PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In speaking with Victoria Swanson last evening, I received the good news that ADED's membership is currently over 320, with several new member in the newly created Vendor category. This is very encouraging to me, as it appears that vendors are becoming more concerned about installing the most appropriate adaptive equipment for their customers.

If you have not done so already, I encourage you as an ADED member to establish a professional working relationship with local vendors or Driver Rehabilitation Specialists. As an evaluator who depends a great deal on vendors for information and advice regarding vehicle modifications, I realize the importance of the client/evaluator/vendor team in finding the most appropriate solutions to the client's transportation needs.

As a Driver Rehabilitation Specialist, you can learn a lot about the issues affecting the vendors (insurance, liability, standards, etc.). In addition, they will be your best source for learning about the nature and effects of changes to vehicles (like the 1992 Ford vans). The vendor can also help you with writing appropriate vehicle modification specifications to more effectively communicate a client's driving needs.

As a Vendor, you can learn about the importance and process of an appropriate driver evaluation. The Driver Rehabilitation Specialist can also help you gain a basic knowledge of disabilities and their implications for driving. Certainly it is important to sell products and services to consumers, but not at the expense of compromising the safety of the consumer.

With the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist and Vendor working closely together, everybody wins, especially the consumer who is counting on us to provide the best quality equipment and service possible.

I also encourage you to become a member of the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (N.M.E.D.A.). As a vendor, you are indicating to others that you are concerned with providing high quality service by meeting established standards. As a driver rehabilitation specialist, you are showing your interest in standards and good practices in the vehicle modification industry. You may contact N.M.E.D.A. at 813/932-8566 for membership information and information about their second annual conference in Phoenix from February 2-6.

I hope to see all of you at the annual conference in Cambridge.

Mike Shipp
MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBER

Kathie Regan,
Conference Chairperson

Kathie Regan, Conference Chairperson, is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University where she majored in Rehabilitation Counseling and minored in Traffic Safety Education. After graduation, she began her professional career at Cardinal Hill Hospital in Lexington. She is currently Unit Director for Kentucky Vocational Rehabilitation for Driver Rehabilitation Services, a position she has held for 15 years. Kathie has been an ADED member since 1980. She was president in 1989, and was conference host in 1988.

Kathie's position keeps her very busy, but she finds time to Whale-watch (which is quite a feat in Kentucky!). She tries to go to the coast 2 to 3 times per year. She has watched on both coasts, but prefers the east coast. Kathie has even "adopted" a fin back whale named Lacy Jay who lives off the coast of Maine. She has also been involved in an ASA softball league.

Kathie has been working very hard to see that the ADED conference is a success. Although she will be busy at the conference, I'm sure she'll be happy to show you a picture of Lacy Jay! Thank you Kathie for all that you have contributed to ADED through the years.

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1992 ADED CONFERENCE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 1992

GENERAL SESSIONS

7:00-8:30 Registration
7:30-8:30 Provided Breakfast
8:30-9:30 Welcoming Remarks
   Mike Shipp, President, ADED
   Kathy Adams, Conference Host
   Elmer Bartels, Commissioner
   Massachusetts Vocational Rehabilitation
9:30-10:15 - Red Plank, President, NMEDA

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session

A 10:30-12:00 Prescribing High Tech Driving Systems: A Philosophical Model
   Presenters: Jerry Bouman, Manager
   Juergan Babirad, Manager
B 10:30-11:15 Driving and Parkinson's Disease
   Presenter: Judi Hamelburg
   11:15-12:00 An Adapted Pre-Driving Evaluation for the Aphasic Individual
   Presenter: Linda Heilig, OTR
C 10:30-12:00 Keeping It All In True Perspective
   Presenter: William Ramsey, Manager
12:00-1:30 EXHIBITS
   Lunch may be purchased in Exhibit Area
   1:30-3:00 Are Wheelchairs User Friendly for Driving
   Presenters: Carol Blackburn, OTR
   Susan Pierce, OTR
E 1:30-3:00 Neuropsychological Tests as Predictors of Driving Performance
   Presenters: Susan Henderson, Driver
   Rehabilitation Specialist Catherine Pittman, Ph.D
A 1:30-3:00 Prescribing High Tech Driving Systems: A Philosophical Model
   Presenters: Jerry Bouman, Manager
   Juergan Babirad, Manager
3:00-3:30 Beverage Break at Meeting Rooms
B 3:30-4:15 Driving and Parkinson's Disease
   Presenter: Judi Hamelburg
   4:15-5:00 An Adapted Pre-Driving Evaluation for the Aphasic Individual
   Presenter: Linda Heilig, OTR
C 3:30-5:00 Keeping It All In True Perspective
   Presenter: William Ramsey, Manager
D 3:30-5:00 Are Wheelchairs User Friendly for Driving
   Presenters: Carol Blackburn, OTR
   Susan Pierce, OTR
5:00-7:00 Reception in Exhibit Area
   Conference Registrants Only

