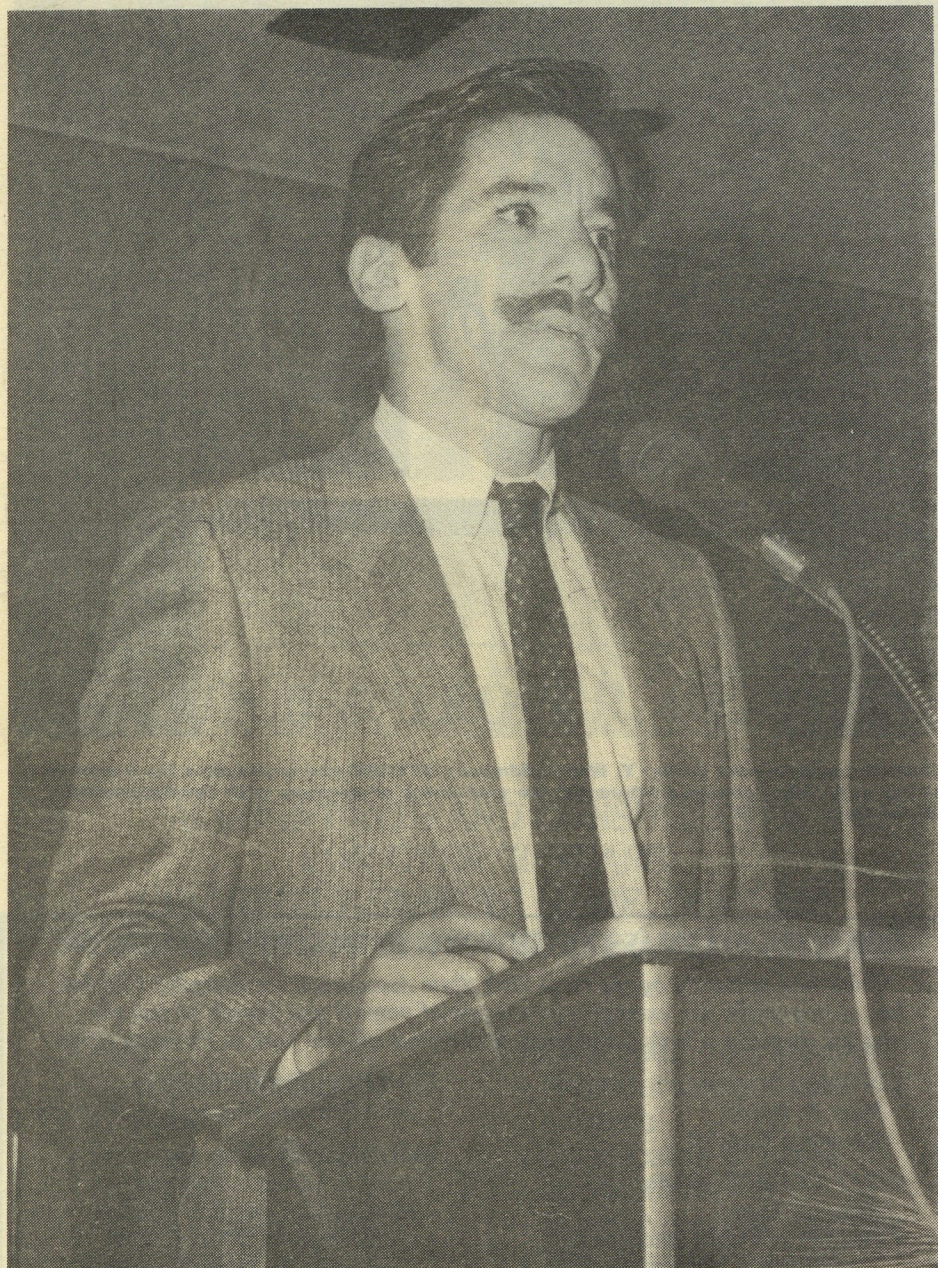


OUR Children's Voice

Retarded Children Can Be Helped



Geraldo Rivera Receives First NYSARC Media Award

The recipient of NYSARC's first annual "Media Award" was Geraldo Rivera. The award was presented by Association President Blanche Fierstein at the convention award luncheon on Saturday, October 28th.

In 1972, as a New York City ABC reporter, Mr. Rivera set into motion a chain of events that profoundly altered the way society views and treats persons with mental retardation. He chose not to turn away from the horrible conditions at Willowbrook and brought to light the abominable and official treatment of some of our most vulnerable citizens; conditions that were taking place right under society's nose. Few other journalistic endeavors have had the impact of Willowbrook. The ensuing

changes wrought through deinstitutionalization, that so deeply uplifted the lives of so many people are, in large measure, a result of his efforts.

The award presentation also included a showing of Mr. Rivera's famous 1972 documentary. Though the images on the screen were 17 years old, they were painfully familiar to many people present. There was, as they say, "hardly a dry eye in the house". No wonder the awards ceremony turned out to be the emotional high point of the 5 day convention.

Mr. Rivera himself was clearly moved by the presentation. Standing before the audience he took a few moments to collect

(continued on page 4)

40th NYSARC Annual Convention Hailed a Success

65 Workshops, Three Special Panel Discussions, Keynote Address by Commissioner Arthur Y. Webb, Banquet Address Delivered by Congressman Benjamin Gilman, Adoption of 1990 Legislative Platform, Re-affiliation with National ARC-US, Founders and Past Presidents' Recognition Dinner, Blanche Fierstein Re-elected President, Geraldo Rivera Receives Association's Media Award and Maythorne Winterkorn Receives Volunteer of the Year Award — Just Some of the Many Highlights

The largest attended NYSARC, Inc. convention was held at the Kutsher's Country Club Resort Hotel and Conference Center in Monticello, New York on October 25-29, 1989. Over 838 persons registered and were in attendance in what has been called "the most informative and best run convention in the history of the Association." This year's convention celebrated NYSARC's 40 years and had as its theme, "Promises Made — Promises Kept — The Legacy Continues".

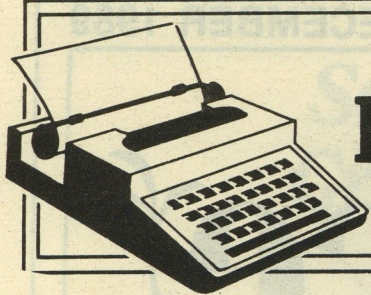
An extra day was added this year so as to afford everybody an opportunity to participate in over 65 different workshops. Included in the array of workshops were demonstrations of the Association's activities, programs and services as well as current trends in the field of mental retardation and developmental disabilities. There were also a number of outstanding workshops presented by individuals outside of ARC.

In addition to the workshops, three special panel discussions were conducted. Each panel had experts from around the nation who participated in discussing and debating major issues confronting persons who are mentally retarded and/or developmentally disabled. The three panels were: "Federal Direction in Legislation," "Decision-Making and Persons with Mental Retardation," and "Capital Punishment and Persons with Mental Retardation."

The convention opened on Wednesday, October 25 with an excellent presentation by Dr. Alan A. Zox, President of Zox Management Services, Inc. Dr. Zox talked on "Managing NYSARC in the 90's: A Professional Family Affair." On Wednesday evening, Mr. Lawrence Gloeckler, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals who are Disabled (VESID) spoke on "Rehabilitation Services in New York State: (continued on page 4)



Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman



EDITORIALS

A Good Convention and Some Tough Questions

Our recently concluded convention has attracted rave reviews; the celebration of our 40th Anniversary seems to have been an "up" event. It also seems to have energized our collective thoughts about where we are headed in the future. This is what our convention should make us do though it may require us to answer some tough questions.

The three plenary sessions, especially, served to focus our attention on issues that have broad implications for persons with mental retardation but, maybe more significantly, for how this Association will conduct its business in future years.

Surely, the session on "Federal Directions in Legislation" is an obvious example. It was a direct result of our increasing involvement with national issues. It was symbolic perhaps that a few hours after that panel discussion NYSARC's Board of Governors voted to reaffiliate with National ARC. Our traditional orientation to state issues seems to be giving way to a collective view that we must have a broader perspective.

More difficult questions emerged at the next day's plenary session on "Decision Making and Persons with Mental Retardation". At the heart of this debate was our running battle with OMRDD about the right of 17-A Guardians to consent to medical and dental treatment. While "our side" garnered the most sympathy — that 17-A Guardians have the clear right to give such consent — there were some individuals who came away from that forum asking themselves if perhaps our position rested a bit too much on making things convenient for guardians and slightly too little on maximizing the rights of guardians. This is an unsettling thought for a parent based organization that also takes pride as an advocate for the individual's right to self determination.

But Saturday's session on "Persons With Mental Retardation and Capital Punishment" seems to have generated the most far reaching discussion. At the final Board of Governors session some argued that we cannot effectively oppose the death penalty for persons with mental retardation without opposing it for everyone. Others argued that such a stance might be morally correct but reduces our practical standing as an organization dedicated to helping persons with mental retardation.

Indeed, we are already determined to pursue objectives that can only be achieved with great difficulty. Taking a general, rather than a specific position against the death penalty might well make matters more difficult. This is an emotionally volatile issue and we run the clear risk of making enemies in the legislature where we now have friends. We also risk being perceived as an organization that has diminished its dedication to the needs of

persons with mental retardation in favor of a broader cause. What kind of response will that engender from the hard minded persons with whom we must routinely work in order to advance our traditional aims?

Our recent convention was exceptional. We certainly used it as an occasion to take a broader view of things: a view that many of us found exhilarating. But answering the questions which we asked ourselves will be a sobering and difficult experience. Undoubtedly, we will have to replace our euphoria with hard work; our excitement with disciplined reflection. But this is exactly the kind of process we should be going through if we are to be the kind of organization that evolves with the issues, conditions and circumstances we must confront if we are to be as effective in the future as we have been in the past. ■

The Commissioner's Laudable Stand

In the face of yet another State budget deficit, Cuomo administration officials have underscored the continuing need for fiscal austerity. Despite his boss' proclamation, Commissioner Webb, in an editorial appearing in the Albany "Times Union" on Friday, November 3, made it clear that he is not about to let "such issues overshadow our program, our policy or our overall commitment" to the needs of community-based services for persons with mental retardation. More importantly, the Commissioner emphasized a "partnership with families": one that will enable individuals to live in a "nurturing environment beyond the family home."

Our Association was established 40 years ago by families. Its most important goal was to establish the "partnership" with state government that the Commissioner talks about: one that would bring society's treatment of some of its most vulnerable citizens out of the dark ages. Certainly, deinstitutionalization was and continues to be part of that effort. We all deserve to be treated with dignity; no one should be consigned to spend eternity in a warehouse. Willowbrook made that clear.

But sadly, ironically, the rush to de-institutionalize places like Willowbrook meant that persons with mental retardation living at home, themselves in need of community residential placement, were pushed aside. With the courts breathing down New York's back followed closely by federal regulators, the State concentrated its community placement effort on persons residing in institutions. The growing numbers of unserved individuals living at home expanded geometrically and became statistical "backlogs" ignored by human service policies concocted out of pure expediency.

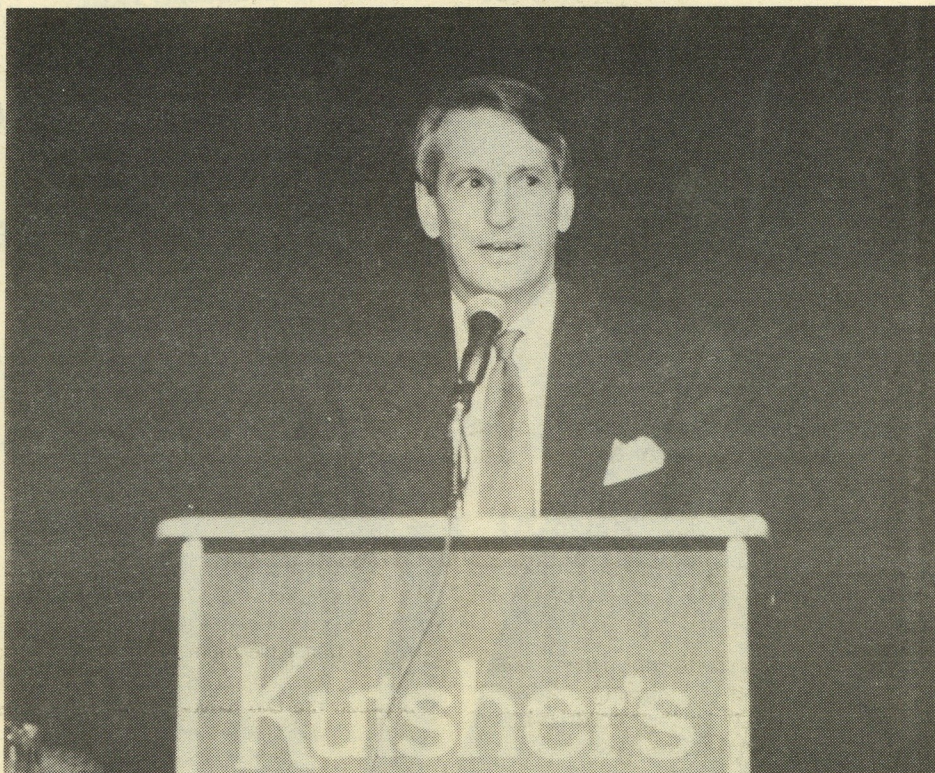
And last year we hit rock bottom. The Governor's budget request for the current

fiscal year completely wiped out any new community-based placements for this home-based population: a population no longer consisting primarily of children who are disabled, but of adults cared for by elderly parents now themselves the victims of disabilities caused by aging. The message: if you refused to resort to institutionalization and took it upon yourself to care for your child at considerable savings to the State... tough.

Fortunately, the Legislature, in response to an outpouring the likes of which had not been seen before in Albany, made restorations to the State budget for community placement for people living at home.

Still, the unmet need is growing. As the number of persons, who in a former era would have been institutionalized continues to increase, age and become more needy, it is imperative that New York's Governor honor his personal commitment to care for our State's citizens who are least able to care for themselves. Hopefully, his budget request for the next year will not be this year's request all over again.

Commissioner Webb's public remarks are in the very best tradition our finest public servants: individuals who are sufficiently courageous to take it upon themselves to lead with their heart as well as their mind. ■



OMRDD Commissioner Arthur Y. Webb addresses NYSARC and emphasizes the importance of our overriding common interests: the well-being of persons with developmental disabilities.

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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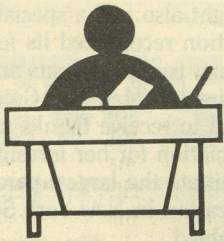
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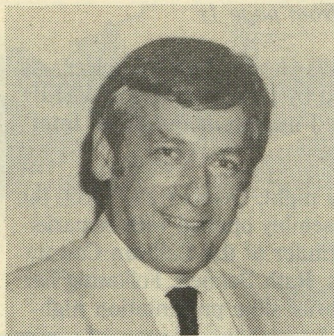
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From The Executive Director's Desk



by Marc N. Brandt
Executive Director

Recognizing Our Professionals

Anniversaries are significant occasions: they make us reflect on the magnitude of change and they give us the opportunity to appreciate what we've accomplished. NYSARC's 40th Anniversary was certainly such an event. We needn't repeat here what has happened over the last four decades.

Yet there is a downside to anniversaries. Sometimes wishful sentimentality gets the better part of hard reality. No doubt this association's founders were great people, without whom persons with mental retardation would still be living in the dark ages. But they weren't perfect; few people are; and they, especially, had better things to do with their time.

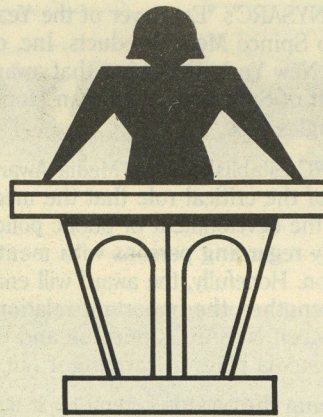
Nor were they clairvoyant. How could a group of parents fighting for the barest elements of dignity for their children know that within four decades they would succeed in creating a vast corporation which, if it were a for-profit organization, would probably see its stock traded on a major exchange? How could they have foreseen that this entity would be so large and so complex that it could not possibly function without a vast managerial core consisting of highly trained and dedicated professionals? There is something of an irony to this. Forty years ago professionals were the "bad guys": the ones who called our children "idiots" and proclaimed that the only place for them was in institutions.

Certainly times have changed, because without a doubt, the professionals in our association are now the "good guys": the ones who treat our children with dignity and have done so much to make them part of communities across the state.

Today most of us take this for granted. Yet, how strange it would have seemed to our founders 40 years ago.

This Association was established as a result of a split with the "professional community" and distrust of professionals is part of our organization's early history. It is, relatively speaking, only recently that we have come to abandon this outlook. But traditional values sometimes outlast the reality that gave them birth, and it is not hard to still detect an underlying distance between the two halves of our Association: parents and volunteers on the one hand, the professionals on the other.

