

Spring 2017

The Self-Advocate

A Newsletter Produced by The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project

**Flip this page for the
Official Registration Form
12th Annual NJSSAN
Spring Into Action
Luncheon**

Registration Deadline:

► MARCH 17, 2017 ◀

Also included in this issue:

Awards Nomination Forms,
Council Calendars, & photos
from recent NJSSAN events!



March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is a time to recognize people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and highlight the contributions they make to society everyday. It is an occasion to recognize the spectrum of ability and the tremendous diversity that makes our world so amazing.

Each year, the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project hosts a Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month outreach event at the State House in Trenton. To help build awareness in our state, we invite you to celebrate with Self-Advocates who will be on hand at Goldfinch Square at the State House on

Monday, March 6 and Thursday, March 9, 2017.

The theme of our 2017 event is **Developmental Disabilities Awareness: It Matters to Me**. Students in grades 3 - 12 from across the state have been invited to design a bulletin board in their school that incorporates the theme of this year's event and illustrates the students' understanding of Person First Language and their respect for all abilities.

LUNCHEON REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 17, 2017

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM

The 12th Annual New Jersey Statewide
Self-Advocacy Network *Spring Into Action* Luncheon

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017

The Imperia

1714 Easton Avenue Somerset, NJ 08873

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Space is limited. Early registration is advised!

Registration deadline is MARCH 17, 2017.

A \$10.00 late fee will be charged to any and all registration forms received after this date.

Sorry, but we cannot accommodate reservations over the phone or on the day of the event.

Please include payment of your **\$35 Registration Fee** along with your registration form.

EVERYONE attending the event **MUST** fill out a registration form.

All staff, drivers (who plan to attend the event), and assistants need to register individually and pay the registration fee. Sorry, no refunds.

First and Last Name*: _____

Address: _____ County: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Group Home/Agency: _____ (Please Circle) Advocate Staff Other

*I permit The Arc of New Jersey the free use of my name and picture in any film/videotape/
brochure/newspaper or in reports and promotions of this event or future events.

Please indicate any special dietary requests:

Vegetarian Meal

Chopped Meal

Other:

Fruit For Dessert

Puréed Meal

Registration fee is **\$45.00** if your registration form is received after Friday, March 17, 2017.

Please make checks payable to The Arc of New Jersey.

Mail All registration forms and payment to

ATTN: New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project

985 Livingston Avenue, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Credit Card # _____

Amex () Master Card () VISA () Expiration Date _____

(Required) *Signature* x _____

LUNCHEON REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 17, 2017



NOMINATIONS 2017



Your Name:

The Jane Miller Memorial Leadership Award

The Jane Miller Memorial Leadership Award is given to a self-advocate who has demonstrated quality leadership skills.

Your Telephone:

Jane Miller was not just a good person, she was an active member of NJ/USA, a leader and Treasurer of The Warren County Go-Getters, and worked on starting The Warren County Office For The Disabled. She was also very involved in transportation issues. Jane was a leader at The Self-Advocacy Conference, volunteering her time and presenting workshops. Jane was a true inspiration to those who knew her.

Your Agency Name:

Jane passed away in July 1992. At that point NJ/USA established The Jane Miller Memorial Leadership Award. This award is presented each year at the Annual Spring Luncheon, to a self-advocate that carries on the tradition of all that Jane stood for.

If you would like to nominate someone who is a role model for other Self-Advocates, **enter their name below and then on a separate sheet of paper answer the following questions:**

- 1) Describe this person's involvement in the self-advocacy movement.
- 2) What makes this person a good leader?

Your Agency Address:

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

The Heroes Award

"Heroes...They inspire us with their great strength of character, courage under pressure and determination to succeed"

Help the NJSSAN reward the efforts of an individual who embodies the characteristics of everyday heroes, such as:

COURAGE
COMMITMENT
RESOLVE
COMPASSION
HUMILITY
RESPONSIBILITY
INSPIRATION TO OTHERS

Do you know an advocate, care provider or professional who personifies these qualities or more?

Your Self Advocacy Group:

If you would like to nominate an advocate who you believe is a hero, **enter their name below and then on a separate sheet of paper answer the following questions:**

- 1) Describe this person's support of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- 2) What makes this person a hero in the self-advocacy movement?

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

Please send copies of awards, certificates or recognition letters

LUNCHEON REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **MARCH 17, 2017**



NOMINATIONS 2017



ALL ENTRIES

ARE DUE BY

MARCH 17,
2017

INDIVIDUALS
MAY NOT
NOMINATE
THEMSELVES

DON ' T FORGET:

PLEASE SEND A COPY

OF AWARDS,

CERTIFICATES, OR

RECOGNITION LETTERS

Send all information to:
The Self Advocacy Project
985 Livingston Avenue
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
Phone: 732-743-8345
Fax: 732-743-8345

The Advisor Of The Year Award

The major role of the advisor is simply to help the self-advocacy groups get "behind the plate," to assist them in developing skills and gain the confidence necessary to be comfortable with making appropriate decisions regarding their concerns.

