ADAPT is 40
Advocacy Org. Celebrates 4 Decades

ADAPT members hear speakers at one of several events throughout the day at the organization’s recent 40th anniversary celebration in Denver, Colo.

Chapter members from across the country also attended a rally at Civic Center Park in Colorado, where they listened to speeches from several original ADAPT founders, members, Colorado Lt. Gov.- Elect Dianne Primavera (D) and State Sen. Jessie Danielson (D-Dist. 20).

Afterwards, a memorial dinner was held honoring Babs Johnson, a beloved ADAPT leader who died this year which was followed by a screening of “Piss on Pity: The Story of ADAPT” a new film on the history of the organization.

ADAPT began four decades ago when 19 activists with disabilities, known as the Gang of 19, blocked a bus through the night to demand accessible public transportation in Denver, Colo. Since then, the advocacy group has continued to grow throughout the country, with members organizing demonstrations, sit-ins, rallies and civil disobedience, including occupying senators offices in Washington, D.C.

In inset photo, ADAPT organizers enjoy the rally. Seen left to right, are Robbie Roppolo and Dawn Russell of Colorado; Mike Oxford of Kansas and Stephanie Thomas of Texas.
New York state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli recently urged Congress to increase the eligibility age from 26 to 46 for individuals who can participate in the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program, a savings and investment tool for individuals with disabilities.

The program, which launched more than a year ago, already has approximately $3 million in assets saved by individuals and their families to pay for medical and living costs. The legislation before Congress, the ABLE Age Adjustment Act (H.R. 1874 / S.817), amends the Internal Revenue Code for state-sponsored ABLE programs to increase the age threshold for eligibility for the program.

“People who become disabled later in life, including many of our veterans, face the same challenges and same expenses as those disabled from accidents or illnesses as children or young adults,” DiNapoli said. “Since launching our program a year ago, raising the age of who can participate is one of the major changes requested by New Yorkers with disabilities who want a more secure financial future.”

The legislation is currently with the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. Five of the bill’s sponsors are from New York, including Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), as well as U.S. Reps. John Katko (R-Dist. 24), Sean Patrick Maloney (D-Dist. 18), Jose Serrano (D-Dist. 15) and Yvette Clarke (D-Dist. 9). “I have consistently fought for the ABLE program in the Senate and am proud to support expanding the program’s age limit to assist New Yorkers who become disabled later in life,” said Gillibrand.

“During my time in Congress, I have consistently led efforts to support ABLE programming, which helps empower individuals with disabilities and ensure they have the tools necessary to save and plan for the long-term,” said Katko. The New York ABLE program was signed into law in 2015, and started operating in 2017. DiNapoli’s office oversees the program and investments. It allows New Yorkers with disabilities to save money in their own names without risking their Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid and certain other means-based benefits. Also known as 529A accounts, they can be opened with a minimum contribution of $25.

The annual contribution is capped at $15,000. Account owners who are employed can contribute an additional $12,000 or their annual income, whichever is less. The maximum account balance is $100,000. Contributions can be made by eligible individuals, family members or friends, but are not tax-deductible.

To be eligible, an individual must have a disability that was present before age 26. Participants must be eligible for SSI or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), be blind, have a significant disability document.

Many at Risk When Temperatures Dip

New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) and the Department of Health are advising individuals to prepare for dropping temperatures throughout the winter, because cold weather can cause or worsen health problems.

Certain individuals are at increased risk for injury or death, including those chronically homeless, those living in homes with limited heat, the disabled, alcohol and drug abusers, infants, the elderly and the mentally ill. Prolonged exposure to cold can lead to frostbite and/or hypothermia.

Anyone exhibiting symptoms of these conditions should call 911 or go to the emergency room.

With the low temperatures and even lower wind chills, make sure you bundle up,” said NYCEM Commissioner Joseph Esposito. “If you’re at increased risk for injury due to the extreme cold, significantly limit your time outdoors, and check in on elderly family members and neighbors.”

Workers who spend a lot of time outdoors are at risk for health impacts. Employers should implement safe work practices, provide appropriate protective equipment, and train workers on how to stay safe during cold weather. Consumption of alcohol should be limited, because it causes the body to lose heat faster and impairs judgment, which may limit the ability to take appropriate precautions in a dangerously cold environment.

A code blue weather emergency is issued when the temperature is forecast to drop to 32 degrees or less between 4 p.m. and 8 a.m., including calculations for wind chill factors. No one who is homeless and seeking shelter in New York City during a code blue will be denied.

An outreach team, reachable at 311, can help with finding resources such as shelters, drop-in centers, safe havens and stabilization beds.

Residential building owners are legally required to maintain indoor temperatures at 68 degrees when the temperatures fall below 55 degrees outside during the day and a minimum of 62 degrees indoors overnight, regardless of outdoor temperatures. If a tenant cannot get the building owner to comply, they should register an official complaint via 311 or www.nyc.gov.

To keep heated homes as warm as possible, use adequate insulation and hang blankets over windows and doorways. In addition, wear layered clothing.

Fireplaces can use it for heat, but a damper and screen must be used for safety.

Do not use the oven or fuel-burning space heaters, as these can release carbon monoxide. Open water faucets to a steady drip so pipes do not freeze.

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can help low-income renters and homeowners with heating bills and other energy expenses.

Eligibility is based on household income, family size and energy costs. To apply call 212 331-3150.
Feds Proposal May Affect Disabled Immigrants

The Department of Homeland Security recently proposed a rule that would greatly expand the definition of a public charge, a person who is likely to become primarily dependent on the government for sustenance.

The expansion would make it significantly harder for people with disabilities to immigrate to the United States or retain their legal status. Advocates claim it will lead to people concealing their disability or avoid needing benefits for fear of being denied entry or possibly deportation.

Judge Refuses to Dismiss Lawsuit Against Lyft

U.S. District Judge Nelson Roman recently denied Lyft’s request to dismiss a lawsuit that alleges the popular ridesharing transportation company violates rules mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and New York state human rights laws.

