



# Board News

May 2006

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## BOARD MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

At the annual conference of The North Carolina Counseling Association, three LPC board members received leadership awards. Pat Nystrom, Board Chair, received the Ella Stephens Barrett Award for Excellence in professional leadership, the most coveted honor bestowed by NCCA. Glen Martin, Board Vice-Chair, received the Sam Gladding Award for his contributions in the field of group work and a special leadership award for significant contributions to the field of counseling in North Carolina over the past two decades. Sylvia Nassar-McMillan, who will join NCBLPC in July 2006, received the North Carolina Counseling Association Professional Writing and Research Award.

Pat, a member of the LPC Board since 2001, served on the Executive Board of NCCA between 1995 and 2001 as Secretary, Treasurer, President-Elect, President, Past-President, and chair of several committees. She received the NCCA Devoted Service Award in 1991 for outstanding work as a middle school counselor and in 2001 for her work with NCCA. Retired from school counseling, she is a part-time counselor for Growing Pains, P.A. in Hampstead, NC.

Glen, retired from his counselor education professorship at NCCU but still teaching part-time for Webster University, was not only one of the authors of our LPC practice law, but someone who was instrumental in getting the law passed. He has been involved in professional leadership since becoming a counselor in 1985. He has been elected to NCCA leadership positions more times that he can remember, served on many NCCA and division committees, and received many state and national awards. A long-time member of NCCA, he is a past recipient of both the Ella Stephens Barrett Award and the Devoted Service Award. Glen has been on the LPC board for four years.

Sylvia, Associate Professor at NCSU in counselor education, specializes in gender and multicultural issues with a special focus on Arab Americans. Her current research interests focus on ethnic identity development and acculturation, career development of ethnic and other minorities, Arab Americans, as well as refugee issues. In 2003, Sylvia won ACA's "Best Practices" Research Award. Recently, she was one of the authors of "The Aftermath of the Persian Gulf War: Mental Health Issues Among Iraqi-American Veterans" which was published in *The Ethnicity and Disease Journal*.

## AASCB ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In January, NCBLPC attended the 19th annual conference of the American Association of State Counseling Boards in Phoenix AZ. The mission statement of AASCB is "Working for the advancement of services to the public through state laws regulating counselors and through the coordination and improvement of services provided by its member credentialing boards." The annual conference is an excellent resource for all counselor licensing boards, providing educational events and networking opportunities in the areas of regulatory ethics, testing, supervision, ethical and legal issues in counseling work, new board member orientation, license portability, informed consent, and ethical management of complaints have been the focus of recent conferences.

This year, North Carolina had the distinction of being the only state to bring the entire board, including the board attorney, and the board administrators to the conference. Every presentation, concurrent session, meeting, and work group was attended by at least one NCBLPC member, and ideas generated by the conference are already under discussion.

## NORTH CAROLINA REPRESENTED ON AASCB EXECUTIVE BOARD

Christine Greene, NCLPC board member since 2004, was elected treasurer of AASCB at the annual conference in January, 2006. Chris was particularly well suited for the position of treasurer, as she has been member and officer of many local and state boards since her retirement from school counseling several years ago. She has a wealth of experience with budgets, financial planning, conference planning, and record-keeping. NCBLPC was happy to nominate her and delighted that she will represent us on the AASCB board. She will be a valuable contributor to their board.



## IS YOUR INFO CURRENT WITH THE BOARD OFFICE?

It is very important that you notify the Board Office if you move. The Board Office is required to keep current information on all licensees. Having your correct information will help in getting renewal notices to you in a timely manner.

All changes in address and phone numbers must be received in writing and may be mailed or faxed or emailed to the Board Office at the address and fax number listed at the top of this page.

## LPCS IN NORTH CAROLINA

As of JUNE 2006, 106 new LPC licenses were issued, bringing the total number of actively licensed North Carolina LPCs to 3354. The number of LPC license applications received in North Carolina increases about 10 % annually.

