

## **ATRA Awards Program**

### Award Criteria

The ATRA Awards Program is comprised of 11 awards, provided each year at the ATRA Annual Conference and Membership Meeting each fall.

Award Categories:

- I. Distinguished Fellow
- II. Outstanding Professional
- III. Member of the Year
- IV. Individual Citation
- V. Organization/Institution Citation
- VI. Certificate of Recognition
- VII. Frank N. Brasile Clinician of the Year
- VIII. Excellence in Education
- IX. Scholarly Achievement
- X. Chapter Affiliate of the Year
- XI. Advocacy

Criteria for each award are as follows:

### **I. Distinguished Fellow**

This is the highest recognition award given by ATRA. The award recognizes exceptional accomplishments within the field of RT. It will not be given each year unless all designated criteria are met.

#### Qualifications:

- A. Must be a current member of ATRA
- B. Minimum of ten (10) years experience related to RT
- C. Service (at least two of the following)
  1. Distinctive leadership in promotion, organization, and development of a new or unique/innovative type of RT program.
  2. Meritorious service to the profession through the allied fields of the arts, physical education, athletics, health education, science, medicine, psychiatry, psychology, rehabilitations, and/or education.
  3. Exemplary contributions to the RT profession on national, regional, state, and/or local levels.
- D. Leadership (at least two of the following):
  1. Served as an elected officer in a RT organization
  2. Is a member of any RT association committee
- E. Professional research, publications, and presentations (at least two of the following)
  1. Addresses or appearances to group in person, through radio or television pertaining to the field of RT.
  2. Published articles in newspaper, magazines, or journals on topics pertaining to RT
  3. Research which has helped advance the RT profession
  4. Author/co-author or editor of a book on RT or a related field
  5. Contribution to the profession, which has affected philosophy or practice.

## II. Outstanding Professional

This award may be made annually to one member of ATRA. It is the second most prestigious award of ATRA.

### Qualifications:

- A. Must be a current member of ATRA
- B. Minimum of five (5) years experience related to RT

AT LEAST TWO OF THE FOLLOWING:

- C. Service
  - 1. Distinctive leadership in promotion, organization, and development of a new or unique/innovative type of RT program.
  - 2. Meritorious service to the profession through the allied fields of the arts, physical education, athletics, health education, science, medicine, psychiatry, psychology, rehabilitations, and/or education.
  - 3. Exemplary contributions to the RT profession on national, regional, state, and/or local levels.
- D. Leadership
  - 1. Served as an elected officer in a RT organization
  - 2. Is a member of any RT association committee
- E. Professional research, publications, and presentations
  - 1. Addresses or appearances to group in person, through radio or television pertaining to the field of RT.
  - 2. Published articles in newspaper, magazines, or journals on topics pertaining to RT
  - 3. Research which has helped advance the RT profession
  - 4. Author/co-author or editor of a book on RT or a related field
  - 5. Contribution to the profession, which has affected philosophy or practice.

## III. Member of the Year

This award may be made annually to one member of ATRA for outstanding contributions to the organization.

### Qualifications:

- A. Must be a current professional member of ATRA
- B. Has made a significant contribution to ATRA during the preceding year in at least two (2) of the following:
  - 1. Preparing/sponsoring legislation
  - 2. Supporting and promoting ATRA
  - 3. Professional research, writing, and/or presentation
    - A. Personal appearances on radio or TV promoting RT
    - B. Published articles in newspapers, magazines, or journals related to RT
    - C. Research to advance the profession
    - D. Author or co-author or editor of a book related to the field of RT

- E. Contribution which has affected philosophy or practice
- 4. Exceptional active committee work
- 5. Supporting advancement and promotion on RT

#### **IV. Individual Citation**

This citation may be made annually to one non-member of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association. A person is eligible to receive the citation one time only.

##### Qualifications:

Must meet two of the following:

- A. Preparing, sponsoring legislation beneficial to the RT profession
- B. Supporting and promoting RT
- C. Serving as a volunteer in RT (funds or program)
- D. Professional research, writing, or presentations
  - 1. Personal appearance on radio or TV for RT
  - 2. Articles in newspaper(s), magazine(s) or journal(s) about RT
  - 3. Research to advance the profession
  - 4. Author or co-author of a book
  - 5. Contribution, which has affected philosophy or practice

#### **V. Organization/Institution Citation**

**Organization:** An organization is defined as any group who advocates, promotes, and/or supports the delivery of services to persons with disabilities. This includes any public, private, or voluntary group organized under a charter, permit, certificate or incorporation.

**Institution:** Agencies, which are primarily residential in nature but which also provide day or outreach services. The institution's purpose is to provide health, treatment, rehabilitation or other human services, including recreation to persons with disabilities. Only one award will be given each year. This award is not based on the quality of an agency's RT department, staff, or services, but rather on external RT services noted under qualifications.