This legacy of alienation, however subtle, diminishes our collective ability to advance our mutual interests. Hopefully, at our next anniversary, our reflections on the extent to which we have changed things will include observations about that extent to which we have changed our attitudes about each other. Then maybe we can come to appreciate and honor our best professionals as leaders, just as we have come to honor our founders as the great leaders that they were. ■



The President Speaks

*Good, better, best
Never let it rest
Until the good becomes
The better
And the better becomes
The best*

That old elementary school rhyme describes our NYSARC 40th Anniversary Convention at Kutsher's Hotel in October, 1989. As we celebrated forty years of purpose and progress we honored those who had the special vision and those who had the drive to make the vision known. The highlights were many and included:

Informative workshops
Insightful panel discussions
Invigorating keynoters
Inspired luncheons —
Executive Director's Awards
Media Award to Geraldo Rivera
Inspiring dinners —
Nostalgic Founders' Dinner
Enthusiastic Banquet and Installation
Impressive special events —
Volunteer of the Year — Maythorne
Winterkorn
Talented New Hampshire Rainbow
Theatre

The leaders, the influencers, and the decision makers were there as we savored our successes and ignored our failures. NYSARC staff planned well to make it all happen. Chapter staff and membership participated with pride. In an atmosphere of accomplishment and conviviality, we enjoyed the convention, never forgetting that much remains to be done. We remember yesterday, we build today, so that we can look forward to tomorrow.

It is appropriate for us, at this time to think of the words of Robert Kennedy: "Each time a person stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others... he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." ■

Sincerely,

Blanche Fierstein

Blanche Fierstein

In Memoriam Barbara Weingold

It is with deep regret that we inform our chapters and membership of the passing of Barbara Weingold. Mrs. Weingold was the wife of the former first President and first Executive Director of NYSARC, Inc., Mr. Joseph T. Weingold.

Mrs. Weingold passed away at home on Sunday, October 29, 1989.

Cards of condolences may be sent to Jonathan Weingold, c/o Anne Kraus, New York City Chapter, 200 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10003. ■

Special Convention Highlights See Pages 12-14

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(continued from page 1)

himself before expressing his thanks. But he noted that while he was the awards formal recipient, it really belonged to everyone else in the room — the parents, volunteers and persons with developmental disabilities themselves who worked so hard to change so much over the years.

In a spontaneous and highly emotional statement, Mr. Rivera concluded his remarks by telling the audience "I love you all; you are my family".

Bernard Carabello, who had lived in Willowbrook and who Mr. Rivera had befriended while filming his documentary also spoke. He thanked Mr. Rivera for his contribution to persons with disabilities and spoke of his personal gratitude to Mr. Rivera for changing his own life.

Mr. Rivera also took a few moments to present NYSARC's "Employer of the Year" Award to Spinco Metal Products, Inc. of Newark, New York. Receiving that award on behalf of Spinco were Morgan Horton and Douglas Fox.

NYSARC established the "Media Award" in view of the critical role that the media plays in the development of public policy, especially regarding persons with mental retardation. Hopefully, the award will enable us to strengthen the important relationship between NYSARC's purpose and the role the media plays in carrying it out.

Following the awards ceremony it was clear to almost everyone that no one deserved to be the recipient of NYSARC's first annual Media Award more than Geraldo Rivera. The event will be long remembered. ■

(continued from page 1)

Where Are We Headed?" Mr. Gloeckler was accompanied by staff members of VESID and answered numerous questions from the audience.

On Friday night, October 27, 1989, the Delegate Assembly opened with remarks from the founder of the Sullivan County Chapter, Mrs. Ruth Bennett. Following her remarks, a brief slide presentation highlighting the Association's 40 years of service was shown. The keynote address that evening was delivered by the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Mr. Arthur Y. Webb.

Mrs. Maythorne Winterkorn was then recognized for her years of outstanding service to the Association. She received this year's NYSARC, Inc. Volunteer Award.

Election of Officers and Board of Governors to the State Association was carried out. Mrs. Blanche Fierstein was re-elected President of the Association.

One of the most important business items transacted at the General Assembly was the review and adoption of the Association's 1990 Legislative Platform. The platform was introduced by the 1989 Governmental Affairs Committee Chairperson, Mary Ellen Murphy. The platform is reported in detail in this issue of OCV.

On Saturday, October 28, 1989, the Delegates had a lively discussion on proposed resolutions. The eight adopted resolutions have been printed in OCV.

A special presentation at the awards luncheon held on Saturday afternoon was certainly one of the major highlights of the convention. On hand to receive the Association's first annual Media Award was Geraldo Rivera. After an eloquent and truly beautiful speech, Geraldo presented the 1989 Employer of the Year Award to Spinco Metal Products, Inc. Spinco Metal was nominated by the Wayne County Chapter.

Friday night also had a special touch as the Association recognized its founder, past founders, past presidents and former executive director. Mrs. Ann Greenberg was on hand to receive thanks from the entire Association for her foresight and ability to initiate the largest parent volunteer organization in New York State serving the disabled.

A special presentation from the Rainbow Theatre Group was staged in the nightclub on Saturday afternoon. The Rainbow Theatre is a fully integrated, independent, self-sustaining theatre group from New Hampshire.

The Saturday night banquet had as Mistress of Ceremonies the founder and past executive director of the Nassau County Chapter, Mrs. Helen Kaplan. Her eloquence and review of the history of NYSARC added a memorable touch to the festivities. The banquet speaker for this year was Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman. Congressman Gilman covers the 22nd Congressional District. He gave a most inspiring address concerning NYSARC and future federal directions concerning persons who are mentally retarded and developmentally disabled.

Past President Robert Wagner installed the newly elected Board of Governors and Officers for the Association. Re-elected President Blanche Fierstein thanked everybody for the confidence they have in re-electing her.

The Executive Director of the State Association, Marc Brandt, commented that the "1989 ARC convention will go down in the history of the Association as one of the finest conventions. All of us in the Association want to especially thank Mrs. Mary Caniano and members of her Convention Committee who reviewed all of the details that made this year's convention the success that it was."

Next year's 41st convention will be held from October 31 — November 4, 1990 at the Concord Resort Hotel in Kiamesha Lake, New York. ■



President, Blanche Fierstein (right), presents Geraldo Rivera with the First Annual NYSARC Media Award.

Coalition Calls for the Closure of Syracuse Developmental Center

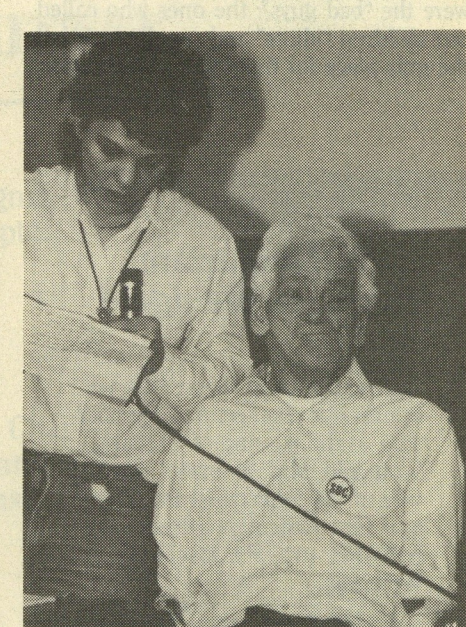


The Syracuse Common Council Chambers and the coalition for the closure of Syracuse Developmental Center played host to an enthusiastic crowd that applauded and cheered all who testified for the closure of SDC.

Indeed, one after the other they testified for community services, for full participation in the community, for options and choices, and *against* institutionalization. "If I had my way, I'd close every damn one of them [institutions]... I want everyone with a disability in this country to be free" said Tom Allen, a self advocate who has lived in three different institutions.

As Bob Russell of the Onondaga County Residential Services Cluster stated, "first and foremost, our commitment is to end the use of institutions as residences... this region is not getting its fair share of resources, nor is it being allowed to re-allocate existing resources." This point was echoed by two parents who indicated that their son, institutionalized for 35 years, was among 150 applicants to move into a community residence for 14 persons. "No social worker should have to make this decision [who to place into the home]... we need adequate community placements; we're not asking for more money, we need to re-allocate monies from the institution to the community."

The Coalition for the Closure of Syracuse Developmental Center, a group of people with disabilities, parents, providers, advocates and policymakers, indicated in their public release that, "all people with developmental disabilities can live in the com-



Mike Kennedy, assisted by a friend, pleads to "close every damn one of them (institutions)".

munity; the community offers a far better opportunity for people with disabilities than institutions; any resources available in institutional settings can be made available in the community; and, funding must be made available to support people to live in the community." ■

A public forum calling for the orderly, planful closure of Syracuse Developmental Center (SDC) and the building of community services was held the night of November 13, 1989. The Syracuse Common Council Chambers in City Hall was packed full — even overflowing — with self advocates, parents, professionals and others who came out to hear and support those testifying in favor of closing the developmental center.

The heat of the Common Council Chambers was oppressive but it took nothing away from the passionate pleas of so many for the end of institutionalization, "the right to just be people... to live like other people" according to Agnes Thompson, a self advocate. Bob Lehr, Chairman of the SDC Board of Visitors stated, "closure is not the goal; serving the people who live there in the community is the goal."

At its fortieth Annual Convention, the Delegate Assembly representing the 60,426 membership of the NYSARC, Inc. 62 chapters adopted the Association's 1990 Legislative Platform.

Commenting on the adopted platform, the Chairperson of the NYSARC, Inc. Governmental Affairs Committee, Ms. Mary Ellen Murphy, stated, "the platform represents the desires and wishes that our parents, volunteers and membership feel should be presented to the Legislature during the 1990 session. It truly represents the grass roots of our organization."

The following is a brief overview of the adopted NYSARC, Inc. 1990 Legislative Platform. The issues are not listed by order of importance and each area reflects either long-term concerns or new initiatives from our Association.

Appropriations and Budget

To support appropriate levels of funding through the State's appropriations and budget process for all programs that affect affirmatively the lives of persons who are mentally retarded and/or developmentally disabled and their families.

This includes reviewing and responding to appropriations for the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), the State Education Department (SED), the Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals Who Are Disabled (VESID), and the Office of Education of Children with Handicapping Conditions, and selected appropriations for the Department of Health, Social Services, Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled and for certain other agencies whose programs affect persons who are mentally retarded and/or developmentally disabled.

Civil Practice Law

Individual Transfer/Placement

To seek passage of legislation deleting the state's authority to automatically stay a court order regarding the care and treatment of a person who is developmentally disabled.

NYSARC has supported legislation deleting a provision of the Civil Practice Law which allows the state or a municipality to obtain an automatic stay of any lower court order regarding the care and treatment of a person who is developmentally disabled. The power to automatically stay a court order in such instances denies the right of clearly responsible individuals (e.g. parents, guardians and advocates) to seek appropriate care for persons who are developmentally disabled.

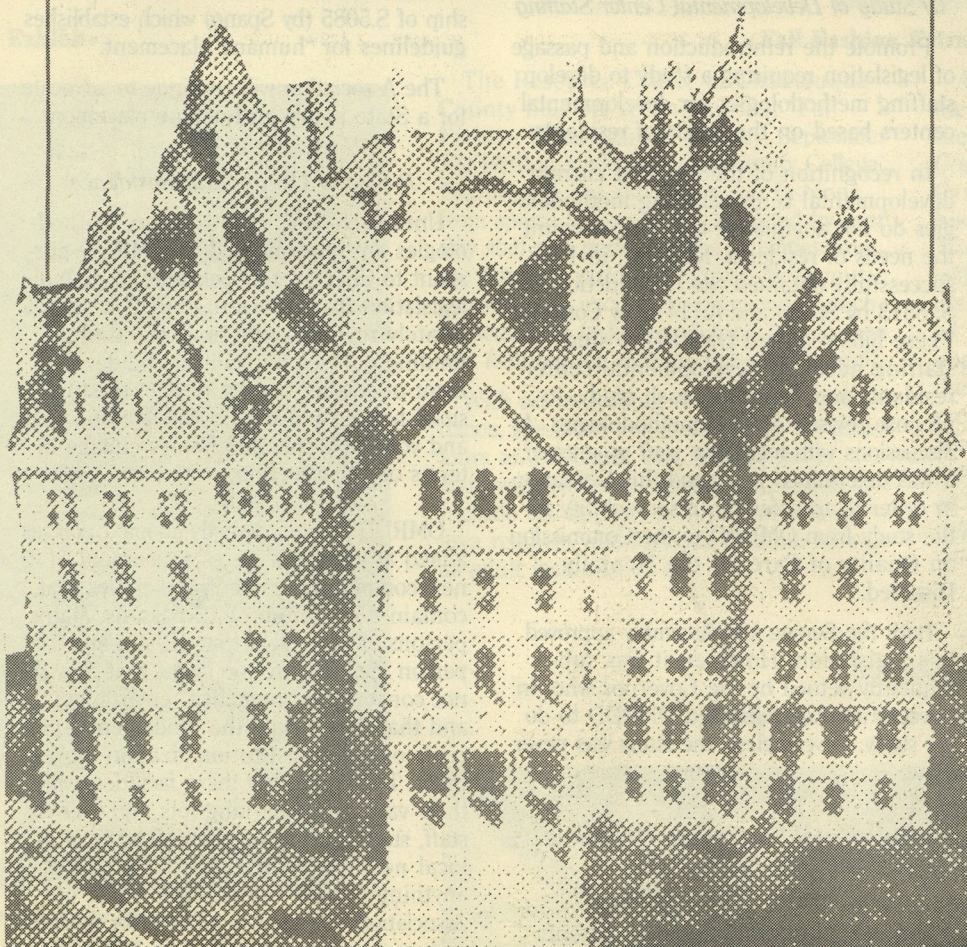
Criminal Justice Law

Treatment of Offenders who are Developmentally Disabled

Require that statutes regarding persons with mental retardation who commit or are accused of an offense be studied and revised to reflect the unique problems and characteristics associated with these individuals.

Laws pertaining to persons who are developmentally disabled who may come into contact with the Criminal Justice System often inadequately address the needs posed by their disabilities. For example, there are insufficient means to identify these individuals and direct them to appropriate settings; and standards used to assess their culpability in the commission of a crime are inappropriately based on the standards used to determine when mental illness is a mitigating factor in the commission of a crime.

Delegate Assembly Adopts 1990 NYSARC, Inc. Legislative Platform



Platform calls for prohibition of discrimination in the placement of persons in community residences, prohibition of co-location, equity of funding, removal of the 0-2 early intervention service system from the Family Court and, salary parity and expansion of Surrogate Decision-Making Committees.

Education Law

A) Least Restrictive Environment

NYSARC will continue to advocate for implementing Chapter 552, requiring special education space plans from school districts, in order to effectively and appropriately integrate children with handicapping conditions within facilities servicing non-handicapped children. Specifically, special education space plan should: require school districts to submit comprehensive information describing the existing status of educational space for children with handicapping conditions; contain a goal-oriented approach to maximizing appropriate integration of children with handicapping conditions; require a system of financial incentives aimed at facilitating the least restrictive placement of children; and, provide resources (i.e. consulting teachers) to facilitate the appropriate integration of children with handicapping conditions into regular education settings.

The following items should be pursued to address this issue:

1. Continue to monitor the implementation of Chapter 552 and determine if additional amendments to this law are required.

2. Advocate for resources to implement a consulting teacher program that will provide a means of support to children with handicaps and regular education teachers so as to facilitate the integration of these children into regular classroom settings.
3. Seek legislation that requires school districts who reject parent preference for specific programs and services to explain in writing their reasons for such rejection.

B) Prior Approval for Home Instruction

Promote legislation requiring that placement of school-age children (ages 5-21) on home instruction receive prior approval.

Current law requires that prior approval for school-age children (ages 5-21) be obtained from SED before a child who is handicapped can be placed into a non-public school setting. This can serve to ensure that children are not being placed in segregated settings inappropriately.

However, prior approval is not required in order to place such a child on home instruction. Consequently, there is no way to ensure that home instruction is being used appropriately.

C) Selection of Hearing Officers

Promote legislation that would alter the school district's current role as the sole determinant in the selection of who will conduct hearings for special education services.

Impartial hearing officers who conduct hearings to settle disputes between parents and school districts are appointed by the local Boards of Education. Consequently, their true impartiality is questionable. Attorneys and lay advocates working on behalf of parents have cited this as the reason for many decisions which do not appear to be in the child's best interest.

D) Services for Children with Handicapping Conditions

Promote legislation requiring school districts to inform parents of various services benefitting either parent or child. Areas would be addressed as part of the Phase I IEP.

Children with handicapping conditions may require a wide variety of individual and family services. The main source of contact for these children and their families is often the school and the Committee on Special Education (CSE). However, schools and CSEs frequently show little concern with the critical provision of the wide range of family and individual services which can only be provided outside of the school environment. Obtaining such service is often essential if family problems affecting the child are to be resolved.

E) Services to Infants and Toddlers 0-2

Promote the establishment of legislation that removes the 0-2 early intervention service system from the Family Court System and which is consistent with NYSARC's objectives.

