



Wisconsin Representatives of Activity Professionals
wrap-wi.org

48TH ANNUAL WRAP CONFERENCE

RIDE THE WAVE

SEPTEMBER 23 - 25, 2026

Chula Vista
Resort

WISCONSIN DELLS





REGISTRATION INFORMATION

MEALS INCLUDE WEDNESDAY NIGHT POTATO BAR IF ATTENDING WRAP MEMBERSHIP MEETING. THURSDAY LUNCH AND THURSDAY EVENING BANQUET. BREAKFAST AND BREAKS ARE ON YOUR OWN AND AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT CHULA VISTA.

EARLY REGISTRATION RECEIVED BY AUGUST 14TH 2026

WRAP MEMBERS : \$375

NON-WRAP MEMBERS : \$475

REGULAR FEE RECEIVED AUGUST 15TH TO SEPTEMBER 18TH

WRAP MEMBERS : \$500

NON-WRAP MEMBERS : \$650

ALL PARTICIPANTS NEED TO FILL OUT THE ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM :

<http://wrap-wi.org/conferences>

PAYMENT INFORMATION

PAYMENT OPTIONS ARE BY CREDIT CARD ONLY.

IN ORDER TO GET THE MEMBERSHIP RATE, YOU WILL NEED TO ENTER YOUR WRAP MEMBER USERNAME. IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER, YOU WILL NEED TO JOIN ONLINE FIRST IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE MEMBERSHIP RATE. YOU CAN DO THAT AT [HTTP://WRAP-WI.ORG/JOIN-WRAP/](http://WRAP-WI.ORG/JOIN-WRAP/)

ONE DAY ONLY REGISTRATIONS ARE POSSIBLE. IF INTERESTED, INQUIRIES CAN BE E-MAILED TO CONFERENCE@WRAP-WI.ORG

REMIT PAYMENT TO:
ANGELA TELLJOHN
BALDWIN CARE CENTER
650 BIRCH STREET
BALDWIN, WI 54002

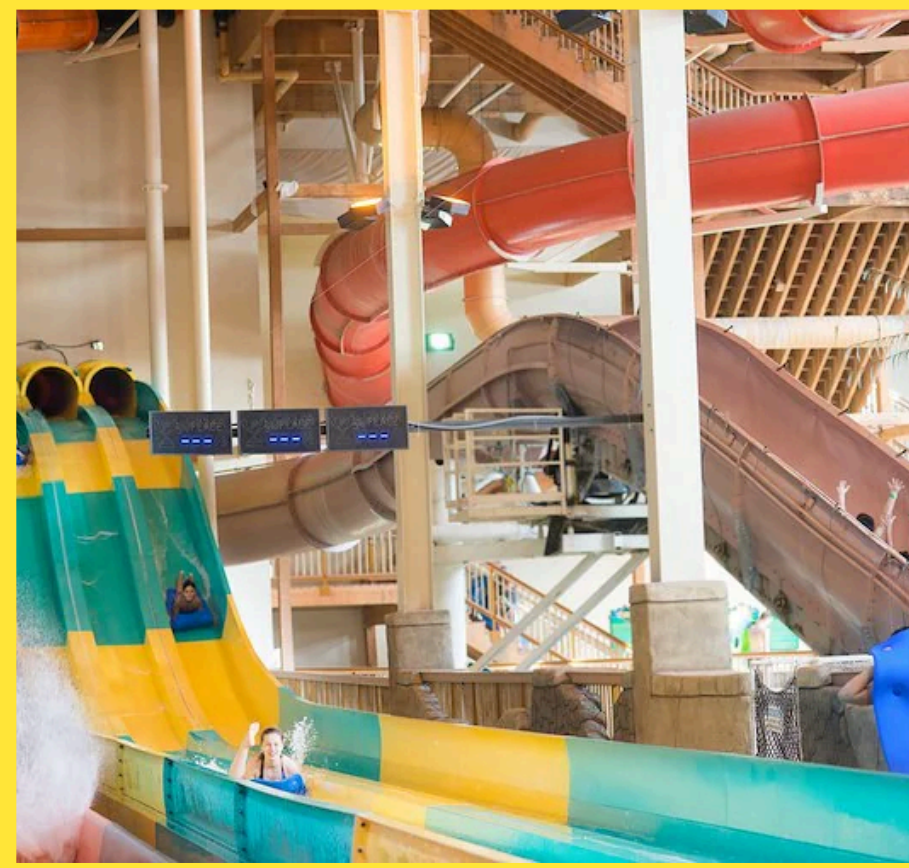


715-684-3231 EXT. 113



ATELLJOHN@BALDWINCARECENTER.COM

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS



1000 Chula Vista Parkway
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965



ONSITE RESTAURANTS
COMPLIMENTARY WATER PARK PASSES



CHECK IN AT 4:00pm
CHECK OUT AT 10:30am



888-260-4613 FOR RESERVATIONS
USE CODE : K36660

CATCH THE WAVE & SAVE YOUR SPOT WITH THE BLOCK CODE
WISCONSIN WRAP CONFERENCE 2026
FOR THE DISCOUNT RATE OF \$119.00 PLUS TAX
DEADLINE DATE : AUGUST 22ND 2026

HERE ARE THE BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR GUESTS TO BOOK ONLINE OR TO CALL IN AND BOOK:

