

The Articulate

The Articulate is a publication
for employees and friends of
The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania



United Way Day of Caring 2010
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Summer of Records

by Maryclaire Kretsch

This was a summer of records; the most days 90 degrees or more, most freeze pops consumed by any one group of campers. For those who enjoy the sun and heat, it was the perfect summer to use the pool, to camp and to fish. Enjoy the summer---we sure did.

There were cook outs galore, Meadow Avenue, Robinson Park, and Rebecca Avenue, hot dogs and the boys of summer at the stadium, smiles in the sand of New Jersey beaches. It was a feel good summer, particularly at Camp Appletree and Camp Lackawanna.

Forty-five youngsters arrived the morning of July 7th at Weston Park in Scranton. Fifteen camp counselors, most of which were new to the camping experience, had a good idea of what to expect for the next six weeks. Mari would leave no stone unturned in turning these freshmen into alert, caring counselors. Eleven campers arrived at Phifer Ice Dam Park in Lehighton to a counselor

census filled with compassion and experience. As it always seems, the weeks of camp went by in haste. There was a lot of laughter, hugs, and even the occasional and dreaded pool evacuation. But what was to come took everyone but the most experienced by surprise.

As we celebrated Halloween in July, Christmas in August, visited the Butterfly farm, went swimming at the state park, we counted heads and lunches, lunches and heads. We applied and reapplied sun screen, filled the coolers with cold drinks in the morning, emptied and cleaned the coolers at the end of each day. Routines were important but could not rival the growing relationships.

The hazy days drew on, one after the other, with little relief of the heat in site. Before we knew it, the last day of camp was here. Pictures of the fun shared over the past few weeks were posted. Each camper and counselor wore their Camp 2010 t-shirt. The kids

shared their camp photo with each of their family members who came to the last day party.

The good-byes came harder then anyone imagined they would. Over the past month or more, nervous first time counselors, the experienced senior counselors, and campers became friends, friends with a bond of having shared the summer of 2010. Families thanked staff for their time and their compassion and for giving them peace of mind. Camp was over for another year.

Kerry and the counselors packed up arts and crafts supplies and the few freeze pops left, closed up the box of lost and found, and reflected. Camp was much more then they expected it would be. It was much more then guiding kids to a fun summer. Lives were touched.

So it will be until the boys of summer are back again and the cooler is once again overflowing with freeze pops.

Celebrating the Anniversary of "The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990"

It was 20 years ago, on July 26, 1990, then President George H. W. Bush, signed the ADA into law. This land mark civil rights law prohibits discrimination based on disability. Disability as defined by the ADA as a "physical or mental impairment

that substantially limits a major life activity' Please join us in celebrating the legislation that made broad protections available for people with disabilities. And thanks to all those who fought to make it happen!



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President's Message



Greetings from the President's desk.....cluttered, but the view is gorgeous!

I feel privileged and honored to serve as the President of the Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania. I extend a special thank you to the Board of Directors and the membership for your votes of confidence.

As I look out my office window and notice the subtle changes of the season, I contemplate on the changes, challenges, and sometimes uncertainty that we face. However, I am reassured knowing that our organization has been blessed with excellent staff---dedicated to their profession, who continuously face the unpredictable of day-to-day business of the Arc straightforwardly, ethically and with professional grace.

I would like to thank Alan Hughes, The Arc's outgoing President, for his leadership and dedication to our organization, and Don Broderick, Executive Director, for his calm endurance in training yet another volunteer.

In nearly a decade that I have been involved with

the Arc, I witnessed that even with threats of budget changes, and different perceptions and sometimes insensitivity towards the people we serve, our focus and mission has remained steadfast---protecting, advocating and assuring a good quality of life for our consumers---individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

With a back ground in fundraising, I would be remiss if I did not thank you for your continuous financial contributions to the Arc, and extend a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful support groups---The Arc Foundation, The Arc Auxiliary, PODS, PPODS, Knights of Columbus and Kiwanis. Although you may never meet the people who will benefit from your thoughtfulness, I know that if you did, they would express their deepest gratitude to you.

As we move forward into a new fiscal year, I promise that we will remain focused on the challenges we face, guardians of those who are in our care, stewards of your generous gifts, as we remain a fiscally sound and responsible organization.

