



Counselors Rock!

LPCA CONNECTION

Official Publication of the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia

LPCA 33rd Annual Convention Welcomes New Board



LPCA of GA 2021–2022 Board

Pictured L–R

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Eastern District Co-chair: Valencia Ayers LPC, CPCS

Southern District Chair: A.J. Ramirez, PhD, LPC, CPCS

We look forward to a successful and productive year at LPCA of GA!

Mission of LPCA of GA

The Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia was founded in 1987 to support the counseling profession in Georgia. To do so, we consistently highlight the importance of professionalism, best practices, and the pursuit of excellence for our members and for the benefit of those they seek to help. Further, LPCA strives to keep LPCs in all health care legislation.

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Office Space for Rent page 19**Certified PC Supervisors** page 19**PRESIDENT****Angela Feeser, LPC, CPCS****LPCA Convention Reunion!**

This year's convention had the feel of a family reunion! It was exciting to see people we hadn't seen in over a year (or more).

As the convention chair this year, I had a front row seat to all the details and effort that go into making the convention a success.

The day before pre-convention was all hands on deck. We all hit our step goal that day! The hundreds of totes had to be filled with goodies. We had boxes stacked as high as the ceiling. Gale and Kelly worked their magic of organizing documents, forms, schedules and hotel check-ins. The board room was covered with wall post-its from wall to wall. Carolyn and Bryan took on preparing the maps of workshop room locations, which proved to be a daily challenge. Our volunteers were amazing! They showed up ready to help in any task. The presentations were engaging and informative. And lastly, the hotel staff was on point with every meal, snack, and need we had.

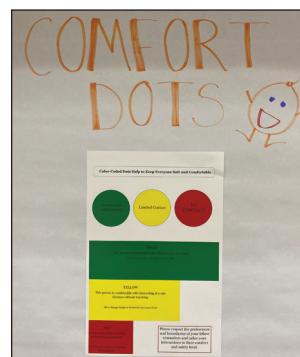
The Comfort Dots were a great conversation starter for

**LPCA Staff Sam Nelson and Lei Phyut Tun**

many. As a way to communicate to each other our comfort level of social distancing, we offered colored "comfort dot" stickers to be placed on the name badges. We had three colors: red, yellow and green. Red indicated you needed to stay six feet away and air high fives. Yellow indicated you could fist/elbow bump but to still stay an arm's length. Green indicated you could give hugs! It was a fun and unique way to ease any anxiety and decrease the potential awkwardness of social distancing.

Our special guests were exceptional this year! The passion they expressed and support for our profession was inspiring and motivating. I believe we all left recharged! Karyn King, LPC, attended for the first time and shared: *"This is my first conference and I am excited to continue growing in LPCA of GA! Thanks for your support, welcoming heart, and inviting spirit. Thanks for making a first-timer feel at home."* Karyn was also one of our door prize winners of a lunch with LPCA Board members (see photo on page 7).

I'm looking forward to the upcoming months. We will have a lot going on at LPCA. Keep an eye out for emails to keep you informed and updated.

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Suite 570, Norcross, GA 30071****Phone: 770-449-4547 Fax: 404-370-0006****Email: LPCA@LPCAGA.org****Editor: dadams0454@aol.com****Website: <http://www.LPCAGA.org>**



PRESIDENT-ELECT

Bryan G. Stephens, MA, LPC, NCC, MBA

It is a humbling experience to be asked to serve LPCA of GA and its members. I am excited to be joining the leadership of this great organization. LPCA has been a part of my professional life for two decades now. While I have not always managed to attend the LPCA Annual Convention, these years have provided fellowship and renewal as a Licensed Professional Counselor. I was proud to serve as Ethics Chair in the 2011–2012 Board, and it taught me a lot about the operations of the LPCA Board. More importantly, it cemented my relationship with our hard charging Executive Director, Gale Macke (does she ever sleep?) and that has moved my professional development in ways that I could not imagine.

LPCA is an effective organization. I have been along for the ride in the fight to gain parity in our ability for filling out the 1013/2013 forms, including testifying in front of the Senate. When it became clear that the ability to diagnosis meant additional training for therapists, I was able to work with LPCA to get that training for my staff at the Community Services Board. Without the help of LPCA, we would have spent thousands more dollars to get ready. For those of us who have been around for a while, this was a long, hard fought struggle to get to success.

LPCA of GA has worked with the Composite Board closely to raise the bar for training new therapists in Georgia. Excellence in supervision is a passion for me. I have heard too many alarming stories of supervision going wrong. LPCA started the CPCS certification and worked with the Board to see it become required. This has been a fantastic step forward for the training of new therapists. In addition, the education requirements and hours of direct experience have been brought into line with national standards. These moves are improving the strength of our license and the quality of new therapists.

Of course, the most recent victory has been moving through the Compact legislation for Georgia to be the first state to sign on. This important law will help move Georgia into the future.

At each step, LPCA of GA has organized us to make the difference. It has been the catalyst for change. The board and staff of LPCA did not, and could not make these things happen; it was the work of the members answering the call. At the convention this year, the call went out at 8:30 in the morning, and by 9:00 the Governor's office was asking "Are you guys at a convention or something? We keep getting calls."

