

Advocacy Matters

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

The Arc of New Jersey 2015 Awards Celebration

November 17: The extraordinary people and organizations honored at The Arc of New Jersey's 2015 Awards Celebration do not crave recognition or praise; they only wish to better the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in New Jersey. But while they may prefer to go unnoticed, their **achievements** and **accomplishments** deserve the spotlight. With that in mind, The Arc of New Jersey bestowed **13 awards** at the Imperia in Somerset to commend those who **include** and promote the **well-being** of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

During the Awards Dinner, former **DHS Commissioner Velez** received the **Spirit of The Arc Award**. During her tenure, she was always open and accessible to Self-Advocates. The New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network was very grateful to see her honored for her years of service.

L-R: Evelyn Ramundo, Chairwoman, Council Three of the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network pictured with Jennifer Velez, Esq., recipient of The Spirit of The Arc Award



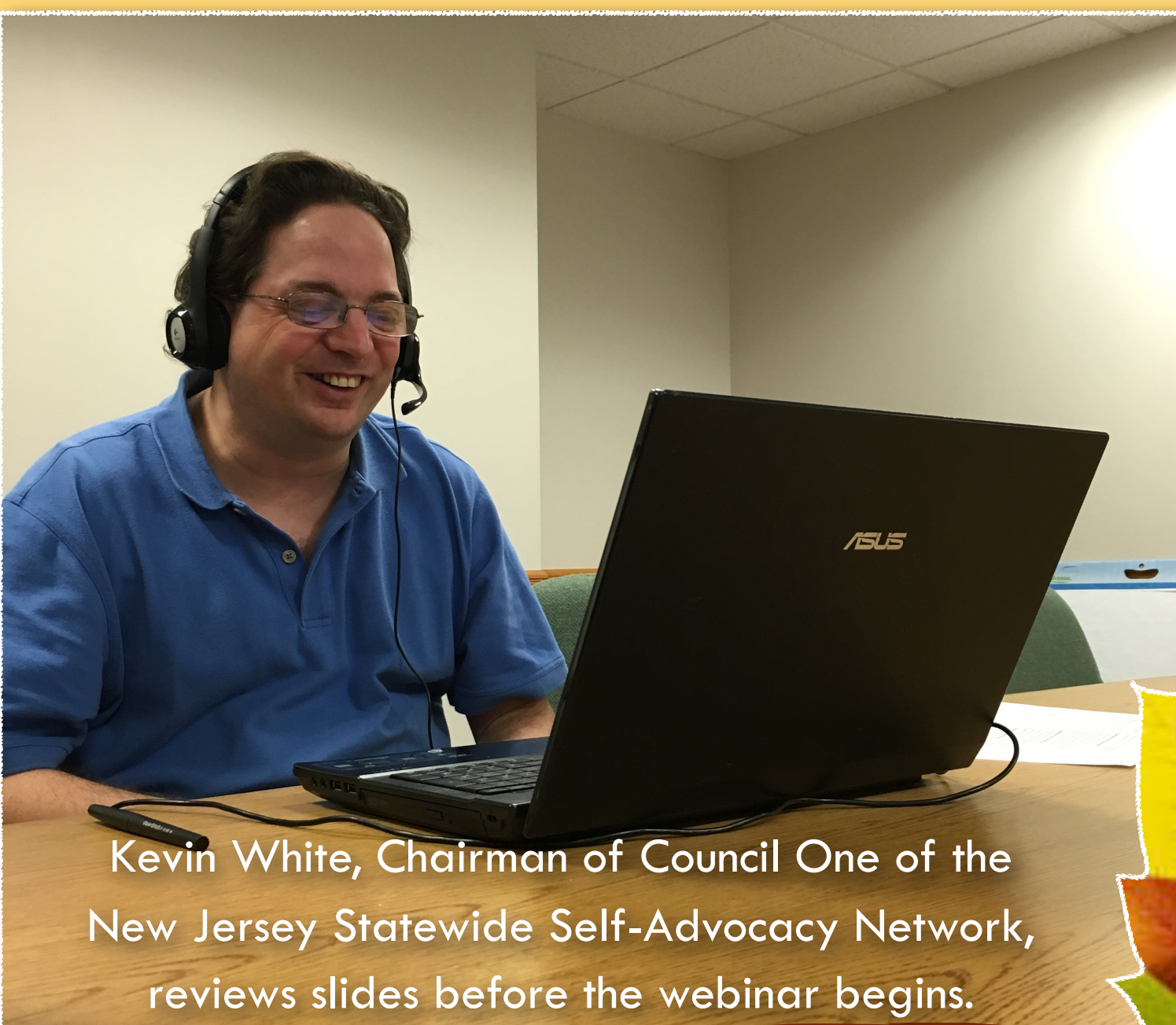
"This year's award winners believe in the **equality** of individuals with developmental disabilities and their right to access the same opportunities available to all citizens living in New Jersey," Thomas Baffuto, Executive Director for The Arc of NJ, said. "I applaud this year's honorees for their devotion, but also for the example they set for others. They are committed to the **creation of a diverse society** that is **inclusive** to all, and I commend all the work they do to make that goal a **reality**."

To check out more photos from this event, please visit [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

NOVEMBER 2015

November 18: The Arc of New Jersey's Planning for Adult Life program hosted a webinar titled “*Because I'm a Patient and a Person.*”: **Self-Advocacy in Medical Settings.** The webinar consisted of a slideshow presentation by **Kevin White**, Chairman of Council One, and Ashley Ritchey, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist with the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project, followed by a question and answer session. The slides presented in the webinar were developed by the members of **Council One** of the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (NJSSAN). Council One is a regional Self-Advocacy group that meets each month in Hackettstown; *meetings are free and open to everyone.*

If you did not catch the webinar with us on Wednesday, do not worry! You can still listen to the recorded webinar, which will be archived on the Planning for Adult Life site under the “We Offer” section. Follow [this link](#) to check out all of the fantastic Planning for Adult Life webinars.



Kevin White, Chairman of Council One of the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network, reviews slides before the webinar begins.

