



Georgia Rehabilitation Association

FEBRUARY 15, 2012

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Message From the President
- 2012 Legislative Seminar
- 2012 Gov't Affairs Event
- 2012 GRA Fund-raising Project
- 2012 GRA Conf 'Save The Date'

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Message From the President, Jennifer Howell



Greetings fellow GRA members!

It is with great honor that I serve you all in 2012. And let me say, it has started with a BANG!

This year, I would like to begin by reminding you all that "The Georgia Rehabilitation Association (GRA) is a membership organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through education and advocacy." And, I would like to thank you all for your support to the organization and its mission.

In keeping with our mission, our Annual Legislative Event was held on January 11th at the Freight Depot in Atlanta and I must say, I do believe it was one of the best in years. With over 50 legislators mingling in through the night, opportunity was abound to get our mission out there.

For those of you that were able to attend, I believe you would have to agree with me in saying that Ann MacMillian, former Vocational Rehabilitation client, did an outstanding job and really demonstrated the powerful influence that a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, such as Beverly Raznoff, can have on

someone's life. I truly enjoyed meeting her and her family and it reminded me that she, just like many others, are the reasons why I have chosen to work in the field of vocational rehabilitation. I am sure you can all take a moment and think about a person with a disability who has positively impacted your life and without realizing it, sent you down your current career path.

Looking ahead, we are quickly approaching our next "large scale" opportunity to advocate and educate. The National Rehabilitation Association will hold their 31st Annual Government Affairs Summit, beginning on Sunday, March 18, continuing on Monday, March 19, and culminating on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, with "NRA's Day on the Hill." I do hope that as many of you as possible can join us. I am sure it will be an exciting year to be in Washington with the elections coming up. It is one you won't want to miss.

For those of you that may not yet be aware, we will be heading to Savannah for our annual conference. It will be held at the Savannah Riverfront Marriott, September 5th thru 7th. Our theme this year is "Dream Big and Dare to

Fail." Too often, many of us are afraid to take on new challenges because we don't want to fail. But if those before us never took that leap into the unknown, the world would be a much different place and we would not have the opportunities as an organization to voice our opinions and show unity in our mission.

I would like to close by thanking you all for your continued dedication, support, and desire to serve those that need our assistance. We are a strong force in Georgia, still leading the nation in membership but we must always strive to be better and do more. I have and always will encourage you all to find your "active voice" because silence will only extinguish the flame that was started so long ago.

Here's to a wonderful year.

Jennifer A. Howell
2012 GRA President

News From RWSIR, *Sara Godowns*



RWSIR/GRA Member, Greg Schmieg @ Legislative Seminar with fellow GRA members. Cheryl Leidy, Rebecca Sills, and Sara Godowns also attended from RWSIR/GRA

RWSIR/GRA Chapter has started 2012 off running. Our 2012 Local Chapter officers are: President, Rosanna Borders, Vice President, Kay Harbin, Secretary, Beth Ray, and Treasurer, Deisy Saumell.

We have had two chapter meetings to make plans for the upcoming year which include some new, exciting events. We will be hosting our 1st Trivia Fun fundraising event on March 7th at the Camp Dream Dining Hall. Teams will com-

pete for trophies and enjoy fun & fellowship while raising funds to support local GRA special projects and the statewide fundraising effort for the Wounded Warrior Family Retreats.

Regina Eldridge, one of our members is a ZUMBA fanatic and is helping us to plan a Zumbathon on March 10th. So, if we have any Zumba enthusiasts out there come join us. You can contact RWSIR/GRA Chapter President,

Rosanna Borders for details.

In addition to our Halloween Carnival event & Santa event that are hosted for the Mountainview Elementary School Special Education Students, we will be planning an Easter/Spring event for the students in April.

We have several other projects and events on the horizon; 2012 promises to be a great year for RWSIR/GRA Chapter!

"Watch for announcements about our 6th Annual Ethics Symposium in Spring 2012"

Announcement From Metro, *Marilyn Butler*

Thank you for your interest in attending the 6th Annual Ethics Symposium hosted by GRA Metro Chapter. Due to unexpected circumstances, this year's Symposium must be postponed until spring 2012. Details are forthcoming. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.



2011 President, Larry Shedd, passing the gavel to 2012 President, Jennifer Howell

2011 Passing of the Gavel, *Sara Godowns*

The Georgia Rehabilitation Association is known for organizational planning and education. Each year in December, the GRA Board convenes to review the past year's accomplishments and learning points and to train new chapter presidents and treasurers for their responsibilities for

the upcoming year. The 2011 GRA Leadership Training was held on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute. The training day was filled with information from GRA officers, committee chairs, and division representatives.