I am excited to step up as part of leadership for the next project LPCs in Georgia over the next three years. I know the membership will be ready when the call for action comes, and together we will continue our momentum in advancing Licensed Professional Counselors in Georgia to best meet the needs of our citizens. **Counselors Rock!**

Please open and respond to the
LPCA Call To Action emails.

**Your voice CAN make
all the difference!**

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Tim Robinson, LPC, CCTP, CPCS, CAS-F

I would like to thank the members and the staff of the LPCA of GA for their support over the past year. It was a great privilege to serve as your president. We all suffered many challenges, both personally and professionally, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of us were using telehealth before, yet the pandemic pushed us to devise new tools and techniques to provide both counseling and supervision remotely. This push to innovation resulted in our first virtual convention. The large turnout was gratifying; I thank all who attended.



It had been my goal to meet with district members in their areas. I hope that districts can again, soon meet in person now that the threat of the virus is diminishing. It was great to meet and to interact at the convention that President Feeser hosted. I especially want to reach out to new members and students. Please contact us if you are a student where there is no LPCA Student Affiliate Organization at your school.



Senator Lester Jackson

We have done well on the legislative front. The Compact Bill was passed into law. We are the first state to have one for Counselors. This would not have been possible without your support by contacting our lawmakers. It is inspiring to see what we can achieve when we all work together. Rep. Belton has pledged to support our efforts to get approval to provide services through Medicaid and Medicare. This will likely be an ongoing and demanding effort that will require your support again. I would also like to thank Senator Jackson for his support.



Back row L-R: LPCA Lobbyist Julianna McConnell, LPCA Past President Tim Robinson, LPCA President Angela Feeser

Front row L-R: LPCA Coastal District Chair Joy Welcker, Rep. Dave Belton, LPCA Executive Director Gale Macke, Rep. Belton's Spouse Theresa Belton, LPCA Past President Carolyn Ramp

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gale Macks LPCA@LPCAGA.org

Professional Counselors Licensure Compact

There have been so many questions about the Professional Counselors Licensure Compact, I feel like I'm in one of those old episodes of Dragnet with someone imploring me, "Just the facts, ma'am, just the facts."



Well, here they are. In February 2020 our LPCA lobbyist, Ms. Julianna McConnell, CPA, met up with Rep. Dave Belton at the Capitol and discussed points of interest.

Rep. Belton has been carrying compact legislation for the last several years for other types of licensed professionals. He has been successful getting all those compacts, except for one, passed into law. You can imagine how excited we were that he would be carrying our compact.

Over the course of the next few weeks, the LPCA presidents, board members, LPCA members, and myself, held multiple Zoom meetings with Rep. Belton discussing how to move this compact legislation forward as quickly as possible. Rep. Belton gathered additional co-sponsors and introduced HB 395, the Professional Counselors Licensure Compact. Due to COVID-19, there were restrictions on visitation at the Capitol, however, our well-known lobbyist team, Ms. McConnell and Aubrey Villines, were able to move through the system and be heard by our lawmakers. Our team worked tirelessly and daily to track HB 395 as it maneuvered through the House of Representatives committees' hearings.

With limited time and a fast-approaching deadline, we utilized the Regulated Industries Committee for a faster path to get a vote on the House floor instead of the House Health and Human Services committee. This will become an important distinction that I will explain. Once HB 395 moved through the Regulated Industries Committee hearing it moved onto the House Rules Committee. Even with a great piece of legislation, without sponsors in the House Rule committee,

your legislation will not move to the "House Floor" for a vote. Due to the support and sponsorships recruited, HB 395 quickly moved to the House Floor for a vote in late February.

The pressure was on as it was only a few days before "Crossover Day." This is the day when successful legislation in the House moves (crosses over) to the Senate, and legislation that passed the Senate crosses over to the House of Representatives.



Continued on page 9

CPCS CHAIR REPORT

Megan V. Boyd, PhD, LPC, CPCS



Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as LPCA's CPCS Chair for the next term. I hope to meet as many of you at an LPCA event soon. I would like to share information about how we will be reconnecting the CPCS professional identity in Savannah. I'll be communicating with you via the newsletter, social media, and of course at events.

When I attended an LPCA Convention for the first time in 2009, I found collegial support as a community-based counselor. I had the incredible opportunity to learn from LPCA legends as mentors for my professional development. And so the opportunity to attend the 33rd LPCA Annual Convention (post-vaccination) was a gift that came at exactly the right time. I will be the first to admit that I felt a little nervous about traveling for the first time since the onset of the COVID pandemic. Each time I got a little anxious, I remembered longing for collegial connections at the height of the "lockdown." We all did our best with the resources we had at the time. My advice at the Convention was to take as much time as you need to be comfortable with being out in public without a mask.

At this year's convention, I had the honor to present, *Restoring the CPCS Professional Identity: Maximizing Supervisory Strengths*. The goal of this workshop was to understand the CPCS professional identity in order to align the vision and cohesion in the field among all practicing Certified Professional Counselor Supervisors.

