



GMSA Board Meeting

Randolph, VT

4/28/2014



34 Self-Advocates: Linda Monette, Lorna Merrill, Robert Martin III, Kris Medina, Craig Davis, Kyle Moriarty, Patty Grassette, Dan Dunn, Edwin Place, Rachel MacMartin, Adam Moztzierz, Levi Gardner, Thorin Bingham, Marilyn Shank, Lori Jones, Debbie Demars, Mike Chastenay, Daisey Emerson, Lauren Tewhill, Dawnita Ames, Steve Applebee, Jeremy Chaim, Josh Dumias, David Frye, Nicole Leblanc, Mary LaFountain, Erik Johnson, Randy Lizotte, Ken Jacobs, Heather Raymond, Nicole Villemaire, Bret Sweeney, Max Barrows.

20 Allies: Erin Rose, Edward Thorndike, April McCandless, Wendy Capobianco, Karen Topper, Skye Peebles, Rich Atkinson, Jim Rice, Paula Collins, Tammy Maberry, Lisa Quinn, Cathy Hull, Patti Mack, Maryellen Sudol, Jason Chester, Paul Appleby, Jen Carr, Amy Anderson, Beda Adhikari, Stephanie Decesare.

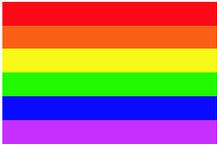


GROUP UPDATES

Our Drop in Center (Newport, VT)



- Did a fundraiser
- Planning a big picnic to invite our families and shared living providers
- Everybody is getting ready for Voices and Choices
- Speaking up about budget cuts



LGBTQ Groups

- Collaborating with VCIL to start more groups across the state
- Have been waiting for this growth for a long time

Capitol Advocates Together



- Fundraising
- Completing nominations for Voices and Choices awards
- Max presented training topics that GMSA can do. CAT wants us



to do a workshop on Dating, Voting came in 2nd place

- Planning to march in upcoming 4th of July parade with signs displaying disability awareness messages for the public.

Successes:

- ⇒ Disability awareness: marching in parades
- ⇒ People in group step up as leaders when officers are absent

Communication Alliance



- Have been fundraising so members can go to the Autism Summer Institute in Syracuse this summer

Successes:

- ⇒ Terrific at communication, advocacy, treating others as equals, having a deep sense of understanding, and setting goals
- ⇒ Great at testifying at the State House.

Advocates for Action



THINKING AND SPEAKING FOR OURSELVES

- Members have made appointments to visit with their legislators at the state house.
- Planning a Spring dance

RAPS

- GMSA will be presenting a workshop to the group.



Friends Helping Friends

- Getting ready for Voices and Choices and SABE
- Fundraising for SABE: we are starting a fundraising group just for SABE. Will do a raffle basket fundraiser with 3 baskets; small, medium, large). Will have drawing in June. Going through Chocolate for Change.

Successes:

- ⇒ Planning activities
- ⇒ Speaking up well at the State House
- ⇒ Fundraising – good group effort, not just a couple of people
- ⇒ Communication within the group

GATSA



- Planting a garden and donating the food to the food shelf
- Doing training in schools to raise awareness about eliminating the use of the “R” word
- Some folks went to State House in April and had lunch with representatives and discussed the need for the budget to include 2% increase in wages for staff. It is referred to as the 2% Medicaid Bump.

- Having a dance on Friday night at VFW in Morrisville from 7-10pm

Successes:

- Organizing fundraisers
- Being friends
- Talking to state legislators about budget cuts

Next Step Self-Advocates

- Having annual walkathon fundraiser for going to Voices and Choices
- Friday May 16th from 6-9pm Hats Off Spring Dance (everyone wears a silly hat)



- Peer Advocates Group that we have been working on getting ready for the dance and had 2 guest speakers
- Max and Karen did a MAPS session with us (MAPS is a planning process to consider what you want to do with the rest of your life)
- Getting ready for Voices and Choices

Successes:

- ⇒ Community services
- ⇒ Trainings
- ⇒ Social events
- ⇒ Collaboration – working together as a big group or with other organizations

SAVY

- Making plan to attend the Voices and Choices conference. Want to make sure our members who use wheel chairs get access to swimming and staying over night.



