



"Treatment with the Help of the Horse"

American Hippotherapy Association, Inc.

E-Newsletter

Newsletter 009-08

April 2008

Message from Meredith...

Dear Members,

AHA has had an exciting winter. We had a very productive Board of Directors meeting in mid-March. The three days of strategic planning and Board meetings were hard work, but we made a lot of progress in planning for AHA's continued growth, development, and success. We restructured the Board in order to be more transparent and efficient. We also established core values, organized new membership categories and crafted a new mission and vision statement to reflect the expanded role we see for AHA.

Our new mission statement is to educate and promote excellence in the field of equine assisted therapy.

Our new vision statement is that AHA is recognized as part of the international community that provides education, facilitates research and promotes equine assisted therapy as an effective treatment strategy that improves the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

As you can see, we're looking more broadly at the different ways in which horses can be incorporated by clinicians in therapeutic ways. While we protect the integrity of hippotherapy, we want to ensure that other clinicians who have horses in their therapy environments have access to the education, organization, representation and communication benefits provided by AHA. Thanks to everyone on the Board for rolling up your sleeves and putting such thought and commitment into AHA. We are all grateful for your contribution.

Our meeting also gave us a chance to check out the Westin North Perimeter in Atlanta, GA, where we will be holding our Second National Conference from May 1st through 3rd, 2009. The hotel is beautiful, and we're looking forward to being there next year. Set the dates aside, this is one conference you won't want to miss.

As always, if there is anything AHA can do for you, please contact us. We always love to hear from our members.

Sincerely,

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

Call for Papers...

**Call for Papers
Atlanta, Georgia
May 1 – May 3, 2009**

American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. is accepting abstracts for papers to be presented at the 2009 Conference. The review committee is looking for papers in hippotherapy and equine assisted therapy, case studies and research papers will be considered.

Submitted proposals must be postmarked no later than **October 3, 2008**. Individuals will be notified of the status of their proposals by early December.

For more information related to the call for proposals and our submission process please go to our website at www.americanhippotherapyassociation.org or contact the AHA Research chairperson Debbie Silkwood-Sherer PT, DHS, HPCS

1202 Health Professions Building
Central Michigan University
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859
Email: silkw1d@cmich.edu
Work phone: 989 774-1337

Stephen F Austin State University Women's Equestrian Team adopts AHA...

AHA was selected by the Stephen F Austin State University Women's Equestrian Team as their philanthropy. They are planning to hold a small fund raiser this spring and use those proceeds to host a fund raising gala in the fall with all money collected to be donated to AHA, Inc.

The equestrian club team was begun in 2002 and showed successfully in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association against other Division I schools. In response to that success the team, faculty, and staff advisors rallied to get the athletics department to take on equestrian as a varsity/NCAA emerging sport. Since that time, SFA equestrian has had two successful seasons competing against other varsity teams across the nation. In 2007, the team was selected to Nationals in both the hunter seat and western divisions.

Congratulations...

Congratulations to the following for passing the Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist exam!

Ellen J Bonine OT - Kirkland IL
Trudy Epstein, OT - Encino, CA
Jann Goodman, PT - Mesa, AZ
Deborah Silkwood-Sherer, DHS, PT - Holt, MI

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.

A Special Thank You...

AHA would like to thank Robyn Moug for being the editor of HIPPOTherapy for the past 5 years. Robyn's commitment to making HIPPOTherapy a premier publication has been recognized by our membership as one of the top reasons they joined AHA. During the remainder of 2008, Robyn will be mentoring Janet Weisberg, OTR, as Janet moves into the editor's position.

International Scholarship Fund...

Trish Fitzgerald, OT, from Ireland, this year's recipient of the AHA International Scholarship Fund, attended the Level I Equine Skills and Treatment Principles course at Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center in Oldwick, NJ March 27-30. Trish is planning to go home to Ireland to start a hippotherapy program and to establish a national hippotherapy organization similar to AHA in Ireland. Trish also plans to return to the United States to take a Level II course.

T-HPOT Standards...

The T-HPOT Standards for NARHA are still out in field testing. The NARHA Accreditation Committee, will decide in August, if the standards should come up for a vote. As of now, there are not enough NARHA centers indicating they are doing T-HPOT. The T-HPOT standards can not be voted in unless there is sufficient input about these standards. If you are doing T-HPOT or have strong feeling about the standards, please contact the Accreditation Committee at NARHA.

Regional News.....

Region I

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

No report submitted.

