

# New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association



FALL, 2008

## President's Message

By Judy Sanderson

### NHRA GOING CULTURAL AND HIGH TECH THIS YEAR

The Board of the NHRA is very pleased to announce that we have chosen a vendor to develop a new and user friendly web site for us. We are working with Demers, Negrette & Associates, Inc. and expect to have a working site within the



next few months. This company has experience with developing the type of site we want to have and we are eagerly anticipating being part of the Internet super highway again.

Although it is hard to imagine, summer is coming to a close and we are working hard on the plans for our Annual Conference. We have confirmed the date and location and are very excited to announce it will be on Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Currier Museum in Manchester. Titled "Creativity and Rehabil-

itation in These Political Times," the conference will coincide with a special exhibition of some of Andy Warhol's work. It is titled "Andy Warhol: Pop Politics" and will present together, for the first time, Warhol's paintings, prints, drawings, and photographs of political figures. It is timed to coincide with the historical 2008 presidential election that is coming up the following week.

We are trying a different schedule for this conference that will include a larger number of hour-long break-out sessions. This will allow people to get a significant number of CEU's while also having time to tour the museum (at no additional cost). We will be asking for your feedback at the end of the conference as to how well this worked. Registration materials for this conference are included with this newsletter but if you need more information or additional copies, please feel free to contact me at [judy.sanderson@gsil.org](mailto:judy.sanderson@gsil.org) or Laurie Corbett at [lcorbett@ed.state.nh.us](mailto:lcorbett@ed.state.nh.us) We look forward to seeing you all there!



### Inside:

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### MISSION

The Mission of the New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association is to advance the rehabilitation of persons with physical and mental disabilities by eliminating barriers to employment and productivity through ethical and excellent professional practice.



## Exciting Fall Conference: “Creativity and Rehabilitation in These Political Times”

*By Laurie Corbett*

This year’s fall conference presented by the NHRA is shaping up to be a great one to attend. Keynote speaker Ross Gittell will talk about the US and New Hampshire economic outlook identifying where opportunities are and what challenges lie ahead.

Paul Leather of NH Department of Education Adult Learning and Rehabilitation brings information and challenges you in a session entitled “School to Career Transition ~ Personalizing Learning in a Public School Environment – Getting Creative”.

Dr. Therese Willkomm will provide up-to-date information and demonstrations on how to make high- and low- tech accommodations. Therese is an Assistant Professor in The Department of Occupational Therapy and the Director of NH State Assistive Technology Program with the Institute on Disability at UNH. She is known internationally as “The McGyver” of Assistive Technology. Dr. Willkomm has recently published “Make a Difference Today- Assistive Technology Solutions in Minutes”.

John R. Wilson, Esq. is president and partner of GoffWilson, an immigration law firm in Concord. He advises employers, employees, families, and individuals throughout the US. Wilson is a frequent writer and lecturer in immigration law and has had several articles published. The title of John’s presentation is “Immigration Law and the Rehabilitation Professional”.

Lori Benjamin, an M.Ed. candidate and Jennifer Dutton, OTR/L from Crotched Mountain will give their perspective on working with individuals with Autism. The Program Coordinator for The Learning Collaborative, a program for students on the autism spectrum at Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center, Lori has over 20 years of experience in the education field, working with students with challenging behaviors and autism.

Jennifer LeDuc Cusato and Sheila Mahon will provide updates on the progress of their respective Medicaid Infrastructure Grants in

Nashua and Keene

Peter Collins, LICSW, will describe Easter Seals' Veterans Count program in the context of an exciting partnership between NH's National Guard, Reserves, and the civilian social service system to address the unique challenges faced by military service men and women and their families. He will explore the impact these challenges have on employment, financial independence, and quality of life, and discuss how this innovative pilot program for NH service members and their families is meeting these needs.

The conference will include a panel of self employed artists who will provide a discussion about their path to successful entrepreneurship in the arts and how their vocational rehabilitation factored in.

