



# NEW WORLD

For Persons with disAbilities

SEPTEMBER 2011

Californians for Disability Rights, Inc.

Vol. 34 Issue 3

## DISABILITY COMMUNITY MOURNS THE LOSS OF LAURA WILLIAMS

May 11, 1945 to July 06, 2011

By Susan Chandler

Laura Williams a well known, long time, widely respected advocate for the rights of people with disAbilities and seniors died unexpectedly on Wed., July 6th 2011 in Glendora.

Marty Omoto wrote that Laura was a constant voice and visible presence at State Capitol hearings and meetings on issues including IHSS (In-Home Supportive Services), developmental services, access to public accommodations, mental health needs, transportation, housing, and the Olmstead Decision. She served on the Olmstead Advisory Committee, CalTrans Sidewalk Accessibility Committee and the California Collaborative, to name a few. She talked often about the need for the state to move aggressively toward full compliance with 1999 U.S. Supreme Court Olmstead Decision and state and federal access laws.

Several people have written how she affected people's lives. Marty Omoto said "I am deeply shocked and saddened by the passing of Laura Williams - as so many of us are. She was and will always be to so many people across the State - a strong, decent and good presence in our lives. She will be terribly missed. As a person whose life mattered." Susan Chandler remembers her as being fiercely determined to do what was right and to do it her way. Randy Hicks remembers that: "She always said 'There is no excuse for not being accessible.'"

Ruthee Goldkorn reassured the members via email on July 8<sup>th</sup> that "Californians for Disability Rights, Inc. will not be changing its existence...Please take a collective breath and as we begin the grieving process...be assured that CDR will have memorials...both in So Cal and Nor Cal. We are both a family and an organization we have lost a member of our family." Laura's "proud son Mark" wrote that "She was the "hub" for CDR's wheel....It brings tears to my eyes every time I read it (her speech) cause it shows how much passion she had for what she believed in!" Her daughter Alayna Alarrana and the family organized a Memorial in Glendora on July 16 that was attended by several CDR members.

The CA Legislature has already honored Laura by adjourning sessions in her honor in July. Randy Hicks is organizing an event to honor Laura at the Capitol in November.

## LINDA HINCHEY ELECTED INTERIM PRESIDENT

By Susan Chandler

The CDR Executive committee met on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted to elect CDR VP Linda Hinchey as Interim President; and took care of other CDR matters.

**OFFICE:** The landlord at 909 12<sup>th</sup> St where we rent just notified CDR that they needed our space but offered us a "Virtual Office". On October 1<sup>st</sup> when we give up the office it will save us a lot of money. We will have a desk, our phone line, get our mail, use the copier (@ the regular fee) and still be able to use the conference room. And we won't have to change our literature or business cards. But we won't have storage so Linda and Ruthee Goldkorn have gone through the office and cleared out old papers (to the shredder!) preserving "historical" things that we can find somewhere to archive or use for a text book or film on DisAbility Civil Rights history...any ideas?

**BUDGET REPORT:** The membership renewals are at 47% of the projected budget. We have had some donations in honor of Laura. The income is 68% of the projected budget. Our Expenses are 79% of budget. We still have about \$2500 in credit card debt, so you can see we have some cash flow problems and need more member renewals.

**INTERNET: CDR WEBSITE <http://www.disability-rights-cdr.org> IS UP & RUNNING—CHECK IT OUT!** Kathy Barajas was appointed **Webmistress** and has just **finished revising CDR's website**. You can email Kathy at [kdbarajas@aol.com](mailto:kdbarajas@aol.com) with any comments, ideas to enhance or improve the site. In Dec. we will be able to change the plan to a much cheaper one. We will have links to other websites and a "Members Only" site for chapters, on-line versions of the New World (old & new), etc. She would happily accept help.

The **CDR Members Exchange** is now up and running again as **CDR-X**. Kathy Barajas, CDR Foundation President had to petition YAHOO to become moderator of the group because it was solely moderated by Laura and no one could access it! Now she and Ben Rockwell are co-moderators. So If you are not on the exchange and want to be, please send Ben an email to [rocky.ben@verizon.net](mailto:rocky.ben@verizon.net) and put "**add me to Member's Exchange**" in the subject line.

**NEW WORLD:** David Juare offered to get the New World going and Susan Chandler offered to edit and format it and Linda Hinchey will get it printed and mailed.

