

# AAIDD

FORMERLY AAMR

Alvin Cox, Chair  
c/o Community Access Unlimited  
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2007 Annual Meeting  
**Save the Date!**

May 21 -24, 2007 ~ Sheraton Atlanta  
Atlanta, GA

## The Chairperson's Corner

By Alvin Cox

As I complete my first year as Region IX chair person, I've participated in several activities at the state level which only strengthens my resolve that Region IX is still very active. My goal is to bring the states together for a regional conference. I met with representatives from the Pennsylvania Chapter and they have agreed to host a Region IX conference in the Spring of 2007. The Regions support will be necessary to make this a successful conference.

State Updates: the Pennsylvania Chapter is in support of a law suit regarding the closing of the Altoona Regional Center. I've spoken to a representative from Delaware and he is interested in rejuvenating the Delaware State Chapter and will be meeting within the next couple of weeks to potentially plan for a state meeting within the next couple of weeks to potentially plan for a state meeting. New Jersey continues to be very active in hosting workshops and advocating for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please contact me at (201) 997-9371 ext. 18 or [pti450@aol.com](mailto:pti450@aol.com) if you have any ideas to further strengthen Region IX. All in all 2005 has been a good year. I look forward to working with you all in 2006.

To all the offices who have worked extremely hard this past year keeping the Region up and running, I thank you very much for your commitment and dedication to AAIDD.

## AAIDD Region IX Treasurer's Report:

By Mary Sowers

### Assets:

Checking Account:	\$10,198.47
Saving Account:	\$ 950.00
*Certificate of Deposit:	\$ 4,696.73
(matures 5/27/06)	
Total Assets:	\$15,845.49

Liabilities: None

Net Worth: \$15,845.49

## Officers

### Chair

Alvin Cox (NJ)  
Pathways to Independence, Inc.  
60 Kingsland Avenue  
Kearny, NJ 07032  
P: (201) 997-9371 ext.18  
F: (201) 997-7070  
E: [pti450@aol.com](mailto:pti450@aol.com)

### Vice Chair

Paul Spangler (PA)

### Secretary

Bonnie Minick (PA)

### Treasurer

Sidney Blanchard (NJ)

### Member-at-Large

Karolina Scutari (NJ)  
Sidney Katz (NJ)

### Assembly Representatives

Nancy Kirchner  
Todd Wilson (MD)

## Action Plans

Action plans must be completed by each entity that wants to meet, each state chapter needs to submit an action plan to the National Office; this will show that your chapter is active. National will also issue rebates to active chapters who submit action plans. If you need additional information on how to submit the action plan, refer to the website and/or contact the National Office, they will provide information on the process.

## E-Line on Nine

REGION IX NEWSLETTER

Summer/Fall 2006

(Continued on page 2)

## The Chairperson's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

### Conference Planning Committee:

The Pennsylvania Chapter of AAIDD has agreed to host the Region IX Conference in the Spring of 2007. The Region and the Pennsylvania Chapter are soliciting your support. A conference planning committee needs to be established. The planning committee will consist of the following sub-committees: site planning, publicity, call for papers/speakers committee, conference organization/planning committee, brochure and mailing committees, these are a few of the sub-committees that are needed to plan and organize a successful conference. And once we begin meeting I'm sure we will develop other sub-committees. Conference planning meetings will be conducted via conference calls and regular scheduled meetings at a central location. If you are interested in participating on the conference planning committee, **contact me by August 31**, at (301) 997-9371 ext. 18 or by email: pti450@aol.com. Your support is greatly appreciated.

### Pennsylvania AAIDD Takes a Leadership Role in Lawsuit which Prohibits Individuals from Moving into Community.

In keeping with its principles and mission to promote dignity and respect for all persons as well as to support the outcomes of the Alliance for Full Participation, PA AAIDD has taken a leadership role in challenging a January 30, 2006 federal district court (western district of Pennsylvania) opinion restricting the movement of people with mental retardation and their access to a life in the community.

The original lawsuit, "Linda Alexander by her Guardians and next Friends, Francis Alexander and Mary Alexander et. al. vs. Edward Rendell, as Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Department of Public Welfare, et. al." was filed in the fall, 2005. In the original suit, Plaintiffs requested, among other issues, that the court order Altoona State Center to remain open and to further prohibit the transfer of individuals at that center to any other site including "another state-operated facility or community-based residential settings."

On January 30, 2006, Kim R. Gibson, Federal Court Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, issued a Memorandum Opinion and Order of Court allowing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to close the Altoona State Center. The Judge's ruling, however, further noted:

1. "No resident be transferred to a community-based care facility without the written consent of a resident's legal guardian;"
2. "Where legal guardians do not indicate their decision to transfer their ward on or before March 8, 2006, such wards shall not be transferred to community-based care but shall be transferred to Ebensburg Center, provided that such placement is consistent with that ward's individual support plan;"
3. "Defendants may begin the immediate transfer of any resident **once the placement chosen by the legal guardian** has been communicated by Plaintiff's counsel in writing to Defense council."
4. "Legal guardians shall be sought for the remaining residents who do not have such representation."

**PA AAIDD believes that the current court order is inconsistent with law based upon the Constitution of the United States.**

PA AAIDD believes that the current court order is inconsistent with law based upon the Constitution of the United States. Particularly, the Due Process and Equal Protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment as well as numerous federal and state statutes including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Accordingly, on March 8, 2006, PA AAIDD jointly filed a "Motion to Intervene of Right as Plaintiffs" with seven other concerned professional and advocacy organizations. The motion contests Judge Gibson's current Court Order.

At this writing, PA AAIDD, along with the other Plaintiff Interveners, are awaiting the Court's decision. For additional information, please email either Paul Spangler at paul.spangler@phila.gov or Marianne Roche at marianne.roche@phila.gov.

  
*Noteworthy:*

- The 2006 AAMR Midwinter meeting: December 1-3, 2006, The Double Tree Hotel (Crystal City) Arlington, Virginia
- National AAIDD, May 21-24, 2007, Atlanta, Georgia

*Results of the Vote on the Name Change*

The members of the American Association on mental Retardation have voted to: 1) change the name of the organization, and 2) adopt "American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities" as the new name.

This change will not alter the mission of the organization but will rather bring the name more in line with general usage in the field and with the day to day work of our members.

The Regional Chapter should discuss changing its name to AAIDD.

**AAIDD can give you that competitive edge.**

**Joining/Renewing is easy**

Log on to **[www.aamr.org](http://www.aamr.org)**

***American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
Region IX***

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Formerly known as American Association on Mental Retardation

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# AAMR Membership Application

Send this application and your payment information to AAMR, 444 N Capitol St, NW, #946, 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)

\_\_\_\_\_ **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 *Mental Retardation* and *the American Journal of Mental Retardation*; FYI-the Association's monthly electronic newsletter, and access to *Washington Watch*. 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

\_\_\_\_\_ **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

\_\_\_\_\_ **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  *Mental Retardation*, OR  *The American Journal on Mental Retardation*.

Associate Member Dues \$75

\_\_\_\_\_ **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

\_\_\_\_\_ **Electronic Member**-For electronically savvy disability professionals who wish to access their information by electronic means only.

E-Member Dues \$150

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (202) 387-1968/Toll-Free (800) 424-3688, Fax: (202) 387-2193

Visit AAMR's website at [www.aamr.org](http://www.aamr.org) for information on Agency Sponsored Group Memberships