

NorthEast Dietetic  
Association  
Newsletter

May 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Carol Kneier, MS, RD, CDE



Congratulations go out to Marie Ratchford-Demkosky on winning the 2006 Keystone Award and to Jennifer Baumann who was awarded Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year (RYDY). Marie has been our professional development chair for the past two years and has done an excellent job at planning all our seminars. Jen has been instrumental in developing our website and currently serves on the board as our website master. Great job Marie and Jen!

Membership applications for 2006-2007 have been mailed. If you have not received your application, you can contact our membership chair, Stacy Coolbaugh at [ssalijko@hotmail.com](mailto:ssalijko@hotmail.com) or download an application at [www.eatrightneda.org](http://www.eatrightneda.org). Join before June 1<sup>st</sup> and receive the discounted rate.

At my final PADA board meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>, there were some important issues addressed about licensure. First, the rules and regulations for our license were finally approved and passed. This means there will be a \$45 application fee (one time fee) in addition to your renewal fee. Renewal for your license will be coming soon, so look for your notice in the mail. Each LDN is required to obtain 30 continuing professional education hours every two years and usually 5% of the LDNs will be audited but for this renewal period, there will be no audits. It was recommended that all licensed RDs go online at [www.dos.state.pa.us](http://www.dos.state.pa.us) and check the status of their license. Once in the website, click verify a professional license, type in your name and click search. Once you have come up on the screen, click your license number and this will tell you your status. If you have any questions regarding licensure or for more information, you can contact Lori L. Poe, MS, RD, LDN, Licensure Chair PADA at [dandlpoe@juno.com](mailto:dandlpoe@juno.com).

As my term comes to an end as President of NEDA, I would like to send out a sincere thank you to the NEDA board who have supported me these last two years. I would also like to thank all members who volunteered at health fairs, participated in NEDA sponsored events, and for those of you who just had words of encouragement and support. Although my term was long, it was very rewarding. I have met the most amazing individuals, learn many new things in the field of nutrition and have grown as a person. I encourage each and every one of you to get involved and support NEDA – your organization. I look forward to seeing you at our Turnover Dinner on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the Northeast Dietetic Association.

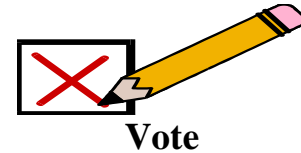
*You will find as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others. Source Unknown*

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## NEDA Board of Directors 2005 - 2006

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Ballots will soon be available. Look in your mail or go to the NEDA web site. Please send them in ASAP.

## NEDA website



At: <http://www.eatrightneda.org/>

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## NEDA's RD Referral Network

The RD Referral Network offers members of the NorthEast Dietetic Association the opportunity to provide nutritional information to consumers residing in the northeast area of Pennsylvania. There is no cost to enroll. Consumers are able to contact the referral network via phone (570) 603-1007 or through the NEDA's web site at: <http://www.eatrightneda.org/>

As an RD enrolled in the network, you would be contacted to provide nutritional counseling or answer questions. It is an excellent way to increase client base to a current practice or to start a new practice. Anyone interested should contact Maureen Krisa-Kurey at (570) 342-8389 or email her at: [KrisaKurey@eatrightneda.org](mailto:KrisaKurey@eatrightneda.org)

# NEDA Annual Turnover Dinner

Thursday, June 1, 2006

**At:**

**ALLIED SERVICES REHABILITATION HOSPITAL  
Moffatt Drive on the Morgan Highway, Scranton, PA**

Time- 6:00 - 6:30 Cocktails / Network  
6:30 – 9:00 Buffet Dinner

Cost: \$ 15.00 per person  
(Check made out to: NEDA)

Please forward your reservations by May 25, 2006 with  
payment to:

Ms. Mary Babcock  
3909 Laurel Run Road  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18706

## **Members of the 2006 – 2007 NEDA Board of Directors**

Maureen Dunne-Touhey	<b>President</b>
<b>Open</b>	<b>President-elect (Newsletter Editor)</b>
Carol Kneier	<b>Past-President/Policy &amp; Procedures</b>
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Carol Brennan	<b>Treasurer</b>
Mary Babcock	<b>Nominating-Chair</b>
<b>Open</b>	<b>Nominating -Chair-elect</b>
Mary Ehret	<b>Professional Education - Chair</b>
<b>Election ?</b>	<b>Professional Education – Chair-elect</b>
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Maureen Krisa-Kurey	<b>Career Guidance/ Job Referral</b>
Ann McKenna	<b>Nutrition Student Liaison</b>
Tanya Papura	<b>Webmaster</b>
Jennifer Baumann	<b>Historian</b>
Roberta Cammer	

