

Celebrating the Accomplishments of EB Whitten During our 100-year Anniversary

I want to share with you a magical journey I have had, beginning in 2018. A call came into the national office, and it was redirected to Dr. Fred Schroeder, our executive Director at the time. It was from the family of EB Whitten. Many of you know that our most prestigious award that we give out each year is named in his honor. The family had been sorting through old documents and memorabilia, as they were preparing to move to a new location. In the process, they had uncovered important historical content regarding this association. Dr. Schroeder felt inclined to refer them to me and so that became the beginnings of the amazing story I will tell.

I called the Whitten family back within a few days and had a nice conversation. Dr. Jo Whitten May, daughter, of EB, Whitten, and her son Gordon have remained in close contact with me ever since. It started out with their inquiring as to whether we still had the award named in Mr. Whitten's honor, but soon grew into much more. They started telling me about copies they had of rehabilitation legislation that EB was involved in, including pens that signed the documents. They reminded me that he was the execu-

tive Director of our association, for 26 years. When they started talking about the Rehabilitation movement that he became involved in in the late 1940s up through his retirement in 1974, you could tell that they were deeply impacted by this. EB



Witten became the Director of rehabilitation services in Mississippi and was involved in cutting edge services that began to impact the whole country. Within a few years, his name was well known enough that the national rehabilitation association approached him about being their executive Director.

As Director of the association, he traveled the country, meeting with Rehabilitation professionals in each state and building the membership of the organization in the process. This culminated with a total of 35,000 members at the time of his retirement. He was invited by Queen Elizabeth to go to England and promote rehabilitation services, among other dignitaries throughout the world, that sought his advice and expertise.

He served as executive Director during the terms of four presidents of the United States. Namely: John F Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson,



E.B. Whitten with President Lyndon Johnson.

100 years. What we do on a daily basis, makes a difference, and it started with people like EB Whitten. The torch has been passed to us and we must run with it, even if it seems like it is uphill at this point. The clients that we serve not only need, but they deserve to have equal opportunities in their lives, and in the communities they live in. I am honored to serve with you. Amazing professionals.

I hope you enjoy our upcoming disability, employment summit, and become energized And better prepared to carry out your daily tasks

The Value of Professional Associations

By Bonnie Henn

Embarking upon a career is an exciting time in life. For many, you have come to your chosen profession upon the culmination of years of college study and an intensive job search. For others, you may have taken a different path, and only gradually come to the realization that your current job, while initially not ideal, now seems like a great fit and has become your passion. Whatever your path, your fellow travelers - those who have chosen the same career field - can become your tribe. This is the group of dedicated individuals who share your goals and who share the incredible highs - and inescapable lows - that every profession offers. Finding a professional organization composed of individuals that share your personal values, professional ethics, and everyday experiences can be the inspiration that takes you to the next level, be it personally or professionally.

You may be thinking “why should I join a professional organization?” “What’s in it for me?” “What’s the return on investment?” There are, of course, many readily apparent benefits to professional association membership: professional development, networking opportunities, conferences, and training opportunities. Organizations are also formed to promote the economic, research, and social well-being of members. Professional associations publish professional journals and establish central points of communication through association newsletters to disseminate ideas about the field. Associations also provide codes of conduct and guides to ethical behavior for all within the field. Many serve as focal points for community and legislative advocacy for their respective professions and those individuals who benefit from their services: advocacy that may be critical for the continuity of the profession.

In addition, in the last decade - and particularly during the recent pandemic - online resources for training and continuing education units (CEUs) have been more frequently found through membership associa-

tions. These trainings are typically offered at little or no cost to membership to enhance their membership experience and increase the “return on investment” of membership. While these opportunities may be available through other venues, attending your association trainings gives you an opportunity to see familiar faces, to develop a basis of trust and rapport with other professionals, and to renew that sense of community that helps keeps us all energized.

There are also, however, many more less apparent - but no less valuable - benefits that derive from your

membership in your professional organization. Taking a leadership role within your professional organization provides endless opportunities for developing or honing your leadership, management, and critical thinking skills, as well as expanding your knowledge of important related skills in areas such as finance, legislation, and conference

management. Whether you are in a leadership role or not, your association provides a safe place for commiserating with colleagues from across the country about specific concerns or consultations.

These additional benefits are particularly important for those of us in the challenging field of Rehabilitation Counseling. The sheer scope of knowledge that each professional must obtain, and deploy, can be overwhelming. We are expected to be experts in not only counseling an individual, but also in understanding and employing a wide array of tools and assessments in assisting people with disabilities in selecting a career or position. Further, we must be able to help our clients understand how their specific disability (or combination of disabilities) is a barrier; anticipate unexpected barriers; and convey our client’s rights as a person with a disability, and to share all of this information in a way that employs tact and engenders trust in our profession. We are also expected to have a fair understanding of the

