

November Report to TCA from Middle Tennessee Counseling Association

Serving on the MTCA officer team this year are: Jane Gough – President, Rebecca Cheplick – President-Elect, Roosevelt Faulkner – President-Elect-Elect, Runez Downs – Secretary, Debra Watson – Treasurer, Christy Hurt – Past President, and Advisor – Carlene Ford. Active committee chairs include Christy Hurt – Awards, Virginia Dansby and Misty Yarbrough – Membership, Roosevelt Faulkner – Newsletter and Evite, Canary Hogan – Strategic Planning and Advocacy, and Molly Phelps – Hospitality.

MTCA officers met in August to set goals, plan activities, and decide on our budget for 2009-10. Our first chapter meeting was hosted on September 8 by Cumberland Heights, with over 50 MTCA members and guests participating together in a wonderful dinner and program provided by Linda Cochran, Director of Staff Development at Cumberland Heights. Members enjoyed three excellent presentations on addiction effects and treatment by Cumberland Heights staff members, Holly Cook, Paul Citro, and Will Radford. One CEU credit was offered by Cumberland Heights, an authorized provider of professional development credit for licensed counseling professionals. We were delighted to have TSCA Division President Nita Jones with us, along with Katie Moran from EdSouth, as we recognized that organization for a recent \$300 contribution to MTCA's Professional Development Fund for this year. We also recognized Metro Schools' Executive Director of School Counseling, Ann Cumbie, and Coordinator of School Counseling, Mia Jones. A large number of counseling students from Middle Tennessee State University attended, along with their professors, Dr. Virginia Dansby and Dr. Ellen Slicker.

Our second MTCA chapter meeting was in collaboration with Vanderbilt Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Honorary, held on the Vanderbilt campus on October 15 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm, with about 60 present. Dr. Heather Smith, Counseling Professor, and Chi Sig President Rob Rickman were our hosts. Presenters included Cindy Sneed on Professional Licensure Requirements, Nicole Cobb with an Update from the State Board of Education and Licensing Standards, and Linda Leathers about Management of Mental Health Services, including program development, administration, finance and accountability. Over 75 registrants could earn up to three CEU credits through Vanderbilt University HDC, an approved provider.

MTCA goals are to provide chapter meetings that BENEFIT MEMBERS in our personal life and professional practice. At every meeting we want to create opportunities for networking and offer resources that SUPPORT OUR WORK AS COUNSELORS. We want to PROMOTE WELLNESS of counselors so that we can continue being the helping professionals that we are educated to be. Finally, MTCA leaders are committed to making chapter meetings INFORMATIVE and FUN for all who come, from whatever professional counseling setting, including active and retired!

Next MTCA Chapter Meeting is on Tuesday afternoon February 10 during final session of the Counselor Institute in Murfreesboro. MTCA Professional Development Workshops will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 5:30 pm, location TBA. Annual MTCA Awards Meeting and Banquet will be on May 11, 2010.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Gough, MTCA President, jane@thegoughs.com, Ph. 615-370-9494.