

Carey promises support

Convention adopts legislative program

The State Board of Governors and delegates from all the chapters unanimously adopted a 16 point legislative program at the state convention in New York City on October 12th.

A highlight of the program was a call for the establishment of an Office for Mental Retardation in the Executive Department, separating mental retardation from the concern of Mental Health and Alcoholism.

At the banquet of the Association on Saturday Congressman Carey promised, if elected, should such legislation pass, he would surely sign it.

Subsequent statements by Congressman Carey after his election as Governor reaffirmed this promise as late as Sunday, November 17th.

ASSN. STRESSES PROGRAM

Other parts of the program that will be stressed by the Association are:

— Provision that rent paid to a Mental Retardation Services Company representing the interest on an HFA mortgage for construction shall be a reimbursable item under contracts with Community Mental Health Boards. Although there is no prohibition against this in the law, the Division of the Budget and the Comptroller's office have ruled that it is not a reimbursable item and have suggested that the law be amended. The Department of Mental Hygiene is also urging this change.

— Amendment to the Education Law to provide that education of the handicapped be mandatory from the age of 3 to 21. Such a bill was introduced last year by Senator Giuffreda in the hope it will be passed this year.

OMBUDSMAN CALLED FOR

— Provision for an Ombudsman in the Executive Department for all handicapped persons. Such a bill was introduced last year by Senator Conklin and Assemblyman Steingut.

— Amendment of Section 4407 of the Education Law to make it mandatory instead of permissive. This is the Section of the Education Law which provides for education in private approved schools of the handicapped so severely involved that the public schools cannot give them proper services. Last year a bill to increase the state aid from \$2,000 to \$2,500 was passed and signed, but the mandate (it is now permissive) was vetoed by Governor Wilson.

Other parts of the program are:

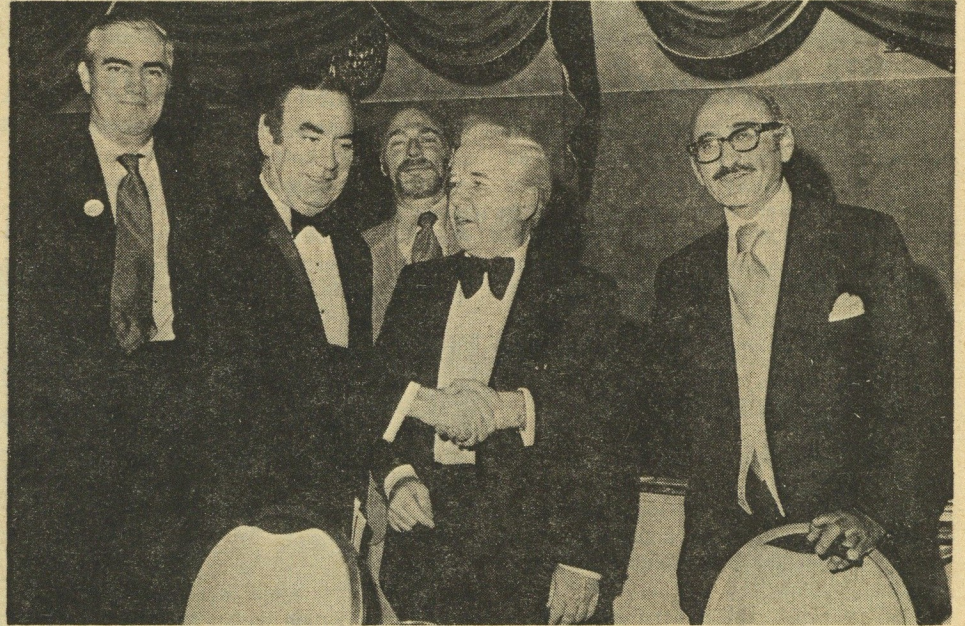
ELIMINATION OF PARENTAL LIABILITY

— Elimination of parental liability for fees for children under 21 years of age in the institutions operated by the Department of Mental Hygiene. This year bills were introduced and passed lowering age of majority to 18 for all purposes, except the liability of the parents in the institutions of the Department of Mental Hygiene and Social Services.

— Provision for reimbursement in the communities by the State at a rate of 75 per cent for mental retardation services provided locally.

— Provision that only net income realized in the operation of a specific program be deducted from the operating costs thereof to establish a net operating cost for reimbursement.

(Continued Page 2)



After Congressman Carey laid it on the line — we shall have a separate department. Left to right, Jim Murphy, President New York City Chapter; Congressman Carey; Elliot Aronin, President NYS ARC; Senator William T. Conklin and Jerry Weingold, shaking the hand that (hopefully) will sign the bill.

Anniversary: One thousand attend Association convention

More than one thousand persons attended the 25th Anniversary Convention of the State Association at the New York Hilton Hotel October 10th to 13th, 1974.

The highlight of the convention was the banquet on Saturday when Elliot Aronin was installed as President for the third year and William T. Conklin was honored with a presentation of a silver platter for his devotion and years of service to the mentally retarded.

Most gratifying to the delegates and the people present at the banquet, attended by more than 500 persons, was the appearance of Congressman Carey, then a candidate for Governor, who promised to sign all the bills that Senator Conklin and the Legislature are able to get through and also promised to help in getting them through. This included the separation of mental retardation from the Department of Mental Hygiene.

The theme of the convention — "Services to the Retarded, a Right or a Handout" was explored in a number of workshops described in the last issue of O.C.V. The obvious conclusion was that these services were there as a matter of right and should not be considered as a handout by the State and local government out of the goodness of their hearts. In accepting his award, Senator Conklin recalled the early days of our struggles together, how much has already been accomplished, but how much still has to be done. He pledged his continuing support for these programs. The convention adopted a noteworthy series of Resolutions, some of which follow:

RESOLVED, that the serial replacement of Willowbrook directors cannot come to the heart of a problem, which lies not only with the Director, but with the very system which created and perpetuates "Willowbrook."

RESOLVED, that the Attorney General, the Department of Mental Hygiene, and the Mental Health Information Service be requested to continue and increase their efforts to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of all mentally retarded citizens.

Continued on page 4

Separate MR office

Conklin introduces bill



Senator William T. Conklin, Billie and Jessie Conklin with the State ARC Award to the Senator.

Senate No. 11, introduced on November 15th as a pre-filed bill by Senator William T. Conklin, again would establish an Office of Mental Retardation in the Executive Department separating mental retardation from the Department of Mental Hygiene and its problems of mental illness and alcoholism.

This is the third time around for this bill. It was passed once three years ago and vetoed by Governor Rockefeller. It died in committee last year (as reported in the September issue). This year Senator Conklin has undertaken the task of moving this bill through the Senate and we have the assurance from Assemblyman Stanley Steingut that he will be the sponsor in the Assembly.

In the addition, we have had the assurance from Governor Elect Carey at our State Convention and in press releases that such legislation would be approved and if passed, signed.

We don't know how far we have come in the past eleven years but it is interesting to note that once more we have teamed up Senator Conklin and Assemblyman Steingut, the Republicans and the Democrats, but this time with a Governor we hope understands our problems much better than the previous administration.

(Related story on page 2)



Elliot L. Aronin, newly re-elected president.

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Farewell to an old friend

How does one say farewell to an old friend, co-worker, colleague? Yet one must say so in the physical sense because Jim Reville is dead. But in a much larger sense Jim is still with us through his spirit, his ideas, his enthusiasm which he transferred to all of us; his dedication to the mentally retarded.

Jim was a rare person, indeed. From his narrow interest in Letchworth Village because that's where his son Jimmy was, he developed more and more, as he became involved in the administration and activities of the State Association. Until, when he had served his four years as president, he stood as knowledgeable of the field and as great a champion of all

services for all the retarded as anyone who ever worked in this area.

Jim was forthright. One always knew where one stood with him. A wrong was a wrong and there was never any maybe. Although he may have taken a step backward to take two steps forward, there never was any real compromise in Jim Reville. Above all, there shone in him an innocence, a childlike faith in people and things that brightened the room he was in, made all of us perhaps more hopeful than we should have been, but certainly was an ideal to which to aspire.

So in very limited sense, we say goodbye to our friend and champion of the retarded, Jim Reville.

The needs remain the same

There has been considerable upheaval in the legislative branch of government as well as the executive in New York State with Congressman Hugh Carey winning the Governor's Office and the Democrats capturing the Assembly. This perhaps casts a new light on things, but the needs of the mentally retarded remain the same and are becoming more critical every day.

We are grateful for the expressions of support from both sides of the aisle for most of our programs. We now have much more hope that if these bills are passed, they will also be signed by Governor Carey who, as Governor-Elect, made a direct promise to do so.

But, until then, the needs remain.



If you want to know who is who, left to right, Mrs. Sylvia Weiss, bookkeeper, and Miss Dee, Mr. Weingold's secretary.

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— Provision that Community Mental Health Boards hold public hearings on their proposed program at least 30 days before submitting them to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene.

— Amendment of the Education Law to make effective the mandate of New York State Constitution for a free public education for every child. This would entail full reimbursement for the education of the handicapped with "the money following the child".

— Amendment of the Education Law to clarify and liberalize the provisions relating to transportation of the handicapped.

— Amendment of the Education Law to permit school districts to transport persons under 5 and over 21 to and from rehabilitation facilities.

INSURANCE AMENDMENTS

— Amendment of the Insurance Law to require all insurance companies and plans to include mentally retarded as dependents in family health and hospital policies and to forbid insurance companies to refuse life insurance up to an aggregate limit of \$1500 on the life of a mentally retarded person on the sole ground of his mental retardation.

— Amendment of the Criminal Procedure Act as it relates to persons accused of crime who are adjudicated incompetent to stand trial to conform it to the recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court; and finally

— A thorough and complete revision of article 11. of the Mental Hygiene Law dealing with Community Mental Health and Retardation Services, to provide more than lip service to the needs of the mentally retarded. This provision would concern itself with the injustices inherent in the very composition of the local board, the absence of any guidelines for a balance of services between the mentally retarded and other afflicted persons for whom these services are to be provided, and the absence of any duty on local government to contribute any local funds.

(Related story this page)

No MR Task Force from Carey We appoint our own

As a response to Governor Elect Hugh Carey's failure to appoint a Task Force on Mental Retardation, Elliot L. Aronin, President of the New York State Association for Retarded Children has announced the formation of a separate task force to consider the problems of mental retardation.

This Task Force will concern itself with the problems of separating mental retardation from the Department of Mental Hygiene; the problems of development of community resources, and the mechanism for improving the conditions of the residents in the state schools.

Late in November, Governor Elect Carey announced the formation of a Task Force on Mental Health to give him recommendations in this field for his Message to the Legislature. In announcing the Task Force, the New York Post commented on the failure to include any representatives speaking for mental retardation.

Elliot L. Aronin, President of the New York State Association for Retarded Children protested the procedure which would subsume mental retardation under Mental Health once more and urged the creation of a separate and equal Task Force on Mental Retardation. "The Task Force as now constituted," wrote Mr. Aronin, "presumably is addressed towards the problem of mental health. Yet it has elected to appoint a subcommittee for mental retardation."

"This procedure would be a continuation of the existing condition" continued Mr. Aronin "under which mental retardation is confused with mental illness to the detriment of both causes".

Letters and telegrams urging Governor Elect Carey to appoint a Task Force on Mental Retardation have been sent from all over the State.

On December 4th, 1974 Mr. Matthew Nimitz, Executive Director of Governor Elect Carey's Task Force on Transition asked Mr. Weingold to come to his office because the Governor-Elect was going to appoint a Task Force on Mental Retardation. Between this telephone call and Mr. Weingold's arrival something happened which influenced the Governor Elect not to appoint such a Task Force.

"This Task Force", said Mr. Nimitz, "might put the Governor on the spot." Mr. Weingold's response was if he meant by this the Task Force would recommend separation of mental retardation from Mental Hygiene, the Governor Elect put himself on the spot with his statement before the Convention and the press that he would support such a program.

"This action is", said Mr. Aronin, "a demonstration of the insensitivity to the needs of the 600,000 mentally retarded and their families on the part of the Governor Elect or his advisors that we had not expected."

"We think it imperative at this point that there be a Task Force of our own if the Governor Elect will not appoint one. We do this sadly and with reluctance but we see no other way out." The following have been asked by Mr. Aronin to serve on this Task Force.

Mr. Elliot L. Aronin, President, New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., formerly President of the Nassau County Chapter and a member of the Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Board of Nassau County.

Mr. Thomas A. Coughlin, III, Executive Director, Jefferson County Chapter of the

Association. Developer of many programs for the retarded and Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Mental Retardation to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, member of the Executive Committee, Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council.

Margaret Giannini, M.D., Director Mental Retardation Institute, New York Medical College. One of the founders of the first mental retardation clinics in the United States, if not the world for mental retardation, and a notable authority in the field.

Mrs. Olga DeFelippo, Executive Director, The Guild For Exceptional Children, Inc., Brooklyn, N.Y. A pioneer in the field of services for the retarded and mother of a retarded son.

Mary Goodwin, M.D. eminent pediatrician, now or formerly head of Pediatrics at Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown and formerly with the Department of Mental Hygiene.

Robert J. Hodgson, Esq. formerly President of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, an eminent authority on guardianship and trusts for the mentally retarded, author of definitive law review article on guardianship, senior member of an eminent Buffalo law firm.

Mrs. Helen Kaplan, Executive Director, Nassau County Chapter of the Association, the largest community organization for the mentally retarded in the United States. Developer of the most outstanding programs for the retarded in this county, parent of a mentally retarded child deceased, and a member of the Advisory Committee on Mental Retardation to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene and an eminent authority in the field nationally and internationally.

Mrs. Adele Osinski, member of the Board of the Onondaga County Chapter of the Association and the parent of a mentally retarded child in public school.

Mrs. Frances W. Reville, former President of Welfare League, Letchworth Village Chapter of this Association, member of the Board of Visitors, Letchworth Village Developmental Center, and mother of a resident at this facility.

Mr. Robert Sansone, Executive Director of the Suffolk County Chapter of the Association, formerly with the Regional Office of the Department of Mental Hygiene, innovator for early intervention programs for the mentally retarded in the State now serving as models throughout the country, consultant to Suffolk State School on early intervention programs, Coordinator of In-Service Training Programs for Teachers of the mentally retarded in private schools in this State under Section 4407 of the Education Law.

Mrs. Jeannette Rockefeller, formerly member of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, member of the Advisory Board of the National Institutes for Health and President of the Board of Mental Retardation Institute, New York Medical College, Mental Retardation Institute.

Mr. Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director, New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., member of the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council, Fellow of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, Assistant Clinical Professor for Mental Retardation at the Mental Retardation Institute in Valhalla and author of many articles; known internationally.

Conklin in '63

We are reprinting the following article from the June 13th 1963 issue of the Journal American. It is as relevant today as it was eleven years ago, which is sad indeed.

"Conklin to Press Retardate Aid, by John W. Newton

DOES THE STATE take adequate measures to help the mentally retarded improve their power to think for themselves and to aid them to become self-supporting? State Sen. William T. Conklin (R-Bay Ridge), is so convinced that much more can be and should be done for the retarded, especially those between the ages of 17 and 21 that he has called a meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap for next Monday and Tuesday in the Capitol at Albany. Sen. Conklin is committee chairman.

HE IS PARTICULARLY annoyed over the fact that New York City, with a budget today exceeding three billion dollars, shows a "sad lack of concern" in supplying special education to the retarded persons in that age bracket. He said his committee will begin a check on all previous State legislation for the handicapped well enough in advance of the next session to discover and implement all unmet needs of the handicapped.

SEN. CONKLIN WILL remind his committee that President Kennedy, quite aside from politics and in the interest of retardates, appointed a panel last October calling for bold action in their behalf, including creation of a domestic corps on a national scale to attack the problem of mental retardation which afflicts approximately 5,400,000 children nationwide. The panel came up with 100 recommendations for a broad "spectrum program" which is today under consideration.

