

Special Interest

IRA CONFERENCE

State employees offered financial support for attending IRA Conference!

Gerry Byers Award

Upcoming events:

On With Life Annual Conference

r-word.org info

Officers and Board Members:

President:

Matt Bruinekool

President-Elect:

Gary Johnson

Vice President:

Jeffrey Morgan

Secretary:

Mary Ott

Board Members:

Jay Brewer

Keri Osterhaus

Mike Williams

Jamie Corwin

Lois Staff

Jessica Schneider

President-Elect Gary Johnston has an exciting conference planned this year! Here are just a few of the details to help you plan and know what to look forward to!

Collaborations started between Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the Iowa Rehabilitation Association

This email was delivered to State of Iowa employees last week from Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator David Mitchell.

“Attached is information related to the Iowa Rehabilitation Association’s Annual Fall Conference to be held in Des Moines, October 10 thru October 12. Per IVRS Policy, staff may attend using work time, with supervisor permission. All associated costs are the responsibility of the individual.

For the first time, however, IVRS will attempt to encourage participation through partial reimbursement of the Full Conference Costs. For those desiring financial assistance, please submit a Training Request Form through your supervisor and forward to Tomoko Yajima. If approved, a partial \$30 reimbursement will be provided to you, following completion of the Full Training Conference, along with a billing receipt and agenda copy. You would still be individually responsible for all costs, registrations, travel, etc., but the partial registration fee would be occurring after the Conference. It looks like a number of valuable topics and information will be shared.”

Thank you Administrator David Mitchell for your support of our organization!

2011 IRA Conference Schedule

Monday, October 10

8:00 a. m.	Exhibitor set-up
9:30 a. m.	IRA Board Meeting (Room D)
10:00	Registration Opens (Conference Center Lobby)
11:00	Exhibit Area Opens (Conference Center Lobby)
12:00-1:30 p. m.	Opening Luncheon (Grand Ballroom)
12:00-12:15 p. m.	Welcome
12:15-1:30 p. m.	Opening Session: Tim Ascheral-Taking the Extra Step
1:30-1:45 p. m.	Session Break
1:45-3:00 p. m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions
1. Sam Irwin:	Job Adjustments for Movement Disorders
2. Robin Bagby	Female Offenders, Helping Women Recover. Why they behave the way they do? How can community resources enhance re-entry.
3. Susan Smith	"Opening Doors to Employment for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum"
3:00-3:15 p.m.	Session Break
3:15-4:30 p. m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions
1. Heath Allen:	Effective High School Vocational Transition Planning
2. Tracy Keninger:	How can I work if I can't get ready for work?
3. Suzie Paulson and Sheila Stoeckel	Inclusion of Work Incentives and the Impact on Successful job Placement
4:30-5:00 p. m.	IRA Business Meeting (Ballroom SE)
5:00-5:30 p.m.	ICRA Business Meeting (Ballroom SE)
7:00-9:00	<i>Musical Entertainment: Justin Appel & Heath Allen</i>
9:00-11:00	Silly BINGO

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

7:30	Conference Registration (Conference Center Lobby)
8:00 a. m.	Exhibit Area Opens (Conference Center Lobby)
8:45-10:00 a. m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions
1. Scott Mattson:	Siebert Mobility: Vehicle Modifications
2. Wayne Flatt :	Hammer Medical: The Beauty of Home Modifications
3. Heather Illg:	<i>Have you taken the LEAP to good health?</i>
10:00-10:15 a. m.	<i>Break (Exhibit area)</i>
10:15-11:30 a. m.	General Session: Warren Larsen, IVRS: Directly Affecting Success
11:30-11:45 a. m.	<i>Break (Exhibit area)</i>
11:45-1:30 p.m.	Awards Luncheon (Grand Ballroom): Awards Chair: Marcia Gracey
1:30-2:45 p. m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions
1. ICATER:	<i>The iDevice Revolution: Hand Held Applications that Benefit People with Disabilities</i>
2. Mike Lightbody:	Iowa Compass: Increasing access to disability services and supports.
3. Janis Mendenhall:	Exploring The University of Iowa REACH Program—A college program for students with learning, cognitive, and intellectual disabilities.
3:00-3:15 p. m.	Break-IRA Voting (Room D)
3:15-4:30 p. m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions
1. ICATER:	<i>Assistive Technology Solutions for Employment Situations</i>
2. Tom Dirth	Why does the human brain get hung up on disability?
3. Jon Turnquist	Turning Occupations into Vocations
4:30-5:00 p. m.	Iowa JPD Division Meeting (Room A & B)
7:00-11 p. m.	Hospitality and Evening Events-Refreshments Available (Grand Ballroom)
7:00-9:00 p. m.	Musical Entertainment with Rob Lombard
9:00 p.m.	Silly Bingo

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

- 7:30 a. m. Registration (Conference Lobby)
- 8:00 a. m. Exhibit area Opens (Conference Lobby)
- 8:45-10:00 a. m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions
1. Deborah Johnson Waiver Palooza
 2. Dr. Robert Stensrud
Rehabilitation Counseling Ethics in the Virtual Age
 3. Maggie Ferguson: Brain Injury Basics: What to expect and how to accommodate for cognitive disabilities.
- 10:00-10:15 a. m. Break (Exhibit area)
- 10:15-11:30 a. m. General Session: Deb Russell-Walgreens Quest for Inclusion.
- 11:30-12:00 p. IRA Business Meeting (Grand Ballroom)
Election Results
Closing Remarks

To Register:

Complete the attached registration form and mail to:

Marcia Gracey
4512 SW 16th Street
Des Moines, IA 50315

The Iowa Rehabilitation Association presents our Annual Training Conference!
IRA will be held at the Ramada Tropics and Convention Center in Des Moines. Make your room reservation today by calling 515-278-0271 and asking for the Iowa Rehabilitation Association rate!

