

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this the landscape is greening up beautifully and I am looking forward to opportunities to get outdoors much more than in recent months. Of course, another warm weather tradition is coming up in July: Brag and Steal will take place on July 23 in Ames. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more details about this great opportunity to learn, share learning, and secure CEU's.

The annual IRA training conference is well into the planning stages already. It will occur between October 20-22 in Urbandale at the Ramada Tropics Resort hotel. President-elect Matt Bruinekool and his planning committee are designing the conference, and I understand they will have a bigger than normal dose of sessions on assistive technology as part of the fare this year. I haven't heard the conference theme yet, but don't be shocked if it has something to do with more southerly climes.

The NRA's own national training conference will be held in New Orleans the week before our conference, October 12-17. I plan to go, and hope to have some worthwhile information to report to you.

Past president Harlietta Helland has been hard at work finding nominees for IRA officers for the next year, and I understand that she already has gotten a president-elect nominee! That must be a modern record, and I hope it goes as easily for me next year.

Whether we are working in the private or public sector, these are tough times in the field of rehabilitation. It is easy to feel helpless in such situations, but that is one advantage to being part of organizations like ours. Collectively we can raise a voice that otherwise would not be heard. We can do that with our own state and federal legislators, but on the at least on the national level, we also have very capable people, in the person of Beverlee Stafford and Patricia Leahy, to advocate for the interests of us and our profession and people with disabilities, so that valuable services are sustained and improved. Please join us to build a stronger rehab community.

Jonathan Ice

IRA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS WANTED

At the time of the newsletter deadline, I am waiting to hear from a few good people. Space is open for secretary and board member. Both of these positions are a 2 year commitment. If you would like to talk about the responsibilities involved or enter your name on the ballot, please call me at 641-753-6717 evenings or 641-752-0811 during the day.

Harlietta Helland

Past President

IOWA JOB PLACEMENT DIVISION

2010 BRAG AND STEAL CONFERENCE: IMPENDING JOBS CYSTORMS

Friday July 23, 2010

ISU Alumni Center, Ames, IA

420 Beach Ave (West end of parking lot between Iowa State Center and the Cyclone (Jack Trice) Football Stadium. Please see map.) Enter the building through the door near the Bronze Cy Statue and take elevator to 2nd Floor

8:00 – 8:30 am Registration

8:30 – 8:45 am Opening Remarks

8:45 – 9:45 am General Session: 20th Anniversary of ADA Signing, Amy Desenberg-Wines, Iowa ADA Coordinator - Great Plains Center

9:45 – 10:00 am Break

10:00 – 11:30 am Concurrent Sessions

1. Assistive Technology in the Workplace; Gary Johnson, Iowa Program for Assistive Technology
2. Iowa Registered Apprenticeships; Greer Sisson, Iowa State Director, US Department of Labor/Office of Apprenticeship
3. New Process for IPE Development and Implementation; Matt Bruinekool, D.Ed., Director, National Rehabilitation Institute and Assistant Professor, Drake University

11:30 – 1:00pm Lunch – Food from Hickory Park Restaurant and Entertainment by jazz guitarist, Rich Beachler

1:00 – 2:30pm General Session: Employer Panel

2:30 – 2:45 pm Break

2:45 – 4:15 pm Concurrent Sessions

1. The STEPPS Program for Treatment of Borderline Personality Disorder/Emotional Intensity Disorder; Steven Sprengelmeyer – LISW, Richmond Center, Ames
2. Ethical Dilemmas in the Workplace; Jack Hackett, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Officer, US Department of Veterans Affairs
3. Engaging Intersections in Employment: LGBTQA & Ability Identity; Brad Freihoefer, Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Student Services Coordinator, ISU

4:15 – 4:30 pm Wrap-up and evaluations

Please go to www.iraioa.org for information about the presenters/presentations

BRAG AND STEAL 2010 REGISTRATION

IMPENDING JOBS CYSTORMS

FRIDAY, JULY 23, 2010

8:30AM – 4:30PM

(Registration opens at 8:00am)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Registration postmarked on or before July 9 (includes lunch)

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

Registration after July 9 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: For those of you who plan to stay in Ames on the night before the conference, the following motels (see next page) accept the state rate (\$50 single and \$60 double) based on availability:

Best Western University Inn, 2500 University Blvd (South of Highway 30) 515-296-2500

AmericInn, 2507 SE 16th Street (first exit off of Highway 30 if coming from I-35) 515-233-1005

Econ Lodge, east of AmericInn same exit, 515-233-6060.

This is not an exclusive list and is provided as a courtesy. The final weekend of the Iowa Summer Games is going on so you may want to reserve a room early.



