

The forum for school counseling association leadership

Schedule At-a-Glance

THURSDAY, JULY 10

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FRIDAY, JULY 11

Delegate Sign-in

ASCA Business Meeting

Break

ASCA Business Meeting

Elevate				
12–1 p.m.	Check-in and	7:15–8 a.m.	Breakfast	
	Leadership Role Mixer			
Hyatt Regency Long Beach		8–8:45 a.m.	Advocacy Update	
		Deirdra Williams & Ama	anda Fitzgerald, Ed.D., CAE	
1 p.m.	Welcome			
Jill Cook, CAE, ASC	A Executive Director	8:45 a.m.–9:45 a.m.	ASCA Board of Directors Linkage Committee and Test Vote	
1:15–2:45 p.m.	Thought Leadership Session:			
	Elevating Engagement: Uncommon	9:45–10 a.m.	Break	
	Strategies for Creating a Thriving			
	Member Community	10 a.m.–12 p.m.	Elevated Discussions	
Amanda Kaiser				
		12–12:45 p.m.	Lunch	
2:45–3 p.m.	Break			
	_	12:45 –2 p.m.	Elevated Discussions	
3–3:45 p.m.	ASCA Updates	0.045		
	Pinnacle Award Presentation	2–2:15 p.m.	Break	
2.45.4		2.15 2 m m	School Counselor of the Year	
3:45–4 p.m.	Break	2:15–3 p.m.		
4.6.0.00	Carmen Larson, 2025 School Counselor of the Year Elevated Discussions			
4–6 p.m.	Elevated Discussions	3–4:15 p.m.	SCA Working Session	
6–7:30 p.m.	Dinner Reception	Leisl Moriarty, Deirdra Wiliams, Stacy Sjogren and Sherry		
0 7.50 p.m.		1 ·	Jennings, Ph.D. are available for questions during this time.	
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4:15-4:30 p.m.

4:30–6 p.m.



Supporting Sponsor:





Full Schedule

THURSDAY, JULY 11

12–1 p.m. Check-in and Leadership Role Mixer

Hyatt Regency Long Beach, Regency Ballroom Foyer, Level 4

Arrive a few minutes early to kick off Elevate. Get to know other SCA leaders in your same position or role before formal sessions begin.

1 p.m. Welcome

Jill Cook, CAE, ASCA Executive Director

1:15–2:45 p.m. Thought Leadership Speaker Elevating Engagement: Uncommon Strategies for Creating a Thriving Member Experience

Amanda Lea Kaiser, Member Engagement Strategist and Author

Are you losing sleep over member retention? Struggling to connect with younger members or motivate long-time members to engage, contribute and volunteer? Once they've been members for a while, getting folks to participate, contribute and volunteer can be difficult. Members' expectations have changed, making member engagement even more challenging.

Today's association members crave meaningful, memorable experiences. It is time for every association leader to assume the role of Chief Experience Officer, or CEO!.

Join author Amanda Lea Kaiser as she shares a fresh, member-centric approach to engagement. Drawing from her book <u>*Elevating*</u> <u>*Engagement*</u>, Kaiser will guide you through uncommon strategies that work, helping you create an energized and highly motivated membership.

By the end of the keynote, you won't just understand engagement, you'll embody it. Are you ready to go, CEO?

2:45–3 p.m. Break

3–3:45 p.m. ASCA Update & Pinnacle Award Presentation

ASCA staff will share updates on planned services, legislative activities, program offerings, research and more.

The ASCA Pinnacle Award recognizes state/territory school counselor associations for innovative projects that benefit the school counselor association, profession or membership. ASCA will recognize the 2025 finalists and announce the 2025 Pinnacle Award winner.

3:45–4 p.m. Break



4–6 p.m. Elevated Discussions

Overlook – Seeing the big picture in governance 4–5 p.m. Is Your Board Governing, or Just Gathering 5–6 p.m. Monitor Policies Like a Pro – Live!

