



METROSCOPE

SUMMER 2007

VOLUME 20

NUMBER 3

Autumn Leaves

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greeting and salutations METRO members,

I am very excited to be stepping up as the newly elected president of METRO. I am following in the footsteps of some very dedicated and hard-working individuals. And it is my aim to build upon and enhance their legacy.

One of my goals will be to increase METRO's membership. I believe there are a lot of recreation and therapeutic recreation professionals out there who could benefit greatly from what METRO has to offer. We have a committee that is already planning METRO's all day conference as well as the various mini-conferences which we hold in the outer boroughs. I think they'll offer some interesting and helpful workshops. METRO is also continuing to work with the Downstate conference committee to ensure that our members' needs are considered when planning the event.

Another goal is to enhance Metroscope so that it has more useful information and a more regular publishing cycle. You can help

in this endeavor by sending us any interesting stories or information about your programs or anything that you feel might be of interest to METRO members.

And METRO's website is up and running. We are still adding new content all the time. So please visit the site and let us know what you think.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my executive board as well as the board members at large. They are a committed (and maybe committable) group and I'm sure we're going to have a tremendous year ahead.

Debbie Lake



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 1, 2007

FREE MEMBERS MEETING & DINNER

5:30 PM-9:00 PM

Terrence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center

Leisure Counseling/The Value of Games

Contact: Dee Carroll (718) 273-3697

NOVEMBER 8, 2007

METRO MINI -

Rhythm & Dementia/ Printmaking from Nature

5:30 PM-9:00 PM

Kingsborough Community College - Bklyn

Contact: Michele Bracco (718) 368-5197

JANUARY 30, 2008

METRO FULL DAY CONFERENCE

DC 37 - Manhattan

8:00 AM - 3:15 PM

SAVE THE DATE

BROCHURE TO FOLLOW

FEBRUARY 7, 2008

METRO MINI

Innovative & Cooperative Work Study

Program with Developmentally Disabled

Students in a Multicare Setting

Second speaker TBA

Kingsharbor Multicare Center - Bronx

MARCH 2008

68th NYSRPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 30 - April 2

The Saratoga Hotel

Saratoga Springs, NY

www.nysrps.org/conference.shtml

JUNE 7, 1008

METRO MINI

Video Biographies/Achieving Best Practices in

Palliative Care in the Treatment Dementia/TBA

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Registration begins at 10:00 AM

The Metropolitan NY Recreation & Park Society

Post Office Box 632

Madison Square Station

New York, NY 10159-0632

POSTMASTER FIRST CLASS
Time Perishable NEWSLETTER
Please Deliver IMMEDIATELY



News for Professionals



2007 METRO BOARD

President

Debbie Lake

Vice President

Paul Bufano

Treasurer

Michele Bracco

Secretary

Dorothy McNamara

Past President

Charlynn Willis

Members at Large

Joe Burden

Sallie Carlin

Dee Carroll

Linda Dianto

Fran Gilstein

Fred Gilstein

Edward Rasch

Irma Rivera

Charl-Jon Robertson

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear METRO Members,

As outgoing President I want to thank the METRO membership for their faithfulness to the advancement of the professions of Recreation and Therapeutic Recreation. Without the membership there would be no METRO. It is those who work diligently throughout the year to provide the best of care to clients and patients of all ages, races, cultures and backgrounds that provide us focus and energy. I have been blessed to have been on the board and to have served you as President for two years. While my presidency has ended my involvement will go on, particularly helping to plan and implement workshops and conferences where over the years I have enjoyed meeting many members. It is my hope that in the coming years METRO members will continue to enjoy the benefits of networking and educational opportunities through membership as I know that the presidency has passed on to a most capable leader, Debbie Lake. I want to also thank the METRO board for all their hard work. It is through such dedicated members that METRO has been able to accomplish all that it does. METRO can and does make a difference only because of the people who make up METRO.

Charlynn Willis

NEWS FROM THE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

Summer 2007 PAL operated a variety of programs in all five boroughs of NYC that included 14 Day Camps, 112 Playstreets and a Sports Camp.

DAY CAMPS

Our programs included trips, arts and crafts, dance, sports, games and special events. There are also four city wide Special Events for our Day Camps.

LIBERTY SCIENCE CENTER, Liberty State Park, N.J. was a special PAL Day at this site which will included shows and special hands-on activities for all campers.

SPORTS DAY at Riverbank State Park included a parade, a banner contest, volleyball, track events, Pitch, Hit & Run, Double Dutch, 3 on 3 Basketball, Tennis, Punt, Pass & Kick, and other sports activities. This was for campers in the 10-12 age group and was run by the PAL Sports Department.

