WRA Wins Chapter of the Year Award!

In April of this year, former WRA board member Dennis Carriere submitted a nomination to the National Rehabilitation Association’s (NRA) Award Committee asking the committee to consider WRA for the Chapter of the Year Award.

Dennis shared with the committee that WRA has demonstrated a strong history of commitment and energy in serving its’ membership. He emphasized that WRA had established and maintained a strong relationship built on mutual understanding and respect between WRA, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as two university programs (University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Wisconsin-Stout) responsible for training new rehabilitation counselors.

Dr. Charlene Dwyer former DVR administrator; Dr. David Rosenthal UW-Madison Rehabilitation Psychology Professor; Dr. Susie Eberhard UW-Stout Rehabilitation and Counseling Professor; Spencer Mosley, Jim Hill and Dennis Carriere Past WRA presidents provided letters of support for this nomination.

Some examples of WRA accomplishments highlighted in the letters of support included:
1. Co-sponsoring the 2011 Rehabilitation and Transition conference,
2. Showcasing student research at the conference,
3. Financial sponsorship for students to attend the conference,
4. Financial sponsorship for 2 persons with disabilities to attend the conference and for two entrepreneurs with disabilities to exhibit at the conference,
5. Financial sponsorship for the 2011 Assistive Technology Expo at UW-Madison,
6. Two student membership drives that offered a monetary offset when the student joined NRA/WRA,
7. WRA sponsored training sessions (Introduction to Benefit Specialists in Wisconsin, Personality Disorders, and Caseload Management utilizing Ethical Principles),
8. Recruitment of a UW-Madison doctoral student to participate and help develop the training topics and speakers for the Rehabilitation and Transition Conference,
9. First State Chapter to adapt their constitution and bylaws to reflect conducting business via email, survey monkey, etc.

On June 26th, WRA was informed they had won the NRA Chapter of the Year Award for their outstanding achievement in their efforts to advance the mission of NRA at the Chapter level. Deb Henderson Guenther accepted the award at the annual NRA conference in Chicago.
President’s Message

Happy Fall! I hope this message finds each of you enjoying the beautiful fall weather. I wanted to take this opportunity to share a few updates regarding NRA.

Many of you may not be aware that due to the economic downturn, many professional associations, including NRA, have suffered financially from decreased membership. Financially, NRA has had many challenges over the past 3 years. WRA and other state chapters receive quarterly rebates from NRA based on our membership numbers. In 2010, NRA did not have the cash flow to pay any of the states their 3rd and 4th quarter rebates and has not been able to pay any rebates to the states in either 2011 or 2012.

The NRA staff and board have been working hard to reverse this situation. After careful review, it was determined that the cost of owning and maintaining a building was about equal to the yearly deficit that NRA was accruing. In early 2012, NRA put their office up for sale. I am very happy to report the sale of the office building was recently completed. NRA staff will need to vacate the building by November 8th.

In August, the NRA board met and decided that when the office building sold, the best option would be to move toward a virtual office platform. The board chose this option because it offered a nimble office structure as well as being cost effective for the association.

Currently, the NRA staff and the board are working on the following:

1. David Beach, President Elect, is leading the transition to a virtual office platform.
2. Sara Sundeen, current NRA President, is recruiting volunteers to help physically clean out the NRA office in Alexandria. Please contact Deb if you are interested in volunteering your time to this effort.
3. Brian Coup, Membership Specialist, is working to catch up on membership processing. Brian anticipates being caught up by mid-October.
4. Creating a plan for paying back rebates to chapters.
5. Convening the Long Term Solvency committee to plan for the future of NRA.
6. Creating a committee, (once the membership processing is caught up and the move to a virtual platform is complete) that will work on hiring new leadership along with training the staff on how to utilize the virtual platform.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this information, please feel free to contact Deb at deb.hendersonguenther@wisconsin.gov or at 608-224-5071.