The law firm of Finkelstein, Blankinship Frei-Pearson and Garber (FBFG) represents plaintiffs Harriet Lowell and Westchester Disabled on the Move Inc. (WDOMI) in this suit. Lowell resides in White Plains, N.Y., and typically uses a motorized scooter to travel.

She would like to use Lyft transportation services when traveling throughout Westchester County and when going to her regular medical appointments in New York City. However, the company does not make wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV) available in Westchester. As a result, Lowell’s husband must regularly take time off from work to drive her to appointments.

Plaintiff WDOMI is a Yonkers-based nonprofit, run largely by individuals with disabilities. Their mission is to empower people with disabilities to control their own lives, and they advocate for civil rights and a society free of barriers to the disabled.

FBFG alleges that Lyft pervasively and systematically excludes people with mobility disabilities from its transportation services and that members of WDOMI “have been and will be injured because of Lyft’s unfair practices.”

“We are pleased that Judge Roman’s decision will give people with disabilities the opportunity to end discrimination in transportation services,” said Melvyn Tannman, executive director of WDOMI. “Lyft and other similar transportation providers must provide services for all, including individuals who cannot transfer from their wheelchairs to a vehicle. Excluding a person due to her or his limitations is discrimination, plain and simple.”

Senate Passes Bill to Fight Alzheimer’s

The Senate Health Committee unanimously passed the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act, legislation authored by U.S. Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.V.) and Tim Kaine (D-Va.).

“Five and a half million Americans are living with the disease, and that number is soaring as our overall population grows older and lives longer,” said Collins, a founder of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease. “After decades of increasing investments in biomedical research for Alzheimer’s, we are ready for the next step — to translate research into practice. The BOLD Act takes a multi-pronged public health approach that would create a modern infrastructure for the prevention, treatment and care of Alzheimer’s and related dementias.

“The bipartisan BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act will fund and promote early diagnosis, effective intervention and better treatment options and establish centers of excellence to educate the public and professionals on the illness,” said Masto. “I’m proud to support this bipartisan effort to support doctors, caregivers and all those working to improve the quality of life and finally stop Alzheimer’s.”

“We here at the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) cannot emphasize enough the damage this will do to immigrants with disabilities,” said Victor Calise, commissioner of MOPD.

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Parent Advocate Testifies at Forum

Mary Somoza, center, testified at the recent New York state Department of Health’s 1115 Medicaid Redesign Team Waiver Public Forum at the New York Academy of Medicine, along with her daughters Anastasia, left and Alba.

Approximately 70 people were in attendance, and 32 people testified about the need for more funding for long-term managed care agencies such as Independence Care Systems (ICS).
Are you experiencing stress or anxiety?

Our Behavioral Health program supports people dealing with the effects of vision loss* and their emotional health. Our team is also here to help people of all ages cope with:

- Depression
- Anxiety due to:
  - vision loss
  - multiple medical issues
  - family crises
  - chronic illness
- Trauma
- Addiction
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Chronic illness

* Lighthouse Guild’s Behavioral Health program is the only program of its kind in the US that has specialized expertise in vision loss.

We are a Medicare and Medicaid provider and accept many insurance plans. We are licensed by the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH).

Located: 250 West 64th Street (bet. Amsterdam & West End Ave.)

Call us for an appointment 212-769-6263

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lighthouseguild.org

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Title: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator (Part-Time)

Description: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator will build upon and administer the ADA accommodation program from start to finish. The position will also be involved in the Light Duty/Return-to-Work program. Other duties include but are not limited to the following: Identifies and performs outreach to employees possibly requiring accommodations; educates management and employees on the rights and duties under the ADA; coordinates with management and employees to develop and provide employees effective and reasonable accommodations; develops written materials and other informational pieces regarding the ADA program; develops and maintains internal measures to track ADA status and compliance and maintains and documents records of all disability and accommodation issues ensures compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies; assures that workers with disabilities are provided effective and reasonable accommodations allowing them to work productively and safely; assure Township Sponsored activities, Township Facilities and events address accessibility and accommodation concerns.

Requirements: Bachelor’s degree in social sciences, human resource management, business administration or related field and two years of personnel administration experience are required (or a combination of education and/or training and/or experience which provides an equivalent background required to perform the work of the class); a minimum of eighteen (18) months of experience in a position that involved evaluating and administering reasonable accommodation issues subject to the ADA or §504 and completion of a course on barrier-free design or ADA accessibility guidelines which was sponsored or approved by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs or a department which oversees the Uniform Construction Code in any other State, the American Institute of Architects, the Paralyzed Veterans Association, or the United Spinal Association, within twelve (12) months of hire.

Salary: DOQ

Hours: Part-Time, three days weekly (not to exceed twenty hours per week).

Apply: Send resume or application to:
Ms. Braedon Gregory, HRIS Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Township of Montclair, 205 Claremont Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07042 or email: bgregory@montclairnjusa.org

Closing Date: Job posting will remain open until position is filled.

UNITED SPINAL NOW

Disability Issues and the Presidential Campaign

BY JAMES WEISMAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

O n July 26th, 1990 I landed in Washington, D.C. and said to a taxi driver “the White House please.” I pulled up at the front gate, feeling like a big shot, knowing my name would be on a list of invited guests. Directed to the South Lawn, I saw hundreds of people with disabilities sitting on the White House lawn and never felt more insignificant.

In moments I was reduced from big shot to insignificant lawyer who happened to be in the right place at the right time. Obviously, generations had lived and died yearning for something like the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and decades of advocacy by people with disabilities had led to this occasion.

When Pres. Ronald Reagan was elected, he appointed Vice Pres. George H. W. Bush to chair the President’s Task Force on Regulatory Reform. Its first press release identified the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the transportation regulations of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as its targets. It was successful at undermining the transportation regulations, but the parents of disabled children organized and maintained IDEA.

At the same time the Reagan administration was trying to keep buses and trains inaccessible, it charged the National Council on Disability by drafting a report titled “Toward Independence” which would inform the President of what people with disabilities needed to live productively in the American mainstream and be free from discrimination. The Council issued its report and Reagan told them to rewrite it in statute form.

Of course, that was the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and it required, among other things, that buses and trains be accessible. Vice Pres. Bush endorsed the Americans with Disabilities Act at the same time the Reagan administration, with Vice President Bush’s support, was opposing many of its provisions.

