

COUNSELOR CONNECTION

Louisiana Association for Spiritual, Ethical and Religious Values in Counseling

Spring 2007



2007

LASERVIC Calendar

- Acadiana Workshop - The final LASERVIC Acadiana Workshop for 2006-07 will be April 20. Dr. Doug Blair's presentation will focus on counselors and self care as he presents "Counselor, Heal Thyself." For more information or to register for the workshops, contact Lettie Guilbeau or Marie Hebert at 337-234-5510.
- LCA 2007 Conference Proposal Deadline—May 1, For more info, go to www.lacounseling.org
- LASERVIC Executive Board Meeting, Baton Rouge, May, TBA.
- LCA Conference, Baton Rouge, Oct. 6—10.

Keep in touch; visit LASERVIC at
www.laservic.org



A Message from the President : Daniel Jurek

"Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind.

To the fearful, it is threatening, because it means that things may get worse.

To the hopeful, it is encouraging because things may get better.

To the confident, it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better."

King Whitney, Jr.

This time of year brings the graceful change from winter to spring. For some of us, it is a sign of new life, hope, light, joy and the promise of risen-ness. For some, this change of season recalls the letting go of the past and embracing the newness of today with hope for tomorrow. Others may even dread the upcoming weeks and months as the weather turns warm and tropical and the pending heat of summer looms.

For me, change means I am still alive and growing—and that is enough! I can celebrate sacred moments and grieve with those who have lost. Change offers the hope of transformation and renewal and challenges me to

become the man God has made me to be.

The LASERVIC board made the decision to not make a change in leadership after the destructive change of Katrina. Our hope was that continuity would also bring stability and the space to heal, recover, and begin the birthing process of rising from....I believe that we achieved our goal.

And so, it is time for change. In October of 2006, we saw many of you at the conference. We were able to hold an election for 2007; Tricia Shallin will be our president and Paul "Buddy" Caesar will be our president elect.

The conference was also our platform to hold our annual luncheon, prayer service, and fund raiser. LASERVIC again proudly carried its share of the load to make the conference a success. Congratulations to all the other divisions and executive boards for their hard work and dedication.

The future is going to be handed off to capable hands. We will continue to update the website so that it serves you and the LCA community. Please take a

moment to visit the website and let us know what you think. Is there something missing that can allow us to serve you more? If so, please post me and offer your suggestions. Go to www.laservic.org.

LASERVIC is also encouraging members to be presenters at the October 2007 conference. LCA has always looked to us to provide presentations dealing with the spiritual, religious, ethical competencies of counseling. Please think of how you may contribute and share with all of us your expertise in the field of change.

In closing, please contact us and let us know how you would like to get involved with LASERVIC. We need your help and representation so that our division may reach out to the entire LCA community. Let us be hopeful and confident of the changes ahead of us knowing that these changes will indeed make us better.

I wish you peace, and thank you for the opportunity in letting me serve you as president of this



Michael Gootee, Daniel Jurek Honored with LASERVIC Awards by Jodee Elliot

LASERVIC was proud to recognize two outstanding members at the 2006 Awards Luncheon in October. These awards are given annually through nominations submitted by LASERVIC members.

Michael Gootee of New Orleans was the recipient of the *Distinguished Professional Service Award*. Michael has served in several leadership positions within LCA and has been de-

scribed as a generous and committed professional. This has been exemplified by the countless number of hours he has given to our profession both in front of and behind the scenes. Michael has unselfishly offered his gifts and talents to impact the development of counseling in Louisiana and beyond.

Daniel Jurek was also honored when he received the *Humane and Caring Award*. Dan has

worked in various settings: the guidance and campus ministry departments at St. Thomas More in Lafayette, and in private practice. Dan's leadership style has been described as innovative, while personally he is described as a holy, spiritual man of peace. He is approachable to all, and makes a lasting impression on everyone whom he encounters.

Ed. Note: Both gentlemen were also winners of these same awards at the state level from the Louisiana Counseling Association.

Secondary Counseling Update

By Gloria Larousse, Secondary School Representative

Wow! We are entering the 4th quarter of this school year. Time flies very quickly these days. Before we know it, we will be attending our seniors' graduation and inputting all their grades in the STS System and getting the graduates off to their respective colleges and their futures.

The major event for high school students in Louisiana is the change in the TOPS program. Starting with the senior class of 2008, students will need an additional higher math or science in order to receive the TOPS scholarship. I know that all of you are currently working with the students to schedule courses for next year. It is imperative to ensure that their long range schedule plan allows them to include this new component in order to gain eligibility for TOPS.

