

MRA'S FIRST 75 YEARS

A Brief History of the Michigan Rehabilitation Association

EARLY ORGANIZATION AND STATE CHAPTER OF NRA

- First Organized in 1944 -G.A. Kamiske, 1st President
- Became First State Chapter of the NRA in **1949**
- Early leaders included Ralf Peckham, Jean Hansen Ockerman, H.A Davidson
- Members in the 50's -70's came from wide array of rehab and disability organizations: Rehab Facilities, Health care and equipment, vocational schools, VR, Disability Determination Services, Higher Ed
- Incorporated as a Michigan Non-Profit in 1977 as "MRA"

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NRA LEADERSHIP

Four dynamic Presidents of the National Rehabilitation Association

Harry Smith...1991

Bettie Shaw-Henderson...1998

Dr. L. Robert McConnell...2003

Lou Adams...2022

MRA members Bob McConnell and Joyce Keener helped found the National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns, a division of NRA in 1993.

IMPACT ON MICHIGAN DISABILITY LAWS AND POLICIES

Michigan's Barrier Free Design Act

1966

ADA Implementation at the State
level- MRA members served on
many state implementation
committees in 1990's

1990's

Barrier Free Voting-MRA members
served on advisory committees

Early 2000's

1976

Michigan Persons with Disabilities
Civil Rights Act

1990's

Barrier Free Public Transportation
1990's

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- Counselor Licensure - Inclusion of RC's since 1992- Leahy and Coelho
- Quality Standards in Workers Comp, 2001- Langham
- Continuing Professional Education - MRA Seminars, CRC Certification
- With MARO/Incompass since 1986- Mich Rehab Conf /Re:Con

PURPOSES OF MRA

Articles of Incorporation (1977)

- Promote the cause of physical, emotional & mental rehab of disabled people
- Study, discuss & teach the causes, care and treatment of disabled persons
- Engage in and promote interagency collaboration with similar organizations
- To educate public officials about disability issues, solutions and services

MRA CONSTITUTION-PURPOSES REVISED NOV. 1993

Within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS

- Promote and advance professional rehab services leading to full inclusion and maximum independence of PWD in all life activities.
- Promote, support, and provide leadership in advancing rehab professions.
- To work and cooperate with agencies, disciplines, orgs and people dedicated to independence equal access, integration, and employment of PWD.
- To inform and provide information to public officials re. benefits and programs that lead to equal access, independence and employment for PWD.
- To buy, sell or hold property and engage in contracts.

MRA MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT- 2019 TO NOW

What is MRA? MRA is an interdisciplinary professional, consumer-oriented rehabilitation organization that functions in both the public and private sectors, and at the national, state and local levels.

Mission: Promote and support professional growth and leadership to empower rehabilitation professionals to passionately serve people with disabilities through innovation, education, and advocacy.



MRA MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT- 2019 TO NOW

- **Advocacy:**
 - To remove barriers that prevent people with disabilities from being fully included in all areas of society.
- **Education and Training:**
 - Provide excellent professional development activities within the field of rehabilitation.
- **Community:**
 - Function as a networking hub for the community of rehabilitation professionals.

