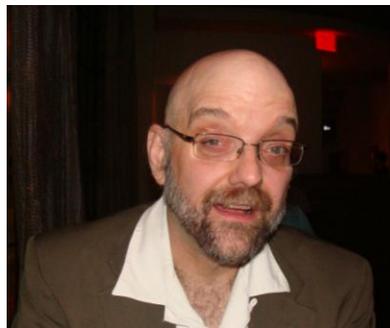


*Special
Interest
Articles:*

- 2012
Conference
- President's
Letter
- Conference
Schedule

IRA Conference Update

In keeping with the conference theme, the pieces of this year's IRA conference are "connecting" together nicely. There is still much to do, numerous details to nail down; but I am confident it will all get done and I am preparing for a great conference experience. Just take a look at the conference schedule included here and note the speakers, topics and



Jeffery Morgan
President Elect and 2012
Conference Chair

activities we have planned. This year we are breaking with the usual format to highlight more general sessions regarding topics that I'm sure will be of interest to everyone. However, we still have some outstanding breakout sessions that will cause a sure case of FOMS (Fear of Missing Something).

I would like to note things about our conference this year. First IVRS staff received this email last Thursday from Administrator Dave Mitchell:

Attached is information related to the Iowa Rehabilitation Association's Annual Fall Conference to be held in Iowa City, October 17, 18, 19. Per IVRS Policy, staff may attend using work time, with supervisor permission. All associated costs are the responsibility of the individual.

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.

Thanks to Dave for his continued support of our conference and our organization! I also wanted to point out that if you want to get the state rate of \$55 at the Clarion Highlander, you must have your reservations in by **September 26**. Usually I like to put things off, but I've reserved my room. Follow my lead and register as soon as you can!

IRA Conference Update (Cont. from page 1)

Also, watch for information coming soon about a pre-conference advocacy training IRA will be sponsoring with Access 2 Independence by Rik Shannon of the Governor's DD Council as part of his ID Action project. Though details have to be finalized, this training will occur on Tuesday, Oct 16th and will be well worth coming to Iowa City a day early.

Not only known for its educational trainings and exciting speakers, IRA conferences are also known for fun opportunities in the evening for attendees to socialize, see old friends and make new ones. For Wednesday the 17th, I am trying to enlist participants in a College Bowl Quiz where representatives from some of our finer state academic institutions will compete. After which, nationally acclaimed musician Dave Zollo will entertain with his funky piano playing and soulful, passionate singing. On Thursday the 18th, there are rumors of bingo with Jessica followed by yours truly with my band, Say Uncle, which consists of my brother-in-law, my son, and my nephew. We play a wide variety of tunes, from oldies to originals and, who knows, Roger Carter may get his wish of hearing "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida." Or not.

In this newsletter, you also will see an invite to a Rehabilitation Alumni "Reunion" that will be held in the bar at the Clarion on Thursday the 18th at 5 p.m. Come see how good retired people look and hear some stories you might have forgotten or you might have started. Also, if you have any pictures of "IRAs Past," please send a copy to Jessica Schneider at jessica.schnieder@iowa.gov as she is putting together a slide show for the conference.

We will have our awards luncheon on Thursday. I am putting out a call for our membership to make sure we have someone to nominate in each of our categories. The work we do is hard and it's rewarding; however recognition from our peers is something that we will always carry with us. This also goes for the clients and businesses that we work with. Please see the information in this newsletter about how to make a nomination. Please submit a name of someone you think is worthy of mention.

There are still spots for vendors/exhibitors; so visit our website to find out more information about that. We are also looking for business sponsorship and donation items for a raffle we can use to cover the cost of the conference. We also will be hosting our Silent Auction again to support the IRCEA so please think of something you would like to donate for that.

That's it. Register for the conference, reserve your room at the Clarion, and I'll see you in Iowa City in October.

Congratulation Iowa Rehabilitation Association

The Iowa Rehabilitation Association was recognized as one of the national winners of the Membership Contest conducted from March 2012 to August 2012.

This year chapters were divided by the amount of members that they had at the beginning of the contest, and there were three populations divisions, with Iowa winning with the most new members recruited in one of those population division.

The next membership contest will be run from August 1, 2012 to February 2013 with the winners announced at the Governmental Affairs Summit.

