



# The Experts' Express

September 25, 2008

## The International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals

Uniting Rehabilitation Professionals

### Welcome to The Experts' Express!

#### About The Experts' Express

The Experts' Express is a member-only monthly e-newsletter, keeping you informed about IARP issues and upcoming events. Each month a different sections and chapters will be highlighted. You will be provided with the latest news, details on member benefits, and information you will need to stay tuned in to what IARP is doing to give you the most for your membership.

Visit [www.Rehabpro.org](http://www.Rehabpro.org) to enter the online world of rehabilitation professionals.

### Behind the Calculator

#### Treasurer's Report

*John Meltzer*  
IARP Secretary/Treasurer

I would like to take this opportunity to dispel any rumors about the financial well being of IARP. During the fiscal year just completed (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008), IARP did not hit budget. This can be best traced to us not hitting membership revenue goals (we had budgeted for a 10% increase in membership; while membership remained flat), and we lost money at the annual spring conference in Los Angeles (despite it being a critical success). To help offset these deficits on a positive side, we had another highly successful forensic conference (both financial and critical success). We were also able to keep expenses below budget. Nonetheless, we dug ourselves a bit of a

hole that we are now digging out of. The possibility of bankruptcy was discussed if we did not take drastic action.

To help maintain our financial viability, the finance committee (which has representatives from each section) recommended to the IARP Board of Directors that we take the approach of adopting a no-risk budget for fiscal year 2008-2009. The budget that was ultimately adopted by the board called for some very difficult decisions that included no annual conference in 2008 (too high of a risk given losses the last 2 years) and limited funding for section activity and no funding for committee activity (we have gone back to a truly volunteer model). Committee and section work continues as members have come up with creative ways to go about doing their association business. We have gone to electronic printing and distribution of

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### Chapter Highlights

#### IARP Texas Chapter

##### Students Awarded Membership Grants

*Tom Selman*  
President, Texas Chapter

Promoting student involvement in IARP and TARPPS has been an on-going project of the Texas Chapter; likewise, IARP's Council of Presidents (COP) has set aside funds to cover the costs for national dues for student memberships in IARP, and each state chapter is permitted to award several such grants. The Texas Chapter (TARPPS) has also waived state membership fees for students receiving the national awards; the involvement of both the national and state organizations gives the student grant a value of \$70.00 (\$40.00 national, \$30.00 Texas) and does pay student membership for an entire year.

Three students were awarded the Student Grants for membership at the May meeting of TARPPS, and it is hoped the three will be the first of numerous recipients to be selected this year. Those receiving the student grants are Megan Moseley of Garland, Texas; Sarah Brown, Denton, Texas; and Samantha Ehsani, Plano, Texas. All three are students at the University of North Texas and participate in the Rehabilitation Studies program of the Department of Rehabilitation Studies, Social Work, and Addictions.

Megan Moseley will graduate in December 2008 but will continue as a graduate student; her primary focus in her rehabilitation studies is substance abuse and mental health. Sarah Brown will also graduate in December 2008 and plans to continue with additional graduate work. Her focus area is substance abuse and

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**www.AAACEUs.com** offers IARP members pre-approved CEUs for CRC, CDMS, CCM, CLCP, RNs and more.

### Dual Relationships: Exploring the Limits

This class is presented to help all counselors, social workers, and vocational specialist (including the CRC and CDMS professionals) to meet their continuing education needs in the area of Ethics.

### 6 contact hours

Go to [www.rehabpro.org](http://www.rehabpro.org), log in, go to the Members Only section and click on "Earn CEUs". Members will only get the 5% discount by going through the IARP website.



Congratulations  
IARP Oregon Chapter  
Winner of the 2007 IARP  
Global Membership  
Challenge



## Section Focus

### IARP 2008 Forensic Conference

#### *"Don't Get Swamped...Navigating the Forensic Waters"*

*Ann Wallace*  
IARP Forensic Conference Committee

I am really looking forward to attending the Forensic Conference October 30, 2008 – November 1, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Bonaventure near Ft. Lauderdale. Since I am now a sole practitioner, for several years I have relied on members of the Forensic group for staffing cases, resources, mentoring and peer socialization. Developing these important relationships comes from sitting next to you, sharing a meal, going shopping or sightseeing, playing a round of golf, and listening to great music. Maintaining these relationships on the listserv and at future conferences has been the best way to develop my forensic practice. Since some of our professional relationships go back (gulp) 25 years or more, there may be an appearance of exclusion. Not so! Each year I truly look forward to meeting new peers as well as maintaining on going friendships.

This year I will be going in early to enjoy pre-conference activities and sessions, making it a mini-vacation as well as a CEU filled long weekend. I may need to bring some work along and sit outside at the pool, generating some billable time. I'd like to bid on one of the vacation packages being so very generously offered by our peers, a first time ever event! If you really, truly cannot attend this year, we will work out a way for you to be able

to bid long distance. Keep posted.