Continued on page 3



President-Elect Message

It is an exciting time to be a member of National Rehab! Leadership of the Association at multiple levels is active and engaged in making your membership a value-added element of your life as a rehabilitation professional. I would like to share one part of this effort, from the Membership Committee of which I am a part. As you know, the Association for some time has provided long-standing resources to add value to you the Rehabilitation professional; this Contemporary Rehab newsletter, the Journal of Rehabilitation, and education and training with CEU's like the recent training on the Irlen Method by Dr. Woelfel being some examples. But we would like to do more! The membership committee has brainstormed some other possible ways to add value to your being a National Rehab member, which I would like to share with you here. Keep in mind these are just ideas from the committee, but ones we plan to put out to all membership for comment to determine and prioritize those you, as members, would

find most valuable to you. As part of the All-Membership Call that will occur within the Disability Employment Summit, we plan to take some of that time to gain feedback from participants on these or other ideas that come forward. Based on that feedback, the Membership Committee will take action to act on those that are prioritized. Here are our brainstormed ideas for discussion as potential new resources from the Association:

- Regular "Keeping Up with the Profession" podcasts.
- A mentoring portal on the website for members to seek 1:1 mentoring on topics of need/interest.
- Monthly "Lunch-n-Learns," building on a model from the Texas Rehabilitation Association.
- A National Rehab Book/Reading Club, where books or articles are read then discussed.
- Using partnerships to build a library of trainings and

CEU opportunities.

If one or more of these resonates with you, or you have other ideas for consideration, please plan on joining the Disability Employment Summit and in particular the All-Membership Call scheduled within it to add your voice to the discussion. Anyone can also feel free to give comment directly to me at

president-elect@nationalrehab.org
Lastly, in addition to the above, during the All-Membership Call we will also have training on the reports function and its capabilities as found on the website, as well as training on the new ACH system. In all, it promises to be an informational call and one where we want and hope to hear from our membership.

Hope to see you there!
Russ

Russ Thelin, M.S., LVRC, CRC, CRL
President-Elect
National Rehabilitation Association

Value of Professional Associations

Continued

laws that impact a person with a disability and their employment; benefits through Social Security; the availability and applicability of assistive technology that is ever changing and evolving; and derivative medical issues that arise from a disability.

The knowledge demands of this profession are profound and we can not expect to be experts in each domain. We are all "aces" in own specific areas, but we all still need to be a "jack of all trades". Reaching out to seasoned professionals - as well as those just entering the field - helps both ourselves and provides opportunities for mentoring other colleagues. With such challenges in the profession of vocational rehabilitation, it

is natural that a professional association is the key to a successful career and an incubator that will help others in building their career.

In summary, a professional association provides training towards continuing education standards and certifications; networking and mentoring opportunities; forums for publication of research; opportunities for leadership within the association to improve individual skills; and advocacy for the good of the cause. The National Rehabilitation Association is striving to provide all of these and more. Thank you for your membership in the National Rehabilitation Association and all that you do each day to enhance the lives of people with disabilities.



President's Message

As president of the board of directors for the National Rehabilitation Association, I feel a deep sense of responsibility, and the need to be accountable to our membership. The more I speak with our members at the chapter, region, and divisional levels. The more I am made aware of the extraordinary talent and knowledge that we have at our fingertips. Our members are amazing and are truly devoted to this association and our profession. I have been working closely with Russ Thelin, our president elect, and the rest of our leadership to move us forward and ensure that we continue the momentum that our past presidents have created.

Most of our committees are already meeting and functioning quite well. We still have a few that need additional members and begin accomplishing tasks at hand. I ask for you all to reach out to the members at the various levels of this organization to ensure that all of the committees are fully staffed and are up to the challenges that we are facing.

So that you as a board and your constituents at the various levels are aware of what we are doing with their membership dues, and how we are working to improve this association, I will briefly summarize.

1. We recently had a very successful free one-hour training on February 20. I am pleased and excited to report that we have over 170 people registered for this event. This was sponsored by The World of Work, based out of Texas. The NASPPR division has already committed to sponsor our free training in April and we are securing these trainings throughout the year. I will remind you that the cost is only \$50, and we are obviously building momentum with this member benefit. This idea came from us, holding regular membership meetings throughout last

year and receiving input from our members.

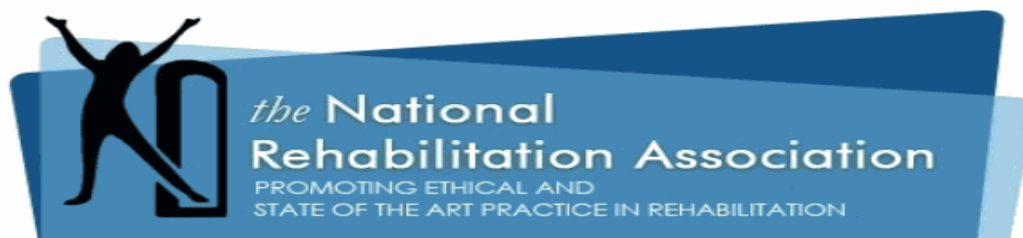
2. Our 2023 Disability Employment Summit is planned, and we are extremely excited about it. We have excellent presenters with quality content. As a special bonus, we have members of the EB Whitten family, who will be in attendance and summarize some of our amazing history. This is a vital part of our centennial celebration. Members will note that there was already a little teaser about this and the mini newsletter that was released in January. Initially, we were going to hold a delegate assembly, but it was decided that a member meeting was more appropriate. We will definitely hold a delegate assembly in the fall.
3. Russ and I meet every week with our CAO to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the members and getting tasks done in a timely manner. We appreciate the members who openly communicate with us and help us to implement needed improvements.
4. Our Journal of Rehabilitation continues to be our shining star. Many of you may not realize that we have subscribers all over the world, as well as across the country.
5. Russ Thelin and the membership committee are meeting on a regular basis and already have some amazing ideas that they will be introducing over the coming months
6. Lou Adams is in charge of our nomination committee. We invite members to step forward and become part of the solu-

tion by serving on the board. More details will follow.

