Bigotry in an upswing and organizing is the answer

"Kill retards" found drawn in cement on sidewalk
Faith Into Action

The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council held its annual "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 third 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 35 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 190 CAU members have attended and there were more than 100 "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 60 interfaith congregations and community-based nonprofits, including CAU with an active list of over 2,000 community

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

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leaders. 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."

Next meeting of AAIDD NJ Chapter is Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 4:00pm via Zoom, RSVP for Zoom log-in information.

We look forward to seeing you.
Minutes

Attendance: 26 Members

                NJ Chapter: $44,320

Activities Report:
- Disability Policy Seminar: 2019
- National AAIDD Conference: 2019
- NJ Advocacy
- Changes in NJ DDD System
- Status of Region 9

AAIDD Committee Reports/Activities:

Nominations and Selections

- Motion: To send the balance of Region 9 budget to the National AAIDD to support the conference. MSP.

Adjourn: 5:15pm
AGENDA

Call to order:

Attendance:

Review and approve Minutes of May 8, 2019:

Activities Report:
- 2020 Disability Policy Seminar: Cancelled
- 2020 National AAIDD Conference: Cancelled but presidential address available at AAIDD website
- Region 9 bank balance sent to National AAIDD and Region 9 disbanded

Status of NJAAIDD Committees and future plans:
- Group Dynamics
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Nursing and Supports: HRST System in Action
- Positive Behavior Supports
- Relationships and Sexuality Committee
- Technology Supports
- Youth with DDD Committee
- Social Integration
- Employment Committee

Nominations and Selections

Adjournment
Membership Types

International Electronic

International Electronic members receive access to electronic versions of *AIDD, 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 not eligible to hold office or vote in AIDD elections.

Basic

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 AIDD elections.

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Classic members receive access to electronic versions of *AIDD, 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 AIDD elections.

Standard

Standard members receive delivery of hard copies of *AIDD* and *IDD*, access to electronic versions of *AIDD, IDD, and Inclusion*, access to members-only web forums, delivery of electronic newsletters, one complimentary item from the AIDD 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 AIDD elections.

Premium

Premium members receive delivery of hard copies of *AIDD* and *IDD*, access to electronic versions of *AIDD, IDD, and Inclusion*, access to members-only web forums, delivery of electronic newsletters, two complimentary items from the AIDD 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 AIDD elections.

Corporate

AIDD 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 AIDD annual meetings.

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

Keeping Up With AIDD

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

Twitter is a great way to stay connected to AIDD. 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 AIDD news, events, and resources.
Say “Yes” to AAIDD. Join/Renew Today! www.aaidd.org

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