

COUNSELOR CONNECTION

Louisiana Association for Spiritual, Ethical and Religious Values in Counseling

Fall 2007



2007

LASERVIC

LCA Conference Events

- Board Meeting, Sun, Oct. 7, 11:30 a.m. — 1:30pm., Louisiana Room.
- Prayer Service, Tues, Oct. 9, 7:00 a.m., King Room.
- Luncheon/General Business Meeting, Tues, Oct. 9, 11:45 a.m. -1:30 p.m., Victory Room.
- LASERVIC Elections. Cast your ballots at the conference at the voting table in LASERVIC box. New officers to be announced on the LASERVIC website and in the spring newsletter.
- SEE YOU IN BATON ROUGE with your stuffed animal!!



A Message from the President:

So, you are a member of LASERVIC. As I assumed the presidency of LASERVIC this past summer, a scary realization came to me. Exactly what does this division stand for and how do I use it as a counselor? These questions sent me on a quest to Wikipedia. I would like to share my findings.

Spirituality, concerns itself with matters of the spirit. The spiritual, involving perceived non-physical eternal verities involving humankind's ultimate nature, often contrasts with the earthly, with the material, or the worldly. A sense of connection forms a central defining characteristic of spirituality—connection to something 'greater' than oneself, which includes emotional experience of religious awe and reverence. Equally important, spirituality relates to matters of sanity and psychological health. Spirituality often focuses on personal experience.

Ethics, a major branch of philosophy, is the study of values and customs of a person or group. It covers the analysis and employment of concepts, such as right and wrong, good and evil, and responsibility. **Religion** is a common set of beliefs and practices generally held by a group of people, often codified as prayer, ritual, and religious law. Religion also encompasses ancestral or cultural traditions, writings, history, and mythology, as well as personal faith and mystic experience."

As a school counselor, how do I encompass LASERVIC into my practice? Truthfully, it has been the basis on which my relationships with my clients rest. As many young children open their hearts, they share a natural spirituality. Their desire to connect rarely focuses on material or worldly things. The need for a personal experience in-

volving some special connection is their greatest concern. Knowing right from wrong and being able to use it as an everyday tool, is a dilemma children face daily as they struggle to grow successfully. Many children rely on beliefs or rituals to give them stability. If they have not had this experience, they come to counseling and participate in a group where belonging and shared concerns give them a feeling of security and trust.

I challenge you, as a member of LASERVIC, to search yourself as a counselor for ways to enhance the relationships that you have with your clients by actively including the values of spirituality, ethics, and religion in your daily practice. I am looking forward to sharing **HUGS, HOPE, and SPIRITUALITY** with you at the LCA conference.



It's Not Too Late..... LASERVIC Awards Deadline Approaching by Jodee Elliot

Each year, LASERVIC honors members who contribute significantly to our profession and work diligently at carrying out the LASERVIC mission. Awards presented are the Distinguished Professional Service and the Humane and Caring Person awards. Last year's deserving recipients were Michael Gootee and Daniel Jurek, respectively. Both also won the same awards from LCA.

The awards are presented an-

nually at the LASERVIC luncheon, during the LCA conference. This year's luncheon will take place on Tuesday, October 9, in Baton Rouge. Take a moment to reflect upon whom among your colleagues best exemplify the ideals of the LASERVIC mission.

LASERVIC uses the LCA nomination forms which can be found on the LCA website, www.lacounseling.org. Once there, click on "Awards." It is

that simple!

Look around you, at work, in your community....isn't there someone that know who goes above and beyond what is expected of them, someone who in their daily life, shows their dedication and commitment to this organization? Please take a few moments to honor a fellow LASERVIC member today. And it's not too late for this year! Send nomination information to jmelliot76@yahoo.com by Sunday, September 23.

Elementary School Update

By Pat Bertucci, Elementary School Representative

The beginning of a new school year brings with it many unique opportunities and challenges. In a large school like mine, just the sheer number of students, teachers, and parents with whom I interact can be daunting. Separation anxiety, student transition issues, helping new teachers and new parents navigate the system of policies and procedures, all of these things can quickly challenge the resources of the lone counselor. At the same time, there is a certain energy created by many children happily swarming into classrooms, with parents and teachers already busy with the task of moving them forward in their development.

I would like to offer a prayer for ALL counselors; may it empower us to continue in the important work of helping others to help themselves.

