ORA Members and Donors,

2016 was a successful year. The April ORA Conference was well attended and thanks to Emily Fleisher's creative thinking and follow through on the "cash campaign," ORA realized a profit on the conference.

The use of teleconference for the Full Board meetings was well received and allowed the meetings to proceed with minimal time away from office work. However, when "in-person" meetings were called, the Full Board was able to respond, attend and address the strategic planning issues. Michael Ricke has given an ORA presence on Facebook and Twitter so we can be more accessible and relevant. In 2017 in-person ORA Board meetings will be on Facebook Live as well as information regarding pertinent federal and state legislation impacting rehabilitation professionals.

ORA officer positions for 2017 have been filled for President - Patricia Batdorf and Treasurer - Doug Bailey. The Secretary position has one candidate, Laura Sears. For our two open Board Member-at-Large positions, we have two candidates, Tanya Chiles and Libby Land. The Board for 2017 remains intact with both Members and Donors serving as Committee Chairs.

Although SWORA has moved to dissolve; one aspect of the group, The Success Fund, will continue through ORA as voted on at the December 2016 Full Board meeting. SWORA has earmarked and sent to ORA $1,500 for this specific member benefit. The Success Fund will offer ORA members a fund to access in assisting their consumers/ injured workers with up to $50 for return-to-work and/or remain-at-work services not covered by state agencies. More information will be forthcoming as the 2017 Full Board seeks three members to manage The Success Fund.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served as 2016 ORA President and look forward to joining the ORA Members and Donors for 2017. Thanks!

Thomas P. Kinser, MS, CDMS
2016 ORA President

Currently CORA, DACORA and NEORA remain as ORA local chapters. Member and Donor participation in the state chapter as well as local chapters remains the number one reason why professional organizations work.

OUR MISSION. . .

Since 1954, the Ohio Rehabilitation Association (ORA) has been a member organization whose mission is to provide opportunities for professionals and others in the fields of rehabilitation through knowledge and diversity. Included with this mission, the Ohio Rehabilitation Association values: all people; professions in rehabilitation; visionary leadership; responsible resource management; advocacy; personal and professional enrichment; and relationships built on trust and integrity.
Feature Articles

1. TOM KINSER WRAPS UP HIS TERM AS OHIO’S PRESIDENT RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO SERVED ON THE ORA BOARD IN 2016! THANK YOU!

6. MEET PATRICIA BATDORF, 2017 ORA PRESIDENT, AND GET TO KNOW YOUR 2017 ORA BOARD!

10. OHIO MEMBER BENEFITS! BE SURE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE! MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTERS! MICHAEL MORRISON VISIONARY SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

12. ORA’S ISSUES AND CONCERNS IN 2016 AND FOR 2017

14. ORA HONORS 2016 DORIS BRENNAN AWARD RECIPIENT — REMEMBERING DORIS BRENNAN — AND JUST HOW MANY HOME SECRETARIES HAVE THERE BEEN? FINALLY, NOMINATE SOMEONE IN 2017 FOR AN ORA AWARD!

16. LOOKING BACK AT ORA’S SUCCESSFUL 2016 SPRING SEMINAR IN HUDSON, OHIO

19. CHAPTER AND DIVISION NEWS! CHECK OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA OF THE STATE AND IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION!

25. STAND OUT WITH PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND/OR LICENSURE—KNOW THE LATEST!

28. ORA REMAINS AN ADVOCATE FOR OHIOANS WITH DISABILITIES — JOIN US IN BEING AN ADVOCATE!

31. LOOKING BACK AT THE EVENTS AND CHANGES THAT HAPPENED WITH NRA IN 2016

Contacting the ORA Home Office

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Publication Notice

Please note we have endeavored to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this newsletter. Material sources have been identified whenever possible (note hyperlinks). We apologize for any omissions or errors which may be found. In addition, ORA does not endorse any product or service on the paid advertisements included in this issue.

Publication Date: February 6, 2017
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Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/151567288323540/

The Ohio Rehabilitation Association is also on
LinkedIn
www.linkedin.com/groups/7473339/profile

and

Twitter
www.twitter.com

Visit our website at:
www.ohiorehab.org
RECOGNIZING OUR OFFICERS

At the December 6, 2016 ORA Full Board Meeting, time is taken to recognize those who volunteered their time, energy, and talents to our organization during the year. Those in attendance at the meeting received a Certificate of Appreciation presented by the ORA President, Tom Kinser. For those Board Members who were not able to join us, their Certificate of Appreciation was emailed to them. Below are snapshots from this day.

Thank you to Patricia (Pat) Batdorf for stepping up and volunteering to serve as 2016 President-Elect and subsequently, our 2017 President!

A big thank you to Kathie Kraemer who served as ORA Treasurer from October 2011 through 2016!!! In recognition of Kathie’s service she was presented with an engraved clock and picture frame.

Beth is retiring from the Board with our gratitude.

A big thank you to Beth Simone who has served as ORA Secretary from 2010 through 2016!!!

In recognition of Beth’s service, she was presented with an engraved desk set complete with calculator, pen, clock and picture frame!

Finally, a big thank you to Tom Kinser who served as President this year

Thank you to Doug Bailey who has volunteered to serve as our 2016 Treasurer-elect and subsequently, our 2017 Treasurer.

Doug has served in various roles on the ORA Board (1999 ORA President) and the CORA Chapter Board and we welcome his experience and service.

Each year the ORA President is presented with a special gift in recognition of their service.

Tom, a cigar connoisseur, was given an engraved cigar case and cigar cutter and of course, a cigar! Thank you Tom!
We wish to thank all those who served in the role of Board Member-at-Large in 2016. Not pictured below are two of our Board Members who had to resign mid-term, Chuck Geiger and Tami Tabor-Glancy. Thank you!

Also, we wish to thank the following individuals who served in 2016 as Board Member-at-Large and will continue to be on our Board in 2017: Deanna Arbuckle, Andrew Byrne, and Libby Land.

Thank you to Nancy Vander Woude for her service! Nancy is retiring from the Board and has retired from her job! We wish her well in this next stage of her life!

Thank you to Michael (Mike) Ricke for his service! Mike has also served on the Membership Committee and is our Social Media and Public Relations Committee Chair for 2017. These two committees were officially combined at the December 6 Full Board Meeting by unanimous vote.

Be sure to check out our Facebook page!

Thank you to Jay Leeming who served as Certification Committee Chair in 2016 and will continue to do so in 2017!

Thank you to Carrie Moreland Hyder who served as Governmental Affairs Committee Chair in 2016 and will continue to do so in 2017!

Thank you to John Tooson for his service. John also served as Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chair. John will remain on the Board in 2017 as Board Member-at-Large!

Thank you to Judy Roth, Board Member-at-Large, for her service. In 2017 Judy will also co-chair the Awards Committee with Libby Land.
Professional associations are often overlooked and misunderstood as a career development tool and with the onslaught of social media, would appear passé. In spite of this misperception, employment-related websites will state professional organizations and networks are essential for career growth, even survival.

Your return on investment for association fees includes, but is not limited to: industry-specific networks, updates on current industry trends and developments, information on other companies, advocacy, professional development via conferences and earning CEUs, and perhaps opening doors to other job opportunities, etc.

We hope you will consider just how important being part of a professional organization can be to your future!

Hello ORA Members,

Well, I have submitted my retirement paperwork after 32 years of service at Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities to be effective February 1, 2017. I started what I did not know would end up being my career as a volunteer at the place in northwest Ohio outside of Toledo at Sunshine Children’s Home. . . . I was in 7th grade and approximately 12 years old. . . . Wow! Time flies!

In 1983 I moved to Columbus for a job with Association for the Developmentally Disabled (ADD) and volunteered at Dalhberg Gibson Learning Center. At ADD over the course of approximately two years, I was a "live-in" at the Elaine Road facility, worked at various other locations and worked in Adult Day services.

In 1985 I was hired for Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) to work at the Northeast School — senior level — and the next year at the Junior level as a teacher’s assistant. February 8, 1988 was my first day at FCBDD Job Placement as an on-the-job training specialist officer (OJT) and of all my jobs, this one I LOVED with all my heart and soul! I was so lucky to be the few and the proud! . . . and maybe it’s just my view, but, I was really good at being an OJT. The first 25 years in the department was progressive, forward thinking, barrier breaking, and liberating . . . was it perfect? NO. Did we improve the options and choices for people with disabilities to work independently in the community with minimum supports? YES! Did we invent follow-along and retention? YES! Did we build bridges? YES! Were we the BEST?? I thought so for many years. I’m proud to have had the opportunity to teach, coach, and empower many, many, many individuals to grow and access the life they wanted to have which equates with dignity, choice, and hope!

