



NCRTA Past President (President: 2005—2006)

Name: Amber Milliken

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Place of Employment/Position: Working in
Pharmaceutical Research at PPD

Positions held in NCRTA: 2005 - 2006: President
2004 - 2005: President Elect
2003 - 2004: Member at Large
2002 - 2003: Member at Large
2001 - 2002: Student Representative

8/2003 - 9/2005 - Newsletter Editor
2002 - Annual Conference Co-chair (Wilmington—"Braving the
Waves: Innovations in RT")
2003 - Annual Conference Co-chair (Clemmons—"Building
Opportunities for Tomorrow")

Highlights during my term as President:

- ☞ Membership numbers gradually increased: September 2005: 255 members, February 2006: 279 members, and September 2006: 288 members.
- ☞ The bylaws were revised, which included using consistent terminology and thus revising the title of the Association to the North Carolina Recreational Therapy Association, adding a Lifetime Membership category, and increasing the Members at Large on the Board from two to four.
- ☞ The first \$500 academic scholarship was awarded to Lorraine Fuller.
- ☞ A successful SPIF was held at Mount Olive College with over 80 student and professional attendees.
- ☞ The history of NCRTA was documented by Past Presidents.
- ☞ All committee chair positions were filled this term and lots of new faces stepped aboard as leaders.
- ☞ NCRTA's involvement with the ATRA Medicare Project continued and NCRTA began our commitment to a Fiscal Intermediary Project.
- ☞ Four quality newsletters were distributed to the membership.
- ☞ Two membership campaign winners were announced.
- ☞ A full slate of officers for the 2006-2007 term went out to the membership.
- ☞ Several updates were made to the NCRTA website: conference registration was offered via Paypal, the membership directory was posted online under a password protected area, and a Past Presidents link was created to recognize the history and leadership of the Association.
- ☞ A retreat for the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and Past Presidents was held in January 2006.
- ☞ Two town hall meetings were held to receive feedback from students and give them a voice in NCRTA.
- ☞ Mike Easley, the Governor of North Carolina, created a letter in recognition of National Therapeutic Recreation Week.
- ☞ Marketing projects included revamping the NCRTA display board and creating an NCRTA brochure.

What encouraged me to step up as a leader of NCRTA:

I enjoy leading and mentoring others and wanted to be one of the leaders of change and progression in my profession. I knew that if I wanted to see my profession grow, I had to be part of the process. Starting my involvement with NCRTA at the student level and climbing the ladder, it was a logical progression to me to serve as President.

Advice for NCRTA members on how to get the most out of their Association:

Be involved! You cannot be part of the solution if you sit in the sidelines. You don't have to take on a huge position, but be involved in some way. There are all different levels of involvement and you must make the commitment to be a part of your professional association. Read your newsletters, check the website regularly, and attend conferences to be active in the profession and stay current on trends and issues. Take your profession seriously . . . this is a big part of your life . . . don't assume others will take the lead - YOU need to exercise your voice!

What legacy I wish to leave for the Association:

I hope that during my term as President, I continued to help the association climb to new heights. As we are such a young profession and association, everything we do leaves a mark. There is so much to be done and I hope with the small accomplishments I was able to facilitate, the association will continue to prosper. During my term, we awarded the first academic scholarship. To educate the recreational therapists of tomorrow, I think this is a key piece. I hope the revision of the bylaws will make guiding the association easier and more clear for future presidents and members, and I hope that continuing to push for an awareness and recognition of National TR Week will bring more light to our profession and services.

What changes/growth I would like to see for NCRTA in the future:

I would like to see the website continue to be developed to make services more convenient and provide a method for effective awareness and communication. I know that NCRTA will continue to be a strong chapter with multiple continuing education opportunities offered, and I would like to see NCRTA really support evidence-based practice by awarding more research grants and presenting the findings to the membership / profession.

Recreation activities I enjoy:

Watching hockey, playing pool, traveling, and scrapbooking.

Specifics during my term of office:

Board Members: Julie Bradwell (Past President), Tracie Hobbs (President Elect), Cari Edwards (Secretary), Melissa Roach (Treasurer), Wendy Hughes (Member at Large), Laurie Reddick (Member at Large), Allison Draper (Student Representative), and Sarah Pikett (Student Representative)

Total Budget: \$33,210.00

Conference Location: Asheville, North Carolina from September 24 - 26, 2006
"Climbing to New Heights" was the theme!