

**RECREATIONAL THERAPY LICENSURE IN New York STATE  
Update August 2008**

**Now Is The Time and The Time is Getting Closer!**

As many of you are aware our pursuit for recreational therapy licensure in New York State continues. Our pursuit has been a little over a year now and a lot has happened since the last article.

The Recreational Therapy Licensure Committee has been very hard at work strategizing on getting the licensure bill pass. I am glad to say that our efforts are paying off. We have presented the rationale for RT licensure throughout the state. Presentations at the Therapeutic Recreation Association of Long Island, the New York State Recreation and Parks Society and at the NYSTRA conferences were well received. Future presentations are scheduled in the fall at the Metropolitan New York Recreation and Park Society, Inc. and the Downstate Conferences.

We have also drafted a bill and are waiting for NCTRC 's comments. I am also delighted to say that we have been successful in getting a sponsor for the bill. Assemblyman Rory Lancman from Queens has agreed to sponsor the bill.

Despite many of our successes we still have a ways to go, but we are getting closer each time. Once the bill is finally written it will go through a tedious process of getting letters of support from allied health care organizations, securing another sponsor in the Senate, to the Health Committee and then the bill goes to the floor to get voted on.

It is our hope that by January 2009 the bill will be ready to be voted on. So timing is so important!

The RT Licensure Committee is asking for your continue support as we continue our journey and reach our final destination. In the meantime I invite you to speak to your colleagues about the importance of licensure and to contact me at 212-539-6366, [vincentb@vcny.org](mailto:vincentb@vcny.org) or Linda Dianto at 718-876-4747, [ldianto@svcmny.org](mailto:ldianto@svcmny.org) regarding any comments or questions.

Excelsior!

Yours truly,  
Vincent Bonadies, MS, CTRS  
Linda Dianto, MS, CTRS  
NYS RT Licensure Committee Co-Chairs