



# PTRS NEWSLETTER

## WINTER 2004

The newsletter of the Pennsylvania  
Therapeutic Recreation Society  
[www.ptrs.ws](http://www.ptrs.ws)

### Highlights from September PTRS Board Meeting

The PTRS Board met for the first time at the new PRPS office in State College. The building is spacious and they have many exciting plans to update in the coming years. The staff of PRPS have been attending workshops on developing marketing ideas to enhance our society especially in promoting conferences and workshops. A ballot will be sent out soon with nominations for various officers. Please watch for this and send in your vote. Many of you may remember receiving PRPS Update letter in the mail. Please note that you will now receive this via email. Please be sure the PRPS office has your email address. Current membership of PTRS is 326, with many internet users utilizing the website. The Board continues to work toward achieving our strategic goals. TRI 2004 planning is well under way. Please mark your calendars for June 7-11, 2004, in Grantville. Regional Reps continue to work on holding workshops in each region. South Central region presented a brainstorm of holding a retreat weekend for area TR Students. Students and professionals would be invited to the retreat as a networking opportunity for the students to interact with professionals in the field. More planning is to come. Please feel free to contact any board member or regional representatives with your questions or comments.

### Therapeutic Recreation Institute June 7-11, 2004 Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn Grantville, PA

The TRI advanced flyer will be in your mailboxes soon, here are some highlights to get you thinking of TRI 2004.

- Longterm care track and Alternative Therapy Track
- Susan Newell will join us again presenting on a variety of topics
- Bill Klinger will be presenting a keynote on Alternative Therapies as well as Tai-Chi
- Topics to look forward to:
  - Pain Management
  - Reiki
  - Color Therapy
  - Fall Prevention
  - Sign Language
  - Setting up Dementia Units
  - Art Therapy
  - Music Therapy
  - Spirituality
  - Validation
  - WATSU
  - and much more!

### In this Issue...

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## PTRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

**Kirk S. Rakos, CTRS (2005)**  
Supervisor Recreation & Leisure Services  
Masonic Villages  
One Masonic Drive  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022 (B)  
H. 717-627-4822  
W. 717-367-1121 ext.33191  
F. 717-361-5337  
E. krakos@masonicvillagespa.org

### President-Elect

**Frederick C. Walter, CTRS (2005)**  
Coordinator, PM & RS  
James Van Zandt VA Medical Center  
2907 Pleasant Valley Blvd.  
Altoona, PA 16602 (B)  
W. 814-943-8164  
F. 814-940-7890  
E. Fred.Walter@med.va.gov

### Past-President

**Teresa Rash, CTRS (2005)**  
Director of Therapeutic Services  
Margaret E. Moul Home  
2050 Barley Road  
York, PA 17404 (B)  
H. 717-235-6203  
W. 717-767-6463  
F. 717-764-8711  
E. trash@margaretemoul.org

### Recording Secretary

**Jennifer Koehler, CTRS (2005)**  
Recreation Therapist  
Lancaster Regional Medical Center  
250 College Avenue  
Lancaster, PA 17604 (B)  
W. 717-358-7527  
E. JennKoehler@att.net

### Membership Secretary

**Becky Ann Kandrak, CTRS (2005)**  
Therapeutic Recreation Specialist  
Masonic Villages  
One Masonic Drive  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022 (B)  
W. 717-367-1121 x 33646  
F. 717-361-5337  
E. bec143tc2@aol.com

### North East Regional Rep.

**Terry Schofstal, ADC (2005)**  
Activity Director  
York Terrace Nursing Center  
24th West Market Street  
Pottsville, PA 17901 (H)  
W. 570-622-3982  
F. 570-622-2872

### North Central Regional Rep.

**(2004)**  
**Open**

### North West Regional Rep.

**Catherine Bowers, CTRS (2005)**  
Activity Director  
Achievement Center  
H. 814-825-7741  
E. jmc2150@juno.com

### South East Regional Rep.

**Lynne Kressly-Pomietlarz, CTRS (2004)**  
Recreation Director  
Camilla Hall Nursing Home  
P.O. Box 100  
King & Frazier Roads  
Immaculata, PA 19345 (B)  
W. 610-644-1152 ext. 2229  
F. 610-695-0691  
E. blucrit@netzero.net

### South Central Regional Rep.

**Susan Lilly, CTRS (2005)**  
Executive Director  
Arch Street Center  
223 W. Orange St.  
Lancaster, PA 17603 (B)  
W. 717-392-8536  
F. 717-392-7697  
E. archstreetcenter@earthlink.com

