



Maryland Counseling Association

A BRANCH OF ACA

COMPASS POINTS

ISSUE 16 | VOLUME 2 | FALL 2023

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Mission

“SERVING THE COUNSELING, GUIDANCE, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONS”

MCA Officers

President:

Kerri Legette McCullough

President Elect:

Sabrina Taylor

Secretary:

Annyck Hamez

Treasurer:

Open

Immediate Past President:

Pat Dudley

Member-at-Large:

Irene Burks

Executive Director:

Cathie Eaton



Letter from the President

Dear Members,

I hope this message finds you well. As we move into fall, I wanted to provide an update on some of the exciting things happening within our Maryland Counseling Association (MCA) community.

First, I want to thank all of you who were able to attend our annual MCA conference in September. It was wonderful to reconnect with so many counselors from across the state, learn from the excellent presenters, and gain new skills and insights to bring back to our practices. The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and we're already looking forward to making next year's conference even better.

In other news, the MCA Board will be working hard to enhance member benefits. We have begun to identify several companies that can provide discounts on a host of services that are beneficial to members. We're also creating professional development webinars for the remainder of the year, so stay tuned for more information.

Finally, I want to highlight our advocacy efforts. Our Advocacy Committee has been monitoring proposed legislation that could impact counseling and mental health services in Maryland. We spoke up on several bills last legislative session to ensure the

counselor's perspective was considered. With your membership and support, we will continue advocating for policies that increase access to counseling and improve mental health services across the state.

As we move through this year, I encourage you to get involved with MCA by joining a committee, attending events, or volunteering. This is your organization, and we are stronger thanks to our dedicated members. Please feel free to contact me or any board member if you have ideas for how we can better serve you.

Thank you for being part of the MCA family. I look forward to continuing to work with you to promote excellence in counseling here in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kerri Legette McCullough
[President, Maryland Counseling Association](#)



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear MCA Members,

We are so very excited to have had a successful 2023 Annual Conference at Coppin State University! Highlights include Shawn Boynes, CEO of the American Counseling Association attending and providing opening remarks. Roni White provided our Land Acknowledgement. We hosted three Keynote Speakers and diverse workshop content on the theme of Keeping Family at the Center. This could not have been possible without our President, Dr. Kerri Legette-McCullough, or the Conference Planning Committee chaired by Dr. Keyona Hall and Dr. Latonia Laffitte. Special thanks to all of our board members and volunteers, led by Diane Walsh, who helped to make this event a success. I am honored to receive a new nickname during the event: Mary Poppins! This was given to me after I was able to pull almost everything but a rabbit out of my Conference Boxes!

Please save the date for next year's conference for September 20 and 21, 2024!

MCA has been involved in more than just planning conferences and workshops. After unsuccessfully contacting the Board of Professional Counselors to update their website and supervision forms we reached out to Rep. Julie Palakovich-Carr, our Maryland Representative in our main office location. After contacting Rep. Palakovich-Carr's office, the Board did update the forms to reflect the current Governor and other government leaders on official forms.

We were contacted by LCPCM to collaborate on providing feedback to CMS for the proposed physician rules which affects compensation rates to counselors. Many LCPCM and MCA members offered feedback to CMS and we eagerly await the final report. We will have a new liaison with LCPCM and also with MSCA, for school counselors, and we look forward to collaborating on joint ventures in the spring.

We are so proud to host many different workshop offerings, networking and some in person social gatherings, both through MCA and our divisions! If you have a topic of interest or if you want to share your own expertise, please email me!

We are proud to say that after an extensive internal audit, we are confident that we are doing well financially as an organization and look forward to expanding over the next few years. After a slight decrease in membership last July, our current active members are 448, which is close to our average over the last 10 years. Our goal is to increase our membership to 1500 in three years. Please look for a formal end of year report by December on the State of MCA.

MCA wants to be the place for counselors to find professional development, advocacy, leadership training and support as well as a networking community.

We pride ourselves on having a robust, diverse Board, and would welcome new volunteers or board members. We are in need of Treasurers, both for MCA and our Divisions. This is not a role that is done solo or without support, nor do you need to have an accounting background.

As Winter draws near and we look to set goals for the next year, please consider what you want to see from MCA and how you can join us to support those goals.

