



ATRA Affiliate Chapter
www.njepa-tra.com

February/March 2010 E-mail Blast Electronic Newsletter

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President's Message:

Hello NJ/EPA TRA Members and Friends,

To achieve sustainable growth and involvement in the association, the 2010 Board of Directors has developed a strategic plan for 2010 with 3 goals. I would like to focus this simple message on sharing these goals with you:

1) *Organizational:* Develop position descriptions for the board and committee members, which clearly define role expectations.

2) *Financial:* Provide our members with a better understanding of the financial transactions of the organization at our annual Fall conference.

3) *Professional:* Offer members opportunities that promote increased professional involvement by sharing options for involvement and discussing skill development & potential barriers within our e-mail blast electronic newsletters and at our annual Fall conference.

We are a working Board with working committee members like you, and as we REConnect with our resources we want to share our commitment with you to REConvene frequently in order to stay on top of our goals and RECognize those who are helping us along the way! Please continue sharing your talents, as we are only as strong as our collective.

Also, take a moment to review this newsletter for information about our Spring workshop, upcoming social events, membership discounts, our brand new committee, online and other educational opportunities, approaching scholarship deadlines, and our soon to happen e-mail list purge.

Respectfully yours,

Heather J. Burket, Ed.M., CTRS, CCLS
2010 NJ/EPA TRA President

Board Update: TREASURER POSITION OPENING

At the end of February, Kellen Cassidy unfortunately stepped down from his role as Treasurer of NJ/EPA TRA to focus on his current full time educational pursuits. Kellen has served over a year of his two-year term. The Board wishes Kellen well in his schooling and is looking for an interested candidate who is willing to fulfill the Treasurer responsibilities until November 2010, which would have been the end of Kellen's term. In the interim, Anne Richard, our current President Elect is fulfilling the responsibilities of the Treasurer. If you are interested in assuming this role, please contact our Nominations Chairman, Erin Moore, at moore.erin.k@gmail.com. We are willing to train interested candidates.

Committee Update:

The Board would like to welcome our new and returning Committee members to our 8 working committees and share with you some of the current tasks they are focusing on in the current and upcoming months! New committee members will be recognized below in **Orange**.

Education Committee:

- ❖ We listened! Feedback from our members at both the 2009 annual membership meeting and the 2009 Spring Workshop survey suggested that our Spring Workshop could use an update. We will not be holding a 2010 Spring Workshop this year, so we can instead focus our energies on developing a 2011 Spring Workshop based on your input. We are already in the process of researching potential venues and topics.
 - *Look out for an e-mail blast in the month of April, requesting feedback from our members on issues relating to the 2011 Spring Workshop topic, date, location, and other preferences via our second **SPRING WORKSHOP QUESTIONNAIRE**.*
- ❖ We're booked! Mark your calendars for our Fall Conference, November 8th and 9th, 2010.
- ❖ If you are interested in volunteering for odds and ends that we will need help with to make our Fall Conference run smoothly, we are still looking for willing volunteers. Please e-mail our Education chair below to find out more!

Members: Suzanne DeMauro- Chair (suzctr@hotmail.com); **Amber Hauer**; **Caitlyn Lackaye**; Diane Williams; Rose Miggins; Jen Wheeler; Suzanne Lesnik-Emas; Sarah Telthorster; **Dotty Gardler**; **Sherry Hurwitz**; **Ashley Harker**

Fundraising Committee:

- ❖ Our Fundraising and Social Committee are joining forces to create a fun and family friendly event to see the Trenton Thundercats Minor League Baseball team play this summer. Come mingle with other NJ/EPA TRA members and their families. More details to come!
 - *Watch your inboxes for e-mail blasts advertising this upcoming event!*
- ❖ It's not too early to start thinking about our Fall Conference Annual Silent Auction. Do you frequent a small business regularly such as a retail store or restaurant and know the owner or manager? Perhaps you have connections to a cultural or sporting venue? If you know of an organization that might be willing to donate items for the Fall Silent auction or have new items at home that you can't use and are looking to get rid of, please contact Marlene Rivera, our fundraising chair at the email address below and share your resources for the profession.
- ❖ We hear you! We are looking at vendors to purchase TR Spiritwear and we have a member of the fundraising committee creating a proposal, as we speak.
- ❖ Any money fundraised in 2010 will go toward the provision of our Professional and Student Scholarships at our Annual Fall Conference.

