

# National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns Cultural Network Newsletter

## Summer Issue

June-July 2003, Volume 5, No. 4

### From the Desk of the President

*Tyra R. Hawkins, President*

Greetings NAMRC Members and Supporters,

If you are looking for the best training and professional development opportunities for 2003, look no further than the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual NAMRC Conference July 23-27 in New Orleans. NAMRC has established its reputation for producing **the** training event for Rehabilitation Educators and Practitioners in the United States. This year is no exception!



The conference theme: ***Enhancing Competencies: Cultural Diversity in Rehabilitation Research and Practice.*** We have an unprecedented line-up of speakers and

workshop presenters, who will challenge and inspire you - to not only become better advocates for persons with disabilities, but also to become better people – as part of the NAMRC family!

We have much to celebrate this year because of our strategic plans for the future. The conference is a great opportunity for you to network, renew old friendships, and find out more about our direction as an organization. When you combine great friends, superb professional training, celebration, super accommodations and *excellent* networking opportunities, the **NAMRC CONFERENCE** is the professional development opportunity you can not afford to miss! We hope you will join us in New Orleans!

As always please feel free to contact me with your concerns and suggestions at: work (256) 231-1025 or [thawkins@rehab.state.al.us](mailto:thawkins@rehab.state.al.us) and home (256) 358-4097 or home email - [tjr111855@aol.com](mailto:tjr111855@aol.com). I am accessible to the members of NAMRC at all times.

### **NAMRC Board ponders future with NRA**

While NAMRC was founded within NRA and is a formal Division of NRA, there has been discussion by the membership and by the Board regarding what should be the future relationship with NRA. This discussion was prompted by the recent reorganization of NRA and the interpretation of the NRA Board of Directors that all Divisions must meet certain mandated requirements to remain a NRA Division. For example, these initially included having at least 500 members for continued representation on the NRA Board and the need for Division funds to be maintained in a NRA-held account. However, as implementation of reorganization has proceeded, there have been changes, such as the removal of the requirement that Divisions have at least 500 members to maintain its seat on the NRA Board.

A decision will have to be made soon regarding the direction of NAMRC as a NRA Division. In preparation for that decision, the Board has held forums during the past two years at its annual training conference and has compiled a list of pros and cons. This year, an Association business session will be devoted to this issue during the 2003 conference. The list of pros and cons follows (on page 2, in no particular order/priority):

Dr. Paul Leung, President elect

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Pros</b> (reasons for remaining a division of NRA)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Cons</b> (reasons for leaving NRA; establishing an independent organization)</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retention of the NARMC name, and the potential for NAMRC members to be elected to NRA leadership positions and Board seats</li> <li>2. NRA has a long history</li> <li>3. Access to services and benefits of NRA membership, including state chapter affiliations, publications, Journal of Rehabilitation, newsletter, etc.</li> <li>4. Ability to attend NRA national and state association meetings at member rates</li> <li>5. Avoids the need to establish our own independent support system, i.e., record keeping, membership records and services, liability protection, etc.</li> <li>6. Advantages associated with being a part of a larger, more established (since 1924) organization, i.e., advocacy strength, training and networking opportunities</li> <li>7. Retention of members who have ties to NRA (in some cases, strong ties)</li> <li>8. Status Quo: No need to change</li> <li>9. Ability to influence the multicultural agenda of NRA</li> <li>10. Offers NAMRC opportunity to recruit new members from other divisions who may have an interest in remaining with NRA, but unable to attain the 500 members membership requirement)</li> <li>11. Concerns regarding the financial stability of the Association (i.e., would be have 100% participation by current NAMRC membership if we decided to leave NRA?)</li> <li>12. Loss of ability to control our own funds</li> <li>13. Concerns about the possibility of loss of Board representation, which would possibly result in decline in membership</li> <li>14. Need to start 'all over' (i.e., new organizational name and start-up costs as an independent or as a member of ACA.</li> <li>15. Linkage with the NRA state chapters that many of us have that might be forfeited in a departure from NRA</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Quicker turnaround and more responsive organization</li> <li>2. Potential loss of a NRA board position</li> <li>3. May result in growth (attract new members) without 'baggage' of NRA</li> <li>4. Able to make own decisions</li> <li>5. Use of 100% of membership dues collected</li> <li>6. Clearer focus</li> <li>7. Potential ability to attract members who want NAMRC, but not NRA affiliation</li> <li>8. Able to keep our won books (i.e., our monies stay with NAMRC and not transferred to NRA for holding and doling out as we need)</li> <li>9. Autonomy of organization</li> <li>10. Control of our own affairs</li> <li>11. Apparent trend toward not involving NAMRC members on key NRA committees and functions</li> <li>12. Questions and concerns about the core mission/purpose of NAMRC</li> <li>13. Concerns about the possibility of future internal management of divisions by the NRA Board</li> <li>14. Need to start 'all over' (i.e., new organizational name and start-up costs as an independent or as a member of ACA.</li> </ol>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NAMRC Mission Statement</b></p> <p><b>NAMRC is a diverse group whose mission is to advocate for the rehabilitation needs of multicultural persons with disabilities; ensure the provision of quality and equitable services; and enhance the development of multicultural rehabilitation professionals.</b></p>

