Greetings,

As we close out 2019 and look at the past year there are a two themes that come to me: appreciation and gratitude. While maybe cliché, this year has brought new appreciation and a wealth of gratitude for our members, board, volunteers, and community.

Having been a challenging year for me personally and professionally I have appreciated the lengths at which our Board members have gone to support each other when I have been unable to be on calls due to last minute meetings or events. Without everyone’s cooperation and support, we would not have held a successful two-day conference or encouraged new members to attend.

We also appreciate the support our Student Ambassadors provided during the conference, which ran so smoothly and provided CEUs to just over 70 professionals from Ohio. We hope to instill the next generation of professionals with a passion for continuing education and the six students who have now volunteered two years in a row gives us great hope for the future of our profession.

Additionally, we are seeing new opportunities arise for partnerships with local state agencies which will encourage collaboration and additional opportunities for professionals to receive cross training, get involved in governmental affairs, and remain connected with other professionals. For their outreach and willingness to support us — we are thankful!

We are also grateful for the continuous dedication and commitment to our mission and the exceptional services you provide. Without you, thousands of people would continue to struggle to support themselves, their families and their communities. As we look back at the last decade of services and look forward to the new opportunities coming our way, take a moment to appreciate the wealth of support around you and express gratitude to those who make our future bright. Without you, our organization would not be the same.

I raise a warm mug to you all, on this chilly day, with both appreciation and gratitude. Without you, we would be hard pressed to look forward to 2020 and the next decade of opportunities for independence, inclusion and support for individuals we serve across all areas. Even on the toughest of days in 2020- when paperwork is piled high and the stress is mounting: remember that we are here for you, and your colleagues and board members appreciate you and thank you for everything you do.

Amy Taylor, MS, CRC

president@ohiorehab.org

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.
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 advertisements included in this issue.

Publication Date: March 30, 2020
THE 2019 ORA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank You

We wish to thank the following individuals for their commitment, service, time, and contributions in 2019 to our organization.

Officers of the Board

**PRESIDENT***
Amy Taylor .............................. [email]

**PRESIDENT-ELECT***
Jackie Stanton*.......................... [email]

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT***
Carl Sabo........................................ [email]

**SECRETARY***
Carrie Moreland Hyder .............. [email]

**TREASURER***
Doug Bailey.................................. [email]

**NRA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE 2018-2020**
Tanya R. Chiles*

**Board Members-at-Large**

**TERM ENDS 2019**
Tanya R. Chiles*.......................... [email]
Libby Land ................................... [email]

**TERM ENDS 2020**
Mykal Leslie*............................... [email]
John Tooson................................. [email]

**TERM ENDS 2021**
Pamela Dunseith ......................... [email]
Renee Scheidweiler ..................... [email]

*Served also as an Executive Committee Member

Chapters

**NEORA (CLEVELAND AREA)**
Amy Taylor, President ................... [email]
Amy also served as a Member-at-Large of the Employment Collaborative of Cuyahoga County in 2019

**Committee Chairs**

**AWARDS**
Libby Land ................................... [email]

**CERTIFICATION**
Jay Leeming ............................... [email]

**CONFERENCE PLANNING CHAIR**
Tanya R. Chiles ......................... [email]

**CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS**
John Tooson ............................... [email]

**GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**
Carrie Moreland Hyder ............... [email]

**MEMBERSHIP**
Vickie Leeming ......................... [email]

**NOMINATING**
Carl Sabo ................................. [email]

**SCHOLARSHIP AND STUDENT AMBASSADOR**
Pamela Dunseith ....................... [email]

**SOCIAL MEDIA! PUBLIC RELATIONS!**
Position Open

**SUCCESS FUND**
Tom Kinser ............................... [email]

**WAYS & MEANS (BASKET RAFFLE TOO!)**
Renee Scheidweiler .................. [email]

**WEBSITE**
Vickie Leeming ......................... [email]
2019 FALL ONE DAY CONFERENCE

On Friday, September 6, NEORA held its 2019 Fall Conference in Independence, Ohio at the DoubleTree Hotel. We offered six hours of continuing education for the thirty people who attended. Their feedback was overwhelmingly favorable. If you were not in attendance, here is a summary of what you missed!

Melanie Hogan, Executive Director of Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP), provided us with a program about life care planning for persons with disabilities: “Maintaining Engagement and Finding Purpose in Life After Work.” Attendees’ comments included: “good information;” “related to my professional and personal life;” “excellent;” “interesting;” “will explore more on Life Care Planning with LEAP.”

Curtis B. Scruggs, Executive Director of Northeast Ohio Re-Entry Coalition, Inc., offered education around re-entry into community employment in his presentation: “Second Chance: Choice or Necessity?” Evaluation comments included that vocational rehabilitation counselors often do not know this information and ongoing education seems vital. Others stated they enjoyed the presentation and Curtis was engaging.

In a third presentation, a panel of representatives from Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Cuyahoga East Vocational Education Consortium, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, and United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland discussed their “Inter-agency Collaboration and the Processes Involved to Transition Youth with Disabilities from High School to the Work Place.” Audience members expressed they enjoyed the presentation; that it was good to hear different perspectives; and the panel offered a nice example of blended support services.

Finally, Rosanne Radziewicz, MSN, APRN-CNS, a Psychiatric/Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist, now retired, provided an interactive session on “Reiki Energy Healing: Applications for Rehabilitation Counseling.” Participants stated it was “a nice experience;” “very informative;” “very interesting;” “a different way of treating mental illness, or healing;” “I wish employers offered this service to its employees;” and “the exercise was great!”

The NEORA Board is once again pleased we could offer another meaningful continuing education opportunity to the membership.
REACTIVATING LOCAL CHAPTERS/DIVISIONS

Over our 65 year history we have had local chapters in all corners of Ohio, e.g., Northwest/Toledo Ohio (NWORA); Akron and Canton Area (ACORA); Eastern/Youngstown Ohio (EORA); and Southwest/Cincinnati Area (SWORA). We have also had student chapters at Bowling Green State University; Kent State University; and Wright State University. Our specialty focused divisions included: the Ohio Division of the National Job Placement Division (JPD); Ohio Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (OARL); Ohio Association of Service Providers in Private Rehabilitation (OASPPR); Ohio Association of Rehabilitation Secretaries (OARS); Ohio Division of the National Association of Multi-Cultural Rehabilitation Concerns (ONAMRC); the Ohio Division of the National Rehabilitation Administration Association (ORAA) and the Ohio Rehabilitation Technology Association (ORTA).

In 2019 two more local chapters, CORA (Columbus area) and DACORA (Dayton area), and our last “partner,” JTA (Job Trainers Association) have joined the ranks of the “inactive.” We have provided information herein on these three in hopes of seeing any of these re-activated. At this time, ORA holds in trust funds for JTA (until July 2020), CORA (until January 2021) and DACORA (until December 2021).

GOOD NEWS, our Cleveland/NorthEast area chapter, NEORA, continues to go strong. AND, the ORA Board will fully support any local efforts to re-activate a chapter/division and provide funds for a start-up.