This has proven to be a 'best

practice' in keeping Georgia Rehabilitation Association members informed and ready to serve; year after year.

GRA ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR AND RECEPTION



GDOL Commissioner, Mark Butler, with Ann McMillian.

The Legislative Seminar was held Wednesday, January 11th at the Freight Depot Blue Room in Atlanta. The Seminar was well supported with eighty-four in attendance. President Jennifer Howell began the Seminar with the welcome. Gene Smith asked for a moment of silence, followed by the invocation and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Department of Labor Commissioner, Mark Butler, was our keynote speaker and as always was a very moving and informative speaker.

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Beverly Raznoff, spoke to us about a client she had worked with for several years. She explained much of the background of her client and her disabilities.

Beverly presented her former client, Miss Ann McMillian, and introduced Ann's parents and grandmother. Ann is a very beautiful well-spoken young lady, who told us of the anguish she encountered in growing up with multiple disabilities. Finally, as a teenager she heard about the Vocational Rehabilitation Program and met Beverly Raznoff. Her life began to take a more positive and different direction, and she has since graduated from high school, college, has a "position", and lives independently. The obstacles she has overcome are astounding, and she has risen to the challenge in every way.

Annette McCauley, Twyla Crump, Lary Hawkins, Linda Sheppard, and Tom Wilson were all guest speakers, and each one did an outstanding job. A reception followed the Seminar, and the Public Service Award was presented by President Jennifer Howell to Representative

Terry England. Mr. England is the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and holds many other notable positions. He has also been very instrumental in helping people with disabilities participate in the agriculture arena. The reception was attended by more than fifty Representatives, Senators, and other government officials. "Talking Points" were given to each elected official regarding the Vocational Rehabilitation Program and its partners.

A special thanks goes to our corporate sponsors, the Georgia State Rehabilitation Council, K & L Diversified, and SHARE who helped make this afternoon and evening so successful.

I would like to thank Lauri Tuten for all her hard work and most especially since she was drafted at the last minute. THANKS LAURI! Also thanks goes to Sharon Brown for her help with registration.

Cheryl Ussery
Education and Advocacy

"Public Service Award was presented by President Jennifer Howell to Representative Terry England. (pictured below)"



News From Northeast, Beverly Raznoff



Beverly Raznoff, NE Chapter President

The Northeast Chapter is getting organized for an exciting year.

Before the first meeting of the year, we were honored to sponsor the speaker at the GRA Legislative Forum. Anne MacMillan is a former client from our service area, and she did a wonderful job of telling her story and how VR had helped her succeed. (pictured below, right)

New officers for the 2012 year are Beverly Raznoff – president; Ken Hise – treasurer; and Inger Neal – secretary.

A professional development committee will work to

establish training opportunities. The first event will be our next chapter meeting on February 22 at North Georgia College & State University. Chapter member Thomas McCoy (who is also the disability coordinator at the college) will conduct training on the “cutting edge” accommodations offered by NGCSU.

A membership committee will work to increase and diversify our membership.

We are planning several fundraisers for the year: a yard sale this spring, possi-

bly a sale of a truckload of chicken from Fieldale, a bike ride in the spring to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project, and our annual car show in the fall to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. We have now secured the stamp of the handicapped icon and will begin this spring to re-paint the handicapped parking spaces in selected areas. We are also considering sponsoring a resource fair in our service area.



GRA Marketing, Larry Shedd

Marketing Committee Needs Your Help!!!

Chapters and Divisions: when you can, please get me a synopsis of your entity and any upcoming events, so that I can put it on the website with your site position. Paragraph form is fine. If you have a slogan, that will be great. I would encourage you to have a

slogan (NorthEast Chapter’s slogan is “Moving Mountains to Create Opportunity” which was done when it was formed back in the day.) This is in keeping with our Marketing we are trying to do and will help GRA as a whole to position itself more in the State and

communities if we can work together in this effort. That excites me! We are on the GrOw. Thanks. Larry
readil@windstream.net

News From Highlands Chapter, *Angelia Rhudy*

During November, 2011, the Highlands Chapter held the membership meeting at the Dallas Vocational Rehabilitation office. Also in November we hosted an Ethics Training for CRC credits in Cartersville. Lee Ann Rawlins, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and NRA Board Member was the speaker.

This training is an annual fundraiser for our chapter.