Respectfully,
Alexandra "Sandy" Yantorn, President

Exec's Corner



For those of us who have been around awhile, some of us a long while, the budget process redefines the words "well here we go again." First they talked of a 1% budget cut to community based services for people with intellectual disabilities. Then they talked about FMAP \$ and a potential \$850 million budget shortfall. Then FMAP passed the Federal houses but with a

\$250 million shortfall in PA. Potential tax increases and revenue generating ideas were discussed. More confusion. Then a potential 4.67% cut in community based waiver services were proposed. The latest news we have is a potential 2.50% cut in provider rates. More discussion to come in late September. As of this writing, we are still unsure of our 2010-2011 budget numbers. What a way to run a business! Rest assured we will do our best to maximize available dollars to support our constituents.

SB699, PA's bill to create an adult protective service system has passed the State Senate. To become law it must pass the State House before this session ends. It currently sits in the House Health & Human Services Committee and if not voted out soon it will be lost by the end of this session of congress. You can help by calling your state representative today. A simple message is all you need to say "Please pass SB699 as quickly as possible without amendments." This bill will protect people with disabilities from abuse and neglect. We have been trying to pass this legislation since 2006. Current laws and policies do not protect people with disabilities between 18 and 59, and unbelievably PA is one of only 5 states without protective services for adults. It is long past time to fix this gaping hole in our safety net.

We at The Arc of NEPA are vehement supporters of the "Spread the Word to End the Word" campaign. The

word "retarded" has become demeaning, derogatory and pejorative. Sara Wolff, board member, and self-advocate extraordinaire is leading the charge locally. It is a national goal of The Arc to change that term in society.

Another hot button on the agenda today is the "Pennhurst Asylum, Institute of Terror." A few years ago, discussion began on the possibility of building a respectful museum on the grounds of Pennhurst State Center. Pennhurst finally closed in 1986 and all the residents were sent back home. It was a horrible place. I visited there a number of times when we first began providing residential services. A number of our residential consumers had lived there at some point in their lives. Over 10,600 others lived there too. "Once called the shame of the nation, Pennhurst was the epicenter of a civil and human rights movement that changed the way the world saw people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The atrocities and neglect at Pennhurst resulted in Supreme Court litigation that sounded the death knell for institutionalization worldwide." But today a developer wants to develop a "haunted attraction" for the Halloween season. The Arc and other similar groups find this appalling, insensitive, and downright disgusting. Many people with disabilities died there. A tribute and museum in their honor, yes: a haunted Halloween attraction for personal profit - NO. Please note a few websites if you want additional information:

1. www.preservepennhurst.org
2. www.pennhurstasylum.com

You can sign a petition on website 1 in opposition to this travesty.

Does anyone think we have more work to do in society to change attitudes?

That's all for now.

Respectfully yours, Don Broderick

Public Relations and Development Update

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held June 29, 2010 at the Parish Center. For Outstanding Philanthropy, we recognized the Hubbard Bicycle Club (for their efforts with the Polar Bear Plunge - brrrrrr) and to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Paulino. In Special Recognition, Brothers Helping Others and Pizza Hut were given an award for their generosity toward the children and adults we serve. Extraordinary Dedication was given to Mrs. Bernie Dzielak and her daughter gave a very touching speech. The Board Member Term of Service Awards were accepted by William Burke, William Burnell, Carol Chisdak and Joseph Hollander. As a surprise, The Arc Award was presented to The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary Education Committee for all of their hard work. I don't believe there was a dry eye in the center after all the presentations.



Pictured - seated from l-r: Nancy Crafferty, Arc Auxiliary - Education Committee Co-Chair; Betty Moreken, Arc Auxiliary - Education Committee Co-Chair; Bernie Dzielak; Matt Kaczmarczyk, Brothers Helping Others; Carol Chisdak, Arc Board Member. Standing from l-r: Ann Hoffman, Arc/Auxiliary Board Member; William Burke, Arc Board Member; Carol Burke, Auxiliary Board Member; Michele McDade, Auxiliary Board Member; Eileen Rempe, Arc Director PR/Dev't; Corolla Sawka, Auxiliary Board Member; Eileen Williams, Auxiliary Board President; MaryCarol Kanton, Auxiliary Board Member; Ian Lenciki, Brothers Helping Others; William Burnell, Arc Board Member.

Foundation Annual Meeting

On Wednesday, June 23rd, 2010, at the Radisson , Scranton, The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania held its 13th Annual Foundation Luncheon.



Pictured seated L-R: Alexandra Yantorn, Arc Board President; Steven Seitchik - Foundation Board President; Donald Broderick, Arc Executive Director; Jeanene Nealon; Atty. Richard Bishop; Carol Chisdak. Standing L-R: Eileen Rempe, Arc Director PR/Dev't; Mary Lou Miller; Mark Lynn; William Burnell; Frank Hoban; Patrick Cole; Elaine Shepard; Ann Hoffman.

