

NJ/EPA TRA Newsletter

Volume XXIII, Issue II

Summer 2004

2003 – 2004

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“What Do You Do?”

President's Message

By: Rhonda Nelson, Ed.M., CTRS

It's one of the most commonly asked questions of all time. “What Do You Do?” people want to know as soon as they have determined our name and perhaps where we live. The implication is clear. The work we have chosen to do makes a strong statement about our interests, values, knowledge and skills. People naturally feel they have a better understanding of who we are by knowing what we do.

While others may find themselves answering this question by explaining “I'm a lawyer.” “I'm a teacher” or “I'm a nurse”. I find myself often replying (and probably many of you), “I'm a Recreation Therapist”.

However, by responding this way, we are not really answering the question that was asked. Instead, we are simply stating our job title or naming our profession.



Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	1 – 2
<i>Save the Date / Silent Auction / A Great Website</i>	3
<i>National TR Week / Western PA Affiliate</i>	4
<i>Community Inclusion Tx Network / Board Member Change</i>	5
<i>Dementia Practitioner Certification</i>	6
<i>NJ EPA TRA Election</i>	7
<i>Action Alert</i>	8
<i>ATRA's New Initiative</i>	9
<i>Networking Social</i>	10
<i>Congratulations New Grads / Job Opportunities</i>	11
<i>Spring Workshop Success / Educational Opportunities</i>	12
<i>Geriatric Service Providers / Web Designer Needed</i>	13
<i>Call for Papers</i>	14
<i>Phila Mayor's Com for Disabled: Rec Com / Register to Vote</i>	15

President's Message (continued)

This was brought to my attention a while back when I was attending a party with a friend. I had casually noted on previous occasions that my friend, who works as an accountant, often responded in a non-traditional way to this common inquiry. I just assumed that she was trying to be quirky or comical by providing responses like, "I try to make sense of other people's finances" or "I shuffle paper and crunch numbers all day" when asked what she did. Yet, it was on the occasion when I heard her describe what *I* did, that I finally understood her reason for replying the way she did. She was simply doing what others were not. She was answering the question that was asked.

It happened like this. We were standing with a group of people whom we had just met. Everyone had taken their turn sharing their name with the group, and just as I took a bite of one of the tasty hors d'oeuvres being served, someone asked the infamous question.

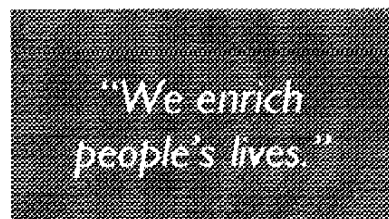
"Rhonda, What do you do?" Seeing that I was unable to answer, my friend quickly chimed in, "*She enriches people's lives*".

Needless to say, the people we were talking to were very impressed! Yet, as I thought about it, I felt the description she gave was totally accurate. As a Recreation Therapist, that is what I do. In fact, that's what we all do. **We enrich people's lives.**

I felt proud of my professional role and the contributions I make through my work. I was honored that my friend perceived my job as having such a major impact on other people, and I realized that the full spectrum of what I do could never be accurately conveyed through a simple Job Title.

So, recently I got to thinking of how else I could answer the question of "What Do You Do?" Here are some answers I came up with.

- I cultivate creativity.
- I facilitate friendships
- I help people to make positive changes in their life
- I expand people's horizons
- I inspire others to live their dreams
- I enlighten, educate and empower
- I improve people's quality of life
- I open doors to new experiences
- I create community
- I demonstrate alternative ways of doing things
- I garner good times
- I give people hope



Those are a dozen things that I do. **What do YOU do?**

President's Message (continued)

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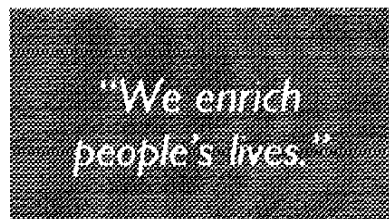
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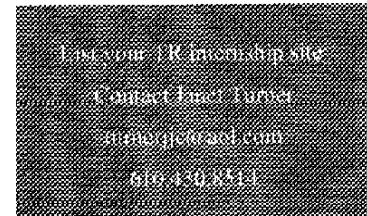
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Internship Opportunity

NJ/EPA TR Association members have internship opportunities available to you ! To assist you in contacting potential sites, we have included a partial listing of sites, the population they serve, location and contact person. We encourage you to choose your site carefully to meet your interest and reach a wonderful learning opportunity.