Once my participants settled into socially distanced tables, excitement was in the air as we shared:

- Extraordinary Clinical Successes
- The Next Chapter for LPCs
- Professional Restoration for CPCSS
- Wellness Strategies for Ourselves
- Re-connecting as a Community

Next, we took a moment to evaluate how our participation will look with LPCA over the next twelve months. We asked ourselves:

- How am I serving clients through my participation?
- How am I serving the community through my participation?
- To sustain my practice and deliver the best fit clinical care, can I improve my engagement to the larger field of LPCs in Georgia?

Further, we discussed the positive traits of a supervisor in the role of providing for the needs of the supervisee. These include empathy, familiarity with current trends, autonomy, knowledge, and advocacy. In addition we discussed the needs of the supervisee. These include clarification of the clinical role, clinical and theoretical growth, ability to resolve ethical dilemmas, and finding that clinical "niche."



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ATLANTA DISTRICT**Joanna Goulding, MA, APC, NCC**

During a year of so much change and unique challenges, LPCA of GA worked hard to adapt and evolve in beneficial ways. The convention in Savannah was a huge success! Attendance was higher than expected, and participants appeared to thrive in the in-person environment. We were favored by guest speakers including Van Johnson, Mayor of Savannah, Dave Belton, Georgia House of Representatives from the 112th District, and Lester Jackson, State Senator from District 2. We were uplifted and inspired by their remarks. We are also extremely grateful for their tireless efforts to support the Compact Bill that expands our client care possibilities to other states.



I want to welcome and introduce the new co-chair to the Atlanta District, **Lori Rader-Jacobs**, LAPC, NCC. She is the Director of the Betrayal Trauma and Partners program at Capstone Counseling and Coaching. Helping individuals and couples heal from the pain of problematic sexual behavior is her passion. She earned her Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Richmont University and a Bachelor's in

Business from Georgia State. Her experience also includes treating children, adolescents, and young adults with eating disorders in an in-patient setting and working with addictions and anger management counseling in the court system.

The following are our Atlanta district goals which are aimed toward other mental health professionals, referral sources and our local community.

- 1.** Grow a stronger social media presence targeted to highlight who we are, how we bring value and what referrals we can provide to the community from our LPCA members.
- 2.** Educate referral sources that LPCs are experienced professionals providing evidence based-practices. One priority is to attend another professional organization's networking event, targeting physicians and psychiatrists.
- 3.** Develop a plan to bring awareness to and provide resources for the increasing problem of human trafficking by reaching out to Bob Rodgers, Chair of the Freedom Coalition and CEO of Street Grace, and Marty Kemp, Georgia First Lady.

Working together as a professional community can enable us to expand our presence and influence as LPCs in our local communities.

Atlanta District Member Presents at LPCA 33rd Annual Convention

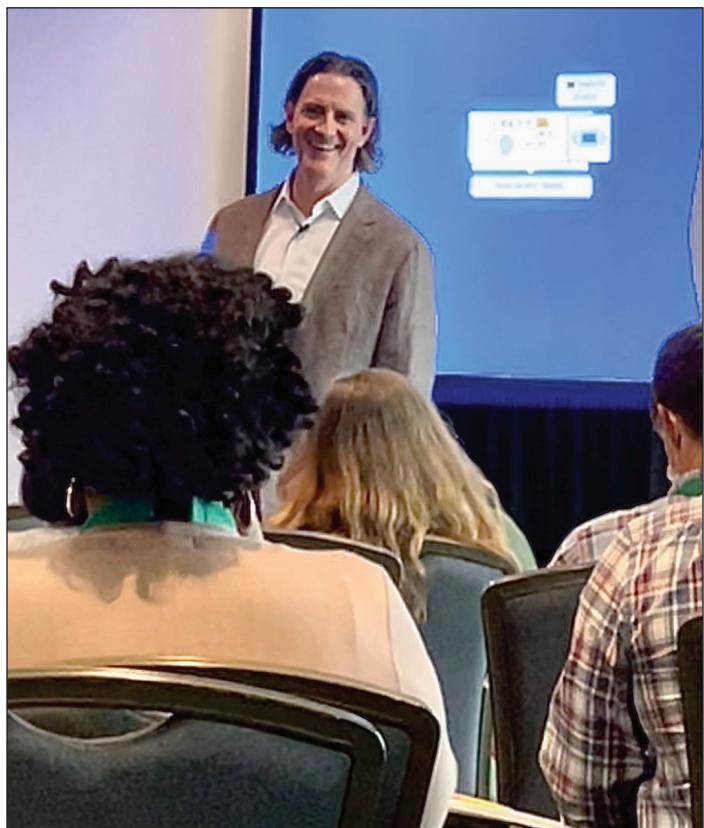
The Wednesday afternoon session on cravings management at the LPCA Annual Convention in Savannah was well attended and received. The workshop entitled, *A Multi-faceted Approach to Cravings Management*, was presented by LPCA Atlanta District member, Doug Paul, LPC, CPCS, LMHC. Many of the participants had questions about cravings and many others offered some great feedback. We look forward to more of his presentations in the future!