Membership Mixer

The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary are planning a Membership Mixer for Wednesday, October 13th at 6:00 p.m. at Cooper's Restaurant. Father Joseph Sica will be the speaker and Mashed Potato Martinis will be featured.



Seated l-r: Corolla Sawka; Betsy Youngblood; Carol Burke; Eileen Williams; Maron Bielovitz. Standing l-r: MaryCarol Kanton; Ann Hoffman; Connie Wolff; Betty Moreken; Nancy Crafferty; Eileen Rempe; Michele McDade; Marie Maddi.



2010 Summer Camp

*Submitted by:
Mari Pizur and
Kerry Fallon*

Ninety degree weather didn't stop our campers in both Lackawanna and Carbon Counties from having fun. With the

rays beating down on all of us, we managed to stay cool with sprinklers, swimming and lots of ice pops! Summer camp was the place to have fun and meet new friends. We did Tye-Dye T-Shirts, had a Pirate Theme day, played basketball and kickball. We also had relay races, story times and completed several arts and crafts projects.

Each camp had special days planned. In Lackawanna we had a Fire Safety Day (presented by Scranton's Finest), Halloween in July, Christmas in August (Santa arrived on a Fire Truck) and riding the water slides at Nag Aug Park. Carbon campers visited the Butterfly Sanctuary, saw the Wizard of Oz play, went to a Black Smith, enjoyed ice cream at McDonalds and went swimming at Mauch Chunk Lake.

This year was a little different for both camps. Lackawanna's Camp started at 9:00am in the past, but this year due to service definition revisions, it was necessary to start camp at 11:30 A.M. Our Carbon Camp was fortunate enough to have their camping experience extended from 3 week to 4 weeks.

The smiles and the laughter were indicative of summer fun at camp!

Pennsylvania Senate Bill #628

Pennsylvania Senate Bill #628 which is currently before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives seeks to implement in Pennsylvania, the U.S. Supreme Court's affirmative decision in the "Atkins" case which ruled that capital punishment for people with mental retardation violates the U.S. Constitution. Pa. Senate Bill #628 further requires that a pre-trial procedure presided over by a Judge will determine a defendant's mental retardation status This Senate Bill passed that legislative body by a 45-2 margin and if passed by the Pa. House will ultimately go to Governor Rendell for his expected signature.

For the sake of this article, I would point out that the term "mental retardation" is only used because it is the exact terminology used in the Supreme Court decision and in the actual Pa. Senate Bill. We all know that today the accepted and proper language would be - a person with an intellectual disability.

Some would argue that any type of mental disability could therefore exempt a person from capital punishment. This is simply wrong!! The Supreme Court's decision is strictly limited to mental retardation, a relatively rare condition that is tightly defined and easily determined by clinicians. To suggest that juries should have sole discretion to decide whether a person with mental retardation should be executed is equally fallacious. Juries aren't experts in establishing that determination. It is entirely possible that after being exposed to evidence of a heinous crime it

may be impossible for them to render an unbiased opinion on what is essentially a clinical matter. Also, why burden taxpayers with the expense of a costly capital trial only to find out AFTER the trial is over that the defendant was never eligible for capital punishment in the first place? Would we put a juvenile through a capital trial only to look at their birth certificate after the trial to learn that they were under the age of 18 and ineligible for execution?

Since the U.S. Supreme Court has ALREADY ruled that executing people with mental retardation is unconstitutional, the only question being debated by lawmakers is whether a defendant's mental retardation should be determined pre-trial by a Judge or after trial by a Jury. I recently testified at a Pa. House committee hearing in Harrisburg on behalf of The Arc for passage of Senate Bill #628 and as a passionate Advocate for people with intellectual disabilities.

To assist in our efforts on behalf of this Bill and its passage in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, we would appreciate your assistance and advocacy by contacting your local Pa. House Representative and lobbying for their support of Pa. Senate Bill #628.

Bill Burke
927 Greenfield Rd.
Moscow. Pa. 18444
570-842-2221 (H)
570-575-4269 (C)

United Way - Day of Caring 2010



The United Way's Day of Caring has been an annual tradition of caring since 1994 and has grown to be the premiere volunteer effort in our community with the value of completed projects surpassing the \$1 million mark!

Day of Caring is held each year in September as the unofficial kickoff to the United Way's annual campaign. Each year, hundreds of area people roll up their sleeves and make a difference by working with the United Way and one of our partner agencies for the day.

Volunteer teams are comprised of employees, students, teachers, business and government leaders and other community-minded citizens. The volunteer projects include landscaping, painting, cleaning, maintenance, revitalization, client interaction and scores of other critical tasks to benefit the local organizations making a difference in our community every day!