The ADA was originally introduced in 1988. The Bill died but Vice Pres. Bush was running for President and endorsed the ADA as a candidate. After the election the community held him to his promise. The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) demonstrated outside the White House.

Pres. Bush came through and made possible a bi-partisan effort to pass the ADA. Neither Republican Sens. Dole nor Hatch, both credited with being ADA supporters, endorsed the ADA until Pres. Bush. Bush gave them the go ahead.

On July 26th, on the stage with Pres. Bush were EEOC Chair Evan Kemp, Republican disability advocate Justin Dart, Sandy Perrino, chairperson of the National Council on Disability and Rev. Harold Wilke, a Washington D.C. minister without arms. After the President’s famous

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George H.W. Bush - Champion for Disabled

By Angela Miele Melledy

“The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was my greatest achievement,” were the words of George Herbert Walker Bush, as reported by former Rep. Tony Coelho (D-Calif.). Bush, who died on Nov. 30 at the age of 94, is remembered by many for fighting in World War II at a young age, facilitating the removal of the Berlin Wall, directing the C.I.A., serving as a Congressman, serving as Ambassador to the United Nations and liaison to China and as the 41st President of the United States.

But to people with disabilities he is known as the man who “set them free” by signing their civil rights act, the ADA, into law. Bush’s role in getting the law passed was mentioned repeatedly in tributes and eulogies during the four-day farewell to the President after his death.

Disabled Contingent

While Bush lay in state in the Capitol rotunda a large group of people with disabilities encircled the casket to pay tribute to the man who brought Republican and Democratic lawmakers together to pass the measure that changed the way people with disabilities live in the U.S.A. and around the world.

The contingent of wheelchair users and other people with many types of disabilities was led by Coelho, who had initially introduced the ADA in the House of Representatives, Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), who introduced it in the Senate and Rep. Steve Bartlett (R-Texas) a co-sponsor in the House.

Dole Salutes

A particularly poignant moment came when Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.) approached, and assisted by an aide, stood up out of his wheelchair and saluted the casket.

Coelho recounted the effort that preceded the votes in both houses. “I put in the legislation when [Bush] was running for President and he said he supported it. The business community was against the bill – they thought it would be too costly.”

Coelho recounted the long struggle to get the bill moved forward and how subcommittees who were trying to stop the bill had to be “knocked off one by one” in order to move it along.

“The Democratic leadership basically thought it was too all encompassing and costly,” explained Coelho. After much work and persuasion with the help of Bartlett and Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) “It passed the House. The senate led by Dole, Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), Harkin and Orin Hatch (R-Utah) passed it rather quickly and it went to the White House.

“I heard that John Sununu (then White House Chief of Staff) was going to recommend a veto to the President. I called President Bush and told him of Sununu’s intention.” Bush signed the bill in spite of the negative suggestion of his Aide.

Coelho recounts a meeting at Bush’s granddaughter’s recent wedding. “Papa Bush greeted me from his wheelchair. He said ‘You put in the ADA, I signed it and now I’m using it.’”

New York Connections

By all accounts the President made friends easily and was a prolific letter writer. Bush’s friends included connections to the New York disability community.

John Cronin of Huntington, N.Y. heard that he had a love for colorful socks and sent him a pair of socks from the company he founded – John’s Crazy Socks. Bush correspondence with the 22-year-old who has Down syndrome and in 2017 a friendship began between the two that included exchanging letters and socks.

It is also noteworthy that Bush’s service dog Sully, was trained and provided to him

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Disabled in Action of Metro N.Y. Pres. Jean Ryan speaks at a press conference on the steps of City Hall one hour before the N.Y. City Council Health Committee hosted a public hearing to receive testimony about the N.Y. Health Act.

Other speakers included, left to right in second photo, Councilmember Mathieu Eugene (D-Dist. 40), Registered Nurse Karines Reyes, Councilmember Mark Levine (D-Dist. 7), Councilmember Rafael Espinal Jr. (D. Dist 37), Assemblymember Richard Gottfried and Councilmember Corey Johnson (D-Dist. 3).

The legislation, introduced by Gottfried and Sen. Gustavo Rivera (D-N.Y.), aims to create a universal, single-payer health coverage system for every New Yorker.

The bill would eliminate all premiums, deductibles, co-pays, restricted provider networks, out-of-network charges, coverage gaps and denials of coverage. According to Gottfried, the bill serves to take insurance companies out of the equation, resulting in billions in savings for New Yorkers.

More than 75 people spoke at the hearing and the City Council passed a resolution in favor of calling on the State Legislature and governor to pass the New York Health Act.

Marissa Jackson, New York City Commission on Human Rights’ (CCHR) deputy commissioner for community relations, partially seen at right, gave a presentation at the first annual disability rights symposium hosted by Independence Care System (ICS) and CCHR at the ICS Brooklyn office.

More than 80 disability rights advocates, representatives of city agencies, at left, and members of the public gathered to exchange updates, concerns and recommendations about creating more accessibility throughout the city. ICS Chief Operating Officer Regina Estela, who is also a commissioner with CCHR, and the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) Commissioner Victor Calise both gave opening remarks.

The CCHR provided information about the Project Equal Access program, which entitles New Yorkers with disabilities to have reasonable accommodations at their place of employment. They also shared information on how the New York City Human Rights Law protects people with disabilities and how the commission can be reached for help.

In addition, Disability Rights New York presented a breakout session where they discussed their programs, including assistance with vocational services, voting access and assistive technology.
Carolin Dohle, Burke Rehabilitation Hospital’s assistant chief medical officer, and Abhishek Agarwal, Montefiore resident physician, recently won a grand prize at the MIT Hacking Medicine Event in New York City.

The doctors created an innovative app to benefit family caregivers. They, along with engineers and other experts, won the top award in the rehabilitation and human performance section of the event for their presentation of this app development project. The team also won the Weill Cornell Medicine Award for New Innovation.

“Burke’s participation in these teaching and think-tank events continue to position us as a leader in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation,” said Mooyeon Oh-Park, Burke’s chief medical officer. “With our commitment to caring for caregivers, Burke is looking forward to collaborating not only on this app, but on other future innovative projects.”

