



"Treatment with the Help of the Horse"

American Hippotherapy Association, Inc.

E-Newsletter

Newsletter 008-07

December 2007

Message from Meredith...

Dear Friends,

These are exciting times for the American Hippotherapy Association.

We had a productive Annual Meeting in Anaheim, at which I got to meet many of you and hear about the creative work you are doing. We have a great curriculum of courses coming up during the winter and spring all across the country. AHA-funded research on the efficacy of hippotherapy is underway at the University of New Mexico in conjunction with Skyline Therapy. And we've already started planning for our 2009 Conference, which looks like it could be even more informative and motivating than our amazing 2007 Conference.

AHA is making great strides (forgive the pun), but I think we can be doing even more to promote hippotherapy. With your help we can increase our membership, educate parents and doctors and strengthen our connections to APTA, AOTA and ASHA.

I'm an SLP, so it probably won't surprise you that I think that it's really important that we all do a good job communicating. I hope you will all let us know how you think AHA can help you. Share all your news, ideas and events with your state and regional liaisons. Take advantage of all the great courses we're offering. Come check out our new website and let us know what you think about it. We love to hear from our membership.

But it's not just each other we need to be communicating with. We are all ambassadors for hippotherapy. Tell doctors and other medical professionals about how valuable the strategy and tool of hippotherapy can be. Present papers and posters at professional conferences as Beth McCauley did at ASHA in November!

Personally, I love to speak at parent groups, schools, universities...anywhere I can find a group of people who are willing to listen to me talk about the wonderful progress I've seen people make when a PT, OT, or SLP uses hippotherapy. Try it. You might think it's as much fun as I do.

I look forward to hearing about all the great things you're all doing, and to all the great things we will do together.

A happy and healthy New Year to you and yours.

Meredith S. Bazaar, CCC-SLP, HPCS
AHA President

New Online AHA Membership Survey...

AHA has put together a survey to help us better serve the membership. Please take the time to answer these questions, it will not take long and your answers will help us plan for the future. We need to know your thoughts about future AHA workshops and courses, research and what you want from your membership. The survey can be accessed by connecting to the following link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=p02nUZzvravWq5hXJGBssg_3d_3d

Please take a moment to complete the survey now!

AHA Safety Survey...

Please participate in the Hippotherapy Safety survey to provide a representative sample of clinicians who use hippotherapy in practice. We have only 90 respondents so far. We need at least 100 more respondents to participate with data. Click on the following link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=fLIr2wnxhNBH_2bUwCRsplg_3d_3d

If you have any questions contact Becky Cook OT becycook1@juno.com or Renee Casady PT Casady@2access.net

Congratulations...

Congratulations to Gina Taylor, OT, AHA Co-Liaison for New Jersey for the acceptance of her paper entitled "Understanding Equine Assisted Therapy as Part of the Occupational Therapy Process? The presentation will be at the AOTA meeting in Long Beach, CA on April 12, 2008.

Regional News.....

Region I

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

Kudos to Greenlock Therapeutic Riding Center in Rehoboth, MA for filling both Level 2 courses that they offered in early November (Equine Skills and Hippotherapy Treatment Principles). They plan on offering Level I and Level II courses again in 2008, but at this point the dates have not been confirmed. Visit their website: www.greenlock.org for more information in early 2008.

Riding to the Top in Windham, ME is under construction for Phase II of their building project which includes program and office space that is attached to their heated indoor arena. Best of all, there's a therapy room in this new addition! RTT plans to expand hippotherapy offerings once this new facility is completed in early 2008. RTT will be offering a NARHA Registered Instructor OSWC in June 2008. Please visit their website www.ridingtothetop.org for more information about this workshop and certification.

Congratulations to Sarah Reed, OTR/L and NARHA Registered Instructor who is originally from Maine. Sarah recently moved to Texarkana, TX to be the Program Director at Runnin' WJ Ranch.

Region II

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

Theresa Pedroso, from Stable Movements, Binghamton, NY, reports "What a great year!" They've had the local channel 34 News come out for information interviews about hippotherapy with one of their physical therapists, Beth Parks. They are collaborating with a newly formed not-for-profit, Southern Tier Alternative Therapies (STAT), who just filed 501c3 and has an art show fundraiser set up for March 29th 2008. Any artists can donate or present their works at Whip It Art Studio in Windsor, NY. Theresa also reports "local county EI and CPSE programs are recognizing hippotherapy as a wonderful addition to traditional therapy". She's looking for ideas to help educate NYS Department of Education about the benefits of hippotherapy for school-aged children. Theresa also reports plans to get an OPTS proposal through the NYS DDSO waiver program to help with those who qualify. Theresa is a new AHA Co-Liaison for the State of New York.

Nancy King, MS, OTR, director of A Horse Connection in Hudson Valley, NY, reports a mild fall/winter allowing program to continue outside. She reports the challenge of limited access to the indoor facility when the weather changes. "However, overall, the clients are doing great and all is well."