Germantown Home

Long Term Care Facility
 Contact: Sarah Telthorster, CTRS
 215-951-7620



SAVE THE DATE!

The NJ/EPA TR Association will be holding our 7th annual 2-day Fall Conference on November 1st and 2nd in Princeton, NJ.

The Conference will be held at the Conference Center at the NJ Hospital Association (the same location it has been held for the past two years).

This is an excellent opportunity to earn CEUs while learning about innovative programs others are doing, to obtain useful resources for your job & career and to network with other area professionals and students. Hope to see you there!

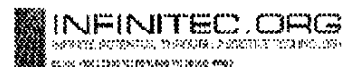
Silent Auction

It is that time of year again! We are asking for your assistance to gather donations for the NJ/EPA TRA Annual Fall Conference Silent Auction. Our past auctions have been quite successful thanks to all of your support, so let's make this the best one yet! In addition, we are looking for individuals to be a part of the Fundraising Committee. This is a great opportunity to be involved and meet other professionals (and it's not a lot of work!) Anyone interested in contributing (either personally or through their organization) or would like to become a committee member please contact: Lucy Orr Tomczynski, Fundraising Chairperson, at 609-747-1198 or lucy72469@aol.com.

A Great Website

Submitted by Ann Dolloff, M.Ed., CTRS

Looking for assistive technology information? This is a great website. One stop resource guides gathered from our library of articles and information. It is a joint effort of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Chicago and United Cerebral Palsy Associations, Inc., Washington D.C.



National Therapeutic Recreation Week: July 11, 2004 to July 17, 2004

Submitted by: Sarah Telthorster

What are you doing to celebrate and recognize the great accomplishments of the field of Therapeutic Recreation?

National Therapeutic Recreation week was established by the National Therapeutic Recreation Society (NTRS) in 1984. Their goal was to promote awareness of the benefits of Therapeutic Recreation programs and services. Each year the National Therapeutic Recreation Society gives a theme to this wonderful week. This year the theme is "Therapeutic Recreation – Quality Sports & Health".

A few ideas for promoting Therapeutic Recreation during this week.....

- **Hang a fun banner with all sorts of Therapeutic Recreation pictures in the lobby of your facility.**
- **Outfit your staff in Therapeutic Recreation apparel**
- **Create a Therapeutic Recreation facts sheet and distribute it around your facility.**
- **Play "What is TR? BINGO"**
- **Put the definition of Therapeutic Recreation on your business card or as your e-mail signature.**

Some websites where you can find more information and creative ideas about TR Week:

www.nrpa.org (click "about us" then "branches" then "NTRS")
www.atra.org
www.activitytherapy.com

As Therapeutic Recreation professionals we are aware of the very important role we can play in enhancing the quality of life of persons with disabilities. Therapeutic Recreation week gives us the opportunity to show everyone else how much we can do. Don't let us go unnoticed, promote Therapeutic Recreation and have fun at the same time, after all that is what we do best!

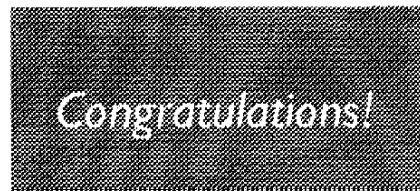
Western PA Becomes Latest ATRA Chapter Affiliate

NJ/EPA TR Association offers congratulations to our colleagues in Western Pennsylvania who have organized the latest chapter of ATRA. The Western Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Association was officially approved at the ATRA Mid-Year Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in March.

Colleen Cooke, Assistant Professor at Slippery Rock University, is serving as the chapter's first President. The Western PA chapter jurisdiction includes the following PA Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Mifflin, Potter, Somerset, Venango, Warren, Washington and Westmoreland.

NJ/EPA TR Association will continue to service the entire state of New Jersey and the PA Counties of: Adams, Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, Wyoming and York.

Welcome to the Western PA Chapter. We look forward to working cooperatively with them on issues that impact TR service delivery in the state of Pennsylvania!



