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Pennsylvania Counseling Association

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President-Elect's Report – February, 2005

I want to thank everybody for your thoughts and feedback regarding the 2005 conference. Clearly there was mixed opinions regarding the timing and location for the conference given the conflict with our usual end of October weekend at the Penn Stater. We (which is to say Judy) did look into the possibility of holding the conference in Harrisburg the last weekend in October and we did get one proposal that would might have been workable. In the end, however, we (which is to say me) decided to go with November 18-20 at the Penn Stater. The decision was primarily influenced by the fact that we could get Patricia Arredondo as keynote speaker for that weekend but could not for the October weekend. I realize that the weekend before Thanksgiving is less than ideal for many folks (including me!), but I do hope that the draw of having someone of the caliber of Patricia Arredondo as keynote speaker will more than compensate for that.

I would like to take this opportunity to present some other ideas regarding the conference. I have asked Judy to have samples of vendor letters and application forms available. I would like to ask each member of the executive board to commit to getting two exhibitors and one program advertisement by the May meeting. This is perhaps one of the easiest things we can do to raise money and can make a difference between whether we squeak by or make money on the conference. Ideas to keep in mind would be publishers or other booksellers, treatment facilities, educational institutions or other training groups, professional associations, or other groups that sell or otherwise offer things that would be of interest to professional counselors. I would also like to ask divisions to work hard to make sure that we can offer something during each content session that would be particularly relevant to members of that division. In other words, please work hard to encourage members to submit proposals so that we can make sure that content sessions reflect the diversity of interests of the various divisions. Divisions might also consider "sponsoring" a content session that would be a particular draw for members.

I would also like to suggest that PCA consider having a booth at the PASCA conference this spring. They had one at our conference so it seems reasonable to reciprocate and have one there. This would also be a way to promote the PCA conference among school counselors. In line with this, I would like PCA to consider working out reciprocal agreements with PASCA and perhaps other organizations (PPA, PCPA, others?) where we can exhibit at each other's conferences without exchanging money. Again, this seems like a logical way to do some collaboration.

Respectfully Submitted,



Connie R. Matthews, Ph.D., NCC, LPC
President-Elect