

The Arc NEWS

December 200



Ursula York

Annual Meeting Update

About 50 members and friends attended The Arc's 55th Annual Dinner Meeting at Roma Lodge in Racine November 17th. Ursula York was elected to a first term as President of the board at the 55th annual meeting that was held at Roma Lodge on November 17, 2009. Also elected to first terms were Tom Durkin, Vice President, and Faye Miller Secretary. Jeff Timm was elected to a third term as Treasurer.

Elected to a second term on the board of directors were Georgia Nicks and Michelle Snyderman. Elected to a third term was Julie Maurer. Continuing their terms on the board are Richard Stein, David Prins.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS.

Deanna Trevino and Rosemarie Aiello were elected to first terms on the board of directors. Deanna is employed by S.C. Johnson as a global relocation specialist and is very interested in advocating for individuals with disabilities, a new passion since her 4 year old daughter Isabella was diagnosed with autism. Rosemarie brings her knowledge about Down syndrome, gained from raising her 7 year old son Jack. She also will be a great resource for the agency because she brings her knowledge of technology that she uses in her position with Modine Manufacturing as a senior business analyst.

BOARD MEMBERS LEAVING

The Arc had to say goodbye to two board members that have brought much to the organization. Past President Sheila Johnston and Secretary of the board Jane Nielsen will be missed for their dedication and support to the organization through their work on various projects.

MAJOR CHANGE IN BY-LAWS

The membership also made a bold move at the annual business meeting in changing the by-laws. The membership of the organization will now be a non-voting membership. This was a recommendation made by a consultant that has worked with us on an organization assessment and strategic plan. Members will still retain benefits of membership at all levels, local, state and national, but the board will be the decision making- body of the organization.

THANK OUR LUCKY STARS

Recognition was given to those who have been members of The Arc for 10 or more years. Those present at the event were the following people:



Sheila Johnston, Jane Nielsen, Vi Bertlesen, Esther Roeckl, Rita Klinkhammer, Sandy Engel, Al Gerardo, Ben and Nancy Greenebaum, Cheryl Zwaga, Martha Bodenbach, Cathy Pietras and Marcel Dandeneau. Special Recognition was given to Marcel as he has been a member for over 40 years! Appreciation was also given to participants in the Citizen Advocacy Program and to advocates attending including: Sandy Wahl, Al Gerardo and Martha Bodenbach. Richard Gerardo and Cathy Pietras were thanked for helping with the Walk N Roll and the Holiday Treat Sale.

PETER LEIDY

Guest Speaker and songwriter Peter Leidy was the main attraction at the meeting. One guest of the evening who has been to many Arc dinners, said Peter was the best speaker ever! He has been learning from people with disabilities since 1983 through his consult with individuals, families, managed care organizations and counties in Wisconsin. His humorous, thought-provoking songs about life in the human service system reflect challenges faced by people providing and receiving services. He told a story about a man that he worked with who left the institution after being there for 25 years, who was considered "non-verbal" because he never spoke while in the institution, but then one day after he was living in the community just started talking. He also talked about how important it is for us to hear what a person is telling us, not just with our ears but our eyes and hearts. In this talks around the country Peter also stresses the following:

- Believing in positive possibilities
- Building community relationships
- Listening deeply
- Working as a team
- Embracing curiosity
- Understanding the power of language

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During the annual meeting we also highlighted the work that the Arc has been doing and handed out an annual report. Here is some of the information from the report.

Surveys Show Educational Outreach Successful

In spite of a troubled economy, The Arc of Racine continued to make a difference in the lives of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Much of our work during this past year was in educational advocacy for students with a disability label. In this area, we served 30% more children than in the previous year. Surveys sent to parents and others using our services continue to reflect that we are meeting our outcomes:

- 98% said our services increased their knowledge
- 97% said they increased their confidence level and coping skills
- 96% said they were better able to assist their family members with disabilities.

What People Have Said about The Arc's Advocacy Services:

The following comments were made by teachers and administrators about The Arc's school advocacy efforts:

"The Arc is a valuable tool for parents. The advocates work well with RUSD in finding the best opportunities for students."

"The advocate has the capacity to bring great comfort to parents who are stressed over the IEP process."

"Please continue this vital service for parents and children with special needs."

Organizational Assessment Completed:

Strategic Planning Continues during 2009-2010

During this past fiscal year, the board and staff of The Arc completed a process called an organizational assessment, which provided many recommendations to help us become a stronger organization. One of the recommendations was the need for strategic planning, which we began in May, and was completed during this fiscal year (2009-10) year. We hired consultant Christianne Murn, from Murn and Associates, who met with the board and staff and lead us through the process. We are grateful to UW-Parkside and their capacity-building grant project for non profits which provided funding for the planning and consultant.

The Arc's Advocacy in Action: Highlights from 2009

- Provided one-to-one assistance to 155 families of children with disabilities, 53 adults with disabilities and trained over 200 parents and professionals.
- Spearheaded the Racine/Kenosha Legislative Breakfast on Disability Issues. 8 out of 10 legislators attended to hear consumers and others speak about funding concerns.
- Invited Dr. Shaw, Racine Unified School District's Superintendent, to speak at our annual meeting about his vision for special education.
- Trained parents and professional on topics such as IEP Development, Behavior, Guardianship and ADA law.
- Advocated for Racine County to fund the Children's Waiver Program.
- Represented disability issues and best practices on several committees at the Racine Unified School District including Inclusion, Parent Leadership and the development of a Special Education Department Handbook.

If you would like a copy of The Arc's 2008-2009 Annual Report, please call our office at 262-634-6303 or find it on our webpage at thearcofracine.org.