Are you registered yet?

NAMRC 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
July 23-27

W New Orleans Hotel  
New Orleans, LA

For Reservations, call  
(800) 522-6963 or (504) 525-9444

It is almost here!

Don't be left out of the good  
times, professional development  
opportunities, networking, and of  
course, *good food* in the Big Easy!

#### **NAMRC Board Representative Report**

The search for a new NRA Executive Director continues. Search Committee Chair John Lui recently announced that more than 80 applications had been received for the position.

The Search Committee is currently reviewing the applications and will select a group for telephone interviews, followed by face-to-face interviews with the finalists later this summer. President McConnell plans on interviewing the finalists, as identified by the Search Committee and then make a recommendation to the NRA Board.

The NRA Board meets in mid-July, prior to our conference in Washington, DC. An update, on the search process, will be provided as part of the membership meeting in New Orleans.

*Carl Flowers*  
*NAMRC Representative to the NRA*

#### **Proposed Constitutional revisions on the Web for review**

The NAMRC Constitution Committee has been working to revise the by-laws of the Association, which is required as part of the NRA restructuring. Under the NRA plan, divisions will not have constitutions, but will have by-laws, which consistent with the NRA constitution, and pertaining to their division.

Revised by-laws are available on the NAMRC website for review. Membership will vote on approval of the revisions as part of the Business Meeting at the Conference in New Orleans. Members are encouraged to download the document, read and come prepared to discuss and vote at the July meeting.

#### **2004 Conference site to be decided**

The NAMRC Board is seeking still seeking membership input on sites for the 2004 NAMRC Conference. Atlanta, Denver, Memphis and St. Louis are among the locations that have been mentioned and about which preliminary information has been solicited.

While the preference is to have the conference in a state where the Association has a state chapter, it is not a requirement. If you have a preference for any of these locations, and wish to suggest other possible locations within your state (i.e., serving as host state chapter), contact President Hawkins at (256) 231-1025 or send and email to [tjr11855@aol.com](mailto:tjr11855@aol.com) or [Thawkins@rehab.state.al.us](mailto:Thawkins@rehab.state.al.us).



New Orleans is  
The Big Easy

The National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC) publishes this newsletter.  
Editor: Carl Flowers, Rh. D.

Submissions to the Cultural Network Newsletter should be in MS Word (preferred) or Word Perfect. Submissions may be mailed (on disk) or sent to the Newsletter Editor, via email, to Cflowers@siu.edu. Photos should be submitted as JPEG files. Contact information should be included with your submissions. The deadline for submissions is August 15 for the September issue.

Other submission date deadlines are: August 10 for the September 2003 issue

April 11 for the May 2003 issue

May 15 for the June-July 2003 issue

September 12 for the October 2003 issue

December 15 for the January 2004 issue

Mailing Address

Dr. Carl Flowers, Newsletter Editor

Rehabilitation Institute

Mail Code 4609

Southern Illinois University

Carbondale IL 62901-4609

NAMRC Cultural Network Newsletter  
c/o Rehabilitation Institute  
Mail Code 4609  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
Carbondale, IL 62901-4609

Postage