



# Virginia Association of Clinical Counselors NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 08-09, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2008

MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!

EARN YOUR  
CEU'S!

- Workshops:  
**The Relationship :  
The Core Of Clinical  
Supervision—  
Friday, October  
31, 9am-5pm**
- Workshops:  
**Three-Part Series  
on Clinical  
Supervision in  
Northern  
Virginia—  
9/19/08, 1/16/09, &  
5/15/09**

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## Message from President

**D**ear Members,

As I write this, I am finishing up my first few months as President of VACC, and assuming this role has been both an honor and a humbling experience. As you know, our organization is the state chapter of the American Mental Health Counseling Association and I had the opportunity, as your representative, to attend the AMCHA Leadership Training in San Diego this summer. I came home with a much greater understanding of the importance of VACC's mission and a renewed dedication to promoting our profession on both a state and national level. My personal goals for this year include increasing membership, reactivating local organizations, and providing high quality training in ethics, supervision and practice building.

Your VACC Board is composed of dedicated, hardworking individuals who are committed to furthering and protecting our profession. Most of us are in practice, either privately or in agencies, so we know what is important to other clinicians. We take our positions seriously and seek to meet the needs of our members. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to consider joining our Board as additional members will

help us expand our presence into other areas of the state.



**Joan Normandy-Dolberg,  
LPC  
VACC President, 2008-2009**

VACC Board members serve as your liaison to the Virginia Board of Counseling, AMCHA, Virginians for Mental Health Equity, the Fair Access Coalition on Testing, and the leadership of other provider groups within and outside our state. We use funds collected from dues to act as your watchdog to prevent discrimination against LPCs in hiring and reimbursement practices from industry, government and managed care. We promote passage of legislation to protect the high standards of our profession while preventing discrimination.

VACC identifies needs within

our state and then offers workshops and conferences to address those needs. During the last year we have provided workshops on Ethics, PTSD and a series of supervision workshops to meet the new requirements for Supervision implemented by the Board of Counseling and signed into law this July. These three supervision workshops, totaling 20 CEUs as required by the state, are being offered in northern Virginia beginning in September (see article) and we plan to offer them in Richmond in the coming year. **And, by the way, all workshops and conferences are offered at reduced fees to our members!**

Throughout our 28 year history, VACC has created and advanced legislation to improve our profession. In 1987 we were instrumental in passing legislation which mandated third party reimbursement; in 1993 we helped revise the state statutes and lobbied to pass legislation which enabled LPCs to be reimbursed by Medicaid. Our Government Relations Committee constantly monitors legislation and mobilize our members through email alerts to take steps necessary to advocate for our profession.

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Anna Epperson,  
Membership  
Chair

*"The new legislation requires that every supervisor complete either a graduate course or 20 contact hours of continuing education in supervision within the next two years."*



Teresa Sion,  
President-Elect

By Anna Epperson

In the April 2008 newsletter, Michael Nahl and Joan Normandy-Dolberg

reported on the Virginia Board of Counseling's proposed changes in the

training requirements for supervisors of candidates for licensure. The new

legislation was signed into law and requires that every supervisor complete

either a graduate course or 20 contact hours of continuing education in

supervision within the next two years.

In response to this need for more training, VACC is spon-

soring a series of workshops by Dr. Hildy Getz, Associate Professor Emeritus, Counselor Education, Virginia Tech. Dr. Getz is an approved clinical supervisor and taught clinical supervision at Virginia Tech and provided supervision for practicum and internship students. She also trained LPCs in clinical supervision at Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare in Roanoke, Virginia. Her articles have appeared in The Journal of Counseling and Development, The Clinical Supervisor, as well as other journals.

Over 50 clinicians attended clinical supervision workshops that were held at Sweet Briar College in December 2007 and May

2008. The third and last workshop in this series will be held at Sweet Briar on October 31. The three workshops provide the 20 contact hours now required of supervisors by the Virginia Board of Counseling.

VACC is sponsoring another series of three clinical supervision workshops featuring Dr. Getz in Fairfax County, Virginia.

For additional information on the amendments which became effective on September 3, 2008 regarding endorsement, supervision and residency requirements, visit <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Counseling/consult>, or visit our website at [www.vacc.org](http://www.vacc.org).

## WEB SITE UPDATES



By Michael Nahl, Communications Committee Chair

Have you looked at our website ([www.vacc.org](http://www.vacc.org)) lately? We have some great links, to the Board of Counseling and the Department of Health Professions, to nearby state clinical counseling associations, to AMHCA, to Virginia graduate counseling programs, insurance companies, and to all the state and federal legislators. Our website is a handy site for connecting to other places you might want to go.

For the students, we have a separate page that includes links to the state counseling programs, Board mentors, and a list of clinical supervisors. By the way, any VACC member who provides supervision can list

themselves on our site at no charge. You can also advertise yourself and your practice for free on the Member's Spotlight, which is easy to complete.

Updates on federal and state legislation affecting LPCs can be found on the home page and the You Can Help sections of the website. The You Can Help section also features the Hall of Shame, wherein we list examples of discriminatory hiring and reimbursement practices toward members of our profession. This section also contains links to federal and state legislators.