Region II

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

Mary Beth Marzulli, PT AHA Outreach Chair attended the NARHA Region 2 Conference in Maryland. She presented an AHA update at the Saturday Luncheon. During the luncheon a special tribute was given to Sandy McCloskey, PT Executive Director of Quest Therapeutics by Senada Pekaric from Bosnia. Through the efforts of Sandy and Quest, Senada was able to take the training and test to become a NARHA Registered Instructor and receive certification as a Special Olympics Coach. She returned to Bosnia in March to use her training to help children in her country at. Senada hopes that one of the therapists from her program will be able to come to the US for training in Hippotherapy

in the future.

Four representatives from Quest attended the NARHA Region 2 conference workshops on Sustainability, Program Excellence and Brain Gym. The topics were informative and timely. Quest is formatting a research proposal in collaboration with Widener University and DuPont Hospital for Children. They are also applying for Premier Center Accreditation.

Region III

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

“Hippotherapy Happenings” – On March 8th we had an AHA membership meeting at the NARHA Region 3 Conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C. eight were in attendance. Shining Hope Farms in N.C. announced they are holding an AHA Approved Level 1 course this June 5-8. Contact info is shininghopefarms@bellsouth.net Melinda Kirkpatrick (for this same location) told us about a series of articles they are submitting to our Hippotherapy magazine. Parents who are medical professionals will be stating why they sought out HPOT for their child. Be looking for these publications! Then, Beth Wood, OT, gave us a HPCS presentation..... outlining the differences between the NARHA Registered Therapist and the HPCS status. Thank you to both of these ladies! Region 3 donated a “horsey” item on behalf of AHA to the Silent Auction at this NARHA Conference, and I (Cathy Dudley) was also given a 5 minute time slot to present our AHA update during the Saturday morning breakfast NARHA Region 3 Update meeting. All was well received and relationships between everyone present strengthened! Lastly, Virginia and S.C. State Liaisons are still needed. Please consider this opportunity to get more involved with spreading the good news about Hippotherapy and its great benefits. You can contact me, Cathy Dudley @ cathypt@intelos.net or Mary Beth Marzulli, AHA Outreach Chair @ mbmarzulli@aol.com Cathy Dudley, Region 3 AHA Liaison.

Region IV

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

Lesley Lautenschlager, OT is the new AHA regional liaison for Region 4. Her contact email is llautensot@yahoo.com Lesley gave a brief AHA update at the NARHA Region 4 Conference. Region 4 would like to welcome Rita Spears as the new Indiana AHA liaison. Congratulations to Deborah Silkwood-Sherer, PT on becoming a Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist!

The 5th Michigan Area Hippotherapy Networking meeting was held Sunday, January 13, 2008 hosted by Tracey Lewis PT, Michele Bieszkis OT, and Betsey Hyde PT in Swanton, Ohio. Tracey, Michelle, and Betsy gave us a tour of the beautiful farm (and horses) in Swanton, Ohio that they lease at \$30/30min. HPOT session to provide hippotherapy through St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, the hospital where they are employed. Tracey gave a handout and power point presentation of their hippotherapy program that has been successfully utilized to procure grant monies to fund the off-site expenses of running hippotherapy. They explained the “hoops” and barriers they had to face when setting up a hippotherapy program through a hospital (kudos to all your tenacity!!). Betsy outlined some of the budget items they have addressed and the current research they are involved with. Michele discussed the hospital evaluations and write-ups that they complete, which is the same for either hippotherapy or out patient services. Liz Watson brought some samples of the evaluation write-ups she utilizes at Great Strides Therapy. Kathy Hinderer asked about the National Provider ID that is required of therapists by May 2008 who are seeking insurance reimbursement. The website for information concerning this is <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/welcome.do>

Region V

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

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

No report submitted.

Region VI

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

Becky Lundeen, SLP attended the NARHA Region 6 Conference where she gave an update for AHA on upcoming courses, grants/scholarships that have been awarded and the upcoming AHA conference in 2009. Becky was also part of an AHA forum on Sunday morning. She had one therapist interested in becoming a member of AHA and taking the Level 1 Course. Several NARHA instructors were interested in learning more about Hippotherapy. The Region 6 Conference was wonderful and well organized. Participants were provided with food, prizes and informative speakers.

Region VII

Sheri Butler, RPT – 815.355.1192 – Sherrickb5@aol.com

Region 7 welcomes Ellen Jean Bonine, OT horseot1@yahoo.com as co-liaison for Illinois. We would also like to congratulate her on becoming a Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist!

Region VIII

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

No report submitted.

Region IX

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

Forward Stride is thrilled to announce its move to a gorgeous new facility in Beaverton, Oregon. Our new home is just 25 minutes from downtown Portland and includes 63 acres, 3 arenas, 2 barns, administrative offices and endless trail opportunities. A long term lease will allow our organization to grow and expand our nationally recognized services from 150 to 400 weekly clients.

Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center is also pleased to announce the purchase of Sympatico Stables which is just 5 minutes from our current facility. The 17 acre, 43 stall barn with planned administrative offices and therapy facilities will help double our current capacity to serve 525 individuals per week. Steve McKenzie, MSPT, HPCS AHA Region 9 Liaison

Region X

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

Region 10 would like to welcome Kimberly Desautels, OT km.d1@comcast.net as the new liaison for Utah and Diana McDonald, PT,DPT dedmcdon@syoming.com as the new liaison for Wyoming. Congratulations to Jann Goodman, PT on becoming a Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist.

Region XI

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

Region 11 would like to welcome Nancy Bloomfield, RPT as our new Hawaii liaison. Hawaii is about to double the number of therapists providing hippotherapy in the state! Nancy Bloomfield, RPT is coordinator of Therapeutic Horsemanship of Hawaii's Kona Branch (THH-Kona) and has been treating 8 hippotherapy clients, in addition to 20 therapeutic riding clients. Marianna Sheehan, RPT, has been doing private practice on Oahu. In May 2008, Tina German, OTR of Therapeutic Horsemanship of Hawaii's Kauai Branch (THH-Kauai) and Maggie Young OTR in private practice on Oahu will be taking their Level 1 Equine Skills and Hippotherapy Principles and Practices Course in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Both Tina and Maggie are enthusiastic about logging enough clinical practice hours in order to be able to join Nancy in a Level 2 course at Little Bit in Sept. 2008. Nancy will be grateful for the company on the AHA list of therapists.

Equine Assisted Therapy At Mountain Valley (Carmel, CA) had the pleasure of joining NCEFT (Woodside, CA) on March 1st for an inservice with Barb Heine. It was great to join forces and share, problem solve and get to know each other. Of course, Barb was full of insightful wisdom and expertise. Mountain Valley completed a power point presentation focusing on Hippotherapy for the various populations they educate, volunteers, donors and other professionals, and is really happy with the outcome. Also at EAT, Jennifer Nuckton, MPT, and Deborah Van Buren, OTR/L are working on a video case study and hope to have that completed by this summer.

San Diego Hippotherapy (Lakeside, CA) would like to thank NARHA for their generous grant through their Disaster Relief Fund, which provided assistance in recovery from the effects of the Southern California wildfires last October. San Diego Hippotherapy is also looking forward to the Wes Whitlock Roping in May-we were chosen to be the beneficiary of this event for the third year in a row.

A lot has been happening at Therapy Services at Ride On in Los Angeles. First off, Congratulations to Trudy Epstein, the first OTR to become a Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist in California!

Watch public television for A Place of Our Own on June 26th. The episode, "How to be an Advocate for Your Child" features footage of a patient during his OT/hippotherapy session at Ride On. We hope some of the footage will escape the cutting room floor!

Brook Hampton, PT, will be doing a staff training as a result of her recent certification in the DIR/Floortime model of treatment for children with autism. She will be sharing how Floortime and Hippotherapy can be complementary strategies in treatment.

OT/PT Collaboration in Hippotherapy was the topic of a poster presentation at the USC School of OT shown by Trudy Epstein, OT and Joann Benjamin, PT. The poster and DVD's were very well received.

In the fall, Therapy Services at Ride On will be the site of several educational workshops. The AHA Level 1 Equine

Skills and Treatment Principles will be taught on October 16-19. Instructors are Joann Benjamin, PT, HPCS and Ruth Dismuke-Blakely, MS/CCC-SLP, HPCS. On October 20th, a pilot workshop entitled, "The Core Connection" will be open to therapists and TR instructors. This will be a day to explore the connection between Hippotherapy and Core Postural Control in applications for PT, OT, and SLP.

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 Approved Course Calendar...

Level I Courses

April 17-20, 2008

Nature's Edge Therapy Center, Inc.

