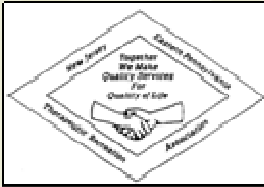


December '10/January '11

NJ/EPA-TRA NEWS

New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Association



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NJ/EPA TRA Members and Friends,

It's hard to believe that the holidays have come and gone already. I hope that each of you had a restful and peaceful season. During these cold, dreary days of winter, many of us reflect on the previous year and also develop our goals for the upcoming one. That's very similar to what happens within a professional organization, especially since this is our time of transition. We say a heartfelt "thank you" to outgoing BOD members (NJ Member at Large - Suzanne DeMauro, and Past President - Erin Moore), and issue a warm welcome to our incoming members (President Elect - Kim Grandal and Treasurer - Jen Honeyford). Of course, we also want to note the transition of Heather Burket to Past President. Thank you, Heather, for keeping the BOD focused on the needs of the membership this past year.

Now that the transition of BOD members has been completed, it's time to delve into the responses from the 2010 Membership Survey and see what you had to say regarding what is important, what you like, and what you feel that we need to do better. We had 133 members respond to the survey for an amazing 84% response rate. Thank you so much for taking the time to complete the survey! Your feedback will be the basis for our strategic plan and guide our actions for the upcoming year. (There will be more on this in the next newsletter.) I am excited about the possibilities before us and am honored that I have been given the opportunity to help guide our organization forward. Take care and stay safe.

Sincerely,
Anne Richard, MS, LRT/CTRS
2011 NJ/EPA TRA President

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2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS INTRODUCTIONS



President
Anne Richard, M.S., LRT/CTRS
anne.richard@genesishcc.com

Anne is currently a regional Therapeutic Recreation Consultant for Genesis Healthcare, providing consultative and educational support to skilled nursing and assisted living communities in NJ and Eastern PA. She is also a member of the Quality of Life Executive Council and serves on the board of directors for CARTE. During her 20+ years in practice, she has worked in both management and therapist roles in the fields of Psychiatry and LTC.



President-Elect
Kimberly Grandal, CTRS, ACC/EDU
kimgrandal@aol.com

Kimberly, Founder and Executive Director of Re-Creative Resources, Inc., is a strong advocate for the field of Therapeutic Recreation and Activities, with over 18 years of experience in various management and consultant positions. She is an ACC/EDU, a CTRS and a member of NJAPA, NJ/EPA TRA, and NAAP. She serves as the Legislative Chair for NJAPA, and is a Government Liaison for NCCAP and COAP. She is a recipient of the Kessler Institute of Rehabilitation 1997 Triumph of the Human Spirit Award and the NJAPA 2008 Power Player of the Year. Kim founded Re-Creative Resources Inc. in 2006 and provides seminars for various local, state and national associations. She also offers lectures for Re-Creative Resources Inc. and provides online webinars. In addition, Kim provides consultation and support to numerous facilities in the state and nationwide and writes for numerous online sources.



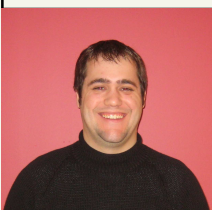
Secretary*
Julia Fries, Ed M, CTRS
julsie11@yahoo.com

Julia graduated from Temple with a master's degree in Therapeutic Recreation in January 2007 and has been certified for 4+ years now. She has worked with varying populations including brain injury rehab, long-term care, adult day programming, and briefly in pediatrics. Currently, she works with veterans at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center.



Treasurer
Jennifer Honeyford, CTRS
jhoneyford@pphfamily.org

Jennifer is the Director of Recreation Therapy at The Philadelphia Protestant Home, and has been for 13 years since she graduated from Slippery Rock University. They have a good relationship with Temple & has had several of Temple students complete internships with them. (Which is how she became nominated to the BOD by Rhonda Nelson).



PA Member at Large**
Evan Barker, CTRS
ebarker@gsrh.org

Evan graduated from Temple University in May 2009 with a Bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation. While a student at Temple University, Evan was the recipient of the PTRS Bill Dayton Memorial Award and participated in Internships at KidsPeace in Orefield, PA and at the Good Shepherd Raker Center in Allentown, PA. While a student, Evan also presented at the 2007 and 2008 NJ-EPA TRA fall conferences. Following graduation Evan began a job at The Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital Pediatric Unit, which opened this July. Evan has worked with Long Term Care and Pediatric Populations and is interested in becoming more involved within our profession and enhancing the quality and notoriety of Recreation Therapists across the state of Pennsylvania while serving his second year on the NJ/EPA TRA Board as PA Member-at-Large.



