

AMERICAN REHABILITATION ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION

THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL CERTIFYING BODY IN LOSS ASSESSMENT

BARRETT TO ASSUME NEW POSITION AS “TEA” EDITOR

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Older Workers**
- Between 1977 and 2007, employment of workers 65 and over increased 101 percent, compared to a much smaller increase of 59 percent for total employment (16 and over) according to the USBLS. The number of employed men 65 and over rose 75 percent, but employment of women 65 and older increased by nearly twice as much, climbing 147 percent. While the number of employed people age 75 and over is relatively small (0.8 percent of the employed in 2007), this group had the most dramatic gain, increasing 172 percent between 1977 and 2007.

George A. Barrett has assumed the editor position of *The Earnings Analyst*, the journal of the American Rehabilitation Economics Association.

Mr. Barrett is a practicing forensic economist and forensic vocational analyst in the Charleston, West Virginia office of Michael L. Brookshire & Associates.

In his forensic practice, Mr. Barrett calculates economic damages and provides expert testimony in a wide variety of civil litigation cases in numerous states across the nation. Primarily, these cases include lost earning capacity and cost of future medical care valuation appraisals in personal injury and wrongful death cases.

As a forensic vocational analyst, Mr. Barrett is qualified to conduct client interviews and vocational testing related to the assessment of post-injury earning capacity in personal injury litigation. During his practice, Mr. Barrett has provided expertise in several notable cases, including *Virginia Richardson, a/k/a Tammy Wynette v. Marsh, et. al.*, U.S.

District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee at Nashville, and *Patricia Bragg, et. al v. Col. Dana Robertson, et al.* (Mountaintop Mining), U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia at Charleston.

Mr. Barrett graduated magna cum laude from West Virginia State University in 1995, earning a Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree in Economics. He then went on to earn a Master of Business Administration (MBA) Degree from Marshall University in 1998.

Mr. Barrett completed the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling (MSRC) Degree from West Virginia University in 2004 and achieved the professional designation as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) upon the completion of his clinical practice at the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center in Institute and passage of the written examination.

Mr. Barrett achieved the status of Certified Vocational Evaluation Specialist (CVE) in November 2005. His professional activities have included being named to the list of referees



for the *Journal of Forensic Economics* in 2004.

As an undergraduate, was a Governor's Honors Intern for the State of West Virginia in 1994, where he worked under the direction of Dr. Ed Merrifield in the Office of Employment Statistics at the Bureau of Employment Programs. In 1995, Mr. Barrett was one of five undergraduate students in the nation to be awarded the "Gold Key National Outstanding Student Leadership Award" from Omicron Delta Epsilon, the International Honor Society in Economics.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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It is an honor to serve as President of AREA in 2008-09, especially because 2008 is the organization's 20th anniversary year. It was in the fall of 1988 when I flew out to San Diego, CA to meet Bob Metcalf, one of the founders (along with current

AREA board member and ABVE President Michael Graham) of the precursor to AREA to give him some seed money and encouragement to revamp the fledgling organization.

During that first year I, and about a dozen other multi-disciplined experts (including the late David Toppino), frequently traveled cross country for meetings to create AREA. There was no existing membership or bank funds that could be transferred from the original group, so each participant of the organizing board contributed money to get the organization established.

The first conference barely had more attendees than presenters! However, the concept of a professional organization with members from the 3 disciplines (voc/rehab experts, life care planners and forensic economists) caught on. Now I am very proud to say that we are an international organiza-

tion with more than one hundred members. That is a significant number, given the inter-disciplinary technical nature of our conferences.

Each and every year the board has received comments from conference attendees who indicate that the sessions added to their knowledge base. We have been able to offer informative programs year-after-year because of the broad based experience of our membership who generously volunteer their time and expertise to present a program.

I now call upon you to submit a proposal for a program for our June 2010 Conference. You certainly have a specific area of knowledge that could benefit the group. Alternatively, if you would like to co-present a segment of a program (such as the Pre-Conference BASIC TRAINING Boot Camp), please contact Rod Durgin, VP of AREA, at asv@coinedu.com or 1-888-626-2898.

I look forward to serving you as your President. If you have any thoughts or concerns, feel free to contact me at: WmHoustonReed@aol.com or 412-415-1136.

