



NEW WORLD

For Persons with disabilities

August 2012

Californians for Disabilities Rights, Inc.

Vol 35, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cynde Soto, Pres. of Ch 32 (Long Beach)

Greetings,

It is that time again to renew our commitment to CDR by sending in our yearly dues. I realize times are tough and for some, every penny counts in our household budget. Even after saying that, I need to add that to our membership dues are crucial to the continuation of our organization. As our brochure says, "Californians for Disability Rights is the oldest and largest membership organization of persons with disabilities in California. Originally organized in 1970 as the California Association of the Physically Handicapped (CAPH) with five members, CDR has grown to become an effective and widely respected cross-disability advocacy force."

One key to CDR's over four decades of progress is that it is much more than a single issue or single-disability group. CDR represents all persons with disabilities in CA. Guided by this trans-disability principle CDR and its members fight for the independence, dignity and equality of all disabled persons. So for these reasons alone, you can see how important it is to ensure the viability of our organization and the way you can support these efforts is to send in your membership dues today!

Let us continue our legacy together!

Yours in Advocacy, Cynde

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Randy Hicks, Chair, Ruthee Goldkorn, Tony Goldsmith & Susan Chandler

Tony on SB 1186, Steinberg, Dutton, is a bill that will be a blow to the disability community. :

Despite an end of August deadline for a vote, SB 1186 has still not been finalized. This is a very complex bill that will impact the rights of people with disabilities. Some portions of the bill may positively impact disability rights, while other portions may cause harm. CDR opposes the current bill language, though we recognize the language is far from final or complete. As soon as the final version of the bill is proposed, CDR may take a revised position. If the bill has any negative impact on the rights of people with disabilities that are not substantially outweighed by benefits to the disability community, it will continue to be opposed. Advocates should stay

tuned for dates on which the Bill will go through Senate and Assembly committees and the floors of both houses of the legislature. *(continued on p3)*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susan Chandler

In my last column I wrote about PASSION. I asked you "What are you passionate about?" Well it seems to me that we have lost our PASSION FOR OUR CIVIL RIGHTS! Very few people have responded to my emails about renewing! I don't get it... I want to see CDR keep going but don't see a lot of people with the same interest. I get discouraged, but if we give up, **who will carry the torch for access? There are constant assaults on our Civil Rights, see the legislative report.** *(on pg 3)*

One of these assaults is the state's agenda is to push people that are "Dual Eligible" (those w/Medicare /MediCal) into Managed Care. Last year they put all the MediCal recipients into managed care. The plans performance was rated by Medicare and all but one had a poor rating (1 or 2 stars out of 5). Of the requests for exemption so they could continue with regular doctor **85% were rejected!!** Check out the IHSS Consumers Union on Facebook or email NancyBK@aol.com.

Sometimes I lose sight of my PASSION, do you? The LA EXPO had over 6500 adult visitors but we only got 4 memberships! How disappointing! I had wanted to be there but ended up getting surgery, am bed bound, and am still recovering from it 4 months later because the bone infection did not go away! I will take IV antibiotics for 6 weeks to hopefully clear it up.

If you have any ideas about starting a chapter check out the New Chapter packet we put on the web site.

As I said in February, we can now accept new memberships and renewals AND payments as well as donations to the Foundation via Pay Pal on CDR's web site! www.disabilityrights-cdr.org

Congratulations to Ben Rockwell who is now President of the Board of CALIF, the Independent Living Center in LA.

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New World

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CDR Member's Exchange

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Ben Rockwell

Immediate Past President

Laura Williams, Linda Hinchey

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.

CDR FOUNDATION NEWS

By Kathleen Barajas

This year's CDR Foundation scholarship winner is Melissa Gant! She resides in San Francisco, and attends UC Hastings, as a graduate student. Her major/educational goal is Law (Juris Doctorate Degree), with her vocational goal being a Lawyer specializing in disability rights.

Melissa says that she is no stranger to struggle. She was diagnosed with Lupus at 16, and came to be known as the comeback kid, due to her hard work and determination. She recalls a professor who told her that higher education is both a privilege and a sacrifice, and those unable to handle it should step aside and make room for those who could. This memory continues to re-ignite a fire in her that removes all doubt in terms of pursuing her goals.