Also new to the secondary scene is the LaEportal system that the state is putting into place. . Not all sections are up and running yet, but many are. I recently went to a workshop in Baton Rouge for this program; I discovered that it is outstanding. It has all sorts of things to help our students to be successful. If you want to check it out, go to www.laeportal.com. If you like what you see, you actually need to take a workshop to receive a code number for your school to have complete access. I truly believe that it is worth the time.

It has been great being your secondary representative for LASERVIC this past year. Thanks for allowing me to serve you. I lookd forwat to seeing you all at the conference in Baton Rouge this coming October.

Who ME!!! Volunteer???

By Tricia Shallin, President Elect

When was the last time you checked on a word in a real Webster's Dictionary? As I began to write this article on volunteering, the internet went down, and I was left to do my research the old fashioned way. Let me share my findings. VOLUNTEER: to offer freely or spontaneously; VOLUNTARY: performed or acted on by choice; CHOICE: instance of choosing; CHOOSE: decide upon as best to do; make a choice.

As counselors, we are frequently encouraging our clients to CHOOSE. As LASERVIC members, we also have a choice. Do we pay our dues each year and have our name on the list? - That's a good choice. Do we attend workshops sponsored by LASERVIC? - Another good choice. BUT!!! Have you ever given thought to really choosing to get involved on a deeper level, the level that calls you to use your spirituality, your ethical values, and your religious values? Dare to share who you really are as a counselor by becoming avolunteer in LASERVIC, the division that is at the heart of our Louisiana Counseling Association.



Equine Assisted Psychotherapy— A Therapist Tool for Clients

By Ros Fouin

I was introduced to this method eight years ago through the national organization, Equine Growth and Learning Association. Horse specialists have known about the value of horses since the beginning of time. They knew horses mirror what we are about. Horses give respect when given respect. One of my instructors once said to me, “If we were more like a horse, we would be in good shape.” Horses are cautious yet they are in the moment, spontaneous, playful. But because they are instinctual and intuitive, they know when a person, place, or event is “not right.”

So what actually is EAP? The team is composed of a therapist, a horse specialist, and a horse. The client comes to the farm just as they would come to a traditional office. They know that a task will be given to them from the team. The client’s attitude about the task is important. Also, their attitude about themselves is important. Their attitude about using the horses is important. (The horses are the metaphor for the problem that they are dealing with: a relationship, a situation, the workplace, etc.) We have found that how a client approaches a horse is very much how he approaches life. We have had all ages go to the farm.: bullies, those who are afraid of bullies, those with addictions, those with every possible emotional disorder. All the work is done on the ground, not on the horse. The clients use the horses to do a task. They may be asked to build an obstacle (something in their life) and move the horse over the obstacle. Sometimes Blackjack may cooperate and sometimes he may not. He may need some creative problem solving by the clients (no bribing in this work) to want to do the task, The task may not get accomplished, but EAP work is about learning about ourselves in the process, not necessarily accomplishing the task.

As therapists, we are continually learning about methods that will help our clients to heal. Many clients respond well to EAP, even though they know nothing about horses. I am grateful that I was open to this method and for owners Bill and Mary Langford of Cherokee Horse farm in Carencro.

Words to Ponder—Malachi 3:3 “He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.”

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study, and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. So one of the women called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn’t mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames are hottest so as to burn away all the impurities. As she thought about God holding us in such a hot spot, she asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there.

He answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, “How do you know when the silver is fully refined?” He smiled at her and answered, “Oh, that’s easy— when I see my image in it.”

If you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you. Keep in mind that a higher being is watching and whatever you are going through, you’ll be a better person in the end.

Call to ACTION by Diana Hetzler, Social Action Chair



As part of our continuous commitment to Social Action, LASERVIC contributes each year to various charitable organizations selected by the Executive Board. This year, we have once again donated a portion of our funds to the LCA Government Relations Committee to assist with their diligent efforts to improve our profession.

We attempt to diversify our donated funds by contributing to local, statewide, and national organizations. Membership dues and our share of the proceeds from convention registration make these donations possible.

The Board looks to you our members, for suggestions regarding these contributions. If you have a favorite charity or non-profit organization, please sub-

mit to our Board for consideration! We will present all requests at our summer Board meeting.

So contact a board member as soon as possible; assisting our own members and their causes is our first choice of action. Our LASERVIC members make it possible for this division to continue giving! (Note—Contact info for board members is on the outside of this newsletter.)

**THE OFFICIAL LASERVIC
NEWSLETTER**

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*Louisiana Association for Spiritual, Ethical
and Religious Values in Counseling*

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