President's Message



Gary Johnson
President and
2011 Conference Chair

With the Iowa State Fair over and the excitement of the new school year starting it's time to focus on our fall activities. The first of those activities for me was attending the 2012 NRA Annual Training Conference and Exhibition in Chicago. Ellen Sokolowski and Roger Carter also attended. To a great deal of applause, it was announced that Ellen had been elected president-elect of the NRA and will start her term as president in 2014. It is a well-deserved honor and also a lot of work. Some of you will be requested to assist her in various projects so please do what you can to help make her term successful.

The 2013 NRA annual training conference will be held in New York. It's not too soon to start thinking about how you can work a trip to New York into your work/vacation/place of interest plans. It's a great opportunity to meet high-level professionals in your field, get your continuing education credits, and lose a few hours of sleep!

On a different subject, I recently had two experiences using an iPad 3 that I wanted to share with you. The first experience was working with an individual who had an acquired brain injury who had very limited motion. I had been called in to demonstrate Dragon NaturallySpeaking software. Following a brief interview it was determined that the client was retired and simply wanted to be able to e-mail and Facebook. The iPad 3 includes speech recognition software that can be activated simply by pushing a microphone button to the left of the spacebar. Any place the cursor is you can put your words or spoken numbers. The remarkable thing was that this client had only minimally used to their hands and arms in prior visits. They were motivated to want to lift their arms and hands to touch the screen so they could speak and words would appear. The client not only had success but was having fun!

The second experience was bringing an iPad 3 to a Parkinson's support group. Twenty-three persons were in attendance and once the first volunteer had success they all wanted to try it. One of the most visible symptoms of Parkinson's is tremors and this can severely limit their ability to use the keyboard. Will it work flawlessly for everybody? No it will not! But for many of them it could be a tool that allows them to communicate with their world.

The IRA conference is now less than two months away. Get your registration filled out and mail it in. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Want a chance to catch up with your old friends and colleagues? Want to see how good people look since they've retired? As part of the IRA conference, there will be an Alumni Reunion on Thursday, October 18 at 5 p.m. at McGurk's Pub in the Clarion Highlander at 2525 North Dodge in Iowa City.

No membership requirements
No admission (free)
No one in charge
No forms, no due dates, no rules!

CONNECTING !

2012 IRA Conference Schedule

Wednesday October 17th

8:00 a. m.	Exhibitor set-up		
9:30 a. m.	IRA Board Meeting (Mirror Room)		
10:00 a.m.	Registration Opens (Conference Center Lobby)		
11:00 a.m.	Exhibit Area Opens (Conference Center Lobby)		
12:00-1:30 p. m.	Opening Luncheon: Dr Terry Wahls- MS- Firsthand Recovery Is Possible		
1:30-1:45 p. m.	Session Break		
1:45-3:00 p. m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions		
Walgreen's Retail Training Partnership with Goodwill	Walgreen's and Goodwill	Ron Frank, Walgreen's Kim Burlage, Goodwill	
AAC/iPads and Apps!	University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics)	Deb Downey	
Social Security and WIPA Updates	WIPA	Sheila Stoeckel	
3:00-3:15 p.m.	Session Break		
3:15-4:30 p. m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions		
Iowa's Independent Living Movement employment support through peer counseling, mentoring, and coaching	Access 2 Independence	Scott Gill, Hannah Marsh, Keith Ruff, Marcus Batie	
Assistive Technology from the Computer to the iPad	ICATER	Jim Stachowiak	
Helping Survivors of Brain Injury Manage Cognitive Challenges	On With Life	Dave Anders	
4:30-5:00 p.m.	IRA Business Meeting		
5:00-5:30 p.m.	IRCEA Business Meeting		
Dinner on your own (Refer to Jeffrey's list of recommendations -- coming soon!)			
7:00-9:00 p.m.	Evening social with tentative College Bowl and music by Dave Zollo		

Thursday October 18, 2012

7:30 a.m.	Conference Registration (Conference Center Lobby)
8:00 a. m.	Exhibit Area Opens (Conference Center Lobby)
8:45-10:00 a. m.	KEYNOTE General Session: Patricia Leahy-Government Affairs, NRA
10:00-10:15 a. m.	<i>Break (Exhibit area)</i>