7. Our awards committee will be announcing the awards nominations in the coming weeks. This is also a committee that could use a few more members.
8. Our Public Policy committee continues to help us be aware of the current legislation and other information that is relevant to our profession. This committee is a group of dedicated professionals that are helping us to engage with the world around us and have the greatest impact possible. They were also instrumental in us securing nominations for the Lead On Award, which recognizes public servants who are dedicated to the mission of rehabilitation.
9. James Liin is working behind the scenes to create better operating systems for membership and other key areas of the association. Most recently, he has begun creating training modules or videos that help our members to better access the tools and resources at their disposal. He has also been instrumental in transitioning us to a more efficient monthly payment system for membership.

This is only a portion of the projects that we are working on to make sure our members receive the best possible services and resources. Keep the ideas coming and be sure to share them with us. Our members are our greatest asset. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication.

Paul Barnes
NRA President



Disability Employment Summit

March 15-16, 2023 (virtual platform)

"Celebrating our Accomplishments and Building for the Future"

Featuring:

- NRA Updates: President Paul Barnes & President-Elect Russ Thelin
- Keynote: A Tipping Point: Honoring Our Past, Acknowledging Our Present, and Collectively Reshaping Our Future – Kyle Walker MRC, CRC, CRL, CPM
- Total of 7.5 CRCC, CEU credits, including Ethics credits
- Membership Meeting, Special Presentation, and Awards Ceremony



2023 Disability Employment Summit

“Celebrating our Accomplishments and Building for the Future”

Wednesday, March 15 – Thursday, March 16, 2023 Virtual Platform (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Start and End Times

7:15AM – 7:45AM PT
8:15AM – 8:45AM MT
9:15AM – 9:45AM CT 10:15AM –
10:45AM ET

President’s Welcome and Updates

Paul Barnes, President

National Rehabilitation Association

President’s updates will include the following: report on the status of the Association and our Mission, Vision, and Values – 100 years of advocating for our profession. What are we doing to improve benefits to our members. New ACH system and upcoming improvements to the membership platform, including reports. Newsletters to our members. Free webinars and quality conferences. Updated reports from Division, Regions, and Chapters and what that does for our leadership at these levels and Accountability and Professionalism of the National Leadership.

Start and End Times

8:00AM – 9:30AM PT
9:00AM – 10:30AM MT
10:00AM – 11:30AM CT
11:00AM – 12:30PM ET

CEUs: 1.5 General Credit

Employment First: A Public Policy Roadmap to Achieving Competitive Integrated Employment

Julie Christensen, MSW, Ph.D., Executive Director of National APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment First)

Since the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990, equal access to and participation in the general labor market has been a fundamental civil right for people with disabilities. More recently, the 2014 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) expanded on this right by codifying competitive integrated employment as the desired outcome for publicly funded disability services and supports. Yet despite these positive advancements in public policy, significant barriers continue to exist and the labor participation rate for people with disabilities has not yet met that of the general population. While some of these barriers are cultural and societal in nature, many are rooted in prevailing policy and law which directly conflict with the goals of the ADA and WIOA.

How can we use existing policy to achieve competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities? In what ways does existing policy create barriers to success? And what policy changes do we need to advocate for to achieve our goals? In this session, we will unpack existing and proposed legislation and policies as we chart a course forward for the Employment First movement in 2023 and beyond. Particular attention will be paid to current threats to the ADA and to challenges with full implementation of WIOA, including the legacy use of 14c certificates which allow payment of subminimum wages to workers with disabilities.

Start and End Times

9:45AM – 11:15AM PT
10:45AM – 12:15PM MT
11:45AM – 1:15PM CT
12:45PM – 2:15PM ET

CEUs: 1.5 General Credit

Beyond “Folding, Flipping, Filth, and Filing”— More than the Minimum for Workers with Disabilities

Ollegario (Ollie) Cantos VII, JD, Councilman, City of West Covina, Chairman, RespectAbility Board of Directors, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary Office for Civil Rights, US Department of Education
Matan Koch, JD, Senior Policy Advisor, RespectAbility

Expectations are rising for and amongst people with disabilities, and rehabilitation professionals continue to play a vital role. Consumers within the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) system encounter residual attitudes that all too often leave workers with disabilities resigned to low-wage, low-skill work, such as folding clothes, flipping burgers, cleaning jobs, and filing work. When rehabilitation professionals empower students and jobseekers with the power of being the lead in their own lives, it allows those individuals to gain a deeper sense of accountability, often leading to more advanced work, greater economic stability, and self-reliance. To meet this goal, VR professionals and people with disabilities must do their part to advance the kind of philosophy that empowers rather than increases reliance. This presentation will

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

discuss the policy considerations in making this objective a reality.

Start and End Times

11:30AM – 1:00PM PT
12:30PM – 2:00PM MT
1:30PM – 3:00PM CT
2:30PM – 4:00PM ET

CEUs: 1.5 General Credit

Reforming federal disability benefit systems to make them work-friendly

Andy Imperato, Executive Director of Disability Rights California

In this session, Andy Imperato, who served on the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel for the Social Security Administration and was Disability Policy Director for Chairman Tom Harkin on the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, will discuss ways to reform federal disability benefits programs to align them more with the goals of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Imperato is currently Executive Director for Disability Rights California, based in Sacramento.