Martin Bennett School

The Sullivan County Chapter of the New York State Association for Retarded Children on Sunday, October 20th, 1974 dedicated The Martin H. Bennett School for Retarded Children.

The School was named in honor of Martin H. Bennett, husband of our esteemed member of the Board, Ruth Bennett, who died suddenly earlier this year.

We could think of no more fitting memorial to Martin than the naming of a school for retarded children after him.

James F. Reville dies

James (Jim) Reville, former president of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, serving from 1965 to 1969, an unprecedented four years, died October 19th at the Harkness Pavilion of Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, the victim of cancer at the age of 67.

Jim became involved with the ARC through the Welfare League, Letchworth Village Chapter, serving as a board member, vice president and president of the chapter.

When, in 1961, he was elected to the New York State ARC Board of Governors, he already had a history of serving the mentally retarded through Letchworth Village. In 1964 he was elected vice president of the Southeast Regional district and the following year, president.

Jim was a delegate to the National Association for Retarded Children and served on their Ways and Means Com-

mittee for a number of years.

He is survived by his wife, our own Frances Reville, Assistant Treasurer of the State Association, daughter, Mrs. Georgia Sullivan, and daughter Susan, and a retarded son, James Jr., resident of Letchworth.

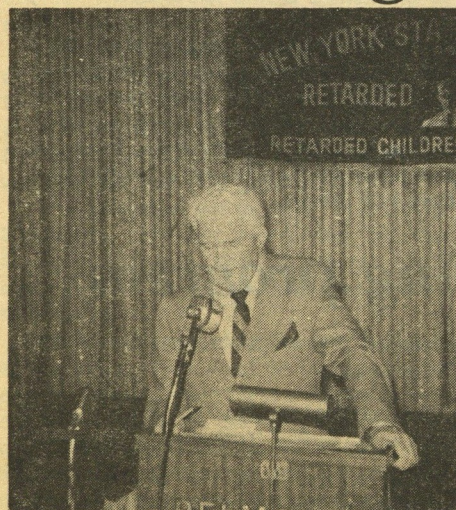
His tenure of office in the State Association marked perhaps the greatest period of growth in the Association's history, due in great measure to his untiring and unselfish efforts, from his willingness to listen and his rare gift of diplomacy. This statement epitomizes Jim Reville: "it is truly said that no man works alone and we have had friendship and help that could only have been inspired by the goal we all have forever before us — help for our retarded children."

Jim Reville was buried October 23rd after a mass at Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs in New York City.



Jim Reville with Governor Rockefeller, Jerry Weingold and Shirley Epstein, possibly getting a promise way back then that fees for children in the institutions be eliminated.

Highlights from Jim Reville's career



May 1968, Jim Reville presiding at State Convention Board meeting.



Jim Reville listens to Howard Samuels at the Saturday Banquet in Jamestown, 1966.



Jim Reville watches Warner Thompson, former counsel to the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental and Physical Handicap give Lee Dowling, Executive Director of the JLC, the Association's award at Jamestown, 1966. Left to right, Frances Reville, Jerry Weingold, Betty Dowling.



Again in 1966, Jim Reville and John Bertrand wait for Ithaca's Bob Varney to disappear up the nearest chimney.



When everyone was younger, Jim Reville distinguished the company he keeps. From left to right Dr. Salerno, Dr. Alan Miller, Dr. Margaret Giannini, Anne Kraus and Stanley Meyers, then Regional Representative of NARC.

Scholarship honors Jim Reville

At our recent State Convention in New York City, the Association took action to honor an outstanding Past - President, in the form of a scholarship award.

In 1973, the Association decided upon a second scholarship program, to go with the J. T. Weingold Scholarships. The "Weingolds" are used for those training to be teachers; the new awards are to be made available to outstanding volunteers going into any field related to mental retardation.

Edward B. Licence, Chairman of the

Scholarship and Awards Committee spoke for the Committee, and said that, in view of Jim Reville's outstanding contributions as President, the committee recommended that this award, to a volunteer, which so reflected Jim's volunteer spirit, should be named the James F. Reville Scholarship.

unanimous approval to the recommendation. Those receiving the award for the 1974-75 School Year are Suzanne Crane, Immediate Past - President of the State YOUTH Organization, and Maureen Hennessey of Suffolk County.



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Blatt pessimistic on unitization

In the following letter to Anthony Pinto, President of Benevolent Society, Willowbrook Chapter of the State Association, Burton Blatt, author of "Christmas in Purgatory" and other works on the mentally retarded in institutions, voiced his skepticism about the value of unitization in improving services for the mentally retarded in institutions.

"From my own experiences, I should begin this response to your August 16 letter by commenting that unitization of a state school is a more difficult task than of a state hospital. At least some of the roadblocks to unitization are fairly obvious: the very wide age range in a state school as contrasted to the mental hospital; in some ways, the much greater variation in abilities of the residents do not make for 'easy' unitization.

"Unitization in a state school is enhanced, I think, to the degree that units can be co-ed. I would recommend this, with the exception of maintaining separate sex dormitories for adolescents.

"All of the above is predicated on the assumption that unitization will, in some

significant manner, improve the quality of life at Willowbrook. Frankly, I am just not that optimistic. Since Gunner Dybwad's studies at least 15 years ago, and Tizard's work more recently, it's been shown rather conclusively by the aforementioned and many others that the largeness of places such as Willowbrook effectively precludes any substantial efforts toward developing a more humanized facility.

Your fourth paragraph provides a key to both understanding the problem and its solution. Eventually, the community must be receptive to a "return" of these residents home. Without the development of community-based opportunities, the institution will remain large and, consequently, unitization — or any other ameliorative objective — will fail.

"I am sorry for this note of pessimism. However, we must begin to not only voice support of models other than large institutional ones but, rather, we must stand firm — even against the voices of our 'friends' in the belief that the institutional model will never work effectively for human beings."

When is commitment voluntary?

The U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska on June 4, 1974 has virtually ruled that there is no such thing as a voluntary commitment of a mentally retarded person placed in an institution by his parents.

The case, Horacek vs. Exon, involved the plaintiffs who are residents of the Beatrice State Home in Nebraska. The defendants urged that the plaintiffs are in the institution because their parents placed them there, and the parents could remove them at any time. Therefore, the plaintiffs are institutionalized voluntarily, and there is no State action. The Court denied the defendant's motion for summary judgment stating, "Equating the plaintiffs with their parents will not do... I simply hold that parents cannot deprive their children of constitutional rights — rights of the children vis-a-vis the State."

The Court also declared the case a class action and granted the motion of the U.S. Justice Department to participate as amicus curiae.

It has been the contention of this Association that there is no such thing as a voluntary commitment to an institution for the mentally retarded where the parents are unable to take care of the mentally retarded person at home. Such institutionalization certainly does not involve any voluntary action on the part of the mentally retarded person and it is doubtful whether in any real sense of the word this is a voluntary action on the part of the parents. The significance is that, if involuntary, then all the decisions with regard to right to treatment of persons who are committed involuntarily apply to the mentally retarded of all kinds.

Employment of handicapped

HEW issues regulations

On June 11, 1974 the Department of Labor issued regulations on employment standards and administration of the provision of Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 — Employment of the Handicapped.

Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states that: "Any contract in excess of \$2,500 entered into by a Federal agency for the procurement of personal property or non-personal services for the U.S. shall contain a provision requiring the contracting party to take affirmative action to employ and advance qualified handicapped individuals as defined by Section 7(6)." By executive order, the responsibility for this Section of the Act was delegated to the Department of Labor.

The purpose of the regulations is to minimize any unnecessary procedural and administrative details which would unduly

burden agencies performing certification of handicapped.

Each State's Vocational Rehabilitation agency may develop relationships whereby (a) work-ready clients are placed in employment, (b) clients needing special help are assisted on the job, and (c) contractors are assisted in making adaptations of jobs to handicapped clients.

Handicapped workers may file complaints with the Department of Labor charging discrimination against them because of their handicap. Complaints will be a responsibility of the Department of Labor and the certification by the State VR agencies will be an invaluable source of referral and determination.

Any further inquiries should be made to: Anita McQuillen, Consultant, Division of Service Systems, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Voluntary driving deductions up

The I.R.S. has announced that, retroactive to January 1, 1974, non-reimbursed volunteer drivers from non-profit, tax-exempt organizations in the 501 (c) (3) category (which fits the ARC) may receive an extra one-cent income tax deduction for each mile driven.

The new rate of 7 cents per mile replaces the 6 cents per mile deduction written in to

the Internal Revenue Service Code in 1970 when gasoline sold for 35 cents per gallon in many areas.

Volunteers driving for charities also may deduct parking fees and tolls, in addition to the 7 cents per mile.

Contact your local I.R.S. Service Office for further information, and refer to Technical Information Release 1299, issued August 12, 1974.



For faithful service

This year at the annual luncheon of Community League (Wassaic Chapter of the NYS ARC) a Certificate of Award was presented to two of Community League's outstanding members. Samuel Newman and Dr. Irving P. Aaron, both of Brooklyn, were honored for their many years of service to the residents at Wassaic. Both gentlemen have served as officers of the League and are untiring in their efforts. Miss Dorothy Vine, Program Chairman of the luncheon, is next to Mr. Newman while Michael Styler, a League past president and its liaison officer with the school, flanks Dr. Aaron.

The PKU testing program

Since the inception of the PKU (phenylketonuria) testing program in New York State 8 years ago, 158 true PKU children have been located, 54 of these in New York City, 104 upstate.

There is no money readily available to help families pay for the cost of a special diet. The National Foundation has helped, but this seems to be determined by the strength and interest of their local group.

From the State, however, there is money available on a 50-50 State - County matching basis, which may be used under the crippled children's program, which now covers metabolic disorders.

A family would first have to be eligible under Social Service standards for medical assistance, after which the County medical director may authorize this payment at the 50 per cent State - 50 per cent County rate.

Since counties do not necessarily provide adequate funds for their share of the matching, the County medical director may also stop the authorization for

payment, if the County runs out of matching funds.

It is felt that the practice of giving such aid varies widely from county to county.

There is genetic counseling available in the State at the following locations:

1. Buffalo — Buffalo General Hospital — Dr. Bannen
2. Rochester — Strong Memorial — Dr. Townes
3. Syracuse — Upstate Medical — Dr. Gardner
4. Albany — Upstate Medical and State Health Department — Dr. Jannerich
5. Rockland County — Letchworth Village — Dr. Shapiro
6. Westchester — Grasslands Hospital — Dr. Farnsworth
7. Bronx — Rose Kennedy Institute — Dr. Harold Mitowsky
8. Brooklyn — Downstate Medical — Dr. Salish
9. Nassau County — Long Island Jewish — Dr. Ernest Leber

Continued from page 1

RESOLVED, the institutionalized retarded be included in the Children's Protective Act, bringing them under protection of the laws in cases of neglect and abuse, regardless of age.

RESOLVED, that Directors of State institutions of the Department of Mental Hygiene, transferred because of incompetence, be separated from the Department rather than transferred to other jobs at the same salary.

RESOLVED, that the Association express its appreciation of the initial steps being taken in the provision of services for those retarded who have been and are being returned to the community, and

Be it further resolved that the Association underscore the urgent need for closer supervision by the Department of Mental Hygiene to protect the retarded against those persons owning and operating proprietary facilities who may be unscrupulous and exploitative.

RESOLVED, that this Association commend Y.O.U.T.H. - N.Y.S. A.R.C. for its inspiring achievements on behalf of the mentally retarded and for its example to us all.

The 1975 Convention will be held in Buffalo and the 1976 Convention was awarded to Westchester Chapter.

Education Act passed

HR 69, a bill amending and extending ESEA and including extension of the Education of the Handicapped Act (including programs for the mentally handicapped) cleared the Congress. Under the conference agreement, the Mathias amendment, which would provide a special one-year authorization of \$630 million for state grants for programs for the handicapped, was adopted. The amendment provides funding for only one year because Congress is expected to take action soon on S 6—HR 70, extending the Education of the Handicapped Act which would supercede the Mathias amendment.

HR 69 extends education for the handicapped programs through FY 1977 while the other education programs are extended through FY 1978. This will force Congress to deal with programs for the handicapped as a separate issue and may lead to a greater priority for them.

Programs for assistance for handicapped children in state operated and state supported schools, under Title I of ESEA, is also continued under the final bill at full entitlement. A hold harmless clause was included to insure that no state receives less than its FY 1974 level.

Willowbrook to worse

With these words, Chris Hansen, staff lawyer for the Mental Health Law Project connected with the American Civil Liberties Union, described the conditions at the Keener Unit at Manhattan State Hospital to which 63 residents of Willowbrook were transferred in the Bogus program "exodus".

These are profound retardates, some blind, deaf or unable to speak who spend their days huddled in enclosed porches, crawling, shuffling, sometimes inert.

Thousands of dollars worth of expensive equipment bought to help teach retardates balance, dexterity and cooperative play, etc. are unused. The rooms are empty most of the day.

Walter Martin, named interim director of three units for the retardates, is angry about the situation and has notified the Department of Mental Hygiene. There is just no staff to do anything.

"I have never seen anything so mismanaged" said one professional employee who asked not to be identified. "I am very much afraid this will become another Willowbrook unless something is done very soon".

If this were not bad enough, 114 retardates were taken to Wards Island, Keener Unit, out on the so-called Manhattan Developmental Center, (an institution on Morton Street), where an unsafe condition was created due to a gasoline leak.

"These children are in exile" said David Goldsmith, program coordinator for the Sheridan Center, "lots of parents can't come or else they rush here even for an hour or so."

The deteriorating conditions at Sheridan due to the gas leak must be tracked down and corrected before these retardates can come back. Some parents threaten to chain themselves across the entrance to Keener to prevent a transfer. This did not deter the Department of Mental Hygiene anymore than the parent efforts deterred them from closing Sampson.

The New York Times, as part of its investigation of Mental Health programs, said in an article, that very little progress is being made to help the retardates at Keener. The new influx, and what little recreation programs existed, were virtually abandoned as recreation rooms were converted into sleeping quarters for the new retardates.

In some of the rooms the retardates from Sheridan, who have never slept more than 4 in a room, are now sleeping 10 in a room with beds set up in corridors. The infirmary is just a tiny room. In another room not much bigger than a jail cell, which was formerly a storage room, an art therapist sat with a retarded boy talking with him while he painted.

A toilet seat and a chair frame was the only chair there. The basement and dining room has become the scene of regression. Food is brought their in metal carts from the kitchen in another part of Ward's Island. The food, at best, is lukewarm and many retardates who had made much progress at Sheridan and began to use utensils, are now back to clawing with their fingers, snatching food from other retardates, squabbling or eating in isolation.

All protests to the Department of Mental Hygiene at this point have been ignored. The situation continues at Keener while the fumbling continues at Morton Street.

Cochecton School closed

Owners, director arrested

In response to confirmed charges that mentally retarded persons were being sexually abused and assaulted with electric cattle prods and generally mistreated, the State Association complained to the Department of Mental Hygiene asking that the Cochecton School for the Mentally Retarded at Lake Huntington be investigated and if the charges found correct, closed.

Not only was the school closed, but the co-owners, Dr. Edward Kurtzer and Harold Levine, both of Brooklyn and Charles Trott, residence director who reportedly lives on the school grounds, were arrested by state police on charges that they sexually abused and assaulted with electric cattle prods a number of the school's residents.

Kurtzer, who reportedly holds a Ph.D. in school psychology, was charged with sexual abuse in connection with "physically touching" a 27 year old female resident, with one count of third degree assault. Levine was charged with two counts of third degree assault in applying electric cattle prods on two residents.