**Jennifer Grab, RD, LDN  
Legislative Chair**

**Dietetics Day at the Capital – April 3**

We should be proud of our members' involvement and political activity. What a success this day was for the Dietetics' profession! New cosponsors in both Senate and the House of Representatives signed up for legislative bills impacting dietitians and DTRs. Carol Kneier, Maureen Dunne-Touhey, Jennifer Grab, Kaleena Calpin, Carmen del R. Garcia, Tammy Mathews, Melanie Oakley and Jayita Mukherjee represented the northeast district. The success came by knowing the facts on the house bills, and sharing our passion for nutrition. The Representatives and Senators responded to our energy, message, and drive for legislative support to expand benefits to patients and dietetic professionals.

The two house bills that directly benefit dietitians and DTRs are HB1694 to provide funding for the Women, Infants, & Children program, and HB1897 to provide licensure for dietetic technicians, registered. Two other house bills will increase benefits to the greater public, patients, and provide financial rewards to dietitians are:

- HB185 is the childhood obesity control bill which will direct schools to adopt nutritional guidelines for all food and beverage available during the school day and,
- HB 360, which increases coverage of MNT in cardiovascular disease. This bill requires that all health insurance policies issued in Pennsylvania provide coverage for medical nutrition therapy to aid in the treatment of CVD.

Every new cosponsor for these house bills is greatly appreciated. Representative Fred Belardi previously signed the childhood obesity control bill, but on this trip he added his signature and support to the three other bills we presented. Each Senator and Representative who met with a dietetic professional and intern received a thank you note. Continued follow-up, conversations, and relationship building is this year's goal to creating strong and lasting support within the capitol building.

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**Public Policy Workshop -- Washington DC  
March 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**

Tuesday morning's state affiliate orientation gave the first glimpse of a motivational workshop. Dietitians from state affiliates shared their successes, hardships, and lessons from legislative struggles. A common thread was the language within state bills protecting Licensure, and how some states are still pushing for title licensure.

The Wisconsin State Affiliate rang the warning bells of how quickly other groups interested in providing nutrition counseling can get legislative support from their Governor and Legislators. The Governor of Wisconsin passed a budget bill with the language for chiropractors to provide nutrition counseling and education. As a result, the Wisconsin Dietetic Association hired a lobbyist, and provided a stipulation within state

legislation that chiropractors may only offer nutrition education or advice following 48 hours of postgraduate course study in nutrition.

Julianna Smith, a lobbyist and Mary Hager the senior manager of Regulatory Affairs spoke messages: we must maintain a consistent message on Public Policy issues, it is very important to keep up with regulations for licensure bills, and we must focus on people resources within our state for local and state issues. The motivational message is to become the professional advocate for the purposes of enhancing visibility, increasing recognition, developing proactive programs, and making the promise to stay motivated. All these actions will gain a stronger state affiliate.

“If dietetics is your profession, politics is your business,” was the opening line for Michele Chynoweth, RD, CDE. Dialogue is the heart of democracy. The politics that impact coverage and payment include three major points. First dietitians must recognize the landscape of health care market and its impact on current coverage, codes and payment for nutrition and nutrition-related services. Secondly, we must learn the ADA efforts to increase visibility and recognition of RDs as preferred providers of nutrition services. And third, we need to identify resources and models for local advocacy efforts in expanding coverage and payment for nutrition services. All three points are under one umbrella of advocacy and ongoing communication. “Advocacy gets you out of yourself and into the community. And, a difference is made even if it’s small. Small differences make big ones.” Michele Chynoweth.

Our three main messages to Congress were to pass the Older Americans Act Reauthorization; Local School Wellness Policy Evaluation; and expand Medical Nutrition Therapy Benefits by:

- “Support amendments to the current Ryan White CARE act that would strengthen the role of medical nutrition therapy and the registered dietitian in programs funded by the Act; co-sponsor and support passage of the Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Act, HR1582 & Senate 604.”
- “Support and fund amendments to the current Older Americans Act that strengthen the nutrition programs by increasing participant access to nutrition screening, education and counseling, and ensuring qualified nutrition expertise is utilized at all levels in the coordination and planning of meal services.”
- “ADA advocates resources to develop an evaluative tool to measure the impact of the local wellness policies. Compelling school districts to address all foods, nutrition education, and physical activity opportunities on campuses in policy was an important breakthrough in recognizing the roles and responsibilities of governments, schools, parents and health professionals in designing and implementing health promoting policies.”

