



Montana Association for Rehabilitation CHRONICLE

Fall Edition

Volume VI

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A Private Non-Profit Organization Dedicated to Persons with Disabilities

Chronicle Topics:

- Short & Sweet Peep From President
- Upcoming Conference Will Knock Socks Off!
- Mind Your Manners: Conference Etiquette
- MAR Goes Web-Side
- VR & CRPs Do The EE Hustle!
- Special Tributes
- 2005 MAR Conference Agenda & Registration Form

President's Corner by Barb Schiedermayer

Welcome to the first electronic MAR Newsletter!

To begin, we thank Kathey Gilluly, Joanne Grimm and COR Enterprises, who coordinated, edited and produced the written Chronicle for several years, for their dedicated service. As they decided to retire from the newsletter production business, we needed a solution. Alas, Janet Van Dyke suggested we go electronic. Kudos to Miss Janet!

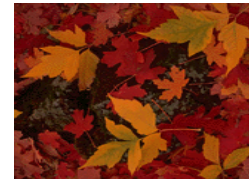
2005 MAR Legislative Campaign Is Successful!

Together, MAR members across the state worked diligently to educate legislators and secure service funding for our fellow Montanans who live with disabilities. We delivered our message to the legislators via a televised public service announcement, personalized postcards, Altoid/Factoids, legislative forums, and legislative testimony. Message received! MAR contributed to the accomplishment of essential goals including a full state match and increased funding for the Extended Employment program. Well done, MAR!

Special thanks to Joe Mathew's Team and the VR

Council for tireless support and guidance, to our lobbyist, Charlie Briggs for effectively carrying our message, and most especially to Senator Penny Morgan for taking up our charge and bringing the message home.

No good deed goes unpunished, however. Now that we've got a truck load of EE money, unloading it has proven to be a bit more complicated. Please read enclosed article by Janet Van Dyke, *VR and CRPs Do the EE Hustle*.



Don't miss the 2005 MAR Conference!

The upcoming conference promises to renew your enthusiasm, and revitalize your health! Mark Mahnke has done an outstanding job of securing the quintessential job development guru, Denise Bissonette to present. A keynote address by Dr. Jack Horner and an evening at the Museum of the Rockies are icing on the cake. Personally, I believe this conference will knock our socks off! I look forward to seeing you all

Conference Will Knock Socks Off! by Mark Mahnke

Calling all Rehabbers.....

Get ready for three days of renewal, revitalization and good times here in merry old Bozeman.

The conference is just a month away and I am excited about the prospect of having Bozeman as our host city. Most of you have seen the agenda and know we have some fabulous talent coming to share their knowledge with us.

In addition to the speakers we have a reception and tour at the Museum of the Rockies planned for Wednesday night. The Museum will be open exclusively to MAR conference attendees from 6-9:00 that night and MAR will be hosting

beverages and delectables throughout the evening. You are welcome at any time during the evening and the tours are self-guided (and Free!) Please leave your food and drinks in the lobby.

On Wednesday morning Health Works Institute will be giving free—that's right FREE!—chair massages.

On a serious note, the **GranTree has asked that attendees (non MVR block) get their reservations done by October 1.** I know this is tight but it really helps them out a great deal.

That's it from me.....call me if you have any questions (587-0601)



Mind Your Manners, Please: Conference Etiquette

by Rhonda Shumway

Conference etiquette has become a focus of the MAR Executive Board following the last several conferences. In an attempt to address these issues the Board has come up with a list of conference etiquette recommendations and would like to share these ideas with you as part of pre-conference activities.

If it will ring, please don't bring! Out of courtesy to the speakers and fellow attendees, please turn off your cell phone during the conference sessions. If you must answer your phone, please leave the session to take your call.

If it's more than you, pay for two (or more guests). The conference organizer must have an exact head count for meals so please pay before hand for any guests you might bring. If you have a change in plans, notify the organizer as soon as possible so MAR is not charged for unnecessary expenses.

Head 'em up and move 'em to the front. Out of respect for our speakers please take the seats in the front of the room. Show the speakers we are truly interested in what they have to say. Leave the back rows for stragglers.

Chatter is what's the matter. Please be respectful of other attendees and our guests by not talking during the sessions. This is very disruptive to other around you.

Want some cheese with that Whine? If you have comments, suggestions, or concerns please bring them to the attention of any MAR board member or use the conference evaluation form to advise us. The evaluation forms are read and taken seriously. We can't address concerns or suggestions unless we know they exist.

We greatly appreciate your taking the time to read through the list and for incorporating these suggestions into your participation at the conference. We also welcome other Conference Etiquette suggestions! Please contact any Board Member with your thoughts and ideas.