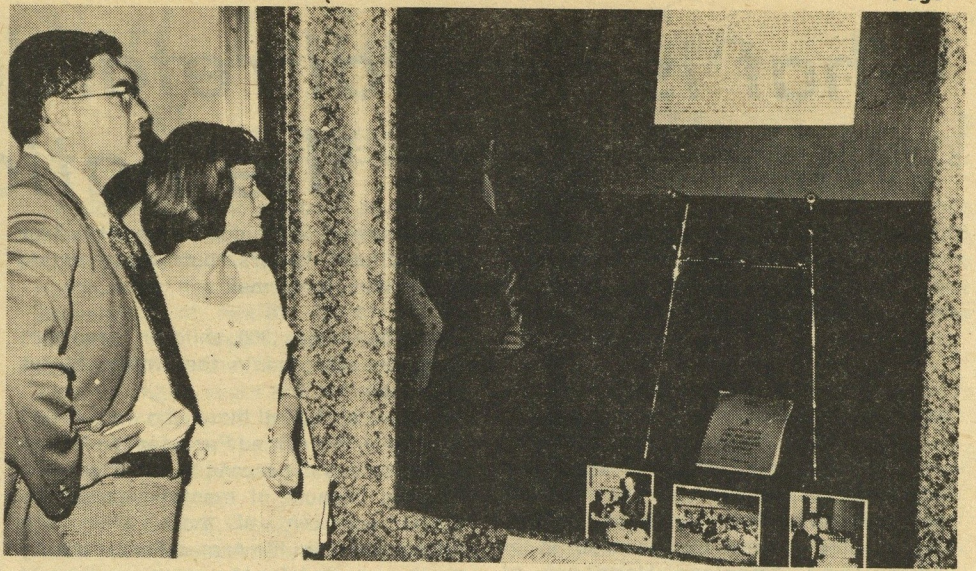
Trotti was charged with four counts of third degree assault. Ronald Heppes, state police Bureau of Criminal Investigation Agent, said two of the assault charges against Trotti concerned use of a cattle prod. The other two charge him with beating residents with his hands.

Wilton waste a classic

"Probably the classic example of misuse and waste of the taxpayers' money is in the Wilton Developmental Center in northern Saratoga County, a Department of Mental Hygiene facility that may — repeat, may — see full operation four years later than planned and at a cost of more than \$10 million more than originally estimated.

A Times - Union review of the Wilton project last week indicates that Department of Mental Hygiene officials are reluctant to say, even today, that partial operations may begin this fall.

If and when they do, they will consist of several classrooms operated by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services. A residence unit is expected to open in October, with borrowed equipment. Eventually, the department hopes, there will be a 744-bed school and training center for the retarded of all ages.



Lord & Taylor aids retarded

Lord & Taylor, 38th Street and Fifth Avenue, in Manhattan, devoted an entire window to AHRC's 25th Anniversary. The window was in from July 3rd to July 9th.

Rehab Bill not implemented

Although the Congress by an overwhelming vote of 398 to 7 in the House, and 90 to 1 in the Senate overruled President Ford's veto of HR 14225 "Rehabilitation Amendments of 1974", the administration has refused to implement the bill, because the President claims he vetoed it through a Congressional recess and, therefore, it pocket vetoed and cannot be overridden. In order to avoid any further dispute over whether the bill is indeed a law, sponsors of the Rehabilitation Amendment introduced a second and identical bill on November 26th. The new bill, HR 17503, then passed both the House and Senate the same day, and has been forwarded to President Ford. He indicated he will not veto this bill and thus it is expected to become law. The bill is identical to HR. 14225 and would

— extend for one year, until June 30, 1976, the Rehabilitation Act and raise the authorization for grants to states to \$720 million for FY 1976.

— transfer RSA from SRS to the Office of HEW Secretary.

— redefine a handicapped person for the purposes of implementing provisions of Title V of the Rehabilitation Act relating to the employment of handicapped people under federal grants.

— require affirmative action for the handicapped in employment in state agencies and facilities.

— require review of individuals deemed ineligible for vocational rehabilitation services.

— strengthen the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

— authorize the President to call a White House Conference on the Handicapped.

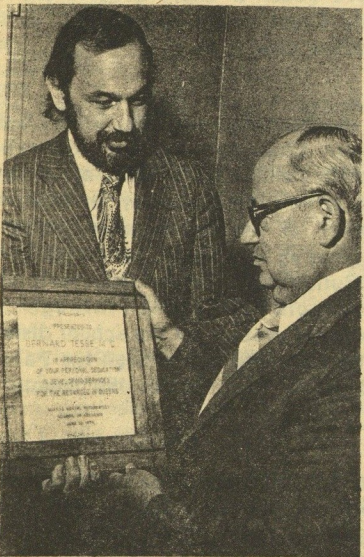
Lerner book reviewed

The Herbert J. Lerner book, "State Association for Retarded Children and New York State Government, 1948-1968 has been reviewed once more. This time by the ERIC Clearing House on Handicapped and Gifted Children in an abstract of its contents.

This is as definitive a description of the services of the Association, its developmental history, its relationship to government and in our opinion a must for every member of the Association and everyone interested in the development of services of the mentally retarded.

Copies of this book are still available from the New York State Association for Retarded Children, 175 Fifth Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10010 at \$4.50 per copy.

Dr. Tesse honored



Dr. Marvin Hunter, left, chairman of the Queens Mental Retardation Council of Agencies, presents an award to Dr. Bernard Tesse for his work with the disabled as director of the Bernard Fineson Developmental Center in Queens.

What is mental retardation; What it costs the nation

The July 5th, 1974 issue of Mental Hygiene News has an interesting discussion of what is mental retardation and some idea, although incomplete, of its cost.

The following is an excerpt from the article "What is MR".

"A condition of arrested or retarded mental development which occurs before adolescence and arises from genetic cause or is induced by disease or injury." (G.A. Jervis: The Mental Deficiencies, in S. Arieti (ed.) American Handbook of Psychiatry, p. 1289, Basic Books, Inc., N.Y. 1959).

"Mental retardation refers to sub-average general intellectual functioning which originates in the developmental period and is associated with impairment in adaptive behavior." (American Association on Mental Deficiency's definition in 1961; adopted almost word by word by the American Psychiatric Association in its 1968 diagnostic manual.)

Mental deficiency, as defined by the World Health Organization, excludes the emotional and sociocultural causes of this condition. As we understand today, more than 100 disorders associated with mental deficiency are recognized.

Approximately three per cent of the general population is affected. Currently, about six million people in the United States are mentally retarded. This figure, however, is considerably higher if one includes all those persons who perform on

a subnormal level due to emotional or sociocultural factors, but whose innate intelligence is normal.

Approximately 300 children are born mentally retarded in the United States every day.

One per cent of all those who were called for duty by the Armed Forces in the United States during the second World War were rejected because of mental retardation. Thirty per cent of those who were discharged from the Armed Forces during the same period due to a neuro-psychiatric condition were mentally retarded.

The incidence of mental retardation varies with age. In the preschool years only about one per cent of the population is diagnosed as mentally retarded. The low percentage of defectives in this age group is largely due to the difficulties in recognizing a mild degree of retardation in this age group.

The highest incidence is found in school age children with the peak at ages 10 to 14. Apparently because, at this age, the school child is confronted with the most exacting intellectual change. The figures drop after school age when many of these who were identified as mentally retarded blend into the general population. In a study, carried out by the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene in Onondaga County, N.Y. the following rates of occurrence were reported:

Under five years: 0.45 percent
Five to nine years: 3.94 percent
10-14 years: 7.76 percent
15-19 years: 4.49 percent

(N.Y. State Department of Mental Hygiene, Technical Report 1955).

The cost is discussed in an article by Dr. Johs. Clausen but greatly underestimates the real cost because it omits the extraordinary expenditures by family and local communities.

Although mental illness, cardiac disease, arthritis and cancer have higher prevalence rate than mental retardation, the total cost for care is probably higher in mental retardation because of the earlier onset and the permanency of the condition, plus the increased life expectancy resulting from better health services such as the introduction of antibiotics.

An indication of the cost, says Dr. Clausen, is that in 1973 a total of 23,200 retarded individuals were cared for at state developmental centers (and mental retardation units and psychiatric centers and this is only 5 per cent of the total mentally retarded population) with a total budget of \$202,539,000 or \$8,730 per individual. This figure, however, does not include capital construction or the cost of central administration. When these are taken into account as well, then the cost comes to almost double the \$8,730. Nor does this include the cost of local services or the extraordinary cost to the family. It is amazing how closely these figures of prevalence and costs approximate the conclusion by the subcommittee on the Scope of the Problem of the Task Force on Community Alternatives for Mental Retardation chaired by our Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold. These will be discussed in another article.

Appeal for family care

A leaflet called "Someone is Waiting" distributed in all the institutions of the Department of Mental Hygiene, the Department is making an appeal to the general public to provide family care for the mentally retarded.

"If you have a spare room in your home," says the pamphlet, "and the willingness to give someone less fortunate the chance to live a better life, you can become part of the family care program operated by the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene."

If you provide room and board in a family setting with supervision and guidance you will receive \$208 a month (\$263 in New York City) for each resident. In addition, the State will pay for clothing, medical care and continuing services for each resident. The room and board could be for only up to four residents.

The clincher in this, of course, is "continuing services for each resident". The experience of our Association is that these placements are made not necessarily with the provision of this continuing service and, of course, that's what has to be done if this is to be successful.

The pamphlet states that, if anyone is interested, they may write to the Developmental Center nearest to that person.

Focus on Mental Retardation

Through the efforts of Arthur Gasman, Chairman of our Public Information Committee and with the cooperation of Mary Burgess, of the Division of Information of the Department of Mental Hygiene, a new pamphlet, "Focus on Mental Retardation" has been developed.

60,000 copies have been printed as a donation by ABA Industries, Inc. The designer of the pamphlet was George Mercier.

It is a general information pamphlet with photographic illustrations.

It starts with the statement "Mental retardation should not be confused with mental illness. It is an entirely different condition."

The subheadings in the pamphlet are: What Mental Retardation Is; Who the Mentally Retarded Are; What Causes Mental Retardation; How the Retarded Can Be Helped; For Families of the Retarded (telling them where to seek help), and finally a listing of every chapter of the State Association and the regional offices of the Department of Mental Hygiene.

A separate chapter is devoted to How to Offer Help.

The design for the pamphlet was contributed by George Mercier and the preparation by Herbert Haines, Advertising, Inc. and photos by Julian A. Belin of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene.

The program of the Public Information Committee includes the development of television spots as well as other material. This is being done partially through a \$3000 grant from the Department of Mental Hygiene.

Free single copies of the pamphlet are available by writing to the State Office.

It is hoped that this will be in the hands of most of the doctors, educators and others in the community as its availability becomes known.



With information for everyone
and a special section for
families of the retarded.

Family Court orders for education

Nyquist issues approval

In a 4 page statement issued to City, Village, Community School District and District Superintendents, Supervising Principals, Diocesan School Superintendents, Nonpublic School Administrators of Comparable Rank, Private and Parochial Secondary School Principals, and Private and Parochial Elementary School Principals, Mr. Thomas D. Sheldon issued a memorandum on behalf of Commissioner Nyquist approving 4403 Court Orders Relative to the Cost of Instruction.

4403 of the Education Law provides for recourse to the Family Court where the School Districts are not doing their job.

The question was put as to the conditions under which and to what extent the Commissioner would approve orders of the Family Court. In essence, what the Commissioner says is that the school district has the primary responsibility for the education of the handicapped child under 4404 (2) (b), or by contracting with BOCES or a private school.

The Commissioner further states that he would require the local school district to provide for the full reasonable cost of instruction for the handicapped child being served up to a maximum which is the sum of local tax levy expenditure for the child if the child were provided comparable services in BOCES, etc., etc.

The Commissioner will approve Section 4403 Court Orders in excess of this amount. One example will suffice.

1. A theoretical contract to \$4000 is needed to cover the reasonable cost of instruction for one child.

2. The local tax levy expenditures of \$2500 per child if the child were enrolled in a comparable BOCES program.

3. \$1000 of state aid to the local district under provision of Chapter 241, Laws of 1974 for 2.0 for a child who is handicapped. This leaves a balance of \$500 which the Commissioner says he would approve under a Court Order from the Family Court under Section 4403 of the Education Law.

In commenting on this, Mrs. Betty Pendler, Chairman of the Education Committee of the State Association, says, "This is not the best way to fund the education of the handicapped which is mandated as free public education in the Constitution of the State of New York. This cost should be borne through an educational process by the school district and the State and not through the Family Court which then involves the county as well."

The way to handle this, concludes Mrs. Pendler, is to amend Section 4407 of the Education Law which provides for education of the severely handicapped who cannot be handled in public schools to be served in private schools. Such a mandate was vetoed by the Governor without an adequate explanation last year and should be re-enacted with proper funding so that the parents would not have to go to the Family Court to get the funds necessary for this education which should be paid for by the school district and the state.



Elliot Aronin, President of the NYSARC and Northeast Regional Postmaster, General W. F. Bolger share a moment during ceremonies honoring the issuance of the "Retarded Children Can Be Helped" stamp with Cathy Sirignona of our Suffolk County Chapter.

We commemorate a commemorative

"Retarded Children Can Be Helped". That long time motto of the Association was given publicity that had been sought for many years, when the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp in October honoring the work of Association for Retarded Children.

Designed by Paul Calle of Stamford, Conn. the unusually colored stamp features a beautiful child holding a "helping hand".

The New York State A.R.C. held a number of special events to acknowledge the new stamp. A meeting was arranged with Mr. William F. Bolger, Postmaster General of the Northeastern United States, Elliot Aronin, Association President and Cathy Sirignano of our Suffolk County Chapter. At that time, Mr. Bolger announced that the Association would be presented with 500 "First-Day Covers". These were Association envelopes, to which the Post Office Department affixed the new stamps and put on the official "First Day of Issue" postmark in Arlington, Texas on October 12. These were presented to the Association by Mr. Harry Nigro, Director of Communications and Public Affairs for the Northeast Region, U.S. Postal Service, at the State Convention.

Newark

End of an era

Demolition that took place recently at the Newark Developmental Center (Newark State School) marks the end of an era. Gone are the buildings once known as the New York State Custodial Asylum, gone also are the old methods of patient care.

During the last few years the old "Hill" has become a different place to live and work. Custodial care is out and a humane and kindly approach to patient care is in evidence.

All over the institution, progress is being made in patient care. Specially designed chairs and boyd casts are being made for the residents who were once confined to bed and are now able to get up and take part in ward activities. Speech and hearing specialists are on hand to help the residents. Dance and music therapy has been introduced into the residents' lives. Commenting on these changes one of the personnel at Newark said, "Yes, we have reached the end of an era; custodial care on the 'Hill' is gone along with the old building, symbols of that way of life."



THE NEW STAMP

In addition, the Post Office Department set up a regular Post Office at the Convention hotel, where special envelopes made up by the Association commemorating our 25th Anniversary were especially hand-stamped with a 25th Anniversary postmark.

Both of these items are available from the State Association at a cost of \$1.00 each. They would make great mementoes for each member and nice gifts for any stamp collector friends you have.

Since there are only 500 of each of these in existence, they will have fine future value.

Natural parents for family care

Mrs. Toni Parisi, President of the West Seneca State School Chapter of the Association, has suggested that natural parents of the mentally retarded should be eligible to operate family care homes for the mentally retarded, especially their own children.

Her argument is that if the families, especially of modest means, were given the inducement of the \$200 some odd a month, they might have well, in many instances taken their children home. In too many instances the financial inability of the family to cope with the additional problems prevent such homeward movement.

It is curious to note that the Department will approve family care by sisters, brothers, a cousin, aunts and other relatives, but not by parents.

We would welcome comments on this from our readers.

