

National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns Cultural Network Newsletter

Winter Issue

January 2004, Volume 6, No. 1

From the Desk of the President

Tyra R. Hawkins

Greetings and Happy New Year!

A change from one year to the next does not mean that the mission and goals of the National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns have or will ever change. It means that we, as an Association, are dedicated as a true voice and committed to advocating for the rehabilitation needs that face multicultural persons with disabilities *again* this year. It is these challenges, no matter how great or small, that continue to strengthen us as an association. I am committed to face these challenges with the strength and determination of NAMRC's founding fathers, and I know that NAMRC can count on all of you.

As of January 1, the NAMRC Board of Directors, with the approval of the National Rehabilitation Association Board of Directors, have increased our membership dues by five dollars. This increase was necessary due to the actions of the NRA Board of Directors who now have assessed each NRA affiliate at seven dollars per member for such services as: renewal notice to membership,



membership recruitment, the use of publication in the *Contemporary Rehab*, the management of affiliate funds, the publication of affiliate newsletters, the use of NRA staff, etc. All NRA affiliates will be assessed seven dollars regardless of whether these services are requested are

utilized by the affiliate. Therefore, in order for this association to continue with our goals the NAMRC Board of Directors had no other option but to increase our membership dues.

Please be sure to mark your calendar for the 12th Annual NAMRC Conference scheduled for July 21-25 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, IL. Drs. Carl Flowers and Robert McConnell will serve as conference Co-Chairs. Our theme this year is ***Multiculturalism in the forefront: leadership, innovation and change.***

It is with great pleasure that I announce the formation of NAMRC's first organizational partnership with the Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR). The missions of CANAR and NAMRC are so closely related that the formation of this partnership is a win-win commitment for both associations. To learn more about CANAR please visit the NAMRC website which now provides a linkage to the CANAR website.

In closing please accept wishes from the NAMRC Board of Directors and myself to you for a healthy, peaceful, happy and prosperous New Year.

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I hope that the coming year will be more productive for all, with less troubles, worries, and artificial barriers.

As always I strive to be accessible to the members of NAMRC; therefore, I can be reached at the following telephone numbers and email addresses (256) 231-1025 (office) and (256) 358-4097 (home), thawkins@rehab.state.al.us or tjrl11855@aol.com

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

NAMRC Representative to the Board

I want to thank Association members for their support in my recent election to the NRA National Board. While I can no longer serve as the NAMRC Representative to the Board, members can be assured that NAMRC will remain in my collective processes as issues are addressed by the NRA Board. President Hawkins is currently considering possible appointments, as NAMRC Rep, to the NRA Board.

In Board news, the NRA Board voted to accept the NRAONE Committee recommendation committee for a reallocation of cost from the NRA to each division equal to \$7 per division member for core services being provided to the division. While discussion indicated a wide division among the Board members on the ramifications of an affirmative vote on this matter, including viability issues for some divisions, it was approved by those voting Board members. **For the record, NAMRC voted against the motion.**

Carl Flowers
NAMRC Representative to the NRA Board

New Board Members Elected

The Association is pleased to welcome four new members to the NAMRC Board, following the elections Fall elections. The new Board members are

Sherry Billings (DC)
Belen Burkhalter (OK)
Dr. Chandra Donnell (TN)
Ralph 'Skip' Keil (TN)

The new board members will serve two year terms (2004-2005). Contact information on these and other NARMC officers and Board members is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Other NAMRC members interested in serving the Association by serving a committees (standing as ad-hoc) may contact President Tyra Hawkins or President-elect Paul Leung to let then know of your interest.

2004 Conference Update

As you probably know by now from President Hawkins' comments that the theme for this year's conference in Chicago is ***Multiculturalism in the forefront: leadership, innovation and change.***

Co-chairs Drs. Bob McConnell continue their efforts in developing an informative and entertaining three days in Chicago, IL: the Windy City. The site for the conference is the Hyatt-Regency on East Wacker St. in downtown Chicago.

Conference Program Chairs Drs. Sharon Brown and Shirley Brown have distributed the call for proposals far and wide and expect a wide array of proposals and sessions at the conference.

The downloadable registration form, along with more details on possible pre-conference workshops, will be available on the NAMRC website by Mid-March or on the Association website at <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 Bob McConnell at lrobertmcon@voyager.net or Carl Flowers at Cflowers@siu.edu.

NAMRC offers scholarship for NRA Governmental Affairs conference in DC

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 7-10.

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 paper addressing: the potential impact of your attendance at the 2004 NRA Governmental Affairs and how it will benefit the advocacy efforts of multicultural consumers with disabilities

The deadline for receipt of applications is Feb. 6, with recipients to be notified by Feb. 10. The application form is provided on page 4 of this newsletter.

Conference Call for Proposals Available

The NAMRC Conference 2004 Program Committee is now accepting proposals in support of this year's theme ***Multiculturalism in the forefront: leadership, innovation and change.***

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 Conference Co-Chairs Robert McConnell at Robertmac@voyager.net or Carl Flowers at cflowers@siu.edu.