Now that 3-5 education services have been moved out of the Family Court System, the same action must be taken for children 0-2. Equal access to appropriate services for all children and families has been a long-standing concern of NYSARC.

NYSARC should also work to enact legislation that promotes parent choice in the selection of programs and services, that builds upon and does not limit services to a medical model but rather offers a broad range of habilitative services.

Mental Hygiene Law

A) Community Residences Admissions

The Association should continue to advocate for legislation prohibiting discrimination in the placement of persons who are developmentally disabled into community residential facilities.

Persons who reside in developmental centers are disproportionately selected for placement into community residential facilities while many equally needy persons who reside at home are denied these services.

B) Equity of Funding

Seek legislation providing 100% state funding for all individuals without regard to whether or not they have been institutionalized.

The aim of this legislation is to eliminate incentives in the existing Local Assistance funding system to serve persons who have had a history of institutionalization at the expense of individuals without such history. Specifically, persons with a history of institutionalization are entitled to 100% state funding while persons without such history are entitled to only 50% state funding.

C) Timely Response to Rate Appeals

Seek legislation requiring a timely response to rate appeals. Such legislation should include the payment of interest at the legal rate by the State for rate appeals promulgated after 90 days.

OMRDD's response time to rate appeals has often been unreasonably slow. As a result, providers do not know what costs will be reimbursed. This may disrupt services.

In prior legislative sessions, bills were introduced at the request of NYSARC requiring OMRDD and the Division of the Budget to promulgate amended fees within 90 days of the receipt of a completed rate appeal application to amend a fee for an existing program.

D) Prohibition of Co-Location

Seek passage of legislation prohibiting the co-location of developmental centers and correctional facilities.

During the 1988 legislative session, NYSARC finally obtained sponsorship in both the Senate and Assembly of legislation which flatly prohibits the co-location of developmental centers with correctional programs.

In 1989, this legislation was reintroduced as S.3302 (by Pavadan) and A.4946 (by Sanders). While S.3302 passed the Senate, A.4946 was held in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

NYSARC will continue to promote legislation clearly prohibiting co-location from occurring.

E) Verification of Employee Backgrounds

Seek passage of legislation enabling chapters to check the criminal history of prospective employees.

Providers serving persons with developmental disabilities must rely upon staff who can be trusted to work with a severely disabled and highly vulnerable population. Therefore, it is essential that the backgrounds of such staff be checked thoroughly before they are hired in order to ensure that they do not have a history of violent or dangerous criminal behavior.

Last legislative session, NYSARC succeeded in obtaining sponsorship of legislation authorizing voluntary agencies to access fingerprint records of prospective employees through the Division of Criminal Services. While S.384-A (by Spano) passed the Senate, A.618 (by Connelly) was held in the Assembly Codes Committee.

NYSARC will continue to seek passage of this legislation during the 1990 legislative session.

F) Waste Disposal

Seek passage of legislation limiting the disposal of waste at developmental centers to only that waste generated by such developmental centers.

In the fall of 1987, OMRDD announced plans to establish a medical waste disposal facility at Letchworth and Wassaic Developmental Centers for hospitals located in surrounding regions. NYSARC was outraged by the State's attempt to utilize these developmental centers, which serve as a residence for so many persons with mental retardation, for purposes which no other group of citizens would tolerate.

In response to this, we sought legislation prohibiting the utilization of developmental centers to dispose of waste generated from outside of those facilities. In 1988, the State

Senate responded by introducing and passing legislation (S.7462 by E. Levy) containing such prohibition. In 1989, the legislation was reintroduced as S.3977 (by Levy). It again passed the Senate. But, A.6747 (by Holland), introduced for the first time in the Assembly, was held by tie vote in the Mental Health Committee.

G) Study of Developmental Center Staffing

Promote the reintroduction and passage of legislation requiring a study to develop staffing methodologies for developmental centers based on the needs of residents.

In recognition of the fact that current developmental center staffing methodologies do not adequately take into account the needs of residents, NYSARC, in 1988, successfully obtained the introduction of S. 8513 by Spano and A.11418 by Connelly. These bills required OMRDD to study staffing needs of developmental center residents and, based on such study, to propose revised staffing methodologies. As discussions with legislative staff progressed, it was determined to amend this legislation in order to transfer the responsibility for the study from OMRDD to the Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled.

Both the Senate and Assembly approved this legislation. However, it was subsequently vetoed by the Governor who, in his veto message, directed OMRDD to do the study. Nevertheless, the study was never done.

H) Parental Notification Regarding Protective Action Taken in "Client" Abuse Cases

Support legislation requiring parents and guardians to be informed regarding actions taken with respect to an alleged perpetrator of "client abuse."

Parents, guardians and advocates are frequently not informed of significant developments once civil service arbitration proceedings are commenced with respect to an alleged instance of "client abuse" or mistreatment. Consequently, such persons may not have the opportunity to advocate on behalf of an individual who may remain under the care or supervision of employees under investigation for mistreatment or abuse.

Though OMRDD promulgated regulations enabling parents and guardians to be informed of actions taken to protect an allegedly abused individual, information relating to the assignment and disposition of the alleged perpetrator is still unavailable. Consequently, the concern that such individual may come into contact with an allegedly abused person is still unresolved.

Our Association believes that responsible persons should have whatever information is necessary for them to advocate for the well-being of persons with mental retardation.

I) Humane Placement

Promote passage of legislation requiring the State, when placing an individual, to consider such factors as preservation of friendships; proximity to home; consent of parent, guardian and the wishes of the individual being placed; and the permanency of the placement under consideration.

Deinstitutionalization and closure of State developmental centers has resulted in the placement of thousands of persons into new homes across the State. The uprooting of these persons from an

environment which may have served as their place of residence for many years is an undertaking which must be conducted in a humane fashion that emphasizes sensitivity to individual needs. As the State has rushed to depopulate its developmental centers, this sensitivity has often been sorely lacking.

Last session, NYSARC obtained sponsorship of S.5085 (by Spano) which establishes guidelines for "humane placement."

The Association will continue to advocate for a State policy on humane placement.

J) Size of Community Residence

Until such time as satisfactory methodologies are implemented by OMRDD pursuant to Chapter 445, continue to promote legislation that requires OMRDD to appropriately revise capital and operational funding policies to facilitate the development of smaller homes, protect existing small homes, and treat both state operated and voluntary-operated homes equally in terms of site selection.

OMRDD has increasingly adopted policies aimed at the exclusive establishment of new community residential facilities that contain a minimum of 12 persons. Many persons strongly feel that 12, 13, and 14-person facilities are too large; that they do not constitute a "homelike" environment; and that they violate the fundamental precepts of the deinstitutionalization movement. They note that these facilities, with their vans, large parking lots and many staff, stand out rather than blend in with local neighborhoods. This, they add, is anything but the normalization that our Association intended to achieve for persons with mental retardation when NYSARC was founded 40 years ago.

In the recent legislative session, S.5033 (by Spano) and A.6788 (by Connelly) were introduced at the request of NYSARC. This legislation was passed by both Houses and signed into law as Chapter 445 by the Governor. Chapter 445 requires OMRDD to study and devise a methodology to facilitate the construction of "small community residential facilities."

K) Local Assistance Reform

Until such time as Local Assistance reform is implemented pursuant to Chapter 510, continue to promote legislation mandating that OMRDD implement a Local Assistance reform proposal which will ensure the provision of necessary and adequate funding for programs currently funded through Local Assistance.

The Local Assistance funding system is the backbone of almost 300 million dollars worth of day programming services throughout New York State. Yet, this funding system is both antiquated and ineffective. It provides insufficient funding to many providers and fails to recognize the variety of circumstances with which they must contend in order to successfully operate workshops and care for severely disabled individuals.

Though OMRDD has proclaimed that Local Assistance must be reformed, the Office has shown little initiative towards preparing or developing any new proposals. In order to require OMRDD to take such action, NYSARC obtained sponsorship of S.5037 and A.6917 requiring the development of a Local Assistance reform proposal. These bills passed both Houses and were signed by the Governor as Chapter 510.

L) Full Time, Independent Ombudsman

Promote the passage of legislation making the Ombudsman full time and also removing it from OMRDD.

At NYSARC's initiation, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed Chapter 57 of the Laws of 1987 establishing an Ombudsman at each developmental center to independently receive and respond to concerns and complaints regarding resident care. Since that time, OMRDD's implementation of that act has not reflected either the spirit or intent of the law. The Ombudsman has not been allowed to act independently and despite the overwhelming volume of complaints at developmental centers, OMRDD elected to establish this position on a part-time basis.

Last legislative session S.318 (by Spano) was introduced to require the establishment of a full-time Ombudsman. This legislation passed the Senate. Additional legislation (S.5038 by Spano and A.6787 by Connelly) was also introduced to affirm the right of the Ombudsman to act independently despite being an OMRDD employee. However, NYSARC's Developmental Center Committee determined that the Ombudsman will never be allowed true independence to act until it is organizationally separate from OMRDD.



Mary Ellen Murphy, Chairperson of the Governmental Affairs Committee responds to a question regarding the 1990 Legislative Platform.

M) Dedicated Funding Source for Respite

Seek legislation to establish a dedicated funding source for free standing respite.

Respite is a "hard" service which is essential to families caring for their children who are disabled at home. It gives them time to rest from the task of often having to care for their children on an around-the-clock basis.

What is needed is a revenue source which is specially dedicated to adequately pay for free-standing respite, a critical and scarce resource.

N) Salary Parity

Seek the passage of legislation requiring salary parity between voluntary employees serving persons with mental retardation and comparable state employees.

A long-standing problem for not-for-profit service providers has been the relatively low salaries such agencies can afford to pay their workers. Low salaries and often poor benefit plans combine to produce inordinately high turnover rates and severe problems in employee recruitment. The unfortunate consequences for the care of severely disabled and vulnerable individuals cannot be overestimated.

Yet, salaries and benefits of comparable state workers continue to exceed that of voluntary workers by 20 to 30%. Not only is this unfair — equal work should receive equal pay — but it also means that many valuable voluntary employees transition to state employment at the first opportunity.

Public Health Law

A) Prevention of Lead Poisoning

Seek the passage of legislation aimed at screening for and preventing lead poisoning.

It is well-documented that one of the leading causes of mental retardation is the ingestion of lead by young children. Lead is everywhere in the environment and the sources of lead are many including air, water, food, paint and gasoline. Increased public awareness is essential to the prevention of childhood lead poisoning. Therefore, it is vital that the general public be better educated regarding this serious problem. Additionally, it is important that the number of screening centers which now exist be expanded so that many more children can be tested for lead poisoning.

B) Medical Consent

Promote legislation which clarifies the authority of a legal guardian of a person who is mentally retarded to consent to medical or dental treatment.

Current laws are inconsistently interpreted with respect to the rights of legal guardians as they pertain to medical or dental consent. Consequently, regulations promulgated by the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities do not recognize the authority of an adult legal guardian to give such consent.

This has, in the past, resulted in undue suffering on the part of many individuals who have had to await medical treatment while permission has been obtained through the courts. Furthermore, such lack of clarification has caused a great deal of frustration on the part of many parents who have incurred considerable trouble and expense to obtain legal guardianship on behalf of their adult children only to be told that they cannot provide medical and/or dental consent.

We shall continue to seek passage of legislation which clarifies the right of guardians to provide consent for necessary medical and dental treatment.

C) Expansion of Surrogate Decision-Making Committees

Seek the passage of legislation to create permanent statewide surrogate decision-making committees.

In 1985, legislation was passed establishing, on a pilot basis, surrogate decision-making committees administered by the Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled. The purpose of these

Committees is to expedite major medical and dental decisions on behalf of persons with mental disabilities not competent to make such decisions on their own behalf and who lack a family member or guardian to decide such matters for them.

Committee members consist of 12 volunteers appointed by the Commission which exercise their functions through a panel of four specialists including a health care professional, an attorney, a family member and an advocate.

Surrogate decision-making committees are currently operated on a limited 12-county pilot basis. Chapters report excellent results with this mechanism, as a means of expediting medical consent decisions; one that is highly preferable to the court system.

Federal Legislation

A) Medicaid Reform

Promote the passage of the basic concepts of the "Medicaid Home and Community Quality Services Act."

Medicaid is the primary funding source of services to persons who are developmentally disabled. Yet, despite the growing need for a wide variety of community-based services, Medicaid continues to emphasize a narrow range of services with a primary emphasis on institutional care.

Comprehensive federal legislation, the "Medicaid Home and Community Quality Services Act" was introduced again in 1989 by Senator John Chafee (R-Rhode Island). This legislation substantially broadens the ability to use Medicaid to pay for services aimed at integrating persons with developmental disabilities with their communities and families.

NYSARC will continue its efforts to seek passage of this legislation.

B) Prohibiting Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities

Promote the passage of ADA. This federal legislation prohibits discrimination on the basis of mental and physical handicaps in areas such as employment, housing, public accommodations, travel, communication and activities of state and local government.

Persons with disabilities are the frequent target of a wide variety of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and many other areas. This discrimination transcends the political jurisdiction of state and local governments. Consequently, there is a need to promote federal statutory changes banning discrimination across the nation.

S.933 by Senators Kennedy and Harkin was recently introduced in Congress to provide the broad antidiscrimination protection persons with disabilities require and deserve. This legislation is known as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). ■

Board of Governor's Meeting Responds to Many Issues

1990 Legislative Platform Adopted, Re-Affiliation with National ARC-US Approved, Committees' Goals Established and Long-Range Planning Committee Gives Preliminary Report.

The governing body of the NYSARC, Inc., the Board of Governors, met on Thursday and Friday, October 26 and 27, 1989 and again on Sunday, October 29, 1989 at Kutsher's Country Club Resort Hotel in Monticello, New York. The Association is governed by the Board of Governors who have the responsibility of setting policy for the Association.

The Board is comprised of 130 individuals representing the 62 chapters of NYSARC, Inc. A summary highlighting the major actions of the Board of Governor's Meeting is as follows:

- Recommended to the Delegate assembly the proposed 1990 NYSARC, Inc. Legislative Platform.
- Reviewed and adopted the 1990 Board of Governors' Committees' goals.
- Approved, by resolution, the re-affiliation with National ARC-US. The Board approved the option of chapters joining National to be the decision of each chapter.
- Approved by-law revisions for the Chemung, Clinton and New York City Chapters.

— Approved the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee and adopted a new methodology for the administrative charge formula.

— Elected John Schuppenhauer, Esq. (Ontario) to be Senior Vice President.

— Elected the following individuals to represent the four regions on the Executive Committee:

Robert Lehr (Central), Lois Fairclough (Northeast), Warren Heilbronner, Esq. (Western), and Dr. Irving Caminsky (Southeast).

— The Board also elected Ellen Owens (West Seneca D.C.) and Bernice Volaski (Welfare League D.C.) to represent the Developmental Center Chapters on the Executive Committee.

— Adopted the report and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Issues Pertaining to the Formation of Profit-Making Corporations.

— Adopted the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning.

— Received and approved the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Examine the Issue of "Clients" as Employees.

— Approved and adopted revisions in the NYSARC's Minimum Insurance Standards.

— Adopted NYSARC Chapter Guidelines on AIDS.



Maryann Bryant, Chairperson, NYSARC Resolutions Committee presenting resolutions at Delegate Assembly.



Bonnie Bowes, representing the Schoharie County Chapter, makes a point.

Convention Highlights See Pages 12-14

Report of The New York Retardate Trust

At the NYSARC, Inc. Delegate Assembly Meeting held on Friday, October 27, 1989, the Co-Chairman of the New York Retardate Trust, Mr. Warren Heilbronner, gave a report of the trust to the Delegates.

On July 19, 1972, the NYSARC, Inc. established the New York Retardate Trust by which modest or large sums can be given by gift or by will for the benefit of a person who is mentally retarded for his lifetime. Parents or other relatives have the choice of using the New York Retardate Trust (Unrestricted Trust), for gifts or bequests of \$5,000 or more with the principle, if \$10,000 or more, going to other beneficiaries upon the death of the person who is mentally retarded; or the New York Retardate Trust (Pooled Income Trust), for gifts or bequests of \$10,000 or more qualifying for income, gift and estate tax deductions, with the remainder going to the State Association on the death of the beneficiary who is mentally retarded. All commissions, investment fees and other expenses of the trust are paid by a parallel tax-free exempt trust, and all funds are managed by a major New York trust company.

The New York Retardate Trust is Co-Chaired by Mr. Warren Heilbronner and Mr. Harvey Platt. The following was their report as given to the Delegate Assembly.

The Retardate Trust continues to grow. As of the end of September, 1989, the total assets are slightly in excess of \$875,000, on our way to \$1 million dollars. This figure is broken down as follows:

Unrestricted (monies set aside for specific beneficiaries with a right to direct the distribution at the death of the beneficiary) — \$587,000.

Pooled Income (money set aside for specific beneficiaries with the principal going to the exempt trust on the beneficiary's death) — \$78,300. These contributions are partially tax deductible to the donor.

