

Iowa Rehabilitation Association Newsletter 2nd Quarter 2008

Suzanne Paulson, Editor

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

John TenPas

One of my goals as this year's President of IRA was to develop a website to provide information about our organization to members and potential members. Currently, the website at: <http://www.ira-iowa.org/> is still under construction, but hope to have information on our fall training conference as well as other items of interest like board minutes, newsletter and the like in the near future. If you have any suggestion, please send them to me at john.tenpas@iowa.gov

Brag and Steal

was established in 1982 and was designed as a training seminar to promote the sharing of ideas and experiences of professionals involved in the placement of people with disabilities. This year's Brag and Steal will continue that tradition by having speaker topics that focus on employment for diverse populations.

SAVE THE DATE FOR BRAG N STEAL, Friday July 25, 2008 at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny, Iowa. A block of rooms will be set aside at a local hotel (details will come in the next issue). The program will include topics on Asperger's, older workers, tips on getting into state employment, an employer panel, and other interesting issues. **Registration information is in this newsletter for the 2008 Brag and Steal.**

Mark your Calendar – October 8-11

The Iowa Rehabilitation Association is planning its annual training conference in Council Bluffs, Iowa at Harrah's Hotel and Casino from October 8-10th. Keep these dates open and plan on some great training as well as southwest Iowa hospitality.

what's new...

National Association of Disability Benefits Specialists.

With so many of the Workforce Navigators present at last year's IRA Training Conference and the development of the Iowa Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program with statewide training, this is likely to become a strong division. Our own Sheila Stoeckel, MS, CRC is on the National Board of this new division.



2008 AWARDS CEREMONY

By Marcia Gracey

I am sure you have marked your calendar so you can attend IRA's annual conference the 1st of October. I would like to ask you a favor to set aside some time to nominate a co-worker or client for an award. If you have attended previous conferences you know the highlight of the conference is the Awards luncheon. This is a great event. It's where we get to recognize people for their hard work, their creativity, and their determination to succeed.

It's an opportunity to say thank you and keep up what you are doing. Please review the criteria for each award in the newsletter and nominate someone. PLUS, you can nominate someone for national recognition. Please review the national awards in the April edition of Contemporary Rehab. I will be watching for your nomination packets.

If you have questions please give me a call at: 1-515-281-4268 or e-mail me: Marcia.gracey@iowa.gov

At the IRA board meeting we talked about an Accessible Baseball park. It's being built adjacent to Principal Park and the ground is already broken. Please forward their link to the IRA board.

<http://www.kiwanismiracleleague.org/>

Gary Johnson.

319-230-8737

Membership Report

At the end of April 2008, the chapter and division memberships are:

IRA Total 89 -	62 Professional	
	43 Student	
	23 Lifetime	
NRA Job Placement/Development		24
Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association		18
National Association for Independent Living		1
Vocational Evaluation/Work Adjustment Association		6
Natl Assoc. of Service Providers/Private Rehab.		6
Natl Assoc for Rehabilitation Leadership		3
National Association of Rehabilitation Support Staff		1
Natl Assoc of Multicultural Rehab Concerns		1
Natl Assoc of Disability Benefits Specialists		4

FYI: Dues have increased - Member \$132, Student \$42

Activities

IRA is beginning a new campaign, and we want you to help to expand the membership. Here's the incentive: For each new member (up to three), you sign up, you will receive \$20 off your IRA training conference registration. That can be a savings of \$60!! New member applications must be sent to me with the sponsoring member's name on the NRA application (I can send you some) in order to receive the perk. Or, for online registrations, the new NRA member needs to send me an email confirmation.

You've probably heard that the IRA website is up and running. Check it out at <http://www.iraia.org/>. Officers and board member contact information has been posted along with newsletters and links to other NRA state chapters. We want to use it in a variety of ways and your suggestions are welcome.

Please send me your email address so we can "go green." Let's cut down on our snail mail and save a tree or a forest!!

Victoria Kollmann, IRA Membership Chair

319 Marie Avenue, Elk Run Heights, IA 50707
victoria.kollmann@blind.state.ia.us

2008 IRA Board Member Contact List

President-John TenPas, 515-281-5969

john.tenpas@iowa.gov

Vice President-Matt Bruinekool,

matt.bruinekool@drake.edu

President-Elect-Harlietta Helland,

harlietta@marshallnet.com

Secretary-Mary Augustus, 515-573-8175 (work)

mary.augustus@iowa.gov

Treasurer-Rosie Thierer, rosie.thierer@blind.state.ia.us

Past President-Gary Herrig, gary.herrig@mchsi.com

Board Member-Curt Jones, curt.jones@iowa.gov

Board Member-Vienna Hoang,

VHoang@mercydesmoines.org

Board Member-Becky Cox, 515-266-1801

Board Member- Jonathan Ice 319-365-9111

ice.jonathan@blind.state.ia.us

Board Member-Gary Johnson,

gary-johnson@uiowa.edu

Board Member-Mike Williams,

mike.williams@iowa.gov

Membership Chair-Victoria Kollmann

victoria.kollmann@blind.state.ia.us

Newsletter Chair-Suzanne Paulson 515-229-7748

Suzanne.Paulson@iwd.iowa.gov

Awards Chair-Marcia Gracey, 515-281-7643 (work)

