



NRA - VEWAA Bulletin

Fall 2006



VEWAA is a
division of NRA

Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association

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VEWAA President's Message

by Paige Tidwell, MRC, CRC, CVE

As the National Rehabilitation Association annual conference draws near, we are presented with an opportunity to reflect on the importance of professional development and supporting the organizations that represent our field of rehabilitation. Since becoming President of VEWAA, I have had many opportunities to reflect on this as I monitor our membership and activities. Unfortunately, I have witnessed our membership decreasing and often wonder how we as a division can meet the needs of our members and help others realize the benefits in joining. Questions that come to my mind include: How can we encourage more state division participation? What are the training needs of our members? What is happening across the country in the field of evaluation and work adjustment? What are the current trends in the academic programs? What are the trends in the field?

It is my hope that understanding the answers to these questions will shape VEWAA in meeting the needs of our members, and thereby solidify the importance of becoming a member. During the annual conference in Orlando, a membership meeting will be held on Friday, November 10th. I cordially invite any of our members (and future members) who are in attendance to join us. During this meeting the Board will update the membership on our activities and direction of the division. We will also use this time to vote on the revised Bylaws and Constitution. I also hope to hear from the members regarding what they are looking for from our division.

If you are unable to attend the conference, but would like to provide me with some feedback, feel free to contact me at (706) 354-3900 or by e-mail at paige.tidwell@dol.state.ga.us.

New Resource on Vocational Evaluation Available

The field of vocational evaluation has a long history as an excellent resource that can benefit many, if not most, individuals with disabilities who are interested in entering the workforce or advancing their career options. Vocational evaluation, however, has come under scrutiny in the past several years and questions have been raised about its relevance in today's rehabilitation setting.

The 30th Institute on Rehabilitation Issues "A New Paradigm for Vocational Evaluation: Empowering the VR Consumer Through Vocational Information" takes a very in-depth look at overall practice of vocational evaluation. The publication addresses the value of VE; discusses emerging paradigms and the evolution of the vocational evaluator; takes a close look at the vocational evaluation process; investigates the role of assistive technology; discusses how VE fits in with transition; addresses issues of communication and cultural factors; looks at communicating findings; and, highlights a number of promising practices.

As practitioners in the field and persons interested in vocational assessment this is a worthwhile resource to add to your library. Copies are available through the Region 6 Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program in Arkansas. Contact www.rcep6.org for information on how to order.

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“...The mission of VEWAA remains to improve and advance the fields of vocational evaluation and work readiness and is committed to representing the needs of all professionals who provide related services. Through training, education and communications, VEWAA seeks to provide all members with access to professional growth opportunities, to respond to current issues, and to monitor the development of public policy and workforce trends at the national, state, and local levels.”

In keeping true to our mission, it is the Board's pleasure to provide all of our members with an opportunity to learn from others and share their own expertise.

The Thirteenth National Forum on Issues in Vocational Assessment

Proposals should be submitted no later than:
October 15, 2006

Email or mail completed proposal package to:

VECAP National Forum
Juliet Fried, Ed.D.
University of Northern Colorado
School of Human Sciences
Campus Box 132
Gunter Hall, Room 1250
Greeley, CO 80639
(970) 351-1580
e-mail: juliet.fried@unco.edu

The VECAP Forum has traditionally been a practitioner-oriented conference, emphasizing the opportunity for practitioners to share their experiences with others. The topics selected and the papers presented have typically reflected issues of interest in vocational evaluation, assessment and work adjustment services.

Expected Conference Strands include:

- Vocational Evaluation in Private Practice
 - Vocational Assessment for the Business Community
 - Career Assessment in Transition
 - Virtual Practice/Portfolio Development
 - Research and Research Based Assessment Practices
 - Work Samples, Tests, and Tools
 - Work Adjustment
 - Other
-

CCWAVES and the CVE Certification

Most readers of this newsletter are likely aware of the CVE (Certified Vocational Evaluation Specialist) certification which is provided by the Commission on Certification of Work Adjustment and Evaluation Specialists. The primary purpose of the CVE is to provide assurance that professionals engaged in vocational evaluation meet acceptable standards of quality. The designation of CVE represents that the holder of the certification meets minimum standards of competence as established by the Commission. The certification is intended to help achieve widespread acceptance of the certified designation by legislators, employers, consumers, peers, other human service professionals and the general public in order to promote and assure high quality practices and services.

In our modern society, credentials which represent a level of competence in various professions, are increasingly important to employers, consumers and the public at large. The CVE designation has the potential to promote confidence in those professionals who provide vocational evaluation services. The CVE also ensures that professionals stay up to date in their knowledge and skills as the discipline continues to evolve. It further ensures that vocational evaluators provide services to consumers in an ethical manner.

Yes, there is a cost associated with obtaining and maintaining the CVE. However, the cost is relatively small in comparison with the potential benefits of increased status and confidence in the profession. We encourage those of you who are current CVEs to continue renewal of your certification. For those evaluators and students who have not as yet considered the CVE, we hope you will join us. For further information please visit the CCWAVES web site at www.ccwaves.org. Please feel free to call the Commission at 847-944-1340.

Bob Gray
NRA Representative to the CCWAVES Board of Commissioners

Please note:

VEWAA
Bylaws and Constitution Revision

Time has finally come for the membership to vote on the most recent revision of our Bylaws and Constitution

Please review the entire document on our website at www.vewaa.net or request an alternate format by contacting Paige Tidwell at (706) 354-3900 or paige.tidwell@dol.state.ga.us.

The membership will have an opportunity to vote during the membership meeting, which is scheduled to be held on Friday, November 10, 2006 during the NRA Annual Conference in Orlando, FL.

If you will not be able to attend the conference, please vote below and forward to Paige Tidwell by fax or mail.

Name: _____

NRA Membership number: _____

I vote to approve the Bylaws and Constitution as amended: _____

I oppose the Bylaws and Constitution as amended: _____

Send to: Paige Tidwell
125 Athens West Parkway
Athens, GA 30606

Or fax to: (706) 354-3943



*Louisiana VEWAA
Symposium attendees
listen to the keynote
speaker this September in
Baton Rouge.*



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DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT VEWAA'S WEBSITE!

Here you can find our mission statement and vision, the latest Board meeting minutes, contact information, and helpful links!

www.vewaa.net