



HCA Newsletter

A Local Chapter of the Texas Counseling Association
Summer 2003

Comments from the Past President

What a glorious year! HCA continues to make great strides. Just look at the accomplishments listed later in the newsletter! Personally, I have learned so much and met so many. I urge all of you to become active in your professional organization. The opportunities for learning and challenge are endless. Irma Billette, our new President, and Sharon Takahashi, President Elect, will provide great leadership for HCA and will find as I have that all of the leaders, past and present, and members VOLUNTEER to help. I've never seen anything like it!

An organization is only as good as its members and HCA is no exception. I would like to thank all of the 2002-2003 officers and chairmen for a job well done. I especially want to thank those who carried on during my absence at the May banquet. My daughter had emergency surgery two days before the banquet and thankfully, she's already back in her usual routine. HCA members chipped in, expressed concern, and did what counselors naturally do; lent a sympathetic ear and did what needed to be done.

I would like to thank the following officers and chairmen for all of their help throughout the year. These are the members who create the programs, the fun, and the magic of HCA!

2002-2003 Officers

President	Marlene Rubin
President- Elect	Irma Billette
Secretary	Sara Rodriguez
Secretary - Elect	Lavada Rollin
Treasurer	Gail Rosenthal
TCA Senator	Lisa Pearson
Past President	Yolanda Lewis

2002-2003 Board of Directors

Maurine Garza	Patty Gravett
Debra Rimmer-Mayorga	Annesta Lunde
Marilyn Balke	Camilla Clifton
Wanda Odom	Diana Villarreal

2002-2003 Chairpersons

Awards	Lauren Askew
December Program	Judy Balch
Empty Plate Chairman	Lisa Pearson
Hospitality	Sharon Takahashi
Legislative	Camilla Clifton
Membership	Susan Putman
October Program	Patsy Jackson
Professional Development	Diana Villarreal
Scholarship	Alice Leonard
Scrapbook	Elizabeth Harrison
Silent Auction	Pati Mengden-Eckhardt
Newsletter	Ellen Maxey
Website	Susan Putman

Houston Counseling Association Accomplishments

- A. Became federally and state tax exempt as a 501c(6) organization
- B. Won the TCA Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award for the year Yolanda Lewis was President
- C. Advocated for the children of HISD by making a presentation to the HISD school board on the current use of Professional school counselor time
- D. Established HCA website
- E. HCA representatives met with HISD Board of Education Members and Dr. Kaye Stripling to advocate for the children of HISD and their right and need to receive counseling services per TEA guidelines
- F. State Legislative Issues
 - 1. Wrote letters to Senator Eddie Lucio and Representative Rene Oliveira to thank them for their support of the children of Texas by supporting legislation regarding use of counselor time
 - 2. Attended TCA Lobby Day and lobbied Texas Senators and Representatives concerning TCA Counselor issues
 - 3. Sponsored a program where Representative Garnett Coleman was honored for his legislative work with regard to mental health issues by the Counselor Legislative Involvement Committee (CLIC)
 - 4. Hosted new TCA Executive Director/Lobbyist at Annual Dinner
- G. Professional Development
 - 1. Attended the TCA convention in Austin and assisted in manning the Region 1 booth
 - 2. Provided a 3-hour ethics workshop with Dr. A. Milliren, UT Permian Basin
 - 3. Co-sponsored a Peer Consultation Session at TSU presented by Lisa Pearson, LPC, MA, MRE
 - 4. Featured professional school counselor, Wanda Hobbs, speaking on "Adjusting to Change in the New Millennium" at our December banquet
- H. Projects
 - 1. Raised over \$500 to donate to CLIC
 - 2. Raised over \$500 at our silent auction for the purpose of giving a scholarship to a masters level student studying to be a counselor
 - 3. Donated "Empty Plate" proceedings to the Houston Area Women's Center
 - 4. Completed scrapbook with 50 years of HCA memorabilia
 - 5. Recognized counselors for their work and awarded two scholarships to deserving students

Letter from our NEW President

I am excited at the prospect of working with all of our members during the coming year. We have accomplished much before and we can look forward to more achievements as we work with State and local parties in the greater "counseling family."

We are looking to include even greater numbers of participants in the activities we undertake. Specifically, we are committed to the following in the coming months;

- Expanded and varied professional development and networking options
- Raising performance standards and productivity in daily practice
- Outreach to the greater Houston community with more service programs

- ❑ Better information to the general public about the value and availability of our services
- ❑ Proactively and positively reward the achievements of colleagues, students and friends of HCA/TCA
- ❑ Continue to advance the interests of professional counseling through lobbying

An annual fee of \$20.00 is a small price to pay for the benefits that come from being a member of HCA “the best” chapter of the Texas Counseling Association (TCA) which is the Texas branch of the American Counseling Association (ACA). As the new president of HCA I encourage past members to renew their membership and other counseling professionals to join us. There is power in numbers and we can make a difference. Our meetings with the H.I.S.D. Board and our communications with our state senators and representatives have been fruitful and with time will benefit all counselors.

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN YOUR CHAPTER.

Below you find a listing of the great Chairpersons and the respective committees they will be leading. Call me to discuss your interests and get the phone numbers/e-mail addresses you will need to get started.