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Start and End Times

7:30AM – 9:00AM PT
8:30AM – 10:00AM MT
9:30AM – 11:00AM CT
10:30AM – 12:00PM ET

CEUs: 1.5 General Credit

100 Years of Rehabilitation Advocacy – Then and Now

TITLE: Part I – 100 Years of NRA's Rehabilitation Advocacy, 1923 to the Present- The Highlights

Harold Wasner, M.A., LPC, Co-Chair, of the National Rehabilitation Association, Public Policy Team
Barbara Schoen, Ph.D., CRC, Co-Chair of the National Rehabilitation

Association, Public Policy Team
Judy Smith, Transition Manager, ARS, Co-Chair of the National Rehabilitation Association, Public Policy Team

The presentation will provide the highlights of the foundational and historic public rehabilitation and disability advocacy activities of the National Rehabilitation Association, from its founding in 1923 to the present, from the early developments of the vocational rehabilitation program to its culmination in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and its subsequent reauthorizations. The important advocacy activities of the association for the rights of people with disabilities, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, and its amendments will be discussed.

TITLE: Part II – Rehabilitation and Disability Advocacy in the 118th Congress

Tonia Ferguson, Esq., Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, Director Of Legislative Affairs

The presenters will discuss the make-up of the 118th Congress and how it will affect rehabilitation and disability advocacy. They will identify key congressional committees and leaders involved in rehabilitation and disability legislation, and effective strategies and advocacy messaging in this split congress. They will review the challenges facing the current public rehabilitation program, and its prospects going forward.

Start and End Times

9:15AM – 10:45AM PT
10:15AM – 11:45AM MT
11:15AM – 12:45PM CT
12:15PM – 1:45PM ET

Membership Meeting

Russell J. Thelin, M.S., LVRC, CRC, CRL, 2023 President-Elect of the National Rehabilitation Association

In this first Membership Committee

Thursday, March 16, 2023

“All Members Call” for 2023, a state of the membership of the National Rehabilitation Association will be provided, along with information on prioritized membership related activities for the Association during the year. The majority of time will be for open discussion and comment from members regarding membership issues for the Membership Committee to be aware of, prioritize, and address during 2023 and beyond.”

Awards Ceremony

Historical background for the “Lead On Award”

The National Rehabilitation Association, established in 1923, is a professional organization that provides advocacy for persons with disabilities and the professionals that provide services to them. Past “Lead On” award recipients include Hillary Clinton, Steny Hoyer, the late Bob Dole, Tom Harkin, Bobby Scott and Bob Casey, Jr. and many more who have led efforts to secure a more accessible America for those with disabilities. It is named in honor of Justin Dart, the “Father of the Americans With Disabilities Act” who gave us that call to “Lead On” and we continue to be inspired by this call for equality.

Award Recipient: US Congressional Representative, Debbie Dingell, MI-6th District



Award Recipient: US Senator Tammy Duckworth, Illinois



Thursday, March 16, 2023

Start and End Times

11:00AM – 12:30PM PT

12:00PM – 1:30PM MT

1:00PM – 2:30PM CT

2:00PM – 3:30PM ET

CEU's: 1.5 General Credit

Keynote Presentation

A Tipping Point: Honoring our past, acknowledging our present, and collectively reshaping our future.

Kyle Walker, CRC, CRL, CRM, Executive Director of the University of Wisconsin-Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute (SVRI)

Organizing Premise & Theme: 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the public rehabilitation program. In 2025 we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Rehabilitation Association. How can we honor our history, face our current challenges, and boldly reshape our collective future as stewards of a social justice movement intent on the fully social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities. Now is our collective tipping point. Today we are being challenged from multiple fronts to reshape rehabilitation for the next 100 years. Within our current challenges lie the seeds of opportunity to recreate our future. We need strong, unified, inclusive, and engaged membership organizations now more than ever. And our rehabilitation focused membership organizations need you.



Benefits of Joining the National Rehabilitation Association

The National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) is a professional organization that was founded in 1920 to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities through advocacy, research, and education. In this article, we will discuss the benefits of joining the NRA and how to become a member, as well as the organization's range of resources available to members, backend system for Chapters and Divisions, and new monthly subscription option.

Benefits of Joining the National Rehabilitation Association:

1. **Networking Opportunities:** Members of the NRA have access to a broad network of professionals, including researchers, educators, advocates, and policymakers, all of whom are dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities. Members can leverage these networking opportunities to build professional relationships, identify job opportunities, and form partnerships.
2. **Professional Development:** The NRA offers a range of professional development opportunities, such as webinars, workshops, and conferences. Members can stay up-to-date on the latest research, trends, and best practices in the field of rehabilitation and disability services.
3. **Advocacy and Public Policy:** Members of the NRA have the opportunity to engage in advocacy efforts and influence policy decisions that can improve the lives of people with disabilities. The organization has a strong presence on Capitol Hill and works closely with lawmakers to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are met.
4. **Awards and Recognition:** The NRA recognizes outstanding achievements and contributions in the field of rehabilitation through its annual awards program. Members can nominate and be nominated for these awards, which can provide valuable recognition for their work.
5. **Publications and Resources:** Members of the NRA receive access to a wide range of resources, including newsletters, journals, and online publications. These resources offer valuable insights into the latest research, best practices, and trends in the field of rehabilitation. Additionally, members can access the NRA's online discussion forums to connect with other professionals and share information.

