

# Advocacy Matters

A digital newsletter produced by the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project

## April 2018

April was a busy month full of advocacy events!

Our **13th Annual Spring into Action Awards Luncheon** was held this month! It was an incredible afternoon of accolades, socializing, and entertainment.

As the weather warms up, more outdoor Healthy Lifestyles Project (HLP) events are being held, such as the one at **Pony Power Therapies**.

Members of Council 1 as well as DSPs spoke at the **annual self-advocacy speakers panel at MSU**.

A **Governmental Affairs Ambassador Program (GAAP)** training was held for the Unity Club at The Arc/Morris to provide information about our government and how to get involved.

Council 3 put the "fun" in "fundraiser" by holding a **Bowl-A-Thon** to raise money for their NJSAAN budget.

## Spring Luncheon

Thank you for attending our **13th Annual Spring into Action Awards Luncheon** on April 7th! Over 300 self-advocates and supporters attended the event. We hope everyone enjoyed the event and we look forward to seeing you at the Fall Self-Advocacy Conference. Let's take another moment to congratulate all of our award winners!

The **Heroes Award** recognizes a person who has worked to support New Jersey's self-advocacy movement and utilized their power to make New Jersey a better place for all people. Congratulations **Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney!** Thank you for your remarkable commitment to, and support of, legislation that positively impacts the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their loved ones statewide. On behalf of everyone at The Arc of New Jersey, New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project, and Statewide Self-Advocacy Network, congratulations and thank you for the amazing work that you do.

Senator Sweeney is pictured below (second from left) with Michael Pearson, Ashley Ritchey and Daniel Pearson of the NJSAP team and The Arc of New



The **Group Achievement Award** recognizes a team of Self-Advocates that has demonstrated excellence in the areas of teamwork and collaboration, as well as the ability to set goals, achieve results, and promote awareness and equal rights for all people with disabilities. Congratulations to all of the members of

**The Arc AEROS, The Arc of Union County!** Keep up the excellent work.





The **Advisor of the Year Award** recognizes a Self-Advocacy Group Advisor who demonstrates exemplary leadership qualities, commitment to the self-advocacy movement, and support of the mission and members of the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network. Congratulations **Paul Kring, Advisor of The Arc AEROS group**! Thank you so much for all of your hard work and dedication. The NJSSAN is grateful that we can count on you as an ally in the ever evolving self-advocacy movement.





The **Jane Miller Memorial Leadership Award** was established to honor the memory of Jane Miller and is awarded to a self-advocate who has been recognized by their peers and colleagues as possessing excellent leadership, motivational, and advocacy skills. Congratulations **Arthur King, Vice Chair of Council 1** of the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network! Thank you for helping to lead the way.





---

Here are some more photos from the event!













## HLP: Pony Power

On April 11th, Advocates from **SCARC** and **The Arc of Union County** joined the NJSAP team for an Healthy Lifestyles Project event at **Pony Power Therapies!** Pony Power Therapies is a non-profit organization giving special needs and at-risk children and adults a unique opportunity to care for and interact with horses.







## Montclair State University Panel

On April 4th, advocates representing **Council 1** of the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network participated in the **annual self-advocacy speakers panel at Montclair State University**. A panel of 6 advocates and 3 Direct Support Professionals spoke to a graduate class of special education students about topics such as employment, residential supports, and techniques for teaching young students about self-advocacy.





## Governmental Affairs Ambassador Program (GAAP)

On April 5th, a **GAAP training** was held at The Arc/Morris for local self-advocacy group, **Unity Club**.

They learned a great deal about governmental affairs, including the makeup of the state government and how to contact your legislators. An overview of the recent threats to Medicaid was also presented as well as an explanation of the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Everyone left the workshop with a greater understanding of our government and how they can make their voices heard.





## Council 3 Bowl-A-Thon

On April 17th, **Council 3** of the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network held a **Bowl-A-Thon** at **AMF Strathmore Lanes** in Matawan. The group successfully raised **\$160!** Excellent work, Council 3!













**Interested in a training or workshop at your location? Hit REPLY and let us know!**



A training on our program, NJSAP  
Starting a Self-Advocacy Group  
Team Building  
Human Rights and Responsibilities  
Erasing the R-Word & Person First Language  
Legislative Advocacy  
Governmental Affairs  
Advocating for Yourself



Voting  
Boosting Your Self-Confidence  
The Americans with Disabilities Act  
Employment & Pre-Employment Skills  
Healthy Communication  
Respectful Behavior  
Anger Management

Healthy Relationships  
Online Dating  
Aromatherapy  
First Aid  
Get Better Sleep  
Outdoor Safety  
Illness Prevention  
Proper Hygiene

Proper Portion Sizes  
Dangers of Sugar  
Quick Healthy Snacks  
Stress Relief  
Yoga & Meditation  
Indoor Exercise & Adaptive Fitness



## Save the Date!



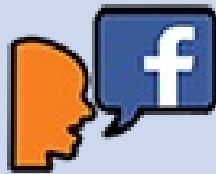
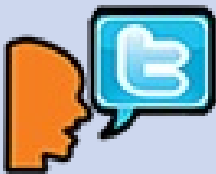
The 35th Annual New Jersey  
Statewide Self-Advocacy Network  
Fall Conference will take place on

**Saturday, September 29,  
2018  
at The Westin Princeton**

Registration information will be  
available this summer!

---

For more photos from our events and information about upcoming events,  
check us out on social media!







# **New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project & Statewide Self-Advocacy Network**

**A program of The Arc of New Jersey since 1983**

**Promoting Advocacy and Independence for People  
with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**