Although I will retire — I am still active in the field. This year I will be serving as your President of the Ohio Rehabilitation Association (ORA) and as President of the local chapter here in Columbus, CORA. My other activities include improving my health (which includes a weight loss goal), continuing my minister duties, performing stand-up comedy routines, finishing my documentary film about amateur stand-up comedy, working on a couple books, continuing to paint, and likely looking for the ever rare and elusive — future trophy husband!

I look forward to hearing from you with your suggestions, ideas, and concerns. ORA is a resource, an advocate, and an educator of rehab professionals. We want to remind people of who we are this year and look forward to some "out-of-the-box" thinking in 2017.

Patricia Batdorf
president@ohiorehab.org

Check out her website at: www.patsybcomedy.com
NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS TO THE ORA BOARD

MEET LAURA SEARS
OUR NEWLY ELECTED ORA SECRETARY

Laura Sears previously worked as a Team Leader for four years assisting individuals with disabilities. She was the Team Leader for five clients and up to 12 staff members. Laura also assisted with the development and training of other Team Leads.

Laura began her Ohio BWC workers compensation career with Matrix Vocational Solutions as a Vocational Rehabilitation Administrative Assistant for one year managing the work load of 15 Case Managers and Employment Specialists.

Laura has progressed her career as an Employment Specialist working with Ohio BWC injured workers for over four years. Laura earned an Employment Specialist credential by completing 80 hours of continuing education credits in 2015. As an Employment Specialist, Laura works with individuals by completing job placement, job development, and job seeking skills training to assist in transition to safe and suitable employment.

LIBBY LAND
NEWLY ELECTED ORA BOARD MEMBER

Libby has been a vocational rehabilitation case manager working with Ohio BWC injured workers for over 20 years. Prior to that she worked in Placement with BAWAC in Florence, Kentucky, a prerelease employment counselor for incarcerated juveniles approaching 18 years of age with a JPTA Program in Minnesota, as a test constructor with the City of Dallas, Texas Civil Service Department and an Employment Counselor with the State of Kentucky. She has a BBA in Management from the University of Cincinnati and completed her graduate work in Counseling at Marshall University. She has held a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) credential for 20 years.

Libby served as an ORA Board Member-at-Large in 2016 fulfilling the remainder of Tami Tabor-Glancy’s term when she resigned as a Board Member-at-Large. Libby volunteered to run for another full term in this position and we are glad to have her “on board!”

MEET TANYA CHILES
NEWLY ELECTED ORA BOARD MEMBER

Tanya R. Chiles has been a Certified Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) through the Social Security Administration for the past 10 years. As a Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC), she is currently employed by Franklin County Board of DD and provides services for consumers which include a written explanation (Benefit Analysis) of a customer's current benefits and a plan describing how to use work incentives which can be developed with either a projected or actual employment goal.

As a CWIC, she assists in identifying services that might be needed along the way and connect with resources for job placement, job coaching and training, or other types of assistance for which you may be eligible. This includes, but is not limited to, referrals to state and federally-funded employment services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Employment Networks and how work may affect other benefit programs including TANF, Food Stamps, Housing and Rental Assistance, Unemployment, Workers Compensation, Veterans Benefits and more.

Meeting with her can help many consumers dispel some of the myths and hearsay regarding working and receiving disability benefits. By meeting with her, a customer can get the facts, have the opportunity to ask questions and realize how their benefits will (or won't) be affected by employment, as many changes have occurred that make it possible to hold on to medical and other benefits while working.

She is a current Board member of National Association of Benefits and Work Incentives Specialists (NABWIS) and National Association of Disability Benefits Specialists (NABDS).

OUR LEADERSHIP MOTTO . . .

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world, indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

~ Margaret Mead
YOUR 2017 ORA BOARD

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NRA 2017 BOARD

Doris Illies, 2017 NRA President
nrapresident@nationalrehab.org

Greg Mason, President-Elect
Linnea Heintz, Secretary
Jonathan Mize, Treasurer

Board Members-at-Large
Dr. Daniel Boutin (2017)
Cheryl Guido (2019)

www.nationalrehab.org

Like Us On facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/151567288323540/

LinkedIn
www.linkedin.com/groups/7473339/profile

Twitter
www.twitter.com
ORA would like to welcome the following new members who joined in 2016. We wish to also take this opportunity to thank those members who renewed their membership in 2016! As is our practice, when we receive notice from the NRA office of your membership, we send the appropriate acknowledgement, either a “Welcome” letter or an email thanking you for renewing. While your state affiliation is Ohio, you are also a member of the Great Lakes Region and a local chapter based on your geographical location, e.g., those living in Columbus are assigned to CORA or living in Cleveland, NEORA. So, “Welcome!” and “Thanks!”

**Welcome Students!**
ORA is pleased to have student members from Ohio University, Kent State University, Wright State University and Wilberforce University!

- Malcolm Crenshaw
- JaQuita Leduff, Athens
- Ashley Luttrell, Wilmington
- Kaylin Moss, Athens
- Tiffany McGuire-Edwards, Trotwood
- Kevin-Jamal Muhammad, Dayton
- Jenna Rezes, Dublin
- Dianna Shepherd, Dayton
- Tyler Thompson, Beavercreek

**Welcome!**
Organizational Member
**Clearwater Council of Governments, Oak Harbor**

- Patti Clements
- Mi’Chael Hoca
- Amy Lash
- Dawn McDiffitt
- Nancy Richards

**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP TOTALS FOR 2016**
The following figures are an approximate total for those members in the following geographical areas.

- Akron/Canton: 6
- Cleveland*: 38
- Northwest/Toledo: 1
- Youngstown: 6
- Columbus**: 37
- Dayton***: 19
- Cincinnati: 22

*includes KSU student members
**Includes OU student members
***includes WSU and Wilberforce University student members

**DONOR MEMBERS**
For many years NRA has provided individuals with an option to donate to NRA and be designated as a “Donor” member. While they did not receive any benefits from NRA, the Ohio Chapter treated them as actual members.

However, in late fall of 2016 NRA dropped this “category” and any individuals who were in this “category” were contacted about changing their membership status to either Professional or Affiliate in order to receive benefits.

Ohio, on the other hand, will continue to provide individuals, who wish to donate to the Ohio chapter, with a Donor classification and give them limited membership benefits. For more information on this, please contact the ORA Home Office.

When you renew (or join), please contact the ORA Home Office (ora@bex.net) so we can update our membership database and ensure you are receiving your Ohio (and NRA) membership benefits immediately and assist with any follow-up required with the NRA office.

Thank you for your cooperation.
UNIQUELY OHIO MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

ORA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON DECEMBER 13, 2016 HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE

The ORA Annual Membership and Business Meeting was held on December 13, 2016 for the first time via Teleconference. These annual meetings allow our members to engage and interact with the members of the ORA Board and other members from around the state. This year we were pleased to have several ORA members join us in addition to the ORA Board. This annual meeting is an opportunity to report to the membership on the “state of the state,” e.g., the President’s Report as given by Tom Kinser is in large part re-published here on the first page of this issue.

Additional reports included the Treasurer’s Report by Kathie Kraemer. Currently ORA has two accounts, a checking and savings and we have enough funds to continue to operate for another few years. ORA has endeavored to cut its expenses and develop sources of revenue in order to support the activities of the organization. We did earn a slight profit from our Spring 2016 Training event in Hudson. Other income we received came from NRA rebates, a rebate from the GLR, and income from donations (thanks to Emily Fleisher!).

The membership report was given by the ORA Home Secretary (see adjacent column). Of note, we are seeing an increase in individuals joining as “Affiliate” rather than “Professional.” Several of our Lifetime members are now deceased. We continue to see a decline in “Student” memberships and the subsequent “New Professional” membership category when these students graduate.

Each Chapter and Division then provided a report of their activities for the year.

If you would like a copy of the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes, please contact the ORA Home Office. The 2017 Annual Meeting will be scheduled as a teleconference again sometime in December of 2017.

OHIO MEMBERS RECEIVE REGULAR UPDATES, NEWS AND A CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

Each month ORA makes every effort to keep our members informed on the latest news we have received from local, state, or national sources, information on local training or social events, as well as other educational or networking opportunities and resources we feel would be of value to our members.

In addition, if issues, e.g., legislation or policy alerts, should arise that we feel you should be informed about immediately, we will again distribute this news via email via our own, "THE OHIO WIRE." If you would like a copy of any of our "OHIO WIRES" or have not received these emails, please contact the ORA Home Office to make sure you are on our contact list.

If you have any suggestions, comments, ideas or article submissions for these monthly eblasts, please send them to Vickie Leeming, ORA Home Secretary, at the ORA Home Office. We look forward to your ideas!

