A Message from ATRA’s President
Hello ATRA Members – Happy Spring!

The Board and I are so excited about all that this year has in store. We are working hard and making some changes—all to better serve you, our members!

As a Board, we’re at our half way mark. Over the coming months we will be taking a hard look at our policies, procedures, and structure; our communications strategies, and more. The ATRA Strategic Plan, adopted in 2013 will guide us in capitalizing on our strengths and shoring up our weaknesses. (If you haven’t read the plan, you can do so here). Read more on this issue on page 3.

Previous surveys show that one of the top goals you identified as critical is to grow the membership and enhance member engagement. Just before our March conference we received the recommendations of our membership consultant, Sue Kindred. She had been busy talking to members (and non-members) to help us figure out the best ways to create an organization that meets the needs of ALL our members as well as those who haven’t yet joined our ranks.

As a Board, we will be exploring ways we can involve our most important asset—YOU—and create a professional association that brings you tremendous value for your participation. And, as we continue to seek a robust and inclusive culture, we encourage you to share your opinions with us.

We are proud to be ATRA’s leaders and we pledge to work hard to make you proud to be an ATRA member.

Debbie Robinson, M.S., CTRS/L, FACHE
ATRA President • debbie@gndhome.com

Resource Review: TherapWii

www.therapwii.nl/

Rachael Borders, CTRS, CBIS • Graduate Student • Temple University
Sophia Kenuk, B.S. • Graduate Student • Temple University
Kelsey Palmer, B.S. • Graduate Student • Temple University
Rhonda Nelson, Ph.D., CTRS • Associate Professor • Temple University

Playing video games is one of the most popular leisure activities in the world (Griffiths, 2005). In recent years, the use of video games and gaming systems has been increasingly popular in healthcare and rehabilitation settings as therapists have recognized their tremendous potential for addressing a variety of treatment goals (Lange, Flynn & Rizzo, 2009). Since gaming interventions are often readily available and low in cost, they are frequently accessible to therapists. Additionally, since patients often perceive the activities as entertaining and engaging, this can often lead to increased motivation during therapy sessions (Pessoa et. al., 2014).

However, with all the games available on the market and a desire to ensure that selected games will appropriately align with individual client treatment goals, therapists may easily feel overwhelmed and struggle to identify appropriate games for individual clients. Therefore, therapists should familiarize themselves with resources currently available to assist in clinical decision making. This article summarizes one such website (www.therapwii.nl/) that can serve as a resource for therapists working to match video games with client goals in order to quickly select appropriate activities that can be used as therapeutic interventions.

Site History

The website (www.therapwii.nl/) was developed through an exploratory research project at The Hague University in the Netherlands. A primary goal of the project was to identify a

(continued on page 2)
way to support therapists in designing effective interventions using the Nintendo Wii. However, resources on this site have also been used as a fixed, digital protocol to standardize interventions in a research study (De Kloet et al., 2012).

Navigating the Site

When accessing the site, the first step should be to verify the appropriate language is set. Given the site's origins in the Netherlands, the default setting for language is Dutch. A link to English in the top right hand corner quickly translates all content on the site for English speaking therapists.

Once this is completed, there are several ways to navigate the site in order to find relevant information for a treatment session. The two main search strategies involve accessing information by starting with a) the skill area to be addressed, or b) a specific game.

Selecting by Skill

The top of the home page features three large colored tabs labeled "Social-Emotional," "Physical" and "Cognitive." Above these tabs is the question, “Which ability do you choose?” This enables the therapist to filter information based on the treatment focus of specific clients. When one of the primary tabs is selected, a new page opens where focus areas are further delineated. At this point, therapists can also specify if there will be a single player or multiple participants. Table 1 provides an overview of the skill area classifications that are included.

Table 1: Skill Area Classifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social-Emotional</th>
<th>Physical</th>
<th>Cognitive</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>Range of Motion – Legs</td>
<td>Praxis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Together</td>
<td>Range of Motion – Arms</td>
<td>Concentration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Range of Motion – Hands</td>
<td>Memory</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Power</td>
<td>Speed of thinking/learning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Move on Rhythm</td>
<td>Perception – Visual</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Timing</td>
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<td>Condition</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Balance</td>
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<td>Optionally Two-Handed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conditionally Two-Handed</td>
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<td>Competion</td>
<td></td>
<td>Perception – Auditive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relax</td>
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<td>Perception – Tactile</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Perception – Movement</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Perception – Language</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
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</table>

Selecting by Game

It is also possible for therapists to conduct a search by starting with a specific game. This is helpful if a therapist has certain games available and wants to determine best ways to use them in clinical treatment. It is also a great way for a therapist to gather information on the clinical relevance of a specific game when considering a new purchase. This search feature would also be helpful if a client identified interest in a particular game and the therapist was interested in researching how to best link this expressed leisure interest to the individual’s treatment goals.

