



# National Recreation and Park Association

## **NTRS Branch President's Message**

Greetings NTRS members! I hope that you are all doing well. We recently finished up with a very positive time at the NRPA Congress in Salt Lake City Utah and I wanted to take some time to introduce myself, give you an update on what happened at Congress, and let you know what the plans are for the upcoming year.

### **About Me**

For those of you who have not met me, my name is Brent Wolfe and I am the new President of NTRS. I am currently a professor in Therapeutic Recreation at Georgia Southern University where I have been for the past two years. I have also taught for three years at the University of Southern Mississippi. Prior to any of my work in higher education I worked with adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders in a locked residential treatment center for two years. I am very passionate about our field and feel that as a Board we have a tremendous responsibility to both the members of our organization and the clients/participants that we serve. If you ever have questions about the Board, our decisions, or are just looking for information, please do not hesitate to contact me!

### **Congress Meetings**

We held several meetings last week in Salt Lake City.

- Educator's Breakfast for all educators in TR
- Two board meetings
- LRS/NTRS poster session (thank you Dr. Jo Ann CoCo Ripp for your hard work with this!)
- A social for all members of NTRS who were present.

Before I provide specifics about our meetings, I must offer a HUGE thank you to Brigham Young University (especially Drs. Ramon Zabriskie and Neil Lundberg) and the Utah Recreation Therapy Association (especially Michele Beal and Monica Dixon). These two organizations rolled out the red carpet for us! They sponsored both the Educator's Breakfast and the NTRS social. Without their leadership, hospitality, dedication, and financial support these events would not have happened. There are some great people in these organizations and we are truly grateful for everything they did for us!

## **Points of Interest from NTRS Meetings**

### **Accreditation**

Many ideas and opinions were shared throughout Congress (in and out of our NTRS meetings) and I am pleased to announce to you that NTRS unanimously voted to sign a contract with the Council on Accreditation (COA) to form a Specialty Accreditation Committee for Therapeutic Recreation. I believe that this decision demonstrates our commitment to improving the undergraduate curriculum for students in Therapeutic Recreation programs. This decision also follows information that came from the Therapeutic Recreation Educators Conference (TREC) where the issue of accreditation was discussed thoroughly. NTRS will be working with TR educators from a wide range of perspectives to develop outcomes that are representative of the profession of Therapeutic Recreation. As a board we believe that this is a very positive step forward for the profession of TR.

### **Re-organization of NRPA**

There have been many rumors circulating regarding the restructuring of NRPA. NTRS has a place at the table where these discussions are occurring and we have been assured that there is a place for Therapeutic Recreation within NRPA. The structure and administration of our branch may change, but Therapeutic Recreation will remain a component of NRPA. The NTRS webpage is a work in progress and NRPA is still in the progress of updating all of the information. We are working with the staff to make sure that all of the pertinent information related to NTRS and TR is clearly located on our page.

### **TREC II Conference**

TREC II was held at Oklahoma State over the summer. Again, the profession of TR was welcomed with open arms by the faculty of Oklahoma State. Tim Passmore and Jerry Jordan did an excellent job with the organization and administration of this conference. As a result of this conference, three task forces were formed. First, Jerry Jordan (Past President, NTRS) and Mary Ann Keough Hoss (Past President, ATRA) formed a task force and submitted RFI's to the Council on Accreditation (COA) and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). These requests for information were designed to gain further insight and aid both ATRA and NTRS in their decisions regarding accreditation. The requested information was provided and aided the NTRS board in our decision making. The second task force has yet to be formed but will be getting off the ground shortly. This task force has been tasked with developing outcomes for use with accreditation. The NTRS board feels strongly that this task force should consider the width and breadth of our (TR) services as they develop the outcomes for accreditation. The final task force is being chaired by myself and Missy Armstrong (President, ATRA) and is comprised of Tanya Coogan and Anne Simonsen from NTRS and Vicki Scott and Carla Carmichael from ATRA. This task force is called the Unification Task Force and is exploring the unification of the Profession of Therapeutic Recreation. The NTRS board unanimously voted to affirm this task force and its mission.

## **Upcoming Year**

The NTRS Board desires to connect with our membership. We want to serve you and provide you with the services that are most beneficial to you in your current position. Toward this end, we need your help! The deadline for session submission for the 2010 Congress is quickly approaching and we want to know what sessions would be beneficial for you at next year's conference. Please email or call me with your ideas. Additionally, please let me and the board know what we can do to serve you throughout the year.

- Do you need more CEU opportunities?
- Do you need resources?
- Do you need informational assistance?

The board has some ideas in place, but we want to hear from you. Your regional representative on the board will be contacting you in the near future (if they haven't already!). Feel free to talk with them about ideas that might be of regional importance and we will make sure that those ideas and requests are passed on to the full board. Of immediate attention is a FREE webinar that is being presented by Candy Ashton (NTRS National Forum Representative and AFRS/NTRS Task Force Co-Chair), John McGovern (AFRS/NTRS Task Force member), Marcy Stennes and Carol Potter (AFRS/NTRS Task Force co-chair and member, respectively). This free webinar, titled Support for Service Members through Parks and Recreation, is a project from the NTRS/AFRS Task Force and will provide some basic information about Service members and the recreation infrastructure at typical military installations, and discuss some innovative partnerships between public parks and recreation agencies and military installations. If you are interested, check the NRPA website for more details.

Finally, please join the NTRS Board in congratulating John McGovern, a NTRS past-president, for receiving NRPA's 2009 National Distinguished Professional Award at Congress. This is the first time an NTRS member has received this prestigious award.

Thank you all for your dedication to the Profession of Therapeutic Recreation. Know that your board is working hard on your behalf and that we want to hear from you.

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## Additional Messages from NTRS Regional Reps

*Submitted by Colleen Fitzgerald, NTRS Midwest Region Rep,  
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**Midwest Regional Conference will be held in Kearney, Nebraska!** The committee is seeking Therapeutic Recreation professionals interested in presenting at the regional conference being held April 18- 21, 2010. Do you have a topic that you would like to share with other therapeutic recreation and recreation professionals? What are the hot topics facing TR staff in Nebraska? Is Medicare reimbursement important? I am willing to offer a topic about inclusion but would like to see some other TR professionals join me in offering quality sessions. **PLEASE** shoot me an email soon with your interest. The conference will only be as good as we make it.

*Submitted By Nancy Pleiter-Sadowy, NTRS New England Rep,  
[npsctslc@raodrunner.com](mailto:npsctslc@raodrunner.com)*

**NRPA 2010 Congress TR Session proposals needed.** One of my goals this year is getting more TR exposure on a National level. The Congress Program Committee found it very difficult to fill 8 slots for the TR track when they didn't have a pool to pull from. "Let's give them something to talk about" please consider submitting a session on programs you are conducting with your clients. Here is the link for the submission of proposals for the 2010 Congress <http://www.nrpa.org/Content.aspx?id=972>. From this page, you will need to click the "online submission form" link that is embedded in the text of the first paragraph.

From the home page, you can click the "Learn and Grow" tab at the top, then click "Call for Education Session Proposal" in the side bar on the right under the heading Related Information. This will take you to the link I provided above.

Trust me I understand the time and energy it takes, I'm just as guilty for not doing it. If you need some support give me a call, email me. Please let me know how I can be of service.