

Spring 2013

# The Self-Advocate

A Newsletter Produced by The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project



**The Speakers** with The Arc of Essex County accepting the **Group Achievement Award**

**Flip this page for the  
Official Registration Form**

8th Annual NJSSAN  
**Spring Into Action  
Luncheon**

Registration **Deadline** is

► **April 1, 2013** ◀

Also included in this issue:  
Annual Awards Nomination  
Forms, GAAP Update, Council  
Calendars

Awards Nomination Deadline is

► **March 11, 2013** ◀

## **New DDD Rule Mandates Medicaid Eligibility for Adults Age 21 and Over to Receive Services**

As of January 22, 2013 the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) adopted a new rule requiring Medicaid eligibility in order to receive services through DDD for adults age 21 and over.

If not already receiving Medicaid, individuals who are currently DDD eligible have up to 60 days (before March 22, 2013) to become Medicaid eligible or risk the discontinuation of their services.

Individuals using a private insurance carrier as their primary means of health insurance can remain with that carrier, but they will also need to become Medicaid eligible to continue receiving services through DDD.

### **Do you need to apply for Medicaid?**

Contact the [Board of Social Services Agency](#) in your county as soon as possible.

### **Have you applied for Medicaid in the past and been found *ineligible*?**

Please visit [The Arc of New Jersey's website](#) for details or call (732) 246-2525 ext. 24

# Official Registration Form

## The 8th Annual *Spring Into Action!* Statewide Self-Advocacy Luncheon

Saturday, April 13, 2013

*The Imperia*

1714 Easton Avenue Somerset, NJ 08873

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Space is limited. Early registration is advised!**

**Registration deadline is April 1st, 2013.**

A \$10.00 Late Fee Will Be Charged to Any Registration Form  
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 Conference 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.**

First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate any special dietary requests:**

**Vegetarian Meal**

**Chopped Meal**

**Other:**

**Fruit For Dessert**

**Puréed Meal**

\_\_\_\_\_

Conference Fee is **\$45.00** if your registration form is received after Monday, April 1st, 2013.

**Please make checks payable to:**



**Mail All Registration Forms and Payment to the  
Attention of: The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project  
985 Livingston Avenue, North Brunswick, NJ 08902**

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Amex (  ) Master Card (  ) VISA (  ) Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Required) **Signature** x \_\_\_\_\_



# NOMINATIONS 2013



Your Name:

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Your Telephone:

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Your Agency Name:

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Your Agency Address:

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Your Self Advocacy Group Name:

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**DUE BY MARCH 11, 2013**

Send to:  
 The Self Advocacy Project  
 985 Livingston Avenue  
 North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
 Phone: 732-246-2525 x26  
 Fax: 732-214-1834

## 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, **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?

**NAME OF NOMINEE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please send copies of awards, certificates or recognition letters\***

## 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 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 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\***



# NOMINATIONS 2013



**ALL ENTRIES ARE  
DUE BY  
MARCH 11, 2013**

CHECK OFF THE  
NOMINATIONS YOU ARE  
PARTICIPATING IN:

- The Jane Miller Memorial  
Leadership Award
- The Heroes Award
- Advisor Of The Year Award
- Group Achievement Award

**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: 732-246-2525 x26  
Fax: 732-214-1834

## 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please send copies of awards, certificates or recognition letters\***

## 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 2011-Present.
- 6) List ways that your group sought to raise community awareness about developmental and intellectual diseases from July 2011- Present.

**NAME OF GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF GROUP ADVISORS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please send copies of awards, certificates or recognition letters\***



**The Governmental Affairs Ambassador Program**, a special collaboration between The Arc of New Jersey and New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project, is about self-advocates **affecting positive change** on a legislative level. Advocates can help New Jersey become a more inclusive, accepting and progressive place to live by reaching out to legislators and decision makers and educating these representatives about the needs and concerns of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Legislators are making decisions that affect the daily lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the services they receive and the supports offered by independent community providers and agencies. It is crucial that these decision makers hear the facts from people receiving these **services** and **supports** in order to make the best choices.

