

Special Interest Articles:

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- Brag and Steal
- 2013 IRA Conference
- Legislative Update

President's Report



Jeffrey Morgan
President

Even though it's summer, things show no signs of slowing down. I want to make mention of some things that you should know about.

I hope you were at the Brag and Steal conference at Drake. It was tremendous. The student DU-IRA chapter did an outstanding job of organizing the sessions that featured wonderful speakers with great information. I'll let others go into a longer description but the day was truly enjoyable.

In this issue, you will find more information about our annual IRA conference, scheduled for Oct 2-4 at the Quality Inn & Suites, 2601 E 13th St Ames, IA. I strongly encourage you to mark your calendars, make your reservations, and register because this is going to be a good one. Sure, it will be tough matching last year's conference in Iowa City (☺) but with President-Elect Lindsay Walker doing the organizing, this year's conference is going to be phenomenal!

One of the highlights of each year's conference is our Awards Luncheon where we recognize clients and fellow partners and professionals in our field. I am including a link so you can see what the criteria is for each award. It is my goal that we have nominees for every category this year, especially the IRCEA counselor of the Year. So, read the descriptions, look around. You know you have colleagues that are deserving. The link is <http://www.iraiaowa.org/awards.html>.

If you are reading this, there's a good chance you are a member of NRA. So, when the time comes, I hope you renew, because our chapter needs you. But we also need new members, so again, look around, talk NRA/IRA up to your office mates and partners. Tell them what a great time you had at a conference and when the next one is. The key to our growth is our current members spreading the word.

Big news is that Iowa will be hosting next year's NRA National conference! Things are being worked out now, but this will be HUGE!. It will be a great opportunity for our chapter, and I'll keep you informed.

Jeffrey Morgan



Brag and Steal



The Drake University Student Chapter of the Iowa Rehabilitation Association was very pleased with the attendance for the Brag and Steal Conference. Sixty rehabilitation professionals shared the day learning about "Keeping Ourselves Motivated", considering "Ethical Partner Collaborations", learning about "How to Work with Individuals with Personality Disorders", and "Post Trauma Support Services". The evaluations were very positive with one individual saying they "Would love to have Tony Wilson come to their agency". Another person felt "The speakers were all experts in their area". A number of individuals who attended the Maria Alonzo and Brian Dennis "Understanding What I am Saying Session" liked the interactivity of the session. It has been quite some time since the conference has been held at Drake and from the responses this seems to be a popular location. Thanks to everyone who helped, presented, and attended this training event.

By: Rosie Thierer with committee members-Brian Dennis, Maria Alonzo, Terry Thomas, Kevin Dalin, Laura Gibson and Rodney Dunn.



Richard Clark
"Integrating the IEP and IPE"



Attentive group in one of Brag and Steal's informative sessions



Maria Alonzo
"Are You Sure You Understand What I am Saying"



Cassandra Hall
Connecting 101



IRA President Jeffrey Morgan with Mary Ott

SAVE THE DATE!!!

2013 IRA ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 2ND-4TH, 2013

AMES



Featuring Keynote Speakers:

- ❖ Mike Parker- Motivational Speaker and Coach
- ❖ Michael Murray- Diversity Program Manager, U.S. Office of Personnel Management
- ❖ John Lui- Director, Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Several Excellent Individual Speaker Sessions including:

- One day of mental health breakouts!!!- *covering topics such as coping skills for anxiety/depression, personality disorders, bipolar disorder and psychiatric rehabilitation*
- Low Vision Rehabilitation
- Ethics and Social Media
- Employment First Initiative
- Autism and Training
- Assistive Technology for the Hard of Hearing Population
- The Iowa Mental Health Redesign
- Strategies for Effective Employer Development
- National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)
- Collaboration: Parents and Youth in Transition
-and MORE!!!

There are also activities planned for evening entertainment, including special musical guests, food, refreshments, and back for the second year, the Quiz Bowl! We will also have raffle drawings throughout the conference for a chance to win several different amazing prizes!

REGISTER TODAY by completing the attached registration form or download it from www.iraiaowa.org and mail to Jessica Schneider, 612 N 5th, Albia, IA, 52531.

Questions? Contact Lindsay Walker at 641-799-5888 or lindsay.walker@iowa.gov.

The 2013 IRA Conference will be held at the Quality Inn and Suites on 2601 East 13th Street in Ames. Make your room reservation **ASAP** by calling 515-232-9260 and asking for the Iowa Rehabilitation Association rate! Hurry- this must be done by September 16th to guarantee a room!!!

Getting Ready for the 2013 IRA Conference

I am very proud to announce that the 2013 IRA Conference is slowly, but steadily, coming together! My beyond helpful vice-president, Miss Jessica Schneider, and I have been spending the past few months putting all the pieces together of each different component of a successful conference: speakers, financials, and of course, entertainment! To date, we have almost every speaker confirmed and have a variety of educational breakouts that we hope can address the needs of every attendee. Take a quick peek at the IRA Save-the-Date to see some of the amazing topics. We have three fabulous keynote speakers presenting this year: Mike Parker, a motivational and inspirational speaker and athletic coach from Iowa City will open our 2013 conference. He will spend a moment reflecting on this year's theme, Turning Vision Into Action, and how to help our attendees rejuvenate and regain the motivation and passion that allows us to be dedicated professionals to the individuals we serve. Michael Murray, Diversity Program Manager for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, U.S. Office Of Personnel Management, will be present to our attendees on the topic of "The Federal Government: A Model Employer of People with Disabilities" and bring a new, vibrant perspective to the topic. Mr. Murray will also be lending his expertise in the areas of employer development and ethics through our breakout sessions. Last and most certainly not least, Dr. John Lui, Director of the University of Wisconsin-Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute, will present on the topic of evidenced-based practices in VR, and how to apply it to the development of plans for individuals we serve.

