



November/December 2010

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!

Season's Greetings from the NCTRC Board, Committees, and Staff!

NCTRC Board of Directors Meeting in New Hampshire

The NCTRC Board of Directors recently conducted its fall meeting on November 6-7, 2010 in Bedford, New Hampshire. The NCTRC Board meets twice a year (April and November) to conduct business and review current issues and strategic initiatives. The Board had a very productive meeting resulting in the expansion of the NCTRC Strategic Plan to 2013 and the approval of several modifications to the NCTRC Standards. Please visit www.nctrc.org to review all current and pending certification standards. The NCTRC Board has used the fall meeting as an opportunity to connect with TR/RT students and local CTRSs at regional conferences. This year the Board was able to attend the New England Therapeutic Recreation Association conference and host a student session attended by 35 students as well as meet with the NETRA Board.

Teresa Beck elected "Chair-Elect" of the NCTRC Board of Directors



Teresa Beck, Ph.D., CTRS, has been elected to the position of Chairperson-Elect of the NCTRC Board of Directors at the Board's fall meeting. Beck, who has served in the capacity of Vice Chair and a member of the Executive Committee during the past year, will assume the position of Chairperson of the NCTRC Board of Directors in April 2011. Beck currently resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She has over 28 years of experience in therapeutic recreation as an educator and consultant. She is currently Associate Professor and Director of Therapeutic Recreation and Health Professions Programs. Beck also serves as the Faculty Director for Freshman Orientation at Grand Valley State University.

NCTRC Welcomes Two 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. Karla Belzer, MS, CTRS and Patricia Thomas, MPA, CTRS will officially join the NCTRC Board in April 2011 and will each serve a three-year term from 2011-2014. A brief profile of each new member appears below.



Karla Belzer, MS, CTRS, Rock Falls , Illinois . Belzer earned her BS degree in Recreation Administration with a Therapeutic Recreation option from Eastern Illinois University and a MS degree in Therapeutic Recreation from Indiana University . In her current role, Belzer supervises the provision of therapeutic recreation modalities to 84 adults who experience severe and profound developmental disabilities, and reside in a long term care facility. Program development, marketing, client and community education, budgeting, and staff supervision are included in her responsibilities. Belzer supervises an innovative Art Therapy program that offers six treatment areas including culinary arts, fine arts, horticultural arts, drama/visual arts, musical arts, and sensory arts.



Patricia K. Thomas, MPA, CTRS, Milwaukee , Wisconsin . Thomas earned her BS in Recreation with a Therapeutic Recreation emphasis from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and a Masters in Public Administration with a Health Care emphasis, from Long Island University . Thomas is responsible for the oversight and implementation of the therapeutic recreation (TR) certificate program and all other TR courses. The TR certificate program is a distance education (DE) program. Additionally, she co-teaches traditional courses in the area of disability studies and cultural diversity, infusing technology into course assignments to enhance the learner experience. She was recently recognized for her innovative teaching in the area of distance education with the 2010 Outstanding Teaching Award for Academic Staff at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM). Prior to her 10 plus years of employment in academia, Thomas worked in the health care arena as a recreation therapist, supervisory recreation therapist, chief of recreation therapy and the assistant to the chief of staff in various hospitals throughout the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This experience afforded her the opportunity to work in a variety of settings including inpatient physical rehabilitation, spinal cord injury, behavioral health, skilled nursing, and outpatient/day treatment.

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

Promotion of State/Provincial Licensure

NCTRC is a strong advocate and promoter of state and provincial licensure for the practice of recreation therapy. An essential step in the advancement of a profession, state/provincial licensure is critical to the protection of the consumer and assuring that the CTRS is recognized as the qualified provider of TR services. NCTRC is currently working with 10-12 states and provinces in the development of strategic initiatives to establish the legal recognition of the CTRS credential. Most recently NCTRC presented pertinent information about RT licensure to

conference attendees in Illinois (Nov 9 th) and Colorado (November 17 th). NCTRC is scheduled to present a webinar on licensure on February 16 th as part of the [ATRA Webinar Series](#). If your state or provincial organization would like to find out more about RT licensure please review the [NCTRC Position Paper on Legal Recognition](#) or contact Bob Riley, NCTRC Executive Director at briley@nctrc.org or (845) 639-1439.

May Recertification Exam Option

If you are coming to the end of your five year recertification cycle, you can take the NCTRC exam to meet the requirements for recertification. The May 2011 exam is the only exam available that meets the May cycle Recertification requirements. The registration deadline for the May 2011 exam for recertification is March 1, 2011. Visit the NCTRC website www.nctrc.org to access the exam registration form. From the home page, click on “exam” or use your log-in information to access the form. There are two options for submission. You can complete the registration form online and submit it with a credit card payment, or print out the registration form, complete it and mail directly to NCTRC with a check or credit card number. The dates for the May 2011 exam are May 2-6, 2011.

Did you know ...

- You can submit your recertification application for the November cycle until December 31, 2010 by paying the annual maintenance fee (\$80) along with an additional \$50.00 recertification fee.
- There are over 100 academic programs that prepare students for entry into the TR profession.
- NCTRC is governed by a nine member board consisting of seven elected CTRSs and two appointed representatives (Employer and Consumer).

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.