Directions to the Iowa State Center:

From Des Moines (south):

- Interstate 35 north to exit 111B
- US Highway 30 west to University Boulevard (formerly Elwood Drive), exit 146
- Right onto University Blvd. north to Iowa State Center
- Left onto Center Drive

From Minneapolis (north):

- Interstate 35 south to exit 111B (second Ames exit)
- US Highway 30 west to University Boulevard (formerly Elwood Drive) exit 146
- Right onto University Blvd. north to Iowa State Center
- Left onto Center Drive

From Davenport (east):

- Interstate 80 west to Des Moines
- Interstate 35 north to exit 111B
- US Highway 30 west to University Boulevard (formerly Elwood Drive) exit 146
- Right onto University Blvd. north to Iowa State Center
- Left onto Center Drive

From Omaha (west):

- Interstate 80 east to Des Moines
- Interstate 35 north to exit 111B
- US Highway 30 west to University Boulevard (formerly Elwood Drive) exit 146
- Right onto University Blvd. north to Iowa State Center
- Left onto Center Drive

CHUCK WOOD AWARD IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD NOMINEES

It's time to start thinking of nominees for IRA awards. One of these, of course, is the Chuck Wood Award, which approximately annually honors a person with a disability who has attained a high level of independence, self-reliance, and self-sufficiency in his/her community. If you know anyone who is a candidate for this, please gather the nominating materials and send them to Jonathan Ice, Iowa Department for the Blind, 411 3rd St SE, Suite 700, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-1837. Deadline is Sept. 17, 2010. If you have questions, call 319-365-9111, or e-mail at jonathan.ice@blind.state.ia.us.

2010 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.

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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 700
Cedar Rapids IA 52401-1837
jonathan.ice@blind.state.ia.us

Nominations should be submitted no later than September 17, 2010

By Roger Carter

At the Annual Meeting of the Board last fall, Treasurer Rosie Thierer presented a bill from the company that holds our bond on her position. At first, the Board decided that we did not need to have the Treasurer bonded, but the Bylaws state he/she must be and the cost of the bond be paid by IRA.

The actual Bylaw (Article IX, Fiscal Policies, Paragraph 2) reads **“The Board shall require the treasurer be bonded and the cost of the bond shall be paid by IRA.”**

The current cost is about \$100/year or \$300 for 3 years. The Board feels that, while the Bylaw is worthy in principle, the financial status of IRA does not really justify the need. In other words, were we an association that had a large amount of funds it would be worth insuring against the possible misuse of these funds. But since we are basically a small association and there has never ever been an instance of misuse by a Treasurer for purchasing a personal RV, boat or luxury car, we question the need and the expense.

In turn, the Board would like to remove this clause from the Bylaws, but to do so require majority approval of the membership attending and voting at the Annual Meeting.

In keeping w/ the Bylaws, any proposed change must be published in advance prior to the Annual Meeting. This article will appear again in all upcoming newsletters prior to the Annual Meeting.

Legislative Report.....

In Iowa

State employees will now have a new autism insurance benefit-their health insurance will no pay up to \$36,000 each year for the treatment and diagnosis of autism and autism spectrum disorder, including Applied Behavioral Analysis.

Veterans will no have full mental health coverage in their health insurance – insurance plans covering veterans will now be required to pay for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders. This only applies to veterans working for companies that employ more than 50 persons. Iowa’s current mental health mandate applies to all persons working for large companies and only requires coverage of biologically based diseases and excludes common combat related stress disorders.

Veterans will also be represented on various state boards and commissions dealing with mental health, including the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council and the Mental Health and Disability Services Commission.

The delivery of special education services in the state will be reviewed by a newly established task force that will include parent of children receiving special education services. The task force will look at all AEA services and give recommendations on ways to improve and streamline (save money) delivery.

Curb cuts will now be required at all newly constructed or repaired intersections, sidewalks and paths accessible to all persons. The same bill also eliminates the requirement that service animals be trained at recognized training facilities.

Supported Community Living (SCL) providers that transport persons with disabilities between and home will no be reimbursed for this service. Currently this reimbursement is provided for other providers, but not SCL providers. Lawmakers hoped that this would continue to encourage work activities for persons with disabilities.

Legislators upped their match for Vocational Rehabilitation services by \$500,000 so that the state can get all of the federal matching funds available to the state. While these funds were restored, other programs like

Independent Living, Entrepreneurs with Disabilities and Independent Living Centers were cut by almost 4%.
Please thank you legislators for considering and completing action on this.

In Congress...

House Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey (D-WI) told human service advocates that the FY2011 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor Health and Human Services and Education could be cut by 2.3%. The escalating budget deficit and election year politics will make it extremely difficult to meet rising human services needs.

