



Arkansas School Counselor Association

ArSCA Business Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2023

9am-1pm

ZOOM

Attendance (voting members in BOLD) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelli Dockery , ArSCA President		Deanna Robbins , Central Region President
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Lyle , President Elect		Carrie Johnston , North Central Region President
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allison Spraggins , ArSCA Past President		Emmie Foster , Northeast Region President
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Stewart , Elementary Vice President (odd year '23-'25)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick Ridenoure , Northwest Region President
Jennifer Coats , Middle/Jr. High Vice President (even year '24-'26)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Terri Callaway , Southeast President
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Parkman , Secondary Vice President (odd year '23-'25)		Nathan Watkins , Southwest President
Annick Downing , Post-Secondary Vice President (even year '24-'26)		
		Susie Harvison, ArSCA Office Manager & Professional Development
<i>Vacant Position</i> - DESE Program Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donna Wilchie, ArSCA Secretary & Hospitality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rodney Ford, DESE Public School Program Advisor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alicia Donner, ArSCA Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Angela Millard, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Laquetta Stewart, Historian
Finance: Past President & Treasurer		Linda Whiteside, Ethics
Debbie Drake, Critical Incident & Crisis Response		Michelle Gerhardt, Public Policy & Legislation
Dr. Valerie Couture and Dr. David Christian, Research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Susan Whatley, ArSCA Public Relations & Advocacy and Social Media Dr. Debra Myton, ArSCA Public Relations & Advocacy and Social Media
Robin Sparks, Grant Writer		Terri Callaway, Conference Committee Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technology/Website: Heather Barron <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tahnee Bowen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robin Finley Rhonda Jones Becky Lowery Megan Reese Tawyna Shelton		Additional Attendees:

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Minutes

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- I. Roll Call – Meeting called to order at 9:02am by President Kelli Dockery. Thirteen members present (6 voting, 6 nonvoting) President Dockery opens the meeting with good news to be shared by the board members.
- II. Approval of Minutes – September 2023 (emailed in advance) Motion #1 was made by Jennifer Lyle and seconded by Jan Stewart to approve the minutes as shared via email.
- III. Financial Report – (emailed in advance) Office Manager Susie Harvison (not in attendance) asked for those attending LDT to cash any checks so she can finalize reports.

Tahnee shared that all board members have access to the 2023-2024 budget through email. If anyone does not have access, let Tahnee know. She also reported that some have completed a membership registration form but have not sent money. Tahnee shared that some have asked about using Venmo instead of Stripe because it does not charge a credit card use fee.

It was discussed that we only have 6 voting members present. We need 9 to conduct business.

- IV. Reports of Officers and Committees

- a. **Vice President Reports** – Annick Downing reported that Hugh Lovett Scholarship letter is prepared and ready to be sent out in January. She has secured higher education educator emails and Donna Wilchie also has a list that she will share with her. VP's are also waiting on regional presidents to send in their regional COY winner's names. Regional presidents have until December to send in names. Regional winners' information will be placed into the COY portal. Voting for state winners will take place in March.

Jane Stewart shared that she had no new information. She did express that she believes the idea of a support committee for COY will be great. She shared examples might be helpful as well.

Counselor of the Year - President Dockery mentioned that she wants us to promote our COY winners this year. A possible committee to help winners to complete COY portal requirements was discussed. Other ideas discussed include a spotlight panel at conference allowing our recent COY winners to share their experiences. It was also suggested that we consider counselor of the year winners from the past 2 years to mentor the newly named regional COYs with help in inputting information into the ASCA portal. One of the requirements for being a state COY winner requires 5 years or more experience. Because of the number of new counselors to our membership, having a Rising Star School Counselor was discussed. It was also discussed about the possibility of the winners having a prerecorded PowerPoint to say something to the audience about receiving the award. (ex: Thank you) To save time, this PowerPoint would play while the award recipient is coming to the stage to receive their award.

Kellie reminded the board about her Counselor Spotlight nomination form that she sent out. This month she has received 11 nominees. If any board member is interested in serving on a committee to promote the Arkansas COYs, please email Kelli Dockery (president@arschoolcounselor.org).