Any chapter or division may be re-activated at any time by meeting the requirements of the ORA Bylaws, Article IV—Administration, Section 5: Local and Campus Chapters, paragraph A which states: "... A local chapter may be organized in a geographical area. A group shall not be accredited as a local chapter until it has identified officers (President, Treasurer, and Secretary) and submitted a Constitution and Bylaws for approval by the ORA Board, on recommendation of the ORA Constitution and Bylaws Committee." Per the ORA Constitution and Bylaws, any chapter or division which goes inactive has their treasury held in trust for a period of 24 months (paragraph E of the same Article above). In addition, copies of each Chapter/Division’s Constitution and Bylaws are on file with the ORA Home Office ). The ORA Board will support fully, efforts and financially, any efforts to reactivate any local chapter or division. Please contact the ORA Home Office is you are interested (ora@bex.net).

DAYTON AREA CHAPTER

DACORA

Reprint of Initial Letter Sent to DACORA Members on November 26, 2019

As a DACORA Chapter assigned member, we are writing to inform you the ORA Board has made the decision to take the DACORA chapter to inactive status.* The DACORA Chapter has not had an actual active Board since 2015. Efforts made by our ORA Board Member, John Tooson, to generate a viable slate of nominees for a Board of Directors has not materialized. Subsequently, the Treasurer of record, Tony Rakestraw, has been instructed to close the DACORA bank account and transfer the money into trust with ORA. It will be held for two years in the hopes local Dayton area members might be able to develop a slate of nominees^ for a complete Board which includes: President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and four (4) Board Members-at-Large positions. The DACORA Constitution & Bylaws (Eff. 2001) will also have to be updated. If you are interested in keeping this Chapter active by holding a Board position, please contact us at ora@bex.net by January 6, 2020.

*As noted in the November 15, 2019 ORA Full Board Meeting Minutes

^Nominees must currently active NRA/ora members and maintain their membership for the duration of their elected office.
The SWORA Chapter went inactive in December of 2016 and ORA held their treasury in trust until January 2019 when it was absorbed into the ORA general account. However, the ORA Board is always willing to support any interest shown in re-activating this local chapter by fully supporting this action and making funds available to start-up once again.

If you are interested in re-activating this chapter by self-nominating or nominating someone for these positions: President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) Board Members-at-Large, please contact us at ora@bex.net.

The CORA membership was informed in January of 2019 that with the retirement of their President, Ron Swain, along with the other CORA Board vacancies of President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and two (2) Board positions, the Chapter would be going inactive.

As of December 2019, the ORA Board has not received any nominations or expressed interest from the membership to re-activate this Chapter in the Columbus area. However, the ORA Board is always willing to support any interest shown in re-activating this local chapter. In the meantime, the CORA funds will be held in trust by ORA until January of 2021. If you are interested in re-activating this chapter by self-nominating or nominating someone for the above-mentioned positions, please contact us at ora@bex.net.

In December of 2017, the JPD Division went inactive. As of December 2019, the ORA Board has not received any nominations or expressed interest from the membership to re-activate this Division. Therefore, the JPD funds held in trust until December of 2019 will be transferred to ORA’s general fund effective January 2020.

However, the ORA Board is always willing to support any interest shown in re-activating this division. The JPD Board positions which must be filled are: President, Treasurer, Secretary and three (3) Board Members-at-Large. If you are interested, please contact us at ora@bex.net.
The NRA membership is divided into seven geographical regions: Pacific, Great Plains, Southwest, Great Lakes, Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeast.

For Ohioans, we are part of the Great Lakes Region (GLR) which is comprised of Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana. The Indiana Chapter is currently inactive, but their members are still included in the GLR. These state chapters come together to share, discuss and seek solutions to the many membership and professional issues which cross state lines. Those concerns are then expressed to the NRA Board of Directors.

So what does the GLR Board involve? First, it consists of the Presidents of each of the state chapters, plus others as elected along with a Regional Representative to the NRA Board. They participate in scheduled bi-monthly teleconference Board meetings. Second, each state contributes financially via annual dues. The purpose of the dues is to help offset the GLR Representative’s travel expenses to NRA Board meetings and to fund other GLR initiatives in support of the regions chapters.

Of the seven regions, the GLR is one of the most active largely due to the time and efforts of those who serve on the GLR Board. We wish to acknowledge their service and say “Thank You!”

The GLR Board of Directors elected Amy Taylor (OH) as 2020 President-Elect, Dave Campbell (MI) as Treasurer, Tom Kinser (OH) as Secretary and Kyle Walker (WI) as Board Member-at-Large. The Presidents of each Great Lakes Region NRA Chapter will also be on the 2020 GLR Board automatically as specified by the NRA GLR Bylaws. Harold Wasner, GLR Past President (MI) will serve as Acting President in 2020. Janis Benstead (MI) will continue to serve her three year term as the GLR Representative to the NRA Board.

During this period of transition in executive leadership in the National Rehabilitation Association, the GLR seeks to provide support to GLR chapters by providing membership roster updates and supporting chapter development where re-development is taking place. In addition the GLR Representative represents NRA concerns at NRA Board meetings.

The next GLR Board Meeting is scheduled for January 2020, and any NRA member in the Great Lakes Region is welcome to participate in the telephonic Board meetings by contacting Harold Wasner at hswasner@gmail.com.

Submitted by Harold Wasner
GLR Past President
ORA’S COMMITTEES AND MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

AWARDS

ORA has a long and rich history in the field of rehabilitation. Our officers, leadership and membership should be quite proud of our achievements and contributions to the field. During the course of our careers, many of us have been fortunate to be mentored by skilled and dedicated colleagues; inspired by persons with disabilities who have overcome obstacles (our Bell Greve and Doris Brennan awards); or had opportunities to contribute to the success of local business enterprises by providing creative job development options or supportive job coaching (our large/small employer or organization awards, as well as our media award). We also like to honor those who have had an impact on the legislative level or in the community.

For 2019, we recognized several individuals and organizations during our Awards Ceremony held at our 65th Anniversary Celebration Event in Dublin. See the articles herein on this event!

SUCCESS FUND

The Success Fund is available to all ORA members and donor members to assist the individuals they serve. Requests may be made for an individual preparing for or seeking employment. The Fund can be used for gas cards, go towards steel-toed boots, and other things which can sometimes prevent an individual from getting a job, getting to that job, etc. The Committee is quick to respond and can typically review/approve and issue a check within a matter of days. Three requests may be made each year. The limit is $50.00 per request.

In 2019 we had approximately $900 in this Fund. During the year we received three applications for assistance through the Success Fund and all three were approved. The individuals involved received $50.00 (per use). Libby Land shares how the Success Fund made a difference, quickly, to help the client get to work.

“Injured Worker had not yet received any benefits, but was released to return to work in a job further away from home. The Success Fund bought a gas card to help the worker get to his job until he gets paid.”

“Another Injured Worker had his own truck for job search, but his registration for license plates had expired. The Success Fund provided $50 to register his plates so he could drive his truck. Shortly after beginning his job search, this injured worker got a job!”

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

If issues, e.g., legislative, policy or regulatory, should arise that the Committee feels you should be informed about as soon as possible, Ohio members will receive this news via email as an “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.

While 2019 was an active year politically, we did not issue any specific “Ohio Wires.” As applicable, any legislative information, news, is reported in our monthly e-newsletter.

SCHOLARSHIP AND STUDENT AMBASSADOR

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)/student(s) who wish to participate in either a NRA or ORA conference event.

