such it must continue to be a strong publication.

Sounder financial base. Through the continued efforts of Jim Herrick, OPGA Treasurer, the budgeting and accounting procedures have been streamlined. Through increased membership and successful conferences the last few years OPGA has a much sounder financial situation. We are still, however, in need of financial reserves and in need of administrative assistance.

As stated earlier much more needs to be done. Some future needs as I see them are:

Professional Unity. Counselors are still splintered in their professional associations. Marriage counselors, rehabilitation counselors, alcoholism counselors and others belong to their own state associations. OPGA should initiate contacts to bring these groups together to plan for the coordination of all our efforts aimed at the further development of counseling as a profession.

Expansion of Divisions, Chapters and Affiliates. The strength of OPGA lies in the activities of its Divisions, Chapters and Affiliates. This year has seen the rejuvenation of the Ohio Mental Health Counselors Association, the East Ohio Counselors Association and the Central Ohio Guidance Association and linkages with the Ohio School



Bill Nemeec

Ethics and Legal Liability

Counselor witnesses need for confidentiality, licensing

Recently, I was sworn in and interrogated as a prospective juror to serve on a jury for an aggravated murder trial. As a private citizen sitting on the witness stand, listening to the judge give instructions and define the laws was informational. Being cross-examined by the prosecuting and defending attorneys was intimidating. But, one of the questions that became most intimidating was whether I had discussed the case with anyone. The answer was "Yes, — during a counseling session with one of my clients who had a personal interest in the case."

Suddenly I was no longer just a private citizen. I was a professional person whose ethical relationship of confidentiality with one of my clients was in jeopardy. Both the judge and the attorneys treated my relationship with my client as a professional one, and asked their questions in a manner that did not compromise my counselor-client relationship. According to information I have received from several different sources, they were not obligated to act in such manner. The laws of Ohio apparently do not guarantee such a professional relationship between counselor and client, and their shared information is not considered protected.

I wondered as I left the court room if as counselors we are doing all we can to ensure that we are ethically practicing counseling, legally protecting ourselves, and protecting our clients. I wonder if we are able to do so until such time that legislation is passed establishing counselor licensure.

In his keynote address at the OPGA Convention, Dr. Tom Lovett, Associate Dean of Students, Southeast Missouri State University, addressed the subject "Legal Liability." With licensure hopefully becoming a reality, his subject was especially appropriate and timely.

Dr. Lovett stated that the more "professional" counselors are seen by society the

Counselors Association have been established. Much more needs to be done in this area.

Unified Dues Structure. I am advocating that OPGA and its Divisions, particularly OSCA, seriously study their present dues structure with the aim of eventually having one unified system. Much confusion and duplication of effort presently exists. Many counselors are not even sure which organization they have joined. While the cost of professional services certainly won't go down, they certainly can become more efficient and cost effective.

Related to dues is the question of the cost of services. The size and activities of OPGA and its Divisions are expanding to the point of needing paid administrative and legislative assistance. To make this feasible the membership would have to be willing to support a sizeable dues increase. Fifteen dollars per year for OPGA dues won't do the job. Other organizations, such as the Ohio Psychologists Association, are able to provide more services in large part because their dues are significantly higher.

Licensure, certification/registry/accreditation. National certification, registry and accreditation of counselor education programs are changing the focus of counselor education. If the proposed counselor licensure bill passes there will be a significant impact on the training and retraining of counselors. Also, the upcoming revision of the certification standards for school counselors is an area in which OPGA, OACES and OSCA must be significantly involved.

Yes, we have made progress. But we also have more progress to make. Under the leadership of our new President, Susan Huss, we will continue to do so. I appreciate all the help I have received in making this one of my most rewarding years in Counseling. I pledge my willingness to continue working for OPGA.

—Bill Nemeec

more legally and ethically responsible they will have to be.