CULTURAL DAY at Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx was based on the PAL Summer Theme "The First Americans". This event was for the 8-9 year old campers. Each center provided an interactive booth dedicated to the Indian tribe they studied throughout the summer. Each site had an Educational Coordinator in charge of helping the children with the research and the actual creation of their displays. This event had an opening parade and a show with each center providing a Native American performance piece. Cultural Day

concluded with an Awards Ceremony honoring the best banners, best performance pieces and the most interesting and informative booths.

MINI CARNIVAL was an event for the youngest campers in PAL - 6-7 year olds. This event was held at the PAL Harlem Armory Center (which is an indoor tennis facility). There were indoor blow-up rides, hands-on arts and crafts and a show including our own talented acts from Cultural Day and Major Carnival as well as a professional troupe of Native American artists.

PLAYSTREETS

This is a unique program that has existed since PAL's beginning in 1914. It is an outdoor program originally using only streets as recreation sites. We now have this program on streets, in parks and in housing developments. It is an open program with no fees. Each site had a Recreation Director and Education Director, Various "Specialists" visit several times each week. These include arts and crafts, dance and reading. There are games and a series of tournaments called Street Games. This program includes five Borough Days and a culminating event called "Carnival" in Central Park for 5,000 youngsters!

SPORTS CAMP

This program was located in Coney Island at the Brooklyn Cyclone's Stadium and is sponsored year-round by the NY Mets owner Fred Wilpon. It is called the "NAT Camp (named for his father). This summer each camper received a CD chronicling their stay as a gift at the end of their two week stay.

JOB MART

The **Police Athletic League**, the largest citywide youth organization, has openings for an After School Group Leaders with the PAL Smarts Program. The position is part-time, Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Founded in 1914, the mission of PAL is to help develop and protect NYC youth during their critical formative years using recreation, education, socialization and the arts to inspire and challenge them to lead meaningful lives and become productive members of society.

The PAL Smarts Program combines our goals to targets elementary students. We focus on developing their social, emotional, and academic skills.

NEEDED FOR THE PAL SMARTS
PROGRAM (AFTER-SCHOOL)

Group Leaders

Your responsibilities will be to:

- Work with individuals and small groups tutoring at risk 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders.
- Work closely with the head counselor/group leader, teachers, volunteers and youth workers as students are evaluated.
- Support and encourage parental involvement by developing relationships

which promotes parental involvement, participate in parent events, and help lead parent workshops.

Additional Qualifications:

Qualifications for Group Leaders include:

- Bachelor's degree preferred
- Prior experience tutoring elementary students
- Energetic about children and education
- Familiarity with area and child population
- Patient and willing to explain content in several ways
- Willingness to be a part of a team

Tutors

Job Category: Education & Training

Language(s): English

Job posted on: August 28, 2007

Area of Focus: Education and Academia

Type: Part time

Last day to apply: October 27, 2007

Your responsibilities will be to:

- Work with individuals and small groups tutoring at risk 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders.
- Work closely with the head counselor/group leader, teachers, volunteers and youth workers as students are evaluated.
- Support and encourage parental involvement by developing relationships which promotes parental involvement, participate in parent events, and help lead parent workshops.

Additional Qualifications:

Qualifications for Tutors include:

- Prior experience tutoring elementary students with Bachelor's degree or working towards degree in education
- Energetic about children and education
- Familiarity with area and child population
- Patient and willing to explain content in several ways
- Willingness to be a part of a team

Teachers

Needed for the PAL Smarts Program
(After-School)

Education: Bachelor (BA, BS, etc.)

Location: New York, New York

Job Category: Education & Training

Language(s): English

Area of Focus: Education and Academia

Type: Part time

Last day to apply: October 27, 2007

Your responsibilities will be to:

- Lead a group of 25 second, third, or fourth graders in homework completion, student evaluation, test preparation, tutoring and educational activities.
- Work closely with the head counselor/group leader, tutor, volunteers and youth workers.
- Support and encourage parental involvement by developing relationships which promotes parental involvement, participate in parent events, and help lead parent workshops.
- Work closely with other teachers in the center to structure themes, lesson plans, and special field trips.

