

Editor's Comments

A plea recently went to members of the Board of Directors and major committee members of the National Therapeutic Recreation Society (NTRS). The plea was to help identify people who can be called upon to submit articles for *Therapeutic Recreation Journal (TRJ)*. To expand that effort, I'm challenging each reader to take a personal responsibility to think about submitting an article or encouraging a colleague or acquaintance in the field to do so. Are articles in such short supply that this personal appeal is necessary? The appropriate answer would be Yes and No.

On the NO side: *TRJ* receives about 45 articles per year of which approximately 24 are eventually published. Most published articles are reworked based on editorial review before they are finally accepted. Thus, the journal does receive enough articles to "keep it alive" and indeed somewhat well.

On the YES side: *TRJ* needs a wider variety of articles from which to choose those that will be published. Some articles would probably not be published now if there were a greater volume of submissions from which to choose. Certain groups of authors (academics, for example) are clearly over-represented (though this is not surprising). Certain types of articles are clearly under-represented, ex. articles dealing with issues, concerns or problems. While descriptions of a specific program or studies with limited generalizability or applicability are given lesser priority, there is a lot of valuable field based research going on which remains unreported. Updates on the status of the profession seem missing as well as reviews of useful assessment instruments, or available written materials, laws or regulations with implications for the field.

It is understandable that in a profession devoted to practice, most members of NTRS do just that. It is not at all unusual that academics, many with backgrounds as practitioners, supply the largest number of contributions to the literature. However, we need to be aware that all of us have a responsibility to develop and transmit knowledge.

What's at stake in not meeting the challenge, in not answering the plea? While competent practice is based on keeping current, our status as a profession also depends on how those in other professions view our base, our body of knowledge. We should be aware that *TRJ* is not abstracted by all of the possible and relevant abstracting sources. We are not in every facility or college library. This reality is due to more than budget constraints, though with limited budgets we do have to work harder to be recognized. The key seems to be content . . . what is discussed in the Journal and how well it is presented. Aside from our textbooks and our presentations at meetings and conferences, *TRJ* represents our chance to constantly update and upgrade what we know and what we convey to others that we know.

Without beating this issue to death, the challenge is clear. Even if you don't contribute by what you write, contribute by getting others to do so. In a sense it's another way to contribute to the well-being of the clients we seek to serve. In the event you see needs but can't identify a potential author, let me know. I'll try to do my "bit" of persuasion. In any case, we're counting on you.

Peter A. Witt, Editor
Therapeutic Recreation Journal