Members: Marlene Rivera- Chair (marivera9305@yahoo.com); **Ashley Harker**

Communication Committee:

- ❖ Our Communication Committee is working diligently to create an online Internship Directory and to keep our Job Database up to date with current job listings. If you have an internship you would like advertised or job listings you would like posted, please contact our Communication Committee Chair below.
- ❖ Do you have suggestions for improving our website accessibility? Please provide comments and suggestions on user friendliness to our webmaster at cpworth31@msn.com.

Members: Lucy Orr Tomczynski- Chair (lucyctrs@msn.com); Colleen Worth

Legislation Committee:

- ❖ Our Legislation Committee is in contact with the ATRA State Liaison, Jenny Baweja, to make sure that they are educated on where to find out about the legislative issues most pertinent to CTRSs in PA and NJ.
- ❖ The legislative committee is looking for new committee member involvement. If you are interested in learning about Public Policy issues in TR, or have knowledge that you would like to share with our co-chairs about legislative issues, please contact one of our co-chairs below.

Members: Evan Barker- PA Co-chair (ebarker@gsrh.com); Suzanne DeMauro- NJ Co-chair (suzctrs@hotmail.com); **Sherry Hurwitz; Ashley Harker**

Membership Committee:

- ❖ We currently have 114 members, 18 of whom are students. In 2009 we had 162 members total. Keep those memberships coming by renewing, and encouraging your peers and colleagues to join team TR.
 - Don't forget that if you haven't renewed, your e-mail will be removed from our mailing lists at the end of March.

Members: Patrick Cahill- Chair (cahill0829@aol.com)

Network, Outreach, and Advocacy Committee:

- ❖ The N, O, & A Committee is currently researching the benefits of and the feasibility of utilizing and maintaining a social networking page (ie, Facebook or other site) to increase communication with our members. They are also researching opportunities for social gatherings in different areas within our network, including Northern/Central New Jersey, Philadelphia Metro, and the Lehigh Valley.
 - If you live in the Lehigh Valley and would be interested in proposing and potentially hosting a social event, please e-mail our Chair at the e-mail address below.
 - If you have an idea for a great end of summer social in the Philadelphia metro area, we are looking for suggestions. Please contact our Chair, below.
- ❖ **2010 MEMBER BENEFIT**
 - Are you interested in attending a NJ Nets game at the Izod Center in East Rutherford, NJ at half price throughout the remainder of the season? NJ/EPA TRA member and fellow CTRS, David Boyle, can hook you up! **Please contact David at (201) 392-3314 and work directly with him to inquire about ticket availability and pricing if interested.**

Members: Rose Miggins- Chair (rosemiggins@gmail.com); Jen Wheeler; **David Boyle; Kerry Brown**

Past Board of Directors Advisory Committee:

- ❖ **CALL FOR ASSISTANCE FROM PAST BOARD MEMBERS**
 - The mission of the Past B.O.D. Advisory Committee is to serve as a resource to the association, as requested by the current president and board members, which is nothing more than many of you have been doing all along. We are simply looking to give you the recognition you all have earned from the beginning through your dedicated participation in NJ/EPA TRA. Please consider helping us with small tasks throughout the year, by volunteering as a member on the Past Board of Director's Advisory Committee to the extent that you are able.
 - Current tasks include researching historical information that has been misplaced over the years, assisting with the creation of a simple Awards/ Recognition ceremony for our 2010 Fall Conference, and offering up old photos from conferences and NJ/EPA TRA events for historical preservation. For those with a little more time to give, we are seeking a volunteer to assist with Treasury auditing and another with a

working knowledge or interest in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, to act as a Parliamentarian for the association.

- Please contact the Past B.O.D. Committee Board Liaison, Heather Burket at hkaten@gmail.com with your interests and talents or to have further dialogue. Even if you are unable to help with a current task due to other commitments, send a quick e-mail to introduce yourself and tell me the extent of your willingness to become re-involved.

Members: **Amy Long**; **Lucy Orr-Tomczynski**

Nominations Committee:

- ❖ Our Nominations Committee Chair is seeking a few good members to serve on the committee, in order to assist in the recruitment and potential election of future board and committee members. We are especially interested in assistance from members living in Northern/ Central New Jersey and the Lehigh Valley.
- ❖ Are you financially savvy? Organized? Do you know of a member that would make a good Treasurer for the association? Think you might like to try for a short time before committing to a full term on the Board? Nominate yourself or another member for the open Treasurer position on the Board, and fill the remainder of a term through November 2010. Contact our Chair below with interest.

