

# CONTEMPORARY REHAB

Vol. 66, No. 5

October 2010

## Vocational Rehabilitation Workers Report High On-the-Job Injuries and Illnesses

By Beverlee Stafford, NRA Executive Director

Shortly after I started working with NRA in January of 2009, I received a call from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), under the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC). NIOSH was starting to focus on what they call the “Social Assistance Subsector” to look at the health and safety of workers in various fields, including vocational rehabilitation, social work, child day care and home health aides.

At first, I did not see the relevance to NRA’s mission, but I have since seen the light. I initially thought about things like violence in the workplace or counselors that have to travel to meet with consumers in rural areas. I felt that those incidences were rather rare in our field and that the safety and health of VR workers was not a major concern. But, I soon learned that the statistics show a very different picture.

NIOSH held a meeting here in Washington, D.C., in early September 2010 to more fully flesh out their goals and strategies for improving the health and safety of workers in these social assistance fields. At that meeting, they shared statistics collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), under the U.S. Department of Labor, on reported on-the-job illnesses and injuries. The statistics, covering 2006 through 2008, show that individuals employed in the health care and social assistance fields report the second highest incidences of on-the-job injuries and illness (the field of “Manufacturing” is the highest).

Of course, this broader category includes direct health care providers as well as VR counselors. I figured that hospital workers would certainly have higher incidences than VR workers, and that is correct. However, when you look closer at the data, you can see that VR workers report higher incidences of workplace illnesses and injuries than the other groups in the Social Assistance Subsector. For example:

### **Incidence Rate of nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Reported per 100 full-time employees — 2006-2008 (average)**

Social Assistance Subsector (total)	3.8
Individual and family services	4.0

Community food, housing, and emergency and other relief services	2.8
Child day care services	2.4
Vocational rehabilitation services	6.9 (!!!)

So, workers in vocational rehabilitation report a significantly higher number of incidences of workplace injuries and illnesses than do social workers, home health care workers, and child day care providers! What is going on here?

As I explored this question more fully, I learned that the category of “vocational rehabilitation services” includes, for example, everyone who would be employed at a community rehabilitation program – from the janitors through the Executive Director. Of course, some of those workers would have a much more physically demanded job than others. I then delved deeper into the matter and sought out statistics on VR counselors versus other workers in the field of vocational rehabilitation.

One of my contacts at NIOSH helped me to categorize the data for “rehabilitation” counselors (the term used by the BLS) and put it in perspective. Jim Boiano, Assistant Program Coordinator, Healthcare and Social Assistance Sector, NIOSH, put together the tables below.

**Table 1. Incidence Rates of NonFatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work by Selected Occupation and Selected Events or Exposures Leading to Injury or Illness, 2008**

Occupation	Contact with Objects	Fall to Lower level	Fall on Same Level	Slips or Trips Without fall	Over exertion	Transportation	Assaults and Violent Acts	Exposure to Harmful Chemicals	All Other Events
All Occupations	30.7	7.1	16.6	3.7	26.4	5.1	2.4	4.8	13.1
Rehabilitation counselors (21-1015)	6.9	-	15.6	12.1	8.4	-	14.9	-	16.4
Janitors and cleaners (37-2011)	53.3	24.6	35.5	9.9	64.1	8.4	2.2	14.0	26.3

Incidence rate = per 10,000 full-time employees  
Standard Occupation Code (SOC) in parenthesis  
Dash (-) indicates data not available

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/case/ostb2182.pdf>

**Table 2. Incidence Rates of NonFatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work by Selected Occupation and Selected Nature of Injury or Illness, 2008**

Occupation	Sprains Strains Tears	Soreness, pain	Back Pain, Hurt Back	Fractures	Cuts, Lacerations Punctures,	Chemical Burns	Multiple Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	All Other Natures
All Occupations	43.8	12.0	3.9	9.4	10.5	0.6	4.6	18.8
Rehabilitation counselors (21-1015)	51.0	5.2	-	7.3	-	-	-	8.1
Janitors and cleaners (37-2011)	104.4	27.4	10.8	14.1	20.6	2.4	12.1	38.8

Incidence rate = per 10,000 full-time employees  
 Standard Occupation Code (SOC) in parenthesis  
 Dash (-) indicates data not available

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/case/ostb2180.pdf>

Here are Mr. Boiano’s comments on this information:

“BLS also reports illness and injury incidence rates by occupation. I have attached two tables which present incidence rates by selected events or exposures (Table 1) and by natures (Table 2) for rehabilitation counselors, janitors and cleaners, and ‘all occupations’ to illustrate differences in rates among these diverse occupations.

