

From the President

Brendan Flynn, your 2009 OARP President, would like to introduce himself: Greetings, for those that do not know me, I began my career in vocational rehabilitation working with my father's small voc rehab office in Minnesota. I moved to Portland in 2002 to attend Portland State University's graduate program in Rehabilitation Counseling. While in this program, I worked as a Rehabilitation Counselor at Career Directions Northwest and used this opportunity for my graduate internship with PSU.

Since then I transitioned over to the Short and Long Term Disability Management field with Standard Insurance Company and have been there since 2005 as a Vocational Case Manager. I am happy to be serving as OARP's Chapter President and believe we got off to a great start in 2009 with a successful Spring Conference.

As President, I plan to ensure OARP continues to coordinate positive and diverse continuing educational and networking opportunities for our rehabilitation professionals. Additionally, I feel we can increase our membership base giving us a stronger voice within the IARP community. I encourage you to contact me for any questions, comments or simply chat about our profession.

Thank you,
Brendan

Our newest Board Member ~ Juanita Cook

Juanita Cook moved to Portland from Hawaii just one year ago to be closer to family and is delighted to be here.

She has a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and holds CRC and CCM certification. She has worked in the private non-profit, worker's compensation and public agency sectors of vocational rehabilitation. She transferred here with PACBLU Northwest and is now a Counselor Specialist with the Oregon Commission for the Blind. Having been active on the board of the Hawaii Rehabilitation Counselor Association, as a member and officer, she was looking for an opportunity to be actively engaged in the VR community when she heard OARP was seeking new board members, and is now the newest member.

In Memory of Adrian Gaffuri

Our friend and colleague Adrian Gaffuri, Ph.D., died suddenly on December 26, 2008. She had been with Workforce Dynamics since 1984. As a vocational expert and counselor she provided a wide variety of services to her clients. She served on the OARP board of directors for many years and her presence and good humor will be greatly missed within our community. A gift in her

name was made to the Oregon Humane Society, an organization she supported.

Legislative Report

Delmi Hernandez, Manager of the Employment Services Team at the Workers Compensation Division, has requested input for rule promulgation occurring this summer. The OARP Legislative Committee, composed of Kathy Wallace, Scott Stipe and Grace Smith, wants to participate in this process. Grace and Kathy will represent OARP on the EST advisory committee for the rule changes, and are requesting your assistance in identifying potential rule change issues.

Please forward your ideas for changes to the OAR 436-105 (Employer at Injury), 436-110 (Preferred Worker Program), by no later than July 10, 2009 to OARP at office@oarp.org.

Injured Worker Fund

by Linda Hill on the current condition of the IWF

We recently sent out a solicitation letter for donations and got back \$1,100 which is really good.

The check book balance is \$2,400. We have had 8 people donate this year with the majority of the donations being more than \$100. We have given out \$\$ to 6 people and I have gotten a call about a 7th. SO the IWF is very stable right now which is good. Requests seem to come in clusters and we can give out a lot of \$\$ in a very quick period of time. Also, we increased the amount someone can request up to \$300 so that will impact how long the \$ lasts.

(Thanks to Sandy Schramm for assisting on this report to the newsletter, EWH.)

IARP Report

By Dennis Funk
As many of you know, I have had the distinct honor of serving on the IARP Board of Directors as the Council of Chapters Presidents' Representative. I am in the second year of my two-year term having been elected by the membership a little over a year ago. Prior to my election I had served for a few years on the IARP membership committee including as both its chair and co-chair for the last few years.

I am pleased to report that over the past year where during time of economic uncertainty the membership of IARP has remained fairly constant. This is due in part to the presidents of each of the 30 chapters of IARP working diligently to meet the needs of the individual members. As you can imagine, during the past couple of years the Board of Directors has faced numerous obstacles due to the economy but most importantly due to the financial struggles of the organization. Over the past two years the Annual Conferences held in Las Vegas and Washington, D.C.

SAVE THE DATE!!!
OARP 2009 Fall Conference
Holiday Inn Wilsonville, Oregon
October, 9, 2009
Register Early & SAVE \$\$\$
Early Registration is Open NOW
at www.oarp.org
Remember OARP takes Plastic!

If you have registration or membership questions
call: 503-598-0711

*** IF YOU ARE A GRADUATE STUDENT AND
INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE,
OARP OFFERS A STUDENT DISCOUNT***

were less than successful in their attendance. For this reason a significant financial burden was assumed by the Board of Directors. Therefore, this past year the Board of Directors made drastic cuts in our budget, which resulted in tremendous cost savings to the organization and resulted in a very profitable year. Our year-end balance was very strong and this included funding a reserve account that will be available to the organization should a funding short-fall occur again in the future.

During the past few months the Association has made tremendous strides in growing the organization. First and foremost a new section has been approved for Social Security Vocational Evaluators. Scott Stipe whom many of you know was instrumental along with other members across the nation in championing this new Section. We are hopeful that this new Section will result in hundreds of new members for the Association. Additionally,

new chapters have been organized in Canada (soon to be finalized) and Montana. We also hope to add our chapter in Ireland as well as welcome back the Wisconsin Chapter after a decade of being disaffiliated.

The International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals Board of Directors is very optimistic about our strength as an organization representing rehabilitation professionals from a wide variety of settings. We hope to further expand our reach as the best association to represent rehabilitation professionals in the future. We sincerely appreciate the volunteer efforts within the chapters as well as national and international committees. If any of you wish to volunteer for any committees I would encourage you to contact either me directly or the international headquarters. We also welcome any feedback you may have with regards to the chapter or the international association.

OARP 2009 Spring Conference a Success!

The OARP Spring conference, February 27, 2009, was well attended. The central assembly area was filled with vendor's tables and exhibits. The Holiday Inn in Wilsonville provided a comfortable setting for presenters and attendees alike. Dennis Funk, outgoing chapter president presided over presentations largely focused on occupational measures, labor market information, new eDOT developments and Oregon's economic picture.

Presenters included: Gale Gibson of Vertek, Inc., Jeff Truthan of SkillTRAN, LLC, representatives from PAQ and Ms. Brenda Turner, occupational economist for Oregon Employment Division.

OARP Employer of The Year Award for 2009, was presented to Legacy Health Systems for their commitment to return to work. Representing Legacy was Ms. Carmen Jones; Manager, Workers' Compensation Disability and Leaves.

OARP Professional of The Year for 2009, was Hank Lageman for his years of services with in the vocational rehabilitation community.



Dennis Funk, outgoing Chapter President congratulating Brendan Flynn, incoming Chapter president for 2009-2010



Carmen Jones, Manager Workers' Compensation Disability and Leaves at Legacy Health Systems accepts, on behalf of Legacy, the 2008 Employer of the Year Award from OARP outgoing president Dennis Funk.

OARP Offices

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Rehabilitation Professionals
A Chapter of IARP

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