Table 2: Available Games

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wii Games Currently Available</th>
<th>Other Games Currently Available</th>
<th>Games Coming Soon</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wii Family Trainer</td>
<td>Animal Crossing</td>
<td>Dance Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wii Fit Aerobics</td>
<td>Big Brain Academy</td>
<td>Revolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wii Fit Balance</td>
<td>Boom Blox</td>
<td>Revolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wii Fit Spieroeefeningen</td>
<td>Cooking Mama</td>
<td>Hottest Party 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wii Fit Yoga</td>
<td>Dance Dance Revolution</td>
<td>Donkey Kong: Country</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Returns</td>
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<td>EA Sports Active</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Endless Ocean</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wii Fit Plus</td>
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<td>Wii Fit Trainer</td>
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<td>Wii Play</td>
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<td>Wii Sports</td>
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<td>Wii Sports Resort</td>
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<td>Family Ski and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Snowboard</td>
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<td>Guitar Hero –</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>World Tour</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Kororinpa</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lucky Luke Go West</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Marko Kart</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mario &amp; Sonic Olympic</td>
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<td>My Word Coach</td>
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<td>Samba de Amigo</td>
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<td>Wario Ware</td>
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<td>Mario Sportsmix</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wii Family Trainer</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Wii Fit Plus</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Suggestions for Adaptations

The home page also includes some general suggestions for adaptation in each of the functional domain categories. Examples of physical, cognitive and social-emotional adaptations provide therapists with ideas for altering the instruction, implementation or setting in order to increase or decrease the challenge for particular clients.

Ongoing Evaluation System

While the initial information for this site was developed based on feedback provided by several therapists with experience using games in clinical settings. An e-mail address is available to enable contributions from other therapists in an effort to continually update information. This allows therapists to learn from colleagues and creates an exciting way to share clinical knowledge with other professionals from around the world. Contributions can be sent via e-mail to info@therapwii.nl.
Moving Together Towards Tomorrow:
Strategic Plan Update

John F. Kennedy once said, “Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.” While true for individuals, this is also true for organizations. In September 2013, the 2013-2014 ATRA Board of Directors completed the 2013-2018 strategic planning process. The strategic plan included eleven goals including membership engagement, evidence based practice, diversity and advocacy. If you have not had a chance to review the strategic plan, you can find it in the Members Only Section of the website at: https://www.atra-online.com/assets/pdf/DOC13-18StrategicPlan.pdf

One of the goals of the ATRA Board of Directors is to keep members up to date on the activities of the organization. Here’s what is happening related to the strategic plan.

**Goal 1** focuses on membership recruitment, retention and engagement and **Goal 8** emphasizes developing, refining and marketing ATRA’s brand. Both of these are essential to the health and growth of ATRA and the recreational therapy profession. As you may remember, the 2013-2014 ATRA Board of Directors also contracted with a membership consultant to assist in developing membership strategies and marketing. Sue Kindred began her work at the 2014 Annual Conference in Oklahoma City; she has spoken with members throughout the U.S. and has developed recommendations. Sue presented her final report to the ATRA Board at the Mid-Year conference. More details will be forthcoming.

**Goal 2** is related to providing high quality continuing education, which ATRA continues to do through the Mid-Year and Annual conference, as well as through webinars, publications and other events. Evaluations from ATRA events continue to prove that continuing education is one of ATRA’s greatest strengths.

**Goal 3** talks about supporting and advocating for higher education. One way ATRA does this is through support of CARTE, the Council on Accreditation of Recreational Therapy Education. Additionally, team leaders Brent Wolfe and Neil Lundberg are working on developing an educator track at the 2015 Annual Conference in New Mexico. ATRA’s Workforce Development Committee, under the direction of Deb Tiger, is also actively visiting HOSA Future Health

(continued on page 4)
Professionals conferences around the U.S., educating high school students, parents and guidance counselors about recreational therapy as a profession.

- **Goal 6 – Staff Internal Operations**, states ensuring staff meets membership needs and provides exceptional services. ATRA continues to contract with AMS for operational management of the organization. Members continually praise AMS’ customer service and responsiveness. The Board considers AMS an essential and invaluable part of the ATRA team.

- **Goal 9 – Public Policy and Advocacy**, addresses having a strategy to ensure recognition of recreational therapy in state and federal legislation. The Federal Public Policy team is actively working with the Pennsylvania Representative (and CTRS) GT Thompson to introduce a recreational therapy bill to Congress. Along with NCTRC and state chapters, ATRA continues to support work being done to have recreational therapists licensed at the state level. Four states plus DC have a form of licensure with another six states in the process of actively taking steps to achieve licensure. The FPP committee, led by Thom Skalko, Diane Skalko and Richard Williams, has also developed and implemented trainings to help educate members about legislative issues.

- **Goal 10** is developing international relations with other organizations. As you probably saw in the ATRA Update, ATRA signed an agreement of understanding and collaboration with the Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association (CTRA). This is an historical step taken to build positive relations and partnerships between the two countries and recreational therapists. Recreational therapists from other countries (particularly New Zealand) have expressed an interest in developing an international chapter affiliate of ATRA.

- **Goal 11** emphasizes developing and engaging a more diverse membership. In January, a new Diversity committee chairperson was approved by the Board and began her tenure.

Turkessa Johnson, along with the Diversity Committee members, will work on building diversity within the organization.

The ATRA Board continues to actively work on the three remaining goals.

- **Goal 4** is about evidence-based practice. The ATRA Board is working through an agreement with some researchers to develop an EBP project.

- **Goal 5** addresses updating the ATRA vision, mission and definition statements. Task forces were established to work on the Vision and Mission, and the Definition Statement. The Definition Task Force has presented a preliminary summary of their survey’s quantitative results to the Board in December, and in February, a summary of qualitative themes was presented, as well as recommendations for how to proceed. The ATRA Board will be discussing these recommendations fully at the Mid-Year Board meeting.