Past President
Heather Burket, CTRS, CCLS
hkaten@gmail.com

Heather is a graduate of Temple University's Masters Program, Class of 2007. She is currently employed as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation and Child Life Specialist within the Child Life, Education, and Creative Arts Therapy department at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where she works on a critical care step-down unit with technology dependant infants, youth, and adults. Heather has been an active member of the New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Association (NJ/EPA TRA) since 2004, when she served as a Fall Conference Student Scholarship Recipient. As a student, Heather was also the recipient of the 2005 Mideastern Symposium Student work grant and 2005 ATRA Peg Connolly Scholarship. In 2008, Heather served as the Membership Chair for NJ/EPA TRA. Heather completed a year of presidency in 2010 for NJ/EPA TRA and is now entering her last year in term as Past-President.



FALL CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

On November 8 and 9, NJ/EPA TRA had its Annual Fall Conference at NJHA in Princeton, NJ. We had 150 attendees on Monday and 121 attendees on Tuesday; an outstanding turnout for this great educational opportunity. We have completed a preliminary review of the evaluations and a few things are evident:



- ✓ You would like to have the conference details available sooner.
- ✓ You would like all speakers to have an adequate number of handouts.
- ✓ You would like to be able to change sessions within the first 10-15 minutes of a session, if you find that the session doesn't meet your needs.
- ✓ You would like to have Norma Stumbo back next year.
- ✓ You would like to be able to use PayPal as a payment option for registration.



We will definitely work on these for next year! Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your feedback.



Photos from Conference Social at *Chilis!*



Mark your calendar!
 Next year's NJ/EPA TRA conference is scheduled for November 14-15, 2011 at the NJHA Conference Center in Princeton, NJ. We hope to see you there!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our final membership count for 2010 was 163 members. This is in the same ballpark as our final numbers for previous years. In 2009, we had 160 members and in 2008, we had 170. We are expecting the renewal letters to be mailed within the next couple of weeks, so if you haven't already received yours, please be on the lookout for it.

Over the upcoming year the BOD would like to address the confusion related to the membership renewals that occurs around conference time. This organization exists to support the members, so achieving some clarity around this process is vital to us.

Please consider renewing your NJ/EPA TRA membership for the 2011 year. There are many benefits to membership including e-mail blasts, reduced registration fees for conferences and workshops, scholarships for conferences, networking, job announcements and more! Renewal reminders are in the mail. If you receive a renewal letter and have already renewed your membership for the 2011 year please disregard it. You can also print out a membership application at:

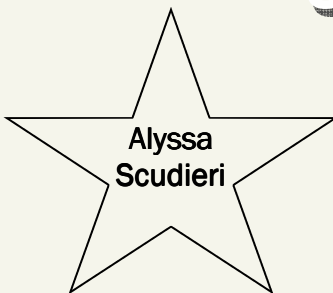
<http://www.njepa-tra.com/membership.htm>

If you have any questions about membership or have had any changes such as an address, e-mail, or phone number change please contact Patrick Cahill at Cahill0829@aol.com so you can continue to receive all of your membership benefits. Thank you for your continued support of your ATRA Affiliate!

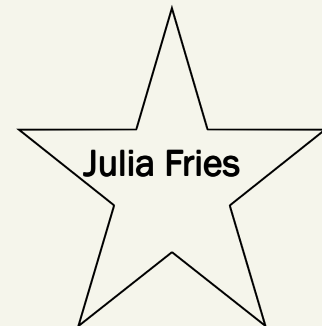
NJ/EPA TRA would like to thank the following members for either joining NJ/EPA TRA or renewing their membership from September 2010 -January 2011 for the 2010 Calendar Year

J. Clark Burke Jr.	Jennifer Honeyford	Kaylee McGuire	Marlene Rivera	Lisa Tran
Patrick Cahill	Sarah Humes (Telthorster)	Lynda Mitchell	Jennifer Sciolla	Karin Tsantilis
Rachel Cohen	Sherry Hurwitz	Nicole Moffatt	Lara Smith	Erinn Vassallo
Aurora Crew	Jae Young Lee	Any Mullin	Laura M. Smith	Kathy A. Wang
Kathy Entwisle	Krista Loudon	Jennette Ogonowski	Carly Solis-Cohen	Diane Williams
Debbie Gaumer	Elizabeth Louie	Jane Pritsker	Margaret Temple	Randall Wilson
Debbie Hommel	Virginia Maciocha	Anne Richard	Lucy Tomczynski	

Congratulations!