Natl. Industries for Severely Handicapped

A \$200,000 grant to establish an office in Washington, D.C. for the newly created National Industries for the Severely Handicapped has been announced by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The organization will be a counterpart of one that has served the blind for many years and will be a focal point for efforts to assist in obtaining government contracts for sheltered workshops employing severely handicapped persons.

With H.E.W.'s Rehabilitation Services Administration assuming the coordinating role, participants in the national organization, all of which have workshop affiliates, will be the following six major non-profit agencies: Goodwill Industries; International Association of Rehabilitation Facilities; Jewish Occupational Council for Jewish Vocational Services; National Association for Retarded Citizens; National Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults; and United Cerebral Palsy Associations.

In correspondence with this Committee, Mr. Weingold established the right of the independent agency that is not affiliated with any of these national organizations to

participate in the program. It has been agreed that three persons representing the non-affiliated workshops will sit on the board of the National Industries for the Severely Handicapped. To date, no one has been chosen.

The National Industries for the Severely Handicapped is intended to be the central agency designed by the statutory Presidential Committee, "The Committee for the Purchase of Products and Services of the Blind and other Severely Handicapped" in assisting the workshops in expanding their capabilities for providing commodities and services to the government under the Wagner-O'Day Act as amended by Senator Jacob Javits. The 1971 amendments provided for preferential treatment, awarding government contracts to sheltered workshops. In line with a Congressional suggestion the Rehabilitation Services Administration will expand its efforts to increase the number of government contracts going to these workshops. Under a Congressional directive R.S.A. will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the new organization on a continuing basis.

Alternatives to institutionalization

As part of the report of the Task Force on Mental Retardation on Community Alternatives, a study was made by Irving Friedman, Executive Director of the Governor's Committee to Employ the Handicapped, on the Scope of the Problem with some astounding results.

If we merely count those now in the general population between 20 and 65, we would have 54 per cent of the almost 600,000 mentally retarded in this State. This correlates with the Onondaga County Study and the statement of the Department of Mental Hygiene itself in the July 5th issue of Mental Hygiene News.

In a statement before the whole Task Force on September 19th, Mr. Weingold, Chairman of the Mental Retardation Task Force, pointed out that if we eliminate the severely and profoundly retarded and considered only the population of mildly borderline and moderate retarded we would find ourselves with the need for 102,000 beds if we are to prevent institutionalization alone. If we add to this the 5000 still in institutions not placed, but who the Department of Mental Hygiene said could be in the community if there were places for them, we have a total of 107,000.

If we talk in terms of hostels of 10 each, we would need 10,700 hostels. If we talk in terms of family care of 5 each we would need 21,400 family care homes. Construction for hostels alone at \$75,000 a hostel would be \$800 million, but Mr. Weingold pointed out that this is almost the exact sum that has been and will be spent on community college construction.

But if we spread this out over a period of 10 years, implementing about 10 per cent a year, we would need \$80 million the first year of construction. It is noteworthy that the present budget of the State only calls for \$600,000. During this period of 10 years if we would be serving 10,000 in these hostels we would need about \$30 million for operation where the present budget calls for \$1,800,000 for 470. If one-half were to go in family care homes, the family care budget would have to be doubled. The present budget calls for \$4,858,000.

If we add to this the training, vocational and other facilities for these adults, assuming that each training facility could serve about 50 to 100, we would need a total of over 1,000 vocational rehabilitation

facilities, 10 per cent of this would be over 100 almost immediately.

Mr. Weingold pointed out that none of this is going to happen without a massive commitment from the State to begin this action. The key word there is "massive". This commitment is not evident in the present budget for local services which is about \$70 some odd million with only 10 per cent of this for mental retardation. It is not evidenced in the appropriations for vocational rehabilitation where aid to sheltered workshops for long term employment of the severely handicapped is something like \$1000 a year, not even reaching the \$1500 a year authorized in the law, let alone the real costs.

It is not evidenced in the Governor's veto of the mandate for Section 4407.

Mr. Weingold concluded that we are seeing here a great deal of floundering, lip service to the needs, but a refusal to face the realities of the situation as the requirement for the effort on the part of the community. There is no indication whatsoever of any commitment by the Department or the Governor to seek the funds necessary to begin so massive a program as is here requested. We are here referring to Governor Wilson.

The recommendation is made that the local services budget immediately be increased for mental retardation to at least \$30 million; the acquisition and construction of hostels for this coming year be at least \$10 to \$20 million with the use of the bonds still uncommitted (\$380 million) of the Facilities Construction Corporation.

Family care aid should be doubled.

All else that we are doing is putting a band aid on a cancer and it will be an exercise in futility.

It is to be noted that this is a bare bones commentary and does not go into the subtleties with which the main issues are being beclouded such as racial, sex or creed discrimination. It does not go into the vast area of prevention, it does not address itself to the present policies of the Department of Mental Hygiene with the terrible imbalance between what it spends on children who are not mentally retarded as against those who are mentally retarded. We have not begun to think of the severely and profoundly retarded in this brief exposition.

The road is long, but not at all impossible.

Tom asks?

Do you know that your State YOUTH organization is selling fruit cake, candy, candles and soap? If your group hasn't ordered yet, jump on the fund raising bandwagon! All our fund raising items are easy to sell and leftovers are returnable. Write to me at the State Office for more information.

Have you seen our new sweatshirts with the State motto "Hand in Hand — Together We Can" imprint? Each machine washable shirt is \$4.00 and comes in small, medium and large. They are just the thing to wear during the winter months to YOUTH meetings, programs, and next year during Hand-in-Hand Day. The State YOUTH Board brings this item to you at near cost. There are only 150 left. Any profit made will go into financing our 1975 goals for all State YOUTH members. Contact me today!

Did you wonder where the New York City Chapters were at the last convention? Well, there are none. We are trying to build interest in all five boroughs and set up a City Council with five borough vice presidents. We hope to have a big organizing party and conference early this year, with refreshments, entertainment, and celebrities. Anyone interested in lending a hand will be most welcome.

Would you like to work in a camp for retarded children this summer? Write to me for an application now. We will be mailing each group a list of all camps, including those other than ARC-sponsored ones, to which YOUTH members may want to apply; these will be going out at the end of January. If you know of any camp, send me the information for us to share.

When was the last time you did something special for a person in an institution? The State YOUTH Board is sponsoring a statewide Pen Pal Program for the residents of developmental centers throughout New York State. If you'd like to participate, and we hope everyone will, contact Jack Simon or Carolyn Fetter.

Y.O.U.T.H. fights misinformation

An article appeared in an upstate newspaper that implied that mental retardation and mental illness were one and the same. Suzanne Crane, State YOUTH Past President, being an alert advocate for the mentally retarded, immediately wrote to the editor of that paper, explaining the mistake. Her complaint was backed up with proper textbook definitions and explained the ramifications of a misinformed community. State YOUTH takes great pride in Miss Crane's actions. Her example just proves again that the experience of being a YOUTH ARC member prepares one to help correct ever-present false information, dispel rumors, and act as empathetic advocates for our state's retarded people. Suzanne, we salute you!



NYS-ARC President, Elliot Aronin, visits the Summer YOUTH Board Meeting.

N.Y.S./Y.O.U.T.H./A.R.C. Goals for 1974-75

N.Y.S. Y.O.U.T.H. A.R.C. GOALS FOR 1974-75

1. Get Pen Pal Program into full swing.
2. Publish album of Willowbrook choral group.
3. Increase local membership.
4. Increase number of locals.
5. Increase State Budget to at least double.
6. Work closely with the adult A.R.C. on legislation.

7. Involve State YOUTH in at least one project whereby we will make a real contribution to the retarded.

8. Set up a State library with a college, summer job and information referral service.

9. Involve all chapters in a statewide Hand-in-Hand Day and a Hika-Bika-Swimathon across the state.

10. Increase amount and/or number of State YOUTH Scholarships.

PEN PAL PROGRAM

One of the major goals for YOUTH ARC this year is to get our Pen Pal Program into full swing. This program involves having people from the community correspond with institutionalized retarded friends. It is an excellent program for all ARC members (adults, too!), since everyone certainly can spend a few minutes each month to write to a retarded pen pal. It is a program which can be carried on from college, from summer camp, while hospitalized, while commuting to and from work, etc., etc. There is virtually no ex-

cuse not to participate. And it has the added advantage of being truly rewarding for community members, since return correspondence will be received. The institution residents are all people who receive little or no attention from relatives and would love to have a pen pal. Please help us pull this off!

To receive a pen pal's name, write to: Carolyn Fetter
304 East 4th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11218
DO IT NOW!

Youth Convention, 1974



Y.O.U.T.H. carry "Positive Picket" placards for publicity at Convention. Tom McCrley, Ann Burgess, Sara Waltamath, Sue Dickerson, Kirk Reed.

The 1974 YOUTH Convention, held at the City Squire Hotel in New York City, ran into many, many problems. It's hard to imagine a hotel that did not honor one request made months in advance, but, sure enough, it happened. Even with the disorganization, YOUTH members almost unanimously overcame the problems and, in the spirit of today's YOUTH movement, carried on, sharing ideas on programs, fund raising, and making new friends that strengthened the unity of our State organization.

The Convention packets contained a program booklet, fund raising idea booklet, fund raiser brochures and special interest items on New York City. We hope to expand many of these publications as new ideas come in from all over the state.

On Friday night of the Convention, Willowbrook's Choral Group presented a heartwarming program of popular songs and impersonations that set the tone for the entire Convention. A group of ex-residents of Willowbrook who have formed their own combo followed, giving YOUTH a perfect example of our motto, "Retarded Children Can Be Helped".

Three workshops were presented. One was designed for presidents and one for advisors. The two workshops combined during the last part of their sessions to compare problems and share ideas. The third workshop was open to all YOUTH

and consisted of a panel of professionals in different areas concerning the mentally retarded. They discussed careers, opportunities, education and job descriptions. Of course, all YOUTH members were also invited to join NYS-ARC's convention workshops, and YOUTH Convention time was allotted for the most pertinent of these.

YOUTH ARC unanimously picked what appears to be the most dynamic State Board ever. Carolyn Fetter of Brooklyn was chosen as the new State President, with Mary Reardon of Columbia County as Treasurer and Sue Dickerson of Columbia County as Secretary. Kirk Lewis of Schenectady was voted Senior Vice President. Other Regional Vice Presidents are: Joe Wykowski of Suffolk County, John Dempsey of Chemung County and Ellyn Tomkin of Monroe County. Regional Representatives are: Robin Nelson of Suffolk County, Karen Murray of Schenectady County, Laurie Coughlin of Jefferson County, and Jack Simon of Cattaraugus County. Mrs. Jo Iovino was again voted the State YOUTH Advisor.

The convention stressed the need for more communication between locals in each region as well as among all locals through the State Office. If the first two months after the convention are an indication of what the year holds for all ARC YOUTH, it should be a tremendously successful year.

State Y.O.U.T.H.

Board meets

The State YOUTH Board met in Utica, January 3rd, 4th, and 5th at Bergamo East, a convention center. Upon arrival on Friday, January 3rd, those attending were served dinner, followed by the first of a two-part board meeting. We also put together the final State YOUTH slide presentation at that time. Saturday, we began with breakfast and a tour of Rome Developmental Center. The afternoon was spent visiting Utica ARC's hostel and workshop and Rome Developmental Center's halfway house. Ellyn Tomkin planned an entertaining program of events for Saturday night. Sunday, after breakfast, Ellyn led a "Handicaps Session" with everyone experiencing the loss of a limb or one of their senses. If this sounds interesting to you, that's just an example of the fresh ideas to come from this year's board. The full cost was \$27.00 per student in a double room, including all meals and tours. Advisors and presidents were highly encouraged to attend. We began to make Convention '75 plans and set up the framework to reach all our goals for this year.

Board member

salutes Y.O.U.T.H.

Dear Suzanne (Crane):

As a parent of a retarded child, I want to commend you and your committee for the excellent work you are all doing throughout the state as indicated in your excellent report at the Board of Governors meeting. It was a real thrill for me to meet so many of the young people at the convention, and see for myself the spirit, the enthusiasm, the sensitivity and understanding displayed by all those with whom I spoke. It is indeed heartening for me as I speculate the future and the need for the community to be involved and the need for changing public attitudes.

As chairman of the Education Committee (my other hat that I wear), I was equally thrilled when I chatted with two of your group from the Suffolk Chapter and they told me of the wonderful public relations work they are doing in the school system, such as addressing their own classes educating their peers about mentally retarded persons, speaking to principals in schools, urging informational assembly programs, speaking to church and other community groups to help change public attitudes. I cannot adequately express how delighted I was to see that your group is involved in this kind of public relations in addition to the direct service to the retarded persons.

Keep up the good work, and if ever your group wants to know the gut feeling of what it means to be a parent of a retarded child and our battle with society, I will be glad to accommodate you, but do assure your group that we parents surely recognize what a great job you are all doing.

Bike-Hike

In a bike-hike for the handicapped, about 5300 bicyclists of all ages raised more than \$130,000 for eight local agencies in Rochester.

The Monroe County Chapter of Youth Organized and United to Help the Association for Retarded Children sponsored the hike.

The hike was organized by Kathy Baker. It was followed by an afternoon rock concert for the bicyclists in the Highland Bowl.

For and About our Y.O.U.T.H. ARC Chapters around the state

FRIENDS Y.O.U.T.H. SCHENECTADY

The Schenectady YOUTH Chapter ran several events for YOUTH Week. They participated in a walkathon originating at Maple Ridge Center in Rotterdam and hiked 20 miles in 10 hours making \$750 for their efforts.

Another highly successful event was the State Hand-in-Hand Day. Their program was extremely well-organized and became a very highly regarded event. Friends had about 250 people participating. Each volunteer brought a lunch for both himself and his friend for the day. Most of the retarded people who attended were from Wilton Developmental Center in Saratoga Springs. All during YOUTH Week, this chapter held slide presentations at the Maple Ridge Center, which showed what the YOUTH group was and what it was doing throughout the year.



Y.O.U.T.H. members confer with Mr. Weingold after Convention presentation.

During Halloween, the Friends Chapter had a party for kids under 16 at Maple Ridge. It lasted 2 hours and about 25 children attended. YOUTH members said they had lots of fun and the kids did, too. On October 28th, the day after the party, this strong YOUTH group helped out at a party at O.D. Heck Developmental Center. This party was for people over 16. There were about 50 people at the party, where everyone danced and listened to the music of a great band and watched a magic show.

Schenectady YOUTH completed the first year of their Saturday Morning Recreation Program on June 8. The program was very successful, with about twenty "recreators" and thirty to forty YOUTH volunteers. Plans are already being made for next year's program.

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY YOUTH

The Olean Racers, a basket ball team started by Mrs. Simon and her son Jack, has begun practice for the fourth season since the team was founded in 1971. It is now being coached by Paul Anderson. This is Paul's third year as head coach. Last year, the team was 5 and 3 for the year and played in two tournaments, winning first place in the Keene, New Hampshire tournament and third place in the West Seneca Invitational. This year, some teams from the Buffalo area are joining with the Olean Racers to form a "special" league. The teams participating in this venture are from West Seneca Developmental Center, Lincoln Junior High, the Catalician Center, the Campus School, West Seneca, West BOCES, and Lackawanna City School. This will be a big step from the first day of practice four years ago. It is also a big step for the boys involved, as most of them have no physical education in their school system.

Jack says that anyone wishing to start a team in their area may count on his help. It is a great opportunity for the children who participate and a source of great self satisfaction to those who help them.

MONROE COUNTY YOUTH-ARC

On June 2, 1974, Monroe County YOUTH-ARC had a Bike-Hike as their major fund raising project. They had three major check-points and the riders rode around a 30 mile route. This group held a concert afterwards for all the tired riders. The money that was raised went to various agencies in Monroe County who needed help and also to the agencies in the Al Sigi Center.

