

National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns Cultural Network Newsletter

Conference Edition

August 2004, Volume 7, No. 4

From the Desk of the President

Tyra R. Hawkins

Greetings!

The 12th Annual NAMRC Training Conference in Chicago was a BIG SUCCESS! I am truly grateful for the



countless hours of preparation and devotion displayed by the conference chairperson, committee members, NAMRC Board, presenters, and

volunteers. The conference evaluations and wrap-up session continued to reflect that NAMRC is truly focused on its mission.

In the event that you were unable to attend the annual membership meeting in Chicago the following are a view highlights from that meeting: I along with the NAMRC Board of Directors updated membership on the achievements of targeted goal areas outlined in NAMRC's Strategic Plans for the Future. The NAMRC Board continues to solicit your input as we continue to move forward in our strategic plans for the organization future. The revisions to the NAMRC Bylaws were voted on and approved.

This issue of the *Cultural Network Newsletter* contains a call for nominations for the upcoming NAMRC election. I would like to encourage you to get involved by seeking a

position on the NAMRC Board (the specific duties and qualifications are listed).

In the very near future you should receive in the mail your ballot for the upcoming NRA elections NAMRC is please to announce that Dr. Carl Flowers is a candidate for the office of president-elect and would appreciate your support. I would like to encourage you to take time from your busy schedule to vote.

And finally, please mark October 14-17, 2004 on your calendar for the upcoming annual training conference of the National Rehabilitation Association, which will be held in Philadelphia, PA. The NAMRC membership meeting will be held on Thursday, October 14, from 1:30-2:30 PM.

As always please feel free to contact me with your concerns and suggestions at: work (256) 231-1025 thawkins@rehab.state.al.us and home (256) 358-4097 tjr111855@aol.com It is my goal to be accessible to the members of NAMRC at all times.

Tyra Rice Hawkins, MS, RTC, CO&M
NAMRC President

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Call for Nominations for Officers Board and Committees

Members interested in serving NAMRC are invited to seek election as an Officer, to the Board of Directors, or to volunteer for service on a committee. Elections will be held this fall to elect the President-elect, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as four members on the Board of Directors, and the Representative to the NRA Board for two-year terms (2005-2007). Members may self-nominate or nominate other members of the Association.

The duties of the officers are as follows:

President-elect (for two-year term, January 1, 2005-December 31, 2007)

Assumes the duties of the President in his/her absence. Automatically becomes President following the term of office of the incumbent president. Becomes President in the event of incumbent's inability to fulfill term (i.e., resignation, death)

Secretary (for two-year term to begin January 1, 2005)

At all meetings, have available copies of By-laws and lists of Standing Committees and records attendance; maintain up-to-date list of active Association members Records minutes of all Association and Board of Directors meetings Provides copies of minutes of all meetings to the Board members in a timely fashion Mails notices of Association or Board meetings

Treasurer (for two-year term to begin January 1, 2005)

Maintains custody of all Association funds Handles all deposits and pays invoices at the direction of the Board Prepares financial report for all meetings Prior to Annual meeting, prepares all records and vouchers for audit

NOTE: Association members, who have previously served on the Board of Directors or Chaired a Standing or

Special Committee, for at least one year prior to date of election or date of the last Annual Business Meeting, are eligible to seek election as an Officer

Board of Directors (Four directors serve a two-year term to begin January 1, 2005)

Conducts necessary business between meetings of the Association; establish policies and procedures relative to the Association and meet at the call of the President or Board Chair, and

- a) Conducts necessary business between meetings of the Association
- b) Reports to the Association membership on all business
- c) Establishes policies and procedures relative to the Association
- d) Fill vacancies which occur between elections
- e) Meets at the call of the President
- f) Shall serve on a standing, special, conference or workshop committee

NOTES: 1. The Board usually meets a minimum of four to six times during the year, i.e., NAMRC Annual Conference and NRA National Meeting - as well as on periodically scheduled conference calls 2. Any Board member absent from more than two Board meetings within a calendar year is subject to removal from the board.

Representative to the NRA Board: *Representative serves a two year term, 2005-2007.*

The Representative to the NRA Board may be an active Board member with full voting privileges or a Board member ex-officio (without full voting privileges). The NRA representative attends NRA Board meetings on behalf of the Association and represents the interest of the Association at the NRA Board meetings; and communicates NRA issues to the Board and the Association.

Student Representative to the NAMRC Board:
Representative serves a one-year term, beginning with the fall semester of the student's academic year.

Acts as liaison between the student members and the NAMRC Board of Directors:

Makes recommendations relative to student interests and matters regarding programs and professional development

Represents and communicates the interests of student members of the Association

To nominate an individual or to self-nominate, send an email to Cflowers@siu.edu. The Deadline for nominations is September 30, 2004

Student Representative Report

Silvio S. Reyes

Greetings! I am sure I echo that of my fellow Board members when I share that this year's NAMRC Conference was truly memorable. In recognizing our stellar student members, I would like to congratulate those that have secured excellent internships as they advance toward graduation in the upcoming semesters: honorable mention of Ms. Cozetta Shannon of the University of Memphis. Also, I must issue commendations for the huge attendance of students from the respective Rehabilitation programs throughout the nation: Langston University, Jackson State University, South Carolina State University, University of Memphis, and Howard University, just to name a few. I wish you all the best your studies and professional development during the upcoming school year. If you have any information that you would like shared in the upcoming newsletters, please feel free to contact at sreyes@siu.edu.