You Helped Make It Happen: Early Beginnings of the New Community Inclusion Treatment Network

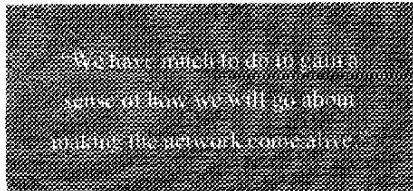
Submitted by: Lynda Mitchell, Ed.D., CTRS, CPRP

Welcome ATRA's newest treatment network, the community inclusion network. It is gratifying to know that there is so much interest in community-based practice to the point of our being able to put together a new network.

The network initially came into existence via discussions between several members who attended the Annual ATRA conference in Atlanta who talked informally about a TR network represented by TRs who practice in community-based settings. By mid-February, having been contacted by Sharon Ballard, liaison for ATRA treatment networks, I agreed to participate in the start up of the new treatment network.

In order to form the new network (here's where you came in), those of us on the startup committee facilitated the submission of at least 30 member letters of support for the network's creation for submission to ATRA's Board. I reached out to every member I knew I believed would embrace the network. Many of you promptly responded by writing and submitting marvelous letters of support.

Those of us on the start-up committee also needed to submit examples of journal articles, past presentations, chapters in books, or actual books about community TR to seal the deal. This is a part of the process of formulating new treatment networks.



Now, a little about the folks who are actively involved at this juncture. Although there is no official leader that has been established at this point, Alayne Kaizan, Cindy Covey and myself are currently dividing responsibilities in order to provide the initial leadership for the network.

Alayne works for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission in the division of therapeutic recreation. She is the program's inclusion coordinator. She has worked there for almost three years after 22 years in "clinical" settings. Alayne works with many different people with varying needs and abilities. Her program offers segregated recreation programs such as adapted sports, leisure education, social and arts programs for adults and children. She also provides leadership and expertise for the Department's ADA compliance and implementation.

Cindy works for Little Rock Parks and Recreation. She works mostly with children and adolescents with a mixture of disabilities such as autism, MR, CP, sensory deficits and Down Syndrome.

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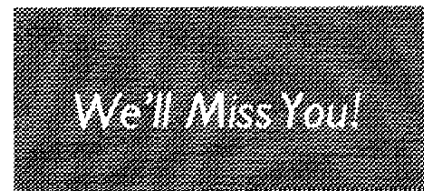
Valerie Romeo is also involved in a support role, and I look forward to learning more about her practice.

Board Member Change

Trudy Toche-Flores has resigned from her position as NJ Member at Large for NJ/EPA TRA. We thank her for her many outstanding contributions and wish her well in all her professional endeavors.

The board has appointed Jeanette Ogonowski, CTRS to serve out her term. We welcome her and look forward to her many talents and skills enhancing the present Board of Directors. She can be contacted at the following:

Jeanette Ogonowski, CTRS
908.461.1897
edward.testa@gte.com



Early Beginnings (Continued)

Right now, we are still feeling our way during this first year's organizational phase. One of our early responsibilities is to compose a mission statement. We have much to do to gain a sense of how we will go about making the network come alive. If you are interested in participating in the further development of the network, please let me know.

Meanwhile, join me in a session at the Annual Conference in the fall in Kansas City where there will be a session on the specifics of communication paradigms within a community-based agency.

Dementia Practitioners Certification

Are you a CTRS who works with individuals who have dementia? If so, you may be interested in obtaining an additional certification as a Certified Dementia Practitioner (CDP). This is a national certification available to professionals from diverse backgrounds, including Therapeutic Recreation. It is offered through the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP).

The goal of the NCCDP is to encourage comprehensive standards of excellence in direct care skills, education and sensitivity in the area of dementia care. The NCCDP offers their national certification (Certified Dementia Practitioners/ CDP) to those individuals who successfully complete a comprehensive Alzheimer's and Dementia curriculum.

The courses, seminars and workshops must be submitted for review and approved by the NCCDP. Certification is for a two-year period, during which time, the individual must continue to further their dementia education/training in order to become re-certified.

The NCCDP also offers comprehensive dementia training as well as a train-the-trainer course to health care facilities, school systems, universities, fire and rescue squads, and law enforcement.

The NCCDP was formed in 2001 by a group of professionals with varying work and personal experiences in the field of dementia care. Their backgrounds include Therapeutic Recreation, Nursing, Psychiatry, Social Work, Long Term Care Administration, Elder Law and Home Care Administration.