Exempt Trust (Contributions to this trust are fully tax deductible) — \$210,000. All the costs for operating the New York Retardate Trust are taken from this trust so that no fees are ever charged against the funds set aside for their children those monies will be safe and intact throughout the entire life of the beneficiary.

For years the Retardate Trust was a well kept secret. No more. For the past several years we have reported annually to you. We have printed the booklet — The New York Retardate Trust which is being disseminated to the legal profession throughout the State as well as to our own Association.

This year for the first time, you have among the documents available the Accountants Report on the trust.

The trustees and the State Office will be most anxious to assist or answer any questions you may have concerning the vital program.

The trustees and the State Office will be most anxious to assist or answer any questions you may have concerning the vital program. ■

Prenatal Lead Exposure and Its Potential Significance for Developmental Disabilities — A Preliminary Study of Umbilical Cord Blood Lead Levels

It has been reported that between 1976-1980 the mean blood lead level in American preschool children was 16 ug/dl. The Centers for Disease Control recently set a blood level of 35 ug/dl as the highest acceptable level for children. However, current research findings have provided evidence that detrimental effects on development can occur when lead levels are below this acceptable value. In particular, recent work has shown a relationship between early (prenatal) exposure to lead and delayed cognitive development (Bellinger et al, 1986).

Because the developing fetus is particularly vulnerable to insult, it is of critical importance to obtain information about the developmental effects of prenatal exposure to lead and about those factors that may influence this exposure. Through a collaborative effort among members of three university departments an initial study was conducted to determine the level of umbilical cord lead in infants born at Children's Hospital of Buffalo over a period of 5-6 months.

To date umbilical cord blood samples have been measured in 802 infants born at Children's Hospital of Buffalo between November 1987 and April 1988. These infants' residences span approximately 50 townships with most residing in Buffalo proper. Approximately 60 percent of the infants had measurable cord blood lead levels in the range of 4 to 20 ug/dl. In Buffalo 5.1% of newborns had cord lead levels between 10 and 20 ug/dl, where as outside of Buffalo 2.8% of newborns were

in this range. The percentage of newborns showing detectable lead was identical between Buffalo and surrounding townships (Buffalo = 60.4%; other = 59.4%).

The initial data described in the present investigation clearly show that there are a significant number of newborns that are prenatally exposed to lead. This finding, as well as those of other investigations, warrants further research to determine the magnitude and permanence of the effects of early lead exposure and the significance of other factors, such as iron deficiency and birth order. Future studies should utilize better outcome measures for cognitive, language-related and social skills in order to more clearly evaluate the effects of early lead exposure on infant development. The initial data described here represents the first phase of a series of studies whose purpose will be to further explore the questions raised here. ■

(Prevention Education Project)

AUTHORS: J.L. Shucard, D.W. Shucard, R. Patterson, and R. Guthrie.

Departments of Neurology, Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, SUNY at Buffalo School of Medicine; Buffalo General Hospital and Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

REFERENCES: Bellinger D, Leviton A, Needleman HL, Waternaux C, Rabinowitz M. Low-level lead exposure and infant development in the first year. *Neuro-behav Toxicol Teratol* 1986; 8:151-161.

This report summarizes a manuscript that is in press in *Neurotoxicology*. ■

NYSARC, INC. Safety and Health Management Group Calendar — 1990

	Management Committee	Regional Training	Chapter Topic
JAN			Safety Committee Procedures
FEB		Regional Reps Meeting	Fleet Safety
MAR	1st Group Meeting		HAZCOM
APR		NTSI Workers Compensation	Safety for Supervisors
MAY			Client Safety Training
JUN		Regional Reps Meeting	Accident Investigation
JUL	2nd Group Meeting		Lifting
AUG			Emergency Evacuation
SEP		Modified SCIP	Safety Inspection
OCT		Regional Reps Meeting	Fleet Safety
NOV	3rd Group Meeting		Fire Safety
DEC			Off-the-Job Safety

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Continental encourages your participation in these Safety Group Training Sessions, as well as within your own Chapter Safety Committee Meetings.

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Larry Gloeckler Speaks to NYSARC Convention

On Wednesday, October 25, Larry Gloeckler, the new Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) addressed NYSARC at its 40th Annual Convention at Kutsher's Country Club.

Clearly, Mr. Gloeckler was eager to reassure everyone present that VESID would mark a substantial improvement over the State Education Department's former vocational rehabilitation service delivery system. In answering questions from the audience he made it clear that he and the rest of the department would do everything possible to make New York State's vocational rehabilitation services effective, up to date and responsive.

VESID replaces the Office of Vocational Rehabilitations (OVR) formerly headed by Richard Switzer. OVR was dissolved after a highly critical study of the Office was completed last spring by the State Education Department. The study cited management shortfalls and a chronic lack of coordination within OVR and with other agencies serving persons with disabilities.

VESID will also be organized differently than OVR. The new organizational chart shows two new Assistant Commissioners reporting to Mr. Gloeckler: an Assistant Commissioner for Service Delivery and an Assistant Commissioner for Policy Development. These individuals will be charged with coordinating a variety of activities including business and industry outreach, policy development, technical assistance, quality assurance and local operations. Their aim is to ensure that field operations not only work effectively with each other but that VESID works in concert with all related state and local agencies.

According to Mr. Gloeckler, the reorganizational proposal, passed by the Regents

in June, has been approved by the State Division of Budget. Recruitment of new personnel, which, in addition to two Assistant Commissioners, includes five "Coordinators", is expected to be completed within the next two months.

Clearly a major issue for VESID is resources; they are in very short supply. Client services rates, including Purchase of Service System funds (POSS), haven't been increased in six years, and it is widely acknowledged that OVR counselors have been reduced to paperpushers by overwhelming workloads. Improved services will be critically dependent upon approval of additional funding by both the Governor and Legislature. In the past, Mr. Gloeckler has flatly stated that the reorganized office "must recoup resources". Recognizing this, a revised budget was approved by the Regents last month. Among other items it includes:

- a request of \$58,398,625 for client services including POSS. This reflects a \$12,418,825 increase over current year funding. It is aimed at providing

long overdue rate increases; allowing for broader client eligibility criteria; and qualifying providers for POSS payments more quickly.

- a \$48,253,750 request for the Sheltered Employment Program. This represents a \$4,866,250 increase over current year funding. \$3,500,000 of this amount will be used to implement a Sheltered Employment Workshop Transitioning (SEWT) initiative. SEWT is intended to provide services to transition clients from sheltered workshop programs into community-based job programming.

- a \$2,300,000 request for Supported Work programs. This represents a \$500,000 increase over current year funding.

The new VESID budget request is now before the Governor's Division of the Budget (DOB). Undoubtedly, DOB's approval of the request will be an important test of whether or not VESID will receive the funding it needs to make SED's rehabilitation services a viable part of the State's total configuration of services for persons with disabilities. Should DOB turn back the VESID request, it would cast doubt on the Governor's commitment to an SED operated rehabilitation system despite his so called "vocational rehabilitation truce" with the Regents. Such doubts

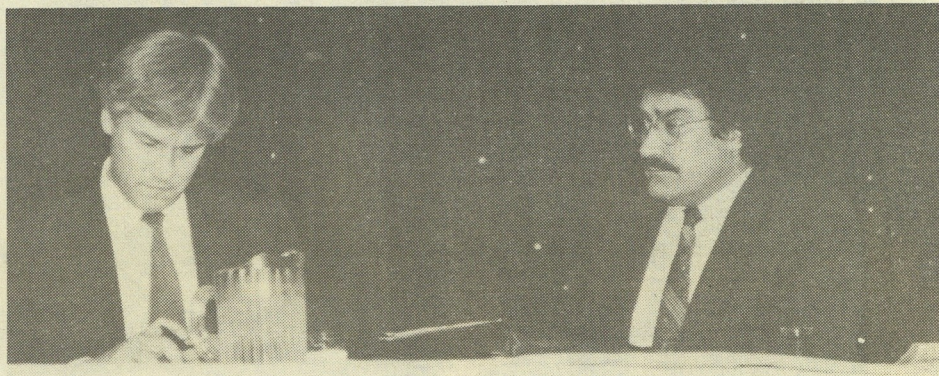
could seriously undermine the credibility SED needs to maintain the momentum of its reorganization effort.

But clearly SED and VESID officials are confident that at least over the long run they will have the Governor's support. At a meeting last September with the Commissioner's Advisory Council on Rehabilitation Services, Richard Sauer, SED's Deputy Commissioner for Administration, noted that since the Governor and Regents President Martin Barrell signed an agreement establishing an Interagency Task Force on Rehabilitation relations between SED and the Executive on this issue had markedly improved. In fact, Mr. Sauer described the new atmosphere of cooperation as "astonishing". This is quite a change from the bitter feud which had been on-going for the past five years: a feud in which the Governor repeatedly but unsuccessfully tried to tear the responsibility for the State's rehabilitation system away from SED and create an independent Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS).

Speaking before NYSARC Mr. Gloeckler noted his agreement with Mr. Sauer's assessment and stated that he was confident that cooperation between the Governor and SED over the matter of rehabilitation services had dramatically improved and that this would lead to concrete improvements in the delivery of services. ■



Deputy Commissioner Lawrence Gloeckler shares his vision for VESID, Vocational Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities.



EDA Recognizes Past Chairs — Elects New Officers

The Executive Directors' Association "EDA" of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc. recognized the past chairpersons of the EDA. The recognition took place at a special luncheon held on October 26, 1989 at the NYSARC 40th Annual Convention.

The event opened with special words from the Chairman of EDA, Mr. Raymond Lewandowski. Mr. Lewandowski briefly stated the purposes of the "professional arm" of NYSARC and stated that he felt it was important to recognize those individuals who chaired the EDA.

Mr. Stephen McLaughlin, Southeast Regional Chairperson, presented the recognition gift. The gift was a beautifully inscribed plaque with a clock affixed. The following individuals served as chairpersons of the EDA:

Jerry Matthews	1974-76
Marc N. Brandt	1976-78
Anthony Terranova	1978-80
Charles Hayes	1980-81
Michael Goldfarb	1981-83
Carol Anderson	1983-84
James Mroczek	1984-86
Stephen Helfgott	1986-87
Linda Lahaie	1987-88
Raymond Lewandowski	1988-89

In addition to the recognition luncheon, the EDA held business meetings, workshops and election of officers. The following individuals were elected Officers of the EDA for the 1989-90 period:

Raymond Lewandowski	Chairperson	Central Regional
Frank Capone	Vice Chairperson	Northeast Region
Kevin Smith	Secretary/Treasurer	Fingerlakes Region
Michael Goldfarb	Regional Representative	Downstate Region
Dr. Winifred Morrison	Regional Representative	Western Region
Stephen McLaughlin	Regional Representative	Southeast Region



(Above) Lawrence Gloeckler (L) and Ray Lewandowski, Chairman of the Executive Directors' Association at special presentation on Rehabilitation Services, co-sponsored by NYSARC and the EDA. (Left) past EDA Chairman Marc Brandt, (Right) Stephen Helfgott and (Below) Charles Hayes, receive clocks during the EDA Awards luncheon.



Founders Dinner Held



Association's Founders
(standing) Mr. & Mrs. Carl Rappaport, Mr. & Mrs. Sy Chicquor, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Riva (seated) Mr. & Mrs. George Hirsch and Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Greenberg.

Our recent convention also featured a Founders Dinner held on Friday evening, October 27th. The event honored those individuals who began our Association and others who played a central role in its development over the past 40 years.

It was a festive occasion featuring a band and tables decorated with balloons. Founders present included Mr. and Mrs. Sy Chicquor, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rappaport, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reva, Mr. and Mrs. George Hirsch and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Greenberg.

Past Presidents were also in attendance. They included: Judge Robert A. Wagner, Irene Platt, Ellie Pattison and David Lettman. John Bertrand, NYSARC's second Executive Director, and his wife Carol were also present.

A string of pearls was presented to Ann Greenberg, the woman who really started NYSARC with her \$3.00 ad in the New York Post inviting parents of children with mental retardation to gather at her home to see if they could collectively help each other.

Mrs. Greenberg recalled the very beginnings of the Association and noted her surprise at the response generated by her ad. She remembered that 40 years ago children with mental retardation didn't even have the right to attend school and that today's achievements only occurred after great struggle.

The Association's founders were presented with silver plates commemorating their contributions. An enormous 40 birthday cake was brought in which was cut by those honored at the dinner. ■



NYSARC's Founders gather to cut the 40th Anniversary Birthday Cake.



Ann Greenberg (R) receives a special gift from President Blanche Fierstein on behalf of the Association in recognition of her vital role in founding the Association 40 years ago.



(Left to right): John Bertrand, 2nd NYSARC Executive Director; Past Presidents: Ellie Pattison, George Hirsch, Irene Platt and Mrs. Robert A. Wagner accepting award for her husband, Judge Robert A. Wagner.

Executive Director, Marc Brandt, presents a bouquet of red roses to Blanche Fierstein during the founders' dinner.



Former State Association's President Judge Robert Wagner Installs NYSARC's Officers and Governors



Albert Clarke (Steuben), Paul Graig (Onondaga), I. William Stone (New York City) and Gladys Wood (Onondaga) seen being installed as Board of Governor representatives.



Judge Robert Wagner installing Officers at banquet.

At the fortieth annual convention, the Delegate Assembly, representing the Association's sixty-two chapters and over 60,000 members, elected Officers and Board of Governor members of the Association.

At the banquet held on Saturday night, October 28, 1989, NYSARC's sixth President, Judge Robert H. Wagner, installed the State Association's Officers and Board of Governors. Judge Wagner was President of NYSARC from 1959-1961. He treated the banquet attendees to a bit of history and humor as he installed both the Board and Officers.

Mrs. Blanche Fierstein was unanimously re-elected President of the Association. In her acceptance speech, she thanked the Association for a most inspiring year and promised to continue the legacy of the past 40 years.

The Officers elected for a one-year term are as follows:

Blanche Fierstein
President

John Schuppenhauer, Esq.
Senior Vice President
Vice President, Western Region

Dr. David Keymer
Vice President, Central Region

Mary L. Caniano
Vice President, Northeast Region

Michael Limongelli
Vice President, Southeast Region

George G. Hirsch
Treasurer

Carroll F. Stowell
Assistant Treasurer

Dallas Boyle
Secretary

The following individuals were elected to serve on the Board of Governors for the 1989-91 term of office.

Albany Mary L. Caniano
Rosemary Murphy

Allegany Khalid Ashraf, Ph.D.

Benevolent Society Mannie Barsky
Al Turk

Broome-Tioga Robert Shrader

Chautauqua Elmer Muench

Chemung Maryann Bryant
Betty Butz

Clinton Janet Calkins

Cortland Doris Fitzpatrick
Robert Lehr

Delaware Luella Rogers

Dutchess Judy Catalano
Mark Metzger

Essex Gerald Edwards

Franklin Marilyn Duffy

Fulton Judy Schelle

Greene William Moore

Herkimer James Garnsey

Jefferson Judy Condino
Diane Kines

Lewis Gladys Der
Kevin McArdle

Livingston-Wyoming Dr. Lyle Leman

Montgomery William Albertin, Jr.
Joel Kaplan

Nassau Gary Bencivenga
Eric Bruell

Edward LaJoie
Edward Licence

Michael Limongelli
Bernard Monson

New York City Gail Fishkind
Charles King

Seymour Rubin
I. William Stone.

Niagara Thomas Williams

Oneida David Keymer
Sadieann Mazzotta

Onondaga Paul Graig
Gladys Wood

Orange Jane Gerstheimer

Orleans Linda Doherty

Otsego Patricia Carey
Dr. Robert Porter

Putnam Janet Longo-Dowd
Eileen O'Brien

Rensselaer Henrietta Messier

Rockland Arnold Botwinick
Dr. Irving Caminsky

Katherine Kavountzis

Rome D.C. Louis Best

St. Lawrence Birt Evans
Carolyn Smith

Saratoga Dallas Boyle

Schoharie Janice Gile

Schuyler Harold Tuttle

Seneca Thomas Densmore
Carlo Frappolli

Steuben Albert Clarke

Suffolk Margaret Howard
John Mach

Sullivan Ruth Bennett

Ulster Robert Boening

Warren-Washington Joseph Poliquin



Judge Robert Wagner installing NYSARC's President, Blanche Fierstein.

Wayne	William Maddock	Westchester	Barbara Levitz
	Suzanne McGovern		
Welfare League	Arthur Gasman	Yates	Rev. Douglas Passage
	Dave Kapsack		Marilyn Searles

1990 Convention Logo Contest Winner



1990 Convention Logo Contest Winning Entry.

Rita Keller, of the Syracuse D.C. Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. was selected as the winner of NYSARC's 1990 Annual Convention Logo Competition. The winner was announced on October 28, 1989 during NYSARC's 40th Anniversary Convention.

The logo competition, held annually during the NYSARC convention and sponsored by NYSARC's Public Information Committee is open to all ARC employees, ARC program participants, parents and/or family members and members of an ARC chapter.

