

## **Presidential Address**

Dear MCA members,

I want to thank all of you for continuing to support the Michigan Counseling Association and all that we do. My team and I have big goals and dreams for the organization, which requires a strong foundation to be built now, for future growth. That foundation includes creating fundamental parts of an association, including updated by-laws, a policies and procedures manual, a renewed continuing education certification, as well as marketing strategies. This requires extensive and thorough work to be conducted so that it becomes easier for future leaders to carry the torch. Your patience with us during these times will be rewarded, as MCA will become more and more visible across the state.

One of our core philosophies is to create a united front amongst counselors in Michigan so that our interests are heard and protected for years to come. We want to celebrate all counselors and counselor groups that do amazing work, and we want to assist in making sure that they are well known within our professional networks. As I speak to figures in our profession from across the country, they are blown away by collaborative efforts from counselors in Michigan to help pass HB 4325 last fall. MCA is determined to continue its role in helping Michigan set the example to the nation of how the story of professional counselors is to be told to those in power. With your support, we will continue to collaborate with all counselor organizations to make sure that the laws and regulations are still in our favor, and that new ones can be developed when needed.

I'm going to challenge anyone reading this to consider getting involved in pivotal roles within our organization so that we continue to function well in the present and in the future. We need people to run for board positions, or be named to committee positions, so that the vision we have for the future can be fulfilled. We believe that the more leaders we have, more innovative ideas will be shared, which will help promote a group that truly represents Michigan counselors. Contact me at (586) 690-0045 to speak further about these opportunities, as well as anything else to do with MCA. You can also contact us at our email address at [michigancounselingassociation@gmail.com](mailto:michigancounselingassociation@gmail.com). I will continue to work towards my goal of having all of you feel as happy to work with us as I have felt to this point in working with all of you! Let's continue to connect.

With Regards,  
Michael Joy MA LPC

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## President-Michigan Counseling Association

### **WMCA**

The West Michigan Counseling Association (WMCA) is a not-for-profit, professional and educational organization that is dedicated to the growth and enhancement of the counseling profession. WMCA is one of the state's largest chapters of the Michigan Counseling Association (MCA). As a regional chapter of MCA, WMCA locally represents professional counselors in various practice settings.

By providing leadership, newsletters, conferences, and MCA representation to nearly 150 members, WMCA helps counseling professionals develop their skills and expand their knowledge base to contribute to a healthier community.

Our organization is run by a volunteer board comprised of both school counselors, private practitioners, community mental health liaisons and graduate students. The annual membership fee allows all members to attend three incredible conferences throughout the year where you have the opportunity to join professional counselors to obtain valuable information and expand your professional network. We believe that attendance and participation in conferences is an important part of our profession. Commitment to our organization and participation in our conferences will allow us to learn best practices from leaders in our profession. Collaboration among colleagues is the best avenue for growth in our field. Here is a peek at our latest conference line-up.

Understanding Anxiety in School-Aged Children, Grief & Loss in Children Ages 5-18, Neurofeedback: When? Why? Who? Rethinking Suicide & Self-Harm, Mindfulness-Based Interventions, Managing Values Differences in Mental Health, Trauma: Engaging in Brief Interventions, Depression in the Modern Age.

If you have any questions about membership in our organization, please feel free to visit our website <https://wmca1.org/>

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### **Western Michigan Counseling Association Board Members**

President: Judy Bouley  
 President-Elect: Diane Schroeder  
 Past-President: Anne Harig  
 Treasurer: Kasey Hagler  
 Secretary: Angie Pulera  
 High School Representative: Lacy Otteman  
 High School Representative: Brittany DeWitt  
 Middle School Representative: Deanna Coyne

Middle School Representative: MaryAnn Harris  
 Elementary School Representative: Hillary DeRidder  
 Elementary School Representative: Amy Hallead  
 Representative at Large: Eric Kelliher & Gerry Verwey  
 Community Liaison: Anthony Muller  
 Marketing/Advertising: Dori Castignola

Membership: Renee Hartman  
 MCA Governing Council Representative: Ashley  
 VanBemmelen  
 Website: Ashley VanBemmelen  
 WMCA Historian: Anne Harig  
 Graduate Student Representative: Kyra Short

### **Licensed Professional Counselors of Northern Michigan**

In 2012 several License Professional Counselors and Limited License Professional Counselors met and discussed how we can help ourselves and our profession in the Grand Traverse Region. The purposes of the Licensed Professional Counselors of Northern Michigan include: to be a professional organization for helping services professionals; to advance the profession of counseling in order to maximize the educational/academic, occupational, and personal/social growth of each individual; to assist in the communication of common areas of interest between members, the organization and the community served by its members; to sponsor meetings for the professional advancement of Licensed Professional Counselors; and to establish a referral base of Licensed Professional Counselors; develop a network to cover the area where we live and serve; create a group of Licensed Professional Counselors who actively review cases and give professional feedback to one another; discuss potential ethical concerns that counselors may be confronted with; be the regional liaison organization between individual counselors and the Michigan Counseling Association.

The group meets for general membership/business meetings five times a year; we take the summer off. We have speakers at most of our meetings. We organize an annual fall conference and invite professionals within the counseling/therapeutic field as presenters and for education and growth. Contact with the LPCNM can be done through our facebook page, Licensed Professional Counselors of Northern Michigan.

Gerald Micketti LPC  
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### **Executive Leadership of the Michigan Counseling Association**

Looking for a way to help give back to your community? Or a way to be mentored in a position of leadership? Maybe just a way to challenge yourself to achieve in something new?

Well then email us about joining one of our committees or leadership positions!

The time commitment varies based on the position desired.

Also, it looks good on your resume!

**President/Treasurer**-Michael Joy

**Secretary**-Lashonda Hampton

**Past President**-Nakpangi Thomas

**Technology Visor**-Jamie McNally

**Public Policy & Legislation Chair**-Veronica Visger

**Publication Chair**-Shelby Fey