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2010-2012**

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# The MACA Newsletter



August–October  
2010

MISSOURI ADDICTION COUNSELORS' ASSOCIATION

## President's Corner By Laverne Blackorby, President

We are rapidly coming to the end of another very successful year at MACA. Since April of this year, we have increased our number by 15 new members, and from your responses, the conferences keep on getting better. I know from the conversations I had with many of you, that as a whole, you were really pleased with the conference. I wish to thank both those who presented information to us as well as to those who have chosen to sponsor MACA. I would like to remind you that an agency member can have a free vendor booth at the conferences, and you can run your advertisement for employment on our web site as well.

Our conference was attended by 110 professionals who appeared to have a very good time learning and sharing with each other. The Spring Conference is coming together very well and we'll be looking at new topics and techniques such as virtual world counseling. The conference committee reports they are ready for April 1, 2011.

I can't say enough about each and every one of you who chose to attend our conferences, helping to make MACA conferences among the best. It is through the interaction with each other, the passion for our profession, along with the insightfulness and caring for those who suffer from addictions, that you all bring the hope, health and recovery to so many in need. I am very proud to be a member of our organization and extremely proud to be serving as your president. You as a member, along with the attendees and potential members, all help MACA to be the successful organization it is, and your suggestions for change or improvement are always welcome.

I wish you all a very happy holiday season. I hope you can spend the time with your families and friends both during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays as well as New Year's.

Hope to see each and every one of you in April at the conference!

Thank you,  
Lavern Blackorby BA, CASAC, SQP-R, ICADC  
MACA President

# Message from the President

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## From the MACA Office By Ronnie Beaver, MACA Executive Secretary

I cannot believe another conference has come and gone. We had a great time, and learned a lot from our terrific speakers. As soon as I got home, I went to work getting the CEU certificates out to conference participants. As of now, 107 certificates were sent. We had over 110 participants, 30 of whom registered at the door. There were 11 people who joined MACA at the conference. Congratulations to Josh Palmer for winning a one year MACA membership at the drawing held during the banquet. Karina Sheets won the waiver of the Spring 2011 conference fee in the drawing for members who joined at the conference.

We also want to thank our Fall 2010 sponsors; **Gold:** Alkermes, MSAPCB, **Silver:** Preferred Family Healthcare, **Educational:** National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA), and **Friends of MACA:** St Joseph Safety and Health Council, Robert A. Parsonson, D.O., and Duane Cummins.

We are already well on the way to completing the agenda for the Spring 2011 conference, and are excited about the topics and speakers scheduled.

Make sure to mark your calendars for the 2011 conferences. The dates are; April 1-3, 2011 and October 7-9, 2011. Hope to see you there.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the office; 816-232-3411, Or [maca@socket.net](mailto:maca@socket.net). Since I work part time, please leave a message if I don't answer the phone, and I will call back ASAP.

## Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse By Mark Stringer, Director

More than ever in history, a career in the substance abuse treatment field seems like a smart choice. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), employment of addiction counselors is expected to grow by 21 percent, "which is much faster than the average for all occupations." The BLS speculates that the number of individuals seeking treatment will rise as society becomes more knowledgeable, addiction therapy is more acceptable, and substance offenders are increasingly sent to treatment instead of prison. Furthermore, health care reform will bring unprecedented opportunities for people suffering from addiction, the professionals who treat them, and the individuals and agencies that provide ongoing support for recovery.

Credentialing has become increasingly important in our field and is a critical step in the development of any profession. In order to become better integrated with the broader world of physical medicine, certification as a substance abuse professional provides assurance to medical practitioners as well as the general public that the holder has demonstrated at least a basic level of skill in the core competencies and receives continuing education.

## **MACA** By Kathy Gillum, ASCJAD

My first exposure to MACA was the Spring Convention 2010. I heard Jim talk about it before but did not know what it really was all about, so I went as a tag-along just to have some extra time with him. What I didn't realize would happen was that I would make a connection with the people there that truly made me feel a part of everything and that I belonged. Since I am still a student and have not worked in the field, I believed that I would feel out of place and inexperienced. Instead, what I found was a group of professional people that were willing to share their knowledge and experience, give support and encouragement, and a place where I could learn to use the book knowledge in practical ways in real life situations.

I came away from the convention with a desire to become a member myself. I found a place that gave me support, encouragement, guidance and friendship in a warm and inviting atmosphere. The convention was a place to learn, but it was also a place to share friendship and have fun.