Meet Your New NRA Officers

At the NRA annual conference in Chicago, the results of the 2013 election were announced at the Delegate Assembly. This year a newly created office of Secretary was added to the board.

Please join me in welcoming and thanking the officers who have committed their services to the Association. These individuals represent some of the best and brightest leaders in rehabilitation.

2013 New Officers
Great Lakes Region Board

Did you know that Wisconsin is part of the Great Lakes Region (GLR) board? This board has representation from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. The board meets monthly via conference call to discuss local, state, regional and national issues in our field. The GLR representatives have been active and responsive to providing input and feedback to NRA regarding the future of our association. Recently, there has been a lot of discussion at the GLR board meetings regarding the concept of unification/coordination of the various professional rehabilitation associations. At the NRA annual conference in August, there was a general session on Collaborating with other Counseling Associations for the Future of the Profession. This session had representatives from the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA), American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA), International Association of Rehabilitation Professional (IARP) and the Commission on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). The speakers provided an update on the collaborative efforts that have been occurring between the associations and what steps should be taken to ensure the future of our profession. Some presenters favored cooperative agreements between the different associations regarding membership benefits and training while others felt it would be best to unite into a single association with different subsets. While a solution was not reached, it was agreed that all of the associations should continue to work together to ensure our profession remains vital and active.

Member Spotlight! Fred Menz

This month’s member spotlight is Professor Emeritus Frederick E. Menz, Ph. D. Fred retired in 2005 from the Research and Training Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute where he was a director for 5 years and a researcher for 32 years. Fred has a B.S. in Social Science, Psychology, and Art from Illinois State University and a M.S. and Ph. D. in Guidance and Counseling as well as Educational Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

When Fred was employed by UW Stout, he conducted and directed research on community-based rehabilitation programs. He also assisted in starting a regional continuing education training program for practitioners and administrators of these organizations. This work demonstrated how services affect improving the employment and economic gains for people with disabilities. Fred stated that he accidentally came to Stout because Tom Modahl said there was a research center opening up, so he thought, “a year in the country wouldn’t be so bad. How long could it take to design a program evaluation system for rehabilitation facilities?” He never left. That was 1973.

For the rest of this Member Spotlight, click here.
**It’s Election Time**

WRA is looking for members to run for the 2013 board. Please consider running for one of the board’s open positions. Your participation is necessary to keep WRA thriving.

Why should I run? As a board member, you will be able to:

- contribute and influence the association’s activities,
- learn and network with other members in the field of rehabilitation,
- advance the field of rehabilitation within your state,
- earn CRC credits.

The board conducts 1 fact-to-face meeting each year and monthly teleconference calls as needed.

The following positions are vacant:

**President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Board Member at Large (3 positions) and Consumer Board Member.** Each term is for 1 year except for president elect which is a 3 year term (1 term as president elect, 1 term as president and 1 term as past president).

To obtain further information on WRA’s mission, constitution and bylaws, please refer to our website at: [http://www.wra-org.org/](http://www.wra-org.org/)

To submit a nomination or to obtain a copy of a particular board position, please contact Deb Henderson Guenther at: [deb.hendersonguenther@wisconsin.gov](mailto:deb.hendersonguenther@wisconsin.gov)

Nominees must be members in good standing with the National Rehabilitation Association. **Nominee’s name and contact information must be submitted to Deb at the above email address by 10/19/12.** Nominations are reviewed to determine that the member is in good standing and the member is contacted to confirm that they are in agreement with the nomination. Once the nomination has been confirmed, the nominee’s name will be placed on the November 2012 electronic ballot.

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**Mabel’s Labels NRA Fundraiser**

Sara Sundeen, NRA President, has set up a fundraiser with Mabel’s Labels. For every sale using the NRA link ([www.nra.mabelslabels.com](http://www.nra.mabelslabels.com)), NRA will get a percentage of that sale. According to Sara, these labels are amazing. She has used Mabel’s labels on clothes, water bottles, video game cords and tiny DSI games, backpacks, pens, and dishes she wants returned. I encourage you to visit the website for more info: [click here](http://www.nra.mabelslabels.com).
WRA - Your Association!

