



Knowledge | Support | Empowerment

Sidney Blanchard, President
 c/o Community Access Unlimited
 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202
 Phone: (908) 354-3040 ~ Fax: (908) 354-2665
 sblanchard@caunj.org

Region IX and New Jersey Chapter
 Combined Newsletter

Winter 2018



Faith Into Action: Tim Williams of the Union County Interfaith addresses the participants

Faith Into Action - 2017

AAIDD MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council recently held a "speed dating" event at Suburban Golf Club in Union to allow its member congregations to interact with people with disabilities and at-risk youth who are not currently associated with a religious community, telling them about their faiths and organizations and offering them the opportunity to join.

The second year of this event – called Faith into Action – allowed members of Community Access Unlimited (CAU) and people from the community who are not currently affiliated with a house of worship to meet with representatives of more than 25 churches, synagogues, mosques and temples to determine if they might be a good fit for them, according to Sid Blanchard, CAU executive director. More than 80 CAU members attended and there were more than 50 "matches," he added.

CAU is a statewide Elizabeth-based nonprofit providing support programs and services to adults with disabilities as well as youth served under the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to enable them to live independently in the community, in areas including housing, vocational skills and life-skills training, education, advocacy and recreation.

The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council, is an organization comprising more than 50 interfaith congregations and community-based

(Continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

• Faith Into Action	Cover
• NJ Chapter Board	3
• AAIDD R9 & NJ Chapter Meeting Agenda	3
• Special Interest Groups' Updates	
– Group Dynamics of Human Interactions	4
– Intellectual Disability	4
– Nursing and Supports	4
– Positive Behavior Support	5
– Relationships and Sexuality	5
– Technology Supports	5
– Youth with DDD	6
– Social Integration	6
– Employment Area	7
• Union County Voter Drive for People With Disabilities	8
• Bigotry in an upswing	10
• New American Movement for People With Disabilities	11
• Faith Into Action 2017 Pictures	12
• AAIDD NJ Chapter members at June, 2017 Annual Meeting 13	
• AAIDD Annual Meeting—Save the Date	14
• Join/Renew Your Membership with AAIDD	15



"There is a difference between saying all are welcome and welcoming people as long as they behave the way we want them to behave"

(Continued from page 1)

nonprofits, including CAU. The council promotes inclusion of all people within the community, without regard to race, religion or disability, and creates a clearing house of faith-based, nonprofit and government community services available to the public, according to Blanchard.

"Some of our members have long been disconnected from any organized religion," Blanchard said. "In fact, in the past some have been bullied and shunned and made to feel unwelcome. Our mission is to enable our members to live fully integrated lives within the community and for many people an affiliation with a religion and a house of worship is an important part of community. We wanted to create an atmosphere that would facilitate that."

Carmine Pernini, pastor of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rahway and coordinator of the Interfaith Council, said houses of worship often are homogeneous communities that may feel less than welcoming to newcomers, especially those who are perceived as different, which runs counter to the natural message of inclusion that should be the foundation of all religious communities.

"There is a difference between saying all are welcome and welcoming people as long as they behave the way we want them to behave," he said. "It's really about welcoming people and adapting ourselves to who they are. When you have a new person enter a religious community everything changes anyway. Each person brings their own personality and experiences and that's a good thing."

More pictures on page 17

Next meeting of AAIDD Region 9/NJ Chapter is Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 3:30pm at Community Access Unlimited, 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey, (908)354-3040.

We look forward to seeing you there.



**AAIDD REGION 9 AND NJ CHAPTER
COMBINED MEETING
Thursday, February 15, 2018**

New Jersey Chapter Board

Chairperson:	Sidney W. Blanchard
Vice President:	Bernadette Griswold
Secretary:	Sheila McDowell
Treasurer:	Aisha Arroyo
Member-at-Large:	Alvin Cox
	Open
	Open
	Open

AGENDA

Attendance:

Financial Report: Region IX: \$ 4,347.28
 NJ Chapter: \$43,023.51

Activities Report:

- Upcoming National AAIDD Conference: June 25-28, 2018, St. Louis, Missouri
- NJ Advocacy
- Changes in NJ DDD System
- Status of Region 9