In 2019 we had a budget of $400 set aside for this scholarship. However, we did not receive any applications for its use.

In 2019 we had approximately $183 to support our Student Ambassador program. We received SIX Student Ambassador applications for this year’s conference and all were accepted. See their articles herein on their experiences. We did utilize the additional proceeds from this year's basket raffle to cover their expenses.
Do you know who represents you? Start by visiting: [https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/) to locate your representatives or visit the links provided below for the Senate and the House to explore how these legislative bodies serve the citizens of Ohio. We have also provided on the next page a [Congressional District Map of the 117th Ohio U.S. Congress for 2020.](#) The only change from 2019’s 116th Congressional Districts and those in 2020 is that District 16’s representative changed. In 2019 Jim Renacci represented District 16 whereas in 2020, it is now Anthony Gonzalez.

“SO 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. . . .” (Obtained from the National Council on Aging’s website)

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. . . .”

ORA has and will continue its endeavors to keep you apprised of issues, legislative and regulatory, to keep you informed and where your advocacy could make a difference. We know what happens "on the Hill" can affect you and those you serve at the local level! If you know of any advocacy opportunities, or would like to learn more about how you can be an advocate, please contact either our ORA Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, Carrie Moreland Hyder, at cmorel9293@aol.com or the ORA Home Office at ora@bex.net.

**OHIO’S GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Below is a chart of how the Citizens of Ohio have a voice in government. The Ohio Governor is part of the Executive Branch and has direct accountability to the Citizens of Ohio. Below we have provided a simple visualization of this organizational chart.

Also each Ohioan resides in a Senate and House of Representatives District — do you know which one you are in? Visit their websites to find out!

![OHIO’S GENERAL ASSEMBLY Chart](chart.png)

**OHIO GOVERNOR, MIKE DEWINE**

In 2019, Mike DeWine took office as Ohio’s 70th Governor. To learn more about the Governor’s administration, etc. or to sign up for alerts, visit [www.governor.ohio.gov](http://www.governor.ohio.gov)

**SENATE**

In Ohio there are 33 Senate Districts. Each Senate District covers approximately three House Districts as shown below. To learn which district you are in and more about the Ohio Senate, visit their website at [www.ohiosenate.gov](http://www.ohiosenate.gov).

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The House 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](http://www.ohiohouse.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>
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<th>NAME</th>
<th>16 DISTRICTS</th>
<th>WEBSITE ADDRESS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Chabot (R)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>chabot.house.gov</td>
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<td>Brad Wenstrup (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joyce Beatty (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Jordan (R)</td>
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<td>Bob Latta (R)</td>
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<td>Bill Johnson (R)</td>
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<td>Bob Gibbs (R)</td>
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<td>Warren Davidson (R)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Michael Turner (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcia Fudge (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Troy Balderson (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Ryan (D)</td>
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<td>timryan.house.gov</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Joyce (R)</td>
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<td>joyce.house.gov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Stivers (R)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>stivers.house.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Gonzalez (R)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>anthonygonzalez.house.gov</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Updated March 2, 2020

U.S. SENATORS FOR OHIO

SHERROD BROWN
(D)
brown.senate.gov
Next Election in 2024

ROB PORTMAN
(R)
portman.senate.gov
Next Election in 2022
MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER
NEWS AND 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 professional/networking/social events, as well as other educational or networking opportunities and resources we feel would be of value to our members. If you have any suggestions, comments, ideas or article submissions, please send them to Vickie Leeming, ORA Home Secretary, at ora@bex.net. We look forward to your ideas!

We wish to thank those who renewed their membership this past year, especially in the midst of NRA’s major membership system transition.

We also wish to welcome those who joined in 2019. Thank you for becoming a member!

Thank you ALL for your ongoing support and membership!

Catherine (Cathy) Ridenbaugh, Columbus
(Reported in our March 2019 e-newsletter)

Richard (Rick) Bartek, Akron
(Reported in our April 2019 e-newsletter)

As the Ohio Chapter of NRA our mission is to provide opportunities for professionals and others in the field of rehabilitation. As you have read herein, we provide these opportunities for networking and professional growth in a variety of ways, e.g., through our Conferences, the work done by our Committees and our Communication with our members. We endeavor to ensure our members receive discounted rates when they attend our state or local training events, have networking opportunities, earn CRC CEUs when they serve on our state or local Boards, and receive regular communication from us through our monthly e-newsletters, etc. If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns or would like to be involved in this mission, please contact us!

Each year we receive another notice or two of members who are retiring! We wish them the very best in the next chapter of their lives and thank them for their support, membership, and service.
The 2019 ORA Annual Full Membership and Business Meeting was held on Thursday, December 12, 2019 via teleconference. These meetings are required by ORA’s Constitution and Bylaws and serve the purpose of allowing our members to engage and interact with the members of the ORA Board and others from around the state. Basically a way to also provide a “state of the state” report. This meeting was also attended by ORA members!

**President’s Report by Amy Taylor**

Amy Taylor briefly shared on her experiences as the ORA President this year which turned out to be a combination of wonderful, rewarding and unexpected crazy. She fervently thanked everyone for their support and understanding of her schedule and availability. She then shared the good news that someone nominated her to be the 2020 Great Lakes Region (GLR) President-Elect and she did accept the position. Subsequently, she will be serving as the GLR President in 2021. With that nomination Amy stated she will be stepping away from the NEORA Board, where she has been serving as the Chapter President these past few years, and she is confident the NEORA Board will continue to function and do well. Those in attendance offered their congratulations to Amy! Amy concluded by once again thanking everyone for all the help they have offered.

**Annual Treasurer’s Report by Doug Bailey**

Doug Bailey reported on ORA’s income and expenses for 2019, noting our expenses did exceed our income but our deficit was not as large as we had anticipated. The most significant expense we incurred was related to our two day conference which did not bring any extra income, but rather we suffered a slight loss. Doug further reported we did send our President, Amy Taylor, to the NRA Disability Employment Summit (aka Government Affairs Summit) which we felt was a good use of our funds. In conclusion, starting in 2020, the Board will need to look into ways to raise funds.

**Nominating Committee Report by Carl Sabo**

Carl Sabo reported voting for the 2020 Board of Directors is currently in process and concludes the day after this meeting. The 2020 Officers being voted upon are: Amy Taylor for President; Jackie Stanton for President-Elect; and Doug Bailey for Treasurer. With no other nominees, Tanya Chiles and Libby Land offered to run for another consecutive term for the two Board Member-at-Large positions available. The members will be informed on the results of the election soon after the voting has concluded.

A question was raised about the current structure of the ORA Board of Directors in relation to lower membership numbers. The structure is determined by the current Constitution (eff. 10-28-2015) & Bylaws (eff. 12-17-2018) which states the Board shall consist of six (6) Board Members, two of whom would be voted upon each year. Certainly for 2020, the ORA Board will need to review the Constitution to ensure it is appropriate for the size of our membership and how the organization needs to function.

Finally, Amy Taylor invited anyone who is interested in serving on the Board to contact us. We have committees which offer a means of being involved and learning more about the Board.