WRA depends upon its’ members to volunteer their time and efforts to forward the mission of the organization. Regardless of how much time you have, we have Committees (membership, legislative, nominations and awards, program and website) who serve the organization and provide you a means to get involved. You have the opportunity to assist in developing conference content and training topics, recruiting and mentoring new rehabilitation professionals, and/or identifying and developing legislation that impacts persons with disabilities along with developing leadership and team building skills. Please contact Deb.Hendersonguenther@wisconsin.gov if you would like to learn more about serving on a committee.

Tribute to Daniel Clark McAlees, Ph.D., CRCC, Wisconsin Rehabilitation President 1981 (February 6, 1937 to August 29, 2012)

Daniel Clark McAlees earned a BA in Psychology from Albright College (1958) and his doctorate from Michigan State University in Rehabilitation Counseling and Special Education (1963). Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in 1976, he was Dean of the School of Special Education at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley (1969-1976). During his tenure at Greeley, he led the professionalization of rehabilitation counseling and established counselor certification, provided leadership and achieved partnerships among the emerging professional associations through the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) and the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association (NRCA), helped ensure that a funding authority for pre-service education and research was in the Rehabilitation Act, and was instrumental in establishing what would become the Institutes on Rehabilitation Issues (IRI), probably the most highly valued field-driven training resource for the public rehabilitation program.

Between 1976 and 2000, Dan directed the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Community-Based Rehabilitation and co-directed the Continuing Education Center for Community-Based Rehabilitation Providers, within the Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute, and was Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. During his tenure there, Dan grew a small federal grant for facility research and in-service training into an internationally respected center of excellence on rehabilitation and employment research that yielded research-based knowledge, training, and guidance materials that improved the quality and effectiveness of services provided to public clients in their communities. During this period he also applied his leadership talents to achieve professional standards for vocational evaluators, ensure federal funding for in-service training for both state agency rehabilitation personnel and community-based practitioners, champion individual and consumer choice, ensure continuation of research and education authorities in reauthorizations of the Rehabilitation Act, advocate for the Americans with Disabilities Act, complete nearly 30 IRIs on VR relevant topics, build program and professional bridges between the state-federal program and community providers, and lead the professionalization of the National Association of Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers.

To read the entire tribute, click here.
Rehabilitation News You Can Use

In the Ohio Rehabilitation Association's fall newsletter, Great Lakes President Dr. Joseph Keferl shared information regarding bill 4757. This legislation would severely impact rehabilitation counselors in Ohio and could have impact on rehabilitation counselors on a national level.

According to Dr. Keferl, it appears that graduates from a rehabilitation education background may once again be facing challenges of legitimacy within Ohio and across the country. The Ohio Counselor Professional Standards Committee began a recent push to tighten down requirements for licensed counselors to only graduates from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP). If this decision becomes rule, it would have the potential to further marginalize our accredited rehabilitation counseling programs/graduates. Rehabilitation counseling training programs are accredited under the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE).

Dr. Keferl also shared that another issue on the "rehab radar" that may be of interest to NRA members is the recent announcement from the American Counseling Association (ACA), the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) and the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) pertaining to the new Army directive to hire counselors. Again due to its importance, this directive accompanies this article.

The WRA newsletter is the forum that allows the board to keep our members informed on issues like these that will impact our work and our ability to be recognized as qualified professionals. However you interpret these issues, the field of rehabilitation is undergoing significant change. The question of how this change will occur truly involves all of us. We need to be proactive in our profession — otherwise, other entities will continue to grow their influence and professional foothold and further marginalize our rehabilitation identity.

For more info, click here.

IARP-WI Invites You to Attend Our Fall Seminar

Friday, November 9, 2012 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

For more info, click here.