

WTRS OPEN MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
10:30 am  
WPRA office, Greendale, WI

All members and visitors are welcome to come and listen or participate in our meetings.

I. Call to Order, roll call, and introductions.

2006 WTRS Board Members

Past Chair - Laura Mooney, Milwaukee Recreation

Chair - Connie Geisthardt, Winnebago Mental Health Institute

Chair-Elect - Kristin Ruprecht, Central Wisconsin Center

Secretary/treasurer - Deb Mielke, Sand Ridge Secure treatment Center

WPRA - Steve Thompson Executive Director

Deputy Director - Juliene Hefter

II. Acceptance of excused absences and proxies.

Erin Winch

III. Additions to the Agenda

Kristin and ATRA Conference being held in Wisconsin

IV. Approval of Minutes (November 8th, 2006)

Erin Winch submitted the minutes. Thanks for covering for Deb.

Motion to approve by Laura Mooney, 2nd by Connie Geisthardt. All in favor,  
Minutes approved.

V. Treasurer's Report - Deb Mielke SRSTC

Budget shows us in debt, but this was prior to conference costs. Membership is  
At 67 members.

VI. Chairperson's Report - Connie Geisthardt WMHI

A. Connie will discuss information in the old/new business.

VII. Past Chairperson's Report - Laura Mooney, Milwaukee Recreation

VIII. Region Reports-

Laura Grossklaus shared with the Board that Milwaukee's Therapeutic Recreation Association is on the verge of disbanding. Similar to WTRS they are unable to get Professionals to commit to serve as members. Board members suggested using conferences as places to network and recruit potential members. In 2007, ATRA conference will be in Milwaukee. May be an opportunity to show off WTRS and

TRA of Milwaukee. Kristin Ruprecht suggested that we sponsor an activity in hopes of being able to share the benefits of being WTRS and TRA members.

IX. Old Business/New Business

- A. WPRA Website- Juliene Hefter recreated the website to be more user friendly. Starting in 2007, you will not need a password. However, if not a member, You will not be able to post anything on the website. Check out the website. You can renew your membership on line. This website has a WTRS section could be used to post national news such as Medicare reimbursement for TR services. Connie would like to designate a person to make sure information is presented and added to the website for 2007. Thank you to Juliene for spending so much time on making the website look and work better.
- B. Future Conference/Workshop Ideas. 2007 WPRA Conference "Riding the Wave to Success" will be at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. WTRS will have 18 hours of sessions in two different rooms. We are now looking for speakers. The deadline for speaker information will be March 15th, 2007. Please contact a board member if you have ideas or possible speakers. Registration for speakers is being done online. Send name, Session Title, email address, and reimbursement needs to Juliene Hefter [jhefter@wpraweb.org](mailto:jhefter@wpraweb.org) or call her 414 423-1210. WPRA Office.
- C. The Great Lakes Academy for Leadership Advancement is set for January 14 -16, 2007. More information available on the website. There is still space available.
- D. Workshop Ideas - WTRS would like to try to have a workshop in 2008. Consider joining the Park and Recreation Section for their annual Spring Workshop. Any topics members would be interested in please submit to Kristin Ruprecht. Chair Elect.
- E. Scholarships continue to be available for members and students to attend conferences, school, workshops. More info on the website under Foundation.
- F. Fundraising ideas for WTRS. Connie will do a Brat Fry in Oshkosh to raise money for the fund. Deb Can help her. Will consider the summer of 2007. Any other ideas would be great.
- G. Impact Magazine articles- Connie Geisthardt will talk to Juliette Rizzo to see if she would like to write an article on her presentation at the Conference. Juliene has received another article that will be in the Spring issue related to TR.(Chris Cavert) Connie would like this assigned as a Member task as well. This is a great way to promote Therapeutic Recreation.

- H. The future of WTRS continues to be a constant struggle. We need Professionals to step up and help us out with continuing this valuable organization. We thank Kristin Ruprecht from CWC for taking the Chair-Elect position. In 2007 she will be the Chair and thanks to Erin Winch from Lakeview Rec Plex, she will be the Chair -elect. Connie Geisthardt will be the Conference Committee representing WTRS. Deb Mielke would like to step down as the Secretary/Treasurer due to a recent job transfer and a 2 1/2 hour drive to get to the meeting in Milwaukee. As Secretary, I feel it is more efficient to have someone with more computer skills than I currently possess. Please email if interested. It is a great group of people to work with and not a time consuming position. mielkdl@dhfs.state.wi.us. Juliene and Connie will be working together to create a booklet about the members and each position's duties.
- I. Dr. Navar presented on Medicare reimbursement at the conference. Kristin will contact her to get this valuable information on the WTRS website.
- J. Other Information
1. You can renew your 2007 membership online
  2. Groundhog Shadow Day is February 7th, 2007 Contact Steve Thompson sthompson@wpraweb.org if want to register your facility.
  3. WPRA Foundation - A great way to support WPRA. Milwaukee Brewer Tailgate Party is being planned for Sunday, May 6th, 2007  
This will be a fundraiser for WPRA Foundation
- K. Set Dates for 2007  
Kristin Ruprecht will do this.  
The next meeting will be at the WPRA Office on Wednesday, Jan. 17th  
10:30 am.

X. Adjournment

I would like to take the time to wish everyone a blessed Holiday Season. A sincere Thank you goes out to the 2006 WTRS Board Members for their great efforts in keeping this organization alive. Everyone has worked very hard this last year. We also would like to thank Steve Thompson and Juliene Hefter in their efforts to help WTRS remain a quality section. Finally Congratulations to Connie Geisthardt for earning a Professional Award for her hard work as Chair of WTRS.

Happy Holidays,  
Deb Mielke CTRS  
Secretary/Treasurer of WTRS

