



PTRS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2002

The newsletter of the Pennsylvania
Therapeutic Recreation Society
www.pters.ws

Call for Speakers/Presenters

The 2003 Therapeutic Recreation Institute hosted by the Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society will be held June 3-6, 2003, in Grantville, Pennsylvania. Our theme this year is:

“United We Stand....In Excellence”

It is our commitment to bring you the most current information and up to date topics that you, our member, are most interested in. As we continue striving to bring you this information we are always on the lookout for new topics, ideas and presenters. If you, or someone you know may be interested in presenting or has an idea of a topic not yet covered by the Therapeutic Recreation Institute please contact us.

Please Contact Susan Lilly at (717) 392-8536. All ideas must be submitted no later than December 15, 2002. The Program committee will review all submissions for consideration and presenters will be notified by January 15, 2003. To ensure the quality of our educational sessions, presenters will be chosen based on experience with facilitation of professional sessions and ability to demonstrate expertise or competence in the area to be presented. Educational sessions not previously presented are encouraged.



Congratulations, G.T.
G.T. Thompson, is now the President
of ATRA

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As of 11/8/02

**Pennsylvania Therapeutic
Recreation Society
Strategic Plan
Initiatives and Objectives**

Initiatives – 5 years
Objectives – 12-18 months

Initiative I. Expand Membership Base

Objectives:

- A. Raise professional membership by 10% above the total as of April 11, 2001
- B. Raise student membership by 10% above the total as of April 11, 2001

Initiative II. Improve the Quality of Membership Services

Objectives:

- A. Improve communication to membership as evidence by response to website and newsletter.
- B. Develop a mentoring program - completed.

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

Objectives:

- A. Confirm two workshops per region on an annual basis.
- B. Complete PTRS workshop guidelines - completed.
- C. Reach targeted financial goal per PRPS 2002-2003 Budget.
- D. Continually obtain and evaluate interests of our members relative to educational topics and scheduling of workshops.
- E. Guarantee professional appearance of educational materials.

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

Objectives:

- A. Develop position statements.
- B. Schedule, plan and facilitate a "Day on the Hill" at the state level.
- C. Implement a monitoring system of state and legislative issues.

June 5, 2001

PTRS Newsletter is published by the Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society. The newsletter editor is Liz Grosh.

PTRS is a branch of the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, Inc.

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Hello, Everyone

I hope this newsletter finds all of you well and looking forward to the Holiday Bustle and Festivities. Can you believe there is only "54" shopping days left until Christmas.

The Ballots have returned and the results have been tallied. I would like to welcome the following members to the PTRS Board of Directors; Lynne Kressly- Pomietlarz (Southeast Representative), Julie Bricker (Southwest Representative), Leah Workinger (Developmental Disabilities Representative), Emily Connors (Geriatrics Representative), Mary Schreiber (Mental Health Representative) and Mary Ann Belfy (Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Representative). Once again welcome and thank you for making a commitment to the society.

The PRPS conference committee and the PTRS conference committees have been working very diligently and enthusiastically to plan two outstanding conferences for our membership. This year's PRPS Conference is being Co -chaired by PTRS members Lee Bryan and myself. Our committee has put together an outstanding program and exciting social events. We are offering a Therapeutic Recreation Management track for those seasoned professionals who now find themselves in administrative and supervisory roles. Sessions being offered are Tools and techniques to Monitor, Audit & Evaluate Staff, Managing Difficult Employees, Surviving a Changing Environment, Compliance 101 and Privacy in Healthcare. I hope these topics can provide you information that you can use daily in your professional life. The PRPS Conference is March 2nd – 5th 2003 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College.

The Therapeutic Recreation Institute is being held June 3rd –6th, 2003 at the Holiday Inn, Grantville. The co-chairs Kirk Rakos and Jenn Justis along with their dedicated committee are planning an outstanding program. Keynote Speaker Emiree Farr Walter will challenge us "To Claim Our Magnificence" NCTRC will be available to answer your recertification and credentialing questions. There will be a pre-conference program for students. New to the TRI will be competency programs for long-term care and mental health with one full day being devoted to each of these specialty areas. The committee has planned many social events and opportunities for networking. The annual awards banquet is planned for Thursday evening. The awards program can be found on our website. Please take the time to nominate those individuals or programs that you feel are the "Brightest and Best in Pennsylvania".