t.gracey@mchsi.com

Nominations Chair-Gary Herrig,

gary.herrig@mchsi.com

Legislative Chair-Ellen Sokolowski, 1-800-432-5852,

ext. 3280 ellen.sokolowski@iowa.gov

APSE Liaison-Sherry Becker,

sherry@nivcservices.org

Division Chairs

RCE Association-John Lee-Egan,

john.lee-egan@iowa.gov

JPD-Job Placement Division

Vacant

Please contact any of these individuals if you have questions about or suggestions for IRA!

2008 CHUCK WOOD MEMORIAL AWARD

The **Iowa Rehabilitation Association** is seeking nominations for the Chuck Wood Memorial Award. This award is given to recognize the achievements of a person with a disability who has attained a high level of independence, self-reliance, and self-sufficiency in the community.

If you know of a person who has demonstrated achievement of their goal of independence in their community and personal life, we strongly encourage you to submit a nomination packet.

The Chuck Wood Award will be presented at the Iowa Rehabilitation Association Annual Conference Awards Banquet.

NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS _____

SPONSOR _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

A nomination packet may include:

- One or more nomination letter(s)
- Information concerning the nominee's disability
- Nominee's personal achievements

Please send your nomination packet to:

Jonathan Ice
Iowa Department for the Blind
411 3rd Street SE, Suite 745
Cedar Rapids IA 52401-1811
jonathan.ice@blind.state.ia.us

Nominations should be submitted no later than September 1, 2008

IRCA COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2008

IRCA is asking for nominations for the annual Counselor of the Year Award. We are seeking individuals who have given time and commitment beyond the call. *The nominee must be a current member of the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association, and be verified as working as a rehabilitation counselor by an NRCA member!*

The award winner will be considered for regional and national consideration as well. Please take a moment to recognize one of your peers who has demonstrated exemplary performance in their profession by completing the form below.

Please complete and attach supporting documents. Submit to: Marcia Gracey, 510 E 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 **SUBMIT NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2008**

NOMINEE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **PHONE:** _____

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: _____

TITLE: _____

NOMINATED BY: _____

ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____

MEMBER OF IRCA? YES _____ **NO** _____

Signed: _____ (IRCA member signature)

Supporting documentation in addition to the above:

1. Nomination letter from the nominator stating the qualifications of the nominee.
2. Biographical information: education, special recognitions, employment background, service organization and other memberships (include NRA and divisions), examples of community service, and any other professional acknowledgments.
3. Letters of support from co-workers, supervisors, clients, and community organizations.

IRA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2008

NOMINATION FORM

(To be submitted by September 1, 2008)

SPONSOR (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (H) _____ (W) _____

NOTICE: The committee will not have access to actual case file records. Please provide as much information as possible.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Does the candidate know of this nomination? (Y) _____ (N) _____

Date of Birth _____

Primary Disability _____

Secondary Disability _____

Educational Level _____

REHABILITATION PROCESSES -- Describe the service/treatment as it related to vocational need including any special programs or facilities and the dates of involvement.

NOMINEE'S

Employer _____

Job Title _____

Dates of Employment _____

What, if any, promotions or added responsibilities have occurred?

Is employer interested in attending conference (at own expense)?

Please provide reasons why you feel the candidate should be considered, aspects where the candidate has demonstrated progress, examples of candidate's satisfaction, vocational evaluation results, etc.

Criteria for Selection: The individual must have an identifiable disability; must have been involved in some type of rehabilitation process; must have been successfully placed in competitive or sheltered employment for at least three months; and shown competency in taking care of most personal daily living skills.

Use as many sheets as necessary to complete the application and submit to:

Marcia Gracey, Awards Chairperson
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
510 E. 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

THE GERRY BYERS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

2008

Gerry Byers spent most of his adult life dedicated to helping persons with disabilities achieve their employment goals, and to the National/Iowa Rehabilitation Association. He spent 30+ years employed as a placement specialist for the State of Iowa Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVRS) assigned to the Council Bluffs office. As a member of NRA/IRA, he was tireless in his efforts, particularly in the area of membership. Often the recipient of a free membership (but already a lifetime member), he would donate it to a new person. He rarely missed a state, regional, or national convention, and throughout his tenure, held several offices. He was a Bill Donohue and Margaret Fairbairn Award recipient for his exemplary achievement in job placement.

In memory of our friend who passed away Christmas Day 1998, the IRA Board of Directors has established an annual award. **This award will be presented by the President of IRA at the Awards Luncheon at the Annual Conference.**

NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (H) _____ **(W)** _____

SPONSOR _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (H) _____ **(W)** _____

NOMINEE'S EMPLOYER _____

JOB TITLE _____

Nominations should include this cover page and a letter from the sponsor detailing the nominee's achievements. Letters from clients, co-workers and other Association members are encouraged.

