



The Arc
Northwest Wayne County

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Inside The Arc

July 2020



THE ARC NW ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, August 27th
6pm - 7pm online

Register at www.thearcnw.org for
zoom invitation

Out of concern for the health and well-being of our membership and friends, we have opted to conduct this year's Annual Meeting virtually rather than at a single venue. We will still conduct a meeting, hold elections and recognize volunteers for their service to our organization and to our community, and you can participate through your device at home.

"See" you there!



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Redford, MI 48239

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www.thearcnw.org

2019 - 2020 Board of Directors

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Office Manager: **Latrice Wilborn**

Achieve with us.



United Way
for Southeastern Michigan

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The Arc US released the following statement on the need for swift and substantial action in our society, and from our nation's leaders, to dismantle racism, end discrimination, and to honor, protect, and enforce the civil and human rights of all people.

"The ongoing violence and police brutality against Black and Brown people in our country is unacceptable. We stand in solidarity with every person and community that is appalled by the homicide of George Floyd, and so many others before him. We stand in solidarity too with those who are taking action against the systemic racism that underlies this behavior. Racist attitudes and behavior should have no place in America.

"Tragically, the historical and everyday reality is that the lives and humanity of people of color, and members of other marginalized communities, are too often not valued and respected. The Arc renews its own commitment to social justice and the dismantling of the systems of oppression and discrimination that further this violence and neglect.

"We all must step up and speak out, including our nation's leaders, to uphold the rights of communities of color to be free from over policing, police brutality, misconduct, harassment, and racism. To be silent is to be complicit," said Peter Berns, CEO, The Arc.

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County fully affirms this statement of human rights. We stand in solidarity with our Black and Brown members, families, staff, neighbors, community members, and brothers and sisters around the world, declaring that their lives and their rights as citizens matter. We condemn thoughts and acts of discrimination, degradation and anything that diminishes a person's worth. The Arc NW remains deeply committed to advocating for human rights to build inclusive communities for people of all colors and variety of giftedness. We pledge to fight against any force, ideology, or policy that seeks to take away human rights or to diminish human worth. Let us stand together with prayers for a unified peaceful world where everyone belongs.

I know the world is bruised and bleeding, and though it is important not to ignore its pain, it is also critical to refuse to succumb to its malevolence. Like failure, chaos contains information that can lead to knowledge - even wisdom. Like art.

- Toni Morrison

Gretchen Sanewsky
Executive Director



MEMO UPDATE

RE: ARC NW SAFE OFFICE SPACE WITH STAFF PRESENT DURING COVID-19
TO: All Arc NW staff
FROM: Gretchen Sanewsky, Executive Director
DATE: June 23, 2020

The Arc NW continues to observe CDC and state health precaution guidelines. Staff will need to monitor possible COVID-19 symptoms prior to each day they are in the office as indicated in the May 25, 2020 memo. **On Monday, July 6 summer hours of Monday-Thursday, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM and Fridays 8:30 AM-Noon will apply.** Staff can resume working together in the office keeping a 6 foot distance from one another and wearing a face covering in common spaces of the conference room and hallways when others are present. Staff may continue working remotely and/or stagger coming into the office as they feel comfortable.

As of July 6, 2020 the building will be open on a limited basis, allowing 1-2 people to come into the building wearing face coverings. A screen will be installed in the front office to limit the spread of contagions. Otherwise, people are still asked to drop off paperwork through the mail slot, call or email, and drop off/pick up Lekotek toys outside the door.

Thank you to everyone for your continued cooperation as we keep everyone safe and healthy!

Hello All Members and Families,

We hope all of you are beginning to engage in a few Summer activities now that our warmer weather is here. Taking a walk for some exercise or eating out doors for a picnic are always fun to do.

Due to the uncertainty of the school districts opening for fall, it is unknown whether the cafeterias will be available for our dances.

Tentatively, we do have our Christmas dinner/dance on the calendar for Sunday, December 13, 2:00-6:00 p.m. at the Hellenic Center. We will not be sending out a Flyer (to sign up) until we know for sure that we can safely schedule this event. A Fall newsletter will be coming out with a continuation of any updates for everyone.

Continue to follow the guidelines by wearing a mask in public, washing your hands often, and keeping 6 feet apart from everyone. Have a fun Summer and stay healthy!

Jackie Norris
Just Fun Club

JUST FUN CLUB NEWS



All Arc NW Membership fees are due in September

**Won't you join & support
The Arc NW as a member?**

The Arc NW provides advocacy, support and information on disability-related issues across the lifespan.

**We seek - and work - to build a more
inclusive community.**

See the Membership form on the back page of this newsletter or join us online at
www.thearcnw.org

Achieve with us.

Here are some resources from the Arc US to help you learn more about voting, including a Disability Voter Guide:



https://thearc.org/vote/?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=vote

Here is another excellent resource from Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered. It's SABE's webpage on voting resources specifically for people with disabilities.