The council was formed to promote standards of excellence in dementia education to professionals and other caregivers who provide services to dementia clients.

For more details, contact the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners by phone at 877-729-5191, by email at nccdp@nccdp.org or visit their web site at www.nccdp.org for the CDP application.

NJ/EPA TRA Elections for Board of Directors

- Are you looking for a way to be more involved in your profession?
- Are you interested in a new challenge?
- Are you someone who enjoys working collaboratively with other Recreation Therapists?
- Are you interested in developing new skills?
- Are you curious about how professional organizations operate?

Continued Page 7

NJ/EPA TRA Elections for Board of Directors (Continued)

If you answered "YES" to any of the previous questions, you might want to consider running for a position on the board of directors of the NJ/EPA TR Association.

We are currently accepting nominations for three positions on the board: President-Elect, Treasurer and New Jersey Member-At-Large. The Treasurer and NJ Member-At-Large serve two-year terms. The President Elect commits to a three-year term, serving one year each as President-Elect, President and Past-President

PRESIDENT- ELECT	TREASURER	NJ MEMBER- AT-LARGE
<p>Term: 3 years President Elect: 11/04-11/05 President: 11/05 – 11/06 Past President: 11/06 – 11/07</p>	<p>Term: 2 years 11/04 – 11/06</p>	<p>Term: 2 years 11/04 – 11/06 Individual must reside in NJ</p>
<p>Duties/Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists the President and provides leadership in her/his absence. • Attends all scheduled board meetings and membership meetings. • Contributes to discussions and deliberations on all affiliate business issues. • Submits articles, as assigned to the chapter newsletter. • Assumes the role of President in 11/05. 	<p>Duties/Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains all financial records for the affiliate. • Prepares financial reports for all board and membership meetings. • Attends all scheduled board meetings and membership meetings. • Contributes to discussions and deliberations on all affiliate business issues. • Submits articles, as assigned to the chapter newsletter. 	<p>Duties/Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves as liaison for members who live in New Jersey. • Monitors relevant legislative issues and participates in State Public Policy initiatives. • Attends all scheduled board meetings and membership meetings. • Contributes to discussions and deliberations on all affiliate business issues. • Submits articles, as assigned to the chapter newsletter.

All NJ/EPA TRA Members in good standing who are CTRS or CTRS-eligible are able to run for the above positions.

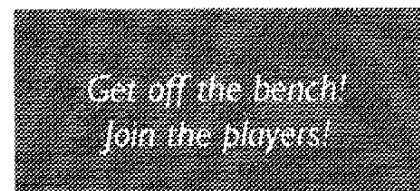
If you would like to be considered, please submit a brief personal statement summarizing your background, relevant experiences and your interest in serving on the board. This personal statement should include the following:

- Which position you are interested in (President Elect, Treasurer or NJ Member-At-Large)
- Why you are interested in a board position
- Education and certification
- Work Experience
- Presentation and Publication background within TR
- Involvement in Professional Organizations (including NJ/EPA TRA)

This personal statement will be included on the ballot that will be distributed to the membership in September.

Please also make sure you include your contact information: name, address, phone number and e-mail (This information is for the Board use only and will not be printed on the ballot)

Send submissions to Jen Wheeler at brian_jen@netzero.net
 Jen will also be happy to answer any questions you have about any of the positions.



ACTION ALERT

Submitted by: Janet Turner, M.Ed., CTRS

The NJ/EPA TR Association was instrumental in initiating an ACTION ALERT! Our organization monitors public policy in NJ and PA by reviewing the state Registers. In April a new rule was proposed entitled: *Intensive In-Community Mental Health Rehabilitation Services Under the Partnership for Children: Behavioral Assistance Services*, and made public in the *New Jersey Register*. This proposed regulation does not list recreational therapy as a professional service for children requiring mental health rehabilitation in the new community based model.

Upon discovery of this omission, we e-mailed information about the proposed regulation to the ATRA Coverage and Reimbursement and Public Policy teams. The wheels started in motion very quickly. ATRA leaders worked to research the proposed regulation, contact influential people in NJ, gather supportive information and documents, write the action alert and generate a sample letter. NTRS President, Fran Daly, joined efforts with her knowledge and contacts in NJ and coordinated conference calls.