As you can see, incidence rates [reported by rehabilitation counselors] for sprains/strains/tears, slips and trips, assaults, and ‘all other events’ are higher than the average rate for all occupations, and the rates for slips and trips and assaults are higher for rehabilitation counselors than for janitors and cleaners.

However, in most cases, the rates for janitors and cleaners for other events and natures are much higher than for rehabilitation workers.” [emphasis added]

I plan to continue my collaboration with NIOSH on this issue. NIOSH is very interested and supportive of NRA and has sent us materials that we disseminated at our 2010 Annual Training Conference in New Orleans. The materials addressed “Stress in the Workplace.” I hope to have other materials available to all members in the future. I am also exploring the possibility of a webinar or a teleseminar to explore these issues further. NIOSH has also provided bags that we will use at the 2011 Government Affairs Summit in March 2011.

The health and safety of individuals working in the profession of rehabilitation is a huge concern of the NRA, and we will do what we can to work closely with our members to ensure their safety and health. If you have any comments about this information or wish to work with me in exploring ways to address this issue, please contact me at [Beverlee@NationalRehab.org](mailto:Beverlee@NationalRehab.org) or at 1-888-258-4295. I welcome your ideas.

# **Sundeen named President-Elect, Sokolowski Board Member at Large**

by Beverlee Stafford, Executive Director

I am pleased to provide you with the results of the national 2010 election for President-Elect and Board Member-at-Large. The ballots were counted on Thursday, October 14, 2010, at the Annual Training Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. Over 800 ballots were cast by members. The results are:

2010 President-Elect: Sara Sundeen, Minnesota  
Board Member-at-Large: Ellen Sokolowski, Iowa

## **Sara's campaign statement:**

I am passionate about NRA and its mission. If elected president, I pledge to work hard to keep NRA the Association of choice to advocate for and serve individuals with disabilities who seek greater self sufficiency and employment. I will continue utilize technologies to increase communication, training opportunities and strengthen alliances. I will focus on expanding membership to attract new interest in the Association, especially from students and new professionals. I am committed to working with you to help NRA grow. I ask that you consider me for this position - working together we can ensure the future of NRA.

## **Ellen's campaign statement:**

I have extensive experience in the field of rehabilitation, including leadership positions in NRA at the state and national levels. I will work to foster the mission of NRA.

Increasing our membership and continued development of our members is critical to the future of our organization and our field. NRA must be actively involved in addressing the needs of rehabilitation professionals.

NRA needs to continue to be at the forefront of legislative advocacy for persons with disabilities. I will work to assure that this continues.

With my dedication and experience, I hope you will allow me to bring my skills and experience to the NRA Board.

I want to thank Vickie Winters who also ran for the office of Board Member-at-Large. It is always good to have additional candidates for our members to choose from. Vickie received 294 votes.

As always, our Past President coordinates the election and ballot counting. My thanks goes to Butch McMillan, NRA's immediate Past President, for his efforts in securing qualified candidates and for overseeing the ballot development and the ballot counting in New Orleans. I also have to give kudos to Board Member, Melanie Poole (Georgia) who helped to coordinate the ballot counting on-site in New Orleans – she

helped make it run smoothly. Thanks, too, to the member volunteers who helped out with the vote counting!

### **STATE BY STATE VOTE COUNT**

Alabama	31
North Carolina	56
Alaska	0
North Dakota	2
Arkansas	21
New Hampshire	2
Arizona	5
Nebraska	2
California	17
New Jersey	17
Colorado	5
New York	24
Connecticut	2
New Mexico	1
Delaware	3
Nevada	2
Dist. of Columbia	3
Ohio	47
Florida	20
Oklahoma	10
Georgia	71
Oregon	3
Hawaii	4
Pennsylvania	31
Iowa	38
Puerto Rico	2
Idaho	6
Rhode Island	3
Illinois	39
South Carolina	9
Indiana	6
South Dakota	0
Kansas	2
Tennessee	9
Kentucky	17
Texas	21
Louisiana	7
Utah	15
Massachusetts	3
Vermont	0
Maine	3

Virginia	34
Maryland	10
Washington	9
Michigan	39
West Virginia	8
Minnesota	53
Wisconsin	30
Missouri	32
Wyoming	0
Mississippi	48
Canada	1
Montana	0

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear NRA Members,

Please excuse the delay in getting out this issue of Contemporary Rehab. We have just been so busy in the national office – especially preparing for and conducting a very successful 2010 Annual Training Conference in New Orleans. The initial review of evaluations showed that those attending were very positive about the event! I want to extend my thanks to the planning committee – especially, Cheryl Meadows-Ussery, Natalie Wagner and Tresvil Pack – for their help and dedication to the event. Thanks, too, to the NRA staff – Kim Joy, Veronica Hamilton, Charis Goff, and Sandra Mulliner – for all their hard work in ensuring that the conference went off without any problems.