- **Goal 7** is addressed in Internal Operations of the Board and Committees. After review of ATRA’s structure and that of other organizations, the Infrastructure Task Force provided recommendations to the 2013-2014 Board of Directors, which choose not to take action at that time. However, the 2014-2015 Board will be discussing these recommendations at the Mid-Year Board meeting. Additionally, the Board has been working on updating ATRA’s policies and procedures, as well as reviewing and identifying issues within the bylaws. Suggested bylaw revisions will be shared with the membership over the summer, with a vote on bylaw changes at the Annual Conference in New Mexico.

In a year and a half, much has been accomplished. Yet, there is still work to be done. As an ATRA member, you can contribute to these professional enhancing activities. Be a part of the recreational therapy profession moving together towards tomorrow by joining one of these committees or task forces. Contact any ATRA Board member or the ATRA office to learn how you can make a difference.

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**In The News**

Our congratulations go out to Madeline Jones who is raising awareness about Down Syndrome on the East Carolina University campus.

[http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/news/PirateProfile_MadelineJones.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/news/PirateProfile_MadelineJones.cfm)

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**Are you a single parent who needs financial assistance to attend the ATRA Conference?**

The Linda Levine Madori Scholarship is available. The purpose of this scholarship is to support individuals in the field of Therapeutic Recreation who are currently in a period of financial need. This scholarship will assist an ATRA Member in good standing who is also a single parent with the financial assistance for a conference registration for the ATRA Annual Conference September 27-30, 2015.
Growing our profession is an essential part of what we all do in our everyday work; it’s also a critical part of what ATRA does as our professional organization advocates for us. So in this newsletter, let’s focus on growing our profession by thinking about our personal and professional values.

Values clarification is an intervention many use with clients – whether it’s helping youth at risk or individuals with substance use issues to identify motives and attitudes that contribute to behaviors and choices, or a senior adult with a strong work ethic who is no longer working and needs structure. Values clarification enables individuals to explore what’s important – the underlying values, beliefs and experiences of life – and to make decisions that are consistent with those values (Kunstler & Daly, 2010). Values might include autonomy, honesty, imagination, independence, equality, family, or adventure. Through a variety of activities and self-reflection, people realize what’s most important to them, and are challenged to act accordingly. When you know what’s important to you, it’s much easier to make decisions. Of course, as a recreational therapist, none of this information is new. The real question for you is…do you know what your values are? Not just your personal values, but what do you value in your profession? What about being a recreational therapist is important to you? Can you describe your values?

In one of my Grand Valley State University classes, I recently shared a TEDTalk by Simon Sinek, “Start with Why.” If you haven’t seen it, it’s well worth 20 minutes of your time. This led to an excellent discussion with senior undergraduate students about their values and goals, but also those of our profession. We discussed how it is often easy to articulate our what and how, but more challenging to stay focused on our why.

After talking with the students, I wondered…have we as a profession lost sight of our why? We often get caught up in daily activities and issues that arise, and sometimes focus on the historical debates of our profession (think definition and practice setting). But these issues just cloud our why. So I challenge you to refocus on your why – your inspiration for being a recreational therapist and an ATRA member.

Let me give you something more concrete to think about. In the TEDTalk (2009), Sinek describes the “Golden Circle” which is used to explain or market a product, profession or belief which consists of what, how and why. Consider the “Golden Circle” related to our values as individuals and as a profession.

As an individual, we might articulate our values and describe our role as a recreational therapist in this way:

I provide recreational therapy services to X type of clients (what I do) through the provision of X type of interventions using the APIE process (how I do it) to improve quality of life and functioning, making a difference to those I serve (why I do it).

It’s often easy to describe what we do and how we do it, but what about why we do it? Think about it – why are you a recreational therapist? What inspires you to do your job? What are the underlying values? Is your purpose to enhance quality of life? Improve health? Increase functional abilities? Integrate people into their community? Make a difference in others’ lives?

Now, let’s look at ATRA and the “Golden Circle.”

In order to advance the field of therapeutic recreation which contributes to clients’ quality of life and functioning (why we do it), ATRA is a professional membership organization representing recreational therapists, consumers and stakeholders (what we do) serving as a member driven organization that provides services, standards of practice, advocacy and educational opportunities (how we do it) (ATRA, 2009).

What do you think of my take on ATRA and the “Golden Circle?” Does the statement capture your values for being an ATRA member? Does it reflect what you see as the purpose and need for a professional membership association that represents you and your profession? Does it accurately reflect the what, how and why we exist? If so, tell others. Challenge your colleagues to think about their why, and how they can contribute to our profession.

REFERENCES


Mid-Year Host Committee Celebrates a Success in New Hampshire

Even the weather in Manchester, New Hampshire, cooperated with ATRA’s 2015 Mid-Year Host Committee! (40s and sunny? Perfect by New England standards, maybe a bit chilly for Southerners.) The ATRA Board and Host Committee send their thanks to the speakers, volunteers and attendees who made this a highly attended conference with a great energy level. Students contributed both as volunteers and attendees and represented their schools well; the University of New Hampshire alone had more than 50 students attend!

Many thanks to everyone who attended, volunteered, and presented! We were delighted to host you in New Hampshire!

Host Committee


Committee: Patti Craig, Ph.D., CTRS/L; Jasmine Ferrer, CTRS; Jennifer Frye, M.S., CTRS/L; Matthew Frye, M.S., CTRS/L; Becca Taylor, CTRS/L and Allison Wilder, Ph.D., CTRS/L

ATRA’s Social Media Scavenger Hunt

The Manchester, NH Mid-Year conference was the site of our first ever (and hopefully first annual) social media scavenger hunt. Our #ATRAinAction got 12 tweets during conference and 10 Facebook posts that we were able to find. Yolanda Ruiz of Virginia had the most posts and won an ATRA Tervis Cup.