It was very interesting to be part of this process; participating in conference calls with ATRA and NTRS leaders, networking with recreational therapy professionals, brainstorming for the best way and words to make our comments ~ why was recreational therapy omitted? Finally, getting the word out to many of the Recreation Therapists who live and work in New Jersey, so they could lend support to our efforts. It was very fortunate our Spring Workshop was held at Kean University and over 30 Certified Recreational Therapists from the area were expected to be in attendance. NJ/EPA TR Association used this opportunity to alert the participants of the proposed rule and to watch for an Action Alert. When the sample letter was drafted and ready to be used for comment, we used our list serve to contact each member.

It is our hope that you took this opportunity to be involved in public policy. It's imperative that we all take responsibility for letting legislators know that recreational therapy must be available to eligible recipients. The leaders of this project also contacted administrators, university professors, clients, families and therapists who had worked with recreational therapists, to write letters and support our efforts. We are particularly grateful to those outside our discipline who recognize the importance of what we do and support us by helping to advocate for TR services.

The comment period for this proposed regulation ended on April 30, 2004. We will continue to monitor the New Jersey Register to determine the impact of the Action Alert. ATRA and NJ/EPA TR Association lobby for our profession and the valuable services we provide!

NJ/ EPA TRA contributes \$100

Submitted by Lucy Orr Tomczynski, Treasurer

In support of ATRA's "Recreational Therapy Medicare Project", the New Jersey/Eastern PA Therapeutic Recreation Association (NJ/EPA TRA) has contributed \$100.00 placing us in the Young Advocate's Club. As it is stated in the project title, through our contribution we are helping to "raise recognition and assure access" to recreational therapy services for everyone. A special thank you to all our members for making this contribution possible. For more information about the Medicare project, please refer to www.atra-tr.org.

ATRA'S NEW INITIATIVE

Submitted By Dionne Beaman, M.Ed., CTRS

During the Mid-Year Professional Issues Forum in Albuquerque, New Mexico, ATRA introduced the **Recreational Therapy Medicare Project.**

The Problem:

- Medicare beneficiaries often denied access to medically necessary and appropriate Recreational Therapy services.
- Inconsistent and often-inaccurate interpretation of regulations by contracted Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries.

The Facts:

- Recreational Therapy is a proven cost-effective treatment option.
- Recreational Therapy is utilized under physician supervision when there is a reasonable expectation of improving the medical conditions of an individual.
- Recreational Therapy improves functional abilities, independence and quality of life.
- Utilization of Recreational Therapy does not add costs to the Medicare system in the inpatient setting and can reduce overall costs in the inpatient setting organization and healthcare system.

The Solution:

- **THE RECREATIONAL THERAPY MEDICARE PROJECT**
- To assure that Medicare beneficiaries have access to Recreational Therapy requires legislative action. Only through regulatory and statutory changes can Recreational Therapy be recognized in all inpatient health care settings.
- This monumental initiative requires comprehensive financial support. Your contribution will help this important project. With your support, we will raise recognition and assure access!
- Recreational Therapy improves functional abilities, independence and quality of life.
- Utilization of Recreational Therapy does not add costs to the Medicare system in the inpatient setting and can reduce overall costs in the inpatient setting organization and healthcare system.

Together we will:

- Assure consumer access
- Require regulatory recognition
- Deliver needed and valued services
- Enhance consumer ability, independence and quality of life
- Increase respect within the allied health arena
- Expand support for the profession and our services
- Make a greater difference in the lives of those we serve!

*Please make your
commitment today!*

There has never been a better time to raise the recognition and assure the access to Recreational Therapy services!

Networking Social

Sponsored by NJ/EPA TR Association

Saturday, August 28th

7:05 PM

Trenton Thunder Baseball Game

Special ticket rates for NJ/EPA TRA Members!

\$12 includes:

- **Reserved seat for the game**
- **All you can eat buffet**
- **Networking with other TR professionals**
- **LOTS OF FUN!!!**

Guest tickets available at standard rate.
\$24 (adults) and \$19 (children ages 5-12)

R.S.V.P by July 25th
Jennifer Wheeler, CTRS
732-869-2777

Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Lucy Orr Tomczynski
CTRS, CCLS

Congratulations Class of 2004

As we all know, this is an exciting time of year for the profession as new graduates embark on careers in Therapeutic Recreation, expressing their knowledge and abilities within many different populations and settings across the country. The NJ/EPA TRA would like to extend a special CONGRATULATIONS to all graduates but specifically to those who represent programs of our local universities. The following list represents just some of the graduates in our region who will be setting out to make a difference in the field of therapeutic recreation. We welcome you as professional colleagues and wish you all the best of luck!