Well, it's that time of the year to think about giving. As you all know, NRA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your generous contributions to us are tax-deductible. This issue kicks off two of our major fund raising activities: the 2010 Count Us In! Campaign and the 2010 drive for the Tom Stewart Scholarship Fund. Count Us In! is our annual fund drive that seeks contributions to supplement the national office's budget. We have made great efforts to not raise membership dues. In fact, we have added two new lower-cost options for membership: Affiliate Members and New Professional Members. The costs of doing business continue to escalate, and your dues do not cover all expenses that we have. So, the Count Us In! campaign is focused on getting donations from our members. Please consider NRA as a recipient of your year-end giving. We need the additional funds and will put them to good use in being responsive to members' needs and benefits. Tarea Stout (Mississippi), NRA Board Member-At-Large, has graciously agreed to serve as the chairperson of this year's Count Us In! campaign. My sincere thanks to her!

The Tom G. Stewart Scholarship was developed to honor our former colleague who passed away in 2002. Tom was NRA's Director of Government Affairs for several years and was instrumental in the establishment of our Annual Government Affairs Summit that is held every Spring in the Washington, DC, area. Donations received to the Tom Stewart fund are earmarked for scholarships to the GA Summit. Last year we had 17

applications for those scholarships and were able to offer 3 scholarships and 4 additional registrations for first-time attendees for the 2010 GA Summit. Unfortunately, the donations to this scholarship fund have not kept up with the interest in applying for the scholarships. In 2009, we only had \$250 contributed. Luckily, we did have some funds in reserve to allow us to give out the scholarships and conference registrations. However, this year, the NRA Board has decided that we will only award what we receive in donations for the 2011 scholarships. We have had two 50-50 raffles to raise money for this scholarship fund and now have available only \$432 for scholarships to the 2011 GA Summit – UNLESS you contribute NOW! Again, your donation is tax-deductible and we will be glad to send you a receipt showing the contribution. Please see the form on page 11 of this issue in order to send in your donation.

I am very excited that the next two issues of Contemporary Rehab are already under development and will be on a faster track than this very late October issue. The December issue will feature articles on serving individuals who are blind. The February 2011 issue will feature articles sponsored by NARL – The National Association of Rehabilitation Leadership. I look forward to those two editions and hope that you will find them to be of interest. As always, please send me your feedback on this issue of Contemporary Rehab and let me know if you have any suggestions for future articles or editions of your newsletter.

Beverlee Stafford

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings to all,

I hope this message finds everyone in good health and preparing for holidays and the New Year. This year has gone quickly and our Association has accomplished much. Many thanks for all that each of you have done this year and your work and contributions towards increasing the independence and employment of people with disabilities and your advocacy towards our mutual cause.

I would like to thank everyone who attended our Annual Training Conference in October and special thanks to those who made this celebration possible. Natalie Wagner, Cheryl Ussery, Tresvil Pack and their committee members put together a conference and a training program that exceeded my expectations and I hope yours. My deepest gratitude for their efforts. Special thanks to the Louisiana Chapter for their hospitality with special thanks to Ken Zangla for all of his work on the local front. Our opening ceremony was graced with a vocal presentation by a former client of the Louisiana VR program, Mr. Lionel Baskin, and the President's reception was lively with the Zydeco sounds recommended by Ken. Our Silent Auction was a huge success due to hard work by Linda Cox, Shawn Zimmerman and Mary Linn. The staff at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans was exceptional. The National office staff did an outstanding job

and special thanks to Kim Joy for creating the handmade NRA logo in stained glass, they were absolutely beautiful.

Special thanks to our Membership Committee! Gary Rainaldi and Shelia Browning led this effort this year as well as our annual membership campaign and they are continuing their efforts even now. I am proud that Virginia won the membership contest with 30 new members! My Virginia Chapter has been incredibly supportive of NRA over the years and this year, their support was much appreciated by this President.

