



HCA Newsletter

A Local Chapter of the Texas Counseling Association
April, 2000

From the President. . .

It's very difficult to believe that it is April and one fourth of the new year is gone. I hope your entry into the new millennium was an exciting one with all the hoopla splendor and fireworks you deserve. It seems that much has happened since the last newsletter.

In November, the Houston Counseling Association was well represented at the Texas Counseling Association (TCA) Professional Growth Conference, *Counselors Lighting the Way*, held in Corpus Christi, Texas. Our booth, designed by Cris Garzs, was a great magnet attraction — conference goers were gathering around our booth during the entire conference.

TCA members mentioned how attractive and practical *our Lift-off 2000 - One Voice, One Mission, One Voice* shirts were; a muslin long sleeve beige shirt, and a sports shirt in three colors, both with a nice embroidered logo. Many TCA members wanted to know if they could buy them on the spot. You can order the muslin shirt for twenty-two dollars each and the sports shirts are eighteen dollars each. Call Betty Porter at 281-481-3242 or email her at bporter@houstonisd.org to order one today.

In November of 1999, at the TCA Award Banquet, our Houston Counseling Association glistened. Kathleen Keenon, nominated by Anne Winkler, received the TCA region IV Outstanding Counselor Award. And Lorry F. Harju, nominated by Marlene Rubin, was presented with the TCA Layperson Exemplary Service Award. Then on Friday of the Corpus Christi conference, the **HCA Lift-Off 2000** party took place, and it also was a blasting success. It was one of the most highly attended in the history of the TCA. The refreshments served were of the traditional Tex-Mex cuisine. The music was loud, the people were exciting, and a millennium of door prizes were awarded. HOUSTON, WE HAVE A CONFERENCE was shouted by all HCA members. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, I say our HCA pictures are worth a millennium, as you can see inside this newsletter. Thank you Betty Porter and Debbie Rodriguez, (conference co-coordinators), for a job well done.

Many thanks go out to Irma Billette, and her committee, for arranging our exciting December Holiday party and Silent Auction. The food was aromatic and delicious, plus the room was decorated with a fabulous holiday spirit motif which set the mood. The silent auction raised three hundred and forty-seven dollars for our Scholarship fund. My humble and gracious thanks to all who donated such exquisite gifts, even Birorpretti's donated a "Sunday Jazz Brunch."

Let tell you about some of the HCA Board actions. We voted an honorary membership for Sister Marie Faubert, Professor at the University of Saint Thomas, for her outstanding service and dedication to the Houston Counseling Association. The board voted to maintain the HCA web site at <http://www.hern.org/~hca> which now costs us one-hundred and fifty dollars a year to maintain. With high postage expenses and the threats of rising postage for 2001, the board felt it was necessary to raise the dues by five dollars. Active member dues for 2000-2001 will be twenty dollars. Retired and students members cost will rise from six to ten dollars.

Our next meeting is the HCA Awards Banquet to be held at The Junior League of Houston this Thursday, April 27, 2000. Hurry and get your reservation sent to Irma Billette by the 24th of April. Hope to see you all at the banquet. And plans are in process for an ethics workshop. The board is trying to bring Dr. Gerald Osborne out of retirement to present his amusing comic presentation. Details will be in the next newsletter.

It is with great regret that the board accepted the resignation of Ruth Buffington, President-Elect. We hope and pray that her and her husband's health improve in the new year. Nevertheless you won't be without leadership — with board approval, I will continue as your president. Come meet the new officers you elected at the HCA Awards Banquet.

See you at the banquet,

Susan Putman, HCA President



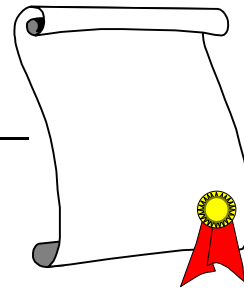
Kathleen Keenon receives the TCA Region IV Outstanding Counselor Award.

The TCA Senate Outstanding Counselor Award was created in 1978 and is annually presented to honor the superior professional achievements and unusual personal dedication of an individual actively engaged in the counseling profession.

Kathleen Keenon is a counselor in the Houston Independent School District and was nominated by Ann Winkler. As a LPC, she broadened her expertise by additional certification in Chemical Addictions in children and teens. She currently works with fifty-five alternative schools to intervene in the lives of children harmed by addiction in their families, by involvement with gangs and violence or by using drugs and/or alcohol.

As a part of the HISD Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities program, Kathleen creates and presents informational programs to classrooms, parents, faculties and community groups. One of the programs she works with is Crossroads Alternative School, an alternative to expulsion for students caught with drugs and/or alcohol on a school campus. She was the first counselor assigned to this program and organized it in such a way that it still follows her basic plan. She also volunteers to work with individual students one morning each week.

In the words of one of her peers, she is seen as "one who has the best counseling skills of anyone I know". This opinion is held by most who know her as a very active counselor who works diligently and intelligently with very fragile, almost unreachable teens.



Lorry F. Harju receives the TCA Layperson Exemplary Service Award.

The Layperson Exemplary Service Award is presented to a layperson in recognition of his/her exemplary services in the support and promotion of guidance and counseling in the State of Texas. Only an individual who is not a member of the profession of guidance and counseling is eligible to receive this award.

This year's recipient, Ms. Lorry F. Harju, was nominated by Marlene Rubin and the counseling staff of Westbury Senior High School of Houston, Texas for her orchestration of the mentoring program at Westbury Senior High School on behalf of the Texas Executive Women.

The Texas Executive Women (TEW) is an organization comprised of business women and leaders in the Houston community who encourage and mentor young women at Westbury Senior High School by introducing them to a variety of careers, allowing students to spend one day "shadowing" a woman presently in the career of their choice. For six consecutive years the Texas Executive Women, with Lorry Harju as leader, has annually donated 400 hours of time in this mentoring process, thereby touching and changing the lives of young ladies at Westbury Senior High School.

The Texas Counseling Association recognized Ms. Harju for her contributions to the young women of Westbury High School. She is deserving of this award for a variety of reasons, but we commend her, especially for the time and talents she gives to adolescent girls faced with making choices about career goals and for serving as a role model for those students.



The location of this year's HCA Awards banquet will be at the Junior League of Houston at 1811 Briar Oaks, just inside Loop 610 at San Felipe.



HCA Booth at TCA Conference

REGISTRATION

To reserve your spot at the HCA Awards Banquet, please fill in the following information:

Name _____

Guest(s) _____

Number of Reservations: ____

Vegetarian Plates _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Mail this information, along with your check, to this address by 24th of April:

HCA Awards
 Irma Billette
 6138 Paisley
 Houston, TX 77096

Phone: 713-772-6872
 Email: billette@fc.net



TCA Conference Texas School Counselors Association Breakfast for chapter presidents



Martha Williams, Charlotte McKay, Susan Putman, Denny Engles, and Don McCormick at TCA Conference



Betty Porter and Debbie Rodriguez Handing out door prizes



At a TCA awards banquet table are Betty Porter, Shirley Raby cutting up, Debra Rimmer-Mayorga, and Lauren Askew



HOUSTON, WE HAVE A CONFERENCE!!! was shouted by all HCA members as we marched through the crowd above and below.



Houston Counseling Association
P.O. Box 22069
Houston, Texas 77227-2069

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