

President's 2015-2016 Report

As my first year as CAVEWAS' President ends, I am pleased to be standing before you today announcing the many successes and advances of the Society. Let's start with one of our greatest achievements.

Membership has grown from 250 to 420 in just over a year. This represents a 64% growth rate, amazing for any organization. We believe 410 members to be the largest membership base in our long history. There are likely many factors at play:

- Enhancement of membership services
- Staying focused on meeting strategic objectives
- Increased communications with our members
- Members wanting to be closely aligned with others in similar specialties
- The increased number of educational opportunities CAVEWAS is offering
- The fact that CAVEWAS presents in such a professional and ethical manner at all times
- Recognition that the Registered Vocational Professional (RVP) designation legally belongs to CAVEWAS
- The introduction of a new credential for our field.

On that topic, the Canadian Certified Vocational Evaluator (CCVE) credential is alive and well. After 2 years of close collaboration with the College of Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals (the College), the first CCVE Study Guide and Pre-Exam Workshop was launched on May 7th and the first exam sitting was May 8th. Feedback on the Study Guide and Workshop has been extremely positive. 26 individuals attended the Workshop and sat the exam. 22 individuals passed. This is an excellent result for the first sitting. The next workshop is scheduled for Friday, October 21st. I want to thank the CAVEWAS Credential Committee (or is it the PDC???), and other individuals invited to participate, for all of their dedication and commitment of time and effort in achieving this remarkable milestone. Special thanks go out to Cameron Adams-Webber and Gail Kovacs for the development of the Study Guide and delivery of the Workshop and to Dr. Garry Corbett for his professional review of final products. Thanks too to the College for making this a positive learning experience.

As a result of this great achievement, CAVEWAS has formed a close relationship with the College of Practice and plans are under way for further collaboration. Our parent Association is

expressing some concern over this activity but it is CAVEWAS' intention to forge ahead. Helen Keller once said "alone we can do so little; together we can do so much".

We have sponsored other Educational Events this year as well but I will let the Professional Development Committee report on those achievements. I am pleased to announce though that, with the launch shortly of our new website, we are launching the first two of a series of modules. One is on Ergonomics and the other on Effective Communications. Each is worth 5 CEUs for a cost of \$40 each to the member. Definitely a bargain.

Since we are discussing the website, visit www.CAVEWAS.com

as soon as we announce its launch. Besides educational opportunities you will find:

- Items supporting professional practice
- Archived CAVEWAS Corner articles
- Relevant research documents
- Other relevant articles and papers
- Resources and tools for the practitioner
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Acknowledgement of sponsors
- Links to important sites

and so much more. We will soon add a statistics page so we do not have to go searching for data every time we want to present a business case to a customer or potential customer. We are still populating the site and that will be an ongoing activity but we will provide you with access as soon as it is tested. Return to it frequently to stay up to date. Any ideas that you have or any items you can contribute to CAVEWAS would be greatly appreciated and may land you a “Colleague of CAVEWAS” status depending on its value.

We are also developing the foundation of a quarterly newsletter and have reached out to Canadian Education and Research Institute for Counselling (CERIC), the Institute for Work and Health (IWH), the Canadian Institute for the Relief of Pain and Disability (CIRPD) and others for a sharing of information and articles. These 3 organizations in particular are thrilled to be collaborating with us. We may be small but we are mighty. We are hoping to launch the newsletter in the Fall.

We have also been instrumental in sorting out issues related to your insurance. We had to dig to find information to defend our position but as you saw from an E-Blast and retraction from the VRA, we were successful. We are encouraging the VRA to consult with us first in future before making decisions that could negatively impact on our members. CAVEWAS members are

very important to us. Your Board of Directors are committed to protecting your interests.

Another key activity has been the review of our Bylaws. The Board approved some changes in April that are being presented for your consideration today. These changes should help CAVEWAS to sustain as an independent Society for years to come.

Last but not least, as President of CAVEWAS, I sit on the VRA National Board of Directors. This experience over the last year has been both challenging and disconcerting. It is evident from my observations and attempts at clarity and transparency that improvement within our parent organization is needed...no, **vital** to its survival...and must start with tomorrow's VRA Annual General Meeting. Rest assured that, as your representative, I will be voting with CAVEWAS' best interests in mind and I encourage you to do likewise.

I look forward to continuing my work over the next year. I enjoy hearing from you and considering each and every suggestion. Please don't be a stranger. I now have a CAVEWAS email, president@CAVEWAS.com and CAVEWAS has info@CAVEWAS.com so there is no excuse, for you or for me, for not communicating. Thank you again for this opportunity to

serve. It has been my honour.