

# CONTEMPORARY REHAB

The official newsletter of the  
National Rehabilitation Association



## MESSAGE FROM THE 2020 NRA PRESIDENT

A letter from the heart...

This year I had the pleasure of serving as the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) President. When one takes the helm of such a prestigious association, there are a number of expectations and plans. Well, as with many leaders this year, my plans were thwarted. The uncertainty of the situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic definitely diverted my original plans of an in-person conference and the racial and social injustices shifted my focus to work more towards equity in services and treatment.

But equally as such, the state of NRA's financial

instability impacted the focus of my presidency. Many of the decisions that needed to be made were stifled by financial

uncertainty. As we sought to achieve transparency, it was difficult to be transparent when we were unable to identify all of the pieces to make the puzzle whole. The board, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), staff, and I have worked diligently to uncover the pieces so that we can make necessary changes to ensure NRA's legacy has an even more impactful future.

I set three goals for NRA and the Board and I made some progress. This year has set the stage for some unprecedented

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***The National Rehabilitation Association is Committed to Enhancing the Lives of Persons with Disabilities.***

For more information visit [NationalRehab.org](http://NationalRehab.org) | [info@nationalrehab.org](mailto:info@nationalrehab.org) | PO Box 150235 | Alexandria, VA 22315

**Or follow us on Social Media:**

changes to the NRA staffing and board structure, membership processes, and overall engagement of membership.

### **1. Stabilize the financial position of NRA.**

- Restructured the staffing pattern for efficiency and reduction of costs.
- End the contract with the storage facility to save costs.
- Bring on a Chief Administrative Officer to supervise the contracted staff, which includes the contracted Accountant.
- Worked with ARA and NRA regarding the cancellation of the 2020 Conference so that NRA was not charged for the cancellation.

### **2. Build a stronger relationship with our members including chapter and division leadership and past presidents.**

- Request the CAO to review the CR to increase engagement with membership.
- Designed infographic for NRA to communicate the benefits of membership to potential members.
- Held 3 leadership meetings for chapter and division leadership.

### **3. Work more collaboratively with board members to efficiently and effectively**

### **govern the NRA and foster a more efficient transition in leadership.**

- Held monthly meetings with the Executive Committee and Board.
- Held several transition meetings with President-Elect, Rebeca Sametz, the CAO, and the Treasurer for continuity.

While the movement on these goals was not what I had hoped for, we must forge ahead with bold action so that NRA remains a viable leader in the field of rehabilitation. We must allow for strategic changes to advance the mission of NRA. We must be willing to understand the foundation that has been laid but boldly move into the future with more visibility and action. As I pass the torch to Rebecca Sametz, NRA's President-Elect, I do so with the hope that while this year may have been a year of transition, the year was successful in laying the foundation for a bright future.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

With much appreciation,

DeAnna Henderson, Ph.D., LOC, NCC, CRC  
NRA, 2020 President

## **MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING 2021 NRA PRESIDENT**

Dear National Rehabilitation Association Members,



*Rebecca R Sametz,  
2021 NRA President*

As 2020 comes to a close and we move into 2021, I look forward to stepping into the President's role of the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA). I want to first applaud our 2020 President, Dr. DeAnna Henderson, for her leadership during this unprecedented

year. I am extremely honored to serve as your 2021 President and look forward to continuing our momentum forward.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead. The mentality and motto I embrace as we move into 2021 is Uniting and Igniting. Now more than ever, it is a goal of the NRA to bring together our voices within the profession so that we may get back to one of our greatest strengths – advocacy. The plan is to develop a sub-committee that focuses on advocacy and collaboration in an innovative way, to better align with the needs of our members and those that we serve.

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One of the greatest parts of the NRA has always been our Leadership Summit and the Annual Training Conference. While we could not host our Annual in-person Training Conference in 2020 due to the pandemic, moving forward we plan to host both conferences online in 2021. The method in which we host them may look different than in the past; however, I believe our conference planning committee will execute an innovative and engaging conference filled with strong professional development opportunities for our members.

Another key goal is the development of a clear strategic plan. The Executive Board has taken the task of developing a strategic plan, which will help to streamline NRA initiatives and goals now and in the future. This will include NRA members

from all levels of the Association to ensure that we are doing our best to capture the essence of what it means to be the NRA.