During January, 2012, we donated children's books to "Kids 4 Christ":

L to R: Gwen Raines, Ed James, Tamika Wright, Angie Rhudy



Also during January, we donated a gallon of can tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Chattanooga, TN.

Pictured Left—L to R: Angie Rhudy, Michele Carter,



News from **GARL**, *Lauri Tuten*

GARL had its first Kick Off meeting on February 10, 2012. Fundraising projects that we will be working on are a Bike/Walk/Roll, a GARL sponsored webinar in conjunction with AMAC provided for members and the rehabilitation community to learn more about Assistive Technology, and of course the famous GARL Auction. As always, we are looking for new members and future leaders in private and public VR.



News From GAMRC, *Marilyn Butler*

In an effort to keep you informed of the planned events for 2012. GAMRC is requesting its members update their information. Please email your name, address, and email to gamrc2012@gmail.com

GAMRC would like to announce the new treasurer for 2012, Celeste Harris. Celeste Harris is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, employed with Georgia Dept of Labor as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor out of the Dallas office. She has worked for the agency for thirteen years. Celeste has been a member of GRA for five years and GAMRC for two years. She has expressed a desire to support and serve as an officer on the GAMRC board.

Welcome Celeste.



Click [here](#) for Greetings from our 2012 NRA President, Sara Sundeen (pictured left).
(www.nationalrehab.org)

News From West Metro, *Marilyn Butler*

Metro GRA would like to ensure that all its members are getting the latest updates on the planned events for 2012. We are therefore asking for metro chapter members to update us on your information. Please email your name, address, and email to metrogra@gmail.com

GRA would like to announce the new secretary/treasurer for 2012, Michell Temple. Michell joined NRA/GRA while she was a Rehabilitation Counseling graduate student at Georgia State University. She is currently the Disability Services Coordinator at Georgia Institute of Technology. Immediately prior to serving at Georgia Tech, Michell was an Academic Advisor at Savannah College of Art and Design. She has served as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (Generalist and Transition) with the Georgia Dept of Labor-Rehabilitation Services as well as a Case Manager with Goodwill Industries of North Georgia, Community Work Adjustment Program. Michell is excited about serving on the board as an officer with the Metro chapter.

Welcome Michell.

2012 Government Affairs Summit

Date: 3/18/2012 TO 3/20/2012

Time: 8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM

Event Description:

The National Rehabilitation Association is proud to present its 31st Annual Government Affairs Summit, which this year will be held beginning on Sunday, March 18, continuing on Monday, March 19, and culminating on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, with "NRA's Day on the Hill."

- Pre-Registration Includes Training Sessions (CRC, CDMS and CVE credit applied for)
- A \$25 service charge will be added for on-site registration.
- Payment or purchase order must accompany registrations.
- "Early Bird" registration must include payment and be postmarked on or before February 24, 2012.
- ***"Early Bird" registration postmarked after February 24, 2012 will be invoiced at the regular fee.***
- Badges must be worn to all events to be eligible for certification credit. A \$25 processing fee will be assessed on ALL cancellations before February 24, 2012. ***There will be NO REFUNDS after February 24, 2012.*** This year's 31st Anniversary Government Affairs Summit will be held at the King Street Hilton Hotel in beautiful and historic Old Town Alexandria, Virginia.

Special Room Rates:

Single/Double \$179

Triple \$199

Quad \$219

Hilton Alexandria Old Town

2467 King Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

(703) 837-0440



the National
Rehabilitation Association
PROMOTING ETHICAL AND
STATE OF THE ART PRACTICE IN REHABILITATION

2012 Government Affairs Summit Early Bird Application

(Must be postmarked by February 24th to take advantage of the Early Bird prices)

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. (Circle One) Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Member Number: _____

ð 2012 Gov. Affairs Summit Early Bird Member Registration \$235

ð 2012 Gov. Affairs Summit Early Bird Nonmember Registration \$315

ð 2012 Gov. Affairs Summit Student Early Bird Member Registration \$150

ð 2012 Gov. Affairs Summit Student Early Bird Nonmember Registration \$170

Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____
VISA MasterCard

Signature _____

Name: _____ (If different from above)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

PAYING BY CHECK

Make checks payable in U.S. dollars and mail to:

National Rehabilitation Association
633 South Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-4109
Toll free 1-888-258-4295

Phone (703) 836-0850
Fax (703) 836-0848
Online: www.nationalrehab.org
Email: info@nationalrehab.org

GRA 2012 Statewide Fundraising Project is to support the Wounded Warrior Family Retreat at RWSIR Camp Dream. Please see the information below about this event. Please see your GRA Local Chapter President to see how you can help or email Ed.James@gdol.gov.ga



WOUNDED WARRIOR FAMILY RETREAT

WHAT

For Service Members who have been injured as a result of military service during *OEF/OIF/OND* and their immediate family.

