

July 2026 Newsletter

From: info@nccap.org <nccap@memberclicks-mail.net>

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To: bryan.rife@nccap.org

**NCCAP[®]****NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COUNCIL
FOR ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS**

Enriching Lives Through Person-Centered Engagement

Every month, activity professionals across the country create moments that improve quality of life, preserve dignity, and bring joy to older adults. This newsletter celebrates those professionals while providing new tools, education, and opportunities to continue growing together.

In this edition, we are highlighting professional development opportunities, organizational updates, and ways our community continues to lead with compassion, creativity, and purpose.

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Message from NCCAP President, Debbie Hommel, ACC/MC/EDU, CTRS



July is one of my favorite months—summer at the Jersey Shore, fresh vegetables from the garden, a chance to slow down a bit, and, of

course, my birthday month!

Summer also brings warmer temperatures, which means we need to be especially mindful when planning activities for the older adults we serve. Ensuring comfort, hydration, and safety during outdoor programs is an important part of creating meaningful experiences.

Be sure to check out the new article in the Resource Section of the NCCAP website for helpful information and tips on keeping older adults safe and engaged during the summer months.

Wishing you a wonderful July. Enjoy the season, take some time for yourself, and, as they say, stop and smell the flowers!

Debbie Hommel, ACC/MC/EDU, CTRS
NCCAP President



Validation
Training Institute



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FOR ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS

**Validation for Activity
Professionals**

Validation for Activity Professionals

(Starting September 8th)

This online, interactive training is designed for anyone who works directly with older adults.

Validation for Activity Professionals is an 11-week online course that helps you build deeper, more meaningful connections with residents – especially those living with cognitive decline.

[More Information](#)

PROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT



🎉 **Deborah Hundley!** 🎉

I would love to acknowledge Deborah Hundley, Activities Director for Essex Manor in Tappahannock, Virginia.

She is the most dedicated Activities professional I have ever met in my 30 years of working & knowing her.

She keeps the residents motivated, moving & loving their life inside of a facility. Whether it be LT or ST she strives to make the stay an

enjoyable & happy one.

If you go to the facility's Facebook page you will see how she interacts with residents, staff & families.

Deborah does not stop & makes sure everyone is involved. It's breathtaking every thing she puts into her Activities. Most AP sit a resident down for bingo or games BUT not Deborah! Everything she does is high in fun. She has more creativity than anyone I have worked with.

I believe the entire facility will tell you what an important impact she has made on their life.

It takes a very special person to be able to do this job & I believe Deborah is this person & deserves to be recognized.

Sincerely,
Michelle Uphold

Want to be featured or have a professional featured in an upcoming newsletter? Share your success story, team achievement, or program innovation with us. Submissions are due by the 25th of each month to be considered.

Submit



This section highlights practical tools, creative ideas, and trusted supports designed to help activity professionals and care providers deliver meaningful, person-centered engagement.

From evidence-based programming guides and adaptable activity plans to training opportunities and wellness resources, you'll find content that enhances both resident outcomes and staff confidence.

Whether you're looking for fresh inspiration, regulatory guidance, or ways to prevent burnout, these curated resources are here to support your success and elevate the quality of care you provide every day.

Keeping Residents Safe and Engaged During Summer





NAAP.INFO

NAAP provides LIVE webinars that you can receive CE credit for your certification renewal with NCCAP!

Webinars will be available on-demand for all NAAP members. You can view past education sessions directly from our website by accessing the “HUB Resource” area of the website. You will need to log in as a NAAP member.

[Learn More](#)



This pathway is designed for professionals who:

- ✓ Completed a training certificate program that meets or exceeds their state's minimum required training hours
- ✓ Have at least 1 year of experience in the field
- ✓ Are ready to earn NCCAP Certification (ADC)

[More Information](#)

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The NCCAP Special Projects Committee is a strategic, action-oriented group dedicated to advancing innovative initiatives that support NCCAP's mission, growth, and impact. This committee focuses on developing, testing, and implementing projects that fall outside the scope of standing committees but are critical to addressing emerging needs, opportunities, and priorities within the organization and the activity profession.

Over the next several months, NCCAP will be introducing the committee members.

Committee Member
Linda Redhead





Linda Redhead, MS, ACC, EDU is the Owner of Activity Advisor. She graduated from the 'School of Visual Arts' with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Illustration and Art Therapy. Linda is also a 'College of New Rochelle' graduate with a Master's Degree in Art Therapy.

Linda has worked with many different populations but eventually found her passion for working with the elderly. She became an NCCAP Certified Activity Consultant with a Specialization in Education and has over 39 years of activity experience in long-term care.

As an Instructor for the 'Modular Education Program for Activity Professionals', she was awarded the Mepap Instructor of the Year for 2013. For many years she has volunteered for the 'National Certification Council for Activity Professionals' in the capacity of past New York State Representative, Vice President and is currently serving as NCCAP's Past President and Chairperson for Special Projects.



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