## AN LPC QUIZ

Knowing these answers won't bring you prize money but could keep you out of career jeopardy.

1. Does NCBLPC license counselors to give IQ or psychological tests?

All standardized tests are the copyrighted property of the people who make and sell them and they have control over who administers them. We have ethical guidelines (ACA, 2005) for situations where LPCs are authorized to administer tests but we do not govern who can administer tests or authorize anyone to administer tests. Look for the assessment question on the FAQ page for a more detailed explanation.

2. Can license applicants go into private practice if they have board approved supervisors?

Only licensed counselors can hold themselves out to the

public as counselors or charge for their services. Applicants can be employed in exempt settings as defined by the LPC practice law. Independent practice is not an exempt setting, and subcontracting is not employment. When the board learns of an unlicensed counselor subcontracting or practicing independently, the counselor is sent a "cease and desist" letter and informed that they are breaking the law. Any counselor who continues to practice will be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and will be charged.

3. To be approved by the board, do counseling experience hours have to be supervised by licensed mental health professionals?

Yes. Unless practicum supervision is provided and verified by a counseling program faculty member, supervision must be provided by a licensed mental health professional.

## MEET JENNIFER AND JUDY, NCBLPC ADMINISTRATORS

The daily business of the LPC board is done by the staff of Management Concepts, Inc. (MCI), an accredited association management company based in Garner, NC. In June of '05, NCBLPC renewed the MCI contract to provide a badly needed increase in services, as it now takes several full-time employees to keep up with the work of the board.

The friendly voices at (919) 661-0820 belong to NCBLPC Co-Administrator Jennifer Robertson and Co-Administrator Judy Hohlfeldt.

Jennifer is a wife and mother of two. She is a native of North Carolina with deep roots to the Raleigh area, Jennifer has 12 years of experience with MCI and is happy to be working with NCBLPC.

Judy is also a native of the Raleigh area, but has lived on the west coast and Europe. With a background in international business, she is well organized and pays attention to detail.



*North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors*

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## YOUR CODE OF ETHICS HAS CHANGED!

Usually when a Code of Ethics changes, it is difficult to find the changes because they are so small. You will not have that problem with the 2005 ACA Code of Ethics, as there are many and significant changes. And, as you probably know, our LPC law says North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselors must follow the ACA Code of Ethics.

Please find the new Code of Ethics at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org), read it carefully, and make a copy for your office. Ignorance of the ethical code is no better defense than ignorance of the law, and the board has noticed that those who file complaints about counselors have read the Code of Ethics very carefully.

## COUNSELOR LICENSING BOARDS—A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

One might expect counseling licensure boards from different states to have more similarities than differences. But there are major differences in how state counseling boards are operate. There are no national standards or “best practices” for how states should organize health care regulatory programs, and the result is a variety of organizational models that are hard to compare and difficult to evaluate.

“Development of a code of ethics signals that a profession has passed from infancy into adolescence.” Tennyson and Strom, 1986, *Journal of Counseling and Development*

“It is our opinion that one cannot be an ethical practitioner without also being an ethical person.” Tennyson and Strom, 1986, *Journal of Counseling and Development*

## NEW: DOWNLOAD YOUR LICENSE APPLICATION

NCBLPC now provides a license application that can be downloaded at [www.ncblpc.org](http://www.ncblpc.org) at no charge. Seeing the application on-line will allow LPCs and licensure candidates to find answers to questions that now require calling, E-mailing, or faxing the board office.

## COMING SOON TO THE WEB SITE

On-line tracking will allow applicants to check the web site to see if their applications, reference letters, transcripts, test scores, professional disclosure statements, and quarterly supervision forms have been received. An on-line database of North Carolina LPCs that displays license status, license number, and city or county will be available soon.

## NEW WEBSITE FAQ TOPICS

A review of our E-mail correspondence and some suggestions from LPCs and LPC applicants has resulted in some new Frequently Asked Questions on our website. We hope the answers are helpful.