Craig A. Miller • @HowitFeelsBook • March 8 Preparing for my keynote at the American Therapeutic Recreation Association conference #atrainaction #spsm #mhsm #zerosuicide #livedexp

Brent Wolfe • March 10 • 9:46 a.m. Debbie Cook Robinson, Sharon Nichols and Tanea Goncalves Forward presenting on collaborative marketing efforts by ATRA, NCTRC, and CTRA. Great session about the exciting directions of our profession! #ATRAinAction

Green Mountain College Alumni

American Therapeutic Recreation Association at Radisson Hotel Manchester

Posted by Becca Krest Taylor • March 9 • 8:11 p.m. #atrainaction ATRA MidYear MHT Board Game Social: Qwirkle!

University of New Hampshire Students, Faculty and Alumni

Temple University students

Conference Pics and Tweets
**Pediatric Treatment Network**

The Pediatric Treatment Network continues to stay active with monthly networking conference calls. All practitioners and students working with children and youth in a variety of settings can benefit from participation in this network. Discussion on conference calls include current best practices, journal reviews, resources, educational opportunities, case reviews, internship supervision, member spotlights, and more! To join these calls or become more active in this networking community please contact Abby Pestak or Kaylee McGuire at ATRAPediatrics@gmail.com.

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**CARTE**

Tim Passmore, Ed.D, CTRS

Please consider serving as a member of the Committee on Accreditation of Recreational Therapy Education (CARTE) where you can directly impact future Recreational Therapists for our profession. Please review the official announcement below. If you are interested, contact information is on the announcement.

[View official CARTE announcement](#)

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**NY State Introduces RT Licensure Bill**

The state of New York has recently introduced a bill to license recreational therapy. The bill was introduced both in the Senate (bill # S3754A) and Assembly (bill # A5465).

Sponsors of the bill are Assembly Member Kenneth Zembrowski of New City, NY and Senator Andrew Lanza of Staten Island, NY. Currently the bill has been referred to the Higher Education Committee in both the Assembly and Senate.

Given the important nature of the work that recreation therapists do, it is essential that higher professional standards be established for recreation therapists by creating a proper system for licensing. This will ensure that recreation therapy is performed by qualified individuals that are adhering to the highest standards in the State of New York. If you are a practicing CTRS in New York please contact your Assembly Member and Senator and ask them to support the NYS Recreational Therapy Licensure Bill. For more information please contact: Vincent Bonadies, MS, CTRS, Co-Chair, NYS Recreation Therapy Licensure Committee, [vbonadies@centerlight.org](mailto:vbonadies@centerlight.org) or (718) 519-5959 or Isabel Tiffen, MS, CTRS, Co-Chair, Recreation Therapy Licensure Committee, [isabeltiffen@gmail.com](mailto:isabeltiffen@gmail.com).

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**Annual Conference in 2016 Will Head North to the Windy City**

Join us in September 10-14, 2016 in Chicago for ATRA’s Annual Conference! We will be at the Westin Lombard, about a 30 minute drive to Downtown (and is close to a train station with free shuttle from the hotel). The hotel is located halfway between O’Hare International Airport and Midway International Airport, making it easy to fly in and out. Chicago is also drivable from much of the Midwest. More details to come.

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**Chapter Corner**

The New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania chapter is starting out 2015 with over 200 members and working hard to strengthen their committee involvement. To join this chapter or learn more visit their website: [http://www.njepa-tra.com/](http://www.njepa-tra.com/).

ATRA Chapters in Kentucky, Ohio and Georgia are working to re-establish their chapters. We congratulate them on their efforts and hope to have them back on board soon.

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American Therapeutic Recreation Association

Suicide Prevention Special Webinar Series

ATRA is pleased to announce a very special webinar series. Beginning April 8 and on the following 2 weeks (April 15 and 22) ATRA president, Debbie Robinson, and colleagues Elaine de Mello and Ann Duckless, will be presenting these webinars. They will be available for the special price of $19.50 and available only to ATRA members! These webinars will NOT be available for replay so mark your calendars now!

Session D1: Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training for Recreation Therapists (Completed April 8)

Session Description – Recreational Therapists are often placed in a position to assess or treat persons who are at risk of suicide. Along with community members and other clinicians, Recreational Therapists are gatekeepers who, when trained, can recognize the warning signs of suicide and connect a person at risk to get them appropriate help.

Session D2: Suicide Prevention Safe Messaging Training for Recreational Therapists (Registration open)

Session Description – Recreational Therapists are often placed in a position to assess or treat persons who are at risk of suicide. The ways in which we communicate with patients, loved ones and other professionals can have great impact on suicide prevention. Preferred terminology and the effects of media portrayals of those who have died by suicide will be addressed.

Session D3: Suicide Prevention Lethal Means Restriction Training for Recreational Therapists (Registration open)

Session Description – Recreational Therapists are often placed in a position to assess or treat persons who are at risk of suicide. Reducing a patient’s access to lethal means (firearms, etc) can be vital to ensuring safety and an important part of an agency’s overall suicide prevention effort.