The Monroe County Chapter also held a spaghetti supper on November 3 at the Al Sigi Center. Monroe County Chapter is involved in many kinds of programs, one of which is a baby-sitting program for retarded children. Keep up the good work, Monroe County; you've certainly got the right ideas!

H.O.P.E. JUNIOR AUXILIARY

This fall has been an active season for this Suffolk County group. They presented the Suffolk County Walkathon with \$300 and the Mental Retardation Telethon with \$250.

One Sunday morning at 4 a.m., this group went to the local flea market with items they had collected from their homes. By 3 p.m., they had made \$115.

H.O.P.E., under the leadership of President Lorraine Perez, is hosting a Christmas party for the children of Suffolk Developmental Center on December 22nd. They will also carol for donations in their neighborhoods during the Christmas season.

Along with active fund raising and presenting special events, H.O.P.E. Chapter visits Suffolk Developmental Center every Sunday. For a newly re-organized chapter, H.O.P.E. is certainly dynamic and provides a good example to older, less organized chapters.



YOUTH Volunteers at the Saturday Morning Recreation Program, left to right Karen Hennisey, Mary Valchovic, and Karen Murray.



Tom McCarley and Gerri Goldberg sell Youth Fund Raiser Items at adult Convention.



Erie Y.O.U.T.H. for Amherst program

Although the YOUTH for ARC Lackawanna Program is just beginning, a most successful record hop was held at the V.F.W. J.B. Weber Post 898 in Lackawanna. Star of the evening was the well-known disc jockey, Dan Neaverth,

whose radio program is very popular locally. In July, a bowling party was held. Guests for the evening were teenagers and young adults from Lackawanna and surrounding area, as well as residents from West Seneca Developmental Center.

The rebuff that hurts

The following letter, appearing in the Staten Island Advance on January 9, 1974, is addressed to the people of building 5 at Willowbrook State School. It is a protest against the decision that after 10 years this volunteer may no longer visit or take the 17 year old boy out of Willowbrook because when he returns he is allegedly unable to accommodate with the other residents.

This letter is so poignant that we reproduce it herewith in full. It follows:

"I wonder if you all who voted against me feel beautiful? Do you get the feeling when you are in church that God has placed His hand upon your head and says, 'Well done, my children?' The Bible says 'What ye do to the least of these, you do unto me.' My sincere sympathy and love for this boy is my expression of my love for God and for all the other children.

For 10 years I have looked after this unwanted child. He had no other visitors. Do you all really know this boy? Did you know him at eight years old? A poor lost and confused little boy in with 5000 other children, until I brought him out of the crowd and brought him to the attention of Dr. Hammond.

When I take him out it seems his eyes can't see enough of all the activity, the people, buses and cars. Mrs. Hammond thought so well of my affection for him she asked if I would take him into my home as a foster child. I declined because I go to business. If I didn't have my job I couldn't afford to do all the things I do for this boy. Now how can you say I am a bad influence on him?

Do you know his hopes and dreams of a better tomorrow? You say he doesn't think he's retarded. Is that what we are supposed to do? Drill it into their heads that they are retarded, a nothing, and never will be anything? I think they should believe and have faith in themselves, to know they can accomplish their dreams. You say he thinks he's better than the others. You can't see that he has pride. He loves nice clothes and loves to be clean, even when he was a little fellow and wore the rags of Willowbrook. He would never, never kneel down in the dirt without getting up and brushing himself off. He rejects some of the other boys because they get dirty.

I received a free membership for him at the YMCA. I picked him up on Friday evenings to take him swimming. I first gave him his dinner, so that was from 6 until 9 p.m. Then I picked him up Sunday afternoons 2:30 until 7 p.m. That makes 7 1/2 hours a week. You had him 161 hours a week. Wasn't that enough time for you to train him your way? In the 10 years I took him out I also was taking an elderly lady out with two ladies from building 11. I also took another boy out with this boy. Eventually the other boy went home to his mother and a year ago my elderly friend passed away at the age of 81. The other two ladies were transferred. That left only this one boy. So I picked him up every Sunday. He enjoyed eating out so very much, as he could order anything he desired. The waitresses got to know him and liked him very much. He always was polite and I was very proud of him. Can you spare him 7 1/2 hours a week? Can I do so much damage to this boy in that short time? Is it because you can't see yourself doing this for an unfortunate boy that you believe it is wrong for me to do it? Some of the attendants have been so happy for him in the past, that one child had it made and may become something for it some day. He would ask me what I wanted him to be when he grew up. I would say the best of whatever you did, just be the best, no one can ask for more. Can you see it in your heart to take another vote? This is my love for my God. God bless all of you.

Mrs. Florence E. Brytcuk

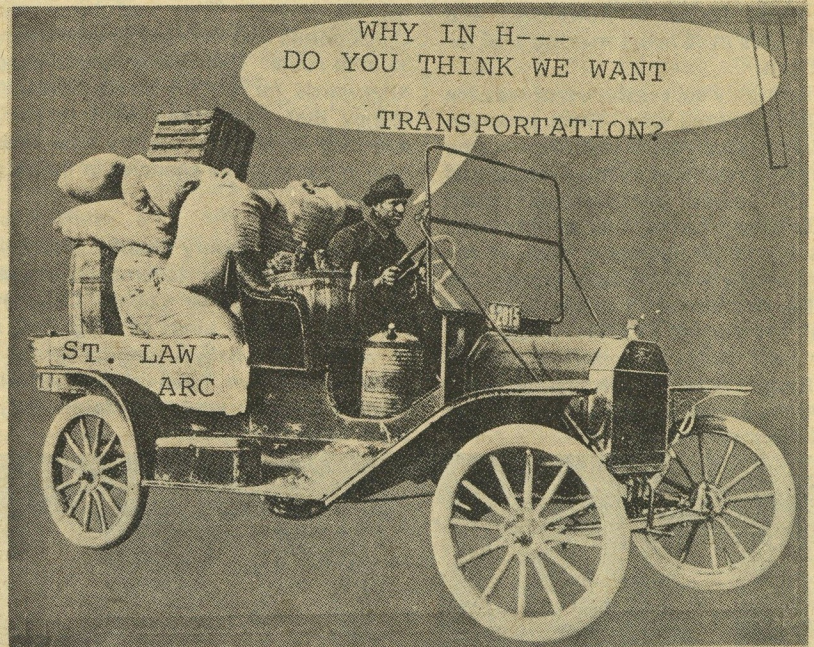
CHAPTER NEWS

What our chapters are doing and saying for our children.

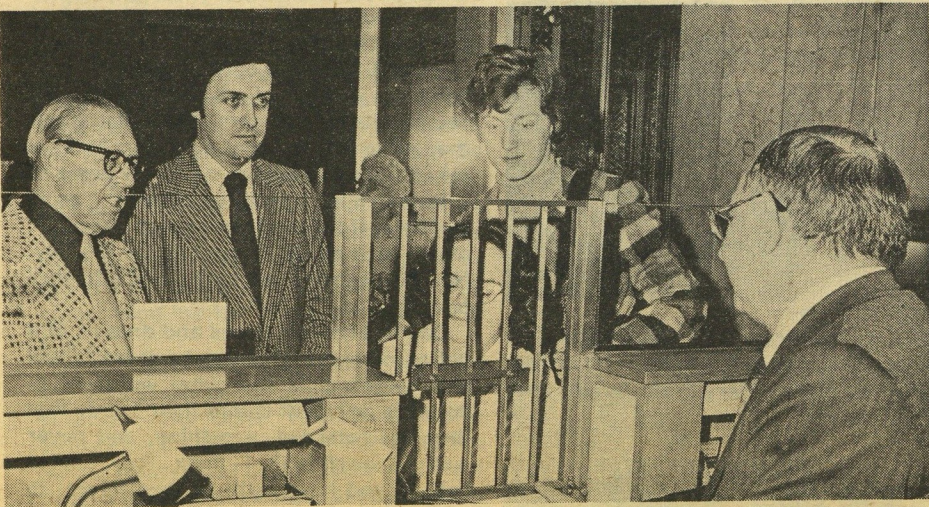
Every issue of Chapter News must begin with some Chapter, and this month we have decided to start in the middle of our alphabetical listing with **NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER, AHRC**. We cannot resist taking this opportunity to thank the Chapter for the outstanding job that was done in hosting the 25th Anniversary Convention of the Association. President James P. Murphy and Convention Chairman Stanley Geismar, together with their many hard working committee members, are to be congratulated on making this Convention one that will not soon be forgotten . . . cannot leave without talking about the clients of City Chapter as well. Recreation Department held its first annual dinner - dance with over 100 clients and their guests in attendance. It appears that this is going to be one of the outstanding additions to their recreation program . . . We bid a sad farewell to Norman Rothleder of City Chapter who Michael Styler, who attends as Liaison

Officer. The Chapter became an active part of the State Association Guardianship Program since Mr. Fixler has been accepting invitations to lecture on the subject to chapters all over the State. Very gratifying, too, for a number of reasons, is the Bus Safari Program. This effort, conceived by Leo Fixler and Richard Merges, Wassaic Director, involves the mutual planning of Mr. Merges and Mr. Shaw of Wassaic, Ann Kraus of the New York City Chapter, and Bernice Feinberg with her crew of volunteers. It has been a source of keen satisfaction to the membership, not only because it succeeds in getting Wassaic residents downtown to meet their parents, but also in effecting the harmonious cooperation of community based City Chapter, institution based Wassaic Chapter, and the staff of the School itself. The Wassaic Chapter has sent delegates to and participated in State Convention, Budget Hearings, Legislative Hearings. Mary Hanifer represents the

St. Lawrence needs transportation



St. Lawrence County Chapter private joke based on its concerns for transportation; which is no joke to any chapter in providing services.



The building drive of the Saratoga County Chapter, Association for Retarded Children (ARC), reached the \$80,000 mark with the depositing of a \$15,000 check from the Frank E. Gannett Foundation. Patty Patton, a client in the ARC occupational activity center, is shown presenting the check to John Tomeck, head teller for the Adirondack Trust Company. Others are: Elmer Heckman, drive chairman; Paul Smith, Saratoga ARC president; and Christy Bulkeley, editor and publisher of The Saratogian, The Tri-County News and The Commercial News — area Gannett Newspapers.

directed the Recreational Program of the Chapter so well for the last several years and without whom our Camp Catskill and Camp Wilton would not have existed. We wish Norman every success in his new position at Wassaic State School . . .

Speaking of Wassaic State School, how about a review of **COMMUNITY LEAGUES** last year's activities as provided by immediate past President Dorothy Fixler. With polite but persistent pressure, the League was instrumental in finally obtaining official assurance from Albany that Wassaic will have new screening installed on all buildings by the end of spring. This Chapter also was able at last, to convince the Department to fence in the dangerous swamp area on the School grounds. Then, in addition to standard budget items, funds were expended to purchase two sewing machines. The Camp Catskill Fixler Scholarship was established. The League continued to fund the successful Summer Volunteer Work Program involving so many enthusiastic and loyal young college students from Dutchess County area. An attractive sun shelter with picnic tables was donated in memory of Helen Altman Lotz. A sixty passenger bus was purchased and delivered to the School for the use of the residents. Some interesting new ongoing projects were initiated. Under the editorship of Dorothy Vine, an informative Newsletter was regularly published. With the cooperation of Marjorie Young, Director of Volunteer Services at Wassaic, the League sponsored a YOUTH Group of the State Association so that they can begin to function at the School. The weekly

staff meetings at Wassaic now include Mr. League on the Westchester Development Services Coordinating Council. And in the midst of all this varied activity, and because of the vigorous energy of a small group of experts who were raised on the work ethic, an interesting and financially successful Waldorf Luncheon was staged. Finally, the goal of refurbishing and maintaining the cemetery on the grounds of Wassaic has been taken on as a new project. With such an impressive past year, Mrs. Bernice Feinberg, newly installed President of the League, has quite a challenge. Judging from her reputation and the cooperation of Mr. Merges, the Community League should know no limits for the future. . . . From **BROOME - TIOGA CHAPTER**, Executive Director Fowler Wilson sends news of two special events that were held on behalf of their Chapter. The local Montgomery Ward Store had a back-to-school fashion show with a fund raising drive for the Chapter as a part of it. The Chapter also has begun teaching the Wendy Ward Charm course to the young ladies in the Chapters program . . . quite a write up given to the Chapters fantastic food services area in which Harry W. Shelp, Instructor of the food preparation class, and a former restaurant owner is getting into the possibility of **BROOME - TIOGA COUNTY CHAPTER** becoming a prepared food outlet. Mr. Wilson further writes that as climax to the grooming program mentioned earlier, a fashion show was held at the ARC facility. This was in conjunction with the Chapters first fall membership meeting and with a "Italian Supper" put on by Mrs. Shelp and clients in the food services program. 189 people

were served! How about that for a meeting turn out . . . A step ahead for **CORTLAND COUNTY CHAPTER** within the past few months as the summer issue of their newsletter carried pictures taken at their summer camp. The first time we can remember a photo reproduction process in the Chapters newsletter. They also have given their sheet a name "The Torch Bearer" which they discuss new services that they offer within **CORTLAND COUNTY**, including a bowling program for the retarded and a long list of young people who have taken a special baby sitter training course and are available for those parents who may need them in order to enjoy a night out. Both good projects we will say . . .

FROM **ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER** comes the following report on their nursery and home training programs. "At the ARC, the new emphasis on keeping mentally retarded children in programs in the community is being implemented by the nursery and home training programs. Paradoxically, this newest approach is a return to the old values of family life, striving to more fully

integrate retarded children into their families and ultimately their communities . . . **HERKIMER COUNTY** ran a very interesting article in their Newsletter discussing a "situations wanted" ad, in which workers from the center were recommended as through a newspaper. Looks like an interesting way to get employers thinking about doing some hiring . . . **MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S** Liberty House following the lead of the number of the other Chapters and offering some special diet classes to the clients. One of the more interesting articles in their newsletter lately a column by one of the clients: **A WORD FROM THE CLIENTS:** I would like to say some words to you parents as a client. I would like to tell you what is going on in Liberty House, and two to one, you are asking what is going on here, what is a client doing in a newsletter. Well what you see is what you get. Well on with it. The clients are making more money, we have a 6 hour work day. Liberty House puts out 95 per cent of the work we get, and 5 per cent of the work is bad, but we send the bad parts back to the company who sent it to us. I hope now you know what

(Continued on Page 11)



This city's two Department of Safety aggregations clashed in their annual softball game recently and Lake City Police Club barely nipped the Firemen, 9-8, to earn the right to choose the charitable organization which would benefit to the tune of a \$100 donation, to be made by the loser. The Police designated the Oswego County Chapter of the New York State Association for Retarded Children as recipient of the award. The Police squad is pictured above, following its victory and includes, kneeling, from left, Ed Besaw, Jack Zeller, Ted Waters, Joe Paeno, Andrews and Tim Barrett and, standing Paul Vibbert, Farnsworth Saylor, Britt Waters, Bob Germain and Nettles. The Police plan a number of additional starts, including a possible outing against The Palladium - Times nine.

