



NEWS RELEASE

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ATRA Approves New Chair for Research Foundation

(Alexandria, VA) Melinda Conway Callahan was recently appointed to head the efforts of the American Therapeutic Recreation Foundation. She will be serving as the Chair of the Foundation for the upcoming year. Callahan, from Rochester MI, has been actively involved with the American Therapeutic Recreation Foundation since 1991 serving previously as Chair and serving as Vice Chair from 2004-2005. Nancy McFarlane, CTRS, will be serving as the new Vice-Chair. Callahan and McFarlane worked together previously, both having served as past presidents of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association. Glen, 'GT' Thompson will be serving as Treasurer, Rebecca Stackhouse will be serving as Secretary and Debbie Robinson will be serving as at large member to the board.

The American Therapeutic Recreation Foundation (ATRF) is a non-profit foundation established in 1992 by the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA), to provide funding for education, research and activities to promote the advancement of the recreational therapy profession. In its twelve years of operation the Foundation has financed a number of efficacy grants and funded important ATRA projects such as the *ATRA Annual in Therapeutic Recreation*.

ATRF has been proud to continue to provide the availability of funding through the *Bernard E. Thorn Efficacy Research Fund* for the past twelve years. Named in honor of a true visionary in the recreational therapy field, these funds are awarded to recreational therapy researchers on an annual basis.

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Priority consideration is given to efficacy research projects related to topics that provide evidence as to the effectiveness of recreational therapy interventions, and that examine outcomes and cost effectiveness of recreational therapy protocols. Past grants have studied a variety of areas including the effectiveness of aquatic therapy and using recreational therapy interventions for preventing falls among elderly clients.

Gifts to the American Therapeutic Recreation Foundation support the advancement of the recreational therapy profession. You can learn more about the ATRF and donate online at <http://www.atra-tr.org/foundation.htm> . For more information, contact the ATRA National Office at (703) 683-9420.

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The American Therapeutic Recreation Foundation is a non-profit foundation established in 1992 by the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA), the largest professional membership organization of recreational therapists in the country. The founding principles of the American Therapeutic Recreation Foundation are to develop and promote opportunities for education and research.