

The Self-Advocate

Empowering people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across New Jersey

A Newsletter of the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project

Spring 2011

Year of accomplishments for NJ Self-Advocates, R-Word and Anti-Bullying laws passed by officials

The period from Summer 2010 to Spring 2011 has been a time of great accomplishments for all of New Jersey's thousands of involved Self-Advocates. After last year's Spring Luncheon, advocates from the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network, with the support of the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project, embarked on a massive campaign to erase the R-Word from New Jersey's official state documents. Governor Chris Christie signed the Bill into law Aug. 16, 2010.

There were incredible efforts by enthusiastic self advocates holding R-Word awareness events at local schools, colleges, supermarkets, malls and community meetings throughout all 21 counties of the state.

The largest R-Word event was the Rally for Respect on March 23, 2010 at Rutgers University's Busch campus. Over 600 advocates and state officials attended the Rally.

On January 5, 2011, state lawmakers also passed the "Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights" and Governor Christie signed it into law. It is one of the toughest anti-bullying laws in America and it now protects children in school and all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Important dates for Self –Advocates in 2011

March 22 - Deadline for Award Nominations

March 29 - Deadline to register for Spring Luncheon

April 30 - Annual Spring Into Action Luncheon

October 1 - Annual Self-Advocacy Conference

The Self-Advocate

is produced periodically throughout the year as a service to the members of The New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network.

The New Jersey
Self-Advocacy Project

&

The NJ Statewide
Self-Advocacy Network

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Readers are encouraged to
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from this newsletter.

Please credit

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Walter Bender
President

Thomas Baffuto
Executive Director

Get Involved!

The Regional Councils of the Statewide Network are meeting and need YOU to join in the fun as we organize campaigns to improve the quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities statewide. Check below for group meeting times and to learn how you can get involved and make a difference. **Meetings and times are subject to change. Please confirm with council advisor.**

Council 1

Jan. 21	July 21
Feb. 17	Aug. 18
Mar. 17	Sept. 15
Apr. 21	Oct. 20
May 19	Nov. 17
June 16	Dec. TBA

Hackettstown
Regional Medical Center
651 Willow Grove Street
Hackettstown, NJ 07804
5pm – 7pm

Council 2

Jan. 27	July 28
Feb. 24	Aug. 25
Mar. 24	Sept. 22
Apr. 28	Oct. 27
May 26	Nov. TBA
June 23	Dec. TBA

The Arc of Union
849 Jerusalem Rd.
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
4pm – 6pm

Council 3

Jan. 11	July ----
Feb. 8	Aug. ----
Mar. 8	Sept. 13
Apr. 12	Oct. 11
May 10	Nov. 9
June 14	Dec. ----

North Brunswick
Municipal Building
710 Hermann Rd.
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
5:30pm – 7pm

Council 4

Jan. 8	July ----
Feb. 12	Aug. ----
Mar. ----	Sept. 10
Apr. 9	Oct. 8
May 14	Nov. 12
June 18	Dec. 10

The Arc of Camden
Annex Building
215 South Whitehorse Pike
Berlin, NJ 08009
10:00am – Noon

All dates
are subject to change.

Please call the
NJSAP office
for information
on meetings.

732-246-2525 ext. 22



Council 5

Jan. 8	July ----
Feb. 5	Aug. ----
Mar. 5	Sept. 10
Apr. 2	Oct. 8
May 7	Nov. 5
June 4	Dec. 3

Woodbine DC
Please Call for Information
609-861-6006
10:00am - Noon

ANNOUNCEMENT

DEADLINE FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS IS
Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Do you want to become an Independent Advocate?

The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project is expanding their program to Individual – Independent Statewide Advocates.

You **DO NOT** need to belong to a local group to join.

Please fill out the confidential information below and return to:

**Ashley Ritchey c/o: The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project
985 Livingston Ave., North Brunswick, NJ 08902**

Your Name:(Please Print) _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ NJ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

E-Mail Address: _____

THE NEW JERSEY SELF-ADVOCATE'S SPEAKERS BUREAU:

The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project is also seeking individuals who are interested in participating in the New Jersey Self- Advocate's Speakers Bureau. You would have the opportunity to testify before the State Assembly & Senate, give presentations to Community Groups and participate in surveys and research studies. Please return the information below to the same address as above.

Please circle best days available:

Sun.—Mon.—Tues.—Wed.—Thur.—Fri.—Sat.

Please circle best time of day:

Morning _____ Afternoon _____ Evening _____

Do you have your own transportation? Yes _____ No _____

Circle interests:

Testify in Trenton---Group presentations---Research---Surveys

NOMINATIONS 2011

We are accepting nominations for the Jane Miller Memorial Leadership Award and the Heroes Award. If you would like to nominate someone for either of these awards, please complete the requested information and return it to The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project by March 22. The awards will be presented at the Spring Into Action Network Luncheon on April 30, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza in Monroe Township.

Please mail your nominations by March 22, 2011 to:

The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project
985 Livingston Ave.
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

The Jane Miller Memorial Leadership Award

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

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.

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, complete the form to the right. Only group members of the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network will be considered.