MORE CHAPTER NEWS

is going on with our sub-contract and I hope you will come to see us soon and I know you will like our programs and new and different work programs we have. I hope to see you soon." . . . I won't tell you how much money the **SARATOGA COUNTY CHAPTER** has in their capital fund drive, but we're delighted to see what a good job they are doing in terms of making preparations for their building. We hope that something will be seen soon. . . Telling it like it is could have been the theme of one of the recent newsletters of **ULSTER COUNTY CHAPTER** in which they reported that for the third straight year the Ulster County United Way had reduced the Chapter support by some \$2,000. One of the real zingers of the whole newsletter was a cartoon showing a big United Way sitting at a large desk with two persons sitting on boxes representing the ARC and a caption "better start getting used to that sort of thing" . . . members of **ULSTER COUNTY** also have available to them occasional free respite care at the Wassaic State School in the Cedar Knolls Respite Facility, which is operating under the direction of Catherine Seeberger, one of the founding members of our **DUTCHESS COUNTY CHAPTER** . . . there never is any way to really report all the news to you that we find in the outstanding monthly newsletter, the Lamp Lighter, of **SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER** but they really outdid themselves in connection with the 25th Anniversary Convention. Those of you who were not there might be interested in knowing that the Chapter prepared a newsletter with a brief article on every Chapter of the Association and what it has done during our 25 year history. Got some pictures at the opening sessions of the Convention and then had the whole thing run off, put together and returned in time for distribution while the Convention was still going on. Quite a scoop and an issue we are sure you will be interested in having. Why don't you write to Suffolk County Chapter, 65 Oak St., Patchogue, N.Y. and see if they still have spare copies for you . . . **WELFARE LEAGUE LETCHWORTH VILLAGE CHAPTER** recently enjoyed their 35th Anniversary Luncheon at the New York Hilton in New York City. We understand it was a sensational affair and we are delighted to learn of the great time which was had by all. Many congratulations to Mr. Hy. Volaski Luncheon Chairman . . . **ALBANY COUNTY CHAPTER** writes to tell us on October 17th between 5 and 7 p.m. the Menands McDonald's Restaurant ran a Percentage Day for the Chapter, contributing 50 per cent of all cash proceeds during those hours to the Chapter. They also are undertaking their new Daily Living Skills Program and the Parent Letter Series. Oct. 28th to November 10th the Chapter returned to the old time Postmans Walk on behalf for retarded. This was an event marked with much success in the earlier days of **ALBANY COUNTY CHAPTER**, and we are delighted to see it making a successful return . . . **GREENE COUNTY CHAPTER** is desperately searching for a home at the present, were they can house the many new clients that they anticipate coming into their program. The Chapter has been hard at work trying to expand their local activities. We anticipate the formation of a new **YOUTH** group in Greene County very soon, also . . . **MADISON COUNTY CHAPTER** was recently delighted when their workshop received the highest possible commendation from the Rehabilitation Facility Division of OVR. After a two day stay at their program, the OVR Representative suggested that the **MADISON COUNTY ARC** might serve as an example to others like it . . . **MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER** speaking about the hard work that their clients did around the Al Sigl Center begin their September newsletter with the heading **HORTICULTURE, FLORICULTURE,**

Ristich out

Ford administers Willowbrook

After consultation with Governor Malcolm Wilson, Dr. Alan D. Miller, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene announced that Dr. Miodrag Ristich, director of Willowbrook Developmental Center on Staten Island since October 1972, has been transferred from the position of Director to "key position" at the Institute for Basic Research on Mental Retardation on Staten Island.

Mr. James A. Forde, head of the Regional Office in the Mid-Hudson Regional Office of the Department has been named to head a team of senior department officials assuming responsibility for the administration of Willowbrook. He will serve as director of the facility until a permanent director can be found.

AGRICULTURE. Together with some of the tremendous farm products we saw grown in **CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY CHAPTER** on a recent visit there, we think that they perhaps are talking already about a new future program for the mentally retarded in general . . . **ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER** has recently enjoyed its 4th consecutive benefit fashion show from Mrs. Jane Herron, owner of Herron's Dress Shop in Syracuse. Chapter still running bingos in an attempt to continue to raise money for their programs. Held an Open House on Oct. 22 in their center, which we are sure everyone enjoyed . . . **SCHENECTADY COUNTY CHAPTER** has recently welcomed Mr. Matt Puleo formerly Director of the County Workshop and Hostel in Malone, New York as their Executive Director, replacing Jack Gilroy. Our welcome to Matt . . . Irwin Bier, a tireless volunteer in **WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER**, again chaired that groups Night At The Races held at the Yonkers Raceway on October 8th. We hope that it was as marvelous an evening as the releases seem to indicate it was going to be. Everyone at Willowbrook anxiously waiting the appointment of a new full time Director to replace Dr. Ristich. Very pleased to see the Chapter giving opportunities for both sides of the coin to be heard, not only in some of the letters and poems written by parents of those who reside at Willowbrook, but by the following, entitled "The Attendant" which appeared in their August 1974 newsletter. "We clean the floors, we clean the walls. We're the ones on duty when the patient calls. We clean the urine, we clean the soil, We're the ones who never get credit for all that toil. We're mother, father, all that some know, We're here day by day watching these kids grow. We experience the seizures, we experience the tantrums. We're the ones who never see the "devoted" parent come. We take them to church, to parties and school, To the dentist, doctor, and in the summer to the pool. Our egos are knocked down by newsmen not around, And ugly gossip from strangers, heard from town to town. Where goes the money that some phonies collect? Yet we smile when they visit, and give them respect. Think of our feelings when you degrade and find fault, Our reward comes from the smiles and the love from the afflicted we have taught." **WARREN - WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER** had quite an article on their hostel in their October newsletter. We like their definition of "hostel": — love, good food, a warm bed, good friends, rooms with barless windows, someone to tell your troubles to, someone to take care of you when you're sick in the night — to make a long definition shorter, our hostel is home.

To supplement the efforts of the active management group headed by Mr. Forde, Dr. Miller announced that the Department has asked the management consulting firm of Griffenhagen - Kroeger to place an operations team at Willowbrook to assist Mr. Forde and his immediate staff in carrying out their management responsibilities.

In commenting on this, a spokesman for the State Association said that the Commissioner could do as well with a group of parents to help manage Willowbrook and save the state a considerable sum of money.

Dr. Miller stated that they would immediately consult with the Willowbrook Chapter, the State ARC and the State Advisory Council on Developmental Disabilities in an effort to obtain assistance in searching for a prominent successor of outstanding ability to succeed Dr. Ristich.

Up to this point, the State ARC has not been consulted, to our knowledge, and we have no knowledge that the Develop-

mental Disabilities Council has been in on it.

The original appointment of Dr. Ristich was made over the protests of the New York State Association for Retarded Children whose information from the Minnesota Parents' Association concerning Dr. Ristich was extremely negative. At a time when the Board of Visitors was supposed to be consulted, according to Mr. Weingold, then a member of the Board of Visitors, the Department already made ready a release to the newspapers of Dr. Ristich's appointment and the consultation with the Board of Visitors was so much window dressing.

The Association for Retarded Children has also protested the transfer of Dr. Ristich to a "key position" at the Institute for Basic Research on Mental Retardation without knowing what his qualifications for such a position are.

It is apparently the policy of the Department not to dismiss persons who have been incompetent in jobs as directors of the institutions but to transfer them to other jobs at equal salaries.

\$159,000 Advocacy grant

The New York State Association for Retarded Children, has received a grant in the sum of \$159,000 for an Advocacy program for the mentally retarded.

Entitled, "A System of Advocacy for the Mentally Retarded" (SOAR) it will be under the direction of Mr. Jack Bernstein, an attorney and Master of Social Work, who had been with the Association in field placement from Fordham School of Social Work several years ago.

The purpose of this Advocacy grant will be to develop advocacy systems on a local level throughout the State, compile in one place all the laws dealing with the mentally retarded in the State of New York as well as the case laws, explore the needs of the retarded and act as their representatives vis-a-vis the Departments of government, and finally, where necessary, to bring court action, either state or federal, to delineate and protect those rights.

The grant is usually on a three year

basis with the Association matching 30 percent of the funds or approximately \$45,000 a year. The net cost, therefore, to the Developmental Disabilities Council is about \$111,000 per year. The starting date is January 1, 1975 and it will be located, although in separate quarters, in the same building as the Association, 175 Fifth Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10010.

"This is a tremendous breakthrough," said Mr. Weingold, "We have been trying for four years, and before advocacy grants were made anywhere in this country, to receive such a grant from Developmental Disabilities in Washington and on a local level.

The realization by the Developmental Disabilities Council of New York State of the need for such a program is an indication of their realization that the rights of the mentally retarded, as well as other developmentally disabled, must be protected in every way possible."

Donovan bill re-introduced

Unmoved by the arguments of this Association, the opposition of many groups including the New York State Association of Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped, Senator James Donovan of Oneida County, Chairman of the Select Committee on Mental and Physical Handicap has re-introduced his 1974 bill, S.8501 - A.

This is the bill that would repeal the whole law dealing with the handicapped in New York State and substitute a new one which the Association had opposed last year. It did not come out of committee.

The objections we had last year still stand on this amended bill, although there are some changes for the better. We still repeat what we said last year. Senator Donovan is doing away with the Family Court Act, Section 4403, with the aid for the severely handicapped Section 4407 and substituting vague promises.

We have but to see that this bill speaks of the handicapped "being entitled to" to understand what kind of a mandate there is here. "Entitled" is no mandate.

Arguments have been made that such a

bill was introduced and passed in Massachusetts, but we point out to the proponents of this bill that the Massachusetts situation and the bill introduced there were quite different from this one. In Massachusetts the law was amended not to bring the mentally retarded into education, but to exclude. The impetus of that bill came from minority groups in Boston who protested that, according to the testing systems there prevalent, the blacks were being labeled mentally retarded when they should not have been. They, therefore, asked for the apparatus to be able to prevent this. It was not a bill to include, but a bill to exclude.

This Association is again opposed to 8501-A., now called S. No. 12.

In our opinion, the Education Law needs amendment in several respects to strengthen it. Such measures as mandating local Committees for the Handicapped in school districts with parent representation, mandating Section 4407, and mandating the age from 3 instead of 5 would make the New York State laws with regard to education a model for the rest of the country.

Zoning decision on group care

The New York State Court of Appeals recently handed down an interpretation of zoning ordinances as they apply to family units that establishes a precedent for some situations where the Department of Mental Hygiene places persons in family care homes. It may also be of significance to hostels where they are being operated by house father and mother.

The ruling on a case was that of the City of White Plains against Serraioli, handed down on June 12th.

The Court held that a "group home" consisting of an adult couple, their two children and ten foster children did not violate an ordinance restricting the zone in which the home was located to "single family dwelling for one housekeeping unit only."

The ordinance defined "family" as spouses and biologically related persons from grandparents to grandchildren and stated that such families could have only two boarders.

The Court's decision held that zoning ordinances could not limit the definition of who could be part of a family unit to those who are related by blood or adoption. The Court ruled that as long as the group home bears the genetic characteristics of a single housekeeping unit, it is a relatively normal, stable, and permanent family unit, and is not a framework for transients or transient living, it conforms to the purposes of the ordinance.

In this case the head of the group home household did not have to apply for an exception to the zoning ordinance to have the foster children in his home.

Attempts by some localities to apply zoning to restrict the department's ability to make community placements should be affected by the court's ruling. In a situation where a family care placement fits the description provided by the State Court of Appeals, it would legally meet the requirements of single family dwelling for one housekeeping unit zoning.

Proposed regulations for "patient workers"

The Department of Labor has published proposed regulations regarding "employment of patient workers in hospitals, institutions and sub-minimum wages."

These regulations provide the persons with earning at productive capacities compared to the extent that they would be unable to earn the minimum wage. A certificate authorizing such lower wage may be obtained from the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor. Five types of certificates are available:

(1) Evaluation and training — pay commensurate with the individual's level or productivity with no minimum wage guarantee required, not to exceed a 12 month period for each individual (2) Group minimum wage for facilities whose "patient workers" are performing at 50 percent to 99 percent levels of productivity. These certificates may be issued to an entire "institution" or to a department or departments thereof. (3) Individual exception for individuals who perform between 25 percent and 49 percent of normal levels of productivity. (4) Work activities center — providing therapeutic activity programs for severely handicapped persons who perform below the 25 percent level of productivity. (5) Experimental purposes — to increase employment opportunities for individuals in special programs. The last category has little further definition at present.

"Patient workers" and their parent or guardian are to be informed promptly and in writing of the wage applicable to the

At the legislative conference of the Board of Regents in Albany, September 10th, 1974, the New York State Association for Retarded Children, urged the implementation of the Fleischmann Commission Report. The first recommendation that the Association made was that the Board of Regents take vigorous action to force school districts to do what they must do by law. To do this, it was urged that the Division for Handicapped Children of the Department of Education be strengthened by adding enough field people to supervise the local programs and act as surrogate for the Commissioner throughout the State.

In addition the Association made the following recommendations:

1. There be a return to the Heald Formula whereby the State picks up all the excess cost of educating a handicapped pupil over the cost by the local school district of educating a non-handicapped pupil.

2. That all funds for aid to special education be earmarked when they are given to local school boards.

Do you know ...?

— That this State, and most other states, lumps mental retardation with insanity in most of its laws dealing with the subject?

— That a blind child can go to a state supported school for the blind to the age of 21 and receive education and care free of charge, but when a mentally retarded child is sent to a state school at Letchworth the parents have to pay for education and care? Even if the child is blind?

— That 26 states still have sterilization laws for the mentally retarded and that they are compulsory in 23 states? That

3. That the present regulations of the Commissioner regarding transportation limiting to 20 miles is unreasonable and that this be reviewed so that it be lengthened. The Association pointed out that parents are left to resort to the Family Court for additional aid when this should be an obligation of the school district.

4. That the Commissioner of Education's ruling with regard to the power of school districts without state aid to transport the handicapped to rehabilitation facilities over the age of 21 be reversed; and if not reversed that there be legislation to this effect.

5. That the education of all the handicapped be mandated from the age of 3 instead of the present age of 5.

6. That Section 4407 be mandated as a viable alternative to 4404 (2)(b), and as an additional service to the parents who now have to go to the Family Court for full protection.

7. That the school districts be mandated to establish Committees for the Han-

A RETARDED PERSON IN A STATE INSTITUTION HAS ONLY A LITTLE OVER A DOLLAR APPROPRIATED FOR HIS FOOD PER DAY?

mentally retarded children are being denied their Constitutional right to free public education and are relegated to long waiting lists? Sometimes their names come up after they reach the age of 21 and are ineligible?

— That companies writing health and accident policies for families ask the question, "do you have a mentally or physically handicapped child?" If the answer is "yes" they refuse to include the child as a dependent and the child is unable to get insurance on his own?

ARC logo registered

The logo and motto "Retarded Children Can Be Helped" has been registered by the U.S. Patent Office as belonging to the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc. The Commissioner of Patents, C. Marshall Dann, put his signature to this on September 10th, 1974.

This patent or registration is for a period of 20 years.

It means that no one may use the logo or the motto "Retarded Children Can Be Helped" without prior permission of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc.

Human Rights Law amended

Effective September 1, 1974, disabled persons who have been refused jobs, housing or public accommodations will have legal recourse. Governor Malcolm Wilson signed into New York State Law the amendment to the State Human Rights Law which he described as "the strongest such law in the Nation".

The bill was introduced by Senators Flynn and Giuffreda and Assemblyman Koppell of the Bronx.

In signing this important legislation, the Governor also appropriated \$155,000 of supplemental funds to the New York State Division of Human Rights to help enforce the disability law which covers the mentally, as well as physically disabled. Offenders of the new law falling under the watchful eye of Jack M. Sable, Commissioner of the Rights Agency, could be

fined up to three thousand dollars for "mental anguish and humiliation". Mr. Sable states, "The Courts have upheld us on this legislation" and adds "Lost wages could also become part of the offender's fine."

The new law is stronger than those passed by 23 other states because it has subpoena power after hearings are conducted to investigate complaints.

The employer must prove that he has not discriminated, while there is no burden of proof on the handicapped person.

The New York City Commission on Human Rights has concurrent jurisdiction with the state agency, but hears only complaints in cases where the handicapped person requires the use of a device such as a wheelchair.

dicapped and that these committees have at least 50 percent parent representation.