### South West Regional Rep.

**Julie Bricker, CTRS (2004)**  
*Director of Recreational Therapy*  
Western Pennsylvania Hospital  
1858 Dagmar Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216 (H)  
W. 412-578-1071  
F. 412-578-3519  
E. belugas22@aol.com

### Developmental Disabilities

**Specialty Representative**  
**Leah R. Workinger, CTRS (2004)**  
Senior Rec. Therapist  
Margaret E. Moul Home  
2050 Barley Road  
York, PA 17404 (B)  
W. 717-767-6463  
F. 717-764-8711  
E. lworkinger@margaretemoul.org

### Geriatrics Specialty Rep.

**Emily Connors, CTRS (2004)**  
Recreation Therapist  
Masonic Villages  
One Masonic Drive  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022 (B)  
W. 717-367-1121 ext. 33726  
F. 717-361-5337  
E. jasoncapex@verizon.net

### Mental Health Specialty Rep.

**Mary Schreiber, CTRS (2004)**  
Associate Service Director  
Keystone Residence of Lancaster  
836 Fremont Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603-5442 (H)  
W. 717-399-5460  
E. mary.schreiber2@verizon.net

### Pediatric/Adolescents

**Specialty Representative**  
**Heather Erno, CTRS (2005)**  
Coordinator of the Therapeutic Horsemanship Program  
Hoffman Homes for Youth  
P.O. Box 4777  
Gettysburg, PA 17325 (B)  
W. 717-359-7148 ext. 1535  
E. herno@hoffmanhomes.com

### Physical Medicine & Rehab.

**Mary Ann Bellfy, CTRS**  
Therapeutic Recreation Specialist  
Susquehanna Health System  
777 Rural Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701 (B)  
W. 570-321-2656  
F. 570-321-2057  
E. mfb1923@aol.com

### State Facilities Specialty Rep.

**Lee Bryan, CTRS (2005)**  
935 Adams Street  
New Castle, PA 16101 (H)  
H. 724-654-6312  
E. lbryanbird@yahoo.com

### VA System Specialty Rep.

**Jean-Marie Walter, CTRS (2005)**  
Recreation Therapist  
James Van Zandt VA Medical Center  
2907 Pleasant Valley Blvd.  
Altoona, PA 16602 (B)  
W. 814-943-8164 x 7158  
F. 814-940-9878  
E. Jean.walter@med.va.gov

### Staff Liaison

**Bob Griffith, Executive Director**  
Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society  
2131 Sandy Drive  
State College, PA 16803-2283 (B)  
H. 814-238-1180  
W. 814-234-4272  
F. 814-234-5276  
E. rgriffith@prps.org

As of 1/29/04

**Pennsylvania Therapeutic  
Recreation Society  
Strategic Plan  
Initiatives and Objectives  
2001-2005**

Initiatives – 5 years  
Objectives – June 2003-2004

**Initiative I. Expand Membership Base**

**Objectives:**

- A. Raise professional membership by 10% above the total as of July 2004.
- B. Raise student membership by 5% above the total as of July 2004.

**Initiative II. Improve the Quality of Membership Services**

**Objectives:**

- A. Improve communication to membership as evidenced by response to website, newsletter and membership survey.
- B. Market mentoring program.

**Initiative III. Improve Continuing Education Opportunities  
Relative to the Needs of Our Members**

**Objectives:**

- A. Provide workshops based on membership needs and interests.
- B. Complete PTRS workshop guidelines by September 7, 2001.  
- achieved year 2002
- C. Reach targeted financial goal per PRPS 2001-2002 Budget.  
achieved 2002-2003
- D. Continually obtain and evaluate interests of our members relative to professional services offered which include educational topics, mentoring and consultation.
- E. Guarantee professional appearance of educational materials.

**Initiative IV. Strengthen Advocacy with Legislators,  
Governmental Officials and Interested Citizens**

**Objectives:**

- A. Revise and update position statements by November 2003.
- B. Schedule, plan and facilitate a "Day on the Hill" at the state level in 2003.
- C. Implement a monitoring system of state and legislative issues.

Prepared by  
Kirk S. Rakos, PTRS President  
PTRS Board

Date of origin June 2001  
Revised June 3, 2003

As you begin to read the new and improved winter edition of your Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society newsletter the special days of the holiday season are memories. We are now looking forward to a successful and memorable year in 2004. Just as many of us have set new years resolutions (hopefully you have not broken them) the PTRS board has made a resolution that we intend to keep and that is to improve the services offered to you as a member.