Fun In Motion, run by Robby Devery, will be relocating from Riding High Farm to Silver Dollar Stables in 2008. SDS will afford Fun In Motion the time and space needed to embark on new programs geared to high school and middle school students. Programming will address social skill development and work place etiquette. Equine assisted activities are new to SDS. The community interest and support

has been amazing.

EBC Therapy Center, in Berne, NY, owned and operated by Liz Chauvot, PT, HPCS and Joan Martelle, PT, hosted an AHA Level I course with Bonnie Cunningham, MS, PT, HPCS in September. They've scheduled 2008 dates for a Level II course (May) and another Level I course (September).

Quest Therapeutic Services, PA, is working on a research study of the effects of hippotherapy on gross motor function of a child with cerebral palsy, in collaboration with AI DuPont Hospital for Children, CP clinic. It is a pilot study with intent to have multi-center application to allow for a large sample size.

Mary Beth Marzulli, PT, of Pennsylvania has joined the AHA Board of Directors and is the new Outreach Chair.

Region III

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

West Virginia has the following dates to remember - we will be having our annual meeting at the WV State Capitol on January 31 during the Horse Industry Day at the State Capitol. In addition - we will be showing a slide show at the Capitol in February during the education days for our legislature meetings, pending the availability of the AHA Overview. We are trying to educate as many folks as possible regarding the services that we provide and the outcomes we can attain through Hippotherapy and Therapeutic Riding.

Region IV

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

The Indiana HPOT Networking group will be meeting in January/February (TBA). Please contact Lesley Lautenschlager, AHA Indiana Liaison at llautensot@yahoo.com with any questions.

Region V

Jessica Moore, PTA – 770.443.9672 – mckennafarms@yahoo.com

Ellen Connor Davis, MS, OTR/L – 205.664.1548 – ellen.conner@att.net

Marianna Greene Henry Special Equestrians, South Talledega, AL, is hosting a Parelli Level I & II clinic December 8-9, 2007. The program has been incorporating natural horsemanship into training and conditioning of the hippotherapy horses. They have had significant success using these techniques to reduce burnout with the horses.

Region VI

Becky Lundeen, SLP, HPCS – 715.205.6611 – jimnbeck@citizens-tel.net

Becky Lundeen, SLP is generously stepping in as the new Regional Liaison replacing Janet Weisberg, MS OTR/L. Janet recently joined AHA Board of Directors and working hard to keep Hold Your Horses, LLC on the bit. Feel free to reach Becky with region news or to find out about upcoming events, including a Level I Workshop April 17-20 being taught by Terri Barnes, PT, HPCS and Becky Lundeen, Associate Faculty, and a Level II Workshop May 15-18 being taught by Claudia Morin, OT, HPCS and Lori Garone, PT, HPCS. Becky is also working on corporate sponsorship to build an ABC (Autism, Brain Injury, Cerebral Palsy) intensive retreat center for functional therapy utilizing Hippotherapy, AAT, and Horticulture.

More OT news from WI, Avalon Therapeutic Equestrian Center continues to be a clinical site for OTs. Three staff OT's coordinate programs with University of WI Milwaukee and Mary Mount College. Contact Jennifer Stamm, OTR at jpstamm@netwurx.net for more info. Avalon also takes nursing students for their clinicals. Owner Barb Williamson is a registered nurse as well as a therapeutic riding instructor.

The University of MN recently held a grand opening for its new Equine Center. We Can Ride, Inc. is a tenant at the center and will provide hippotherapy services there this winter. And from the travels of Linda Finn, PTA, on a mission trip to Arequipa, Peru, an unexpected but delightful encounter with a PT in a hippotherapy program there. Contact Linda at lgfinn@cpinternet.com for more details.

Region VII

Sheri Butler, RPT – 815.355.1192 – Sherrikb5@aol.com

No news reported

Region VIII

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

Many good things have been happening with AHA this past year in Texas. Texas Tech hosted a wonderful Level I course lead by Karen McPhail Gardner, OTR, HPCS and then a second Level I course was hosted by Stratajhar Therapy Center.

Cindy Thomas, PT, HPCS and Karen McPhail, OTR, HPCS both presented at the NARHA conference in Anaheim, CA.

Horses for Heroes gained more public attention with the many activities occurring out of Washington DC. The video made by R.O.C.K. Ride on Center for Kids, features AHA therapists Priscilla Lightsey, MPT and Nancy O'Meara Krenek, PT, HPCS.

Region IX

Steve McKenzie, MS, PT, HPCS – 425.205.5059 – steve@littlebit.org

From Alaska:

Hippotherapy and therapeutic riding is over until after the winter months. This includes program in Kodiak, Anchorage, Kenai.

In the meanwhile, Rainbow Connection is preparing for their annual fund raiser. "Cowboy Ball" scheduled for April 26. Generally we have 300 people with live and silent auction items. Lots of power point slides going on which everyone loves to see the kiddos in action.

We held a mini conference in Alaska covering topics such as Sensory Integration, Equine Massage and Equine psycho therapy. Fifteen people were in attendance from our facilities and all the information was well received. This conference was held in place of Region 9 NARHA conference which was cancelled in September secondary to the fires in Idaho.

Annie Mabry, who is the director of Rainbow Connection, attended training in Washington DC for the "Horses for Heroes Program".