**NORTHERN DISTRICT****Britney Turk, PhD, LPC, C-DBT, RA-HNCT, CMHIMP**

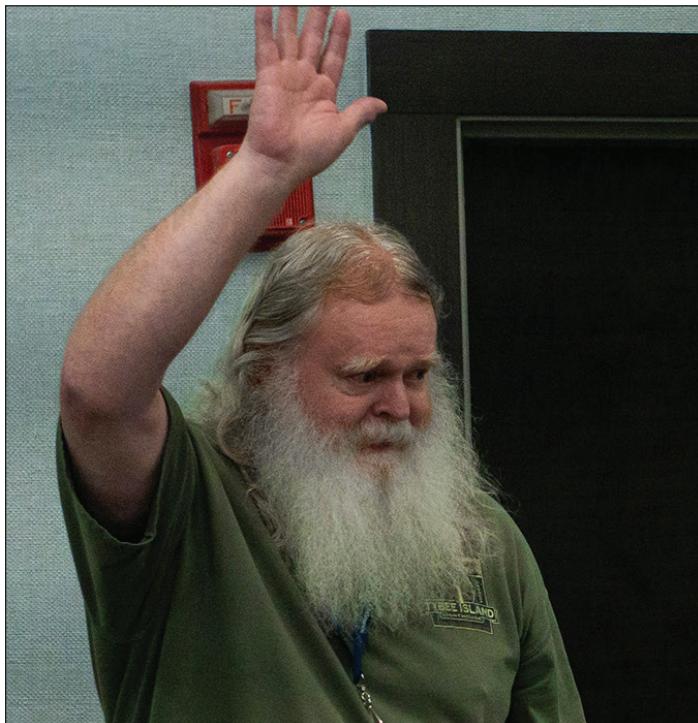
Were you at the LPCA Annual Convention this May? If not, I hope you plan on attending next year in Atlanta. We had a great slate of presenters and topics from neurofeedback and biofeedback to trauma and important supervision topics. I personally presented on heart rate variability biofeedback and have received great positive feedback.

My goals for this year are to flood our community with more brain-based service continuing education workshops. I hope to see more of these types of CEs at convention next year. Recently, I attended a phenomenal workshop on psychopharmacology hosted by Brenau University. I highly urge you if you have not taken a neuroscience or brain-based service workshop, to try it out. It will greatly enhance your practice.

Please let me know if you have specific concerns about our district. If anyone is interested in hosting a continuing education event or wanting to widen their referral network, please let me know at britneyallencounseling@gmail.com. Also please let me know of any continuing education topics you would like to know about and I will try my best to organize a CE! Stay tuned about my trainings on biofeedback and other topics as well on my website mountainviewcounseling.net.



Atlanta District member, Doug Paul, LPC, CPCS, LMHC, presented *A Multi-faceted Approach to Cravings Management* at the LPCA Annual Convention in May.



Linda Painter Service Award

Joel Bagby, EdS, LPC, CPCS

As a founding father of the Georgia Association of Mental Health Counselors, before the organization changed its name to the Licensed Professional Counselors Association, Joel Bagby has served LPCA. If you Google "Joel Bagby," just like Linda Painter, you will see his website but you won't see all the work that he does or has done behind the scenes for our Association.

Over the years, Joel has played a strong role in shepherding LPCA and our profession of mental health counseling into the 21st century. As a strong proponent of maintaining and advancing our standards, he is inspirational to future counselors, colleagues, and board members of LPCA alike. Joel can be funny, friendly and loving, but when it comes to protecting the profession, Joel is that strong professional you always want on your team.

In the very early days, under Joel's leadership and with a strong convention team, he hosted the first convention for counselors. It was very successful for the attendees but it did require Joel pulling money out of his own pocket to make sure the event was successful. Leaders like Joel, did not stop there, they created the first Breakfast with the Legislators. An event that is copied by multiple organizations to this day. From there, LPCA has grown a strong solid organization as Joel demonstrates leadership qualities of an exceptional nature.

When our Association struggled with adding the word "diagnose" to the Scope of Practice, it was Joel who held personal meetings with our legislators. Not once, but throughout the whole process, he kept the legislators aware of the struggle for LPCA to achieve parity in order to provide services to underserved populations.

No one is more worthy of this prestigious award than Joel Bagby!



Dr. Les Cole with LPCA Past President Carolyn Ramp

Dr. John C. Burns, III Lifetime Achievement Award Les Cole, PhD, LPC, CPCS

Dr. Cole is recognized as an outstanding individual in the counseling profession through his leadership within the counseling profession during his entire career. He has promoted the profession of counseling and the LPCA organization and its mission to key constituencies and decision makers.

Dr. Cole has worked tirelessly in educating the counseling community, general public, and legislative community on the importance of mental health care and the use of LPCCs.

For his strong belief in what LPCA of GA does and his dedication to the responsible growth of the counseling profession, LPCA proudly presents Dr. Les Cole with the Dr. John C. Burns, III, Lifetime Achievement Award.