Will be marrying Nicholas Giacobe on
November 11, 2011.



Is pregnant and will be having her
baby this summer!

Are you celebrating an exciting milestone in your life that you would like to share with your colleagues? (i.e. engagement, marriage, new baby, graduation, new job, etc) NJ/EPA TRA would be glad to acknowledge your personal and professional achievements by posting a congratulatory message within our next E-newsletter. Please e-mail Kaylee McGuire at kem3058@yahoo.com.



VACANT BOARD OF
DIRECTOR POSITIONS

We are searching for a member who is interested in learning about our **Secretary** position. This person may begin shadowing our current Secretary and take over for her in the spring since she will need to exit her position by then. This will be a 6-9 month commitment as the current secretary's term ends this fall.

The duties/responsibilities for this position include:

- Maintains all official records of the affiliate.
 - Records minutes for Board meetings and membership meetings and distributes to the board.
 - Does general correspondence for the affiliate as needed.
 - Attends all scheduled board meetings and membership meetings.
 - Contributes to discussions and deliberations on all affiliate business issues. Submits articles/information to the e-mail blasts as assigned.
-

We are also searching for a member interested in learning about our vacant **NJ Member at Large** position. This is a 2 year term that started in November 2010 and the individual must reside in NJ.

The duties/responsibilities for this position include:

- Serves as liaison for members who live in NJ.
 - Monitors relevant legislative issues and participates in State Public Policy initiatives.
 - Represents chapter through involvement in ATRA Membership calls.
 - Attends all scheduled board meetings and membership meetings.
 - Contributes to discussions and deliberations on all affiliate business issues. Submits articles/information to the e-mail blasts and newsletters as assigned.
-

We are still interested in learning who has **website editing skills** in our membership and might be willing to maintain our website for us (small stipend available). Any interested candidates may also contact **Heather** at hkaten@gmail.com

E-mail Heather at hkaten@gmail.com with questions, to learn more about these roles and responsibilities, as well as time commitments.

We need your help!

As an all-volunteer organization, our members are so important to the growth of our affiliate. Please take a moment to look at the variety of ways you can be involved in NJ/EPA TRA. Acting as a committee taskforce volunteer requires a minimal time commitment. Some initiatives require more devotion than others, and offering your services on an as needed/as able basis is completely acceptable! We challenge each of you to pick a committee on this list that you may be interested in learning more about and send an e-mail to the Committee chairman offering your services to the extent your schedule will allow. Leave the door open to the possibilities involvement may provide for your professional growth and development.

Networking, Advocacy and Outreach

Working as a Recreation Therapist is often a one man/woman show, therefore NJEPA TRA would like to provide support in organizing socials and networking opportunities. The purpose of the Networking, Advocacy and Outreach committee is to plan events designed as either opportunity for individuals to meet other members to create rapport within the Chapter or to provide advocacy and outreach within communities of professionals and students with similar interests. The 2011 Board Liaison for the NAO committee is Kim Grandal CTRS, ACC/EDU. The following individuals have graciously agreed to coordinating these fabulous networking opportunities:

TR Week Baseball Social: Marlene Rivera, CTRS (Trenton, NJ- Central)

Annual Conference Social: Jen Wheeler, CTRS (Princeton, NJ- Central)

Northern NJ Social: Suzanne DeMauro (Northern NJ)

Philadelphia Metro Social: Karin Tsantalis, CTRS (Philadelphia Metro)

Lehigh Valley Social: Evan Barker, CTRS (Lehigh area)

Discount on NJ Nets Tickets: David Boyle, CTRS (Northern NJ) Contact David directly if you would like to purchase discounted NJ Nets Tickets at 201-390-9321

Please stay tuned for details regarding these events. Networking is one of the best things you can do for yourself as a professional for it may open new doors, provide support, and rejuvenate your professional spirit. If you'd like to get involved in helping to coordinate, advertise, or contribute to these socials or others, please contact Kim Grandal at kimgrandal@aol.com.

Membership

Patrick Cahill, CTRS is serving as the 2011 Membership Committee Chairman. The membership committee is a standing committee that exists to support and enhance both continuing and new members by ensuring that each member is aware of the resources available to them through their NJ/EPA TRA membership. Committee assistance might include helping with renewal mailings, sending cards/ letters of membership, recruiting members, creating a Membership Directory, and/or updating contact information of current members. If interested in helping, please contact Patrick at cahill0829@aol.com.



