



March/April 2013

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National Council For Therapeutic Recreation Certification

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Welcome to NCTRC e-News!

May 2013 Exam Registration Tops 700 Candidates...Again!

NCTRC has experienced a significant increase in the number of applicants for the May 2013 exam. The total number of candidates scheduled to complete the May exam is 752, the highest number of applicants for a NCTRC exam since the program initiated three administrations per year. The May 2013 exam enrollment figure is the second year in a row that the NCTRC exam had more than 700 candidates.

NCTRC Conducts Annual Board Meeting

The NCTRC Board of Directors conducted its annual meeting on March 22-23, 2013 in Newburgh, NY. Among the many achievements accomplished during the two-day meeting were the following:

- Three new members were inducted to the NCTRC Board of Directors. Jennifer Hinton, CTRS (NC), Nancy McFarlane, CTRS (OR) and Kelly Ramella, CTRS (AZ) will each serve a three-year term (2013 to 2016).
- A new Executive Committee for the term of 2013-2014 was elected:
 - Patricia Thomas, CTRS (WI), Chairperson
 - Sharon Nichols, CTRS (NH), Vice Chairperson
 - Janet Turner, CTRS (PA), Secretary
 - Nancy McFarlane, CTRS (OR), Treasurer
- Three new members were appointed to NCTRC Standing Committees:
 - Serena Frew, CTRS (BC): Standards Hearing Committee
 - Andrea Waters, CTRS (NS): Standards Review Committee
 - Donna Lozano, CTRS (CO): Exam Management Committee

The Board approved conducting the NCTRC Annual Certificants Meeting at the ATRA Annual Conference to be held in Pittsburgh, PA, September 29-October 2, 2013.

Patricia K. Thomas, MPA, CTRS Elected NCTRC Chairperson

Patricia Thomas was installed as the new Chairperson of the NCTRC Board of Directors at the recently held NCTRC Annual Meeting. Patricia earned a Masters degree in Public Administration, Health Administration emphasis, from Long Island University and a Bachelors of Science degree in Recreation, Therapeutic Recreation emphasis, from the University Wisconsin-LaCrosse. Patricia brings a unique blend of experiences to the Board as the new Chair. She has 18 years of experience working in healthcare settings (VA) in many different capacities from a Recreation Therapist to the Chief of Recreation Therapy Services to the administrative assistant to the Chief of Staff. She also has over 10 years of experience working in academia. Her current responsibilities include the management of an academic TR Certificate Program that is offered as a distance education program. Patricia works with some traditional students but mostly interacts with a growing number of practitioners/adult learners interested in taking TR coursework for professional growth and NCTRC requirements. In accepting her appointment as the new NCTRC Chair, Patricia stated: "I am very honored and look forward to working with the

members of the Board to move the goals of NCTRC forward this upcoming year”.

New NCTRC Certification Standards in Effect

The NCTRC Board of Directors continually monitors the *NCTRC Standards* and conducts periodic reviews to determine if the Standards are in need of modification. In doing so, the Board assures that NCTRC remains in compliance with the National Commission of Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the accrediting organization of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE). As a result, several new requirements went into effect on January 1, 2013 upon the completion of the five year notification period (2008-2013). The new requirements regarding the number of TR courses, length of the internship, and the academic supervision of field placement are now being utilized in the review of eligibility applications to sit for the NCTRC exam. Please review a revised copy of the *NCTRC Standards* if you are not familiar with the new requirements.

NCTRC Postpones New TR Course Content Requirement

The NCTRC Board of Directors voted at their Spring Annual Meeting to postpone the implementation of the new standard pertaining to the TR course content requirement. The new requirement addresses the need for applicants to complete coursework in specified areas of TR and was scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2013. Given the difficulty associated with measuring compliance to the new standard and the fact that most applicants were not readily able to provide the documentation necessary to verify specific course content, the NCTRC Board voted to suspend the implementation of the new Standard until further notice. Academic programs are highly encouraged to continue to offer specific coursework in the concentrated areas of Assessment, TR Process, and Advancement of the Profession in order to prepare students for the NCTRC exam and to ensure successful entry into the profession.

NCTRC to Co-sponsor Provincial Licensure Forum in Canada

In an effort to promote provincial licensure and the CTRS credential, NCTRC will co-sponsor a Provincial Licensure Forum with the Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association on May 15, 2013 in Montreal, Canada. The forum will serve as a pre-conference institute at the CTRA Annual Conference. Pre-registration indicates that nearly all Canadian provinces and territories will be represented as well as participants from the general conference.

Marketing the CTRS Credential

In an effort to continuously promote the CTRS credential and educate individuals about TR/RT, NCTRC has planned a preliminary travel schedule with presentations at the following conferences:

- April 15-17: Midwest Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation, St. Louis, MO
- April 20-23: New York State Therapeutic Recreation Association, Fishkill, NY
- May 1-4: TR in Motion, St. Augustine, FL
- May 15-17: Southeast RT Symposium, Gatlinburg, TN
- May 15-17: Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association, Montreal, Quebec
- June 4-7: Pennsylvania TR Society, Lancaster, PA
- Sept. 29-Oct. 2: ATRA Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA

Please plan to visit NCTRC at any of the above listed conferences.

Recertification and Annual Maintenance Deadlines Approaching

NCTRC would like to remind you that if your five year recertification cycle ends on May 1, 2013, you will need to submit your recertification application postmarked by June 30, 2013. NCTRC does not accept recertification applications postmarked after this date. Annual maintenance applications are also due no later than June 30, 2013. To submit your application online, log in to [MY NCTRC LOGIN](#) or visit www.nctrc.org for more information.

Helpful Reminders to Ensure a Successful Internship

The summer months often serve as an opportunity for students to complete their academic internships. In order to provide a smooth transition to obtaining the CTRS credential, the following requirements must be met during the internship experience:

- The length of the internship must be a minimum of 14 consecutive weeks and 560 hours.
- The intern must work a minimum of 20 hours per week and no more than 45 hours per week.
- The internship supervisor must be employed full-time at the sponsoring agency and work a minimum of 32 hours per week. At least 50% of the supervisor's duties must be in therapeutic recreation and they must be an active CTRS on the first day of your internship.
- The internship must be supervised by an academic supervisor and an agency supervisor both of whom need to be a CTRS.
- The internship agency supervisor must be certified for at least one year prior to supervising interns.
- The internship experience must be based on the therapeutic recreation process as defined by the current [NCTRC Job Analysis](#).

Please visit NCTRC's website to review and download the [NCTRC Field Placement Standards](#).

Do you know ...

The Strength and Value of the CTRS Credential?

1. NCTRC standards are based on current knowledge and skills necessary for competent practice and continued competence in therapeutic recreation.
2. NCTRC evaluates individual qualifications for certification and recertification through a comprehensive system of review, verification, and standardized national testing to assure that each individual awarded the CTRS has in fact, met the qualifications to hold the credential.
3. NCTRC monitors adherence to standards to assure that cases involving potential harm to public health and safety are investigated fully and that appropriate sanctions of reprimand, suspension and/or revocation are instituted as needed.
4. The CTRS credential is the designation used to inform the public and consumer of health care services of the existence of this competence in recreational therapy.

In fact, it is the only national certification designed to protect the consumer of recreational therapy services.

Please contact NCTRC at 845-639-1439 or nctrc@nctrc.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support of NCTRC and the CTRS credential.