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 1992

7:30-8:30 Exhibits Open
   Breakfast may be purchased in Exhibit Area

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session

E 8:30-10:00 Neuropsychological Tests as Predictors of Driving Performance
   Presenters: Susan Henderson, Driver
   Rehabilitation Specialist Catherine Pittman, Ph.D
F 8:30-10:00 Driving Performance Analysis System
   Presenter: Jack Weaver
G 8:30-8:45 Exhibit Area
   8:45-9:00 Exhibit Area
   9:00-9:15 Exhibit Area
   9:15-9:30 Exhibit Area
   9:30-9:45 Exhibit Area
   9:45-10:00 Exhibit Area
10:00-10:30 Beverage Break in Exhibit Area
H 10:30-11:15 Safety Gains Through Pylon Abuse
   Presenter: Margaret Young, OTR
   11:15-12:00 Communications from a Vehicle for the Disabled
   Presenter: April Moell, M.A., OTR
I 10:30-12:00 Mobility Loading Devices: Mix and Match
   Presenters: Carmella Strano, OTR/L
   Lou Kline, Mobility Specialist
G 10:30-10:45 Exhibit Area
   10:45-11:00 Exhibit Area
   11:00-11:15 Exhibit Area
   11:15-11:30 Exhibit Area
   11:30-11:45 Exhibit Area
   11:45-12:00 Exhibit Area
12:00-2:00 Exhibits - Lunch may be purchased in Exhibit Area
F 2:00-3:30 Driving Performance Analysis System
   Presenter: Jack Weaver
H 2:00-2:45 Safety Gains Through Pylon Abuse
   Presenter: Margaret Young, OTR
   2:45-3:30 Communications from a Vehicle for the Disabled
   Presenter: April Moell, M.A., OTR
I 2:00-3:30 Mobility Loading Devices: Mix and Match
   Presenters: Carmella Strano, OTR/L
   Lou Kline, Mobility Specialist
3:30 Beverage Break at Meeting Rooms
3:30-5:00 Business Meeting
7:00-10:00 Social - Provided with Conference Registration
   Guest Tickets may be purchased

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1992

8:30-10:00 Awards Breakfast - Provided with Conference Registration
   Guest Tickets may be purchased
10:00-11:00 Where Do We Go From Here?
   Presenter: Belinda Morris, OTR/L
11:00-12:00 Title?
   Presenter: Bob Alba
Closing Remarks - Kathy Adams

SEE YA'LL IN KANSAS CITY!!!
NOTEWORTHY
Mike Shipp has been elected president of the Transportation Special Interest Group of RESNA.

NEW PRODUCT: Leveloader is a new model designed to provide adjustment to eliminate lean or list of chair lift equipped vehicles. To order or request literature, contact Leveload Divisions, React Safety, Inc., White Pigeon, MI 49099. Fax (616) 483-9064 or call (616) 483-9539, or toll-free 1-800-262-9401.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
ADTSEA Conference - August 9-12 - Atlanta, GA
NMEDA Conference - February 3-6, 1993
Phoenix, AZ - Hyatt Regency. For more information contact Becky Plank - 813-932-8566
ADED Conference - August 29 - September 1 - Cambridge, MA

REMEMBER WHEN...

Can anyone identify all 5 people in this picture, taken in Memphis, TN, at the second ADED meeting in 1978?

Pictured here are ADED Charter certificate holders at the 1988 conference held in Lexington, KY.

CHAPTER NEWS

Henry McMorris and Peter McQueen in deep conversation during the Cleveland Indians game.

crow River generously donated tickets to the Cleveland Indians & California Angels game to Midwest ADED conference attendees. Dave Lowery is shown enjoying the game with Sally Sullivan & Anne Hegberg.

