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# The MACA Newsletter



Nov 2010—Jan 2011

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MISSOURI ADDICTION COUNSELORS' ASSOCIATION

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## President's Corner By Laverne Blackorby, President

Here we are in 2011. I hope the New Year finds each and every one of you well. I am hopeful your holiday season was enjoyable for all and that we were all able to celebrate with our families and loved ones. As we prepare for a New Year in MACA, the conference committee is in full swing. As I understand it, we are looking at another outstanding conference in April 1 thru 3, at Inn at Grand Glaze, Osage Beach, MO.

I am hopeful that our membership will continue to grow through the efforts each of you put into recruiting at least one new member, and keep in mind the incentive to lessen your own conference registration fee through your efforts. Agency membership is an excellent way for your employers to offer job postings and the advertising that it brings with it by their joining MACA. Also, remember that agency members are able to have a free vendor booth at MACA conferences.

I hope to see each and every one of you at the Spring conference and bring a friend/new member with you. Once again, I sincerely hope each and everyone of you had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

See You at the Conference

Lavern Blackorby  
MACA Board President

## Message from the President

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**From the MACA Office** By Ronnie Beaver, MACA Executive Secretary

Welcome to 2011. It doesn't seem like so long ago I was saying welcome to 2010. Time really does fly. I hope all had a Merry Christmas and Healthy New Year.

2010 was another busy year for MACA. We welcomed one New Agency and 31 new individual members. MACA successfully held two conferences with great presenters, participants, and sponsors, which resulted in great reviews. Thanks to all for their participation and hard work. Each conference, phone call and e-mail reminds me of why I have been a MACA member for almost 21 years.

We have also added several new member benefits which you can see on our web site under membership. As you check membership information, please take some time to review our entire site. As you will see, the site has been updated and looks great. Thanks to everyone who made the changes possible - you did a wonderful job.

You can also view the Spring 2011 Conference flyer and registration on our web site. Once again, it looks like it is going to be an outstanding conference, with many great speakers and workshops. I hope to see you there. It will be April 1-3, at the Inn at Grand Glaze, Lake Ozark, MO.

**Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse** By Mark Stringer, Director and Bianca Farr

As the New Year unfolds, the Department of Mental Health is gearing up to unveil an exciting project with a focus on improving the lives of Missourians. For centuries, conventional wisdom has limited or prevented employment of persons with substance use disorders, mental illness or other disabilities. Relapse is part of the recovery process, thus for many people, waiting to achieve recovery before addressing the need to work is self defeating. Happily, times have changed and employment is widely becoming recognized as a critical component of wellness for individuals as they pursue recovery. Studies show the benefits of employment far exceed monetary compensation. Working offers a primary vehicle for reintegrating people into the community as productive citizens. Employment can be a vital part of the road to recovery. Many individuals with a history of substance abuse or mental illness possess a variety of interests, employment histories, and valuable job skills. The workplace provides a richness of experiences and relationships that many people with substance use disorders, simply do not have the opportunity to enjoy. Given the profound importance of employment, the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse seeks to reduce internal and external barriers by coordinating systems of support and services; dispel myths regarding employment and the loss of benefits; and engage the business community in recruiting, hiring and retaining employees with disabilities. The facts are simple, employment is associated with continued recovery and relapse is associated with unemployment, housing instability and loss of social supports. As people re-enter the workforce, employers benefit from diversifying the workplace, and gaining qualified employees. Incorporating employment into treatment is a win-win proposition that everyone can work with.