CRITERIA

- Must be member of the National Rehabilitation Association
- Employed in the field of rehabilitation or closely related occupation relevant to persons with disabilities
- Demonstrated a significant impact on persons with disabilities and to the Association
- **Nominations should be submitted to Matt Bruinekool, Drake University, School of Education, 25th & University, Des Moines, IA 50310, no later than September 1, 2008.**



National Rehabilitation Association of Job Placement and Development

Dear Rehabilitation Colleague:

The Job Placement Division of the Iowa Rehabilitation Association is soliciting nominations for the **Bill Donohue Memorial Award**. This award is given to the professional who has demonstrated the most outstanding effort in placing Iowans with disabilities.

The winner of the Bill Donohue Award will be presented with a plaque and savings bond. The award will be presented in September of 2008, at the Iowa Rehabilitation Association's annual meeting.

Criteria for the Award:

I. Nominee

- A. Name
- B. Title, brief job description
- C. Address, phone number, social security number
- D. Employer

II. Reasons for Nomination

- A. Describe nominee's involvement in placing individuals with disabilities, especially severe disabilities.
- B. Describe any innovative approaches to placement.
- C. Describe use of community and national resources such as JTPA, The Workforce Development Centers, NARC, organizations, etc..
- D. Discuss the nominee's contribution to the field of job placement.
- E. Submit documentation such as statement or letters from peers, consumers, cooperating agencies, supervisors and employers.
- F. Membership in JPD, IRA or the National Rehabilitation Association is not a requisite.

III. Nominator

- A. Provide name, address, phone number and job title.
- B. Provide signature.

The winner of the Bill Donohue Award will receive his/her letter(s) of nomination. **Nominations will be accepted through September 1, 2008.** Please send your nomination to:

**Marcia Gracey, Awards Chairperson
Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services
510 E. 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310**



THE IOWA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

PLEASE CONTACT ANYONE OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



The Iowa Rehabilitation Association
needs your help in
expanding membership.

We are offering you an **incentive** to encourage your friends and colleagues to join IRA and begin receiving the benefits of this vital organization.

IRA will deduct \$20.00 dollars off the cost of 2008 IRA Training Conference fee for every new member up to three members.

That is a potential savings of **\$60.00** towards your conference fee. If you are interested, please contact Victoria Kollmann or anyone on the membership committee.

PLEASE CONTACT
ANYONE OF THE
FOLLOWING PERSONS
FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION

Victoria Kollmann
319-230-8737

Maureen McClain
515-956-2691

Shelia Stoeckel
641-422-1500

Tim Gracey
515-243-0042

Marcia Gracey
515-281-4268

**Iowa Job Placement Division
Brag and Steal 2008
July 25, 2008
Des Moines Area Community College, Bldg 7
2006 S. Ankeny Blvd
Ankeny, IA**

Tentative agenda

8:00 – 8:30am	Registration
8:30 – 8:45am	Opening Remarks: Robert Denson, President of DMACC
8:45 – 10:15am	General Session: Gen X and Older employees working Together, Nick Redding
10:15 – 10:30am	Break
10:30 – 11:45am	Concurrent Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Navigating State Employment, Brenda Reilley• Challenges & Successes of Business Ownership, Dennis Bogenrief & Kim Barber• Labor Market: Future Trends and Needs, Sue Gibbons
11:45 – 1:15pm	Lunch
1:15 – 2:30pm	General Session: Employer Panel
2:30 – 2:45pm	Break
2:45 – 4:14pm	Concurrent Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Autism-Behavior Patterns: How to Achieve Successful Employment – Panel• Iowa's Aging Workforce: What We Need To Know, Phyllis Anderson• Ethics, speaker to be determined
4:15 – 4:30pm	Wrap-up and Evaluations

BRAG AND STEAL 2008 REGISTRATION

“SETTING THE STAGE FOR FUTURE SUCCESS”

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2008

8:30AM – 4:30PM (registration opens at 8:00am)

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Registration postmarked on or before July 11 (includes lunch)

Student \$40 ___ IRA Member \$55 ___ Non
Member \$65 ___

Registration after July 11th or walk in (includes lunch)

Student \$50 ___ IRA Member \$65 ___ Non
Member \$75 ___

Special diet needs (vegetarian, etc) _____

Please list any accommodations you may need in order to participate
(special seating, Braille program, large print, etc)

**Please send completed registration with payment payable to
Iowa Job Placement Division, Marcia Gracey, 4512 SW 16th St.,
Des Moines, IA 50315. Questions to 515-243-0042.**

Special note: A block of rooms will be held at the Heartland Inn in Ankeny (201 SE Delaware Ave) until June 24th, at the special rate of \$50 plus tax (held for Iowa Job Placement Division). Phone: 515-964-8202 or 800- 334-3277.

Also: The Iowa Rehabilitation Association will sponsor a Hospitality Room at the hotel the evening of July 24th for those coming in the night before (Pizza & beverages).

IOWA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
Victoria Kollmann, MEMBERSHIP
319 MARIE AVENUE
Elk Run Heights, IA 50707