Benefits of NRA's Backend System for Chapters and Divisions:

In addition to the benefits available to individual members, the NRA's backend system for Chapters and Divisions provides a range of tools and resources to support the organization's local and regional groups. The system offers real-time reporting and data on membership, finances, and events, making it easier for Chapters and Divisions to manage their operations and communicate with members.

Through the backend system, Chapters and Divisions can access a variety of features, including:

1. **Membership Management:** The system allows Chapters and Divisions to manage their membership rosters, track member renewals and dues, and generate reports on membership trends.
2. **Financial Management:** Chapters and Divisions can track their finances through the system, including revenue and expenses, donations, and budgeting.
3. **Event Management:** The system offers tools for Chapters and Divisions to create and manage events, including registration, payment processing, and attendance tracking.
4. **Communications:** The system includes tools for Chapters and Divisions to communicate with their members, including email newsletters, announcements, and messaging. By leveraging the NRA's backend system, Chapters and Divisions can streamline their operations, reduce administrative burden, and provide better services to their members.

New Monthly Subscription Option:

The NRA now offers a new monthly subscription option for membership dues payment. This option replaces the existing ACH monthly draft and is now being run by PayPal, a trusted online payment processor. Members who select the monthly subscription option will have their membership dues automatically charged to their debit or credit card each month, without needing a PayPal account.

To sign up for the monthly subscription option:

1. Go to the National Rehabilitation Association's website at <https://nationalrehab.org/>.
2. Click on the "Join Now" link, which can be found on the homepage.

AWARD CATEGORIES AND NOMINATIONS REQUEST

FROM THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

The National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) awards recognize and honor people and organizations that have created opportunities for people with disabilities or created advancements in the rehabilitation profession. NRA members, chapters, regions, and divisions are encouraged to make nominations.

I am pleased to announce NRA is currently seeking nominations for the 2023 Awards to be announced at the Virtual Conference to be held in September 2023.

Each year we have the opportunity to honor and recognize those we associate with that go above and beyond on a regular basis. We all know these individuals and it is a pleasure to be around them. So, let's make sure we recognize them and share their stories with the other professionals in our field. The ceremony will be virtual as part of the conference. In the past three years, this has allowed not just the recipients to attend, but family members as well.

The awards information will be on the National Rehabilitation Association website by Monday, June 5, 2023 by 7:00PM PDT so you will have plenty of time to get your nominations in to be considered by the awards committee. I am also happy to answer any questions or help you with your submissions 1-804-833-3443.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to your nominations!

Eleanor Williams
2023 National Rehabilitation Association
Awards Committee Chair

NRA AWARD CATEGORIES

E. B. WHITTEN SILVER MEDALLION AWARD

The E. B. Whitten Silver Medallion Award was established in 1974 in honor of the Association's first Executive Director. 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. He actively participated in groundbreaking legislation, advocacy, and improvements to the rehabilitation profession.

CRITERIA:

- Contribution may be national (regional, or local) but must have been of such importance to influence action on a regional or national basis.
- Actions must have contributed to the purpose of NRA mission of enhancing the lives of people with disabilities.
- Recipient must have exercised notable leadership: (a) in removing environmental and legal barriers, and/or (b) in overcoming discrimination which keeps people with disabilities from living normal lives and enjoying the rights and benefits due every American citizen.
- While not a requirement, preference given to members of the Association.

MAX T. PRINCE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

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.

CRITERIA:

- Current Member who has provided outstanding membership effort and demonstrated leadership at the national, regional, division, or state chapter level for a period of 10-15 years. This can be as a board member, on a committee, or any role that positively impacts the development of the National Rehabilitation Association and its mission.

NRA ORGANIZATIONAL AWARD

The NRA Organizational Award is presented to an organization with an outstanding record of service to persons with disabilities. The organization may be one whose principal objectives lie within the field of rehabilitation, or which has

demonstrated effective concern for the care, treatment, education rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

CRITERIA:

- How has the contribution directly affected persons with disabilities and what was the outcome?
- What are some of the methods that were used to assist people with disabilities?
- Do you have any success stories or testimonials that you could provide to show the direct result of the organizations contribution?

W. F. FAULKES AWARD

The W. F. Faulkes Award is presented for technical or professional achievement in the field of rehabilitation. It is awarded to a person or organization, which in the preceding years has made a contribution of national importance to the increase of knowledge in the field of rehabilitation, or of the development of techniques or methods in the application of such knowledge, or to the prevention of disability. It was established in 1954 in the name of the Association's founder and first president.

CRITERIA:

- What are your products (research articles, techniques)? Please list them.
- What is the impact of these products? (i.e., how many author and others have cited the produce(s), how may have used the technique(s)) – If you have more than one product, please list them individually.
- What are the outlets of the product(s)/where have the products been used (journals, presentations, rehabilitation counseling practices, etc.)?
- Please list outlets.
- Please include a letter detailing why the person is a good nominee.
- Please include two letters of recommendations.
- Please include supporting documents.

