

Hello members,

This year ATRA has made changes to the way we vote and when we vote. Due to a successful bylaw change back in April we are now able to better prepare our incoming board members by allowing them to work with the outgoing board member for 4 months. The incumbent will begin in mid-June and after being brought up to speed by the outgoing board member they will take over their new position after the annual general meeting in October. This bylaw change has also allowed for our members to vote online rather than at the annual AGM. This change gives voting access to all of our members.

One nominee has put her name forward for the President position on the Board of Directors. Meeting criteria as an active professional member in good standing with ATRA, this candidate is elected unanimously into the position.

We are happy to announce that we have two nominees for both the Secretary/Treasurer as well as the Education Director positions. We appreciate these four members agreeing to volunteer their time on the board and we wish them the best of luck in the voting process. Please take time to read through the candidate's biographies and then complete your vote.

Voting ends on Friday June 15th at midnight.

All professional ATRA members should have received an email with the link to vote. If you or a colleague did not receive this email we will confirm your membership (as of 2017) and then resend the link. Please email communicationdirector@alberta-tr.org



President – Kerry Appleton

Biography - Kerry Appleton completed her Bachelor's degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies from Brock University. Her first job out of University relocated her to Alabama where she spent 12 years working with youth at risk in an outdoor treatment program. Following her return to Canada she went back to school to earn her CTRS credential. Kerry completed her practicum in a long term care facility for Veterans in Halifax, NS and shortly afterwards relocated to Alberta. For the past 6 years Kerry has been working as a Recreation Therapist with Alberta Health Services in Fairview at a 65 bed long term care facility. Kerry recently took on the Vice President role with ATRA earlier this year and is excited to continue to work with ATRA and its

members. In her leisure time Kerry enjoys boating, curling, gardening, camping, travelling and spending time outdoors.

Volunteer, paid, professional or community based that pertains to the intended office. Previous board experience (organizations, dates and offices held) is an asset not a requirement.

I currently serve on the ATRA board of directors as the Vice President and although I am new to this role I feel comfortable in my role and working with this fabulous team. I am currently the President of my local curling club and in University I was President of our Recreation and Leisure Studies student club.

Please explain why you wish to be considered for a position on the ATRA Board of Directors.

ATRA needs dedicated volunteers to manage the work it is undertaking. ATRA is crucial to our province and the field of Recreation Therapy and I think it's important that we all do our part to help keep this machine running. I enjoy working with the current board of directors and I look forward to meeting our newest members. I have lots to learn and I hope I am able to contribute as well.



Education Director Nominee - Jane Papenhuyzen

Volunteer, paid, professional or community based that pertains to the intended office. Previous board experience (organizations, dates and offices held) is an asset not a requirement.

As ATRA Vice-President for five years (2007-2012), I fulfilled the primary role to lead and complete the submission for regulation of recreation therapy in Alberta under the Health Professions Act. I led work to complete the Competency Profile for Recreation Therapists in Alberta (2012), Risk to the Public for Recreation Therapists in Alberta (2013), ATRA Philosophical Position and ATRA Terminology. I completed presentations and ATRAbute articles

for members on topics of health legislation, risk to the public, competencies and restricted activities. I have been the chair of the ATRA Membership Review Committee since 2011. This position reports through the Education Director and works to build consistency and objectivity in the approval of new ATRA professional members and fairness in bridging processes for applicants who do not immediately meet ATRA criteria. I have completed a three year term on the Advisory Council for the University of Lethbridge Therapeutic Recreation degree program within my work role as Recreation Therapy Senior Practice Lead for Alberta Health Services (AHS). Within my work role as Recreation Therapy Professional Practice Lead for AHS Calgary Zone since 2005, I have coordinated student placements and liaised regularly with prospective students and post-secondary institutions. I have worked with local and provincial practice councils to improve student placement processes and develop resources for schools, students and preceptors. I have recently worked with AHS Student Placement to build support for the peer-assisted 2:1 learning model. I have precepted students and mentored new grads throughout my years as a recreation therapist.

Please explain why you wish to be considered for a position on the ATRA Board of Directors.

I have been involved with ATRA as Vice-President from 2007-2012 and Chair of the Membership Review Committee from 2011 to present. I have been active with ATRA as a symposium presenter and contributor to ATRA professional resources and articles, including the Competency Profile for Recreation Therapists in Alberta (2012) and Risk to the Public for Recreation Therapists in Alberta (2013). I understand the demands and rewards of leading recreation therapy professional practice in Alberta through change and growth. I am passionate to continue ATRA's work toward regulation under the Health Professions Act, degree Entry to Practice and competency development.



Education Director Nominee – Deanna Parker

Biography - Before Deanna stumbled upon a career in TR, she spent time as a teacher of ESL, a site coordinator and outreach volunteer for a national Science program; and finally a welding instructor for a STEM program. Her love for working with people and learning led her into the TR field where she subsequently was hired into a Staff Educator role alongside her TR work. Her

love of Education shows through even today as she works towards her next accomplishment- ULeth's Post Diploma TR program. Deanna is always aiming to educate those around her on the benefits of TR and creates educational materials and presentations for family members and volunteers at her workplace.

