



# VASGW

The Virginia Association  
for Specialists in Group Work

## Officers

President Dr. Terri Mason  
[masonterri53@gmail.com](mailto:masonterri53@gmail.com)

Secretary Maurie Negrin  
[maurienegrin@gmail.com](mailto:maurienegrin@gmail.com)

Treasurer Irene Ward  
[iward@learningrx.net](mailto:iward@learningrx.net)

## Committee Chairs

Newsletter Ellissia Price-Fagin  
[pellissia@gmail.com](mailto:pellissia@gmail.com)

Bylaws Mary Durgala  
[mary.durgala2020@gmail.com](mailto:mary.durgala2020@gmail.com)

Technology Joy Mwendwa  
[jmmaweu@liberty.edu](mailto:jmmaweu@liberty.edu)

Communications open

Advocacy Barbara Lavine  
[laviner@verizon.net](mailto:laviner@verizon.net)



Spring-Summer 2025

Volume 1

## President's Message

*Dear VASGW members:*

*I hope that you are well as we move from summer into fall. This can be a tumultuous time as the school year begins again. New beginnings can be exciting but also challenging.*

*We held our Group-A-Rama conference in person at the Bechtel Center in April. It was wonderful to see so many people in attendance. Our keynote speakers were Dr. Simone Lambert (ACA past president) and Dr. Carmen Pangelinan. They gave a wonderful presentation on Engaging Stakeholders to promote counseling programs in schools and communities.*

*For our 2026 conference we are pleased to announce that Kim Crumbley and Laura Rankhorn from the "Counselor Accents" podcast will be our keynote speakers. The theme for the keynotes is "The Ripple Effect: Small groups, Big Impact". We are extremely excited and hope to see you there.*

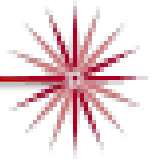
*Our call for proposals for the 2026 conference is open now until November 17, 2025. We hope you will consider submitting a proposal. In 2026 VASGW will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Division of VCA. We are looking forward to celebrating this in many ways during 2026.*

*Regards,  
Dr. Terri Mason, President VASGW  
[tmasonvca@aol.com](mailto:tmasonvca@aol.com)*

- President's Message
- Highlights
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### On the Web

[www.vasgw.org](http://www.vasgw.org)  
[www.facebook.com/vasgw](https://www.facebook.com/vasgw)



## GROUP WORK IN TODAY'S WORLD



GROUP-A-RAMA TEAM

We celebrated our 45<sup>th</sup> Group-A-Rama conference in person at the Bechtel Center in April. Our keynote speakers were Dr. Simone Lambert (ACA past president) and Dr. Carmen Pangelinan whose presentation was entitled Engaging Stakeholders to Promote Counseling Programs in Schools and Communities.

Eighty attendees had an opportunity to select from over fifteen workshops topics that included Choice Theory, advocacy, conflict resolution, mental health and minority males, empathy, equine therapy, and others.

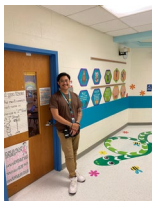
*Join us in 2026 for our next conference!*



## NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Hi! I'm **Becca Wilson**, currently in my 13<sup>th</sup> year as a professional school counselor. I'm a mom to two kids and a Husky-Great Pyrenees mix. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family, hiking, playing tennis, leading Girl Scouts, and brainstorming creative ideas to engage students in mental health awareness!



Hello! My name is **Richard Jones-Hang**. I am in my 12<sup>th</sup> year as a school counselor with Fairfax County Public Schools. Prior to that I was a Latin teacher at a private school in Northern Virginia. I have many areas of professional interest within the counseling discipline, but in particular I have presented tai chi applications in counseling, play-based skills learning, and mindfulness strategies within schools at the national, state, and local levels. My personal interests include baking, cooking, cosplaying, and playing with my 6-year-old pit terrier

Lavender, whom I adopted back in 2020. I am excited to join the VASGW board this year, and eager to serve this professional community that has given me so much personal and professional fulfillment.



## VASGW Group-A-Rama 2026

Group-A-Rama will take place on **Friday, April 17, 2026**, at the **Bechtel Center in Reston, Virginia**. Please consider submitting a proposal to present at the conference. We are looking for presentations from all levels of

School Counselors as well as Private practitioners. A perk for being a presenter is that you (the primary presenter) will receive a greatly reduced conference fee. Please feel free to share this with anyone who might be interested. The application deadline is **November 17, 2025**.