2523 14th 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

May 1 – 4, 2008

Spirit Ridge Therapeutic Riding Center

643 Green 776 Road

Parabould, AR 72450

Shelia Coleman

870.215.0373

spiritridgetec@hotmail.com

AHA Faculty: Claudia Morin, OT, HPCS/Carol Huegel, PT, HPCS

May 1 – 4, 2008

Greenlock Therapeutic Riding Center

55 Summer Street

Rehoboth, MA 02769

Edith Wislock

508.252.5814/FAX 401.683.1934

Greenlock1@tmlp.com

AHA Faculty: Liz Baker, PT, HPCS/Mary Helene Chaplin, PT, HPCS

May 31-June 3, 2008

Therapeutic Horsemanship

332 Stable Lane

Wentzville, MO 63384

Melanie Wood

636.332.4940/FAX 636.332.4941

Melaniewood82@gmail.com

AHA Faculty: Joann Benjamin, PT, HPCS/AHA Adjunct Faculty: Donna Spencer, CRTI

June 5-8, 2008

Shining Hope Farms

328 Whippoorwill Lane

Mt. Holly, NC 28120-9765

Milinda Kirkpatrick

704.827.3788/FAX 704.827.3799

shininghopefarms@bellsouth.net

AHA Faculty: Claudia Morin, OT, HPCS

June 5-8, 2008

Beau Blue Equestrian Center

274 Red Gate Drive

Canton, GA 30115

Bethany Nugent

404.644.3917/FAX 673.494.6616

blnugent@bellsouth.net

AHA Faculty: Carol Huegel, PT, HPCS

AHA Associate Faculty: Bethany Nugent, PT, HPCS

July 17-20, 2008

The Children's TherAplay Foundation, Inc.

9919 Towne Road

Carmel, IN 46032

Raquel Ravinet

317.872.4166/ax 317.872.3234

Raquel.Ravinet@ChildrensTherAplay.org

AHA Faculty: Lori Garone, PT, HPCS

August 14-17, 2008

Pikes Peak Therapeutic Riding Center

13620 Halleluiah Trail

Elbert, CO 80106

Nancy Marshall

marshall@pptrc.org

719.495.3908/FAX 719.494.1689

AHA Faculty: Terri Barnes, PT, HPCS/AHA Adjunct Faculty: Judy Rector, BHSAI

September 18-21, 2008

EBC Therapy Center

251 Cole Hille Road

East Berne, NY 12059

Liz Chauvot

518.872.1870/FAX 518.872.1800

ebcpt@localnet.com/www.ebcpt.com

AHA Faculty: Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS

Level II Courses

May 1 – 4, 2008

EBC Therapy Center

251 Cole Hille Road

East Berne, NY 12059

Liz Chauvot

518.872.1870/FAX 518.872.1800

ebcpt@localnet.com/www.ebcpt.com

AHA Faculty: Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS/Lori Garone, 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/Lori Garone, MA, PT, HPCS

June 26-29, 2008

Skyline Therapy Services

1090 Mountain Valley Road

Edgewood, NM 87015

Ruth Dismuke Blakely

505.281.1811/FAX 505.281.7704

skylinetherapy@aol.com

AHA Faculty: Ruth Dismuke-Blakely, CCC-SLP, HPCS/JoAnn Benjamin, PT, HPCS

July 31-August 1, 2008

NCEFT

880 Runnymede Road

Woodside, CA 94062

Rosi Fordwood

650.851.2271 x1#/FAX 650.851.3480

rosi@nceft.org

AHA Faculty: Joann Benjamin, PT, HPCS/Barb Heine, PT, HPCS

September 4-7, 2008

Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center

19802 NE 148th Street

Woodinville, WA 98072

Nicola Towers

425.883.1554/FAX 425.883.1818

AHA Faculty: Pippa Hodge, PT, HPCS/Joann Benjamin, PT, HPCS

October 23-26, 2008

Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center

83 Old Turnpike Road

Oldwick, NJ 08889

Kathy Brennan

908.439.9636/FAX 908.439.2338

shhrcpd@earthlink.net

AHA Faculty: Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS/Claudia Morin, OT, HPCS

November 6-9, 2008

Greenlock Therapeutic Riding Center

55 Summer Street

Rehoboth, MA 02769

Edith Wislock

508.252.5814/FAX 401.683.1934

Greenlock1@tmlp.com

AHA Faculty: Liz Baker, PT, HPCS/Ruth Dismuke-Blakely, CCC/SLP, HPCS

Long Lining For Hippotherapy

June 21-22, 2008

Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center

83 Old Turnpike Road

Oldwick, NJ 08889

Kathy Brennan

908.439.9636/FAX 908.439.2338

shhrcpd@earthlink.net

AHA Faculty: Lori Garone, PT, HPCS

AHA Apprentice Faculty: Gina Taylor, OTR/L

October 11-12, 2008

Riding for Hope

PO Box 13155

Lexington, KY 40511

Lisa Harris

859.292.3483

FAX 859.233.7018

AHA Faculty: Lori Garone, PT, HPCS

AHA Associate Faculty: Lisa Harris, PT, HPCS

Save the Date...

AHA National Conference

**May 1 -3, 2009
Atlanta, GA**

Watch for more information in the next issue of HIPPOThERAPY and future ENewsletters!

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 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!

Help Wanted...

- NARHA Center seeks SLP & OT to join established hippotherapy program in metro-Atlanta area. Requirements: licensed/certified, hippotherapy trained or willing to take required training. Contact Joan Aronson, Director-Horse Talk at (770-977-9457 or horsetalkgaslc@aol.com).

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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