Kathy Gillum, ASCJAD

## **From Your Conference Committee** By Linda Christian

It has only been a couple weeks, and according to the reviews from the October Conference, we had a successful one! Everyone seemed to have a great time learning from our speakers, and the laughter that came from the rooms was wonderful to hear.

I want to say thank you to everyone who helped make this so successful. Our speakers were exceptional, the banquet was great and the hotel did a wonderful job at helping out in every way.

Now on to the next conference...do you know someone who would be a good speaker? We would like to have something more for the adolescent and outpatient counselors. As I work in the prison system, I need some help here. Please contact me at [lchristian\\_53@hotmail.com](mailto:lchristian_53@hotmail.com) if you know someone we need to contact to speak.



## 2010 New & Returned MACA Members

MACA would like to welcome the following members who joined since May 2010.

Linda Barrett	Professional Member
Sara Bursac	Professional Member
Don Eldridge	Student Member
Theresa Eschmann	Professional Member
James Gillum	Professional Member
Kathy Gillum	Student Member
Patricia Mather	Professional Member
Michele Mitchell	Associate Member
Stephen Noyes	Professional Member
Josh Palmer	Professional Member
Tom Richardson	Professional Member
Shellie Ruble	Professional Member
Sara Scott	Professional Member
Karena Sheets	Professional Member
Tracy Sovar	Professional Member

**MACA Members**

## PURPOSE

The Missouri Addiction Counselors Association is a not-for-profit Professional Organization for Counselors living in or working in the State of Missouri.

## MISSION

MACA will actively engage in those activities which promote the integrity and professionalism of addiction counselors. MACA will provide continuing educational opportunities to addiction counselors, counselors-in-training, and other counseling disciplines. MACA will inform legislative and government officials of Missourians' treatment needs. MACA will explore and pursue ideas and principals which advance the Professional recognition of Addiction Counselors in Missouri.

### *Did You Know.....*

MACA is the only Professional Membership Association in Missouri for Addiction Counselors and other Professionals in the Addictions field.

MACA was organized in 1971 as the Missouri Association of Alcohol Counselors to provide fellowship and support for persons professionally employed in alcoholism counseling. The role and mission of MACA expanded through the years to include persons providing professional counseling for alcohol, drug, and other addictive behaviors, thus necessitating a name change to the Missouri Association of Substance Abuse Counselors. In 1992, MASAC Membership and NAADAC (National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors) St. Louis Chapter agreed to combine and form one professional association in Missouri. MASAC then became Missouri Addiction Counselors Association.

In 2008 MACA discontinued its affiliation with NAADAC in order to focus resources on the needs of State membership.

## MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

### Professional (Individual) Membership\*:

Open to anyone engaged in the work of counseling or related fields who is interested in the addiction-focused profession. *(It is not a requirement that Professional Members be credentialed in Addictions.)*

- *May actively participate in the association, hold office, serve on committees, and have full voting rights.*
- *Will be expected to uphold the aims & actions of MACA and abide by the MACA Codes of Ethics.*

### Associate (Registered) Membership\*:

Open to persons with an interest in Substance Abuse and/or Addictions & the aims of the Association, **but not qualified for Professional or Student Membership and not yet certified by MSAPCB as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor.** Associate Members will inform the MACA Board of Directors when they qualify for Professional Membership status.

### Student Membership\*:

Open to any full-time (9 hours) student at an accredited college or university or students involved in full-time or part-time internships. Student Membership is limited to Student Members for four 1-year membership terms, Student membership is open to both new & renewing Members. Student Members will be required to present documentation of "student-status" to MACA

### Agency Membership:

Open to those agencies, organizations, institutions, and associations wishing to support the purpose, objectives and actions of MACA. **Agency members receive the reduced conference rate for their employees.** Agency members can designate one representative who may vote and serve on committees, but is not eligible to hold office.

### Retired Membership:

Open to anyone who has retired from working in counseling or related fields who is interested in supporting the addiction focused profession. (It is not required for the Retired Members to have been credentialed in Addictions)

## MACA BENEFITS

- Inexpensive continuing educational opportunities
  - Annual Spring & Fall Conferences
  - Centrally located in Osage Beach
- Informative MACA Newsletters
- Networking opportunities with other Missouri Addictions Professionals and Agencies
- The chance to promote and enhance the role of the Professional Addictions Counselor
- MACA official certificate
- Individual members receive a discount on all MSAPCB training fees

***Join today and you'll be on your way to gaining the professional edge, earning greater recognition, and keeping up-to-date with the newest field information.***