Winners of Lunch with the LPCA Board



Rosalind Scott, LPC



David Newton, LPC



Rep. Dave Belton with LPCA Lobbyist Julianna McConnell

LPCA Legislator Champion Representative Dave Belton

LPCA of GA presented Georgia House of Representative, Dave Belton, from the 112th District, the 2021 LPCA Legislator Champion Award. LPCA created this award so that we may recognize elected officials who have displayed dedication and advocacy on behalf of Licensed Professional Counselors, the counseling profession, and mental health access. Rep. Belton's continued support of Georgia LPCs, especially through his sponsored legislation such as HB 26 in 2019, and HB 395 (PC Compact) in 2021, has not gone unnoticed by LPCA's membership.

As the number of LPCs in Georgia grows, the LPCA Political Action Committee and the LPCA Board of Directors want to recognize Rep. Belton for his leadership, his vision, and for promoting Georgia LPCs as capable and legitimate on an interstate level.

Winner of Lunch with the LPCA Board



LPCA President Angela Feeser with Karyn King, LPC

Free One Year LPCA Membership Laura Howell



Laura Howell, LPC with LPCA President Angela Feeser



Brentia Caldwell, LPC

Winners of the VIP Registration to the LPCA 34th Annual Convention in Atlanta

**Brentia Caldwell
and Ron Fisher**

Join us next spring for the
**LPCA 34th Annual Convention
& SE Regional Conference**

Mapping the Search for Meaning

**May 3–6, 2022
Atlanta, Georgia**



Inequality & Mental Health

**A.J. Ramirez, EdD, LPC, CPCS
Southern District Chair**

After teaching a medical sociology class last semester I got to thinking about society's impact on wellness, specifically mental wellness. There is little debate amongst mental health professionals

that systemic and generational racism has impacted the lives of many people in our communities. Mental health professionals spend some time discussing the biological impact of mental health disorders, however I want to focus on the physical ailments in which are directly correlated with how people are treated within our society. In this case I want to speak on the impact of racism and mental health. As a mental health professional, I find it my ethical duty to consider the whole narrative and lived experiences of my clients holistically and systemically. Many times, I hear of colleagues working with people in therapy who have many physical ailments that intensify their presenting problem in therapy. Diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, etc... The narrative goes similar with these clients in that the physical issues create additional stress to the already chronic anxiety and depression they are experiencing. However, what if it were the opposite. What if the cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure etc. were symptoms of the anxiety and depression due to oppression?

Society already constructs one's class, race, and gender. These social constructs can be and probably are factors in developing a mental illness. The current conversation our nation is having about racism and its impact on our citizens is frequently present in our therapy offices as our clients present with many issues that are directly and indirectly correlated. While we already know the direct impact of racism on

individuals' health, the indirect experience of racism has an effect as well. "This means that someone does not have to be name-called in the street or attack, but simply need to have fear of racism, and the worry and stress this creates." (Barry & Yuill, 2016, p.122) According to Barry & Yuill (2016) minorities have the highest rates of mental illness. This includes, those who make lower wages, women, lgbtq, immigrants, the disabled, Latinx and African Americans. In fact, "African Americans are more likely than whites to die of heart disease; stroke; lung, colon, prostate, and breast cancer, as well as all cancers combined; liver disease; diabetes; AIDS; accidental injury; and homicide." (Reuss, 2001, p.304) In addition in 2017, 12.6% of African American children were more likely to be hospitalized as compared to 7.7% of white children for asthma usually linked to air pollution. (Center for American Progress) African American men are more than seven times likely to die of homicide than white men, African American women are more than four times as likely than white women. (Lavizzo-Mourey & Williams, 2016) "Poor men are six times as likely as high income men to have elevated blood lead levels which reflect both residential and workplace environmental hazards. The less education someone has, the more likely they are to smoke or drink heavily." (Reuss, 2001p.304) I bring all this to light simply to address the bigger obvious, inequality equals illness and possibly death. I have only taken a few facts here to indicate that when we serve our clients in therapy there are so many other factors contributing to the possible ailments they may be experiencing. It is my hope that as professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers we are cognizant of the bigger picture.

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Professional Counselors Licensure Compact

Continued from page 4

If your legislation does not cross over by the deadline, your legislation is dead. You would then need to reintroduce your legislation the next year. We were very excited with the House of Representatives' unanimous vote which allowed our compact bill to cross over the House of Representatives to the Senate.

Our lobbyists, LPCA board members, volunteers, and LPCA staff continued to have regular Zoom update meetings with our sponsor Rep. Belton as we continued to implement our strategic advocacy plan.

Moving to the Senate and their Health and Human Services Committee, this legislation was not going to be an easy pass. A special hearing had to be called for the compact bills to be heard. At that time, there were three compacts hoping to become law: ours, Occupational Therapists, and Telehealth (which the Governor vetoed) that were being presented at the special HHS Committee hearing. As we stood in the halls of the Capitol, all the lobbyists, including those representing other compacts had instructed everyone not to testify, only the sponsors of the legislation due to the extremely short time period for the specially called hearing.

As you read this you can imagine our surprise when the American Counseling Association (ACA) president zoomed in as a "witness" to this special Senate HHS hearing without letting anyone else know she planned on speaking. The testimony was exclusively about ACA, not about HB395 or how this legislation is so important to you as a professional counselor. (The six-minute ACA speech can be accessed on the Senate website.)

