

Our Children's Voice

Retarded Children Can Be Helped!

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

Vol. XXVI No. 1

January 1974

\$650,000 Pledged To First Telethon

Broadcast Rated Success



Youngsters from the Association for the Help of Retarded Children are thanking Steve Allen and Jayne Meadows for their efforts on the 19 hour telethon which raised over \$600,000 for retarded children.

Nearly \$650,000 was pledged to programs for retarded children and adults as AHRC chapters in the tri-state area produced the first annual telethon.

The 19 hour broadcast was aired October 13th and 14th over WOR TV channel 9. Although competing with the Arab invasion of Israel, and the baseball world series, the event was termed a success by all who participated.

A mountainous accounting operation and anticipated delays in the mailing of pledge contributions are expected to delay final figures for a month. But all indications are that the \$225,000 project had gone extremely well and paved the way for future telethons.

The program itself received widespread praise. Beginning 20 minutes late due to the WOR TV basketball telecast, the program lasted nearly 19 hours under the dignified and sensitive direction of Steve Allen and Jayne Meadows with par-

ticipation by top name entertainers from New York and Hollywood.

Participating in the telethon were New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Sullivan, Ulster, and Dutchess counties. Also participating was the New Jersey State Association for Retarded Children. Offers by the New York State Association for Retarded Children to the National Association for Retarded Children to participate was ignored by that organization.

An interesting sidelight of the telethon was a contribution from Fort Edwards, in upstate New York, where the telethon was seen suddenly by a member of the Association who had cable television.

It is hoped that next year the telethon will be spread around the State of New York by the participation of other stations and the event will be bigger than ever.

Bill Of Rights For Retarded

Convention Adopts Program

Delegates from all 56 chapters of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, at the convention in Albany in October adopted a legislative program for the year 1974 which president Elliot Aronin termed a Bill of Rights for the Mentally Retarded.

Changes in the Mental Hygiene, Education, Insurance, Criminal Procedure, Executive, and Social Services laws are all included in this program.

BILLS TO BE INTRODUCED

The two bills vetoed by the Governor last year, one providing for an increase in state aid for 4407 classes from \$2000 to \$2500, and the other providing that that part of rental paid to a mental retardation service company which represents interest on a mortgage placed by Housing Finance Agency shall be a reimbursable item, will both be introduced again. We have the assurance from Assemblyman Margiotta (R. Nassau) and Senator William T. Conklin, (R. Kings) that these two measures of which they were the sponsors will be pushed vigorously.

PROGRAM ADOPTED

Following is the program adopted by the convention:

(1) The establishment of an Office of Mental Retardation in the Executive Department, separating mental retardation from the concerns of the Department of Mental Hygiene now dealing with mental illness, alcoholism, and drug addiction as well as mental retardation.

(2) Elimination of parental liability for fees for children under 21 years of age in the institutions operated by the Department of Mental Hygiene.

(3) Provision for the reimbursement of communities by the state at the rate of 75 percent for mental retardation services provided locally under the Mental Hygiene Law. This would apply where communities do not opt for unified services or until they do opt for unified services, which may be sometime in the future.

(4) Provision that Community Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Boards must hold public hearings on their proposed program prior to their submission to the Commission of Mental Hygiene.

(5) The Education Law should be amended to provide for weighting at 2 for classes for the handicapped.

Elimination of the requirement for homogeneousness for the establishment of a class for the handicapped.

(6) Permission for school districts to transport over 21 year olds to rehabilitation facilities. This may be without state aid.

(7) Provision that 4407 of the Education Law should be amended to provide for a program from the age of 3 on.

(8) Amendment to the Insurance Law to require insurance companies and plans to include mentally retarded dependents in family health and hospital policies.

(9) Amendment of the Criminal Procedure with regard to treatment of persons accused of crime who are adjudicated incompetent to stand trial to conform to the recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court on the constitutional rights of such persons.

PROGRAM KEYSTONES

The following are considered extremely important by the Legal and Legislative Committee and probably would stand at the very keystone of the Bill of Rights.

(Continued on Page 8)

State Convention Draws Record

Aronin Re-Elected President

The 1973 Convention of the New York State ARC was held at the Albany Hyatt House, October 11-14, 1973. Although it moved all the way across the State, from Olean, to Albany, it was the second consecutive Convention at which the attendance by members of the Association was larger than the capacity of the Hotel, and found some members staying in other nearby facilities.

Opening with a meeting of the Board of Governors on Thursday, October 11, the Convention got into full swing on Friday, the 12th with an In-Service Training Session on the topic of "Inter-Relationship Between Staff and Boards of Directors" led by Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold. At the same time, there were continuing tours of new Oswald D. Heck facility in Schenectady.

The opening Convention Session on Friday evening brought greetings from Convention Chairman, Ray Bohen, and a welcome from Dr. Alan D. Miller, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene. In a surprise move, Dr. Miller made a presentation of the second annual "Helen Award" named in honor of Nassau County Executive Director Helen Kaplan, to Association Executive, Joseph T. Weingold.

At the Business Session on Saturday the Convention re-elected Elliot Aronin of

Nassau County as President of the Association for the coming year. Elected with Mr. Aronin for the 1973-74 year were returning officers, Martha Jewell (Allegany) as Secretary, Francis Reville (Welfare League) as the Assistant Treasurer, and Marge Cervone (Genesee) as Western Region Vice-President. New officers elected included George G. Hirsch (N.Y.C.) as Treasurer, after an absence of one year from a position he has held many times, James Murphy (N.Y.C.) as Southeast Region Vice-President, John Beynart (Columbia) as Northeast Region Vice-President, and Al Cappuccilli (Onondaga) as Central Region Vice-President. The Convention also passed a series of resolutions and a Legislative Program reported elsewhere in this issue, and selected Buffalo as the site of our 1975 Convention.

Saturday afternoon panels were run in two Sessions from 2:00 - 3:15 and 3:30 - 4:45 in attempt to give everyone an opportunity to attend at least two of the four sessions.

Dr. Frank Vallutino and staff of Albany Center for Learning Disabilities presented a program entitled "Testing-Testing; One, Two, Three."

Representatives of the Eleanor Roosevelt Developmental Services and the Tri-County ARC Chapters presented a workshop entitled "Partners in Progress,"

(Continued on page 5)

Notice!

.. We have adopted this new format for OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE because of the newsprint shortage and the suggestions of many of our members and friends from Kennebunkport to San Francisco. We hope you like it and read it in its entirety.

Your comments are welcome.



Association Secretary, Martha Jewell and President Elliot L. Aronin join Sherri Messier as she opens the State Convention with the ARC prayer.

Specialized Or General

Parents Assistance Committee

Editorial comments in the last issue of Our Children's Voice concerning the formation of a parents' assistance committee on Down's Syndrome in Westchester brought rather strong reaction from Barbara Levitz, Chairman of that Committee.

The point she makes very strongly is "there is a need for such a committee because of the high incidence of early detection of Down's Syndrome as opposed to other causes of mental retardation... A parent who has gone through this experience is the only one that can truly understand the feelings and reactions of the parents of a newborn Down's Syndrome child."

She goes on to say that unless we recognize the necessity for such a special Down's Syndrome Committee within the Association, such groups will form outside the Association and she adds, "I believe it is far better that such groups be welcome to work in conjunction with the Association rather than be forced to organize as an independent group."

She goes on to give various examples of how this Committee has helped the parents of a newborn mongoloid child to adjust to the situation, saving perhaps the child and the family.

At the same time we received this letter from Mrs. Levitz another letter came in from Mrs. Frances Grace of Richmond Hill. She states, "In Queens (New York City Chapter) we established a parents' assistance committee in 1969 to offer individual help to parents of retarded children. One of our aims was to reach

parents as they first discovered an infant to be retarded, which automatically means, for the most part, mongoloid babies." She goes on to say, "however, we also offer parent-to-parent help for any type of retardation at any age level. Often parents of children leaving one type of program entering into another are glad to be able to talk with other parents who are familiar with the situation. We have also been able to help parents of older children even into late teenage, who for a variety of reasons had never been in any program."

The thrust of what we are saying, I wrote Mrs. Levitz, was that parents of all mentally retarded children find it difficult to speak of their children, they are in a crisis situation and need help.

My suggestion on a constructive basis is the formation of a parents' assistance committee with perhaps a 24 hour a day telephone service for those in crisis. The thought of a person-to-person approach from parent to parent is an excellent one. I just did not feel it should be limited to Down's Syndrome, gargoylism, Tay Sachs disease or any of the many, many facets of mental retardation.

"Such parents' committees should be there to help parents with any type of retarded child to withstand the trauma and to enable them to take a constructive attitude toward the child."

We would welcome further discussion of this. We believe the parents' assistance committee should be formed and preferably with some line of communication on a 24 hour a day basis.



"These aren't the retarded. They work.
These are the patronaged."

Have We Really Educated The Public To Accept The Retarded?

Two items have come across the desk of the editor which demonstrate that we have still a long way to go to educate the public to accept the mentally retarded as human beings ready to take their place alongside others.

The first item in the Binghamton Sun Bulletin of October 17, 1973 was a meeting with the Trustees of Owego, three of whom were very unhappy about a proposed establishment of a half-way house for mentally retarded adults by the Department of Mental Hygiene in what they called "one of this village's most prestigious neighborhoods."

Several of the residents appeared at the board meeting to complain about the state school's plans. We have not yet heard the results or the final decision on this, but

certainly at this late date one must begin to wonder.

The second item concerns the use of the word retard or retardate as a term of opprobrium. This was brought to our attention by I. Joseph Harris, executive director of the New York City Chapter in a letter he wrote to Mr. Dick Young of the Daily News. He says, "I was deeply distressed by your reference to rowdies on a ball field as 'retards'."

Your column of October 13th, he continued reveals a lack of sensitivity which is most regrettable in a man who writes for a newspaper read by millions of people.

"I truly believe," wrote Mr. Harris, "that it was ignorance rather than meanness which led you to cast this undeserved aspersion upon retarded persons."

Camp Catskill Second Year Great Success

The second year of Camp Catskill, a joint venture of the Department of Mental Hygiene and the New York State Association for Retarded Children, was a resounding success according to Carl Calkins, director.

160 mentally retarded persons were served in each of 3-3 week sessions with a staff of 95. These mentally retarded, ranging in age from 5 to 74, came from Kings County State School, Queens State School, Willowbrook State School, Wassaic, Suffolk, Letchworth, Mid-



Everybody gets into it at Camp Catskill.

dletown, Letchworth Unit-Wassaic Unit, and 18 chapters of the Association.

The camp was funded by a grant from the Dept. of Mental Hygiene, a continuing grant from the Developmental Disabilities Services Act and through contributions by the Chapters and parents when able to pay. The maximum fee for three weeks was \$200, but no one was refused admission because of inability to pay and most of the funds were provided by chapter scholarships.

Aided by Norman Rothleder of the New York City Chapter (recreational director) and the devoted staff recruited from all over the United States as well as throughout the International Camping Program (counselors from Norway, England and Holland and Yugoslavia) the camp focussed on more severely handicapped; as a matter of fact those who probably would not be accepted in any other camping program.

This is especially true for the first session which dealt with the 5 to 12 year olds. The problems were many because of lack of toilet training and other handicapping conditions. Some idea of what this session meant is contained in the directors report. He states that "swimming was not swimming, but water awareness. Recreation was not organized sports, but perceptual - motor skills. Therefore, the initial question again comes forth. Is it possible to service this population in a camping situation? The answer is, yes, and quite appropriately."

It goes on to show what progress these youngsters made. For example, the first two to five days left the dining room a complete mass of food, noise and confusion at every meal. By the second week children were feeding themselves and taking their plates up, scraping them off, and announcements could be made.

Jo Jo Moses provided one example of a youngster's problem, writes Carl Calkins. By the end of camp this boy learned to dress and feed himself and a number of bizarre behaviors had changed. He had also begun to laugh. It was quite noticeable, since the boy did not communicate.

