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# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS

# NAAP NEWS

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NEWS OF THE ACTIVITY PROFESSION

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## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### NAAP Endorses NCCAP Certification

By  
Phyllis Foster  
President, NAAP

As President of the NAAP and on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the membership at large, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the National Certification Council for Activity Professionals (NCCAP) for their diligent efforts at providing us with national certification. We heartily endorse NCCAP's venture that gives recognition to the value of experience and all educational pursuits, and allows NAAP to define the patient activity coordinator as "a person who has attained, or is eligible to attain, certification from the NCCAP or from any other certifying body which can prove an ability to determine an activity professional's expertise in activity programming and gerontology."

This certification process was developed BY activity professionals FOR activity professionals, and provides us with an equitable qualifying factor to offer regulatory agencies. Up to now as potential changes in requirements have been raised, most activity professionals have had nothing to support their personal qualifications unless they met the limited and specific federal descriptors. Establishing a certification procedure that was truly representative of practicing activity professionals encompassed numerous hours of research, surveying the field, writing and re-writing.

The NAAP initiated research, surveying, and writing, concluded that activity professionals come from a wide variety of educational backgrounds: art, music, occupational, and recreational therapies; to gerontology, some economics, social work, teaching, and other related fields; to no degrees at all, but many years of experience in the field.

NCCAP took those results and developed standards for certification that are based not on any one degree, but rather on a combination of experience and educational pursuits that stress an understanding of the elderly population's needs and meaningful activity

programming. We can all be proud of this national certification for activity professionals as being representative of ourselves and our peers. I would urge you to support this growth our profession by applying for your own certification and informing others of its availability.

My personal reaction to seeing the "Request for Certification Brochure" in the October NAAP NEWS, was like seeing a dream come true! The efforts of so many for so long, had been realized and **ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS HAD DONE IT THEMSELVES!** We had taken a major step in our growth from an occupation to a profession!

In a recent discussion with our Vice President, Ruth Perschbacher, she asked me for some background on my close association with regulatory agencies in Colorado. As many of you know, I have been working in activities for over 20 years and have supported every effort to professionalize the role of the activity coordinator/director. I want to share with you that I fully realize that I came upon the scene at the right time; a time when activities were so nebulous that no one knew what to expect, and I didn't wait to be asked to tell them! With a knot in my stomach and trembling knees, I spoke and I spoke again. I took advantage of every opportunity to tell anyone who we were, what we did, and how what we did impacted the lives of nursing home residents and could impact the lives of all older people.

The result of my continual speaking out is that when regulations that concern activities comes up in my own state, I have been notified and asked to respond. I have personally submitted NCCAP's Certification Brochure and NAAP's Activity Practice Position as an equitable alternative to what is currently written, to the Colorado State Health Department for their consideration in re-writing qualifications of activity professionals. That doesn't mean automatic acceptance, folks, but I do know that they will listen, consider, and respond.

I have shared this personal information with you to encourage, nay strongly urge, YOU to get involved in the political process if you believe in what you do and in yourself. State health departments must be made aware of our existence as the only national organization exclusively representing activity professionals who work in long term care, adult day care, senior centers, and residential settings which serve the elderly.

Although we have had to develop a separate board to implement the Certification process (NCCAP), NAAP has maintained a Certification Chair on its Board of Trustees as a liaison to NCCAP; we invite your comments.



#### NATIONAL ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS DAY POSTER UNVEILED!

Norine Haffer (middle), chairperson of NAPDay, presented the first poster to NAAP President Phyllis Foster as Executive Director Marilyn Lamken helped display it for the NAAP Board of Trustees in their first mid-year meeting October 10-11 in Chicago. A better view of the poster itself is on page 7; even there, the bright blues, royal, and hot pink colors have to be seen first-hand to be appreciated. Order them today with the order form on the last page.

# 1986 NAAP Annual Meeting Minutes

The fourth annual meeting of the National Association of Activity Professionals was called to order by the President Sister Pat Murphy at 9:00 on Saturday, April 26th, 1986 at the Sacramento Inn, Sacramento, California.