Call for Material for Region 9 and NJ Chapter Newsletter

AAIDD Committee Reports/Activities:

- Group Dynamics
- Intellectual Disabilities:
- Nursing and Supports: HRST System in Action
- Positive Behavior Supports
- Relationships and Sexuality Committee
- Technology Supports: Chair
- Youth with DDD Committee: Chairs - Adolescent Network Newsletter
- Social Integration: Chairs - Religion Newsletter
- Employment Committee: Chairs
- Conferences
 - [Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association \(DDNA\) 26th Annual Education Conference](#), March 22-25, 2018 in Orlando, FL
 - [15th International Conference on Positive Behavior Support](#), March 28-31, 2018 in San Diego, CA
 - [2018 ANCOR Conference](#), April 15-17, 2018 in New Orleans, LA
 - [2018 Disability Policy Seminar](#), April 23-25 in Washington, DC
 - [2018 National Training Institute on Effective Practices "Addressing Challenging Behavior"](#), April 24-27, 2018 in St. Petersburg, FL
 - [Summer Institute on Theology and Disability 2018](#), June 11-14, 2018 in Raleigh, NC
 - [142nd AAIDD Annual Meeting](#), June 25-28, 2018 in St. Louis, MO
 - [Reinventing Quality 2018](#), July 29-31, 2018 in Baltimore, MD
 - [18th Annual Coleman Institute Conference on Cognitive Disabilities & Technology](#), October 3, 2018 in Broomfield, CO

GROUP DYNAMICS

The Group Dynamics committee currently consists of four members. The committee members are Tony Provenzano (Chair), Jeremy Lefever (Co-Chair), Joshua Bradley, and Michael Williams Jr. Group Dynamics trainings continue to be conducted bimonthly. A 2 part training was designed for part time staff and sessions are being offered in the evening. This offering has been extremely successful and provided a significant increase in the number of part time employees who have attended the training. A total of 178 full time staff and 117 part time staff have been trained since the last update. This number is a significant increase in the totals from previous years. Group Dynamics trainings have been scheduled for the following dates in 2018: January 23rd, February 27th, March 15th, April 25th, May 23rd, and June 20th.

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

The Intellectual Disability Committee welcomes a new chairperson, Tyechia Wade. The committee members are Myrta Rosa, Junie Dorceus, Lasson Grisham, and Latasha Perry.

This training has been created as a 6 -7 hour workshop aimed at developing a comprehensive framework for understanding intellectual disabilities, understanding of the methodology for classification, experts on systems of support. There is also a training for 6 -7 hours targeting support staff, to create awareness: Definition of Intellectual Disability, highlighting experiences with discrimination, increased system of support and encourage system change.

The committee's continued goals and to increase awareness in the community and have trainings for personnel at hospitals, schools, emergency personnel, families. In 2018, the group will strive to secure training opportunities in community settings. The group will continue to evaluate of how the current changes in the way supports are provided as a whole are currently being affected by the new fee for service model. Focus will be placed on how waiver eligibility will overall be influencing the ways we support today will be discussed in upcoming trainings.

These trainings are offered quarterly. For supervisors, behaviorists and nurses, they will complete during first 4 months as it will be offered in that period of time, every 3 months the training will be offered. The next training dates are scheduled on March 15, 2018, and June 7, 2018.

NURSING AND SUPPORTS

This committee consists of the QA nurses- four currently and **Rosa Schaefer, Chairperson**. The nurses are Danie Theodore RN DON (*co-chair*), Marie Judith Ophilien RN, Elizabeth Nyaega RN and Jayson Hines Senior LPN. We also consult with the various LPN's at the programs when in need.

We continue to offer nutrition/physical health, diabetes and insulin education trainings. These trainings are updated as new findings develop in the field and are conveniently located online so that staff can increase their knowledge base when schedules allow. We also offer hands on trainings on a variety of medical topics. These trainings are usually offered at least twice a month.

Nurses continue to provide one to one counseling for people with disabilities who have medical concerns and new diagnoses related to nutrition/diabetes. This allows for a person centered approach geared towards each member's individual style of learning. The intervention/control system also remains intact and is being followed as situations may require.