Additional Qualifications:

Qualifications for Teachers include:

- Certified teacher preferred or currently enrolled in a teacher certification program
- Bachelor's degree
- Classroom experience in an urban area
- Energetic about children and education
- Familiarity with area and child population
- Willingness to be a part of a team

Parent Coordinator

Your responsibilities will be to:

- Coordinate parent workshops and several family events each month
- Work with individuals and small groups tutoring at risk 2nd and 3rd graders.
- Work closely with the head counselor/group leader, teachers, volunteers and youth workers as students are evaluated.
- Support and encourage parental involvement by developing relationships which promotes parental involvement, participate in parent events, and help lead parent workshops.
- Work with schools in the neighborhood and develop school contacts

Additional Qualifications:

Qualifications for Parent Coordinators include:

- Bachelor's degree preferred
- Flexible work schedule
- Energetic about children and education
- Excellent oral and communication skills
- Familiarity with computer software such

as Microsoft Word/Excel

- Familiarity with area and child population
- Patient and willing to explain content in several ways
- Willingness to be a part of a team

How to Apply:

To apply, please send your cover letter and resume to Lloyetta Walls at lwalls@palnyc.org. No phone calls, please.

RECREATION COORDINATOR

Great opportunity to work in an unusual setting! Medical- model Adult Day Health Care Program for an HIV/ AIDS population - 2-5yrs. health care experience planning & implementing therapeutic recreation activities for an HIV/ AIDS population preferred; working knowledge of HIV/ AIDS, substance abuse, and mental health issues required; experience conducting groups necessary; case management experience helpful.

Skills: CTRS or CAT credentials; BA required/ MA preferred; good documentation; listening & people skills; computer literate a must.

St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers
St. Elizabeth Ann's Adult Day Healthcare
Program
155 Vanderbilt Avenue
Staten Island NY 10304
(718) 876-4747

CONTACT: Linda C. Dianto, MS/CTRS
Program Director

WHY BOTHER? ARE TRAINING SESSIONS, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS WORTH ATTENDING?

By Debbie Lake

How many times have you looked at a brochure or an advertisement for an upcoming training session or workshop and thought "why should I go to this?" or "I already know that stuff"? For many people, especially those that have been in their field for a number of years, it is easy to become less than enthusiastic about attending training sessions that seem to be more of the "same old thing".

Training sessions, conferences and workshops can help you in a number of practical ways. They can help you acquire mandatory Continuing Education Credits (CEUs), provide opportunities for professional development, or ensure that you meet the requirements to obtain a School Age Child Care (SACC) license through the NYC Department of Health.

For any programs operating a SACC facility, the NYC Department of Health and NYS Office of Children and Family Services require staff to receive 30 hours of training every two years in the following areas:

- (1) principles of childhood development, including the appropriate supervision of children, meeting the needs of children enrolled in the program with physical or emotional challenges and behavior management and discipline;

- (2) nutrition and health needs of children;
- (3) child day care program development;
- (4) safety and security procedures, including communication between parents and staff;
- (5) business record maintenance and management;
- (6) child abuse and maltreatment identification and prevention;
- (7) statutes and regulations pertaining to child day care; and
- (8) statutes and regulations pertaining to child abuse and maltreatment.

These agencies do allow some flexibility in what is acceptable training sessions and who can provide such training. So attending a workshop on a topic such as creating music programs for children, arts & crafts projects or seasonal bulletin board themes can meet these requirements. They can be interactive and experiential rather than dry and academic.

Workshops and conferences can open your eyes to new methods of working with your current population or may expose you to a completely different population. Perhaps by attending a workshop outside of your usual sphere of experience, you'll gain knowledge that will help expand your horizons in unforeseen ways. Maybe a workshop session will help revive your enthusiasm for a job you feel like you've been doing too long or help you learn a new more effective way of achieving your goals and improving your services to your clients. A workshop can even help you in more personal and practical ways such as taking an aromatherapy session or yoga session to

teach yourself relaxation and stress reduction techniques.

As professionals, we can always benefit from opportunities to fine tune our skills (or "Sharpen the Saw" as Stephen Covey likes to say). If we do not seek to expand, enhance or improve our skills, then we run the risk of stagnating or becoming out of date with new methods and concepts in our fields. Attending professional development workshops and conferences can help ensure this doesn't happen to you.

But conferences and workshops can provide you with more than just the opportunity to learn more about a topic or to refresh and revive your enthusiasm. Events such as Downstate, the NYS Recreation and Park Society (NYSRPS) annual conference and METRO's all-day and mini-conferences provide excellent opportunities to network with other professionals in your field; or to meet professionals in new or complementary fields. They may allow you to create collaborations with other non-profit organizations or establish internships with educational institutions. Maybe you will be able to dip your toe in the water of a topic in which you have little knowledge and experience but a lot of curiosity.

The bottom line is that conferences and workshops are a great, fun and sometimes inexpensive way of meeting your professional, educational and social needs with regards to your career. So check out some upcoming conferences or workshops in your area and sign up!