Vendors will be on-site to provide information on services essential to our various

Questions?

Contact Gary Johnson at
gary-johnson@uiowa.edu

**2011 Annual Training Conference
Iowa Rehabilitation Association
October 10-12, 2011
REGISTRATION**

Name: _____ Phone: (w) _____ (h) _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Name you want on nametag: _____
Email Address: _____

Early Registration (received by October 1)

	Full conference	Mon. only	Tues. only	Wed. only	
A. NRA/IRA member	\$100	\$50	\$65	\$30	\$ _____
B. Student member	\$75	\$35	\$50	\$15	\$ _____
C. Non-member	\$150	\$80	\$110	\$55	\$ _____

Late Registration (received after October 1)

	Full conference	Mon. only	Tues. only	Wed. only	
A. NRA/IRA member	\$125	\$75	\$85	\$30	\$ _____
B. Student member	\$100	\$50	\$65	\$20	\$ _____
C. Non-member	\$175	\$100	\$125	\$75	\$ _____

Additional Award Luncheon Ticket \$20 (guest) X number of tickets _____ \$ _____

Social Work CEU fee \$10.00 _____ \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED >>>>>>>> \$ _____

Continuing Education Credits are being collected at this conference for CRC, CDMSC, & SW

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Other Accommodation Needs: _____

MAIL registration form and check payable to Iowa Rehabilitation Association to:

Marcia Gracey
4512 SW 16th Street
Des Moines, IA 50315

HOTEL INFORMATION

*This year's conference will be at the **Ramada Inn and Tropics Resort, 5000 MERLE Hay Road, Des Moines, IA, 50322.** Please contact the hotel directly at **515-278-0271** to get the discounted rate of \$55.00 per day. Special rate cut off date is **September 17, 2011.** Mention that you are with the **Iowa Rehabilitation Association.** Reservations made after September 17, 2011 are not guaranteed the discounted room rate and will be subject to availability. Notify the hotel of any special accommodations you may need.*

We need your help!

- ✓ Items for the Silent Auction
- ✓ Volunteers for preparing packets for our conference
- ✓ Letters, information or reports for future newsletters
- ✓ Participation on committees

CONTACT GARY JOHNSTON IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING OR HELPING!

To the Membership of NRA/IRA:

As our next IRA conference grows near, it's time to recognize our co-workers and other professional colleagues we know.. When I first started in this field, I had heroes; people I looked up to who were well respected in rehabilitation. When I started with VR and got to work with some of these same people who now were mentors and colleagues, so much of the best practices and counseling techniques I use today came from these folks. They also introduced me to IRA, which has immensely enriched my professional and dare I say personal development.

The reason I bring this up is that I'm soliciting nominations for the Gerry Byers Award. I never knew Gerry personally but have heard many stories of his dedication to placement, Voc Rehab, and to NRA/IRA. For a better description of Gerry, please refer to the attached nomination form but I daresay that he could also be considered "heroic".

So, who's your hero? Please submit your nominations to me before September 1 so we can consider a deserving individual to recognize when we get together for the conference in October.

For reference, these are some of the past recipients of this prestigious award; Tim Gracey, Denny Brauer, Ellen Sokolowski, Rosie Thierer, Jack Hackett, Becky Cox, Harlietta Helland, Marcia

Gracey, Roger Carter, Victoria Kollmann and Orville Townsend. Who would you like to see as this year's award winner?

Thanks for your time and consideration.

THE GERRY BYERS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

2011

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 Jeffrey Morgan, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, 1700 S 1st Avenue, Suite 25-D, Iowa City, Ia 52240, no later than September 1, 2011.

Upcoming events



On With Life at Ankeny's 11th Annual Fall Conference

"Integrating the Science, the Art, and the Heart of NeuroRehab"

Friday, September 30, 2011

FFA Enrichment Center

Adjoining the DMACC Ankeny Campus

1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway

Ankeny, Iowa 50023



Check out the RSA website for future events
and policy updates!

Welcome to RSA

The mission of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) is "to provide leadership and resources to assist state and other agencies in providing vocational rehabilitation (VR), independent living (IL) and other services to individuals with disabilities to maximize their employment, independence and integration into the community and the competitive labor market."

RSA is charged with

- administering formula and discretionary grant programs authorized by Congress;
- evaluating, monitoring, and reporting on the implementation of Federal policy and programs and the effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation, supported employment, independent living, and other related programs for individuals with disabilities;
- coordinating with other Federal agencies, State agencies, and the private sector including professional organizations, service providers, and organizations of persons with disabilities for the review of program planning, implementation, and monitoring

Save the Date!

Iowa Rehabilitation Association Annual
Training Conference

Monday through Wednesday

October 10-12

Ramada Tropics Inn · Des Moines, IA · Training · Vendors · Multiple Topics · Live Music · Networking

**Iowa Rehabilitation
Association**

Victoria Kollmann
Membership
319 Marie Avenue
Elk Run Heights, IA 50707

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.iraiova.org