COMMITTEE UPDATES CONTINUED

Education

Our 2011 Committee Chair is currently vacant. If you are interested in fulfilling this role please contact Heather Burket at hkatengmail.com. The Education Committee is a standing committee established to plan and implement the educational components of the Association's annual conference and workshops. Committee taskforce members are needed to assist with development of program, theme, and to help find speakers; brochure development; mailings; organize conference volunteers; assist with registration; receive scholarship applications; assist with CEU distribution/collection; act as Historian-take pictures, document conference; assist with administration: badges, signs, display table set up, etc; Vendors and resources; and sent thank you letters. You may contact BOD Liason, Heather Burket, at hkatengmail.com with interest in volunteering on this Committee.

Legislation

Evan Barker, CTRS is our 2011 PA Member at Large and currently serves as our Legislation Committee Chair. The purpose of this standing committee is to identify trends and make forecasts of emerging issues, knowledge, and information that have the potential to significantly impact NJ/EPA TRA and the practice of Therapeutic Recreation in NJ and PA and to report those trends and forecasts to the NJ/EPA TRA Board and membership. This committee is are looking for members who are willing to help with the tasks related to legislation in our jurisdiction as they arise, including sending out legislative related mailings, writing letters to Congress, or receiving education from the BOD or ATRA to run a local legislative writing workshop for members in your area. Please contact **Evan** at ebarker@gsrh.org with interest in learning more about this committee's initiatives.

Communications

Kaylee McGuire, CTRS is our 2011 Committee Chairman and Colleen Worth, CTRS handles our Website maintenance. The Communication Committee is a standing committee that was established to determine content, edit, and assist in the production of our E-mail News Blasts and E-newsletters for the membership of the Association. Our Webmaster ensures that the Website provides resources, information and communications networks for NJ/EPA TRA membership and their colleagues. Committee members are needed to help with duties related to communications, mass emails, website development, job and internship posting, and mailings. We are searching for a volunteer *Internship Directory Coordinator*. We are still interested in learning who has **website editing skills** in our membership and might be willing to maintain our website for us (small stipend available). Any interested candidates may also contact **Heather** at hkatengmail.com. Contact **Kaylee** at kem3058@yahoo.com if you are interested in serving as needed on this committee.

Fundraising

Our 2011 Committee Chair is Marlene Rivera, CTRS. The fundraising committee is most well known for their involvement in organizing our Annual Fall Conference Silent Auction, however we are looking to expand this special committee in order to research, identify, and obtain funding sources to support the goals of the Association. In past years, funds from the Silent Auction have gone toward earning money for the ATRA Medicare Project and other Legislative initiatives. If you have any great fundraising ideas or would like to serve as a member on this committee, please email the **Marlene** at marlene.ctrsgmail.com.

**COMMITTEE
UPDATES CONTINUED****Nominations**

Our 2011 Committee Chairman is Heather Burket, Ed.M., CTRS, CCLS. The Nominations Committee is a standing committee, run by our Past-President as described in Article VI, Section I of the NJ/EPA TRA Chapter Affiliate by-laws. According to our By-laws, Heather may select up to three professional members of the Chapter Affiliate Organization from various geographical areas in the state to serve as members of the committee. The committee shall conduct the nomination and election of officers in accordance with Article VI, sections 2 and 3 of the NJ/EPA TRA By-laws and Roberts Rules of Order, Revised. We are looking for interested volunteers who would be willing to solicit input from the membership regarding potential leaders, assess members' interest in serving in leadership positions, assure that those nominated or voicing interests in serving are qualified to serve, and make recommendations to the Board in order to expedite the elections process. If you have an interest in serving your profession as a member of the NJ/EPA TRA Board of Directors, or know someone that you would like to recognize for their passion for the profession by nominating them for a position on the Board of Directors for a future term, please e-mail **Heather** at hkaten@gmail.com.

Past Board of Directors Council

This special committee has been established so that the current Board may build upon the strengths of prior Board teams. This committee will be responsible for coming together for discussion and providing the current Board with feedback about the best practices of their individual team's service during their time on the Board, or best practices of other Chapter Affiliate organizations, which they would like to see NJ/EPA TRA focus on in the future. A second initiative of this committee would be to start a NJ/EPA TRA Awards Program. The Chairman or another designated representative would be welcomed to listen in on the Conference Calls of the current Board of Directors to provide wisdom and experience as an unofficial Financial Auditor and Parliamentarian. This committee shall be capped at 5 members per year and shall be representative of multiple years of service teams. If you have an interest on serving on this committee and have served as a past NJ/EPA TRA Board of Director, please e-mail the BOD Liaison, **Anne Richard**, M.S., LRT/CTRS, at anne.richard@genesishcc.com.