8. That the law be amended to eliminate the provision that the decision of the Commissioner of Education in appeals to him is final and that the appellant in an adverse decision may have the absolute right of appeal to the court.

9. That the vocational rehabilitation Act (Section 1004 et. seq. of the Education Law) be changed so that the voluntary agencies providing sheltered employment to persons who cannot be placed in industry receive the cost of maintaining such services rather than \$1000 now under a permissible \$1500. The suggestion is made that there should be at least \$2500 per client paid to such agencies.

To date, there has been no reaction from the Board of Regents which maintains this sphinx-like attitude with regard to the retarded.

Willowbrook trial continues

A lawyer met a reporter in a corridor at the Federal Courthouse in Brooklyn early in October and said "What are you here for?" "The Willowbrook Trial".

"Willowbrook!" the lawyer exclaimed. "Is that still going on?"

Yes, it is still going on.

According to Mr. Weingold, probably the most important element in the Willowbrook Trial is, in addition to the conditions at Willowbrook, the establishment of the right to treatment by persons who are in the institutions of the Department of Mental Hygiene.

Such right to treatment as a Constitutional right has been established in a number of cases and recently by the Fifth Circuit Court as reported elsewhere in OCV, but these deal with "involuntary" patients or residents.

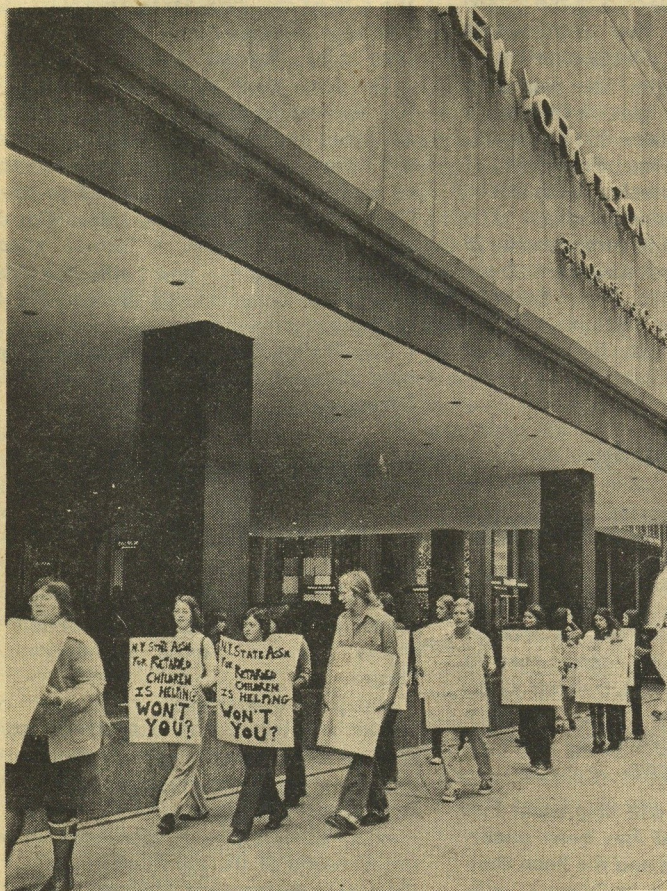
It is Mr. Weingold's contention that there is no such thing as a voluntary patient, especially when such a person is placed in the institution for the retarded by the parents. In any case, it is the pressures of society which make the idea of free will involved in the voluntary placement meaningless.

Willowbrook conditions protested

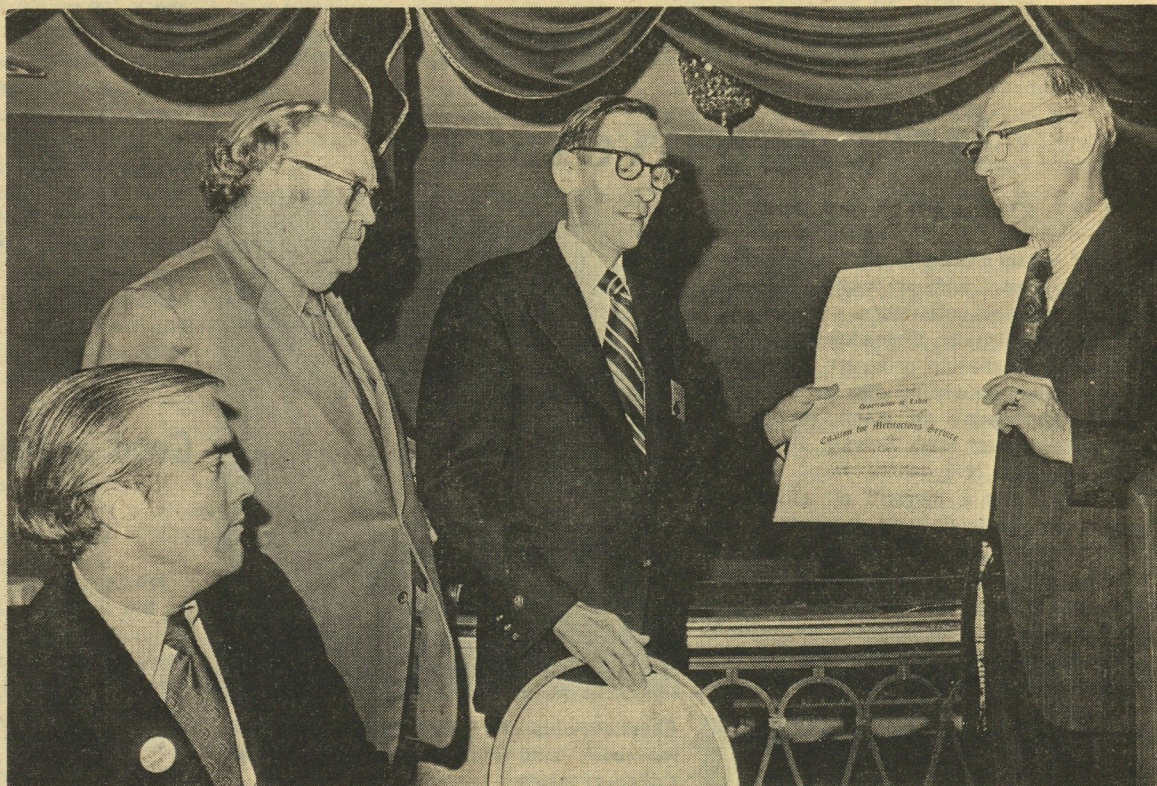
In a telegram on September 13th to Governor Malcolm Wilson, Elliot L. Aronin called attention to the state of anarchy that was in existence at Willowbrook due to the unbridled action of some of the employees with criminal records. The telegram stated, "We call upon you to take immediate action regarding the deteriorating situation at Willowbrook. The virtual take-over of some facilities by employees with criminal records and the state of terror instituted by them threatens the safety not only of the children but all other personnel as well." He called for an immediate investigation and action.

In answer to this, Governor Wilson asked the Developmental Disabilities Council to review the situation at Willowbrook and what steps should be taken to improve employee morale and level of programs served performance. The Developmental Disabilities Council had a meeting on this. High on the list of those who told about Willowbrook was Tom McCarley, our staff person working under a grant from Developmental Disabilities on institutional programs and its problems. What has happened? Who knows!

Convention Highlights — '74



Our Youth picketing the hotel — all for the cause.



Mr. John Lapan, Director of Facilities Planning, accepts Employer of the Year Award on behalf of the Hudson Valley Community College in Rensselaer County. Jim Murphy, President, New York

City Chapter, Ed Licence, Chairman, Scholarship and Awards Committee look on. Irving Friedman, Executive Director, Governor's Committee to Employ the Handicapped, makes presentation.



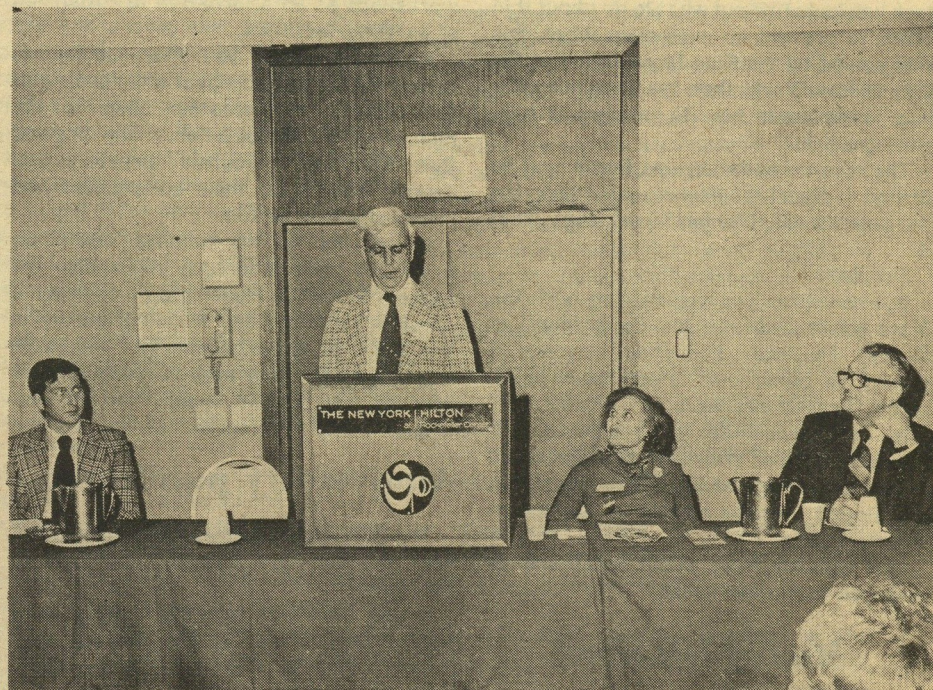
Commissioner Alan D. Miller presents the 3rd Helen Award (Created to honor Helen Kaplan) to Mrs. Reville for Jim. Looking on are Georgia Sullivan and Susan Reville, their daughters.



No convention is complete without a picture of the reason for Weingold's tenure. Jon Weingold keeps things going while Stanley Geismark, Chairman, waits for the word and Elliot eyes Martha Jewell.



Pete Knauss expounds on Hostels. Left to right, Paul Nigra, Fulton; Helen Kaplan, Nassau and Joseph Harris, New York City.



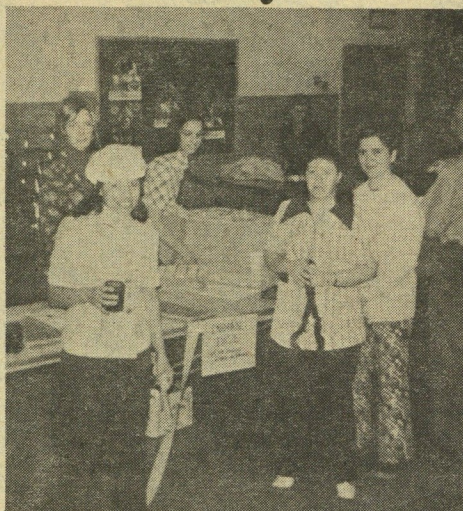
John Bertrand beaming and being congratulated by Joseph T. Weingold, standing — Irving Friedman, Executive Director, Governor's Committee to Employ the Handicapped and Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus after receiving plaque of appreciation from New York City Chapter.

Cheektowaga

Recreation program has first anniversary

No one would think that a program which started on "a shoestring and a prayer" would blossom into such a successful program with so many dedicated participants and volunteers.

The program in Cheektowaga, New York, is a recreation program for young adults which meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Maryvale Junior High School. Begun in February of 1973 with Mrs. Sophia Dabrowski and a handful of volunteers from Villa Maria College, interest in the program soon spread and the ball got rolling. With the endorsement of the Association for Retarded Children, Erie County Chapter, the help of the town of Cheektowaga and some very hard-working and enthusiastic volunteers, the



Cheektowaga ARC Recreation Program members and friends enjoy games on Carnival Night.

program was kicked off with a dance on May 9, 1973, at Villa Maria College.

Since then, the activities of the group have been many and varied, including field trips, shopping at a local center to buy a gift for Dad, Bingo Night, Carnivals, Costume Parties for Halloween, dances, a formal dinner - dance for Christmas, craft nights, picnics and swimming, a talent show, a folk festival, working with pottery and ceramics at an art lab, a bowling party, a square dance, a magic show, and an Anniversary Dance to celebrate a successful year.



Cheektowaga ARC Recreation Program on Carnival Night.

The gas leak on Morton St.

The Sheridan Unit of the Manhattan Developmental Center has been closed since October 3rd, 1974. 125 retarded residents were moved from their quarters at 5 Morton Street to the Keener Unit at Manhattan State Psychiatric Center, a place that has been characterized as worse than Willowbrook.

The cause of all this? A gasoline leak into the basement at Morton Street. First it took weeks to find out what to do about it in order to prevent an explosion. When this was solved by the Fire Department of the City of New York, then the determination had to be made how to prevent it happening again.

The recommendation was that a well be drilled to divert the flow of water carrying the gasoline into Morton Street away from it.

Simple?

But not when you are dealing with the State bureaucracy in the Department of Mental Hygiene. Everybody agrees it should be done, but "steps have to be taken. Procedures have to be followed."

In the meanwhile the residents who formerly were at Willowbrook transferred to Morton Street, which was a shambles, are almost literally rotting in Keener on Ward's Island.

Who said anything about sensitivity or response to human needs?

Money left over?

We have just learned this Summer that money has been left over from the Sepra Program. \$49,000 of this has been distributed to ARC Workshops.

County approves Suffolk mortgage

County Executive, John V. N. Klein has signed an authorization to provide a mortgage loan of over \$1,854,000 in county funds to help build a vocational training center and administrative headquarters for the Suffolk County ARC. The authorization was signed July 24th after the County Legislature unanimously approved a Resolution allowing the action June 9th.

The county health officials supported the proposed consolidation of the AHRC workshops as an alternative to expansion of existing facilities.

AHRC President, Mrs. Mary Jo Iovino, called the county approval and funding of the center "the greatest news in the history of the Association." She praised Bob Sansone, executive director, and county leaders for their enlightened and knowledgeable action.

In addition to this funding, additional funds are needed to fully modernize the Lincoln School in Huntington and to build an ultra-modern day training facility in the Town of Brookhaven. The \$1,854,000 mortgage will cover approximately 90 per cent of the cost of acquisition of real property and construction of the facility.

Anniversary publications

The 25th Anniversary of the Association was marked by Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

If you have not seen the special 25th Anniversary Issue of the Nassau and Suffolk County Chapters publications, write to them for a copy.

They are outstanding examples of journalism, know-how, and how-to provoke interest of members and others in the work of the Association.

N.Y.S. Special Olympics

Suffolk County A.H.R.C. President, Mrs. Mary Jo Iovino, was elected to the Board of Directors for the New York State Special Olympics at an Albany meeting on Saturday, September 7th. She was also named to serve on the Special Olympic's Nominating Committee. Kirk Lewis, Northeast Regional Vice President of Schenectady, was also elected to the Board as a Y.O.U.T.H. representative. The Special Olympic Board is composed of 25 members. Other Board members from Suffolk County included Mrs. Barbara Southwick of Stony Brook, David Rothenberg of Islip and Jim Arles of Babylon.

Brockport, New York was selected as the site of the 1975 State Olympics. The National - International Olympics will be held in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan in August.

The New York State Special Olympics has applied for a grant to help fund new activities and to allow the employment of a full time executive director and secretary, as well as the acquisition of office space. The group is headed by Mrs. Dorothy Buehring of Albany, a former special education teacher, now with the State Education Department's Bureau for the Mentally Handicapped.

The State's Special Olympic Board will hold its next session on October 5th in Syracuse.

Good housekeeping at Willowbrook!

We cannot think of anything more fitting in the light of all that is happening at Willowbrook, its transferees to Morton Street and from there to Keener than to report that the first Carol Burnett Good Housekeeping award was recently presented to the housekeeping staff of building 11 at Willowbrook.

