

National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns Cultural Network Newsletter

Winter Issue

January 2003, Volume 5, No. 1

From the Desk of the President

Tyra R. Hawkins, President

Happy New Year to all
NAMRC Members and Supporters

It is a sincere pleasure for me to begin my presidency. As a way of introduction, I will provide a brief history of my professional experiences and what led to my present position as President of the National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC).

I received my undergraduate degree from Talladega College in Rehabilitation Education and my master's degree from Florida State University in Visual Disabilities. I am employed with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Service/Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind as a Rehabilitation Teacher for the Blind and am a certified Rehabilitation Teacher and Orientation and Mobility Specialist. I have been a member of the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) and Alabama Rehabilitation Association (ARA) since 1978 and have previously served on the ARA Board in the following offices: President of the Rehabilitation Instructor's Division, Secretary, and Board Member. As one of the founders of the Alabama Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (AAMRC), I have had the pleasure of serving as the Secretary, Board Member and President. My service within NAMRC includes Secretary, Board Member,



Conference Chair, and Representative to NRA, Board Chair, and now, President. Additionally, I currently serve on the NRA Executive Committee and Board Member-at-Large on the NRA Board.

NAMRC is a diverse group whose mission is to advocate for the rehabilitation needs of multicultural persons with disabilities to ensure the provision of quality and equitable services and to enhance the development of multicultural rehabilitation professionals. This organization shall promote and advocate a greater understanding of the needs of multicultural populations with disabilities and to assist multicultural populations in becoming self-sufficient and reaching their highest level of attainment in society. The mission and vision of NAMRC was established over thirty-three years ago, and the concerns that our founding members established are still valid today.

I have very large shoes to fill in succeeding Dr. Carl Flowers, who has done a sterling job during his term as President. On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of NAMRC, I would like to thank him for his unstinting efforts. As my appointee as NAMRC Representative to the NRA Board of Directors, Dr. Flowers and I will continue to work closely together.

Following is a brief outline of the goals and visions that the NAMRC Board of Directors has undertaken or under consideration:

- NAMRC will finalize a revised and updated version of our constitution
- NAMRC will be referred to as the "premier" division within NRA
- NAMRC leadership and members will actively participate in state, regional, and national NRA conferences, and various NAMRC partnerships

Continued on Pg 2

In this Issue

Message from the President	1
NRA Board Representative Report	2
NRA Governmental Affairs Conference	3, 4
Conference 2003 Update	3
Rehabilitation Education Position Vacancy	5
Officer and Board Member contact information	5

*From the Desk of the President
Continued from Pg 1*

- NAMRC will continue to increase its membership (we currently have 468 members)
- NAMRC will have its first student representative on the Board of Directors
- NAMRC will continue with additions of new state chapters and the revitalization of former state chapters
- NAMRC will have up to date membership information on our web page
- NAMRC will plan for a Board of Directors *Strategic Planning Retreat*

*NOW THERE ARE A FEW THINGS
WE NEED FROM YOU!*

- Your continued support in the form of membership renewal to NRA/NAMRC
- Your commitment to the mission of NAMRC
- Your assistance in the recruitment of new members and the retention of current members
- Your active participation at the state, regional, and national NRA training conferences
- Your commitment to seek election and appointment to various offices on the state, regional, and national levels within NRA/NAMRC
- Your assistance in mentoring our NAMRC student membership
- Your continued support of and participation in the annual NAMRC training conference
- Your *opinions and your visions* regarding NAMRC's future
- Your time in visiting the NAMRC web-site at <http://www.rcepv.siu.edu/namrc> (*bookmark this site as **namrc.org** for future reference*)

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the NAMRC Board and State Chapters for their loyal support and continued assistance. Please feel free to contact me at the following: work (256) 231-1025, home (256) 358-4097, email addresses thawkins@rehab.state.al.us (work) and tjr111855@aol.com (home).

I am accessible to NAMRC members at all times.

Respectfully,

Tyra Rice Hawkins, MS, CO&MS, CRT
President NAMRC

NAMRC Board Representative Report

In somewhat of a surprise, NRA Executive Director Michelle Vaughan recently announced her intent to resign her position with NRA. Luckily for NRA, Michelle is NOT leaving any time soon. As a matter of fact, Michelle has agreed to remain as long as needed for the Association to search for and select an appropriate replacement, and to ensure a smooth transition. NRA President John Lui's recent email to the divisions included the following: "With her involvement with NRA for the last ten years, Michelle is definitely committed to this (assistance in finding her replacement). Her commitment to NRA is well known and she does care very much for this organization personally and professionally. "

The outgoing NRA Executive Committee (including past presidents John Lui, Steve Autrey; President Bob McConnell and Treasurer Mark Anderson) will serve as the Search Committee. I have been appointed, by President McConnell, to the Search Committee, and will keep our membership informed of the process through this newsletter. I would also suggest that you check the NAMRC website at <http://www.rcepv.siu.edu/namrc> (bookmark this site as [namrc.org](http://www.namrc.org) for future reference) for updates on the search, including a position description (for any interested members) when it becomes available.

