

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON MENTAL RETARDATION

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NOTICE

- ◆ Next meeting of the New Jersey Chapter of AAMR will be at 3:00 pm, Thursday, March 23, 2006, held at the Community Access Unlimited Board Room, 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ.

Go to www.caunj.org for directions

- ◆ Minutes of 1/20/06 NJAAMR Meeting
- ◆ The National AMR Conference will be May 2—5, 2006 in Montreal, Canada in conjunction with its International Summit on Social Inclusion.

Meeting Minutes January 20, 2006

Attendance: Cheryl Hardy, Sheila McDowell, Karolina Scutari, Jagruti Patel, Adelaide Daskam, Sid Katz, Cynthia Heller, Samuel Jenkins, Takeena Thomas, Wendy Nehring, Roy Leitstein, Alvin Cox, Sid Blanchard

Sid Blanchard passed out last AAMR newsletter

Alvin Cox – New Region IX Chair

Opening for Treasurer – Floor opened for nomination. Sid Katz nominated Sheila McDowell. Adelaide Daskam, Second. Sheila Appointed as new Treasurer

Introductions by group

Announcement by Sid Blanchard:

- ◆ Fiscal: \$12,000 in the bank
- ◆ Rebates have been reinstated by national AAMR. When their budget is in good shape, some money may come to our Region. Some of the money may go to special interests.
- ◆ We need to come up with fundraising ideas and activities for Region IX.

National AAMR

- ◆ National conference coming up in Montreal, Canada
- ◆ International focus on Social Inclusion. 22-23 different countries have

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- submitted abstracts.
- ♦ Name change and other issues stemming from September conference will be discussed.
- ♦ AAMR is working toward states or regions to volunteer to sponsor conferences.
- ♦ Conference calls are available for anyone who wishes to call in about name change (1-866-902-2211)
 - ▶ 1/20 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
 - ▶ 1/27 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
- Intellectual Disabilities – ID or combination of the two
- Development Disabilities– DD
- Proposed name changes:
- AAID
- AADD
- AAID & DD
- ▶ A ballot will be processed in the near future for all to vote
- ▶ National level is mixed on name. Small minority says to keep name as is. Not included in the ballot.
- ♦ Conference - 5/1/06 Reception
AAMRQL.org – specifics for event.
- ♦ AAMR has gotten away from having decisions, instead now has professional interest areas.
 - ▶ Possible now for a group, locally or nationally, to form own professional interest group. Interest must be submitted to National for approval.
 - ▶ This change took place because AAMR wanted people to produce Action Plan. As long as group is active, AAMR will support the group.
 - ▶ Many special interest groups have formed as a result of this new approach.
 - ▶ Advocates now have the opportunity to start their own special interest groups and network with other special interest groups.
 - ▶ Sid Blanchard and Sid Katz started and funded, at the national level, a special interest group for members. \$5,000 budget allocated to this group.
 - ▶ Sid Blanchard passed around a list of special interest groups.
 - ▶ Forms for “Action Plans” can be accessed on-line through AAMR website.
 - ▶ Sid Katz talked about bringing in college students to the advocacy movement.
 - ▶ Alvin talked about the need for action plans as proof of productivity of the special interest groups.

Regional Update – Alvin Cox – 2005 Synopsis

- ♦ Alvin nominated as chair of Region IX
 - ▶ June meeting with state president of Pennsylvania – Paul Spangler. Pennsylvania has a very active chapter.
 - ▶ February state meeting with Pennsylvania – Alvin to attend.
 - ▶ Alvin happy with representation at national conference
 - ▶ Alvin Hoping for more activity for the region. Meeting with Pennsylvania to put some activities together.
 - ▶ Sid Blanchard may be taking on role of State Treasurer. Newsletter and call for nominations to go out by June.

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- ▶ Alvin would like to pull someone in from Virginia to be back on the Board.
- ▶ Delaware has no representation at this time.
- ▶ West Virginia has no activity at this time.
- ▶ Alvin will follow up with name of advocacy groups and leaders in advocacy for Sid Katz to follow up
- ▶ NJ Alliance started off with coalition through Boggs Center. Many groups were represented: ABCD, NJACP, Self Advocacy Project, ARC, NJP&A
- ▶ Meeting held after September Alliance. Part of the group wanted to continue alliance, but it was ended.
- ▶ Commissioner Davy called for a meeting to discuss issues in disability community, facilitated by NY facilitators, very few advocates showed up. Many professionals showed up and representation from institutions.

Focus groups included conversation on keeping the Institutions open. No follow-up received after this meeting.