URL - <https://secure.chulavistaresort.com/irmng/#/>

MUST click on the Group Login ID and add "WRAP" for online booking

Phone Number if Guests Want to Call to book over the phone 888.260.4613 /

Reference Booking ID: K36660

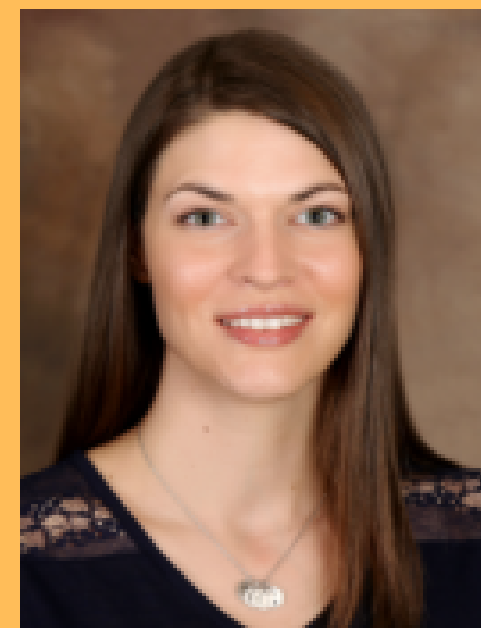
Credit card authorization: Important Chula Vista Check In policy:

If the credit card on file will not be present at check in, please complete the credit card authorization form:

<https://www.canarytechnologies.com/authorizations/chula-vista-resort-trademark-collection-by-wyndham70/form/Otdb9fG09LhKfAiz24K>



A MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR



Welcome to WRAP's 48th Annual Conference: "Ride The Wave"

I am Laura Odness, your 2026 Conference Chair! This is my first year in the role and I have been working with the rest of the conference committee to make "Ride the Wave" an experience that feels like a day at the beach!

Our profession can be like shifting sands, and we have to be ready to adjust every day to keep our heads above water. It is my sincere hope that you will find what you need for another year while you are here; that the sessions, networking and connections will be your lifeboat in the months ahead. We can't wait to dive in with you!

Conference Details: Mark Your Calendars

Dates: September 23-25, 2026

Location: Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

Cultural Arts Exhibit: Let Creativity Flow

Our Cultural Arts Exhibit is back—an opportunity to showcase the incredible talents of your residents. Let their creativity ripple through the conference as we celebrate the meaningful work happening in your communities.

Membership: Stay in the Current

Not yet a WRAP member? Now's the perfect time to jump in! For just \$35 annually, you'll enjoy member-exclusive conference rates and a year of connection with like-minded professionals. Ride the wave with us at wrap-wi.org.

Early Registration: Catch The Wave Early

Don't wait until the tide rolls out—secure your spot early and take advantage of special rates. The momentum is building, and you'll want to be part of it from the very start.

Support the Wave: Silent Auction & Prize Bingo

Help us raise funds for scholarships by participating in our Silent Auction and Prize Bingo. Your support ensures that more members can attend and benefit from this enriching experience.

Let's Ride the Wave Together

This isn't just a conference—it's a shared experience. A chance to recharge, collaborate, and build momentum that carries back into your communities. Together, we'll create a wave of creativity, compassion, and connection that reaches far beyond these few days.

So grab your board, bring your energy and get ready— because WRAP is your 2026 wave to ride!

CULTURAL ARTS EXHIBIT

SHIRLEY DUERST, CULTURAL ARTS CHAIR



SHURLYJEAN@GMAIL.COM

Do Your Residents Have Projects That Need to Be Shared?

The WRAP Conference is the perfect place to showcase what's been created at your center over the past year! We're eagerly anticipating another Cultural Arts Exhibit for the 2026 conference, and we can't wait to see the creative wave of talent you've cultivated!

The sign-up link is now live! Visit the WRAP website at
<https://wrap-wi.org/conferences/cultural-arts/>

We'll need the following to get your projects in the spotlight:

- Your Name & Facility
- Address
- Resident Name & Age
- Project Name
- Percentage of Work Completed by Resident
- Description
- Size of Project
- The Category You'd Like to Display In



There's no limit to the number of projects you can bring — we'll do our best to showcase every creative endeavor!

At the Conference:

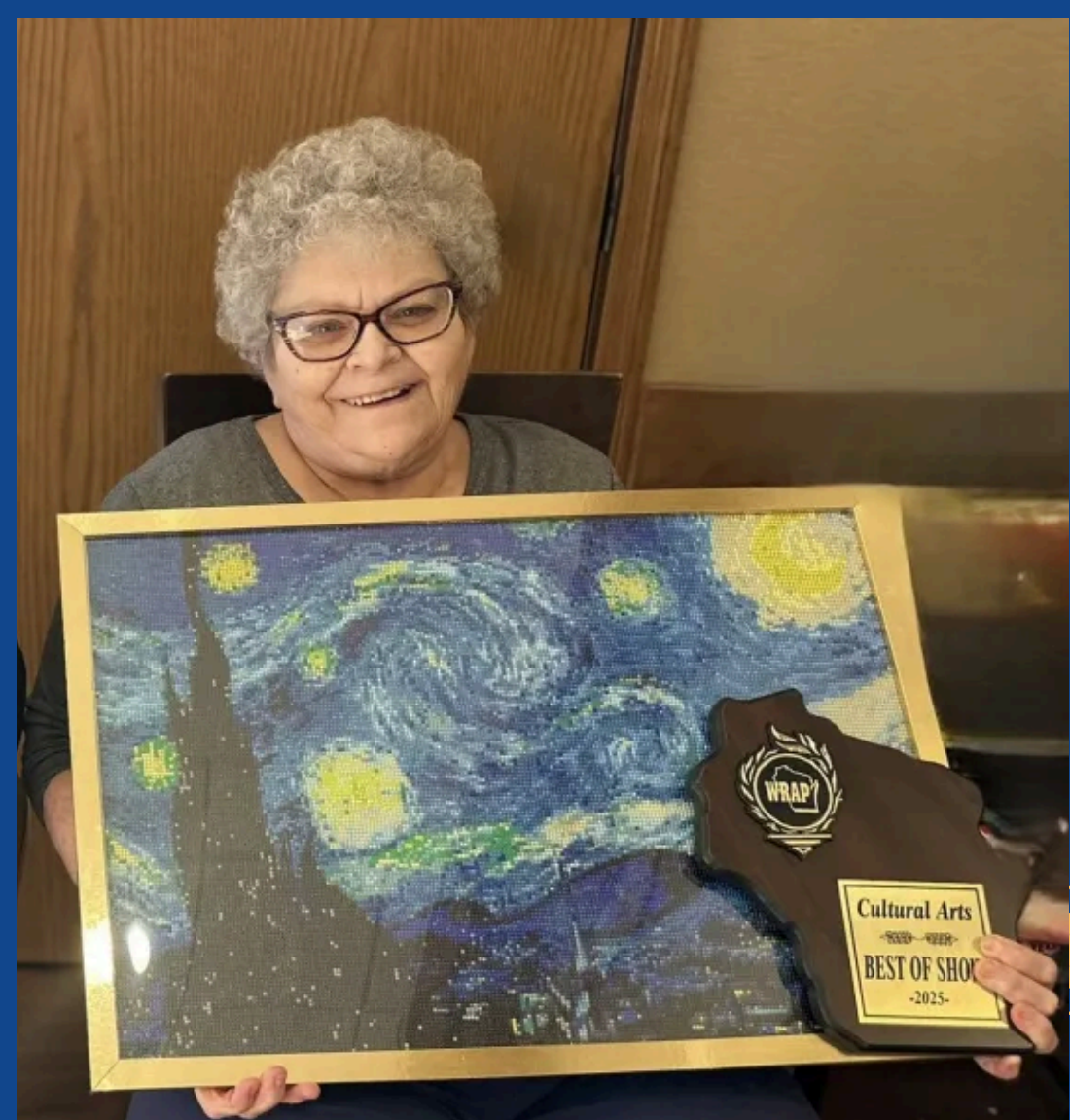
When you arrive, you'll receive an envelope with cards for each of your projects. Each piece will be placed in its appropriate spot for judging. All entries will receive ribbons and certificates, and the Best of Show will be revealed at the Awards Banquet.