**Please find some way to be involved in NJ/EPA. Nothing is too small to be of assistance!
As always, feel free to contact a member of the Board if you have any questions or would like
to discuss this more.**



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Continuing Education for Recreation Therapists & Activity Leaders

Available at the following locations:

Somerset Gardens Assisted Living in Plainview, Long Island

Cedar Manor in Ossining, NY

Nassau Extended Care Center in Hempstead, NY

Sheepshead Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Brooklyn, NY

Morris Hall in Lawrenceville, NJ

(Session details on flyer available online)

<http://www.metro-recreation.com/2010MetroWebsiteEd&TrRobinWexler2011flyer.pdf>

Continuing Education opportunities through the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners

Variety of opportunities; details available through link below

<http://www.nccdp.org/nccdpnewsletter28.htm>

Program Planning for Therapeutic Recreation through ACES at the University of Florida

Online course for CEU's (Not available for college credit)

Robert M. Beland, PhD; rbeland@hnp.ufl.edu

<https://aces.dce.ufl.edu/Courses/Course.aspx?cld=101>

ATRA Mid-Year Professional Issues Forum

@ Providence Biltmore in Providence, Rhode Island

March 6-8, 2011 | Providence, Rhode Island

<http://www.atra-online.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=46>

ATRA 2011 Teleconference Series

2011 calendar has been posted on the ATRA website

Upcoming Webinars:

1/28/11 MDS

2/16/11 State Licensure

2/17/11 Certification (for students)...only \$25 for Universities

2/18/11 Accreditation Guidelines/Standards

2/25/11 Coverage

<http://www.atra-online.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=8>

New York State Therapeutic Recreation Association's 15th Annual Conference

@ Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, NY

March 25th-29th, 2011

<http://www.nystra.org/conference.htm>

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

Mideastern Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation

@ Clarion Resort, Fontainebleau Hotel, Ocean City, MD

May 22-24, 2011

<http://mideastsymposium.com/>

Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society 43rd Annual

Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Institute

@ Harrisburg/ Hershey Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA

June 8-11, 2011

<http://www.ptrs.org/conference.htm>

ATRA Annual Conference

Indianapolis, IN

September 18-21, 2011

<http://atra-online.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=5>

New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Association 14th Annual Fall Conference

@ New Jersey Hospital Association Conference Center in Princeton, NJ

November 14-15th, 2011

<http://www.njepa-tra.com/continuingeducation.htm>

ATRA Annuals in Therapeutic Recreation

ATRA Annuals are collections of research articles and post-tests. These are available for CEU credit up to five years after publication. Members may view electronic versions as membership benefit.

<http://atra-online.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=5>

Please visit our website at <http://www.njepa-tra.com/continuingeducation.htm>
for other local CEU opportunities.

Would you like to advertise another Educational Opportunity that you know of on our website or within our E-newsletter? Please share your information with our Communication Committee Chairman, Kaylee McGuire at Kem3058@yahoo.com.

**AWARD/SCHOLARSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**

ATRA Peg Connolly Student Scholarship-The American Therapeutic Recreation Association is excited to provide the opportunity for ATRA Student members to receive the Peg Connolly Scholarship. Named in honor of Dr. Peg Connolly, former Executive Director of the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification, this program provides tremendous personal and professional benefits and rewards. Not only do students gain professional knowledge from sessions, students have the opportunity to network with professionals from around the country. ATRA believes the future of our field depends on the continuing growth of students. Today, many former scholarship recipients prove this belief by serving vital roles within our profession. Eight stipends are available to attend [ATRA's Annual Conference](#), including conference registration, accommodations, and a meal stipend (\$100). Students are responsible for transportation to/from the conference. This scholarship is a "working scholarship". Students assist in various aspects of implementing the conference such as room hosting, registration and monitoring social events. This scholarship is available to undergraduate and graduate members of ATRA who will be enrolled in a therapeutic recreation program during the conference year. You must be able to attend a mandatory training on September 17, 2011, as well as the ATRA Annual Conference from September 18 - 21, 2011. **Applications** are due **March 25, 2011** electronically. For questions please contact ATRA representative Heather Sedletzeck at heatherctr@bizma.rr.com.

