

SOUTHEAST REGION NEWSLETTER

Volume XLVI, No.3

April 8, 2014

This quarterly Publication
of the Southeast Region
of the
Association for Clinical
Pastoral Education, Inc.
is produced by
Jasper Keith, R.D.
newjnk77@gmail.com
404 272 2515

Looking ahead---

ACPE Conference, May 7-10, 2014
Hyatt Regency, Austin, TX

*“Wired and Weird: Leadership with Identity, Innovation and
Improvisation in a Time of Change”*

Florida Consortium
Comfort Suites, Orlando, FL
July 17-18, 2014

Southeast Region Members’ Meeting
Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simons Island, GA
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2014

**Southeast Region Invitational for Supervisors
of Supervisory Education Students**
Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simons Island, GA
January 11-13, 2015

Southeast Region Leadership Meeting
*Administrative Board, Accreditation, Certification,
and Peer Review Committees*
Hickory Knob State Resort Park, McCormick, SC
March 15-17, 2015

ACPE Conference and REM Invitational
May 11-17, 2015
Sheraton Hotel on Courtland Avenue, Atlanta, GA

Please let me know if you received this Newsletter!
Blessings and peace; grace and joy be more than sufficient to you!
Jap (newjnk77@gmail.com)

- 2014
- Administrative Board**
- Chairperson**
Brenda Green
- Chair Elect**
Larry Wagoner
- Secretary**
Brenda Wallace
- Treasurer**
Olen Grubbs
- At Large Members**
- Benson Thomas*
- Cora Saunders*
- Chrp Budget**
Joe Whitwell
- Annual Conference**
Stephen Robinson
- Mission & Development**
Harvey Rogers
- ACPE Board of Rep**
Amanda Jones
-
- Committee Chairperson**
Accrdttn: Wayne Maberry
Certfctn: Elwood Spackman
History: Jonathan Ball
Peer Rvw: Tolly Williamson
- Cultural, Racial & Ethnic:**
Robert Freeman
- Rep & Nom:**
Miriam Needham
- Sem/Faith Groups:**
David Nowlin
- Standards:**
James Taylor

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP MEETINGS at Hickory Knob, March 16-17, 2014

Meeting of Administrative Board:

Actions taken:

- 1) that the SE Region be a “supporting sponsor(\$3,000)” of the 2014 ACPE Conference [with complimentary registrations being designated for the Chairperson of the Region and the Emerging Leader Award Recipient]; and that these expenses be allocated to the line item of the budget under “4.0 Representation to ACPE Meetings”;
- 2) that the Adm Bd receive and approve the 2013 EOY Treasurer’s Report;
- 3) that the Adm Bd receive and approve the 2013 Annual Audit;
- 4) that the Adm Bd receive the Treasurer’s Report for period of Jan 1 through Feb 28, 2014;
- 5) that the Adm Bd affirm the reimbursement of travel expenses at \$.40 per mile for single, \$.55 for double, and \$.70 for three or more passengers, or airfare reserved two weeks in advance whichever is least expensive; actual expense of lodging if the room is shared by two members of standing committees, or one half the cost of lodging for single occupants, and actual cost of meals for persons serving on standing committees.

Recommendations for Standing Committees to consider for 2015 (action to be taken in Oct ’14):

- 1) that the SE Region become a “presenting sponsor(\$20,000)” of the 2015 ACPE Conference with the understanding that this contribution to the ACPE, Inc will be reciprocated by four complementary registrations, four tickets to the closing celebration, a reserved table and dinner for 10 at the Presidential Dinner. In return this region will underwrite the opening celebration of accreditation and certification achievements and the dancing celebration that may follow the Presidential Dinner or be scheduled at another time; and
- 2) that, in 2015, the SE Region will devote its designated income from the regional endowment fund (\$15,000) to travel/lodging scholarships for Level 2 and SES students (who are individual or clinical members of the ACPE, Inc. and have paid their registration fee for the 2015 Conference) toward their participation in the 2015 ACPE Conference/REM Invitational gathering in Atlanta.

[Note: if these recommendation are adopted by the members, there will be no funds available for the Florida and the Interstate Consortiums in 2015. The intent in this shift of special project funds in 2015 is to solicit and support the SESs participation in a national conference that is happening within our region in the hope of fostering their understanding of what it means to a dues-paying member of a professional accrediting and certifying organization. Also, in 2014-15, we recognize that many of our SESs are beyond the entry levels of certification and are soon to take on the responsibilities of being dues-paying, voting, certified ACPE Supervisor. Hopefully, the 2015 conference will facilitate and inform the next level of their participation in our professional educator association.]

Meetings for Peer Reviews:

Peer Reviews have been, are, and hopefully will always be a “regional responsibility.” In the regions via the interpersonal, face to face relationships, we “know, value, love, care for and encourage” our “known colleagues.” Rue the day that “peer reviews” become anything other than a collegial, reciprocal, care-giving, enhancing endeavor formed and emerging out of our “knowing and being known.”

At Hickory Knob in March 2014, the following Supervisors, who reside and work within the Southeast Region, completed their five year peer reviews with their colleagues:

Irene Albritton, Larry Easterling, Ralph Garofano, Olen Grubbs, John Hartman, Alfred Kambaki, Dale Owen, James Taylor, Benson Thomas.

Thanks be for this blessed community of caring colleagues.

Meeting of Accreditation:

Accreditation has had its proponents and its obstructionists from day one.

I, Jap Keith, know; experientially, I know. I was the first organizer of accreditation reviews under the old C & A Committee. I was the first chairperson of the Accreditation Commission.