(Continued on pg 2)

## NEW WORLD

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CDR Member's Exchange

Co-Moderators Kathy Barajas &

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Immediate Past President

Laura Williams

**CDR's Mission - To Improve the Quality of Life for All Persons with any Disability Through Education and Training - By Working to Remove Barriers Through Advocacy and Change in Public Policy.**

Originally organized in 1970 as CAPH (the California Association of the Physically Handicapped) - --with five members, CDR has grown to become an effective and widely respected cross-disability advocacy force.

## ONE of LAURA'S LAST OLMSTEAD SPEECHES

*Found by her son Mark in her wheelchair on 3x5 cards*

•Ten years and California is still in the "Advisory and "Pilot" and "Waiver" stages of Olmstead. And budget cuts pose the worst threat to the existing IHSS in forty years.

•We need a sea change people! We need a system that will in future, **Require a T.A.R.** for institutional or nursing home for anyone not in their medically determined last six months of life.

And the freedom of choice to stay home to finish a life well lived!

•We need workers that provide home care supports for independence to be classed in the same societal essential services category as firemen and police officers. The care and safety of individuals is no less important than putting out fires or nabbing petty thieves or the drug addicted.

•Those that will shut off public supports for the Aged, Blind and disAbled **SAY** they believe in the power and sanctity of the individual over government!

•Well, my friends, we also fight for the Power, Sanctity and Independence of every person with a disAbility!

•We need a sea change—where we no longer have to fight a budget battle year after year after year to receive those services

**IN THE HOMES OF OUR CHOOSING!**

•So happy Anniversary Independence Warriors! Ten years long and the first battle lines are only **NOW** being drawn...

•We WILL WIN---WE MUST WIN---

• WE WILL PREVAIL!

•My thoughts, my heart, and my mind are with all California Freedom Fighters today and tomorrow...

**AND UNTIL THE BATTLE IS WON.**

Please hold these communities in your thoughts –Sacramento, San Francisco, Riverside, San Diego, LA, Santa Barbara, Fresno and every nook & cranny of **THIS ONCE GREAT GOLDEN STATE!!!**

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**Interim President continued...**

If you want to get it electronically, please send an email to: Ben Rockwell at [rocky.ben@verison.net](mailto:rocky.ben@verison.net) with "**electronic version of NW**" in the subject line.

**OFFICE PHONE:** Ben has set up the voice mail to be answered through Google Voice. The phone is picked up immediately and messages are emailed to him. He then answers them or sends them to me to deal with. Many calls are local folks who need a referral to the ILC.

**STATE COUNCIL:** The next meeting as **October 15 & 16** in Sac. & via teleconf. If you want to participate, contact an officer; to join the call is \$5.

**Nominating Committee:** The State Council is conducting its Officer elections. All officers are nominated from the State Council membership except the "**At Large**" members who come from the whole membership.

**MEMBERSHIP & CHAPTERS:** Get more involved and find a chapter or start one up in your area. President Linda Hinchey can help you by giving you a list of CDR members in your area. See the chapter list in this newsletter. One suggestion is to join and revive the NEO (Internet) chapter #101.

**PATRICK WM. CONNALLY, artist, & CDR Lifetime member, has offered to Donate \$40 to CDR when you buy a poster he has created!**

Go to [www.station504.com](http://www.station504.com) and pick an artist signed 17" by 22" poster of any image in his web-gallery.

**Then send your choice and check for \$40 donation to the CDR Foundation:**

c/o KD Barajas  
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Los Angeles, CA 90022

Questions about offer:

(415) 479-3504 or

[www.station504.com](http://www.station504.com) or

[patrickwmconnally@comcast.net](mailto:patrickwmconnally@comcast.net)



## ABOUT THOSE JOBS..."

by Ruthee Goldkorn

**ODEP** Oh who? **DOL**, who is doll? The acronyms are not familiar as ODEP and DOL are not generally used in the same sentence or conversation with or about the disAbility community. They stand for Office of Disability Employment Policy and Department of Labor. The disAbility community is the most diverse minority group because the only criteria for "membership" are that you have a disAbility. Race, Creed, Color, Gender, National Origin, Religion, Sexual Orientation and any other protected class criteria are not required and yet we have all of them within the disAbility community and yes, we are a protected class.