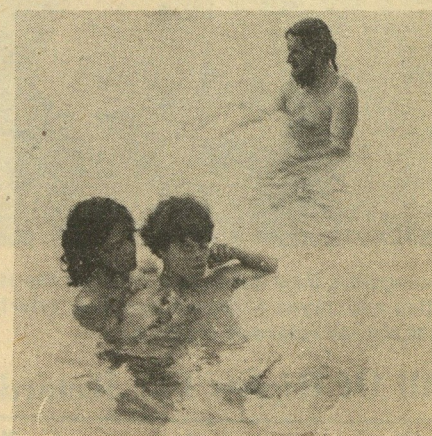
The changes in camper behavior were

noticed by others as well. The follow-up letter from Mark Guise was taken quite seriously. After further programming at Wassaic, Mark has now been placed in a foster home and attends a school for the deaf. The benefits of the camp were also expressed by the parents of a severely retarded, multi-handicapped boy who stated, "My husband and I have spent time alone together for the first time in seven years."

The second session was devoted to the 12 to 20 year olds and the last session to 21 year olds and no upper age limit.

The older ladies had a bake sale at one of the department stores in Liberty. A track meet was held with Wassaic S.S. which the camp won. And two sky divers jumped one Sunday into the large athletic field from a plane at 5000 feet.

The New York State Association for Retarded Children has voted through its Board of Governors to continue the camp for next year if adequate funding can be obtained.



Hey, you better learn to swim.

Proposals have been made to the Department of Mental Hygiene for which we are awaiting an answer.

Although the budget was exceeded by at least \$15 - \$20,000, due primarily to the large medical expenses and the increased cost of food, all of us feel it was most worthwhile and hope it will continue, flourish, and prosper. The waiting list was such that some feelers have been put out to the Department of Mental Hygiene concerning the use of Wilton Camp as a second camp to be operated under a similar program.

Agencies Receive Partial Funds

Long awaited distribution of Title IVA and XVI which was promised sometime ago at last were made throughout the State. Of a total of \$430,227.92 distributed through Mental Hygiene in partial reimbursement from the period October 1, 1971 to June 30, 1972 (these are all Federal funds), ARC's received \$112,932.22. 32 Chapters of the ARC shared in these funds and received from miniscule amounts of \$26.71 to Sullivan ARC to \$24,603.55 for New York City Chapter. The second largest amount was Westchester with \$14,193.20 and third Monroe with \$10,450.74.

Well, as the saying goes, any little bit helps and there may be more to come.

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Issued four times a year by

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

175 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10010

674-1520

A Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt Organization of Parents and Friends of Mentally Retarded Children

Chartered by the State of New York
February, 1949

President: ELLIOT L. ARONIN

Executive Director & Editor: Joseph T. Weingold

Association Honors Employers-Employees

By Karin Burgess

"For the past several years, it has been our pleasure to welcome as our guests to the Convention the State Schools' Employees of the Year.

These outstanding individuals were selected by their fellow employees for their dedication and untiring efforts to improve the lot of our institutionalized children and adults.

workers are among the best employees in regard to attendance, attitude, and productivity. The nomination for this award was received from Bill Bunter, Past Pres. of the Greene County Chapter. The award was accepted for American Valve by William White, General Manager.

The following employers also received certificates recognizing their employment



L to R Elliot L. Aronin, President, NYS ARC, Eugene Cordeiro, Assist. Production Mgr. Newsday, Gerald E. Dunn, Exec. Deputy Industrial Commission, Edward Licence, Member, State ARC Board, Nassau County and Scholarship & Awards Committee.

Some of these people work under extremely difficult conditions, and we, who are members of this Association, are deeply grateful to all of them for their devotion.

We are pleased to have an opportunity to say "Thank you" to each of them by presenting a check and a name plate, which will be attached to the plaque honoring outstanding employees at each State School."

Awards were accepted as follows: J. N. Adam, Sharon Hageman; Letchworth, Raymond G. Stone — accepted by Frances Reville; Newark, Dorothy Everhart; Rome, Alton F. Hinman; Suffolk, Lawson Hanson — accepted by Jo Iovino; Sunmount, Norman Bedard — accepted by J. J. Maroun; Syracuse, Dorothy Goodfellow; Wassaic, James Rishell — accepted by Dorothy Vine; West Seneca, Marcia Radatovich; Willowbrook, Clara Hayes and Wilton, Betty Doescher.

The State Association also requests its local Chapters to submit nominations for outstanding employers of the retarded. A large number of nominations were received this year, and each of them received a Citation for Meritorious Service presented by Mr. Gerald E. Dunn, Executive Deputy Industrial Commissioner, New York State Department of Labor.

For Business, our Employer of the Year Award was given to Newsday of Garden City, Long Island. Newsday is the sixth largest newspaper in the United States, and they have let their 600,000 readers know just how good retarded workers are by placing their experience on a full page in several issues.

Newsday has employed the retarded for more than two years, and a mother has written of her son's employment, "His job has given him a maturity and a sense of self-respect that we're sure he would not otherwise have known." And in the words of one of the company's executives, "They bring a lot of love into the plant."

The nomination for this award was submitted by Helen Kaplan, Executive Director, Nassau County Chapter, and the award was accepted for Newsday at the banquet by Eugene Cordiero, Assistant Production Manager.

The award for Industry was presented to the American Valve Manufacturing Corporation of Cossackie, a company which has employed the retarded since 1962 as machine operators, foundry workers, and general factory workers. Company executives agree that these

of the mentally retarded: Bambergers of Nanuet; Timberline, Ilion; Bureau of School Lunches, Corona; Bronx Municipal Hospital, Bronx; Mr. Joseph Cohen, President, Federal Prosthetics, Brooklyn; Dean King, Inn Keeper, Holiday Inn-Fredonia; South End Auto Parts, Liberty; Schuyvers Market, Cuba; Plaza Extended Care Facility, Syracuse; Automatic Retailers Association, Henrietta; Mr. Daniel Barry, Gideon Putnam Hotel, Saratoga Springs.

Columbia County Expands Recycling Program

The County Board of Supervisors of Columbia County has approved a preliminary application for a half million dollars in state aid tentatively to help three county landfill sites and a waste recovery program that could channel \$100,000 into the Columbia County Chapter, New York State Association for Retarded Children.

In order to operate an effective resource recovery program according to Russell Cummings, consultant for Leonard S. Wegman Associates, which is conducting the solid waste study, some of the money should be directed to the Association for Retarded Children to improve its capabilities. He estimated \$100,000 would be needed for a conveyor, shredders, can flattener, and possibly a new home for the association. The chapter now is in the former school building on Fourth Street and has been looking into sites for a new facility for some time.

The Association would pick up at the ten recovery stations sorted newspapers, glass or other cans. Other refuse would be transported to the major landfill sites by private or municipal carrier systems or both.

It is indeed gratifying to see how this small program of recycling of glass may be blossoming and expanding into this important ecological venture.

It is thought that some of this emphasis is the result of the seminars that Anne Burgess, the executive director of Columbia County Chapter, conducted for the Department of Environmental Conservation on the subject of recycling, especially by workshops such as ours.

National Assn. Invades N.Y.S. For Fund Raising

At a time when the president of the New York State Association, Elliot Aronin, was negotiating with the president of the National Association for Retarded Children and Jim Wilson, vice president for the Northeast region, on some way the State Association and NARC could get together on common fund raising leading towards and exploration of possible reaffiliation, the National Association for Retarded Children began a massive invasion of New York State to raise funds.

COIN COLLECTION CARDS DISTRIBUTED

This invasion took the form of direct mail solicitation of our old membership list with the National Association from the time we were members. In addition, the National Association formed a new Association called National Association for Developmental Disabilities with the same address in Arlington, Texas, the same executive director and the same president. This Association distributed coin collection cards to businesses throughout New York State on which they give the impression that the money being raised will be used in New York State. They imply that the Associations for Retarded Children are affiliates either of the National Association for Retarded Children or National Association for Developmental Disabilities, neither of which is true.

To counteract this, the State Association informed all the Community Chests and United Funds in New York State of the real situation, and protested to the Executive Director of the Thomas E. Dewey Thruway Authority against the placement of these coin collection cards in the restaurants on the Thruway. The executive director of the Thruway Authority answered that this was done without his permission and he would so notify the concessionaires.

ATTORNEY GENERAL PROTESTS

In addition, protests to the Attorney General brought a letter from the Attorney General to the Attorneys for National Association for Retarded Children ordering them to desist from all fund raising activities in the State unless and until they are permitted to register, a point which is now in litigation in the State of New York.

Commenting on these actions of the National Association (which incidentally also refused to join with us in our telethon), Mr. Aronin said, "one must wonder at the good faith and the motive of the National Association for Retarded Children in mounting this invasion of New York State to siphon off the money desperately needed for services to children here at a time when we are negotiating in good faith for a possible rapprochement."

It might be noted parenthetically that the National Association has voted to change its name to National Association for Retarded Citizens. No aliens?

"We can only hope," said Mr. Aronin, "the chapters will realize what all this means, to stiffen their determination to act for the children of New York State."

COMMUNITY CHESTS COOPERATE

We might add that the Community Chests have cooperated in our efforts to inform the public. For example, the Geneva Community Chest has so notified the press through its chief executive director, James Stauff, that these two groups have no connection with the Ontario County Chapter of the Association for Retarded Children which is the participating agency in the Chest.

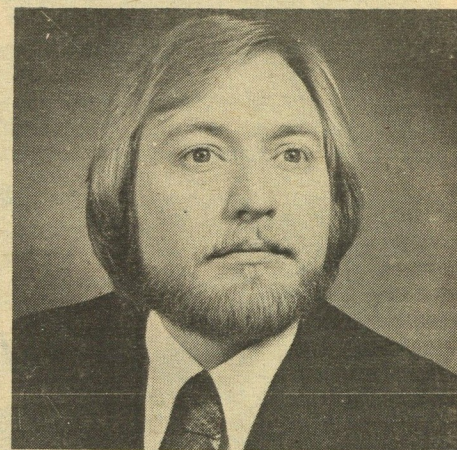
"As far as we can ascertain," said Mr. Stauff, "not one cent of what is being raised has ever been used for direct aid to a single retarded person in New York State."

The only information the Chest has been able to gather so far is that any collected funds go to the National treasury in Texas.

Association Adds Staff Member

McCARLEY BECOMES PROGRAM COORDINATOR — FIELD REP.

Mr. Thomas Price McCarley joined the Staff of the State Assn. on December 3rd, 1973 as a Program Coordinator-Field Representative, initially working under a Development Disabilities grant. In this role it will be expected that he will spend a major portion of his time working closely with the Institutional Chapters on the problems of the Institutions.



Thomas Price McCarley

A native of Georgia, Mr. McCarley received his B.S. Degree in Psychology from the University of Georgia in 1968, and his M. Ed. degree in Mental Retardation in 1972, from the same institution. An Army Veteran of Vietnam, he worked at the Georgia Retardation Center, Athens Branch, as a Teacher's Assistant, and then as a Program Assistant. In the latter position he planned directed afternoon and evening recreation and socialization activities for the center's adolescent boys, and served as counselor to its co-ed Teen Club.

Mr. McCarley worked in the Georgia Retardation Center in Atlanta as a special education teacher. In this position he did a great deal of work on a one-to-one basis with children in preacademic tasks, vocational education with mildly retarded adolescents and young adults, and served on an evaluation team.

He had been working as director of CRND Programs for the Bronx River Neighborhood Centers in New York City since March 1973.

Because of his involvement with programs for teen-agers, we anticipate Mr. McCarley will also be spending considerable time working with the State YOUTH organization, news that we are sure they will welcome.

We all welcome Mr. McCarley to the Staff of the New York State ARC.

Member Writes Book About Son

Dr. Howard L. Hurwitz, a long-time member of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, has written a book about his son. **Donald: The Man Who Remains A Boy** (Pocket Book, 192 pp., \$1.25) tells the story from Donald's birth at one pound nine ounces, almost 30 years ago until today. There are chapters on his infancy, early school years, bar mitzvah, high school years, first job, employment problems, relations with other retardates, social problems and the heartbreak and hope that go into raising a retarded child to manhood. You will find yourself comparing your experiences with those of Howard and Nettie Hurwitz. You will not always agree with their approach to Donald, but you will bring to this book your special understanding and experience.

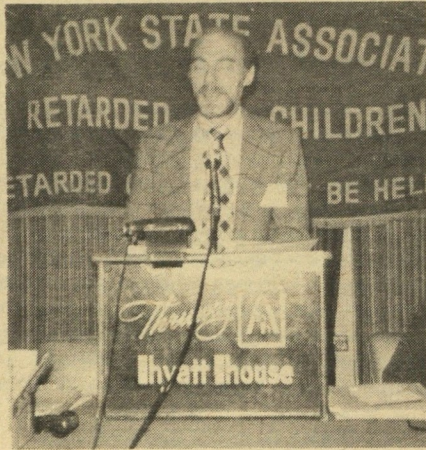
One reviewer said of Donald: "Dr. Hurwitz's story is the record of an awesome struggle that ended in triumph, and an inspiring book for those who recognize that mental retardation is a serious problem facing the nation."

