

July Report to TCA from West Tennessee Counseling Association

WTCA officers for the 2009-2010 year included Kim Jessee - President, Margaret Schingle - President Elect, Jo Ann Boyd - President Elect Elect, Lauren Pierotti - Secretary, Regina Lacey - Treasurer, and Candace Armstrong - Past President.

Sponsored Events

The December 8, 2009 WTCA Dinner Meeting was sponsored by Remington Career College in Memphis and held at the Crown Plaza Hotel. Melissa Farrar, LCSW, and Director of Victim's Services of the Exchange Club of Memphis provided a one-hour Professional Development on Domestic Violence. Although the weather was cold and inclement, forty Counselors and guests attended this meeting.

WTCA Board Meeting - February 4, 2010

The WTCA Board met at Southwest TN Community College before the February Dinner meeting. Topics discussed were the nominations process for the upcoming election; WTCA awards nominations; and a review of goals for the year; Treasurer Regina Lacey reported that the WTCA Bank account had been moved to Independent Bank.

The February 4, 2010 WTCA Dinner Meeting was sponsored by Southwest Tennessee Community College and hosted by Vanessa Dowdy, Director of Recruitment. Michael LeBonte, Executive Director of the Suicide Crisis Center in Memphis, provided a one-hour Professional Development on the topic of Suicide Prevention and Intervention. During the general meeting, announcements were made regarding nominations for the awards for Elementary School Counselor of the Year, Middle School Counselor of the Year, Secondary School Counselor of the Year, Private Sector Counselor of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Award guidelines. Sixty-five Counselors and guests attended this meeting.

The March 23, 2010 WTCA Dinner Meeting was sponsored by the University of Memphis, held at the new University Center, and hosted by Destin Tucker and Kate Howard, Office of Recruitment and Orientation. Officer Jimmy Chambers, Metro Gang Investigator, and Raymond Lepone, Deputy Chief Prosecutor, Attorney General's Office presented a one-hour Professional Development on the topic of Gang Awareness.

During the general meeting Nominations for President Elect Elect and Secretary were taken; and a reminder was made of the Awards Banquet, Friday, April 16, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on U of M campus, sponsored by the U.S. Military and hosted by JB Smiley, MEPC, ASVAB. Sixty Counselors and guests attended this event.

April 16, 2010 WTCA Awards Banquet sponsored by the U.S. Military and hosted by JB Smiley, MEPC, ASVAB was held at the University of Memphis, Holiday Inn. Guest speaker was Captain Eric Johnson, Chief of Staff Navy Recruiting Command who expressed the importance of counselors in the career exploration and planning process.

WTCA awards were given to Lauren Pierotti Elementary School Counselor of the Year, Earnestine Benton Middle School Counselor of the Year, Jeffrey Taylor Secondary School Counselor of the Year, Bob Loos Private Sector Counselor of the Year, and Kim Jessee Lifetime Achievement Award. The Awards presentations continued with Military Awards Presentations to Counselors, Educators and others. The evening concluded with closing comments from Mr. Smiley and reflections from Kim Jessee, WTCA President.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Schingle, WTCA President, 2010-2011