News and Notes

Auxiliary News

The Auxiliary will continue readings in the Fall at MidValley, North Pocono and possibly Wallenpaupack Area. Sara Wolff will be a presenter and also a reader. We will be reading several books with a focus on Down Syndrome since October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month. The ladies received \$1,500.00 from UNICO Foundation and \$500.00 from Walmart. They will continue to apply for funding because this program is vital to their mission and the continuation of the program is important to all of them.

The ladies ran a successful bus trip to Mount Airy Casino on July 31, so they had another one on Saturday, September 25. Also, they had a sock/underwear campaign to have extra supply for our consumers in our program. Hundreds of pairs of extra necessities were given to the day program. To raise some extra funds, the ladies are having a bake sale on October 22nd. In between all the goings-on of the ladies events, with the help of Mary-claire Kretsch and a dedicated group of women, the Auxiliary is on the way of finalizing their by-laws. So, the ladies are keeping very busy.

Arc Update

The membership mailing is out so please send in your renewals. We will send a reminder in the next couple months. If there is anyone you know who would like to join our organization please let me know and I will be glad to send them a letter. Please do not forget about membership. Your renewals are vital to our organization. As you know,

the more members we have the more votes we have when it comes to legislative issues affecting the folks we serve.

We received a grant from the Pennsylvania State Grant Fund, through an application made to Senator Mellow's office, for \$99,500.00. The grant will help repair the roof on the building on Meadow Avenue. We are really excited about being able to get some of this work done on the building and for this wonderful grant opportunity.

Several months ago, we were notified that 8 children with Autism lost their funding to attend Summer Camp. After making an application for a grant, the Margaret Briggs Foundation gave us \$18,000.00 for the children to have the summer camp experience. We were so very happy with this generous act of kindness.

The Recreation department sponsored The Arc in the Park at Waldorf Park on September 15th. This event is the recreation department's largest fund raiser and the community support is really appreciated.

Please mark your calendars, the annual board retreat is going to be held on Tuesday, October 26th at Coopers.

Foundation Overview

Our 10th Annual Golf Tournament to honor the memory of Dr. D.J. Maldonato, was held on September 20th at Glen Oak Country Club. The committee has done a great job especially in these very difficult, economic times. We wish to thank everyone for their support - this event is the agency's largest fund raiser for the year and we are sincerely appreciative for all the community support.

The Right to Education Task Force

*Jeannie Lally, Director,
Advocacy Services*

It is back to school time for hundreds of families in our six county service area. It is that wonderful time of the year when we hear the cacophony of daunting acronyms like IEP's, ER's, LRE's, SDI's, MAWA's, NOREPS and so much more. Confused? You should be. However, there is help and hope. Please consider becoming involved with yet another acronym; your local LTF! That would be your local Right to Education Task Force...depending on the Intermediate Unit in which you live; that would be LTF #19 or LTF#20. Parents frequently tell me that they have never, ever heard of their Local Task Force, and mandated purpose, so, I am here to tell you all about it!

The Local Right to Education Task Force (LTF) began with the historic Right to Education Consent Agreement. This truly put PA on the map of significant improvements for children with developmental delays and guarantees a free public education for ALL school -aged children. The agreement was formed by the parties named in this landmark class action lawsuit and includes the Departments of Education, Department of Public Welfare (Office of Developmental Programs) and the Arc of PA.

Compliance with the agreement included the formation of the State Task Force and that group

includes representatives from the Department of Education, (Burroughs of Special Education) the Office of Developmental Programs, the Governor's Office, and the Arc. The main objective of the Agreement is to continually strive to initiate and improve educational programs that will guarantee a free appropriate education.

Similarly, it is the Local Right to Education's mission and focus to ensure that programs and services are meeting the educational needs for children who are identified as eligible or 'thought to be' eligible to receive specially designed instruction. Therefore, it is the LTF's legal and moral responsibility to see that the spirit and intent of the PARC Consent Decree is carried out.

If you have any interest in the future of Special education please do consider becoming involved. The LTF's membership, according to The Local Right to Education Handbook, should be comprised

meetings are open to the public and I invite any vested family member, agency personnel, advocate to become involved.

