



# ATRS Newsletter

## President's Message

### Special points of interest:

- Member Spotlight
- Therapeutic Arts Festival
- Events
- CEU opportunities

Hello ATRS! Did you know that this is the 20th anniversary for the Arkansas Therapeutic Recreation Society? That means 20 years of promoting public awareness of Therapeutic Recreation services, 20 years of advocating for the advancement of our treatment services, 20 years of networking professionals in our field, and 20 years of offering conferences to acquire continuing educations for professionals and experience for students. A HUGE thanks goes out to our initial chapter officers elected in October of 1994: Connie Jaros, Cheryl Frazier, Sandy Thomas, Greg Dockery and Cathi McMahan. I would also like to thank our current officers and committee chairs for 2014:

President-Elect/Chapter  
Affiliate - Alyssa  
Welch, CTRS  
Secretary - Alanna  
Wilson, CTRS

Treasurer - Amy Frank,  
CTRS  
Education Chair - Sam  
Taylor, CTRS  
Publications - Alyssa  
Welch, CTRS  
Public Policy Chair - Erica  
Kirkes, CTRS  
Past President - Sherrie  
Shinn, CTRS  
Member-At-Large - Sally  
Walker, CTRS

We are in need of other volunteers to serve as committee members. Please feel free to ask any of us questions if you are interested. Contact information can be found on our website. We don't need people who already know everything, just someone willing to learn!

Not only is it an important anniversary year for ATRS, it is also the 30th anniversary of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association! I am very excited about ATRA's annual conference to be held

in Oklahoma City, OK September 13-16. It's always a great opportunity to have a national conference held so close to home.

The ATRS board members and committees are busy planning and preparing for our fall workshop November 7 in Little Rock, AR, at the Fort Roots VA. We are in need of presenters and ideas for presentation topics. Don't forget the presenter's registration discount! Please contact Sam Taylor (staylor@CommunityServiceInc.com) with your ideas or if you are interested in being a presenter. Call for papers are due soon.

I am very honored to serve as your president this year! I hope to see everyone at the Fall Workshop!

Mandy Kuykendall, CTRS  
ATRS President

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## Newsletter Needs You

Hey, everyone! This is your ATRS Newsletter Publisher. I am finding it more and more difficult to get information from you. I want to let your colleagues know what you have been doing with your clients/patients/residents/participants/etc. Brag on yourself

or your co-workers or about an event, outing, or any therapeutic activity that you did that was successful, noticed in the community, or was special to you. Do you know of an event coming up you want to share with others?

This newsletter is about you, for you and written by you—the Recreation Therapists in Arkansas. I shouldn't have to beg for articles or write them myself! Let's tell each other what's going on and share information!

## ATRS Member Spotlight - Kim Johnson, CTRS



### What are your current job duties/responsibilities?

My current job title is Coordinator of Recreational Therapy. I am responsible for ensuring that the day to day operations for my department go as they should. Between me and my staff we complete all daily assessments and five different groups for ages 12 and up. I personally attend treatment team meetings and handle scheduling activities for any special holidays.

### What is your educational background and job experience?



I graduated from Arkansas Tech University in the spring 2011 with a bachelor's degree in Recreation and Park Administration (emphasis in Therapeutic Recreation.) My internship for the Chattanooga Therapeutic Recreation Services was my greatest amount of job experience before accepting my current job at Springwoods. I also worked as a Resident Assistant during my time at Tech which was a wonderful chance to develop my programming skills.

### What led you to a career in TR? Any influences?

Honestly, it was a happy series of misunderstandings that led me to Dr. McMahan's Office near the end of my first semester at Tech. I had no idea what I

wanted to do when I started college and after talking to her it just seemed right. After a few semesters in the program I knew it was right for me.

### What are your professional accomplishments and satisfactions?

I'm still very new to this profession, so I believe my greatest accomplishment so far was being able fill the leadership roll when the time came. I was nervous about accepting the position but looking back I believe it was a good decision. My greatest satisfaction is that even on the roughest days I can still go home and say I love my job. I get to spend most my day interacting with people and reminding them how much fun life can be.