Have a Wonderful Holiday Season. I hope to see you in State College in March and in Grantville in June.

Best Wishes,

*Teresa Rash, PTRS
President*

Tag Your It!

Since April 2001 it has been my pleasure to serve not only in the capacity of PTRS Recording Secretary but also to serve as the T.R. Representative to the District II Committee of PRPS. When asked to run for both positions simultaneously I was reluctant to take on both but decided that I could more easily report back and fourth between the two if I were doing both that way, so I agreed. Fortunately, the District Committee took up very little of my time and my facility was gracious about my responsibility, enabling me to participate.

I had already had the experience of serving as the T.R. Representative to a PRPS Conference Committee and became fully aware of the need for our TR Branch to increase its' various Branches. One of District II's responsibilities is to plan and organize the annual September Mini Conference which some of you may have recently attended for the TR Sessions which were included thanks to the efforts of Susan Lily as the TR representative for our PTRS Board for this region. During our meetings for the mini conference it became apparent to me that there was a way for our PTRS members to assist and consult with Community and State Park Recreation in the area of Inclusion as we have the education, skills and expertise in the area of Inclusion which could aid in changing their programs from "Integrated" programs into "Inclusive" ones.

Though only a few people from PRPS took advantage of the session in September presented by Darilyn Marinelli, Therapeutic Recreation coordinator for the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission and our panel of TR representative, we learned that there is much to do and many ways that we can help our partner branches in PRPS to surpass the present day standards in this area and provide quality recreation for all! Darilyn was kind enough to leave information and there is a new book by John Datillo, Ph.D. "Responding to the Rights of People with Disabilities" (second Edition).

My time working as a PTRS Board member and a TR representative to PRPS will be coming to a close in April, 2003 and rather than continuing in these capacities I am asking each of you to consider taking a turn in one of these areas. By working together and sharing responsibilities we are a stronger whole. I've had my turn, is it now yours?

If interested in being a PTRS Board member contact any one of our Board members. If interested in being a TR representative to District II for PRPS please contact Susan Davis her email is sdavis@lancasterrec.org. Other districts may also need TR Representation on their committees, check with Bob Griffith.

Tag You're It!

Liz Grosh
Recording Secretary, PTRS

Upcoming TR Workshop

The Therapeutic Art of Clowning Around
Wednesday, December 4, 2002
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Pittsburgh
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
PTRS Member \$59 Non-member \$79
.6 CEUs

This workshop will meet a variety of educational purposes, primary being skill development. The art of clowning can be adapted for young and old populations either as a leisure skill to be taught or a sensory stimulus and alternative to encourage reminiscing.

If you would like more information on this workshop, please contact PRPS at (814) 234-4272.



NEWSFLASH!!!

Facility Options with the MDS MPAF Form

“The new MDS Medicare PPS Assessment Form (MPAF) will provide facilities with new options concerning the forms used for Medicare PPS assessments. To allow reduction in assessment burden, facilities can choose to complete and submit the shorter MPAF form rather than a full MDS assessment for Medicare PPS assessments.

Use of the MPAF form is completely optional. If a facility continues to submit a full assessment for PPS reasons, the extra MDS items (that are not on the MPAF form) will be ignored and will not be stored in the state database. No errors or warnings will occur because a full assessment is submitted for PPS reasons.

The OBRA assessment requirements supercede the use of the abbreviated form. When assessments are completed for both OBRA reasons and PPS reasons, then all OBRA-required items, all PPS-required items, and any state-specific items must all be submitted, with all required items being stored in the state MDS database. When assessments are PPS-only (no OBRA reason present), only the MPAF items and any state specific items will be active and stored in the state MDS database.

The Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society would like to emphasize our support of your efforts to promote our profession through continued requests of physician ordered recreation therapy and completing section T of the MDS when available. Please do not hesitate to contact the Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society via our website: www.ptrs.ws or myself, Emily Connors, PTRS Long Term Care Representative, if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,
Emily Connors, CTRS
PTRS Long Term Care Representative
ejenn@cs.com
(717) 367-1121 ext. 33726

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Update

3-HOUR RULE—CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services—formerly HCFA) continues to recognize Recreational Therapy treatment as a contributor toward the minimum 3-hour treatment rule. Active treatment prescribed by a physician (including in that order scope, duration, and intensity of service) may be counted toward satisfying the 3-hour rule.