Sincerely,

Catherine "Cathie" Eaton, LCPC,
GCDF, NCC
[Executive Director, Maryland
Counseling Association](#)



*Headshot courtesy of Digital
Magic Photography and Design*

Fraud Alert

Please be advised we have been made aware of a recent increase in phishing attempts using emails that are similar to our MCA Emails (our official ones are listed on our Contact Us page) and otherwise impersonating our volunteers and staff. For example, we do not have an email addresses for Catherine@ or David@ mdcounseling.org.

We would never ask for your financial information or for someone to make a purchase (even a surprise gift or gift cards) with the promise to reimburse you later. We have other systems in place for all business purchases and expenditures.

If you ever have any questions or doubts about the veracity of an email, you may call or text our Executive Director at 240-401-8686. You can report phishing to the FTC here: <https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/small-businesses/cybersecurity/phishing>

With appreciation for all that you do,
Cathie Eaton
Executive Director, MCA, Inc.
Email: Exec@MDCounseling.org
Phone: 240-401-8686

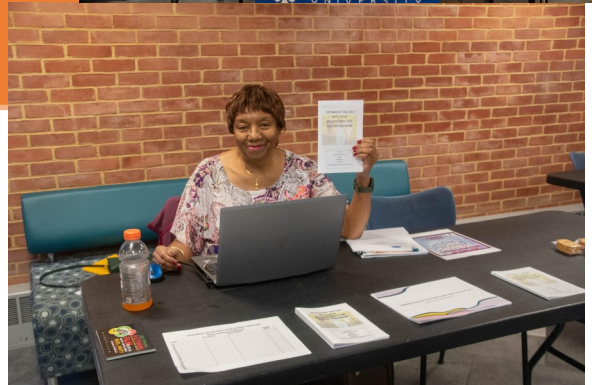


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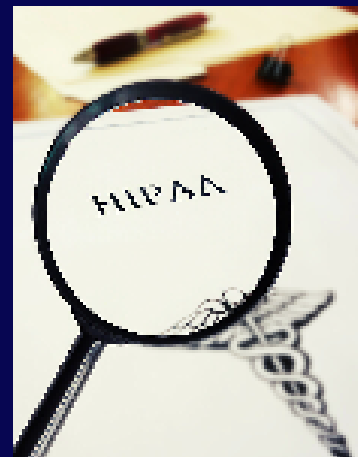
2023 Conference Vendors



You're dedicated to
serving your clients.

We're dedicated to serving you.

Mayer Law



Let us help you with
your legal needs, so
you can focus on
helping your clients.

www.danielmayerlaw.com

contact_us@danielmayerlaw.com



To register for MCA or any of our events, please go to www.md counseling.org.

View the [latest resources](#) for the public, students and professionals.

Find us on Facebook ([@mdcounseling](#)) and Twitter ([@md_counseling](#)).

Contact the MCA Executive Director for more information about committees and open board positions.