My role as President is to listen to our members' needs, further the mission of our organization and guide our Association to bigger and better heights. If you have suggestions or comments, please email me at [President@nationalrehab.org](mailto:President@nationalrehab.org). I hope you will accompany me on this year's journey by supporting the NRA with your ideas and time.

Sincerely,

Rebecca R. Sametz, Ph.D., CRC, LPC, VRT, ETS  
NRA 2021 President

## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the Contemporary Rehab Year in Review Newsletter!

My name is Satinder, and I joined the National Rehabilitation Association as the Chief Administrative Officer in April 2020. As the year comes to an end, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on this year and look toward what's ahead.

The COVID-19 Pandemic certainly changed our plans for 2020 and created new challenges for all of us. I had hoped to meet everyone in September 2020 for the Annual Training Conference but due to the unpredictability of the pandemic we had to cancel. I look forward to the day we can all meet in person.

Beginning with the Year in Review, the Newsletter has a new and accessible layout. Starting in 2021, my goal is to publish the Newsletter quarterly (March, June, September, and December).

The newsletter will include updates on the important work being done by the Executive

Committee, Board, Committees, National Office, State Chapters, Divisions, and additional information. Please stay tuned for these upcoming changes.

### Member Spotlight

The National Rehabilitation Association is truly fortunate to have so many active, talented, and committed members. Beginning in 2021, the Contemporary Rehab, will feature our members again. An announcement will be forthcoming in mid-January on how to nominate a member to be featured.

### Membership

We appreciate the continued support of our members because without your support the association wouldn't be an association. Membership is important and critical to the health and viability of the organization.

For this reason, beginning January 1, 2021 the following Terms and Conditions of Membership will apply:

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1. Membership is for one year from the time of joining or renewing.
2. Dues are non-refundable for Membership and Divisions(s).
3. Membership is non-transferable, but fully portable should the member change employer, or students change academic programs/employment.
4. A \$30.00 charge will be assessed to members for returned checks.
5. Organization Memberships only: membership belongs to the organization and is nontransferable.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Veronica Hamilton, Office Manager and James Liin, Membership Coordinator for their support to keep the organization moving forward.

I look forward to continuing to work with and support you on behalf of the organization. I hope this New Year brings happiness, peace and good health to you and your loved ones.

Best,

Satinder

**JOR**

## JOURNAL OF REHABILITATION

As a National Rehabilitation Association member, you receive the added benefit of a subscription to the Journal of Rehabilitation (JOR), a premier international journal in the field of rehabilitation. We hope you enjoy your quarterly edition and benefit from the new knowledge and information that is shared.

JOR is your journal and we value the contributions from our readership. There are multiple ways you can be involved with the Journal that you may not be aware of. Please note the opportunities below.

- Submit your work for publication. Each article will be reviewed by the editorial board who does an excellent job of assisting and mentoring authors in their work.
- Consider the publication process as part of your educational program. One example is to have your class of graduate students complete a review and then receive the reviews of the editorial board to compare and learn from.
- Expand to include the private sector as members of the editorial board and authors of articles for publication.
- Contribute to a practitioners' corner that highlights interesting and promising practices in the field of applied work for those with non-research related innovations to share.
- Read a new book and let your peers know about it. Write and submit a book review describing the good, the bad, and your recommendations for others.
- Become a part of the editorial board. Bring your experience and expertise to assist with journal production and contribute to work impacting the field of rehabilitation.

**For more information** contact Wendy Parent-Johnson, Ph.D., Editor at [wparentjohnson@arizona.edu](mailto:wparentjohnson@arizona.edu)



# 2020 NATIONAL REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION AWARDS

2020 started out with great anticipation and excitement for the National Rehabilitation Association, for two main reasons. First, we celebrated 100 years of rehabilitation services. A program that has affected so many individuals for the better. Second, our Fall training conference was scheduled to occur in Birmingham, Alabama. Many hours of work had already been invested to create an exceptional experience for attendees. This is also where we traditionally hold our awards ceremony.