The book may be ordered from Simon and Schuster, Dept. DB, 630 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C. 10020.

Convention Scenes-'73



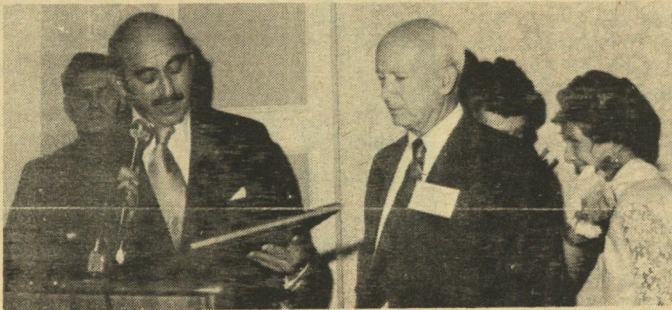
Commissioner Alan Miller addresses Friday meeting. L to R. Martha Jewell, Elliot Aronin and Commissioner.



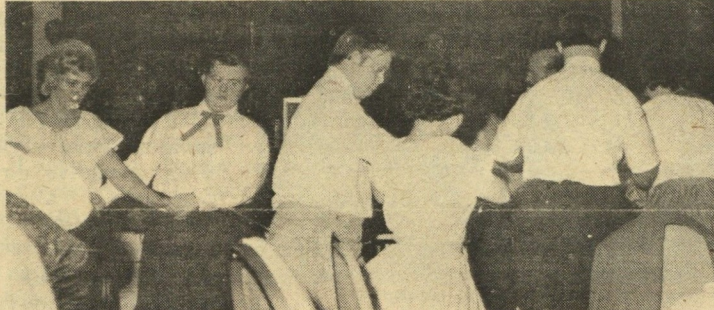
Elliot Aronin unable to stand the vote.



Why is Ellie Pattison smiling? L to R Mayor Corning, Elliot Pattison, and President Aronin.



Weingold finally gets to present Charlie Becker with his award.



Our friends entertain us at the banquet.



L TO R Fred Krause, executive director, President's Comm. on M.R., Henrietta Messier, Jim Wilson, Regional V.P., NARC, and J.T.W.



Delegate from New York City listens attentively.

City Refuses Services

State School Residents Not Accepted

The transfer of residents from Willowbrook to other state facilities is not an end to the problem. Although such transfers may reduce the density of the population at Willowbrook, and give some physically better facilities for those transferred, it does not necessarily mean that they will be receiving the back-up services they should get and that would make such transfers really meaningful.

For example, the Board of Education of New York City refuses to accept any of the residents at Manhattan State School into public school classes claiming the Department of Mental Hygiene has the responsibility to treat and educate these children. "The fundamental problem," says Merrill E. Calvin, M.D., "is that any retarded child living in a state facility is excluded from New York City Board of Education school by virtue of his address." He continues that new regulations and agreements between New York State Department of Mental Hygiene and New York State Education Department are needed, corresponding with the intent of the Unified Services legislation, so that children under the jurisdiction of the Department of Mental Hygiene can be served in local public schools, and conversely, so that the resources of the state facilities can be made available to children living at home.

Burgess Named To Board Of Visitors

We are very pleased to announce that Mrs. Edward (Karin) A. Burgess, member of the Board of Governors from Cortland County Chapter and Chairman for the past three years of our Scholarship & Awards Committee, has been named to the Board of Visitors of Syracuse State School.

Nyquist Nixes

No Aid For Retarded Age 3

In 1973, the Education Law, No. 4406 was amended by Chapter 871, Laws of 1973, permitting local school districts to have special classes for trainable mentally retarded children from the age of 3.

Since No. 4407 provides that where there is no program for a handicapped child in the school district because of the severity of the handicap or because no program exists, it was the opinion of our Legal Committee that if a school district did not set up such a class for trainables at the request of the parents, such parents would be eligible for the \$2000 aid under No. 4407 of the Education Law. When a staff attorney at the Education Department on August 14th wrote to our Chautauqua County Chapter that this was not the fact, our executive director appealed to the Commissioner of Education to look into this. On September 18th we received a letter from Robert D. Stone, Counsel to the Education Department in which Mr. Stone denied this right of the parent under No. 4407.

He writes, "however, if the legislature had intended that the provisions of No. 4407 be applicable to pupils under 5 years of age, it would have amended that provision of the Education Law accordingly, and would have increased the appropriation to the State Education Department for such purposes. Therefore, it is my opinion that a pupil under 5 years of age is not entitled to receive assistance pursuant to the provisions of No. 4407 of the Education Law."

The State Association takes the position that this statement is completely illogical as No. 4407 does not mention any ages at all, and for the first time the intent of the legislature is expressed that children under the age of 5 who are trainable may have special classes. The failure to appropriate funds to the State Education Department for this purpose is irrelevant in this whole matter as has been held by courts in all the actions that have been brought for equal protection of the laws for the mentally retarded in education.

At this point the Legal and Legislative Committee of the State Association is investigating the possibility of court action to enforce the rights of the parents of such children for education at state expense. Groups of parents in Westchester, Chautauqua and elsewhere have already applied for such aid and been denied. Others throughout the state are urged to do the same even if there will be a denial. The action, if brought, will probably be brought as a class action.

Commenting on this, Mrs. Betty Pender, Chairman of the Education Committee said, "In the light of the policy statements and position papers of the Board of Regents calling for public education to be mandated from the age of 3 on, I fail to understand how another branch of the Education Department, the legal branch, can take this defeatist attitude. Certainly, the decision of Mr. Stone and the position paper of the Board of Regents are in direct contradiction of each other."

Nixon Signs

Vocational Rehab Bill

On September 26th President Nixon signed a Vocational Rehabilitation Bill, P1 93-112, scaled down from a version that he had vetoed twice before as too costly.

The \$756.3 million authorization for the current fiscal year is \$56.2 million over Mr. Nixon's budget request. The measure only set a spending ceiling. A separate bill appropriating the money must still be passed.

The major emphasis in the 53 year old program is training the handicapped for jobs. The two year extension includes, for the first time, special projects and research into problems of the handicapped suffering from spinal cord injuries, the older blind and deaf and disabled migratory agricultural workers. It also sets up a new program of Federal Mortgage insurance to help construct rehabilitation centers and remodel public buildings to accommodate the handicapped.

The basic portion of the bill authorizes appropriations for a program of grants to the state for vocational rehabilitation services, \$650 million for fiscal year 1974 and \$680 million for fiscal year 1975. In addition there is \$37 million for FY 1974 and \$39 million for FY 1975 for programs of grants for innovation and expansion. One million in each fiscal year will be available for the study of comprehensive services needs of individuals with the most severe handicaps.

The original bill included services for the severely handicapped for whom there is no vocational expectations but these

were vetoed by the president. The pressures from the community and Congress, however, permitted the inclusion of a study of the needs of the severely handicapped with the hope that they will be included in a future bill as a part of the training program. The title on construction has no authorization but merely states, "such sums as may be necessary for grants for construction of rehabilitation facilities and for grants for vocational training services for handicapped individuals." The mortgage insurance has a maximum of \$200 million.

Two studies are authorized, one a study of the role of sheltered workshops in the rehabilitation and employment of handicapped individuals, including a study of wage payments in sheltered workshops, and the second a study of the allotment of funds among the states for grants for basic vocational rehabilitation services authorized under Title I.

Within the Federal government, an interagency committee on handicapped employees to provide a focus for Federal and other handicapped employment creates an architectural and transportation barriers compliance board to undertake the study of transportation and housing needs and problems for handicapped individuals, requires affirmative action programs for employment of handicapped individuals by government contractors and prohibits discrimination against handicapped individuals by any program receiving Federal financial assistance.

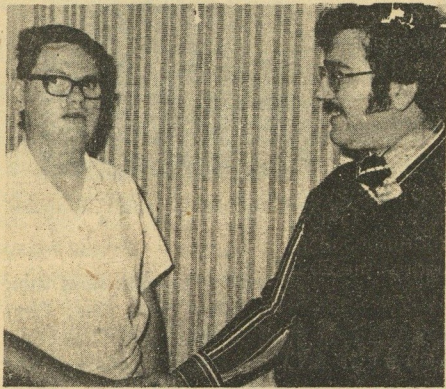
Parents Urge Court Standards For All Institutions

Parents and organizations such as the Welfare League of Letchworth and the

Retarded Worker Employee Of The Month

NORWICH TREADWAY INN
DESIGNATES KITCHEN HELPER

Jim Saxby, placed at the Norwich Treadway Inn in August of 1973 in the on-the-job training program by our Chenango County Chapter, has been chosen as the employee of the month by the other employees of the Inn for October 1973.



Overwhelmingly voted 'Employee of the Month' for October by his fellow employees at Norwich Treadway Inn, James Saxby receives congratulations from Innkeeper Frank Fine, R. As a reward, Jim and his parents received a free dinner at the inn. Jim is one of the several clients at the Community Workshop in Norwich, where he worked for about a year, to be placed in regular outside employment.

"I am very happy to say that you received almost every vote", wrote Frank Fine, Innkeeper to Jim. "This means that your fellow workers believe you are the 'best' and are proud to work with you."

Jim works in a kitchen as a dishwasher and general help. He is one of ten persons placed in outside employment in 1973 by the Chenango County Workshop.

Thanks for the information to Victor L. Hutchings, Assistant Director of the Chapter.

State Convention

(Continued from page 1)

with an exploration of the relationship between O.D. Heck State School and the Eleanor Roosevelt Developmental Services and local ARC's.

A third workshop, "The Message, The Media, The Motivation," was lead by Mr. Paul H. Elisha, Director of Public Relations, NYS Department of Mental Hygiene and was a "how to" demonstration of public relations.

Thomas A. Coughlin III, Chairman of the Institutions Committee lead a group in discussion on the Institutional situation in New York State.

At the annual banquet on Saturday evening, Awards were presented to the Outstanding Employees in State Schools and to the Employers of The Year. The presentations were made by Mr. Gerald Dunn, Executive Deputy Commissioner of Labor for the State of New York. The main speaker was Mr. Fred. J. Kraus, Executive Director, Presidents Committee on Mental Retardation, Washington, D.C.

The elected officers and the members of the Board of Governors were installed by an old time member of the Albany County Chapter, Mr. Joseph P. Tholl.

The members of the Association express their appreciation to all of the hard working members of the Tri-County Convention Committee, who made this marvelous Convention the success that is was.

Community League of Wassaic have urged the Department of Mental Hygiene to extend the standards ordered by Judge Judd in the Willowbrook case to other institutions.

Feeling that such request for the extension of these standards to other institutions is justified, Mr. Bruce J. Ennis, Ms. Anita Barrett, New York Legal Aid Society and Chris Hanson of the Mental Health Law Project have written to Dr. Miller urging that the Department abide by regulations and the standards set forth in the order in the Willowbrook case promptly met in all the state institutions for the retarded. "Although reluctant to undertake such litigation, and our preference for negotiation, it is obvious to us," write these people, "that residents in other state schools cannot be permitted to suffer under conditions already found unconstitutional in the Willowbrook case. Accordingly, unless the Department promptly takes affirmative action to bring all of the state's institutions into compliance with the Willowbrook order, we will have no choice but to bring such a suit."

At the urging of Leo Fixler of Gom-munity League, Dr. Miller has agreed to a conference to see how these standards can be applied to all institutions to avoid further litigation.

Willowbrook!

Levitt Scores Management

Despite apparent major advances in relief of overcrowding and the improvement of living conditions at the Willowbrook State School in accordance with the order issued by Judge Judd, the action by the State Association against the Department of Mental Hygiene and the Governor, a report issued recently by State Controller Arthur Levitt cited deficiencies in 22 operational and fiscal management areas and made 96 recommendations for improvement.

The Controller's 128 page report notes that the State Department of Mental Hygiene and the administrators of the school for the retarded must "substantially overhaul administrative practices" to achieve improvements in employee productivity and morale, certain departmental institutional practices, safety and internal fiscal control.