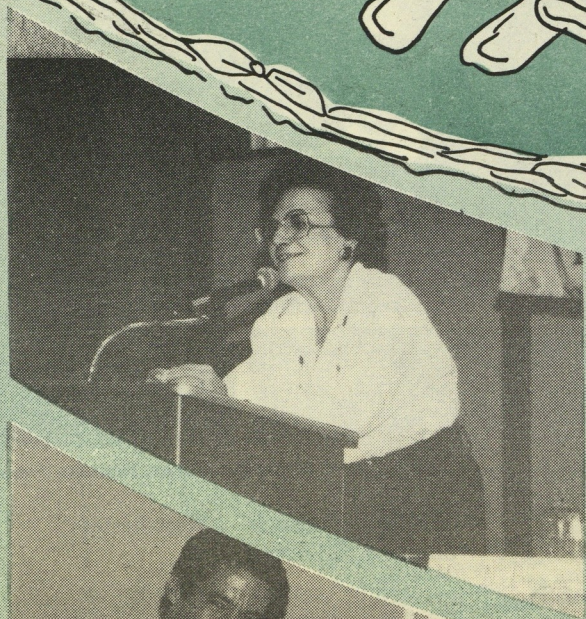
The winning logo, selected from a field of more than 30 entries from various

NYSARC Chapters was judged by the 1989 convention attendees to most clearly depict the 1990 NYSARC Convention theme, "Towards the 21st Century... The Dream, The Hope, The Challenge."

Ms. Keller, the winner of a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond, to be presented at the 1990 NYSARC Convention at the Concord Resort Hotel in Kiamesha Lake, New York, will also be a guest of NYSARC for one evening during the 1990 Convention scheduled for October 31 - November 4, 1990.

We extend a hearty congratulations to Ms. Keller. ■

HAPPY 40TH NYSARC



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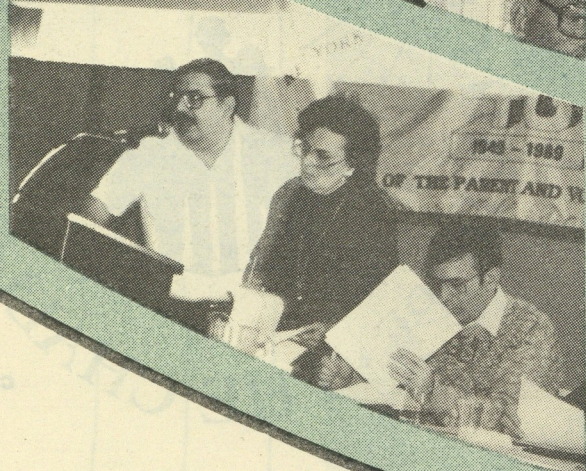
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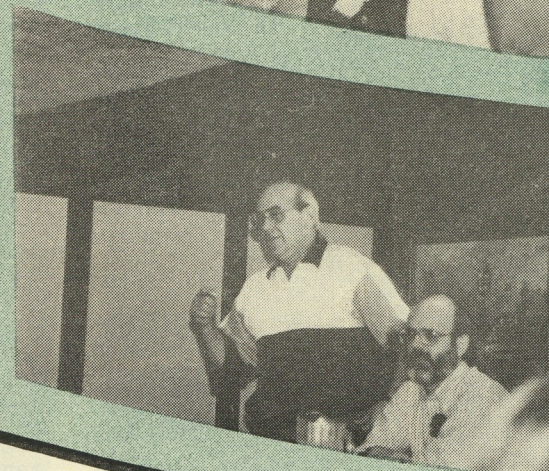
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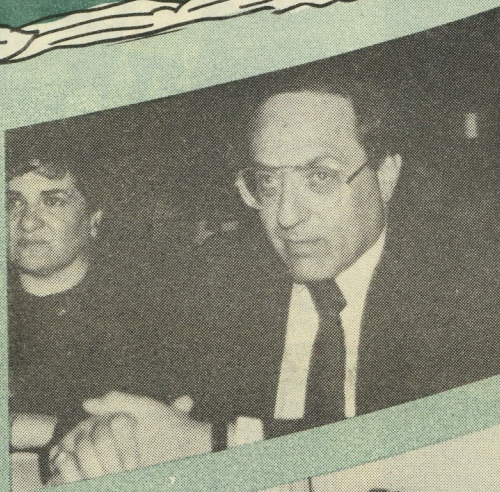


(1) NYSARC President, Blanche Fierstein. (2) Helen Kaplan, founder, Nassau Chapter and Geraldo Rivera at Awards' Luncheon. (3) Marvin Liebergot, Chairperson, Insurance and Pension Committee, presents the revision to NYSARC's Minimum Insurance Standards. (4) Ellen Owens, Chairperson, NYSARC Nominating Committee reads the slate of Officers and Governors at the General Session on Friday evening. (5) NYSARC staff, Barbara Demick, Susan Lyons, Erica Berman and Helen Hines pose as photographer Ray Lewandowski enjoys the view. "Come on Ray snap the picture!" (6) "That Limongelli, L-I-M-O-N-G..." (7) Barbara Merle-Smith (L) and Essex Chapter Executive Director, Chuck Hayes, presents workshop "The Development of a Public Relations Department - Why After All These Years?" (8) Bernard Carabello, Ann Greenberg and Geraldo Rivera welcomes Ann's grandson on the dais. (9) NYSARC President and Executive Director share some pleasant moments with OMRDD's Commissioner.

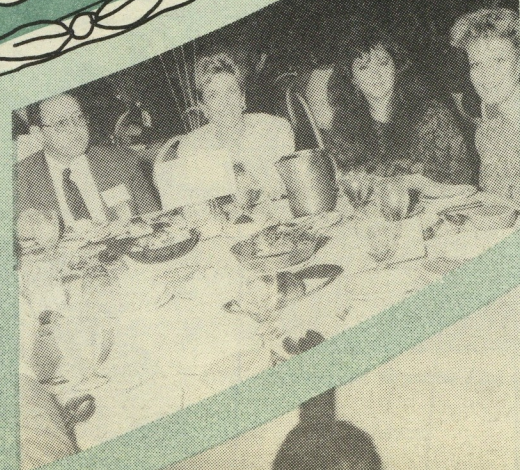
RC, Inc. ANNIVERSARY



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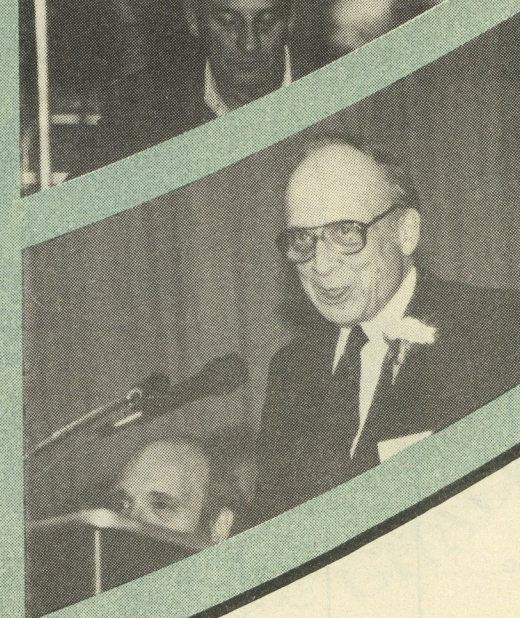
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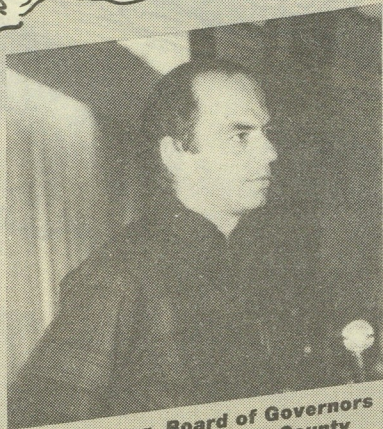


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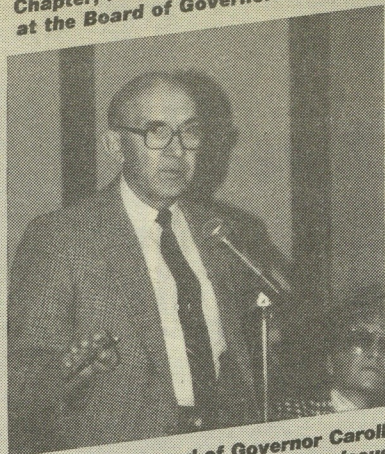


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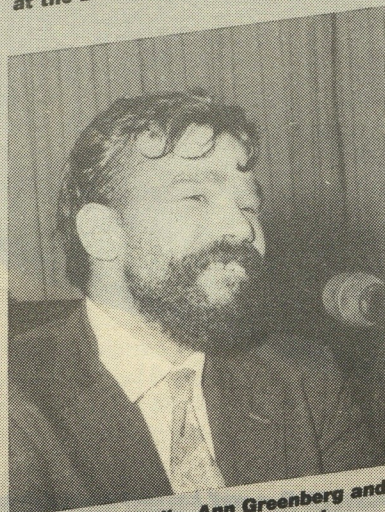
(10) Elizabeth Boggs, Ph.D. a well known Parent Advocate from New Jersey speaks on decision making and persons with mental retardation. (11) Kathy Bishop, Angela VanderHoof and Ronaldo Lucchino, Ph.D. address the issue of the aging mentally retarded/developmentally disabled population. (12) Over 800 persons from throughout the State attended this year's convention. (13) David Lettman (R), the Association's immediate past president and his wife enjoy the convention festivities. (14) Gerald Rivera poses with members of the Willowbrook Chapter. (15) Helen Kaplan, Mistress of Ceremonies, at the Saturday banquet welcomes NYSARC conventioners. (16) NYSARC staff at founders dinner. (17) Barbara Levitz, Chairperson of the Family Support and Outreach Services Committee, makes a point about respite services. (18) "...And that reminds me of a story I once heard..."



Mark Metzger, Board of Governors Representative, Dutchess County Chapter, responds to an issue raised at the Board of Governors' Meeting.



Schenectady Board of Governor Carol "Smokey" Stowell, addresses an issue at the Board of Governors' Meeting.



Bernard Carabello, Ann Greenberg and Geraldo Rivera welcome Ann's grandson on the dais.



Joan Taylor (O.D. Heck) and Mary Caniano (Albany) enjoying a moment of friendship.



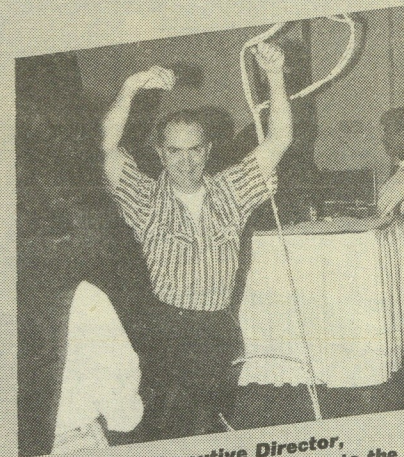
Incoming Board of Governor, from Otsego County, Patricia Carey repeats the Association's oath as she is officially sworn in on Saturday evening.



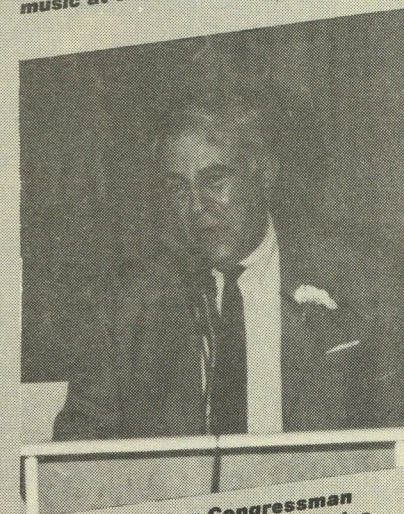
Mrs. Ruth Bennett, founder of the Sullivan Chapter welcomes chapter delegates at the opening of the General Session.



Geraldo Rivera takes a moment to sign his autograph for an admirer.

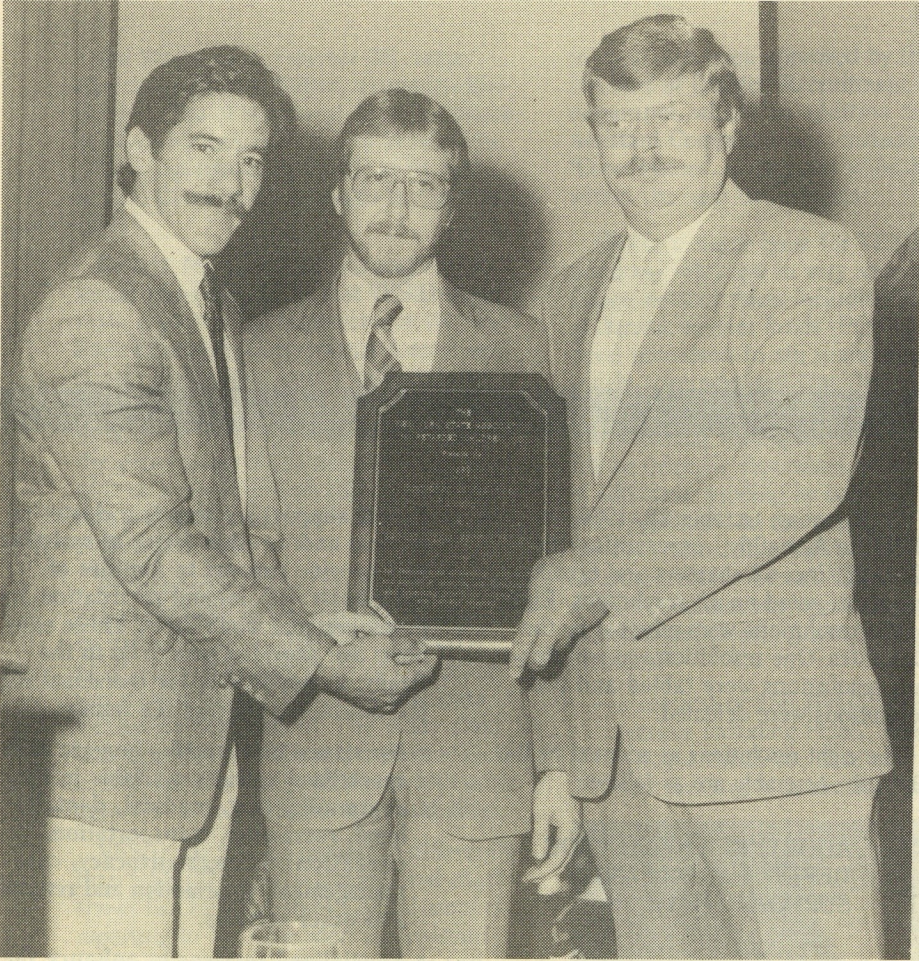


Tom Hickey, Executive Director, Greene County Chapter, swings to the music at the 50's theme party.



Banquet speaker Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman congratulates NYSARC on 40 years of achievement on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities.

Spinco Metal Products, Inc. Named 1989 NYSARC Employer of the Year



Geraldo Rivera presents NYSARC's 1989 Employer of the Year Award to Douglas Fox and Morgan Horton of Spinco Metal Products, Inc. of Newark, New York.

Spinco Metal Products, Inc., a Wayne County based company, was honored at the 40th Anniversary State Convention on Saturday, October 28, 1989 as the New York State Association for Retarded Children's 1989 Employer of the Year. This award was presented at a special awards luncheon in recognition of Spinco's active role in providing employment to the developmentally disabled workers of Wayne County.

The award was presented to Morgan Horton and Douglas Fox of Spinco Metal Products, Inc. by Geraldo Rivera, the recipient of the First NYSARC Media Award.

In addressing over 600 participants attending the Saturday awards luncheon, Mr. Rivera presented a plaque to Mr. Horton and Mr. Fox in recognition of their company's outstanding achievements. Mr. Rivera also emphasized the importance of providing employment opportunities for the developmentally disabled.

Spinco Metal Products, Inc. was selected from 16 other nominees by the Association's Scholarships and Awards Committee as the recipient of this year's award. However, these other businesses are also deserving of recognition for their contributions to enriching the personal growth of workers who are mentally retarded and developmentally disabled.

Certificates of Appreciation were sent to the following employers in honor of their achievements:

Riverfront Center Community for Adult Living. Nominated by Broome-Tioga County Chapter

Elcor Health Services. Nominated by Chemung County Chapter

Hudson Cold Storage. Nominated by Columbia County Chapter

Carroll's Corporation/Burger King. Nominated by Dutchess County Chapter

Pizza Plant. Nominated by Erie County Chapter

Holiday Inn. Nominated by Genesee County Chapter

R&L Displays, Inc.. Nominated by Greene County Chapter

Pennysaver. Nominated by Madison County Chapter

Hofstra University. Nominated by Nassau County Chapter

Marriott Corporation. Nominated by New York City County Chapter

Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers. Nominated by Oneida County Chapter

Rib-Inns. Nominated by Onondaga County Chapter

Ontario Food Products, Inc.. Nominated by Orleans County Chapter

Price Chopper. Nominated by Saratoga County Chapter

The Granit Hotel and Country Club. Nominated by Ulster County Chapter

Syms. Nominated by Westchester County Chapter

Kay Nogaj, Chairperson of NYSARC's Scholarship and Awards Committee remarked that "through the commitment and efforts of all these employers who are meeting the challenges of ensuring equal employment opportunities and full citizenship rights, our society is slowly but surely recognizing that people who are mentally retarded and developmentally disabled are, first of all, our fellow citizens who happen to have disabilities." ■

With Love and Thanks NYSARC Salutes Former Member

Friends

A Friend

*Is one who is first
To do a favor
And last to ask one*

A friend

*Is the first to appear
In time of trouble
And the last to leave
Each of us has one friend;
He who has others
Is fortunate indeed*

Thomas Andrews

The New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc. honored one of its former members on Friday evening, October 27, 1989 before the Delegate Assembly at the statewide convention.

