



January/February 2014

Quick Links

[NCTRC Home](#)

[My NCTRC Login](#)

[NCTRC Recent News](#)

[CTRS Renewal](#)

[Standards and Publications](#)

[NCTRC Board](#)

[Contact NCTRC](#)

National Council For Therapeutic Recreation Certification

845.639.1439

nctrc@nctrc.org

www.nctrc.org

Welcome to NCTRC e-News!

Happy New Year from NCTRC!

E-mail Notification....Are you up-to-date?

NCTRC uses e-mail notification as the first and primary means of communicating important information to all CTRSs. Please make sure that all of your contact information is up-to-date especially your e-mail address so that notifications are received in a timely manner.

CTRSs to Celebrate Therapeutic Recreation Month: February 2014

The purpose of National Therapeutic Recreation Month is to enhance public awareness of therapeutic recreation programs and recreational therapy services, promote inclusive recreation opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and recognize the CTRS as the qualified provider of RT services. According to NCTRC, recreation therapy, also known as therapeutic recreation, is a systematic process that utilizes recreation and other activity-based interventions based upon the assessed needs of individuals with illnesses and/or disabling conditions. The purpose of the RT process is to improve or maintain physical, cognitive, social, emotional and spiritual functioning in order to facilitate full participation in life. For more information... [NCTRC Scope of Practice](#).

NCTRC has developed a [TR Month Flyer](#) for promotional use. Please feel free to print this marketing tool and make several copies to display at your agency. NCTRC also offers an array of promotional materials for use at your agency during TR Month or any other time to help promote the CTRS credential and recreational therapy services. All NCTRC promotional materials can be downloaded in PDF format from the [NCTRC website](#) or you can contact NCTRC if you would like multiple copies of a specific brochure.

It is envisioned that during the TR Month promotion, CTRSs and their agencies will host a series of lectures and presentations, career days, adaptive sport events, workshops, receptions, information booths, and open houses. Proclamations, press releases, articles and public service announcements are also great ways to enhance the awareness of the CTRS credential during National Therapeutic Recreation Month. The American Therapeutic Recreation Association ([ATRA](#)) and the Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association ([CTRA](#)) offer some promotional items at their respective websites to help plan the TR Month celebration.

NCTRC Welcomes New Board Members

As a result of the recently conducted Board election, NCTRC is proud to announce the addition of two new members to its Board of Directors. **Eileen Andreassi, CTRS** and **Carla Carmichael, CTRS** will officially join the NCTRC Board in April 2014 and serve a three-year term from 2014-2017. A brief profile of each new member appears below.



Eileen Andreassi, CTRS resides in Harriman, New York. Eileen has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Sociology from SUNY-Binghamton and a Master of Arts in Administration of Therapeutic Recreation Service from New York University. She has 30 years of experience in the Therapeutic Recreation field and is currently Director of Therapeutic Recreation at Helen Hayes Hospital, a physical medicine and rehabilitation facility in Haverstraw, New York.



Carla J. Carmichael, CTRS resides in Woodstock, Maryland. Carla earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Therapeutic Recreation from New York University. She is currently the Director of the National Veterans Golden Age Games. These games include senior adaptive, multi-sports competition that is evidence-based and focused on meeting the older veterans rehabilitation needs and health-life plans. Prior to this assignment, she served as Deputy Director of Recreation Therapy Service for the Department of Veterans Affairs. As the Deputy Director of Recreation Therapy Service for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Carla was directly responsible to the Director of Recreation Therapy Service for oversight of the activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs recreation/creative arts therapies.

If you or someone you know is interested in being considered for the NCTRC Board or committee involvement please contact the NCTRC Nomination and Elections Committee via Bob Riley, at (845) 639-1439 or briley@nctrc.org.

CTRS Specialty Certification Testimonials

NCTRC introduced the Specialty Certification Program in January 2010. The primary purpose of NCTRC specialty certification is to acknowledge the CTRS whose practice has reached an advanced professional level, and to provide formal recognition of competence beyond the CTRS credential. Since its inception NCTRC has received many applications and has been able to award Specialty Certification to several successful CTRSs. Provided below are a variety of personal testimonials from CTRSs who have achieved CTRS Specialty Certification status:

"Working with people with mental health issues has always been a passion of mine. Earning my specialty certification in Behavioral Health has allowed me to gain knowledge that I would

not have acquired otherwise. It has helped me better understand the children and youth I work with and to better treat them as people not as a diagnosis by providing them with new and innovative recreational interventions. I have had students reach out to me to do their internship with me because I have this specialty certification. I am happy that I had a goal of earning my specialty certification and have successfully obtained that goal. I would encourage all CTRS' to acquire the NCTRC Specialty Certification."