DIVISION PRESIDENTS

MACES President

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Emerging Leaders Chair

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Registrar

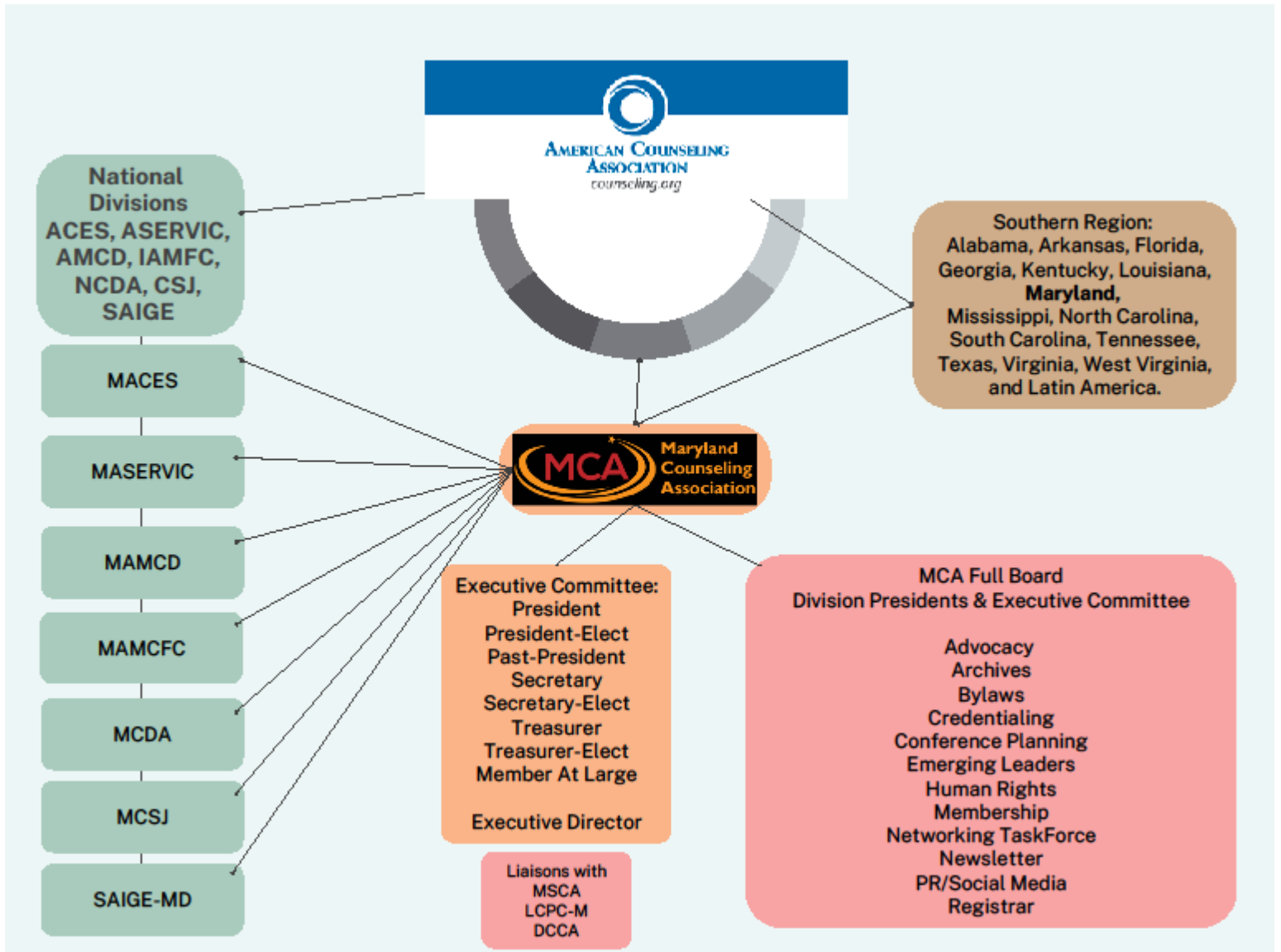
Cathie Eaton

exec@MDCounseling.org

Newsletter Chair

Michelle Schoonmaker

newsletter@MDCounseling.org



Why should you join MCA?

Membership is important to your professional growth and career development. It provides:

- Continuing education opportunities at discount prices
- Grant opportunities
- Early notification of MCA and MCA Division events
- A list of events that you have participated in
- Notification of current public policy issues and new laws of interest to professional counselors
- Support and advocacy for professional counseling in the state of Maryland
- Leadership training for board members
- Electronic reminders to renew your membership



[Click here](#) to join MCA today!

Not ready to join? Choose the non-Member contact option for a no-cost way to add your name to our email list.

Newsletter Submissions Guidelines

Announcements may be submitted for inclusion by MCA committees, divisions and affiliates. This can include upcoming events, important news, etc.

Articles relevant to the organization or profession may be submitted for inclusion in the newsletter. Submissions may be from members and nonmembers. Please note that promotions and endorsements **are not** considered articles; they must be submitted as paid advertisements.

Advertisements can be submitted by members and nonmembers for inclusion in the newsletter. Ads will be copied into the newsletter as submitted, including active links and images. Editing by Newsletter Team will only be resizing to requested space.

How much do ads cost?

Pricing is based on size of the ad per page. A quarter page is \$25, a half page is \$50 and a full page is \$75. For example, if your ad is 2 full pages, your total will be \$150.

What forms of payment do you accept?

We accept payments via credit card. Please purchase ad space via the [MCA store](#).

How often is there a newsletter release?

Newsletters are released quarterly. When released, it is emailed to subscribers and posted to MCA's website at: <http://www.mdccounseling.org/page-1596008>.

When is the next newsletter deadline?

<i>Edition</i>	<i>Submission Deadline</i>	<i>Publication Month</i>
Summer	July 15 th	August
Fall	October 15 th	November
Winter	January 15 th	February
Spring	April 15 th	May

Can I post my ad or event on the MCA website?

Yes, contact MCA's Virtual Assistant at Website@MDCounseling.org.

Can I submit events to the weekly digest?

Yes, contact the Public Relations Committee at Public.Relations@MDCounseling.org.