MIDWEST CHAPTER

The officers of this chapter and staff from Marianjoy Rehabilitation Center and Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago met at the end of June to plan for the next conference which is tentatively scheduled for April 23-24 in the Chicago area. If you have suggestions of topics you would like to present or have presented, please contact any of the officers (Henry McMorris, Greg Brunette, or Sue Henderson) or any of the staff at Marianjoy or RIC.

The Midwest Chapter would like to meet at some time during the ADED Conference in Cambridge. Listen to the announcements for details!

Pictured are the ADED members at the last regional conference held in Cleveland in May. As you can tell, we were all hard at work!
ACCOUNTABILITY IN A HELPING PROFESSION

Sally Sullivan, Driver Rehabilitation Specialist, Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital & Clinics.

KNOW WHEN TO SAY NO!

When I sat down to read the newspaper tonight, a headline jumped out at me - "Man Found Guilty in O'Hare Car Accident". The paper was referring to a tragic accident at O'Hare Airport on April 30, 1992, in which an 87 year old man lost control of his vehicle and plowed into a group of school children on a field trip. When I heard about this incident, I was at the Midwest ADED Conference in Cleveland. Two vendors and their wives had just flown in from O'Hare and had witnessed part of the mayhem firsthand. They had heard overhead pages asking for medical personnel to assist. When it was all over, one child had died and 78 were injured. Initial reports indicated that the vehicle had accelerated suddenly by itself. As we were all discussing it, I felt confident in saying that the driver had probably stepped on the gas instead of the brake. This occurs so frequently in retirement areas, such as Florida, that a recent article in the New York Times on elderly drivers referred to it as "s.e.a." or "sudden elder acceleration". In this case and several similar ones, investigators ruled that driver error and not mechanical failure was responsible.

Because a large group of ADED members were together when this accident occurred, I felt a strong sentiment of responsibility on the part of Chicago area members. As it turned out, this man probably hadn’t had a driver evaluation or did not purchase adaptive equipment from anyone. Initially, we were all a little nervous wondering if we had in any way assisted in keeping this man on the road or in getting him back behind the wheel. Fortunately, in this case, we were not responsible, but at some point in time, we may have to be accountable for our decisions. We all feel a little queasy when we hear the word "liability" but what about being responsible to society?

In my opinion, putting people on the road - with or without adaptive equipment, can only be viewed as a positive measure if we, as evaluators, equipment installers, and third party payors, view ourselves as accountable to society. Sales, revenue, and company image must take a backseat to accountability. This may not always be a popular stance, especially considering how important driving is in our society, but nevertheless one that should be considered. Some individuals, due to the nature of their disability or impairments, cannot be considered good driving candidates. Saying "no" probably the most difficult part of our job because we are all in a helping profession. When there are doubts, it is better to take a more cautious approach and have the individual return for a second assessment. Adaptive equipment installers should be prudent in selling equipment to client's who have not had a thorough driving evaluation and training. Many states still do not have adequate standards concerning vehicle modifications and relicensing of potentially "at risk" drivers. Driving evaluators have difficulties obtaining proper training and are frequently under pressure to perform evaluations in a quick and cost-effective manner. Image is crucial to the survival of most institutions today, and hospitals are no exception. Driving programs must have the support of management and physicians to handle periodic complaints from disgruntled patients.

I recently attended a support group at a nearby hospital for patients with Epilepsy and their families. The general topic was driving, and several physicians spoke, as well as a State of Illinois official from the Medical Review Unit. Most of the questions and comments from the audience focused on ways to beat the system and find loopholes in the laws regarding driving. I have realized that most people view driving as a right rather than a privilege and will go to great lengths to obtain or keep their driver's licenses. Most people who feel this way, do no consider themselves hazards on the road, and they can rationalize just about any error they commit. We cannot eliminate all unsafe drivers, but we need to work together to make sure we can be accountable for the decisions we do make.

The elderly gentleman in the O'Hare Airport accident was shown leaving the courthouse after his sentencing today. After seeing his picture, I really felt sorry for him because he seemed to be a typical Grandpa type - certainly not the type to hurt anyone. However, he did hurt someone - and lots of someones, and unfortunately, these types of tragedies seem to occur all too frequently. Who is accountable, if anyone, and what can we do together, as an organization to tackle this widespread problem?

From the editor - Sally has certainly given us some food for thought. Your comments to the newsletter are always welcome. The deadline for the next newsletter is October 15.