Regularly scheduled reporting and fidelity checks continue to be done thru the HRST system. We remain at the 99% mark of members' ratings being completed and the training continues to be on-going. Staff members also continue to update member information as it may change at their programs with new medications & diagnoses added, hospital

(Continued on page 5)

discharges, etc.

Clinical review is in progress but we need to understand that the rating numbers will always be fluid. Members may show improvement over time with compliance to exercise/nutrition recommendations or may have more needs as they age. Knowing where each member is in their health spectrum and what to keep an eye on in the future is an amazing process nonetheless! We have been in contact with the team at HRST and are starting a new way of thinking, capturing the continuum of progress with a person's care thru data compilation and not just recommendations on what the future may hold. Through this data collection we hope to be able to proactively improve overall health rather than wait for a new diagnosis to dictate change.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

The committee has met all their original goals. A self-instruct on the most commonly seen behaviors and how to address them was completed. Two behaviorists are currently able to do the Positive Behavior Supports full training and two more will be added soon. This training is being done twice a month including weekends.

The Positive Behavior Supports refresher course has also taken on a new format. We have expanded the amount of people we do the training for as well as updated the format. This training is also given twice a month. Three additional behaviorists are being trained as trainers for this training. They are expected to be able to be full trainers in the next couple of months. We continue to have evaluations for both trainings and have very positive feedback about the trainers and content.

CAU is now authorized to do 40 hour training to those staff interested in becoming Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT). We have completed 3 rounds of this training to over 50 staff. At this time, only a Board Certified Behavior Analyst can conduct the training, so we currently have 3 trainers. As of 1/1/18, CAU has 4 official RBTs. The team created a new mental health which is done twice a month, including weekends. Additionally, the team created an Applied Strategies Training which is done once a month.

THE RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY COMMITTEE

The Relationships & Sexuality Committee currently consists of 6 members who consist of 2 behaviorists, 1 QA staff, 1 AED, and 2 directors. Aisha Arroyo is the committee's chair. The committee continues to train new staff on the Relationships & Sexuality curriculum, conducting two trainings per month. Upon program and/or member request, the committee continues to go out to programs and conduct trainings with members in regards to healthy relationships, conflict resolution, personal boundaries, and proper hygiene. Most recently, the committee submitted a poster submission for the Annual AAIDD conference being held in June 25, 2018 in St. Louis, Missouri. The poster, called Relationships & Sexuality: "Healthy Sexual Exploration: Perception vs. Reality" was submitted on November 27, 2017. The committee will explore what happens when people with IDD are unable to deal with their sexual frustrations. The poster will review, "How does a person help someone identify with being sexually frustrated when this person has spent their lives not having sexuality be a part of discussion in their autonomy and self awareness." The committee looks forward to be able to share their findings with colleagues in the field. The committee will continue to research and attend workshops as they arise.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS

Chair – Billy Busch, Co-Chair – Gene Tavera, Member – Boris K., Member - Joe Calabrese

In 2017 Community Access Unlimited was awarded over \$15,000 in grants for assistive technology. One grant is to support the Day program and ACE classes and the other to begin a device library for trialing new technology. Gene took and failed the ATP exam on December 30th. He is awaiting the results and will continue to work towards becoming ATP certified in 2018. The next exam period is in March.

YOUTH WITH DDD COMMITTEE

The Youth with DDD Committee consists of chairperson, Rolando Zorrilla; chairperson, Charlene Walker; and

members Dianna Sims and Tonya Hopkins.

On October 16, 2017, the committee attended a Board Linkage workshop sponsored by CAU. This workshop brought together nationwide leaders from social service agencies. It was an interactive and very educational experience. Professionals spoke about the current systems and problems in their own states. The Youth with DDD Committee also attended meetings at New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth and Families on 10/18/17 and 12/13/17.

In the past 6 months we have been very active with the 6 Core Strategy Program. We are working to create positive cultures of care. CAU's DDD staff have also begun attending Nurtured Heart Approach Trainings and have implemented soothing plans. These plans are created by members so that staff will be better able to assist them in crisis situations.