Members: Erin (Mooremoore.erin.k@gmail.com); **Rhonda Nelson**

Membership Update:

Take the opportunity to renew your NJ/EPA TRA Membership for the 2010 year prior to our annual e-mail list purge at the end of the month, whereby we will delete the e-mail addresses of non-renewed members from our e-mail blast and electronic newsletter list.

You may visit <http://www.njepa-tra.com/membership.htm> to print out our membership application. Continue to reap the benefits of e-mail blasts and electronic newsletter year round, reduced registration fees for conferences/ workshops, opportunities for student/professional scholarships, legislative updates, networking/professional support and resources, social opportunities, and job/internship announcements. Encourage your fellow colleagues and/or supporters of TR to become NJ/EPA TRA members as well.

Membership is for the calendar year, January through December, and dues remain reasonable at \$25 annually for professional members and \$15 for our student members. As a friendly reminder, the application processing time may last between 4-6 weeks, so you might inadvertently receive a renewal notice for membership that may have already been paid. Please disregard this notice if you have already sent in payment. Thank you for your continued support of your ATRA Chapter Affiliate!

Congratulations to Julia Fries on her acceptance of a new position as a Recreation Therapist at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center this March!

Best wishes on your recovery from knee surgery Evan Barker!

Best wishes to Sherry Hurwitz on your return to work after healing a broken leg!

Are you celebrating an exciting milestone in your life that you would like to share with your colleagues? Perhaps you have news of an engagement, marriage, new baby, graduation, new job, first home, etc...? NJ/EPA TRA would be glad to acknowledge your personal and professional achievements and celebrate with you by posting a congratulatory message within our next e-mail blast newsletter. Please e-mail Heather Burket at hkaten@gmail.com with the milestone achievements that you would like us to share with fellow members.

Have you had a recent address, e-mail, phone number, or name change? Please e-mail Patrick Cahill, CTRS at cahill829@aol.com with your former and current information so that you may continue to receive all of your member benefits.

NJ/EPA TRA would like to thank the following members for either joining NJ/EPA TRA or renewing their membership from mid-January through March for the 2010 Calendar Year (Applications processed after March 8th will be recognized in the April/May E-mail Blast Electronic Newsletter)

Mary Baker, CTRS
Brittany Beuttenmuller
Megan Blashford, Student
Agnes Brand, CTRS
Jessica Burke, CTRS
John Catarino, CTRS
Stasia Chabon, CTRS
Rachel Cohen-Wilkinson, CTRS
Michele Collins, CTRS
Megan Conway
Suzanne DeMauro, CTRS
Patricia De La Para
Pam Fleck, CTRS
Suzanne Foster
Lynn Foulke, CTRS
Julia Fries, CTRS
Jennifer Furman, CTRS
Julie Fusco, CTRS
Annette M. Gailey, CTRS
Tammy George, CTRS

Kimberly Grandal, CTRS
Elaine Hatala, CTRS
Donna Horner, CTRS
Linda Isele, CTRS
Kristyn Kressler, CTRS
Michelle Lee Fugett, CTRS
Susanne Lesnik-Emas, CTRS
Chloe Mekinc, Student
Lylian Melendez, CTRS
Stephanie Messler, CTRS
Rachael Moore
Rhonda Nelson, CTRS
Lucy Orr Tomczynski, CTRS,
CCLS
Melissa Osborne, CTRS
Jennifer Palmer
Dean Parker, CTRS
Stephanie Parker, CTRS
Donna Rahm, CTRS
Lorie Rehrig, CTRS

Jenna Scherer, CTRS
John Shank, CTRS
Carly Solis-Cohen, CTRS
Lacey Speert, CTRS
Sarah Telthorster, CTRS
Margaret Temple, CTRS
Jessica Tischler, Student
Raissa Tkach, CTRS
Lisa Tran, CTRS
Mauri Tyler
Angela Vauter, CTRS
Nina Vinakovsky, CTRS
Luann Weber
Jennifer Wheeler, CTRS
Barbara Wilhite, CTRS
Charles Williams, CTRS
T Clinton Williams, CTRS
Jenna Zuber, CTRS

Educational Opportunities:

'Activities to Reach Sensory Goals Integrating Sensory Activities into Group and Individual Therapeutic Recreation Activities' (.25 CEUs per session) Speaker: Robin Wexler, CTRS