A set of "ten commandments" was presented by Dr. Lovett as steps counselors need to know and practice to protect the client and the counselor. The "ten commandments" he prescribed are as follows:

1. Keep current and accurate records, including logging telephone calls and facts pertinent to the case.
2. Be aware that correspondence tends to be read by many people.
3. Have a job description and follow it.
4. Have an agreement with your client detailing the rights, expectations, and duties of both you and your client. The agreement with the client should not guarantee or even imply a result.
5. Know and follow the APGA Code of Ethics. The APGA Code of Ethics is available through the APGA Membership Services, Two Skyline Place, Suite 400, 5203 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia 22041 in the book entitled *Ethical Standards Casebook*. There is a charge for this book. A copy of the Code of Ethics is also included in the National Board of Certified Counselors, Inc. Certification Packet.
6. Discuss cases only with necessary professional and affected parties.
7. Have liability insurance. Liability insurance is available to members through the APGA.
8. Engage in a program of continuing education.
9. When in doubt, "don't" — until you have fully reviewed the situation with your supervisor or legal counsel.
10. Communicate with each other in relationship to acceptable and responsible practice.

—Sandra Foster, Chairperson
OPGA Ethics and Legal Defense

A Summary

Counselor and Social Worker Licensure

115th Ohio General Assembly
Substitute House Bill 205

Rationale

The licensure bill provides for public protection by: licensing counselors and social workers who have met established standards of preparation and experience; establishing a code of ethics; requiring public disclosure statements by professionals; assuring that professionals will not divulge confidential communication unless such communication indicates danger to the licensee or others; and requiring continued education by these licensed professionals. Licensure provides for the identification of qualified professionals who may be selected by public consumers for services or who may be available for referrals from personnel in schools or agencies.

Brief Review of Licensing Counselors and Social Workers

- Defines "social work" and "professional counseling". (Sec. 4757.01)
- Requires license for a person rendering professional counseling services and using the title of "Licensed Professional Counselor" or "Counselor" if that person receives a fee, salary, or other consideration for providing the service. (Sec. 4757.02)
- Requires a license for a person using the title of "Social Worker", "Independent Social Worker", or practicing social work as defined in the bill if that person receives a fee, salary, or other consideration for providing the service. (Sec. 4757.02)
- Creates a Counselor and Social Worker Board; 9 members, 6 representing the licensed professions and 3 representing the general public; at least one member must be from a minority group. (Sec. 4757.03)
- Outlines functions of the Board. (Sec. 4757.05) Includes adopting a Code of Ethical Practice by rule.
- Provides for a license of "Licensed Professional Counselor" with certain educational and experience qualifications and an examination. A Licensed Professional Counselor may engage in private practice. (Sec. 4757.07 A-F)
- Provides for registration as a "Registered Counselor" with certain educational and/or

experience qualifications. A "Registered Counselor" may not engage in private practice. (Sec. 4757.08)

- Provides a license of "Social Worker", with certain educational and examination requirements. "Social Workers" may not engage in private practice. (Sec. 4757.09A)
- Provides a license of "Independent Social Worker" with certain educational experience and examination requirements. "Independent Social Workers" may engage in private practice. (Sec. 4757.09B)
- Provides for registration as a "Social Work Assistant" with certain educational requirements. "Social Work Assistants" may not engage in private practice. (Sec. 4757.09C)
- Requires professional disclosure statement. (Sec. 4757.12)
- Provides for confidential communication for licensed or registered counselors and social workers unless such communication indicates danger to client or others. (Sec. 2317.02C)
- Reciprocal agreement with other states may be established. (Sec. 4757.10)
- Requires license renewal every two years, with fee adjusted to cover costs. (Sec. 4757.11, 4757.15)
- Exempts public employees and certain other professionals. (Sec. 4757.16)
- Requires a report to the General Assembly six years after the effective date of the legislation. (Sec. 6)
- Grandfather Clause (Sec. 4)

Social Worker - no exam or education requirements, if practicing social work on effective date and applying within one year. Exemption continued with renewals.

Independent Social Worker - no exam if applying within one year. Exemption continues with renewals.

Licensed Professional Counselor - no exam if person has education and experience requirements and applies within one year.

Board may, by rule, recognize certification granted by professional organizations which have standards comparable to those administered by the Counselor and Social Worker Board.

For further information call Social Workers and Counselors Coalition: (614) 461-4484.