One thing LPCA has learned over the years is that here in the great State of Georgia our lawmakers want to hear from Georgians, and only from Georgians.

Because the primary sponsor of the legislation, Rep. Dave Belton did not know who ACA was, nor who this person was that was speaking about the organization he never heard of, he was unable to answer questions the Senate Hearing Committee members started asking after her speech (testimony). This caused our legislation to be stalled, causing all the hard work of our sponsor, our lobbyists, and all our advocates, to be questioned. In addition, the other compact bills representatives were extremely upset. The six minutes of ACA grandstanding interference caused a delay in the other compacts being heard in a timely manner during this special HHS Committee hearing.

One thing LPCA has learned over the years is here in the great State of Georgia our lawmakers want to hear from Georgians, and only from Georgians. We were able to convince everyone involved with compact legislation at the Capitol that our sponsor representative Dave Belton and LPCA were completely caught off-guard by ACA's surprise speech.

Normally, compact legislation is not required to go before the Georgia Occupational Regulation Review Council Hearing (GORRC). The GORRC was statutorily established in 1986 to ensure that no programs of licensure and certification are imposed on any profession or business unless required for the safety and well-being of the citizens of this state. Now, after this incident, the legislation was required to go before the GORRC OPB Director and the nine members, two of which are state lawmakers, review process.

The excruciating process required an extensive GORRC application and hearing in which Dr. Tom Black, Ms. Julianma McConnell and I testified. GORRC only meets twice a month. Keep in mind that the time clock for the legislative session was coming to an end and if we did not get HB 395 through the GORRC review process and the Senate Rules Committee, we would not have time for a vote in the Senate before the session ended.

In addition to completing the GORRC review process, we had to repair damage to our reputation due to ACA's interference. After testifying before the GORRC Committee, it took another two weeks for the final vote from GORRC. We were very happy to report that based on the review process, the GORRC Council recommended that HB 395 pass out of the review process as written.

HB 395 had made it to Crossover Day, successfully made it through the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and through the GORRC Council. HB 395 still had to make it through the Senate Rules committee to move to the Senate Floor.

Last step, our lobbyists worked with Rep. Belton to find a Senator that would sponsor our bill in the Senate Rules Committee and on the Senate floor for a vote. We are very thankful that chairman Senator Chuck Hufstetler agreed to carry our PC Compact though the Senate Rules committee and onto the Senate Floor for a vote.

On March 23, 2021, Senator Chuck Hufstetler presented HB 395 on the Senate Floor. The vote was a unanimous "Yea." The final day of the legislative session was on March 31, 2021. HB 395, the Professional Counselors Licensure Compact, was finally on its way to the Governor's desk for his signature.

Imagine our surprise when ACA went to the Governor's office to ask for a photo of him signing our PC compact with them. Only the sponsor of the bill has the privilege of selecting those who can be seen in the photograph with the governor for a private signing.

Before the signing, another hurdle came up. A retired ICE enforcer claimed that compacts should not be signed into law because they could affect illegal immigration because of his concern about the verification process. He stated "It would allow illegal aliens to become licensed here in Georgia." This simply would not and could not happen due to the fact that compact legislation requires more than a social security number as verification.

On Friday May 7, 2021, at the LPCA Annual Convention in Savannah, we asked all 425 attendees to take out their cell phones and call the governor's office to tell him how much we appreciate that he's going to sign our HB 395. On the following Monday, Governor Brian Kemp signed HB 395 into law with it going into effect on July 1, 2021.

We are excited to announce that the LPCA Board of Directors will be in the photo with Governor Brian Kemp.

Stay tuned to what's next on how we will help other states pass our compact bill.



LPCA ANNUAL CONVENTION

BOARDROOM B



Ready to Make the Convention Spectacular!

Front row seated/kneeling L-R: Tim Robinson, Carolyn Ramp, Bryan Stephens

Back row L-R: Corey Milsap, Joy Welcker, Darrell Brooks, Angela Feeser, Michele Frey, Janesta Nairn, Tom Black, Keisha Pou-Buchanan, Lori Jacobs, Louis Boynton, Megan Boyd, Joe Wolstencroft, Britney Turk