Thursday, April 8, 2010, 9:00am- 12:00pm

Registration required by March 30, 2010

Somerset Gardens Assisted Living- 150 Sunnyside Blvd., Plainview, NY 11803

<http://nystra.org/documents/2010brochureupdated.doc>

NCTRC Examination Practice Exam and Test Taking Tips Workshop sponsored by Temple University's Therapeutic Recreation Department

Saturday, April 10, 2010, 9:00am -1:00 pm

Registration required by March 26, 2010

Temple University- Tuttleman Hall, 13th & Montgomery Avenue

Contact Rhonda Nelson, nelsonr@temple.edu or 215-204-1387 for additional information

'Key Points for Successful Documentation for Recreation Therapists' (.2 CEUs per session) Speaker: Robin Wexler

Monday, April 12, 2010 11:30am-2:00pm

Registration required by April 1, 2010

Morris Hall, 1 Bishops' Drive, Lawrenceville, NJ 18648

<http://nystra.org/documents/2010brochureupdated.doc>

Mideastern Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation

@ OMNI Richmond, Richmond, VA

May 16-19, 2010

Early Bird registration due April 2, 2010

<http://mideastsymposium.com/>

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/index.cfm>

Other

- Check out the *New Jersey Hospital Association website* at <http://www.njha.com/education/conted.aspx> for a myriad of CEU offerings and Webinars available to you throughout the year as NJ/EPA TRA members.
- Check out ATRA-online at http://atra-online.com/associations/10488/files/2010_Webinars.pdf for a current list of the 2010 Webinar/ Teleconference series offerings.
- To learn more about how you can earn 1.5 CEU's toward the 5.0 CEU's you need for recertification, check out these additional CEU opportunities at <https://aces.dce.ufl.edu/Courses/Course.aspx?cId=101> provided by Robert Beland, an Associate Professor in the department of Tourism, Recreation, and Sport Management at the University of Florida.
- To learn more about a Summer 2010 Online Certificate course in Animal-assisted therapy and activities offered through the Continuing Studies Department at Harcum College in Bryn Mawr, PA, visit <http://www.animaltherapy.net/Harcum.html>.

Please visit our website at <http://www.njepa-tra.com/continuingeducation.htm> and click the 'Additional Continuing Education Opportunities' button for more information about these and other local CEU opportunities.

Would you like to advertise another Educational Opportunity that you know of on our website or within our e-mail blast newsletter? Please share your information with our Communication Committee Chairman, Lucy Orr Tomczynski, CTRS, CCLS at lucyctr@msn.com.

Scholarship and Award Opportunities:

ATRA Peg Connolly Student Scholarship- Applications will be accepted through **March 30, 2010**. For questions or to request an application, please contact ATRA representative Marilyn Radatz at meradatz@hotmail.com.

Mideastern Symposium Student Scholarship- Scholarship Applications must be received by **April 3, 2010**. Please visit the Mideastern Symposium website at <http://mideastsymposium.com/studentscholarship.htm> to review eligibility and to download a scholarship application. Contact Mideastern Symposium Representative Tia Sanker at tuasanker@hotmail.com with questions.

PTRS William P. Dayton Memorial Student Scholarship Award- Application deadlines are in **April 2010**. For more information and to download applications please visit the PTRS website at <http://www.ptrs.org/awards.htm>.

ATRA Awards and the Linda Levine Madori Scholarship- Nominations are due by **June 4, 2010**. For more information on nomination criteria and official nomination form please email the ATRA Awards Team Co-Leader: Marilyn Radatz MS, CTRS at Marilyn.Radatz@va.gov.

For more details about these and other Scholarships and Awards, please visit our association website at <http://www.njepa-tra.com/continuingeducation.htm> and click the 'Scholarships and Awards' button.

YOU are needed...Get Involved:

- ❖ **ATRA Call for Papers DEADLINE EXTENDED until APRIL 15th for session proposal and research poster presentations.**
 - Visit <http://www.atra-online.com/> for more information.
- ❖ **2012 MID-EASTERN SYMPOSIUM ON THERAPEUTIC RECREATION requests your assistance.**
 - The 2012 symposium will be held in Lancaster, PA and *the current Mid-eastern Symposium Board of Directors is searching for a Chair person and/or Co-Chairs who may be interested in helping to coordinate and chair the 2012 conference.*
 - If you live in or around the Lancaster area and have an interest in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Marilyn Radatz at Marilyn.Radatz@va.gov. They would like to have the names of 1-2 interested people in place by the time of the symposium in May this year.