

Green Mountain Self-Advocates Board Meeting

5/23/16 - 9:30am to 12:30pm



Our Lady of Angels Church, Randolph, VT

Officers (4): Randy Lizotte, Lori Jones, Raymond Gordon, Danielle Viau

Board Members (11): Linda Monette, Thesha Thibodeau, Mike Tarr *alt*, Jennifer McMahon, Lisa Smedy, Thomas Caswell, Delsie Polgar, Kaiya Andrews, Patti Grassette, Conor Cleveland, Erik Johnson.

Self-Advocates (15): Jeremy Chaim, Lorna Merrill, Cy Trombley, Kris Medina, Levi Gardner, Josh Dumias, Hilary Christian, Lehanna Guyette, Erica Rocheleau, Adam Motziertz, Marc Preman, Robert Martin II, Daisy Emerson, Samantha Parizo, Vicki Upham, Doreen Mason.

Allies (12): Paul Tidyman, Paula Collins, Danielle Cote, Mary Ruffing, Amethyst Crow, Colin Provencher, Paul Appleby, Carl Comstock, Amy Anderson, Linda Belval, Melanie Bangora, Brittany McAdams, Tracy Robar, Pam Allen.

GMSA Staff (2): Karen Topper, Max Barrows.



Group Updates:

Next Step:

- Next week Max is coming to visit us again
- We are doing a training on Wed for new employees and DS staff.
- 5 self-advocates gave a workshop about employment at conference
- We are having 2 voting open houses this summer to get people get registered to vote
- Randy L went to NEAT meeting in May
- The peer leadership team gave a presentation to Ennosburgh High School students about self-advocacy. We talked to students, we gave a training presentation, we did an activity after and they really liked it.

VT Choices

- Went to conference
- 7 of us did Green Up - we swept a parking lot

BSAC

- Went to conference
- Marjorie Burns got the Theresa Wood award
- Danielle is VP of GMSA board
- At conference, we did the healthy living workshop
- Danielle got the advocate of the year award

GATSA

- Out group just had a dance in April but we didn't make a big profit
- A few advocates did a College Steps workshop at conference and had 50 people there
- Raymond is new GMSA treasurer
- This summer we are doing a community garden and donating veggies to the food shelf
- June 20th we are doing a training with Georgiana Carr from Lamoille County MH on health and wellness
- There are a few of us who met with Matt Dunne on Friday. He is running for Governor. We asked him if he got elected what his thoughts are for people with disabilities and asked him if he would give another budget cut. He said he has family members with disabilities.
- June 7th, Lt. Gov. Phil Scott is coming to our agency.
- In August, we are having a cook out and hoping to invite legislators.

RAPS

- No update

Advocates for Action

- Went to the conference
- We are doing a luau picnic

Newport Self-Advocates

- We recently selected a new VP - Bruce Stanley
- We are doing a quilt raffle and bake sale

- We are looking at permits for holding a bake sale and collecting info about it
- Our primary board member Donna Corkins can't come to meetings for awhile

SAVY

- Some of my group went to the conference
- Some of us went to a casino in NY

Bridging Advocates

- We have been making t-shirts for our group and to sell to other people
- Emily wore one! It's gorgeous!
- Having a supper at the fire house.

Champlain Voices

- In March, Beverly stepped down from self-advocacy
- Nicole Villamiere and Thomas will be co-interim presidents until elections happen this fall
- We are getting very excited for June 20th – we are holding a BBQ and we have raised money to make this happen.
- We taught a Theater Dance workshop at the conference – it was a lot of fun and a great experience.

CAT

- We had elections
- Some CAT members did a workshop at conference about babies and kids
- Other CAT members did a workshop about soft skills

Windsor Self-Advocate

- We are working on ideas for our fundraiser that we will do soon
- Tesha was in the Zack's Place musical

What's Important to Work on in the Next 5 Years?

Group brainstorm

Things We CAN Control	Things We CAN'T Control
Fighting for more money for services	Transportation
Have more people get waiver services	Affordable Housing
Educating in schools – kids with disabilities, kids without disabilities, teachers	
Employment – educating bosses about people with disabilities – talk about strengths and what works for accommodations	
More fundraising	
People can't go to things because the price is too expensive	

June 9th meeting – who wants to go from board?

- Kaiya
- Thomas
- Mike
- Lisa

Hot Seat – Mike

Focus Groups by DD Council

Conference Feedback

- Yes to Sheraton again
- Everything was good and went well ✓✓✓
- I taught a workshop – it was good. It was my first time.
- Next year our workshop needs a bigger room (Healthy Living)
- Checking into rooms was good – better than last year
- Next year there will be no cots
- Fruit should be offered as a dessert option as well
- More lunch options than sandwiches
- Do not want boxed lunches

- Employment Idol was interesting and good, nice to have people speak up about what they do
 - o Do the idol things again
 - o Hidden Talents Idol
 - o Volunteer Idol
 - o Community Service Idol
- Very good choices for workshops
- Not enough space for people in some of the workshops
- One lady did not want to leave – it was her first time – she had such a great time.
- Karaoke workshop on day #1
- Really hard to find some of the workshops
 - o Maps don't help very much
 - o Have lots of signs next year