Let's not forget the other essential components of our conference, such as the Silent Auction and Raffle, our exhibitors, the Awards Luncheon, and of course, the opportunity to converse and reconnect with other professionals in our field. In this newsletter, I provided a brief summary on how our members can continue to help our association by contributing to our auction/raffle, as well as give back to the Ames community. We are still putting together the pieces for evening entertainment, but be sure to expect some wonderful live music, our 2nd annual Quiz Bowl, and we are proud to announce that the Iowa State Cyclones will be playing Texas Thursday night in Ames. We will be posting information on our website and to members in the near future on how attendees can access tickets to this game if they would like to attend. For those who don't, we will still have an evening social at the Quality Inn.

Please don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions or suggestions. I am always open to new ideas!! I look forward to seeing you all in October - continue to spread the word!!

Lindsay Walker

- Notice -

At the April 19 board meeting a motion was proposed that the awards chair be moved from a presidential appointment to a job responsibility of the vice president.

Thoughts in regard to this motion should be addressed to Jeffrey Morgan -- (319) 354-4766
Email: jeffrey.morgan@iowa.gov



2013 Iowa Rehabilitation Conference Silent Auction and Raffle

Hello IRA Members!

As the conference quickly approaches, we are beginning to focus on our 2013 Silent Auction and Raffle items. This year we are looking to have one of the biggest silent auctions to date! There will be a large variety of items to bid on, from homemade specialties to basket bundles! We will also have raffle drawings throughout all three days, and the winnings are endless! You will get the chance to buy raffles for specific items you are interested in winning (example- gift cards), and we will also have daily "mega" prizes that you can purchase tickets for a chance to win (for example- Wednesday's drawing will be two tickets to Thursday night's Iowa State game against Texas).

This is where we need your help! As we put together our auction, we are asking for donations from our members to continue to grow the auction as much as possible. **This year we will be donating a portion of our proceeds to Youth and Shelter Services in Ames to help give back to the community that is supporting us during our conference. Please, please donate!!!**

Below are a few suggestions to acquire items for our IRA auction:

1. Are you creative? Do you have a hobby or craft? Please consider donating an item for the auction.
2. Do you know anyone who does the same as above? Or how about someone who does home sales, such as Scentsy or Lia Sophia? How about someone who operates a business and may donate an item? Ask friends or family if they have anything they would be willing to donate. Remember to let them know that we will be donating a portion of our proceeds to YSS.
3. Look around your home/storage for items that have not been used that are new and more than likely will not be used- we all have those in one way or another! ☺

Have any questions? Please contact Jessica Schneider at 515-494-5619.

**Do you have colleagues or clients you believe are deserving of awards?
We know you do!**

Nomination forms can be found at <http://www.iraiaowa.org/awards.html>.

Chuck Wood Memorial Award
IRA Achievement Award
IRCEA Counselor of the Year Award
Gerry Byers Award for Outstanding Service
Bill Donohue Memorial Award

**2013 Annual Training Conference
Iowa Rehabilitation Association
October 2-4, 2013
REGISTRATION**

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

Early Bird Registration (received by September 10)

| | Full conference | Wed. only | Thurs. only | Fri. only | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| A. NRA/IRA member | \$115 | \$55 | \$70 | \$40 | \$ _____ |
| B. Student member | \$75 | \$35 | \$50 | \$25 | \$ _____ |
| C. Non-member | \$165 | \$85 | \$115 | \$65 | \$ _____ |

Late Registration (received after September 10)

| | Full conference | Wed. only | Thurs. only | Fri. only | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| A. NRA/IRA member | \$135 | \$75 | \$85 | \$30 | \$ _____ |
| B. Student member | \$100 | \$50 | \$65 | \$20 | \$ _____ |
| C. Non-member | \$185 | \$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 Requests: _____

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

Jessica Schneider
 612 N 5th Street
 Albia, IA 52531

HOTEL INFORMATION

This year's conference will be at the Quality Inn and Suites Conference Center, 2601 East 13th Street, Ames, IA, 50010. Please contact the hotel directly at (515) 232-9260 to get the state discounted rate of \$55.00/night. Special rate cut off date is September 16, 2013, and it is VERY important that you book by this date due to an Ames sporting event. Mention the Iowa Rehabilitation Association rate when you call to reserve your room. Reservations made after September 16, 2013 may not receive the discounted room rate and will be subject to availability.

Legislative Report



The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP) is taking up the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. The House of Representatives had earlier passed their version of this legislation.

On June 20, 2013, the HELP Committee held hearings regarding the “Developing a Skilled Workforce for a Competitive Economy-Reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act.” Testifying at this hearing were David Mitchell, Administrator, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services; Steve Partridge, President, CEO, Charlotte Works, Charlotte, North Carolina; Beverly Smith, Assistant Administrator and State Director for Adult Education, Office of Adult Education Technical College System of Georgia, Atlanta, GA; Alan Rosenberg, VP, Chief of Staff and Chief Administrative Officer, Temple University Health Systems, Philadelphia, PA.

Their testimony as well as questions and answers can be found at the Senate HELP Committee website in video format. Testimony is also available in text format as well.

Ellen Sokolowski

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

See You in Ames

**2013 IRA Conference
October 2, 3 & 4**

**Quality Inn and Suites
2601 East 13th Street, Ames, IA 50010**

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