Hundreds of clinicians, engineers, designers, developers, and members of the business community attended to brainstorm and teach how to utilize digital strategies to solve health problems globally.

The event is broken into three sections, each being a particular focus area that attendees, called hackers, are working to create solutions that will have high global impacts. The areas were rehabilitation and human performance, reimagining lung cancer, and mental and public health.

Dohle, Agarwal and their team have focused on technology strategies to improve a patient’s ability to maintain a high level of independence, which is most successful when considering the needs of the caregiver.

Their technology aims to benefit caregivers by providing access to information and support, as well as connecting them to others who are experiencing similar circumstances. Reducing caregiver burden is a proven approach to improving patient outcomes.
Students with disabilities can face particular challenges in financing their college education. They may not be able to work part-time to help offset college costs. The financial aid process can initially seem overwhelming and finding information about scholarships can appear daunting.

The good news is there are a number of resources available to help students with disabilities and their families navigate the financial aid process and access scholarships. The website www.bestcolleges.com/financial-aid/students-with-disabilities is one such resource. Government agencies, high schools, colleges and organizations that focus on people with disabilities can also provide valuable guidance.

Brielle Cayer from Connecticut began attending Fordham University in the fall of 2018 with the help of a scholarship from Lighthouse Guild. “I was made aware of the Lighthouse Guild Scholarship program through the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind,” she said. “Receiving the scholarship made me feel I was able to contribute to financing my college education, and it made me feel a sense of independence.”

There are specific sources of financial aid for students with disabilities. Many of these are website clearinghouses that are specific to a particular disability and others that are not disability specific. The Disabled World website, www.disabled-world.com/disability/finance, is a good start, along with www.disabilitysecrets.com/resources/social-security-disability/how-financial-aids-gifts-grant for those students that are receiving social security disability.

Petersons also offers information on college financial aid assistance for students with disabilities at www.petersons.com/blog/college-financial-aid-assistance-for-students-with-disabilities. Federal financial aid for students can be found through www.fedmoney.org. The Department of Education’s Federal TRIO Program provides education grants for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including students with disabilities. The publishing company, Reference Service Press (www.rspfunding.com), publishes directories on sources of financial aid for specific groups such as people with disabilities.

In addition, there are a variety of free resources for students and families who need help with financial aid paperwork. College Goal Sunday is a national program that helps with completing the Free Application for Student Aid (FSA), the form that must be completed by all students and their families before they can be considered for any federal financial aid.

As an example, funding for students with visual impairments is available in the form of fellowships, loans and grants. The majority of scholarships require that the student be legally blind in both eyes. The government defines blindness as having a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less after using corrective lenses, or having a visual field with 20 degrees of vision or less, counting both eyes together.

Scholarships specifically for students who are blind are provided by individual nonprofit agencies. Lighthouse Guild offers an annual scholarship program for college-bound high school and graduate students who are legally blind.

The program awards approximately 10 college-bound scholarships of $10,000 each and one to three graduate scholarships of up to $10,000. The application is online at www.lighthouse-guild.org/scholarships. For more information call 212 769-7801. The site also offers a comprehensive chart listing the majority of other scholarships for the visually impaired across the nation under help resources.

Education unlocks doors. However, given the high cost of college, most students need some financial assistance. By researching and taking advantage of all resources available, students can help realize their dreams of attending the college of their choice.

Gordon Rovins is director of special programs at the Lighthouse Guild.
The United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) has received a $340,000 grant from the Anthem Foundation to implement the National Fitness Challenge for the sixth consecutive year.

For the next eight months, USABA will partner with 17 organizations across the country to provide more than 450 blind and visually impaired individuals with opportunities to increase their physical fitness levels and live more active lives. The goal of this program is to raise the physical activity levels of each participant to what is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This year’s program will integrate the use of technology and social media to help the participants set goals, create team environments and encourage leadership. USABA will provide each participant with a device which provides a universal way to measure many kinds of activities, calories burned and the number of steps taken. Participants will also have the opportunity to utilize a personalized training app that will give participants access to adaptive video workouts and audio coaching.

“Through our partnership with USABA, we are working to break down barriers and leverage technology to help those with vision impairments enjoy the physical and emotional benefits of exercise and improve overall health and wellness,” said Stephen Friedhoff, chief clinical officer at Anthem.

Regional partners will host multiple events and sports programming through the eight-month program. A few activities might include tandem biking, beep baseball, yoga, rowing, skiing, running and goalball.

Research shows that individuals who participate in regular physical activity have improved energy levels, as well as a lower risk of health-related diseases, depression and anxiety. Unfortunately, various barriers result in limited activity for many people with visual disabilities.

The funds from the grant will provide a device, fitness and nutrition instruction, and technical and financial support for everyone to participate. In addition, there will be prizes for those who excel.

Visit www.usaba.org/NationalFitnessChallenge for a list of participating regional partners.

Beginning on December 3, 2018 applications will be available for the waiting list for COUNCIL TOWERS II HDFC Senior Housing at 99 Vandalia Avenue, Brooklyn, New York to households headed by persons 62 years of age and over (including units that are handicap accessible). Qualifications will be based on Section 8 Federal guidelines.

Applications may be requested by mail from:

Council Towers II Senior Housing

c/o Met Council

77 Water Street, 7th Floor

New York, NY 10005

OR by downloading an application from the internet at www.metcouncil.org/housing

OR Applications can also be picked up in person at the following locations:

Council Towers II         Met Council

99 Vandalia Avenue        77 Water Street, 7th Floor

Brooklyn, NY 11239        New York, NY 10005

Monday – Thursday 9 am – 4 pm          Monday – Thursday 9 am – 4 pm

Friday – 9 am – 2 pm only          Friday – 9 am – 2 pm only

OR by telephone: (212) 453-9537 (please speak clearly)

OR by sending an email to ct2inquiry@metcouncil.org with your name and mailing address

Completed applications must be returned by REGULAR MAIL ONLY to Council Towers II HDFC c/o Met Council 77 Water Street, 7th floor New York, NY 10005. One household member must be at least 62 years of age to qualify.