But, like it or not, the ACPE is the accrediting agency listed on the Federal Registry of the US Dept of Education for the accrediting of specialized programs of clinical pastoral education. Like it or not, national accredited status is an American phenomenon from kindergarten through programs of Ph.D. The ACPE is very fortunate to have the recognition of the Federal Registry that has been afforded the ACPE since the 1960s.

In 2014 the following centers are due a ten-year site review: AnMed, Anderson, SC (Doug Dickens, ACPE Supervisor); Florida Hospital (Ramona Reynolds, Supervisor); Tampa VAMC (Martin Montyonye, Supervisor); Mtn. Home VA (James Pollard, Supervisor), Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare (James Stapleford, Supervisor).

Additionally, the following centers will have their five year review: VAMC, Jackson, MS, Jackson Health System, Miami, FL, and CHOA in Atlanta.

Not only do we complete an accreditation review with recommendation and/or notations; more importantly, we provide the best of all peer/colleague review of another member of our clinical pastoral education association.

Meeting of Certification Sub-committees:

Positive actions taken: Rosalyn Curry was granted Extension of Candidacy
Kirk McAfee completed Pre-Candidacy Consultation
Sara Murray was granted Candidacy
Patrick Whiteford was granted Extension of Candidacy

Ngan Ling Lung completed her consultation; and when the ACPE Certification Commission convenes in May, she will be recognized as an ACPE Supervisor.

Meeting of Members:

When thirty one of us gathered before, during and after dinner in a “forum” for discussion about the recent action of the ACPE Board of Representatives pertaining to the “shortening of the certification process,” we participated in a most civil discussion about a most sensitive aspect of our present and future life together.

Larry Wagoner announced that Bridget Piggue and Jap Keith would serve as “Co-Hosts” of the 2015 ACPE Annual Conference meeting in Atlanta. Bridget would “be the face” of the SE Region while Jap would provide servant-leadership functions in the background. Larry made a plea on behalf of the Adm Bd that the entire region “get on board with the hosting” of the 2015 ACPE Conference in Atlanta.

Jap Keith reviewed the ACPE form of governance and the *Strategic Plan 2020*, out of which the ACPE Board of Directors are now functioning. The present Board of Directors adheres to its “manual of governance” that is based on the ACPE “By-Laws.”

His opinion is that recent actions of the Board were grounded in its understanding that the “Strategic Plan 2020” was to be implemented, sooner than later. His perspective is that every strategic plan envisioned by any Board is a “plan” for future consideration and on-going review given how that future unfolds. In his opinion, a “strategic plan” is not a “mandate” for implementation; but rather, it is an envisioned future that is dependent upon many unknowns before it can be implemented. A “strategic plan” doesn’t become the “law of the land” until a significant plurality of the dues-paying members adopt it as their way forward.

According to Keith's perspective, if one Board "envisions" a way forward, and another treats it as an action that must be implemented, that leadership should expect either resistance and/or passivity on the part of the membership.

Regarding our present governance, Keith observed that we now have a Board of 17...a quorum of 9...a majority vote of 5. He asked: "Is this volunteer association of professional educators agreeable to be ruled by five people?" He suggested that any demand on the dues-paying members to acquiescent to the dictates of five people is an invitation to rebellion and resistance unless your consumer/cliental are puppets and/or are so dependent upon their handouts so that they choose survival/existence rather than freedom/responsibility. The issue for Keith is: who are we? what have we become?

Amanda Jones shared her participation of opposition to the recent action of the ACPE Board. Peter Keese acknowledged that the action of the Board was a fulfillment of his intent to reform/shorten the certification process and that this action was necessary even if the complete revisions of the certification had not yet been envisioned. Woody Spackman stated that his energy had been invested in 1) supporting candidates in process, 2) determining what the commission must do with "notations" already given to associates, and 3) forging the way forward with implementations of the ACPE Board's directive.

Following this discussion the regional certification committee organized itself under the new mandates. The result of the work of the committee work is reported above.

REFLECTION: WHAT MIGHT WE LEARN?

[comments from Jap Keith]

The ACPE, Inc. is in a period of transition. This is nothing new. We've been in "periods of transition" for most of our history. Presently, we have a new form of governance (a seventeen member Board of Directors), a new President, and a new Executive Director.

Beneath those components of our "newness" in this time of "transition," there is still the reality that we are a "member organization." Each member has a voice and a vote; but alas, we hear the voices of too few, and we receive the votes of even less. When was there a healthy debate about anything in a "members' meeting?"

What we have in a strategic plan, or a governance manual, we have allowed either through naïve trust, passive indifference, or uninformed acquiescence. Who ponders the question: "what is best for the future of my profession?"

Sadly, the vast majority deal with "what is" in the way they have always "forged a way forward" for better or worst. We are who we are; and we do what we must do for the accreditation of our own programs. We don't invest the time and energy in forging a future profession of clinical pastoral educators; rather, we leave those tasks to a few and then complain about what they have done to us. Most of our ACPE Supervisors have no aspirations to be elected to either the regional or the national committees/commissions. The future of the ACPE is *de facto* left in the hands of a precious few.

Will entrepreneurs emerge who will ensure future of programs of clinical pastoral education? Will those "free spirits" pay the freight and forge associational relationship (especially around accreditation, certification and peer review) within reasonable boundaries/guidelines/standards of a national association? If so, the ACPE, Inc. has the hope of a productive future.

But every Board of Directors of the ACPE, Inc. needs to remember that its existence and its future is dependent upon the good will and cooperation of the entrepreneurs who do the real work of and pay the freight for the very existence of the ACPE, Inc. Who needs whom? and, how best can we negotiate our needs?