East Stroudsburg University

Angela Allogio
Elisabeth Anderson
Agnes Brand
Jamie Miller
Erin McPeak

Messiah College

Jamie Blair, Summa Cum Laude
Crystal Sensenig
Susan Tome
Amy Whiteman
Montclair State University

Michelle Issa
Julie Kerstein
Tina Krawczyk
Sharon Palatucci
Fawn Patete
Jean Santo
Lori Vane
Kristin Weber

Temple University

Doreen Anthony
Bill Beverly
Kim Brockington
Jackie Casacuberta
Kelly Collins
Antoinette Corisdeo- Bill Dayton
Award
Yolanda Heath
Elyse Jeannot
Tyeshia Kelly
Jana Law
Jian Hua Wen
Chonte' Williams
Michele Williams
Jane Kauffman Broida, Ed.D., CTRS -
Alumni Award

York College of Pennsylvania

Amanda Crabbs
Member of Senior Honor Society
Student Senate Service Award
Who's Who Among Students in
American Colleges and Universities
Jaquet Fighting Heart Award
Ken Osterritter
Phi Sigma Pi Honor Fraternity
Senior Honor Award
Student Senate Service Award
Gallagher Memorial Award

Other graduates of universities in our area to be congratulated include those from Kean University and Lincoln University.



Job Opportunities

Recreation Therapist

Liberty Healthcare Corporation

Recreation Therapists/Phys. Ed. Instructors sought to join our newest residential treatment center for young adults, located in Torrance, PA (45 miles east of Pittsburgh). Responsibilities include planning, organizing and directing leisure and recreational activities. Experience in corrections/mental health preferred. The position offers competitive compensation, full benefits, paid time-off, and 401(k) plan. For immediate consideration please contact Yehudis Herzka at (888) 439-1440 or (610) 668-8800. Fax resume to (610) 668-7689 or e-mail yehudisg@libertyhealth.com. Visit our website at www.libertyhealthcare.com.

Recreational Therapist

MossRehab, Philadelphia

Permanent full-time opening for a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS). The responsibilities include assessment, treatment, documentation, and care conferences for a mixed caseload of inpatients on the SCI & CVA programs. For more information or to apply, please contact Kathryn Elokda, 215.456.9102 or KElokda@einstein.edu.

Camp Counselors (40 positions) Activity Modification Specialist Camp Independence, Worcester, Montgomery County, PA Sponsored by MossRehab

Camp counselors are sought for an over-night camp for physically disabled adults, August 7 - 14. No experience is

needed. Combo w/ Jr Internship is available. This is an indescribable opportunity to gain hands-on experience and knowledge. Always wanted to work with a physically disabled population and didn't have the time or opportunity? This is your chance. Guaranteed, you will leave with "life changing" skills!

Activity Modification Specialist is sought for same dates. Experience with physically disabled adults is required. Co-workers have strong experience. CTRS preferred. Pay is commensurate with experience. Contact Kathryn Elokda, 215.456.9102 or KElokda@einstein.edu

Attention Geriatric Service Providers: Interesting Opportunities for Learning

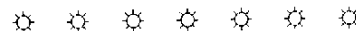
Submitted by:
Susanne Lesnik-Emas, Ed.D., CTRS

Philadelphia will be a hot bed of learning excitement this summer when both the American Society on Aging (ASA) and the National Alzheimer's Association bring their national and international conferences to the "city of brotherly love!" The ASA's Summer Series on Aging will take place from July 12 through 15 at the Sheraton University City Hotel in Philadelphia. Half-day and full day sessions are offered in several different tracks including: Behavioral Healthcare & Aging, Dementia Care, Health Promotion & Wellness, Religion & Spirituality, National Center for Creative Aging, and more! From workshops on substance abuse and older adults to creative arts workshops on dance, movement and theater, the

focus is on the full aging continuum. The fees are very reasonable and one can simply sign up for the workshops individually with no huge conference bankroll. Call (800) 537-9728 for a free brochure or go online to www.asaging.org/summer-series