Where Have They Gone?

As of October 1973, the report from Willowbrook is that 785 residents have been transferred out of the institution. Where have they gone?

43 have gone to Bronx State School. Bronx State School does not exist. Apparently they have been placed in community facilities under the aegis of the staff of the future Bronx State School. 181 have gone to Kings County State School, Kings County Unit, 54 to the Williamsburg Unit, 118 to Manhattan State School, 91 to Queens State School, Corona Unit, 120 to the Creedmoor Unit of Queens State School, 60 to Suffolk State School, 91 to Wassaic State School, Wingdale Unit, and 14 to the Broome State School which also doesn't exist.

In addition to those placed, 185 have been identified for transfer to Kings County State School but not yet accepted by Kings County, 177 for Williamsburg not accepted. 650 for Manhattan State School which is not ready for them, 9 for Wassaic State School, Wingdale Unit and 19 for Broome State School.

To date the efforts of the Association to find out exactly what is happening in the program to each one of those transfers has been unsuccessful.

'Helen' Award To Weingold



Joseph T. Weingold, second from L, executive director of the New York State Association for retarded Children, accepts the department's "Helen Award" for distinguished service to children from Dr. Alan D. Miller, State Commissioner of Mental Hygiene as Martha Jewell, Secretary, and Elliot L. Aronin, president of the State ARC look on. Mr. Weingold is the second recipient of the Helen Award, which was established by the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene in 1970 to honor persons for distinguished service on behalf of children. Over the years, said Dr. Miller, Mr. Weingold has been one of the state's leading and most effective advocates of expanding and improved services for the mentally retarded and has compiled a long record of achievements. The presentation was made during the State Convention.

Another "Bill Of Rights"

Although Senate bill 1562, establishing a State Advisory Committee on the Handicapped and Senate bill 3170-A increasing the amount of state aid under No. 4407 to \$2500 were both vetoed by the Governor, the legislature did pass a joint resolution announcing a bill of rights for the handicapped. The proclamation states: . . . that every handicapped child shall have fundamental rights which include:

- I. The right to enjoy all of the freedom and privileges afforded other citizens;
- II. The right to work at employment for which he can be trained, etc. etc.
- III. The right to enjoy the respect of their neighbors, etc., etc.
- IV. The right to seek and obtain in their own homes, communities and within a reasonable distance therefrom, care of an excellence compared to the best that may be available elsewhere, etc., etc.;
- V. The right to an education or training to the full extent of their ability to learn;
- VI. The right of persons with a physical, mental, or medical handicap not to be subjected to treatment or legislation which categorizes them automatically as mentally retarded, etc., etc.
- VII. The right to protection against legal discrimination or abuse in any form on account of their condition."

Accused Fails To Appeal Charges Of Brutality

A number of actions were brought by attendants at state schools who were discharged because of acts of brutality against residents. These attendants brought action in the supreme court claiming "dismissal was cruel and unusual punishment." The Supreme Court has overridden the director, but the Appellate Divisions have sustained the ruling of the director in firing these people. In the case of Traber against Feinstein, 32 N.Y. 2d 860, the Court of Appeals unanimously affirmed the Appellate Division in upholding the director's determination dismissing the employee.

The State Department of Law had just been advised by the attorneys for the petitioner in the case of Monty Blackmon v. Samuel Feinstein, then director of West Seneca State School, that they will not appeal the Appellate Division ruling which is similar to that in Traber against Feinstein to the Court of Appeals. This is probably due to the Court of Appeals decision in Traber against Feinstein.

We are proud to have been part of the success in these cases as amicus curiae.

You Must Get Them There To Serve Them

Services For Sunmount Residents In Peril

On July 31, 1973, Tom Coughlin, executive director of the Jefferson County Chapter, wrote to Dr. Miller on the subject of transportation for the 50 Sunmount family care residents being served by the Jefferson County Chapter.

"While this has taxed our workshop staff financially," wrote Mr. Coughlin, "we have been able to manage with the help of OVR, however, a very serious problem regarding transportation has arisen."

The fact is that the Chapter has no more room on their buses for all the family care residents and are left with only two choices, either to buy a 25 passenger bus, or stop serving family care residents.

"We find ourselves," continued Tom Coughlin, "in a rather awkward position, on the one hand we do not want to refuse service to anyone and on the other the real

fact of life, we haven't enough money to do it."

The responsibility for the family care resident remains with the Department, stated Mr. Coughlin, and not the private agency. On September 12th we learned Dr. Francis, director of Sunmount, informed Tom Coughlin that there was no money in the current school or central office budget for this type of service, that a budget request in 1974 for this service is being made by the central office.

"So you see," says Tom, "the request has been effectively ignored or at least put off until April 1, 1974. I am really at a loss as to where we should go from here. Any suggestions you might have would be appreciated."

Anyone have any suggestions?

Protests

ARC On Proposed SSI Regulations

In a letter dated October 8, 1973 the New York State Association for Retarded Children protested to Secretary Casper W. Weinberger (HEW) the proposed regulation with regard to supplemental security income for the aged, blind and disabled with reference to the reduced income for those living in another person's household and receiving support and maintenance in kind for such person.

According to the proposed regulations, a mentally retarded adult who is categorized as disabled living at home in his parents' household will have his \$130 a month reduced by one-third.

"In the case of the severely mentally retarded," wrote Mr. Weingold to Mr. Weinberger, "who are entitled to SSI for the disabled, these individuals are so dependent that they will rarely if ever leave the family household unless such family disintegrates. Since the family is not legally liable for such maintenance in New York State is it not in fact discriminating against the mentally retarded and other severely disabled who are living with their families as compared with living away from their families either in community residences, hostels or private institutions (as may be the case with the mentally retarded)?" He went on to say "When such a mentally retarded disabled person is living in a hostel, the \$130 in this state is supplemented to meet some of the cost of his maintenance. In the

case of private institutions for the mentally retarded, these rates are considerably more. Apparently there is a penalty for the family keeping the retarded person at home." This seems to be quite contrary to the emphasis on deinstitutionalization, when in fact we should be giving the family more money rather than less if the mentally retarded disabled person is living at home. In most cases this means increased rent and other costs, certainly not met by the basic SSI allowance. Copies of this letter was sent to Senators Buckley and Javits as well as Senator Kennedy and the New York State delegation in Washington.

Acknowledgement has been received, but no action apparently has been taken in this regard.

NOTE: Persons who are not now receiving Aid to the Disabled, but who are mentally retarded of whatever age, may be eligible for supplementary security income.

Individual applications must be made through your local Social Security Office on application form SSA-8001, Certificate of Benefits on Behalf of Another, SSA-780, Medical Officers Statement, SSA-7887. These forms can be secured from your local Social Security Office. This process should be started as soon as possible. For further information contact New York State Association Office.

Frances Reville On Retention Of Attendant

In a strong letter to Dr. Alan D. Miller, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, Frances W. Reville, President of the Welfare League and a member of the Board of Visitors of Letchworth Village protested the retention of an attendant who admitted that he beat a 13 year old boy and then aided by two other attendants held him under a cold shower. He claimed that the boy had temper tantrums. "I saw pictures taken the morning after the abusive treatment and the hand prints are visible on Eric's (the resident) back", wrote Mrs. Reville.

Apparently the attendant was terminated by the director and he appealed. A Mr. Laggert from Central Office heard his testimony and ordered him reinstated after a four weeks suspension.

It would seem from the contract between the State and the CSEA that the ad-

ministration has no right of appeal after such a decision.

Mrs. Reville strongly protested this procedure and in her letter stated "We must insist that Dr. Wolansky's decision to terminate employment of Mr. Luba be upheld and that Mr. Luba not be allowed to return to Letchworth Village. We cannot and will not tolerate such actions on the part of persons to whom the care of our children is entrusted."

We have thought that the Department of Mental Hygiene had taken such a stand and had relied upon the word of the Commissioner and the Department with regard to this. Up to now when the director had terminated the employment of an attendant who had been found guilty of such action and the attendant had appealed, the state resisted such appeal, usually successfully. We hope that this procedure will not be changed now.

Community League Donates Bus



This is the bus, L to R Dorothy Fixler and Richard C. Merges, Acting Director, Wassaic State School.

On Sunday, October 21, 1973, officers and members of Community League held their regular monthly meeting at Wassaic State School instead of New York City. They dedicated two gifts donated for use of the residents. One, a 60 passenger bus will provide outings, trips to places of interest and expand the recreational activities possible. The bus was dedicated by Mrs. Dorothy Fixler, President of Community League, left - shown here with acting School Director, Mr. Richard C. Merges. Mrs. Fixler also dedicated the Helen Altman Lotz Shade Center in memory of the late Helen Altman Lotz, one of the founders of Community League, a past president and a tireless worker on behalf of the children. This shade center will also improve the recreational possibilities at the school in addition to providing a place for relaxation. Funds were provided for the Memorial shelter by Community League and Mr. Abraham Lotz.

Suffolk Seeks Toddlers For Early Intervention

The Suffolk County Chapter of the ARC has embarked upon a program for early intervention for the mentally retarded. The program is open to retarded youngsters 3 years old and under. The intervention classes began earlier this year. The two 10-week sessions "have achieved some excellent results and enthusiastic response from participating parents," according to Mike Osarchuk, early intervention coordinator.

Parents and children in the program attend weekly workroom sessions. These provide experience and training in auditory and speech and language stimulation. All activities are adapted to the needs of individual children and their parents.

In addition to the prescriptive

educational program, early intervention provides parents with ongoing informational meetings, individual and group counselling, and home visitation.

The classes are held in a specially designed school - workroom at the Lincoln School in Huntington Station, the AHRC facility, and transportation arrangements are made by the Association.

One of the most difficult tasks, according to Mr. Osarchuk, is the location of children in need of such services, or casefinding, as it is called. A community education program is in progress throughout Suffolk County urging that anyone having or knowing of a mentally retarded child under the age of 3 contact the AHRC's Patchogue office, (516-475-0784).

Now 25

New Hostels Open

According to the Department of Mental Hygiene, three new hostels, or group homes for the mentally retarded in New York City, Rochester, and Buffalo have brought up the number of such hostels to 25. These provide community residences for more than 325 residents.

The new hostels are the New York City Hostel at 193 Ninth Avenue, being operated by Voluntary Residential Facilities, Inc., capacity of 24 residents; the Rochester residence at 595 Brooke Avenue, operated by Monroe County Chapter with 16 residents, and the new Buffalo facility at 119 Halbert Street, with a capacity for 25 operated by United Cerebral Palsy of New York State. According to the Department of Mental Hygiene, through Robert Hayes, Deputy Commissioner for Mental Retardation and Children's Services it is anticipated another 10 hostels will be open in various communities of the state before the end of the year.

Retarded Attendants

In a recent article in the Rehabilitation Record Dr. Robert M. Urie, director of Health and Rehabilitation Services of St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, N.C. and Dr. Donn Brolin, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling and Personnel Services, College of Education, University of Missouri - Columbia, make the interesting suggestion that the mentally retarded be used as attendants for the physically handicapped.

A study by Dr. Joseph Fenton of the New York State Civil Services system indicates clearly the retarded have the potential of doing a wide array of challenging competitive jobs. It is suggested that a mutually beneficial relationship between the two types of handicapping conditions could result if the mildly retarded were utilized as intended for the physically handicapped. It is suggested that specific training could be designed to prepare retarded children to work in this area.

Chapter News....

Willowbrook Chapter is not going to let the State forget about needed changes at Willowbrook State School, and the fact that they are not occurring. Had a very successful meeting of the families of Willowbrook residents in the Bronx. In spite of bad weather, 80 families appeared at the meeting, showing their concern for the status of Willowbrook. **Chemung County Chapter** Executive Director Michael Gorden sends an interesting letter indicating that **Chemung County Chapter** would like to report that "At long last, we will have a hostel in operation by 1974."

Who can express the joy we all feel for **Otsego County Chapter** over the completion of a long struggle to obtain a Mental Health Board Contract for services for the coming year. We just cannot say enough about the hard work done by Ella Wood, Chapter President, which has finally brought about a contract. Otsego has certainly undergone one of the longest and most difficult struggles to come to this point, but we know that when their program begins, it will be a good one.