Catherine Zugel, Recording Secretary, submitted the minutes for the participants' inspection as they appeared on pages 20-21 of the convention program. The minutes outlined seven NAAP goals that Sister Pat Murphy, President, presented to the membership. Goals included "to make a direct certification available for membership input in three months." In addition to this the minutes included reports by each committee.

Phyllis Foster, Vice President, and Legislative Chairperson thanked her committee for their involvement. Over 100 Participants attended the Legislative focus group which discussed the new long term survey process. In addition to this it was stated the legislative committee will be re-structured.

Catherine Zugel, Recording Secretary, State Contact Chairperson, outlined the beginning of the State Contact Program as it was initiated at the Ohio convention four years ago via a sign-up sheet. Due to the current success of the system of state associations communications via a bi-monthly newsletter, the State Contact News and the Update are to be combined in August to form the NAAP NEWS. This publication will be offered to the entire membership. State Contacts were given a round of applause for their providing displays in the Hall of States.

Madge Schweinsberg, Certification Chairperson, outlined the changes proposed by the board in the packet convention participants had received. Changes included, the name to National Certification Council for Activity Professionals, the level for Activity Supervisor to Activity Director, the references to internship have been deleted. The Board accepted the by-laws in principle and made a loan to the certification council of \$5,000.00.

The Certification Board will consist of seven people. Applications should be available in September. Madge Schweinsberg and Rachel Dill will be available to speak at conventions on Certification as long as expenses are paid.

Sandy Summers, Treasurer, referenced attendees to her report in the convention program which outlined a total income from 7-1-85 to 12-31-85 of \$7,653.91; total expenses \$5,932.99.

Jane Cook, Education Chairperson, urged participants to become involved in the resource review committee.

Sharon Krull, Corresponding Secretary and Standards Committee Chairperson stated that the standards committee as of this convention would no longer be a sub-committee under Education. In developing standards we are looking for quality assurance and the items "that tie us all together" as professionals. Standards will be developed in a five step process and written in the format of achievable criteria. The committee is looking to develop Educational programs to reach the use of Standards in a Quality Assurance Program.

Charles Peckham, Finance Committee Chairman stated that NAAP was able to loan the \$5,000.00 to the Certification Board due to the establishment of a policy of a contingency fund. At present we have \$9,900.00 in contingency funds. It was projected that contingency funds would be \$20,000.00 in 1990 and \$40,000.00 in 1995. State and Local Associations were urged to develop contingency funds equal to one year's budget to provide financial stability for their association.

Kathy Hughes, Ways and Means Chairperson, urged participants to submit pictures of Activities to be submitted by June 1, 1987 for consideration in the New Activity Professional Days Poster to be sold. The three areas in which members might become involved in the Ways and Means Committee are:

1. Research;
2. Grant Writing;
3. Fundraising.

Joanne Williams, Membership Chairperson, stated NAAP currently has over 900 members. The focus for the committee in the next year would be concentration on renewing members. We will also focus membership on Retirement Facilities and Day Care Centers.

Doris Welch, Nominations Chairperson, requested volunteers serve on her committee. Linnea Moe, the New Nominations Chairperson was introduced.

Bobbie Serena, Public Relations Chairperson, announced that Kathy Hughes and Marilyn Lamken would be Co-Editors of the New NAAP NEWS. The NAAP Update and the State Contact News will be combined in August to form the new NAAP NEWS. The responsibility of liaisons will be under the President.

Donna Esmay, Awards Chairperson, urged participants to complete nominations forms for the four awards of distinguished service, distinguished merit, activity professional award for excellence and activity volunteer of the year award. These nominations are due June 1, 1987. The nomination forms will also appear in the August NAAP NEWS.

Marilyn Lamken, Executive Director, introduced her report by mentioning that a Colorado NAAP member had an article written about her in the May McCall's Magazine. As a NAAP member Marilyn stated that she would like election to a board of directors rather than the current process of election to separate positions. Participants were urged to be grandfathered in to the certification program which will be available until 1989.

Joanne Williams, Membership Chairperson, convention, thanked all who helped on her committee and introduced the new Convention Chairperson for the 1987 Chicago offering, Connie Brorson. Connie stated that Illinois looks forward to welcoming the membership and the theme will be "Possible Dreams." The theme was chosen because we as Activity Professionals in the Nursing home are the people who make some dreams possible for our residents. The convention will be held April 23-25, 1987.