10:15-11:30 a. m.	Breakout Sessions	
Vocational Rehabilitation of Persons diagnosed with Personality Disorders	University of Iowa Rehabilitation	Dr. John Wadsworth
Mental Health First Aid 101	University of Iowa CDD Community Circle of Care	Mike Hoenig and Jill Kluesner
Successful Strategies in Working with Autism	Homestead	Dan Budd and Evelyn Horton
11:30-11:45 a.m.	<i>Break (Exhibit area)</i>	
11:45-1:30 p.m.	Awards Luncheon	
1:30-2:45 p.m.	General Session- Panel with Former Lt. Gov. Sally Pederson, Janis Mendenhall and REACH students- The University of Iowa's Realizing Education and Career Hopes (REACH) Program: Students Perspective of a College Experience	
3:00-3:15 p.m.	Break-IRA Voting	
3:15-4:30 p.m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions	
Workforce – Veteran's Employment	University of Iowa Veteran's Center	Greg Clark
Ethics and the Workplace	University of Iowa Rehabilitation Counseling Program	Dr. Jodi Saunders
The Value of Partnering to Develop a Diverse Workforce	IVRS and DNR	Barb McClanahan-IVRS Jane Mild-DNR
4:30-5:00 p.m.	Iowa JPD Division Meeting	
5:00 p.m. to ??	Alumni Gathering (McGurk's Pub)	
7:00-11 p.m.	President's Reception	

Friday October 19, 2012

7:00 a.m.	Past President's Breakfast (West Ballroom)	
7:30 a.m.	Registration (Conference Lobby)	
8:00 a.m.	Exhibit area Opens (Conference Lobby)	
8:45-10:00 a.m.	General Session- Kathy West Evans – Director of Business Relations for CSAVR- The NET– VR's Dual Customer Approach to Business Relations	
10:00-10:15 a.m.	Break (Exhibit area)	

- 10:15-11:30 a.m. General Session: Legislative Panel with State Senator Joe Bolkom, Rep Dave Heaton, and Robert Bacon, Center for Disabilities and Development U of I Disability Policy and Training Director
- 11:30-12:00 noon IRA Business Meeting
Election Results
Closing Remarks

Renewing Your NRA Membership

Renewing your membership is very fast and easy! There is no need to fill out any paperwork, write a check, or mail your membership information. You can simply go online to <http://www.nationalrehab.org/cwt/external/wcpages/membership/> and renew your membership on the website. You will continue to receive a reminder email when your membership is about to expire. However, feel free to contact me at any time if you haven't received an email and have questions regarding your membership at jamie.phipps@blind.state.ia.us. In addition, please continue to spread the word to your colleagues and networks so we can continue to expand our membership. New members are able to go online and register with the above website as well. Thank you for your continued support of Iowa Rehabilitation Association!

Sincerely,
Jamie Phipps
IRA Membership Chair

IRA -- 2012 OFFICERS

(Dates of position are for one calendar year,
with the exception of the treasurer, which is for two years)

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Jessica Schneider
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Kemal Delilovic
Diane Hernandez

Vice President: Lindsay Walker
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641-682-7569

Legislative Chair: Ellen Sokolowski
esokowski@mchsi.com
712-254-1021

Sokolowski Elected as President-Elect of NRA



President-elect NRA Ellen Sokolowski and Roger Carter

By now you have heard that I have been elected president-elect of the National Rehabilitation Association. I will formally be taking office as president in 2014. I look forward to continue working with the members and leadership of the Iowa Rehabilitation Association.

I do have some individuals to thank though:

- Thanks to Gerry Byers and Richard Nichol for their persistence in getting me to join the National Rehabilitation Association.
- Thank you to the members of the Iowa Rehabilitation Association from Des Moines who got me active in the association; initially chairing an art exhibit, serving on committees; holding various offices as well as recommending that I attend state conferences.
- Thank you for your continued support in allowing me to serve as Legislative Chairperson of this association.
- Thank you for your support in this election and faith in my leadership for this association.
- Thank you Roger for sharing your empowerment of persons with disabilities. Thank you for getting involved in this association so that we could both share this.

Upon becoming president, I will be looking to fill committee chairpersons and members of committees. As I know what leadership Iowa has, I may be asking some of you to serve on committees. Please say yes, as it is a great experience to have.

Thank you again for this honor.

Max T. Prince Meritorious Service Award Given to Sokolowski



Ellen Sokolowski and NRA President Sara Sundeen

Ellen Sokolowski was honored at the NRA Annual Training Conference in Chicago with the Max T. Prince Meritorious Service Award. This award is given to an individual who has provided years of faithful services and leadership to the National Rehabilitation Association. It is given to a member who has demonstrated membership effort and leadership for a period of at least 10 to 15 years, or a member who has demonstrated leadership in chapter, division, and national committees for a similar period.