Melissa suffered kidney failure during her first semester in college, and realized that it would be an uphill battle from that point on. She approaches her education and life with all the enthusiasm, integrity, and determination that she knows; failure is not an option for her.

Melissa's family is one whose parents always stress the importance of education. Her father, the son of an illiterate sharecropper, was forced to pick cotton instead of attending school; her mother, born in Thailand, spent her days working in the rice paddies and taking care of her younger siblings. Melissa feels that she is obligated to persevere, despite any obstacles she faces. She earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from U C Davis, amidst six years on dialysis and then undergoing a kidney transplant.

Because of the struggles she has faced, Melissa understands the significance of understanding disability legislation, and this is the reason for her wanting to be an attorney. Melissa wants to give a voice to those who would otherwise go unheard. She says that being disabled does not need to mean the end of a dream. She wants to dedicate herself and her career to making the path much more accessible for disabled students. She is the third person in her family to graduate from high school, the second to earn a Bachelors, and is hoping to be the first to become a lawyer.

At U C Hastings, Melissa is a member of several cultural organizations; she is not been able to participate in many of their events, again due to her health. She plans to run for office in at least one of the organizations, in order to ensure that the needs of students with disabilities are being addressed. Melissa and a fellow classmate have plans to start a Disabled Law Students Association, in order to provide additional support to all law students, whether they have a disability or not. They plan to model it after similar organizations at other law school, such as U C Berkeley.

Melissa's goal, as an attorney, is to continue to give back to her community, along with promoting greater accessibility to education and resources for those living with disabilities.

Kathleen Barajas, our Webmistress, has revised CDR's web site www.disabilityrights-cdr.org and the CDR Foundation can be accessed from that. It lists ways to donate to the foundation.

There are lots of ways to support the CDR Foundation & the CDRF Scholarship fund! CDRF is a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt organization.

Do you shop at **Ralph's**? Ralph's has a community fundraising program. Please go to their web site and sign up so that CDRF will earn MONEY: <http://www.ralphs.com/>.

(Cont. on page 3)

LEGISLATIVE REPORT (Cont.)

Disabled placards have been a contentious issue and CDR members have had a variety of opinions over the years. It keeps coming back and the point seems to be to scapegoat us and get DMV off the hook. The Legislative Committee will be working with Sen. DLeon to make sure any bill does not punish us. If it does, we will straight up oppose; if it is a good bill, with additional incentives for accessible on street parking and mid block curb cuts, we might consider being the sponsor. Ruthee

Bills that CDR supported that became Law.

AB 1793 (Yamada): Public health: federal funding: public health emergencies.

AB 2308 (Torres): Land use: housing element: regional housing need.

AB 2406 (Buchanan): Insurance: rate change proceedings.

SB 1134 (Yee): Persons of unsound mind: psychotherapist duty to protect.

AB 503 (Block): Processing write-in votes.

CDR opposed bill that passed:

AB 2282 (Berryhill): Disabled persons: equal access remedies.

SB 1281 (Blakeslee): Criminal procedure: not guilty by reason of insanity.

Bills still pending that CDR opposes

AB 2002 (Cedillo): Medi-Cal: managed care

S.B. No. 1186 Steinberg Dutton: Disability access: liability.

AB 889 (Ammiano and V. Manuel Pérez): Domestic work employees.

FOUNDATION NEWS (Cont.):

Participant registration for the new term begins on September 1, 2011; anyone registered MUST RE-REGISTER! CDRF's number is #82491. WWW.Goodsearch.com is also a way to support the foundation. You can use it as your home page and every time you log on CDRF earns something. There are others associated with it: Good Shop and Good Dining.

The Foundation is looking into various other fundraisers. If you have any ideas, please contact Kathleen Barajas, Foundation Chair, at kdbarajas@aol.com.

The Foundation is looking for more board members, especially people from the community who might be willing to help raise funds for CDRF. Please contact Kathleen at kdbarajas@aol.com.

LA CHAPTER OF CDR FORMING! WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE CDR IN LA AGAIN?

Marvin Wasserman of Hermosa Beach is looking at gathering like-minded disAbility advocates in June. Please contact him at (719) 349-7317 or marvinwssrmn@aol.com, if you are interested.

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and the
CDR Foundation Website

at
www.disabilityrights-cdr.org/cdrfoundation.html