BELL GREVE MEMORIAL AWARD

The Bell Greve Memorial Award is presented to a person who has shown unusual initiative or creativity in developing and/or administering a service program for people with disabilities. The award is named for Bell Greve, founder of the Cleveland Rehabilitation Center. A pioneer in the development and provision of relief and rehabilitation services to the poor, sick, and people with disabilities. She gained international distinction for her work with local, state, and international social service agencies.

CRITERIA:

- Please provide the name of the service program and location (city, state).
- Offer a description of the program, and how it helps people with disabilities.
- Describe the unusual initiative and/or creativity efforts involved in developing and/or administering the service program.
- Describe why this individual would be the best nominee to receive the Bell Greve Memorial Award.
- Please include any supporting documents you deem appropriate.

EXCELLENCE IN MEDIA AWARD

The Excellence in Media Award is presented to an individual or organization whose media production has made a noticeable contribution towards the accurate and progressive portrayal of people with disabilities. It is presented in recognition of outstanding effort in any medium, including print, radio, television, film, and advertising.

CRITERIA:

- Individuals with disabilities should be portrayed in a realistic and positive manner.
- The media production should appeal to the public at large rather than targeting only a specialized or professional audience.
- The portrayal may exist within the context of a larger idea or subject matter, that is, not be a narrow disability-specific message.
- The portrayal should be informative rather than merely promotional.

GRADUATE LITERARY AWARD

"The Graduate Literary Award is presented annually in recognition of exceptional academic achievement by rehabilitation students at the graduate level (i.e., master's and doctoral level)

CRITERIA:

- Is the writer enrolled in college/university program that specializes in rehabilitation counseling, clinical rehabilitation, or a closely related field for the specific purpose of working with individuals with disabilities or preparing future professionals to work with individuals with disabilities?
- In what ways does the manuscript underscore principles of empowerment, social advocacy, and

cultural awareness and competence across various communities?

- What makes the manuscript original?
- In what ways does the writer demonstrate an outstanding submission/manuscript?

GRADUATE ROLE SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS: In conjunction with nomination letters, manuscripts submitted for nomination will be assessed on written quality, theoretical framework, research methodology (if applicable), impact on the field, and importance of topic (topic can be on any aspect of rehabilitation). Manuscripts should use the American Psychological Association (APA) 6th edition format and not be previously submitted for publication. Manuscripts are to be uploaded as a Word document and submitted as part of the overall nomination packet using the electronic submission portal. NRA will publish the winning entry in the Journal of Rehabilitation and reserves the right for one year to publish any manuscript entered.”

YVONNE JOHNSON NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

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, who resolved critical issues within the national organization. She was also a director of public rehabilitation in Georgia. She was a natural leader and mentor, who was well respected by all who knew her.

CRITERIA:

- The nominee should demonstrate a leadership style that is creative and inspiring.
- Thinking “outside of the box” should be demonstrated.
- Examples of mentoring others to assume leadership positions should be included

SYLVIA WALKER NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL AWARD

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.

CRITERIA:

1. Is the nominee an active member of a state chapter, region, or division of the National Rehabilitation Association?
2. How does the nominee demonstrate leadership in advancing multicultural issues within his or her sphere of influence?
3. Provide examples of how the nominee addresses multicultural issues and how their efforts have had a positive impact on service planning and/or delivery.
4. Explain how the nominee’s actions enhance the profession and/or organization.

NRA CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Outstanding achievement in the effort to advance the mission of the National Rehabilitation Association at the chapter level.

CRITERIA:

- To be considered for this award, the state chapter must be in good standing with the National Rehabilitation Association. In addition, the following questions must be addressed in your nomination of the state chapter.

HAS THE CHAPTER:

- Demonstrated exemplary activities in professional training (e.g., for VR professionals, other stakeholders, graduate VR students). What specifically did they do and in which of these areas?
- What did they participate in, and what activities related to public awareness of vocational rehabilitation services, membership in NRA, and employment of people with disabilities were carried out?
- What activities related to consumer advocacy (e.g., for consumers, employers, families, professionals, and other stakeholders)?
- How have they been actively working toward increasing chapter/National membership growth through media, social media, events, conferences, and other effective ways?
- In what ways have they consistently been viewed as innovative, creative and willing to respond to the changing needs of membership?

THE ROGER CARTER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR A LARGE EMPLOYER

This award was created to honor an employer (national, regional and/or local) which has demonstrated exemplary achievement in the recruitment, hiring and retention of persons with disabilities throughout all levels within the company for a Large Employer (100+ employees).

Roger Carter was a Rehabilitation Counselor with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services. He understood and promoted the partnership with the rehabilitation agency, consumer, and employer as well.

CRITERIA:

- What agencies, partnerships, or networks were used to recruit and employ persons with disabilities?
- What specific guidance did they seek that made employment options successful?
- What services were utilized (On the Job Training, job shadowing, assessments, accommodations, etc.)
- How did they learn of your services and what processes were used to introduce and use your program?
- Describe their experience with employing persons with disabilities, outcomes, concerns and suggestions for improvement.

EMPLOYER AWARD FOR SMALL EMPLOYER

This award was created to honor an employer (national, regional and/or local) which has demonstrated exemplary achievement in the recruitment, hiring and retention of persons with disabilities throughout all levels within the company for a Small Employer (under 100 employees).