*Good Manners:
The noise you
don't make when
you're eating soup.
-Bennett Curf*

MAR Goes Web-Side by Bob Snizek

For a long time MAR has recognized that we needed to develop a website in order to better serve its membership. Steady progress is being made on this goal. MAR has hired *Zee Creative Web Design* to put together an accessible site that will contain pages that will address the following subjects: (1) The MAR Newsletter, (2) Legislative Updates, (3) Board Meeting Notes, (4) MAR Chapter Reports, (5) Description of Awards and Award Winners, (6) A Printable version of MAR brochure, (7) MAR Board Contact Info, (8) VR Provider Links, (9) A "How Do I Join?" Page, and (10) Conference Information.

This beginning website will be likely expanded as the organization grows and we identify additional needs that can be addressed through our new website.

One nice feature of this site is that the MAR organization will be able to update many sections without technical assistance so that we can keep each other abreast of the latest goings on with legislative developments and local chapter news!!!

We plan on launching the website in the next three months!!!



Rehab Counselors and Providers Do The EE Hustle

by Janet Van Dyke

After years of lamenting the lack of funding for extended support services for consumers who require that service to maintain employment, the world of vocational rehabilitation was whipped into action when legislators not only listened to the words of rehabilitation spokespeople but acted on them by increasing funding to the Extended Employment program.

Around the State, VR counselors and staff of Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRPs) found themselves relearning the steps of a dance that many of them had grown up with, "The Hustle". (For those of you too young, put nine or ten dah dah dahs together, with spirit, and then sing out "Do the Hustle!").

Nowhere was the urgency of getting into action felt more than in the Missoula-Hamilton areas. With a waiting list of over a hundred consumers waiting to access services, the first several had been waiting for four years. Some could not be found. Some had moved to other parts of the State. Some were quickly "hustled" into services again.

Missoula, long known as the area that assesses consumers to the nth degree, quickly had to learn a new move, "The Rehab Hustle."

One unnamed VR Counselor Supervisor, once known for her gentle encouraging ways, became a drill sergeant with commands to "follow-up," "act," "find them,"

"decide," and "get the sign-off!". Her Regional Administrator set the cadence of activity.

Counselors made time for consumers to reapply for services but also developed IPEs in the same appointment. Now that's hustle!

CRPs selected by the consumer quickly memorized the move of faxing agreements to VR and to Rocky Mountain Rehabilitation. Reg Gibbs of Rocky Mtn. Rehab became something of a conductor of this whole dance as his calls directed when another consumer, further down the list, could be contacted.

The number of dancers in the Rehab Hustle increased as two new Community Rehab Providers brought in their dance cards. Job Opportunity Based Services and Montana Works joined Opportunity Resources, Ravalli Services and the WORCenter of Community Medical Center. Each quickly moved into job search mode for thirty some consumers.

Employment has been found for many and job coaching, the last step of the Hustle, began. Several consumers, unemployed or under employed in May and June, now have meaningful employment and the support to maintain those jobs. What a dance!

Special Tributes by Joe Mathews

The Montana rehabilitation community was deeply saddened this year when two of its lifelong members passed away. Larry Harlan and Bill Lamb both died this summer, leaving a tremendous void for all who knew them.

Together, Larry and Bill amassed over 70 years experience working for the betterment of Montana's citizens with disabilities. Their work spanned over four decades and each contributed in a myriad of ways to the success of the Montana Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

Larry and Bill will be sorely missed by all of us and their contributions to our system of services will always be remembered by those who were lucky enough to know and work with them. We shall forever be grateful for Larry and Bill.

The Montana Rehabilitation Association expresses its heartfelt condolences to the Harlan and Lamb families.



Mural at MSDB by former VR client and artist extraordinaire, Debra Robaski

***RENEW AND REVIVE IN 2005
TOOLS FOR THE REHABILITATION PROFESSIONAL***



Montana Association
for Rehabilitation
Annual Conference
October 22-28, 2005
GranTree Inn
Bozeman, Montana



AGENDA

Wednesday October 26:

- 8:00-11:30 Check In.
11:30-12:45 Annual MAR Business Meeting and Luncheon
1:00 – 2:15 Keynote Address by Dr. John “Jack” Horner
Director of Paleontology–Museum of the Rockies
2:30 – 4:30 Ethics in Public Service – John Moore
Director-Professional Development Center
Adjourn – Dinner on your own.
6:00 – 9:00 Reception and tour at the Museum of the Rockies.

Thursday October 27:

- 8:30 – 12:00 “Beyond Traditional Job Development” by
Denise Bissonette.
Lunch Break
1:00 – 4:30 “Beyond Traditional Job Development” cont.
5:30 – 6:30 President’s Reception
6:30 – 8:30 Annual Awards Banquet

Friday October 28:

- 8:30 – 11:30 “Rekindling the Flame” by Denise Bissonette
11:30 Check out and return to your homes, family, work and life
renewed and revived!!!!