The clock is ticking on state budgets. Nearly all states are in the process of or have finalized their 2011 budgets which are scheduled to begin on July 1. Many have already factored in an increase of the federal government's share of the Medicaid (known as FMAP). ***This includes 25 states of which Iowa is one.***

Without this enactment of this 6 month extension, states will be forced to make very deep cuts in programs including home and community based services, supported employment, dental care and even basic health care.

HR 4213 contains a 6 month extension of the FMAP

from Marcia Gracey

Please take the time to recognize a colleague, client, consumer, or association member for their commitment to assisting people with disabilities in achieving their goals of independence and employment. The Awards include, Achiever of the Year, Bill Donahue Award for placement, Counselor of the Year, Chuck Wood Memorial Award for Independence, and the Gerry Byers Award for service to the association. Nomination material and information can be found at www.ira-iowa.org and copied. If you have questions, call Marcia Gracey at 515-243-0042 or by email at m.gracey@mchsi.com

IRA Membership Report

Current NRA Iowa Chapter Statistics:

IRA Total 87 - 60 Professional

6 Student

1 New Professional

1 Affiliate

19 Full Life

National Rehabilitation Association of Job Placement And Development	25
Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association	17
National Association for Independent Living	1
Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association	5
National Association of Service Providers In Private Rehabilitation	6
National Association for Rehabilitation Leadership	2
Association of Rehabilitation Technicians and Specialists	
ARTS (formerly known as National Association of Rehabilitation Support Staff)	0

National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns	1
National Association of Disability Benefits Specialists	2

Please help IRA save money and trees by sending me your current email address so I can you an electronic link to the latest IRA newsletter!! Currently, over two-thirds of the Iowa chapter membership are receiving this link. It is a great way for the IRA board to send out other notices in a timely manner.

Just a reminder that there are two new National Rehabilitation Association membership levels: Affiliate and New Professional. You note by our IRA stats that we have Iowa chapter NRA member in each level. If you have questions about these new levels to determine if either of them would fit your needs, please call or email me.

Level 1: Member

Available to professional or non-professional; access to all member benefits; is eligible for all benefits of membership in the Association including voting privileges, copies of Contemporary Rehab and the Journal of Rehabilitation, Division Membership, may hold elected office at any level of the Association, and is represented in the NRA Delegate Assembly. **\$132 per year**

Level 2: Affiliate

Available to non-credentialed support/technical staff or retirees (professional or non-professional); is eligible for voting privileges, copies of Contemporary Rehab, Division Membership, may hold office at the local, state or regional level, and is represented in the NRA Delegate Assembly. **\$96 per year**

Level 3: New Professional

Available to recent graduates who were Student members of NRA the previous year; available for one single year period; is eligible for all the benefits of Level 1 membership. **\$96 dollars per year**

Level 4: Student

Available to full time students with student schedule verification; is eligible for all the benefits of Level 1 membership. **\$42 per year**

Level 5: Organization

Available to facility director/CEO and 4 designated employees; CEO and 4 designees are eligible for all the benefits of Level 1 membership. **\$650 dollars per year**

Life and Individual Members receive/enjoy full voting privileges, representation in the Delegate Assembly, copies of Contemporary Rehab and the Journal of Rehabilitation, and may hold office at any level in the Association.

Don't forget that there are several options to pay your membership:

- Check or money order
- The Installment Plan of 3 equal consecutive monthly payments by credit card
- Automatic bank draft

Please contact me at victoria.kollmann@blind.state.ia.us or 319-230-8737 when you have questions, ideas or comments for our committee, or for the IRA website. Check it out at <http://www.iraiaowa.org/>.

Iowa Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association

Great News!! We are an official affiliate of the Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association. This entitles our division chapter to apply for training grants to bring in speakers and help us offer CEUs to those who need to maintain their CCRC and other certifications.

Some of our Iowa chapter members of RCEA were able to meet before the IRA Board meeting to discuss ideas related to training. Treasurer Jackie told us that our current balance is \$504.89.

We will have a follow up meeting on Thursday, July 22 at 11:30 AM at the Ramada Tropics Resort, 5600 Merle Hay Road in Urbandale. We will meet in the lobby of the hotel and find a place to meet. This will probably be a lunch meeting since the IRA Board meeting will begin at 1PM. If you can't be a part of the meeting, please respond to the email that I sent out a couple of weeks ago.

2010 IRCEA board:

- President - Victoria Kollmann
- Vice President - Lisa Chellew
- Treasurer - Jackie Wipperman
- Secretary - Suzanne Paulson
- Past President – John Lee-Egan
- Board Member - Ray Olejniczak
- Board Member - Marcia Gracey
- Legislative – Ellen Sokolowski

The remaining IRCEA members are Matt Bruinekool, Roger Carter, Jennifer Houck, William Houck, Thomas Wagner, Nancy Martel, Richard Metz, Jeffrey Morgan, Mary Ott, Frank Potter, and Lois Staff.