I hope that everyone can join in for the teleseminar on December 13th on the topic of Transition. This comes at a time when the National Rehabilitation Association is laying groundwork for a division for Transition Counselors. Stay tuned for more information on this and I encourage you to contact the NRA office if you are interested in assisting with this effort.

In this season of reflection, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of the National Rehabilitation Association Board Members for their continued dedication to our Association; they have made this journey through 2010 a memorable and exciting year. The national office staff has been a wonderful team this year under the guidance of Beverlee Stafford, our Executive Director.

Any message to the Membership is not complete without my thanks are to each of you as members of the National Rehabilitation Association. Please share the benefits of membership with your colleagues in rehabilitation to continue to strengthen our voice, our advocacy and our Association.

Warm wishes to all,

Bonnie Hawley  
President 2010

## **27th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities “Humanity: Advancing Inclusion, Equality and Diversity” April 18 & 19, 2011 Hawaii Convention Center, Honolulu, HI**

We invite you to participate in the 27th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities on April 18 & 19, 2011 at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu.

Join over 1,000 participants in this year's international theme "Humanity: Advancing Inclusion, Equality and Diversity", featuring 15 topics & 30 keynote speakers.

This event is hosted by the Center on Disability Studies (CDS), a University of Hawaii Board of Regents recognized center of programs focused on the development and conduct of interdisciplinary education/training, research/demonstration and evaluation, through university and community services.

Center on Disability Studies  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Charmaine Crockett  
1776 University Avenue, UA 4-6  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
(808) 956-7539  
[www.pacrim.hawaii.edu](http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu)  
[prinfo@hawaii.edu](mailto:prinfo@hawaii.edu)

## **NRAJPD NEWS**

### **Lou Ortale Lecture**

NRAJPD was pleased and proud to honor Peggy Anderson as the 2010 Lou Ortale Lecturer at the recent NRA Conference in New Orleans.

Peggy is the Administrator of the Business Relations Program for Alabama Dept. of Rehabilitation Services. She has been active member of Partnerships with Business since 1976 and has held many leadership roles throughout her career.

Her lecture entitled "Networking with Business Customers: Then, Now & How!" focused on the progress of the National Employment Network and it's anticipated implications for the hiring of persons with disabilities across the U.S. by national companies. Peggy was honored with a plaque at the conclusion of the lecture and she commented on how proud she was of having been selected. We were pleased by both the quality of her presentation and the great turnout, considering that it was held on Saturday afternoon on a beautiful day in New Orleans.

### **Award Recipients**

This year, NRAJPD was proud to select Sherri Clark of Red Oak Iowa as the Margaret Fairbairn Award recipient. This award is presented each year to a person who has demonstrated exemplary achievement in the placement of persons with disabilities. Sherri was nominated by Matt Bruinekool, Past President of Iowa JPD. What made Sherri stand out is that she is not a job placement specialist by profession/job title but instead the Executive Director of Nishna Productions, a community rehabilitation provider with offices and facilities in southwest Iowa and which provides both employment and residential services. Sherri takes it upon herself to do "whatever is

necessary to improve the lives of persons with disabilities” even if it means she herself has to provide job coaching, perform worksite assessments, etc. Sherri is also an active community leader and has also served on various committees in conjunction with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Sherri was presented her award by NRAJPD President Roger Carter at the Iowa Rehabilitation Association Conference held in Des Moines Oct. 20-22nd, with her husband and mother in the audience.

## **Board of Directors**

One of the more important items of business discussed at this year’s Annual Meeting in New Orleans was the election of officers for the upcoming year. Sara Sundeen of Minnesota will be the new President, Roger will serve as the immediate Past President (again), Gary Rainaldi of Illinois has agreed to serve as Treasurer and Doris Illies of Minnesota has chosen to serve another term as Secretary. Current Board Member Anna Soderman of Michigan has volunteered to serve as President-Elect (with her term as President beginning in 2012) and Board Member Chris Kempiski of New York offered to serve in that capacity the following year.