The Chapter held a Bike-A-Thon this past summer which raised over \$2300. **Saratoga County Chapter**, taking a page from our Youth groups and their great interest in slide presentations, has prepared a sound slide show for explaining the Saratoga ARC. It is available for members to show around the Saratoga County area. **St. Lawrence County Chapter** was the recipient of a \$4,000 grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare this past summer, for facilities improvements. A special commendation to **Sullivan County Chapter**. In addition to their expanding into a workshop program, Sullivan County made arrangements to be active in the ARC Telethon, which took some special work with cable television. In addition, **Sullivan County Chapter** has surpassed a membership of 500. A pleasure to see this sort of growth...No one will be tossing any money in the air in Columbia County for awhile, because it seems that before it lands, our **Columbia County Chapter** finds a way to catch it. Special commendation goes to Columbia because of the fine work they have done in the Community. Because of this, we noted that Steven Moore, who was working on an Eagle Scout Project chose to collect money for a film projector for the Chapter on his own, as a part of the project. Also found an interesting clipping indicating that at a recent McDonald's restaurant opening, a ribbon of 50 one dollar bills was cut and, you guessed, before they hit the ground, **Columbia County Chapter** has swept them up.

Steuben County continues to publish a most informative monthly newsletter from which it is hard to pick only one or two items on which to report. Perhaps the best one was the recent November issue which consists only 3/4 of a page and included the following as most of it "This newsletter is short because of time, not because of the lack of activity and or news. 1. We are finding new children. 2. We are making sheltered workshop progress. 3. We are making gains with program at all ages. 4. We are delighted with our speech gal. 5. We have exciting people working with our kids in all 3 centers. 6. I have not yet assimilated the fact that time moves faster when I am very busy. 7. Next month's newsletter will be bursting with news ... **Madison County Chapter** did a rather interesting thing in November, scheduling a talk on Guardian ship by Immediate Past President Robert J. Hodgson on election night, with their center being one of the polling places. The hope was they would catch some voters at the meeting as well as members. Understand Mother Nature played them a dirty trick and produced a huge



The Watertown Firefighters Benevolent Association presented funds to the Jefferson County Association for Retarded Children for operation of its summer program. From the left: Thomas A. Coughlin, executive director of the ARC; Patrick W. Putnam, president of the Firefighters Benevolent Association, and Joseph F. Waite, Vice President.

snowstorm which about knocked off the whole deal, but it was a great idea... Madison County also went together with **Chenango County Chapter** in working with the Central New York Pony Club for their annual show. The proceeds of the show were distributed between the two Chapters ... **Montgomery County Chapter** doing a fine job even though they have been without a head staff person for some time. We noted with interest the establishment of the Christopher Sollecito Memorial Trust Fund, to be used as Scholarships for College students who pursue training in assisting the retarded. Another fine way to help for the future ... Perhaps one could call the summer newsletter of **Delaware County Chapter** sort of, "asking for it", but I think what they did was really great! They printed the names and addresses of their Board members and said "our program is beginning to expand. We are planning more ways to serve these in need throughout Delaware County. If you hear of something you don't understand, have any criticism, have a suggestion, have any question or just want to talk about what our Chapter has to offer, please contact one of these people."

... **Albany County Chapter** has been getting out a new series of interesting articles while they continue to expand program in other areas. These articles deal largely with parent education. They have really caught the eye of our Education Committee Chairman, Betty Pendler, and I am sure you will be hearing more about them soon... We join **Onondaga County Chapter** in offering thanks to the Onondaga County Department of Mental Health, the County Executive and the Ways and Means Committee of the Legislature for the change in the funding ratio within **Onondaga County Chapter**. From a 50 percent State, 25 percent County, 25 percent Chapter funding arrangement, we understand that the County is now picking up 40 percent of the tab, as Suffolk County has done for many years, and we think this is really wonderful ... **Welfare League-Letchworth Village Chapter** held the most successful luncheon on Saturday, November 17 at the Grand Ballroom at the New York Hilton... from the far North comes word from **Clinton County Chapter** of many activities. We must give thanks to the **Champlain Valley Chapter** of the Sweet Adelines who presented a concert entirely for the Chapter. The parents of Lakeside School students contributed enough Triple S Blue Stamps to obtain a projector for the school. Clients of the Workshop were employed at the Clinton County Fair in ground-keeping. Had some real summer excitement when in a big rain storm, their hostel was almost flooded. Clients grabbed buckets and started to bail but it was a

hopeless task which could only be resolved with the help of the Fire Department and with everyone spending a night out of the building. Many notes of thanks from the Chapter to helpful friends neighbors and staff members, and to the client bucket brigade ... **Rensselaer County Chapter** used the newspapers to good advantage this past summer receiving over \$577 from the Troy Time Record as the receipt of its circulation Campaign ... **Suffolk County Chapter**, one of our most active fund raisers in the Metropolitan area recently, is very happy to announce that the Former County Mental Health Commissioner, Dr. Herbert P. Brandt has accepted a position with the Association as a psychiatric consultant to the Vocational Rehabilitation Program...really enjoyed the September newsletter of **Warren-Washington Counties Chapter** which talked about the many invitations which really go out to people with an ARC meeting notice. They indicated that one was invited, "to attend", "to hear," "To chat", "to find out", "to be concerned," "to join", "to enjoy" ... incidently in November they followed up all those with "to discuss", ... Write for a copy of the newsletter. **Schenectady County Chapter** welcomed new Executive Director Jack Gilroy, who came from our **Chenango County Chapter**, with a pile of work. The Chapter, of course was very active with the State Convention along with the other Capital District Chapters and put on a really fine program... How about that **Ulster County Chapter**! Didn't even know that they had done it, and the next thing I know, I read that they have opened up a recycling center in Ellenville. A good way to get that part of County back in the family again.

What a great beginning to **Herkimer County Chapter's** October newsletter which said, "By the time you read this article, we will have 31 clients enrolled in our Adult Training Center — by the end of the year we will probably have 40."

Allegheny County Chapter's first annual dinner celebrated the launching of the chapter's first full-time service, the opening of a sheltered workshop. Donald Farleo, the new Executive Director, was welcomed and the chapters first Friend of the Retarded Award was presented to J. Charles "Charlie" Shine, charter chapter member, past president and past member of the Board of Governors.

Looking forward to more news from everyone for the next time...



Mrs. Bridget Menvey (1) Arthur Pense Scholarship Award winner working with one of her Willowbrook students.

Jefferson County Does It

The Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County has agreed to fund our Jefferson County Chapter to the tune of \$106,000 of county funds. When matched by the State this would be \$212,000 towards the budget.

Tom Coughlin, executive director of Jefferson County Chapter explains it this way. The Chapter felt that its 4407 program and also preschool program were being under-financed in terms of county money. In order to remedy this they prepared to use the Family Court Act under No. 232 to supplement their 4407 and preschool programs. Briefs were

Sullivan Objectives Prototype

Marc Brandt, executive director of the Sullivan County Chapter in a paper that he set forth to his board and membership "The Problems and Needs of the Sullivan County ARC Agency", has presented an 11 point program which is commended to the attention of all chapters in the State.

Commenting on the number of mentally retarded in Sullivan County he writes "even if we assume that Sullivan County has clean air, excellent water, and high taxes — all contributing to a lower incident rate of mental retardation and even if we take the 3 percent statistic and cut it in half we still have over 800 people who might well be in need of the Sullivan County Association for Retarded Children.

Point No. 1. We must search out the county and we must find these individuals and enlarge our services and provide them with proper programming.

Point No. 2. We must in the coming year develop a long range plan to provide us with a guide to enable us to set priorities.

Point No. 3. We must become more concerned and aware of our state association and participate actively in policy making decisions.

Point No. 4. We must actively recruit members from our general membership and get them involved. We must indoctrinate them, educate them, and multiply them. And we must begin this task yesterday.

Point No. 5. We must continue to inform the county legislators of our needs and involve them in our planning for the future.

Point No. 6. All committees should be appointed including schools, fund raising, public relations as well as other functional committees and that the board seating should become a summary of the various committee meetings.

Point No. 7. It is imperative that board members understand the function of a community mental health board. It is recommended that starting in September board members who can attend these monthly meetings with the Mental Health Board accompany the executive director on a rotating basis.

Point No. 8. We need to fund raise.

Point No. 9. We must turn our attention to youth and establish a youth ARC movement in the high school and auxiliary at the college.

Point No. 10. We must provide services for the severely retarded.

Point No. 11. We must use our membership in the most effective way possible to meet our commitment to the retarded which is to provide every essential program for the retarded in Sullivan County in order to avoid institutionalism and inhumane treatment.

He signs off with Ben Franklin's admonition to his colleagues prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, "Gentlemen, either we all hang together, or surely we will hang separately."

prepared, judges were talked to and petitioners lined up.

"When the Board of Supervisors heard about it," writes Tom Coughlin, "they took some exception, mainly to being ordered thru the Family Court to spend money with effective controls. However, the agency felt it needed \$212,000 and really didn't care where it came from." On June 6th, the Board of Supervisors agreed to give the agency \$106,000 of county funds which would be matched by the Community Mental Health Board fund for a total of \$212,000.

HEW Aids Willowbrook

In a letter dated August 15th, 1973 to Senator Javits, Bernice L. Bernstein, Regional Director of Region II of HEW describes the programs HEW has started to help the situation at Willowbrook.

On June 30th, 1972, two projects were approved. One attacks the complete absence of comprehensive diagnostic evaluations and plans for individual goal oriented services and the inadequate representation of state vocational rehabilitation counselor staff to evaluate and serve the retarded with vocational rehabilitation potential. A \$192,740 grant to the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene and a three year grant for Outstationing New York Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for counselors at Willowbrook and Letchworth for \$180,000 were approved.

HEW Regional Office had solicited from the Department of Mental Hygiene an application to improve the Willowbrook management information and patient procedures system by insuring quality cost-effective services.

This project is to serve as a model in achieving accountability for Federal and State Medicaid supported expenditures.

The Columbia School Research Center has been invited to submit a citizen-parent advocacy proposal for the retarded. In June 1973 an ad-hoc committee of consumer representatives, including representatives of the State Association were called together to explore a proposal for the benefit of the applicant. A draft proposal for this project has not yet been received.

The HEW Office of Education has tentatively earmarked funds for this program. It will provide transitional classes in New York City for children leaving Willowbrook to prepare them for entrance into the City's Public School System.

"For the past three months," writes Bernice Bernstein, "teams from the Rose F. Kennedy Center at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the Mental Retardation Center at New York Medical College, and the Newark State College of Child Study have been visiting and consulting at Willowbrook in the hope of leading to a permanent affiliation. This may lead to the improvement of the training of all levels of staff at

Willowbrook.

The National Center for Deaf-Blind at New Hyde Park, L.I. and the Commission for the Visually Handicapped of New York State were involved in the coordination of direct services at Willowbrook for blind-retarded children.

The recent New York Bureau of the Budget allocated \$8.0 million to Willowbrook to meet staffing, renovation and other costs. Annually, approximately \$17 million of Federal Medicaid funds (about half of the Willowbrook operating budget) support this institution.

She failed to mention that this \$8.1 million was taken away from other institutions serving the mentally retarded and mentally ill in New York State. She also fails to mention that this money was made necessary by the decision of Judge Judd for proper staffing at Willowbrook. She continues that serious problems in the staffing and program and management still exist at Willowbrook and they will continue but that HEW continued to maximize its assistance to the facility as well as to others.

1973 Vocational Rehabilitation

A record 360,726 disabled Americans were rehabilitated to productive activities during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1973, HEW Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger announced recently.

The 1973 figure is up 11 percent over that for FY 1972 and is the highest yearly total ever reached since the State-Federal vocational rehabilitation program began in 1920.

Texas led the Nation in the number of rehabilitants, 29,009.

New York State with 15,453 rehabilitated ranks fourth, Pennsylvania second, and Florida third. In the number rehabilitated per 100,000 population New York State ranks 52, in the number of rehabilitations per 10,000 disabled population New York ranks 47.

These figures, however, are very misleading as New York State is one of the few in the nation that has the support of a long term employment of the severely disabled mentally retarded in sheltered workshops who also should be counted in these programs.

Furthermore, New York is much more concerned than other states with the severely handicapped who are not reflected in these figures.

Mental Hygiene Workshop Exploits Workers

A State Controller's audit of the sheltered workshop at the Central Islip State Hospital charged recently that the program had engaged in massive underpayments of patients, improper withholding of wages, illegal employment of minors and violations of the Code of Ethics for state employees.