- **Resonance Room** Advocacy that carries far and wide 4–5 p.m. Organize Your Advocacy for Real Results 5–6 p.m. Use the ASCA National Model[®] in Advocacy
- Leadership Loft A space for high-level leadership thinking 4–4:45 p.m. Staffing Strategies 4:45–6 p.m. Elevate Prospective-Volunteer Engagement
- Engine Room Powering success with strategic operations
 4–4:30 p.m. Podcasting 101
 4:30–5 p.m. Support Research Requests Without Burnout
 5–6 p.m. Strategic Professional Development

Breakthrough Room – Unlocking next-level innovation 4–4:30 p.m. Hi, I'm New Here 4:30–5 p.m. Effective Onboarding 5–5:30 p.m. Social Media Audits 5:30–6 p.m. Membership Messaging

The Wisdom Well – Drawing from deep insights 4–6 p.m. Drop in to talk Governance, social media, ASCA Board of Directors, and more.

6–7:30 p.m. Dinner Reception

Mix and mingle and enjoy social time with your peers. Take advantage of an exclusive pop-up fire sale of ASCA last-chance merchandise.

Elevated Discussions (Detailed descriptions)

Overlook sessions:

 Is Your Board Governing, or Just Gathering (Seaview A, 4–5 p.m.), Sherry Jennings, Sound Governance. A standing ovation at your annual conference doesn't mean your board is fulfilling its true responsibilities. Effective governance demands honest reflection on how well you're living up to your fiduciary duties – care, loyalty,

ELEVATED DISCUSSION ROOMS

Elevating engagement is our focus this year, and we've designed the breakout sessions to reflect that goal. Content is organized by topic and room, with some sessions featuring presenters who will share best practices and key insights. Every session includes opportunities for discussion, guided by thought-provoking questions to spark meaningful conversation and idea-sharing.

The **Elevate** spaces and sessions are intentionally dynamic. Some sessions may overlap or appear back-to-back – this is by design. We encourage you to move freely between areas, participate in ways that align with your SCA's goals, and gather ideas you can take back and implement.

The Overlook – Seeing the big picture in governance, located in Seaview A (level 1)

The Resonance Room – Advocacy that carries far and wide, located in Regency Ballroom (level 4)

The Leadership Loft – A space for high-level leadership thinking, located in Seaview B (level 1)

The Engine Room – Powering success with strategic operations, located in Seaview C (level 1)

The Breakthrough Room – Unlocking next-level innovation, located in Regency F (level 4)

The Wisdom Well – Drawing from deep insights, located via escalator between levels 3-4.

Lift Zone – Raise ideas, voices, and needs for school counselors. Outside of Regency Ballroom (level 4)

Boost Board – Post a challenge & let the community boost you with ideas. **Outside of Regency Ballroom (level 4)**

and obedience – and staying aligned with your board's values and purpose. Explore a practical new tool to assess your board's performance in a meaningful way and gain sharper insights, stronger accountability practices, and a clearer path to governing with purpose. Bring your whole board if you can. Recommended for any Governance Structure

• Monitor Policies Like a Pro – Live! (Seaview A, 5–6 p.m.), Stacy Sjogren, Out of the Woods Consulting. Curious about how a board makes sure its policies are being followed? Join us for a live look at a real board in action! The Ohio School Counselor Association board will be reviewing a monitoring report to see how well the organization is living up the board's expectations. This kind of review is a normal part of responsible board work—and a great way to build trust and accountability. If you're wondering how boards using a Policy Governance approach can do this well and with integrity, come see how it's done. Recommended for Boards utilizing Policy Governance.



Resonance Room sessions:

- Organize Your Advocacy for Real Results (Regency Ballroom, 4–5 p.m.), Deirdra Williams, ASCA Director of Programs and Advocacy. Advocacy is more than sending an alert or posting a call to action – it's about aligning the right people, tools and timing. Discuss how to internally organize your advocacy efforts so they're clear, consistent and ready to activate. From mapping out who does what, to setting a realistic calendar, to crafting messages that resonate across audiences, you'll learn how to streamline your process and engage both your board and your members in smarter, more coordinated advocacy. Whether you're planning long-term efforts like legislative days or responding in real time to harmful policy, you'll walk away with tips from SCAs that have built advocacy structures that actually work.
- Use the ASCA National Model[®] in Advocacy (Regency Ballroom, 5–6 p.m.), Resonance Room, Eric Sparks, ASCA Deputy Executive Director. Clarify key terms in the 5th edition of the ASCA National Model and explore how consistent language can strengthen your advocacy. Learn how shared language strengthens your messaging at the school, district and state levels – helping to clarify the school counselor role, influence decision-makers, and elevate impact.

