



American Hippotherapy Association, Inc.

E-Newsletter

Newsletter 005-06

December 2006

Message from the President....

Dear Friends,

Now is such an exciting time for AHA. We have had a successful year with significant growth, an educational workshop at the NARHA conference and we are well into the planning for our own hippotherapy specific conference. We encourage everyone to make plans to attend the first Hippotherapy Conference in the US on April 20-22, 2007 in Atlanta, Georgia.

As we said at the NARHA Conference, AHA has plans to continue with their participation in the NARHA conference in November which allows us to have an all day intensive workshop. Our hippotherapy conference will be presentations of varying lengths specifically on hippotherapy. We are excited that among the many papers submitted we have several from international presenters. AHA has become a focal point for worldwide interest in hippotherapy.

Come enjoy spring in Georgia and share your enthusiasm for hippotherapy. We would love to see "all ya'll" in Atlanta,

We wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Karen L. McPhail, MOT, OTR, HPCS

Save the Date..

**2007 AHA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!**

**April 20 – 22, 2007
Crowne Plaza-Ravinia
Atlanta, GA**

**Hear Great Presentations!
(12 contact hours)**

Look for Conference Registration Packets in January, 2007

Interested in being a sponsor at the 2007 AHA National Conference...

The following Sponsorship Levels are available:

Grand Champion Sponsor - \$10,000

You will be included in all advertisings, mailings, brochures, conference programs, signage at the conference and recognitions at the conference

Champion Sponsor - \$5,000

You will be included in all advertisings, mailings, brochures, conference programs, and signage at the conference.

Gold Medal Sponsor - \$1,000

You will be included in all advertisings, mailings, brochures, and conference programs

Blue Ribbon Sponsor - \$500

You will be included in all brochures and conference programs.

If you are interested in being a sponsor, or for more information on the conference please contact us at 1.888.851.4592 or www.americanhippotherapyassociation.org.

Call for T-Shirt Logos...

Our last T-shirt quilt raffle was such a success and we are ready to put together another T-shirt quilt to honor our 20th Anniversary! Used or new T-shirts with riding center or hippotherapy logos are needed. Logos or designs can be embroidered or screen prints, six inches to fourteen inches across. We are looking for at least 30 t-shirts. Please send yours to the AHA, Inc. Office to be included in Anniversary Quilt. Deadline for the T-shirt submittals is February 1st! The winner of the quilt will be announced at the conclusion of the AHA Conference on Sunday, April 22nd.

Regional News.....

Region I

Sarah Bronson, PT – 207.892.2813 – sbronson@ridingtothetop.org

News from Canada--Danielle Champagne and Pippa Hodge has been working with CanTRA (Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association). CanTRA is preparing to vote on a resolution that will include a hippotherapy branch in their association.

The Region I meeting will be hosted by Windrush Therapeutic Riding Center and T.H.E. Farm this year and based on the popularity of last year's Therapists' Forum this will surely be part of the 2007 Conference. Stay posted for dates, locations, etc.

Region II

Liz Chauvot, PT, HPCS – 518.872.2736 – chauvots@prodigy.net

Quest Therapeutic Services, Inc., in Pennsylvania, has been involved in defining coverage for physical therapy services that include hippotherapy at a state level with medical assistance for the last few years. As a non-participating provider, each case is reviewed for approval, and most are denied on the first request. The family can appeal through a complicated appeals process, and usually does overturn the denial and gets approved. We have been providing services since 1998 through an agreement with the HMO Keystone Mercy Health Plan, that serves Medical Assistance members in PA- in 2003 they decided to no longer cover services, and have denied most requests since then. Families have the support of their senators and congressman, and top medical officials with Medical Assistance have gotten involved to define medical acceptance and payment of physical therapy services when it includes hippotherapy. The original contract we agreed too will reimburse close to the cost of our service, which we bill as standard therapeutic exercise, but is in fact a higher rate than Keystone Mercy pays most of its participating physical therapy providers. I wanted to share this because initially all claims were approved and there was no struggle in having services covered. Now, we are at turning point- either we will be approved with clear medical acceptance, or denied completely.

In New Jersey, a statewide horseback riding competition for special needs riders, HRH OPEN HORSE SHOW 2006, was held at the Horse Park of New Jersey Saturday October 28, 2006. Riders competed against riders from all over the State of New Jersey. Riders were formally judged, and a ribbon ceremony took place after each ring event. Riding High Farm offered the program's first season of a professionally designed inclusive horse lovers' camp. Horsing Around Camp was open to participants ages 8-13, and offered a week-long horse camp experience for typically developing children and children with special needs. Our Horsing Around Camp program served children with mild to moderate physical and cognitive challenges as well as riders who were at the advanced beginner level of horsemanship. Summer 2006 was such a big hit that our Summer 2007 camp will offer extended camp hours and expanded programming.