Mideastern Symposium Student Scholarship- The Mid-Eastern Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation provides an opportunity for one full-time undergraduate or graduate student studying therapeutic recreation in college/university programs to attend the Symposium with a scholarship that entitles the chosen scholar to free registration and hotel accommodations at double occupancy rate. The scholarship recipient is expected to provide and pay for his or her own transportation. By attending such an experience, it is hoped that the student will gain a broader perspective of therapeutic recreation, trends, issues and state of the art practice. It is expected that the student will share his or her experience with fellow students, colleagues and professors, help at the Mid-Eastern Symposium held on May 22-24, 2011 in Ocean City, Maryland and act as an ad-hoc member of the Board of Directors the year following the conference attended. Scholarship Applications must be received by **April 3, 2011**. Please visit the Mideastern Symposium website at <http://mideastsymposium.com/student scholarship.htm> to review eligibility and to download a scholarship application. Contact Mideastern Symposium Representative Tia Sanker at tuananker@hotmail.com with questions.

PTRS William P. Dayton Memorial Student Scholarship Award- This scholarship provides a Full-time student in TR, complete registration to the Annual Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Institute. The Registration covers room, meals, and educational sessions. The scholarship is supported by a special memorial fund established in William P. Dayton's honor due to his significant contributions to PTRS and the overall recreation and parks

PTRS Edward W. Moyer Memorial Professional Scholarship Award- This scholarship provides a Certified Professional under PRPS, NCTRC, or NCCAP, complete registration to the Annual Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Institute. The registration covers educational sessions, room and meals. The scholarship is supported by a special memorial fund established in Edward W. Moyer's honor due to his dedication to furthering the Therapeutic Recreation profession. . Application deadline has not been listed yet so please keep checking the PTRS website for the updated information. <http://www.pters.org/awards.htm>.

ATRA Linda Levine-Madori Scholarship- This scholarship provides financial support to TR students or professionals who wish to attend this year's Annual ATRA 2011 conference. Applicants must be an ATRA member in good standing and a single parent. The Linda Levine-Madori Scholarship is sponsored in full by Linda Levine-Madori. Individuals will be chosen based on their current involvement in either their educational or professional pursuits within the field. All applications and personal statements will be considered and must be submitted by **June 1, 2011**. For questions about the nomination process or to request an application, please contact ATRA representative Carolee Rodrigo at carolee.rodrigo@yahoo.com.

**AWARD/SCHOLARSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
CONTINUED**

ATRA Awards Program- It's time to recognize those outstanding individuals and organizations who have supported our profession! The ATRA Awards Program is comprised of eleven awards, plus the Peg Connolly and Linda Levine-Madori Scholarships, open to all ATRA members in good standing:

- I. Distinguished Fellow
- II. Outstanding Professional
- III. Member of the Year
- IV. Individual Citation
- V. Organization/Institution Citation
- VI. Certificate of Recognition
- VII. Frank N. Brasile Clinician of the Year
- VIII. Excellence in Education
- IX. Scholarly Achievement
- X. Chapter Affiliate of the Year
- XI. Advocacy

Please visit the ATRA website at <http://atra-online.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=47> to review awards criteria before submitting your nomination. Awards will be presented at the Annual Conference in Indianapolis, IN. Submit nominations or questions about the nomination process to ATRA representative Carolee Rodrigo at carolee.rodriigo@yahoo.com.

NJ/EPA TRA Professional and Student Scholarships- NJ/EPA-TRA offers two student scholarships and one professional scholarship to attend our Annual Fall Conference. Recipients of these conference grants will be entitled to free registration and partial hotel accommodation at the 14th Annual conference at the NJ Hospital Association Conference Center in Princeton, NJ. This registration includes more than an opportunity to observe quality educational sessions. It also includes unique networking opportunities with professionals in the field, conference/educational materials, parking, meals and snacks. These scholarships are "working scholarships". Volunteer duties may include serving as a room host/CEU monitor, assisting with registration or performing other conference duties. Student grantees will be expected to serve on the NJ/EPA TRA Board for one year as student ad hoc member, choosing to either assist in a committee role or to highlight your conference experience by submitting a brief e-mail blast article sharing your experience and how you have benefited from attendance and involvement within NJ/EPA TRA. The TR practitioner recipient will be asked to do both of the above, becoming involved in an NJ/EPA TRA committee during 2011 as well as by submitting an article to go out to our members in one of our E-newsletters. Continue to check the NJ/EPA TRA website at <http://www.njepa-tra.com/continuingeducation.htm> for applications and information regarding application deadlines.



UPDATE REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Recently, there has been much discussion regarding a proposed Model for Professional Representation that has been presented on behalf of the ATRA Board of Directors in several forums. The presentations were made to several groups of past and present leaders of our profession, on an ATRA Membership Call and to the attendees at the Annual Conference in Spokane. We asked for feedback during each presentation and the Board thanks you for your enthusiastic responses. While it was never the intent of the model to cause divisiveness, it is clear from the fervent responses and conversations on ATRAnet that we should have done a better job of communicating the rationale, motivation for, and purpose of the proposed model.