Leadership Loft sessions:

- Staffing Strategies (Seaview B, 4–4:45 p.m.), Leisl Moriarty, ASCA Director of Affiliate Relations. Examine how boards navigate staffing decisions, including defining leadership and oversight roles, selecting between independent contractors and employees, and choosing whether to engage or re-contract with an association management company (AMC). Hear directly from SCAs who have made recent decisions about staffing decisions and what steps were taken.
- Elevate Prospective-Volunteer Engagement (Seaview B, 4:45–6 p.m.), Amanda Lea Kaiser. Do you sometimes feel like you are taking on more than your fair share of association leadership duties? Wouldn't it be great if other members stepped up? In 477 conversations with members from various associations, Kaiser discovered a complex web of reasons why more members don't become volunteer leaders. Still, the energy that many active leaders produce is the secret sauce for thriving chapters. Explore this engagement stage and learn how to welcome potential leaders and extinguish burnout for long-time leaders. Leave with ideas to encourage more collaborators, contributors, and leaders within your association.

Engine Room sessions:

- Podcasting 101: Amplifying Your Association's Voice, (Seaview C, 4–4:30 p.m.), Janae Douglas, ASCA Education and Training Coordinator. Looking to engage members, elevate your association's brand or highlight thought leadership? This session covers the fundamentals of launching a podcast with purpose. Learn how to align your podcast with strategic goals, define your audience, choose the right format and equipment, and plan sustainable content. Whether you manage a podcast in-house or in partnership with an AMC, you'll leave with practical steps to turn your podcast idea into a powerful member engagement tool.
- Support Research Requests Without Burnout (Seaview C, 4:30–5 p.m.), Angie Hickman, ASCA Director of Research and Marketing. Tired of getting bombarded with research request emails and worried your members are, too? This session explores how to handle research solicitations without overwhelming your listserv. Learn when to redirect, when to include a link, when to engage, and why having a clear research agenda can protect your communications pipeline and member trust, and maybe provide some research you can use, too.
- Strategic Professional Development (Seaview C, 5–6 p.m.), Janae Douglas, ASCA Education and Training Coordinator, and Jen Walsh, Director of Education and Training. Professional development shouldn't begin and end with the annual conference. This session explores how associations can design intentional, year-round learning experiences that engage members, build community, and add value. Discover strategies for offering virtual workshops, micro-learning, peer-led series, timely pop-ups, and follow-ups from high-impact presenters. Learn how to plan strategically, respond to member needs and elevate your PD offerings without overextending staff, volunteers or budget.



Breakthrough Room sessions:

- Hi, I'm New Here (Regency F, 4–4:30 p.m.), New to your volunteer leadership role or attending your first meeting? This facilitated roundtable offers a supportive space for new volunteers across board, committee and operational roles to connect with others navigating similar experiences. Share challenges, exchange tips, and start building your leadership network as you gain confidence and find your place within the organization.
- Effective Onboarding (Regency F, 4:30–5 p.m.), Join this facilitated roundtable to share and explore best practices for onboarding new volunteer leaders. Topics include navigating conflict of interest policies; understanding mission, vision, and goals; clarifying fiduciary responsibilities; and setting clear role expectations. Collaborate with peers to discuss challenges and solutions that help new leaders start strong and stay aligned.
- Social Media Audits (Regency F, 5–5:30 p.m.), Kayla Shelton, ASCA Marketing and Communications Coordinator. Is your SCA's social media hitting the mark? Explore how to strengthen your messaging, improve engagement, and align your online presence with your mission and goals. Come ready to exchange ideas, successes and lessons learned from the digital frontlines.
- Membership Messaging (Regency F, 5:30–6 p.m.), Angie Hickman, ASCA Director of Research and Marketing, and Stephanie Wicks, Member Services Manager. How do you communicate the value of membership in a way that resonates? Join this roundtable discussion to explore strategies for crafting clear, compelling messages that attract, engage and retain members. Share what's working, learn from others, and walk away with fresh ideas to strengthen your membership outreach and communication efforts.