Please note, we utilize the service of Constant Contact for our emails. Due to anti-spam laws, if you unsubscribe to ANY of our emails, this removes you permanently from receiving ALL FUTURE emails. If this has happened to you and/or you are not getting our emails, or if you would like to receive our emails at a different address, please contact the ORA Home Office.

MICHAEL MORRISON VISIONARY SCHOLARSHIP

In honor of Michael Morrison’s lifetime of service to the field of vocational rehabilitation and his dedication to people with disabilities, ORA offers the Michael Morrison Visionary Scholarship designed to provide support for rehabilitation professional(s) or student(s) participating in one of the following:

NRA Government Affairs Summit (April 2-4, 2017 in Alexandria, VA)
or NRA’s Annual Training Conference (October 25-28, 2017 in Corpus Christi, TX)
or an ORA State Seminar, Ohio (Date(s) and Location TBD)

The application requires a 500 word essay and a follow-up article for publication on your experiences at the designated event. We have provided an application form on the next page or visit our website at www.ohiorehab.org and click on the Membership tab for more information and the application.

ORA CONFERENCE CERTIFICATES (CEU) NOTICE

As an ORA conference attendee, you can request a FREE duplicate Certificate(s) of Attendance for nine (9) months after the date of the certificate’s issuance. AFTER that, there is a $30.00 charge per conference year request. For the 2016 April Seminar, ALL certifications were issued April 18, 2016, therefore, the deadline was December 18, 2016. To request a copy, contact the ORA Home Office at oravickie@accesstoledo.com.

Page 10
THE MICHAEL MORRISON VISIONARY SCHOLARSHIP

On May 6, 2008, the Rehabilitation community lost a dedicated advocate, competent professional and dear friend. Michael (Mike) Morrison spent his career and the majority of his professional life working to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Mike had a long career at the Columbus-based Vision and Vocational Services (formerly Vision Center) helping individuals with disabilities work toward their goals associated with employment and independence. Mike was known as a caring, humble man who lived by the mantra of “get the job done while having fun.” Over the years, Mike served the rehabilitation profession in a number of roles including Treasurer for the Ohio Rehabilitation Association (ORA) and President of the Ohio Rehabilitation Counseling Association. His spirit of service, fun-loving zest for life, and his kind heart are missed.

In respect to Mike’s lifetime of service to the field of vocational rehabilitation and his dedication to people with disabilities, the Ohio Rehabilitation Association (ORA) would like to offer the Michael Morrison Visionary Scholarship. This Scholarship is designed to provide support for a rehabilitation professional(s) or student(s) participating in the NRA Government Affairs Summit or NRA Training Conference. **In Mike’s spirit, the recipient(s) of this scholarship will need to articulate how the scholarship will help her/him make an impact for people with disabilities. Priority will be given to those who articulate how they intend to become involved in serving the rehabilitation counseling profession.**

Those applying for this scholarship must submit a typed request (500 words or less) stating how they intend to utilize the scholarship to fulfill the priorities previously described (in either printed or Word format). Subsequently, the selected scholarship recipient(s) will be expected to submit a brief write-up pertaining to their experience at the summit/ conference that will be published in the ORA newsletter, the Interchange and/or our monthly e-newsletter.

For more information and/or to submit your application along with the following information, contact Vickie Leeming at: ora@bex.net. The postmark deadlines are as follows: a) NRA Government Affairs Summit in Alexandria, VA (April 2-4, 2017) applications by **February 24, 2017**; and b) NRA Annual Training Conference in Corpus Christi, TX (October 25-28, 2017) applications by **July 25, 2017**. Please mail to: ORA, Attention: Scholarship Committee, 6111 Chaney Drive, Toledo, OH 43615 or send via email to ora@bex.net.

2017 MICHAEL MORRISON VISIONARY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICATION IS FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENT:

☐ NRA Annual Conference, Corpus Christi, TX (October 25-28, 2017)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name__________________________________________ NRA/ORA #__________
☐ Home ☐ Cell #______________________________ Work #________________

Mailing Address__________________________________________________________

Email Address*___________________________________________________________

Membership in a professional organization is preferred, please indicate:________________________

EDUCATION OR EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Institution Currently Attending________________________________________________

Major___________________________________________ Anticipated Graduation Date________

~ OR ~ Employer__________________________________________________________

I AM SEEKING THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC EXPENSE AND/OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR:

☐ Registration Fee  ☐ Hotel & Food Expenses  ☐ Other _____________  ☐ AMOUNT: $________

*required

REMEMBER TO ATTACH 500 WORDS OR LESS ESSAY
Each year the NRA office and NRA Board require each active state to submit a report outlining their activities in that given year. As such, Ohio provided information on our outgoing and incoming Board members and responded to various questions, e.g., what are the Chapter’s membership goals for the coming year, did we or do we plan to hold membership drives, what activities were held or planned to increase membership, how do we communicate with our current and expired members, did the Chapter hold a conference in that year and does it plan to in the coming year, what fundraising activities were held, and do we publish newsletters and/or have a website. Ohio also reported on their achievements, e.g., awards and our Spring 2016 Training event, as published in this issue of our INTERCHANGE newsletter.

Then the ORA Board contemplated and discussed how they would respond to the following question: What issues or concerns would the Chapter like the NRA Board of Directors or National Office Staff to address in 2017? Here is our response:

Over the years ORA has completed the NRA Annual Report Form as requested. There has always been this particular section asking what issues or concerns we would like the NRA Board to address. We have never received any direct response to our questions, issues, noted in this report. ORA is hopeful this will change in 2017. We would like the NRA Board to respond to the following:

1) We acknowledge that monthly membership rosters from NRA help us track our membership. We appreciate the extra efforts of Tanya Griffey in providing a breakdown each month of those NRA members from Ohio who renewed or joined during that particular month. However, in the past, these reports included the amount paid by the member as well as the rebate money attached to each member Ohio would receive. In 2017 Ohio requests not only the membership roster but also the financial transaction information to help with our record keeping and tracking Ohio’s rebate money.

2) We would like the NRA Board to reconsider their position on organizational membership rebates awarded to the state chapters. Ohio has two organizational memberships (five members per organization). At a minimum we are losing approximately $250 annual rebate money from this NRA policy which seems unfair. If you do not reconsider, please provide justification for why this policy was enacted in 2012.

3) For many years ORA has requested feedback from NRA regarding the other state chapters fundraising, programming ideas, and membership recruitment/retention activities to provide ORA with ideas to expand these areas in Ohio. Again we have never received any response from NRA regarding this very important area. As all state chapters continue to see dwindling membership, it is very critical that we all share any successes in these areas so other chapters can learn from these successes.

And finally, our response to: Is there anything else the Chapter wants the Board and/or National Office to know? As you can see from the last question, ORA continues to be frustrated with our national organization and their lack of response to our concerns over the past several years. We see the rehabilitation profession being eroded and we look to our national organization to fight for our identity and our special skill set that is so important to many individuals in this country. We feel the rehabilitation profession needs to have more of a public presence so that the country understands what a specialty area we are and what good we can provide. In Ohio we see many jobs that should be performed by credentialed rehabilitation counselors undertaken by social workers, para-professionals, and others who do not have the disability background or knowledge that rehabilitation counselors possess. Therefore, we would ask NRA to consider some type of campaign that promotes the profession and raises awareness throughout the country regarding this outstanding profession. Otherwise, we fear in the near future we might see our profession disappear.

For the past several years, the ORA Board has had ongoing discussions and expressed its concerns to NRA about the continuing decline of rehab professionals not renewing or joining NRA/ora. In August of 2013 NRA had a reported 4,991 members compared to July of 1990 when that number was 17,547!

Here in Ohio, the loss of individuals who work for OOD, BWC, etc. has most definitely had an impact. Employers also appear less supportive of professional organizations. Yet, the need for training and networking are still necessary and required.

In the last couple of years we have also seen a serious decline of students not joining or renewing upon graduation. For example, in August of 2012 we had 52 student members at Wright State University alone! In August 2013 this dropped to 32, and then in August 2014 and 2015, we only had six student members. As of 2016 we have approximately the same number.

In 2016 we are also seeing long-time members retiring. While we wish them the very best in this new chapter of their lives, we will miss their knowledge, experience, and insights.

The ORA Board is endeavoring to reverse this trend by increasing our social media presence, explore online webcasts for our members, and continue to be a resource, advocate and educator for rehab professionals in Ohio! If you have any suggestions, ideas, would like to volunteer on a committee, we would like to hear from you.
IN OTHER NEWS. . .

“BACK TO THE FUTURE”
HISTORIC MERGER OF NRCA AND NRA

Founded in 1958 to address the unique needs of Rehabilitation Counselors, the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association has marked yet another transitional milestone in its illustrious history. Once the largest division of the National Rehabilitation Association, NRCA has experienced some significant changes in recent decades. Like many organizations and associations (NRA/ORA and others), NRCA has experienced an unfortunate decline in membership and fiscal resources.