<https://www.sabeusa.org/govoter/resources/>

The Arc NW office will be closed on July 3 for the July 4 holiday.



Self-Determination (SD) Corner

- ▶ \$2.00/hour rate increase for Direct Support Professionals was approved for April-June, 2020. Wayne County Fiscal Intermediaries will pay this as a lump sum to workers in August, 2020.
- ▶ State Senate Bill 690 proposes a \$3.00/hour pay increase for Direct Support Professionals. If passed in the legislature, this could take effect starting July 1, 2020 and be a permanent increase. No news yet as of the writing of this newsletter.
- ▶ Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) identified individuals who have family/friends as their staff. These staff now have the choice to move from working under a staffing agency or working under self-determination. This move is optional for individuals/families and workers. This new option requires a Fiscal Intermediary to pay the staff. The Arc NW is taking on several new individuals and staff who have chosen this option.
- ▶ Community Living Services (CLS) Budgets based on individual plans of service will be simplified. Budgets will include the number of approved community living services hours times the standardized rate. All other services, such as transportation, will be tracked separately.
- ▶ CLS is glad to report an increase in the number of Supports Coordinators at their agency working directly with individuals and families. Caseloads for Supports Coordinators are smaller so they have more time and attention for each person. Further, CLS will be using independent Supports Coordinators contracted with CLS to provide the same coordination of services.
- ▶ CLS URGES families to apply for Home Help as it is the first payer of community living services for individuals with disabilities.

Options for individuals that didn't apply for Home Help and already have staff:

- Designate one staff person to provide Home Help services to be paid the lower Home Help wage
- Designate one staff person to provide Home Help services and request from CLS that the budget include a higher wage for that staff person's other hours to make up for the loss of income under Home Help
- Ask each staff person to work 1, or a few, hours of each shift under Home Help so the pay cut is evenly spread among all staff

Upcoming Dates

8/27/20 Annual Member Meeting via ZOOM

8/30/20 Golf Outing

9/18/20 Supporter Appreciation Breakfast

10/1/20 Census Day at The Arc NW

10/1/20 - 10/4/20 Millionaire Parties/Texas Hold 'Em

2/27/21 Ball for All, 2021 Dinner Dance, Celebrating 60 Years

Join us at The Arc NW 2020 Golf Outing



THE ARC NW 2020 GOLF OUTING
Sunday, August 30th
8:35AM Shotgun Start
Fox Creek Golf Course
36000 Seven Mile Rd. | Livonia, MI

More outing details at
www.thearcnw.org

Will you join us for The Arc NW Golf Outing?

For two decades, the Golf Outing has raised funds to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This year, we have moved the outing from its May date to **Sunday, August 30th** in response to COVID-19. Sign up early - last year's event SOLD OUT! Check out The Arc NW website to learn more at

www.thearcnw.org



Celebrate the ADA! July 26, 2020

Learn more about the history of this landmark legislation and check out resources for educating, informing and celebrating The Americans with Disabilities Act.

<https://adata.org/ada-anniversary>

THE ARC NW PRESENTS

MEMBER TAKEOVER

Would you like to share
your story on our
Instagram? Email Wendy
Ernzen at
wernzen@thearcnw.org



**Do you want
people with
disabilites get
help finding
jobs?**

**Complete the
Census today!**

- Send your completed questionnaire to the U.S. Census Bureau National Processing Center at 1201 E 10th Street, Jeffersonville, IN 47132.
- Take the census by phone at 1-844-330-2020.
- Take the census online at <https://my2020census.gov/>.

Find out more at www.thearc.org/census. Information brought to you by The Arc Dearborn, The Arc Detroit, The Arc NW, and The Arc WW through generous funding from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Community Foundation
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Donations and Memorials

Golf Outing

Varsity Ford
Absopure Water Company

In Memory of Sara Elizabeth (Robertson) Sevilla

Nina Cameron
Judy and Miles Tomasaitis
The Bearden Family
Lori Stafford
Marianne Knight

In Memory of Andrew Szakaly

Shirley Ferguson

Donations

Richard and Loren Parker
Jean Stegen
Janet Webley and Adrian Giaccaglia

If you hear of the passing of an Arc member please let us know. Help us honor the memories of our members and support one another through difficult times.

Call The Arc NW office at
313-532-7915

A Self-Advocate's Guide to COVID-19

Part 9: Know Your Rights: Bringing a Supporter to a Hospital or a Doctor's Office

Pictures and plain language make this booklet awesome!

Thank you, The Autistic Self Advocacy Network and Green Mountain Self-Advocates, for this resource, "Know Your Rights: Bringing a Supporter to a Hospital or a Doctor's Office".

