

THE CULTURAL NETWORK

From the Desk of the President

Dr. Paul Leung

Happy New Year! This issue of our newsletter is a first for our Newsletter Editor, Chandra Donnell who is also our President Elect.

Chandra is to be particularly commended for her commitment and dedication to NAMRC. I initially asked if she would take over the Newsletter with the intent that it would soon include a peer review section as the beginning of a multicultural rehabilitation journal. Given her new responsibilities, we may have to rethink where her energies best fit.

By the way the New Year greeting above may be late given the fact that we are into February as you read this though January 29 was the beginning of the Lunar New Year often called Chinese New Year. Using the Chinese astrology, this will be the Year of the Dog and the year 4703. If you were born in 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, or 2006, the Dog is your sign and you possess the best traits of human nature. They have a deep sense of loyalty, are honest, and inspire other people's confidence because they know how to keep secrets. On the other hand, Dog People can be somewhat selfish, terribly stubborn, and eccentric. They care little for wealth, yet somehow always seem to have money. Sometimes, they are cold emotionally and sometimes distant at parties. They can find fault with many things and are noted for their sharp tongues. I think what this means is that Dog people are like all of us - we have our strengths and we have our shadows. However, the bottom line is that Dog people make good leaders. Whether you believe in astrology or not, it is another perspective. If you are born in a Dog year

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(actually any other year as well) you and your abilities are greatly needed by NAMRC.

We have a new website and I hope that all of you have had the opportunity of visiting it soon if you haven't already. It was designed by Joseph Roy of Roytek Consulting who was referred to us by R. J. Truesdell. This is another step forward for NAMRC as our previous site was embedded within the Region V RCEP site at Southern Illinois with Scott Forbes serving as webmaster. NAMRC has appreciated all of the work put in by the RCEP on NAMRC's behalf. As most of you know, Carl Flowers set that up for NAMRC some years ago.

We also welcome new Board members Stacie Robertson, Carl Flowers, Shonda McLaughlin and Jenelle Pitts. We look forward to their contributions. I want to also thank Tyra Hawkins for volunteering to be our NRA representative until the new election.

Finally, I want to highlight our upcoming annual training conference this July in Detroit. Further information is available both in the newsletter and on our website.

Sincerely,

Paul

2006 Election Results

The Association is pleased to welcome four new members to the NAMRC Board and our new president-elect. The new Board members are:

Dr. Chandra M. Donnell – President-Elect (MI)

Dr. Carl Flowers – (IL)

Dr. Shonda McLaughlin – (KS)

Jenelle Pitt, MS, CRC – (MI)

Dr. Stacie Robertson – (IL)

The new board members will serve a two year term (2006–2008). Contact information on all board members appears in the Officer and Board Member Contact Information section of the newsletter. We would like to welcome these dedicated members for offering their support to propel the mission of NAMRC forward over the next two years.

Other NAMC members interested in serving the Association by serving on committees or volunteering for the 14th Annual Conference in Detroit, July 19–23rd, may contact President Paul Leung or President-elect Chandra Donnell to express your interest.

NAMRC Mission Statement

NAMRC is a diverse group whose purpose is to advocate for the rehabilitation needs of multicultural persons with disabilities and equitable services; and enhance the development of multicultural rehabilitation professionals.



*2006 14th Annual
Conference Update!!!*

Reinventing Rehabilitation in a Diverse World: Achieving Professional Excellence

As the world of rehabilitation is constantly changing and evolving, it is imperative that NAMRC remain a constant force promoting education and awareness on the central needs of multicultural rehabilitation consumers and professionals. The theme for the upcoming conference encompasses this continuity and a call to our field to raise the bar on achieving professional excellence.

The time for the 14th Annual Conference is drawing near! The Conference Program Committee and the host chapter, Michigan Association for Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns are hard at work to develop meaningful programming for rehabilitation professionals, students, educators and consumers.

Conference Chairs Fran Howze and Terrie Hylton and the conference committee are diligently working to develop an exciting and engaging conference for us in the Motor City of Detroit!

Conference Program Co-chairs, Drs. L. Robert McConnell and Tennyson Wright along with their committee are hard at work to a truly enriching program. The Call for Proposals is available at our new website at:

www.roytek.net/namrc/conference.

