

New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association



SPRING, 2008

President's Message

NHRA FOCUSING ON MEMBERSHIP SERVICES IN 2008

The New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association is in the process of planning a number of events to support current members and promote new membership for 2008. We had significant growth in this area in 2007 and are focusing on continuing that trend this year.

In order to better communicate with members and other interested parties we are in the process of re-establishing our web site. We are reviewing proposals from two companies to develop and maintain this site and hope to have it up and running within the next few months.

Be sure to read the article in this newsletter regarding the recent activity of our Scholarship Committee, chaired by Sue Hilchey. Two individuals have recently been awarded scholarships and the committee



is already looking ahead to the next group of applications.

Although it seems early, we are starting the planning for the Annual Conference in the fall. The evaluation results from last year are used as part of this process so we want to thank everyone who

took the time to give us your impression and thoughts. We have some exciting new ideas around the location, presentations and additional events for this year so keep watching for information on

when, where and what's new. I do want to say that the NHRA realizes that training budgets are tight and usually the first to be cut so we work hard to keep the cost for this event as low as possible. Over the last five years we have maintained the per credit cost and will work to do the same this year.

- Judy Sanderson

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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.



AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE!

By Judy Sanderson

The NHRA has a variety of standing committees in order to support our mission and activities. In order to keep these committees current and vital we are interested in having any member serve on any of our regular committees. In some cases NHRA membership is not required to participate in committee work. There is something here to meet the interests, talents and time available for any NHRA member. If you are, or might be, interested in participating on one of these committees please contact Judy Sanderson at judy.sanderson@gsil.org. The committees are as follows:

Scholarship

Purpose: The Scholarship Committee is charged with overseeing and administering the NHRA scholarship program, which grants scholarships to professionals and students in the field of rehabilitation. The committee is responsible for reviewing scholarship applications, awarding grants and coordinating the presentation of the awards. The committee is also responsible for fundraising activities.

Membership

Purpose: The Membership Committee is charged with planning and implementing activities aimed at retention of current members and recruiting new members. The committee is responsible for tracking and assisting in renewals of

membership and contacting members whose memberships have lapsed.

Community Service

Purpose: The Community Service Committee is responsible for identifying community service projects for the NHRA Board to review and adopt. It is also responsible for coordinating any activities that are required by the project(s) and reporting on the results at board meetings.

Awards

Purpose: The Awards Committee solicits nominations for the annual NHRA awards presentations. The committee reviews all nominations and votes to select award recipients. The committee is also responsible for insuring the award plaques are obtained for the annual meeting and coordinates the presentation of the awards.

Conference Planning

Purpose: The Conference Committee oversees the logistical planning of the annual conference and periodically the Northeast Regional Conference. The committee is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the various members and committees involved in planning the event.

Additional committees meet on an as needed basis. All of these committees represent opportunities to find meaningful and rewarding work with your peers.

President Bush's proposed budget

By Jean Hillier

This is a brief summary from the National Rehabilitation Association's Legislative Network Alert.

The President's 2009 budget recommends the elimination of the Cost of Living Allowance or the Consumer Price Index Adjustment for the Rehabilitation Act. This potential loss will hurt the State's program and will directly reduce the amount of funds available to customers of the VR program. It also recommends eliminating Supported Employment and PWI funding. The loss of funding for these programs will impact individuals with disabilities. The loss of these programs combined with the elimination of the Cost of Living Allowance for the Rehabilitation Act will undoubtedly increase the unemployment rate of individuals with disabilities. We know that the VR Program is a return on investment. For every \$1 spent in services, \$6 of taxpayer dollars is returned to the U.S. Treasury. We all need your help. Please contact your government representatives and tell them how important this funding is.

Senator Judd Gregg 202-224-3324
<http://gregg.senate.gov/sitepages/contact.cfm>

Senator John Sununu 202-224-2841
mailbox@sununu.senate.gov

Representative Carol Shea-Porter 202-225-5456
<http://shea-porter.house.gov>

Representative Paul Hodes, 11 202-225-5206.

<http://hodes.house.gov/contact.aspx>

NHRA Fall Conference "Great!"

The NHRA proudly hosted a conference November 19, 2007 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Portsmouth, NH. This year's conference topic was *The Benefits of Work* with featured speaker, John Lui. John brought his wealth of experience, knowledge, and humor to our keynote presentation and also provided an afternoon session on Ethics. Other presenters and sessions were Sue Young talking about employment and re-entry for ex-offenders, Gail Kastorf bringing up-to-date information about practical strategies for employment for individuals with Asperger's Syndrome, and Deloris Jay, presenting about Worker's Compensation. The event was well attended, with over 50 registrants.

Our participant evaluations were overwhelmingly positive.

NHRA Fall Conference Participant comments:

"I learned a lot of good techniques to work with clients who have Asperger's"

"Really enjoyed this"

"...extremely useful"

"Content and presentation were exceptional"

"Wonderful eye-opening presentation!"

"Thank you!"

Suggestions for future conferences included any topics on specific disability areas, how to approach employers, best practices with job development, and school to work transitions. If you would like to join the fun and reap the benefits of planning this fall's conference, please see the article on the previous page and contact Judy Sanderson.

NHRA 2007 Scholarships Awarded

By Susan Hilchey, M.Ed. CVE CRC

NHRA is pleased to announce the two recipients of the 2007 Scholarship Awards. Thanks to NHRA members and conference guests who participated in our famous raffles during the year, each student received \$500.

Angela Marchetti, who is the Student Program Coordinator with Common Ground, assists students with developmental disabilities in learning life skills including job seeking and keeping skills. She is enrolled in the Autism Disorders Spectrum Certificate Program at Antioch University New England.

Amy Clark is a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts-Boston and in her final year of the Rehabilitation Counseling program. She looks forward to becoming a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and encouraging others to enter this important professional field.

Congratulations to both recipients. The NHRA is honored to support these student professionals.



NHRA Provides College or Professional Development Funds

By Laurie Corbett

Each year, the New Hampshire Rehabilitation Association Scholarship Committee provides one or more scholarship awards to deserving applicants who are studying in the field of rehabilitation, human services, or related areas. We have awarded up to \$1,000 annually. This year, the NHRA is considering providing a one year free NHRA/NRA membership in addition to the cash award.

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

A copy of the application is on the next page. Please encourage anyone who you feel may be eligible to apply. The deadline is 12/1/2008. Applications are reviewed in December. Award decisions will be made and recipients notified by 12/31/08.

The NHRA will not be holding a spring event this year, so we not be holding a raffle to raise money for the scholarship fund until the fall conference. Meanwhile, if you would like to donate to the fund, please make checks payable to NHRA and send to Susan Hilchey at the address at the bottom of the scholarship application.

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:

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

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
Red Densmore
Linda Dunfey
Jean Hillier
Gail Ruedgeberg

***Watch for Information
on the
NHRA Annual Conference
And Fall Meeting!***

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

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