In registering, I had to make some tough decisions when having to select between sessions. I need more training in providing opinions on worklife expectancy; while I'm also very interested in how to evaluate another's life care plan and what to include as assistive technology. Or do I learn something new to me: neuro-optometric rehabilitation? No matter which pre-con I select, I will be able to access handouts to all the sessions and I will have the opportunity to staff cases with presenters between sessions. As a Social Security VE, this conference is the one place every year where I can talk to other VEs, update my materials if needed and get the firsthand current status news. And this is a BIG year coming up for SSVE's. My Ethics units will once again be painlessly gathered as Jeff Carlisle and Ann Neulicht update us on the CRCC and on revised terminology specific to forensic work. In 2008, my experience testifying became more challenging and I can use some bolstering, which will be available from all the sessions because they help us improve our competency and then specifically from training by attorneys and other experts in our field.

And I expect to laugh and cry listening to our keynotes...what a very special conference the 2008 Committee has developed! I hope you make attending this year your priority and if you would like help with roommate matching or if you would like to volunteer at the conference or if I can be of assistance in any way, please let me know! See you soon.

Fondly,  
Ann Wallace

## Jump to the Top



We are pleased to announce that IARP has again negotiated a *special rate of \$200 for you to increase your referrals and contracting opportunities from care management decision-makers*. That is a *savings of 50%* off the original price to advertise in the *Case Management Resource Guide* (CMRG) and the online version at **cmrg.com**. This special advertising opportunity and pricing allows you to Jump to the Top! For more information go to:

[http://www.dorlandhealth.com/promotions/2008/CMRG/e-mails/CMRG-2010\\_IARP.html](http://www.dorlandhealth.com/promotions/2008/CMRG/e-mails/CMRG-2010_IARP.html)

**Express Job Bank Highlights**

**Vocational Expert**

The Peoria, Illinois, hearing office of the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review of the Social Security Administration (SSA), is soliciting individuals interested in providing vocational expert (VE) services for Social Security disability hearings. To qualify a person must have a graduate degree in vocational rehabilitation and extensive expertise in rehabilitation, counseling, and workforce placement of adult individuals with disabilities.

For an appearance at an SSA hearing, Vocational Experts are currently reimbursed \$75.00 - \$110.00 per case. Five to six cases a day are normally scheduled. Hearings are held in Danville, Springfield, Urbana-Champaign, and Peru, IL, and Davenport, IA. Some hearings are conducted by video conference. The VE can determine where and how many hearing dates a month s/he would like.

Interested Vocational Experts should forward  
A resume and letter of interest to:

Peter Coppersmith  
Hearing Office Director  
3328 W. Willow Knolls Drive  
Peoria, IL 61614-1008  
FAX: 309-689-9782  
Peter.Coppersmith@ssa.gov

**Looking to fill or find a rehabilitation related position?**

**Our Job Bank is a great place to start.**

The International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals unites REHABILITATION PROFESSIONALS around the world and is the premier recruitment resource for organizations looking for rehabilitation professionals. With a professional membership of over 2,500 individuals, employers and recruiters have access to the most qualified talent pool with relevant work experience to fill their staffing needs. Visit [www.rehabpro.org](http://www.rehabpro.org) and click on Job Bank to submit an ad.

**ATTENTION**

**International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals  
Members**

**New IARP Member Benefit**

**All IARP Case Management, Disability Management,  
and International Academy of Life Care Planners members  
will now receive a free subscription to Case in Point Magazine.  
The magazine should be arriving at your doorstep soon!**



**IARP**

**Dedicated to return-to-work services on behalf of persons with disabilities and the economically disadvantaged.**

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alcoholism, but she also has an active interest in working with individuals with many other types of disability.

Samantha Ehsani will end her undergraduate career in August 2008 and will immediately begin pursuing her master's degree. She is interested in vocational rehabilitation, return to work programs, and advocacy activities for the disabled.

As the Fall 2008 semester approaches, the Texas Chapter of IARP is actively pursuing student involvement in the state chapter as well as IARP. Special membership recruiting packets will be distributed to the various rehabilitation studies programs in all the Texas colleges and universities offering such programs – including the University of North Texas, Texas Womens University, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Pan American University, Texas Tech University, Stephen F. Austin State University, and the University of Texas at Austin. Student membership grants will be made available to several students in each of these programs.

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*Mike Mooney*  
President, IARP Illinois Chapter

On September 18, 2008, the Illinois Chapter hosted the 2008 Conference and Annual meeting at US Cellular Field (a.k.a. White Sox Park) Educational Center in Chicago. The meeting, entitled "Evidenced Based Resources for Vocational Case Management," was attended by 100 professionals and students. Six continuing education units were earned by the attendees for CRC, CCM, and CCWAVES & CDMS.