Register for this webinar series now. This is a great opportunity to learn more about this important topic. CEUs are available at an additional fee. This series of webinars will all be held at noon central time.

https://secure.confertel.net/tsregister.asp?program=ATRA-D2015

Other 2015 Webinars:

Earn CEUs at your convenience! ATRA is pleased to announce that CEUs for all 2015 ATRA Webinars have been pre-approved by NCTRC. Registration for the 2015 ATRA webinars is open:

- Professional Issues
- ATRA Public Policy
- Cognitive Therapy in Behavioral Health
- Autism
- Back to Basics
- Geriatrics
- Pediatrics
- Professional Issues
- Member-Only Webinars
- Students (No CEUs)

For details on these webinars or to register online:
https://www.atra-online.com/education/continuing-education/webinars

2016 is Right Around the Corner

You heard that right…planning is already underway for our 2016 conferences.

Celebrate TR Month by joining ATRA in San Antonio, Texas on February 7-9, 2016 for the Mid-Year Conference. We will be at the Drury Inn and Suites, right on the San Antonio River Walk! The hotel rate is $149 and includes a hot and cold breakfast, soda and popcorn breaks in the afternoon, and hot and cold hors d’oeuvres at suppertime. Not only will you have fun on the River Walk, you will be well fed.

Did you know?

- San Antonio is the 7th most populous city in the United States.
- The city is known as “Military City,” the Home of the Alamo, and the birthplace of the American Cowboy.
- Our hotel is only 16 miles away from Seaworld, and closer to Splashtown, Six Flags Fiesta, art museums, missions and a great zoo. (Sounds like a great place to take the family)
- San Antonio’s Mardi Gras kicks off just before the conference starts.
- The Call for Presentations will be released this summer.

If you are interested in being a part of the conference planning committee, please contact Dawn De Vries at devridaw@gvsu.edu.
American Therapeutic Recreation Association

ATRA Call For Presentations

Submission Deadline:
May 15, 2015

ATRA will be hosting the 2015 Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico on September 27-30. This will be a great venue for recreational therapists, students, educators and allied health care professionals to promote the advancement of the practice of recreational therapy.

Important topics for individual sessions: New treatment interventions and strategies, development of recreational therapy competencies, critical thinking for the future of the profession, research and outcomes measurement, access to and advocacy of the profession, curriculum development and higher education, evidence-based practice and outcomes, and support for recreational therapists as managers.

Educational sessions are presented in individual concurrent sessions, selected from proposals submitted in response to this Call for Presentations by a blind peer review (anonymous author).

90 and 180-minute sessions are available as well as full-day or half-day pre-conference intensives.

Please note! The call for papers process is now electronic. The items below are provided as an outline for you to follow and assist you with getting your information together before you start the process. Visit https://www.atra-online.com/education/continuing-education/annual-conference for the Call for Papers online submission process.

You may stop and return to your proposal at a later date, but you must use the same computer and web browser with cookies enabled. Before you get started on the electronic submission, have the following materials gathered and accessible:

Speaker Information:
■ First and Last Name of Each Speaker
■ Name and credentials as you would like them to appear in the conference program
■ Email for Each Speaker
■ Phone Contact for Each Speaker
■ Mailing Address for Each Speaker
■ Credentials for Each Speaker
■ Reference for Each Speaker: Name, Email and Phone Number

■ Please give a detailed reason as to why each speaker is qualified to give this presentation
■ Will this be the first presentation at a national conference for any of the speakers?

Session Information:
■ Title of Session (20 words or less; please include RT in the title)
■ Indicate when and where this presentation was previously given. Briefly explain why this session should be repeated at a national conference.
■ Session Length:
  □ 60 minutes
  □ 90 minutes
  □ 180 minutes
  □ Half Day (3-4 hours)
  □ Full Day (6-8 hours)

Session Description:
■ 150 words or less; descriptive of content; related to NCTRC Job Analysis Category(ies). For a list of NCTRC Job Analysis Categories, click http://www.nctrc.org/documents/5jobanalysis.pdf.

Presentation Tract:
■ Geriatrics/LTC
■ Intellectual Disability/Dual Diagnosis
■ Pediatrics
■ Physical Rehabilitation
■ Substance Abuse/Behavioral Health
■ General Knowledge
■ Research/Education/Competencies
■ Other

Learning Outcomes:
■ Provide three measurable learning outcomes for each session that relate to NCTRC Job Analysis

Examples of acceptable learning outcomes:
Upon completion of this session, the CTRS will be able to:
1. Identify three benefits of performing evidence-based TR practice
2. Perform an internet search for a clinical question relating to TR practice
3. Provide an example of using evidence-based practice in daily TR service delivery

(continued on page 10)
Example of unacceptable learning outcomes:
The CTRS will:
1. Improve knowledge of the topic
2. Participate in discussion
3. Have fun!

Room Set:
All sessions will be set in classroom (table and chair) set-up when possible based on room size and number of attendees. If space does not permit classroom set, the room will be set theatre style (chairs only). If your particular session would be optimized utilizing a different set-up, please specify:

Instructional Methods Used in Session:
- Lecture
- Interactive
- Panel
- Discussion

Content Outline:
Provide a detail session outline of content and methodology. See example below.
- Introduction of presenter (5 minutes)
- Short quiz on RT benefits (5 minutes)
- Quiz discussion and how it effects Recreational Therapy (5 minutes)
- Self-determination theory (overview) (15 minutes)
- Autonomy-supportive environment vs. a controlled environment (20 minutes)
- Autonomy-supportive environment techniques (10 minutes)
- Break into groups – Discussion of agency specific/population (20 minutes)
- Wrap up and evaluation (10 minutes)

Note: To be consistent with NCTRC standards, ATRA does not provide CEUs for any session that is primarily activity based or experiential in nature, in which a specific activity or modality is taught. All sessions submitted for review must dedicate more than 50% of the session time to the rationale, supporting research evidence, therapeutic process, and/or anticipated client outcomes (e.g., benefits, related research/evidence, assessment, implementation, program design, risk management, etc.) so that the session is not primarily focused on skill acquisition.