Then came March and the outbreak of COVID-19, which forced us to postpone our conference and modify the way we live our lives day-to-day. Adapt and overcome became the catch phrases and the new reality. Work at home, virtual meetings, and wearing masks became our way of persevering.

This also caused us to reevaluate our awards and the awards ceremony for this year. My committee had been amazing at getting the nominations out early in the year and organizing everything, so we already had nominations that had been received. This left us with some decisions to make, and again my committee, with the support of the national board provided a way for us to carry on. We arranged for a virtual platform, which not only allowed for the recipients and those who nominated them to join in, but also family, friends, and coworkers that would ordinarily not be able to attend. We had over 70 attendees at any given time during the ceremony and it went off without any complications.

Following is the list of awards recipients for 2020, with a brief explanation of the award they received.

## **E. B. Whitten Silver Medallion Award – Carlos Servan**

The E. B. Whitten Silver Medallion Award was established in 1974 in honor of the Association's first Executive Director. He actively participated

in groundbreaking legislation, advocacy, and improvements to the rehabilitation profession. The award is presented to an individual who has exercised notable leadership in removing environmental and legal barriers and in helping to overcome discrimination of persons with disabilities.

Carlos Servan is the executive director of the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. He served as deputy director of the same agency for over 20 years. He also worked for the New Mexico Commission for the Blind for several years. He has used his law degree to navigate the law and legislative processes to help people with disabilities to experience equality and opportunity.

## **Roger Carter Award of Excellence for a Large Employer – Bethany George from Home Depot**

This award was created to honor employers (national, regional and/or local) which have demonstrated exemplary achievement in the recruitment, hiring and retention of persons with disabilities throughout all levels within the company. (over 100 employees)

This award was established in 2018 in memory of Roger Carter who was a Rehabilitation Counselor with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services. He understood and promoted the partnership with the rehabilitation agency, consumer, and employer as well.

Bethany George and Home Depot started a successful relationship in Minnesota that is now being promoted throughout the country. The focus is on matching the needs of the various Home Depot locations with the talent pool that is in that particular area. They have gone above and beyond to make sure successful placement and retention is achieved. This included clientele from various skill levels and capabilities.

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### **NRA Chapter of the Year Award – Rehabilitation Association of Mississippi**

Established to recognize outstanding achievement in the effort to advance the mission of the National Rehabilitation Association at the chapter level. Notable accomplishments were Mississippi's outstanding use of various community events to improve the lives of people with disabilities. They also make effective use of their website and social media to increase their chapter membership.

### **Yvonne Johnson National Leadership Award – Rachel Chapman**

Presented annually to an individual who is highly committed to issues concerning people with disabilities and to the professionals who serve them. This award was established in 2001 to honor an NRA Past President, a very special person who will always be remembered.

Rachel was recognized for her ability to overcome barriers that stand in the way of her clients becoming successfully employed. Her ability to locate resources and opportunities for those she serves is exceptional. She pays special attention to every detail to facilitate positive outcomes.

### **NRA Max T. Prince Meritorious Service Award – Dr. Matthew Sprong**

Named for Max T. Prince, a member of the Missouri Rehabilitation Association. Max T. Prince was well known for his efforts on behalf of persons with disabilities. He was respected by the rehabilitation community both locally and nationally. He was an extremely generous man who was known to give of his time and resources to those in need. When he died unexpectedly in a car accident in 1998, the Max T. Prince Award was established in his honor. This award is given to an individual who has demonstrated years of faithful service and leadership to NRA.

Dr. Sprong is president of the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals and has served in various capacities within this organization for several years. He serves as editor or reviewer for the Journal of Rehabilitation, Journal of Addictive Behaviors, and the Rehabilitation professional Journal. He serves or has served in

various other capacities within the rehabilitation profession, where he has been widely recognized for his accomplishments.

### **Sylvia Walker National Multicultural Award – Dr. Shengli Dong**

The Sylvia Walker Award is named after a professor, researcher, and director of the first federal Research and Training Center (RTC) focused on minority issues and disability, who served as a longtime advocate for multicultural issues in rehabilitation. Established in 2004, the award is intended to (a) honor/recognize an NRA member/group or organization in addressing multicultural issues at the local regional or national level, (b) maintain, and stimulate the Association's (NRA) focus on diversity and multiculturalism as a part of society.