2003-2004 Officers

President	Irma Billette
President-Elect	Sharon Takahashi
Secretary	Lavada Rollin
Secretary-Elect	Yolanda Lewis
Treasurer	Virginia Hayward
TCA Senator	Lisa Pearson
Past President	Marlene Rubin

2003-2004 Directors

Marilyn Balke	Shirley Raby
Patty Gravett	Maurine Garza
Annesta Lunde	Debra Rimmer-Mayorga
Rosalee Robinson	Diana Villarreal

2003-2004 Chairpersons

Awards	Lauren Askew
Hospitality	Gail Rosenthal
Legislative	Susan Spence
Membership	Susan Putman
Newsletter	Ellen Maxey
Nominations and Elections	Marlene Rubin
Public Relations	Patty Gravett
Scholarship	Alice Leonard
Professional Development	Sara Rodriguez

JOIN IN THESE MAJOR EVENTS, AMONG OTHERS, AS THEY COME UP

- Sept. 19th Opening of School Inservice for Middle School Counselors
- Sept. 26th Opening of School Inservice for High School Counselors
- Sept. 29th Opening of School Inservice for Elementary School Counselors
- Oct. 7th Fall HCA Program and General Meeting
- Nov. 5-8 TCA Professional Growth Conference in Galveston
- Dec. 2nd Winter HCA Program and General Meeting (Silent Auction for scholarship awards)
- Mar. 2nd Spring HCA Program and General Meeting (Ethics Workshop)
- May 11th HCA General Meeting (Scholarship & Awards)

Have a productive and rewarding school year!

Irma Billette

Cell: 832-287-4400

Email: ibillett@houstoncounselor.org

Year-end Achievements for the 2002-2003 Calendar

Ethics Workshop

HCA held a 3-hour NBCC/LPC CEU Ethics workshop for the incredible price of \$10, and that price included a box dinner! Well-deserved thanks go to Diana Villarreal for making the arrangements with Al Millerin, professor at UT Permian Basin, and the University of Houston for providing the room and dinners. Dr. Millerin has a wonderful way of making ethics enjoyable.

HCA Member, Diana Villarreal, President of TSCA

Diana will serve as President of the Texas School Counselors Association this year. We are so very proud of her and her accomplishments. Call her up and ask her what you can do to help.

Patsy Jackson, Counselor at Hamilton Middle School honored by student

George Botello at Hamilton Middle School, who entered the Texas School Counselor Association Cecilia Kasperek Essay Contest. He wrote an essay entitled "How My School Counselor Helped." His essay, about the many ways Ms. Jackson helped him through trying times at school won first place. Congratulations to student and counselor!

Awards Banquet

Betty Porter, HCA member and President of the Texas Counseling Association introduced our guest speaker, Jan Friese, Executive Director and Lobbyist of TCA. Ms. Friese filled us in on the Senate and House Proposals which will impact counselors, mental health professionals and our clients. HCA, TCA and the American Counseling Association are not political action organizations but we do lobby both political parties to pass laws that will help, students, clients, and counseling professionals.

Award Winners

Scholarships:

- **Vicki Barrington**, magnet school teacher in the Hotel & Restaurant Management Program at Davis High School and student at the University of Houston
- **Ruth Pena**, bi-lingual teacher at Davila Elementary School and student at Sam Houston State University

Special Service Awards:

- **Vince Putman**, Webmaster
- **Barbara Groves**, CPA
- **Lisa Arledge**

La Verne Carmical Memorial Award:

Marlene Rubin

Humanitarian and Caring Award:

Dr. Robert Austin

Research Award:

Dionne Redman

Professional Writing Award:

All of the HCA members who either wrote and/or presented at the HISD Board of Education meeting on December 12th

Molly Gerold Human Rights Award:

Valerie Allen

Outstanding Counselor of the Year Award:

Gail Rosenthal

HCA WINS THREE TCA AWARDS!

Three of our award winners submitted to the Texas Counseling Association won state awards and will be honored at the TCA Professional Development Conference in Galveston.

Humanitarian and Caring Award- Robert F. Austin, M.D. for his work at

DeBakey High School for Health Professions. Dr. Austin has been an active member of the Community Advisory Board at DeBakey for several years and currently teaches an enrichment class called "The Art of Medicine." The students in this class, which meets twice a week, are minority students that need mentoring, guidance and encouragement in order to continue their education in medicine.

Research Award- Dionne M. Redmond, Texas Southern University Doctoral

Student won this award for researching concerns surrounding gay, lesbian, and transgender issues. Those in the mental health field or school system, who have discovered gender confusion in their clients or students, have limited knowledge on the community as a whole. Her research is not only vital to school guidance and individual counseling but needed in order to be effective when working with our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.

Molly Gerold Human Rights- Valerie Allen, counselor at Johnston Middle

School, has won the Texas Counseling Association award for her work in conjunction with the Anti-Defamation League. She will receive the award in Galveston at the TCA convention. Because of her student involvement projects on prejudice, Valerie has earned Johnston M.S. the ADL's special distinction as a

“No Place for Hate School”. Valerie has led the way in HISD with her students performing such projects as going door to door in the neighborhood with anti-prejudice leaflets. Students signed a resolution of respect and attended the HISD Anti-Prejudice Awareness Summit. They have formed a club that performs anti-prejudice projects. Congratulations, Valerie!

We could not apply for the chapter award because we won it last year. :(

HCA members met with HISD Board of Education

Betty Porter, TCA President, Shirley Raby, TCA Region 1 Director, Marlene Rubin, HCA President, and Debra Rimmer-Mayorga, HCA Board Member met with the HISD School Board, HISD Superintendent Dr. Stripling, Dr. Harriet Arvey, and Dr. Saavedra this past spring to discuss counseling issues concerning the need for counselors to perform counselor duties and the use of counselors' time. HISD Board of Education Member Lawrence Marshall moved that a resolution be developed and presented to the board on these issues. Dr. Arvey volunteered to write the resolution. Watch for the resolution to be presented at an upcoming board meeting. We'll keep you posted.