NCTRC Job Analysis Impacts CEU Preapproval Application
Beginning June 1, the Preapproval Application will use the new Job Analysis Codes. On the application where it states NCTRC Job Analysis Codes, you need to choose from the following:
- Foundational Knowledge
- Assessment Process
- Implementation
- Administration of TR/RT
- Advancement of the Profession

Please go to the NCTRC website for specifics under each topic.

Target Audience (select all that apply):
- Seasoned Professionals, Educators, Researchers
- New Graduates
- Mid-careerists
- Students
- All
- Other

Attendance at sessions is limited only by room size. If your presentation would be more effective if limited to a certain number of participants, please indicate the maximum number of attendees here:

Audiovisual Equipment:
ATRA provides the following equipment in each session room: LCD projector and set-up (screen, projection stand and power strip) and microphone (if required by the room size).

The following optional equipment is available if requested in advance:
- Internet
- Flip Chart
- Audio Speakers

ATRA does not provide laptop computers. Individuals may rent or bring their own, but technical assistance will may be available.

Acceptance of Presentations: The Program Committee will review completed proposals submitted by May 15, 2015. Presenters will be chosen based on experience with facilitation of professional sessions and ability to demonstrate competence in the area to be presented. Sessions not previously presented are particularly encouraged, as well as sessions that engage and involve participants. Submissions will be acknowledged via email confirmation. Presenters will be notified of accepted presentations the week of June 15th.

NCTRC CEU Pre-Approval: All sessions submitted will be evaluated by a review committee as part of the ATRA/NCTRC pre-approval process. Presenters will be notified if their session proposal has received CEU pre-approval. A resubmission and appeal process is available for those sessions denied CEU pre-approval.

Note: If you have immediate concerns about your submission, please contact the ATRA office at 601.450.2872.
2015 ATRA Awards Nominations

Submission Deadline: June 1, 2015!

It is that time of year for all of us to start thinking about those professionals in Recreational Therapy who have made a difference this past year. Please think about those who have made a noteworthy impact on you personally or professionally. These people are clinicians, ATRA or affiliate members, researchers, organizations, institutions, colleges / universities, or chapter affiliates. If you feel these individuals or groups should be recognized for their positive contribution to RT. Please NOMINATE to recognize those in our field who are doing exemplary work. Nominations are due by JUNE 1st 2015.

As a reminder, last year we revised two popular awards, the Distinguished Fellow and Scholarly Achievement Awards. The criteria for these awards have changed to acknowledge life-long achievements, rather than being limited to accomplishments in the past two years. If you have nominated a deserving individual in the past who did not receive this award, please consider nominating them once again.

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

**Award Categories:**

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

Awards criteria are available on the ATRA website at [http://atra-online.com/displaycommon.  
cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=47](http://atra-online.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=47). Please use these when preparing your nomination information.

For more information on nomination criteria and official nomination forms please mail applications to: ATRA Awards, 629 N Main St, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider those who would be worthy nominees. Please take action right now to nominate a deserving professional, member, leader, or group who is / are deserving of this honor.

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**Beamz For Therapy & Rehab**

Use Music Making To Motivate & Engage!

Beamz enables anyone of any age or capability to experience the benefits of making music. The Beamz Therapy Guide, developed with the Department of Rehabilitation Services at Temple University, provides protocols that may be used by all clinicians and includes protocols and measurement tools for therapists to use Beamz and music making for a range of cognitive, physical and social / emotional goals.

Download a FREE sample of the Beamz Therapy Guide

[www.thebeamz.com/btg/sample](http://www.thebeamz.com/btg/sample)

Enriching learning, therapy and fun with inclusive, interactive music.
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
2015 Research Institute
Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and Spa • Albuquerque, New Mexico

Call for Research Institute Proposals

The purpose of the ATRA Research Institute is to share research findings relevant to recreation therapy, increase the body of knowledge, and support professional practice. The Institute includes applied research and efficacy studies highlighting the ATRA Research Agenda and expanding the foundation of knowledge as linked to the practice of recreation therapy. Discussions of how practitioners can utilize results in everyday practice are highly recommended. The Institute includes both oral and poster presentation formats. The latter provides researchers a chance to present their work in a setting that facilitates greater interaction with interested attendees. Researchers should indicate their preference of presentation styles (oral or poster) on the cover page. Editors of the Research Institute reserve the right to make the final decision of the presentation style but will work to honor the selection of those submitting proposals.

The Institute publishes research briefs from accepted proposals. Briefs must adhere to the format outlined in this call to be accepted for publication. Briefs submitted for the “works in progress” section will not be included in the published book of research briefs unless the research has been completed prior to the publication deadline. Authors receive a copy of the published book of research briefs at the conference. All proposals should be submitted in the research brief format outlined below.

Proposals in Three Categories are Being Sought:

1. **Completed Research** must be completed research projects that have not been published or presented at another conference. Authors are urged to explain the theoretical basis, procedures and methods used, findings, and to explicate practical applications or other implications for the use of their research in RT practice.