Student Representative Report

Happy New Year to all as you begin your Spring Semester and excel further toward graduation. In an attempt to have more student participation in NAMRC affairs, a student listserv has been developed. The listserv will allow students from respective institutions to openly communicate amongst each other as well share information regarding student involvement in organizations, potential job leads that are otherwise not publicized, and upcoming events. The listserv will be linked to the NAMRC website at <http://www.rcepv.siu.edu/namrc/> as NAMRCstudents@yahoo.com.

In other news, I would like to inform everyone that Ralph "Skip" Keil and myself are the new editors for the NAMRC newsletter. Please forward all information to be included in the Newsletter to sreyes@siu.edu or skipk@aeneas.net.

In closing, I would like to welcome the new board members to our illustrious NAMRC organization. I look forward to our collaboration in future endeavors.

Silvio S. Reyes

Student Representative

From The Editors

As of January 2004, Sean and I are the newsletter editors. We want to continue to provide the same quality newsletter that you are use to receiving. To help us with this please continue to submit any entries on time and in the correct format.

This is your newsletter, so any suggestions that you have to improve it please feel free to send them in to either Sean or Skip for consideration and inclusion in the newsletter.

Let's have a great year in NAMRC

Silvio S. Reyes & Skip Keil



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/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 7-9, 2004 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 Ave., Anniston, AL 36207, Fax # (256) 231-4852.**

The deadline for receipt of application is Feb. 6, with recipients to be notified by Feb. 10

A) Personal Information

Name_____

Address_____

Contact Information Home_____ Work_____

Email Address_____ Fax_____

NRA/NAMRC Membership Number_____

First Governmental Affairs Conference? Yes_____ No_____

B) Employer/University _____

Address_____

Telephone Number_____

C) Supporting Information

Applicant may request up to the amount of the conference 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 February 20, 2004 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 February 20, 2004 of their decision not to attend, will be expected to reimburse the Association.*

I understand and agree to this provision_____

Please submit a two page paper on *The potential impact of your attendance at the 2004 NRA Governmental Affairs and how it will benefit the advocacy efforts of multicultural consumers with disabilities.*

**NAMRC Officer and Board Contact Information
(2004-2005)**

Tyra Rice Hawkins, President
Email address: thawkins@rehab.state.al.us
tjr111855@aol.com

Paul Leung, President Elect
Email address: pleung@unt.edu

Jackie Ferguson, Secretary
Email address: JMFERGERSON@ars.state.al.us

Felicia Hunter, Treasurer
Email address: fhunter@goodwilldetroit.org

Carl Flowers, Past President
Email address: cflowers@siu.edu

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brenda Cartwright
Email address: drbcartwright@yahoo.com

Eddie Glenn
Email address: eeglenn@compuzone.net

Gail Faulkner
Email address: faulknerg@michigan.gov

Silvio Sean Reyes
Email Address: sreyes@siu.edu

Belen Burkhalter
Email address: bcburkhalter@drs.state.ok.us

Chandra Donnell
Email Address: cdonnell@memphis.edu

Sherry Billings
Email address: sherry.billings@dc.gov

Ralph "Skip" Kiel
Email address: skipk@aeneas.net

Publications/Newsletter Editor
Silvio Sean Reyes - Sreyes@siu.edu
Ralph "Skip" Kiel - Skipk@aeneas.net

Committee Chairs and Other Contacts

Membership Chair
Brenda Cartwright, Ph. D. - Drbcartwright@yahoo.com

Legislative Network Representative
Phyllis Barrett - Pbarrett@rehab.state.al.us

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

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MULTICULTURAL
REHABILITATION CONCERNS
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD INFORMATION***



Purpose: to support and encourage minority students who are pursuing careers in rehabilitation and related fields

Eligible applicants

1. NAMRC members
2. Racial/ethnic minority students who are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs in rehabilitation at
3. Core accredited HBCU and minority institutions of higher education, and any other institution of higher education offering a core accredited program

Selection criteria

1. Persons attaining a minimum gpa of 3.3 or better on a 4.0 scale at the graduate level, or a 2.8 level or better at the undergraduate level
2. a completed, 3-5 page response to an essay question developed by the scholarship committee related to multicultural issues.
3. Three letters of reference:
 - 1.) An educator in rehabilitation or a related area,
 - 2.) A community sponsor who is knowledgeable about the student from work as an employee or volunteer in human services, and
 - 3.) Other (non-relative) of applicant's choice.
4. An agreement, as an award winner to attend and present a paper at the annual NAMRC conference.

Amount of award Annually, two awards will be given: an undergraduate recipient award of \$1,500 and a graduate recipient award of \$2,000.

Process Copies of applications are available on the NAMRC website at www.namrc.org. Applications will be accepted between this date and (received or post marked) **by May 1, 2004.**

NAMRC 12^h Annual Conference
Hyatt Regency-Hotel
Chicago, IL
July 21-25
Mark your Calendars – NOW!

The National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC) publishes this newsletter.
Editors: Silvio S. Reyes, MA, and Ralph "Skip" Keil.

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 sreyes@siu.edu or skipk@aeneas.net. Photos should be submitted as JPEG files. Contact information should be included with your submissions. The deadline for submissions for the March 2004 issue is February 15, 2004. Other submission date deadlines are:

April 11 for the May 2004 issue

May 15 for the July 2004 issue

September 12 for the October 2004 issue

Mailing Address

Skip Keil, Newsletter Editor

5785 Hwy 100

Reagan, TN 38368

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