Last-minute projects? No problem! We'll accept them if there's room to display.

Deadline for Submissions:

Wednesday, September 16th 2026.

Don't miss the chance to have your resident's hard work make waves and be seen beyond your community!



2025
BEST IN
SHOW

MAKE WAVES WITH RECOGNITION : NOMINATE A WAVE-MAKER TODAY!

The **48th Annual Awards Banquet** is approaching, and it's time to recognize the individuals who are making a powerful impact in our field. These are the professionals who create momentum, inspire others, and keep our communities moving forward.

Award of Excellence – Activity Professional of the Year: Recognize the leader who is making the biggest waves—creating meaningful, engaging experiences that truly enrich the lives of those they serve.

Award of Excellence – Activity Assistant of the Year: Celebrate the steady force behind the scenes—someone who keeps the energy flowing and supports programs with dedication and heart.

Administrator of the Year: Honor the leader who guides their team with vision, strength, and compassion—setting the course and helping others navigate with confidence.

Beyond Caregiving Award: Recognize those who go beyond expectations—creating ripples of kindness, connection, and care that extend far beyond their role.

Volunteer of the Year - This award celebrates a volunteer who brings heart and energy to everything they do—creating waves of compassion, connection, and joy in the lives of others.

How to Nominate:

Submit your nominations online at WRAP-WI.ORG/AWARD-NOMINATIONS
Let's keep the momentum going by recognizing those who are making waves across our communities.

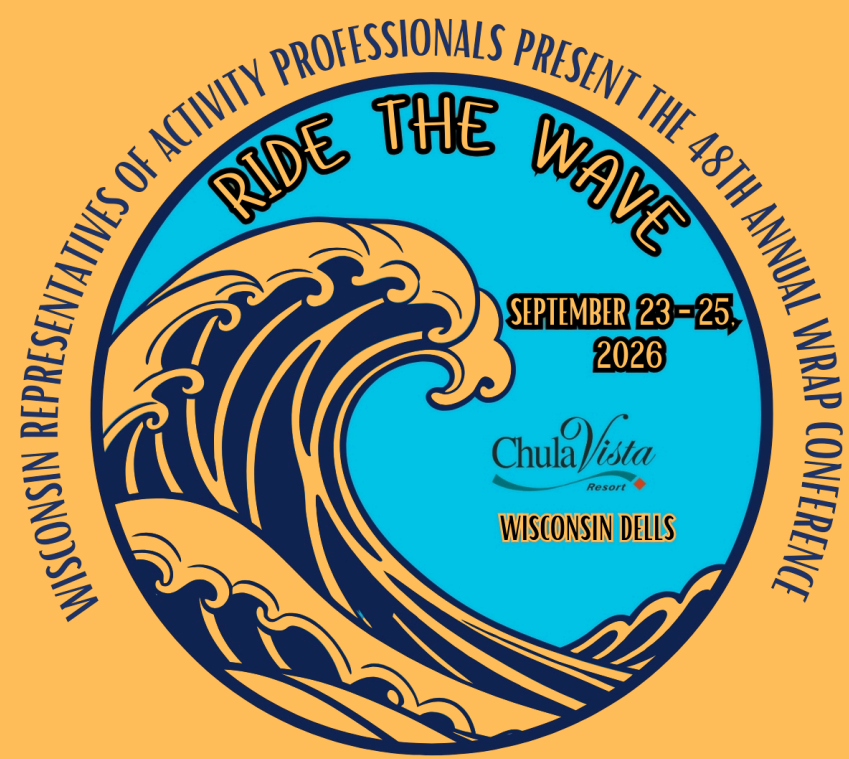


**2025 ACTIVITY DIRECTOR
OF THE YEAR**
Allison Bremer, AAP-BC
Weston, WI



**2025 VOLUNTEER OF
THE YEAR**
Judy King
Weston, WI

**RIDE THE WAVE TO THE
AWARDS BANQUET!**
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER
24H AT 6:30 PM**
**DRESS TO IMPRESS AND
MAKE A SPLASH— IT'S
TIME TO SHINE!**



FLIP FLOP FIESTA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD AT 7PM - WATERPARK

Grab your flip-flops and meet us in the pool area on Wednesday at 7:00 PM for a wave of fun, laughter, and a little friendly competition!