This means that we are “recruiting” new folks to serve as Board Members. Anyone interested should contact Sara Sundeen or Roger Carter. Ballots will be sent out in the near future.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as President of NRAJPD these past 2 years, although it was not my original intention to serve these past 2 years (but that is how things work out, I suppose). As I recently told the folks here in Iowa, it would have been so easy to have said “No” when asked to join NRA in 1985, or to have said “No” when asked to serve on the IRA Board, or serve as Iowa JPD President, or serve as IRA President, or to serve on the National JPD Board or as President. But I believe that leadership is defined as “developing and taking advantage of opportunities to aspire to something bigger and better in life” (and what that “bigger and better” might be is something unique to each of us). Someone provided the opportunities and I took advantage of them. Consequently, as my NRA career ends (as did my career in VR earlier this summer), I look back on a life of which I never could have dreamed. I think I will stop there before I get misty-eyed.

I would like to thank NRA for their support, and my outstanding Board of Directors — Gary Rainaldi, Jan Koch, Doris Illies, Anna Soderman, Chris Kempiski, Sara Sundeen, Deb Wooten, and of course Past JPD President and my wife Ellen Sokolowski who has been my companion from the beginning of this great journey.

Roger Carter

# Are You Interested in Public Policy relating to Rehabilitation?

## Apply for funding under the Tom Stewart Memorial Fund.

The Tom Stewart Memorial Fund was created by NRA to honor the memory of Tom Stewart and his belief that advocates are instrumental in forming public policy. Tom Stewart was Director of Governmental Affairs for NRA from 1994 until his death in March of 2002. The purpose of the fund is to encourage and support participation of first time attendees to NRA's Annual Governmental Affairs Summit.

Applications for assistance are reviewed by the NRA Treasurer and Executive Director who make the decisions regarding the number and value of awards to be presented in a given year.

Applications are accepted from first time Summit attendees only.

Applicants must be NRA members in good standing.

Applicants must complete and submit a Summit registration form (do not include registration fees, pending outcome of your application) and the Tom Stewart Memorial Fund application.

Support may be requested for registration fee, transportation, and lodging (meals are not an allowable expense, other than those included in registration).

Applications must be received by January 15, 2011. Award recipients will be notified of the amount by January 31, 2011. The amount awarded may not be the total amount requested.

Awards are not transferable. If you are interested in applying for this award, please go to our website at [www.NationalRehab.org](http://www.NationalRehab.org) to download the application or call the NRA office at 1-888-258-4295.

## *Tom Stewart Memorial Fund*

Please make your donation to help NRA continue Tom's dedication to advocacy.

Yes, I would like to support the Tom Stewart Memorial Fund. Enclosed is my contribution.

\$500  \$250  \$100  \$ 75  \$ 50  \$ 25  other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PH: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my  VISA  Mastercard

Account number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Tom Stewart Memorial Fund, The National Rehabilitation Association, 633 South Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

# NRAJPD Development Grant Application

NRAJPD is pleased to announce we are again accepting applications for our Unit Development Grant funding. These grants would be awarded to states to provide assistance with membership recruitment, membership retention, (training, etc. See page 12 for the application form.)

The grant application is enclosed and the deadline for grant applications for projects to be completed in 2011 will be Monday March 14, 2011. To receive a NRAJPD grant, an application must be completed and submitted by the deadline. Members of the NRAJPD Board of Directors will review all applications and notify applicants about grant approval by April 4, 2011. In order to receive your grant payment, the final report needs to be completed and mailed or e-mailed to Anna Soderman.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna at (517) 492-5569. Please submit applications to Anna Soderman by Mail: Capital Area Michigan Works/Peckham, Inc, 2110 S. Cedar St. Lansing, MI 48910, Fax: 517.492.5501 or Email: [asoderman@camw.net](mailto:asoderman@camw.net)

## NRAJPD Development Grant Application

Chapter Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of this Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Goals to be achieved: \_\_\_\_\_

Identify JPD Resources Needed to Complete this Project:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Identify Non-JPD Resources Needed to Complete this Project:

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What problems do you anticipate and how would you resolve them?

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Steps/Activities Undertaken to Complete this Project (Please use another page if needed):

Budget (Please attach planning budget. Include anticipated income and expenses. This is a required item. Please include amount of money requested from NRAJPD.)

## **NRAJPD Development Grant Application— Final Report**

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Outcome of Project:

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Were Goals Met?

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If no, what can be done to improve outcomes in future? \_\_\_\_\_

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Identify problems that occurred and steps that can be undertaken to minimize these issues in the future:

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Submission of Final Budget (required item)

Who should the check be made out to: \_\_\_\_\_

Where should the check be mailed to: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional pages can be used to complete application and final report.