As a result, NRCA arrived at the decision that management and oversight needed to be assumed by another entity. In a recent survey of NRCA members, nearly 68 percent of the respondents voted to have NRA assume full management responsibilities. (A total of four options were presented). For decades, NRCA has operated as a separate corporate, non-profit organization. This status is about to be dissolved. There will likely be a merging of both the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association (NRCA) and NRA’s specialty division, the Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association (RCEA).

This merger grants NRA full oversight for numerous aspects of the organization, including, but not limited to: a merging of Boards of Directors; oversight of NRCA’s professional journal, the Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling (JARC) and its CEU processing component; and management of the NRCA Betty Hedgeman Scholarship fund. . . . named in memory of former NRA President and long-time rehabilitation counseling leader, advocate, educator and pioneer.

A highlight of the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association would not be complete without mention of the passing of Norma Maxson back in June. For decades, Norma faithfully served NRCA as its office manager. One could always count on Norma for a word of encouragement; and her hearty laugh and sense of humor will be forever remembered! Right by Norma’s side was partner Barbara Huffman who has served as NRCA’s fiscal and business manager. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Barb for her dedicated service!

WHAT MEMBERS WANT FROM THEIR PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

In June of 2016 ORA sent a survey to our current and lapsed members asking for their feedback on the benefits of membership, how membership affects their “professional identity,” what activities they were most likely to participate in, and any other concerns or suggestions they may have.

Training and educational opportunities were overwhelmingly the main benefit our current and lapsed members seek followed by earning CEUs for certification and/or licensure. All agreed, they would participate in any training events we offer. This will remain a focus for ORA.

For our current members, keeping in touch with other professionals in the area; learning how to better serve individuals with disabilities whether through advocacy, education or delivery of service; keeping up-to-date on legislative issues affecting the disabled community; and networking opportunities were also top benefits. For lapsed members, they too rated keeping up with legislative issues as an important benefit. Does membership provide an “identity?” Nearly 83% of current members and over 50% of lapsed members agree membership in a rehab professional organization does impact their “identity” as a rehab professional.

In 2017 ORA will utilize this feedback to better serve its current members as well as endeavor to attract our lapsed members as well as new ones.

PUBLICATION OF “REHABILITATION IMPLICATIONS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS” ARTICLE

We at ORA want to take this opportunity to congratulate our Student Scholarship Chair Mykal Leslie on his recently published article (with additional colleagues) in The Journal of Rehabilitation (April/May/June 2016 – Volume 82, Number 2). This is a special issue from the National Rehabilitation Association about “Rehabilitation Implications of Multiple Sclerosis” from Guest Editor, Phillip D. Rumrill, Jr.

Those from Northeast Ohio probably recognize Dr. Rumrill from his position at Kent State University in the Center for Disability Studies. The Journal consists of seven articles which “address virtually every rehabilitation-related concern voiced by people with MS as they attempt to resume or maintain their chronic illness.” So take a look at this journal for the latest research. Again, congratulations Mykal!!

WHERE TO GET CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

NRA MEMBERS RECEIVE 15% DISCOUNT ON AAACEUS.COM/NATIONALREHAB COURSES

For questions or to register? Call AAACEUs at (866) 850-5999
ORA HONORS...

The Ohio Rehabilitation Association continues its tradition of honoring and recognizing the very best in our field. The 2016 ORA Awards Committee, comprised of Emily A. Fleisher, Lori McCarthy, and Cathy Ridenbaugh, devoted considerable time and energy to ensuring each award presentation was special and memorable. Thank you all for your dedication and service!

2016 AWARD HIGHLIGHTS
THE DORIS BRENNAN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

By Emily A. Fleisher, Awards Committee Chair

Named in memory of rehabilitation pioneer and advocate, Doris Brennan, ORA was honored to present Cincinnati resident, Antonio Adams, with the 2016 ORA Doris Brennan Award of Excellence.

Nominated by Nancy Vander Woude, Antonio was recognized for his achievements and accomplishments in two distinct areas. For one, he has enjoyed a long-time employment option with the Frisch’s restaurant group in Cincinnati; and for another, he has demonstrated success, creativity and resourcefulness in creating notable works of art in paint and sculpture modalities. Mr. Adams has exhibited... and sold... his creations around the country.

ORA President, Tom Kinser, represented ORA and the Awards Committee, at a surprise award presentation reception held on October 14 in Cincinnati at the Ohio Valley Goodwill. Family members, peers, colleagues and staff members were on hand to celebrate the many achievements of our award recipient.

This particular award is given to a person with a disability who has overcome personal barriers to independence and who has demonstrated resourcefulness in contributing to his/her own rehabilitation.

The Ohio Rehabilitation Association sincerely congratulates Antonio Adams and wishes him continued success and achievement!

ORA AWARD CATEGORIES
BE THINKING 2017!

THE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS
(LARGE AND SMALL EMPLOYERS)
Presented to one large employer (200+ employees) and one small employer (fewer than 200 employees). The purpose is to recognize employers who have intensively hired and successfully incorporated employees with disabilities into the workforce. Any employers, public or private, are eligible for these awards.

THE ORGANIZATIONAL AWARD
Presented to an organization with an outstanding record of service to persons with disabilities. The organization may be one whose principle objectives are in the rehabilitation field or one that, regardless of its major objectives, has demonstrated effective concern for the care, treatment, education or rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

THE BELL GREVE AWARD
Established by ORA to honor Bell Greve, a woman educated as a lawyer, who had a great emotional investment in persons with disabilities. She pioneered in rehabilitation through mobilizing local resources to establish the Cleveland Rehabilitation Center. This award may be presented to a person who has shown unusual initiative or creativity in the development and/or administration of a service program of demonstrated value for persons with disabilities. The program concerned must have contributed to an increased public awareness regarding persons with disabilities.

THE DORIS BRENNAN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
Established by ORA to recognize a person with a disability that has shown extraordinary drive, determination and resourcefulness in overcoming barriers to his/her independence. In 2001, ORA designated this award in memory of Doris Brennan, whose contribution to the field of rehabilitation, specifically to disability rights and independent living, exemplify the spirit of this award. Eligibility is based on innovation and initiative in working toward independent community integration.

THE EXCELLENCE IN MEDIA AWARD
Recognizes an outstanding, accurate and balanced approach in presenting to the public the abilities of, the problems encountered by, or the needed and concerns of persons with disabilities. Those eligible include: newspapers; radio; print; theater productions and other media material.

THE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD
The NRA Governmental Affairs Award was established in 1981. The ORA Governmental Affairs and Public Service Award is like NRA’s in that it is to be presented to a public official who has demonstrated leadership in improving rehabilitation services for people with disabilities through legislative action.

Want to nominate someone? Contact Libby Land or Judy Roth at awards@ohiorehab.org.
WHO WAS DORIS BRENNAN?

Over the years some of our members may have lost the history and the importance of those individuals whom we honor with awards and scholarships named after them. In regard to Doris Brennan, it all began with LEAP!

Once upon a time... By Emily A. Fleisher

LEAP’s history is rooted in the Independent Living (IL) Movement, which originated during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Before this time, many decisions were made for people with disabilities by family members, service providers, and medical personnel, often without any input from the person with the disability. As part of the IL Movement, people with disabilities demanded control of their own lives. LEAP was founded in 1981 as an independent agency affiliated with Cleveland’s Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry. Known then as the Lutheran Employment Awareness Program, the agency originally focused on helping people with disabilities secure employment.

In 1986, Doris Brennan became LEAP’s first Executive Director. Brennan—who had become a quadriplegic after a tragic automobile accident in 1954—had already established herself as a powerhouse in the Independent Living Movement in Ohio, and she brought the vision and philosophy of that movement to LEAP. Over the course of her nearly 20 years with LEAP, she led the agency as it became a federally recognized Center for Independent Living (CIL) and expanded services to address the desires of people with disabilities to live, work, and participate in their communities. Brennan was present at the 1990 signing of the historic Americans with Disabilities Act, and in 1998 she was the first Ohioan inducted into the National Hall of Fame for Persons with Disabilities.

Upon Brennan’s death in 2000, Melanie Hogan became LEAP’s Executive Director. Under Hogan’s leadership, the agency again expanded the scope of its services. Additional focus was placed on advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels for changes that would improve the lives of people with disabilities. An assistive technology center was established, services in benefits planning and analysis were enhanced, programming for high school students was expanded, and collaborations and partnerships with other agencies were forged and strengthened. In 2010, Hogan led LEAP’s move to independence from LMM, as well as the move of its main office to its current location in Cleveland’s Ohio City neighborhood.