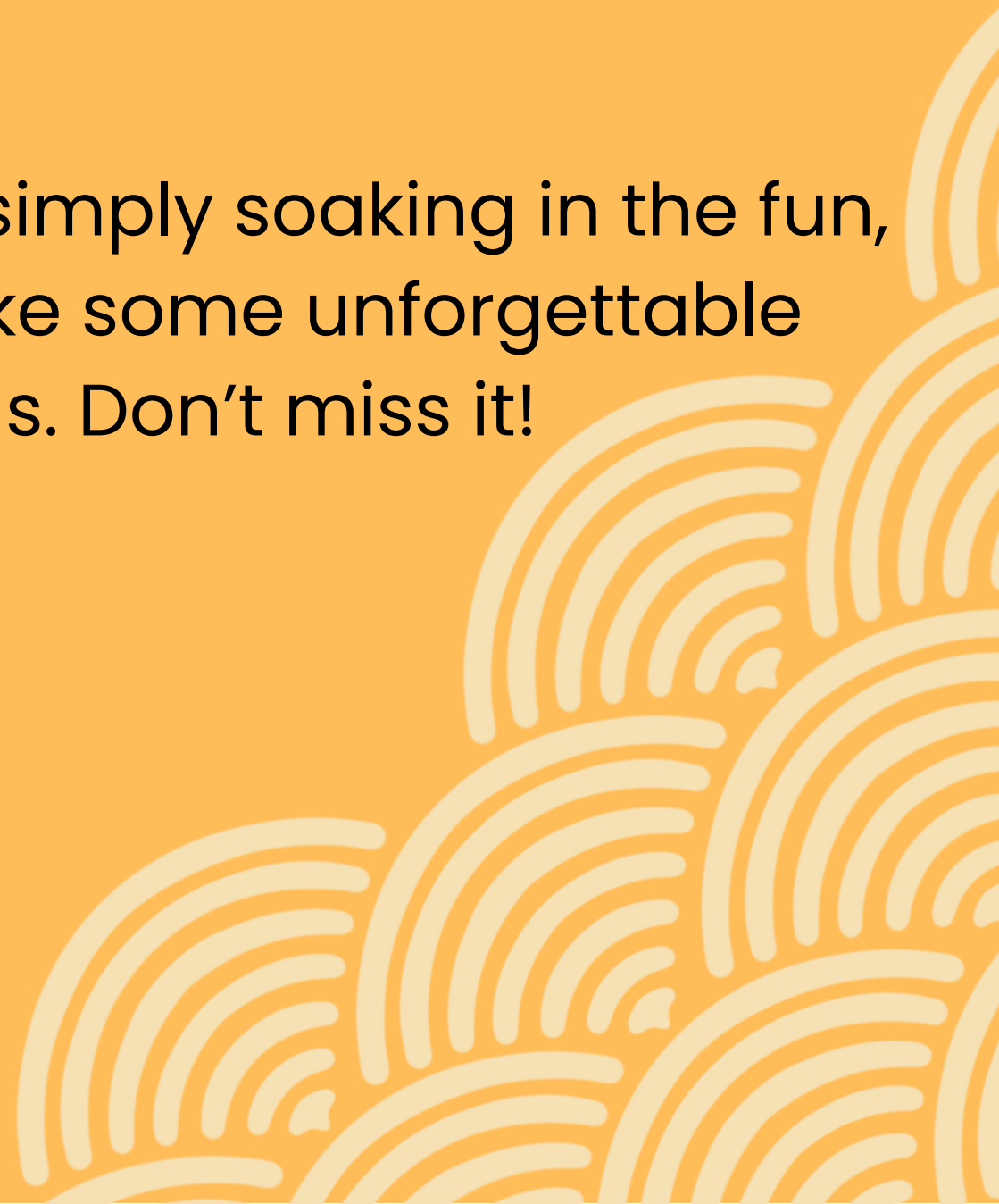
Dive into the fun with:

- **Beach Bag Decorating Station** – Create your own beachy masterpiece and show off your wave-rider style.
- **Rubber Ducky Decorating & Ducky Race** – Design your duck, then cheer it on as the race splashes off at 8:00 PM! Will your duck be the ultimate wave champion?
- **Wet & Wild Scavenger Hunt** – Follow the clues, make memories, and ride the tide of surprises throughout the evening.

And because every beach party deserves a signature sip, the bar will be serving up the event's specialty drink:

The "Duckerita" – a quack-tastic cocktail perfect for catching the conference vibe!

Whether you're crafting, racing, scavenging, or simply soaking in the fun, this is your chance to relax, connect, and make some unforgettable waves with fellow activity professionals. Don't miss it!



RIDE THE WAVE OF GIVING

HELP US BUILD MOMENTUM AND RAISE FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS WITH THESE EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES AT THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE:

Make Waves Silent Auction: Dive into our Silent Auction starting Wednesday and place your final bids after the banquet on Thursday night! We're also accepting donated items and baskets—gather your team and create a wave of creativity to share with attendees.

Extreme Bingo - Let The Waves Roll : Join us for a high-energy game of Extreme Bingo just before the banquet on Thursday at 6:00 PM. Cards are just \$5 each and available from 6:00–6:15 PM. For every 3 cards you purchase, you'll receive a ticket for a chance to win a free night's stay. And of course, there will be some wave-worthy prizes for our lucky winners!

High Tide/ Low Tide - Catch the 50/50 Wave!: During Thursday's lunch test your luck and ride the tide! Bring your dollar bills and join in this fun 50/50 game—where one lucky winner rides away with the prize.