FRIDAY, JULY 12

7:15–8 a.m. Breakfast

Beacon Ballroom, Level 4

8–8:45 a.m. Advocacy Update

Deirdra Williams, ASCA Director of Programs and Advocacy

Amanda Fitzgerald, ASCA Assistant Deputy Executive Director

Regency Ballroom, Level 4

8:45–9:45 a.m. ASCA Board of Directors Linkage Committee Session

9:45–10 a.m. Break

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Elevated Discussions

Overlook – Seeing the big picture in governance

10–11:15 A.M. Build Sustainable Governance 11:30 A.M.–12 P.M. Board Self-Monitoring Discussion

Resonance Room – Advocacy that carries far and wide

10–11 A.M. Messaging for Different Topics 11 A.M.–12 P.M. Partner with Legislators & Education Allies

Leadership Loft – A space for high-level leadership thinking

10–10:30 A.M. Break Down Walls 10:45–11:30 A.M. Navigating Disruption with Clarity and Calm 11:30 A.M.–12 P.M. Smart Member Marketing

Engine Room – Powering success with strategic operations 10–11:15 A.M. Uncommon Strategies for Creating Thriving Online Community Engagement

Breakthrough Room – Unlocking next-level innovation

10–11 A.M. Pinnacle Finalists Highlight 11–11:30 A.M. Member Communities 11:30 A.M.–12 P.M. Re-engaging Discussion

The Wisdom Well – Drawing from deep insights

12–12:45 p.m. Lunch



Morning Elevated Discussions (Detailed descriptions)

Overlook sessions:

- Build Sustainable Governance (Seaview A, 10-11:15 a.m.), Sherry Jennings, Sound Governance. Is your board governed by a tangle of bylaws, outdated documents, and ad hoc decisions? Join this interactive session to explore how a streamlined, policy-based approach can make governance simpler, clearer, and more sustainable. You'll have the chance to share your current practices and workshop ways to build a stronger, more attractive board structure for the future. Recommended for any Governance Structure
- Board Self-Monitoring Discussion (Seaview A, 11:30a.m.-12 p.m.) Join in a conversation about how boards can use regular self-assessment to ensure fidelity to their governance policies, uphold clear role distinctions, and stay focused on Ends. Participants will discuss tools and practices that support accountability and effective board functioning. Recommended for those leveraging or moving toward Policy Governance.

Resonance Room sessions:

- Messaging for Different Topics (Regency Ballroom, 10-11 a.m.), Deirdra Williams, ASCA Director of Programs and Advocacy. When it comes to advocacy, how you say it matters just as much as what you say. This session focuses on building strong, flexible messages tailored to different advocacy topics—whether you're tackling mental health, staffing ratios, curriculum access, or legislative threats. Learn how to craft core messages that can be adapted for various stakeholders, from policymakers to parents. We'll unpack real examples, walk through a messaging map you can use right away, and show how to keep your advocacy focused, clear, and ready to respond in any climate.
- Partnering with Legislators and Education Allies for Stronger Advocacy (Regency Ballroom, 11 a.m.-12p.m.), Deirdra Williams, ASCA Director of Programs and Advocacy & Amanda Fitzgerald, ASCA Assistant Deputy Executive Director. Building lasting relationships with legislators is key to effective advocacy—and you don't have to do it alone. This session will show you how to connect with lawmakers by teaming up with other education associations, creating collaborative campaigns, and speaking with one powerful, unified voice. We'll share practical tips on coalition-building, coordinating advocacy efforts, and maintaining ongoing dialogue that keeps your issues top of mind. Join us to learn how to turn connections into influence and amplify your advocacy impact through partnerships.