The goal for 2018 is to once again collaborate with NJACYF to host an annual Provider Conference and to continue to participate in monthly meetings. The committee has also been contacted by a local Support Coordination Agency for the group to provide trainings for their staff on various topics including youth in the DDD system and youth with autism. We are currently working on finalizing this contract. We are looking forward to a busy 2018.

SOCIAL INTEGRATION

The Social Integration Committee continues to meet monthly and discuss opportunities for our members to build continued social capital and be more connected to their local community where they live, work, worship, shop, vote and entertain. Our last meeting was held on December 19, 2017, where we discussed social integration opportunities for the upcoming year.

AAIDD Social Integration Committee attended and assisted with the facilitation of the third annual 'Faith into Action' meeting on April 16, 2017, which provides a networking opportunity for Union County citizens who are searching for a faith community within which to worship. The event was well attended by over 150 county residence, clergy members and Community Access members at the Suburban Golf Club in Union NJ. There were testimonials given by individuals who made a faith connection from previous meeting. Over 50 of Community Access members made a connection while other recommitted to a faith organization. This event was hosted by the Union County Inter-faith Coordinating Council (UCICC).

The fourth Annual Day of Prayer and Reflection was held on October 24, 2017 at the Parish Community of St. Helen in Westfield NJ. It was well attend by more than 550 participants and religious leaders from different faith of worship and facilitated by the Social Integration Committee, amongst others.

The Committee continues to meet monthly with the UCICC to plan activities that aim to promote the building of bonds within the interfaith community by fostering the inclusion and welcoming of others regardless of faith, race or disability and to be proactive on social issues. The community at large is invited to join the UCICC in prayer vigil and/or discussions monthly on topics that affect the general population such as religious freedom, homelessness, building of bridges with the social justice system and spiritual roots to exercising compassion and justice.

Committee member Nichelle Hinton attended the American Network of Community Options and Resource (ANCOR) Annual Conference on May 1-3, 2017 in San Antonio Texas. The conference is attended by executive-level staff, program managers, and Direct Support Professionals who come together to discuss the impact of national policies and regulations on services provided to the individuals we support. The 19th annual Supportive Housing Conference (SHA) on "Climate Change - Building Housing Opportunities in a Changing World" was attended by the Social Integration Committee on December 1, 2017 at the Renaissance Hotel in Iselin, NJ. The conference was a day long informative networking and educational event devoted to housing and supports for people with disabilities

The Committee's annual block party was held on 9/14/17, at the Cristiani St. Programs in Roselle, New Jersey. The event was a success and has been so for the past six years, where CAU members, friends and neighbors of the Roselle and surrounding communities were able to socialize with each other and develop lasting friendships. The committee looks forward to maintaining a relationship with the general community by hosting a yearly party and providing information on the mission of CAU and its integrated programs design to keep our members actively

(Continued from page 6)

involved in their community. Additionally, the committee continues to participate in local events such as health fairs, block parties, summer music concerts and holiday festivities that allows for CAU members to meet people in the communities and form lasting social bonds.

Committee Chair: Maxine DaCosta, Co-Chair: Catherine Balanta, Committee Members: Vallery Supplice, Anne Williams, Nichelle Hinton and Apriah Hammie

Employment Area Committee

The Employment Committee continues to focus on education and implementation of the New Workforce Innovative Opportunity ACT(WIOA). We believe that with effective and comprehensive supports, people with disabilities can gain the opportunity to live independently and lead normal and productive lives as citizens integrated into the community. It is our goal to develop employment opportunities geared toward the adult and transitioning youth population.

The chairperson of this committee is Fredia McKinnie and the co-chairperson is Onekia Grier.

Employment Committee members continue to attend trainings and seminars that is needed to remain in compliance with the new employment initiatives. To ensure that we are prepared and qualified to provide Trial Work Experience, Customized Employment as well as Paid and unpaid internships, each employment Committee member have attended and completed a 6 course certification series to be an approved vendor to provide Customized Employment. This also includes our new committee members.

We attended the DVRS Partnership for Transition meeting in October. CAU will be partnering with DVRS to host one of the Transition Fair & Expo in 2018. We continue to serve on the Workforce Development Board Disabilities Committee.