Applicants who submit more than one application will be assigned a higher log number (least chance of obtaining an apartment).
DIA held its annual election on Sunday, Nov. 18.

Veteran “At Large” board members returning to their positions include Jim Davis, Marla DeFex, Luda Demikhovskaya, Robert Hardy, Danny Porro, Tom Powers, Paula Wolff and Julia Yepez-Macbeth. There are two new faces on the board this year. Robert Acevedo joined DIA last year and has taken an active role attending court hearings on MTA accessibility. He is also becoming a leader in the organization’s advocacy on universal health care.

Milagros Franco is the other new board member. Milagros has been the Intake & Housing Specialist at the Brooklyn Center for the Independence of the Disabled (BCID) for the past 11 years. She is also a long time member of DIA and has already started working with the incoming Corresponding Secretary on administrative matters. She is sure to be an energetic voice in the organization.

There will be a mixture of new and experienced people in the officer ranks this year. Jean Ryan, who filled a vacancy in the presidency in the middle of last year was elected to that position for 2019. Jean has been the Second Vice President for many years and wants to bring a renewed energy to the activist endeavors of DIA. She has already instituted new practices at monthly meetings that have created a more collegial atmosphere where issues are brought up and discussed cooperatively.

Carr Massi is a past president of DIA and has assumed the position of First Vice President. DIA’s First Vice President is in charge of legislative affairs. Carr has expressed an interest in mentoring new and younger members and intends to use her long and extensive experience to help develop the next generation of advocates.

Michael Acevedo is new to DIA and is jumping in as Second Vice President. Michael and his partner Robert joined DIA in the Fall of 2018 and are excited by what they see as a new energy in DIA. Robert and Michael have attended meetings occasionally in the past but are now investing their time and efforts because they see an organization that is focused and committed.

Valerie Joseph will be DIA’s new Recording Secretary. Valerie is a multi-talented person with skills in writing and technology. She is the Access-A-Ride Advocate at BCID.

The position of Corresponding Secretary has been vacant for quite a few years. But this year Philip Bennett will be adding his writing skills to his activism to serve DIA in this position. Philip has agreed to work closely with Treasurer Phil Beder on reorganizing DIA’s record keeping system. Hopefully, Valerie Joseph, Philip Bennett and I will be able to create a highly functional electronic office that is designed for the 21st century. 2019 promises to bring many improvements to DIA.

Our meetings will continue to change and improve. The leadership is committed to developing policies and procedures to improve our management and the board will be conducting training sessions to better fulfill their role as the stewards of Disabled In Action. We will celebrate or 50th year in 2020 with a renewed and effective voice for disability rights.

**Election Results**

BY PHIL BEDER
DIA MEMBER

**Listening to the needs of its members is the heart of DIA’s mission.**
Advocacy Groups Work to Improve Airplane Restroom Accessibility

Democracy Forward, on behalf of Paralyzed Veterans of America, recently petitioned a federal court to require the Department of Transportation (DOT) to comply with a Congressional requirement to issue rules about restroom accessibility on airplanes for public comment.

The mandamus petition follows reports that many new airplane restrooms are just 24 inches wide, which is nearly a foot narrower than an average portable toilet.

In the filing, veterans with disabilities detailed the need to intentionally dehydrate themselves before a flight, use catheters while on a flight, wear protective undergarments and take other extreme measures to assure the stress and embarrassment many travelers with disabilities face when unable to access an airplane restroom during a flight.

“Disabled veterans have already sacrificed so much for our country,” said Carl Blake, executive director of PVA. “The DOT should make compliance a top priority, ensuring these veterans and all people with disabilities can travel with dignity.”

Airplane manufacturers, airlines, disability groups and other members of a DOT-negotiated rulemaking committee developed a proposed rule intended to make airplane restrooms accessible for air travelers with disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs. In 2016, Congress issued a clear directive that the agency should release a rule for public comment by July 2017, but to date, DOT has not released the rule. Furthermore, the agency has taken the additional step to remove the lavatories rule from the administration’s regulatory agenda.

“Air travelers with mobility impairments have waited decades for access to airline restrooms, and DOT Secretary Elaine Chao is unlawfully and unnecessarily exacerbating that wait,” said Democracy Forward Executive Director Anne Harkavy.

The petition for writ of mandamus was filed on Nov. 29, in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Prompted Bipartisan Efforts

“Americans with disabilities had a great friend and supporter in President George H.W. Bush,” said James Weisman, president and CEO of the United Spinal Association and contributor to the Transportation section of the ADA. “President Bush distinguished himself when running for President by supporting the ADA. His support promoted bipartisan efforts to get the Act passed.

“On July 26, 1990, before a throng of people with disabilities assembled on the White House lawn, he signed it into law. At the time, it was the only comprehensive civil rights law in the world protecting the rights of people with disabilities.

“The ADA raised the expectations and aspirations of people with disabilities and the awareness of the public about the needs and rights of people with disabilities.

The President lifted his pen and said ‘let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down.’ We are thankful for his vision, courage and moral clarity.’

“It was a major turning point in the lives of disabled people,” said Advocate and New York native Judy Heumann in an interview. “He really understood the barriers that we faced and he wanted to put an end to it.”
Two Named to NWBA Champion's Circle

The National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) recently announced that Greg Smith and Nick Vojnovic will be the newest members of the inaugural NWBA Champion's Circle.

This program is an exclusive opportunity for individuals who want to increase the impact and awareness of wheelchair basketball through various initiatives, including fundraising. The champion's circle represents a wide range of experts in their fields and will act in an advisory capacity to the organization.

As ambassadors for wheelchair basketball, they will advise the organization to enable the sustained growth of the sport. The two men will serve the NWBA through the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics alongside Joe Ruocco and Brian Kurtz, founding members of this program.

“The NWBA is thrilled to welcome Nick and Greg into champion’s circle and into the NWBA Family,” said Sarah Castle, NWBA president. “The knowledge, network and passion that each of our champion’s circle members has will provide a tangible benefit to our organization and our membership.”