Dr. Dong was recognized for his excellence in teaching and mentoring his students at Florida State University. He is also involved in various organizations that promote multicultural issues, including the National Rehabilitation Association, the National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns, and the National Council on Rehabilitation Education. He also serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development and the Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin

Please start now and make note of those people who go that extra mile to provide exceptional services and resources to this amazing world of rehabilitation services. We will start accepting nominations within the next few months. We all know those who deserve to be recognized for their efforts. We look forward to an amazing 2021 awards ceremony.

I would like to thank the 2020 National Rehabilitation Awards Committee:

- Eleanor Williams
- Melissa James
- Martha Johanson

Best,

Paul J. Barnes



# BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS ELECTION OUTCOME

Each year, the Nominations Committee solicits nominations for open Board of Director positions. Typically, the Past President fills the role of Nominations Chairman, but with that position vacant this year, the Board of Directors appointed someone to fill this position and I was honored to be asked again to oversee the Nominations and Election process. Regional representatives or an elected/ appointed member from each Region complete the committee to review candidates for election.

This year, the offices of the President-Elect and Board Member At Large were open for election. The Call for Nominations was distributed via email to every member in good standing and the response was overwhelming. Our Association is brimming with talented leadership ready to step up to the plate. There was a total of six candidates who submitted all information required to be on the ballot for Board Member at Large and two for President-Elect.

The membership voted and Louis “Lou” Adams was elected President-Elect and Keisha Rogers elected to serve as Board Member At Large. Please extend a welcome to these newly elected leaders!

As Nominations Chair, I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to the Committee this year. Those serving of the committee were: Paul

Barnes, representing the Pacific Region, Leah Spivey, Mid-Atlantic Region, Janis Benstead, Great Lakes Region, and Betsy Simoneaux from the Southeast Region. All these Regional leaders helped get the word out, attended committee meetings, and participated in the vetting of each candidate for their credentials for office.

Special thanks to James Liin, Membership Coordinator for The National Rehabilitation Association, who assisted with distributing the Call for Nominations, validating the membership status of candidates, coordinating with individual candidates for office opportunities for campaigning, and coordinating the ballot distribution to membership and final count. His assistance in this process is valuable and once again, thanks to James, we had a smooth election process.

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, I extend thanks to each candidate who was on the ballot for election and to those selected by the membership to fulfill the duties of the office! Thank you for your willingness to step up to leadership in the National Rehabilitation Association.

Bonnie T. Henn  
Nominations Chairman

# MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

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## **LOU ADAMS, 2021 PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Lou Adams has 30 years of experience in administering programs in vocational rehabilitation; training and technical assistance; organizational development; quality management; workforce development and education. He is the developer and a subject matter expert on a Vocational Rehabilitation and Workforce Development service alignment model for improving quality employment outcomes.

Lou has proven effectiveness in aligning systems, enhancing collaborative partnerships, improving quality employment outcomes. He managed the state-wide business service unit in Michigan and expanded the State VR Program's self-employment/small business. Lou has a MA in Counseling and Guidance from Central Michigan University.



## **DR. KEISHA G. ROGERS, BOARD MEMBER AT-LARGE**

Keisha G. Rogers, PhD, CRC, LCMHC, LCAS, is an Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling at Winston-Salem State University. Dr. Rogers earned her doctorate in Rehabilitation from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Dr. Rogers is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor, and Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist. Her professional background includes serving as a clinical director in private behavioral health agencies (mental health and substance abuse) and in private sector rehabilitation counseling in the areas of vocational evaluation and staff training and development.

Dr. Rogers has been a member of NRA and its subdivision the National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC) throughout the years since she began her graduate studies in Rehabilitation Counseling in 2006 and is currently serving her second elected term as Secretary of the NAMRC. Additionally, Dr. Rogers has presented at several national and international conferences including the NRA, NAMRC, and the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals. Dr. Rogers has published and presented widely on disability related issues, multicultural rehabilitation counseling, clinical supervision, and co-occurring disorders. She is also the recipient of the 2016 NAMRC Sylvia Walker Education Award.