Budget Issues:

- ◆ 5-6 billion dollars deficit will hurt direct services.
- ◆ State is in budget crisis
- ◆ Healthcare, salaries, overtime issues, utilities have impacted many providers statewide.
- ◆ A future meeting needs to be set to talk about action plans.
- ◆ Advocates and families need to become involved with budget issues.

Lawsuit

- ◆ State has been sued by NPP&A
 - ▶ 3,200 in institutions. Out of this number about 1,500 have been targeted in 1998 as to belonging in the community. The state has not moved on this. State developed a 10 year plan in 1998 to close institutions, take the money and put into the community.
 - ▶ Plan targeted that by 2008 there would be 7,500 people on the waiting list, however we are there already.
 - ▶ AAMR is now faced with deciding how they want to get involved, i.e. taking a position statement.
 - ▶ 42 states have increased state money to support people with disabilities. NJ has decreased the amount. NJ has the largest number of people in institutions and group homes.
 - ▶ State Senator Kean, Jr. has put a bill together to call for another study on the waiting list.
 - ▶ NJ can reach out to legal process and advocacy. Special interest group to determine action.
 - ▶ We need to develop a separate mechanism for people to join to support the law suit.
 - ▶ Only 20% or so of the 1,500 people still in institutions have families. Many others do not have anybody representing them. Some people have families advocating to keep institutions open.
 - ▶ AAMR needs to get a coalition going; get position statements and press releases out.
 - ▶ Sid Blanchard wants to identify workshops to bring in AAMR professionals to build interest and awareness.

AAMR Membership Application

Send this application and your payment information to AAMR, 444 N Capitol St, NW, #846, Washington, DC 20001-1512 or by fax to (202) 387-2193

Please print/type Mr. Ms. Dr. Rev. Sr.

Name _____ Nickname _____

Office Home Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
 (____) _____ (____) _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Country _____

AAMR 2006 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES & DUES (SELECT ONE)

<p>_____ Active Member-For disability professionals who wish to stay current on the latest developments in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. Includes our highly ranked journals <i>Mental Retardation</i> and <i>the American Journal of Mental Retardation</i>; FYI-the Association's monthly electronic newsletter, and access to <i>Washington Watch</i>. Includes member discounts at conferences; discounts on books and other publications; and reduced rates for posting classified advertisements on AAMR's Career Connections, our online career service where resumes are posted for free. Active Member Dues \$150</p>	<p>_____ Sustaining Member-For current and future leaders in our field who wish to support research, policy, advocacy, and service the Mission of the Association. Sustaining Member Dues \$250</p>
<p>_____ Associate Member-Special membership for Young Professionals and Direct Support Professionals making less than \$25,000. Includes general Active Member benefits of, and on line access to either q <i>Mental Retardation</i>, OR q <i>The American Journal on Mental Retardation</i>. Associate Member Dues \$75</p>	<p>_____ Family Member/Self-Advocate Member-For individuals with disabilities and family members who have incomes less than \$25,000 per year. Family Member/Self-Advocate Member Dues \$75</p> <p>_____ Electronic Member-For electronically savvy disability professionals who wish to access their information by electronic means only. E-Member Dues \$150</p>
<p>Full Time Student Member-Reduced-price membership for full time students preparing for a disability related career. Requires confirmation of student standing from faculty advisor. Active member benefits. Student Member Dues \$50 I hereby verify that the person making this application is a full-time student (graduate or undergraduate) preparing for a career related to mental retardation. College/University _____ Graduation Date _____ Signature, Faculty Advisor _____ Date _____</p>	

Join the Conference of Professional Interests each division and special interest group is only \$10 each.
By joining these professional groups you can tailor your membership to benefit your needs.

Administration	Communication Disorders	Community Services	Creative Arts Therapies
Direct Support Professionals	Down Syndrome	Education	Families
General	Genetics	Gerontology	Health Issues
Legal Processes & Advocacy	Leisure & Recreation	Medicine	Mental Health Services
Multicultural Concerns	Nursing	Nutrition & Dietetics	OT & PT
Psychology	Religion & Spirituality	Sexual/Social Concerns	Social Work
Technology	Vocational Rehabilitation		

AAMR 2006 Membership Dues (from one category above)	\$ _____
1. Conference _____ \$10 each	\$ _____
2. Conference _____ \$10 each	\$ _____
3. Conference _____ \$10 each	\$ _____
4. Conference _____ \$10 each	\$ _____
Total Dues Enclosed, Payable to AAMR	\$ _____

Credit Card Information: Visa MasterCard Check enclosed payable to AAMR

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Account _____ Signature _____