Vermont Choices

- Starting a T-shirt fundraiser



VOICES AND CHOICES UPDATE

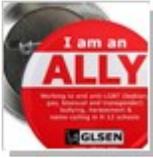
Randy read updates about Voices and Choices conference

There is NO problem with Special Olympics conflicting with Voices and Choices. Opening Ceremony is at 7pm and there will NOT be supper.

People will have plenty of time to leave Voices and Choices at 3pm and get to Burlington by 7pm.

People are going to take Talent Show forms back to their groups. We need more acts!

Ally of the Year Award



Someone who goes above and beyond to help out GMSA

Who has won before? Doug Racine, Vermont Workers Center, VCIL

Anthony Pollina and Patsy French, Skye Peebles, Howard Center

2014 Award Nominations:



* **Anthony Pollina – sponsored a bill this year (H.728 DD Act Bill) – (13 votes) - WINNER!**

⇒ Disability Rights VT – helped us get a big grant, helps spread word about voting – (3 votes)

⇒ Center on Disability and Community Inclusion – Life History project partner with GMSA, Think College (4 votes)

⇒ ARIS – helped GMSA with our finances and getting 501-c-3 (7 votes)

Volunteers



Need Host volunteers to direct traffic (need 4)

⇒ 2 people from VT Choices: Levi and Eric

⇒ Art Project: 2 people from GATSA

BUDGET UPDATE



Nicole gave budget update. As of last week's State House day, 2% Medicaid bump is back in. Way to go, GATSA (they helped a lot)! 2% is Medicaid bump that goes to direct support workers. May 1st is May Day Annual Rally with the Workers Center in Montpelier at noon.

GMSA will buy groups lunch if they come. Craig gave an update on last year. We marched to the Capitol and chanted slogans about standing up



for people's rights and the rights of people with disabilities. We went to the steps of the Capitol.

TASER BILL UPDATE

Kris Medina gave an update: Taser Bill as it stands now police can Taser anyone for just resisting. We want to change this to tasing only for acts of aggression. Kris testified on Friday about this. Kris explained that people with disabilities may respond differently and doesn't constitute being electrically shocked.



501-C-3 UPDATE

We got our 501-c-3 non-profit status! Having a retreat to make a plan at the office in Montpelier in June. Dates to be decided.



Need folks from 8 groups to come and help make a plan. The following groups agreed to attend: GATSA, Advocates for Action, Friends Helping Friends, LGBTQ, Next Steps and VT Choices

Topper will send out a meeting scheduler called a Doodle. If everyone puts in their info, it will help us pick the best meeting time for everyone.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Max read directions. GMSA has a grant called North East Advocates Together (NEAT).

We are working with nearby states to get help from each other.

Need to answer 2 big questions

- What do we want to learn?
- What do we want to teach?

Everyone broke into 8 groups. People looked at different items on the lists of 8 goals to figure out what we needed to learn to be able to do this.

People shared their thoughts and ideas.

All the notes were passed in to Skye.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

These are the GMSA people who were at the meeting that are planning to go to the SABE conference: Ken, Randy, Nicole, Edwin, David F., Levi, Josh and his sister Rosie, Daisy and Erik. 1 person from Newport not at the meeting and 5 more people from St. Albans

GMSA needs to contact groups because people said that others were planning to go too.

GMSA will send out information about scholarships and how staff can pay to go?

Friends Helping Friends told everyone that they have done the math and it will cost people about \$1500 to attend the National Conference (if they go Wed-Sat and have \$100 spending money). They are happy to share their budget with folks if they want to see it.

These are the people who want to do a workshop at SABE:

- ⇒ Donna and Levi – Dating Game
- ⇒ David Frye – LGBTQ
- ⇒ Nicole V – Teach about college
- ⇒ Rachel and Craig Davis (?) – Living on Your Own
- ⇒ Randy and Jana – Love and Marriage





The End!