## 2020 NRA SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

My name is Alexis Duggan and I am the new chair of the NRA Social Media Committee.

The Social Media Committee has been working diligently to ensure that our social media is up to date and staying informed on all current topics. We are currently in the process of designing a COVID-19 resource list that will center on resources for the minority and disability population.

We are also seeking articles on various topics that may be helpful to the NRA community which will be published in a news section on the NRA website. In the month of December, the NRA Social Media Committee highlighted several organizations that serve the disability community.

Please contact me at [duggan138@gmail.com](mailto:duggan138@gmail.com) with any questions or to submit articles.

## CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE

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The National Rehabilitation Association Constitution and Bylaws Committee is working to establish a file of all region, division, and state chapter bylaws in the national office. We have made progress but continue to reach out to all of these entities to obtain these copies. If you are uncertain whether your document is on file, we encourage you to reach out to us to assist in completing our task.

The committee also assists those that want to update or create their bylaws by answering questions and reviewing their documents to present to the NRA Board for review and approval.

This year we have created templates that are on the NRA website that can be used as a reference or a document to complete this task.

I would like to reach out to anyone interested in working on this committee to let us know. We are always looking for NRA members who have an interest in this area to help in this assignment. I know from example, you do not have to have previous experience working on constitution and bylaws, just an interest.

Co-Chairs,

Patricia Bienfang  
[pgbienfang@gmail.com](mailto:pgbienfang@gmail.com)

Rebecca S. Sametz, Ph.D., CRC, LPC, VRT, ETS  
[president@nationalrehab.org](mailto:president@nationalrehab.org)



# Preservation of Early Journal of Rehabilitation Volumes

*Written by Bonnie Henn*

**THE NATIONAL REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION MOVED TO A VIRTUAL PLATFORM IN NOVEMBER 2012; ELIMINATING ITS PHYSICAL OFFICE BUILDING IN ALEXANDRIA. WITHIN THAT OFFICE BUILDING WERE YEARS OF RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN IN STORAGE SINCE THAT TIME.**

As time has elapsed, so has the need to store these physical records as they are being electronically archived. Over the Fall, the contents of the storage building have been sorted for items to save and archive as well as those needing destruction, (such as dated payroll records). This has all been safely achieved, preserving history as well as saving money.

However, some items were such that only a physical location could do. Found in the building were leather-bound volumes of the Journal of Rehabilitation, dating from 1928 to 1973. These contained quarterly newsletters with information about the activities related to the development of rehabilitation services throughout the United States during the early decades of rehabilitation.

After 1973, the Journal evolved to a more academic Journal

of Rehabilitation that we now enjoy, containing research and scholarly articles and the Contemporary Rehabilitation (CR) took the place of the newsletter sent out to the membership with articles related to the State Chapters, Division and National events. These earlier Journals contain the history of the Association and Rehabilitation itself in real-time.

The National Rehabilitation Association was the only professional organization of the day and the first in the field of Rehabilitation. The iconic names of Mary Switzer, E.B Whitten, and Corbett Reedy are inscribed in hundreds of articles contained within these volumes. But where to save these volumes of history, intact, in a location that will be secure and yet available?

Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation

Center (WWRC) presented a solution to this need. Located in Fishersville Virginia, and a Division of the Virginia Dept. for Aging and Rehabilitation (DARS), it provides vocational rehabilitation services to clients of DARS. It is also home to the Mary Switzer Memorial Library, which is located on campus.

Mary Elizabeth Switzer was the President of the National Rehabilitation Association in 1960 and a proud member throughout her life, as well as a resident of Virginia during her service as the First Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Federal Government.

Participating in the donation exchange were Tim Woodward, WWRC-Valley District Director, James Hall, Manager of the Career and Workforce Development Division and Clay Huey, Manager of Supported

Work Readiness. Representing the National Rehabilitation Association and delivering the Journals to WWRC, Bonnie Henn, Past President of the National Rehab Association (2010) and retired Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for DARS.