**Membership Report by Vickie Leeming, ORA Home Secretary**

2019 saw the transition completed to NRA’s new membership system, Odoo. Subsequently, Vickie received training and is accessing this new system to obtain membership reports. To bring our information up-to-date, all Ohio Lifetime members were tracked and found to be either retired or deceased.

Vickie further reported Ohio’s membership numbers have averaged around 80 [whereas 10 years ago we averaged over 300]. Our membership continues to be primarily Professional members with a slight increase in Affiliate level members, a few opting for the Retiree category, and a slow recovery of our Student members which is approximately 28.

**Chapter/Division Reports**

Amy Taylor, NEORA President, reported on their 2019 activities (see article herein). She further reported the core group of NEORA is strong and reflects a good diversity of professionals from county boards to private rehab to self-employed to state agencies.

**Committee Reports**

The Committee Chairs each presented a brief report on their 2019 activities — many of whom are involved in some aspect with our conference (see articles herein).

* * * * * *

For a copy of the Annual Meeting Minutes and/or the Treasurer’s Report, please contact the ORA Home Office at ora@bex.net.
From Amy Taylor, ORA President

“. . . This year marks a monumental milestone as we embark on our effort to meet the ever changing needs and challenges of our industry. We all strive to meet the demands of the market and need time to refresh, recoup, and remind ourselves how and why we entered this field. Regardless if you are a case manager, supervisor, or direct service provider, take a moment this year to reflect on the impact you have and thousands of people who are touched by the service, advocacy, support and dedication you provide when you show up for work each day. We know there is no one who does it better.

Regardless if you are just starting your career, or have been doing this work for some time, the effort you put forth in developing social change and encouraging a community of inclusion speaks volumes. . . . Reach out to your Board and become involved to help future generations take the world of work for people with varying abilities to the next level. . . . “

Chocolate fun! Proceeds supported our Student Ambassadors

To the following individuals who made this Conference such a success!

Conference Planning Committee
Tanya R. Chiles, Chair and along with the following individuals!

Awards
Libby Land, Chair
Beth Simone

Basket Raffle
Renee Scheidweiler, Chair
Libby Land

Budget
Doug Bailey, Treasurer

Certification
Jay Leeming, Chair
Vickie Leeming and our Student Ambassadors

Programs
Jackie Stanton, Chair
Tanya Chiles, Libby Land, Vickie Leeming, Renee Scheidweiler, and John Tooson

Publications/Registration/Etc.
Vickie Leeming

Student Ambassadors
Pamela Dunseith, Chair

SPECIAL THANKS

to CORA, our Central Ohio (Columbus Area) Chapter of ORA for their generous financial support for this Conference!

119 Hershey Bars! Congrats to Suman Srinivasan who won the candy and the jar!

114 Reece’s Pieces! Congrats to Mona Robinson who won the candy and the jar!
The Ohio Rehabilitation Association has flourished and expanded its sphere of professional influence under the leadership of its Presidents. Their inspiration and countless contributions continue to be appreciated today.

1954 – Lee Lacy
1955 – Lee Lacy
1956 – Paul Leimkuehler*
1957 – Ralph Worden
1958 – William Laken
1959 – William Gregg
1960 – Edward Brewer
1961 – Edward Brewer
1962 – Edward Brewer
1963 – Robert Silvanik
1964 – Edward Lippitt
1965 – Olive Bannister*
1966 – Olive Bannister*
1967 – Milton Wilson*
1968 – John Caprio
1969 – Wallace Watkins
1970 – Jack Hutchison
1971 – Karl Reisner
1972 – Carlyle Adams*
1973 – Richard Burk
1974 – John C. Wilson
1975 – Ronn Perrin
1976 – William Timmerman
1977 – Joseph Byrum
1978 – Robert Mather
1979 – Charles Miller
1980 – Jerome Motter
1981 – Nancy Borgeson*
1982 – Richard Oestreich
1983 – Roger Flint
1984 – M.H. Scott Myers*
1985 – Richard Gunden
1986 – Jane Myers/Nancy Gabalac
1987 – Nancy Gabalac
1988 – Robert Caplinger
1989 – Elizabeth Aino
1990 – Marcie Snyder
1991 – James Lenahan
1992 – John Downs
1993 – Janice Springer
1994 – Kathleen Kraemer
1995 – Mary Theodoras
1996 – Doris E. Livesay
1997 – Micha Daoud
1998 – Susan Pollock
1999 – Douglas Bailey
2000 – Patricia Murphy
2001 – Jan Bending
2002 – George Ackerman
2003 – Robin Markey
2004 – Jay Leeming
2005 – Ron Swain
2006 – Mark Pinti
2007 – Mona Robinson
2008 – Suman Srinivasan
2009 – Janice Mader
2010 – Deanna Arbuckle
2011 – Joseph Keferl
2012 – Carrie Moreland Hyder
2013 – Carl Sabo
2014 – Lynn Hancock
2015 – Joe Keferl
2016 – Tom Kinser
2017 – Patricia Batdorf
2017 – Carl Sabo
2018 – Amy Taylor
2019 – Amy Taylor

Ohioans who also served as NRA President
M.B. Perrin (1927)
Richard D. Burk (1970)
Patricia Murphy (2005)

ORA Home Secretaries
Susan Wilson Hagler (<1978)
Jan Mather (1978 to ?)
Wanda Funk (1983)
Catherine Williamson (1985)
Jacqueline Smithers (1985)
Cindy Mizer (1985)
Mary L. Smith (1985)†
Sandra Slevinski (? - 1993)†
Barbara Downs (1993-1996)
Nancy Gilbert (1996-2002)
Vickie Leeming (2002 to now)
†Deceased

The Distinguished Rank of Fellow Past Recipients
Susan Pollock (1998)
Emily Audra Fleisher (1999)
David Suveges (1999)
Mary E. Theodoras (2000)
Doug Bailey (2001)
Carrie Moreland (2004)
Doris Livesay (2006)
Patricia Murphy (2008)
George Ackerman (2009)
Beth Simone (2014)
Deanna Arbuckle (2015)
Kathie Kraemer (2015)
Ron Swain (2018)

We were pleased to recognize these Past Presidents in attendance at our 2019 Conference!

Deanna Arbuckle
Tom Kinser
Jay Leeming
Doris Livesay Wilson
Janice Mader
Carrie Moreland Hyder
Mona Robinson
Carl Sabo
Suman Srinivasan

*Known Deceased
Our opening Keynote speaker the 2019 NRA President-Elect who moved back to Ohio this year. DeAnna Henderson, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., LPC, NCC, CRC, Dean, College of Graduate, Adult, and Continuing Education, Director, Clinical Rehab Counseling Program, at Wilberforce University spoke on “Self-Care: Ethics or Good Stewardship.” This presentation was well received and highlighted the importance of self-care, how to recognize signs of burnout, and the CRC ethical standards that accentuates self-care. A screen shot of one of her slides gives us all pause for thought.

Our next general session on Thursday was by our own ORA 2019 President, Amy Taylor, M.S., CRC, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation for Vocational Guidance Services. She gave a presentation on how case managers, placement staff, support staff, and advocates can help promote successful outcomes through becoming engaged with employers. After all, way in which employers operate is always changing!
On Friday morning, Donald Smith, B.S., Work Comp Specialist for Athletico Physical Therapy, had his audience standing!