**William Houston Reed, Ph.D., CRE,
ABVE-D**

President, AREA

MEET NORM HANKINS

Norman “Norm” E. Hankins, Ed.D., was a member of the faculty at East Tennessee State University from 1965 until his retirement in 1988. From 1965 until 1978, Norm was a professor in the Department of Psychology. He is a licensed psychologist.

Norm served as chairman of the Department of Human Development and Learning at ETSU from 1978 until 1988 when he retired. This department housed graduate programs in counseling, school psychology, and special education; they also offered courses in vocational rehabilitation.

Since 1988, Norm has operated an office in Jonesborough where he performs services regarding disability and employability. I have had a contract as a vocational expert with the Social Security Administration from 1965 until the present and testify in social security disability cases on a regular basis. He has a contract with the Veterans Administration for rehabilitation evaluations of veterans with disabilities. He per-

forms assessments of vocational disability and loss of earning capacity in workers compensation and personal injury cases upon referral from attorneys primarily in Tennessee and Kentucky.

Norm is also certified as a vocational expert by the American Board of Vocational Experts and as an earnings analyst by the American Rehabilitation Economics Association “AREA.” He currently serves as a director on AREA’s board.

Norm’s education history is as follows:

- B. S. Degree in Business Administration from Tusculum College 1958 ;
- M. A. Degree East Tennessee State University 1962 Major: Educational Administration; Minor: Economics;
- Ed. D. University of Tennessee 1964 Educational Psychology.

**AREA IS INTERESTED IN PUBLISHING
A PAPER IN “THE EARNINGS ANALYST”**

**THIS PAPER IS ON
DAUBERT CHALLENGES**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

**IF YOU HAVE HAD ANY EXPERIENCES WITH DAUBERT-RELATED MOTIONS
OR REPLIES TO SUCH MOTIONS**

**PLEASE CONTACT
BILL REED
WMHOUSTONREED@AOL.COM**

AREA

2009 Annual Conference Information

The American Rehabilitation Economics Association proudly announces its 2009 Annual Conference to be held at the Ambassador East Hotel, 1301 North State Parkway, Chicago, Illinois. Phone the hotel at 888.506.3471 or 312.787.7200 (x5196) for room reservations.

PRE-CONFERENCE BOOT CAMP

Thursday, June 11, 2009 (to Friday, June 12th)

MAIN CONFERENCE

Friday, June 12, 2009 (to Sunday, June 14th)

Of particular interest this year, on Saturday morning, June 13th, an opposing viewpoint presentation from Stan Smith and Tom Ireland on hedonic damages.

The first 25 Conference registrants will be eligible for a \$100 cash drawing!

Register for the Boot Camp and receive \$150 off your Main Conference registration!

CEUs available for CEA, CRE, ABVE, CRC, CDMS, CVE and CLCP certifications.

Graduate Credit also offered for Boot Camp attendance.

Questions? Email us at areaorg@cox.net or call us at 619.440.2650 or 800.317.2732

Visit the AREA website at <http://www.a-r-e-a.org>

ABOUT AREA

Established in 1989, AREA has pursued two missions: bringing recognition to the combined use of vocational rehabilitation and economic loss assessment as a distinct discipline, and providing a peer-exchange forum for vocational, economic and rehabilitation experts who practice within this growing field.

AREA supports professional growth by offering opportunities for continuing education and university credit at its Annual Spring Conference. AREA also participates in conference sessions held with other vocational, economic and rehabilitation organizations to encourage the sharing of knowledge among related forensic professionals.

Currently, AREA is the only international certifying body that has the unique blend of professions in loss assessment. Additionally, it is the first to establish a Registry of both Forensic Vocational and Forensic Economic Experts.

As forensic experts, AREA members offer opinion and testimony in a wide variety of cases. Often they involve some type of injury, which has resulted in an alleged loss of earnings or loss of earning capacity.

Our role is to determine the nature and extent of any loss, from a vocational and/or economic perspective. This, in turn, helps the Court in its assessment of damages.

Vocational experts identify what an injury victim is likely to earn following the incident. Economic experts calculate the value of pre- and post-incident earnings over time, so the difference, if any, between the two income streams is clearly understood. Those who act as vocational/economic experts blend the two disciplines, and offer testimony in both arenas.