

To: NRCA Members and other Rehabilitation Counselors  
From: NRCA Executive Committee  
Date: October 30, 2005

On October 26, 2005, the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) Board of Directors passed a motion to withdraw the divisional status of the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association (NRCA) effective November 1, 2005 unless NRCA complied with the restructuring requirements of the NRA Constitution (please see below for additional information regarding a brief summary of these events.) The NRCA Board of Directors regrets that NRA chose to take such an action; however, the NRCA Board of Directors also realizes that it is indeed time to focus more of our attention on the pressing issues affecting the lives of people with disabilities as well as our profession of rehabilitation counseling.

Therefore, we invite any interested members of NRCA to participate in developing our new future as an independent association (e.g., membership recruitment, by-laws revisions, education and training). If you wish to become more involved, please contact our national office via phone (703) 361-2077 or email at [NRCAoffice@aol.com](mailto:NRCAoffice@aol.com). NRCA will continue to provide high quality service to our members, as it has since our incorporation as a professional association of rehabilitation counselors in 1966.

Individuals who have paid dues to NRA and NRCA will remain members of both associations. As each individual's membership in both associations expires, an individual may renew with NRCA and/or NRA; however, NRCA dues will be sent directly to the NRCA Office and will no longer be collected by NRA. In addition, professionals will still be able to collaborate with one another at the local, state, regional and national levels and we encourage all to do so for we believe we are stronger when we work together to face the challenges of today.

For those who are interested in the history of what brought us to this point, the following is a brief summary.

In 2002, NRA adopted changes to its Constitution in order to restructure the association. Part of the restructuring involved requiring the divisions to become internal entities and to transfer their assets to NRA by December 31, 2003 as a condition of maintaining divisional status. At that time, the NRCA Representative to the NRA Board of Directors reminded the NRA Board members that NRCA is a separately incorporated entity and significant barriers exist in complying with these requirements. Regardless of this information, in 2004 NRA sent a transfer of asset agreement form to NRCA demanding that all assets, including intellectual property (i.e., our symposium and journal), must be transferred to NRA.

In an effort to maintain an affiliation with NRA, the NRCA leadership proposed multiple solutions to the restructuring dilemma including various proposals to amend the NRA Constitution. One such proposed amendment would have created an opportunity for NRA to develop an "affiliate" status and was geared toward helping NRA recruit other

organizations to partner with NRA while retaining their incorporated status. However, all such suggestions and motions were rejected by the NRA Board of Directors.

The NRCA Board of Directors continued to inform NRA that NRCA leaders could not legally transfer all assets without being directed to do so by the NRCA membership, given that disposing of all assets of the association would, in effect, dissolve the incorporation of NRCA. Such dissolution would represent a serious breach of the NRCA Board of Directors' fiduciary responsibility to NRCA and put the NRCA Board of Directors at risk for potential legal action.

In August 2005, the NRCA Board of Directors sent a ballot to the entire NRCA membership giving our members the opportunity to express their opinion on the whether or not NRCA should dissolve its incorporation and retain affiliation with NRA - in other words, maintain the same relationship that has existed for 40 years. Eighty percent of the voting members indicated such a desire.

Because the membership of NRCA voted to retain our incorporation and maintain an affiliation with NRA, the NRCA Representative to the NRA Board at the October 26, 2005 NRA board meeting once again attempted to work out an agreeable resolution with the NRA Board of Directors. However, the NRA Board of Directors narrowly passed (11 to 8) a motion to withdraw the divisional status of NRCA effective November 1, 2005 if NRCA did not sign the transfer of assets agreement form (including signing over control of all of our intellectual property), transfer all assets, and terminate our incorporation – conditions that were not possible to meet given the vote of the NRCA membership.

Now as an independent association, NRCA will be expanding our collaborative initiatives with organizations having similar goals and interests. Furthermore, we extend an invitation to our members and other rehabilitation counselors to move forward with us as we continue to build on our successes and embrace an exciting future.