Hugh Lovett Scholarship – see above VP Report

- b. Regional President Reports

Central Region: Deanna Robbins - Susan Whatley shared fall meeting was held Nov. 1st.

North Central: Carrie Johnston - no report

Northeast: Emmie Foster – (emailed report) Counselor nominations are being accepted. They have eight so far

Northwest: Nick Ridenoure – Nick reported fall conference was yesterday with 135 in attendance. US Army and Robin Finley presented. They are in the process of accepting COY nominations and electing members to the board.

Southeast: Terri Callaway – Terri reported that Southeast region's fall meeting will be this upcoming Wednesday, Nov. 15th in Pine Bluff and 50 are signed up at this time. Rodney Ford will be the main speaker for the day. Region committee will be working on updating bylaws and obtaining nominations for COY.

Southwest: Nathan Watkins – Kelli shared a report from Nathan. SW Fall regional meeting was held on Oct. 5, 2023 with 100 in attendance. Nominations for COY will be received until Nov. 17th. Board will vote after Thanksgiving break. Rodney Ford zoomed to present, Project Aware, Ideogram and self-care, and a representative with Vaping resources presented information.

- c. ASCA SCA Governance Committee Update - Kelli reported a focus for ASCA is to help governing boards and our state. The ASCA Governance committee wants to know how they can help us and if anything needs. It was mentioned that ASCA board members could attend conference, present, and talk with

membership. Not sure about fees. Kelli will check to learn more information to share during the conference committee meeting.

- d. Advocacy Committee: Discussion for Legislative Luncheon - Susan shared that the next ArSCA Connects will be Nov. 14, 2023. This is a week earlier because of Thanksgiving break. The topic will be competition of FASFA. Twenty-four have signed up to attend.
Upcoming possible Legislative luncheon or dinner was discussed. Michele Gerhardt and Jeffrey Hall were going to work on time and place for event. Having the event at a school or other location that would not be a great cost and a central location will be important. Maybe even a basket of cookies or items to have for education committee members might be an option. Possible sponsorship from military and having event on their location was mentioned. Talking points will be important to have for those board members in attendance of the planned event. Also, inviting legislative members to our schools to actually see our work was encouraged. Kelli will reach out to Jeffrey and Michele to get a list of dates. If legislative members come to our schools, we are encouraged to send photos to Susan to post on ArSCA social media.

Kelli reported that she submitted the ArSCA Advocacy survey to ASCA. Tahnee shared that we still have the Paragould address as our official address with ASCA. Kelli will send the change of address to ASCA.

- e. Counselor Spotlight - discussed earlier
Kelli asked if anyone had any questions.
- f. DESE Updates – Rodney Ford - reported that the DESE Program Director position was posted and now is closed. They are in the process of looking at applications. Hopefully, the position will be filled soon. He also shared that there will be no fall meetings at the Co-ops in the future, but his current boss is pleased and supportive that he is being invited to present with regions in regional meetings.
- g. Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee - DEI Updates - Chair Alicia Donner reported that the group has been meeting for two months. Michelle Lewis and Angela Mallard have served on the committee. Kelli joined the last meeting.

Allison Spraggins joined by Face time. Still only 7 voting members present.

- h. Conference Report
ArSCA Summer Conference June 24 - 26, 2024 Hot Springs, AR
Theme: Our Stage, Our Story
Terri Callaway reported that the first conference committee meeting would need to be soon. Robin Finley sent possible dates to meet. It is time to be sending out the “call for presenters” and all technical details need to be decided before sending out the forms. Location for 2026 is still to be determined. Before signing 2026 Hot Springs Convention Center agreement, Jennifer Lyle, president elect would like to get prices from other venues from around the state. Once details are learned, a detailed survey will be sent to membership to learn of their wishes on conference location. Kelli has her Save the Date design planned and will post to the website and social media. Bio and picture of keynote speaker “D1” will be shared. Kelli is looking for a local keynote speaker to fill the second spot. She has heard discussions about counselors wanting to gain information to actually use in their programs. Kelli would

also like us to have a Counselor Chats panel on stage. The Ambassador Program was discussed. Possible college students, who would not need as many professional development hours, could do some of the duties that take up a lot of time of the board members. Their conference fee would be paid/waived. Applications could be sent to counselor educators to encourage attendance and to be a part of our conference. Allison Spraggins reported that she is working on the details of the Scholarship Program that we started last year. We need criteria and a rubric to allow a committee to select those who will receive a scholarship to attend the conference. We will consider both the Ambassador and Scholarship options.