Activities for the whole family: Sports, aquatics, outdoor activities, games, arts & crafts and MORE.

WHEN

Weekend of March 23-25, 2012



WHERE

Camp Dream in Warm Springs, GA



WHY

To provide the assistance and education for all participants to increase their level of function, both physically and emotionally.

For More Information:










www.WWfamilycamp.webs.com

Kate Lipton: kate@camptwinlakes.org ; 404-295-5295



2012 GRA Calendar

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<p>January 2012</p> 	<p>Wednesday, January 11 – 2:00 GRA Legislative Seminar and Reception – The Depot at Underground Atlanta – registration deadline: January 4, 2012 Thursday, January 19 – 10:00 Finance, 1:00 Executive Committee, 3:00 Conference Committee Friday, January 20 – 9:30-12:00 GRA Board Meeting Friday, January 20 – Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION and YEAR END due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions Tuesday, January 31 – Deadline for providing required 1099's for 2011 Tax Year. NOTE: The treasurer must submit 1099's to the Administrative Assistant for contract salary paid (not expenses reimbursed) and to any individual winning money or gifts from GRA valued at \$600 or more during the previous calendar year.</p>
<p>March 2012</p> 	<p>Thursday, March 1 – 10:00 Finance, 1:00 Executive Committee, 3:00 Conference Committee Friday, March 2 – 9:30-12:00 GRA Board Meeting Sunday-Tuesday, March 18-20 – Governmental Affairs Summit, Alexandria, VA</p>
<p>April 2012</p> 	<p>Sunday, April 1 – The Corporation Annual Registration must be post marked by this date and sent in to the Secretary of State's Office. Fee for renewal is \$50 (if paid after 4/2, the fee is \$75). NOTE: Since April 1 falls on a Sunday, official deadline should be Monday, April 2. Thursday, April 19 – 10:00 Finance, 1:00 Executive Committee, 3:00 Conference Committee Friday, April 20 – 9:30-12:00 GRA Board Meeting Friday, April 20 – Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions.</p>
<p>May 2012</p> 	<p>Sunday-Wednesday, May 6-9 – Southeast Region National Rehabilitation Association Conference - Safety Harbor Resort & Spa in Safety Harbor, Florida, 105 North Bayshore Drive - room rate is \$109. Tuesday, May 15 – Deadline for CPA to complete the IRS Form 990, having it signed by GRA officials, postmarked, and in the mail to the IRS (or, for having CPA request and obtain an extension from the IRS).</p>
<p>July 2012</p> 	<p>Thursday, July 12 – 10:00 Finance, 1:00 Executive Committee, 3:00 Conference Committee Friday, July 13 – 9:30-12:00 GRA Board Meeting Friday, July 20 – Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions.</p>
<p>August 2012</p> 	<p>Wednesday, August 15 – If extension requested and granted by IRS for 990 in May, this becomes the deadline to have the document completed by the CPA, signed by GRA officials, postmarked, and in the mail to the IRS (or, for the CPA to request a second extension until November 15, 2012). Note: IRS does not have to grant request for second extension. Friday - Sunday, August 24-26 (with Preconference sessions on August 23) – Annual National Rehabilitation Association Training Conference, Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, 2233 S. Martin Luther King Drive, Chicago, IL 60616</p>
<p>September 2012</p> 	<p>Wednesday - Friday, September 5-7 (with GRCEA Preconference on September 4) – Annual Georgia Rehabilitation Association Conference, Marriott Hotel, Savannah. Wednesday, September 15 – Deadline for renewal of Charitable Contribution Registration/Renewal with the Georgia Secretary of State's office. NOTE: Renewal required every two years (even-numbered years) by September 15.</p>
<p>October 2012</p> 	<p>Thursday, October 11 - 10:00 Finance, 1:00 Executive Committee, 3:00 Conference Committee Friday, October 12 - 9:30-12:00 GRA Board Meeting Saturday, October 20 – Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions.</p>
<p>November 2012</p>	<p>Thursday, November 15 - If second request for extension of 990 to IRS was needed, requested and granted, this is the deadline to have 990 completed by CPA, signed by GRA officials, postmarked, and in the mail unless further extensions are requested by GRA through CPA. NOTE: IRS does not have to grant these extension requests.</p>
<p>December 2012</p> 	<p>Wednesday December 5 – 10:00 Finance, 1:00 Executive Committee, 3:00 Conference Committee Thursday, December 6 – GRA Leadership Training (time to be announced) Friday, December 7 – 9:30-12:00 GRA Board Meeting Wednesday, December 31 – Annual Report due to National Rehabilitation Association. NOTE: NRA sends reporting form with exact due dates, usually Part I is due December 31, Part II January 31.</p>