Speakers for the meeting included Attorney Elaine Newquist, the 2008 President of the Illinois Workers Compensation Lawyers Association; she discussed the implications of the 2005 changes to the Illinois Workers Compensation Act. Richard Kaye, a labor market economist with the Illinois Department of Employment Security, spoke on Labor Market and wage data collected nationally, regionally, and locally.

Craig Johnston, PhD of Northeastern Illinois University spoke on the topic of "Comprehensive and Defensible Vocational Assessments" (TSA, testing, reporting, testimony, etc) for case management and forensic practice. The program was culminated with a presentation by Patricia Nunez, Commissioner of the Commission of Rehabilitation Counselor Certification, on the topic of "Ethical Conduct in Vocational Case Management." She reviewed the proposed revisions of the CRC Code and provided many examples of advisory opinions given by the Commission for guidance of Counselors.

Illinois Chapter President Michael Mooney started the meeting with a historical economic perspective for the period between 1978 and 2008. Advice on job seeking was provided to the large contingent of rehabilitation counseling students from Northeastern and Northern Illinois Universities. The Annual Illinois meeting also reviewed the Chapter's participation in activities which include: workers compensation, transition services, Board representation

with the Coalition of Illinois Counseling Associations (CICO), development of the Chapter web site, and the interface with IARP.

The most amazing aspect of the meeting involved the wonderfully supportive sponsors: Athletico and Accelerated Rehabilitation. There was also exhibitor participation with the Building and Fire Code Academy, Midwest Orthopaedics, ResCare, and Northeastern Illinois University. Their support allowed the meeting to be held at the most wonderful venue with excellent food and at a cost lower than that paid by the members and participants the previous year.

Ultimately, the biggest winners from the events of the day are the future vocational service recipients...the consumers. They will benefit by having better evaluations, reports, and ethical service delivery.

Post conference discussions touched on the repeated demonstration of the Illinois Chapter's ability to provide quality regional education opportunities. The availability of speakers and facilities to accommodate a multi-state audience at a reasonable cost was evidenced by the program. Plans for the future programs involving surrounding states were touched on as an achievable goal. This was felt to have an appeal during an economic time when travel and hotel costs become an increasing challenge to members who seek high quality education and affiliation, but prefer to keep out of pocket meeting costs down.

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*Michelle Hultine*  
President, NEIARP

The NEIARP held its fall conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. We were privileged to have Ann Neulicht, Mary Barros Bailey and Jeff Carlisle consent to do an ethics webinar with our group and we anticipated an exciting exchange of information on the changes that are in the works. All things were in place, with the exception of audio reception to the conference. We thank all those who were so patient, however, we had a great ethics discussion on the power point presentation. The conference featured many diverse and relevant topics including a presentation by Steve Kuhn on "Life Coaching", Bart Hultine addressed the issues of "What an Economist Needs in a Report from a Vocational Expert", and Mike Newman together with Jack Greene presented an excellent description of the differences and similarities in the "Loss of Earning Power Reports of Personal Injury, Social Security, FELA, and Workers Compensation".

NEIARP is excited about introducing a new conference for next spring. We are going to host a "Boutique Conference" in Omaha, Nebraska. We will have a multi-track conference and offer CEU's and topics of discussion that will be targeted to address the needs of the state, regional and national membership. We are in the process of identifying nationally recognized speakers, including medical, forensic, and vocational rehabilitation experts. NEIARP hopes this will be an opportunity and possibly a "look into the future" for IARP. We are centrally located in the United States, and can offer some exciting and economical options for the national membership; as well as providing an insightful and challenging conference.

***IARP PROUDLY OBSERVES NATIONAL REHABILITATION WEEK***  
***September 21-27, 2008***

IARP is proud to express its acknowledgement of the large number of rehabilitation professionals who make up and support our vibrant organization of nearly 2,500 members. Being a counselor, therapist, rehabilitation case manager, and expert in matters of medical and vocational disability in 2008 has challenges, opportunities, risks, and rewards that are unique to our day.

Many decades after its inception, IARP continues to believe in the high skill level and entrepreneurial pursuits of today's rehabilitation professional, one of the founding cores of our membership. We pledge to be responsive to the needs of the rehabilitation community, from the perspectives of both the provider and recipient within our society.

Through our volunteer leadership and publication opportunities, list serv discussions, outstanding local and national conferences and our member benefits, we encourage all rehabilitation professionals to keep posted on what IARP has to offer to help you with your success. Your suggestions as clinical and forensic professionals to local chapters as well as to the international organization give us a unique professional perspective. This sharing enables IARP to be an ever-changing and adapting organization that promotes our mutual change and growth.

