



## GMSA Board Meeting

9/26/2016

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



**GMSA Board Members:** (11) Erik Johnson, Jennifer McMohan, Lisa Smedy, Thesha Thibodeau, Kaiya Andrews, Erica Rocheleau, Antoine Polgar, Conor Cleveland, Linda Monette, Vicki Upham, Mike Curtis.

**Self-Advocates:**(12) Marc Preman, Levi Gardner, Lehanna Guyette, Lorna Merrill, Daisy Emerson, Robert Martin II, Thorin Bingham, Margerie Burns, Jeremy Chaim, Carol Cole, Renee Ross.

**Allies:** (16) Syd Boyd, Mary-Anne Sudol, Amy Anderson, Mark Sheroder, Paul Tydiman, Mary Ruffing, Tyler Clich, Tammy Maberry, Linda Belval, Lisa Thompson, Pam Allen, Moranda Maxham, Carl Comstock, Jen Okelly, Amethis Crowe,

**GMSA Staff:**(3) Karen Topper, Max Barrows, Hilary Clark.



### Group Check-ins:

Capitol Advocates Together (C.A.T)

- Had training on How to Get Your Voice and Use It.



### GATSA

- The group did Conflict Resolution training
- Max came to do a respectful language training
- We grew vegetables in a community garden plot as a community service project to help serve homeless people.



#### Communication Alliance:

- We are still planning our Halloween dance.

#### Friends Helping Friends:

- Group is working together with Communication Alliance to do a Halloween dinner dance

#### COPS

- Currently doing a food drive to serve the upper valley haven

#### SAVY:

- People from the group went to NY.

### **GMSA GALA**

The Gala was discussed. A Self-Advocate gave an explanation.

GMSA's GALA will be Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup> We need to appoint people from each group to recruit people to attend.

- Rusty DeWees AKA the Logger will be the Keynote
- There is Limited Space and the Price is \$35 dollars per person

Go back to your groups to see if they could help with the GALA. It would be great if each group can get at least one donation for the silent auction.

**HOT SEAT ACTIVITY:** Hillary Clark was in the hot seat. Also, it was a way to celebrate and recognize her last day.

The following questions were asked:

- What will you do on free time?
- Who will take her place?
- Can you tell us a bit about all your interesting hobbies you have?
- How fast to you generally go when your speed racing?
- What are you miss about working with us?
- Tell us about your other jobs you have now.
- What's your favorite Ice Cream?
- What's your favorite dessert?
- What is your favorite baseball team? Boston Red Sox.
- What is your favorite swimmer? Michael Phelps.
- Who's your favorite football team? New England Patriots.
- If you were to pick two teams to be in the NBA finals this year, who would it be?  
Boston Celtics and Cleveland Cavaliers.

### **GMSA Budget**

Discussion began with the mention that at the next GMSA board meeting that is an official meeting, an accountant will come in to talk more about the budget. With that said, a budget report was handed out with information that says what Grants are starting and what grants or contracts are ending. The report indicated what money is coming in and what money is going out.

One of the things discussed was a new grant GMSA just started. We are a partner establishing a National Resource and Technical Assistance Center for self-advocacy. Our contract is for \$106,000 each year for 5-years. Other states are involved in the Resource Center project.

One major concern is that GMSA no longer has any grants for legislative work. The DD Council funding that paid for these activities in the past has come to an end and the DD Council is no longer offering this opportunity. It was mentioned in order to do any legislative work people will need to donate money since we don't have the money to do so right now.

Please see the budget report for more details.

### **Healthcare Training update**

All the training from the health care project is going up online. It will take time to do that. When we get it going we will show you. E-Learning is the way we are going to do it. Self-Advocates that willing to help are Kaiya, Levi, Mike Curtis, and a couple of others.

### **Direct Support Professional Day:**

Today we are reviewing the videos we made for Direct Support Professional day. Many of the video clips were filmed on smart phones and then uploaded to a folder on Google Drive to share the videos with GMSA. Office staff then edited the video clips creating one video. We discussed ways to do this again! Questions that was asked at the meeting was; do we need to do training on making videos with smart phone or are you all set?

### **Vermont Leadership Series**

Looking to follow up to see who from each group is recruiting to people to apply to attend the Leadership Training Series. The people from CAT that want to do leadership are: Hillary Christian, Shae Martin, Ryan Bancroft, Pat Willis and Lehanna Guyette. People were told not to worry about rides. There are family members attending that may be able to help with rides.

The dates & Times of the Leadership Series are on the following Weekends 2016-2017

- December 3-4
- January 7-8
- February 11-12

If you don't have money or the resources and they are other things to do eight or nine people it cost of \$100 and pay either beginning or the middle and the end

Next month we will look at the exact budget for the voices and choices conference

## **Voices & Choices Conference.**

### **Themes for the next Voices & Choices Conference:**

- Never Give up (on your dreams)
- Taking our futures forward
- Friendly Advocates and Friends Agencies

Topper brought up the idea of having Vermonters with disabilities, new to the United States of America, coming to speak and tell their story.