HOW WRAP MEMBERS CAN BENEFIT FROM THESE SCHOLARSHIPS:

Get a Free Conference: Apply online by July 15th for a chance to attend the conference free of charge! Visit the link <https://wrap-wi.org/scholarships/wrap-conference-scholarship/>

Pursue Continuing Education: Be on the lookout for activity courses, workshops, and seminars—these all qualify for the scholarship! For more info and to apply, visit <https://wrap-wi.org/scholarships/continuing-education-scholarship/>

Have questions or want to donate items for the Silent Auction?

CONTACT SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

KIMBERLY ROSENAU AT

KIMBERLY.ROSENAU@GMAIL.COM



CONTINUING EDU-WAVE-CATION

Catch up to 15 waves of continuing education by attending all shore-approved sessions at this year's conference! WRAP has submitted applications to both NCCAP and APNCC for approval of these 15 CEU hours.

Your Passport to Professional Growth

This year, your Certificate of Professional Development will be a single sheet featuring "wave words" shared during each session. As you ride through the conference, jot them down and complete your certificate to receive credit. A friendly reminder: WRAP will not keep copies, so hang onto your form like your favorite beach chair on a windy day!

For Those Needing University Credit (CTRS Professionals & More)

If you are seeking university or additional professional credit, please stop by the registration table for details on available options and next steps.

WRAP Membership Meeting

All WRAP members are invited to join us for our Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday at 5:30 PM. Come help shape the current, share ideas, vote on important WRAP matters, and connect with fellow professionals making waves across Wisconsin.

A Potato Bar (for those who signed up during registration)—a perfect chance to relax, connect, and refuel before the next wave of conference fun!

All registered attendees will receive an email a couple weeks prior to conference with a link for handouts as well as any other pertinent conference information.



RIDE THE WAVE!

48th Annual WRAP Conference SCHEDULE

September 23 - 25TH, 2026 CHULA VISTA, WISCONSIN DELLS

All sessions in the Grand Ballroom unless otherwise stated.

Wednesday, September 23RD 2026

10:30 am - 11:30am	Registration: Grand Ballroom Lobby ; Silent Auction drop off and start: Grand Ballroom Cultural Arts drop off in Room i
11:30 - 12:00pm	Welcome/Announcements/Call of Regions
12:00 - 1:00pm	Session # 1 Regional Groups
1:00 - 1:15pm	Break - Visit Cultural Arts in Room i
1:15 - 2:15pm	Session #2 Vanessa Emm : Care Planning and Service Planning Across the Continuum of Senior Living: The Role of Activity and Life Enrichment Professionals
2:15 - 3:45pm	Session #3 Rachel Schall & Emily Wesnick : SPARK! Creative Engagement for Adults with Memory Loss
3:45 - 4:00pm	Break - Visit Cultural Arts in Room i
4:00 - 5:30pm	Session #4 Rebecca Frize : Music & Dementia : Music Interventions
5:30 - 6:45pm	WRAP Annual Membership Meeting (Potato Bar included if indicated on pre-registration)
7:00 - 8:00pm 5 ceu	"Flip Flop Fiesta" Local Arrangements Committee Event - Waterpark

Thursday, September 24th, 2026

8:00 - 8:30am	Registration in Grand Ballroom Lobby & Visit Cultural Arts in Room i
8:30 - 10:00am	Session #5: Sam Goodrich : Creative Communication in Care - Tools to Meaningfully Connect
10:00 - 10:30am	BREAK - Last change to view Cultural Arts in Room i
10:30 - 12:00pm	Session #6 : Allison Bremer - Leveraging AI & Canva Design Tools to Streamline Activity Planning
12:00 - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00pm	Session #7 : Vanessa Emm : QAPI & The Activity Department : Improving Quality of Life
2:00 - 3:30pm	Session #8: Rebecca Mullhern & Linda Dobbratz : Resident Rights for Intimacy & Relationships
3:30 - 3:45pm	BREAK
3:45 - 4:45pm	Session #9 Skilled Nursing (Grand Ballroom) and Assisted Living Breakouts (Room G)
5:45pm	WRAP BOARD PHOTO
6:00pm	Extreme Bingo Card Sales
6:15 - 6:30pm	Extreme Bingo Scholarship Event
6:30 pm	Dinner & Awards Ceremony
8:00 pm 6.5 ceu	Silent Auction ENDS!! Please pick up Silent Auction Items

Friday, September 25th, 2026

8:00 - 9:00am	Session # 10 Rebecca Frize : A-Z Activities
9:00 - 10:00am	Session #11 Joe Muench & David Jacobson - Creating Culture and Teams That Care In Senior Communities : Views from an Administrator
10:00-10:15 am	Break
10:15 -11:45 pm	Session #12 Vanessa Emm: Behavior Strategies : Communication & Accommodations
11:45 am	2027 Conference Promotion & Closing Comments

3.5 ceu TOTAL 15

SPEAKER BIOS

Session 1: Regional Groups

Program Description : Attendees will find their Region and meet with your local colleagues. (Look for the table signs with your county.) Share programming ideas, successes, and challenges. This can include local programming and entertainment possibilities.

Objectives : 1. Network with neighboring facilities and colleagues. 2. Discover trends specific to your demographic and region. 3. Discuss resources for entertainment, music, pet therapy and more for reference and support.

Session 2: Care Planning for Senior Living and Service Planning Across the Continuum of Senior Living: The Role of Activity and Life Enrichment Professionals

Program Description : Care planning and service planning are essential components of person-centered care across the continuum of senior living. Activity and life enrichment professionals play a key role in assessing resident interests, preferences, strengths, and abilities to create individualized plans that support meaningful engagement and quality of life. This session will explore the responsibilities of activity staff in long-term care, assisted living, independent living, and memory care settings, including assessment, goal development, documentation, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Participants will gain practical strategies, examples, and tools to strengthen care and service planning practices while supporting compliance, resident choice, and successful outcomes.