Dr. Lisa Eichelberger and Dr. Michele Nelson



Senator Jackson and Consuela Wilds-Lewis



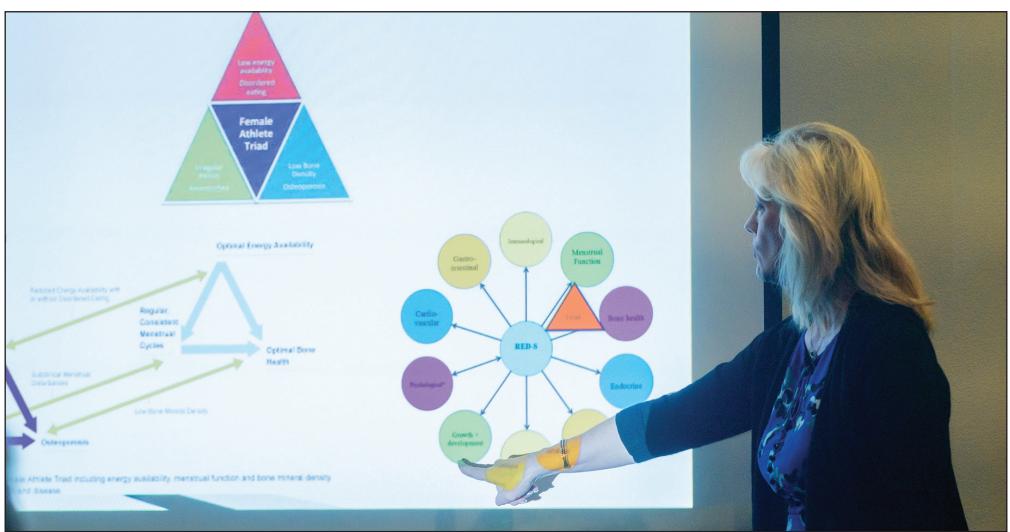
Leon Spencer, Tamara Onley, and Johnnie Jenkins



Tim Robinson gives Carolyn Ramp a surprise care package of yummy goodies!



Savannah Mayor, Van R. Johnson, II



National Nutritionist Page Love presents *Helping Your Patients Become Sport Nutrition Intuitive*



Angela, Lei, Kelly, and Sam in the Convention war room getting ready to go!



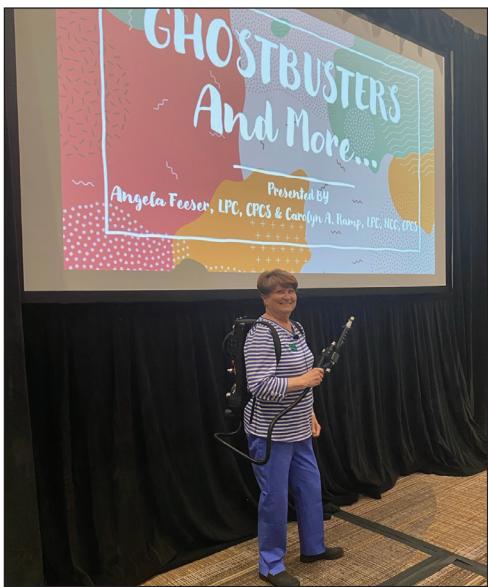
Carolyn Ramp, Angela Feeser, and Bryan Stephens



LPCA student ambassadors, Keyarta Calhoun and Sophia Gethers



Gale Macke with US Representative Buddy Carter, GA 1st District



Who ya gonna call? LPCA of GA!



Senator Lester Jackson, Rep. Dave Belton, and Rep. Belton's wife Theresa



L-R: Consuela Wilds, Keisha Buchanan, Corey Milsap, Megan Boyd, Tom Parrott, and new LPCA Staffer Andrew Blackmore



L-R: Joe Wolstencroft, Bryan Stephens, Michele Frey, and Janesta Nairn



L-R: Carolyn Ramp, Joe Wolstencroft, Bryan Stephens, Michele Frey, Janesta Nairn, Tom Black, and Angela Feeser

LPCA Board of Directors Meeting

June 18, 2021
Hosted in Augusta at LifeStance

The two hour, fast paced meeting, with new and returning board members covered a wide range of subjects about the next steps toward parity for LPCs.

Our sponsor was Lighthouse Care Center of Augusta which provides treatment to children and adolescents experiencing psychological issues. In addition to their clinical care services, they provide a variety of recreational opportunities and an accredited on-campus school.

At the end of our board meeting, for lunch, Lighthouse introduced us to a restaurant with an interesting local history, WifeSaver Restaurant. Founded in 1965 by George Cunningham, the restaurant began as a way for George to take care of the mounting medical bills brought on by his son, and now owner, Chris Cunningham's childhood bout with polio. Built by the Cunninghams and family friend "Hambone", the original WifeSaver stood in the front yard of George's home.

The board was then treated to delicious local fare consisting of fried chicken tenders, their famous mac 'n' cheese, green beans, and Greek salad with homemade dressing. Needless to say, the board loved it!

The long tables were graced with flowers from LPCA Executive Director Gale Macke's garden. They included her beautiful hydrangeas, calla lilies, gladiolas, roses, and gardenias.

After lunch LPCA Past President, Carolyn Ramp, presented a very informative three hour workshop to our members and online attendees entitled, *Tools for Families with Borderlines*.



L-R: Keisha Buchanan, Corey Milsap, Megan Boyd, Andrew Blackmore, Joy Welcker, Carolyn Ramp



You Are the Key!

**Angela Feeser, LPC, CPCS
LPCA President**

Last year was definitely a year of challenges! Though initially the COVID-19 pandemic shut many doors around the world, I believe many doors opened for our profession. Telehealth kept many of our practice/clinic doors open to serving our

patients, patients who needed our profession more than ever before. Being able to continue to provide therapy was key to many navigating the pandemic. We were able to get approval for the telehealth continuing education requirement to be temporarily adjusted, as well as approval for a temporary allowance to complete all other continuing education hours online/virtual. The online/virtual training gave us the opportunities to continue our learning, stay connected with other professionals, and remain in compliance with licensure requirements.