Please submit application and final report within 30 days of project to:

Anna Soderman, Capital Area Michigan Works/Peckham, Inc.  
2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI 48910  
Phone (517) 492-5569, Fax (527) 492-5501

# NASPPR President's Message

by Patricia Murphy, M.Ed., CRC; NASPPR President

On behalf of the NASPPR Board, thank you to all who participated in our Annual Pre-Conference Seminar- Social Security Vocational Expert Basics: Practice Fundamentals! Your attendance and feedback confirmed appreciation for the valuable information shared by our presenters: Michele McBroom-Weiss and John Yent - both recognized for their knowledge and expertise about the role of the Vocational Expert in Social Security Disability hearings. Our sincere thanks to them for making the pre-conference such a valuable session!

NASPPR also sponsored or co-sponsored (with VEWAA) several concurrent sessions for the NRA Training Conference. Topic Areas included: The Private-Public Partnership, ADA Changes & Workers Compensation; An Alternative Credential for CVEs; and Assistive Technology and Vocational Evaluation- the Nuts & Bolts. Our thanks to all the presenters for sharing their insight and information on these relevant topics.

My personal thanks to Chris Spaulding and Teri Szymanski-Sinn and their program committee for arranging the sessions and coordinating all the "behind the scene" logistics that made the pre-conference and concurrent sessions possible!

In other NASPPR business – as is the practice at this time each year, NASPPR is seeking nominees for Board Member positions. The NASPPR nominations chair, John Lui, is in the process of soliciting candidates and developing a ballot. Any NASPPR member interested in serving on the Board or needing additional information about the available positions can contact John Lui at [luij@uwstout.edu](mailto:luij@uwstout.edu).

NASPPR members can look forward to receiving a division specific Newsletter within the next few weeks. The Board is very excited about offering this member service and we look forward to feedback for future editions. Our thanks to Debra Homa, Newsletter Editor, for coordinating this service.

In the spirit of this season, I want to personally thank the NASPPR members for their continued membership. As a member of NASPPR, you are valued for your commitment and contributions to the profession, and this Division. NASPPR serves as common ground for private sector professionals who practice in a broad variety of work settings. In addition to training and networking opportunities, it offers a forum for exchange of information, discussion of standards of practice, and collaboration to address issues relevant to our profession. The NASPPR Board is committed to continuing these membership benefits and sincerely appreciates your membership.

Happy Holidays!

## **NASPPR-Sponsored Sessions at the NRA Conference**

Besides the Pre-Conference, NASPPR sponsored the following three sessions at NRA's annual conference in New Orleans:

An Alternate Credential for CVEs?! – endorsed by NASPPR and VEWAA – presented by John W. Lui, Ph.D., MBA, CRC - UW-Stout and Karen Pell, Ph.D., CVE - VIA Consulting, LLC.

With the dissolution of CCWAVES in 2008 and subsequent loss of the opportunity for acquisition of certification as a Vocational Evaluator, joint efforts and work groups have come together in a common goal to explore “What’s next?” This session discussed about a Task Force, organized by Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute (SVRI), in collaboration with VECAP (Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals), and VEWAA (Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association), are exploring and working on for future Vocational Evaluators.

ADA Amendments of 2008: WC and RTW Implications – endorsed by NASPPR – presented by Mary O'Connor Drout, M.S., CRC - Encore Unlimited, LLC; and Teri Szymanski-Sinn, M.S., CRC, QRC – Encore Unlimited, LLC

The ADA Amendments of 2008 seeks to broaden protection to individuals with disabilities. The removal of previous impediments to protection, such as “mitigating measures”, “substantially limits”, and “episodic conditions” requires employers to re-think management of return to work and workers' compensation management.

AT & VE: The Nuts and Bolts – endorsed by VEWAA and NASPPR – presented by Anthony J. (Tony) Langton, M.S., CVE – Pathfinder Associates; Erika Peterson, M.S., CRC, CBE, ATP – Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute; Janelle Ellis – Fairfax Public Schools; and Shawn Zimmerman, M.S., CVE, CRC – Virginia Department of Rehabilitation Services

Integrating assistive technology into vocational evaluation/assessment offers potential to better serve persons with all range of disabilities. Yet far too few programs make AT part of the process. Why? Learn about approaches, strategies and resources that work and issues and challenges that may stand in the way.