Finally, a session from Amy Gebo will address skills such as coping and avoiding burnout for living a balanced life. Amy is a wellness coordinator and teacher at the Concord Hospital Center for Health Promotion.

This year’s conference is at the newly reopened Currier Museum of Art which will provide a backdrop of creativity as well as a beautiful, pleasant atmosphere. The Currier is located at 150 Ash Street in Manchester. We hope to see you all there.

### **About our Keynote Speaker:**

Ross Gittell is the James R. Carter Professor at the University of New Hampshire's Whittemore School of Business and Economics. He is the author of two books and over 70 academic articles. In 2002 Professor Gittell received the UNH Excellence in Public Service award and in 2004 the University’s Outstanding Associate Professor award. Professor Gittell is Vice President, forecast manager and on the board of the New England Economic Project. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University, M.B.A. from University of California at Berkeley, and A.B in Economics from the University of Chicago.

# NHRA Fall Conference

## *"Creativity and Rehabilitation in These Political Times"*

Thursday, October 30, 2008, 8:00am—4:00pm  
Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, New Hampshire

*The Currier will be featuring an exhibit entitled Andy Warhol: Pop Politics with paintings, prints, drawings, and photographs of political figures. Timed to coincide with the 2008 election, this exhibition will offer a thought-provoking and entertaining look at the leaders who shaped the twentieth century through the eyes of Pop artist Andy Warhol.*

**Your conference registration will include access  
to this exhibit as well as the whole museum.**

### **Featured Presenters:**

**Ross Gittell, Ph.D.**, Whittemore School of Business and Economics, University of New Hampshire

**Paul K Leather**, NH Dept of Education, Adult Learning & Rehabilitation

**Lori Benjamin, B.A., M.Ed. candidate and Jennifer Dutton**, OTR/L, Crotched Mountain

**Peter Collins, LICSW**, Easter Seals Veterans Count Program

**Amy Gebo**, Concord Hospital Center for Health Promotion

**Jennifer LeDuc Casato and Sheila Mahon**, NH Medicaid Infrastructure Grants

**Therese Willkomm, PhD.**, Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire

**John Wilson**, GoffWilson Immigration Law

**Panel: Self Employed Artists in New Hampshire: A Rehabilitation Success Story**

**Registration includes Museum admission, breakfast, lunch, and break.**

**Conference Fees: Member \$95.00 Non-Member \$105.00 FT Student (present ID at door) \$50.00**

**Late Fees After 10/1/08: Member \$105 Non-Member late \$115.00 Early Registration Deadline 10/1/08**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City/State/ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **NHRA Member #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Needs/Requests** \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Registration Deadline 10/20/08. Due to facility requirement, no registrations will be accepted after 10/20/08**

Please request any accessibility or dietary needs by 10/17/08. Return registration form with check payable to: NHRA Fall 2008 Conference c/o Judy Sanderson, Granite State Independent Living, 84 Iron Works Road, Concord, NH 03301 email at [judy.sanderson@gsil.org](mailto:judy.sanderson@gsil.org)

For more information contact Laurie Corbett (603) 889-6844 or Judy Sanderson (603) 224-1130. CRC CEU's applied for.

Please be on time. Sessions will begin promptly as scheduled.

**No walk-in registrations will be available for this conference.**

## Free Money for College or Training from New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association

By Susan Hilchey

Are you taking classes or attending a workshop to enhance your professional skills, credentials, or knowledge? If you or someone you know is pursuing education or training in the field of rehabilitation, human services, or a related area, NHRA has some money to give away—no strings attached.

In the past, NHRA has awarded up to \$1,000 annually. This year a free one year NHRA/NRA membership in addition to a cash amount will be awarded! The money can be used for fees, tuition, books, supplies, transportation, etc., and at the price of gasoline, no one will want to miss this real deal.