Volunteer, paid, professional or community based that pertains to the intended office. Previous board experience (organizations, dates and offices held) is an asset not a requirement.

Volunteer coordinator for Let's Talk Science at Confederation College from 2010-2012. Organizing appropriate education training for volunteers and outreach for students. No board experience to date.

Please explain why you wish to be considered for a position on the ATRA Board of Directors.

I am a strong advocate for education, whether through I am an advocate for continuing education in the TR/RT field. I will always work at upgrading my education and believe a stronger ATRA will be created through allowing educational opportunities for Recreation Therapists across the province.



Secretary/Treasurer Nominee – Brandie Magee

Biography - My name is Brandie Magee and I am hoping to be your next Secretary/Treasurer with ATRA. I was born and raised in Regina, SK. Growing up, I spent a lot of time outdoors with my two younger siblings and parents, especially during the summer months. We spent many windy days out on the lake boating and fishing. Some of my other earliest and fondest memories involve camping, being in youth groups, reading, and of course, cheering on the Saskatchewan Roughriders!

My journey into therapeutic recreation started in 2012, when I discovered that the Faculty of Kinesiology at the University of Regina was offering a therapeutic recreation program. Throughout my academic years, I was also offered the opportunity to work as an Instructor

Therapist with Above and Beyond Autism Consulting Services, which provided individualized learning programs to children of different ages. During my final year of my degree, my passion for working with children of different abilities and my interest in mental health lead me to pursue practicums outside of my home province. I was fortunate enough to complete my practicum within Child and Adolescent Mental Health with Alberta Health Services.

Through my preceptor's encouragement and mentorship, I was able to develop my skills as a recreation therapist. Her passion for the promotion of our profession in our province has had a permanent impact on me and I moved permanently to Calgary in 2016 after completing my Bachelor of Sports and Recreation Studies in Therapeutic Recreation. I have been fortunate enough to continue to work as a recreation therapist in Child and Adolescent Mental Health ever since.

Volunteer, paid, professional or community based that pertains to the intended office. Previous board experience (organizations, dates and offices held) is an asset not a requirement.

While attending the University of Regina, I was fortunate to have been presented with several opportunities to develop my experience and skills through the Man Up Against Violence Initiative. MUAV provided me with the opportunity to take part in the development of a student committee, which I took on several positions including volunteer coordinator and student director. I gained valuable skills through this volunteer position which included distributing and preparing meeting minutes and schedules, attending student committee and board of directors meetings, budgeting and creating updated contact lists. This initiative also allowed me to develop skills in advocating for change, collaboration and policy/document development. Additionally, I also am also a member within the Calgary Zone Professional Practice Council for Recreation Therapy as the representative for northwest addiction and mental health. Within the PPC, I have been able to communicate with co-professionals in Recreation Therapy on issues and success arising from mental health, review clinical practice standards, and collaborate to enhance our practice as Recreation Therapists

Please explain why you wish to be considered for a position on the ATRA Board of Directors.

I wish to be considered for a position with ATRA Board of Directors because I am passionate about Therapeutic Recreation and its importance in creating change and enhancing wellbeing for all. This opportunity would allow me to continue to develop my professional skills and connect with Recreation Therapists and other professionals throughout our province. I would love to work alongside other professionals to learn from them and continue to contribute to advancing our valuable practice.



Secretary/Treasurer Nominee – Shanna Hakala

Biography - I grew up in Thunder Bay, Ontario where I obtained my education in Therapeutic Recreation. While sustaining my education I also had a niche to add value to my career so I volunteered my time to growing the North Western Ontario Therapeutic Recreation Association. Once landing a job as a Recreation Therapist, I moved to Calgary to advance my career. I very quickly found out that i loved to work with seniors and have had the pleasure of working in many settings such as Adult Day Programs, Memory Care Units and various retirement homes. I once again sought out value and volunteered on the Creative Ageing Board as the Marketing Director and currently sit on the Central Chapter Board of ATRA as the Education Liaison.

Throughout my years of management I have had the opportunity to be part of many multi-disciplinary teams, I have gained knowledge in financials, grant writing, strategic plans, education implementation, and day to day tasks. I believe I would add value to the ATRA board of directors by bringing knowledge, creative ideas and encouraging members to think outside the box as well as learning to in's and out's of ATRA.

Volunteer, paid, professional or community based that pertains to the intended office. Previous board experience (organizations, dates and offices held) is an asset not a requirement.

Education Liaison for ATRA Central Chapter, Marketing Director for Creative Ageing Calgary, Student Volunteer for North Western TRO, Practicing RT since 2012 –Primarily in Seniors Homes. Recreation Management for 5 Years and standing.

Please explain why you wish to be considered for a position on the ATRA Board of Directors.

I believe that I would bring value to the board from my diverse background and knowledge. I would like to be part of the new changes in the Therapeutic Recreation and implement those changes in my day to day work environment.