



**ATRA Affiliate Chapter**  
**[www.njepa-tra.com](http://www.njepa-tra.com)**

## **President's Message**

Hello everyone and Happy New Year!

We are beginning our second year of e-mail blast messages to keep you updated on what is going on in our ATRA chapter.

First, I'd like to extend a tremendous thank you to everyone who helped make our "THINK Nationally GROW Locally" Annual Conference a success last October. Whether you assisted by donating items, organizing, volunteering, presenting, or networking, our conference and chapter continues to "grow" each year through your contributions, so thank you very much. Also thank you to anyone who responded to the proposal of new rules for the licensure of pediatric medical day care facilities in New Jersey. It is so important that we take opportunity to advocate for our profession, especially when it directly affects our members.

Second, there are two opportunities to advocate nationally for our profession. When Mary Ann Keogh Hoss, ATRA president, spoke at the conference, she mentioned her goal of advocating for a recreation therapy ornament. If anyone would like to participate in this national initiative spearheaded by ATRA, please see the Recreation Therapy Ornaments section. Also, the ATRA Medicare project will be advocating again on Capitol Hill this March. They are trying to get as many recreation therapists to attend as possible, so please take a moment to read the information update in the Medicare project section.

Third, I would like to encourage you to renew your membership, if you have not yet become an official NJ/EPA member for 2009. Reminder letters will be mailed to you shortly, and the application on the website has been updated as well.

Finally, I would like to welcome our incoming board members and thank the outgoing board members for all their hard work. Newly elected are Heather Burket (President-Elect), Lindsay Southwick (NJ Member at Large), and Kellen Cassidy (Treasurer). Deanna Guarnaccio has also been appointed to the vacant PA Member at Large position. If anyone else is looking to get more involved in our chapter by volunteering on a committee, please feel free to contact me at [moore.erin.k@gmail.com](mailto:moore.erin.k@gmail.com).

Looking forward to another great year,

Erin Moore, CTRS, NJ/EPA TRA President

## **Recreation Therapy Ornaments**

Mary Ann Keogh Hoss, ATRA president, is advocating for a recreation therapy ornament. Communication with Bronner's revealed that they do not create new ornaments for professions until they have enough requests by fax or email. ATRA is asking you to submit requests! Contact information and sample letter are provided below.

Bronner's Wholesale Department and Custom Ornament Inquiries.  
Fax 989-652-3466 or e-mail Dodi Krueger at [dkrueger@bronner.com](mailto:dkrueger@bronner.com).

To whom it may concern:

I would like to purchase an ornament for my profession. I am a Recreation Therapist, and I did not see that ornament listed in your catalog! Hopefully you can offer this ornament in your catalog next year.

A Recreation Therapist provides people with disabilities & illness recreation interventions to restore and rehabilitate performance in life's activities (i.e. adaptive skiing, aquatic therapy, humor therapy, creative art therapy, leisure education programs, community integration activities, etc.).

To learn more visit this website (insert yours or a professional one). Thank you for your time, and I hope to see a Recreation Therapist Ornament in your 2009-2010 holiday catalog.

Sincerely,

NJ/EPA TRA member

## **ATRA Medicare Project:**

The ATRA Medicare Project is still going...with new congress elected and a new year we'll be giving a new name to H.R. 4248 and some new action. At this time all activity for the Medicare Project is paused until a specific action plan is developed.

What can you do in the meantime? Tuesday March 24, 2009 we will be marching to Capitol Hill and need as many Recreation Therapists as possible to help advocate for access to RT Services.

Register and attend the "ATRA Professional Issues Mid-Year Forum" March 22-24, 2009 in Washington DC for more information go to [www.atra-online.com](http://www.atra-online.com) pre-registration by Feb. 18, 2009.

Any questions, contact Sarah Telthorster, CTRS at [stelthorster@yahoo.com](mailto:stelthorster@yahoo.com)

## **Save the Date:**

The ATRA Mid Year Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. at the National Conference Center on **March 22-24, 2009**.

Visit [www.atra-online.com](http://www.atra-online.com) for more information.

The Mid-Eastern Symposium will be held in Hershey, PA at the Hershey Lodge on **May 3-5, 2009**.

Visit [www.mideastsymposium.com](http://www.mideastsymposium.com) for more information.

The ATRA Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis, MN on **October 2-5, 2009**.

Visit [www.atra-online.com](http://www.atra-online.com) for more information.

Our NJ/EPA TRA Annual Conference will be held at the NJ Hospital Association in Princeton, NJ on **November 9-10, 2009**.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE.** This is later than it was held in past years.

NJ/EPA TRA Spring Workshop information coming soon.