**To submit your proposal**, click [HERE](#) or copy and paste the link below:

<https://forms.gle/DjJ8EA4EHpaeR9bt9>

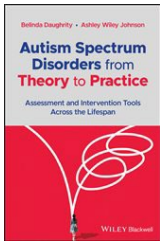


This year at the 2025 Group-a-Rama conference we asked our attendees to donate items to help support the cancer floor at Fairfax Children's Hospital. We thank all our attendees for their generosity. We were able to give the children's cancer unit an array of Crayons, Markers, Individual small Bubbles, Play-Doh, Play-Doh Tools, Craft kits, and Lego Sets.



## BOOK REVIEW

*Autism Spectrum Disorders from Theory to Practice* by Pamela Wiley, PhD CCC-SLP



### Apply the latest ASD theory to assessment and intervention in real-world clinical environments

In *Autism Spectrum Disorders from Theory to Practice*, a team of experienced interventionists deliver a practical application of modern theory regarding autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) to common, real-world clinical situations. Hands-on guidance is paired with advice on culturally appropriate and responsive practices informed by professionals who collectively have over 40 years of combined speech pathology experience.

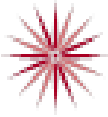
The work of special contributors like Dr. Pamela Wiley, who is the Founder and President of the Los Angeles Speech and Language Therapy Center, appears alongside evidence-based ASD intervention instruction that draws from the latest studies and from the authors' assessments and interventions with clients from a diverse range of backgrounds. When combined with the reader's own professional competence, clinical experiences, and continuing education, this book is a powerful resource that will improve patient outcomes.

## RESOURCES

With the myriad of issues our families are facing today we know counseling professionals are stretched to provide impactful services. We thank VACES for this list of resources and information to help support the work and services provided to students and families:

- [ASCA Statement on White House Executive Order](#)
- [ASCA: Supporting Immigrant Students](#)
- [ASCA: Helping Students in Troubling Times](#)
- [ASCA Crisis & Trauma Response](#)
- [Coalition to Support Grieving Students](#)
- [FEMA Ready Kids: Flooding](#)
- [National Alliance for Children's Grief](#)
- [National Child Trauma Stress Network: Flood Resources](#)
- [Natural Disasters: Helping Kids During Crisis](#)
- [National Education Association \(NEA\): Guidance on Immigration Issues](#)
- [U.S. Dept of Education Natural Disaster Resources](#)
- [VCA Advocacy](#)

## Join the VASGW Group family!



We are seeking new board members who are committed to enhancing group counseling skills among counseling professionals in public and private settings. All Board members must be current members of VCA and VASGW and have an interest in groups and group dynamics. For more information, contact Maurie Negrin, Secretary, [mauriernegrin@gmail.com](mailto:mauriernegrin@gmail.com)



## Looking Ahead

VCA Leadership Academy  
South University  
September 26-27, 2025  
Glen Allen, VA

### VCA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Norfolk Waterside Marriott - November 13-15, 2025

*Making Meaning in Counseling: Strengthening Connections, Transforming Lives*

Click on the text below for links to more information.

**Convention At-A-Glance:** See what's happening when!

**Thursday Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Ed Neukrug

**Hotel Reservations:** Discounted group nightly rate is \$149 + tax. Discounted room rate ends on October 22, or until room block is full, so do not wait!

**Printable Registration Form:** Traditional hard copy form (PDF)

**To REGISTER NOW click here!**



VIRGINIA  
COUNSELORS  
ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDATION

### *What does the Foundation do for Virginia counselors?*

The VCA Foundation recognizes and supports counselors and counseling organizations in Virginia.

### *Why should you donate to the Foundation?*

The VCA Foundation:

- Honors a counselor for lifelong contributions
- Sponsors publication of the journal and convention keynote speaker
- Provides technology support for VCA convention and websites
- Honors graduate students at accredited counselor education programs for their achievement and potential for leadership
- Supports counseling initiatives in the Commonwealth through grants
- Designates funds targeted for leadership development initiatives and support of emerging leaders

### *Donate to VCAF & Help Us Grow Outreach Programs*

Your 100% tax deductible donation to the VCA Foundation is an investment in the future of counseling.

Donate online, go to: [www.vcafoundation.org](http://www.vcafoundation.org)

By Mail or with VCA membership Renewal:

VCA Foundation, PO Box 116, Charles City, VA 23030