Ludlum urges counselors to contact legislators

Mary Ellen Ludlum (SWACC) urged 1983 OPGA convention goers to contact their legislators concerning the Licensure Bill (H.B. 205, S.B. 111). With over 400 Bills having been introduced in this session, Ms. Ludlum placed the responsibility on OPGA members to inform our legislators, especially the new ones, about licensure. She said "We have a good bill ... We've gotten a lot of bugs out of the bill that we had three sessions ago."

If you have any concerns or questions, contact Mary Ellen, Bill Nemeck, Jack Cochran, Mel Witmer, Rick Hankinson or Charlotte Huddle. Then urge your legislature to support licensure in Ohio.

PRIME SPONSORS AND SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

District	Name	Party	Address	Telephone
**16	Schwarzwalder, Michael	D	550 East Town Street, Columbus, 43215	(614) 224-6262
9	Bowen, William F.	D	3662 Reading Road, Cincinnati, 45229	(513) 961-5415
22	Skall, Ben M.	R	24700 Chagrin Blvd., Suite 211, Cleveland, 44122	(216) 292-7800
27	Ocasek, Oliver	D	7665 North Gannett Rd., Northfield, 44067	(216) 467-6550

COMMITTEE: STATE GOVERNMENT, HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES

District	Name	Party	Address	Telephone
*11	Valiquette, Marigene	D	Box 444, Toledo, 43692	(419) 382-0622
6	Fries, Tom	D	2177 West Schantz, Dayton, 45409	(513) 293-1621
9	Bowen, William F.	D	3662 Reading Road, Cincinnati, 45229	(513) 961-5415
27	Ocasek, Oliver	D	7665 North Gannett Rd., Northfield, 44067	(216) 467-6550
28	Roberto, Marcus A.	D	3377 Summit Road, Ravenna, 44266	(216) 296-2031
10	Hobson, David L.	R	501 W. High St. Box 1848, Springfield, 45501	(513) 323-9765
30	Ress, William J.	R	168 Tuscora Ave., N.W., New Philadelphia, 44663	(216) 364-5931
22	Skall, Ben M.	R	24700 Chagrin Blvd., Suite 211, Cleveland, 44122	(216) 292-7800
24	Suhadolnik, Gary C.	R	9313 Roxbury Rd., Parma Heights, 44130	(216) 888-8954

**Prime Sponsor

*Committee Chairperson

Legislative Public Information Office (Toll free number to reach all the above legislators): 1-800-282-0253

Columbus Mailing Address for all Legislators: State House, Columbus, Ohio 43215

COUNSELOR LICENSURE: ANSWERS TO LEGISLATORS' QUESTIONS

QUESTION: What is the problem?

ANSWER: Professional counseling is a unique specialty within the broad field of mental health services that focuses on the strengths and potentials of individuals. Professional counselors are committed to facilitating human growth and development through individual and group counseling, educational procedures, consultation, and research.

The title "counselor" enjoys a general acceptance by the public at large. It is not surprising that this title has been appropriated by a variety of sales personnel, by massage parlor operators, by abortion clinics, and even by palm readers, as a means of gaining credibility and minimizing public resistance. This kind of occupational smokescreen has led to confusion in the public mind as to the identity and function of professional counselors with graduate degrees and extensive training in the field. Much more serious, however, is the growing incidence of untrained, unscrupulous persons offering "counseling services" of an exotic nature, often for outlandish fees.

QUESTION: Why should professional counselors be licensed?

ANSWER: Since professional counseling has no legal definition in this state, literally anyone may claim the title "counselor." There is no machinery for identifying qualified practitioners, for enforcing professional standards, or for holding practitioners accountable for their actions. The Yellow Pages are an excellent means of identifying a plumber, but they provide little guidance for the consumer in selecting a counselor.

Licensure would protect the public's right to be served by qualified counselors and ensure freedom of choice in opting for counseling services in preference to mental health services of other orientations. Licensure would provide the machinery for enforcing professional standards. The use of the title "professional counselor" would be restricted to practitioners with the demonstrated skills prescribed by these standards. The counseling profession's Code of Ethics would be enforceable. The public's access to counseling services would be enhanced, as would assurance of competent practice.