For those of you who are business owners or self-employed, accessing our benefits not only helps you with savings, but also provides rehabilitation information and assistance as related to your scope of practice. When purchased and used, many IARP benefits including the IARP credit card, also serve to contribute to the finances of the organization as a whole. In turn, that serves again to bring more benefits to you. We urge you to frequently check and contribute to our web-based document library and review the entire financial, professional, educational, insurance, and benefits listings that we keep adding.

IARP is proud of all its members and celebrates our mission and yours together during National Rehabilitation Week! Let's keep growing together.

*Contributed by: Bob Paré*

*(Treasurer's Report Continued from page 1)*

*The Rehabilitation Professional* and the *Journal of Life Care Planning*. In addition to these measures, we are also vigilantly looking at our overhead costs as it relates to the day to day management of the association.

Through the first two months of this fiscal year, we are on budget to slightly ahead of budget, though it is too early in the fiscal year to draw any conclusions from this. We are looking forward to another successful forensic conference. We are paying off our financial obligations in a timely manner. It remains the goal of the board and finance committee to build up cash reserves so that we eventually have 3 to 6 months of operating expenses in reserve. We will then be able to manage the association from a position of strength. Thanks for your support and understanding during these challenging financial times. We value your membership.

#### A Note from the IARP President

This fiscal year has started with many changes; some very abrupt, some planned. One bit of feedback we received from the membership as it, as a collective, adjusted to these changes, was a hue and cry for 'more information'. Very true, and fair. How can we feel connected to our association if we do not know 'what's going on'? So, at the risk of 'too much information', here comes another brief report.

Your board works very closely with each other – we are often on 2-3 joint conference calls a month, however, I speak to John Meltzer much more frequently. So, it seemed to make sense to contribute this

article in conjunction with his report.

This year is a big challenge to our association. I hope there is no one for which this is a surprise. When we set the budget, we took a big breath-would the association support us, or would we become another victim of the economic woes that effect so many? The good news is that we are already seeing the benefits of our decisions. To put it in the 'cup is half full perspective': Membership has begun to grow, and expenses are steady. We are paying our bills and putting money in the bank. I can't say it any more clearly than that.

Many people are responsible for this – too many to name here, but as a whole, they represent those who have made a hard decision to try something new and unknown; those who have pushed a creative idea forward in the face of adversity; those who have found a way to do volunteer work as a volunteer; to those who have quietly and individually contributed to the work of the group.

The IARP Board of Directors will host its annual strategic planning meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> as part of the forensic conference. We will have a lot of work cut out for us and hope you will continue to witness the results of our hard work.

For the first time in its history, the forensic conference will host the annual business meeting of the association for the year 2008 – 2009 on Saturday, November 1, 2008. I hope to have new and exciting announcements from our strategic planning meeting, and look forward to seeing you all there!

Neil Bennett,  
IARP President





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Rehabilitation Professionals*

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**Uniting Rehabilitation Professionals**

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WWW.REHABPRO.ORG**

**IARP UNITES REHABILITATION**

**PROFESSIONALS** across North America and beyond to promote the availability of effective, interdisciplinary services for persons with disabilities.

- ◆ IARP serves a diverse membership practicing in the fields of long-term disability and disability management consulting, case management and managed care, forensics and expert testimony, life care planning, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) consulting.
- ◆ IARP supports professional growth of its 2,500 members by providing an ethics code, professional competence standards, continuing education programs, networking opportunities, and group-discounted packages of professional benefits.
- ◆ IARP fosters rehabilitation research and management innovation through national conferences and the publication of peer-reviewed articles in RehabPro, its quarterly journal.
- ◆ IARP strives to shape public policy favorable to private-sector rehabilitation by working closely with other professional associations, government, and industry. Explore this website to learn more about the IARP mission and how we work to achieve it.

**Member's Corner**

**The New IARP Corporate Discount Membership Program**

The International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals now offers corporate discount membership to employers enrolling ten or more employees as individual IARP members. To qualify for the corporate discount membership program an organization must have multiple members enrolled in IARP. Discounts are based on volume and will be determined according to the numbers of employees enrolled.

For more information on this program, please visit the IARP website at <http://www.rehabpro.org/membership/member-categories/corporate-membership>.

**IARP Offers Group Rates on Insurance!**

The International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals has great new programs to offer our members! **We now have group rates with Marsh Insurance for IARP members for professional liability insurance, pet insurance and more. IARP has now made available medical insurance (for your family or your staff), dental insurance, long-term care insurance, and pet insurance.** That's five kinds of insurance for you to participate in through IARP. Go to <https://www.personal-plans.com/iarp/welcome.do> for more information.