CRITERIA:

- What agencies, partnerships, or networks were used to recruit and employ persons with disabilities?
- What specific guidance did they seek that made employment options successful?
- What services were utilized (On the Job Training, job shadowing, assessments, accommodations, etc.)
- How did they learn of your services and what processes were used to introduce and use your program?
- Describe their experience with employing persons with disabilities, outcomes, concerns and suggestions for improvement.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling Coalition

The Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling Coalition (VRCC) is a coalition of rehabilitation professional associations that work collaboratively to strengthen and promote services for individuals with disabilities at the intersection of disability and employment. VRCC member associations speak with a common voice to impact systems to maximize effective services.

The National Rehabilitation Association has been a member of the VRCC since its inception in 2014. VRCC has 4 pillars, Research, Professional Development, Rehabilitation Planning and Assessment and Advocacy. Lou Adams, the current Past-President of our Association, and a member of our Public Policy Committee serves as the Chair of the VRCC Advocacy Pillar Committee.

The Advocacy Pillar Committee's focus is communicating essential issues in the field to the systems and decision makers. Facilitate intercommunication among members of the professional organizations toward a common goal. VRCC membership is one of the ways the National Rehabilitation Association expands our scope of influence with legislators and policy makers. work with the other VRCC members. In addition to the National Rehabilitation Association Board having two representatives on the VRCC Board (Russ Thelin and Lou Adams) our National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC), National Association of Service Providers in Private Rehabilitation.

(NASPPR), and the Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators (RCEA) have seats on the Board. We partner with:

- American Board of Vocational Experts (ABVE),
- Commission on Rehabilitation Counselors Certification (CRCC),
- Committee on Rehabilitation Accreditation (CoRA-part of CAAHEP),
- Council of State Administrators Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR),
- International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP),
- National Counselor on Rehabilitation Education, and the
- National Rehabilitation Counseling Association, and the Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals (VECAP)

Membership in the Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling Coalition is one of the many ways that the National Rehabilitation Association expands our voice with legislators, policy makers and the public.

Contributed by Lou Adams

2023 SERNRA ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
MARCH 19 - 22, 2023
ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA | PERDIDO BEACH RESORT
3D: DRIVEN • DETERMINED • DEDICATED

Sunday, March 19th

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	SERNRA Board Meeting

Monday, March 20th

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Exhibits Open
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
10:00 a.m. – Noon	Opening Session
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch: On-Your-Own
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Concurrent Training Sessions
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Concurrent Training Sessions
4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Division Meetings
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	President's Reception

Tuesday, March 21st

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Concurrent Training Sessions
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m. – Noon	Concurrent Training Sessions
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Awards' Luncheon
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Concurrent Training Sessions
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Break and Visit with Exhibitors
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Delegate Assembly
5:30 p.m. – Until	TBA

Wednesday, March 22nd

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Check-out Break
10:30 a.m. – Noon	Closing Session



SERNRA 3D: DRIVEN ▪ DETERMINED ▪ DEDICATED
2023 Southeast Region National Rehabilitation Association
Annual Training Conference



Hosted by the Alabama Rehabilitation Association
Perdido Beach Resort ▪ 27200 Perdido Beach Blvd. ▪ Orange Beach, Alabama
Conference: March 19th – 22nd

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION.

Name _____
(First Name) (Last Name)

Agency/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

REGISTRATION OPTIONS.

Registration fees include handout materials, CEU certificate(s), continental breakfast, refreshment breaks, access to the exhibit hall with professional vendors, awards' luncheon, president's reception. Hotel accommodations are not included in the registration fee.

REGISTRATION OPTIONS & RATES *President's Reception (Monday, 3/20) & Awards' Luncheon (Tuesday, 3/21) Ticket Included	Early Bird Rate Ends March 1st	Standard Rate Ends March 8th	Select All That Apply
Full Conference* 3/19 – 3/22	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275	
Full Conference – Student* 3/19 – 3/22	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225	
Full Conference – Retiree* 3/19 – 3/22	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225	
Additional President's Reception Ticket	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65	<input type="checkbox"/> # of Tickets _____
Additional Awards' Luncheon Ticket	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65	<input type="checkbox"/> # of Tickets _____

PAYMENT TYPE. ☐ Purchase Order (PO) ☐ Check or Money Order

The option to pay by credit card (CC) is coming soon, as CC registrants will be able to register online.

PAYMENT INFORMATION. To pay by PO, Check or Money Order, submit registration fees to **"SERNRA"**.

Mail payment to **Attention:** Courtney Johnson
 2939 Johnson Road SW, Huntsville, Alabama 35805
Tax ID: 63-0743767 ▪ cjohnson@phoenixhsv.org

ADRS will issue a group PO for all staff who are approved to attend.

Cancellation & Refunds. Cancellations received after **March 1, 2023**, are subject to a \$50 cancellation fee. Refunds will not be granted after the conference has begun. To cancel your registration, contact Courtney Johnson at 256-704-0959 or cjohnson@phoenixhsv.org.