## **“Management by Walking around: NARL Pre-Conference a Huge Success**

by Janet D. Fiore, NARL President-Elect

More than 25 leaders from our associations' leadership division (NARL) joined together for a motivating half day pre-conference presented by Sabrina Harmon of NISH. The session entitled ‘What to Manage While You’re Walking Around’ included group exercises, food for thought and a lively discussion by all participants.

The “NARL” enthusiasm continued at our annual meeting where president Eleanor Williams facilitated a chat entitled “The Leader as Servant”. More than 17 NRA member-leaders signed up on the spot to become a part of this terrific division.

NARL is pleased to be working in concert with the brand new Economic Impact Task Force as well as NRA's Board of Directors in order to expand resources, networking and training of leaders in our field of Vocational Rehabilitation across the nation.

For more information or to become a member of the National Association for Rehabilitation Leadership (NARL) visit us at [www.narl.us](http://www.narl.us) or contact Janet Fiore: [info@thesierragroup.com](mailto:info@thesierragroup.com); or 800.973.7687

## **Mark Your Calendars for the National Rehabilitation Association's 30th Annual Government Affairs Summit**

The National Rehabilitation Association proudly presents its 30th Annual Government Affairs Summit, beginning Sunday, March 20, 2011, continuing on Monday, March 21 and culminating with NRA's Day on the Hill Tuesday, March 22.

The summit, entitled "Transition: Today, Tomorrow, Together" will be held at the Alexandria Hilton Hotel on King Street in beautiful, historic Old Town Alexandria, VA.

We are honored to have as our opening keynote speaker the Honorable Lynnae Rutledge, Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in the U.S. Department of Education.

We will once again honor our qualified rehabilitation counselors with a proclamation and celebration of "National Rehabilitation Counselor Appreciation Day."

Look for additional information and an updated program in a forthcoming Washington Wire.

## **News from ARTS**

The Association of Rehabilitation Technicians and Specialists had a Board/Business meeting at the NRA Annual Training Conference in New Orleans.

2010 ARTS Board:

Gloria Crider – President

Vicki Wilson – Treasurer

Jean Evers - Secretary

Pat Bienfang - ARTS Representative to NRA Board

The 2011 ARTS Board:

Rosemary Chitwood - President

Vicki Wilson – Treasurer

Jean Evers – Secretary

Mary Linn - ARTS Representative to NRA Board

ARTS had a fund raiser this year. We raffled a beautiful, handmade quilt donated by Wyla Bienfang's mother in law, Jean. The winner of our raffle was Thant Pearson, a Rehabilitation Area Manager from Minneapolis.

Jean Evers, Secretary, ARTS

## **Count Me In!**

One of the great things of our work in Rehabilitation is that we get to work together on so many levels from direct service to advocacy on "the Hill". We have an opportunity to come together once again. The National Rehabilitation Association needs your support for the Count Us In campaign.

What is Count Us In? It is our annual fund raising campaign. Every member counts, and we hope we can count on your support for this important project.

Your involvement and membership are not only valued but critical to the NRA. Our association's prominence and longevity gives our organization a vital role in shaping rehabilitation policy. Donations to the Count Us In campaign will support NRA's important advocacy work and help NRA provide continuing education conferences and seminars.

NRA offers a wide variety of services and member benefits including: training conferences with opportunities to earn continuing education credits, access to websites on the local and national level with current rehabilitation information, regular e-mail notifications and announcements, a governmental affairs program that provides advocacy and legislative updates, publications such as the quarterly Journal of Rehabilitation which is internationally acclaimed and our bi-monthly publication Contemporary Rehab with general news and information. As you can imagine, annual membership dues alone can't cover the necessary expense of providing all of our services and benefits, so your support for the Count Us In campaign is very important to accomplishing our goals.

Can we count on you to make your donation to support NRA? I hope so, as all of us working together will help NRA fulfill its mission! To recognize your support of this campaign, all donors will be listed on the Count Us In Honor Roll to be published in Contemporary Rehab and placed on the NRA website.

Thank you for considering an investment in the success of the National Rehabilitation Association. Please make your donation today.

Tarea Stout (Mississippi)  
NRA Board Member At-Large

# Count Me In

Yes, Count me in! I would like to support the National Rehabilitation Association.  
Enclosed is my contribution.

\$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$75  \$50  \$ 25  other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PH: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my  VISA  Mastercard

Account number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
National Rehabilitation Association  
633 S. Washington  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

For more information please go to [www.nationalrehab.org](http://www.nationalrehab.org)