Looking for a job? Want to advertise a job position you have available? Need or want to rent

office space? We can help. Look for the Job Opportunities section.

Want to renew your membership or become a member? You can do that online. You can also register for our conferences and pay for them over the website.

The history of our profession and VACC can also be found on the website, as can recent newsletters and our bylaws.

There's much more. And don't forget to tell a colleague about us!  
[www.vacc.org](http://www.vacc.org)



By Michael Nahl,  
Communications  
Committee Chair

# Message from the President (continued from page 1)

At this time our state has three active regional groups, but we hope to establish more. The current local organizations are in Hampton Roads, Richmond, and Northern Virginia; these offer members the opportunity to network, receive training and work together on issues of local importance. If you are interested in learning more about how local organizations function, I encourage you to access the NVLPC (Northern Virginia Licensed Professional Counselors) website at [www.counselors-nvlpc.org](http://www.counselors-nvlpc.org).

***Please consider taking a leadership role in our organization!*** VACC Board membership provides opportunities to expand leadership skills and enhance your visibility and networking ability, while serving your profession.

I invite you to contact me at [jdolbergvacc@cox.net](mailto:jdolbergvacc@cox.net) with any questions, concerns or comments.

*Joan Normandy-Dolberg, LPC, NCC  
President, Virginia Association of Clinical Counselors*

## VACC HOLDS SECOND ANNUAL “LAST MINUTE ETHICS WORKSHOP”

VACC held its second annual “Last Minute Ethics Workshop” at Old Dominion University in Norfolk on June 20, 2008. The workshop featured Ted Remley, Jr., JD, Ph.D, LPC. Dr. Remley has a host of credentials, and is a speaker of national and international renown. He spoke primarily on dual/multiple relationships, explaining that Boards recognize that we may have multiple roles with clients, particularly in rural areas. Therefore, some previous absolutes about relationships with clients now have been revised to be more flexible. He advised those present to be aware of recent revisions and also to remember that our malpractice insurance usually provides access to an attorney at no charge.

Dr. Remley also took the time to address other issues of ethical concern to the attendees.

We hope to feature Dr. Remley at some of our other workshops, depending on his availability. He was one of the key pioneers who created the counselor licensure in Virginia, which was also the first such licensure in the country. He holds a PhD in Counselor Education from the University of Florida and a law degree (JD) from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Virginia and Louisiana and is a member of the bar in Virginia and Florida. Moreover, Dr. Remley has chaired the counselor licensure boards in Virginia and Mississippi,

and has served on boards in Washington, DC and Louisiana. He has served as a school counselor, college counselor, U. S. Army officer, and has had a private practice in both counseling and law. He is also the former Executive Director of the American Counseling Association. He holds the Batten Endowed Chair in Counseling at Old Dominion University where he is the Graduate Program Director of the Master’s and Doctoral Counseling Programs.



*“Our presenter, Dr. Remley, was one of the key pioneers who created the counselor licensure in Virginia, which was also the first such licensure in the country.”*

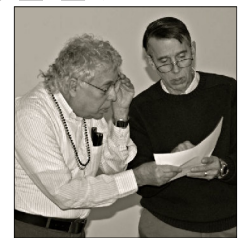
## ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

By Michael E. Nahl – Chair, Advocacy Committee

VACC has for some time operated a Professional Advocacy Committee, the mission of which is to intercede in situations in which LPC’s are discriminated against in hiring or reimbursement. We do not get in-

involved in personal issues particular to an individual, such as not having sent in a claim in time, or the like. But if a business advertises for only psychologists and LCSW’s to hire, let us know. Or if a plan won’t reimburse you because you

are an LPC, let us know. (This rarely happens these days except for some out of state self-managed plans.) Send your concerns to [michaelnahl@cox.net](mailto:michaelnahl@cox.net) or Michael E. Nahl, LPC; P.O. Box 7066; Virginia Beach, VA 23457.



Ed Navis and Roger Snapp LaPlace discuss legislative changes at our annual retreat.



## Virginia Association of Clinical Counselors

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Serving the needs of Virginia Clinical Counselors since 1980  
Nonprofit Organization



### WHAT IS THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL COUNSELORS?

VACC is the state affiliate of the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA). It has regional groups throughout the state.

VACC has been expanding and protecting the interests of Clinical Counselors since 1980.

VACC currently has approximately 200 members and continues to grow in membership and influence.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF VACC?

- To promote the counseling profession.
- To monitor and take positions regarding legislation that affects Clinical Counselors.
- To coordinate and ally with other organizations
- To promote the counseling profession.
- To monitor third party payment issues and initiate appropriate action.

- To exchange information with other Clinical Counselors throughout the state.
- To promote and advocate for high standards of professional development.
- To provide a forum through which Clinical Counselors may advocate for clients.
- To promote ethical standards and conduct in the counseling profession.
- To support and promote scientific research relevant to Clinical Counselors.

### HOW COUNSELORS ARE LICENSED IN VIRGINIA

Sign-on to the internet and point your internet browser to, <http://www.vacc.org/valicensed.html>, to read the article.



**Lynessa Glass,**  
Past-President