Qualified applicants are current NHRA members or New Hampshire residents who currently work in or are students in the field of rehabilitation to assist persons with disabilities to obtain or maintain employment. Funds are to be used toward educational or staff develop-

ment pursuits.

A copy of the application is on the next page. Please encourage anyone you feel may be eligible to apply. The deadline is December 1, 2008. Award decisions will be made and recipients notified by December 31, 2008.



Because NHRA did not hold a spring event this year, we did not have the usual and greatly anticipated Scholarship Raffle to raise funds until the fall conference. In the meantime, if you would like to donate to the NHRA Scholarship fund, please make checks payable to

NHRA and send to Susan Hilchey at Easter Seals NH, 555 Auburn St., Manchester NH 03103. In addition, there will be a Scholarship Raffle with some great prizes at the fall conference on October 30 at the Currier. Bring a little cash and good luck!

## New NHRA Website to Launch Soon

The NHRA is pleased to announce that we have selected Demers, Negrete & Associates, Inc. (DNA) to completely re-design our website. DNA will work closely with NHRA to develop a website that will meet both their current and future needs. The new website will incorporate Section 508 accessibility requirements allowing visitors of all types easy access. The website will include online membership and scholarship applications, publishing of meeting minutes, bylaws and newsletters.

Demers, Negrete & Associates, Inc. (DNA) is based in Milford, New Hampshire and specializes in providing personalized web and print based solutions for businesses throughout New England, as well as nationally. DNA of-

fers a complete range of services including website design and maintenance, website hosting and server management services, e-mail management services and internet education.

Additionally, DNA provides an array of creative print media services covering most business needs such as business cards, postcards, flyers and spec sheets, brochures, posters, T-Shirts and etc. Michael Negrete is the president of DNA. He is enjoying successful self-employment and was a former NH Vocational Rehabilitation success story.

You can contact DNA at [info@demers-negrete.com](mailto:info@demers-negrete.com). Or write at 18 Singer Brook Rd., Milford, NH 03055. Tel 603.673.0590.

## New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association *2008 Scholarship Application*

The New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association (NHRA) Scholarship Fund is designed to assist members of NHRA, working professionals or students of rehabilitation/human services programs in their educational or staff development pursuits as they relate to the mission of NHRA. The NHRA mission is to advance the rehabilitation of persons with physical or mental disabilities by eliminating barriers to employment and productivity through ethical and excellent professional practice. The Scholarship Committee will accept applications post-marked on or before December 1, 2008. Scholarship grant amounts may vary. Please provide the following information and submit to the Scholarship Committee at the address below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer/School Name & Address \_\_\_\_\_

NRA/NHRA Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Student (yes/no) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Request: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:

Prepayment is requested (Note: prepayment will be made in the form of a two-party check)

Reimbursement (Note: A paid receipt must be attached to this application.)

1. Explain how the training will relate to your employment and professional work and/or studies in Vocational Rehabilitation:

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2. Explain how this information or materials will be used:

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3. If awarded scholarship funds, do you approve the use of your name and/or photograph for publicity purposes? (yes/no) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Attach a copy of the class outline or training brochure and submit with the completed application.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NHRA Scholarship Committee, Susan D. Hilchey, M.Ed. CVE CRC  
c/o Easter Seals NH, 555 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH 03103

**Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, creed, sex, age, physical, or mental disability.**

**NHRA Board Members**

President Judy Sanderson  
Past President Laurie Corbett  
Secretary Jean Hillier  
Treasurer David Dwyer

**Members-at-Large**

Susan Hilchey  
Bob Gray  
Linda Dunfey  
Jean Hillier  
Gail Rueggeberg  
Gail Sederquest

***Information inside on the  
NHRA Annual Conference  
And Fall Meeting:  
“Creativity and Rehabilitation  
in These Political Times”***

**Coming Soon, New  
NHRA Web Site!**

New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association  
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