As always, any therapists interested in hippotherapy in Alaska are encouraged to take a trip and participate in our summer program.

From Washington:

Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center is pleased to announce that Amy Fairchild, OTR/L, will be joining our staff after completing a year long paid internship in HPOT. Little Bit is planning to host AHA Level II Workshop and Equine Skills-Level III in 2008. Stay tuned for dates!

Darrell Hamill, PT, HPCS has had her graduate study published in the Fall edition of Physical and Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics Vol 27, Nov 4th 2007. Title: *The Effects of Hippotherapy on Postural Control in Sitting for Children with Cerebral Palsy*

Region X

Robin Bowman, PT – 310.210.7665 - thebowmans4@msn.com

University of New Mexico and Skyline Therapy, NM, are the recipients of a \$20,000 research grant from AHA to complete the proposed study, "*Impact of Hippotherapy As a Treatment Tool on Functional Communication in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*".

Region XI

Stacey Nelson, MS, ORT – 619.322.0744 – sandiegohippotherapy@cox.net

San Diego Hippotherapy (Lakeside, CA), received a \$30,000 grant from the Grossmont Healthcare District in November, to work towards program expansion and fundraising.

San Diego hippotherapy horses were safe during the Southern CA wildfires in October, although we

had many horses evacuated to our center and were on watch for several days to evacuate. Unfortunately, Ann Vattet, PT, lost her guesthouse and several other buildings, and two of our volunteers lost their home. Stacey Nelson, OTR/L and her family were also evacuated for a week and lost fencing and trees to the fire, but luckily the house was fine. Most importantly, all of our families and animals were safe.

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 Mary Beth Marzulli, mbmarzulli@aol.com if you are interested.

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 along with the e-mail address you wish to use. Remember your membership must be current to be listed!

AHA is looking for someone to be Editor of "HIPPO THERAPY" ...

AHA is currently looking to fill the Editor's position for our bi-yearly publication HIPPO THERAPY. If you have the qualifications and desire to help AHA would love to hear from you. Contact Robyn Moug R_Moug@msn.com.

AHA Approved Workshop Calendar...

2008 Level I Workshops

March 27-30, 2008

Somerset Hills Therapeutic Riding Center

83 Old Turnpike Road

Oldwick, NJ 08858

Kathy Brennan

908.439.9636/FAX 908.439.2338

shhrpcd@earthlink.net

AHA Faculty: Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS

April 17-20, 2008

Nature's Edge Therapy Center, Inc.

2523 14 ¾ Avenue

Rice Lake, WI 54868

Becky Lundeen

715.859.6670/715.859.6669

jimnbeck@citizens-tel.net

AHA Faculty: Terri Barnes, PT, HPCS

AHA Associate Faculty: Becky Lundeen, SLP, HPCS

2008 Level II Workshops

February 21-24, 2008

Texas Tech University Therapeutic Riding Center

Box 42141

Lubbock, TX 79409

Heather Hernandez

806.792.4683

heather.hernandez@ttu.edu

AHA Faculty: Ruth Dismuke-Blakely, CCC-SLP, HPCS

AHA Faculty: Joann Benjamin, PT, HPCS

May 15-18, 2008

Nature's Edge Therapy Center, Inc.

25234 14-3/4 Avenue

Rice Lake, WI 54868

Becky Lundeen

715.859.6670/Fax 715.859.6669

jimnbeck@citizens-tel.net

AHA Faculty: Claudia Morin, OT, HPCS

AHA Faculty: Lori Garone, MA, PT, HPCS

Equine Skills – Level III Workshops

A tentative schedule for the Equine Skills – Level II Workshops is in being prepared. The tentative schedule is April at TheraPlay in Carmel, IN; June at Somerset Hills Therapeutic Riding Center in Oldwick, NJ; October in Lexington, KY; and the end of the year at Little Bit in Woodinville, WA. Watch the AHA Education Calendar for specific information.

Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist Review now available...

The next HPCS Review course is scheduled for Saturday, January 12, 2008 at Somerset Hills Therapeutic Riding Center, Oldwick, NJ. The course will be a full day and cover the areas that are outlined in the examination booklet. This course will also offer time for participants to ask specific questions regarding hippotherapy and horsemanship. The course fee is \$125. Please contact Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS, directly at: bdc1m@aol.com to register for the course.

Classic AHA Merchandise now available from the AHA Office...

We are excited to offer our membership Classic AHA Merchandise (with embroidered Triangle Shape AHA Logo) at a discounted rate. We currently have Long Sleeved Light Blue Denim Shirts available in Women's Sizes Sm, Md, Lg, XL, XXL available for \$18.00 (+\$4.95 S&H) and Men's Sizes L and XL for \$20.00 (+\$4.95 S&H). We also have navy ½ zip pullover sweatshirt with collar in Md, Lg, XL, and XXL for \$20.00 (+\$4.95 S&H). Please contact Linda, at the AHA office, with your orders. If you have received an AHA Merchandise Gift Certificate with your new membership, you can apply it toward this purchase. Hurry, supplies are limited!

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.

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.

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