Comments made as part the presentation included:

- I have worked closely with Ellen in her capacity of co-chair of the National Rehabilitation Association Governmental Affairs Committee of which she has demonstrated great leadership and political prowess.

Max T. Prince (Cont. from page 7)

- As president of NRA in 2011, I had the honor of appointing her to my executive committee where she distinguished herself greatly in the quality of her advise and in her dedication to the organization during a most difficult year.
- Her leadership skills, quality of service, mentoring of new members and her impact on increasing members is outstanding.

Kreffft Honored



Michelle Krefft receiving her award with Shawn Poe, Vice President of NRAJPD and Gary Rainaldi, President of NRAJPD

Michelle Krefft, Counselor, Mason City Area Office, was honored by the National Rehabilitation Association Job Placement and Development Division at the NRA Annual Training Conference Awards Banquet.

Michelle received the Margaret Fairbairn Award. This award is given to a rehabilitation professional who has distinguished themselves in the area of job placement and job development. It is the highest honor given to an individual by the Job Placement and Development Division.

In the presentation of the award to Michelle, it was noted that she not only has been proactive in training staff in the Mason City office with regard to job placement techniques but also has mentored staff as well. She has served on the Job Placement Committee in the Mason City office as well as other statewide initiatives. She was a member of the committee that developed the Marketing Toolkit, which is still used to this date by IVRS.

In her remarks upon receiving the award, Michelle noted that “it takes a village” to work with individuals with disabilities and assist them to become independent and employed. She noted that she would not be receiving this award if it were not for the individuals that she works with in her office.

Next Steps for the NRA

Thank you all for your membership and support of the National Rehabilitation Association. As you all know, this has been a year of change. I have enjoyed talking with so many of you and I want you to know, the NRA board of directors and NRA staff have heard you concerns and we are working hard to bring this association forward. First and foremost, the board is concerned with membership processing and services and we are working with the NRA office to catch up on the processing backlog. This is one of our top priorities and we have recently hired a second full time temporary staff to assist with this process.

As agreed upon at the board meeting, NRA plans to move toward a virtual office platform. We chose this because it is a nimble office structure as well as cost effective for the association. Upon the sale of the NRA office, the board has directed the NRA office to make payment of overdue rebates a top priority. As Jason Easley reported at the delegate assembly he has the list of which

Next Steps for the NRA (Cont. from 8)

chapters requested rebates and which have foregone them. He is happy to follow up with any chapters in this matter.

Outlines below are the next steps for the association.

1. Beverlee will meet with staff and reiterate the board's confidence in them to help us with the pending transitions. She will also let the staff know the board is counting on their hard work to make this happen.
2. David will work with Janet to update the virtual office options presented in March and get the committee together to start to take action on the next steps to set staff up for this transition
3. Sara will recruit volunteers to help physically clean out the NRA office once the price of our contracted offer is confirmed and a closure date is secured. This will include sorting what gets shredded, donated, thrown out and stored
4. Beverlee will talk with Brian about getting the temporary membership staff trained and making the priority of catching up clear. We will put the use and training of volunteers on hold and focus on getting our two full time (temporary) staff working.
5. Once the membership processing is caught up and the move to a virtual platform is complete – then Sara and David will seek out a committee to work on hiring new leadership.
6. After the sale of the building is confirmed Sara will get the financial solvency committee together again to plan for the future of our assets.
7. Patricia Leahy has agreed to serve as acting interim director through these transitions and we are grateful for her service to NRA.

Thanks again for your support to NRA and the board of directors. We have a lot of work left to do this year, but I know you will all be there to help make this happen! It was great to see so many of you in Chicago!

Sarah Sundeen, President of the NRA

Award Nominations – You Can Still Get Them In

Now is the time to nominate a co-worker, friend, a professional you work with for excellence in placement or counseling. I know you are all working with people doing great work and getting great results. I also know you are working with or have worked with a client who has accomplished a lot and is a huge success story please take the time and nominate them for the achievement award. Nominations for the awards should be submitted by Monday, October 1.

- The achievement nominations come to me (m.gracey@mchsi.com)
- Nominations for the Bill Donahue Award for Placement should go to Mike Williams (mike.williams@iowa.gov)
- The counseling award nominations should be sent to Matt Bruinekool (matt.bruinekool@drake.edu).