Are you sitting or standing right now? This presentation, entitled “Sitting Dis-Ease,” was well received!! Mr. Smith has graciously provided us with his PowerPoint and is available upon request with the ORA Home Office.

In our society people are spending more time sitting - at home - commuting - and at work. Most people are unaware of significant health risks associated with extended periods in a seated position. Mr. Smith’s presentation described the risk factors and potential health problems associated with sitting. He, then, offered techniques to modify exposure risks and exercises which could be implemented to improve health outcomes.

Friday afternoon we were honored to have Mark Seifarth, along with Alex Moormann, Legislative Liaison for OOD (standing far right) and Carrie Moreland Hyder (not pictured) give an important and informative presentation on Advocacy.

“Advocacy is simply speaking up for what one believes in. . . .”

Be an advocate!
This year we were pleased to recognize three recipients for the following three awards: Organizational, Bell Greve, and the Distinguished Rank of Fellow.

**The Organizational Award . . .**

is 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. Eligible for this award would be an organization that has made a contribution to the well-being or rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in activities over and beyond the purpose for which the organization was established.

### 2019 Organizational Award Recipient

**Volunteer Services of the MetroHealth System**

**Becky Moldaver, Director of Volunteer Services**

“Volunteer Services has been an amazing partner and supporter to our department [MetroHealth System] in assisting persons with disabilities prepare to re-enter the workforce. For the consumers we serve in Vocational Services, getting right out into the workforce may be too big of a step due to complex health conditions. Through our Work Matters program and a long-standing working relationship with Volunteer Services, consumers can ease into the workforce at a slower pace and have meaningful experiences as a volunteer. Often when we ask consumers: “What type of work do you want to do?” they respond, “I just want to help someone.” By volunteering, consumers can find purpose, meaning and prepare for paid employment. The staff in Volunteer Services are always welcoming, accommodating and most of all fun! I cannot thank them enough for their support and for the opportunities they provide to the consumers we serve!”

Nominated by Jacqueline Stanton
Bell Greve Award... was established to honor Bell Greve (pictured here), a woman educated as a lawyer, who had a great emotional investment in persons with disabilities. She was a pioneer in rehabilitation by 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.

2019 Bell Greve Award Recipient
Mr. Rob Snow, Co-Founder and Executive Director SUFD, Creator/Director of The Improvaneer Method, The Improvaneers The World’s 1st All Down Syndrome Improvisation Troupe

“They learn ‘quick thinking, voice projection, eye contact, problem-solving, team work, listening and focus.’” Increasing self-confidence is a significant benefit, too. Co-Founder Rob Snow, himself the parent of a son with Down Syndrome, consulted with a behaviorist at Children’s Hospital in Cincinnati. They created an evaluation form, rating the individuals on a one-to-five scale for the above-mentioned skills. A year later, notable improvements were acknowledged. Rob Snow also noted that parents were seeing positive changes, too. The Improvaneers will likely demonstrate to the public how persons with disabilities can provide entertainment by making other laugh.... and enjoy life to the fullest!” Visit their website at: www.standupfordowns.org.

Nominated by Emily Audra Fleisher

We were also fortunate to watch a short video on this amazing troupe!

Below Amy Taylor presents Rob Snow and his colleague with their Award

Rob Snow accepting his Award
The Distinguished Rank of Fellow Award. . .

is to be given to an individual who has demonstrated years of faithful service and leadership to ORA through any segment or combination of segments of association activities or life. Emphasis is placed on both the length of service and levels of service. The award is given only to persons showing outstanding service or leadership, both qualitatively and quantitatively, who has provided outstanding membership effort and leadership for a period of 10-15 years, e.g., or who has been exceedingly active in chapter, division and/or committee efforts and has demonstrated leadership for a similar period of time.

The 2019 Distinguished Rank of Fellow Award Recipient
Nancy Vander Woude

Nancy Vander Woude joined NRA in 2004 and was a member until she retired in 2016 from the Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries in Cincinnati. Nancy became involved in the SWORA (Cincinnati) Chapter in 2005 and continued to be active on the SWORA Board as a Board Member and their Membership Chair until 2015. In 2008 she also began her service as an ORA Board Member-at-Large on the ORA Board and served in that role until 2016. Over the years, we became spoiled with Nancy’s help at our conferences as she handled the Registration Table (her cohort was often Patricia Batdorf).

“[Nancy] has demonstrated much time, leadership, and devotion to ORA through her numerous years of service. She handled ORA registration efforts for years as well as assisted in membership renewals. She was very active with SWORA Chapter and coordination of events. She is definitely a jack-of-all-trades and was willing to assist and service anyone that needed assistance from the small to very complicated requests.

Ms. Vander Woude professionally has been a go-to-person for needs of rehab professionals in all areas especially helping consumer needs. Creativity and research were always provided by her in obtaining needed services to help reach positive outcomes. . . .”

Today, you will also learn about Nancy in her professional role as Clerical Training Supervisor for Goodwill Industries. Accepting the Award on Nancy’s behalf is her friend and former Goodwill colleague, Jay Kehoe (shown here holding Nancy’s award with Libby Land and Amy Taylor).

Nominated by Renee Scheidweiler and approved by unanimous vote by the ORA Board

Mr. Kehoe (shown above on the left) presented a moving speech on knowing Nancy had changed his life.

Although Nancy could not attend the Awards Ceremony, on October 3, 2019, a lunchtime presentation was made to Nancy (center) by Renee Scheidweiler (left) and Jay Kehoe (right) along with other long-time friends.
Each year, ORA endeavors to incorporate students from around the state into our conference through our Student Ambassador program. To fund this program, ORA raises funds each year through the basket raffle to support the cost of hosting (registration and hotel) approximately four to eight students. Students interested in this opportunity must submit an application to the Student Ambassador Committee, chaired by Pamela Dunseith.

Once chosen, Student Ambassadors have the unique opportunity as a volunteer to attend presentations, meet rehab professionals, as well as help us with monitoring sessions and certification tasks. Following the conference, the students are to write a short article on their experiences at our conference (see below). We hope you enjoy reading about our six Student Ambassadors’ experiences at this year's 65th Anniversary Conference.

From Left to Right: Beth, Christopher, Briana, Sarah, Nesha, and Ashley

**Elizabeth Apazeller, Kent State University**

I was excited to serve as a Student Ambassador at the 2019 ORA Training Conference and the experience did not disappoint. It was great to meet professionals and to learn new things that will help me to better serve people with disabilities. Getting to hear “veterans” talk about their experience was valuable. I look forward to working in the field with such an inspiring group.

**Christopher Konieczko, Kent State University**

My experience at the conference this year as a Student Ambassador was extremely enriching. Planning for the conference and lodging was seamless this year again, thanks to Vickie Leeming and the other ORA members. All of us students appreciate the time and effort Vickie dedicates to making sure our experience was fulfilling.

Not only were all the presentations informative, but the conference was special as it was the 65th year of our association. It was promising to hear stories from CRC’s who have been around for many years. This shows the longevity of our profession, but also the need of our consumers.

This year was also special for me and my research. I participated in the poster presentation on Thursday. My research and my delivery held the attention of the people who have been in our field, as well as the people I want to model my academic and professional career after.