Right on the heels of the ASA summer series, the National Alzheimer's Conference will take place on Friday, Sat and Sunday, July 16, 17, & 18 at the Philadelphia Marriot Hotel. You can get information about this conference by going to www.alz.org/educationconference. This conference, although pricey, has interesting poster presentations and sessions regarding current research. Finally, for all of you NJ/EPA TRA members who are a CTRS and provide services in any geriatric settings and

are interested in developing your program as an INTERNSHIP site for Temple University's Department of Therapeutic Recreation, or if you have already had an internship experience and are looking for ways to further enhance your approach, please mark FRIDAY, AUGUST 20 (tentatively) on your calendars. TR at Temple will host a full day seminar with free CEUs about being a Temple internship site. This seminar is JUST for GERIATRIC sites. There will be more information forthcoming, but please, if you are interested, don't delay, contact Dr. Susanne Lesnik-Emas at 215-204-6817 or slesnik@temple.edu ASAP and let her know of your interest.



Web Designer Needed

Do you or someone you know have the skills to manage a website?

NJ/EPA TRA needs your HELP!

We're looking for a creative and organized individual to volunteer for this task. Volunteers are always needed to successfully keep the affiliate on target. Maybe you want to help, but are not sure how you could lend your talents. Perhaps you would prefer to be a behind the scenes contributor to the success of the affiliate . . . WELL, now you can!! Not much time is needed, just the desire to show your creative side through the click of a mouse. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming web designer for NJ/EPA TRA please contact Jen Melitski at jmelitski@yahoo.com.

Call for Papers

Once again, NJ/EPA TR Association is planning a two-day fall conference. This year's conference will take place on November 1-2, 2004 at the NJ Hospital Association's Conference Center in Princeton, NJ. **WE ARE LOOKING FOR QUALITY SPEAKERS!** Educational offerings are presented in individual concurrent sessions lasting in increments of 90-minute sessions. We encourage you to submit a "Call for Papers" proposal on any relevant material. Speakers presenting by themselves will receive full registration waivers. Speakers who are co-presenting will receive ½ of a registration waiver. Speakers will need to pay for their own lodging and CEU fee. For panel presentations, the equivalent of one registration will be waived for the group. Panel participants can equally divide this amount for a reduced registration rate.

Your completed packet should include the information requested for the Call for Papers form, a professional vitae highlighting subject matter, competency, references and an outline of your sessions. Please include the following in your proposal.

1. Title of session (please limit to 10 words)
2. Speakers name, address, daytime telephone number, fax and email
3. Brief description of the program (limit to 30 words)
4. Learning outcomes: outcomes must be measurable and indicate what the audience will learn by participating in the session (limit 3)
5. Outline of the session
6. Mode of Presentation: Lecture, discussion, panel of interactive
7. Resource List
8. NCTRC Job analysis code
 - a. Background Information
 - b. Diagnostic Information
 - c. Assessment
 - d. Planning the Program
 - e. Implementing the Program/Treatment
 - f. Documentation/Evaluation
 - g. Organizing and Managing Services
 - h. Advancement of the Profession
9. Relevant audience (please be specific): entry level therapist, advanced therapist, student, educator, entry level supervisor, advanced supervisor, etc.
10. Identify AV equipment needed: We can provide: Slide projector, TV/VCR, overhead projector and white board or flipchart.
11. Is there a limit to the number of participants

Remember to attach your professional vitae, references and program outline. If you have previously presented this session, indicate where, when and why it should be repeated.

Proposals can be sent to:

Kristin Krok, CTRS
28 Providence BLVD
Kendall Park, NJ
732-821-2527
732-906-2779 (fax)
teepkrok@comcast.net
(Microsoft Word format appreciated)

Deadline for proposals is June 30, 2004

The City of Philadelphia Mayor's Commission for the Disabled: Recreation Committee

Submitted by:
Kathryn Elokda, M.Ed., CTRS

A small group of individuals have recently joined together under the leadership of Isabel Bohn (Director of Pennsylvania Center of Adapted Sports) to address concerns about the recreation services provided to individuals with disabilities in Philadelphia. The group has a variety of members including but not limited to, several recreational therapists and disabled athletes. Currently, the committee has been addressing three areas of need.