The staff at WWRC enjoyed reviewing the volumes. Once they are cataloged and on display, they will be available to anyone who wishes to read of the early days of the National Rehabilitation Association, the foundations of Vocational Rehabilitation in this nation and the evolution of rehabilitation through the eyes of the founding professionals who created what we now know as the State Vocational Rehabilitation Program. They will become part of a permanent display that WWRC is developing in memory of Mary E. Switzer.

The National Rehabilitation Association extends thanks and gratitude to WWRC for helping to preserve these Journals for generations to come.

**Photo Credit:** Amy Blalock, Director of Admissions, WWRC.

*Please note that safety was our first concern. All Participants were masked except briefly at the time of photos.*



# NRA STATE CHAPTER REPORTS

## MARYLAND REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

The MRA has been active this year, despite the drastic changes brought on to the workforce by the pandemic. Here are some things we accomplished:

The board put together a training subcommittee to organize relevant training webinars. These webinars were offered for free to all members, as well as the rehabilitation community. The decision was made to offer these at no cost due to the budget constraints brought on by the pandemic.

MRA hosted 2 “Lunch and Learn” webinar series. The first series was 6 parts, all related to working with different disability groups in a virtual setting. One of the 6 sessions addressed ethics in regards to teleworking and interacting with consumers. The second series was a 3 part series entitled “Race & Rehab,” and was focused on the providing guidance and expertise in cultural intelligence and humility to rehabilitation professionals. Our NAMRC chair was essential in identifying speakers for this series. One of the sessions was funded by our partners of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the National Rehabilitation Association. The MRA was able to provide a total of 9 CRC continuing education credits to participants of these training series.

Although our annual conference was postponed until 2021, the MRA still hosted a membership drive in November. A promotion was also offered to new members during the first training series offered, with discounts provided based upon the number of sessions attended.

Our website was updated this year, and we added a social media chair to our board. The MRA also has a Facebook page. Our new website is <https://marylandrehabassociation.org/>

MRA also partnered with Coppin State University's Student Membership for their virtual National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

Our board is looking for new ways to engage members of the MRA, and to also give back to the community. A subcommittee was recently formed to begin brainstorming ideas for how to engage more students in the MRA, how to provide assistance to college students preparing to become rehabilitation professionals, and how to give to charities/organizations that help individuals with disabilities.

**Stacey Watts, MA CRC**  
**Maryland Rehabilitation Association President**

# MINNESOTA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

Minnesota Rehabilitation Association has had an active year meeting as a board, networking and holding trainings all while existing largely online. Our last in-person board meeting was held in March the week before most things shut down due to COVID-19. At that last in-person meeting, we were able to share coffee and some pastries while getting down to our important board work. For our final board meeting of 2020, our board members were mailed chocolate chip cookies and hot chocolate packets so that we could recreate a little feeling of our close comradery and sharing as we met via Zoom.

In May, we took a board meeting picture via Zoom with us all wearing masks to infuse some humor into an otherwise stressful time. For our Zoom meeting in November, we appreciated the time that we had to connect with one another and see a friendly face. We held a virtual training in October on Pre-ETS that had 317 attendees. MRA,

MRA TSD, NARL, and NRA JPD put on a three-part training in October, November and December that currently has 160 attendees.

We have invested money in the online infrastructure that allows us to host large online trainings and have developed a network of interpreters and closed captioning specialists to help ensure that our trainings are accessible. We have also made sure that the trainings include CEUs so our members can get the continuing education credits they may need in order to maintain their professional licensure. We have a great group of incoming board members for 2021 so we are confident that Minnesota will continue to be an active and progressive chapter moving forward.

**Laura Vitzthum, M.S., C.R.C.,**  
**Minnesota Rehabilitation Association**  
**President**

# MISSOURI REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

Like so many groups in 2020, Missouri Rehabilitation Association chose to cancel its annual conference to put safety first. Despite this, the MRA board felt it was important to offer educational opportunities to members and the community alike. Webinar Wednesdays along with a new YouTube channel helped MRA do just that.

During the month of October, MRA hosted a webinar each Wednesday to represent familiar tracks from the conference. Presentation topics included suicide safety, navigating an inclusive workforce, pre-employment transition services, and inclusion and accommodation on college

campuses. The sessions reached a large number of participants and those who were not able to join live were able to access all sessions on the new MRA YouTube channel (MRA State Chapter). Not only will you find the Webinar Wednesdays on the channel, but you will also find a conversation with Dr. Temple Grandin that MRA hosted in September. MRA is so appreciative of membership and the rehabilitation community during this unprecedented time and looks forward to continued work together next year.