The Governmental Affairs Ambassador Program is a way to make sure that people with disabilities are prepared to **communicate their needs** to the people making decisions about their lives. Ambassadors will have the opportunity to meet and speak with decisionmakers in their communities, craft **letters of recommendation** to legislators as well as to provide **testimony** at legislative hearings in Trenton.

Ambassadors will learn how to connect with local decision makers, as well as members of the State Administration, and **educate** them on the **issues of importance** to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The work of Governmental Affairs Ambassadors will ensure a brighter future for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families throughout New Jersey.

**Would you like to get involved?**  
**Please call us at 732-246-2525, ext. 37 or**  
**e-mail [ARitchey@arcnj.org](mailto:ARitchey@arcnj.org)**



# New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network Council Calendars

## Council One

Hunterdon, Morris,  
Sussex & Warren Counties

**January 31**

**February 21**

**March 21**

**April 18**

**May 16**

**June 20**

**July 18**

**September 19**

**October 17**

**November 21**

**December 19**

**Location**

[Hackettstown Regional](#)

[Medical Center](#)

[651 Willow Grove St.](#)

[Hackettstown](#)

**5 PM - 7 PM**

For directions & information, please  
contact **Ashley** at 732.246.2525, ext. 37  
[aritchey@arcnj.org](mailto:aritchey@arcnj.org)

## Council Two

Bergen, Passaic, Essex,  
Hudson & Union  
Counties

**January 24**

**February 28**

**March 28**

**April 25**

**May 23**

**June 27**

**September 26**

**October 24**

**December 12**

**Location**

Subject to change  
Please call  
732.246.2525, ext. 37

**4 PM - 6 PM**

For directions & information, please  
contact **Erin** at 732.246.2525, ext. 26  
[ecaprara@arcnj.org](mailto:ecaprara@arcnj.org)

## Council Three

Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth,  
Ocean & Somerset Counties

**January 8**

710 Hermann Road in North  
Brunswick

**February 12**

180 Ewingville Road in Ewing

**March 12**

150 Oberlin Avenue in Lakewood

**April 9**

710 Hermann Road in North  
Brunswick

**May 14**

180 Ewingville Road in Ewing

**June 11**

150 Oberlin Avenue in Lakewood

**August 13**

150 Oberlin Avenue in Lakewood

**September 10**

710 Hermann Road in North  
Brunswick

**October 8**

141 N. Main Street in Manville

**5:30 pm - 7 pm**

For more information, contact the [NJ Self-Advocacy Project](#): 732-246-2525, ext. 22

**Council Four  
Counties**

Camden  
Burlington  
Gloucester

**Dates**

January 26  
February 26  
March 23  
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May 28  
June 25  
---  
August 27  
September 24  
---  
November 26  
December 17

**Times & Locations**

Subject to change  
Please email  
[cburke@arcnj.org](mailto:cburke@arcnj.org)



**Council Five  
Counties**

Atlantic  
Cape May  
Cumberland  
Salem

**Dates,**

**Times & Locations**

Subject to change  
Please email **Caitlin:**  
[cburke@arcnj.org](mailto:cburke@arcnj.org)

**EVERYONE** is welcome to attend  
Council meetings of the  
New Jersey Statewide  
Self-Advocacy Network  
(NJSSAN).

For more information,  
please contact the  
New Jersey  
Self-Advocacy Project:  
[NJSAP@arcnj.org](mailto:NJSAP@arcnj.org)  
**732-246-2525, ext. 22**

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

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Do you want to help restore the  
**Jersey Shore?**

Consider **donating** to the Salvation Army!

82¢ of every dollar donated will be used to help **Restore The Shore**. The Jersey Shore needs your help to rebuild!

There are several ways to donate funds.

**Online:**

[http://www.use.salvationarmy.org/use/www\\_use\\_newjersey.nsf/](http://www.use.salvationarmy.org/use/www_use_newjersey.nsf/)

**Phone:**

**1-800-SAL-ARMY**

**Mail:**

Please make checks payable to The Salvation Army

**The Salvation Army New Jersey Division  
P.O. Box 3170  
Union, NJ 07083**