During Hogan’s tenure, LEAP has been recognized by PepNET (the Promising and Effective Practices Network) for the quality of its programs for high school students with disabilities who are transitioning to work and adulthood; by the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations for meeting its standards of excellence; by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission with a Freedom to Compete award; and by the U.S. Department of Labor with a New Freedom Initiative Award.

Today LEAP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is recognized for offering high-quality services and producing excellent results. Despite 30 years of growth and change, the original vision of Doris Brennan—that LEAP would help level the playing field for people with disabilities who wanted to be recognized for their abilities and live lives of full inclusion—remains the agency’s cornerstone.

“I had the pleasure of working quite a bit with Doris when I started my career in rehab. She was a strong advocate for the disability community and a wonderful person. She was at the signing of the ADA in Washington, DC. Her hard work paved the way for independent living and integrated employment opportunities for scores of individuals.”

Lori McCarthy, Awards Committee Member and JTA President

DID YOU KNOW...

By Emily A. Fleisher

The position of Home Secretary for the Ohio Rehabilitation Association was enacted in the 1970s with the express goal of providing a paid employment option for a person with a disability. Over time, the criteria of disability status was dropped in order to expand and enhance the various aspects of this position to meet the ever-changing needs of the Association, its leadership, and its members.

Those who have worked in the capacity of Home Secretary have played a very key role in fostering the goals and activities and goals of our association; and have been instrumental in helping to meet the needs of our members and rehab partners. Like many positions of this nature, a ton of work is done “behind the scenes.”

The Ohio Rehabilitation Association gratefully acknowledges Mrs. Vickie Leeming for her contributions and support as Home Secretary since 2002. Thanks and appreciation also go to the following individuals who preceded her:

Sandra Slevinski (1977 to 1993)

Barbara Downs (1993 to 1996)

Nancy Gilbert (1996 to 2002)

Vickie Leeming (2002 to Present)

*Deceased

Upon Brennan’s death in 2000, Melanie Hogan became LEAP’s Executive Director. Under Hogan’s leadership, the agency again expanded the scope of its services. Additional focus was placed on advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels for changes that would improve the lives of people with disabilities. An assistive technology center was established, services in benefits planning and analysis were enhanced, programming for high school students was expanded, and collaborations and partnerships with other agencies were forged and strengthened. In 2010, Hogan led LEAP’s move to independence from LMM, as well as the move of its main office to its current location in Cleveland’s Ohio City neighborhood.

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Lori McCarthy, Awards Committee Member and JTA President

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On April 11th ORA hosted its annual Spring one-day training event in northeast Ohio. **Nobody Does It Better: Celebrating Best Practices in Rehabilitation (with a wink and a nod to Carly Simon)** was held at Hudson’s Clarion Inn and Conference Center.

Nearly eighty rehabilitation practitioners gathered to hear seven speakers present on a variety of topics of interest to the rehabilitation community and allied professions.

Speakers included: **Dr. Cheryl Reed**, Akron-area Optometrist; former NRA Presidents, **Dr. L. Robert McConnell** from Michigan (pictured here on the right) and **Dr. Ray Feroz**, from Clarion University in PA; **Kathleen Feroz Casamento** from Pittsburgh (both shown below); retired KSU and NEOMED professor, **Dr. Mark Savickas**; and OSU staffers **Erica Bible Smith** and **Michael Ricke**, ORA Board Member.

CEU options were increased from last year from six credit hours to seven!
Many individuals generously contributed to ORA’s *Cash Campaign* in support of our April 2016 Seminar Training and Networking event.

Sincere thanks and appreciation go to the following donors and contributors:

- George Ackerman
- Dr. Janice Bending, Ph.D.
- Dr. Nancy Borgeson, Ph.D.
- Olivia Dante
- Charles and Terri Dichtl
- Emily Audra Fleisher
- Aaron Robert Gardner, Esq.
- Alexander Daniel Gardner
- Jeffrey Sigmund Gardner, Esq.
- Lynn Fleisher Gardner
- Neila Berzon Gerald
- Jerald Grimes
- Suzanne/Benoy Joseph, Ph.D.
- Barbara & Dr. David Kristal, DDS
- Brian and Lynna Lee
- Elizabeth Loeffler
- Marc E. Manheim
- Linda/Dr. Joseph J. Moravec, MD
- Patricia Murphy
- Cathy Ridenbaugh
- Martin Rohrer
- Robert Schwartz
- Joann Samsa Smith
- Janet Stuver
- Deborah/Dr. Michael Troner, MD
- Dr. Martha Lentz Walker, Ed.D.

**Corporate Donors**

- Hair Innovations, Inc. (Stow)
- Hudson Auto Parts & Service ("We Rehab Cars")

Generous donors from across the country contributed to the *Cash Campaign* (see adjacent column). An impressive $1,640.00 was generated and used to off-set some of the costs of the seminar, such as sign language interpreters.

**Jay Leeming**, Certification Committee Chair, worked diligently to ensure early CEU credentialing; while **Vickie Leeming**, ORA Home Secretary, oversaw the registration process and broad-based marketing and information sharing activities.

**Beth Simone** donated an impressive array of door prizes which were given out at the buffet networking lunch, in addition to a massive amount of photocopying!

**Lori McCarthy** assisted with the door prize activity; and **Marc Manheim** from OOD introduced the speakers and served as official time-keeper.

Three KSU graduate students, **Stephanie Blakely, Rachel Timblin,** and **Aliza Weiss,** were on hand to assist with registration and CEU tracking. Responses from the students indicated they enjoyed the opportunity to volunteer and to network with colleagues in the field.

Community volunteer, **Tom Stephan**, assisted with selling fifty-fifty raffle tickets. $212.00 was collected with half the proceeds benefitting the ORA Student Scholarship Fund.

**Sherri Simpson**, Director of VR Training & Policy with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) was acknowledged and thanked for promoting ORA’s training event state-wide among her agency colleagues.

Advertisers included **Dancing Wheels Company & School/Professional Flair; United Disability Services of Akron; and the UDS Low Vision Clinic.**

Thanks and appreciation go to all who attended and assisted with the planning and implementation of this training event!
I had the distinct pleasure of being the recipient of the 2016 Michael Morrison ORA Scholarship which allowed me to attend the 2016 Ohio Rehabilitation Association’s Spring Training and Networking Event in Hudson, Ohio on April 11, 2016. The day long training featured excellent speakers and topics.

Dr. Ray Feroz and Kathleen Feroz Casamento (father/daughter team) from Pennsylvania outlined their experiences working with veterans who are in recovery from Mental Illness. The pair had great examples of the research being done in this area. Dr. L. Robert McConnell, former President of the National Rehabilitation Association challenged us as rehab professionals to examine our own ethical profiles. Dr. Chery Reed, Optometrist and Director of Low Vision Services at United Disability Services in Akron, Ohio gave the audience a fascinating look (pun intended) at the challenges faced when serving consumers with visual impairments. Michael Ricke and Erica Smith, Disability Managers at the Ohio State University, shared interesting real life scenarios of accommodations provided to employees of OSU. Dr. Mark Savickas of Northeast Ohio Medical University had the audience on the edge of their seats as he explained his techniques and theories used in the Career Construction Counseling Model. I don’t think I have ever heard Marilyn Monroe discussed at an ORA conference before.

Once again, ORA provided a forum for over 70 professionals and students to learn, network and enjoy a wonderful lunch. Thank you to the ORA Board for granting me the scholarship. I look forward to using this knowledge in my professional life.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Ann McCarthy

My experience participating as a Student Ambassador at the ORA Conference 2016 was nothing but great! As this being my second time attending this event, it was nice to see familiar and new faces too. This was a beneficial opportunity to meet and network with individuals from various agencies and to learn how they got started in this field. Overall, I am thankful for being given the opportunity to be a part of such a strong network of people and it made me look forward to my future career in rehabilitation counseling.

Aliza Weiss, Kent State University

This was my first ORA experience! I felt motivated and excited being surrounded by peers, professionals and professors in the field. It was a great way to be introduced to the field and make contacts dedicated to integrating young professionals into rehabilitation counseling. I'm thankful for the experience and appreciative to be a "Golden Flash!"
A LOOK BACK AT 2016

Throughout 2016 the CORA Board met to discuss event plans as well as updates to CORA’s Constitution & Bylaws. A special thanks to Carol Wagner Williams for handling details of the CORA bank accounts and financial records as our long time Treasurer. Carol retired in October of 2016 and is enjoying the warmth and sunshine of Arizona now. Fortunately, Doug Bailey agreed to step in as CORA’s new Treasurer. The CORA Board met every other month and things are running smoothly.