*Written by Mary Ann Aquadro, PhD, CTRS
President of American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Found in the Winter 2011 ATRA Newsletter, Volume 26, Number 4*

Discussions of a model that might unify the profession began in June 2009 at the Therapeutic Recreation Education Conference (TREC) II and have continued since. At the time, as you know, there were two professional organizations, and many in the profession thought it time to work toward unification. To this end, a draft of a proposed business model was presented to the ATRA Board in December 2009. It is important to note that this model was not intended to be a practice model. There are already numerous practice models in existence. Rather, the business model was designed to suggest a mechanism for encompassing the scope of services provided by CTRSs using the APIE Process and to provide representation for CTRSs providing treatment and services provided across the spectrum of settings.

The ATRA Board worked on revising and improving the proposed model for six months prior to presenting it for the first time in May 2010. Some assumptions used in the creation and revision of this model included:

- ◇ Therapeutic Recreation or Recreational Therapy can be performed across a variety of settings to reach numerous outcomes across a broad continuum of care.
- ◇ TR/RT professionals use the TR Process in all settings to achieve outcomes based on assessed client needs.
- ◇ TR/RT programs provide treatment and services (a) to improve functioning and (b) to promote health and quality of life.
- ◇ There are a variety of settings in which therapeutic recreation is practiced including, but not limited to, hospitals (e.g., acute care hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, behavioral health agencies), long term care (e.g., skilled nursing facilities), and community agencies (e.g., mental health centers, public recreation departments, hospice and home care, schools, after school programs, camps).

In the midst of discussion of unification and presentation of the proposed model, an unanticipated event occurred, namely NTRS ceased to exist. ATRA now remains the only professional organization representing the profession. Thus, circumstances have changed. Rather than propose a model, the Board would like to simply make the statement that TRA has and will continue to represent all TR/RT professionals who use the TR Process to achieve outcomes based on assessed client needs. The Board thanks you for all of your passion and dedication to the profession, and we vow to be the best stewards possible. These are exciting times that present new challenges, and we look forward to proceeding together to face these challenges head on for the good of the profession and our consumers. □

**Please be aware that ATRA has recently decided the Model is going to be dropped based on membership feedback however the Board is still invested in the concept of the model to represent membership more globally and to respect the differences we have amongst populations and across settings. A summary of anonymous member feedback will be put into the next ATRA Newsletter.*

NEWS BLAST INFO RE-CAP

MENTAL HEALTH / SUBSTANCE ABUSE DVD

You may be interested in a 30-minute mental health / substance abuse/depression awareness educational DVD that has won 25 awards and featured on the Voice America Health Channel, MetroBeat Television and NPR (National Public Radio). The film was directed by my son Bryce, a student who discusses his true-life experiences with depression, anxiety, self-injury, substance abuse, self-medication and his treatment.

For more information, for the discussion guide, or to order the DVD please contact Tom Mackie at mackietom@comcast.net

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR USING RECREATIONAL THERAPY IN LONG-TERM CARE SETTINGS

In order to access this information, please refer to attachment sent out with the newsletter email

With such a good response from the Conference on using Recreational Therapy in Long Term Care Settings we would like to offer the University of North Carolina Greensboro's website, where Dr. Lin Buettner works. This website offers a variety of tools working in nursing homes including but not limited to:

- ◇ "Convincing Administrators"
- ◇ "Advanced Roles for Practicing Therapists"
- ◇ "Changes in MDS 3.0"
- ◇ "Determining Candidacy for RT in LTC"



NEWS BLAST INFO RE-CAP CONTINUED

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CERTIFIED DEMENTIA PRACTITIONERS®, LLC

January Newsletter Available online at www.nccdp.org/nccdpnewsletter28.htm

www.nccdp.org
nationalccdp@aol.com

MID-EASTERN SYMPOSIUM ON THERAPEUTIC RECREATION CALL FOR PAPERS & REGISTRATION

A message from Karin Tsantilis at karinctr@gmail.com

Karin is sitting on the board for the Mid-Eastern Symposium on TR- which is working hard to put together a great conference this year in Ocean City, Maryland on May 22-24, 2011! They are still looking for speakers! Karin was very impressed by the speakers at the NJ/EPA TRA Fall Conference and suggests some of the speakers submit their presentations for the Mid East.