Our Medical and Behavioral Day programs continue to raise the bar within the state by offering various day habilitation activities to our members. Some examples of those activities are Fundamentals of Imagery, World Cultures, Math Concepts, Reading Fundamentals, Arts & Crafts Expressions, Exercise, Intro to Computers, Morning News, Relaxation Group, Anger Management, as well as Wellness/Healthy Choices. One of our newest additions is Pet Therapy which our members enjoy immensely.

We have expanded from 30-47 and we continue to fill slots as referrals continue to come in. Our referral sources consist of both DDD & Supports Program. Our Adult Continuing Education Program (ACE) continues to do an amazing job. We currently support 50 students that are taking anywhere from 1-11 classes each week. We expanded to offer an additional class which is a card making class. We have worked with our Development Department with submitting 3 grants to expand employment supports. We have been awarded the Kessler Community Employment Grant to increase employment and career opportunities for individuals with disabilities in New Jersey. We are currently in the implementation process.

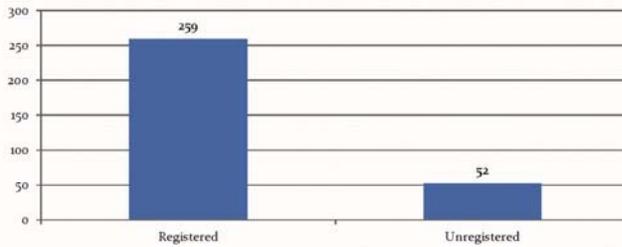
Our focus will include (but is not limited to):

- **Transition to work for youth and adults**
- **Employment-related transportation issues**
- **Vocational training and workplace preparation**
- **Strategies to support recruitment, hiring, placement and retention**

Assistive Technology Transition training - conduct training on the provision of assistive technology services for individuals transitioning from school to career, from early intervention to school, or from a restrictive environment to a non-restrictive environment

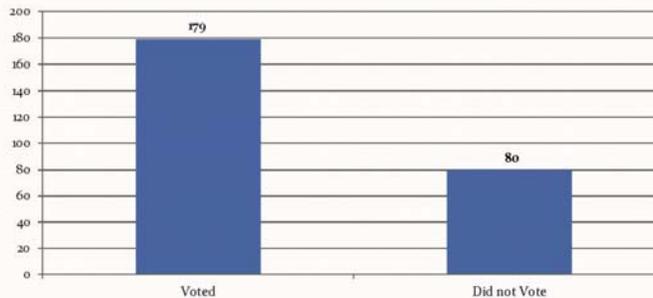
Voting- Registered Voters

Totals:	311	Percentage
Registered Voters:	259	83.28%
Unregistered:	52	16.72%



Voting Results

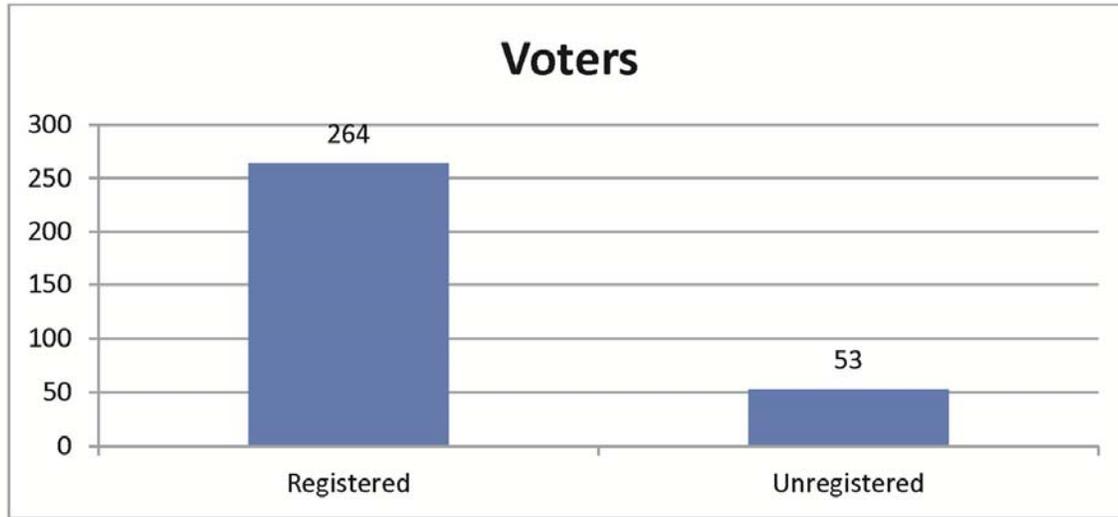
Totals:	259	Percentage
Voted:	179	69.11%
Did Not Vote:	80	30.89%