2. **Works in Progress** do not have to be completed projects but should be in some middle to later stage of the research process. The poster format will allow authors to get input from other professionals including both practitioners and educators. At the same time, it serves as a tutorial for individuals interested in learning how the research process works. (Works in progress will not be included in the book of research briefs unless the research has been completed prior to the publication deadline).

3. **Case Studies** are reports that follow a client/participant through the therapeutic recreation process from assessment to goals and objectives, program planning, implementation, and evaluation/outcome measurement.

Briefs reporting empirical studies must include: Introduction/background; Methods/Sample Instrumentation; Analysis; Findings; and Discussion/Implications. A comparable format is required for conceptual papers. Submissions focusing on case studies, practice perspectives, or applied research should have a clear introduction, a well written body of text and a discussion of the application of their information to the field of RT. Particular emphasis should be on how practitioners can use the results of this research in everyday practice.

**Note:** By submitting a research brief, you are making a commitment to present your oral or poster presentation if accepted. Oral presentations will be 20-25 minutes and scheduled during the 2015 ATRA Research Institute. Posters will be displayed at a Conference event to be held in conjunction with the Institute. Presenters will be requested to stand beside their poster for discussion for approximately 60 minutes during the Research Institute. Each poster presentation should have one individual responsible for discussing the poster. One individual may not cover multiple posters. Partial registration waivers may be offered per abstract (not per presenter). Further details on poster format will be communicated directly to poster presenters.

**Research Brief Format:** A cover page (1 copy, Name and I.D. Information on the cover sheet only) and brief that is prepared in the following format:

A. Three pages maximum including all findings, discussion, and implications. If needed, tables and figures should be included on separate pages as per APA format. A reference list (APA 6th edition) is required and should be included on separate pages.

(continued on page 13)
(continued from page 12)

B. Use 12-point font and one-inch margins on all sides of 8 1/2 by 11” paper. Single-space the abstract using Times New Roman font.

C. Briefs should have a clear and descriptive title above the first line of text. No information about the author(s) should appear on the brief itself, only on the cover page. Leave one space between the title and text of the brief. Do not number pages or use a running header or footer.

D. Use appropriate subheadings and references that conform to APA 6th edition format.

E. An electronic version of the brief should be sent to the ATRA National Office as an e-mail attachment in MS Word format as well as to Research Institute chair.

F. Include in the submission either an abbreviated presenter vitae or biosketch (2 page maximum), and mini bio stating the name of the author(s), name of business affiliation, and contact information (phone number, fax number and email address) for each presenter.

Deadline for Research Institute Proposals: Proposal information must be sent via email by midnight May 15, 2015, and will be acknowledged via e-mail within five (5) business days. Late proposals may be considered depending on space and time limitations.

Send Your Proposal To: The ATRA National Office at: conferences@atra-online.com. Please submit a duplicate of your Proposals for the Research Institute to the Research Institute chair: rippcj@wssu.edu.

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2015 ATRA Annual Conference Research Institute
Albuquerque, NM • September 27-30

Call for Presenters – ATRA Practice Poster Session

Proposal Deadline: June 15, 2015

ATRA invites therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy professionals, educators, and students to submit abstracts for the 2015 ATRA Practice Poster Session. The primary purpose for practice poster presentations is to showcase intervention programs that produce client outcomes. This is an excellent opportunity to share recent successes and challenges with fellow professionals.

Session Format: Presenters create a poster that will be fastened to a freestanding display panel. Suggested size for posters is up to 36 by 48 inches. Design, coloration, etc., is up to the author, but the poster should look professional and be easy to read from four feet away. Further details will be communicated directly to poster presenters.

Poster Session Presentation: Attendees will circulate among the displays, talking informally with presenters. The poster session is two hours long, although it is anticipated that the posters will be kept up for an entire day. Each poster should have at least one individual available during the actual poster session.

Benefits of Participation: Network...initiate collaboration efforts...provide service to the profession...receive feedback for professional development...help promote the benefits of therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy among a diverse audience of ATRA delegates!

Proposal Format: Send your proposal to the ATRA National Office at: conferences@atra-online.com. Please send a duplicate of your proposal to the Practice Poster Session Chair: cautry@fiu.edu.

All abstracts must include:
- Poster Title (10 word limit)
- Intervention program overview (300 word limit; brief synopsis of the program including the setting and population served; any evidence from the literature that supports the program)
- Client goals (minimum of three)
- Assessment tools/techniques (100 word limit; who is appropriate for the program)
- Staffing (50 word limit)
- Process (300 word limit; describe how the program is implemented including frequency and length of sessions)
- Evaluation (75 word limit; how the program is evaluated)
- Client outcomes (150 word limit)
- Suggestions for replication (100 word limit; how other practitioners can implement the program)
- Presenter(s) and contact information (Name as you want it printed in the final program, agency/facility/institution, address, phone, and email. Note: The first presenter listed will be considered the primary contact person.)

For questions or clarifications please contact the ATRA Practice Poster Session Chair:
Cari Autry • Florida International University • cautry@fiu.edu

American Therapeutic Recreation Association
ATRA MEMBERSHIP

Membership Levels

**Professional $125.00**
Open to individuals who are certified as CTRS by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification. Please send a copy of your credential ID card or certificate.

**International Professional $125.00**
An individual who has established citizenship in country other than the United States of America who holds a bachelor’s degree in therapeutic recreation or in a related field of study, and holds credentials recognized by the country of citizenship and the ATRA board of directors.

**Associate $100.00**
Open to individuals who currently meet the definition of therapeutic recreation assistant based on ATRA’s Standards of Practice for Therapeutic Recreation Assistants.