This is the same workshop which we had protested to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene as far back as 1967 as competitive with community workshops and engaged in practices that would not be countenanced by the Department of Labor if practiced in a workshop in the community.

According to the findings which covered the period from September 1, 1968 to March 31, 1972, nearly 1200 patients employed at the Long Island workshop at various times were underpaid a total of \$205,000.

The Central Islip workshop, in violation of Federal and State laws, was found to have improperly withheld more than \$10,000 in wages earned by patients. The audit also uncovered the following:

Minors 14 and 15 years old were employed in the workshop in violation of child labor regulations.

Merchandise produced in the workshop for private concerns was also bought by state employees connected with the workshop operation who operated their own businesses and resold the merchandise.

One of the state employees assigned to the sewing shop was also an employee of the sewing shop contractor.

There was no referral, monitoring and evaluating in the therapeutic aspects of the programs.

Some 470 patients worked in the work force during this time. Some 35 to 40 state employees supervised the workers and their production, which totaled \$654,000 for a 41 month period. The sewing shop was not included.

James T. Kelleher, business manager of the hospital said that the institution had sought out the patients who had been underpaid and had made restitution.

He disclosed at the same time that the large facility had been discontinued. These had included woodwork, auto repair and electronics shops as well as the sewing shop.

Mr. Kelleher said the sheltered workshop now confined itself to light assembly work done by small groups such as putting together ball point pens and paper stacks.

The Department of Mental Hygiene said that it was "in agreement with most of the recommendations and comments."

Commenting on this, George Hirsch, Chairman of the Vocational Rehabilitation Committee of the Association asked, "why wasn't the Department in agreement with the same criticisms that we had made as long as five or six years ago?"

Even the operation of the workshop as it now exists is in direct competition with our workshop in Suffolk County because of the underpricing that the Department of Mental Hygiene does on subcontracts due to the fact that the wages of the employees who are the supervisors are not figured in the costs of the operation.

It is the contention of the State Association that the vocational rehabilitation in this aspect should be outside the walls of the institutions and not intramural.

State Mental Health Facilities

Building Pace Hit

A study commission has sharply criticized the state's performance in building new mental health facilities, saying some institutions will remain overcrowded until at least 1977 because of it.

In an 82 page report issued recently, the Legislative Commission on Expenditure Review, was highly critical of the Mental Hygiene Department and the state Health and Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Corporation, the bond-issuing agency that builds the facilities in two areas:

The Commission found large cost overruns and long construction delays in the state's \$343 million mental health construction master plan first announced by Governor Rockefeller in 1965.

It also uncovered what it said was a failure by the Department to plan adequately for flexible facilities that could be converted easily to various uses in order to relieve overcrowding.

As a result, the commission said most of the state's schools for the mentally retarded will be overcrowded for at least another four years.

The Commission's report drew a quick and stern rebuttal from the Mental Hygiene Department which contended that the panel ignored some important problems encountered since the massive construction plan was introduced.

The 1965 plan envisioned 40 new projects — four large hospitals for the mentally ill, seven state schools, thirteen children's hospitals, three intensive care units and thirteen outpatient-rehabilitation centers.

Of these, only 23 remain, either completed or under construction, the report said. The other 17 projects were abandoned. Five newer projects have also been started.

The Commission said the cost of the 23 projects remaining from the master plan has exceeded the original estimates by \$94 million or about 50 percent.

The Commission staff found that construction delays of 20 months were normal. The building of one hospital in Albany was even delayed for more than six years, the reported noted.

Three-fourths of the state's mental hygiene institutions are now overcrowded based on the Department's new standard of 80 sq. feet of sleeping quarter space for residents, said the Commission.

"By 1977 there will in fact be a surplus of bed space in the state hospitals. On the other hand, with the new facilities, the state schools will still be overcrowded by almost 10 per cent in 1977," it continued.

In addition, stated the report, apparently there is no rush to occupy the new structures as they are made available. A Department spokesman disagreed with the conclusion that the problem is poor planning by the Department.

"Our institutions are not overcrowded according to the old standard," the spokesman said (50 sq. feet per resident)". He said the Department had already opened up five underutilized state hospitals for treatment of mentally retarded people transferred from overcrowded state schools (and resisted by the parents it might be added.)"

Also, construction costs have ballooned because of the economic upheavals in the late 1960's.

The spokesman also questioned the Commission's failure to mention the cutbacks made in the Department's budget in the early 1970's.

"About 6,000 people were laid off and no funds were made available for hiring the required staff to open and operate the new facilities," he said.

ARC Fund Nets Over \$10,000 In Herkimer

Herkimer County chapter recently announced that their fund drive reached a total of \$10,516. Of this, \$5,073 was raised by area youngsters and adults who swam for pledges on a per lap basis. Swimmers sought sponsors for a maximum of 200 laps prior to participating in the swim-a-thon at the Herkimer County Community College at the beginning of May. The Mohawk Valley YMCA swim teams total of \$1,068 was the highest amount raised by any one group of swimmers.

This event is reported, not because of the large amount of money that was raised, but the comparatively large amount that was raised by a small chapter of the Association which should give encouragement to others around the state in their fund raising efforts.

Bill Of Rights For Retarded (Continued from page 1)

(10) To amend the various laws in relation to unfair practices in employment, housing, land and commercial space renting regarding the mentally and physically handicapped. In other words, the anti-discrimination laws should include the mentally and physically handicapped.

(11) Provision for an Ombudsman in the Executive Department for all handicapped persons.

It is obvious that such a program, said Augustus M. Jacobs, Chairman of the Legal and Legislative Committee of the Association, if enacted would be in fact a Bill of Rights for the mentally retarded in the law as well as in wishes.

Much of this legislation was introduced last year through the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental and Physical Handicap, now the Select Committee on Mental and Physical Handicap under Senator James H. Donovan of Utica. Other facets of this legislation were introduced through other legislators as noted and all will be pushed as vigorously as possible in this session of the legislature.

The membership will be kept informed of the progress that we are making.

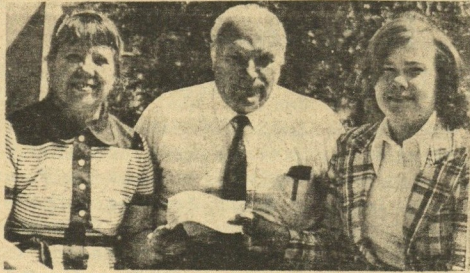
In Putnam County — Just to keep other YOUTH groups posted and to supply you all with some new ideas we have decided to send an article to "Our Children's Voice" on a regular basis. Have we ever got news for you this month!

We have been taking the retarded adults in our community bowling every second Saturday. At the end of the season we held a dinner in honor of the bowlers at a local Chinese restaurant. At the dinner we awarded each bowler a trophy with their names engraved. We held our MARCH for PARC on October 28. We raised almost \$2,250.00 for our association. We also helped answer phones at the successful telethon.

Our Halloween party on October 26 was no ordinary social gathering. Everybody dressed up and we had guests from Opengate! There must have been 75 people there (that's a great turn out!) We held a "Harvest Cover-Dish Supper" on November 30. Every family that attended brought a different dish and we served supper buffet style. We also held a Christmas party.

It isn't all work though. Recently our adult group had a dance to which we were all invited. Everybody who went on the MARCH for PARC was also invited. The band was "The Perceptions" from the Carmel area.

As you see we've been pretty busy.
Michele Norgren, President



Dean Albert Ioria (c) acts the go-between as Betty Southard (l) of Schoharie County Chapter accepts check from Cobleskill S.C. class of '73, presented by class advisor Pat Cybalski.



Teen Drive Participants at Nassau County "thank you" party.

take the kids. It is sometimes hard to find things to do that are interesting and inexpensive.

From Suffolk County

The Third Annual YOUTH Walkathon was held in Suffolk County on October 8th. Approximately 150 Junior Auxiliary members and their friends showed up to march the 23 miles from the Smithhaven Mall in Lake Grove to the Walt Whitman Mall in Huntington Station. The young people began their march at 9:30 and wound up at Walt Whitman at about 5:00 p.m. They brought in more money for AHRC this year than in any other year," said Debbie Johnson, Walkathon Chairwoman. The entire route covered twenty three miles along Jericho Turnpike stopping only four times for "refueling" as predetermined check points provided food and drinks for the marchers. McDonald's also gave a helping hand by providing extra food and beverages for the marchers.

At each location the juniors signed their names on their pledge card to prove that they had made it to each checkpoint. The pledge cards were used for people who wished to sponsor the walkers, giving any amount they wanted per mile walked. A Smithtown girl, Mary Heedles, received over \$600 in such pledges. The marchers had a police escort during the entire march.

The walkers also carried canisters to collect money from onlookers along the way. Everybody was cooperative and interested in learning more about auxiliary work and about the Association. Canister money collected by members of three of the junior auxiliaries amounted to over \$500 at the first counting. "This should be the biggest year for the Walkathon," said Debbie. "When the rest of the money from pledges is in. We should be well over the total raised last year."

From Schoharie County

The Class of 1973 at Cobleskill State College left behind them an additional token of their concern for other people. The class presented a check for \$400 to the Schoharie County Chapter of the Association. The check was an unrestricted gift to be used to fill immediate needs for retarded children. Betty Southard, Director of Schoharie County Chapter Center accepted the gift.

In Genesee County

Participants in a Water Safety Program donated to the Genesee County Chapter. (More youth news Page 10.

Position Paper On Educating

Children With Handicapping Conditions

At long last the Board of Regents has issued what purports to be a position paper (No. 20 of a series) on the education of children with handicapping conditions. Furthermore, it purports to be a statement of policy and proposed action.

This is the first statement by the Board of Regents since the issuance of the Fleischmann Report on the plight of the more than 200,000 handicapped children presently not receiving any special services.

The position paper states unequivocally the Regents' desire that all handicapped children receive the educational facilities necessary to overcome, if possible, the deleterious effect of the handicap.

Noting that these children are placed in a variety of programs, including 42,000 in the programs in the Department of Mental Hygiene, Correction, Social Services, Division for Youth and the State University, the Regents proposed first of all an advocacy system to assure that children with handicapping conditions receive educational opportunities commensurate with their needs.

To overcome this the Regents suggests a change in the Education Law to give the primary responsibility for these children and power to have them educated to the Commissioner of Education. They proposed the consolidation of the legal responsibility for the education of all the children under the Commissioner of Education.

"The legislative plan should assure the right of a child," states the position paper, "to attend the publicly supported educational program regardless of which agency provides it, housing, child care or other services."

They further proposed that all new schools in New York State be constructed in such a manner to conform to the special instructional needs of children with handicapping conditions.

The meat of the proposal comes under the fiscal section where the following proposals are made:

1. A handicapped child should be weighted at 2.0 for state aid.
 2. When a child with a handicapping condition is placed outside the local school district, the district would be required to pay its local contribution, thus maintaining its basic responsibility for the education of that child.
 3. When a child is placed in a state supported school under No. 4407 the local school district will contribute the amount applicable to general students in the district. The amount reimbursed to the parents for payment of such education would be determined by the Commissioner of Education and not limited by \$2000.
 4. When the children are to be educated in schools operated by other state agencies, such as Mental Hygiene, the local school districts shall pay for such institution instruction the amount of money from local funds as described above, and the excess cost shall be paid for the agency by the state upon the approval of the Commissioner of Education.
 5. The costs of post identification and screening, diagnosis, etc. be eligible for reimbursement as excess cost for educational purposes. These would include services of physicians, psychiatrists, social workers, health specialists, etc.
 6. Early intervention is absolutely needed and to insure such success the Regents recommends that the state assume full responsibility for the cost of educational programs for all handicapped children below the legal entrance age (to be lowered to 3).
 7. That there be more research into how children with handicapping conditions may best be educated. They propose that 0.1 per cent of the amount of state support for the children with handicapping conditions to support approved research and development programs.
 8. The Special Education Instruction Materials Center System should be expanded and strengthened.
 9. Additional financial resources should be made to the State Education Department to assist the Commissioner in the execution of the new demands, such as effective supervision of the advocacy system, etc.
 10. Present provisions for transportation must be carefully studied and changes in legislation and regulations made accordingly. The present limitations on transportation for the handicapped are discriminatory.
 11. School districts must evaluate the present educational facilities in preparation for the operation of programs such as here described.
- According to Mr. Weingold the position paper of the Board of Regents is an enormous step forward, and the first one since 1937 where the Board of Regents has taken an affirmative stand with regard to the handicapped.

