

LAST CALL FOR 2012 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REGISTRATION

Have your volunteer leaders all renewed their membership for 2012? Please don't wait any longer – non-renewed membership will expire on February 29th. Demonstrate by example that membership in the Association is important to the profession by asking all of your Chapter members to join today. [Use this link to connect your members to 2012 Membership Registration.](#)

2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE- See you in Savannah!

We invite you and your Chapter leaders to attend The American Art Therapy Association's 43rd Annual Conference in Savannah, GA, July 9 through July 13, 2012*, at the Savannah International Trade Convention Center and the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa! In order to receive the conference discounted member rate, your 2012 membership must be renewed. **Plan to have a big Chapter presence at this year's exciting and information packed conference.** [Click here to register now!](#)

Are you interested in reserving a table at the Arts and Crafts Marketplace during the conference? The Arts and Crafts Marketplace is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10 from 6:00-8:00 p.m., and is one of the Annual Conference's most popular areas of the Marketplace of Ideas (Exhibit Hall). The Arts & Crafts Marketplace is open to members of the Association to sell their creations such as jewellery, pottery, art, prints, sculpture, and more! Showcase your entrepreneurial spirit and reserve a table today! For more information, please contact Barbara Florence via e-mail at bflorence@arttherapy.org.

Stay tuned to receive details regarding the Assembly of Chapters meeting, which will be held during the Annual Conference.

Fostering Multicultural and Diversity Competence in Art Therapy – Latest ICE course

A new online distance learning course called ***Fostering Multicultural and Diversity Competence in Art Therapy, developed by the Multicultural Committee*** is now available through the American Art Therapy Association's Institute for Continuing Education in Art Therapy (ICE/AT). Multicultural and Diversity Competence in art therapy is a capacity whereby art therapists possess cultural and diversity awareness and knowledge about self and others, and at the same time ensure that this awareness and knowledge is skillfully applied in practice with clients and client groups. Fostering Multicultural and Diversity Competence in Art Therapy is designed to strengthen the identity of art therapists by advancing multicultural and diversity competence as essential to ethical practice and the cornerstone for effective art therapy practice.

The Course learning materials include: the Multicultural Committee Historical Overview, 2011 Art Therapy Multicultural-Diversity Competencies, *Wheel of Diversity in Art Therapy: Pioneers of Color*, a documentary film, and more! [Click here](#) to login to ICE/AT.

PUBLIC POLICY/ADVOCACY UPDATES

The pace of activity on both the national and state level have escalated as Congress and the Senate move to review Bills related to medical care for Military Service Personnel and their families and for healthcare for those covered under Medicare.

- This month senior staff met with the additional national leaders on the Military Subcommittee, Army Services Committee and Appropriations and with key leaders of the Military Personnel Subcommittee to push for inclusion of art therapists as a named provider qualified for reimbursement under TRICARE and Medicare. Thanks to Chapters in California, Colorado, Kansas, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Vermont and Virginia for providing letters of support as appropriate for the inclusion of 'art therapist' within pending House and Senate Bills.
- The Association's recommendations to the Assistant Director for Federal Employee Insurance Operations at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management at a meeting with her and her leadership team in January resulted in updates to the language in the "call" letters from OMB to the major national Insurance companies to more inclusively cover art therapy services. The Call Letters will be issued to major insurance providers in March for revisions to their current plans.
- The Association has partnered with twenty-one other mental health organizations to help define the Essential Health Benefits and ensure that the benefits package contains a clear federal standard to ensure health care needs are meeting for diverse populations including people with disabilities and chronic conditions. The coalition seeks to make sure that the Affordable Care Act is adhered to by the states particularly as it relates to mental health parity and the Addiction Equity Act.
- Art Therapy Insurance Guidelines now being distributed to all major national health care insurance companies to make sure that art therapy coverage is coded properly.
- The new Code 21 Bureau of Labor Statistics Classification for "art therapist" will appear on the questionnaires being distributed in the next 30 days to a random sample of credentialed art therapists across the country. Thanks for participating immediately should you be contacted.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY – MAY 9, 2012

Make the 2012 National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day (CMHAD) your best event ever. Visit the [CMHAD website](#) for tips to help manage the event, gather proclamations from government officials, and promote the field of art therapy to your community. The nationwide event will be held on May 9, 2012.

A national art exhibit is included in SAMHSA's and the Association's plans for the Washington DC event on May 9th. The theme of the art exhibit is '**Heroes of Hope**'; the concept is that each young artist would depict an important person, a special hero, who helped them to overcome a trauma or problem. Their hero may be a teacher, military service person, their mother, a policeman, a friend, a relative and so forth who would be drawn as the "hero". Please reach out to community organizations such as museums, children's programs, schools and other that you have worked with in the past to remind them that the event is a great way to collaborate and begin the planning process. **This annual program is a great way to build and reinforce the importance of art therapy in the lives of young people.**

Select one special Heroes of Hope work of art and send it to the American Art Therapy Association to include in the national exhibit that will be on May 9th. We need all of the entries no later than May 1.

ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the 2012 election slate for leadership positions for the American Art Therapy Association. To view the candidate slate and their bios, visit the members-only website. **Online voting for the 2012 Annual Election commences on April 1, 2012.** All voting members will receive a notice with instructions via e-mail. For those members who requested paper ballots, or do not have e-mail, you will receive a ballot in the mail.

NEWSLETTER REMINDER

Remember to submit your articles for the upcoming Spring Newsletter. The deadline for submission is April 15th. Articles should be sent to Barbara Florence at bflorence@arttherapy.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scholarship Committee invites students and others to apply for a scholarship. There are seven scholarship categories in the Association's Scholarship Program. Of the seven scholarship categories, six are only for student member applicants, and one is also for professional member applicants (Pearlie Roberson Scholarship Award awarded by the Multicultural Committee). Review the scholarship program guidelines posted on the members only section of our website, and be sure to **submit your application by May 1, 2012.**