Go to the website <http://mideastsymposium.com/callforpapers.htm>
for the submission form (extended deadline).

**Would you like a job opening to be posted on NJ/EPA TRA's Website?
If so please contact Communication Committee Chairman, Kaylee McGuire,
at Kem3058@yahoo.com.**

Jobs listings will be posted for three months and are free to NJ/EPA-TRA members.

A \$10 donation is suggested for listings from non-members.

Please visit our [website](#) for a list of current job opportunities.

SPOTLIGHT ON TR

Summary from New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA) Presidents Meeting

By: Sherry Hurwitz, MA CTRS/L Reporting

The meeting opened with a welcome and introductions. There have been some changes in leadership and the meeting was opened by Sally Roslow, the new Vice President of Development & Trustee Relations.

A Legislative Update was given by Neil Eicher, Deputy Director, Legislation and Policy.

This is a summary of some of the information given.

The federal government and NJHA are looking for feedback on the Healthcare Reform Law and the Health Insurance Exchange (the market for buying the insurance). As far as the Exchange goes, one part of it will be a website, There will also be an Agency within each state. Exactly how this will look throughout the country is still being examined. There will be different “markets” where the insurance can be bought within each state. In some places markets might merge or states might partner to assure a larger pool of resources. The NJHA has issued a White Paper on what they'd like to see. There is also good information available on the Kaiser Foundation Website, www.KFF.org/healthcarereform . NJHA also has information and feedback available at www.njha.com/reform .

As it stands now \$155 billion dollars will be given up by hospitals in charity care by 2018 when all this is supposed to be in total effect. NJHA would like to see something like a non-profit agency established initially, then by 2014 have the Regions established and by 2016 there might be multi-state compacts where people could “cross state lines” to get a better deal on insurance. A family of 4 making up to \$55,00/yr will need this kind of insurance (and of course insurance will still be able to be purchased through the company you work for). Below the poverty level, people will be eligible for Medicare and will get subsidies from the government to help pay for this. People who are not citizens will not be able to purchase insurance, but will still be taken care of through the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA), and if they care to they could also purchase private insurance.

Charity Care – Right now the loss through Charity Care is very high. NJHA expects that will level out over the next few years and then go down by 2018 as more people are enrolled, but charity Care will never disappear and hopefully these changes will cover most of the revenues lost. All Hospital costs are going to be very carefully examined; this is not going to change. Hospitals will be looking at everything, even Purchasing, and eliminating Physician Preference over the cost effective deal – saving money on everything; separating the cost of room-and-board (the things that are “bundled” – that includes many of us) and keeping the cost Dr.'s. paying patients to the ASE's they have a stake in and the poor people to the hospitals.

SPOTLIGHT ON TR CONTINUED

They are examining what can be decentralized. The government is also examining Mental Health Services that were not covered before.

They are also looking at the sharing of Information Technology, as they began last week in southern NJ where you medical record will be shared (HIPPA stringents applied) between hospitals. This will, among other things, eliminate duplicate tests and addicts getting treatment at more than one hospital within days. There is \$23 million dollars in grants available for these plans. There are 2 pilot programs in NYC right now where pt's have an insurance card with a chip embedded in them with their medical history on it. The NJ Institute of Technology won a grant to become the first Regional Extension Center for deploying Medicare/Medicaid records out to 15,000 dr.'s within the next year. They will be hosting information events at every County college in the state.

NJHA is going to start a ListServ for the Presidents and Boards of its member organizations. This will allow them all to comment and exchange information.

Discussion followed on ways to get more people involved on the boards and committees. Important to have a job description available for both Board and Committee positions – what's involved in volunteering? Be honest about the amount of time it takes.

At conferences the board should not sit together, go face-to-face with the members, ask questions, get feedback, let them get to know you and you them. Have at least one strictly social event a year. – circulate. This also helps the board know who to ask to join or do jobs and who not to ask. There followed a discussion of different Icebreakers that can be used to get people talking to each other. I have some written down, available, but that's something we should definitely know how to do. Watch for whose engaged; whose asking questions.

Just don't ask, listen, really listen to what experienced people are telling you. Some people say "Talking is a waste of time" that also means emailing and texting – we need to learn to talk to each other again. Mentoring is a very important learning experience for both parties.

Have each member call another member on a topic, or assign each board member to personally call new members and welcome them or invite them to a meeting/conference. Have overlapping board positions – elections on the off year to allow for mentoring. Reaching out to the constituency – if someone is unemployed wave the dues, privately, so they can stay involved (there could be a time limit on that). Invite Allied fields to a meeting to learn about each other. □