Loretta Sinnott, CTRS-Specialization in Behavioral Health

"I completed the requirements for the Specialty Certification in Behavioral Health and was awarded the certification in 2012. The Specialty Certification has allowed me to expand in many different ways. After receiving my specialty certification, I applied to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center and was awarded employment and feel having the extra Specialty Certification definitely played a role that designated my skills and knowledge with working in behavioral health. I also have been getting the famous question from my peers, "Why is your certificate blue?" This has been an open door in discussing the significance of maintaining the highest certification available within the field, importance of promoting Therapeutic Recreation, and how to obtain the Specialty Certification. There seems to be an even greater respect from the variety of Behavioral Health disciplines in regards to the importance of the Specialty Certification and moving forward professionally. I am very grateful and honored to be awarded the Specialty Certification in Behavioral Health and look forward to future advancement within the field of Therapeutic Recreation."

Molly Hayslett, CTRS-Specialization in Behavioral Health

"When asked why I went for the Specialty Certification, I tell people that we need to step up to the challenges in front of us to increase our visibility and our preparedness for the next decade of health care. I tell them that we need to do more than just be glad we have a job in Recreational Therapy. We have to be the ones to do this. Health care is changing so fast that we have to do more than just "keep up". We need to be more prepared and understand the individuals that we work with in more ways. We need to produce more evidence based practices."

Barbara Bond-Howard, CTRS-Specialization in Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation

For more information about Specialty Certification, please visit the [NCTRC website](#).

NCTRC to Conduct ATRA Webinars

In an effort to continuously market the CTRS credential, NCTRC is scheduled to present the following ATRA Webinars:

February 4, 2014, 7-8pm EST – New Application Standards

February 26, 2014, 1-2pm EST – Specialty Certification

March 19, 2014, 1-2pm EST – Recertification Standards

For further information about the webinars, please visit the [ATRA website](#).

May Recertification and Annual Maintenance Reminder

The May 2014 renewal cycle is now in effect. NCTRC will notify CTRSs of their pending renewal date by email or postcard. Certificants can complete the CTRS renewal process on-line via [MY NCTRC LOGIN](#). Printed application packets are available upon request by contacting NCTRC at 845-639-1439. Please be sure to update your current contact information with NCTRC.

May Recertification Exam Option

Please be advised that certificants who are at the end of the five year recertification cycle can take the NCTRC exam to meet the requirements for recertification. The May 2014 exam is the only exam that can be completed to meet the May cycle recertification requirements. The registration deadline for the May 2014 exam is March 14, 2014. Please visit the [NCTRC website](#) to access the exam registration form. On the home page, click [Exam](#) or use your log-in information to access the form. There are two options for submission: fill out the registration form online and submit it with a credit card payment or print and complete the

registration form and mail it directly to NCTRC with a check, money order or credit card number. CTRSs that complete the exam for recertification are required to complete and submit the NCTRC recertification application and fee along with the exam fee. The dates for the May 2014 exam are May 5-17, 2014.

NCTRC Annual Board Meeting

The NCTRC Board of Directors and Standing Committees will conduct the NCTRC Annual Meeting on April 10-11, 2014 in Newburgh, NY. The agenda for the meeting includes review and acceptance of the annual budget, proposed standards changes, and submitted committee reports. Newly elected Board Members and recently appointed Standing Committee members will begin their three-year terms commencing with the annual meeting. Please contact NCTRC if you have any questions regarding the annual meeting.

Did you know ...

NCTRC has three Standing Committees in addition to a nine person Board of Directors:

- Standards Review Committee (SRC) – responsible for new application appeals and disciplinary review
- Standards Hearing Committee (SHC) – responsible for recertification appeals and disciplinary appeals
- Exam Management Committee (EMC) – responsible for the maintenance of the national exam

Please contact NCTRC at 845-639-1439 or nctrc@nctrc.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support of NCTRC and the CTRS credential.