

NRAJPD E-Blast 2010

We hope this update finds you doing well. As we on the NRAJPD Board of Directors reflect on 2010, we are proud of the many exciting accomplishments.

Lou Ortale Lecture:

NRAJPD was pleased and proud to honor Peggy Anderson as the 2010 Lou Ortale Lecturer at the recent NRA Conference in New Orleans. Peggy is the Administrator of the Business Relations Program for Alabama Dept. of Rehabilitation Services. She has been active member of Partnerships with Business since 1976 and has held many leadership roles throughout her career.

Her lecture focused on the progress of the National Employment Network and it's anticipated implications for the hiring of persons with disabilities across the U.S. by national companies. Peggy was honored w/ a plaque at the conclusion of the lecture and she commented on how proud she was of having been selected. We were pleased by both the quality of her presentation and the great turnout, considering that it was held on Saturday afternoon on a beautiful day in New Orleans.



Sherri Clark & Roger Carter

Award Recipients:

This year, NRAJPD was proud to select Sherri Clark of Red Oak Iowa as the Margaret Fairbairn Award recipient. This award is presented each year to a person who has demonstrated exemplary achievement in the placement of persons with disabilities. Sherri was nominated by Matt Bruinekool, Past President of Iowa JPD. What made Sherri stand out is that she is not a job placement specialist by profession/job title but instead the Executive Director of Nishna Productions, a community rehabilitation provider w/ offices and facilities in southwest Iowa and which provides both employment and residential services. Sherri takes it upon herself to do "whatever is necessary to improve the lives of persons with disabilities" even if it means she herself has to provide job coaching, perform worksite assessments, etc. Sherri is also an active community leader and has also served on various committees in conjunction with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Sherri was presented her award by NRAJPD President Roger Carter at the Iowa Rehabilitation Association Conference held in Des Moines Oct.20-22nd, with her husband and mother in the audience.

Board of Directors:

One of the more important items of business discussed at this year's Annual Meeting in New Orleans was the election of officers for the upcoming year. Sara Sundeen of Minnesota will be the new President, Roger will serve as the immediate Past President (again), Gary Rainaldi of Illinois has agreed to serve as Treasurer and Doris Illies of Minnesota has chosen to serve another term as Secretary. Current Board Member Anna Soderman of Michigan has volunteered to serve as President-Elect (w/ her term as President beginning in 2012). Ballots will be sent out in the near future. NRAJPD is interested in helping anyone interested get involved at the National Level. Anyone interested should contact Sara Sundeen or Roger Carter.

Unit Grants:

NRAJPD is pleased to announce we are again accepting applications for our Unit Development Grant funding. These grants would be awarded to states to provide assistance with membership recruitment, membership retention, training, etc. See attachments for details. The deadline is March 14, 2011.

Fundraising:

Did you know you can buy cool NRAJPD merchandise anytime you want? Check out:

<http://shop.cafepress.com/design/2837639>

If you have information your state would like to share with others please feel free to contact me at anytime.

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