### What is a typical work day like for you?

It's hard to say what a typical work day looks like because of the environment I work in. Normally my day is fast-paced and non-stop. TR's first group starts at 9:30 in the morning and our last ends at 4:30. Between me and possibly one other person we cover 5 groups and complete assessments as needed. We are always looking to improve our facility and so more recently I have taking a great roll in helping with that.

### Tell us about your hobbies, recreation interests, and family...

My husband and I have been married three and half years now and have two cats that we love dearly. We enjoy being outside when the weathers nice or watching movies together. I love to read and play video games but leave Friday night open for Magic the Gathering. This card based game has become a very important part of my recreation time. My friends and I can easily waste an afternoon adjust our decks and testing out new ideas.

### What are your future goals?

I'm still trying to decide exactly what I want for my future. Though I enjoy my position at Springwoods I think I might one day like to go into the public sector of Therapeutic Recreation. I want to work more with kids and teenagers because that's were my heart is and I feel I can do the most good.

Reported by:  
Sally Walker, CTRS  
Member-at-Large



## A word from Sam

We just finished an amazing ATRS/ARPA Spring Conference at the Fort Smith Convention Center. I would like to thank all of those who attended as well as presented at the Spring Conference. It was an awesome opportunity to network with professionals in the field of recreational therapy as well as in the Recreation and Park profession. It's hard to say but the 2014 Fall Workshop is upon us. We will be having the Fall Workshop on Friday November 7th at Fort Roots. I'm in need for session topic ideas that would benefit you and the field you work in as well as presenters. Please remember that all presenters will receive a 50% discount or free admission for presenting at the workshop. Also in order to receive CEUs from the American Therapeutic Recreation Association the call for papers in due 60 days prior to the workshop. If you have any session topic ideas or presenters that you would like to learn about please feel free to contact either by email [staylor@communityserviceinc.com](mailto:staylor@communityserviceinc.com) or by cell phone 501-733-3938.

Thank you again,  
Sam Taylor, CTRS  
ATRS Education Chair



### Award Recipients

Sherri Shinn—recognitions  
as 2013 President

Katie Voke—Student  
Scholarship winner



2014 ATRS New Officers Installation  
(Lt-Rt) Katie Voke, Sally Walker, Mandy Kuykedall, Alyssa Welch, Alana Wilson



Little Rock Parks and Recreation hosted the 15th Annual Therapeutic Arts Festival on **Friday, May 2, 2014** at the Clear Channel Metroplex.

Looking forward to photos and news on how that went!

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## CHECK THIS OUT!



- 31st Annual Altus Grape Festival  
July 25-26, 2014 [Click here](#)
- 75th Annual Johnson County Peach Fest  
July 25-26, 2014 [Click here](#)
- 28th Annual World Champ Cardboard Boat Races  
July 26, 2014 [Click here](#)
- 116th Tonitown Grape Festival  
August 5-9, 2014 [Click here](#)
- 35th Annual Cave City Watermelon Festival  
August 7-9, 2014 [Click here](#)
- 43rd Annual NWA Bluegrass Festival  
August 14-16, 2014 [Click here](#)
- 4th Annual Johnny Cash Music Festival  
August 15, 2014 [Click here](#)

Check out other things going on in the state [here](#)

## Educational Opportunities

### Self-Study CEU Websites

Easy CEUs—Geriatric  
[http://easyceu.com/index.php/index.php?option=com\\_virtuemart&page=shop.browse&category\\_id=7](http://easyceu.com/index.php/index.php?option=com_virtuemart&page=shop.browse&category_id=7)

CEU Certificates for CTRS—Adults with Disabilities  
<http://www.ceucertificates.com/category.aspx?categoryID=1>

Danny Pettry—Youth and Children  
<http://www.dannypetry.com/CD26505.htm>

ATRA Annual Conference—Oklahoma City  
September 13-16, 2014

ATRA link below

<http://atra-online.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=68>



## Fall Workshop

November 7, 2014

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare  
System—North Little Rock

8:30-5:00

0.6 cues



Put it on your calendar to attend!!

## Did you know?



Erica Kirkes, from the North Little Rock VA , had a baby boy!! Congratulations to the Kirkes Family and welcome little Levi.

The VA Golden Age Games was hosted in Fayetteville, AR this June 28-July 3. It was a good opportunity to see adapted sports in action!