So why is it that other minority protected classes have had employment policies for decades and none have the apathy of every government agency that we have? And oh, yes, shall I mention that our unemployment rate is 80%? 80%! Say it again and it is just as appalling. 80%. And preposterous, and yet this is the reality of people with all types of disAbilities aged 16-64. And yes, this number has been stagnant for decades and has zeroed to do with.

Economic trends, downturns, mortgage meltdowns, stock market up ticks or what is happening in Europe.

I was privileged to attend the ODEP sponsored DOL National Diversity Conference in Washington, DC on August 4, 2011. The Conference theme was "Add Us In".

Coincidentally and very ironically this is the same day the Senate HELP (Health, Education, Labor, Pension) Committee was hearing the reauthorization of Economic trends, downturns, mortgage meltdowns, stock market up ticks or what is happening in Europe. I was privileged to attend the ODEP sponsored DOL National Diversity Conference in Washington, DC on reauthorization of the 1938 Fair Labor Act. Why is this coincidence to be recognized and an irony to be evaluated? Because the 1938 Fair Labor Act that has been re authorized without controversy and with little comment over all these decades, contains a provision under section 14c that most assuredly deserves comment. Loud comment! The provision allows for employers to be exempted from paying an employee with a disAbility minimum wage. Yep. That's what I said: Exempted from paying minimum wage to an employee with a disAbility. And yet they do not hire us. How odd. Cheap labor is cheap labor is it not?

ODEP and its director Kathleen Martinez, who is blind, "get" that enough is enough and that there is no diversity without us. The attendees were from all

*(Continued on page 4)*

## CDR FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

By Kathleen Barajas

This year's \$500 CDR Scholarship winner is Marc Edmundson, a resident of Tustin. He is a Chemistry major entering his junior year at Irvine Valley College. Marc states that 3 years ago he was diagnosed with a chronic illness that shattered his idea of a happy life, but he eventually revised his outlook on life.

His vocational goal is to become an HIV Research Pharmacist. His mission is to focus on this very specific group of chronically disabled patients, where he believes that "the technology of medicine is a saving grace". He states that in the early 80's, the average life expectancy after being diagnosed with HIV was 9 to 18 months. Today that same person can expect to be healthy 20 years or more, thanks to advances in clinical research.

Marc has earned straight A's, while taking the most difficult courses in preparation for transferring to Pharmacy School. He also tutors students in subjects such as organic chemistry, biology, and physics. This year he will be applying to Pharmacy School for matriculation into a Doctor of Pharmacy program.

Marc is also very involved in his community. He has been an advocate for his college's Disabled Students Program and helped to coordinate the annual Fall Disability Awareness event. He has volunteered as an Assistant in the college's Chemistry Lab; as a lead volunteer at Kaiser's emergency room; as a service associate at a local HIV specialty pharmacy, as an outreach member for Shanti, an Aids Organization, and as a team member for Angel Project Food's meal delivery service.

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**VISIT CDR'S BOOTH AT THE SAN JOSE**



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***JOB*** continued...

over the country, private and public agencies. The presence of a representative of the Los Angeles Consortium was important to me because I had no idea there was one. I passed this information on to Congresswoman Janice Hahn 36<sup>th</sup> district (D, West LA) whose staff I met with the next day.

We cannot possibly believe we can make a dent in our unemployment unless we know who is doing what, where and with whom. Sharing information, resources and knowledge of the existence of programs is vital to addressing the pressing need for employment of the disAbility community. It is hoped that the data of all of the attendees will be made available and used to develop public policies that will implement employment programs for the disAbility community more than just the mantra "Hire the Handicapped". And yes, we did discuss that word and that it is imperative to eliminate it. Labels matter!!!

A diverse workforce is a requirement and if there is no employment of persons with disAbilities, then there is a lack of diversity. The plenary sessions, the round table discussions, and the presentations were extraordinary. There was a lot happening in clusters but little cohesive public policy action took place to address our 80% unemployment rate. All the talk, idea and information sharing must be followed by action.

The program was a start for the DOL to share the statistics and information and raise as many eyebrows as it has. Active public policy has to be next on ODEP's agenda of. We all have to act to make this happen. Call, write, fax, or email your Congress people. Call, write, fax or email Kathleen Martinez at ODEP [www.dol.gov/odep](http://www.dol.gov/odep). The Department of Labor is [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov).