A Loss for NAMRC

The NAMRC family is sorry to report the passing Henry Williams, a pioneer in the fight for minority involvement in NR NAMRC sends its heart felt condolences to his wife Sheila Williams



Reflecting on the 2004 Conference

Drs. L. Robert McConnell and Carl Flowers
Conference Co-Chairs

The 2004 NAMRC National conference, “*Multiculturalism in the Forefront: Leadership, Innovation and Change*” convened in Chicago from July 21-25. The approximate 150 participants included a diverse, multiethnic, multicultural and multi-geographic mixture of practitioners, educators and students (nearly 50) - from states ranging from Hawaii to Florida, and Wisconsin to Texas. Aside from the host state, led by Illinois Rehabilitation Association President Gary Rainaldi and staff from the Illinois Department of Human Services, the largest contingent of attendees at the conference came from the state of Oklahoma, followed closely by the state of Arkansas. Attendees were exposed to an offering of 30 varied workshops, with content addressing issues germane to serving American Indians, Asian Hispanics, Arab, and African Americans and other underserved populations. Workshops and programs targeted at supervisors, practitioners, educators and higher education students in rehabilitation programs were included among the workshops, as topics ranging from outreach to service delivery, to counseling, to career development and mentoring, leadership development, along with a focus on a variety of disability groups. Workshops were complimented by a number of informative poster displays that were presented during the opening poster session and reception.

Early arrivals for the two Wednesday pre-conference sessions had an opportunity to gain additional CEU's while receiving some very

practical knowledge. Dan Hopkins and Ellen Chesley led an informative full-day session on the “Grants Game”, designed to enhance participant’s success in acquiring federal grants. During the morning, a separate session on CORE site reviewer training, conducted by Don Linkowski, prepared attendees to serve as reviewers of graduate Rehabilitation programs seeking CORE accreditation. The opening general session was an inspirational and moving tribute to the late Dr. Sylvia Walker of Howard University. The tribute which included a video presentation and comments from Paul Leung, Bobbie Adkins, Ellen Chesley, Dan Hopkins, Madan Kundu and Shirley Ball. Ms. Ball, Dr. Walker’s mentee from Howard University, acknowledged her consistent advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities, her mentoring of minority professionals, and her research addressing the unique issues of persons with disabilities from diverse racial/ethnic communities. Dr. Walker, served as director of the Howard University, rehabilitation research and training center, was a presidential appointee to the President’s Committee on Employment of People with disabilities, a recipient of the NAACP Benjamin Hooks, “Keeper of the Flame” award, and a long time supporter of the NAMRC Division of NRA. It was stated that “ Dr Walker encouraged young people with and without disabilities to take on leadership roles.....she not only promoted but lived the philosophy of inclusion, and.....Without physical sight, but with great vision Dr. Walker came, saw and conquered multiple adversaries to make this world a better place for all humanity.”

NAMRC members were recognized for their outstanding achievements during the award luncheon in the following categories:

- **Dr. Sylvia Walker Education Award:** Dr. Brenda Cartwright, University of Hawaii, Manoa
- **Bobbie Atkins Research Award:** Dr. Brenda Cartwright, University of Hawaii, Manoa
- **T. K. Bridges Practitioner Award:** Ms. Alvita McNeal (Georgia)
- **Organizational Award:** Dan Hopkins and Associates (Colorado)

- **Virgie Winston Lifetime Achievement Award:** Dr. L. Robert McConnell (Michigan)
- **Student of the Year:** Heather Brostrand, Southern Illinois University
- **Partnership Award (A new award for 2004):** Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation(CANAR), Treva Roanhorse - President
- **President’s Award:** Dr. Carl Flowers

In addition, the first NAMRC student graduate scholarship award of \$1500 was presented at the luncheon to Ms. Lakeysha McLaurin, a student in Rehabilitation Counseling at Michigan State University. Ms. McLaurin who was selected based on her GPA, letters of recommendations, and essay paper, presented her paper on the special issues surrounding the culture of deafness. Both a graduate and an undergraduate scholarship award are available annually to qualified student members of the association. Based on her presentation, Ms. McLaurin has been invited to present her paper at the annual CANAR conference this fall in Seattle.

Informative sessions and networking were complimented by the exciting sites, sounds and taste of Chicago and the surrounding area. Activities included, music at the House of Blues, food from the Carson’s, the local “rib shack”, shopping at the Water Tower Place and all along the Magnificent Mile. For those feeling 'lucky', games of chance were available at casinos in nearby Hammond, IN.

Plans are underway for the 2005 conference in historic and culturally rich San Antonio, Texas. Hold the dates, July 20-24, 2005 and plan to join us along the famous River Walk and the site of the Alamo. For more information on San Antonio, check out their web site at <http://www.sanantoniocvb.com>, and check the NAMRC website in the coming weeks for more on the 2005 conference, including an array of photos, at our web site at namrc.org

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