**Kent State University**
Ms. Elizabeth (Beth) Apazeller
Mr. Christopher Konieczko

**Ohio University**
Ms. Briana Brown
Ms. Sarah Spence

**Wilberforce University**
Mr. Ashley Edwards
Ms. Nesha Gray

**Christopher (continued)**

As for any situations that arose at the Embassy, the hotel staff quickly addressed. Banquet services and the front desk, especially Colene, were most accommodating. All parties involved made this a grand experience for me, I cannot stress that enough.

This may be the last time I am able to be a Student Ambassador, but I feel as I left on a high note. Perhaps the next time I see you all again, it will be as a professional. Thank you for this opportunity and experience. Thank you for all your effort and hard work.
Briana Brown, Ohio University

I’ve been honored to be a Student Ambassador for the second year in a row. This conference was the first conference that I attended as a graduate student last year and I walked away motivated to learn, research, and grow, not only as a student but as a person. I’m motivated to advocate for my clients and in my community for better, quality access to mental health and rehabilitation services.

I want to thank everyone who made it possible for me to enjoy this wonderful experience! I will be back in the future as a new professional.

Sarah Spence, Ohio University

As a mental health and rehabilitation counseling graduate student, I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to come volunteer at the ORA conference. Having the Student Ambassador program is greatly beneficial to counseling students as it provides students networking opportunities, as well, educational experiences that we may not have at our respective programs. Hearing the experiences from professionals who have been working in the field for years is the best way to develop our own awareness and ability to become better professionals upon graduation.

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity.

Nesha Gray, Wilberforce University

The first morning I was so eager to meet up with Bree, Sara, and Chris from last year’s conference, and of course I already knew Ashley and I was excited to welcome Beth. What made the morning special to me was I remember connecting with these individuals and we were so excited to take pictures with our certificates Vickie Leeming made for us, to compare it to last year.

My favorite part about the conference was probably the networking experience. It is very intriguing to connect with so many professionals who have the license you are trying to obtain. Professionals who are living either in your city or only a couple hours away. I was so happy to see my teacher, Dr. Tooson, outside of class and network with one of his close friends, Tony Rakestraw. He was so helpful as soon he found out I was in the Dayton area. He asked me to send him my resume to send over to a friend. Another professional I met, Scott, was also very helpful and very positive. I was happy to have his information as well.

My favorite session at the conference would have to be Dr. DeAnna Henderson from my own university of Wilberforce. Not because she works at my university, but because that morning she spoke about being self aware, taking care of our bodies and knowing when to say no, and when to

Nesha (continued)

allow our health to become an importance. It was something I needed to hear that I struggle with — I never put my health on top especially when I have a son to think about — it is always work and school.

I appreciated the opportunity to come to this conference again. I loved every moment, selling raffle tickets, eating that delicious dinner, my room, and being a monitor. Being a Student Ambassador made me feel special. There are so many students who attend our schools, and yet, we are the lucky ones, as we took the initiative to apply and travel to the conference — working towards our dream.

Thank You ORA!

From Left to Right: Nesha, Briana, and Sarah
Ashley Edwards, Wilberforce University

Serving as a Student Ambassador at this year’s 2019 ORA Conference is an experience that I will never forget. From the relationships that were formed with other Student Ambassadors to the amount of individuals in the field who offered their knowledge and expertise, this has proven to be an excellent opportunity that will assist with my endeavors to become an effective rehab counselor.

The presenters from the various sessions provided firsthand knowledge that I can take with me and utilize once I’m out in the field. I will highly recommend this conference to upcoming grad students who are on their way to working in this field. A special thank you to Vickie Leeming for coordinating such an extensive conference for the ORA. I know it isn’t an easy task to plan a conference, but I really enjoyed working with her and the other ambassadors, which ultimately helped me sharpen my organizational skills.

I definitely hope to be a part of this opportunity in the future, not only as a student, but also as future rehab counselor. See you next year!

We were pleased to have two poster sessions at this year’s conference. Thank you to Mykal Leslie, Kent State University, for making the arrangements. Here is a summary of those sessions.

**Poster Sessions**

**Chronic Pain and Pain Management**  
*Sarah Cosentino, Kent State University*  
Chronic pain is constant pain that has been present for a minimum of three months. It can impact many aspects of life. It has been known to interfere with employment and carry an increased risk of developing a substance use disorder. Since it is estimated that 100 million adults in the United States have this condition. It is vital for proper pain management techniques to be available since opioids are not a viable long-term option.

**Workplace Discrimination Experiences of Charging Parties with HIV**  
*Christopher J. Konieczko, Kent State University*  
Workplace discrimination experiences of those with HIV are steeped in greater stigmatization than other disability groups. This study explores this deficit by exploring the allegations made by charging parties with HIV under the ADA as part of NEARP. Vocational planning for PLWHIV is extremely important, highlighted by the positive factors surrounding a positive work environment. As a result, descriptive statistics emerge showing complaint resolutions for PLWHIV matched against all other disability charging parties. This is a crucial element for rehab professionals in the sharing of knowledge for preventing workplace discrimination.
Thank You to our Basket Donors!

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Meggan Few, CRC
Dianne Zrenner, LPC

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To the Matrix Companies for their generous support of our conference — not only by donating a basket but also for donating pens, sending the largest contingency of employees by a single company, and allowing their employees to volunteer their time to ensure the success of this event!
At the end of the conference, all attendees received a digital survey. We appreciate those who completed this survey as it provides valuable feedback in planning the next ORA conference. We received 30 responses out of approximately 75 attendees (40% return rate!).

OVERALL, 87% who responded stated they were highly satisfied with their ORA Conference experience, while 10% were somewhat satisfied and the other 3% were neutral.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating . . .</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Comments/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email Announcements</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>“Really enjoyed the conference . . . could tell a lot of time and energy was put into the 65th celebration . . .”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Registration and Payment Process*</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>“Great conference as always”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Rates</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>“Very organized.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variety of Session Topics</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>“Very good, glad I attended”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Location/Hotel Rate</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification Process</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Program Materials</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breaks/Buffet Luncheons</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*We continue to use only an online registration system and 76% of those who paid used PayPal as the preferred payment method.

Comments/Notes

We received several comments that handouts would have been nice. Presenters were asked to email handouts to attendees upon request.

“I really enjoyed the sessions + conference; however, it would be nice to see a little more diversity in the subjects. Specifically, having more topics covered that relate to areas of rehab counseling that aren’t in an employment service setting. For example, sessions related to higher education disability service, drugs/alcohol rehab trends, disability services in the community involvement arena. Voc. rehab is often what a lot of CRC’s do, but I would like to see other career areas covered too.”

What were the reasons to attend this year’s event?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who the speakers were</th>
<th>27%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session Topics Offered</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of Certifications</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of CEUs offered (11 hrs)</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethic CEUs offered (2 hrs—CRC; 1 LPC/LSW)</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networking Opportunities</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing Opportunities</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Sessions around a Single Theme</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rating . . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Meeting Space</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acoustics/Audio-Visual/Lighting</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments/Notes

Lessons learned from 2019: This year we paid the fees for professional audio-visual equipment.