The Task Force meetings are intended to be informational and provide networking opportunities. There are opportunities to meet and speak with advocates. After a brief business meeting a presentation of interest should be made available. We look to our membership for suggested training opportunities. The LTF membership is required to be at least 51% families. Personal issues are best addressed in private with those directly involved or with an advocate therefore, the task force meeting is not a venue to air specific personal concerns. We are, however, interested to learn about what may be considered as 'systemic' issues. There are opportunities for open discussion outside of the regular meeting. The group consists of a diverse group of human resources and many questions can be

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in the future of Special education
please do consider becoming involved.***

of at least 51% families of children with special education needs. Further, each Task Force should be composed of an IU director, a school district superintendent, a county MH/MR representative and a local Arc representative. Elections are to take place in May or June of each year and we hope to keep these positions filled with folks committed to the mission. From the membership the LTF requires election of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Recording Secretary. The

answered.

Intermediate Unit Administration, School District Administrations, County Administrators, the Arc and other relevant provider agencies" are invited to participate. We hope to share information candidly and resolve any potential problems at this very local level. We provide collaborative opportunities and enjoy meaningful and timely discussion. These meetings are often quite informative and local resources can be introduced and

explored.

Further duties of the LTF's are to monitor special education programs and services, assist administration to carry out the PARC Consent agreement, help parents to understand the laws, review recommendations of the State Task Force, foster cooperation with school districts and related agencies, help to identify local needs and make recommendations, suggest solutions to problems, help to educate the community, review special education plans and help to collect data that checks the effectiveness of the Right to Education Consent Agreement. Although that looks like a momentous task, striving to assume shared responsibilities and working cooperatively with educational entities are efficient. The LTF should be viewed as resource to carry out the spirit and letter of the Right to Education Consent Agreement. (PARC vs. the Commonwealth) The LTF welcomes items, in writing, to be placed on the agenda.

Presentations related to special education should be planned prior to July 15th and made available to the state and to the public. Ideas for presentations are taken from the membership so those opportunities are tailored to meet the membership's needs.

The State Task Force meets each month throughout the school year and serves as advisory to the local task forces. This past August 7th, thanks to The Arc of PA's great advocacy efforts, a

Wal-Mart State Giving Grant was secured and made possible the first annual LTF Retreat. The Intermediate Association also helped to make this very worthwhile project possible. Seventeen out of the 29 LTF's met

and discussed common concerns and constructed future goals. The day consisted of four breaks out work sessions. These included 'how to run an effective/efficient meeting, 'using technology', 'the role of the chair and vice chair', 'challenges of parent participation'. It was a very productive day and all participants agreed that we hope this event was but the first of many more.

We are quite fortunate to have the support of such a terrific group of State Representatives

Feel free to contact me at the Arc for specifics or check out our website or the Intermediate units Websites.

I hope to continue to assist families to enhance their understanding of the many laws and regulations that impact their rights and to help them to develop plans that will guarantee an appropriate education and that lead to independence and happiness. Please call the Arc of NEPA @ 346-4010 for any additional advocacy information.

*We have a bright future
and I look forward to this renewed
commitment and collaboration.*

who are dedicated, creative, and committed facilitators and participants. As part of the follow up plan, the State Task Force is sponsoring a luncheon and 'Leadership Training' for all LTF Chairs/Co-Chairs in Harrisburg on Wednesday, September 22. I anticipate that our network of LTF's will become stronger, better organized and more effective. We have a bright future and I look forward to this renewed commitment and collaboration. The Arc of PA has already set up a 'Google group' where we have an open format to exchange information throughout PA and our 29 LTF's.

So, if you have an interest in improving special education in PA please consider getting involved. LTF #19 meetings are typically the second Tuesday of each month @ 7PM(during the school year) in Scranton and LTF # 20 meetings are usually @ 9:30AM, the second Monday of the month in Easton.

**Please
consider
getting
involved –**

**our Local
Right to Education
has important
responsibilities and can
have the capacity to
ensure that all children
receive their entitled
free and appropriate
education!**

**Call the
Arc of NEPA
at 346-4010**



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Our Vision

"People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are entitled to live full, self-determined respected lives."

VISIT US AT:
www.thearcnepa.org

Affiliated with the , The Arc of PA and The Arc of US.

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Membership is the key...

You can help. Become a member of The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania today. Benefits include:

- National, state and local newsletters with current information on intellectual and developmental disabilities
- The opportunity to participate in The Arc affairs at a local, state and national level.
- Attend conferences, conventions and seminars at a reduced cost.
- Discount prices on publications.
- Insurances services, credit card programs and long distance telephone services.

Stay Informed!

Membership Registration

New Member

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Type of Membership

\$25.00 - \$49.00 Friend

\$100.00 - \$499.99 Supporter

\$1,000.000 + Partner

\$50.00 - \$99.99 Sponsor

\$500.00 - \$999.99 Benefactor

Please remit to:



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Sign Up!