Therefore, the board members have begun the initial phase of working with the data obtained from the 84 returned surveys which is a 25% return rate out of the 330 mailed in November 2003. In the next newsletter we will share the outcome and comments received until then you can be assured that in the near future you will begin to receive information on workshops that have been designed to meet your needs and address the trends in therapeutic recreation. Visit the website at [www.ptrs.ws](http://www.ptrs.ws) and read your newsletter for increased information as it pertains to you as a professional.

In closing, I am thankful to have each of you as members of this society known as PTRS. I also want to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year in 2004 and look forward to a year of growth for our profession and society. Does your new year's resolution include professional improvement then you will want to mark the dates of June 7-11<sup>th</sup> for the 36<sup>h</sup> annual Therapeutic Recreation Institute where we will "Celebrate Our Profession" at the Holiday Inn Grantville, Pennsylvania.

*Enjoy the rest of the newsletter!*

Sincerely



PTRS President

PTRS Newsletter is published by the Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society. The newsletter editor is Jenn Koehler. PTRS is a branch of the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, Inc. Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society, 2131 Sandy Drive, State College, PA 16803-2283, (814) 234-4272; Fax: (814) 234-5276; [www.ptrs.ws](http://www.ptrs.ws).

## **Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation News**

On October 15, 2003 GT Thompson, CTRS and Mary Ann Bellfy, CTRS were two of only 16 individuals to testify at a Veritus hearing regarding the proposed changes to in-patient rehabilitation admission criteria. Veritus is the fiscal intermediary for Medicare funds for the state of Pennsylvania. GT spoke as a representative of PTRS and Mary Ann represented Susquehanna Health Systems. The remaining 14 represented other rehab facilities in the state. The only health profession represented was Therapeutic Recreation via PTRS.

At this time, the decisions to implement changes by January has been delayed. In fact the director of CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) has resigned (probably under pressure from legislators after the tremendous response from all professionals within the rehab industry). We anticipate that some changes will be recommended at a future date, but we have heard nothing at the time of this newsletter release.

The lobbyist group for ATRA (American Therapeutic Recreation Association) is currently evaluating the newly passed Medicare bill line by line to determine the potential effect on recreational therapists.

PTRS is off to a good start for 2004 with planning for the 2004 Therapeutic Recreation Institute, one-day workshops, and other initiatives underway. The PTRS Board met in early January to review the results of a recent membership survey and is taking definitive steps to upgrade and improve services. Training and education will continue to be top focuses. Improvements to expand the PTRS website, [www.ptrs.ws](http://www.ptrs.ws), are planned, and changes in the PTRS Board structure to make it more effective are being contemplated. It should be a good year for PTRS!

By the time you are reading this newsletter, you should have received the advance flyer for the 2004 TRI. You'll note the continuation of the specialty days, one for long term care and one for alternative therapies. On these two days, participants will have the option to earn a competency certificate in these specialties by attending the designated sessions and passing an examination at the end of the day. This seemed to be a popular option in 2003 so we are continuing to provide it. Be sure to thank the TRI Committee since it means more work and preparation on their part. In addition to the specialty courses, there are plenty of other training from Wednesday through Friday, so plan to register and attend the full TRI.

Becky Kandrac and Wayne Henninger will be recognized on February 4, 2004 as PRPS Members of the Quarter for Fall 2003. They were selected to acknowledge their support for the PRPS Building Fund through the auction and raffle each year at the TRI. Congratulations Becky and Wayne, and thank you for your hard work!

Wendy Jo Hartsock, as our volunteer TR training coordinator in the PRPS Office, is continuing her work on a comprehensive set of one day workshops for 2004 based on specific recommendations of the PTRS Board. We'll be starting in March after the bad weather is pretty well gone, and expect to have a workshop in each region on an every other month basis. Over the next year, each of the six PTRS regions should see six workshops. We'll be balancing long term care, rehab., psych., management, and other topics, and plan to repeat some workshops in each region so all members have training reasonably close to home. We appreciate the facilities that have offered to host training and the PTRS regional representatives who are assisting.

That's my update for now. We hope to see all of you at our one-day workshops and the TRI!

Best Regards,

*Bob Griffith*

*2004 Therapeutic Recreation  
Institute  
Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday  
Inn  
Grantville, PA*

*June 7 - 11, 2004*

**Seeking Donors**

For veteran TRI attendees, you know that the silent auction is one of the favorite events at the TRI. The TRI committee extends the opportunity to all PTRS members to donate a theme basket for this event. It's not too early to commit. Please contact Becky Kandrac at Bec143tc2@aol.com.