## **MSAPCB Report for MACA** By Scott Breedlove, MSAPCB Administrator

I hope everyone had a good end to 2010 and that 2011 is off to a great start as well. We are excited about what was accomplished in 2010 and look forward to continued improvement of our services in 2011. Following are some of the things we will be introducing to the field this year:

1. Soon, we will announce a new lookup feature on our web site that will allow people to verify those holding an active credential with our Board.
2. We will begin offering MSAPCB self study courses through our web site. We have approximately 48 courses for a total of 100 contact hours that will be available for order. These courses will cost \$4.00 a contact hour and are self study materials based on public domain content such as TIPS and TAPS.
3. We will continue our new Medication Assisted Treatment Specialist (MATS) Program. In December 2010, 80 people completed the MATS Pilot Project. Those completing the pilot project were very positive about the project and believe this program is both necessary and beneficial to the field. We hope to have another 100-200 people go through the program in 2011.
4. We will continue to look for ways to improve our processes in response to the needs of our professionals.

As always, if there is anything we can do for you, please don't hesitate to contact the MSAPCB staff at [help@msapcb.com](mailto:help@msapcb.com) or at 573-751-9211.

Scott Breedlove, MS, MRSS, MSAPA, MATS  
MSAPCB Administrator

# 2011



## PURPOSE

The Missouri Addiction Counselors Association is a not-for-profit Professional Organization for Counselors living in or working in the State of Missouri.

## MISSION

MACA will actively engage in those activities which promote the integrity and professionalism of addiction counselors. MACA will provide continuing educational opportunities to addiction counselors, counselors-in-training, and other counseling disciplines. MACA will inform legislative and government officials of Missourians' treatment needs. MACA will explore and pursue ideas and principals which advance the Professional recognition of Addiction Counselors in Missouri.

### *Did You Know.....*

MACA is the only Professional Membership Association in Missouri for Addiction Counselors and other Professionals in the Addictions field.

MACA was organized in 1971 as the Missouri Association of Alcohol Counselors to provide fellowship and support for persons professionally employed in alcoholism counseling. The role and mission of MACA expanded through the years to include persons providing professional counseling for alcohol, drug, and other addictive behaviors, thus necessitating a name change to the Missouri Association of Substance Abuse Counselors. In 1992, MASAC Membership and NAADAC (National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors) St. Louis Chapter agreed to combine and form one professional association in Missouri. MASAC then became Missouri Addiction Counselors Association.

In 2008 MACA discontinued its affiliation with NAADAC in order to focus resources on the needs of State membership.

## MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

### Professional (Individual) Membership\*:

Open to anyone engaged in the work of counseling or related fields who is interested in the addiction-focused profession. *(It is not a requirement that Professional Members be credentialed in Addictions.)*

- *May actively participate in the association, hold office, serve on committees, and have full voting rights.*
- *Will be expected to uphold the aims & actions of MACA and abide by the MACA Codes of Ethics.*

### Associate (Registered) Membership\*:

Open to persons with an interest in Substance Abuse and/or Addictions & the aims of the Association, **but not qualified for Professional or Student Membership and not yet certified by MSAPCB as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor.** Associate Members will inform the MACA Board of Directors when they qualify for Professional Membership status.

### Student Membership\*:

Open to any full-time (9 hours) student at an accredited college or university or students involved in full-time or part-time internships. Student Membership is limited to Student Members for four 1-year membership terms, Student membership is open to both new & renewing Members. Student Members will be required to present documentation of "student-status" to MACA

### Agency Membership:

Open to those agencies, organizations, institutions, and associations wishing to support the purpose, objectives and actions of MACA. **Agency members receive the reduced conference rate for their employees.** Agency members can designate one representative who may vote and serve on committees, but is not eligible to hold office.

### Retired Membership:

Open to anyone who has retired from working in counseling or related fields who is interested in supporting the addiction focused profession. (It is not required for the Retired Members to have been credentialed in Addictions)

## MACA BENEFITS

- Inexpensive continuing educational opportunities
  - Annual Spring & Fall Conferences
  - Centrally located in Osage Beach
- Informative MACA Newsletters
- Networking opportunities with other Missouri Addictions Professionals and Agencies
- The chance to promote and enhance the role of the Professional Addictions Counselor
- MACA official certificate
- Individual members receive a discount on all MSAPCB training fees

***Join today and you'll be on your way to gaining the professional edge, earning greater recognition, and keeping up-to-date with the newest field information.***