April 2016

On Wednesday evening, April 27, 2016, CORA held a Spring Mixer at Hidden Lakes Winery in Canal Winchester and a great time was had by all. The purpose of this networking event was for our CORA members to meet new people, renew old acquaintances, and meet and mix with other professionals in the rehab field. The guests gave the Board ideas for future trainings and needs in the transition community. Also, each Board member was given a certificate of appreciation from the current President. A BIG thanks goes out to Cathy Ridenbaugh for chairing the event!

August 2016

On August 9, 2016 CORA held a special dinner meeting at Village Wine and Bistro in Groveport. This meeting was extra special as long time Board member and NRA/ORAmember, Dr. Carol Wagner Williams, officially retired. Everyone enjoyed the time together and we wish Carol congrats on a Happy Retirement!

Also in 2016 CORA and the Job Placement Division (JPD) began to explore co-existing. The goal is to provide members with training which benefits both groups. Look for further developments in 2017.
Looking Back on 2016

March 2016

The JPD Board endeavored to gather information from current and former individuals who are or were JPD members, concerning their opinions about the fate of JPD. However, they received only a few responses.

May 2016

The JPD President, Cathy Ridenbaugh, appointed the CORA Treasurer, Doug Bailey, to fill the open JPD Treasurer position vacated earlier in the year. The JPD funds are now being administered by the CORA Treasurer.

In addition, JPD began a review of their existing Constitution & Bylaws in light of co-existing with the CORA Chapter.

Looking Ahead to 2017

At this time, the JPD Board will be working on seating a new Board if possible. If you are interested, please contact Cathy Ridenbaugh or Patricia Batdorf.

The hope for 2017 is to work with the CORA Chapter to provide training for JPD and CORA members in the Columbus area.

Looking Ahead to 2017

This chapter remained inactive throughout 2016. The ORA Board, and specifically John Tooson, ORA Board Member, is working with this Chapter's Board to determine the viability of the chapter.

A meet and greet is being discussed for 2017 to be held at Wilberforce University in Dayton. We will keep our members apprised of any developments.
A LOOK BACK AT 2016

March 2016

On March 3, 2016 the SWORA Chapter hosted a Men’s Clothing Drive Event at the Glendale Cock & Bull. The goal was to collect interview clothing for men with disabilities. However, in spite of sending an email invitation out to over 80 people, less than a handful attended.

As of March, the SWORA Board did not have a President–Elect (who would serve as President in 2017) nor a Treasurer-Elect. In the last year SWORA saw long time SWORA/ORA members, John Erpelding and Stephanie Eppley retire and by the end of the year, Nancy Vander Woude retired from her job and Kathie Kraemer was also stepping down as Secretary.

May 2016

In May a SWORA Board meeting was held to discuss suspending the Chapter. Despite their successful history, in 2016 SWORA’s projects had not been successful, e.g., their $1,000 scholarship offer with only two applicants in spite of reaching out to various colleges and universities.

November 2016

By November the SWORA Board had decided to go inactive December 31, 2016, due to a lack of member participation in scheduled events and the inability to seat a 2017 Board. Again, the lack of participation to training events was decidedly a major contributor to the decision to disband. Subsequently, a letter was sent out stating the Board’s decision to the SWORA membership.

December 2016

Although SWORA has moved to dissolve; one aspect of the group, The Success Fund, will continue through ORA as voted on at the December 2016 Full Board meeting. SWORA has earmarked and sent to ORA $1,500 for this specific member benefit. The Success Fund will offer ORA members a fund to access in assisting their consumers/ injured workers with up to $50 for return-to-work and/or remain-at-work services not covered by state agencies. The rest of SWORA’s treasury was given to various local charities with some money set aside for a possible Chapter reactivation in the future (to be held for a period of two years).
NEORA’S 2016
PRESIDENT

AMY TAYLOR

LOOKING BACK AT 2016

NEORA’s Fall Conference was held September 23, 2016 at the Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center in Independence, Ohio. The event was well attended with approximately 70 attendees plus a full 10 presenters.

Attendees had the opportunity to review topics on megatrends' impact in the new economy, working with the aging workforce, Ohio Means Jobs resources, and counseling techniques for difficult cases. Presenters used a variety of methods including team presenting, panel discussion, and solo presenters. Overall feedback provided reports that the event was well liked, would be recommended to others in the future, and several attendees reported they couldn't wait for next year!

NEORA would like to thank all the presenters, attendees, and volunteers from the Board who helped the event go smoothly!

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017

YES, at this time, NEORA plans on hosting another one day seminar tentatively scheduled for October 2017 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Independence, Ohio.

Look for updates in your Inbox via ORA’s monthly e-newsletters and the ORA website (www.ohiorehab.org)
EORA'S 2016 PRESIDENT

DAVID SALEWSKY

LOOKING BACK ON 2016

Over the years, the EORA Chapter provided training and networking events for its members in the Eastern area of Ohio. The Chapter largely covered the cities of Warren and Youngstown and the counties of Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull. Although small, they were consistently active. They held training seminars at Boardman Park and ended the year with a holiday dinner.

However, in March of 2016 the EORA Board decided that they were no longer able to sustain their leadership nor the necessary level of participation to keep the group active. By May, the EORA chapter announced their final decision and members were informed. Subsequently, in June, EORA donated their treasury to Second Harvest Foodbank, Beatitude House, and Camp Quality Ohio. We thank the EORA Chapter for striving so long to serve rehab professionals in this area.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

2016 EORA BOARD

President, David Salewsky
vrservices.daves@gmail.com

Immediate Past President, Brad Hale
cve7_3@juno.com

Treasurer, Dottie Nespeca
d.nespeca@goodwillyoungstown.org

Secretary, Sharyn Jacisin Pimpinella
sharynj@live.com

Board Members-at-Large

Mykal Leslie.......................... mykal.leslie@gmail.com
Rachel Reitz ............................ rachreitz@yahoo.com
Amy Rodgers ......................... amy_rogers@vchs.net

JOB TRAINERS ASSOCIATION

Looking Ahead to 2017

This unique group of Job Trainers was inactive throughout 2016. However, we are exploring offering a training event in the Cleveland area in 2017. If you have any suggestions, would like to present, or would like to help us with this event, please contact Lori McCarthy. Again, we will keep you posted via your Inbox and on the ORA website (www.ohiorehab.org).

Thank You for your Service!

2016 JTA Board

President, Lori McCarthy
lori.mccarthy@ood.ohio.gov

Past President/Secretary, Scott Jones
sbrady7@aol.com

Treasurer, Fred Hill
fred.hill@ftsjobs4u.com

Board Members-at-Large

Diane Grove-Ackerman ............... dgroveac@kent.edu
Abby Naska ............................ abby.naska@ftsjobs4u.com
Kim Walter ......................... kimw@givingtreecounseling.com
The NRA membership is divided into seven geographical regions: Pacific, Great Plains, Southwest, Great Lakes, Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeast.

The GREAT LAKES REGION (GLR) includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

OUR 2016-2017 GREAT LAKES REGION BOARD
GLR President, Harold Wasner (Michigan)
hswasner@gmail.com
Secretary, Tom Kinser (Ohio)
ORA Past President 2017
Ohio Representative
Patricia Batdorf, ORA President
Illinois Representative
David Brott
Michigan Representatives
Shelly Neal, MRA President
Janice Benstead
David Campbell
Wisconsin Representatives
Kyle Kleist, WRA President
Colleen Etzbach

It is noted Indiana is no longer represented since this state chapter went inactive in 2015

GLR CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
The Great Lakes Region (GLR) of NRA is also seeking to fill two critical roles in 2017: President-Elect and a GLR Liaison to the NRA Board. Both of these positions would be required to attend the GLR teleconference meetings each month, e.g., January, March, etc. The GLR Liaison is responsible for representing our region at the NRA Board Meetings held telephonically.

The candidates must.

• be a current NRA member
• provide a short bio for publication
• commit to attending GLR meetings when scheduled.

If interested in learning more or volunteering for one of these positions, contact:
Harold Wasner, GLR President/Treasurer
hswasner@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENT
GREAT LAKES REGION (GLR) DEVELOPMENT GRANTS UP TO $1,000
A Message from ORA President, Tom Kinser. The following message was received from the Great Lakes Region (GLR) President/Treasurer, Harold Wasner. Ohio along with Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin are part of the GLR and represent this region at the NRA Board level. The ORA Board will be discussing our application and would appreciate any suggestions or feedback from our members.

The Great Lakes Region of NRA is taking applications for State Chapter and/or State Divisions for development and innovation grants of up to $1,000. Early applications are encouraged. The purpose of these grants is to assist NRA/GLR state chapters and/or their divisions to grow and thrive, and/or to envision and develop more effective ways of being a rehabilitation association at the state or divisional level.

