



VIRGINIA COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION

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The Virginia Counselors Association (VCA) is dedicated to the goal of meeting the needs of Virginia counselors in a variety of work settings. It is a dynamic and active organization, with 1,200+ members, that has been effective in responding to statewide issues and in providing opportunities for professional interaction at the state and local levels.

VCA's Mission is to ensure that VCA members in all settings will provide best counseling practices that enhance human development and functioning throughout the life span and promote public confidence in the counseling profession.

VCA Accomplishments include:

- Spearheading legislation to be the first state to license professional counselors.
- Paid lobbyist to make our voice heard in Richmond and throughout the state of Virginia
- 2012 successfully advocated for the continued financial support of Virginia Career VIEW
- Receive up-to-date and crucial legislative information that impacts you
- Online training opportunities
- Workshops offered throughout Virginia
- Discounted Clinical Supervision Training (5, 10 or 20 hours)
- Facilitating the introduction and passage of 2002 legislation that provides statutory authority for the Board of Counseling to establish continuing education requirements and regulations for Licensed Professional Counselors.
- Contributing to state legislative representatives and candidates who support VCA positions through the *Challenge Fund*, a political action committee.
- Advancing nominees for gubernatorial appointments to regulatory and public policy boards affecting counselors including but not limited to the Virginia Board of Education and the Virginia Board of Counseling.
- Providing professional development through an annual convention and co-sponsors other professional development activities for counselors in all settings.
- Sponsoring an annual Legislative Day to advocate for public policy and legislative issues affecting counselors across work settings.
- Establishing the VCA Foundation to provide long-term fiscal stability and fund innovative counseling research and community programs.

VCA and Clinical Counselors:

- The Virginia Clinical Counselors Alliance (VCCA), a division of VCA, represents counselors in clinical, community, and private practice settings, including licensed professional counselors, rehabilitation counselors, substance abuse counselors, and marriage and family counselors.

VCA and School Counselors:

- Virginia Alliance for School Counseling (VASC) – For counselors working in a school setting, a supervisor of school counselors, a graduate student or a counselor educator. This division is progressive and focused on providing information and assistance to school counselors who are counselors **first**, and who work in a school setting.

VCA Chapters & Divisions:

- Active Regional Chapter Counseling Associations include: Apple Valley, Central Valley, Hampton Roads, Lynchburg, New River, Northern Virginia, Peninsula, Prince William, Richmond, Roanoke and Western Tidewater.
- Specialty Interest Divisions currently include: VCCA-Clinical Counselors Alliance, VACFC-Couples & Family Counselors, VCDA-Career Development Counselors, VACES-Counselor Education & Supervision, VAMCD-Multicultural Counseling & Development, VASGW-Specialist in Group Work and VASC-School Counseling.

VCA Professional Development Opportunities

- ✓ **Live workshops.** Sponsored by VCA and VCA Divisions and Chapters. Find information at <http://www.vcacounselors.org/>
- ✓ **Online workshops.** Anywhere you have Internet access, you can take accredited courses on VCA's training website at <https://vca.cequick.com/>. Courses are accredited by NBCC, APA, NASW and other groups. You can get coursework for your license requirements or for your personal edification. VCA members get a discount. The code is in the VCA newsletter. Get the training you want and need at your convenience.
- ✓ **VCA Bookstore.** VCA has partnered with Amazon.com to provide you with easy access to buy books, DVDs and more for your professional development. There are sections featuring books by Virginia counseling authors and recommendations for topics. Visit the bookstore at <http://astore.amazon.com/virgincounsea-20>. By using our CE Quick site and our bookstore you also support VCA's professional development programs. A portion of each sale goes to VCA. We greatly appreciate your support.
- ✓ **Twitter.** Keep up with when workshops are coming. Find out information on upcoming workshops by following us at **vcaprofdev** on <http://twitter.com/>.
- ✓ **Facebook.** Upcoming workshops, articles of interest to behavioral health professionals and more are all on our wall at <https://www.facebook.com/VCAProfessionalDevelopment>. Please come join us there!
- ✓ **VCA Prof Dev Yahoo Group.** Anyone with an email address can join the listserv and interact with other members (the group is closed to prevent spam and ensure security). If you have a Yahoo, Facebook or Google ID, you can also join the group. You will find loads of information about VCA and professional resources including a list of people who can provide live training, links to professional organizations, and a place to list jobs, internships and practica. We are still working to develop this resource and invite and urge you to join. It is an excellent place to network and coordinate with individuals, chapters and divisions across the state. Find us at <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/VCAProfDev/>
- ✓ **Youtube.** We are in the process of developing this resource. "How to" videos will be posted, such as an introduction to CE Quick and our Yahoo Group, and we hope to use it as an archive for special VCA history, such as video from conventions. Find us at <http://www.youtube.com/user/VCAProfDev>