Smith is executive vice president of the supply chain for Walmart and has more than 30 years of operations leadership experience at various branded organizations. Throughout his career, he has led high-impact change initiatives. He is currently on the board of The Northwest Arkansas Red Cross and previously has been on the board of Boy Scouts of America in Tennessee.

“I am pleased to join the Champion’s Circle and the NWBA,” said Smith. “As I researched the organization, I was amazed by its roots in supporting the military. I have had limited exposure in the past, but what I do know is that wheelchair basketball is an exciting sport that also plays a huge role in athletes’ lives.”

Vojnovic is the president of Little Greek Restaurant Franchise Development where he has grown the franchise to 38 stores nationally in just seven years. He has more than 30 years in the hospitality industry. He is actively involved in the American Cancer Society and American Heart Association.

“I’m thrilled to be part of this great organization,” said Vojnovic. “I look forward to dedicating my time and effort to take wheelchair basketball to the next level and providing support to the athletes in the NWBA.”

The NWBA is actively recruiting more champion’s circle members to help the organization better serve its members and build the sport.

Registration Open for Golf Event

The United States Disabled Golf Association will host an open golf championship at the Independence Golf Club in Virginia, May 14 to 16.

The three-day event features a practice round, opening reception buffet, several tee times, closing reception and awards ceremony. The championship will be divided into four handicap categories, which includes one for seated golfers.

Golfers with physical, intellectual and sensory impairments may register.

An entry fee of $250 is due by April 30.

For information visit www.USDGA.NET.

CALENDAR OF SPORTS

JANUARY 2
Wheelchair Basketball 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the West Bronx Recreation Center, 1527 Jessup Ave., Bronx. For information call Christopher Noel 212-360-3319. Also Jan. 9, 16, 23 & 30
JANUARY 3
Roll Call Wheelchair Dance 1:30 to 2:30 and 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. at Brandwyne Living, 70 Pinelawn Ave., Commack. Also Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31
Wheelchair Basketball 6 to 7 p.m. at the East 54 Recreation Center, 348 East 54 St., Manhattan. For information call Christopher Noel 212-360-3319. Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31
Wheelchair Basketball 6 to 8 p.m. at St. Mary’s Recreation Center, 450 St. Ann’s Ave., Bronx. For information call Rodolpho Guervara 212-360-3311. Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31
JANUARY 6
NY Rolling Fury Youth Wheelchair Basketball 1 to 2 p.m. and Adult Wheelchair Basketball 2 to 3 p.m. at Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center, 232 W. 60 St., Manhattan. Also Jan. 13, 20 & 27
Advanced Goalball for Adults 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Chelsea Recreation Center, 430 West 25 St., Manhattan. Jan. 13, 20 & 27
Beginner Goalball Classes for Kids and Teens with visual impairments taught one-on-one by the NY Knights Goalball Team. Also Jan. 13, 20 & 27
Balance and Mobility Classes for Kids and Teens with vision loss/blindness 12:30 to 1 p.m. Chelsea Recreation Center, 430 West 25 St., Manhattan. Also Jan. 13, 20 & 27
West 25 St., Manhattan. For information call 212-360-3319.
Also Jan. 13, 20 & 27
JANUARY 8
Wheelchair Basketball Axis Project 7 to 9 p.m. at the East 54 Recreation Center, 348 East 54 St., Manhattan. For information call Christopher Noel 212-360-3319. Also Jan. 15, 22 & 29
Wheelchair Basketball 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Al Oerter Recreation Center, 131-40 Fowler Ave., Queens. For information call Christopher Noel 212-360-3319. Also Jan. 15, 22 & 29
ONGOING EVENTS
Adaptive Sports (S.P.A.R.E.S), 1 to 2 p.m. for kids with a disability 5+, every other Saturday (Al Oerter Rec Center, 131-40 Fowler Ave, Queens) for adults with I/DD at JIB Lanes, 67-19 Parsons Blvd., Flushing. For information call 465-515-1685.
LAWYERS SEEK COMPLAINANTS WHO ARE DEAF AND DENIED ASL
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest would like public input from people who are deaf or hearing impaired that have been denied American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter services by New York City at city events, meetings or hearings.
For information contact Anthony Gemmell, agemmell@nylpi.org.

LIBRARY TO HOST STUDENT BEHAVIOR PRESENTATION
The Brooklyn Public Library Inclusive Services Department will host a presentation on student behavior on Jan. 16, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
It will be led by a parent of a young adult with disabilities who is also a retired special education teacher. It will address understanding and coping with students’ behavioral issues in school and interventions.
For information call 718 253-4948.

LAW GROUP SEEKS THOSE DENIED COURT HEARING ACCESS
The New York Legal Assistance Group would like to hear from anyone who is having legal problems, because they cannot get reasonable accommodations to attend hearings in person at a courthouse, and their request for an initial hearing by telephone has not been granted.
For assistance contact Christina Brandt-Young, CBrandt-Young@nylag.org.

HELP WITH KINDERGARTEN APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE
Advocates for Children (AFC) of New York is encouraging all parents of children with disabilities who were born in 2009, as well as participate in the development of their individual education plan (IEP).
AFC works on behalf of at-risk students whose IEPs are most prone to academic failure due to disability, poverty, race and other factors.
For details or help applying visit www.advocatesforchildren.org.

ALLIANCE PROVIDES EDUCATION, RESOURCES AND ADVOCACY
The New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation in Albany provides resources, trainings, technical assistance and webinars to disability organizations, agencies, policymakers, advocates and researchers.
Their website is also full of information that can be of assistance to individuals with disabilities and their families. Visit www.nyalliance.org/index.php.

MEETING ON INCLUSION AND INDEPENDENCE HELD AT LIBRARY
The Brooklyn Public Library Inclusive Services Department will hold an interactive meeting for people with disabilities, parents, caregivers and educators on Jan. 11, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
It will cover improving access, inclusion and independence in the community. American Sign Language interpreters are available upon request.
For information call 718 253-4948.