We are glad that this will help boost the morale of the staff that has been under such fire at Willowbrook and the hope that the good housekeeping in building 11 will carry over to buildings 8, 20 and others too difficult to mention. Nevertheless, it seems to us that what Mr. Anthony Fontano, executive housekeeper at Willowbrook did in building 11, in boosting the morale of the persons responsible for maintaining the building could well be used with others in Willowbrook.

He got the permission to use a charwoman character on the Carol Burnett good housekeeping award as a symbol. He then wrote to the Vestal Laboratories to donate a banner which would be presented to the winning team each month. The AAA A-Line Service Corp. interested in good housekeeping, provided buttons bearing the emblem for each employee in the winning building. The project was conceived, developed and operated by the Willowbrook housekeeping employees themselves and showed a spirit quite remarkable in the light of the general atmosphere at Willowbrook.

Second place in the first monthly competition went to building 10, and third to building 5.

Rome chess champ wins in city meet

Rome State School has its own junior Bobby Fischer according to an article by Marie Stawarz, Rome Developmental Center.

Mahwee Suwarrow, a 16-year old resident, entered the local chess competition and proved to game participants, admirers, and fellow residents that chess is indeed his game.

After defeating two opponents in the initial round of the elimination section of the novice tournament, Mahwee went on to victory over every other challenger present.

He learned the rudimentary skills of chess and simple board competition from an attendant some years back. His ambition is to beat Bobby Fischer and we say good luck.

Fixler activates

Sullivan committee

Very often volunteers such as Leo Fixler and others, who make visits to our various chapters and give talks in their field of expertise, think that the visit has been just another indigent in a chapter meeting.

We are very happy to report that this is not the case with Mr. Fixler's visit to Sullivan County Chapter in June. As a result of this visit Marc N. Brandt, Executive Director wrote to Leo "Out of last night's meeting, among other things, the Board will be establishing an active Legal and Legislative Committee as well as an Institutional Committee. I sincerely found your talk to be highly interesting and profitable."

Class portrait



The graduating class at the Wayne County ARC Day Training Center pose for their official class picture. The Class of 1974 includes Rhonda Carpino of Clyde, Terry Schuldtt and Marion Hunt of Lyons, first row left to right. Joanne Catholdi of Newark and Victoria Crandall of Sodus second row. (Geneva Times photo)

Your child in public school

PARENT POWER - EDUCATION PROGRAMS - It's time the consumers of human services, parents, handicapped individuals — have an impact on services and what is available, and the quality of it. Parents have a vested interest in the school program in your district. If parents want to have an impact they will have to push for it, and here are some things to do for a start.

1. **Educate yourself.** First, go visit school programs, read about educational programs, join local parents associations, get to speak to as many groups as possible.

2. Know your rights as a parent, establish a relationship with the teacher and administration and the parents of special classes right in your own child's school. Suggest a study group on attitudes within the school towards handicapped people. Keep abreast of educational legislation (from this newspaper) and be sure to let your politicians know you are around and aware.

Please let us know what you are doing — how it worked — what problems you encountered — share it with all of us — what's happening in your district might help another chapter.

MAKE THE EDUCATORS AWARE OF OUR RIGHTS ... AND PARENTS, PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE HAVE A RIGHT TO THESE RIGHTS!

YOUR CHILD IN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Your Education Committee scored a big hit at the Convention of N.Y.S. Association of Teachers of Mentally Handicapped, Inc., on a panel called "Parents — Educators — Their Roles." Dr. David Peters, Genesee Chapter and Chairman of Western Region chapters, Mrs. Donald Whitman of Saratoga Chapter, Chairman

of Northeast Region, and Mrs. Betty Pendler, Chairman of the Education Committee, along with a school psychologist and teacher member of their organization, had a lively panel, where the audience learned about the gut feelings of parents, what we expect from teachers, how to improve communication, etc. Reaction to this panel is reflected in the following letter sent to Jerry Weingold by a member of that organization (and also an ARC member).

"Dear Mr. Weingold:

I want to tell you how stimulating the panel session on 'Parents — Educators — Their Roles' was and how much it added to the success of the convention of the N.Y.S. Teachers of Mentally Handicapped last week. We were surprised at the interest shown in this topic. The section was filled and closed by 11 a.m., and yet people came and sat on the floor to listen and discuss this topic. When I announced closing time for the session, no one left the room, but stayed a half hour or more to talk with the panelists. I was glad to hear that some Committees on Handicapped include parents. We are pushing for that in Ulster County and it is being worked on by the Teachers of Mentally Handicapped in the state. Best wishes to you in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,
Mary Kent
New Paltz, New York"

PARENTS, teachers are anxious to hear from us now. You can contact the local chapter of this organization (N.Y.S. Association of Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped, Inc.) as well as the local chapter of Council for Exceptional Children and suggest a parent-teacher

panel on a local level. Write to the state office for the address of the local chapter if you can't get it on your own.

We found, even the next day, just casual interchange of conversations with teachers who hadn't been at the panel was most beneficial. We understood them better, learned about their aims, objectives, new techniques, and they learned about why we act the way we do! We urge you to try to speak to as many teacher groups as possible. Write us if you are interested and we will help.

SUGGESTED READING: By Ms. Ann Benjamin, Speech Therapist, member of that panel — A must for every parent and teacher — "Parents are Teachers" by Wesley Becker, published by Research Press Co., 2612 No. Mattis Avenue, Champaign, Illinois 61820.

"COMMITTEES FOR THE HANDICAPPED: More and more parents are being invited to be members of this important committee. Contact your school district and suggest it. Use the following quotation from Mr. Robert Howe, Administrator of Batavia City Schools, sent to Mrs. Dominic Cervone (Genesee Chapter) "... We would like to invite you to be a member of our Committee on the Handicapped for the 1974-75 school year ... the regulations state that the Committee shall include a qualified school psychologist, a teacher or administrator of special education, a school physician, and any other responsible school authorities designated by the chief school officer (A state of policy issued by the State Education Department in November of 1973 added the phrase "but not limited to.")

"PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Magazine: "Exceptional Parent", Subscription Dept. 84, P.O. Box 964, Manchester, New Hampshire 03105; \$10.00 for one year; mention ARC when you subscribe, as State Office gets \$2.00 from every subscription. Excellent articles on wide range of subjects — testing, curriculum, siblings, parents' feelings, etc.

"HELPING HANDICAPPED TEENAGER TO MATURE" — \$.35 — Write to Public Affairs Pamphlets, 381 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016; ask for pamphlet No. 504.

"A MUST FOR EVERY PARENT: Handbook on parents' rights. Send \$.60 to Center on Human Policy, Division of Special Education, Syracuse University, 216 Ostrom Avenue, Syracuse, New York 13210. Ask for "Children With Special Needs ... Notes from The Center No. 3."

Educational material available for loan to parents by SEIMC. SEIMC is the Special Educational Instructions Material Center, part of the New York State Department of Education.

Write to the N.Y.S. Education Dept., Regional SEIMC, 55 Elk Street, Albany, New York and ask for the address of the office near you. Ask to be put on their mailing list for their very interesting newsletter.

Congratulations to Schenectady County Chapter and Marilyn Wesselc, Education Committee Chairmen for scheduling a whole membership meeting on the subject of "Education of Retarded Children Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow". We'd like to know about the issues discussed so we can share them.

Thanks to Herkimer County Chapter listing items of interest for your bookshelf in your own newsletter. **Betty Pendler**

Chairman

HEW grant for hostels

A grant of \$480,000 was recently made by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to the New York State Association for Retarded Children to develop 10 hostels in the Mid-Hudson Valley area.

The total cost of this project will be about \$2 million, with the balance coming in the form of a mortgage from Housing Finance Agency to a Community Mental Retardation Services Company that will be formed by the State Association. Seven chapters: Sullivan, Orange, Ulster, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester will participate in the project.

"This is a real breakthrough," said Mr. Aronin, President of the Association, "in the concept of construction and mortgage money from HFA. Whereas previously each mortgage was given to a company owning one piece of property here there is going to be an open mortgage that will involve 10 hostels."

Half the population in the hostels will come from institutions and the other half from the community, with each one having the capacity of between 8 and 12 residents. An entirely new concept in construction through a form of modular design will be utilized. Each design will be adapted to the needs of the site chosen and the needs of the community.

Although these hostels will be owned by the Mental Retardation Services Company, under contract with the various chapters, they will be operating these hostels with the state picking up 50 percent of any deficit.

It is expected that construction should begin in the Summer of 1975. Depending on how quickly sites can be obtained, it is hoped that the total project may be completed within a year.

Miller upholds veto

The Governor's veto of Senate bill No. 9163 mandating services under Section 4407 of the Education Act cited the Department of Mental Hygiene as approving this veto, Mr. Weingold acting for the Association, asked Commissioner Miller for his rationale for this action. In an answer on August 5th, Commissioner Miller stated "I agree completely with the Governor's comments on the unclear content and confusing language of the proposed 4407 mandate in S. 9163 which was disapproved."

The reply from Mr. Weingold was that Commissioner Miller was acting out of ignorance of the subject; that neither he nor any representative of his Department was present at the meeting in February with Commissioner Nyquist of the Department of Education; that finally he had not consulted with anyone in this Association about why we felt 4407 should be mandated.

"What in Heaven's name," wrote Mr. Weingold, "is unclear about making the Education Law, now permissive, mandatory? The law exists. It has been working. The end of this law, without a viable substitute, is a terrific threat to parents whose children are now in 4407 classes. These are children who are, according to the law, so severely handicapped that the public schools cannot handle them."

"I object most strongly," wrote Mr. Weingold, "to this expression of opposition by you and your Department as an area where we should receive your support, if indeed you are serious about community alternatives to institutionalization. These are the very children who are most apt to need institutionalization unless they do not have community facilities — the crippled, maimed, retarded blind, retarded deaf, the whatnot, the retarded, and the retarded, retarded."

Silence....

School districts contract with ARC

Under the Nyquist order that school districts under Section 4404 (2) (B) either provide special classes for the mentally retarded or enter into contracts with approved private schools, a number of school districts throughout the state are entering into such contracts. The State Association has drawn up a simple contract, which is being used by some of the chapters. This form is not dictated as a must but it may be used for reference and is available from the State Association.

Especially noteworthy is the contract in Suffolk County whereby the school districts are paying our Suffolk County Chapter \$3500 a year per child for such education. If the costs are more than that, according to the order issued by Commissioner Nyquist, the parents may go into the Family Court for an order for the difference which will be met 50 per cent by the state and 50 per cent by the county.

We understand that a number of our chapters are having difficulties with school districts. In that case they should make this known to the Commissioner of Education. In the meantime, the parents should be going to the Family Court to get the full cost of such education with half the charge being against the state, and the other half against the city.

Some of our chapters, Jefferson County, for example, have asked all the parents to enter into proceedings in the Family Court and they have done so successfully. Hopefully, this will bring the school districts to their senses as it creates an adversary position between the school districts and the county. In the case of the Family Court order, it is the county that pays half the money; in the case of the Education Law it is the school district and the state that pays funds.

Potsdam welcome

The Potsdam Village Zoning Board of Appeals in July of this year approved a request for a special permit to open a hostel for up to eight mentally retarded youths.

One Potsdam man at the hearing spoke against the hostel project because it would take the property off the village tax rolls contributing to a "shrinking tax base". He wanted to know why the state wants to purchase a single family house for those people when the State University campus has empty dormitories.

Richard L. Laurin, Executive Director of the St. Lawrence County Chapter pointed out that dormitory space would not provide the family atmosphere that they are seeking. Institutional living is what they are trying to avoid, Laurin said.

Eight families in the neighborhood protested the hostel but eleven persons in addition to Robert LaPlante of Massena, ARC attorney, spoke in favor of the hostel including several from the neighborhood.

One woman, who said she lives next to a home for the aged commented that she does not like to see "children insulated from other kinds of people and problems there are in the world."

"God sent them to teach us all something," one woman declared, "and we've got a lot to learn."

Dick Laurin sent the releases in the newspapers on to Pete Knauss, Assistant Director for Functional Programming, Department of Mental Hygiene. To date, however, we have not learned whether this hostel will be in Potsdam or not.

Letters to the Editor

In letters to Betty Pender, Chairman, Education Committee, and Jerry Weingold, Executive Director and Mary C. Andrews, Workshop Director of Chautauqua County Chapter of the Association and a member of the Committee for Handicapped Children of Dunkirk, urges all parents and interested parties to push activation of handicapped committees in their school districts.

"I strongly urge all of our parents and interested persons to push activation of handicap committees in their school district," writes Mary Andrews. "These committees are advocates for the handicapped and responsible for review and placement of every child who has a handicap. The superintendent of each school district is accountable and responsible for the establishment of active committees as it is mandated by the State Education Department."

In a letter to Mr. Weingold, Mary Andrews writes that in the final decision for placement of handicapped children in "our district (Dunkirk) we definitely have voice in deciding best placement for each and every child."

In fact, decisions of the Committee, she continues, supersede that of the psychologist or any other professional. We have actually done this on two occasions in the time our committee has been functioning. We are the advocate for the handicapped.

She also adds that the decision to certify a severely handicapped child for Section 4407 would be the Committee's along with the approval and agreement by the parents of the child.

An interesting addition is that if the public school does not have the money to contract for a service with an approved private school, the State Education Department mandates that this should go on an "austerity" budget for one year. Also if funds for such a class are not in the local budget they must get the money from the general fund.

"So far as I can see it," concludes Mary Andrews, "there is no way a school district can possibly refuse to start a class or contract for it."



Lest our Chapters feel that their Chapter newsletters fall into some terrible void, we are printing this letter from Betty Pender about her appreciation of the Education News in the Herkimer County Chapter Newsletter.

"Dear Jerry: As Chairman of the Education Committee a few Chapters have been sending me their newsletters, and I just wanted to say that I enjoy reading them. I find the mimeographed 3-4 page newsletter of Herkimer County Chapter manages to get across a real feeling of warmth, and lots of nice general information to their members. I am delighted, of course, that they almost always manage to get some news of education, such as suggestions for reading books, articles on education, among other items of interest. It shows that you don't necessarily have to put out a "slick" publication to get a lot of news across. Congratulations to their editor for putting out a publication that catches the interest not only of Herkimer County, but of the big city here in New York too! Incidentally, I do hope that all newsletter editors will manage to get some educational items in each of their issues.

Sincerely,
Betty Pender
Chairman, Education Committee

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be brief, typed if possible, and signed with the name and address of the sender. Address your letter to:

The Editor
OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE
N.Y.S. ASSN. FOR RETARDED CHILDREN
175 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10010

Vocational rehab for severely disabled

Vocational rehabilitation services for the severely disabled would be expanded under regulations announced by Health, Education and Welfare. The regulations would require State vocational rehabilitation agencies to provide services to severely handicapped individuals first, and then to those less severely handicapped.

Severely handicapped persons are those who need multiple services over an extended period of time due to such conditions as blindness, deafness, heart disease, cancer, neurological disorders, mental retardation, mental illness, spinal cord injury, and amputations.



Off to Camp Catskill

Jervis lectures at Letchworth

The education and training department at Letchworth Village Developmental Center (Letchworth Village State School) recently coordinated a series of lectures on mental retardation.

Dr. George A. Jervis, who retired last year as director of the department's Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation and is continuing to serve as a consultant to Letchworth Village, organized and conducted most of the sessions where they were open to all

members of the staff.

Dr. Jervis, world renowned for his discovery of the enzymatic deficiency which, when untreated, causes phenylketonuria, or PKU, lectured on a wide range of topics. His subjects included genetic causes of retardation, chromosomal abnormalities, prenatal and postnatal infectious causes, and toxic and traumatic causes.

The entire series was video-taped for future presentation.



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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