



NEW WORLD

For Persons with disAbilities

November 2013

Californians for Disability Rights

SJ Expo Issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ADVOCACY—CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Opportunities are everywhere to advocate for your civil rights or those of others, but you have to make them a priority. I admit that I have not been very active in my community because of health problems, but even with those constraints, I have managed to get some advocacy done. How about you?

After 4 years of trying, I finally got the County to improve access to the local Community Center. At a doctor's office, I urged the property manager to designate a proper disabled parking space. Along an exceedingly lengthy stretch of sidewalk, I persuaded the city of SLO to install a curb cut.

After meeting a gal who mentioned she couldn't get to her favorite sandwich place because there were no curb cuts and the driveways were too steep for her wheelchair, I called the City Public Works Department to put it on their list as a priority. I also gave the gal the name and phone number of the city contact to make the request herself.

The City of Morro Bay has a place of business sidewalk issue that shocked me and so I notified them. Nothing has been done yet—so, time for follow up!

When I do advocacy via the internet by passing along calls for action, I make sure that there is a contact person to send the letter to. I also send copies of what I wrote to my list of other advocates, so they can copy and personalize it to send along. Hopefully, this makes it easier for people to take action.

What I've found useful in making advocacy work include 1) keeping your cool; no one likes angry confrontations; 2) documenting the issue; 3) providing your complaint in writing to someone who can do something about it; 4) following up to see if your complaint was received; 5) asking the responsible party what they're going to do about your issue; and 6) if all else fails and you think it is worth the effort, pursuing legal action--this could be going to Small Claims Court or hiring a lawyer, or making a complaint to the State or Federal Department of Justice (DOJ).

Bottom line, when you are out and about, look around you! There are many public places that

need "fixing". You may be the only person who lets the Public Works Department know that there is a problem with a certain sidewalk or curb cut. Remember, you can make a difference!

CDR FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Foundation has added five new members on its board and has raised \$190 from the Macy's fundraiser we had this past August 2013. The Foundation is still seeking new members to be on its board for its vacant positions: Secretary and Vice-President and looking out for any new fundraising ideas as well.

The foundation's scholarship for college and university students with disabilities has been postponed until next year of 2014, thus the announcement of it is TBD at this moment in time.

The foundation is also seeking new and improve ideas on how to make the foundation run smoothly and updating its publishing materials. These steps won't be considered until next year of 2014.

If you have any ideas, concerns, questions, you can reach me on via e-mail; Shira Leeder, Chair of CDR Foundation: shiraleeder08@gmail.com Thank you and wishing everyone an early Happy Holidays season!

CHAPTER REPORTS

Chapter 14 tabled at Consumnes River College Disability Awareness Fair and combined with Health Care for All and Awareness Fair at Sac City College, Housing, Coordinated Care Initiative, Transportation, pedestrian crossing issue with CalTrans (pedestrian accidents); Bus access, working w/DogFite; smart cards to connect w/Roseville, Yolo Co, etc. one pay for all; CDR & Community Disaster Preparedness Commission, emergency evacuation; Sac Co Dis Advisory Comm. Randy also talked about Managed Health Care at the People First Conference. Polling place accessibility.

(Continued on page 2)

CDR LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Randy Hicks, Legislative Chair

The Governor and the Legislature gave to us and took away; we won on employment and protections for minorities, but lost on caregiving and housing. The budget dictated that many bills on housing were held in committee, for example: AB 5 (Amano): Homelessness; SB 550 (Jackson): Accessible housing; SB 1, Steinberg set up Local Redevelopment Agencies; and vetoed: AB 229 Atkins, which would have set up disability housing.

CDR worked on two bills which were both signed: AB 1041 (Chesbro): Developmental Services: Employment First Policy which was signed, and AB 680 Gomez - LGBT diversity and sensitivity training in nursing homes which was also supported by the CA Senior Legislature.

However the Governor signed AB 241 (Amano): Domestic work employees: labor standards which CDR opposed because it would eliminate wage order 15, but it became moot when the Federal Department of Labor imposed new regulations on overtime pay and benefits.

I would like to thank the Legislative Committee for all their hard work. We are always looking at new bills or old bills that keep coming back to make sure that the civil rights of people with disabilities are protected. We welcome anyone who would like

to join our legislative committee let me know at: rhfactor_98@yahoo.com. You can see our full bill list at our website: www.disabilityrights-cdr.org.

CHAPTER REPORTS (cont.)

Chapter 22: Susan has reconnected with the ILC in Atascadero and AFA (Access for All) and is working with local cities on access issues.

Chapter 1: Alisa has been talking to folks regarding yellow bumps tactile are harming persons with disabilities in manual chairs, walkers, and canes. She is working with people on personal cases and cities on access issues.

Join us for the first State Council Meeting of 2014!

The meeting will be on January 6, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. via teleconference. Watch the CDR Members Xchange for more information and the agenda.

SAVE THE DATE!

CDR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		
FIRST NAME, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST NAME		[] New or [] Renewal
STREET ADDRESS, APT. #		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
TELEPHONE	CELL/FAX	E-MAIL ADDRESS (print carefully)
CHAPTER (If known)	DATE	AMOUNT ENCLOSED: [] \$10 – Student/Low Income [] \$25 – Regular [] \$40 – Family
[] Please put me on the CDR Members Exchange via Yahoo Groups (must supply e-mail address)		
INSTRUCTIONS: Check the web site for more membership info: www.disabilityrights-cdr.org Print out this form, complete all entries, and mail it with a check for amount due, payable to: CDR, INC. C/O Kathleen Barajas, Treasurer 1410 Simmons Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90022-4221		