Planned Professional Approvals for this Conference *(select all that apply):*

☐ CRC ☐ SW ☐ Nursing ☐ PowerSchool

*Additional Conference details can be found by visiting,
alabamarehabassociation.org*



SERNRA 3D: DRIVEN • DETERMINED • DEDICATED
2023 Southeast Region National Rehabilitation Association
Annual Training Conference



Hosted by the Alabama Rehabilitation Association
Perdido Beach Resort • 27200 Perdido Beach Blvd. • Orange Beach, Alabama
Conference: March 19th – 22nd

Will you be attending the President's Reception on Monday evening?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Will you be attending the Awards' Luncheon on Tuesday?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Accommodation Requests. Every effort will be made to comply with requests submitted by **February 20, 2023**. Requests cannot be guaranteed after the aforementioned deadline. Please list any accommodations needed: _____

Special Dietary Requests. Please list any special dietary requests: _____

Hotel Reservations. A special **2023 SERNRA Annual Training Conference** group rate of **\$185 plus tax, per night** (single/double standard room) has been arranged with the Perdido Beach Resort, located at 27200 Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach, Alabama. You can make a [reservation online](#) or by calling 800-634-8001. Be sure to mention booking ID# **"19629"** when making your reservation. **The special rate will end February 20, 2023** or until sold out, whichever occurs first. Thereafter, the hotel prevailing rate will apply.

Hotel Reservation Cancellation. All hotel reservation cancellations for the **2023 SERNRA Annual Training Conference** within the group block must be made through **Gloria Crider, 256-239-1381** or gloriacrider1955@gmail.com.

Questions? Contact Courtney Johnson, 256-704-0959 or cjohnson@phoenixhsv.org.



*Additional Conference details can be found by visiting,
alabamarehabassociation.org*

Public Policy Committee Updates

Welcome to a new addition to Contemporary Rehab! The National Rehabilitation Association's Public Policy committee is excited to have this opportunity to provide periodic updates on important legislative actions impacting our field and those we serve. We also want your help to make our collective voices heard. This first issue will serve as an introduction to the committee and some of the work we do. Future updates will identify and explore important issues and ways for you to engage directly with legislators, fellow members and the community at large. Current 2023 Public Policy Committee Members are: Dr. Barbara Schoen, Judy Smith, Harold Wasner Co-Chairs, Lou Adams, Board Liaison, Dr. Sameerah Davenport, Martha Johanson, Cantrice Moffitt, Jack Christopher Elliot, Dr. Yuleinys Castillo, Kim Houghton and Courtney Ward-Sutton, Social Media Committee Liaison.

The Committee's 2023 goals and actions include:

Presenting at this year's Disability and Employment Summit. We will be providing a retrospective look at the "100 Years of NRA Advocacy" and have invited Tonia Ferguson, Esq. of The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation to discuss "Advocacy in 118th Congress". We are also excited to have the successful nominations of Senator Tammy Baldwin and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell for the "Lead On" Award, being given for the service the award recipients have provided to our communities. We hope you join us at this year's conference!

Other activities include:

Developing "NRA Issue Statements" to inform all on key 118th Congress legislation. Below is a summary of current and pending topics. Go to Issue Statement | National Rehabilitation Association-NRA to learn more:

- Competitive Integrated Employment Act
- Restore Master's Level Requirement in the Rehab Act (WIOA, Title IV)
- Disability Employment Incentives Act
- SSI Restoration Act
- Better Care, Better Jobs Act
- Work Without Worry Act
- Draft new Issue Statements regarding emerging public policy issues

Additional Goals are:

Supporting meaningful Rehabilitation Counseling MA Program Accreditation with the NRA/RCEA division and other groups; Continuing to build relationships with other VR & Disability Employment related organizations; Improving Coordination with NRA's Social Media Committee; Increasing NRA Member Engagement in NRA public advocacy initiatives.

The NRA Public Policy Team Invites New Participants!

Are you interested in sharing your knowledge and learning about public policy advocacy? Well, we have an opportunity for you! The NRA public policy committee seeks individuals to help inform NRA leaders, members, and the public about important legislative and advocacy issues that impact the lives of people with disabilities. Participants of the committee are asked to actively participate in bimonthly meetings and utilize their skills in exciting ways. If this sounds like the committee for you or you are interested in learning more, please contact:

Judy Smith (Judy.Smith@arkansas.gov)
Barbara Schoen (barbara.schoen@utrgv.edu)
Harold Wasner (hswasner@gmail.com) or
Cantrice Moffitt (cantrice22@hotmail.com)

Action Alert: We thank Dr. Fredric Schroeder for sending us the following alert. This alert is consistent with NRA Public Policy Issue Statement: Support the SSI Restoration Act. Members of the Association are asked to support this action by submitting comments to the SSA by April 17, 2023.

Social Security Administration Proposes to Remove Food Penalties in SSI

On February 15, 2023, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced a proposed rule change that would remove food from its Supplemental Security Income (SSI) In-Kind Support and Maintenance (ISM) calculations. SSI provides essential subsistence benefits to eligible people with disabilities under a set of confusing and, at times, unjust rules that keep people with disabilities in poverty. In 2023, the monthly SSI payment, known as the Federal benefit rate, is \$914 for an individual and \$1,371 for an eligible individual with an eligible spouse.

Under current ISM rules, food or other support given to an individual with a disability may reduce the individual's already meager SSI support by a third. The proposed rule would make it possible for friends and family to buy groceries or treat an SSI recipient to dinner without fear of having the disabled individual's benefits reduced.

It is vital that SSA hears from the public expressing support for the proposed rule change.

You can read the proposed rule and submit a comment here. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/02/15/2023-02731/omitting-food-from-in-kind-support-and-maintenance-calculations>

Comments must be received no later than **April 17, 2023.**

See you in June! NRA's Public Policy Committee.