Thank you so much and I look forward to reviewing some great nominations! Marcia Gracey awards chair.

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD

The board is currently seeking nominations for the following positions:

PRESIDENT

- Serves a one year term
- Prepares board meeting agendas and sets meeting dates and locations
- Communicates with other board members as to date, etc. of meetings
- Communicates with agency directors to obtain approval for meeting attendance
- Presides over all regular board meetings and the annual meeting
- Serves as chair of the executive committee
- Calls for and presides over special meetings as required
- Selects persons to serve as committee chairs or members
- Prepares annual budget for presentation to the board, with the aid of the treasurer
- Prepares and submits annual report to NRA with the aid of the Immediate past president
- Sign all checks, in addition to the treasurer, payable by the association
- Serves as an ex-officio member on all committees, including the conference planning committee
- Represents the association to external groups and individuals and likewise to the National Rehabilitation Association or other state chapters
- Selects delegates and submits names to NRA for the Delegate Assembly at the national conference
- Prepares an article for each association newsletter
- Recruits new members
- Has the authority to appoint individuals to fill vacancies on the board of directors
- Ensures that all business of the association is in keeping with the constitution and bylaws of IRA and NRA

VICE PRESIDENT

- Serves a one year term
- Substitutes as meeting chair when president is unable to attend
- Is a member of the executive committee
- Oversees the nominations and selection of the Gerry Byers award
- May serve on other committees as required
- Represents the association to external groups and individuals, and NRA or other state chapters
- Recruits new members

BOARD MEMBER

- Serves a two-year term
- May serve on committees of the association
- Recruits new members

SECRETARY

- Serves a two-year term
- Records minutes of all regular board meetings and the annual meeting
- Copies and distributes the minutes to the board members for review and approval prior to each meeting
- May copy and distribute meeting agendas
- Is a member of the executive committee
- Recruits new members

Please submit nominations to Matt Bruinekool at matt.bruinekool@drake.edu.

Legislative Report



The Republicans have completed their National Convention in Tampa, Florida. The Republican Party platform calls for deep cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, in keeping with controversial proposals from vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan.

The party platform adopted at the republican National convention further ties the party to Ryan's sweeping healthcare reforms, particularly his plans for Medicare.

The platform indicates that Medicare should be converted into a partially privatized system in which seniors would choose between the existing Medicare program or a subsidy to help buy private insurance. Ryan proposed a similar framework in his budget proposal this year after crafting a version last year that would not have preserved the existing program as an option.

The platform indicates that "This is the only way to limit costs and restore consumer choice for patients and introduce competition; for in healthcare, as in any other sector of the economy, genuine competition is the best guarantee of better care at lower cost ."

The document also call for converting Medicaid into a state block-grant program, which would save the federal government billions of dollars and give the states the power to control the number of persons eligible for Medicaid and the benefits that they would receive.

Democrats have countered that under this plan, retirees would get a set amount of money from the government each year to purchase insurance coverage, which would lead to high costs and lower quality of care for many retirees.

Elderly voters are significant forces in Iowa, New Hampshire, Ohio, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, all of which are considered to be battleground states in this election.

Both men have endorsed both proposals as well as the repeal of President Obama's signature health care law, the Affordable Care Act.

Republicans have not laid out a plan to recreate one of the most popular pieces of the Affordable Care Act, that being prohibiting insurers from discriminating against persons with pre-existing conditions. The GOP platform echoes candidate Romney's past statements on the issue, stating only that " individuals with pre-existing conditions who maintain continuous coverage should be protected from discrimination."

People with continuous coverage are already protected by current law. The Affordable Care Act extend the coverage of person who have had gaps in their coverage- for example, those who have lost a job and the accompanying healthcare benefits.

Republicans have indicated that they will repeal the healthcare law and replace it with policies that give more power to consumers, including greater price transparency, and allowing the sale of insurance across state line.

Iowa Rehabilitation
Association

Membership:
304 5th Street
Decorah, IA 52101

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.iraiaowa.org

2012 IRA Conference October 17, 18 & 19

At the Clarion Highlander Hotel and Conference Center

2525 North Dodge Street, Iowa City, IA 52245

IA REHAB ASSOCIATION
DIANE HERNANDEZ
MEMBERSHIP
15278 HAWTHORN COURT
CLIVE, IA 50325



COMPANY NAME