Grant funds may be used for one or more of the following: Experiment with new models of being a statewide or local rehabilitation association, improve internal and external association communications, improve participant recruitment and involvement, provide meaningful professional development offerings for association participants and prospective participants, and coalition building with like-minded rehabilitation organizations. Creativity and effectiveness in the use of funds is encouraged.

The written narrative application will provide a description of the project, the project’s purpose, its projected outcomes, how it will be carried out, its budget, other financial and human resources to be used, responsible parties and the dollar amount requested from the Great Lakes Region. Requests for project funds must be accompanied by a letter or email from the State NRA Chapter President indicating State Chapter support for the grant proposal. Questions about the Grant may be made to the person named below.

Applications for biannual grant award must be emailed to and received by 3-31-2017 or 9-30-2017 to:

NRA Great Lakes Region
c/o Harold Wasner, President/Treasurer
16151 Marguerite Street
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
Phone: 248-731-7546
hswasner@gmail.com
THE NEW CODE OF ETHICS GOES INTO EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2017

Make sure you and your organization understand the prominent changes—visit CRC’s website for a FREE 1 Hour Course to learn more!

WWW.CRCCERTIFICATION.COM

The designation of Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) is an indication of an advanced level of specialized education and training, an adherence to rigid standards of ethical practice, and an ongoing commitment to lifelong learning. CRC certification also establishes a recognizable point of differentiation with employers and clients that promotes consumer confidence and protection in the workplace.

WHAT DISTINGUISHES A CRC PROFESSIONAL FROM OTHER COUNSELING PROFESSIONALS?

The CRC designation represents an advanced level of specialized, graduate education and training. CRCs have a commitment to ethical practice. CRCs engage in lifelong learning. Rehabilitation counselors who have earned the CRC designation possess a marketable and valuable credential that distinguishes them from other counseling professionals.

CHECK OUT THESE CRC VIDEOS
“CRC Certification Makes a Difference”
“The Art of Rehabilitation Counseling”
“CRCs and Disability: Driving Results for You and Your Company

CRCC E-UNIVERSITY
Check out
www.crccertification.com/euniversity

FILING CRCC CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE:
To have your clock hours added to your certification file, log on to your profile on the CRCC website. Under Certificants click on the link to ‘add pre-approved continuing education program’ then click ‘Add CE Pre-Approved.’ Please scan and upload the document (please note, ORA sends its Certificate of Attendance already in PDF format) or send a copy of the form to CRCC, 1699 E. Woodfield Road, Suite 300, Schaumburg, IL 60173. It is best to submit this documentation as activities are completed or at least on an annual basis!
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

AMERICAN BOARD OF VOCATIONAL EXPERTS (ABVE)

WWW.ABVE.NET

The American Board of Vocational Experts (ABVE) is a professional credentialing body established as a not-for-profit organization. Its Diplomates and Fellows have academic preparation in several disciplines (rehabilitation, psychology, economics and various aligned disciplines) and in assessment, counseling and consulting. Prior to completion of the certification process, professionals may be associate or student members of ABVE.

ABVE, representing both the private and the public sectors, was founded in 1980 to preserve the integrity, standards, ethics, and uniqueness of vocational experts. As litigation continues to proliferate, the need for qualified vocational experts becomes greater every day.

The certified vocational expert is expected to keep abreast of the effects of personal injury on earning capacity, labor market changes, hiring practices, and knowledge of occupational requirements, as well as the growth and decline patterns in local labor markets. ABVE, through professional educational seminars and publications, keeps the certified vocational expert current in the field of changing and developing issues.

MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION PROMOTION
ABVE is currently running a promotion for membership and certification campaign through April 30, 2017 at discounted rates.

FILING ABVE CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE:
Send your copy to ABVE via email, fax, or mail.

IN 2016 CDMS MANAGEMENT IS TRANSFERRED TO CCMC

June 2016

On behalf of the CDMS Commission, beginning July 1, 2016, the management of the CDMS certification program will be transferred to the Commission for Case Manager Certification (CCMC). CCMC is the largest and oldest accredited certification body that certifies case managers in health care.

How will this change affect the CDMS CEU pre-approval process for your programs and activities?

The CDMS certification program will continue to remain a separate program. Starting June 28, 2016, all questions and inquiries should be directed to the Commission for Case Manager Certification at ccmchq@ccmcertification.org or 1-844-681-8156.

We thank you for your continued support of the CDMS certification program.
**COMMISION FOR CASE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION**

**WWW.CCMCERTIFICATION.ORG**

CCMC® is the first and largest nationally accredited organization that certifies case managers. It is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that oversees the process of case manager certification. The CCM® is the first nationally accredited case manager credential, supporting the case management industry.

**2017 NEW WORLD SYMPOSIUM:** January 26-28, 2017 at Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center in Dallas, Texas

**UPCOMING EXAM:** April 2017 ~ Window open until January 31, 2017

**FILING YOUR CCMC CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE:**
Go to [https://ccmcertification.org/ccmc-dashboard](https://ccmcertification.org/ccmc-dashboard)

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Phone: (856) 380-6836 ~ Fax: (856) 439-0525
1120 Route 73, Suite 200, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
Email: pace@ccmcertification.org

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**CDMS®**

**WWW.CDMS.ORG**

CDMS® provides certification and recertification to ensure the competence of those who provide disability management services. The CDMS Commission offers the only independent, nationally accredited program that certifies disability management specialists and promotes competence, high professional standards, and ethical practice in the field for those involved in a variety of practice disciplines, including rehabilitation counseling, nursing, safety, risk management, and HR.

**UPCOMING EXAM:** March 2017 ~ Window open until January 31, 2017

**FILING CDMS CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE:**
Got to [www.cdms.org](http://www.cdms.org) and click on MY ACCOUNT. Have your Certificate of Attendance handy in order to complete the “Recertification Application” questions with the information contained on your Certificate. Retain your Certificate should CDMS require it for documentation.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** [NEW]
Phone: (844) 681-8156 ~ Fax: (856) 439-0525
1120 Route 73, Suite 200, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
Email: cdmshq@cdms.org

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**OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD (CSWMFT)**

**WWW.CSWMFT.OHIO.GOV**

Did you know that July 2016 will mark the 30th anniversary of the issuance of the first licenses by the CSWMFT Board? Approximately 300 professionals—out of a current 38,000 who were originally licensed in 1986 — are still actively licensed.

The Counselor and Social Worker Board was created by legislation in 1984. The Board’s primary responsibility is to protect the citizens of the State of Ohio through the licensure of Counselors and Social Workers. The Board does this through the establishment of licensure and practice standards for the professional practice of counseling and social work.

**BULLET POINTS FROM 2016 CSWMFT’S NEWSLETTERS**

- Decision to change its exam policy for persons seeking an LISW
- Working on a new online licensing system
- Reciprocity Agreement with the Kentucky Board of Licensed Professional Counselors. The agreement will help persons licensed in Kentucky or Ohio gain a license in the other state.
- The next year [2017] will present some challenges and opportunities for the Board to consider. As technology becomes an increasing part of practice, the Board will be reviewing its rules surrounding teletherapy/e-therapy.
- Posted first videos to the website

**NOTE TO SOCIAL WORKERS:**
The Board does “accept trainings approved by NASW National, NASW Ohio, and ASWB.”

**FILING YOUR CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE:**
Continuing education information is only submitted to the Board if you are audited after renewing your license. If you are chosen for audit you will have 30 days to submit proof of your completed continuing education—so keep your Certificates of Attendance safe! The Board currently audits 30% to 50% of all renewals submitted.

**NOTE FOR RN CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE:**
The Ohio Board of Nursing recognizes the State of Ohio CSWMFT Board as an approved provider of CNE for multi-disciplinary activities. Please retain your Program Book in order to provide the titles, presenters’ names, and description of the sessions you attended which may be required when submitting your CNEs.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Phone: (614) 466-0912 ~ Fax: (614) 728-7790
77 South High Street, 24th Floor, Room 2468
Columbus, OH 43215-6171
Email: cswmft.info@cswb.ohio.gov
Throughout Ohio, public and private vocational rehabilitation programs depend on state and federal tax dollars to provide programming and services to Ohioans with disabilities. Additionally, these VR programs assist people with disabilities to remove barriers to employment. They contribute to the state in the form of taxes instead of relying on the state for assistance. Once employed, these individuals need less public assistance. For every dollar Ohio budgets for vocational rehabilitation, four dollars on the federal level is matched. Once employed, the four dollars is returned to the Social Security Trust Fund. It is a very cost-effective program and enhances the lives of people with disabilities.

Due to the ever-changing political climate, education and advocacy are paramount to enlist the support of our elected public officials regarding the needs of Ohioans with disabilities. Budget issues are a constant concern and we need to be alert to legislation that will impact the funding for people with disabilities. The Governmental Affairs Committee disseminates legislative alerts via the "Ohio Wire" and "ORA eblast" for any pertinent legislation or issues that members need to address with their state senators and representatives. The NRA "Legislative Alerts" assist us as well on the federal level to contact our Senators and State Representatives. The Committee provides the necessary tools to promote education and advocacy for people with disabilities.