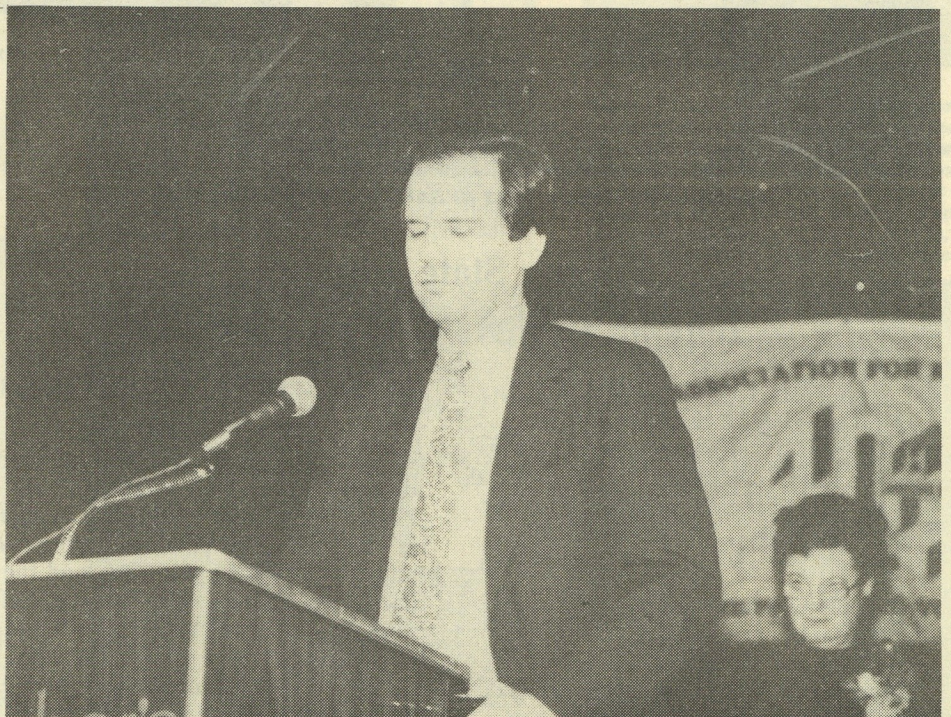
Sidney VanDusen from the Warren-Washington County Chapter was recognized for his life-long achievements in promoting and fostering the quality of life for persons who are mentally retarded and developmentally disabled.

To be considered for this distinguished honor, a nominee must be a deceased former member of the NYSARC Board of Governors; have served a minimum of 15 years cumulatively as a Board of Governor Representative; and be recommended by a Board of Governor Representative who is currently a member of the chapter proposing the nominee.

Mr. VanDusen passed away in 1989. He was one of the founding members of the Warren-Washington Chapter and a devoted member of the Association for over 35 years. He served on many committees and offices throughout his tenure, and was a NYSARC Board of Governor for 19 years. Mr. VanDusen's guidance, leadership and life-long achievements will always be remembered by the Association. His name will be inscribed upon the Memorial Plaque in the Joseph T. Weingold Building in Delmar, New York where the corporate office of the State Association is located. ■



Kay Nogaj, Chairperson of the NYSARC Scholarship and Awards Committee, presents the 1989 NYSARC Memorial Award to the late Sidney VanDusen.



Bruce VanDusen accepts the NYSARC Memorial Award for his late father, Sidney VanDusen, a former Board of Governor representative from Warren-Washington Chapter.

Maythorne Winterkorn Recipient of 1989 NYSARC Volunteer Award

The 1989 NYSARC Volunteer Award was presented to Maythorne Winterkorn of the Monroe County Chapter at the 40th Anniversary State Convention on Friday, October 27, 1989 in Monticello, New York.

This prestigious award was announced by Kay Nogaj, Chairperson of the Association's Scholarship and Awards Committee before the Delegate Assembly on Friday evening. This tribute was paid to Mrs. Winterkorn for her more than 20 years of commitment, dedicated service and advocacy on behalf of persons who are mentally retarded.

A leather binder, containing a biographical profile, a lapel pin and Steuben Glass were among the gifts received by Maythorne.

Maythorne is the widow of Mr. Gerard Winterkorn and the mother of four children. Her daughter Wendy, has Down's syndrome. Now 25 years old Wendy lives with her mother in Penfield, New York.

On the state level, Mrs. Winterkorn currently serves as the Chairperson of the NYSARC YOUTH Committee and the Supplementary Recreation and Special Olympics Committee. On the Monroe County Chapter level, she is the Chairperson of several committees including the Scholarship Committee, Membership Committee, MONARC Committee, and Volunteer Committee. She is also a member of the Monroe County Chapter's Guardianship, Public Relations and Personnel Committees.

Some of the special achievements and recognitions awarded to Maythorne

Winterkorn include the "Forman Flair Award" in 1987 given each year by the Rochester Specialty Store, B. Forman Company, to honor a woman who has made outstanding contributions in volunteer services to the Rochester Community; 1988 Board Member of the Year for Advocacy for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc. in recognition of her many hours of service and commitment; and in 1989, a nominee for the President's Volunteer Action Award.

The criteria for a nominee to be considered for this honor consists of the following:

1. The nominated individual must be a current member of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc. for a minimum of ten (10) years, and
2. Nominations must be submitted to the NYSARC's Scholarship and Awards Committee from the Chapter's Board of Directors accompanied by a resumé. The resumé or profile of the individual must include personal data, volunteer activities and achievements (ARC and other), reasons why the nominee is deserving of the award and letters of recommendation and support.

The Monroe County Chapter's Board of Directors in nominating Maythorne states that Maythorne "represents the best qualities of volunteerism. Her volunteer spirit has shown itself in her particular dedication to the retarded and developmentally disabled. Maythorne has shown by her quiet competence that a parent can be as effective as the 'corporate' volunteer who gravitates to leadership positions." ■



Maythorne Winterkorn 1989 NYSARC Volunteer of the Year

Former State Advocate John M. Gerity, Jr. Passes Away

On August 17, 1989, John M. Gerity, Jr. passed away in his Manhattan home. Mr. Gerity was an attorney, advocate for people with disabilities and a State official in the administration of former Governor Hugh L. Carey.

Mr. Gerity retired in June of this year as Assistant Counsel to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped of the New York State Department of Social Services, a post he held for eight years. In 1980 and 1981 he served as New York State Advocate for the Disabled, under the

appointment of former Governor Hugh L. Carey.

Totally blind since the age of six, Gerity advocated on behalf of people with disabilities in a number of volunteer positions. He was a director and trustee of the Industrial Home for the Blind and the Helen Keller National Center for the Deaf-Blind. He was a delegate to the White House Conference on the Handicapped in 1976 and was temporary Chairman of the New York City Council for the International Year for Disabled Persons, celebrated in 1981. ■

On Saturday, October 28, 1989, the Delegate Assembly, representing the NYSARC, Inc. 62 chapters and 60,426 members, voted on 13 resolutions. Eight of the resolutions were adopted by the Delegates. One resolution was withdrawn, two resolutions were tabled and two resolutions were defeated.

The eight resolutions as adopted by the Delegate Assembly are as follows:

1 ADOPTING A STATEWIDE DEFINITION OF FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

WHEREAS: Family support services is presently a vague term that lacks a consensus definition in New York State, and

WHEREAS: There are also opposing and sometimes contradictory definitions of family support services amongst providers, consumers, legislators, and the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, and

WHEREAS: A consistent general definition of family support services is absolutely essential in order to clearly distinguish between support services to families and programs primarily serving individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, and

WHEREAS: This lack of definition encourages the misconception that family support services can take the place of existing programs, e.g. residential, day treatment, etc., and

WHEREAS: This lack of definition presently allows for many of the present community programs available to individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities to be perceived as "family" supports, which creates an inflated picture of the present level of services actually available to families, and

WHEREAS: This lack of definition prohibits effective planning, regulation, contracting and development of family support services, and

WHEREAS: This lack of definition permits family support monies to be inappropriately diverted for use in programs that do not primarily serve families.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc. adopts the following definition of family support services and call upon the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to apply this definition uniformly in the future development of family support services.

Family support services is a cluster of services and/or other forms of assistance that provide support to families of individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. These supports are provided primarily to the family, as opposed to the individual with the disability, offering the family:

- Assistance in accessing generic and specialized services available in the community (e.g. medical, dental, legal, recreation, transportation, education) through advocacy, case management, information and referral and other services.
- Specialized services to enhance the ability of the family to cope with the demands of their role as primary care giver (e.g. counseling, support networks, caregiver training, respite).

The primary goal of these services is to strengthen the ability of families to provide care in their homes for their family members. These services are also intended to maximize the ability of the family and the individual with the disability to fully participate as integrated, valued members in the community.

2 ESTABLISHING A SYSTEMATIC STATEWIDE PLANNING PROCESS FOR FUTURE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

WHEREAS: A majority of families with members who are mentally retarded and developmentally disabled have their family member residing at home with them in the community, and

WHEREAS: Families with members who are disabled have a greater need to access and coordinate services for their disabled member and to enhance their ability to cope with being the primary care giver for the disabled individual, and

WHEREAS: The family support system in New York State should provide services sufficient to meet these needs, and

WHEREAS: Program development in the area of family support services has been sporadic and inconsistent in definition throughout the State; inconsistent from one DDSO to another and from county to county; and in proceeding at a rate that is grossly inadequate and inequitable in meeting needs of families, and

WHEREAS: The provision of services in family supports may require different delivery mechanisms, including but not limited to: intake procedures, tracking and

Delegate Assembly Adopts Eight Resolutions

*Resolutions Calling for NYSARC Becoming Designated Monitoring Agent
Defeated; Resolutions Regarding Death Penalty Tabled*

reporting formats which differ significantly from those of residential and center-based community services, and

WHEREAS: Few programs have received adequate funding to explore, develop and/or maintain innovative models of service provision and to address the issue of how to effectively provide support services to families, and

WHEREAS: Statewide funding priorities do not reflect local needs and local planning groups are not invited to participate in determining or setting priorities, and

WHEREAS: The State of New York has not formulated a suitable long-range plan for development of family support services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc. calls upon the Governor, Legislature and the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to enact a State policy which mandates the establishment of permanent statewide and regional planning councils to assure that families receive support services commensurate with their needs. These planning councils comprised of consumers, service providers, advocate groups, local and State government representatives and others will participate in the development of appropriate funding and regulatory processes, program reporting and evaluation procedures; and statewide dissemination of information on family support services.

3 GUARDIANSHIP AND MEDICAL CONSENT

WHEREAS: The underlying philosophy of Article 17-A of the Surrogate's Court Procedure Act is to provide families with the opportunity to plan for the future and well-being of their children when they are no longer able to look after and provide for their welfare, and

WHEREAS: Article 17-A provides a simplified and expedited appointment procedure specifically designed to protect persons who are mentally retarded, and

WHEREAS: Guardianship enables parents to ensure that they or other designated guardians of their choosing may act as advocates with legal authority on behalf of their children to protect their rights and foster their quality of life, notwithstanding opinions to the contrary, and

WHEREAS: Current laws in New York State are still perceived by some State agencies to be unclear as to the rights of legal guardians to provide consent to

routine and major health care treatment/procedures, and

WHEREAS: Regulations promulgated by the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities currently do not recognize this inherent authority of guardians of the person for adult citizens who are mentally retarded to give such consent(s), and

WHEREAS: The position espoused by OMRDD has, in the past, resulted in undue suffering on the part of many individuals who have had to wait for medical and dental care while permission was being obtained through the court system, and

WHEREAS: This lack of clarification has caused a great deal of confusion and frustration on the part of service providers as well as many parents and expense of obtaining legal guardianship on behalf of the adult family member only to be informed by OMRDD that they cannot provide medical and/or dental consent(s).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Article 17-A of the Surrogate's Court Procedure Act, adopted in 1969 and amended in 1989, confers on guardians the right and authority to give legal consent for all medical and dental treatment.

4 EQUITABLE COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT PRACTICES OF OMRDD

WHEREAS: The office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities has determined that individuals who have resided or are residing in developmental centers receive priority in placement in community-based residential programs, and

WHEREAS: The Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities establishes quotas for placement based upon this policy, and

WHEREAS: Individuals who reside with their families are not given equal priority for placement in residential programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That NYSARC shall take all action necessary to ensure that the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities ceases its discriminatory placement practices, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That NYSARC seeks the support of the New York State Legislature in ensuring the right to residential placement for individuals who reside with their families by creating policies to guarantee the placement of such individuals into programs appropriate to their needs.

5 NYSARC ANNUAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS: The NYSARC Annual Convention calls together the vast and widespread resources of NYSARC chapters, its members, parents, Board of Governors, and staff, for training, leadership and development of future directions, and

WHEREAS: The convention as the only statewide forum for ARC chapters to participate in decision making, and share resources, information and leadership as a collective and cohesive organization, provides the greatest level of participation by chapters to represent the needs, interests and directions of statewide planning, and

WHEREAS: The convention site can determine the level of attendance, particularly because of the geographic expanse of the State, and

WHEREAS: Chapter participation in planning and sponsorship of the convention in its home county or region can increase involvement in State activities, and assist NYSARC administration in resources needed for convention planning.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That future NYSARC Annual Convention sites may be alternated among the four regions of the State and that a process be formulated for chapters to apply for convention sponsorship.

6 FORSTERING DIGNITY THROUGH APPROPRIATE TERMINOLOGY

WHEREAS: The last four decades have marked a period of unparalleled advancement in the manner in which society views persons with mental retardation, and

WHEREAS: This advancement has come about as society has recognized that all individuals, regardless of what handicaps they may have, are first and foremost human beings who, by definition, deserve the same respect accorded every other citizen, and

WHEREAS: Such respect for dignity and worth of each individual is strongly influenced by the terminology typically used to describe such persons, and

WHEREAS: NYSARC, understanding the power of language, must act to encourage the general use of words and phrases confirming the primacy of each individual as a human being regardless of the presence or absence of a handicap.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That our Association well recognizes that

the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, as a critical entity in this State with the power to influence social perceptions regarding persons with mental retardation, deserves praise for beginning to adopt terminology consistent with the tenets of this resolution.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities must be encouraged to go even further in adopting written and verbal terminology which helps to foster a general perception that individuals with mental retardation are, first and foremost, persons who deserve the respect accorded to every other person who is a citizen of this nation.

7 A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

WHEREAS: The 40th Year Anniversary Convention of NYSARC, Inc. draws to an end, and

WHEREAS: NYSARC had proclaimed 1989 as the Year of the Parent and Volunteer Advocate in order to emphasize the invaluable accomplishments of these persons in the past, and

WHEREAS: The need for their irreplaceable efforts in the future were also emphasized.

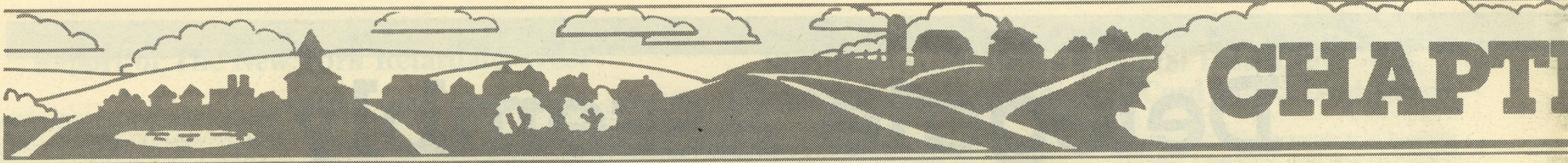
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That NYSARC as a parent/volunteer Association continues its strong commitment to the delivery of appropriate services and to the shaping of public policy to ensure the best quality of life for persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

8 IN APPRECIATION

WHEREAS: This 40th Annual Convention has been made possible by the efforts of many including the Advisory Committee of this 40th anniversary convention, the NYSARC staff, workshop presenters and all others who have contributed to the success of this convention, and

WHEREAS: As a result of this convention, we are proud of our past accomplishments and are ever mindful of the challenges before us.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That we thank all who have contributed to our successes and ask for your continued support and active participation in furthering the mission of NYSARC, Inc.