QUESTION: What efforts have already been made to address these problems?

ANSWER: The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), founded in 1982, has already certified nearly 3,000 professional counselors. This certification process includes comparison of applicants' graduate transcripts with professional training standards, supervisor and colleague recommendations, and satisfactory performance on a standardized national examination. Applicants meeting criteria are designated as National Certified Counselors. This certification will enable consumers, employing agencies, and others to identify those practitioners who have demonstrated a high level of professional competence. The Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification and the National Academy of Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselors have initiated national certification procedures for rehabilitation counseling and mental health counseling, respectively, following federal guidelines for credentialing health services providers.

Since 1976 six states (Alabama, Arkansas,

(continued on page 7)

1983 OPGA Convention



E.T.





Stouffer's Dayton Plaza — Dayton —

April 22 - 23



Ohio Government Relations active in Washington

Ohio Personnel and Guidance Association members were visibly active in government relations work during the APGA convention in Washington, D.C., March 20-23. The Ohio Delegation of more than 25 people was among the largest of any state participating in the political rally. The rally was for the purpose of preparing delegates for visits with their legislators on Capitol Hill.

During the Convention, visits were held with legislators and their legislative aides to help legislators and aides become more familiar with what counselors do in helping people in a variety of settings and learn counselors' positions on guidance and counseling legislative concerns.

Daisy Takacs, Sandra Weller and Gene Wysong met with Representative Marcy Kaptur (Toledo) and two of her legislative aides. Frank O'Dell, Joel Chermonte and Homer Adams met with the legislative aide of Representative Edward Feighan (Cleveland). Bill Nemeec and John Cochran met with the legislative aide of Representative John F. Seiberling (Ohio). Rick Hankinson met with Representative Michael Oxley (Lima) and Gene Wysong and Bill Nemeec attended a Capitol Hill breakfast with the legislative aides of Senator Howard Metzenbaum and Representative Willis Gradison Jr. (Cincinnati).

These contacts have begun to show results. Bill Nemeec, OPGA President, recently received the following communication from Representative John F. Seiberling (Akron):

"I have studied the legislation you brought to my attention, and I have decided to co-sponsor H.R. 1815, the Elementary School Guidance and Counseling Act, and H.R. 825, the Vocational Guidance Act. I agree with the goals of these bills, and certainly share your views that guidance and counseling is a vital service to help children maximize their educational opportunities."

Political Action does make a difference!

—Gene Wysong, Chairperson
OPGA Government Relations



Pausing at the APGA Legislative Breakfast in Washington are (left to right) Gene Wysong, OPGA Government Relations chairperson; Sarah Hoskin, Legislative Aide of Rep. Willis Gradison, Jr. (Cincinnati); Kelley Harris, Legislative Aide of Sen. Howard Metzenbaum; Ed Herr, APGA Pres.-elect; Bonnie Brown, another Legislative Aide of Gradison; and Bill Nemeec, OPGA President.

OSCA, LCGA, NEOPGA host Licensure Brunch

OSCA 5th District, LCGA and NEOPGA coordinated a Licensure Awareness Brunch at Lorain County Community College Saturday, April 16. Legislators attending were John Bara, Elyria, 54th District; LeRoy Peterson, Maple Heights, 17th District; James Petro, Rocky River, 6th District; Alan Zaleski, Elyria, 13th Senate District.

After a delicious breakfast, Bobbi Webster and Rick Hankinson presented a skit showing the importance of school counselors. Rick summarized the importance of the Licensure Bill. William Nemeec, President of the Ohio Personnel and Guidance Association, explained House Bill 205 and Senate Bill 111. Mary Ellen Ludlum, the Legislative Coordi-

nator for Social Workers and Counselors Coalition from Columbus, explained where each bill now stands in the legislative bodies.

Those serving on the above boards who planned the brunch were Robert Abbey, Ben Dombrowski, Lou Elgart, Tess Gardner, Lorna Greene, Rick Hankinson, OSCA president; Jean Harris, Chuck Kullik, Connie Mate, Len Strnad, Marilyn Thompson, Saul Torres, Bobbie Webster, OSCA president-elect; and John and Ruth Wilson.