**Jennifer Kincaid**  
**Missouri Rehabilitation Association President**

# NRA DIVISION REPORTS

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## DIVISION LEADERSHIP

Hello and Happy Holidays from the National Rehabilitation Association Division Leadership.

As 2020 comes to an end and 2021 is just around the corner we wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all health and happiness.

Looking back 2020 certainly has presented us many obstacles and challenges. Who knew that best practices would be “Zooming” or “Hanging out on Google teams” to connect with our co-workers and those we serve. We may be isolated from our work teams/offices as work has shifted to dining room tables/family rooms and home offices - for those of you who are lucky enough to have one; yet we are all still unified as professionals whose mission is to make a positive impact in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Moving into 2021 the National Rehabilitation Association's divisions are committed to providing networking and training opportunities to our membership. Although we may not be able to gather in person we can still connect with the use of technology and virtual platforms to share best practices. We recognize that we all may be bombarded with one virtual meeting after another, we are working together collaboratively

to offer Recognizing and Dealing with Zoom fatigue. Our goal is to get this out in the first quarter 2021. Collectively we are also working on a calendar with other training and networking events throughout the year. We welcome your thought and ideas with regard to potential training for members as well as non-members in the future.

### **A Message from the Division Leaders**

The National Association of Rehabilitation Leadership is one of the many divisions within NRA. We welcome practicing counselors, evaluators, administrators, etc., and provide training not only in leadership but also in topics related to best practices in Vocational Rehabilitation.

Through training and networking we hope to provide a means to come together, learn from each other. Even in this time of isolation, there can still be collaboration.

For more information, please contact Ellen Sokolowski, MS, CRC, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at [sokolowskiellen34@gmail.com](mailto:sokolowskiellen34@gmail.com) or text (712) 254-1021.





## JOB PLACEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The National Association Job Placement and Development Division is made up of individuals and organizations whose efforts are directed toward career development and employment of persons with disabilities. JPD seeks to enhance these efforts by: exchanging ideas; Increasing understanding; Identifying goals; and Cooperative Action. Membership is open to any

person or group who is a member of NRA and is interested in enhancing the lives of persons with disabilities and are involved in the job placement and development process.

Our President for 2020 is Frank Herd, from MN and his contact is [NRAJPDPresident@gmail.com](mailto:NRAJPDPresident@gmail.com)



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS IN PRIVATE REHABILITATION (NASPPR)

Why the NASPPR division is important? As a private provider, your voice needs to be heard. NASPPR is a division of NRA that provides a voice on the NRA board. As a private provider, you are represented on issues relevant to our profession in the private sector. Your memberships provide you an opportunity to network and interact with other professionals in the private sector. Even

though we are unable to meet face to face, we can still interact via zoom, email or phone.

Please contact Maria Petersen, MRC, LVRC, CRC, CPM at [mpetersen@wcf.com](mailto:mpetersen@wcf.com) or (385) 351-8118 with questions or suggestions to make our division stronger!



## TRANSITION SPECIALTIES DIVISION

The Mission of the Transition Specialties Division is to advance effective Transition practices to promote the employment and future independence of youth and young adults with disabilities by providing training and education opportunities to the professionals who work as

Transition Specialists, Coordinators, Counselors, and those that work with Transition aged youth.

Please contact Lauren M. Jones M.S., CRC at [NRAtransitiondivision@gmail.com](mailto:NRAtransitiondivision@gmail.com) or (984) 255-4841 for more information.

# THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MULTICULTURAL REHABILITATION CONCERNS (NAMRC)

NAMRC is a progressive association of dedicated individuals whose goal is to effect change and create opportunities in the field of rehabilitation.

In March of 2020, the NAMRC Board of Directors decided to cancel the 27th annual conference due to the uncertainty of the implications of the coronavirus and focus efforts on advancing the strategic goals. The decision yielded a productive year for the association, even with the challenges that arose due to COVID-19.