LOANS OFFERED TO BUY AT AND HOME AND CAR MODIFICATIONS
The New York Legal Assistance Group offers affordable loans of $500 to $10,000 to residents of New York City, Long Island and Westchester County, and loans up to $30,000 for New Jersey residents.
This may include assistance with hearing aids, communication devices, wheelchairs, and home or vehicle modifications.
For details contact Laurie Schaller, lschaller@ndi-inc.org.

FIRE ALARM/CLOCK FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED RECALLED
Lifetone Technology recently recalled its bedside fire alarm and clock for failure to fully alert consumers to a fire.
The faulty unit, model number HLAC151, is an assistive alerting device intended for in-home use by individuals with hearing loss. For information on receiving a replacement visit www.lifetone-safety.com.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR AUDIO DESCRIPTION TRAINING PROGRAM
The American Council for the Blind will hold an audio description training program at the Crowne Plaza in Virginia, Feb. 23 to 25.
There will be many interactive sessions and workshops, and certificates of completion will be given to all successful participants.
To register visit www.acb.org/2019-leadership-meetings-ADI.

SUBMISSIONS OPEN FOR ANNUAL BRAILLE PROJECT CONTEST
The Louis Braille Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation is accepting project submissions of creative ideas in the field of Braille or tactile literacy for the blind.
The prize, established in 2007, awards $20,000 to the winner. The deadline is Jan. 11.
For details visit www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/technology/tog/tog_prize.

ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS WITH QUESTIONS
The Brooklyn Public Library Inclusive Services Department offers one-on-one expert assistance for parents of children with disabilities once a month.
The next meeting date is Jan 9. Topics may include individualized education programs (IEP), early childhood services and programs, transition planning, transportation issues, camps and after-school programs. For information call 718 253-4948.

TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE SCHEDULED IN APRIL
The annual New Jersey Trans Action Conference and Expo will be held at the Tropicana Hotel and Conference Center in Atlantic City, April 9 to 11.
It attracts nearly 1000 professionals.
Workshops will cover paratransit, senior citizen and disabled transportation issues, as well as topics related to goods movement, road and bridge, engineering, grant writing, technology, shuttles, ridesharing, parking, ferryboats and many others.
More than 100 booths will feature an extensive array of transportation products and services from across America and Canada.

SURVEY FOCUSES ON AVAILABILITY OF ACCESSIBLE VOTING MACHINES
Disability Rights New York (DRNY) has created a survey to find out if New York state is providing Ballot Marking Devices (BMD) at every polling place, as mandated by the Help America Vote Act.
A BMD is an accessible voting machine that allows people with low vision, limited dexterity, physical impairments and other disabilities to mark their ballot privately and independently. The survey is at www.surveymonkey.com/r/FedGenBMD.

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR INTERVIEWS ON TOILETING
Researcher Peg Graham is conducting interviews with subject matter experts willing to share their opinion on the toileting options available for wheelchair users. She is preparing a report for The Treat Center, an National Institutes of Health-funded engineering research lab.
To participate contact Graham, pgraham@quainc.com.

ABLE ACCEPTS EVENT AND PROGRAM INFORMATION
Able Newspaper will print event and program information from agencies when space permits. Send items to ablenews@aol.com.
JANUARY 2
Memory Arts Café free art events for people living with Alzheimer’s, caregivers and public 6 p.m. at NY Memory Center, 199 14 St., Brooklyn. For information call 718 499-7701.

JANUARY 3
Peer Support Group 1 to 3 p.m. at BCID, 27 Smith St., Brooklyn. For information call 718 998-3000. Also Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31

Writers Workshop 4 to 6 p.m. at CIDNY #301 13-14 Sts. For information call Eva Eason 646 442-4156. Also Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31

JANUARY 4
Friday Night Hangout for seniors and adults with physical disabilities, 5 to 8:30 p.m. at ICS, 25 Elm Pl., 5th floor, Brooklyn. For information call Latricia James 718 907-1622. Also Jan. 11, 18 & 25

Family Legos: Imagine It! Build It! For children and teens with and without disabilities 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Flatlands Library, 2065 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn. For information call 718 253-4948.

Movie Club, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at NAMI, 505 Eighth Ave., 35 St., #1103. For information call 212 684-3365.

JANUARY 7
VISIONS Senior Speak Out 3 p.m. at Selis Manor, 135 W. 23 St. For information call Elizabeth Lee 646 486-4444. Also Jan. 14, 21 & 28

Learn to Draw & Paint with Rich 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at ICS, 25 Elm Pl., 5th floor, Brooklyn. For information call Latricia James 718 907-1622. Also Jan. 14, 21 & 28

Knitting & Crochet Group for seniors and adults with physical disabilities 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ICS, 25 Elm Pl., 5th floor, Brooklyn. For information call Latricia James 718 907-1622. Also Jan. 14, 21 & 28

Stroke Brain Injury Survivor Support Group 12:15 p.m. at SUNY College of Optometry, 33 W. 42 St. For information call 212 938-4040.

SORT Support Group for Clutterers/Hoarders 6 to 8 p.m. at EIS, 80 Maiden Lane, 11th floor. For information call 212 308-2210.

JANUARY 8
Art for Everyone 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ICS, 400 Fordham Rd., 10th floor, Bronx. For information call Latri- cia James 718 907-1622. Also Jan. 15, 22 & 29

Adult Support Group 6:45 p.m. at NY Branch IDA, 71 W. 23 St. #1527. For information call 212 691-1930.

Law Clinic for people with ID & DD 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BCID, 27 Smith St., #200 Brooklyn. For information call 718 998-3000.

Navigating Your Child’s Disability: One-to-One Expert Assistance 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Information Commons, Room 2, Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza. For information call 212 677-4650 ext. 19.

The Rainbow Connection meeting 2 to 4 p.m. at Independence Care Systems, 25 Elm Pl., Brooklyn. For information call Latricia James 718 907-1622. Also Jan. 23

Disability Queers 1 to 3 p.m. at the LBGT Community Center, 208 West 13 St., Manhattan. For information call 718 389-8180.

TBI Support Group 12:30 to 2 p.m. at CIDNY #301 13-14 Sts. For information call Eva Eason 646 442-4156. Also Jan. 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29

Disability Queers 1 to 3 p.m. at the LBGT Community Center, 208 West 13 St., Manhattan. For information call 718 389-8180.