Call, write, fax or email the White House Office of Disability Policy <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/disabilities>. It has implemented an aggressive hiring program for the disAbility community in federal government positions. Tell them we need them in the local and private sector too. Be apathetic no more!!!! 80% is not our fault but now that we have all become aware, we must be prepared to take responsibility for its continuation. 80%. Tsk, tsk, tsk!

*Editor's note: K. Martinez used to be the ED at WID in Berkeley. Ruthee attended on her own dime!*

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

by Randy Hicks

Until recently the committee consisted of Randy Hicks, Chair, Laura Williams, Ruthee Goldkorn, and David Juare. If you are interested in being on the committee and are willing to research the bills, educate the legislators, write letters, and/or testify at hearings then you can be a member.

Bills that CDR supported have been chaptered into law are: **A.C.R. 13** authored by Huffman, establishes **Rare Disease Day as February 28<sup>th</sup>**; and **S.B. 48** Leno prohibits discriminatory school curriculum and establishes pupil instruction about history and Civil Rights for LGBT and disAbled and others. **A.B. 1103**: Huffman: stops ghettoizing, makes sure more affordable property for housing is made available in mixed use developments. **S.C.R. 6**: has been memorialized, it makes sure in-home Internet service is wired in in new affordable housing.

**CDR OPPOSES** until amended: **A.B. 25** Athletics: concussions and head injuries. **SUPPORT IF amended: S.B. 111**: Civil rights: language restrictions under Unhru Act. **CDR has been assured that the Governor's office will amend when signed to include disabilities** and expanded explanation of languages.

A lot of the bills CDR watches are health care related and most of the bills we supported are still in the "hopper" and have become 2 year bills. They will be "watched". These 2 bills are still in the running for 2011. **A.B. 136**: Telecommunications: universal service: speech disabilities. **A.B. 1375**: Developmental services: autism spectrum disorders.

**These are the non-health care bills we support that have become 2 year bills to be voted on in 2012:**

**A.B. 1244**: Developmental services: Self-Determination Program; Public guardians and conservators; authority: property held in trust. **A.B. 518**: Elder and dependent adult abuse: mandated reporters: Extends reporting deadlines to 2020. **S.B. 121**: Pupils: foster children: special education. **S.B. 33**: Elder and dependent adult abuse. **A.B. 40**: Elder abuse: reporting. **S.B. 411**: Home Care Services Act of 2011 **on way to Gov's desk. SB 6** Cal Fresh-Cal Works makes sure food stamp eligible people can get fresh food & makes reporting semi-annually. **SB 930** Evans **IHSS single finger printing requirement**. Does not require double reporting; this bill repeals requirements & corrects problems & repeals prohibition against providers using P.O. Boxes.

*(Continued on pg 5)*

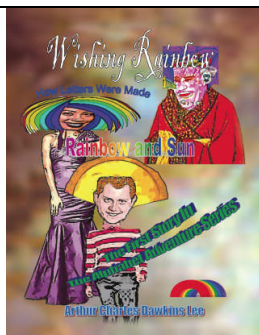



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*CDR is sad to announce that CDRF Treasurer **Janet Rich Adams** from Riverside Ch 34 passed away August 27<sup>th</sup>. Our Condolences go out to her family and friends!*


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### Leg Report continued

**Bills CDR supported that died this year: A.B. 1103, A.B. 1167, A.B. 1244, A.B. 201, A.B. 21, and A.B. 221.**

**SB 810 Universal Health Care** will be heard on Jan 25<sup>th</sup> in the Senate Appropriations committee.

If you are interested in more details on any of these bills, You can contact Randy at [rh\\_factor@yahoo.com](mailto:rh_factor@yahoo.com) or go to [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov).

## HOW TO BE AN ADVOCATE

by Ruthee Goldkorn

We are an advocacy organization first and foremost and the opportunity to make the change in our community is our first responsibility.

When you go to a local store and you encounter a barrier or an out of compliance facility, if you do not believe speaking with management will get you anywhere, send a demand letter to the proper person; this means Risk Management at the corporate office which you will find on their web site. Use your federal Civil Rights and California Civil Rights efficiently and effectively.

Call your local building official at the city Building and Safety Department and file a formal complaint of Title 24 violation. They have to respond to you within 30 days with an inspection report and a copy of a notice of non compliance if there is one.

