



GMSA Board Meeting

8/29/16

Group Updates



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

Board Members (10): Antoine Polgar, Thesha Thibodeau, Linda Monette, Cristy Golec, Erik Johnson, Jennifer McMahon, Thomas Caswell, Lehanna Guyette: *Alt.*, Casey Butler: *Alt.*, Conor Cleveland.

Self-Advocates (22) : Robert Martin II, Marc Preman, Adam Motziertz, Jeremy Chaim, Levi Gardner, Lorna Merrill, Marjorie Burns, Heather Bushea, John Dumias, Kris Medina, Debbie Demars, Michelle Haberern, Renee Ross, Dian Robinson, Cathy Barber, Samantha Shoram, Amy Guinard, Carol Cole, Renee Ross, Cheyenne Martin, Doreen Mason,

Allies (20): Emily Anderson, Sydnee Boyd, Mark Shroeder, Tammy Maberry, Karen Noone, Mary-Ellen Sudol, Pat Warner, Paul Tidyman, Carol Walbridge, Brittany Ruthier, Melanie Bangoura, Danielle Cote, Paul Appleby, Carl Comstock, Don Houston, Linda Belvel, Debora Turner, Jenn Dilworth, Mary Ruffing, Colin Provencher.

GMSA Staff (3): Karen Topper, Stirling Peebles, Max Barrows.

Local Group Updates:

Capitol Advocates Together:



- Had a going away party for Nicole Leblanc.
- Did a prevent child abuse walk.

Vermont Choices:



- Currently they are doing a fundraiser for the winter.
- Also having a going away party for someone.

COPS:

- Working on what we want to better COPS with. Goals and such.



Bridging Advocates Together: came late did not report

Champlain Voices: came late did not report



Next Step, Self-Advocates:

- Annual peer support barbecue.
- Had a voting open house where they registered people online and did some voter education.
- Also doing a webinar on voting for the Vermont family network on Oct 12th.

BSAC:



- Having an end of the summer potluck on Sept 2nd. On September 16th they are having the end of the year dance.



Advocates for Action:

- Halloween dance is coming up.
- They are also working on trainings.



Speak Up, Addison County:

- Starting their meetings back up this Thursday.



Windsor Self Advocates:

- Having a dance in September.
- For community service they are having a can drive.



GATSA:

- Fundraising selling knives.
- Did training for new CIS staff about what self advocacy was.

Newport Self Advocates:

- Selling tickets for a quilt raffle and looking to do a bake sale.



Communication Alliance:

- Selling flowers as fundraiser and having a Halloween dance.



Life History Project

Stirling talked to the group about the life history project and that she had just completed one. She showed the group the video. She then talked about the eligibility requirements to be featured in this project. She

showed the group the application which they would need to fill out. They need it by this Thursday by the latest 9/1/16. Stirling does 2 of these a year. If they cannot get their application in that quick then they can still apply and be featured afterwards.

Leadership Series



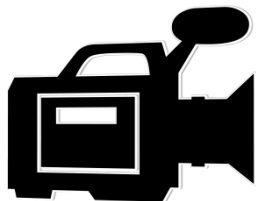
Told the group about the leadership series. They will need to be available for 3 weekends to commit to this series. These are the dates of the 3 weekends 12/3, 12/4, 1/7, 1/8, 2/11, 2/12. There is a group project that everyone does for the end of the series. You do not have to pay anything as the DD council covers the cost for the advocates. Looking for at least 9 advocates from GMSA to go. There is homework that you will have to do for the series. They broke into groups to come up with some people who might be interested in doing the leadership series.

GALA



Randy explained the GALA. Its GMSA's birthday party/fundraiser. There will be a dance, dinner and a silent auction. Randy mentioned that we will want a point person for each group so that GMSA knows who to communicate with to get things organized. The gala will be on November 3rd. The forms will be sent out soon through email and snail mail.

Videos for Direct Support Professional Day



We worked in groups to decide what to say for why their support professional is important to them. It's important for us to talk about the

reason why they are important to them not just what they do for you. They filmed various advocates who wanted to do it.

DD Council



The DD council is looking for new members. It was asked if anyone wanted to be considered to be on this council. This is a volunteer position that you will not get paid for. They will cover transportation to get you to the meetings though. There are applications for people to fill out if they are interested.