

NJ/EPA TRA EMAIL BLAST

2008 Fall Edition

October 28-29 – Princeton, NJ

New Jersey Hospital Association Conference Center

Conference Information

- **Call for Papers**
- **Auction Donations**

Volunteer Opportunities

Scholarship/Grant Information

- **Leadership Grant**
- **NJ/EPA TRA 2008 Fall Conference Scholarships**
Fall Conference Scholarships
- **Professional Scholarship for NJ/EPA TRA 2008 Fall Conference** **Link to Professional Scholarship**

Student Scholarship for NJ/EPA TRA 2008 Fall Conference **Link to Student Scholarships**

Upcoming NJ/EPA TRA Elections

- Nominate yourself or someone you know for a NJ/EPA TRA Board position – professional and personal benefits are endless

Ballots will be mailed shortly, see www.njepa-tra.com for more information

2008 ATRA Annual Conference

- **What ? 2008 ATRA Annual Conference Leading the Way**
- **Where ? Reno, NV**
- **When ? September 29 - October 3, 2008**

Link to ATRA Continuing Education & Conference Information



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What is the Buzz all about? Purpose, Commitment and Teamwork

*By: Suzanne DeMauro, CTRS
Professional Scholarship Winner ~ Fall Conference 2007*

Have you ever seen just one bee buzzing around a hive? Chances are, you have not. These insects work together to produce a delicious treat...HONEY! This sweet treat certainly does not produce itself. Each busy bee does its part to get the job done. So why am I talking about bees? This simple example, which we learned as children, is the foundation and key ingredients that define our professional responsibility in the field of Therapeutic Recreation; **Purpose, Commitment and Teamwork.**

Our **Purpose** as Therapeutic Recreation professionals is to focus on psycho-social well being, adaptable leisure opportunities and sensory experiences. We do this by having a positive attitude and offering beneficial experiences. We are the “Fun Folks” that everyone wants to be around! I think we can all agree that making a difference in the lives of others is what we live for. No matter how big or small the progress or even if we are simply assisting in maintaining comfort and wellbeing, we know our efforts are worthwhile and rewarding. Take the time to educate those who are not Therapeutic Recreation professionals. Offer an in-service at your place of employment, seek program ideas from your co-workers and celebrate National Therapeutic Recreation Week. Be proud of who you are and what you do! How we practice what we preach promotes and supports the services we provide. If we do not support each other, who will?

We would not be in the field of Therapeutic Recreation if we did not have passion for what we do. Our **Commitment** is proven day in and day out. I often hear that it takes a certain kind of person to be a Therapeutic Recreation professional. I agree! It definitely is not easy taking care of other peoples loved ones. As part of our commitment we must further educate ourselves. If you have never attended the Fall Conference, come for one day or both, and experience the “Buzz” of being around others who make a difference in the lives of others, just as you do! Meet other Therapeutic Recreation professionals, assist in the conference process, and support your local organization.

Teamwork is vital working in healthcare. We work with many disciplines to help meet the needs of our clients, residents and patients. We work toward meeting goals and essentially providing the best quality of life for the individual. We have all heard the saying that “Membership Has its Privileges.” The NJ/EPA Therapeutic Recreation Association offers us fabulous opportunities to educate ourselves, network with other professionals and be a part of a family much bigger than at our places of employment. As an ATRA affiliate, NJ/EPA Therapeutic Recreation Association keeps us in the loop with Therapeutic Recreation issues and concerns on the local and national level.

During the past several years, I have been dedicated to getting involved and giving back to the Therapeutic Recreation profession. I am proud to say that this is my 6th year as a member of NJ/EPA Therapeutic Recreation Association and conference attendee for this fine organization. I am honored that I have been given the opportunity to grow professionally within the NJ/EPA Therapeutic association. This will be my 4th year as the volunteer coordinator for the annual fall conference. This experience has given me an opportunity to work with students who are excited about joining us as professionals. I have also had two exceptional interns under my supervision from Kean University. By supervising these students, it gave me an opportunity to step back and re-evaluate my purpose and place in healthcare today. The students may have thought they were learning from my experiences, but their energy and desire to make a difference in the lives of others was refreshing and encouraging. Both of these Kean University graduates are now proud professionals and I am honored to have worked with them.

Are you committed to the field of Therapeutic Recreation? Are you fulfilling your purpose? Are you a member of this fabulous team? Like the lesson we learned as children about the bees, we need to go back to the basics. There is no “I” in team, so be there for your fellow Therapeutic Recreation professionals, because it means supporting yourself! Get involved and know that your purpose and commitment to our profession stands out when you have the help of a team behind you. We all are busy with our work and home lives and wish there was a 30 hour day, but together, things happen! Give back to our profession that we are so proud to be a part of. Whether you are the Queen Bee or a Worker Bee.....we all make the Honey! That’s what the Buzz is all about!