If you are interested in getting involved in the ORA Governmental Affairs Committee, or learning more, please Carrie Moreland at cmorel9293@aol.com

July 2016

Governor Kasich signed House Bill 158, sponsored by Representative Jonathan Dever (R-Madeira), on Wednesday at the St. Joseph Home in Cincinnati. The bill strikes the term "mental retardation" from the Ohio Revised Code and replaces such references with the term "intellectual disability." The measure also specifies that an intellectual disability is a form of developmental disability.

Representative Dever spoke about the impact of the legislation at the bill signing on Wednesday: "Words do matter. The removal of the 'R-word' will help treat our state's most vulnerable individuals with the dignity and respect they deserve. I was proud to stand by Governor Kasich and members of the disability community today as he signed this important piece of legislation."

In 2016 we issued three "Ohio Wires" which are unique to Ohio and bring to our members and donors alerts regarding legislation, educational, or other matters deemed a priority. For example, in January we alerted our members to the WSU Presidential Lecture Series with such speakers as Amy Purdy, Paralympic bronze medalist and in October an alert was sent regarding a webinar on the CORE/CACREP merger hosted by the Wisconsin state chapter.
WHY DOES ADVOCACY MATTER? HOW CAN I BE AN ADVOCATE?

"Why does advocacy matter? When done effectively, advocacy influences public policy by providing a conduit for individuals and organizations to voice an opinion. These efforts can, in turn, sway public opinion, garner press coverage, and ultimately provide policymakers an opportunity to respond to constituents' needs." What is Advocacy? It "is the process of stakeholders making their voices heard on issues that affect their lives and the lives of others at the local, state, and national level. It also means helping policymakers find specific solutions to persistent problems. Most nonprofits can and do engage in as much advocacy as possible to achieve their goals."

Examples of advocacy: a) "Telling your member of Congress how a federal grant your organization received has helped your constituents.” b) "Educating a member of Congress about the effects of a policy on your constituency.” c) "Inviting a member of Congress to visit your organization so that he/she may see firsthand how federal funding or a policy affects day-to-day operations and the difference it makes.” (Obtained from the National Council on Aging’s website (www.ncoa.org/public-policy-action/policy-news/are-nonprofits-allowed-to.html, May 18, 2012 — emphasis ours.)

HOW CAN I BE AN ADVOCATE? “You can be an advocate by educating policymakers about the needs of your organization and the people you serve. You also can organize supporters on issues of importance and educate a wider audience on your accomplishments. Some examples include: Writing letters, calling, or organizing meetings to see legislators and their staff, attending town hall meetings with lawmakers; communicating with policymakers through social media and other methods. . . .” To help you with this, below and on the next page you will find contact information for your legislative representatives. If you would like assist in advocating, you can also contact our ORA Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, Carrie Moreland Hyder, at cmorel9293@aol.com.

On the next page we have provided you with a map of the Ohio U.S. Congressional Districts for 2017 and a list of your representatives and their websites. Be an Advocate! Contact your Representative today!

OHIO’S GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Below is a chart of how the Citizens of Ohio have a voice in government. We hope this visualization will help you understand the role the Senate and the House play in the Legislative Branch of Government.

THE CITIZENS OF OHIO

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SENATE

HOUSE

OHIO SENATE DISTRICTS

Do you know in which Senate District you reside? In Ohio there are 33 Senate Districts. Each Senate District covers approximately three House Districts as shown below. To learn more about the Ohio Senate, visit their website at www.ohiosenate.gov.

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICTS

Do you know in which House District you reside? This representative is the most focused on your immediate local level. Ohio has 99 House Representatives! To find out who your representative is and to learn more about the Ohio House of Representatives, visit their website at www.ohiohouse.gov.

OHIO GOVERNOR JOHN R. KASICH

The Ohio Governor is part of the Executive Branch and on an organizational chart, has direct accountability to the Citizens of Ohio just as the Legislative Branch does. As a citizen, you have a means with which to share your ideas and stay informed thanks to the Governor’s website. You can also sign up for email updates!

www.governor.ohio.gov
Each citizen in Ohio is represented in Congress by 2 Senators (regardless of population) and 16 Congressional District representatives as shown here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>16 DISTRICTS</th>
<th>WEBSITE ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steve Chabot (R)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>chabot.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad Wenstrup (R)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>wenstrup.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joyce Beatty (D)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>beatty.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Jordan (R)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>jordan.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Latta (R)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>latta.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Johnson (R)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>billjohnson.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Gibbs (R)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>gibbs.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Davidson (R)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>davidson.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcy Kaptur (D)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>kaptur.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Turner (R)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>miketurner.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcia Fudge (D)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>fudge.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Tiberi (R)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>tiberi.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Ryan (D)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>timryan.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Joyce (R)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>joyce.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Stivers (R)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>stivers.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Renacci (R)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>renacci.house.gov</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**U.S. SENATORS FOR OHIO**

**SHERROD BROWN**
(D)
brown.senate.gov
2012—2018

**ROB PORTMAN**
(R)
portman.senate.gov
2016—2022
WHAT HAPPENED WITH NRA IN 2016?

2016 NRA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS SUMMIT

This Summit was held at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town Hotel on April 10-12 in Alexandria, Virginia. Due to scheduling conflicts, neither our Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, Carrie Moreland Hyder, nor our ORA President, Tom Kinser, were able to attend.

In the Spring of 2016 the NRA Board tackled several issues, statements, and matters of business reflecting the organization and its mission. These are identified below. Be sure to check out the NRA website for many of the referenced documents at www.nationalrehab.org.

Issue Statements
The National Rehabilitation Association produces numerous “Issue Statements” stating the NRA’s position on issues and policy currently in Congress and Government. The 2016 Issue Statements are approved by the NRA’s Board at the Summit. Visit NRA’s website and click on the Government Affairs tab to view the full version of the 2016 Issue Statements along with NRA Hill Visits—Bullet Points. These documents will also be posted on the ORA website on our Legislative tab page in the near future.

Revised Mission and Vision and Values
In Spring of 2016 NRA completed a revision of its mission and vision and values. The revisions were adopted by the Board and are available on the NRA website.

NRA’s Revised Mission Statement ~ April 2016

To provide exemplary leadership through social advocacy and legislation, advance cultural awareness and competence across communities, promote excellence in research and practice, and support professionals engaged in the employment and independence of individuals with disabilities.

Transition from Weblink to iMIS Membership Software
NRA continues to work on the transition from Weblink to iMIS membership software. The ORA Home Office does request monthly rosters to maintain a more current list of its members. NRA is also sending postcards to all members who do not have valid email addresses on file asking them to go online and update their information. Please go online and make sure your information is correct or contact the ORA Home office.

NRA Financial Statements Through November 2015
NRA financial statements are done through November 2015. The national office is focusing energies on getting the financial information up-to-date and on cross-training staff.

New Social Media Committee
A new Social Media Committee has been formed and will be chaired by Dr. Daniel Boudin, NRA Board Member-at-Large. NRA also announced a New Member Spotlight that will be added to the website and to the Contemporary Rehabilitation newsletter. The members will be drawn at random and the website will feature two members each month. Check out the Twitter feed on the NRA website or go to www.twitter.com/NationalRehab

2016 NRA ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

The Virginia Chapter of NRA hosted the 2016 NRA Annual Training Conference this year. It was held at the Omni Richmond Hotel in downtown Richmond, Virginia, from September 12-15, 2016. Ohio was represented by a few individuals. Below, from Maple Heights, is N. Maureen Paulett’s perspective:

The Annual National Rehabilitation Association Conference in Richmond, Virginia, was very well received by attendees. It was especially fitting to hear directly from Janet LaBreck, Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Association, U.S. Department of Education, on the importance of the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act and how we as rehabilitation counselors could benefit for clients. Commissioner LaBreck has offered that she may be contacted directly with questions or concerns as she will be in office until January 20, 2017. Beyond that, it is not certain when a new commissioner will be in place. Two people attended from Ohio so they had become certified as delegates for the annual meeting, N. Maureen Paulett and Simone Hicks. Believe me, you were missed. There were a wide variety of topics including how to deal with persons with disabilities during natural disasters along with A Case Scenario of Amy Winehouse. Very interesting. In addition, there was a presentation on entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities and very importantly, how to thrive as a rehabilitation counselor, being sure to take care of ourselves! Richmond was a wonderfully convenient, interesting and historical town to have the conference in, likely making it convenient for dignitaries such as Commissioner LaBreck to speak to us and this was much appreciated.