



## **GMSA Board Meeting**

**12/7/2015 - 9:30am to 12:30pm**

**Vermont Technical College, Randolph, VT**

**GMSA Officers:** Randy Lizotte, Lori Jones, Levi Gardner.

**GMSA Board Representatives:** Patti Grassette, Heather Raymond, Erik Johnson, Raymond Gordon, Linda Monette, Kaiya Andrews, Craig Davis, Conor Cleveland, Rachel Colby.

**Self-Advocates:** Daisy Emerson, Marylin Shank, Cy Trombley, Taylor Terry, Debbie Demars, Lorna Merrill, Edwin Place, Tara Audet, Danielle Viau,

**GMSA Staff:** Karen Topper, Max Barrows, Hilary Clark.

**Allies:** Linda Belvel, Amy Anderson, Edward Thorndike, Jane Weber, Paula Collins, Tammy Maberry, Jen O'Kelly, Carroll Walbridge, Karen Noone, Maryellen Sudol, Nicole Tallman, Kelly Renaud, Mary Ruffing, Colin Provencher, Paul Tydiman, Mike Entriiken.

### **Group Check In/Updates**

#### **CAT:**

- Talked about fundraising/ still working on it.
- Having a holiday party the week 12/7.
- Still working on elections.

#### **GATSA:**

- Selling lollipops

- Raffling off a quilt
- Just sold RADA, 2000 dollars- 800 dollar profit
- Did a craft fair last Saturday at an elementary school and raised a couple hundred dollars.

### **Windsor Self Advocates:**

Working on 3 different fundraisers:

- In Springfield doing a bake sale.
- Doing a holiday store next week.
- In March they are doing a St Patrick's day dance

### **Advocates For Action:**

- Had a Christmas party last week

### **Burlington Self Advocacy Club:**

- Raised 200 dollars on a bake sale last Friday.
- They are looking to get involved in the story core project.
- In process of planning holiday party and valentine fundraiser.

### **Friends Helping Friends:**

- Working on coming up with a fundraiser

### **Speak up Addison County:**

- Having a Christmas party

### **Vermont Choices:**

- Having a Christmas party this Wednesday.

### **Next Step:**

- They have a big role to play when a new employee gets hired to their local agency they have to come to a training that the group runs.

### **SAVY:**

- Prize event...

### **Communication Alliance:**

- Did a bake sale to raise money for conferences.
- They are trying to finish their goal of going to 6 schools to talk about supported typing. They have 3 more schools to go to.

### **Ice Breaker**

Self-Advocates went around and gave an imaginary gift to the person next to them. They were unable to speak instead they had to act out what you are giving them.

### **GMSA Info Tables**

The group broke up into 6 smaller groups and spent 15 minutes at each table learning about the different things GMSA does.

The 6 tables were:

1. NEAT Project
2. Healthcare Project
3. Legislative advocacy
4. Leadership Training
5. Visiting local Groups
6. Life Histories project

**At the Local Group table, this question was asked: What should Max do when he comes to visit your group? This is the feedback that they gave:**

- ✓ More trainings
- ✓ Learn about internet safety
- ✓ More notice about when you are coming and material you are bringing
- ✓ How to support GMSA from home. Travel issues can stop us from supporting you.
- ✓ Info on the best way to get information out/work on communication
- ✓ Help people focus on their interests specifically one thing at a time
- ✓ More info on politics specifically on voting
- ✓ More information about your local group and what they are doing
- ✓ Learning about all the different trainings you have to offer.
- ✓ Information on budgeting
- ✓ Give ideas about what to do to get more advocates to join
- ✓ Give information about how to do trainings in schools
- ✓ Help us get involved in more things
- ✓ Point us in the right direction regarding elections and officer roles
- ✓ More information about Medicaid and Medicare
- ✓ Help us get back on our feet again
- ✓ Bring plan about what you are going to do. Lay out a plan when you come.
- ✓ Don't change. Leave it the way it is.
- ✓ Bring more information about other groups, how they are doing, how they support GMSA, and what they are good at.
- ✓ More workshops
- ✓ Talk about the various groups at the board meetings
- ✓ Info about presidential elections

- ✓ Info on the best way to get info about GMSA out
- ✓ 7 Habits training. Learn it and learn how to present it.
- ✓ More learning opportunities
- ✓ Things that GMSA does and is currently doing.
- ✓ Teach about things in the community, what GMSA is doing, things about Self-Advocacy and how to be a better leader
- ✓ Teach us how to do the rocks activity
- ✓ Tell us what you've learn recently.
- ✓ Learn how to talk to legislators
- ✓ Info on how to get more members
- ✓ Learn more about you
- ✓ More training about how to perform trainings in the community/schools about bullying/disability awareness.
- ✓ More LGBTQ information/trainings
- ✓ More info about how to speak up/basic Self-Advocacy skills.

### **Hot seat Activity**

Kaiya was in the hot seat this month. She answered various questions asked by Self-Advocates who attended the meeting.

### **GALA**

Talked about how the GALA went. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. They enjoyed dancing and the socializing. The food was magnificent. The silent auction was fun.