Conference Update Cont'd...

The 14th Annual NAMRC Conference will be held at
The Atheneum Suite Hotel & Conference Center
1000 Brush Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48826
(313) 962-2323

Visit them on the web at: www.atheneumsuites.com

For additional conference information, 2006 Awards Nominations, Scholarship Nominations, Sponsorship forms and Conference Registration, please visit our new web site at: www.roytek.net/namrc/conference for all the latest information!

We look forward to seeing you in Detroit!!!!

NRA Board Report

Submitted by Carl Flowers for Sherry Billings

Executive Director Linda Winslow reported that membership has not had any more substantial declines in the face of the board's decision to withdraw divisional status of the counseling division. Association membership is 6950 as of 11/30/05 (NAMRC membership totals 428 as of November 30, 2005)

Old Business

Linda Winslow reported that the restructuring of NRA is now complete with all divisions having signed formal agreements. NRCA, the last division, had its divisional status withdrawn by the Board at its October Board meeting.

Linda Winslow reported on the 2005 national conference. It was reported that that conference, despite a relatively low attendance, did not end up in the red, and will likely show a small profit margin for the Association. She indicated that the conference practice of allowing speakers to register at ½ price was a factor in conference expenses, along with the customary hotel charges (i.e., food and beverage).

The board was reminded that the 2006 national conference will be held in Orlando, FL (November 8-12) and the 2007 conference in Tucson, AZ.



*Check out NAMRC's
New Web Site!*

NAMRC, along with the assistance of Roytek Consulting, Inc., made significant changes to our web presence. Go to www.roytek.net/namrc for enhanced, user-friendly access to information, useful updates and important news and issues relevant to multicultural persons in the rehabilitation community.

The *Cultural Network Newsletter* will also be featured exclusively on our new site at www.roytek.net/namrc/newsletters.htm. Electronic delivery allows for broader distribution of news relevant to the NAMRC community. However, if you would like to receive the *NAMRC Cultural Network Newsletter* in an alternative format please contact Chandra Donnell with your relevant contact information.

New Business

President Murphy provided an update on the association's plan to establish a new internal counseling division. The board had received and approved provision status for the division, with the constitution and by-laws being provisionally approved by the board.

2006 President Susan Sherman nominated the following persons for the Executive committee: Pat Murphy, Past President; Carl Flowers, President Elect ;Brad Romine, Treasurer; and 3 Board members: Melanie Poole, Doris Illies, and Evan Jones.

2006 President Susan Sherman nominated and the Board approve Bonnie Hawley from Virginia to fill the board member at large seat created by the election of Carl Flowers as President-elect.

Kathleen Wilson thanked the Board for its support during her three year time as an elected leader of the isolation and promised to be available to support the association in the future.

2006 National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns Scholarship Award

Purpose: To support minority students who are pursuing careers in rehabilitation counseling and related fields.

Eligibility: All applicants must be NAMRC members and racial/ethnic minority students who are enrolled in undergraduate or CORE accredited graduate rehabilitation counseling programs.

Selection Criteria: At the graduate level, a minimum of 3.3 GPA on a 4.0 scale OR at the undergraduate level, a minimum of 2.8 GPA on a 4.0 scale. All applicants must submit a four to six (4-6) page response to an essay question developed by the Scholarship Committee focused on multicultural issues. Three (3) letters of recommendation will be reviewed by: **a.** an educator in the field rehabilitation counseling or related area; **b.** a community sponsor who is knowledgeable about the student in an employment or volunteer capacity; **c.** other (non-relative) letter of applicant's choice. Lastly, as an award winner, an agreement must be made to attend and present a paper at the 2006 NAMRC Conference.

Award Amounts: The amount of \$1,000 .00 each will be provided to an undergraduate and graduate recipient.

Process: Applicants must complete a scholarship application, including a statement of current grants, scholarships and financial aid, an official transcript, a response to the essay question and three (3) letters of recommendation.

Essay Question: All applicants must respond to the following question:

“Multicultural persons with disabilities are purported to face unique barriers affecting their employment and integration into society. What do you consider to be their most significant barriers, and how as a rehabilitation professional and change agent might you help overcome them?”

Applications must be received no later than April 20, 2006 and will be formally presented at the 2006 NAMRC Conference held July 19-23 in Detroit, MI.