Recently we've been able to be the first state and first professional organization to successfully pass into law an interstate compact known as the Professional Counselors Licensure Compact known as HB 395. At our in-person convention this past May in Savannah, our attendees had the opportunity to meet and hear directly from the PC Compact sponsor, Representative Dave Belton, GA District 112. Also presenting was the LPCA Lobbyist Ms. Julianna McConnell, CPA, who spoke about how difficult it is to pass this legislation. Both her and Rep. Belton thanked all those who made the phone calls and sent emails to support this historic legislation.

Over this year, my hope is to continue to advocate for our profession and be one of many keys to opening more doors for us. While there are many parts, people, and things that go on behind the scenes at LPCA, the true key to our success is all of you, not just the LPCA Board, volunteers, or staff, **but you!**

The key many of you received at our convention in May is a visual reminder that each of you are essential to the success and thriving nature of our profession. Each of you is a gatekeeper to our profession.



Tim Robinson presents Angela with a key at June 18th LPCA Board Meeting.

We look back to our founding Board of Directors who made sacrifices to start the momentum for what we are enjoying now. We've been able to keep the momentum going for twenty-five years to be able to authorize 1013, five years to be able to diagnose, and more recently we succeeded in getting the Professional Compact passed in Georgia's legislature. We need all of you advocate, volunteer, educate, train, lead, and cultivate our profession, one that is based on solid ethics and practices. Regardless if you've been an LPC for thirty years or if you're a new LACP, **you hold a key!**

And... We Continue to Evolve

**Joy F. Welcker, PhD, OMC, CPCS
Coastal District Chair**

Worldwide events that began in 2020 proceed in their evolution as we continue to learn, adapt, and grow in our profession. Before 2020, when we spoke to a client of change, we may have referred to one's bedtime, small adjustments to diet or exercise, increasing socialization, or perhaps considerations for a career change. After 2020, our concept of change may be irrevocably altered. Within the mental health world, change now means telehealth services in places where there were none before, adjustments to supervision modalities, increased demand for mental health services from the public, temporary rule adjustments, Zoom meetings, technology to learn, new space layouts in private offices, plastic shields on countertops, decisions about masking (need vs. preference?), stockpiling some supplies, insurance reimbursement changes, and questions about the future as it continues to unfold.

While I know many of you are finished with hearing about the dreaded "C" word (COVID) or the "P" word (pandemic) it is perhaps important to review what we as therapists have learned and how we have grown through that kind of uncertainty and tragedy; much like we would encourage our clients to do. We can identify and improve our weaknesses (one of mine is lacking gracious acceptance of new technology), capitalize on our strengths (I hope one of mine is the practice of gratitude), and continue innovating for any additional change that is to come. As a group, I see strength in our ability to come together, provide support to each other, use consultation to make important decisions, save emotional space for our clients, and create new ways of engaging in the delivery of behavioral health services. Not only have we been able to do this when pressed, I would argue that we should continue doing it as a matter of cultivating our practice over the long term future.

It cannot be argued that the Professional Counselors of Georgia worked together to clear hurdles and win throughout the 2020 obstacle course and beyond. Our Leadership in LPCA is strong and our members are resilient. That was made abundantly clear during the recent LPCA May 2021 Conference in Savannah. While attending, I occasionally stopped and just looked around at the attendance and participation and saw nothing but unity and positive energy. That makes me proud to be among this membership. I am reminded of a line from the Jennifer Lopez movie, *Maid in Manhattan*. As she stands behind the hotel desk after being fired, a mentor says to her, "Sometimes we are forced in directions that we should have chosen for ourselves." **We have been forced, and now we have choice.**



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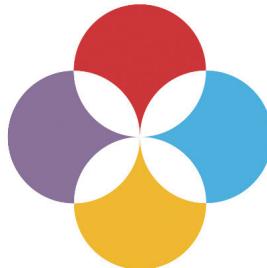
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- Promote and serve the continuing education needs of mental health professionals. This is accomplished by educational seminars, workshops, publications via a highly specialized team of trained forensic mental health professionals.
- Serve families by providing specialized assessments, educational materials and treatment plans. This is accomplished through a professional team approach used to assess and diagnose attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, autism, disruptive behaviors, oppositional defiant disorders and various other problematic child behavioral issues.
- Serve the needs of our veterans and nursing home residents by promoting entertainment modalities throughout our senior communities. Additionally, establish and serve the needs of at-risk children and families by promoting entertainment modalities throughout local communities.



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This workshop has been approved for 8 hours of continuing education (7 CORE hours and 1 hour Ethics hour) with the Licensed Professional Counselors Association, CE approval #9469-19C and 8 hours of continuing education (6 general hours, 1 domestic violence hour, and 1 hour ethics/professional boundaries) with the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy, & Mental Health Counseling and Florida Board of Psychology, CE Broker Tracking # 20-551881 (CE Broker Provider #50-15823). NBFE is recognized and endorsed by the American Mental Health Counselors Association.

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Report on what is going on in your community or your LPCA District.
Submit articles concerning your particular practice or area of expertise.
Write about your personal experiences as a professional counselor.
It is up to you. This is YOUR newsletter!
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