



Professional Report

2009 NRCA President, Dr. Joseph E. Keferl's Outgoing Message



Hello and Happy New Year to all of my NRCA friends. I hope that everyone had a safe and rejuvenating holiday season, and are ready to make 2010 a great year! As we move in the new year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have made 2009 a successful year for NRCA, to highlight what YOUR NRCA has accomplished over the past year, and give you a glimpse of where we are heading in 2010.

As I pass the Presidential torch to Dr. Penny Willmering, I would like to extend to her my deepest appreciation for all of her support during the past year. Penny is truly a soldier for NRCA-her resume of service to the organization is impressive. Feel assured that she will work diligently to protect and promote NRCA and the field of Rehabilitation Counseling, and will continue to be a dedicated servant to our organization. I look forward to my new role of supporting her as I begin my term as Past President.

I would be remiss if I did not publicly thank our wonderful NRCA office staff, Norma Maxson and Barbara Huffman. They are the life-blood of NRCA, and provided me the support, guidance, and confidence I needed to serve the Presidency. From the bottom of my heart-Thank you both!!

When I was informed in Louisville, KY in 2007 that I had been named President Elect of NRCA, I found myself flooded with emotions. As someone relatively new to the national leadership scene, I felt excited, humbled, thankful, and yes, a bit fearful. So many incredible people have gone before me as leaders in NRCA-How in the world would I begin to fill their shoes? What I quickly discovered was that I was not alone. In my nearly 20 years in the field, I have served on more committees with more organizations than I care to keep track of-none better than the group of dedicated and helpful Board and staff of NRCA! With the help of the NRCA "village", we have experienced new, challenging, and exciting frontiers as an organization. We have been faced with unprecedented adversity-the sudden and unexpected injury of Charley in the fall of 2008-the painful loss of our dearest NRCA friend and Administrator, Betty Hedgeman-and the financial melt-down and recession that has threatened our jobs, our families, and our sense of security. In the midst of the most damaging economy in decades, NRCA fought hard to preserve our organization so that we would be intact and ready to continue serving our members and the profession when the fiscal tides improved. The year 2009 was marked with difficult decisions about how to best focus our organization's efforts and resources.

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Early on, our Board made the commitment to use the year to invest in the infrastructure of our organization. Anticipating the fiscal challenges that were to come, we trimmed the budget so that our organization would remain strong, yet still allow us to impact important issues. Despite a tough environment, we should feel proud in our amazing accomplishments. During this difficult year, we have been successful in advocating for important causes at the local, state, and national levels. The following is a quick snapshot of what your NRCA accomplished in 2009:

- NRCA provided assistance to the Department of Labor to update the Occupational Outlook Handbook.
- With the help of Ken Hergenrather and Board input, NRCA was asked to meet with and advise the new Deputy Director of the Social Security Administration.
- We provided advocacy support for critical legislation surrounding veterans benefits and those returning from duty experiencing PTSD, and support for legislation around hate crimes that could impact people with disabilities.
- We partnered with our sister organization ARCA, producing a joint letter of support for the RSA Commissioner position.
- We were successful in legally completing NRCA's independence in terms of establishing copyright ownership of all NRCA interests.
- We provided letters of support to various states to help preserve vital budget dollars for serving people with disabilities.
- We witnessed exciting new chapter growth and development in states like New York.
- Our JARC editor, Jamie Satcher overhauled our editorial process and personnel, and worked with the NRCA office to deliver JARC electronically.
- Our Communications Chair Connie McReynolds, made much-needed improvements to the methods of how we communicate timely information to members, and drastically improved the quality of the information that is now being circulated.
- Our Administrator position was graciously filled by Jeanne Patterson-one of NRCA's most dedicated supporters.
- With the help of our NRCA staff (and family), we rolled out a new and improved NRCA website, and successfully implemented an electronic election.
- With Penny Willmering's leadership, we have been consistently involved with the multi-organizational workgroup studying the possibility of a future Mega-Conference, and have
- Begun collaborative conference calls with NRCA, ARCA, NCRE, and NRA to discuss collaboration opportunities-including unified strategies for approaching the upcoming reauthorization act.