Happy Holidays from All of Us Here at The Arc

We are asking all of our members and friends to please consider making a year end donation to The Arc of Racine. We rely on contributions from individuals and businesses in the Racine community so that we can continue to offer programs and services.

Please think about why The Arc is important to you and your family and consider donating today!

We greatly appreciate any amount you can contribute.

Please note: Our office will be closed December 24 until January 4.

THANK YOU! WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU.

Our deepest appreciation to the many members and contributors who supported our cause during the period of time from July 2008–June 2009. If we received your donation after July 1, 2009, your name will appear on next year's listing.

Alpha Homes	Don Harrington	Keith Peterson
James and Julie Arens	Susan Henderson	Frank Phillips
Gary and Mary Ann Bartles	Barry and Christine Henkel	Mary and Thomas Pietras
Judi Behrendt	iGive.com Holdings, LLC	Drs. Larry & Michelle Snyderman Platt
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David Bennett	Larry Johansen	Stefan Prins
Vi Bertelson	Susan Johnson	Vandana Prins
Gregory and Elizabeth Bisser	Thomas and Shelia and Thomas	Racine Unified School District-
Betty Blackman (<i>deceased</i>)	Judge John Jude	<i>Lighted Schoolhouse Grant</i>
John Blessinger	Karen and Clarence Kaplan	Tony and Donna Rangel
Martha Bodenbach	Laurie Kell	Donald Reuter
Leon Broman	Kristine Keuffer	Kathy Rider
Gary Brown	Jane Kirchgassner	Phillip Robles
Careers Industries	Steven Kitelinger	Ed and Esther Roeckl
Karen Christensen	Rita Klinkhammer	Roberta Rogstad
Susan Christensen	Knights of Colombus	Antonio and Marcia Rottino
Timothy Crawford	<i>Council #13583</i>	Roundy's Inc.
J.D. and Shelly Culea	<i>Council #697</i>	S.C. Johnson and Son, Inc.
Marcel Dandeneau	<i>Council #4831</i>	S.C. Johnson Fund
David Popoff	Sandy Kontra	St. Luke's Hospital Trustees through
Developmental Disabilities	Var Krikorian	<i>the Racine Community Foundation</i>
Information and Service	Christine La Rosa	Sharon Schultz
Jane DePelecyn	Diane Lange	Ann Schultz
Disability Rights Wisconsin	John and Cathy Lehman	Dave and Arlene Schultz
Roberta Domer	Richard and Ellen Leuenberger through	Frances Scott
Susan Drenkhahn	<i>the Racine Community Foundation</i>	Carl Sederberg
Darlene Duncan	Gary and Gerry Lipor	Mary Sederberg
James and Bonnie Eastman	James and Debra Luetzow	Dr. Robert Siegert
Educators Credit Union	Nancy Macintosh	Janet Sinsky
Amy Edwards	Shirlie Macintosh	Sisters of Saint Dominic, Mission Fund
John and Sandy Engel	Tony and Kathy Mattson	Kathryn Skow
Eye Clinic of Racine, LTD	David and Julie Maurer	Frances Smetana
Jill and John Finger	Patricia McKee	Michelle Smetana
First United Methodist Church	Agnes McMahon	Judith Stanbrook
Mike & Ann Flegel	Metro Milwaukee Auto Auction	Richard Stein
Patrick & Elaine Fogarty	Kay and Catherine Mikaelian	Anne Stoltenberg
Irene Foster	Faye Miller	Linda Surratt
Marilyn Fralich	Mound Avenue Associates, LLC	The Arc of Wisconsin- DAWN Grant
Fraternal Order of Eagles	Mark Mucklin	Timer's of Racine
Therese Friedrich	Barney and Peggy Nelles	Jeffrey and Patrice Timm
Fred & Deborah Ganaway	Jeffrey and Katherine Nelson	United Way of Dane County
Mikael & Alice Garoukian	David and Jane Nielsen	United Way of Racine County
Al and Jonelle Gerardo	Lauren Nielsen	University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Carol Grebe	Michael Nilles	(CAN Grant)
Ben & Nancy Greenebaum	Lawrence and Carol Norton	Judy Unrein
Gary & Susan Guttenberg	Florence Ohm	Grace Verhaeghe
Julie Hachikian	Dr. Jerry & Susie Oksiuta	Edward and Janna Waldeck
Linda Hagen	Vera Paliani	Willard and Mary Walker
The Hamilton Family Fund through the	Palmen Automotive Group	Carole Wallace
<i>Racine Community Foundation</i>	Susan Perry	Wilson's Coffee and Tea

*Every effort was made to correctly list the names of our members and donors.
To correct an error or oversight, please call our office 634-6303.*

Gift Giving for a Great Cause - Holiday Treats

Decorative Tins of:

- 1 lb. Deluxe Mixed Nuts \$11
- 1 lb. Chocolate Covered Peanuts \$11
- 2.5 oz. Pecan backs (Turtles) \$18

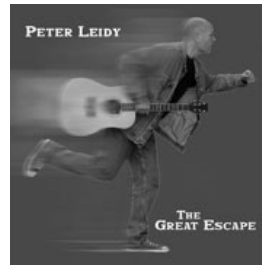
SOLD OUT

Still Available:



1 lb. bags of The Arc's Anniversary Blend Coffee from Wilson's Tea and Coffee. (Some of the BEST coffee around). Regular \$10.00 and Decaf \$12.00 / Ground or Beans available.

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- Supporting people through relationships with them
- Asking "What brings out the best in this person?"
- Having power with, not power over
- Questioning structures and policies that limit people

Check out Peter's web page for CD's : www.peteleidy.com

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