Objectives : 1. Explain the role of activity and life enrichment professionals in interdisciplinary care planning and service planning across long-term care, assisted living, independent living, and memory care settings. 2. Identify effective assessment methods for gathering resident interests, preferences, strengths, abilities, and life history information to support individualized care and service plans. 3. Develop person-centered goals, approaches, and interventions that promote meaningful engagement, enhance quality of life, and support regulatory and organizational requirements across various senior living settings.

Bio: Vanessa Emm is a Certified Activity Consultant/Instructor/Educator by the National Certification Council of Activity Professionals (NCCAP); a Certified Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Trainer along with being a Certified Dementia Practitioner and Montessori Dementia Care Professional through the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP). Vanessa currently serves as the Operations Director for the National Association of Activity Professionals (NAAP). Vanessa has been in the long-term care field for the past 20 years. She currently works as an Activity Consultant providing education and consultation services to facilities throughout Northern Nevada as well as a Dementia and Communication Specialist for South Lyon Medical Center. Vanessa received her Bachelor's Degree in Gerontology from Minnesota State University Moorhead with an emphasis in Biology and additional training in research and grant writing.

Session 3: SPARK! Creative Engagement for Adults with Memory Loss

Program Description : SPARK! is a creative engagement program for people with early-to-mid-stage memory loss and their care partners. Programs are designed to keep participants actively engaged in their communities by providing experiences that stimulate conversations, provide peer support and inspire creativity through creative engagement, workshops and programs. Enjoy an informational and hands-on session with museum educators from the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau to get a taste of the SPARK! program. Gather ideas for hands-on art activities and ways to engage audiences with memory loss that encourage independence, positivity, and fun.

Objectives : 1. Attendees will learn about the SPARK! program, its history and impact on audiences. 2. Learn relevant language, interaction, and engagement techniques for those with memory loss. 3. Receive tangible, hands-on project ideas that can be adapted based on program needs

Bio : Rachel Hausmann-Schall is the Artist Residency & Adult Program Manager at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, WI. Rachel holds a BFA from the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design and is a practicing artist, writer, and educator. Emily Wesenick is the Youth and Family Program Manager at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, WI. Emily holds a BS in Elementary Education and a BA in Arts Management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Session 4: Music & Dementia : Music Interventions

Program Description : Music & Dementia: Music Interventions is an interactive program where participants will get to experience live music demonstrations, participate in music games and learn how to use music effectively with the people they work with. Participants will leave with a flash drive full of interventions they use or adapt.

Objectives : 1. Learn why music is important in working with people who have dementia to help maintain cognitive, physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being. 2. Learn how to use appropriate music to get the most positive results with your residents or loved one. 3. You will have the opportunity to experience music activities that you can use with residents. 4. You will leave with tools and ideas to enhance quality of life.

Bio : As a Board-Certified Music Therapist since 2002, Rebecca Frize earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh following a six-month internship at Cedar Lake Communities. She currently serves as Life Enrichment Director and Music Therapist at Lutheran Homes and Health Services, where she has worked since 2002, overseeing life enrichment programming, music therapy services, special events, and interdisciplinary collaboration. With over 20 years of experience, she has presented at WRAP, Alzheimer's Association, GLR Regional, Recreation Therapy Today, and other professional conferences. She became an Activity Director Certified professional in 2022 and earned her Social Service Designee certification in 2026.

Session 5: Creative Communication in Care : Tools to Meaningfully Connect

Program Description : This session introduces participants to the core concepts behind the TimeSlips creative engagement approach. TimeSlips method is evidence-based and award winning for building meaningful connection in various care settings. Through presentation, interactive exercises and guided practice, participants will learn how to facilitate creative conversations that center imagination, curiosity, and expression. These techniques can be used in a wide range of care environments and are designed to support both sides of the care partnership—fostering moments of joy, social connection, and shared meaning. Participants will practice leading creative conversations and then explore how these approaches can be used in everyday interactions—whether they have 30 seconds passing in a hallway or 30 minutes for a more structured activity. The session emphasizes practical tools that participants can immediately apply in their own settings to strengthen relationships and bring more creativity and connection into care.

Objectives : 1. Facilitate a simple creative conversation that centers imagination, curiosity, and participant voice. 2. Identify practical ways to integrate creative communication techniques into everyday care interactions—whether brief moments or longer activities. 3. Recognize how creative engagement can support wellbeing, social connection, and shared meaning for both care partners.

Bio: With a performance background, and experience working both personally and professionally as a care partner for elders with varying levels of neurocognitive abilities, Goodrich has a unique perspective on how to integrate art and creativity into our care systems. In her work with TimeSlips, as well as her work with Memory Cafe Alliance, she hopes to bring light to the benefits that creativity can have on a person with memory loss, as well as the relief and joy it can bring to loved ones and caregivers.

Session 6: Leveraging AI & Canva Design Tools to Streamline Activity Planning

Program Description: Activity professionals are constantly balancing creativity, compliance, time constraints, and the ever-changing needs of residents. This practical, forward-thinking session introduces two powerful tools—ChatGPT and Canva—that can help streamline programming while enhancing professionalism and efficiency. Participants will learn how to use ChatGPT to generate activity ideas, draft monthly calendars, create newsletter content, and develop engaging communication materials tailored to their specific care setting. The session will also provide step-by-step guidance on transforming that content into polished, easy-to-read calendars using Canva templates designed with accessibility and readability in mind. This interactive presentation includes real-time demonstrations, practical prompt examples, and simple workflow strategies that can be immediately implemented. Whether you are new to AI tools or looking to improve your current workflow, this session provides accessible, ethical, and professional guidance to help you work smarter—not harder.

Session Objectives: 1. Describe practical ways to use ChatGPT to generate activity ideas, calendars, and written content. 2. Create a basic monthly activity calendar using Canva templates and imported content. 3. Apply simple strategies to save time, improve readability, and enhance professionalism in activity materials.