CHAPTER

ONONDAGA

Kindling Wood Sale Benefits Onondaga Chapter

On October 21, 1989, the Rotary Club of Dewitt held its ninth annual sale of kindling wood made by employees of Monarch Industries, the vocational division of the Onondaga ARC. The kindling wood is a by-product of the manufacturing of surveyor stakes in Monarch's workshop at 401 N. Lowell Avenue in Syracuse. The wood was once discarded as waste material, but a Rotarian suggested that it be sold

at a special sale.

The sales, which began in 1981, have generated over \$20,000 for the Onondaga ARC and have provided a market for Monarch's wood products.

The OARC is very grateful for the Rotarians' long-term commitment to this project and for the effort put forth by the club's members each fall. ■



Left to Right: David Knoblock and Larry Sennuck of the Rotary Club of Dewitt, Mary Lou Defoe, a Monarch Industries worker, Less Boff of the Rotary Club, and Jim Throne, a Monarch Industries worker. The photo was taken in the Monarch Industries workshop at 401 N. Lowell Avenue in Syracuse.

WESTCHESTER

Westchester ARC Benefits from Corporate Support

Westchester ARC has just received \$95,000 toward expansion of its recreational programs, thanks to the involvement of the Municipal Bond Investors Assurance Corporation (MBIA). For the fifth year, the MBIA Invitational Golf and Tennis Tournament at the Mt. Kisco Country Club has brought leading professional athletes from baseball, football, hockey, tennis and wrestling, and sports writers and sportscasters to the club for a day of play with corporate and other sponsors. The long day on the golf course and tennis courts culminates with a cocktail party and awards banquet. A total of \$190,000 raised this year is shared, as in the past, by Westchester ARC and Westchester-Putnam Special Olympics.

For the 4th year, New York Yankee star Don Mattingly was Honorary Chairman. Each year, MBIA has contributed \$100 for every Mattingly hit during the baseball season to supplement the proceeds from entry fees. And this year, another corporation's president, Michael Satz of Capital

Reinsurance Company, pledged an additional \$100 for every percentage point of Mattingly's batting average over .250, plus \$100 for every Mattingly run from August 31, the date of the Invitational, to season's end. An additional \$10,000 resulted from the proceeds of a 420-mile bikeathon, completed by biking enthusiast Harold Wagner. President of the Wagner Group, a real estate firm which handled MBIA's recent move from White Plains to Armonk, Mr. Wagner solicited pledges amounting to \$8,000, adding his own \$2,000 contribution, for his bicycle odyssey from Westchester to Montreal, Canada.

The funds realized by this annual event will hopefully fulfill Westchester ARC's dream of a year-round recreational facility, a permanent barrier-free camp for people who are mentally retarded, developmentally disabled or multiply-handicapped. The dream is nearer to realization, thanks to the generous pioneering effort of some major Westchester business firms. ■



The event's co-chairmen line up for the camera. Left to right are Charles Kingsley, past president, Westchester ARC; William Bailey, MBIA chairman and chief executive officer; David Elliott, MBIA president and John Butler, MBIA vice chairman.

ULSTER

After School Program

At first glance the scene is typical of any other after school program — youngsters making snacks; youngsters arguing about which video to watch. But, these are special youngsters that only Ulster Association for Retarded Citizens (UARC) could serve.

UARC's After School Program "is a godsend," says Carol Buboltz of Kingston, whose 14-year-old son Jason attends. Jason is developmentally disabled and mostly non-verbal although he shows affection by pulling his greeters close and placing them in a tight bear hug.

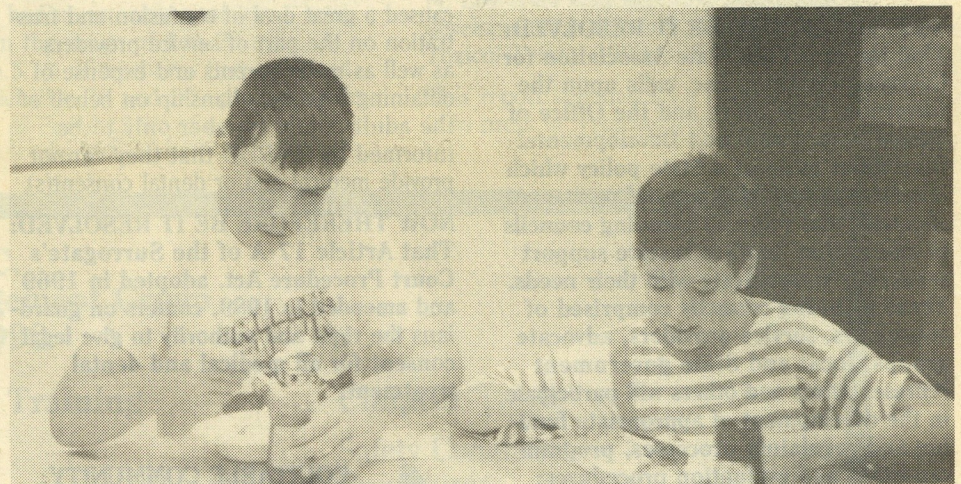
Buboltz adopted Jason despite his severe handicaps. At the time she was married and then had a second child, 7-year-old Lindsey.

The aftermath of divorce coupled with the problems of caring for Lindsey and Jason forced Buboltz to turn to public assistance. One of the biggest obstacles she said she faced in trying to find work was trying to find someone willing to care

for Jason. Buboltz then learned about UARC's After School Program, the only program of its kind in Ulster county serving families and their youngsters with developmental disabilities.

The unique program currently has room for about seven more youngsters age five through 21, said Mary Carney, director of Family Support Services. Families pay what they can. The program offers a full-range of activities from arts and crafts to socialization skills. And, one of the best features is the transportation provided by UARC's vast transportation system that enables the agency to pick up the youngsters at school and bring them to the program.

The After School Program serves youngsters with a diverse range of disabilities from learning problems and emotional disorders to developmental disabilities. The program operates year round, accommodating special education summer school schedules. ■



Left to Right: Jason Buboltz and J.R. Davis

PUTNAM

Putnam Industries Offers Tour and Recognizes Workers

In recognition of Putnam County Employ the Handicapped Week, the public was offered the opportunity to tour the facility in the County that employs mentally handicapped persons at a variety of sub-contracted piece work jobs for different tri-state area industries.

The Carmel-based facility, known as Putnam Industries, is a sheltered workshop for the Association for Retarded Citizens, a private, non-profit contract Agency located on Route 6 in Carmel. The workshop employs approximately 150 persons who are mentally retarded, all of whom reside in the County. These are individuals bussed back and forth to the facility daily, and are paid wages commensurate with their ability and at a competitive rate attractive to businesses.

A buffet luncheon was held at which the keynote address was delivered by Assemblyman Vincent L. Leibell, III. A tour of the facility followed.

Executive Director, Stuart E. Greif said,

"I am very proud of the workshop's record of quality control and on-time delivery of merchandise." He added, "In inviting the public to tour the facility, we are mainly letting people know we are here. Surprisingly, there are quite a few people in the area who are unaware of us despite our size and comprehensive functions."

Grief added, "This is also Putnam Industries' way of saying thanks to the business community who have found that by using our quality services they have reduced costs, increased profits, and maintained competitive pricing as well as secured a reliable work force."

Special commendations were made on behalf of Delores Turek, Raymond Leombruno, workers who were recognized by PARC officials for their efforts. Each were awarded plaques. Mike Miller, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation said, "These clients are a very capable group of employees. I am thankful to be able to share our sense of pride with the community. Our clients need a hand-up not a hand-out."

COLUMBIA

People Being People Exhibit



COARC Early Intervention Program (Photo by Bossert)

COARC, the Columbia County Association for Retarded Citizens, and the Columbia County Council on the Arts jointly sponsored a photographic essay "People Being People" in October. The exhibition of 31 black and white studies of persons with disabilities was the work of Valatie photographer Paula Bossert, an accomplished photographer with a compassionate eye and broad experience in portraying the handicapped in the environments which enable them to flourish. Ms. Bossert's purpose in preparing the show was to reflect upon the character of persons with disabilities and to illustrate the strengths they find within themselves in meeting challenges.

Paula Bossert and her husband Richard, vice president of COARC, are the parents of two daughters; Lisa, a counselor with

Rensselaer County ARC, and Becky who participates in the COARC Intermediate Care Facility program.

"People Being People" was shown in Columbia County's historic Spencertown Academy in November and will be seen, at the invitation of Commissioner James Cashen, in the office of the Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled and at Maria College, Albany, early in 1990.

Cooperating with Bossert in the preparation of "People Being People" have been the staff and program participants of Triform, Churchtown; the Rip Van Winkle Center, Hudson; COARC in its various locations; The Hearth, Philmont; Camphill Village, Copake; and the Special Needs Program in Hudson. ■

SCHOHARIE

A New Community Residence Opens

The Schoharie County Adult Rehabilitation Center completed its newest community residence on Route 30 in the Town of Middleburgh and received eight residents on September 1st.

Three of the eight individuals "graduated" to this more independent living situation from O.D. Heck Developmental Center and are doing exceptionally well. The new house joins five other homes and nine apartments in providing supervised living arrangements for developmentally disabled residents of Schoharie County.

The program has a staff of 10 people working under the supervision of Mrs. Paula Tuosto who was recently promoted to the residence manager position having been employed as an LPN with the Schoharie County ARC for several years.

Staff will provide supervision and skills training 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Like most people, residents will either work or be in a day program during weekdays, such as the ARC Vocational Program, Toe Path Industries, or the ARC Day Treatment Program. Weekends and holidays are spent in leisure activities.

This year the Residential Services Program celebrates its 16th year of providing services to developmentally disabled residents in Schoharie County. The first home was opened in 1973 and was one of the first in the Capital District to provide an alternative to institutionalization for those people who had lived all their lives at home. Residents are very much involved in church, community, and college activities and make good use of every available community resource. ■

CHATAUQUA

Fall Fashion Extravaganza

The Resource Center of Chautauqua County held its second annual "Fall Fashion Extravaganza," Sunday, September 17, 1989 at Jamestown Community College. Featured in the show were fall fashions from sports to formalwear modeled by over fifty staff and persons with disabilities from the Agency's various programs. With music providing an exciting background to each presentation, fashion and retail information was featured for each participating model.

With an increasing response in attendance, the event was described by coordinators as a success. The "Fall Fashion Extravaganza" was expanded this year to include the apparel of nine Jamestown area retailers, and featured children as well as adult fashions.

As part of the event, and in addition to the proceeds generated through this affair, the show's co-sponsor, Household Finance Corporation, presented The Resource Center with a \$1,000 check to be used toward the purchase of a video camera. The camera, say Resource Center officials, will be used for staff training and program development. The most rewarding aspect of the "Fall Fashion Extravaganza," observed the organizers, was the joint and the integrated participation of the various programs' participants and staff. An exciting affair ensued which entertained, informed, and educated members of the organization as well as the general public, while providing an opportunity to create stars of individuals with disabilities and staff alike. ■

MADISON

Pumpkin Fest Draws Record Crowd!



McGruff, the Crime Dog, giving children Halloween safety tips.

The great pumpkin in the sky must have been smiling as the Seventh Annual Madison County Association for Retarded Citizens Pumpkin Fest enjoyed the largest crowds in the seven-year history of the event.

"Two days of beautiful weather certainly helped make this year's event a success," said Raymond Lewandowski, Executive Director. "We had about 5,000 people over the two days." The weekend events included appearances by four local bands and performances by several area dance troupes. New features added to the Pumpkin Fest this year were a five foot talking pumpkin and a large tent of craft displays which did

much to attract curious onlookers and shoppers interested in crafts.

The hay and pony rides appeared to be the most popular attractions with long lines of eager children that stretched along the grounds. Adding to the festivities were jugglers, clowns, face painters, and a cameo appearance by McGruff, the Crime Dog.

Lois Jones, Board President, said receipts before expenses, have reached \$17,000. She said the community should be proud of their contributions to this year's event.

"I'd like to thank our volunteers and staff also, for all their support — without them we wouldn't be able to have an event like this," Jones said. ■

Advertisement

Health Benefits Costs — Controllable?

Like most providers of services to the developmentally disabled, your Agency probably received the most recent health insurance premium indicating a rate increase of between 30% and 60%. Management begins to wonder if there is any way to control this runaway expense without having to reduce the benefits being offered. Typically employers do not realize what factors are utilized in developing this premium or the ways they might be able to influence the rate of increase.

Working individually or as a coalition, employers need to develop a risk management strategy to de-mystify their health benefit costs. By developing a risk management strategy, employers can:

- Improve control of plan costs
- Stabilize premium rates
- Enhance financial efficiency
- Ensure timely information for budgeting and oversight.

The components of a risk management strategy to achieve these objectives are as follows:

1. Financial Controls — The objective here is to establish an arrangement whereby the carrier will provide documentation which spells out the true costs of the benefit plan based on incurred claims, administration charges and reserve requirements.
2. Administrative Controls — A written contract with the carrier spells out the procedures for determining eligibility, coordination of benefits where more than one plan may be involved, audit rights for the employer in regards to claims processing and claims processing performance.
3. Cost Containment — Determining whether the plan offered by the carrier is the right one based on claims experience and utilization to avoid the cost of benefits which will not be used by your employee group.
4. Underwriting Issues — Analysis should be performed on all options available to the employer group from pooled arrangements to benefit options under the current contract. Experience rated plans may be affected by the availability of benefit options and these options are for the most part not investigated with regard to financial implications prior to implementation.

We believe that employers must gain a clear understanding of the components of their health benefit costs and investigate ways to control the annual increases. For more information concerning a risk management strategy and its development, please contact us.

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NASSAU

The Nassau AHRC has begun an experimental work study program at its Day Training Center. That activity places individuals for a half day program at the AHRC sheltered workshop with a day treatment trainer accompanying them for that portion of the program day.

At the organization's Camp Loyaltown located in Hunter, New York, three cabins are being refurbished with funds provided from AHRC's Cissy Birnbaum-Five Towns Auxiliary.

Four new sites are projected by the Nassau AHRC as locations for the continued expansion of its Community Residence Program. Those homes are located in Syosset, Hicksville, Bayville and Glen Cove. Additional progress has been reported by the Nassau AHRC on properties in Seaford

and Wantagh with approval having been received for state funding which will make possible the awarding of construction bids during the coming summer. The expansion of community residences remains as a top priority for the Nassau group.

Nassau also reports that a further expansion has occurred at its Day Treatment Center with the establishment of a new class bringing the population of that facility to 285.

Concurrent with NYSARC's fortieth anniversary, the Nassau AHRC marks its fortieth founding year, having been established in October of 1949. Today, Nassau is the largest unit of NYSARC with over thirteen thousand members, including twenty-four active auxiliaries in various communities of Nassau County.

When Michael Lenowicz, who is now thirty-two years of age was first brought to the Nassau AHRC twenty years ago, he was so severely developmentally disabled that his parents had to carry him up the stairs.

Through the years Michael has developed to his full potential and does lead a fulfilling life. He lives in the Nassau AHRC Intermediate Care Facility and attends the organization's day treatment program participating in many activities to the best of his ability. He enjoys life and gives satisfaction and love to his family. His mother, like thousands of other AHRC parents and non parents returns that love through dedicated volunteer work on behalf of the mentally retarded. ■

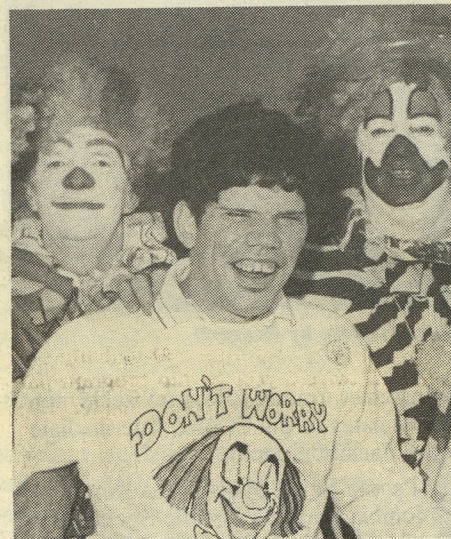


Photo shows Michael participating at a recent Nassau AHRC, ICF party.
Photo courtesy of Schenectady Gazette

HERKIMER

Ilion Elks Lodge Sponsors "Just Say No" Picnic

Ilion Elks Lodge #1444 sponsored the "Just Say No" picnic for people of the Herkimer ARC on August 7, 1989 at Russell Park, Ilion. It was the first of its kind to be put on for the recreation program of community and family services of Herkimer ARC. Several similar programs have been introduced to local elementary school children and other groups.

Everyone enjoyed the magic show pre-

sented by Jeff Sterling, Insight House of Utica. Also present were Barbara Mattias, Coordinator of the Herkimer County DWI Program, who donated several items to the picnic-goers, as well as District Attorney Patrick Kirk.

Over 80 people enjoyed the food and the magic show. The picnic was not only entertaining, but educational as well. ■



Jeff Sterling, magician from Insight House in Utica doing his magic show at "Just Say No" picnic for people of the Herkimer ARC August 7, 1989 Russell Park Ilion, sponsored by Ilion Elks Lodge #1444.