Find it online at:
<https://bit.ly/2Yhdf4U>

AM & PM Saturday Bowling UPDATE

Saturday bowling has NO NEW INFO regarding opening of Oak Lanes. Our contact there indicates no date has been set and they think bowling alleys may be some of the last places allowed to open.

For now, we still intend to begin the 2020/2021 Season on Saturday Sept 12th.

We will provide more details as we get we get closer to the date and have better guidance. If the opening day must be delayed we will announce it through The Arc NW newsletter and Facebook Page. We encourage bowlers/parents/staff to monitor The Arc NW for further details.

Social Distancing guidelines and facility availability have also, of course, resulted in the End of Season Awards Banquet being delayed until the Fall Bowling Season resumes.

In the meantime: "Happy Summer Vacation!"

Jim Gallas & Vickie Soto



The Arc Sports News

Happy Summer Everyone!

I'm sad to report Special Olympics is suspended until August 1st. They were talking about a tournament in Brighton on August 15th for Baseball and Soccer, but now it is officially cancelled. SOMI will be having another meeting toward the end of July to discuss Special Olympics. I will keep The Arc & Coaches posted on the outcome of the meeting. Let's hope the sports program will open back up before the end of 2020.

Athletes, try to keep active during the summer months. Keep drinking water and wash your hands often. Coaches, check Coaches Corner regarding expiration dates for you and your volunteers. Also, review your team's expiration date on the health form. If you need a copy of the expiration health form list please let me know & I will resend it to you.

Thank you for all you & your volunteers do for the program. Enjoy your summer.

Janice



Autism Severity Can Evolve Markedly During Childhood

by Shaun Heasley | June 22, 2020



It's long been thought that autism severity remained largely static over a person's lifetime, but new research suggests otherwise.

A study looking at 125 kids on the spectrum finds that nearly half displayed a significant change in the level of their symptoms between the ages of 3 and 6.

"We found that nearly 30 percent of young children have less severe autism symptoms at age 6 than they did at age 3. In some cases, children lost their autism diagnoses entirely," said David Amaral, a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of California, Davis and senior author of the study published recently in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. "It is also true that some children appear to get worse."

Researchers measured the children's autism severity using the 10-point ADOS Calibrated Severity Score. The kids — all of whom received community-based autism intervention — were assessed at ages 3 and 6. A difference of two points or more over the course of the three-year period indicated a significant change in severity, researchers said.

About 29 percent of the children saw their severity decrease, with seven of the kids recording scores below the threshold for an autism diagnosis when they were reevaluated at age 6, the study found.

Meanwhile, nearly 17 percent of the children experienced an increase in severity and roughly 55 percent exhibited stable symptoms, according to the findings.

The researchers said they were surprised to see that children whose symptoms increased over the time period studied displayed lower severity levels initially. They also observed different patterns for girls versus boys.

"We found that girls with autism decrease in severity more than boys and increase in severity less than boys during early childhood," said Einat Waizbard-Bartov, a graduate researcher at the University of California, Davis MIND Institute and an author of the study. "The fact that more of the girls appear to have decreased in autism severity may be due to an increasing number of girls compared to boys who, with age, have learned how to mask their symptoms."

In addition, children with higher IQs were more likely to see their symptoms decline, the study found.

More research is needed to further understand what's causing autism severity to change in some children, those behind the study said.

"Unfortunately, it is not currently possible to predict who will do well and who will develop more severe autism symptoms and need different interventions," said Amaral.





The Arc
Northwest Wayne County

July 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



Arc NW Office
Closed



5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

All Sports activities of The Arc NW, as well as The Just Fun Club events have been suspended until a later date, yet to be determined.
After I'm Gone dates and information will be available in next month's newsletter.

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30 31



CHECK IT OUT!
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County's
Web Site
thearcnw.org

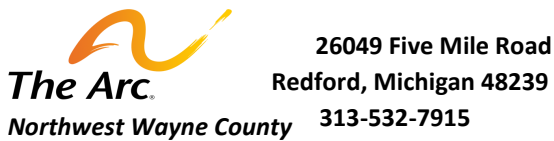




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Each edition of this newsletter is prepared for mailing by volunteers .



Inside The Arc is also available online at thearcnw.org
Call 313-532-7915 to end your printed mailed newsletter.

Membership Application

Member Name(s) _____

Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Daytime Phone _____
Email Address _____

PHOTO DISCLAIMER: By joining The Arc NW I am agreeing to have my image used for printed and online marketing efforts.

Signature: _____

Membership Dues

New Member

Renewing Member

DONATIONS \$100

\$25 \$150

\$50 \$ _____ Other **\$100 Organization**

\$75

Achieve with us!

\$25 Individual Membership

Additional Membership Fees: \$5 to join Just Fun Club
\$15 to join Lekotek

\$50 Family Membership

An individual and his/her family or a group home with multiple residents. Includes additional membership fees for Just Fun Club and Lekotek.

Businesses, non-profits, community groups, or government entities that support people with disabilities.