Bio: Allison Bremer, AAP-BC is the 2025 WRAP Activity Professional of the Year and a recognized leader in senior living engagement. With over a decade of experience, she is known for elevating activity programming through innovation, strategy, and resident-centered design. Allison is passionate about helping professionals streamline their workload without sacrificing creativity or heart. In this session, she shares practical, real-world strategies for using tools like ChatGPT and Canva to modernize workflow, enhance professionalism, and reclaim valuable time—empowering activity leaders to work smarter and lead with confidence.

SPEAKER BIOS

Session 7: QAPI & The Activity Department

Program Description : Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) is a required component of nursing home operations, yet many Activity Professionals are unsure how their department fits into the process. This session explores how activity services play a critical role in supporting resident quality of life while contributing meaningful data to facility-wide improvement efforts. Participants will learn the fundamentals of QAPI, including the five elements required by CMS, and how activity departments can support compliance with key survey tags such as F679 (Activities), F658 (Services Provided Meet Professional Standards), and F553 (Resident Rights). The presentation highlights practical ways activity professionals can track participation, identify changes in resident engagement, and contribute valuable observations to interdisciplinary teams. Through real-life examples, interactive discussion, and simple data-tracking ideas, attendees will discover how activity programs can support Performance Improvement Projects (PIPs), reduce social isolation, and improve resident outcomes. Participants will leave with practical strategies they can implement immediately to strengthen their role in QAPI while enhancing meaningful engagement for the residents they serve.

Objectives : 1. Describe the purpose and key components of the CMS Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) program in skilled nursing facilities. 2. Identify how activity services support compliance with federal regulations, including survey tags related to activities, resident rights, and individualized care planning. 3. Recognize measurable data that activity professionals can collect to support quality monitoring and improvement efforts. 4. Apply basic QAPI principles to develop or contribute to Performance Improvement Projects (PIPs) that enhance resident engagement and quality of life.

Bio: Vanessa Emm is a Certified Activity Consultant/Instructor/Educator by the National Certification Council of Activity Professionals (NCCAP); a Certified Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Trainer along with being a Certified Dementia Practitioner and Montessori Dementia Care Professional through the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP). Vanessa currently serves as the Operations Director for the National Association of Activity Professionals (NAAP). Vanessa has been in the long-term care field for the past 20 years. She currently works as an Activity Consultant providing education and consultation services to facilities throughout Northern Nevada as well as a Dementia and Communication Specialist for South Lyon Medical Center. Vanessa received her Bachelor's Degree in Gerontology from Minnesota State University Moorhead with an emphasis in Biology and additional training in research and grant writing.

Session 8: Resident Rights for Intimacy & Relationships

Program Description : Residents in long-term care settings retain the same rights to relationships, intimacy, and personal choice as anyone else. However, these situations can present complex questions related to consent, capacity, and staff responsibilities. This session provides a rights-based framework for supporting resident relationships. Participants will explore relevant rights, person-centered care, assessment of consent, and care planning considerations. Presenters will offer guidance for navigating real-world scenarios.

Objectives : 1. Describe resident rights related to relationships, intimacy, and privacy 2. Demystify sexuality and intimate relationships in older adults 3. Identify elements of consent and assessing ability to consent 4. Recognize staff roles and responsibilities

Bio: Becky Mulhern is the Ombudsman Services Supervisor for the Wisconsin Long Term Care Ombudsman Program within the Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC), where she supports advocacy for adults age 60 and older. BOALTC provides advocacy for individuals aged 60+ years. A Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, Becky brings over 28 years of dedicated experience working in the field of long term care. She received her degree from UW-Milwaukee and has held a variety of leadership roles. Her experience includes St. Coletta as the Therapeutic Recreation Director, the City of Minneapolis as an Adaption and Inclusion Coordinator, various county positions including as an ADRC Director overseeing Adult Protective Services, transportation, aging, nutrition and caregiving programs. She has also worked as a Program Manager for a Managed Care Organization, and a Communication & Development Specialist at the Alzheimer's and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin. Throughout her career, Becky has been a strong advocate for changing the culture of aging and empowering older adults to advocate for themselves.

Linda Dobbartz has served as a Regional Ombudsman with the State of Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care for the past six years, representing the northeast region of the state. In this role, she is responsible for advocating on behalf of residents across seven counties, including Brown, Florence, Forest, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto and Shawano. Linda works closely with residents, their families, and long term care providers to address concerns, protect resident rights, and promote quality of care. She has experience navigating the complex and sensitive issues related to resident relationships and intimacy, providing education and guidance to ensure dignity, respect and person centered care are upheld. Prior to her work as an Ombudsman, Linda dedicated more than 19 years to serving residents in a skilled nursing facility. She held the dual role of Activity Director and Social Services Director, where she worked to enhance residents' quality of life through meaningful programming and individualized support. In addition to these responsibilities, she maintained certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant, allowing her to provide hands on care and support to residents as needed. Linda has also been an active member of WRAP. She takes particular pride in having her facility's Administrator named WRAP's Administrator of the Year after submitting her letter of recommendation. Linda's career reflects a deep dedication to advocacy and compassion in serving individuals in long term care.

Session 9: Skilled Nursing & Assisted Living Breakouts

Program Description & Objectives : AL/IL with Deborah Smith: Fostering Community 1. Learn what it means to foster a sense of community in AL/IL environments and be able to activate that understanding. 2. Learn how to implement successful engagement programs that focus on 3 Key elements of fostering community in AL/IL communities. 3. Discuss practical strategies to foster community and to increase participation and overall resident satisfaction.

SNF Town Hall with TBD : 1. Learn Best Practices in Long Term Care based on topics selected by participants. 2. Understand the role of life enrichment in resident wellbeing and improving outcomes for residents. 3. Share successes and challenges with opportunity to discuss individual questions in regards to long term care and the role of activities.