"It fails, however, in that it does not come up with enough specifics and is too vague about others," said Mr. Weingold. "For example, nowhere in here is it stated that the mandatory age for the education of the handicapped should be lowered by legislation to 3. Furthermore, nowhere is it stated that the education of children in the Department of Mental Hygiene belong in public schools and not in Department of Mental Hygiene facilities."

Mrs. Betty Pendler, Chairman of the Education Committee of the New York State Association, criticized the advocacy program as being too weak and inadequate. "Such an advocacy program," she stated, "should not be with the Commissioner of Education but in an independent body predominantly consisting of parents of the handicapped, with very few providers of the service on such a panel of advocates. As a matter of fact such an advocacy system should be independent of the Department of Mental Hygiene and is much better housed in the Ombudsman plan proposed by the New York State Association and embodied in a bill that was introduced last year by Senator Conklin and Assemblyman Steingut."

"The State Department of Education, in spite of the very good position paper here issued (as far as it goes)," stated Mr. Weingold, "cannot escape the responsibility for the situation as it now exists and which resulted in the Fleischmann report. This Department had the power at all times to enforce the laws that are now on the books, and which it has done reluctantly, if at all."

Mr. Weingold also pointed out that even under the existing laws, the Law Division of the Department of Education is taking negative stands with regard to the Education of the Handicapped which contradict in many ways the position of the Board of Regents.

On November 14th a meeting was held with various representatives of organizations dealing with the handicapped to discuss the possible position paper and many of these items were brought out at the hearing. "It is hoped," stated Mrs. Pendler, "that the fleshing out of this position paper will take very definite forms such as we have suggested."

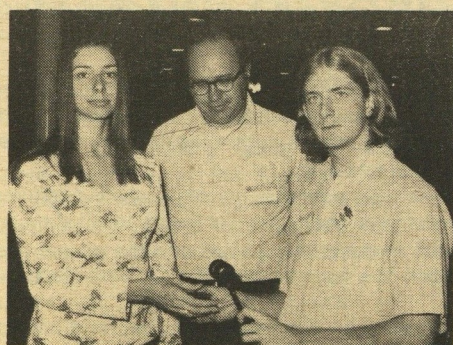
Youth Convention 'Best'

SUZANNE B. CRANE
NEW PRESIDENT

Y.O.U.T.H.-New York State ARC held their 5th Annual Convention at the Towne House Motor Inn in Rochester New York, September 21-23. The more than 200 participants who arrived were greeted with brightly colored kits of material prepared by the clients of Monroe County Chapters Al Sigl Center in Rochester.

Following a Friday evening Board meeting, and an opportunity to meet all of the candidates for State Offices, the Convention got into full swing on Saturday with a lively business session and the Annual election of officers.

Those elected were: President - Suzanne B. Crane, Monroe County; Secretary - Sue Dickerson, Columbia County; Treasurer - Jack Simon, Cattaraugus County; Regional Vice-Presidents: Western - Thomas Briggs, Monroe County; Central - Lu Ann McCarty, Chemung County; Northeast - Kirk Lewis, Schenectady County; Southeast - Carolyn Fetter, Staten Island. Regional Representatives, Western - Lance Blade, Cattaraugus County; Central - Michael Drake, Chemung County; Northeast - Mary Reardon, Columbia County; Southeast - Pat Tunnock, Queens.



Bill Ickes, outgoing President of YOUTH NYS ARC passes the gavel to Suzanne Crane, newly elected President, while John Bertrand looks on. (Photo courtesy of Dick Amper — Suffolk AHRC Lamplighter)

In what was probably the most well planned group of sessions ever, held during the afternoon for the benefit of delegates, there were groups exchanging ideas in a Brainstorming Session on Music, Arts - Crafts, Gym - Swim - Outdoor activities. Another group discussing the Special Olympics and the third group discussing professional publicity. One of the most well attended workshops was that conducted by Dr. Robert Guthrie of Buffalo on "The Prevention of Mental Retardation - The Role of YOUTH".

At the Saturday evening buffet dinner a most interesting presentation was given by Dr. Robert Audette. Dr. Audette was the originator and former Director of the Tennessee Human Rights Campaign and is now Director of the Walter E. Fernald School in Massachusetts.

The Monroe County Youth group were most gracious hosts. This writer would like to offer a special note of thanks to Kathy Baker, President of the Monroe County YOUTH group, who worked from morning till night everyday to see to it that the conference was such a success.

Sullivan County Gains Campus

Marc Brandt, executive director of Sullivan County Chapter writes that the chapter has been given the lease for the entire former campus of Sullivan County Community College in South Fallsburg. They moved their sheltered workshop there and are planning after school and Saturday programs and have hopes for beginning a Youth ARC.

Interestingly enough the Chapter budget has increased 250 per cent since two years ago and is \$20,000 greater than the entire mental health and addiction budgets for the county.

Association Awards Weingold Scholarships

The winners of the 1973 Joseph T. Weingold Scholarships were Eileen Lerner, who was attending school at the State University College in Buffalo, and Miss Margo Sykora, now attending the State University at Stony Brook, but who was selected for the award while a student at Mt. St. Mary College in Newburgh. These outstanding students joined the growing list of individuals who have been recipients of the Weingold Scholarship, based upon their preparation for a career in teaching the mentally retarded.

In 1973, the Association Board took action to increase the amount available for the Weingold Scholarship by an additional \$1,000 and a new type of scholarship was developed. Whereas the earlier Weingold Scholarships which Miss Sykora and Ms. Lerner were awarded, have been strictly for students at the Colleges preparing individuals for careers in teaching, the new Weingold Scholarship program will provide scholarships to full time students, who are in a field that will place them in a career in mental retardation or a related field, and who have done outstanding volunteer work with the mentally retarded in their home communities.

The Scholarship & Awards Committee has determined four winners of these new Weingold Scholarships for 1973-74. They are Miss Suzanne B. Crane, President of YOUTH-NYS ARC; Miss Candice Licence, Past President of YOUTH-NYS ARC and daughter of our Nassau County Board member, Ed Licence; Maureen Hennessey, winner of one of Suffolk County's YOUTH scholarships as an outstanding volunteer, and a Past President of one of Suffolk's local YOUTH groups; Joana Cappuccilli, an active volunteer in the Onondaga County Chapter and daughter of our Onondaga County Board member Al Cappuccilli.

The Association congratulates these four fine young ladies upon their accomplishments, and looks forward to the awarding of these Scholarships in the future.

Two Win Suffolk Scholarships

Lorraine McMullin, retiring president of the Babylon Junior Auxiliary has been named winner of the 1973 Y.O.U.T.H. four year scholarship.

Pat Kennedy, retiring president of the Deer Park - Dix Hills Junior Auxiliary has received the two-year scholarship.

The two girls were among several applicants for the annual A.H.R.C. Scholarship Award given to a junior auxiliary member as an entering freshman at an accredited college. The winners were selected by a Y.O.U.T.H. Scholarship Committee headed by Cindy Argentine of Huntington Station. Miss McMullin will receive a \$500 stipend in each of her first two years and \$200 in each of her junior and senior years. Miss Kennedy will receive \$200 for each two years.

We Are Not Alone

Governor Daniel Walker of Illinois vetoed the House bill which would take mental retardation responsibility away from the Department of Mental Health and create a new state department responsible for mental retardation as well as those afflicted with cerebral palsy, epilepsy and related problems. It would also establish regional offices, central case registries, state and regional advisory councils, state and regional service plans and budgets and cost-benefit analysis systems.

The measure passed the legislature with overwhelming bi-partisan support, support by the Illinois Association and its member organizations.

Does this sound familiar to anyone?

Aid To Disabled Ordered For Vineland Retarded Adults

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has decided that out-of-state facilities are eligible for reimbursement for residents receiving aid to the disabled.

A several year battle between the State Department of Social Services and the New York State Association for Retarded Children has continued with regard to payments for private institutions for the mentally retarded outside the State of New York under the aid to the disabled category of Social Services.

The position of the Department of Social Services has been that such persons in such facilities as Vineland or others are not residents of the State of New York, that they could be in residences of the State of New York, and that they are not approved by the Department of Mental Hygiene.

In a landmark decision (Seitelman vs. Lavine, Commissioner New York Department of Social Services and Jules Sugarman, Commissioner, City of New York Department of Social Services) the Appellate Division unanimously decided in favor of the plaintiff whose son is a resident of Vineland Training School. The decision did the following:

1. It eliminated the claim of the Department of Social Services that mentally retarded persons of that age coming from New York State who are in private institutions outside of the State are not residents of the State. They are for this purpose.

2. It also determined that when the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene approves such a facility, and Commissioner Miller said he would approve such facilities outside the State if they are licensed by the State in which they exist and their standards are equal to our own, then such a facility is eligible to receive such a resident.

3. Finally, the Court ordered that a fee be set for Vineland Training School by the City of New York and that such payment be made.

Unfortunately the Court refused the contention of Murray Schneps, attorney for the plaintiff in the action, in which the State Association voted its moral and financial support, that this was a class action for all similarly situated.

Albany County Develops Parent Letter Series

The Albany County Chapter, Mrs. Connie Sullivan, Home Economist, has developed a series of 10 letters to answer vital everyday questions of parents of the retarded. Each week for ten weeks a letter accompanied by appropriate booklet or pamphlet will be mailed to those who are subscribing to this service. The topics covered are: The Mentally Retarded Child at Home; Self-Help Clothing for the Mentally Retarded; Arts and Crafts; Toilet-Training, Feeding, Language Development, Legal Rights; Sex and the Retarded; The Retarded Adult as a Community Member (Voc. Training Etc.); Community Agencies Serving the Retarded.

Each subscription will be accompanied by an attractive folder for storage of the many booklets and pamphlets that will be received. The letter series is prepared by the professional staff of the Albany Association for Retarded Children in cooperation with the Eleanor Roosevelt Developmental Services. The cost of this service is \$10 for a subscription or 8.00 to members of the Chapter.

For those of you who wish to subscribe please send your subscriptions to Ms. Connie Sullivan, Home Economist, Albany County Chapter, NYS ARC, 419 Madison Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12210. Please label your check or money order: Parents of Retarded.

The Grange Helps Again



Mrs. Richard Pile, Sr., presents check for Camp Catskill on behalf of the New York State Grange to Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold.

The presentation was made at the State Convention. In a letter to Mrs. Pile, Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold said, "May I take this opportunity to thank you again for the generous contribution that the various Granges made to our Association. It is not only the money, but they thought that so many people are interested, that gives us the courage and hope."

New Book Explores

MR Economics

"The Economics of Mental Retardation" by Dr. Ronald W. Conley, is well worth reading.

The book notes interesting statistics such as the following: An estimated 87 per cent of mildly retarded adult males are employed, a rate only four per cent below that of males in the general population. A mildly retarded male who entered the work force at age 18 in 1970 could expect lifetime earnings of over \$600,000. Each dollar expended on vocational rehabilitation of 18 year-old mildly retarded adult male generates an estimated increase in future earning of \$14.00. Lifetime institutionalization of a retarded person are almost \$400,000. For each case of severe retardation among males that is averted, the (undiscounted) total gain to society is almost \$900,000. An estimated 690,000 retarded adults are economically idle. Of these about 400,000 could be gainfully employed if appropriate services were made available.

The book is published by the Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland.

A Dead End Policy?

The State of New York and Syracuse State School have contracted with an organization called Independent Living, Inc. of Syracuse, a self styled "non-profit" developer of group homes, to operate a group home for six adolescent children presently residing at the Syracuse State School.

This is a time when the State Department of Mental Hygiene has over 30 letters of intent from various chapters of the Association to start and operate hostels for the mentally retarded. The Department may contract with whomever they wish, but have they considered the continuity of such efforts when operated by a corporation of individuals without a broad base of support? There seems to be a tendency on the part of the Department of Mental Hygiene to make such contracts with profitmaking organizations at a time when ARC's and other organizations which are broad based in the community are knocking desperately at their doors for help in starting such residential facilities.

Experimental Vaccine Found For M.R. Cause

Two British researchers have developed an experimental vaccine against a common viral disease that is considered an important cause of mental retardation throughout the world. The vaccine now needs confirmation from injections into a larger trial group before it can be licensed for routine use in this country, the United States and elsewhere.