**Individuals may not nominate themselves.
DEADLINE IS MARCH 22, 2011**

NOMINATION FORM

Your Name _____

Your Telephone _____

NAME OF
NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS &
TELEPHONE

(_____)

SELF-ADVOCACY GROUP NAME:

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER:

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

****Please send a copy of awards, certificates
or recognition letters****

Come join The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project &
The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network
at the...

Share Ideas

6th Annual Spring Into Action Network Luncheon

Saturday, April 30, 2011

Fun With Friends

Registration 10:00 – 11:00 am • Luncheon 11:00 am

Elegant Dining

\$40.00 per Person

Crowne Plaza Hotel
390 Forsgate Drive
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

REGISTRATION FORM DEADLINE: Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Please print clearly

*Pre-March 29 Registration Rate: \$40/person
After March 29: \$45/ person*

First/Last name of Attendee: _____ Agency: _____

Self-Advocacy Group Name: _____ County: _____

Primary Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Special Diet: ☐ Chopped ☐ Puréed ☐ Fruit Only ☐ Other: _____

Title: (Please Circle) Self-Advocate Advisor Support Staff Family Other: _____

MENU

*Chicken Marsala
Crowne Plaza Salad & Vegetable
Rolls & Butter • Rice or Potato
.....Chocolate Cake.....*

NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER THE PHONE

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

The Arc of New Jersey

MAIL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT TO:

Ashley Ritchey
The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project
985 Livingston Avenue
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

For further information call Ashley Ritchey @ 732-246-2525 x22

NOMINATIONS DEADLINE: March 22

We are now accepting nominations for the Group Achievement Award and the Advisor of the Year Award. If you would like to nominate someone for any of these awards, please complete the requested information and return it to The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project by March 22. The awards will be presented at the Spring Into Action Network Luncheon on April 30, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza in Monroe Township.

Please mail your nominations by March 22, 2011 to the following address:

The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project

985 Livingston Ave., North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Group Achievement Award

The NJSSAN is an advocacy organization made up of, and led by, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This network of individual self-advocacy groups and five regional councils work cooperatively to foster change and to increase community awareness about issues of importance to people with disabilities.

Each year, a self-advocacy group is selected 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 "Making the Difference" Group Achievement Award is given to a group who goes out of their way to demonstrate the following: (1) Group works together to set goals and plan activities that address issues of interest to the group; (2) Has leadership structure that demonstrates the group is composed of and managed by self-advocates (3) Utilizes advisor support as a tool to carry out the group's goals and objectives; (4) Group is a member of the Self-Advocacy Network. Please submit your nomination with copies of awards, certificates, and/or recognition letters.

Please complete the following nomination form and return to the NJ Self-Advocacy Project, 985 Livingston Ave., North Brunswick, NJ 08902 by March 22, 2011 (Additional paper may be used). PLEASE PRINT

Group Name:

Supporting Agency
& Address

Group Advisor(s):

-
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? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 3. How does your group use its advisor to support the group to carry out the group's goals and objectives?
 4. Is your group a member of the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 5. List your group's self-advocacy goals and accomplishments from July 2010 - present:
 6. List ways your group sought to raise community awareness about developmental disabilities from July 2010 – present.

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: (1) assisting individual members or the group as a whole in learning about self-advocacy; (2) assisting in organizing and supporting the self-advocacy group; and (3) 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.”

At the 6th Annual Spring Into Action Network Luncheon, we will be recognizing an individual who stands out among the crowd and has gone above and beyond in their role as an advisor. Please submit your nomination with copies of awards, certificates, and/or recognition letters.

Please complete the following nomination form and return to the NJ Self-Advocacy Project, 985 Livingston Ave., North Brunswick, NJ 08902 by March 22, 2011. (Additional paper may be used). PLEASE PRINT

Your Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Name of Your Nominee: _____ Agency: _____

Nominee's Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Self-Advocacy Group Name: _____

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?

3. For additional information call 732-246-2525 ext. 22

**INDIVIDUALS MAY NOT NOMINATE THEMSELVES
DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS IS MARCH 22, 2011**



Big changes to the Look of The Arc in March 2011!

On March 1, 2011, The Arc on the local county, state and national levels started using a brand new logo, colors and identity. The change has spurred a re-energizing of the organization and a re-commitment to its vision and values: To uphold the human and civil rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Go to The Arc of New Jersey's website at www.arcnj.org to see more about the exciting new brand identity. And we invite everyone to join The Arc and fulfill our new tagline.....

Achieve with us.

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 on 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?

If so, submit your nomination today!

**Individuals may not nominate themselves.
DEADLINE IS MARCH 22, 2011**

NOMINATION FORM

Your Name_____

Your Telephone_____

NAME & ADDRESS OF
NOMINEE_____

YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT IN SELF-ADVOCACY: _____

IS THIS PERSON INVOLVED IN OTHER GROUPS, BOARDS OR
COMMITTEES? ____ YES ____ NO

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER:

- 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?

****Please send a copy of awards, certificates
or recognition letters****

PERMIT # 496
New Brunswick, NJ

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**New Jersey
Self-Advocacy Project**
985 Livingston Avenue
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