Prayer of a Therapist

*Compassionate Spirit, Source of Life and Joy,
You know the depth of our brokenness
And have shared with us
The power of transformation.*

*Accompany us as we listen to one another,
Support us as we discover
And welcome the stranger
Within each of our own hearts.*

*Help us to know the wholeness
And freedom You intended for us
Since the beginning of creation.*

From The Claret Center for
Psychotherapy and Spiritual Direction
Chicago, Illinois

Hugs, Hope, Spirituality (The Heart of LCA)

HUGS is our service project. We will be collecting stuffed animals for the Baton Rouge police department to share with children in need. Cash donations would also be helpful.

HOPE is the theme of our Prayer Service on Tuesday, October 9 at 7 a.m.

"Resilience through **SPIRITUALITY**" will be the presentation by Dr. Judith Miranti at our LASERVIC luncheon on Tuesday, October 9, at 11:30 a.m.

**COME AND JOIN US -
SHARE THE
LASERVIC EXPERIENCE!!!**

Don't forget to pack
your stuffed animals.....



Diverse Professional Activities for LASERVIC Members

By Gloria Larousse

A great big welcome to the new year to both new and returning members! As LASERVIC membership chair, I wanted to remind you to that now is the time to renew membership and to check off LASERVIC as your primary division when you complete membership and conference registration forms.

A new slate of officers have taken the reigns of leadership and are ready to make this a great year for all. There are lots of things planned for conference: workshops, prayer service, luncheon, and board meeting. In particular, I want to invite you to come by the LASERVIC executive board meeting on Sunday, October 7 between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. This would be a great opportunity to see how your organization works and how you might become more involved. He has led you this far and has big plans for you!

Remember also that LASERVIC sponsors workshops for counselors in New Orleans and Lafayette; this newsletter includes workshop flyers. Share with your counselor friends and encourage them to join LASERVIC. You could also refer them to the LASERVIC website for the most up-to-date information about LASERVIC events. See you in Baton Rouge!

Check out LASERVIC Website

Last year, the LASERVIC executive board committed to establishing a website to facilitate communication with members. The website, www.laservic.org, provide a listing of the current board and contact info, workshops, special events, and even this newsletter. Check it often for the latest on LASERVIC.

Looking for a Workshop, Anyone?

SPREAD THE WORD! LASERVIC is providing several opportunities for professional development in the coming year, with international presenter, Dr. Robin Walser highlighting the offerings.

Dr. Walser will present on "Acceptance and Commitment Therapy" in New Orleans on Friday, November 2. "LASERVIC is very pleased to bring this well-known pro-

fessional to the New Orleans area," noted Peggy Demarest. "Additionally, it is an opportunity to obtain 5.5 CEUs for a very inexpensive cost." Early registrants have a real price break on fees by mailing in the workshop fees by October 2 to Demarest. She can be reached at 504-861-7743.

The Acadiana area once again offers its series of workshops, beginning on Sep-

Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

O God, Master of this passing world,
Hear the humble voices of your children.
The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude.
You are still the Master of land and sea.
We live in the shadow of a danger
Over which we have no control:
The Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant,
Can awake from its seeming lethargy,
Overstep its conventional boundaries,
Invade our land, and
spread chaos and disaster.
During this hurricane season we turn to YOU,

O loving Father.
Spare us from past tragedies
Whose memories are still so vivid and
Whose wounds seem to refuse to heal
With the passing of time.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother,
We ask you to plead with your Son
on our behalf,
So that spared from the calamities common to
this are
And animated with a true spirit of gratitude,
We will walk in the footsteps of
your Divine Son
To reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a
stormless eternity awaits us.
Amen.

Most Rev. Maurice Schexnayder (1895—1981)
Second Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette



tember 14 with Dr. Theresa Wozencraft. Other workshops by Dr. Sarah Brabant, Dr. David Legendre, and Robin Hebert are also on the schedule. Each workshop is worth 3 CEUs, at an unbelievable cost of \$10 to LASERVIC members and \$15 for nonmembers. Contact Lettie Guilbeau or Marie Hebert at 337-234-5510 for more info.

See attached workshop flyers with this newsletter.

**THE OFFICIAL LASERVIC
NEWSLETTER**

Mary Ellen Stegall
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www.laservic.org



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2006-2007 LASERVIC EXECUTIVE BOARD and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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