**For more information on the NAMRC Scholarship Award, please visit our website at www.roytek.net/namrc or contact Scholarship Committee, Chair, Jenelle Pitt at (313) 957-3360 or pittj@michigan.gov.

2006 Conference Call for Proposals

The National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC) is pleased to announce our 2006 national training conference to be held in Detroit, Michigan. NAMRC invites submissions of proposals from rehabilitation practitioners, educators, students, researchers, and clients.

Review and Notification

The deadline for submitting proposals for the 2006 training conference is **February 28, 2006**. You will receive an e-mail to acknowledge receipt of your proposal within two weeks. If you do not, please contact L. Robert McConnell at lrobertmcccon@voyager.net or Tennyson J. Wright at twright@cas.usf.edu. The conference program committee will select proposals and notify prospective lead presenters by **March 31, 2006**.

Content Areas of Presentation

The committee seeks proposals, which address the conference theme on *Reinventing Rehabilitation in a Diverse World: Achieving Professional Excellence*. Proposals will be accepted for research presentations, symposia, and poster presentations. Submissions should represent the following content areas with a multicultural focus:

- *Ethics in a Diverse World*
- *Achieving Professional Excellence in Rehabilitation Research, Leadership and Practice*
- *Forensic Rehabilitation in a Diverse World*
- *Technology in a Diverse World*
- *Service Delivery in A Diverse World; (e.g.), Independent Living, Apprenticeships, Transition Programs, Multi-Agency Partnerships, Special Target Populations, etc.*
- *Case Management in A Diverse World*
- *Evaluation in a Diverse World*

Proposal Outline

To submit a proposal, prepare a document in a rich text format (MS Word) using the following outline and submit the document as an attachment in an e-mail to the conference program committee. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Proposals should be sent to: bob.mccconnell@wmich.edu. The outline must be followed and all information must be provided as requested. Put the title, contact person's name, and page numbers in the header of each page. Easels will be available for posters.

Proposal Format

All proposals must be submitted as an e-mail attachment. The attachment must be in rich text format (MS Word). Submitted proposals should utilize the last name of the lead presenter as the filename. Presenters who submit more than one proposal should number each proposal sequentially after their last name (i.e., smith1.rft, smith2.rft).

*See the full 2006 Call
for Proposals at
www.roytek.net/namrc*

2006-2007

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The National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC) publishes this newsletter.

Editor: Chandra M. Donnell, Ph.D., CRC

Submissions to the *Cultural Network Newsletter* should be in MS Word or .rtf format. Submissions should be made via e-mail to the Newsletter Editor at cdonnell@msu.edu.

Photos should be submitted as JPEG files. Contact information should be included with your submission. Please note that submissions may be edited for length.

The *Cultural Network* Newsletter is published 4 times a year with a special Election issue in December. Remaining Submission deadlines for 2006 are:

April 1	March/April/May Issue
July 1	June/July/August Issue
Oct 1	Sept/Oct/November Issue
Nov 15	December - Election Issue

National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns AWARDS
2006 Call for Nominations

“The NAMRC awards program was established to acknowledge exemplary performance of members of the Association in support of the organization and/or its mission. Annual awards are presented to individuals who have distinguished themselves in the categories identified by the Association. The awards are significant in that they represent recognition by one’s peers, as association members make both the nominations, and final selections.” The award categories are as follows:

Sylvia Walker Education Award, Joyce Keener Meritorious Service Award, Bobbie Atkins Research Award, T. K. Bridges Practitioner Award, Silvio Sean Reyes Student of the Year Award, Organization Award, and Virgie Winston-Smith Lifetime Achievement Award.

All nominees must be members of NAMRC. Nomination forms and letters of recommendation are to be received no later than April 20, 2006.

For more information on NAMRC Awards (e.g. eligibility criteria, history of awards, nominations forms, etc.), please visit the NAMRC website at www.roytek.net/namrc/awards-scholarships.htm or contact Jenelle Pitt at (313) 957-3360 or pittj1@michigan.gov.

Tyra Rice Hawkins, NAMRC Awards Co-Chair
Jenelle Pitt, NAMRC Awards Co-Chair

We're on the Web!
Visit us at:
www.roytek.net/namrc

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