We did receive some comments that some of the presenters could really have used a microphone.
So, how long should a presentation be? How long are people willing to sit?
This year we mixed the schedule between 1 and 1½ hour sessions.
So what were the responses?
77% stated they enjoyed the mix of 1 and 1½ hours we had
When thinking about future schedules:
  17% stated they like a mix of 1 and 1½ hour sessions
  10% stated they prefer 1½ hour sessions only
  while 7% stated they prefer 1 hour sessions only

So, what did our attendees take into consideration before attending an in-person event:
If my EMPLOYER. . . .
  allows paid time-off 47%
  requires that I use my vacation time to attend 10%
  will pay the registration fee or if I have to 63%
  will pay for the hotel and misc. expenses or if I have to 20%
If I. . . .
  can get CEUs from a different source 27%
  find the location convenient 70%
  find the starting time works for my schedule, e.g., 9:00 a.m. 7%
  find the ending time works for my schedule, e.g., 4:00 p.m. 7%

Comments/Notes
These percentages do strongly indicate the affect an employer has on our members and colleagues being able to get training outside of the office.
We did receive positive feedback on the hotel itself; but realize the commute to the hotel did play a role. We tried to accommodate for this with a later start time and earlier end time.

One of the Most Important Reasons to Attend an ORA Conference — CEUs!
“. . . I came because of the opportunity to get both CRC and LPC credits in one setting. . . .”
“I really appreciate the opportunity to obtain ethics credits for my CRC renewal.”

ORA CONFERENCE CERTIFICATES NOTICE
Important! For those receiving a CRC Certificate, please read the article under “Professional Certification — CRC” herein
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. Certificates for this Conference were issued on September 27, 2019, thus the deadline for a FREE duplicate is July 1, 2020. AFTER that, there is a $30.00 charge per conference year requested. ORA does maintains a five year retention of all Certificates issued. To request a copy, contact the ORA Home Office at ora@bex.net.
The National Rehabilitation Association held its Government Affairs Disability Employment Summit from March 31 through April 2 in Alexandria, VA. Our President, Amy Taylor, was able to attend and advocate on the Hill.

Ms. Taylor reported her visits included the offices of: Marcia Fudge, Marcy Kaptur, Joyce Beatty, Jim Jordan, Anthony Gonzalez, Troy Balderson, Tim Ryan, Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman. The topics discussed included: setting aside contracts through AbilityOne programs; Subminimum Wage and 14C certificates; Independent Living Bill support for non-end of life or long term care options for in-home nursing and support services; WIOA language clarification; and support for federal diversity initiatives.

2020?
To review, NRA decided in 2018 to alternate this Summit event with its Annual Training Conference beginning in 2019. Subsequently, NRA’s Annual Training Conference will be held in Birmingham, Alabama (September 9 through September 13, 2020) and the Disability Employment Summit will next be held in 2021.

*P.S. In 2018, the name for this event was changed from the Government Affairs Summit to the “Government Affairs Disability Employment Summit.”

Ohio is pleased to recognize Dr. DeAnna Henderson of Wilberforce University as the 2020 NRA President. We were also appreciative of her willingness to present at our two day conference in September 2019 as our opening keynote speaker. (See more on this event herein.) We are pleased to provide this Message from Dr. Henderson below.

Greetings,

As we close out another decade of service to the profession of rehabilitation, let us remember the challenges we have faced that have strengthened us to unite and better advocate for the needs of the professionals working to serve individuals with disabilities. Let’s approach the new decade with reverence and reflect upon the work that has been accomplished. United, we can build upon the foundation to take our legacy and historical service to the next level. As the incoming National Rehabilitation Association President, I look forward to working with all associated chapters and divisions to continue the legacy working towards the mission and vision of the National Rehabilitation Association. Together, we can work to eliminate barriers and increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Warm wishes,

Dr. DeAnna Henderson

WWW.NATIONALREHAB.ORG
OHIO’S ANNUAL REPORT TO NRA

Each year NRA requires each active state chapter to submit a report providing their Board’s outgoing and incoming roster along with membership and conference activities as well as any fundraising and publication efforts.

The Ohio Chapter (ORA) submitted their Annual Report prior to the deadline and for the most part this was a report on our conference event, our 2019 and 2020 Board of Directors, and how we communicate with our members via email, our monthly e-newsletters, our annual Interchange newsletter issue, and our website. In addition, we noted President Amy Taylor’s advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. and here in Ohio. We also noted we financially support the Great Lakes Region (GLR) through annual dues, which supports our GLR Representative, Janis Benstead, to the NRA Board.

At the end of the form, we are asked to express three issues or concerns we have for the NRA Board of Directors or the national office staff to address. With some of the latest movements, we asked what position (or action) NRA held regarding the combination of the LPC, clinical counseling programs with CRC related content, to ensure both are maintained and what does this mean for the profession? We also asked what NRA can do to allow universal CRC and LPC credentials across state lines, ensuring that qualified professionals are not ruled out for not having state specific credentials. Finally, what are NRA’s plans regarding their own leadership and the vacant Executive Director position?*

We continue to mention our members find renewing or joining online frustrating at times. Our Home Secretary, Vickie Leeming, works with NRA and will work with you to ensure your renewal is successful. Our membership renewal reminders do provide step-by-step instructions on how to navigate the NRA website with your email address as your "User Name."

We invite our members to send us their concerns, questions, and suggestions for the NRA Board or NRA office staff to ora@bex.net.

*To review, Dr. Fredric Schroeder resigned effective August 2019. No replacement as of this publication date has been found. We hope to hear sometime in 2020 regarding the NRA Board’s hiring of a replacement Executive Director.

REMINDER OF NRA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Professional networking opportunities on both the national and state levels including increasing your contacts by membership in the divisions as well. National membership also includes an automatic affiliation with regional and state chapters
- Affordable, discounted, and varied opportunities to earn CEUs for CRC, CCM, CDMS, CVE, etc. (www.aaaceus.com)
- Receiving Washington Wires with up-to-the-minute information of interest on pending legislative and regulatory issues before the federal government — issues that affect you as a rehab professional
- Discounted registration rate for NRA’s National Training Conference and for NRA’s Government Affairs Disability Employment Summit
- Flexibility to join Divisions to specialize and individualize your membership to meet your professional needs
- Leadership development and skill building – become involved in the Divisions and your state, or local chapter
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IMPORTANT NOTICE ~ “UPLOADING” ORA 2019 CONFERENCE CERTIFICATES

In 2019, CRC approved the ORA 65th Anniversary Conference AND provided new templates for us to use. The change placed the Approval Number at the TOP of the form. Per our instructions, we issued TWO certificates: ONE for GENERAL hours and ONE for ETHIC hours earned for our 2019 Conference.

HOWEVER, what we did not realize at the time, are some other changes which had taken place. We learned that for pre-approved programs, individuals no longer need to upload Certificates for those pre-approved programs, but they will need to do so for post-approved programs.

Furthermore, in our situation, we did not realize the templates provided had the SAME approval number for both General and Ethics. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. In the past, we received different approval numbers - one for General hours and one for Ethic hours. This issue was brought to our attention by a member who had trouble uploading his Certificates. Consequently, we contacted CRC and learned the following:

In the adjacent column we have provided a snapshot of what you will see when you login to your account when you need to enter multiple CE types for a program or activity. HOWEVER, once you hit Save, you are unable to make changes and will need to contact CRC to make any corrections or modifications.

