



NARRTC News

Issue 11, January 2011

Message from the President

Welcome to the first issue of *NARRTC News* in 2011. We bring you some of the relevant news from NIDRR and NARRTC members, provide an update on 2011 conference planning, and links to the archive of the first teleconference for all NARRTC members, held on December 15, 2010.

Please share with us anything that you would like to see included in future issues, such as upcoming events, new products, position vacancies, or other relevant information. If you have suggestions for other features or additions to the newsletter, please let me know.

-- John D. Westbrook, PhD

News from NIDRR and ED

Bobby Silverstein of [Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville, PC](#) reported from a meeting with Acting NIDRR Director, Sue Swenson, that Ruth Brannon is now serving as Deputy Director of NIDRR. David Esquith has been detailed to OMB, where he will have NIDRR's portfolio.

The "NIDRR Presents" program with Gerben DeJong was very successful. Attendees thought the information about the importance of the [Affordable Care Act](#) (ACA) to people with disabilities was first rate. The presentation was opened to NIDRR's federal partners as well as to the non-governmental community – that seemed to be a very good move. Bobby noted that Sue Swenson indicated she would like to host more presentations like this.

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NARRTC's All-Member Teleconference

NARRTC's first ever all-member teleconference was held on December 15, 2010, with reports from the President, committee chairs, and updates from "The Hill" by Bobby Silverstein. If you missed it, you can catch up by listening to the audio file and/or reading the transcript.

- [Audio file of Teleconference on 12/15/10](#) (1 hr. mp3 file)
- [Transcript of Teleconference on 12/15/10](#) (96kb .doc file)

2011 NARRTC Annual Conference UPDATE

NARRTC will hold its 33rd annual national conference, *Improving Lives through Disability and Rehabilitation Research*, on Wednesday and Thursday, April 27 - 28, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, MD. The agenda will focus on the work being done by a range of NIDRR grantees to advance science and improve the lives of individuals with disabilities.

[Register online](#) for the conference (\$300 registration fee for members/presenters; includes breaks and lunch on both days; plus online fee. Ask about non-member/student rates.)

[Reserve your hotel room online](#) (\$266/night plus applicable taxes)

Call for Papers and Presentations Now Open! **Submissions due by February 18, 2011.**

All NIDRR grantees are invited to submit a paper and present at the upcoming conference. Presentations can be based on new evidence and insights gained through your NIDRR grant work. Proposals will be accepted for 20-minute presentations as part of moderated platforms. Each presentation should include 15 minutes of presentation and 5 minutes of question and answer. Proposals for 60- or 90-minute symposia will also be considered.

To submit a proposal online:

<http://depts.washington.edu/narrtc/ocsdev/index.php/narrtc/2011/author/submit>

DOWNLOAD: [Call for Papers Invitation \(MS Word\)](#) for instructions, possible topics, etc.

All presenters are required to [register for the conference](#) by March 18, 2011.

NARRTC Awards

The NARRTC is seeking submissions and nominations for the following awards. All awards will be presented on April 28, 2011 at the annual meeting in Washington, DC.

- [Knowledge Translation Activity Award](#) **[NEW in 2011!]** (Submission Deadline: February 18, 2011)
- [Distinguished Service, Commendation, and Special Contribution Awards](#) (Nominations Deadline: March 4, 2011)
- ["Best Research Paper" Award](#) (Submission Deadline **EXTENDED**: February 18, 2011)

The election of NARRTC Officers for 2011-2012 will also take place at the annual meeting.

Watch your mailbox for the invitation for nominations!

NARRTC Membership: New Dues Structure for 2011

Dues notices will be going out soon to all NIDRR grantees inviting them to join or renew their membership. Dues are held at the same rate as the past three years, but a new "group discount" structure will allow organizations with multiple NIDRR grants to take advantage of up to a 30% discount on the dues for each project. Another cost-saving feature is pro-rating dues for projects starting/ending during 2011. *Group discounts will still apply to the pro-rated dues.*

- "Group" means NIDRR-funded projects at the **same institution**.
- **Must submit dues as a group** to get a 10% discount for two, 20% discount for three, and 30% discount for four or more projects. *The discount applies to dues for each project.*

- If another project from a group joins later, a **10% dues discount will be applied upon request.**

PROJECT BUDGET	DUES
Up to \$150,000: <i>(includes no-cost extension)</i>	\$150
150,001-250,000:	\$250
250,001-350,000:	\$350
350,001-500,000:	\$450
500,001-699,999:	\$550
\$700,000 and up:	\$650

Member Spotlight

NARRTC likes to highlight member activities for newsletter readers. Please send information about upcoming conferences, commendations & awards, calls for papers or participants, new publications or products, or any other project tidbit to [Jana Burke](#).