A special appreciation is extended to John Bara and Alan Zaleski for giving up their Saturday morning to be in attendance at the brunch!!

OPGA, OSCA plan second summer Conference

The Ohio Personnel and Guidance Association (OPGA) and the Ohio School Counselors Association (OSCA) will cooperatively conduct their second Leadership Training Conference August 11-12 at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware.

Bill Nemeec, OPGA President, and Rick Hankinson are again responsible for planning the conference. Both leaders have stated that this conference is of particular interest and importance to new officers and committee chairpersons in both organizations. In addition to providing leadership training to new leaders in OSCA and OPGA, the Conference helps establish greater cooperation and interface among the professional counselor organizations.

A major effort will be made to identify and involve potential new leaders in OPGA and OSCA in the Conference. If you are interested in becoming involved and would like to attend the conference, contact Bill Nemeec, 212 Pinehurst Road, Munroe Falls, Ohio 44262; Phone: (216) 375-7777.



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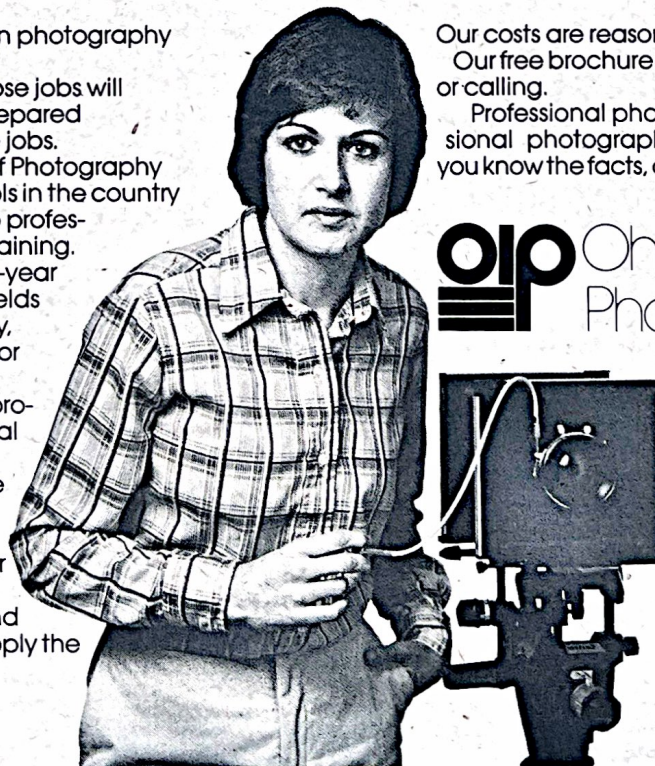
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Conley optimistic

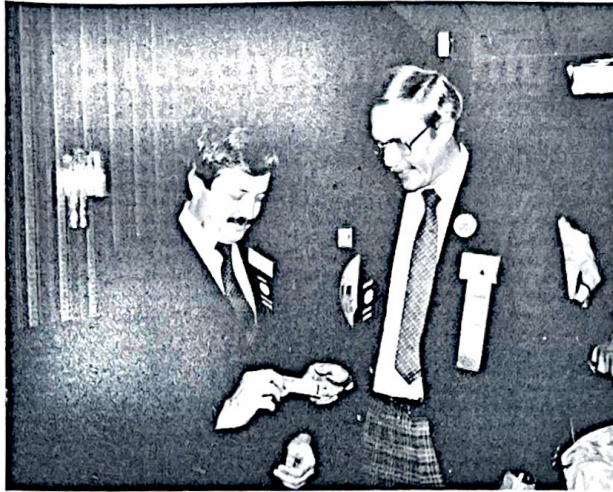
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Conley reminded the crowd that the bill will not guarantee quality service, because that would be impossible, but Licensure will protect the public in terms of guaranteeing minimum levels of experience and competency for social workers and counselors. These points should be made in letters to state representatives and senators. If we keep the work going, in Conley's words, "At the end of this session, we'll have a Licensure Bill."