PPS—Most physical rehab facilities are now receiving payment for Medicare patients under the Perspective Payment System which began as early as January, 2002, for some facilities. Payment is based in part on scoring of a modified FIM (Functional Independence Measure) form. Recreational therapists can and should be certified in FIM scoring through their facilities. The actual form is call the IRF-PAI (Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Patient Assessment Information.) Anyone with successful approaches to, or questions regarding implementation of this system, completion of the form, documentation systems to verify scoring, etc. are asked to contact the PM& R Specialty Representative who is organizing a clearinghouse for information and concerns. Frequently asked questions and successful programs will be featured in upcoming newsletters.

Election Ballot Results

Southeast Representative

Lynne Kressly-Pomietlarz

Southwest Representative

Julie Bricker

Developmental Disabilities Representative

Leah Workinger

Geriatrics Representative

Emily Connors

Mental Health Representative

Mary Schreiber

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Representative

Mary Ann Bellfy

PTRS Member Spotlight

Terry L. Schofstal, A.D.C.

Although I have been the Activity Director at the same nursing facility-York Terrace for the past 24 years, it's hard to believe that so many years have gone by since I started my career as an Activity Assistant-something to do for the summer before college. However, when the Director accepted another position, one event led to another, so within six months of my hire date, I became the new Activity Director...and the rest is history.

It has been great to see the "Activities" field grow into a professional career: From the starting point of being the person who says "Lets play Bingo" and "Everybody sing along" to the here and now, where we hold a position of diverse tasks and clinical responsibility as an integral part of the healthcare delivery system. For example, at York Terrace, I am a Department Head with a staff of four assistants, and Editor of the facility Newsletter; I'm part of the interdisciplinary care plan team; I sit on the Resident Safety Committee and the Quality Assurance Committee, and have the opportunity to participate in local community initiatives such as the Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Daffodil Days, Make A Difference Day and the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk - and I get to drive the bus! (Still, some people are amazed that I like my job especially in a nursing home setting...)

Because of the growing importance of Activities, about 14 years ago several Directors and I decided to join PTRS to learn more about our field, and keep us with changes.



We enjoyed attending the Conference which provided us with valuable information and the opportunity to meet and learn from great people.

This part year I was approached by several board members to consider accepting an open position. It occurred to me that this might be an opportune time to step up to the plate and become part of another great team. I am also on the planning Committee for the upcoming T.R. Conference, which has really been an eye-opener for me-I never realized how much hard work it takes to bring together all the elements of a successful conference! (With this in mind, please be kind to us committee members...)



Seriously, I am really looking forward to making a positive contribution to Board, to helping the membership in any way that I can, to keeping abreast of current developments in our field, and to meeting more great people--like you.

*Terry L. Schofstal, A.D.C.
Activity Director*

*Beverly Healthcare-York Terrace
Pottsville, PA 17901-1833*



**35th Annual TRI
United We Stand...In Excellence
June 3-6, 2003
Holiday Inn Grantville, PA**

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHATS HAPPENING AT THE TRI?

TRI 2003 Offers the opportunity for 2 competency based tracks. The purpose of the track is to give participants a concentration of topics related to a specific area of interest. The 2 tracks are:

**Track 1 – Wednesday June 4, 2003
Issues and Trends in Long Term Care**

**Track 2 – Thursday June 5, 2003
Issues and Trends in Mental Health**

The Tracks are OPTIONAL and participants who complete an entire track will earn a competency certificate!

Tracks don't interest you? How about our Keynote speaker Elimere Farr Walter. Ms. Walter is a national speaker looking forward to coming to PA and assisting us all in "Claiming our Magnificence." We are also working hard to bring back, by popular demand, Susan Newell and Dr. Bill Klinger.

**WE GUARENTEE QUALITY EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS, GREAT SOCIALS, AND THE
CHANCE TO BUILD AND RENEW FRIENDSHIPS TO LAST A LIFETIME.**

Mark Your Calendar Now!!

35th Annual PA Therapeutic Recreation Institute

**United We Stand...In Excellence
June 3-6, 2003**

Holiday Inn Grantville, PA

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