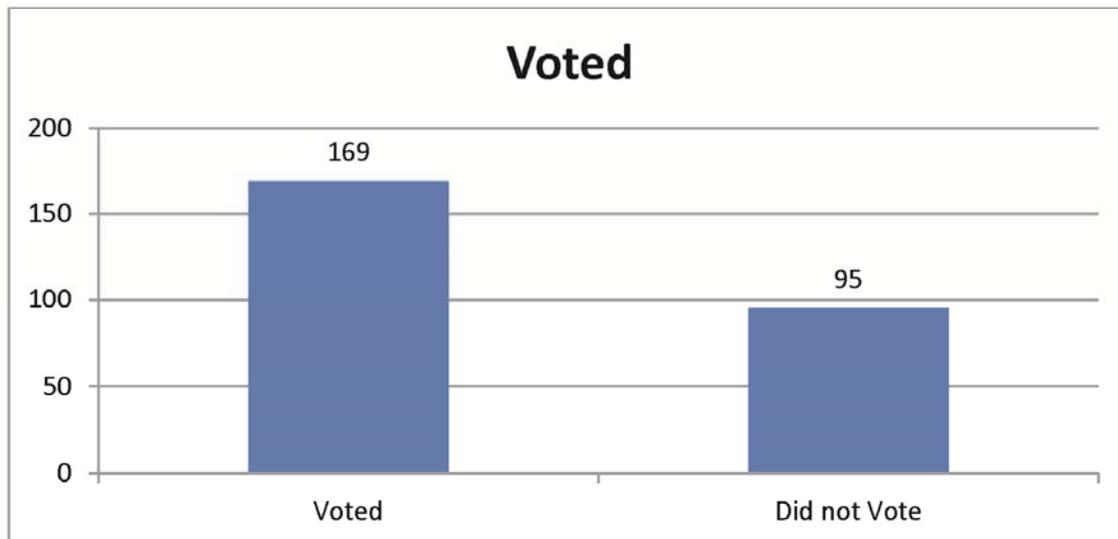
Union County voter Drive for People with Disabilities led to a greater participation in the primary and general election in New Jersey

Primary Election - 2017

Totals	317	Percentage
Registered	264	83.28%
Unregistered	53	16.72%



Registered Voters	264	Percentage
Voted	169	64.02%
Did Not Vote	95	35.98%



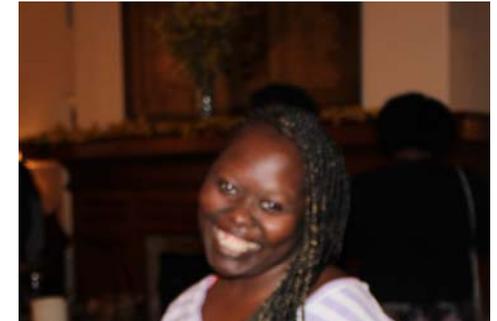
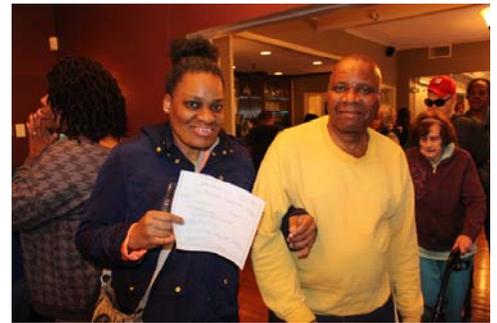
Bigotry in an upswing and organizing is the answer