We accomplished the following in our effort to *promote cultural diversity and disability through advocacy for excellence and equity in rehabilitation research, education, and practice*:

**Published a public position statement in response to the pandemic and violence affecting African Americans and people of color.** This statement served both as an acknowledgement of the significance of the problem and as a call to action for the rehabilitation community. The NAMRC statement was displayed on social media in June. This public statement served as an impetus for the summer virtual training on this topic and the launching of the Ad hoc R.A.C.E. committee discussed below. The Association also communicated its position with the NRA about the pandemic and violence affecting African Americans.

**Facilitated a legislative advocacy initiative to educate members about absentee ballots and to encourage advocacy with legislators and others in support of targeted legislation.** This initiative, led by the Legislation and Governance Committee of NAMRC, recognized the importance of the option of absentee ballots to persons with disabilities and persons of color

who may have more difficulty accessing polling places. Information regarding this initiative was posted on the NAMRC website and disseminated to the membership.

**Enhanced Association bylaws:** A major updating and revision of the bylaws, engaging the whole board, was undertaken to make the bylaws consistent with current practice and more relevant to the current needs of the organization. Sixteen substantive changes were adopted reflecting changes in policy and practice; including those newly required by NRA.

**Produced an excellent topical virtual Town Hall and Training Event entitled: "Covid 19 and Racism: A Discussion of the Double Pandemic and the Effects of Systemic Racism on the Minority Community".** This virtual presentation for five CEU's occurred over a three day period from August 5-7, and featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Keith Wilson, a workshop addressing implications for counseling practices by Dr. Michell Temple, and a stimulating panel discussion with Dr. Mary Ann Joseph, Mrs. Judy Smith, delfin w. bautista, and Dr. Travis Andrews. The program received excellent reviews from all of those who attended. Special thanks to the leadership of three of chairs of NAMRCs standing committees for the planning of the event: Mrs. Katavia Sloan, Professional Development, Dr. Robert Stevens, Membership and Coalition Building, and Dr. Keisha Rogers, Public Relations and Marketing.

**Submitted a position paper and proposal to CRCC to update certification renewal requirements to include a required 10 hours of Multicultural Counseling Competency training.** This proposal, if adopted would assure that all persons whose

certification had been renewed, had participated in at least ten hours of approved training in this focus area. The proposal recognizes the need for this training as the society becomes increasingly diverse, and the knowledge pool on multicultural practices continues to grow.

**Nominated and celebrated the recognition of one of its members, Dr. Shengli Dong, rehabilitation education faculty at Florida State University, as the 2020 recipient of the NRA Sylvia J. Walker Multicultural Award.** Dr. Dong was recognized for his scholarly research and publications, along with his teaching and mentorship in the arena of diversity and multiculturalism.

**Established the Racial Awareness, Change, and Empowerment (R.A.C.E.) Ad hoc Committee to identify and distribute resources relevant to the events of the summer.** The committee

is establishing an annotated listing of books, articles, and media material across four domains: Antiracism, White Privilege, LGBTQ Issues, and Police and Diverse Communities. The purpose of the committee is to increase awareness throughout the rehabilitation community as a vehicle for facilitating change. The goal is to have this resource information posted on the NAMRC website in January and disseminate it through other networks.

Thank you to all those who participated in the association's initiatives this year! A sincere thanks to NAMRC members for your dedication to the organization and its mission! Visit the division's website at [namrc.org](http://namrc.org)!

Michell L. Temple, Ed.D., CRC, NCC, CCTP, LPC-MHSP

## SUBMITTING YOUR INFORMATION TO THE CONTEMPORARY REHAB NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is designed to support the mission of the organization, "to provide exemplary leadership through social advocacy and legislation, advance cultural awareness and competence across communities, promote excellence in research and practice, and support professionals engaged in the employment and independence of individuals with disabilities."

Submissions are encouraged. To meet accessibility standards, all materials need to be sent directly to the NRA office via email in an electronic format (word document only) to [info@nationalrehab.org](mailto:info@nationalrehab.org)

We encourage the use of web links to useful information and pictures or graphics. These materials will be utilized at the discretion of the National Rehabilitation Association.