



Self-Advocates Celebrate ADA Anniversary



Self-advocates headed to the Point Pleasant Boardwalk in July to celebrate the 29th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to recognize the tremendous impact the ADA has had on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Self-advocacy groups from The Arc of Union, The Arc of Salem, The Arc of Warren and the NJSSAN Advisory Board set up an information table and spoke with beachgoers. They distributed materials to educate

others about the importance of the law and promoted respectful language. To view more photos, [click here](#).

The Arc National Convention Set For October New Jersey Well Represented by Speakers and Award Winners

The Arc of the United States will be holding its national convention October 11-14 in Washington, DC. The annual event is a great place to network, get up to date on what's happening at the federal level and learn about initiatives from across the country. **Jessica Oppenheim, Esq., Director of The Arc of NJ Criminal Justice Advocacy Program** will be presenting at a workshop on how states are responding to the critical issue of sexual violence against people with I/DD. **Heather Comstock and Chris Hemmer, from local chapters of The Arc in Essex and Sussex, respectively,** will be presenting on how to establish and maximize corporate partnerships. And one of the highlights of this year's event will be when **Tom Baffuto, Executive Director of The Arc of New Jersey** receives the 2019 Executive Excellence Award from the National Conference of Executives of The Arc (NCE). This prestigious award is granted to a chapter Executive Director whose career exemplifies the fulfillment of the mission, core values and position statements of The Arc, and is the highest honor bestowed by NCE. Congratulations Tom! To see more about The Arc National Convention, including registration information, [click here](#).



Tom Baffuto will receive the 2019 NCE Executive Excellence Award at The Arc National Convention.

Self-Advocates Plan 36th Annual Fall Conference



Each year The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project and the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network come together to host the annual New Jersey Self-Advocacy Network Fall Conference for an all-day event of advocacy, education, socializing, and networking. This year's conference will take place on Saturday, Sept. 28th, at **The Westin Princeton**. The event will include workshops on a variety of issues including: transportation, supported employment, governmental affairs and voting, healthy

communication and financial literacy. The registration deadline is Wednesday, September 4th, so [click here](#) to reserve your spot! Questions? Contact Frankie Bayak at fbayak@arcnj.org or call (732) 749-8514.

The Arc of Warren Triathlon

On July 13, The Arc of Warren County hosted the TRI Mountain Lake Sprint Triathlon in Liberty, NJ. The event included a 0.5 swim, a 15 mile bike and a 3 mile run. Proceeds will support The Arc of Warren and their recreation services for persons with I/DD. The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto participated in this wonderful event and is pictured below with his team, along with Annamaria Lalevee and John Whitehead of The Arc of Warren.



It's Christmas in July at NJ Camp Jaycee!

On July 31st the campers at NJ Camp Jaycee enjoyed the wonder of Christmas as they celebrated their annual "Christmas in July". Enthusiastic camp staff went above and beyond to create a magical holiday atmosphere, including decorations, special treats, a holiday party and a visit from Jolly Ole St. Nick. See how much fun camping can be by visiting their [Facebook](#) page.



Chapters Step Up For The Arc 2019

The Step Up For The Arc walks are an annual statewide initiative of The Arc of New Jersey, with walkathons held locally by every county chapter. It's a fun, healthy and easy way to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Make sure to [check out this page](#) for details about an upcoming walk near you!

The Arc of Ocean, pictured above at their 2018 walk, will hold their event on Saturday, October 12th at FirstEnergy Park in Lakewood. The Arc of Hunterdon will host their walk on September 28th and The Arc of Atlantic will host their walk on October 12th. [Click here](#) for locations and start times.



Save the Date for The Arc of NJ 70th

The Arc of New Jersey is turning 70 years old in 2019! Incorporated in 1949, The Arc of NJ was started by families of individuals with I/DD with the goal of establishing a statewide organization committed to improving the quality of life of children and adults with I/DD, and their families. As part of our 70th Anniversary festivities, The Arc of NJ is planning a 70th Anniversary Dinner for Thursday, November 21 at The Imperia in Somerset. Look for more information including the announcement of our 70th Anniversary Award winners in this newsletter and on our website at www.arcnj.org.

The Arc of NJ Recognizes Staff

On July 17th The Arc of New Jersey staff took some time to get together during the organization's 2019 Staff Appreciation Luncheon. An annual event, the staff appreciation luncheon gives us the opportunity to get staff up-to-date on what is happening in the organization, network and celebrate the successes of the past year. Staff reaching milestone anniversaries with The Arc of New Jersey are also recognized. Celebrating 5 year anniversaries were Sharee Gregory, Michelle Roberts, Lisa Ford, Teresa Dimitri and Caroline McLaughlin. Erin Smithers celebrated 10 years and Dave Matush 15 years. Anna Scruggs and Michael Prendergast celebrated 20 years and Susan Reves reached the 25 year milestone. Congratulations and thank you to all our wonderful staff!



Information On Demand!

The Arc of New Jersey - and its programs and special projects - host and record dozens of webinars each year. Our website has more than 200 recorded presentations that could answer some of the questions you may have about supports and services for people with I/DD and their families.

[Click here to see our Top Ten viewed webinars!](#)

Need help or more information? Want to become active in our advocacy network?

- **Visit our website** to access lots of great information that can help you navigate service systems, find resources and keep you informed as to the important issues facing children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
- **Join our advocacy network** to add your voice to the thousands who are working hard to promote and protect the quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Visit our website

Join an Advocacy Network

The Arc of New Jersey | 732.246.2525 | info@arcnj.org | www.arcnj.org

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