Leadership Loft session:

- Break Down Walls (Seaview B, 10-10:30 a.m.), Leisl Moriarty, ASCA Director of Affiliate Relations & Qisti Gitosuputro, ASCA Member Engagement Coordinator. Leadership that honors varied backgrounds, diverse perspective and cultural differences requires more than good intentions—it needs clear policies to guide behavior and interactions. This session focuses on how setting intentional policies can provide guardrails that support inclusive, respectful environments. Discover how leaders can use policy as a tool to bridge divides, foster understanding, and create a culture where all voices contribute safely and effectively.
- Navigating Disruption with Clarity and Calm (Seaview B, 10:45-11:30 a.m.), Leisl Moriarty, ASCA Director of Affiliate Relations. When unexpected challenges arise, how you lead matters. This session explores practical strategies for managing disruption with focus, transparency, and resilience. Learn how to stay grounded, support your team, and make thoughtful decisions—even when the path forward isn't clear.
- Smart Member Marketing (Seaview B, 11:30a.m.–12 p.m.), Angie Hickman, ASCA Director of Research and Marketing & Leisl Moriarty, ASCA Director of Affiliate Relations. How an environment scan—gathering intelligence on membership organizations, associations or for-profit competitors—can better position you for success. Participate in an exercise to research details on a competing or similarly sized association or for-profit competitor and compare your benefits and offerings.



Engine Room sessions:

Create Thriving Online Community Engagement (Seaview C, 10-11:15 a.m.), Amanda Lea Kaiser. Got lurkers? A lot of lurkers? Does it feel like there are too many lurkers, not enough participation, and few substantive conversations in your online community? Together, we will figure out how to raise the energy in your community so your members can get the conversation started – many conversations started.
 Join us and learn simple but powerful strategic processes you can implement immediately or take action with your colleagues. You'll start to map out the member culture that benefits your unique community. And you'll leave with a

handful of ways to prime members to participate. Turn your lurkers into active, engaged, energetic participants.

Breakthrough Room sessions:

- Pinnacle Finalists Highlight (Regency F, 10-11 a.m.) Meet the 2025 Pinnacle Finalists and engage directly with the leaders behind four powerful, high-impact initiatives. Ask your questions and learn from the Iowa School Counselor Association about empowering members through legal protection and grassroots advocacy. Hear how the Oklahoma School Counselor Association addressed counselor shortages by reviving and expanding the SEAL training program. Explore how the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association restructured its leadership through policy governance for long-term sustainability. Discover how the Wisconsin School Counselor Association built a tiered ASCA Model training system to strengthen programs statewide. Bring your curiosity, these award finalists are ready to share what worked, what they learned, and how you can replicate in your state/territory.
- Member Communities (Regency F, 11-11:30 a.m.), Qisti Gitosuputro, ASCA Member Engagement Coordinator. Explore how member communities—such as Affinity Groups, SPIGs, and Emerging Leaders—can create connection and belonging. This roundtable invites discussion on launching, supporting, and sustaining these groups to engage members more deeply and build leadership from within.
- Re-engaging Discussion (Regency F, 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.), Reconnection takes intention. Join this roundtable to explore how to re-engage members, volunteers, and board leaders in meaningful ways. With dedicated discussion tables for each group, participants will share strategies, challenges, and fresh ideas for reigniting commitment, rebuilding relationships, and creating momentum across all levels of involvement.

12:45–2 p.m. Elevated Discussions

- **Overlook Seeing the big picture in governance** 12:45–2 P.M. The Accountability Loop
- Resonance Room Advocacy that carries far and wide 12:45–2 P.M. Creating Your Advocacy Plan
- **Leadership Loft A space for high-level leadership thinking** 12:45–2 P.M. Build a Better Leadership Exit Strategy
- Engine Room Powering success with strategic operations 12:45–1:15 P.M. Leverage ASCA Updates and Media 1:15–2 P.M. Timelines and Templates
- Breakthrough Room Unlocking next-level innovation 1:15–2 P.M. Speaker Brainstorm

The Wisdom Well – Drawing from deep insights



Afternoon Elevated Discussions (Detailed descriptions)

Overlook sessions:

• The Accountability Loop (Seaview A, 12:45–2p.m.), Stacy Sjogren, Out of the Woods Consulting. Govern with your members in mind—literally. Boards don't govern for themselves—they govern on behalf of their members. But fulfilling that obligation is more than good customer service. It means intentional, meaningful connections that inform governance decisions.

In this session, you'll explore what member linkage really looks like, how it differs from everyday engagement, and how to apply the listen–convert–report back cycle in practice. You'll leave with the foundation of a two-year linkage plan tailored to your board's unique context. While concepts of Policy Governance are central to this session, boards not using that approach to governing will learn plenty of useful information. Recommended for any Governance Structure.