Dr. Stephen D. Elek and Dr. Harold Stern, who developed the vaccine at St. George's Hospital here, said they hoped the British Government's Medical Research Council, which funded a major portion of the research, would begin the larger trial within a year. Comparative studies on a large number of adolescent girls, some of whom receive the vaccine and others who get a dummy, should provide conclusive proof of the vaccine's protective benefits, the doctors said.

The disease, called cytomeg-virus infection or cytomegalic inclusion disease, is one for which no specific therapy exists. Cytomegalo virus particles, called inclusions, are produced in the nuclei of the cells that swell as a result of the infection in many of the body's organs.

In the 17 years since American Scientists discovered the causative virus, doctors have learned that cytomegalo virus produces its greatest damage during pregnancy when mothers pass the virus to the fetus in the womb. In its most severe form, the virus causes natural abortions and kills newborns from brain and liver damage.

About one baby in 200 is born with congenital cytomegalo virus infection. Some show a minor illness at birth. But the great majority of the babies with congenital cytomegalo virus infection "appear to suffer no obvious ill effect and make normal physical and mental progress," Dr. Stern said.

"The important thing is that a proportion of these babies including some who have no symptoms and appear perfectly healthy at birth, will become mentally retarded," he said. In such cases the effects of viral damage on the brain become apparent only years later, in infancy or childhood, when the victim's intellectual capacities do not measure up to those of the child's peers.

The researchers pointed out that because societies pay for custodial care for decades for many such victims, the disease has a tremendous economic and psychologic impact around the world.

Developmental Disabilities Act Extended

Congressman Paul Rodgers has introduced a bill to provide a two year extension of the Developmental Disabilities Services Act (H.R. 11511). In the two year extension the authorization is \$50 million for 1975 and \$85 million for 1976. For community project grants it is \$15 million for 1975 and \$15 million for 1976. Autism is added to the list of disabilities under the Act now limited to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and epilepsy. 10 per cent of the funds appropriated for 1975 and 30 per cent for 1976 are earmarked for programs for deinstitutionalization (whatever that means).

A real advance is the elimination of the 75 per cent Federal matching for the funding.

As for construction this will be little if any as money as such but will have to come out of other funds, now in very tight supply.

New York City Schools

Nyquist Orders Aid To Handicapped

In what one local school official called "a historic decision," State Education Commissioner Ewald B. Nyquist has directed the Board of Education of New York City to immediately place all students with diagnosed handicaps in appropriate public school classes or to contract with private schools at public expense. The order was the result of a class action brought against the Board of Education (Riler, Reid and others) because they had been excluded from school.

Mr. Nyquist's decision ordered the following:

1. That the City of New York discontinue immediately "medical discharge registers."

2. That all students who have been diagnosed as handicapped be placed immediately in appropriate public school classes or if public school classes are not available in private schools under contract in accordance with the provisions of the Education Law.

3. That home instruction be provided for the pupils solely in accordance with the provisions of the regulations of the Commissioner.

4. That the Board of Education forthwith submit to the Commissioner a list of all children being provided home instruction or reasons for such home instruction.

5. That the exemption procedures established under the regulations be followed with respect to those students who cannot benefit from any instruction.

6. That a plan to eliminate waiting lists for diagnosis and placement be submitted by February 1, 1974.

7. That the Board of Education in consultation with community boards establish a procedure for regionalizing evaluation of the handicapped and submit the procedure by February 1, 1974.

8. That the Board of Education undertake a study of the needs of the han-

dicapped on a secondary level and there are plans to meet the needs of these handicapped pupils in the junior and senior high schools be submitted by the same date and finally,

9. That by February 1, 1974 a plan for notifying the parents and interested persons in a language understood by such persons concerning services available for handicapped children and where advice may be obtained concerning such educational services and to whom complaints may be addressed.

The Special Education Office of New York City is seeking additional time for the implementation of this order, but according to Dr. Helen Feulner, executive director of the Special Education Office, the same office that refuses to take pupils from Willowbrook or from Manhattan State School said, "even if we get the funds we will need more time to find teachers, classrooms, space, etc." It has been estimated the cost of teaching these pupils in private schools runs to about \$60 million. She further stated that the medical discharge record list has not been discontinued explaining alternatives must be found. For example, she said, how do we deal with mononucleosis.

Donald Eisenberg, executive assistant to Dr. Helen Feulner, said Dr. Feulner had ordered a complete accounting of all students presently included on waiting lists. He revealed that there were some 8400 youngsters found to be in that category, including 114 mentally retarded, 115 doubly handicapped (mental retardation plus a physical handicap) 71 hearing impaired, 6,078 emotionally disturbed, 1,794 awaiting screening and diagnosis, and 262 students who had been diagnosed and evaluated and who are in the process of being placed.

He added that he did not know and was unable to determine where the money to educate these children will be sought.

'73 Rose Ball Tops Them All

More than 1400 guests filled the New York Hilton Ballroom for the 20th Annual Rose Ball. The annual event of the Nassau County Chapter of the ARC reached a record breaking figure of \$280,157. The journal brought in a record breaking \$186,157 and raffle sales, including the teen drive reached \$94,000. The evening marked the presentation of the 13th Annual Humanitarian Award to Gertrude Merinoff for her years of service as Rose Ball chairwoman and member of our Board of Directors and for her extraordinary generosity to AHRC. A tri-figure sculpture "Love," executed in bronze by artist member Monte Belden was presented to Gertrude.



AHRC president Hy Clurfeld, Senator William T. Conklin (Brooklyn), AHRC executive director Helen Kaplan, Humanitarian Award recipient Mrs. Charles Merinoff, and Assemblyman Joseph M. Margiotta (Nassau County)

What Do We Need For Community?

To answer the above question the Department of Mental Hygiene has created task forces on the Development of Community Residential and Rehabilitative Services.

Although the intention originally was to have one Task Force, on the protestation of our President, Elliot L. Aronin, this was broken down into three separate Task Forces, one on mental health, another on mental retardation and the third on alcoholism. The Task Force on mental retardation is headed by Joseph T. Weingold with Samuel Orenstein, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner, Division of Mental Retardation and Children's Services as co-chairman.

Also from the Association on this Committee are Thomas A. Coughlin, III, Robert Sansone, Executive Director, Suffolk County Chapter, and Thomas J. Goodman, President, Onondaga County Chapter, and President of the New York State Council for Exceptional Children. The purpose of this Committee, according to Mr. Weingold, is to draw up a plan to describe the residential needs and alternatives to institutionalization, the rehabilitation services to back up such residences, and how they should be funded with some timetable, perhaps, on this program.

Federal Funds Not Used For M.R.

Of the \$957.9 million in federal revenue sharing funds thus far expended or earmarked for expenditure by the states, a whopping 58 per cent is directed toward education, according to a study by the General Accounting office. Assessing the \$30.2 billion General Revenue - Sharing Program (P.L. 92-512), about \$377 million, or 39 per cent of the total, will be used for capital outlays — mainly construction and land acquisition.

The report indicates that at least three states — Georgia, Alabama and Pennsylvania — plan to use a portion of their allocations to support mental retardation programs. Georgia is channeling \$3.5 million to mental retardation day care centers to offset the loss of federal social services funds. \$4.5 million of Alabama's revenue sharing allocation has been earmarked for transitional programs for the mentally retarded. Almost all of the \$43 million that was thus far authorized for expenditure in Pennsylvania was used for educating exceptional children during the past school year to implement a 1971 Federal court mandate that all retarded children be provided with an education.

We can obtain no information that any of the funds received by New York State were used for the retarded.

Mary Andrews Concerned For School Residents

Quoting two articles in the Buffalo newspaper about the disappearance of a West Seneca State School resident, whose body was later discovered, Mary Andrews, a member of the Board of Visitors of West Seneca State School and of the Board of Governors of the New York State Association, expressed a great concern recently about the treatment of and the protection of the residents remaining in the facilities of the Department of Mental Hygiene.

She writes, "I am sorry — but 'insuring patients' rights makes me sick. I have seen too many people needing help, and the Department's exodus has slammed the door right in their face. Don't the residents deserve to have the right to have their safety insured; the right to proper and humane consideration of their needs; and the right to protection and supervision when they are unable to fend for themselves?"

Christmas Card Designs At Metropolitan Museum



Discussing the designs that have just been put on display at the Metropolitan are: (l to r) Harlene Freezer and Michele Decker of the Metropolitan, John Bertrand and Thom McCarley of the ARC staff.

Thirty five paintings, the work of mentally retarded artists ranging in age from elementary school children to senior citizens, were displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The work represented the finalists from over 260 entries received in the 1973 Christmas Card Design Contest of the Association. After the Association had selected the winning entries for Christmas Card Designs to be sold by Association Chapters, the runner up designs were displayed. The entries were judged by a representative of Williamhouse - Regency Inc., the Company that produces the cards, and a representative of the Community Programs Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Through the cooperation of Miss Michele Decker of the Metropolitan Museum, assisted by Harlene Freezer and Andi Owens, the display of designs was placed at an entry way where they were seen by many Museum visitors.

At the same time, the runner up designs in our 1972 competition were getting an additional workout. After having been on display in the Metropolitan Museum last year, they were displayed at our Youth Convention in Rochester in September, and in the New Senate Office Building, in Albany, in January.

Designs for the 1974 competition should already be in the State Office.

In Atlantic City?

With a good deal of interest, if not amazement, we read in the report of the director of the Willowbrook State School that some residents of Willowbrook have been placed in the Senator Convalescent Center in Atlantic City, a convalescent and rehabilitation center (actually a nursing home) in which they are being trained in ambulation, toilet training, feeding, dressing and activities of daily living.

It is anticipated that for some of the transferred residents this will be a transitional setting with potential return to the borough of the Bronx and a more beneficial setting perhaps even at times, in family care or with their own families.

Who would want to leave Atlantic City?

Donation Acknowledged

THE WOMEN SUPPORT OUR WORK

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of \$500 to the New York State Association by the Women's Division of the New York State Association of Tobacco and Candy Distributors. The check was sent by Mrs. Paul Messina, Treasurer and employee of the Dearstyne Bros. Tobacco Co., Albany, N.Y.

So, all our fellow members, male and female, and don't forget to smoke cigars.

Employee Recognition Day

"With all the bad publicity we have been getting the administration thought it was about time the public got a chance to see the good the employees do at Rome State School," said Dr. George Buchholtz, acting director, at the first employee recognition day held this summer at Rome State School.

Presentations were made by Lawrence D. Maxwell, deputy director who said "we have been a little careless in calling to the attention of the public those dedicated employees working for the welfare of the mentally retarded." About 200 school employees attended.

Kaplan, Coughlin On Advisory Comm.

On November 16th Governor Rockefeller announced the appointment of 11 citizens from 11 counties as members of the newly constituted State Advisory Committee on Mental Retardation. This Committee was appointed in accordance with the recodification of the Mental Hygiene Law which provides for a special advisory committee on mental retardation as well as the mental hygiene council and advisory committee on alcoholism.

Active members of the ARC appointed to this Committee were Thomas A. Coughlin, III, Jefferson County, also appointed Chairman, and Helen Kaplan, Executive Director of the Nassau County Chapter.

Other appointments to the Committee were Mr. Bannister (SIC) executive director of the Margaret Chapman School in Westchester, John J. Gilhooly of Brooklyn, Chairman and President of Transport of New Jersey, Edwin L. Hunger of Poughkeepsie, and Chairman of the Dutchess County Mental Health Board, Dr. Bernice M. Kipfer of Syracuse, director of Special Education for the Syracuse City Schools, Irving Lichtman of Eggertsville, Erie County, President of KAR Service Centers, Dr. Norman S. Moore of Ithaca, Professor Emeritus, Clinical Medicine, School of Nutrition, Cornell University, Thomas J. Prisco of Staten Island, Job Developer with the AFL-CIO Community Services Committee on Labor Rehabilitation and Job Development, active in the Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children, Richard C. Scott of Pittsford, (Monroe County) Senior Vice President Marine Midland Bank, formerly a director and president of the Monroe County Chapter and Mrs. Tomannie T. Walker of Queens, Chief of the Social Work Services League School.

The Governor also appointed a State Advisory Committee on Mental Health. Miss Helen Hogan, executive director of the Saratoga County ARC has been appointed to this Committee. State Senator Dalwin J. Niles of Johnstown is Chairman of the Committee.

New York State Association For Retarded Children, Inc.

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