In other news,

- The NRA Governmental Affairs conference is rapidly approaching, March 9-11 in Alexandria, VA. Joanne Wilson, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Commissioner has been confirmed as the Keynote Speaker for Sunday, March 9 and Allan Bergman, President and CEO of the Traumatic Brain Injury Association will also attend to discuss advocacy and advancing our agenda on the Hill. Tentative plans for Monday include, among others, visits to representatives (or staff) from the authorizing, and perhaps appropriations, House and Senate Committees to discuss the forthcoming reauthorization of WIA.

*I hope to see many of you at the
NRA Governmental Affairs meeting*

- NRAONE is moving forward with efforts to compile information on Divisional finances in anticipation of the transition to NRA internal control of all divisional accounts, as part of the reorganization.

*Carl Flowers
NAMRC Representative to the NRA
2003 NRA Executive Committee Member*

2003 Conference Update

As you know, the theme for this year's conference in New Orleans is **Enhancing Competencies: Cultural Diversity in Rehabilitation Research and Practice**. Co-chairs Dr. Brenda Cartwright and Sherry Billings continue their efforts in developing an informative and entertaining three days in New Orleans, LA; the *Big Easy*. The site for the conference is the W New Orleans Hotel at 333 Poydras St., New Orleans, and the dates are July 23-27.

Conference Program Chairs Drs. Chandra Donnell and Yolanda Edwards are receiving and proposals for conference presentation daily and will be selecting programs which serve the varied interests on NAMRC members and conference attendees.

Three pre-conference workshops will be offered on Wednesday, July 23, with the actual conference beginning on Thursday, July 24. The downloadable registration form, along with more details on the pre-conference workshops, will be available on the NAMRC website beginning in mid-February: <http://www.rcepv.siu.edu/namrc> (*bookmark this site as **namrc.org** for future reference*).

For specific questions and/or ideas regarding the conference, or if you still wish to volunteer for any committee(s), contact Dr. Brenda Cartwright at drbcartwright@yahoo.com or Sherry Billings at sherry.billings@dc.gov.

NAMRC offers scholarship for NRA Governmental Affairs conference in DC

As a follow-up to information in the last newsletter, NAMRC is accepting applications from members interested in receiving financial assistance to attend the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) Governmental Affairs conference in Alexandria, VA, March 9-11.

The eligibility criteria are: a) applicant must be a member in good standing with NRA/NAMRC; b) must be attending the NRA Governmental Affairs conference for the *first time*; and c) applicant must submit a personal statement explaining his/her expectations from attending the conference and the perceived benefits of attendance and participation on the your local NAMRC/NRA or university program.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Feb. 1, with recipients to be notified by Feb. 10 to allow

time for registration before the Early Bird registration cut off. The application form is provided on Page 4 of this newsletter.

Conference proposal deadline approaching!

Final reminder that the NAMRC Conference 2003 Program Committee is still accepting proposals in support of this year's theme: "**Enhancing Competencies: Cultural Diversity in Rehabilitation Research and Practice**." The goal of the conference is to emphasize the growth and maturity of the profession by focusing on career and professional development concerns of rehabilitation professionals across a variety of service domains. For additional information, check the NAMRC Website at <http://www.rcepv.siu.edu/namrc/> (bookmark this site as **namrc.org**) or contact Dr. Chandra M. Donnell, C.R.C. NAMRC Conference Program Committee Co-Chair
The University of Memphis
Phone: 901/678-4820
Email: cdonnell@memphis.edu



NAMRC Mission Statement

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.

NAMRC/NRA Governmental Affairs Scholarship Application

NAMRC has established a scholarship award to assist a *first time* NAMRC member in attending the National Rehabilitation Association annual Governmental Affairs meeting March 9-11, 2003 in Alexandria, VA. To be considered for the award to support your attendance/participation in the conference, complete this application and submit to:

Governmental Affairs Conference Award, C/O Tyra Hawkins, Alabama Rehabilitation Services, 1105 Woodstock, Anniston, AL 36105, Fax # (256) 231-4852.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Feb. 1, with recipients to be notified by Feb. 10.

A) Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

First Governmental Affairs Conference? Yes _____ No _____

Contact information: Home _____ Work _____

Email Address: _____ Fax _____

NRA/NAMRC Membership Number: _____

B) Employer/University

Employe/University: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

C) Supporting Information

Applicant may request up to the amount of the Early Bird registration fee for the conference.

Amount being requested from NAMRC: \$ _____

Applicants are encouraged to contact their local chapters, employers and/or university departments for additional support.

Have you requested financial assistance from your local chapter employers and/or university department?

Yes ___ No ___ If yes, how much is being contributed? \$ _____

NOTE: *The registration fee for applicants awarded recipients will be paid directly to NRA by NAMRC in behalf of the recipient. Should I decide not to attend, after receiving the award, I agree to notify NAMRC before March 1, 2003 to allow transfer of award/registration to another applicant, as needed. I understand that recipients, who accept the NAMRC award, but fail to attend and/or notify NAMRC, before March 1, 2003 of their decision not to attend, will be expected to reimburse the Association.*

I understand and agree to this provision: _____

Please submit a personal statement of your expectations from attending the conference and the benefits of attendance/participation to your local NRA/NAMRC chapter. *Use additional sheets as necessary*

**Officer and Board Contact Information
NAMRC Officer and Board Contact Information
(2002-2003)**

President
Tyra Hawkins
thawkins@rehab.state.al.us or tjr111855@aol.com

President-elect
Dr. Paul Leung
pleung@scs.unt.edu

Secretary
Geraldine Burton
gburton@rehab.state.al.us

Treasurer
Felicia Hunter
fhunter@goodwilldetroit.org

Past President
Carl Flowers, Rh.D.
Cflowers@siu.edu

Board Members
Karen Anderson
Kaanderson@ars.state.ar.us

Wayne Barbour
wbarbour@mc.cc.md.us

Peter Benavidez
pbenavidez@blindnesssupport.com

Brenda Cartwright, Ph.D.
drbcartwright@yahoo.com

Gail Faulkner
FaulknerGF@aol.com

Eddie Glenn, Ph. D.
eeglenn@compuzone.net

L. Robert McConnell, Ph.D.
lrobertmcon@voyager.net

Keith Wilson, Ph.D.
kbw4@psu.edu

Committee Chairs and Other Contacts

Membership Chair
Brenda Cartwright, Ph.D.
drbcartwright@yahoo.com

Legislative Network Representative
Pbarrett@rehab.state.al.us

Website Editor
W. Scott Forbes, Rh.D.
wsforbes@siu.edu

**Assistant Professor in Rehabilitation Counseling,
University at Buffalo– Fall 2003**

The Department of Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology seeks a tenure-track Assistant Professor, Rehabilitation Counseling, for its CORE accredited masters degree program. Responsibilities include 1. Teaching in the rehabilitation program and supervision of practicum and internship, 2. Conduct a program research and publish in professional journals and other scholarly outlets, 3. Academic advisement, guidance of student research projects, 4. University and Professional service and commitment to working collaboratively within the department, Graduate School of Education, and the rehabilitation community. Applicants must possess a CRC or be CRC eligible and demonstrate the ability to provide quality instruction in rehabilitation counseling courses. Candidates must have a doctorate in Rehabilitation Counseling, Rehabilitation Psychology or closely related area. Strong academic credentials that reflect achievement or promise of scholarly productivity required. The University at Buffalo is SUNY's largest and most comprehensive university and a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU). The Department of Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology is one of three in the Graduate School of Education. Screening begins on February 15, 2003 and continues until the position is filled. The University at Buffalo offers a competitive salary for a 10-month academic appointment, with summer teaching available. The starting date is August 15, 2003. Nominations and applications, including vitae, graduate transcripts, journal reprints, and three letters of reference should be sent to Dr. Timothy P. Janikowski, Search Committee Chair, 409 Baldy Hall, University at Buffalo - SUNY, Buffalo, NY, 14260. For more information, email Dr. Janikowski at tjanikow@buffalo.edu. For department and program information, go to: <http://www.gse.buffalo.edu/DC/CEP/index.html>

The State University of New York at Buffalo is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to increasing representation of minority groups and women and particularly encourages applicants from these groups.

July 24-27
NAMRC 11th Annual Conference
W New Orleans Hotel
New Orleans, LA
Mark your Calendars – NOW!

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 for the January 2003 issue is December 15, 2002. Other submission date deadlines are:

February 7 for the March 2003 issue

April 11 for the May 2003 issue

May 15 for the July 2003 issue

September 12 for the October 2003 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