"Kill retards" found drawn in cement on sidewalk

NEW AMERICAN MOVEMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES





NJ CHAPTER MEMBERS AT THE JUNE, 2017 ANNUAL AAIDD MEETING



The New American Movement for People With Disabilities presented a workshop at the conference.
Michael Williams, Joyce Monroe, Sidney Blanchard, Marveda Jeter, Joyce Cargle, Myrta Rosa, Annie Simms

142nd AAIDD
Annual Meeting
June 25-28, 2018
Hyatt Regency St. Louis
at the Arch Hotel

SAVE • THE • DATE
St. Louis



The AAIDD Annual Meeting, provides with cutting edge research, effective practices, and valuable information on important policy initiatives.

Please visit:

aaidd.org/education/annual-conference

Membership Types

Keeping Up With AAIDD



Like us on Facebook to connect with AAIDD and network with other disability professionals.



Twitter is a great way to stay connected to AAIDD. We regularly post information about upcoming events and publications in addition to keeping you updated on the latest in national disability news.



LinkedIn has the world's largest professional network on the Internet. Joining our group is a great way to connect with professionals in the field with whom you might not come in contact otherwise.



You will find a wide variety of videos on topics ranging from the justice system and intellectual disability to special education best practices to classification and intellectual disability.



Pinterest provides a space for users to organize and share images. We are continually building up our pinboards so you can share our images with others and spread the word about AAIDD news, events, and resources.

International Electronic

Annual dues \$60 (open to those residing outside the US or Canada only)

International Electronic members receive access to electronic versions of *AJIDD*, *IDD*, and *Inclusion*, access to members-only web forums, delivery of electronic newsletters, and entitled to member discounts for meeting registration, book store purchases, and job postings. Members in this category are not eligible to hold office or vote in AAIDD elections.

Basic

Annual dues \$85

Basic members receive access to electronic versions of *IDD* and *Inclusion*, access to members-only web forums, delivery of electronic newsletters, and are entitled to member discounts for meeting registration, book store purchases, and job postings. Members in this category are eligible to hold office and vote in AAIDD elections.

Classic

Annual dues \$135

Classic members receive access to electronic versions of *AJIDD*, *IDD* and *Inclusion*, access to members-only web forums, delivery of electronic newsletters, and are entitled to member discounts for meeting registration, book store purchases, and job postings. Members in this category are eligible to hold office and vote in AAIDD elections.

Standard

Annual dues \$185

Standard members receive delivery of hard copies of *AJIDD* and *IDD*, access to electronic versions of *AJIDD*, *IDD*, and *Inclusion*, access to members-only web forums, delivery of electronic newsletters, one complimentary item from the AAIDD catalog, and are entitled to member discounts for meeting registration, book store purchases, and job postings. Members in this category are eligible to hold office and vote in AAIDD elections.

Premium

Annual dues \$260

Premium members receive delivery of hard copies of *AJIDD* and *IDD*, access to electronic versions of *AJIDD*, *IDD*, and *Inclusion*, access to members-only web forums, delivery of electronic newsletters, two complimentary items from the AAIDD catalog, and are entitled to member discounts for meeting registration, book store purchases, and job postings. Members in this category are eligible to hold office and vote in AAIDD elections.

Corporate

Annual dues \$600

AAIDD offers a mechanism to enable organizations to bundle an unlimited number of their employee's individual membership fees to get discounts on those fees plus added perks for the organization. With *Corporate* membership, one Premium membership is provided to the CEO of the organization and a 20% discount on membership fees is applied (in all membership categories) for an unlimited number of employees. **In addition, Corporate members receive a free listing in the program, discounted exhibit booth fees, and 20% discount on registration fees for employees at AAIDD annual meetings.**

Corporate (Call 202-387-1968 ext 201 for assistance)



80 West Grand Street
Elizabeth, New Jersey
07202-1447

Return Service Requested

Phone: 908.354.3040
TTY/TF: 908.354.4629
Fax: 908.354.2665

www.caunj.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 225
Elizabeth, NJ



*It's a powerful
community, and
that power is growing.*

**Say "Yes" to AAIDD.
Join/Renew Today! www.aaidd.org**