Throughout the year, advisors are responsible for assisting individual members or the groups as a whole in learning about self-advocacy, assisting in organizing and supporting the self-advocacy group and assisting in carrying out the self-advocacy goals of the group.

A dedicated advisor embraces the philosophy that is consistent with the goals and purposes set by the group members, "that people are people no matter what their abilities or limitations might be".

If you would like to nominate someone for Advisor of the Year, **enter their name below and then on a separate sheet of paper answer the following questions:**

- 1) What does this advisor do to support the officers or leadership of the self-advocacy group?
- 2) How does this advisor help the group set and achieve goals related to self-advocacy?

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

The Group Achievement Award

The NJSSAN is an advocacy organization made up of, and led by, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Each year, a self-advocacy group is selected from this network of individual self-advocacy groups and five regional councils and recognized for demonstrating outstanding teamwork and promoting community awareness that helps improve the quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Group Achievement Award is given to a group who goes out of their way to demonstrate that they work together to set goals and plan activities that address issues of interest to the group, that they have leadership structure that demonstrates the group is composed of, and managed by, self-advocates and that they are a member of the NJSSAN.

If you would like to nominate a group for this award, **enter their name below and then on a separate sheet of paper answer the following questions:**

- 1) How does the group work together to set goals and plan activities that address the interest of the group?
- 2) Is the leadership of your group composed of and managed by self-advocates?
- 3) How does your group use it's advisor to support the group to carry out the group's goals and objectives?
- 4) Is your group a member of the NJSSAN?
- 5) List your group's self-advocacy goals and accomplishments from July 2016-Present.
- 6) List ways that your group sought to raise community awareness about developmental and intellectual disabilities from July 2016 – Present.

NAME OF GROUP: _____

NAME OF GROUP ADVISORS: _____

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October 2016: Advocates from The Arc of Union County prepare to hike Watchung Reservation. Our 4th Annual Healthy Lifestyles Project event was generously sponsored by Horizon Foundation for New Jersey.



December 2016:

Members of Council One of the NJSSAN celebrate the end of a wonderful advocacy season and wish everyone a healthy, happy New Year!



LUNCHEON REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 17, 2017

2017 Council Calendars

The New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (NJSSAN) is made up of 5 regional Councils. All adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities are welcome to attend NJSSAN Council meetings. We encourage and challenge group members to learn about their rights, get involved in advocacy events, and speak out about issues that affect their lives.

Council 1

Sussex, Warren, Morris, & Hunterdon Counties

January 19	February 16	March 16
April 20	May 18	June 15
July 20	August None	September 21
October 19	November 16	December 21

5PM-7PM

651 Willow Grove Street, Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Advisor: Ashley Ritchey

732-246-2525 x46 - aritchey@arcnj.org

Council 2

Union, Essex, Bergen, Passaic, & Hudson Counties

January 26	February 23	March 23
April 27	May 25	June 22
July 27	August None	September 28
October 26	November None	December 7

4PM-6PM

Contact Erin Caprara for Location Details

732-246-2525 x26 - ecaprara@arcnj.org

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Council 3

Middlesex, Somerset, Mercer, Ocean, & Monmouth

January 10	February 14	March 14
April 11	May 9	June 13
July None	August 8	September 12
October 10	November None	December None

5:30PM-7PM

Contact Advisor Erin Caprara for meeting locations
732-246-2525 x24 - ecaprara@arcnj.org

Council 4

Burlington, Camden, & Gloucester Counties

January 11	February 8	March 8
April 12	May 10	June 14
July None	August 9	September 13
October 11	November 8	December None

4:30PM-5:30PM

1001 Van Buren Rd Voorhees NJ
732-743-8345 - njsap@arcnj.org

Council 5

Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, & Salem

January 18	February 15	March 15
April 19	May 17	June 21
July None	August 16	September 20
October 18	November 15	December None

3:30PM-4:30PM

Contact NJSAP for meeting locations
732-743-8345 - njsap@arcnj.org

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The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project

985 Livingston Ave
North Brunswick NJ 08902

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New Jersey
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Connect with the NJSAP Team:

Phone & Fax: 732-743-8345

E-mail: NJSAP@arcnj.org

Like us on **Facebook!**

Twitter: twitter.com/NJSAP

Tumblr: njsselfadvocacyproject.tumblr.com

Get Involved in 2017!

The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project (NJSAP) offers free meetings every month around the state. Our team will travel to you to provide educational workshops, host events, and can assist you in starting your own group.

We provide training on a variety of topics, such as:

Human Rights and Responsibilities
Erasing the R-Word
Legislative Advocacy/Governmental Affairs
Advocating for Yourself at Work, Home, and School
Voting
Boosting Your Self-Confidence

Please contact a member of the NJSAP team to get involved.

E-mail: NJSAP@ArcNJ.org



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