Arkansas School Counselor Association

ArSCA LDI & Board Meeting MINUTES

August 1, 2026

8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Theme: Celebrating 85 Years of ArSCA

Attendance (voting members in **BOLD**) present			
☑	**Dr. Jennifer Lyle,** ArSCA President	☑ ☑	**Nick Williams**, Central Region President Hannah Gorman, Central President Elect
☑	**Jane Stewart,** ArSCA President Elect	☑	**Shayne Thompson,** North Central Region President
	Kelli Dockery, ArSCA Past President	☑	**Katie French,** Northeast Region President
☑	**Marisa Snow,** Elementary Vice President (odd year '25-'27)	☑	**Karon Parrish,** Northwest Region President
	Samantha Tilley, Middle/Jr. High Vice President (even year '24-'26)		**Gwen Kliesier,** Southeast President-Elect
☑	**A. Michelle Williams,** Secondary Vice President (odd year'25-'27)		**Allie Sage**, Southwest President
	Pam Dixon, Post-Secondary Vice President (even year '24-'26)		
	Susie Harvison, Office Manager & Professional Development	☑	Dr. Donna Wilchie, Secretary & Hospitality Leslie Walden, Historian
	Lindsay Ledgerwood Reed, DESE Program Director Morgan Weigand, DESE Public School Program Advisor	☑	Angela Millard, Human Rights Angela Jones, Ethics Cynthia Cochran, Membership
	Finance: Past President & Office Manager	☑	Susan Whatley, Public Relations & Advocacy/Social Media Lauren Harris, Public Relations & Advocacy
☑ ☑ ☑	Michele Lewis, Grant Writer Debbie Drake, Critical Incident & Crisis Response Karon Parish, Public Policy & Legislation Heather Weir, Research		Terri Callaway, Conference Cochair Allison Spraggins, Conference Cochair
☑ ☑	Technology/Website: Tahnee Bowen Dr. Robin Finley Heather Barron Rhonda Jones Becky Lowery Megan Reese Tawyna Shelton		***Vacant Positions:***
	Additional Attendees:		

Leadership Development Institute

8:00 Breakfast – Meet & Greet

9:00 Dr. Kristi Perryman and Dr. Kate Mamiseishvilli (U of A Graduate School)
School counseling program information shared. Play Therapy is an added credential to the counseling program. Coursework for play therapy is also offered outside of the degree.

9:45 Break

10:00 Chad Cox (U of A Enrolling Services)
Information shared regarding student enrollment and programs at the UofA. Chad shared meetings around the state to inform schools of the UofA. He will speak at schools if invited.

10:45 Break

11:00 Brunch (Ella's Table)

12:00 Business Meeting

3:30 Business Meeting Adjourned

3:30 Self-Guided Tour

Board/Business Meeting

Prior to the Call to Order/Roll Call, voting members met in an executive session.

I. Call to Order/Roll Call – Meeting called to order at 1:35 pm by President Dr. Jennifer Lyle.
(8 voting members, 8 nonvoting members)

II. Announcement of new board positions –
Researcher Heather Weir (appointed)
Post Secondary VP Suzy Toms (vote will occur)
Middle Junior High VP ….. (vote will occur)
Secretary position needed (appointed); can shadow through December 2026 and officially begin January 2027)

III. Conference Tracker
Tahnee Bowen shared about Conference Tracker. Issues with conference tracker: Wednesday logs disappeared. She had downloaded them with a record of them and had to hand-enter them all. It began with the virtual sessions, which now are linked with no log. Conversations with the company were held about not using this company again. As of Thursday, the issue has not been expedited. Certificates are due out September 1st, but that date may be pushed back. Dr. Finley shared the sign-in and sign-out of the conference. Some organizations do not track attendance. Professional development documentation is what we need to look into what school districts require. What is our goal in the future? President-Elect Jane Stewart suggested sending a survey out to the regions of what their districts require.

January is the renewal date for Conference Tracker. Tahnee is expecting a credit when this issue is resolved. An app that can house certificates, members, etc. is needed, and a backup option.

Dr. Finley (Friendly Finley) will send a survey to school counselors to ask what their districts require for professional development. If there are any regional changes to presidents, make sure the new officers have the login information. If not, let Dr. Finley know so they can be updated.

IV. ASCA Accountant

Karen Parrish shared that ArSCA will need to hire a CPA this year since ASCA shared the change in not being our host accountant. No date has been established for the change. To be prepared for the accountant, contracted positions making more than $600 per year will need to share a job description with ArSCA. Information is due by September 1, 2026.

V. Board Meetings

Board meetings every other month (1st Wednesdays 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm)
Oct 7th, Dec 2nd, Feb 3rd, April 7th, May 5th
Please note the December day is Wednesday, Dec 2nd and not the 3rd
President Lyle shared the importance of attending the entire time and sending an elected member to vote in the place.

VI. Contracts

Info shared about contracts
Motion #1 by Nick Williams and seconded by Jane Stewart to accept the lobbyist contract as presented.
(vote passed 7 to 1)

Motion #2 by Amber Williams and seconded by Karon Parrish to accept the office manager contract as presented.
(All in favor)

VII. Additional Information/Reports

Newsletter
President-Elect Jane Stewart shared results of newsletter usage. If that number is not tracked, a survey will be shared about whether the membership and school counselors want to keep the newsletter. DESE has a newsletter that goes out each month and includes the link to ArSCA's newsletter.

Handbook
Secretary Wilchie will send copies of the original and updated version to review before voting on October 7th.

Conference and Regional Meetings
President-Elect Jane Stewart shared the research she has been doing on conference locations for 2028 and further. Debbie Drake Gordon would like to be invited to regional meetings to provide an overview of the American Red Cross and how school counselors could be a part of the volunteer program within the state of Arkansas. Debbie Drake Gordon represents ArSCA as a Disaster Mental Health Volunteer.

Legislative updates from Jeffery Hall will be emailed to the board since he did not attend today.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion #3 by Nick and Shayne Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 pm. (All in favor)

Future Meetings
ArSCA Board Meetings: (ZOOM 1st Wednesdays 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm)
Oct 7, 2026
Dec 2, 2026 *Please note the December day is Wednesday, Dec 2nd and not the 3rd*
Feb 3, 2027
April 7, 2027
May 5, 2027

ArSCA Conference June 28 – 30, 2027 Hot Springs, AR **Theme: Celebrating 85 Years of ArSCA**
ASCA National Conference July 17-20, 2027 Columbus, OH

ArSCA Conference Summer 2028 TBD
ASCA National Conference June 24-27, 2028 Seattle, WA

ArSCA Conference Summer 2029 TBD
ASCA National Conference July 14-17, 2029 Charlotte, NC