H O W E V E R . . . you are still required to retain your records of CRC CEUs earned, all those Certificates, for a period of five years. ORA does maintain a five year retention of all Certificates issued. In the future, ORA will issue (once again) only one Certificate showing both General and Ethic hours earned under the single Approval Number. If you have any questions, please contact CRC directly as noted above.

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. Rehab counselors who have earned the CRC designation possess a marketable and valuable credential that distinguishes them from other counseling professionals. Bottom line: CRC Certification Makes a Difference!

Visit the links below to confirm/learn the value and benefits of certification and the impact it has made in one’s career.

https://www.crccertification.com/crc-certification
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3_MX8HLo0k

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The American Board of Vocational Experts (ABVE) was founded to preserve the integrity, standards, ethics, and uniqueness of vocational experts. 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, and the growth and decline patterns in local labor markets.

ABVE offers pre-approved CEs through OnlineCE https://www.chirocredit.com/abve/

FILING ABVE CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION:
As always, we advise retaining the program book from any conferences or seminars in which you receive ABVE CEs or wish to submit for post-approval. Regardless of how you earn CEs, you are responsible to send a copy of your Certificate of Completion to ABVE Headquarters one of three ways: 1) email; 2) fax; or mail to ABVE.*

RETIRING?
For those thinking of retiring, here’s something to think about. Check the appropriate website for more information.

ABVE offers an “Active Emeritus (ABVE/AE)” status for those members who are semi-retired and may still be engaged in some vocational analysis cases.

CDMS offers Certificants who are retiring from active practice a retirement designation, CDMS-R, which changes the CDMS certification to an honorary designation.

CCM offers the CCM-R™ retirement credential which allows non-practicing CCMs to remain flexible about their future. CCM-R permits retired CCMs to regain full CCM status without re-taking the exam.

CDMS® provides certification and recertification to ensure the competence of those who provide disability management services 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.

CDMS offers webinars via its “ONLINE STORE”

FILING CDMS CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION:
Got to www.cdms.org and click on “My Account”. Once logged in, choose “My CDMS DASHBOARD.” Have your Certificate of Completion handy to complete the “Recertification Application” questions when you begin to “ADD YOUR CEs INTO YOUR CDMS DASHBOARD.” Retain your Certificate should CDMS require it for documentation.
ORA provides continuing education units through our conferences/seminars for any individual employed by a County Board in a position that includes directly providing, or supervising persons who directly provide, services or instruction to or on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Check out the Training tab on the website for in-person training or webinars about a variety of topics related to serving people with developmental disabilities or check out DODD's catalog of recorded webinars.

https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/about-us/training/welcome/

Filing Your DD Certificates of Attendance:
NEW DODD MyLearning puts all of your DODD training records in one place. Submit your transcript with your provider certification application or keep it on hand for your records. Find out more on DODD MyLearning: mylearning.dodd.ohio.gov.

Please note DODD assigns an individual approval number for each session which is reflected on your Certificate of Completion. Please retain a copy of this form and submit a copy to your Supervisor at your local DD Board (per 2014 State rule changes). This form is for pre-approval by DD only and will only be added to your certification file with them.

ORA CONFERENCES/SEMINAR CERTIFICATES NOTICE

As an ORA conference/seminar attendee, you can request a FREE duplicate Certificate(s) of Completion/Attendance for nine (9) months after the date of the certificate’s issuance. AFTER that, there is a $30.00 charge per conference year requested. As required, ORA maintains a five year retention of all Certificates issued. To request a copy, please contact the ORA Home Office at ora@bex.net or call 419-841-8889.
**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION/LICENSEURE**

**WWW.APSE.ORG**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**
info@apse.org / cesp@apse.org
Phone: 301-279-0060 / Fax: 301-279-0075
7361 Calhoun Place, Suite 680, Rockville, MD 20855

Association of People Supporting Employment (APSE) is the only national, non-profit membership organization dedicated to Employment First, a vision that all people with disabilities have a right to competitive employment in an inclusive workforce.

The Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP™) credential recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a sufficient level of knowledge and skill to provide integrated employment services to a variety of populations.

**ORA and APSE. . . .**

In 2019 ORA received inquiries about offering CEs for CESP™. Subsequently, we reached out to APSE about obtaining pre-approval for our conferences. Unfortunately, at the time (December 2019) they do not pre-approve activities; but they were exploring implementing a pre-approval process in 2020. ORA has been added to their mailing list. We will keep you apprised when/if things develop.

**WWW.CACREP.ORG**

ORA will continue to monitor this organization’s impact on rehabilitation counseling programs, especially here in Ohio. CACREP accreditation is voluntarily sought by education programs offering entry-level master’s degrees in counseling and/or doctoral degrees in counselor education and supervision. The CACREP Board of Directors has delayed the implementation of the 60 credit hour requirement until 2023.
YOUR 2020 ORA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers of the Board

PRESIDENT*
Amy Taylor ...................... president@ohiorehab.org
Amy is also the 2020 GLR President

PRESIDENT-ELECT*
Jacqueline Stanton* .......... jstanton@metrohealth.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT*
Carl Sabo .......................... carl.sabo@wright.edu

SECRETARY*
Carrie Moreland Hyder ........ cmorel9293@aol.com

TREASURER*
Doug Bailey ........................ dbailey77@aol.com

NRA Delegate Assembly Representative 2020*
Tanya R. Chiles .............. chiles_creations@outlook.com

Board Members-at-Large

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John Tooson .................... jtooson2@wilberforce.edu

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Renee Scheidweiler* .... rscheidweiler@matrixvoc.com

TERM ENDS 2022
Tanya R. Chiles .............. chiles_creations@outlook.com
Libby Land ...................... eland@matrixvoc.com

* Serves also as an Executive Committee Member

Chapter President

NEORA (Cleveland Area)
Joe Tabol ......................... neora@ohiorehab.org

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CERTIFICATION
Jay Leeming ...................... jleeming@accesstoledo.com

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Conference Email: ............. oraconference@bex.net
Tanya R. Chiles .............. chiles_creations@outlook.com

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
John Tooson ..................... jtooson@wilberforce.edu

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SCHOLARSHIP AND STUDENT AMBASSADOR
Pamela Dunseith .............. pdunseith@matrixvoc.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Vickie Leeming .............. oravickie@accesstoledo.com

SUCCESS FUND
Tom Kinser ....................... tomk@3hab.com
Tom is also serving as the 2020 GLR Board Secretary

WAYS & MEANS (Basket Raffle too!)
Renee Scheidweiler .... rscheidweiler@matrixvoc.com
Doug Bailey ...................... dbailey77@aol.com

WEBSITE
Vickie Leeming .............. oravickie@accesstoledo.com

2020 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The ORA Full Board consists of all of the above individuals/positions and meets via teleconference once monthly or bi-monthly as needed. The meeting dates are published in our monthly e-newsletter. Members are welcome to attend the Full Board Meetings. If you are interested in attending one of our meetings or if you would like to express a concern, question or have suggestions for the Board, please contact the ORA Home Office at ora@bex.net.

A 54 YEAR HISTORY
THE INTERCHANGE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter has been an ongoing publication by ORA, with printed copies on file, going back to January of 1965!