



Fall Newsletter

A newsletter for and about the Florida Rehabilitation Association (FRA)

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FRA Annual Training Meeting

The FRA Annual Training Conference was held in Orlando, Florida on August 28 and 29, 2008. The conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort. FRA members experienced exciting and well thought out sessions and earned twelve hours of CRC/CVE credits.

Fifty eight members registered for the training meeting. Sessions presented included spirituality and evaluation, Hands on educational/placement services, Ethics, Life Care planning, Building Private/Public Partnerships in Job Development: The Florida Blind Model, Integrating Research and Education into Service Delivery for Innovative So-

lutions, Emergency Preparedness Training for Floridians with Disabilities and Rediscovering Your Passion in a Time of Budget Cuts. All sessions offered 1.5 hours of continuing education units/points. All sessions were well attended and there were extensive discussions in each session. There were numerous comments from attendees which revealed that the sessions were informative, well received and provided an avenue for the sharing of creative ideas.

The Hyatt staff and accommodations were superb. The on-site amenities included a man made lake, a huge swimming

pool designed to resemble the side of a mountain with a waterfall. There was a golf putting range with the option of working with a golf pro. There was an easy accessible exercise room. To see highlights of this wonderful hotel, please see pictures presented on pages 2 & 3.

As a professional organization we must meet to ensure that the quality of our services are maintained and that the latest information is shared. An annual training avoids complacency and ensures that networking and collaboration continues to be a vital part of the services we provide. **Bill Hudson**

President's Message

On behalf of the FRA Board of Directors, I would like to present to you our fall newsletter for 2008. As you can see, we have a new editor and a new design. We hope that you will enjoy this edition. We hope to continue this production next year. We have attempted to provide informative and interesting articles and also provide you a glimpse (via pictures) into the activities and décor of the FRA annual training conference which was held in late August in Orlando, Florida at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort. We hope to produce a spring

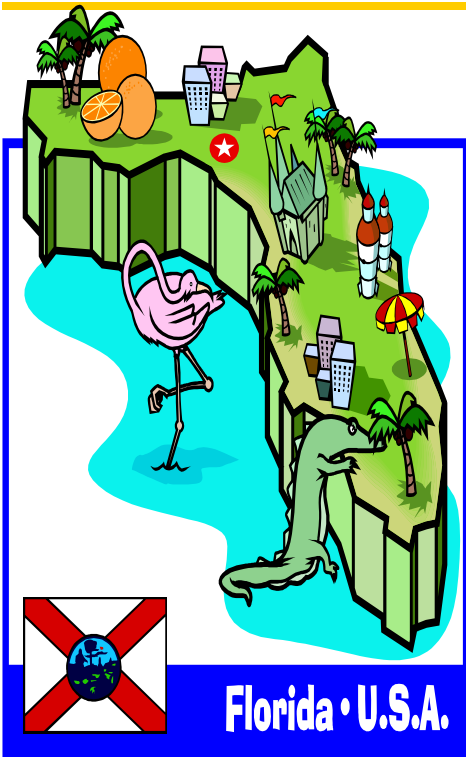
newsletter in early 2009. As I look back on the conference, I am happy to report that it was a success. As we embark upon another year of service, I would like to invite you to become more involved with FRA through your local chapters and through participation in the statewide association. I remind you that it is that time of year to solicit members to vote for new board members at large. This is a vital aspect of membership and it is important that everyone participate. Please take a few minutes to read this newsletter.

If you have an article or special interest facts that you would like to place in the upcoming newsletter, please feel free to email this information to the editor (address is at the bottom of page 2). In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe and happy holiday season. I look forward to working with all of you in the New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FRA Board of Directors for all of their efforts this past year.

Denise Giarrusso

FRA Board Members

- ♦ **Denese Giarrusso, President & Treasurer**
- ♦ *Donna Archbell*
- ♦ *Don Barnes*
- ♦ *Lisa Bloodworth*
- ♦ *Madeline Davidson*
- ♦ *John Ficca*
- ♦ *William Hudson, Sr.*
- ♦ *John Howell*
- ♦ *Harry McEwen*
- ♦ *Andrea Melvin*
- ♦ *Linda Rimmer*
- ♦ *Judy Timmis*
- ♦ *Judy Timmons*
- ♦ *Jamie White*
- ♦ *Karla Wooten*



The picture above is of the parrot

located in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency.



Quote of the day

“Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don’t matter and those who matter don’t mind.”
-Dr. Seuss -

The picture to the left is of the man made lake at the Hyatt Regency. This picture was provided by Donna Archbell.

Results of the FRA State Board Meeting

The FRA State Board met on August 28, 2008 during the annual training meeting in Orlando. The president reported on the status of the conference. It was revealed that the 2 day concept for the annual meeting appears to be working. This format will be maintained for the training during 2009. Membership report was provided

by Madeline Davidson who reported that the FRA membership is approximately 200. The chapters in the panhandle and Tampa were discussed. The panhandle chapter will be revived sometime in the near future. The Tampa chapter is on the move. It was announced that there are four board member at large vacancies. These positions will be announced to the member-

ship. The 2009 training meeting was discussed. The meeting can be held at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress again next year or the meeting can be held at a Hyatt hotel in the Tampa area. The majority of the members were in favor of returning to the same hotel next year.

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