IMPORTANT NOTICE

CHANGES REGARDING CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS FOR THE 2012 RENEWAL OF COUNSELORS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists (the "Board") voted August 5, 2011 to adopt amendments to their rule regarding Continuing Education requirements. The primary change involved the number of online CE's the Board will accept:

135-9-.01 Requirements. Amended

(4) A maximum of ten (10) hours of continuing education may be obtained online for each two-year renewal period.

This rule change became effective on August 30, 2011

The Board also adopted on a policy during their August 5, 2011 Board meeting to accept all approved online CE hours obtained by a licensee between July 1, 2010 (NOT PREVIOUSLY USED TO SATISFY THE 2010 RENEWAL PERIOD) and September 30, 2011 for the upcoming September 2012 Renewal. This will apply ONLY for the 2012 renewal.

Simply put, this means:

Any CE Hours you have obtained between July 1, 2010 and September 30, 2011, if they meet the Board's CE Hours provider requirements, will be accepted for the renewal of your license in 2012, even if all 35 CE Hours were online or a combination, just as in past years. If you have not yet obtained any CE Hours for the 2012 renewal before September 30, 2011, then this new rule change applies to you: Only 10 CE Hours will be accepted from online (approved) sources.

If you have any questions, please contact Paige Tidwell

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION **BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS** **2012**

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Vice President Elect

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 Myndi Hoffman
 (see previous contact info-
 Board Member 2014)

Highlands
 Angie Rhody
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Division Presidents**GAMRC**

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 (see previous contact info-
 Metro Chapter President)

GARI

Lauri Tuten
 (see previous contact info-
 Board Member 2013)

ARTS of GA

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GVEWAA

Inactive

RCEA (Georgia)

Dana Skelton-Sanders
 (see previous contact info-
 Board Member 2012)

* Only GRA Officers, Elected
 Board Members, and Local

Chapter and Division
Presidents vote at the GRA
Board Meetings

Committee Chairs

Administrative Policy

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Conference

Ed James
(see previous contact info –
president-elect)

Credentials

Janie Fuller
(see previous contact info –
vice president-elect)

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Myndi Hoffman -Co-Chair
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Board Member 2014)

Finance

LaDetria King
(see previous contact info -
Treasurer)

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Hospitality

Dana Skelton-Sanders
(see previous contact info –
Board Member 2012)

Marketing

Larry Shedd
(see previous contact info –
past president)

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Newsletter

Sara Godowns
(see previous contact info-
Board Member 2014)

Nominations

Larry Shedd
(see previous contact info –
past president)

Strategic Planning

Ed James (see previous contact
info –president-elect)

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Resolutions

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Scholarships

Sherri Kirby
(see previous contact info –
Board Member 2013)

Special Projects

Lauri Tuten
(see previous contact info-
Board Member 2013)

Fundraising

Inger Neal (see previous
contact info Board Member
2014)

Website

Larry Shedd
(see previous contact info –
past president)

Ex-Officio

(GRA members who hold
office within NRA or SERNRA
or any division thereof)

NRA Board Members

Tom Wilson
NRA Past President
PO Box 354
Franklin Springs, GA 30639
706 245-7826 h
706 498-4473 cell
Tomwilson47@gmail.com

SERNRA Rep to NRA Board

Frank Krause
(see previous contact info-
Resolutions)

SERNRA Rep to ARTS

(National)
Ellen Longino (see previous
contact info – class of 2011)

GRA Rep to SERNRA Board

Frank Krause
(see previous contact info-
Resolutions)

SERARSS Board

Cheryl Williamson - President
Janie Fuller – board member
Patsy Morris – Treasurer

GRA Contract

Administrative Assistant

Ellen Longino
697 Stratford Green
Avondale Estates, GA 30002
404-788-3014c
ellen697@yahoo.com

GRA 2012 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE



SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2012
SAVANNAH, GA
MARRIOTT SAVANNAH
RIVERFRONT



SAVE

THE

DATE

DEADLINE FOR ROOM RESERVATION: AUGUST 4, 2012

ROOM RATE: \$135.00

PARKING RATE: \$12.00

CRC and CEU credits will be offered