**International Associate $100.00**
An individual who has established citizenship in country other than the United States of America interested in promoting the therapeutic recreation profession.

**Supporting $100.00**
Open to any individual who is interested in promoting the Therapeutic Recreation profession.

**Student $65.00**
Open to any individual currently enrolled in a Therapeutic Recreation education program. Please list College or University.

**Provisional Professional $65.00**
Open to any past student member of ATRA for the first year following their graduation. This is a one-year non-renewable membership.

**Professional Emeritus $65.00**
Open to individuals who are retired from the practice of therapeutic recreation and holds or previously held the Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) credential from the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification.

**Organizational $325.00**
Open to any organization interested in supporting the Therapeutic Recreation profession.

ATRA Membership Application

The American Therapeutic Recreation Association was founded in 1984 to advance the profession of therapeutic recreation. ATRA is a non-profit, professional organization with priority focus on promoting the needs of recreational therapy professionals in healthcare and human service settings. ATRA recognizes the increased accountability demands and dramatic changes and challenges facing healthcare and human services today. The purpose of ATRA is to advance the field of therapeutic recreation as an effective and efficient component of healthcare. Membership benefits include: a membership packet, online Employment Update, newsletters four times a year, discounts on liability insurance, Annual in Therapeutic Recreation (online for members; hard copies sold at a discount), annual awards, professional and governmental updates, discounts on continuing education, student conference scholarships, educational offerings and more. Dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes, but may be deductible as a business expense. The portion of your dues spent on lobbying (12.44% in 2013) are not deductible.

Dr • Ms • Mrs • Mr    Last Name ________________________________________________

First Name • MI ________________________________________________________________

Employer • Organization ________________________________________________________

Office • Home Address __________________________________________________________

City ______________________________________ State  _________________  Zip_________

Office Phone _____________________________  Home_______________________________

Fax ____________________________________  E-mail_______________________________

☐ Check or Money Order (U.S. funds, payable to ATRA)
☐ Purchase Order (attach copy)
☐ Credit Card

Mail or fax to:
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
629 N. Main Street • Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401
Phone: 601.450.ATRA (2872) • Fax: 601.582.3354 • www.atra-online.com

American Therapeutic Recreation Association
CEUs thru Newsletter

Volume 31 ■ Number 1 ■ Spring 2015

CEU INFO

“CEUs Through the Newsletter” is one of your membership benefits, and is available to ATRA members ONLY. To earn CEUs, complete the newsletter test and evaluation, and sign the verification statement below. Mail this page to ATRA with your CEU payment of $10 (this fee is per newsletter test). If you achieve a passing score of 70%, you will receive .15 CEU (1.5 contact hour). Please allow 6-8 weeks for processing and receiving your official transcript. If you require expedited processing, please contact the ATRA Office at 601.450.ATRA.

You may submit your test through April 1, 2016 to earn CEUs. ATRA is an Authorized Provider of CEUs through the International Association of Continuing Education and Training.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
After reading the Spring 2015 Newsletter, the participant will be able to:

a. Explain the use of the Therapwii website
b. Identify the focus of the Strategic Plan
c. Identify the locations of the next ATRA conferences

d. Articulate the importance of member engagement to grow membership and enhance member benefits and to advocate for the profession by creating free materials for distribution

YOUR INFO

Circle one: Mr.  Ms.  Miss  Mrs.  Dr.
Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________________________ Zip_____
State __________________________
Daytime Phone __________________________
Email __________________________
Signature __________________________
Date __________________________

PAYMENT INFO

☐ Check or Money Order (payable to ATRA in U.S. dollars)
☐ Credit Card

POST-TEST  (Select the best answer.)

CEU Test

1. Previous membership surveys have shown that the membership believes that an important goal for ATRA is
a. To offer sessions in every state conference
b. To provide weekly webinars at reduced rates
c. To grow membership and enhance member engagement
d. To advocate for the profession by creating free materials for distribution

2. A website exploring the therapeutic use of the Nintendo Wii was developed by what country?
   a. United States
   b. Netherlands
   c. Japan
   d. England

3. In the article “Resource Review: Therapwii” it states that the website it is reviewing can be navigated either by a) the skill area to be addressed or b) by the specific game.
   True or False

4. How many stipends are available for Peg Connolly Scholarships?
   a. 7
   b. 8
   c. 9
   d. 10

5. How many states are in the process of actively seeking licensure?
   a. 6
   b. 7
   c. 8
   d. 9

6. ATRA has signed a letter of understanding and collaboration with what country?
   a. Canada
   b. New Zealand
   c. Australia
   d. England

7. NY State has introduced a licensure bill in both the Senate and the Assembly.
   True or False

8. In 2016, ATRA’s Annual Conference will take place in
   a. Albuquerque
   b. New Hampshire
   c. San Antonio
   d. Chicago

9. Research Institute Proposals are being sought for the following category(ies)
   a. Completed research
   b. Works in Progress
   c. Case Studies
   d. All of the above

10. The new NCTR Job Analysis categories go into effect in the pre-approval process on
    a. May 1
    b. June 1
    c. June 15
    d. September 1

VERIFICATION STATEMENT:
I verify that I completed the test questions submitted for the Volume 31, Number 1, Spring 2015 Newsletter, without assistance from another individual (the use of educational assistance to accommodate individuals with special needs is not included in this statement). I understand that this verification statement of independent work adheres to the professional code of ethics developed by ATRA.

Signature __________________________
Date __________________________

CEUs Expire 4/1/2016