Bio: Deborah Smith is the Community Life Director at Willowbrook Place in Thiensville, WI, with over 15 years of experience in Long Term Care. Deborah holds certifications as an APC Activity Professional Certified, with AL/MC Assisted Living & Memory Care Specializations., she also is a CDP Certified Dementia Practitioner. Deborah has held several positions with the WRAP and is currently the WRAP Vice President. Deborah thrives on being both active locally and is a member of the NAAP-The National Association of Activity Professionals and on the NAAP Leadership Team, she also serves on the Special Projects Council. Deborah takes pride in speaking at State Conferences on behalf of WRAP, advocating for activity professionals and the residents they serve. Her objective is to accept all activity professionals with the tools necessary to be able to provide quality activity and program experiences for the residents within their communities. When not busy at work, Deb enjoys her 4 children, 9 grandchildren-gardening and photography.

Session 10: A to Z Activities

Program Description : A to Z Activities is a continuation of a previous presentation involving a more hands-on approach and experience to activity interventions and adaptations. The original list and supplemental handouts will be provided to all participants.

Objectives : 1. To expand your repertoire of activity interventions 2. To identify ways to adapt some interventions to different populations/ages. 3. To reduce your time in research or designing new activities

Bio: As a Board-Certified Music Therapist since 2002, Rebecca Frize earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh following a six-month internship at Cedar Lake Communities. She currently serves as Life Enrichment Director and Music Therapist at Lutheran Homes and Health Services, where she has worked since 2002, overseeing life enrichment programming, music therapy services, special events, and interdisciplinary collaboration. With over 20 years of experience, she has presented at WRAP, Alzheimer's Association, GLR Regional, Recreation Therapy Today, and other professional conferences. She became an Activity Director Certified professional in 2022 and earned her Social Service Designee certification in 2026.

SPEAKER BIOS

Session 11: Creating Culture and Teams That Care in Senior Communities : Views from an Administrator

Program Description: Joe Muench, NHA and David Jacobson, NHA, join us to share their perspectives from the head of the facility in regards to how leadership is key to cultivating the culture of your community, the challenges and benefits of choosing battles on behalf of residents and staff of your facility, and the things that make all of the difference in overall happiness and satisfaction of all of our customers. They will each discuss their own journeys in these roles and will answer some of the bigger questions that we have for them from the “recreation mindset”.

Session Objectives: 1. Hear some ways in which a facility administrator can affect culture and change through example and action. 2. Understand the challenges of thinking outside of the box in trying to make culture come to life in respect to the parameters set by entities such as corporate ownership, CMS and our own limiting assumptions. 3. Individuals will have the opportunity to submit questions to the administrators for reflection, ideas, input and problem solving for their own communities.

Bio: Joe Muench: With a passion for making a positive difference in the lives of others, Joe Muench has over 36 years of experience in Health Care Administration. He spent 24 of those years in Nursing Home/Assisted Living and 13 years as the Executive Director of a Hospice Program. He graduated with a Bachelor’s in Health Care Administration from the University of Eau Claire in 1991. His philosophy includes treat others well, always try to do the right thing, and have a lot of fun along the way. Joe’s days with Hospice taught him that every day is a gift to be enjoyed to the fullest. When not working, you can usually find him outdoors fly fishing, kayaking, boating, hiking, or working on home projects. Joe’s favorite interest is spending time with his wife and four children.

David Jacobson: Starting out at 18 years old in nutritional services and working his way through positions in many departments, Jacob discovered that long term care isn’t just where he landed, but rather where he was called to. David’s clear dedication to the population he serves brought him through the ranks and to the position of administrator. He was working as a full-time administrator while taking the Health Administration course through St. Joseph’s College of Maine, obtaining his LNHA in June 2025. David enjoys that he can make a positive impact on the lives of residents, their families, employees and within the community. He shared, “being an NHA allows me the ability to continuously advocate for our residents while ensuring they receive the quality of care they deserve during their stay with us. Being able to lead a team of compassionate individuals is a big responsibility and a blessing. I’ve met so many talented and amazing people over the years now that it’s difficult to imagine doing anything else”. The team that David referred to does not have to be asked for testimony of his dedication, as they share freely how he rolls up his sleeves, gets to know residents, and meets everything with a fierce desire to keep the resident’s best interest at heart. When not at work, David enjoys fishing and golfing and is always ready to meet new people and learn new things.

Session 12: Behavior Strategies : Communication & Accommodations

Program Description: Behavioral expressions in long-term care are often a form of communication reflecting unmet needs, environmental triggers, or cognitive changes. This session explores practical strategies for understanding and responding to resident behaviors through person-centered communication and supportive activity-based interventions. Participants will examine the role staff interactions play in either escalating or de-escalating behaviors and learn techniques such as validation, relationship building, and proactive engagement. The training also reviews appropriate documentation practices, behavior analysis using the antecedent-behavior-intervention approach, and activity adaptations that promote emotional well-being, dignity, and meaningful engagement for residents.

Session Objectives:

1. Recognize behavioral expressions in long-term care as forms of communication and identify common triggers or unmet needs contributing to these behaviors. 2. Apply person-centered communication techniques and behavioral response strategies to reduce agitation, support resident dignity, and promote engagement during daily interactions and activities. 3. Identify appropriate documentation and care planning approaches for behavioral expressions, including the use of antecedent-behavior-intervention strategies and individualized activity interventions.

Bio: Vanessa Emm is a Certified Activity Consultant/Instructor/Educator by the National Certification Council of Activity Professionals (NCCAP); a Certified Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Care Trainer along with being a Certified Dementia Practitioner and Montessori Dementia Care Professional through the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP). Vanessa currently serves as the Operations Director for the National Association of Activity Professionals (NAAP). Vanessa has been in the long-term care field for the past 20 years. She currently works as an Activity Consultant providing education and consultation services to facilities throughout Northern Nevada as well as a Dementia and Communication Specialist for South Lyon Medical Center. Vanessa received her Bachelor’s Degree in Gerontology from Minnesota State University Moorhead with an emphasis in Biology and additional training in research and grant writing.

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