**2005 Therapeutic Recreation Institute**

PTRS is now looking for volunteers to chair the 2005 Therapeutic Recreation Institute to be held in Grantville, PA. This is a great opportunity to become involved in PTRS and to network with other professionals. We have "How To" manuals and numerous folks to assist you with the planning of the conference. Please contact Fred Walter at 814-943-8164 ext.7157 for more information.

**N. Central Open Board position available**

PTRS currently has an open Board position for the North Central Representative. If you live in the following counties you are eligible for this position: Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union. As a board member you'll be involved in the planning and progress of PTRS. This is also another great way to network with other professionals across the state. Please contact Kirk Rakos at (717) 367-1121 ext. 33191 for more information.

**We heard what you said!**

Thank you to all PTRS members who completed the membership survey. We've recorded your responses and are beginning to discuss & implement your feedback. Look for a summary of the survey in our spring Newsletter. Thank you for helping us to improve your society.

**PTRS has a Memorial Fund (previously called the Bernie Thorne Fund)**

Is available to PTRS members for funding in research projects in the field of Therapeutic Recreation. You may contact the PRPS office for application information including deadlines and specifics. This is your chance to advance the field of TR.

**Member News**

**Honors**

Congratulations to Teresa Rash on becoming the ATRA Co-coordinator for Developmental Disabilities.

Congratulations to Mary Schreiber on her new position as Associate Service Director at Keystone Residence. Good Luck Mary with the new venture. And if your wondering who has taken Mary's position as the Recreation Therapist at Lancaster Regional Medical Center, you'll find Jenn Koehler sitting at Mary's old desk.

**Sympathies**

PRPS members extend their deepest sympathies to the following members who recently experienced the loss of a family member.

Jean Marie Walter of Altoona on the loss of her father.

Catherine Bowers of Erie on the loss of her mother.

Wayne Henninger of Pottsville on the loss of his mother.

Bernie O'Connor of Erie on the loss of his mother.

Our sympathy also goes out to the family of Harold Thomas who passed away recently after a long illness with cancer. Harold was an activity associate at Tel Hai Retirement Community, and attended many TRI conferences. Harold's smiles and kindness will be missed by all.

**Check out the PTRS  
website at  
[www.ptrs.ws](http://www.ptrs.ws) for more  
news and  
information!**

## National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification

As you are working with interns, advising future employees preparing to take the NCTRC exam be sure you are providing them with correct information regarding NCTRC standards. There have been several changes to the NCTRC Standards including the guidelines regarding TR content of coursework and the NCTRC exam schedule. Click on the NCTRC link from the [www.ptrs.ws](http://www.ptrs.ws) for details beyond the following highlights provided here:

Changes to the Certification Standards for entry-level professional eligibility:

1. Support course requirement: Human Growth and Development Across the Lifespan.  
Effective date: August 1, 2003
2. Internship Change: increase in maximum weekly hours to 45 hours per week.  
Effective date: July 29, 2003
3. Content Course Requirement: Increase the required number of TR content coursework to four courses.  
Effective date: December 31, 2007
4. Content Course Requirement: Increase in required number of TR content courses completed prior to field placement. The number of required therapeutic recreation content courses that must be completed prior to field placement is 9 semester or 12 quarter hours in TR content coursework.  
Effective date: December 31, 2007
5. NCTRC Certification Exam Schedule: three administrations per year to align the test periods more closely with academic graduation dates.  
Effective date: beginning with the October 2004 test

## American Therapeutic Recreation Association

founded in 1984

### NEWS RELEASE

**November 24, 2003**

Contact: Laurie Jake, ATRA Communications Coordinator  
Phone (480) 460-1525 or  
Ann D Huston, ATRA Executive Director  
Phone: (703) 683-9420

### **Recreational Therapist Chairs the CARF Board of Trustees for 2004**

Tucson, Arizona – After serving one year as chair-elect of the 53 member CARF Board of Trustees, ATRA member Joanne Finegan, M.S.A., CTRS, will chair the board for the 2004 term. Finegan joined the CARF board in 1997 as a representative of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association. She is the chief executive officer of ReMed, a post-acute brain injury rehabilitation provider with locations in Pennsylvania and Ohio and headquarters in Conshohocken, Pa.

Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, the accrediting body is now known as CARF. CARF establishes customer-focused standards to help providers measure and improve the quality, value, and outcomes of their services. At present, CARF has accredited more than 3,700 organizations in the United States, Canada, and Sweden in the areas of adult day services, assisted living, behavioral health, employment and community services, and medical rehabilitation. Since 1988, ATRA has maintained sponsoring membership with the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). CARF identifies recreational therapy as a key component in many of their standards and services.

ATRA President Melinda Conway Callahan traveled to Tucson for the induction ceremony and affirmed, “We are both excited and proud of this recognition of Joanne’s obvious leadership abilities. She has certainly brought a great deal of recognition to our profession through her accomplishments.”

For more information, please contact Laurie Jake, CTRS, ATRA Communications Coordinator at (480) 460-1525 or the ATRA National Office at (703) 683-9420

###

The American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) was founded in 1984 to advance the profession of therapeutic recreation. ATRA is a non-profit, professional membership organization dedicating 100% of resources and efforts to promote therapeutic recreation professionals in health care and human service settings.

## JOB ADVERTISEMENT

### Philadelphia Nursing Home

Girard & Corinthian Avenues • Philadelphia, PA  
19130 • (215) 685-0800

#### RECREATION THERAPIST

An immediate full-time position is available for a Recreation Therapist to work with residents of varying ages and disabilities in a 500 -bed Long Term Care facility. Responsibilities would include being a primary therapist for a designated unit (s), which includes providing therapeutic recreation groups along with a variety of leisure activities, and being responsible for all of the care planning, assessments and other clinical documentation. A thorough knowledge of the documentation procedures / requirements (including MDS) for long-term care in the state of Pennsylvania is essential. Job applicant must be able to give direction to Activity Assistants and volunteers. He/she must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Therapeutic Recreation, the credentials of CTRS or be eligible to sit for the CTRS exam, and prior experience in long-term care. He/she must be flexible, creative, independent, responsible, enthusiastic and very well organized in order to function optimally as a team player in a large and diversified Recreation Therapy Department. The hours for the position are primarily day with the exception of one (1) evening per week, one (1) weekend approximately every seven (7) weeks and one (1) holiday per year.

The Philadelphia Nursing Home is conveniently located, just minutes away from the Art Museum, the Philadelphia Zoo and Temple University. It is owned and licensed by the City of Philadelphia, managed and operated by Episcopal Long Term Care, which is presently part of the Temple Health System. We offer competitive salaries, an excellent benefit package, including three (3) weeks vacation, full health insurance benefits and tuition reimbursement.

Interested candidates can call, send or fax their resumes to:

Ann C. Durante, M.Ed. CTRS  
Director of Recreation Therapy  
ELTC / Philadelphia Nursing Home  
2100 W. Girard Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Phone: (215) 685-0800 Ext: 1329 Fax: (215) 685-0975

## PTRS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Donna Hoshauer is currently working for Seton Manor in Orwigsburg, PA as the Activity Coordinator. She has been working there for 3 years and tells us that she feels very fortunate to work at Seton Manor having an administrator that lets her be creative in her work. She obtained her ADC through correspondence courses after initially want to pursue a career in nursing. She began her work as a CNA at Laurel Nursing Center, moved to the volunteer coordinator, and then found her passion in the activity department. She has served on the PAPA Board, has her Personal Care Administrator License, and has served on TRI committees.

Donna and her husband Don have three children and are proud grandparents of their 18 month old granddaughter. Donna enjoys hiking, golfing, and anything outdoors. She would love to travel to New Zealand. Her favorite season is fall. Her first car was a Ford Futura (maroon with white leather seats!), and her dream car is a two seater BMW .

We thank Donna for her work with PTRS and commend her for all of the hard work she does with her residents at Seton Manor.

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### Do you have an outstanding program at your facility, or work with an exceptional Therapeutic Recreation, or activities professional?

Maybe you have an outstanding volunteer or student intern. If so, this is your chance to honor them with an award from PTRS. Please visit our website at [www.ptrs.ws](http://www.ptrs.ws) for a complete listing of awards. Please call Lynne Pomietlarz at (610) 386-2229 for questions or nominations. Many great programs are occurring and this is our chance to recognize the good work of our PTRS members. Please share with us your successes.

Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society  
2131 Sandy Drive  
State College, PA 16803  
www.pters.ws

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U.S. Postage  
PAID  
State College, PA  
Zipcode 16801  
Permit No. 99

Mark your calendars as we  
“Celebrate our Profession!”

2004 Therapeutic Recreation  
Institute  
June 7-11, 2004  
Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn  
Grantville, PA