Region III

Cathy Dudley, PT – 540.397.3982 – Duds242brt@cs.com

No news reported

Region IV

Lisa Dean, OTR/L – 502.338.0216 – LMDkidpower@aol.com

The first meeting of the Southeastern Michigan Hippotherapy Providers was held Saturday October 7th, 2006 at the Waterloo Hunt Club hosted by Rebecca Cook OTR, HPCS of The Right Step. Following a tour of The Right Step, informal discussion included hippotherapy pricing, services offered, days of service, # of clients, and type of insurance. The next meeting will be Sunday January 14, 2007 from 1:30-3pm at The Michigan Abilities Center in Ann Arbor (email Kathy for directions michiganabilitiescenter@earthlink.net). Contact Becky Cook at beckycook1@juno.com if you're

interested in learning about other hippotherapy practices and joining our fun networking group!

Big news from Small Barn in Bell Center, OH...Renee Casady announced her QH mare, Miss Chamaco Pine, of Gaitway Therapy, has made the top five horses in the AQHA Silver Spur Award contest 2006. Now it all depends on the votes of AQHA members through Dec 31st. If you're a member of AQHA you can vote online at www.aqha.com website or contact Renee at casady@2access.net for more information.

Mercy Children's Hospital in Toledo, Ohio has recently started using hippotherapy at two locations, one in Monroe, MI and one in Monclova, OH. There are two PT's and one OT who are involved in the therapy. They are currently operating two days per week. The therapists recently completed the Level 2 training held in Lima, OH. They received grant money to help get the program off the ground. If you would like more information about the program you may contact: Michele Bieszki, OTR at bieszki@hotmail.com or Tracey Lewis, PT at oakwoods10@adelphia.net or Betsy Hyde, PT at Hydedb10@aol.com

A Hippotherapy Administration and Business Development course will be offered on March 3 & 4, 2007 and a Sensory Integration course on March 9 & 10th, 2007 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Please contact Lesley Lautenschlager, MS, OT, HPCS, at llautensot@yahoo.com for registration.

On January 20, 2006, a Hippotherapy Providers Networking Meeting will be held at Agape Therapeutic Riding Center in Cicero, Indiana from 12:30 to 3:30. Topics to be discussed include review of therapy tapes. Contact Lesley for additional information at 317-319-1058 or to request topics for discussion.

On January 14, 2006, South East Michigan Hippotherapy Providers will meet from 1:30 to 3:00 at the Michigan Abilities Center in Ann Arbor. Please contact Becky Cook at beckycook1@jumo.com for additional information.

Region V

Jessica Moore, PTA – 770.443.4956 – mckennafarms@aol.com

The Georgia Hippotherapy Club resumed meetings this quarter with a session on "Assessing the Potential Hippotherapy Horse." The next meeting is to be announced shortly.

Green Acres Equestrian Center, in Georgia, hosted a Level 1 Equine and Therapy Skills course with Liz Baker and Bethany Nugent as faculty along with a Level 2 with Barb Heine and Carol Huegel.

Georgia is looking forward to hosting the first AHA National Conference in April 2007. If you have ideas for the conference or wish to help, contact Marie Dawson at daws4099@bellsouth.net.

Region VI

Janet Weisberg, OTR – 763.595.7108 – janet@holdyourhorses.org

Hello from Region 6! AHA's Montana state liaison Linda Finn, PTA is informally gathering data on reimbursement strategies. Please contact her at lginfin@cpinternet.com with your ideas. AHA's Wisconsin state liaison Becky Lundeen, SLP, is still looking for an OT to add to her staff at Nature's Edge in Rice Lake. Contact Becky at jimnbeck@citizens-tel.net. Minnesota's We Can Ride, Inc. said goodbye to Janet Weisberg, OTR/L and wishes her well in her new venture Hold Your Horses, LLC. Janet's program completed a successful 6 week pilot and will continue through fall and winter operating 3 days a week. We Can Ride continues to offer year round hippotherapy and welcome interested therapists to contact them at wecanride@att.net.

Region VII

Monica Fiedler, PT – 815.788.1422 – mccd_monica@comcast.net

No news reported

Region VIII

Becky Poehl, PT – 409.739.6196 – bpoehl@aol.com

In Arkansas, Sunrise Therapeutic Services, Inc. (Sunrise Riders) is not able to provide hippotherapy services because we are still searching for therapists who are qualified to work in a NARHA center. We look forward to the opportunity to provide these services in the future.

Beyond Boundaries was excited to complete the construction of their Coverall Arena. It was finished just in time to be the host site of the 2006 LSTEN Region Conference. Since the conference, we have started work on other construction projects that will take several years to complete, but will be well worth the wait. Beyond Boundaries has also started a research project with the University of Central Arkansas. It relates to the effects of hippotherapy on gait changes in children with cerebral palsy. We look forward to sharing the results with all of you and to continuing the efforts to show the value of the work that each of our centers does.

Hearts & Hooves has 3 NARHA registered therapists; we're excited that we have therapists from the school system visiting with their patients to collaborate with certified riding instructors for the benefit of the rider! Our fall fundraiser "Hoedown" netted over \$87,000. Hopes Landing has been open for business since June 5, 2006 and is now serving over 80 children each week in outpatient occupational, physical, and speech-language therapy. We have joined NARHA as a new center member and have begun hippotherapy on a limited level to give our head therapist and equestrian team time to train under supervision of a NARHA registered therapist. All of our therapists have completed AHA's Level 1 Equine Skills and Treatment Principles, and our head therapist, who is an occupational therapist, will hopefully be attending the Level 2 courses after the first of the year.