President Sister Pat Murphy urged the membership to communicate with the various committee chairpersons



## NAAP CERTIFICATION ANNUAL REPORT



Rachel Dill  
Chairman

Since April, 1986 certification for Activity Professionals has become a reality! At the April, 1986 Annual NAAP Board meeting, The NAAP Board voted to establish a separately incorporated Certification Council known as the National Certification Council for Activity Professionals (NCCAP), appointed initial Board members to establish operations, and agreed to loan NCCAP \$5,000 for start-up costs. The NAAP-appointed NCCAP Board members (Madge Schweinsberg, Rachel Dill,

Charles Peckham, and Randi Dressel) held the first Annual NCCAP Board meeting Saturday, April 26, 1986 at the Sacramento Inn. At that meeting Gloria Buck (WY) was appointed to the NCCAP Board, bylaws were approved, an operating agenda was established that envisioned certification to begin in early fall, 1986, and officers were elected as follows: President - Rachel Dill (CA), Vice-President - Madge Schweinsberg (IL), Secretary - Randi Dressel (NY), Treasurer - Charles Peckham (OH). The Board also agreed to contract with Marilyn Lamken to be NCCAP's Administrative Officer. Marilyn began work May 1, 1986 and agreed to use her home address for NCCAP's office address.

During May, June, and July the following operating items were developed and approved by the NCCAP Board: logo, letterhead, membership cards, certificates, seal Board memorandum form, correspondence forms, application form, brochure request form, colors, budget, Board reimbursement form, Articles of Incorporation, and other administrative details. A finance committee was appointed and Review Board appointees were Madge Schweinsberg (Mid-West), Jayna Glemby (East), and Debbie Rausch (West). During this time the NCCAP Board also received input from a number of NAAP Board members regarding revision of policies proposed in the first certification brochure. All input was utilized to revise the brochure which was finalized in September and printed in October.

Certification began in October with the initial invitation going to NAAP members via the brochure request form printed in the October NAAP NEWS. Since then the NCCAP office has mailed over 2,000 brochures out and the Review Board has certified more than 60 Activity Professionals at all 3 levels - Assistant, Director, and Consultant.

The NCCAP Board has been very cautious with expenses, borrowing only \$3,500 from NAAP to date. NCCAP is very grateful to the Tennessee Activity Association (ACT) for a donation of \$200 to help cover start-up costs. They hope other State Associations will also support the Certification process with a donation.

Due to extensive feedback from Activity Professionals applying for certification, the NCCAP Board has voted

unanimously to change 1 of the certification criteria. To the Grandfathering Track for Consultant level criteria, add the words "or a Bachelors Degree" after "A) 1 year experience in consulting."

The NCCAP President has developed and maintained communication with the President of NCTRC, the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification to foster cooperation and understanding between the 2 certification boards and professions, since we are closely allied healthcare professions.

The NCCAP Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 1987 at 9:00 a.m. at the Americana Congress Hotel. This meeting is for certified Activity Professionals, but all are welcome to attend. This will be the only session dealing with certification during the NAAP Convention.

As NAAP Certification Chair, I have communicated NCCAP progress to the NAAP Board and members and have taken NAAP concerns and support to the NCCAP Board. The NAAP Board and certification committee are presently giving feedback to NCCAP on several issues that will be decided at the next NCCAP Board meeting Wednesday, April 22, 1987 at 7:00 p.m. The NAAP Certification Committee will need to address the issue of developing a test for long range purposes of certification since the membership indicated a preference for a test. This is a complicated and expensive process. We are now seeing community colleges developing curricula for Activity Professional education. Curriculum development and role delineation seem to be the first steps toward test development. We can always use more committee members.

Present NAAP Certification Committee Members are: Anne West, Jayna Glemby, Ruth Hokit, Helen Dickey, Linda Grabowski, and Jean Walker.

Rachel Dill  
Chairman



Greetings from the  
THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITY  
PROFESSIONAL'S ASSOCIATION



Reflecting the growth of the  
activity profession

Southern California Council of Activity Coordinators



Greetings from  
sunny Southern California —  
where activity outings are  
7 days a week!