Resonance Room sessions:

• Creating Your Advocacy Plan (Regency Ballroom, 12:45–2p.m.), Deirdra Williams, ASCA Director of Programs and Advocacy. Building lasting relationships with legislators is key to effective advocacy—and you don't have to do it alone. This session will show you how to connect with lawmakers by teaming up with other education associations, creating collaborative campaigns, and speaking with one powerful, unified voice. We'll share practical tips on coalition-building, coordinating advocacy efforts, and maintaining ongoing dialogue that keeps your issues top of mind. Join us to learn how to turn connections into influence and amplify your advocacy impact through partnerships.

Leadership Loft session:

• Build a Better Leadership Exit Strategy (Seaview B, 12:45–2p.m.), Leisl Moriarty, ASCA Director of Affiliate Relations. Ever taken on a leadership role and felt like you were flying blind? This session focuses on closing that gap. We'll talk checklists, file organization, account logins, simple succession tools, and how to build a baton-passing routine that's clear and repeatable. Perfect for current or outgoing board members and operational volunteers looking to leave their role stronger than they found it.

Engine Room sessions:

- Leverage ASCA Updates and Media (Seaview C, 12:45–1:15 p.m.), Kayla Shelton, ASCA Marketing and Communications Coordinator. Looking to elevate your messaging while saving time? Learn how to amplify your division's voice by aligning your social media and outreach efforts with ASCA's updates, campaigns and media content. This session will highlight simple strategies to promote national initiatives, support ASCA's mission and encourage membership, while building a consistent, professional presence that resonates with your audience.
- Timelines and Templates (Seaview C, 12:45–1:15p.m.) Running an effective division takes more than good intentions—it takes good planning and the right tools. Plan to share practical timelines and customizable templates to support key functions like board operations, elections, events, and consistent marketing and messaging throughout the year. Whether you're new to leadership, building your first annual calendar, or refining existing systems, you'll leave with resources to help your team stay organized, proactive, and member-focused all year long.

Breakthrough Room sessions:

• Strategic Listening: How the ASCA Board Engages Members, ASCA Board of Directors. Join members of the ASCA' Board of Directors for a conversation on how they gather input from members to inform strategic priorities and decision-making. Learn how the board uses member feedback to guide its work, uphold ENDS policies, and ensure alignment with the evolving needs of the school counseling profession.



The forum for school counseling association leadership

• Speaker Brainstorm (Regency F, 1:15–2p.m.), Janae Douglas, ASCA Education and Training Coordinator & Jen Walsh, Director of Education and Training. Join this collaborative discussion to share and explore ideas for finding impactful speakers for conferences, webinars, and smaller professional development events. We'll brainstorm how to identify local voices, elevate emerging leaders, and ensure a range of perspectives across topics and formats. Participants will also learn how to leverage ASCA's speaker resources to support planning and reduce costs. Come ready to exchange ideas, challenges, and favorite finds.

2–2:15 p.m. Break

2:15–3 p.m. The Art and Science of School Counseling: Unlocking Student Success with the ASCA National Model, Carmen Larson, 2025 School Counselor of the Year. School counseling has transformed from its guidance roots to a profession driven by data and purpose and defined by the ASCA National Model. In an ever-evolving educational landscape, school counselors remain champions of student success, fostering academic achievement, personal growth and future readiness. The ASCA National Model®—a framework rooted in equity, advocacy and systemic change—offers school counselors the tools to create impactful programs that touch every student's life. This keynote will illuminate the transformative power of the ASCA National Model®, exploring how it serves as both an evidence-based science and an art in addressing the holistic needs of students.

3–4:15 p.m. SCA Working Session

Leisl Moriarty, ASCA Director of Affiliate Relations Deirdra Williams, ASCA Director of Programs and Advocacy Stacy Sjogren, Out of the Woods Consulting Sherry Jennings, Sound Governance

Use this time individually or as a team to review your notes and major takeaways from the last two days. What needs further exploration? Would it be valuable to connect with another state/territory to learn more? Who needs to be part of the next conversations to get a new idea off the ground? ASCA staff and consultants will be available for questions on services provided and to support inquiry around key association topics.

4:15-4:30 p.m. Break & Delegate Sign-in

4:30–6 p.m. ASCA Business Meeting