ALBANY

Albany ARC Client-Worker Honored

On September 29, 1989, at the Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building in Albany, New York, a ceremony was held to honor Charles Haffner. He was recognized for outstanding service by Congressman Michael McNulty who personally presented a Certificate of Achievement to Mr. Haffner.

Mr. Haffner participates in the Albany County Association for Retarded Citizens' janitorial supportive work program at the Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building — one of three federal contracts procured as part of the Javits-Wagner O'Day Program.

Within these off-site programs, the Albany County Association for Retarded Citizens provides a full range of janitorial/custodial services such as floor care, window cleaning, general office maintenance, paper recycling, etc.

Needless to say, the Albany ARC is truly proud of Mr. Haffner's achievement and wishes him much continued success. ■



Left to Right: Jose Reyes, Supervisor; Charles Haffner; Congressman Michael McNulty; Mrs. Haffner.

SCHENECTADY

Elks Sponsor Dances



Dance partners, John Bromley and Shawn Powell, enjoy the Harvest Ball.

An evening of dining and dancing is enjoyed twice a year by the program participants of the Schenectady Chapter. Elks Lodge 480 of Schenectady has, for many years, sponsored an annual Harvest Ball in the fall and a Spring Dance in April.

Ladies of the Elks Club prepare a full ziti dinner, followed by unlimited popcorn and ice cream. This year's Harvest Ball featured music for dancing by Grand Central Station Band.

A lot of hard work and planning goes into making these two social events so successful. A committee of Elks members, under the leadership of Ed Martinec, is assisted by an ARC Committee and staff support. Parents and friends on this year's

committee included Frank Senese, Ken Bromley, Bertha Westfall, Guzzie Hertzman, and Eleanor Defilippo. Pam Kriss, the receptionist at Pine Ridge Industries, volunteered her time to coordinate the event and worked with both committees. Pam also arranged for press coverage and saw that invitations went out on time and individuals wishing to attend received their dance tickets. Assisting Pam in design of the invitations and the evening's program was Audrey Nadler, the Administrative Assistant for Residential Program.

These dances are two very special dates on the social calendars of program participants and are looked forward to, and enjoyed, by all attending. Thank you Elks Lodge 480! ■

CHEMUNG

Chemung ARC Renames Its Work Center Program

Chemung County ARC has selected Southern Tier Industries as the new name for its work center program. The former designation was Work Development Center.

Joseph Coletta, STI Director, said the change reflects the facility's mission as it moves through the final decade of this century.

"When WDC was launched more than 20 years ago, the phrase 'work development' aptly described our purpose. Today we have progressed further," Coletta said.

"Today we are able to promote a worker-trainee through the work center experience and, in a growing number of cases, recommend them for competitive employment," Coletta said.

STI offers training and employment in janitorial services, food services, wood shop and general production, including a 1989 entry into micrographics. ■

NIAGARA

Looking to the Future

Monday, October 16, 1989 marked a new beginning for the Day Treatment program of the Niagara County ARC. Program participant Peter Agugliaro cut the ribbon dedicating the new center with the assistance of Niagara ARC President Bruce Shields and Commissioner Arthur Y. Webb of the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Day Treatment Director Connie Brown, staff and program participants were on hand to welcome families and community leaders who toured the impressive facility which boasts a self-care area and model apartment, a full-service cafeteria and a spacious recreation area.

The Day Treatment program currently serves 145 individuals with disabilities. Training takes place in the areas of pre-vocational skills, self care, and leisure time activities all with the goal of assisting program participants in reaching their fullest potential.

In an effort to encourage even more family involvement at Day Treatment, the name of the Parent's Support Group has been changed to Family Support Group to encourage extended family of program participants to take part. The meetings are held under the leadership of a clinical psychologist once a month. During the meetings, any family member or close friend can share experiences about their loved ones in program. The group affords the opportunity to discuss any concerns, such as the feelings that may arise when a program participant is making the move from living at home to living in a community residence. ■

SULLIVAN

Sullivan ARC Recipient of Healthy Grant From WellCare of New York

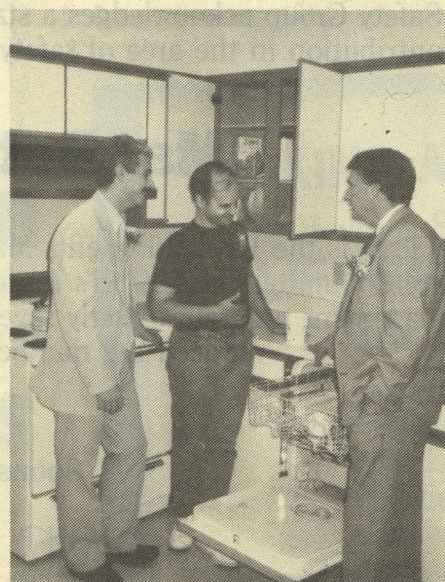
Stephen C. Helfgott, Executive Director of the Sullivan County Association for Retarded Citizens today announced the receipt of a "Healthy Grant" in the amount of \$2,700.00 to be used to put up a tunnel (covered walkways) between the Day Treatment Facility buildings located in South Fallsburg.

In a letter from the Healthy Grants Executive Committee, Chairman Neil Eisenberg explained that the executive committee "chose this particular grant application based upon creativity, originality, need and overall benefits to clients and employees".

Representatives from WellCare were on hand at the ARC's Laurel Road facility on Wednesday, November 8 to present the grant to Executive Director Stephen C.

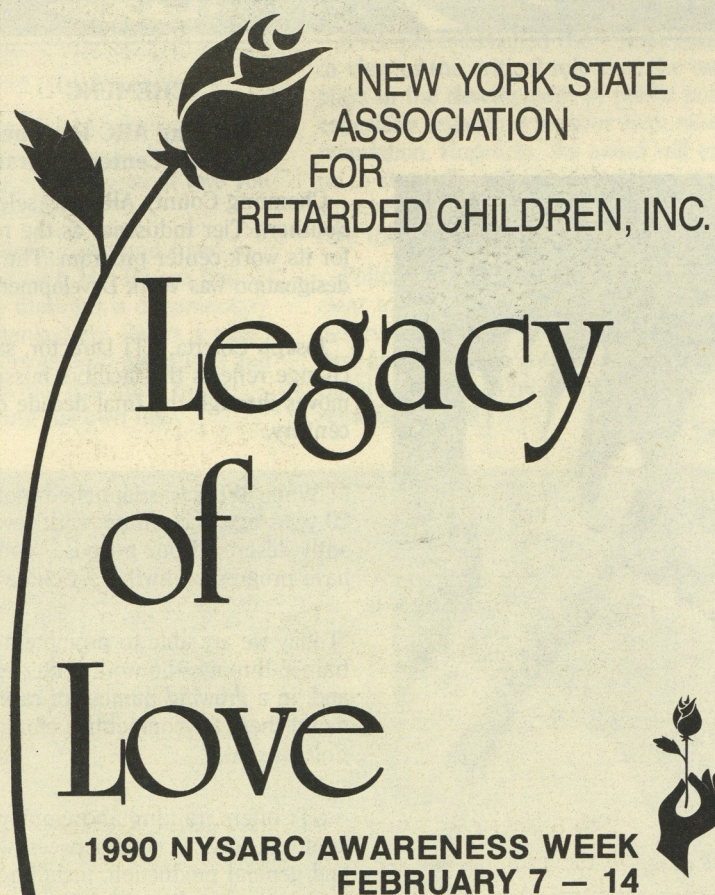
Helfgott. According to Eisenberg, "WellCare Healthy Grants are awarded twice yearly with the second cycle scheduled for Spring 1990". He explained that the decision making process was difficult as applications were received in the categories of health, education, equipment and special programs for children, employees and the elderly.

Helfgott pointed out that without the receipt of this grant, it would have proved a burden upon the Agency to provide this added safety measure during inclement weather. "Now", said Helfgott, "we can be assured that our clients will not have to brave ice and snow as they walk between buildings and can arrive at their classes warm and dry and safe." He added, "we are ever so grateful to the WellCare people for recognizing our need and assisting us in this important endeavor". ■



(From Left to Right:) Bruce Shields, Niagara ARC President, talks to Peter Agugliaro, Day Treatment Participant, and Commissioner Arthur Y. Webb from the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities about the model apartment in the new facility.

Fourth Annual "Legacy of Love" To Be Held in February



The Fourth Annual "Legacy of Love" will be celebrated during the week of February 7-14, 1990.

"Legacy of Love" is a special event which has statewide participation. Sponsored by the NYSARC Public Information Committee, "Legacy of Love" provides local ARC chapters an opportunity to heighten the visibility of their

chapter in their own community as well as collectively as part of a statewide Association.

As in the past three years, "Legacy of Love" gives NYSARC chapters the chance to participate in community outreach and education activities regarding causes and prevention of mental retardation and the programs and serv-

Man with Down Syndrome Stars in ABC TV Series

A twenty-three year old man with Down syndrome, Christopher Burke, is one of the stars in a new series on ABC-TV this fall. "Life Goes On" is the first series to regularly feature an actor with Down syndrome who plays a character with the disorder.

The hour-long show revolves around a

family with three children. The first show in the series focused on "Corky" and his experience in an integrated high school setting.

The show airs on ABC at 7:00 p.m. every Sunday.

ices that their chapter offers to families in their county. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to recognize the abilities of persons with mental retardation and to highlight the accomplishments and contributions they have made throughout the year.

Recognized in the State as an important event, Governor Mario Cuomo has designated the week of February 7-14, 1990 as "Mental Retardation Awareness Week" in New York State and will be issuing a Gubernatorial Proclamation in honor of NYSARC chapters.

In addition to the benefits of the statewide public education activities, "Legacy of Love" is also a valuable fundraiser for many chapters. Each year, through a bidding process, a "Legacy of Love" product is designed by a local chapter and then produced by individuals who are mentally retarded/developmentally disabled working in that chapter's sheltered workshop program. Local chapters purchase the product from the manufacturing chapter at a wholesale price and then sell the product during the awareness week to the general public in their communities, at the same time providing information about mental

retardation and their programs and services to the purchasers.

Each year participation has increased appreciably. As a result, over 30 chapters joined together in 1989 selling over 22,000 products. It is anticipated that many more chapters will join in 1990.

This year's "Legacy of Love" item is a hurricane lamp featuring a real red rose that has been preserved in a hurricane vase, surrounded by white Victorian lace and rose leaves. Inserted in the top of the vase is a tempered votive cup and candle, enhanced with a bright red ribbon and bow. The vase is attractively packaged in a gold foil display box imprinted with the "Legacy of Love" emblem.

The product can be purchased at \$4.95 each. Individuals wishing to buy the "Legacy of Love" lamp should contact their local ARC chapter. For more information regarding the "Legacy of Love," please call or write to Susan A. Lyons, Director of Public Information and Special Projects at the NYSARC, Inc. State Office.

Let's help make this year's "Legacy of Love" the best year yet by supporting the efforts of the local chapters during the week of Valentine's Day. ■

New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc.

SAFETY GROUP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Safety Group acknowledges a staff member who has made a significant contribution in the area of safety for the Schoharie County Chapter.

Ms. Betty Licari

Ms. Licari is the Payroll/Benefits Manager and Chairperson of the Chapter Safety Committee. Ms. Licari's leadership in establishing a safety and risk management program directly saved the chapter \$20,000 and drastically reduced the number of lost time injuries.

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

1. North Country Community College Office of Continuing Education

Theme:
"The 7th Annual North Country
Symposium on Developmental Disabilities"

Date:
March 2, 1990

Place:
North Country Community College
Saranac Lake, New York

For more information contact:
Office of Continuing Education
(518) 891-2915

2. New York State Commission on Quality of Care

Theme:
"1990 Annual Advocacy Conference"

Date:
May 15-16, 1990

Place:
Hilton Hotel
Albany, New York

Co-Sponsored by:
New York State Developmental
Disabilities Planning Council

For more information contact:
Robin Worobey
(518) 473-7378

3. New York State Association of Retarded Children, Inc.

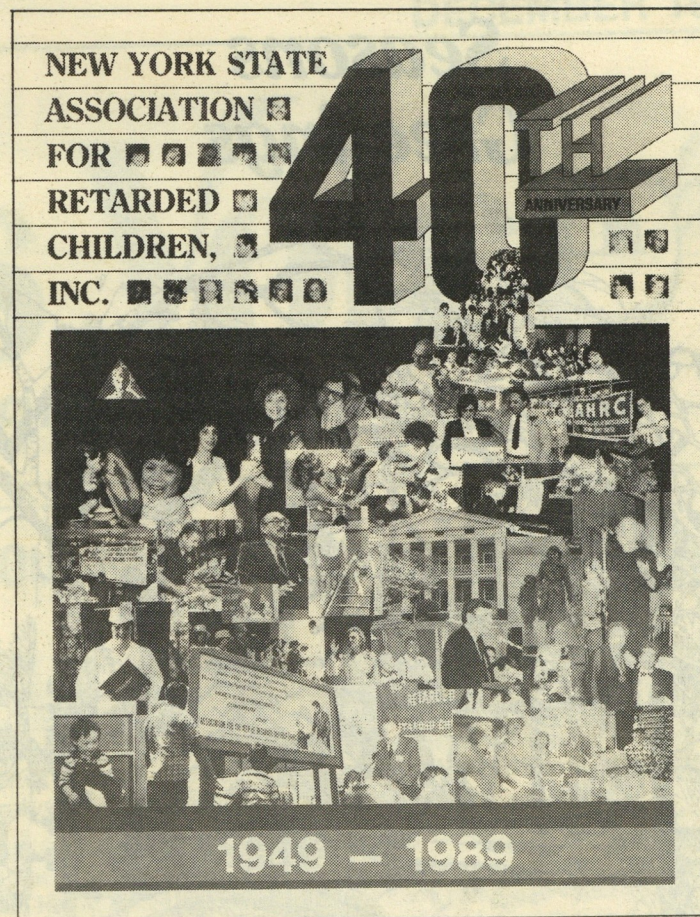
Theme:
"NYSARC Conference on Family Support
Services"

Date:
July 27-28, 1990

Place:
Albany Marriott
Albany, New York

Co-Sponsored by:
New York State Commission on Quality
of Care for the Mentally Disabled
New York State Developmental
Disabilities Planning Council

For more information contact:
Helen R. Hines
Assistant Executive Director for Policy
Analysis and Training
New York State Association for
Retarded Children, Inc.
393 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, New York 12054
(518) 439-8311



40th Anniversary Commemorative Posters Available

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., an 18" x 24" commemorative poster has been printed and is available for purchase at a cost of \$4.00 each (includes postage and handling).

Those individuals wishing to purchase the poster may do so by completing the form below and mailing it with a check or money order to the NYSARC State Office.

1989 Commemorative Poster ORDER FORM

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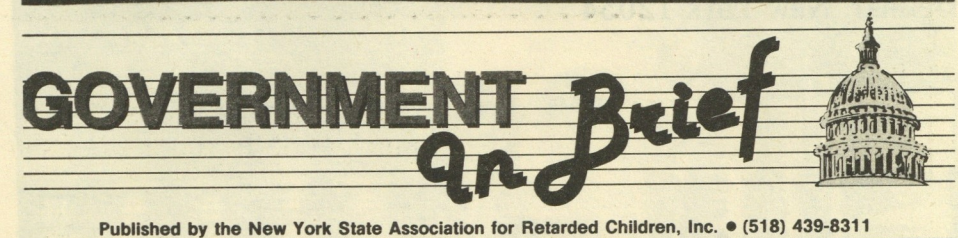
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ATTN: Susan A. Lyons



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Government in Brief is published once a month as a vehicle to provide up-to-date coverage of current events in the field of developmental disabilities. It regularly features a succinct overview of important developments in Congress, New York State Government, the Courts and from around the nation. It is the most comprehensive publication of its kind and is an invaluable means of tracking news of importance to every advocate, provider, parent and interested person.

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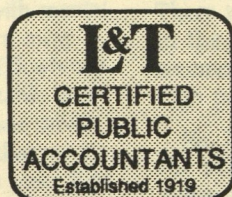
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393 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, New York 12054



ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 4 Public Information Committee Meeting
Delmar, New York
- 6 EDA Executive Committee Meeting
Delmar, New York
- 9 Executive Committee Meeting
Syracuse, New York
- 9 Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
Syracuse, New York

1990

JANUARY

- 16 The NYSARC Supplementary Recreation and Special Olympics Committee
Delmar, New York
- 19 NYSARC Prevention Committee Meeting
Delmar, New York
- 26 NYSARC YOUTH Committee Meeting
Delmar, New York

MARCH

- 2-3 Presidents and Executive Directors Meeting
Location to be announced

APRIL

- 20-21 NYSARC Spring Board of Governors' Meeting
Sheraton Inn
Albany, New York

MAY

- 9 NYSARC Public Information Committee Meeting
Syracuse, New York
- 10 NYSARC Chapter Public Information Resource Group Meeting
Syracuse, New York

OCTOBER

- 31- NYSARC Annual
Nov. 4 Convention
Concord Resort Hotel
Kiamesha Lake, New York

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