Lovett keynotes

(continued from page 1)

people; 3. Have a job description and follow it; 4. Have an agreement with the client detailing the rights, expectations, and duties of each of you; 5. Know and follow the APGA code of ethics; 6. Discuss cases only with necessary professionals and affected parties; 7. Have liability insurance; 8. Engage in a program of continuing education; and 9. When in doubt, don't, until you have reviewed the situation with your supervisor or legal counsel.



Ohio state Representative Dean Conley shows OPGA President Bill Namec the 600th OPGA membership presented to him in recognition of his sponsoring of H.B. 205, the Counselors-Social Workers Licensure Bill.

Answers to Legislators' Questions ??????????????????????

(continued from page 3)

Florida, Idaho, Texas, and Virginia) have provided a legal remedy by passing counselor licensure legislation. In the remaining states regulation of the practice of professional counseling currently does not exist.

QUESTION: Have alternatives to licensure legislation been considered?

ANSWER: National certification procedures are mentioned above. In the past, some counselors trained at the doctoral level have been licensed by state boards regulating the practice of applied psychology. Most psychology boards are now withholding their endorsement from all applicants except those who are Ph.D. graduates of university psychology departments. Most counseling graduates at both the master's and doctoral levels receive their training in schools of education and are thus excluded from even taking the psychology licensing examination.

Proposed legislation that would provide title certification has been discussed in some states. This move would afford some consumer protection, but real regulation in the sense of enforcing professional standards would not be addressed.

Professional disclosure, by which the practitioner provides the client with full information related to professional training and qualifications prior to rendering services, has been advocated as a necessary ethical consideration. Most professional counselors in the private sector follow this practice on a voluntary basis. Licensure legislation would make professional disclosure a key component of the regulatory process.

QUESTION: How will the public benefit from professional counselors being licensed?

ANSWER: The public will enjoy increased access to counseling services. Community agencies are sometimes prevented by funding guidelines from hiring unlicensed mental health providers for professional level positions. Counselor licensure would enable these agencies to offer the preventive developmental services best provided by professional counselors. Since many state personnel classification systems do not currently list or describe counselors, state-funded agencies will benefit from increased flexibility in staffing if counseling as a profession is legally defined by a licensure statute.

Regulation of the title "licensed professional counselor" will enable the public to identify private practitioners with a greater assurance of competent services. Instances of incompetent or unethical practice will be dealt with through established procedures, with resort to court action no longer being a consumer's only recourse.

QUESTION: Could counselor licensure be harmful to the public?

ANSWER: Occupational regulation through statutory licensure has not always been beneficial to the public. Such abuses as restraint of trade, price fixing, lax renewal requirements, guild interest protection, and "ostrich" ethical behavior have been decried by legislators and consumers alike. The counselor licensure bill is written with an eye toward the prevention of such abuses.

The bill provides for public membership on the proposed licensing board. The counseling profession's Code of Ethics was written to be enforced, not to gather dust. The bill provides for stringent continuing education and license renewal requirements. The professional disclosure provision was discussed earlier.

Licensure will not restrict the supply of professional counselors, as has often been the case with other occupational groups. Standards for counselor licensure are competency-based and are not intended to be exclusionary on the basis of professional affiliation or restricted specialization. If anything, the number of professional counselors should increase due to the broadened options that legal recognition would provide. The resulting enhancement of the preventive component of mental health services should have the effect of reducing overall costs rather than escalating them.

QUESTION: How will counselor licensure be administered?

ANSWER: The counselor licensure bill provides for the establishment of a Board of Examiners in Professional Counseling to be appointed by the Governor. The Board will be composed of professional counselors representing various work settings, specializations, and levels of training, and lay persons representing the public at large. The Board would be empowered to implement the standards set by law,



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review individual applicant qualifications, establish examining procedures, issue licenses, conduct investigations, and discipline incompetent or unethical practitioners. Actions of the Board would be subject to legislative audit and oversight by the executive branch. Administrative costs would be borne entirely by licensure application, examination, and renewal fees.

QUESTION: Who is sponsoring the effort to license professional counselors?