The success of the Public Policy Workshop for Pennsylvania constituents and dietitians is visible by the additional cosponsors Jim Gerlach and Todd Russell Platts from the House of Representatives.

## Upcoming NEDA Seminar:

### *Presents - From Therapeutic to Management*

Date: Thursday May 25, 2006

At: Wesley Village; Brooks Community Building; Pittston, Pa

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Registration Deadline: May 15, 2006

Make check payable to: NEDA

Mail registration and payment to:

Marie T. Ratchford-Demkosky; 238 ½ Bellman St.; Throop, PA 18512

Cost of meeting with Lunch and Breaks:

NEDA Member \$45.00

Non Member \$60.00

Student \$15.00

NEDA annual dues of \$20.00 may be remitted along with the registration fee for this program.

Application has been made for 6 CPEs for RDs and DTRs. Lunch and breaks will be provided.

Brochure can be reviewed and downloaded at:

<http://www.eatrightneda.org/activities.html>

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**Presenting the 2006 Keystone Award Winner – Ms. Marie Ratchford-Demkosky**



# National Nutrition Month



## **Hosting the Day at Saint Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen.**

March 20, 2006

The North East Dietetic Association (NEDA), which is the professional association for the areas Registered Dietitians (RDs), has recently marked National Nutrition Month by Hosting a Day at the St. Francis of Assisi soup kitchen. Here presenting a check to Monsignor Ficonoli is (left to right) Jennifer Grab, RD; Monsignor Ficonoli; Carol Kneier, RD (NEDA President) and Maureen Dunne-Touhey, RD.



## **Hosting the Day at St. Vincent's DePaul Soup Kitchen**

March 27, 2006

The North East Dietetic Association (NEDA), which is the professional association for the areas Registered Dietitians (RDs), has recently marked National Nutrition Month by Hosting a Day at the St. Vincent's DePaul soup kitchen. Here presenting a check to Ann McCawley is (left to right) Carol Kneier, RD (NEDA President), Ann McCawley, Jennifer Grab, RD and Justine Weiss, DTR.

## **2006 PADA Annual Meeting**

**In Recognition of the Ms. Colleen McCann's accomplishments and diligence, the NEDA presented Colleen with a plaque and a gift. Colleen is retiring from the PADA Lobbyist position.**



**Colleen being presented with the gift by NEDA's President Carol Kneier**



**NEDA members at the presentation**

**Left to right: Clare Stachnik, Ann McKenna, Mary Klem, Carol Kneier, Maureen Dunne-Touhey, Colleen McCann, Marie Ratchford-Demkosky, Lindsey Leventhal and Marianne Borja**

## Outstanding Student Award winner from Marywood University



**Marielle Zuccolo**

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<b>V</b>	aluable is the work you do.
<b>O</b>	utstanding is how you always come through.
<b>L</b>	oyal, sincere and full of good cheer,
<b>U</b>	ntiring in your efforts throughout the year.
<b>N</b>	otable are the contributions you make.
<b>T</b>	rustworthy in every project you take.
<b>E</b>	ager to reach your every goal.
<b>E</b>	ffective in the way you fulfill your role.
<b>R</b>	eady with a smile like a shining star,
<b>S</b>	pecial and wonderful—that's what you are.
<b>--unknown</b>	

## Attention all NEDA members

- The day and time for the NEDA Board Meetings will soon be determined. Look for this information on the web site or contact Maureen at:  
[DunneTouhey@marywood.edu](mailto:DunneTouhey@marywood.edu)
  - The next meeting's agenda, which will be in August, will have the - *hot off the press* – the HOD report including the Task Force Recommendations on the future of our profession.

*All members are welcomed to attend!*

Of course you should always check with a board member to ensure that there were no changes on the date or time before you come! And if you come and have a specific concern or comment you may want to contact Maureen Dunne-Touhey to have your item placed on the meetings agenda.

- You are receiving the NEDA newsletter as a benefit of being a member of the NEDA. If you have any comments on this Newsletter and / or you would like to submit an article or PSA for your facility / agency, please do so by contacting Maureen Dunne-Touhey at: [DunneTouhey@marywood.edu](mailto:DunneTouhey@marywood.edu)

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