



**Illinois**

**Association for the**

**Treatment of Sexual Abusers**

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 15, 2009

Greetings Illinois ATSA Members. I hope that all of you had a good summer. It has been a busy time for IL-ATSA and as such wanted to bring all of you up to date.

Guy Groot, M.Sc. was unanimously voted to the IL ATSA Executive Board as a Board Member at Large on May 15, 2009. Guy is employed by Liberty Healthcare, bringing with him many years of experience in the field. He is a Clinical Team Leader working at the Sexually Violent Person's Treatment and Detention Facility in Rushville, IL. Welcome Guy!

Denny Clouse, Secretary of IL-ATSA is stepping down from the executive board at the end of November. Denny has been serving on the executive board for the past 8 years, all of which he has also served as the secretary. Thank you Denny for your time and hard work.

As a result of Denny's departure, there is a vacancy of the executive board. If you interested in serving on the board, please submit a copy of your resume/vitae, along with a cover letter to me at: [cmiller@bromenn.org](mailto:cmiller@bromenn.org).

In the March '09 newsletter, I shared with you that the IL-ATSA executive board did approval the development of a public policy committee and the allocations of funds to secure our own public policy liaison. I am pleased to share with you that we have hired Bridgett Hemholtz and Liz Brown. We are only the second chapter in the country to have hired a public policy representative. Liz got the ball rolling immediately, and arranged for two of our board members (Jerry Isikoff and Robin McGinnis) to go to Springfield and informally met with a few lawmakers. It was a positive meet and greet for everyone. As a result of that

meeting, and subsequent hard work on the part of Liz Brown, IL-ATSA was granted a public hearing to speak to Illinois Legislative Criminal Justice Sub Committee. The meeting was held on September 10, 2009 at the Thompson Center in Chicago. The presentation lasted approximately 90 minutes. Speakers included, Robin McGinnis, Becky Palmer, Kip Hillman, Lynn Willard, Carolyn Fraiser (Northwestern Family Law Clinic), and myself. Two members who are on the registry also spoke of their personal experience of living within the framework of the current laws. In addition there were written testimonies submitted by professionals, child advocates, victims and others on the registry. We were well received by the subcommittee. Their questions were thoughtful and reflected their increasing awareness that more laws and stricter laws are not resulting in greater community safety. We came away with optimism that the door was opened for ongoing dialogue and the opportunity to provide legislators with current research regarding what we know about identification and management of risk to enhance community safety. We are thrilled to have Liz Brown working with us. In the near future we will begin scheduling informal meetings around the state bringing in legislators, advocates, treatment providers, supervising officers/ agents and others to continue the dialogue that began on September 10<sup>th</sup>. We will keep you posted. If you want to read more, our board member, Robin McGinnis' wrote an article for ATSA Forum. Please refer to the current, Fall 2009 issue. Thanks Robin for letting the national membership know what is happening in Illinois. I was pleased to see several Illinois ATSA members and Illinois residents at the ATSA conference in Dallas. If you did not

know, several people from Illinois presented at the conference: Robin McGinnis, Joyce Pfennig, Becky Palmer, Guy Groot, Julie Oberhausen, Donya Adkerson, Mark Carich, Shiraz Butt, Ryan Weidenbenner, Suzanne Ward, Michele Schroeder, Donna Ryan, Robert Poole, and Sarah Brown. (I hope I didn't miss anyone). Kudos to all of you for your successful presentations and providing such a strong representation of professionals from our state.

If my memory serves me correctly there were 1,374 attendees at this year's conference, with a focus on prevention. These conferences afford an excellent opportunity to learn, as well as network, this year's conference was no exception. It was exciting to hear Michael Seto, Ph.D. present a 1 hour plenary on Child Pornography. He was introduced as the single most knowledgeable person on the topic of child pornography. The caliber of his presentation verified that statement. Dr. Seto's presentation was well organized, thorough and packed with a great deal of information. This is a great time to remind you that IL-ATSA is hosting a 2 day conference on Child Pornography on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Oak Brook, IL. Michael Seto will be presenting on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> and Cordelia Anderson will be presenting on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>. I am thrilled that Dr. Seto will be presenting for a full day. This is truly a presentation you won't want to miss. In addition, IL-ATSA will be providing lunch for the members on Nov. 13, so please check the box on the registration form. Full reports will be presented during the lunch meeting. Attached you will find the conference brochure and registration form.

I hope to see you in Oak Brook,

Cheri Miller, Psy.D., IL-ATSA President