If necessary, go to Small Claims Court. You get damages and they have to fix it. If you have the notice of non compliance, take it with you as evidence. Each chapter can do a work shop on how to use Small Claims Court. Our long time member John Lonberg wrote a manual of how to do this effectively. Check out the newly revised CDR website and read his manual.

Chapters are the front line of advocacy in our local communities and teaching people how to achieve compliance through educating small businesses and hitting corporations over the head (if necessary) is our responsibility.

The disAbility community has been on the defense for long enough. Chapters can do an outreach to their local businesses by hosting the manager of the local Rite Aid or Ralphs or CVS or Costco and talking about experiences shopping in their stores.

Education before litigation is our best offensive strategy. Ask the local building official to be a guest speaker at a chapter meeting to discuss how they enforce Title 24 and why they do not enforce the ADA. Describing how discrimination affects our daily lives is an eye opener for these people. Making the building official your friend is a very effective offense!

Mark Potter, disAbility lawyer adds: "It is great to complain before suing but it is important to sue to force compliance with disability access laws. Especially with entities like Rite Aid who are just looking at their bottom line. These corps only respond to incentives. In my last case with them they had no respect for my client, his needs or his case until they figured out there was no defense to the Summary Judgment Motion we filed. They don't get it that the new equipment they buy needs to be usable by everyone. They think it is no big deal to have to give your pin number to others. If they fix it right away after you complain, gods bless them. If not, you are blessed to live in a great country where you can force them to follow the law.



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## CHAPTERS

CHAPTERS: Area/#	PRESIDENT or CONTACT	PHONE #	EMAIL/CONTACT #
San Diego (#01)	President Alisa Shuman	(619)-258-6244	<a href="mailto:dreamweavers@gmail.com">dreamweavers@gmail.com</a>
Yolano (#02)	Kathy & Buz Dreyer	(530) 662-9463	<a href="mailto:kmdreyer@att.net">kmdreyer@att.net</a>
High Desert (#03)	INACTIVE		<a href="mailto:cdr4info@yahoo.com">cdr4info@yahoo.com</a>
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Pasadena/W. San Gabriel Valley (#26)	INACTIVE		<a href="mailto:cdr4info@yahoo.com">cdr4info@yahoo.com</a> 445
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Los Angeles (#50)	INACTIVE		<a href="mailto:cdr4info@yahoo.com">cdr4info@yahoo.com</a>
INTERNET-New Empowerment Opportunities (#101)	Moderator Ben Rockwell	(562) 432-0448	<a href="mailto:rocky.ben@verizon.net">rocky.ben@verizon.net</a>



## CDR Membership Application

**ANNUAL DUES:** JULY 1 - JUNE 30 or pro-rate quarterly. If you are joining July June, pay the full year; from Oct- Dec, pay 3/4 year; from Jan-Mar, pay 1/2 year; from April-June, pay 1/4 year.

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CHAPTER / MEMBER#, IF KNOWN	DATE	\$	

include me in the MEMBERS EXCHANGE (email address required).

*Instructions: printout this form, complete all entries, and send it along with a check for the amount due made payable to: CDR, INC.,*

*then send it c/o Susan Chandler, treasurer, 1193 17th St., Los Osos, CA 93402*

**Support the CDR Foundation &  
the CDRF Scholarship fund  
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Do you shop at Ralph's? Ralph's has a community fundraising program. Please go to the website and sign up so CDRF will earn MONEY: <http://www.ralphs.com/>  
Participant registration for the new term begins on **September 1, 2011**, anyone registered **MUST RE-REGISTER!**  
**CDRF's number is #82491.**

The Foundation is looking into various fundraisers: If you have any ideas please contact Kathy Barajas, Foundation Chair at [kdbarajas@aol.com](mailto:kdbarajas@aol.com).

**The foundation would like to thank donors in honor of Laura Williams:** Tony Goldsmith, CA Council of the Blind, Empire Force, Inc., Sidney Fuchs, Andrew & Dana Faletti, and Susan Chandler for a total of \$1,125.

CDR, Inc. would also like to thank donors from the Western Law Center for disAbility Rights, Ralph Black & Catherine Campisi, CA IHSS (Grass Valley), Gary Danor, Gale Williams & DRA for \$895!

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PAID  
PERMIT NO. 509  
SACRAMENTO, CA**