##### Qualifications:

Must meet at least one of the following:

- A. Promoting Therapeutic Recreation on any level
- B. Developing new techniques in RT
- C. Sponsoring or supporting RT workshops and seminars
- D. Supporting RT professionals through research, holding office, conducting workshops/seminars
- E. Voluntary assistance in RT programs
- F. Preparing and sponsoring legislation of importance to RT
- G. Promoting RT to those typically underserved, regardless of race, religion or sexual preferences

## **VI. Certificate of Recognition**

Awarded for meritorious service that promotes, develops, or implements innovations, expansions, or improvements to RT programs, services, and education. This is for such service not provided under "Member of the Year" or "Distinguished Service" awards.

### Qualifications:

- A. Must be a current member of ATRA
- B. Meritorious service as noted (at least one of the following):
  - 1. Author or co-author of textbook or publication which provides the field of RT with new knowledge that may include innovative programming concepts, assessment and evaluation techniques, quality assurance profiles, or significant research findings.
  - 2. Author/developer of a film, videotape, or other audio/ visual material
  - 3. Outstanding service in completing an involved committee assignment
  - 4. Radio or television appearances before other professionals or lay groups which help to promote the field of RT and/or the provision of recreation services for individuals with disability
  - 5. Author of articles in newspaper(s) or magazine(s), which help to promote the field of RT and/or the provision of recreation services for persons with disability
  - 6. Developing and putting into operation an innovative program of study in a college or university
  - 7. Creating, designing, or manufacturing equipment/apparatus to improve recreation experiences for individuals with and/or without disabilities

## **VII. Frank N. Brasile Clinician of the Year**

This award will recognize the recipient's outstanding contribution to Recreational Therapy through creative and innovative programming in a clinical setting, promotion of the profession, and service to developing professionals.

### Qualifications:

At least two of the following:

- A. Evidence of creative & innovative programming in a clinical setting
  - 1. Case study example of positive outcome with client
  - 2. Creative and/or unique clinical program developed to meet a specific population need
  - 3. Outstanding program development and implementation
- B. Minimum of 3 years full-time employment related to RT
- C. Evidence of promotion of the profession
  - 1. Presentations at RT related conferences
  - 2. Service on a Therapeutic Recreation Board or Committee
  - 3. Serve as an information source on Recreational Therapy (i.e., author of written materials)
- D. Service to upcoming professionals
  - 1. Supervision of student interns

2. Provides "Experience Days" to students allowing them to gain observational or practical experience

### **VIII. Excellence in Education**

Awarded to a clinical agency or institution of higher education that has distinguished itself through outstanding contribution(s) to the RT profession.

Qualifications:

Meets at least two of the following:

- A. Has developed a program promoting RT as a profession and field of study to potential students
- B. Has made unique and significant contribution(s) to the body of knowledge of RT
- C. Has developed exceptional instruction material(s) for RT education
- D. Has developed outstanding curriculum material(s) for professional preparation in RT
- E. Encourages student participation in local, state and national professional organizations
- F. Provides opportunities for students to meet with RT professionals by sponsoring continuing education opportunities, guest lecturers, intern expos, and/or similar functions
- G. Provides opportunities for students to gain professional experiences

### **IX. Scholarly Achievement**

Awarded annually to one member of ATRA who has contributed significantly to the field of knowledge of Recreational Therapy.

Qualifications:

At least three of the following:

- A. Current member of ATRA
- B. Significant contributions to the knowledge and/or understanding of Recreational Therapy; Be specific
- C. Published in RT journals and/or books that are widely used or quoted in the field of Recreational Therapy
- D. Significant record of scholarly presentations at international, national, state and/or regional meetings
- E. Service on the editorial board and/or as reviewer of scholarly submissions to RT journals
- F. Service of scholarly/creative works in a specialized area of Therapeutic Recreation

### **X. Chapter Affiliate of the Year**

This award may be made annually to an outstanding chapter affiliate of ATRA.

Qualifications:

- A. Current Chapter Affiliate of ATRA
- B. Has made significant contributions to the profession during the preceding year in at least two of the following:
  - 1. Supporting the advancement and promotion of RT on the local, state and/or regional level
  - 2. Sponsoring and/or conducting continuing education workshops in local/geographical area
  - 3. Supporting legislative action which is beneficial to the RT profession
  - 4. Contribution, which has affected the philosophy or practice of RT
  - 5. Supporting and promoting ATRA
  - 6. Author/developer of a film, videotape, or other audio/visual material
  - 7. Addresses or appearances to groups, in person, on radio, or television pertaining to the broad field of RT
  - 8. Developing and putting into operation an innovative program or educational venue that positively impacts the profession

### **XI. Advocacy Award**

This award may be made annually to recognize the advocacy efforts on an ATRA member on behalf of the Recreational Therapy profession and the Association. The Federal Public Policy Team will review all applicants for this award and make a recommendation.

#### Qualifications:

- A. Must be an ATRA member in good standing.
- B. Has a consistent record of advocacy on behalf of the Association.
- C. Has served the profession through ATRA committee activities
- D. Has demonstrated efforts in the education of consumers, elected officials, administrators, and/or related allied health professionals.