Yes, 2009 has been a busy, but very productive year! Although we did not host a national symposium in 2009, I feel proud of the accomplishments and much needed improvements that the NRCA family has achieved during the year. We now move forward in 2010 with anticipation and excitement for what is to come. We will certainly continue to meet adversity along the way, but I assure you, the NRCA family will handle anything that comes with the upmost grace, dedication, and professionalism.

I am quite comfortable stepping into the role of Past President, knowing the competency and compassion of Penny as a leader and a person, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Oklahoma for our 2010 Symposium.

Message from the President's Desk



Happy New Year! I am pleased and honored to be writing to you from the "President's Desk." It is going to be an exciting year for our Association, and one of the most exciting events will be the return of our training symposium on November 4th, 5th and 6th in Oklahoma City! A variety of training opportunities, chances to earn those most coveted CEU's, and opportunities for networking will be in abundance. A call for proposals and additional information will be coming your way in the near future, so save the dates November 4, 5, & 6th!

In addition to hosting a quality conference, I aspire to serve the Association through two major goals in the upcoming year. One goal is to continue the wonderful accomplishments started in 2009 by Joe Keferl and the Board of Directors. The other goal is to continue NRCA's growth as a vibrant, successful association that meets the needs of its membership. In order to accomplish this, I am calling on ALL members to become involved in NRCA.

Involvement can occur at many levels and take a few minutes to a few months - depending on where your interests lie. Contributions to the Association might be as simple as sending an e-mail to nrcaoffice@aol.com with a suggestion or concern, updating your contact information, referring a new member, and renewing your membership when it comes due. Or, your involvement can be as complex as volunteering to serve on a committee, assist with symposium planning, and/or running for a leadership position with your state chapter of NRCA.

It is only with the ongoing support and involvement of NRCA's membership that we can remain the strong Association that we are! In return for your involvement in 2010, I pledge to be responsive to your needs and concerns; to provide high quality training opportunities; and, to continue to develop an Association in which you can proudly claim membership. I want every member to say, "YES, I AM a member of NRCA!"

Please join us for an exciting year of growth! If you would like to become more involved, please feel free to contact me directly at pwillmering@atu.edu. Otherwise, I look forward to meeting you in Oklahoma City in November!

Warmest Regards,

Penny

Penny P. Willmering, Ph.D., CRC, LPC

"I pledge to be responsive to your needs and concerns..."

NRCA Newsletter Blurb from NYRCA: New York State NEWS!!

New York State Chapter News, Linda Mandel, PhD, CRC, President

The New York Rehabilitation Counseling Association (NYRCA) continues its efforts to secure licensure for Rehabilitation Counselors. Identical bills have been introduced in the Assembly (A1011) and in the Senate (S3476). The Assembly sponsor is Micah Z. Kellner, and in the Senate, Thomas P. Morahan. Both bills have been referred to the Assembly and Senate Higher Education Committees, chaired by Assembly member Deborah Glick and Senator Toby Ann Stavitsky, respectively. Contact Patricia Livingston, PhD, CRC, Coordinator, NY State Rehabilitation Counseling Licensure Committee at pl6@nyu.edu or (212) 998-5292 for further information or suggestions on how to move these bills to a vote. The NYRCA has a new web site that is still under construction; available at www.nyrca.org. Comments and input are welcome!

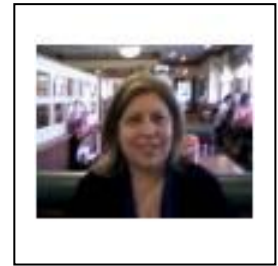
Syracuse and CNY area update:

Submitted by Elle Abel PA, MS, CRC

The most recent local group under development is the Syracuse area Rehabilitation Counselors of Central New York (RCACNY). Current President is Arletta L. Holman MS, CRC, Vice President is Lise R. Mayo, advisory committee chairperson is T. Gerard Reap, PhD, CRC.