ASCA has trainings and articles that the group has used and can use to provide training for our board and membership. ASCA position statements are updated yearly. A goal of the DEI committee is to funnel information to ArSCA Board members and to all counselors in the state. Discussion included that we have to be mindful, still serve the needs of all students, be aware of AR laws, and aware of what the school district will accept. This training will help counselors in the state to be the positive change agents to be inclusive and provide services for all students.

- i. Grant/Sponsorship Opportunities - Michelle Lewis and Robin Sparks - Robin Sparks sent report. She asked for guidance from the board on what is priority and the funds use. This information will help to secure sponsors, buying books for counselors to use, and possible ZOOM costs for speaker to share with membership were ideas mentioned.
- j. Technology Report - Robin Finley brought to the group that we need to have more specific guidelines for the Affiliate Membership category. We have a request from someone from out of the state. Some concern was expressed about the reason for the business wanting to join. Robin shared that we have individuals and groups who will ask for something to be shared with our membership. Currently, the tech team makes the decision if the information is shared on the website as information or opportunities for members using the list serve guidelines. Discussion was held about the need to have the membership criteria and benefits placed in our current handbook. The recommendation was made that we update our handbook to become Policy/Procedures/Handbook. The current handbook has been shared to all current board members. Membership needs to be updated and technology needs to be included. If any board members would like to serve on the Policy/Procedure/Handbook Committee, email Kelli Dockery (president@arschoolcounselor.org). For the time being, the tech team will continue to monitor. Affiliate members will not have access to the list serve. Possible addition to the application for Affiliate membership might include a question asking them to state how they are interested in school counseling in our state.
- k. Newsletter updates - With Liz leaving the DESE office, ArSCA will need to continue to make this publication available to all counselors in the state. This will require ArSCA President, Board, Regions, and DESE input. We want to think about being consistent. Robin has the flipbook format already being used in TasselTime. This could be used for our newsletter. Robin also shared that other groups have sponsors pay for advertising. This could be part of our conference sponsorships. Right now, our sponsor's logos are placed on our website home page (www.arschoolcounselor.org).

V. Old Business

- a. Open board positions – next year
 - Middle/Jr High VP
 - Post Secondary VP

Kelli reminded the board that the Middle/Jr. Level VP and Post Secondary VP positions would be filled this year.

All board members are reminded to submit reports and/or secure someone to be present for voting positions if the current board member is not able to attend.

- VI. New Business - none
- VII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:44am (moved by Jennifer Lyle and seconded by Nick Ridenoure)

Future Meetings

ArSCA Board Meetings:

President Dockery is trying to use the second Saturdays of the month. The May date is Mother's Day weekend, so it will be moved to the 1st Saturday.

January 13, 2024 - 9:00am

March 9, 2024 - 9:00am

May 4, 2024 - 9:00am

TBD September 2024 President's Retreat & LDI 9:00am

Future Conferences

ArSCA Conference June 24 - 26, 2024 Hot Springs, AR

Theme: Our Stage, Our Story

ASCA National Conference July 13-16, 2024 Kansas City, MO

ArSCA Conference June 23 - 25, 2025 Hot Springs, AR

ASCA National Conference July 13-15, 2025 Long Beach, CA

ASCA National Conference July 11-14, 2026 New Orleans, LA

ASCA National Conference July 17-20, 2027 Columbus, OH

ASCA National Conference July 15-18, 2028 Seattle, WA

ASCA National Conference July 14-17, 2029 Charlotte, NC