Aggressive uptake of KT4TT materials by International Professional Society

The Product Development Managers Association (PDMA) recently created a “Body of Knowledge” as a single-source for materials identified as critical for member access (www.thesource.pdma.org). PDMA engagement by Jennifer Flagg and James Leahy, staff members of the [Center on Knowledge Translation for Technology Transfer \(KT4TT\)](#), prompted the PDMA to integrate about a dozen of the KT4TT’s publications and webcasts, most readily accessed through the “[R&D](#)” and “[Research and Development](#)” and “[Innovation](#)” tags.

According to Jen, “The PDMA’s interest demonstrates that the problem of maintaining rigor and relevance to achieve successful innovation outcomes is common to all technology-based fields. Although PDMA is primarily an industry trade association, they welcome academic input that is presented at an operational level and in their own context, a key to successful knowledge translation.” [PDMA](#) is the premier advocate for product development and management professionals worldwide, spanning industry, government and academic sectors.

Recent Publication by Region 1 DBTAC

The [DBTAC - New England ADA Center](#) just published an article by Neeta P. Fogg, Paul E. Harrington, and Brian T. McMahon in the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 33(3), 193–202: [The impact of the Great Recession upon the unemployment of Americans with disabilities.](#)

Abstract: Recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics allows assessment of the impact of the Great Recession on working age persons with disabilities in America. Following an overview of the nature and scope of the Great Recession, the labor market experiences of persons with and without disability are compared for 16 of the 22 months of its duration. Differences which favor those without disabilities were detected in the labor market activity rate, the official unemployment rate, and in the desire for work among those who have quit the workforce. These differences persist among subgroups based upon age and educational attainment. The level of educational attainment appears to not provide the same level of insulation from the consequences of labor market downturns for persons with disabilities as it does for persons without disabilities. Finally, the reasons for unemployment are quite different for persons with and without disabilities.

Region 2 DBTAC Research Results

Hannah Rudstam, PhD, and Wendy Strobel Gower, Project Director of the [DBTAC - Northeast ADA Center](#) share the results of a recent research study:

Veterans with Disabilities in the Workplace: Are Employers Ready?

Will yellow ribbons be enough? As veterans return from active service in Iraq and Afghanistan, they will be entering or re-entering the civilian workforce. Many of these service members will be making this transition with a newly acquired disability, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI). Do employers have the knowledge, commitments and practices in place to enable these veterans to fully contribute their talents and skills in the workplace? The Northeast ADA Center in collaboration the [National ADA Centers](#) and the national [Society for Human Resource Management](#) (SHRM), recently conducted a study to assess the readiness of employers to recruit, hire, accommodate and sustain employment for veterans with disabilities. The survey focused on employer readiness in three areas: 1. Employer knowledge; 2. Employer beliefs/expectations; and 3. Employer actions/practices. Out of 10,000 surveys distributed, 1,083 surveys were returned from respondents spanning the for-profit, not-for-profit and public sectors.

Preliminary findings indicate that, though employers were somewhat committed to the idea of employing veterans with disabilities, they were largely not aware of and had not actually used resources that would enable them to recruit and accommodate these jobseekers. Further, though employers generally believed that they would benefit from employing veterans with disabilities, a substantial percent (24–26%) were unsure about specific benefits, such as job performance, customer relations and return on accommodation investment. Finally, employers reported struggling with the signature disabilities of PTSD and TBI, with well over half of respondents indicating they are unsure of how to accommodate workers with these signature disabilities (53% for PTSD and 70% for TBI). Respondents also reported having scant experience in providing these accommodations (6% had experience accommodating workers with PTSD and 2% had experience with TBI).

What do these findings mean? Overall, though employers have good will in employing veterans with disabilities, they are largely not geared up for the entry/re-entry of veterans with disabilities into their workforce. Yellow ribbons will not be enough; we need to meet employers half way. Employers will need a process for translating this goodwill into disability inclusive workplace cultures and practices to enable veterans with disabilities to get jobs and thrive in the civilian workplace.

NARRTC News is developed and prepared by [John Westbrook](#), [Joann Starks](#), and [Jana Burke](#). Email us with your comments, feedback, and suggestions for content!