Arletta Holman, CRC



Lise Mayo, CRC

The group has developed by-laws and policies under direction of the current board of directors and will apply to NRCA as a sub-chapter of NYRCA. Membership will encompass greater upstate New York. RCACNY hopes to continue development as a local state organization at the grass roots level, reach out to Rehabilitation Counselors and constituents across the state, and encourage development and collaboration of local groups in the divisions of NYRCA.



Above– Left to Right: Stephen Hanse Esq., Governor David Paterson, Elle Abel CRC, Lise Mayo CRC at a recent reception for Governor Paterson hosted by Featherstonaugh, Wiley and Cline firm in Saratoga, NY

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Elle Abel, liaison to the NYRCA and web advisor joined Lise Mayo, VP to attend a private reception in Saratoga hosted for Governor David Paterson. Governor Paterson had very kind and supportive words for Rehabilitation Counselors, fondly remembering an encounter as a young man seeking employment and the wisdom and guidance of a rehabilitation counselor who helped change his life. Governor Paterson expressed support for the efforts of rehabilitation counselor licensure in New York State.

Activities to date have included several fundraisers by presenting public education and information about vocational and educational opportunities and resources for people with disabilities. Members of RCACNY have given several presentations on Ethical Issues and Taking Care of the Caretaker. A web site is under construction and will be available at: rcacny.org. For more information about the RCACNY please send an email to: ehabel@syr.edu or call (315) 464-1880.

West/Rock Chapter Update.

Submitted by Al Gaudio, CRC, Secretary and Organizational Chair of the NYRCA

The chapter held a workshop entitled "Diagnosing Depression in Clients and Burn-out in Counselors and Counselor Wellness as a Component of Ethics". The speakers were Bruce Lowenstein, Psy.D., Helen Hayes Hospital and Mary McCarty-Arias, MA, CRC, Adjunct Professor, Department of Applied Psychology, New York University. The purpose of the workshop was related to professional development and counseling skills. The target groups included counseling professionals, case managers, social workers and health care professionals. The luncheon was held at the Pasta Cucina, New City, New York. Presenters from VESID addressed the topic of "Tapping into Talent: Best Practices in Hiring, Accommodating, and Retaining People with Disabilities. All CEU's were approved by the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association.

2009 Election Results

<p>President-Elect: Jennifer Wiebold, Ph.D., CRC</p> 	<p>Board Member-at-Large: Northeast Region J. Chad Duncan, Ph.D.</p> 	<p>Board Member-at-Large: Southwest Region Amanda Paterak, CRC</p> 
<p>Student Representative Sabrina Singleton</p> 	<p>Student Representative Elizabeth A. Means</p> 	<p>We wish to thank all of our candidates for their dedication to NRCA and congratulate the winners of the 2009 Election.</p> <p>We look forward to another year of outstanding service from our 2010 Board of Directors. (Board members listed on the web site.)</p>

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JARC News

Jamie Satcher, Ph.D., Editor

The Winter 2009 issue of *JARC* is ready to go to press, and I am now working on the Spring 2010 issue. I am pleased to report that several new manuscripts were submitted in September, and they are currently being reviewed by members of the Editorial and Editorial Consultants Boards.

I would like to remind NRCA members that all manuscripts submitted beginning January 2010 must conform to the 6th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. In particular, authors are encouraged to attend to new requirements for headings and subheadings, the reporting of statistical values, and the use of digital object identifiers (DOIs) when providing reference lists.

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Editorial and Editorial Consultants Boards. Reviews have been timely and of much assistance to authors, and I appreciate all of the hard work of both continuing and new board members.

It has been a year since I assumed the duties of *JARC* editor. The time has flown by...quite busy! I look forward to continuing to serve NRCA as the journal's editor.

About the 2010 NRCA Symposium...

NRCA is in the process of planning the 2010 Symposium, which will be held in Oklahoma City, OK; November 4-7, 2010.

As soon as more details are available, they will be posted on the website, sent out on the NRCA list serve and published in the newsletter.

Make sure the National office has your current email address so you do not miss this very important information.

We look forward to seeing you in Oklahoma City in November!