The first is a centralized database of community resources for regional programs. Our best efforts to date include the integration of the various components of the Philadelphia Department of Recreation's website, to make it user friendly. The Accessibility Information website (www.phila.gov/aco) was not linked to the Recreation Department information website (www.phila.gov/recreation). Effort is being made to get out the word that existing facilities and programs are available to meet the needs of some individuals with disabilities and that a system is in place for consumers with disabilities to request modifications to facilitate their participation if a barrier is present. Additionally, information was distributed re-

garding the "Pennsylvania State Database of Recreation and Leisure Services for Persons with Disabilities" currently maintained by the Department of Health (877.986.4550). Although this database is not accessible electronically it is the most comprehensive option available within Pennsylvania at present. With encouragement from individuals throughout various parts of the state – the database administrators may consider conversion to a web-based system. To submit your program/facility information contact the previous telephone number. To support this effort for a web-based database, contact: Mr. James Marchaman (Jmarchaman@state.pa.us) Director of Special Kids Network, PA Dept of Health, Div. Com. Systems Dev. & Outreach, Room 724 Health and Welfare Bldg, P.O. Box 90, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

Both of these solutions are incomplete and leave significant holes in attaining the goal of a centralized database of community recreation resources for regional programs. Further options across state lines are needed. This issue has yet to be resolved.

A second area of need is for an active and comprehensive "Learn to Swim" program. Philadelphia currently has three indoor year-round swimming pro-

grams. The committee hopes to increase the knowledge and skill of the staff leading these programs in regards to the needs of individuals with physical disabilities. A plan is in the works for staff training during the fall of 2004.

The final area of need, the committee is addressing, is for increased recreation programming for individuals with disabilities throughout the city. Currently one or two recreation centers, in each of the thirteen districts, are being evaluated to determine options and establish a plan to achieve the desired increased programming. Staff from the Department of Recreation are members of the committee and have been invaluable links in this process.

It has been inspiring to collaborate with individuals from the public, private and university affiliated systems – all united to improve recreation opportunities for individuals with disabilities! Feedback to the Recreation Committee is always welcomed. Please send to Kathy Elokda at KElokda@einstein.edu subject: Recreation Committee Feedback.

Exercise Your Citizenship: Register to Vote

Are you registered to vote? If not, take this important step today in becoming an active and involved citizen. This is a major election year with crucial decisions being made about our future local and national leaders. As professionals, it is important that we evaluate candidates not only on their ability to positively impact our personal lives, but also to support issues that relate to the advancement of our profession and the improved quality of life of the clients we serve.

Pennsylvania Residents

Obtain a voter registration application by calling 800-552-VOTE or log on to the PA Department of State website at <http://www.dos.state.pa.us/DOS/site/default.asp>

New Jersey Residents

Obtain a voter registration application by calling 609-292-3760 or log on to the following website <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/electionshome.html>

**NEW JERSEY/EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA THERAPEUTIC
RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

Kathryn Elokdah/TR Dept
MossRehab Hospital
1200 West Tabor Road
Philadelphia, PA 19141

Next Newsletter Deadline August 15, 2004
Submissions requested as attachments
Phone: 215.456.9105 Fax: 215.456.9093
Email: Kelokdah@einstein.edu

**NJ/EPA Therapeutic Recreation Association
Membership Application**

Membership Categories: Renewal New Member
 Student \$10.00 Non-Resident \$30.00 Professional \$20.00 Organization \$60.00

Employer/Organization: _____

Name: _____
Last First Title

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____
Home Office Cell

Remember ...

This application must be submitted with
a check or money order payable to:
NJ/EPA TR Association
There will be a \$10.00 fee for returned checks.
Students must submit a copy of their ID.
Dues run from 01/01/04 - 12/31/04

Detach and mail application w/ payment to:
Lylia Melendez
PO Box 347
Creamery, PA 19430
Questions??: Membership@njepa-tra.com

- Yes No – I would like to have my newsletter sent via email.
- Yes No – We offer TR student internships at my facility.
- Yes No – I would like to be listed in a future directory for TR internships.
- Yes No – I agree that NJ/EPA TRA may release my name and address to individuals and/or organizations for educational and/or research purposes.