Understanding Your Student’s Behavior: How Functional Behavioral Analysis (FBA) Can Help 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Brooklyn Public Library Central Library Information Commons Lab, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn. For information call 718 253-4948.

JANUARY 18
Parkinson’s Support Group 10:30 a.m. in the Noyes Conference Center at Helen Hayes Hospital, Route 9W N. West Haver- straw. For information call 845 786-4321.

JANUARY 19
Family Legos: Imagine It! Build It! For children and teens with and without disabilities 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Saratoga Library, 8 Thomas S. Boyland St., Brooklyn. For information call 718 253-4948.

ONGOING EVENTS
Free Workshops and Services at United Cerebral Palsy of New York City Family Connect Centers throughout the five bor- oughs. For more information call 718 436-7979 ext.704.

Lupus Alliance of Long Island/Queens Support Group meets once a month on Tuesdays 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Flushing. For more information call 516 802-3142.

To have your event or meeting listed, send information to www.ablenews@aol.com. The deadline for calendar items is the 10th day of the month preceding the date of publication. Calendar items will be accepted only if they have a specific date.
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MEET A COMPANION, PHONE FRIEND, PEN PAL, OR EVEN A Spouse

UNITED SPINAL NOW
Continued from page 4
“shameful wall of exclusion” speech he sat down to sign the ADA into law.

We watched as the President held up a pen that he had signed the ADA to each of the dignitaries on the stage. The President faced the crowd and each dignitary stepped forward to receive their pen. We wondered what would happen as Pres. Bush heldup Rev. Wilke’s souvenir pen.

Wilke slipped off his shoe, grabbed the pen from the President’s hand with his foot and put it in his breast pocket, something the crowd thought would be impossible until we saw it. It is, for me, the metaphor that is ADA - just because you don’t think it can be done doesn’t mean it cannot. The community owes much to George H. W. Bush for his support of the ADA. Usually, the law struggles to keep pace with societal development but, in the case of the ADA, largely due to the support of George H. W. Bush, this civil rights law created aspirational goals and challenged all Americans to meet them.
SENATE PASSES BILL TO FIGHT ALZHEIMER'S

Continued from page 3

find a cure for people suffering the effects of Alzheimer’s and related cognitive disorders.”

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s, and the United States spends more than $277 billion per year. Without further action, that number is expected to triple to as many as 14 million by 2050, costing the nation more than $1.1 trillion per year.

This legislation would apply a public health approach to reduce risk, detect early symptoms, advance care, improve data and ultimately change the trajectory of this disease. Headed by the Centers of Disease and Prevention (CDC), it would authorize $20 million annually over the next five years to establish Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias Public Health Centers of Excellence dedicated to promoting effective disease and caregiving interventions, as well as educating the public on the disease, cognitive decline and brain health.

It would also mandate cooperative agreements with the CDC that would be awarded to state health departments, and data grants to improve analysis and timely reporting.

“Alzheimer’s is a very personal and important priority for me, as it is for millions of Americans and their families,” said Capito. “This legislation will help tackle this devastating disease on all fronts, from those suffering from it to their caregiving.”

“I have a sister-in-law who was diagnosed at age 54, and in just casual conversations with colleagues, we all have these stories, and that’s not just the United States Senate, that’s the entire American population,” said Kaine. “Over 150,000 Virginians have Alzheimer’s. That number is expected to grow by 35 percent in the next 10 years. I think those of us who have experience know how complex the caregiving arrangements are and how much our caretakers need support.”
After careful consideration of submitted bids and proposals, The National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) board of directors recently chose the sites and dates for the 2019 national tournament series for intercollegiate, junior, adult and women’s divisions. The intercollegiate division men’s and women’s national championships will take place at the University of Illinois, March 14 to 16. The National Junior Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, Junior National Invitational Wheelchair Basketball Tournament and the National Prep Wheelchair Basketball Tournament will take place in New Lenox, Ill., March 29 to 31. The adult division II national championships will be held March 15 to 17, and adult division I will be held March 22 to 24, both in Cleveland, Ohio. The adult division III national championships will be held in Chicago, Ill., April 5 to 7. The National Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Tournament will take place in New Lenox, Ill., March 29 to 31. For details visit www.NWBA.org.

Ski Fest Planned
The United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) and Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports will host their 12th annual winter ski festival on Pico Mountain in Vermont, Feb. 8 to 11. Participants from beginners to advanced are welcome to participate. Attendees will be paired with guides appropriate for their skill level.

For inquiries about military funding contact Kevin Brousard, kbrousard@usaba.org. To register for the trip call Tom Alcorn, 802 353-7584.

Adaptive Obstacle Race Debut
Joe Fonseca of Oregon recently joined other athletes with disabilities to participate in the first Para Spartan, an adaptive obstacle course race that was held in Laughlin, Nev. Teams of four raced through 20 different obstacles such as the rope climb, barbed wire crawl, spear throw, dunk wall and monkey bars. The race is open to men and women who have an impairment which gives them a competitive disadvantage in Spartan’s traditional events. Many athletes used mobility devices, including wheelchairs and crutches.

Youth Basketball Team Seeks Support
The New York Rolling Fury, a youth wheelchair basketball team, created a Go Fund Me page to raise money for tournament travel and lodging expenses. The team, comprised of players from the Greater New York City area, compete in both the prep and varsity divisions of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association. Their ultimate goal is to get an invitation to the national championship tournament, held this spring in Illinois. To achieve that goal, they must first travel to regional tournaments in Virginia, Maryland, Connecticut and Pennsylvania.


For information email Christopher Noel, christopher.noel@parks.nyc.gov.

Guides Needed for Paralympic Athletes
U.S. Paralympics is looking for fast sprinters to serve as guides for track and field athletes who are blind or visually impaired at the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

“The benefits of being a guide is you can continue your love of the sport of track and field,” said Jeremy Fischer, coach of Paralympic medalists. “Being a guide allows for you to give back to the sport, train with coaches at the highest level and give you opportunities you may never had in your own personal pursuit of success.”

For details about being a guide visit uspara.us/2IE-B50w.

See More Sports News on Page 12