Please contact me, Victoria Kollmann, at 319.230.8737 or victoria.kollmann@blind.state.ia.us if you have any questions or comments. We'd love to have you join our division.

See you in July!!

Victoria Kollmann

2010 Iowa Rehabilitation State Training Conference: October 20-22, 2010

Plans are currently in full swing for the 2010 IRA Conference, and we are busy working on making this one of our strongest and exciting conferences to date! With a theme entitled "IRA: A Place to Grow!" expect things to be bigger than ever!

Location

The Ramada Inn Tropics and Conference Center in Des Moines is the setting for this year's event, providing a centralized location for our members across the state. Conveniently located directly off of Interstate 80 at 5000 Merle Hay Road, the Ramada Tropics is newly renovated with a 6500 ft. conference center and adjacent meetings rooms. It also has an indoor water resort and tiki bar, restaurant and lounge, and newly remodeled guest rooms (including high speed wireless internet, flat screen TVs, and refrigerator/microwave in **every** room). We have set aside a block of rooms for the conference for a government rate of \$55 and non-government rate of \$79 per night. Feel free to reserve your room early by calling 515-278-0271 and saying you want the **Iowa Rehabilitation Association rate**.

Silent Auction

We are in the process of putting together one of the largest silent auctions to date for the IRA conference. We have already had a very positive response in regards to individuals who are contributing items for bid, and would love to see the list increase. This year, some of the proceeds from the auction will go towards the formation of the IRA Legacy Foundation. Established last year, the foundation was developed to assist members with training support. Examples of these supports could include helping a member attend a training that they would not normally have the funds to do so or providing assistance to a member who would like to receive training in how to use

an a special piece of technology by offsetting some of the expenses. We will also be donating a portion of the proceeds to a charity to be determined at a later date. For more information about our silent auction, please contact Marcia Gracey at 515-243-0042 or at m.gracey@mchsi.com.

Social Activities

Social activities and relaxation time for networking and conversation are also, well, mandatory, parts of our conference agenda! We want to provide attendees with evening activities that everyone can enjoy and gather at. We would love to hear about activities that you would enjoy. Please feel free to shoot Lindsay Walker an email on ideas that you have at lindsay.walker@drake.edu.

New Member Recruitment

We want to see this year's conference have the biggest turnout in IRA history, and are looking for your help to recruit attendees and new members. Spread the word to coworkers, friends, and other professionals about the importance of staying current in the rehabilitation field and the opportunities available in networking that they can gain at the IRA conference. Connect with new professionals entering rehabilitation in your organization and inform the other community rehabilitation programs and nonprofit organizations that you work with about us and don't forget to remind your fellow members as well!

So don't hesitate! Send us your ideas or contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you on putting together the 2010 Iowa Rehabilitation Association Conference!

2010 IRA Board Member Contact List

President: Jonathan Ice, jonathan.ice@blind.state.ia.us

Vice President: Gary Johnson, gary-johnson@uiowa.edu

President-Elect: Matt Bruinekool, matt.bruinekool@drake.edu

Secretary: Mary Augustus, mary.augustus@iowa.gov

Treasurer: Rosie Thierer, rosiet@hughes.net

Past President: Harlietta Helland, harlietta@marshallnet.com

2009-2010 Board Members

Lisa Chellew, lisa.chellew1@va.gov

Jeffrey Morgan, jeffrey.morgan@iowa.gov

Mary Ott, mary.ott@iowa.gov

2010-2011 Board Members

Mike Williams, mike.williams@iowa.gov

Keri Osterhaus, keri.osterhaus@blind.state.ia.us

Jay Brewer, grimesia@aol.com

Committee Chairs

Legislative Chair: Ellen Sokolowski, esokolowski@mchsi.com

Conference: Matt Bruinekool, matt.bruinekool@drake.edu

Awards Chair: Marcia Gracey, m.gracey@mchsi.com

Bylaws: Roger Carter, roger.carter@iowa.gov

Membership: Victoria Kollmann, victoria.kollmann@blind.state.ia.us

Nominations: Harlietta Helland, harlietta@marshallnet.com

Newsletter: Suzanne Paulson, suzanne.Paulson@iwd.iowa.gov

Legacy: Rosie Thierer, rosiet@hughes.net

Division Chairs

RCEA: Victoria Kollmann, victoria.kollmann@blind.state.ia.us

JPD: John Lee-Egan, leeegan56@yahoo.com