ANSWER: This legislative effort was initiated by the state Personnel and Guidance Association, a branch of the American Personnel and Guidance Association. The national organization consists of over 40,000 members in school, college, correctional, rehabilitation, job service, mental health, vocational, community agency, family service and private practice settings. Counselor licensure laws have been passed by six states since 1976. The bill has also been endorsed by lay and professional organizations interested in mental health and education.

QUESTION: How will these sponsoring groups benefit from the passage of a counselor licensure law?

ANSWER: This bill will protect the constitutional right of professional counselors to practice their profession. The scope of practice clause is designed to be descriptive rather than exclusionary. Its purpose is to define what professional counseling is and what professional counselors do, not necessarily to prevent members of other professions from engaging in the services listed. Licensed clinical psychologists, for example, could provide career development services as long as such activity did not violate rules of the psychology licensing board and as long as they did not represent themselves as licensed professional counselors. It should be noted that a diametrically opposite position by the state psychology board is another reason why professional counselors began to seek legal recognition through statutory licensure.

Lay and allied professional organizations have a variety of reasons for supporting this bill. Most of these reasons spring from a commitment to preventive mental health services and the belief

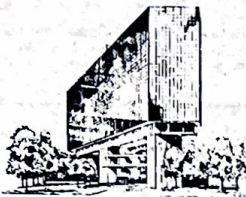
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Group counseling for female vocational students

by Sharon Hahn

The number of girls in non-traditional classes (fields traditionally entered by males) at Lorain County Vocational School has steadily increased since 1979. As a result, support groups have been established.

The first group of five girls was formed in 1980. Vocational instructors gave input as to specific topics that needed to be discussed. They also gave permission for the students to be released from lab classes to participate. Sessions lasted about one hour. Content included get acquainted activities, values clarification activities, and discussions of any particular problems that had occurred.

The next year the junior non-traditional enrollment increased to seven. Working in cooperation with the teachers, meetings were

held with the juniors. In late September a junior-senior group was held for the juniors and seniors to get acquainted and for the seniors to share their experiences. Counseling of non-traditional students at this time consisted of junior meetings, senior meetings, junior-senior meetings, and at least one individual session per person. The main purposes of the groups were support, self-exploration, and discussing any problems resulting from the non-traditional situation.

Presently, thirteen girls are involved in the groups, and new ideas are needed for the junior-senior meetings. If anyone else has organized non-traditional groups or has suggestions for activities, please contact me at Lorain County J.V.S., Oberlin, OH 44074, (216) 774-1051 ext. 233.

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All-Ohio Call for Programs

OPGA is co-sponsoring the 1983 All-Ohio Conference in November, 1983 along with the Ohio School Counselors Association (OSCA) and the Ohio Department of Education. Plans are well under way and program proposals will be accepted. If you would like to submit a proposal for a program to be presented at this conference, please fill out the form below (with the attached abstract) and return to Susan Huss, Anthony Wayne Schools, 6119 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, OH 43571.

A. Title of Program _____

B. Person Submitting Proposal

Name _____ Position _____

Address _____ Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Institution _____ Home Telephone _____

Business Telephone _____

C. Abstract — Please attach an abstract with a *typewritten* description of the proposed program. Total description should not exceed 400 words. Include each of the following:

1. Staff — list names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all who will participate.
2. Objective
3. Content
4. Method of Presenting
5. Intended Audience
6. Amount of time preferred 1 hour 1½ hours other

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—Contributed by Thomas J. Colaner, Regional Director, ACT

Licensure questions

(continued from page 7)

that professional counselors are best suited by training, experience, and philosophical orientation to provide these services.

The state Personnel and Guidance Association, while acknowledging that the bill will benefit the profession, firmly believes that its primary effects and benefits lie in the areas of consumer protection and assurance of quality mental health services. The people of this state deserve nothing less.

The preceding questions are frequently asked by state legislators when they are considering licensure bills. The answers provided are intended as suggested responses for coun-

selors serving as lay lobbyists and members of a government relations network.

For further information in Ohio, contact:
Charlotte Huddle Brownfield
OPGA Licensure Chairperson
140 East Town Street #1200
Columbus, OH 43215
Ph. (614) 252-8421

This information was prepared by the Licensure Committee of the American Personnel and Guidance Association as a service to state branch organizations.

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