Region IX

Tracy Schmidt, PT – 208.255.6693 – kidsinmotionpt@yahoo.com

In Washington, Little Bit, will be offering the following courses: Equine Skills Level I Jan 4-5, 2007 and Treatment Principles Level I Jan 6-7, 2007 (Coordinating Faculty: Pippa Hodge, PT, HPCS
Apprentice Faculty: Steve McKenzie, MS, PT, HPCS); Interactive Vaulting Workshop March 23-25, 2007 (Faculty: Gisela Rhodes and Beth McClimmans). For more info on either course contact Erin at 425-882-1554 or erin@littlebit.org.

Region X

Robin Bowman, PT – 310.210.7665 - thbowmans4@msn.com

Stacey Soos in New Mexico is working to network the therapists especially in regards to liability and running a successful clinic.

Region XI

Stacey Nelson, MS, ORT – 619.443.0745 – sandiegohippotherapy@cox.net

In California, the JF Shea Center continues with their major expansion/construction project as the framing for the two covered arenas has been completed. They were able to use the new structures for their largest fundraiser of the year, the Annual Country BBQ in September. They hope to have completion of the arenas by the end of the year and will be able to use for the rainy season (as rainy as Southern CA gets!).

In October, San Diego Hippotherapy (Lakeside, CA) received an \$18,500 grant from the Grossmont Healthcare District to cover partial scholarships in 2006-2007 for residents of east San Diego County.

Equine Assisted Therapy at Mountain Valley, California is now a NARHA premier center.

AHA is looking for Regional Liaisons...

AHA is currently looking for Regional Liaisons in various areas throughout the United States. Please check our website for the qualifications and then contact Meredith Bazaar if you are interested. (meredith@msbtherapy.com).

Do you want to be listed under our "Find A Therapist"?

All AHA members who have participated in the Level I and II AHA approved Workshops are welcome to be listed under the Find a Therapist tab. Contact Linda Thiede with your request (lthiede@americanhippotherapyassociation.org). Please include the date and level of the workshop attended

AHA Approved Workshop Calendar...

2007 Level I Workshops

January 4-7, 2007

Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center

19801 NE 148th Street

Woodinville, WA 98077

Jenny Nell Shulte – 425.882.1554

AHA Faculty: Pippa Hodge, PT, HPCS

March 15-18, 2007

Calvin Center

13550 Woolsey Road
Hampton, GA 30228
Cathe McKinnon – 404.583.4591
AHA Faculty: Claudia Morin, OT, HPCS

March 29 – April 1, 2007
Small Miracles Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center
1250J East North Eastman PMB #253
Kingsport, TN 37660
Marry Mitten – 423.349.1111
AHA Faculty: Terri Barnes, PT, HPCS

October 11-14, 2007
Calvin Center
13550 Woolsey Road
Hampton, GA 30228
Cathe McKinnon – 404.583.4591
AHA Faculty: Claudia Morin, OT, HPCS

2007 Level II Workshops

April 26-29, 2007
The Children's TherAplay Foundation, Inc.
9919 Towne Road
Carmel, IN 56032
Raquel Ravinet – 317.872.4166
AHA Faculty: Lori Garone, PT, HPCS/Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS

Keep your eye on the Educational calendar...we are currently working on the approval of 4 additional workshops for 2007!

Do you have questions about being a NARHA Registered Therapist?

Any questions about NARHA Registered Therapist applications and requirements should be directed to Linda Thiede at the AHA office for further clarification.

Help Wanted..

Position available- Nature's Edge Therapy Center, Inc. of Rice Lake, WI (www.naturesedgetherapycenter.org) is seeking an OTR with potential to become WI licensed. Rice Lake, WI- Unique therapy center working with variety of clients, pediatric and adults, specializing in Autism/Brain Injury treatment. We utilize hippotherapy, animal-assisted and horticulture therapy. We are a non-profit rehabilitation center operating year round. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Sensory Integration interest/experience preferred. New grads will be considered. Send resume with cover letter to: Nature's Edge Therapy Center, C/O Heidi Jo Sovacool, OTR, Occupational Therapy Supervisor, 516 E 2ND St. S, Ladysmith, WI 54848. You may also send it via Email at: nhsovacool@surfmk.com . For questions please call her at 715-403-9718.

Position Available – Southern WI - OT/PT or ST wanted for established hippotherapy practice. Must be a NARHA Registered Therapist or willing to become one. Work in a NARHA Premier Accredited Program in Southern WI. If interested send questions/resume to FAX 262-882-5661 or e-mail: program@smiles.nu

Would you like to place an ad in the AHA Newsletter?

If you would like to place an ad in the AHA newsletter please contact Linda Thiede at lthiede@americanhippotherapyassociation.org for information.