



NEW WORLD

For Persons with disAbilities

May 2014

Californians for Disability Rights, Inc.

DCAD 2014

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I was listening to a sermon last week, it hit me that Ed Roberts, the Godfather of Independent Living, was not unlike Jesus. He started a revolt against the oppression and exploitation of those who were labeled with many negative and derogatory names, who we now call disabled. He was one of the many who worked in the disability civil rights movement to get people to recognize that we should accept and treat all people with dignity and respect, no matter what their capabilities or appearance, because they are human beings. CDR was part of this movement. Its leaders went to the CA legislature and got them to listen to reason and helped them make the laws to include, rather than exclude, people with disabilities.

We still have people who want to exclude others who are not like themselves! Even the owner of the LA Clippers got caught expressing his negative attitudes while exploiting those whom he says he doesn't want anything to do with! We are still hearing about developmentally disabled people being paid sub-minimum wages. We are still facing attitudes of architects, builders, building inspectors and building owners who refuse to follow the laws to make buildings accessible. Whenever I feel like giving up, when I come across some violation, I get mad all over again and get energized once more to get some action and make things right! It never goes away. We still have a long way to go! And Access is not the only problem inclusion in all parts of our lives is also very important.

What are we to do? Mason Rose, a CAPH founding member (CDR's forerunner), became a member of the ATBCB, the national board and helped formulate the UFAS, national access regulations, that lead to the ADA. Dick Wooten made portable hand controls and started the Abilities EXPOs. Gale Williams led the fight in LA to make sure we could get into grocery stores. John Lonberg continued the access quest in Riverside. Ruthee Goldkorn, Hollilynn D'Lil, and Richard Skaff continue to lead the fight to keep the access codes. Nancy B Kennedy continues to advocate via the Facebook IHSS Consumers Union for better IHSS and the push by the Dept of Managed Health Care.

CIVIL RIGHTS—"It's Our Turn

By Ruthee Goldkorn

The usual groups who target the disability community: Lawyers Against Lawsuit Abuse (LALA) and Civil Justice Association of California (CJAC), recently sponsored two anti-civil rights bills. They targeted us in 2012 with SB1186 which eviscerated our Civil Rights. Their poster child was a small business owner from Redlands who had no accessible parking and claimed he did not have to because he did not have any customer parking. Without a sign announcing parking for company trucks only, of course he was sued. The suit brought him to the attention of LALA and CJAC. This year, their poster child is a bar owner from Torrance who owns two bars. She was on KCAL Channel 9, the sister station of KCBS, last week admitting she doesn't have an accessible bathroom and will not put one in until she is left alone and the lawsuits stop.

Thank goodness for Assemblyman Bob Wiechowski (D-25, Silicon Valley), the Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee. He is CDR's friend and saw to it these bills did not get out of committee. We cannot continue to rely on the generosity of our Legislative friends, however, because many of them are termed out and we have few left and little to rely on.

So, the answer is, we must rely on ourselves. We have to take the offense and work with folks like Tony Goldsmith, a lawyer and a member of CDR's Legislative Committee. We need to gather groups together, like the Consumer Attorneys and Disability Rights California, among others, to form a coalition to get bill authors and co-authors from each House to sponsor better bills. We must stop the requirement for anyone to dig up a poster child of a harangued and harassed micro or small business owner to target our Civil Rights.

We tried in 2012 to put provisions into SB1186 to protect micro/small businesses and we were told "No". We will have more authority if we are the sponsors of better bills. We will aim to protect micro/small businesses from the perpetrators of pred

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CDR FOUNDATION REPORT

By Shira Leeder, Foundation Chair

NEW WORLD

DCAD Edition

CDR, Inc.

(Californians for Disability Rights)

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New World

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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.

Hello Everyone! As Chair of the CDR Foundation board we are wishing you all a Happy Spring 2014. We had a good experience at the Los Angeles EXPO. My other CDR and CDRF colleagues were there at the expo in my place and they collected about 30 or 40 names of people who were interested in CDR and CDRF in our visitor guest book.

The Foundation board also looks forward to a successful Disability Capitol Action Day (DCAD) next week on Wednesday, May 21st, 2014 in Sacramento. We hope we see you at the CDR booth! We will be giving out scholarship applications as well as looking for interested people with diverse skills to become board members. We want to have help writing grants and raising funds for our October \$2000 goal. We are also looking for help with publishing the New World.

At our last board meeting on Monday, May 5th. We voted in our newest board member, Helen Walsh. We are very excited to have Helen and her expertise in digital media, and communication fields on the board. With her help, hopefully we can produce a digital ten minute mini-film about what the Foundation does. Our goal for the Foundation is raise to \$2000 so we can feel comfortable and pay for the New World Newsletter with ease and give out the \$500 scholarship without hesitation.

As for getting more funds and donations for the foundation expenses and scholarship, the board has decided on several future fundraisers, including the Macy's discount fundraiser; an Applebee's restaurant fundraiser, which will take place around the San Jose Abilities Expo in Nov.; and other fundraising ideas at our May board meeting, which are can be found below.

FUNDRAISING FOR CDR FOUNDATION

Here are a few ways you can donate to the CDR Foundation. All donations are tax deductible! They can be made via:

PayPal: at www.paypal.com; the email address to use for this is cdr4info@yahoo.com.

Network for Good: Single or monthly donations can be made to the Foundation at <http://www1.networkforgood.org/>.

United Way: The Foundation's number is **04300-04116**. Please invite working friends and relatives to donate to the Foundation. If you or they are employed, donations can be done via payroll deductions--it is an easy and painless way to donate.

Threshold Ramp Sales: Profit from sales will go to the Foundation see related ad and article.

Macy's Shop for a Cause: The Foundation will be selling Macy's coupons for \$5 to be used on **August 23rd, 2014**. The tickets are all profit for CDF and they give the buyer a 25% discount on most purchases (in store and on line) the whole day. All proceeds go to the Foundation and the Laura Williams Memorial Scholarship. Please email Shira at Shira@leeder.com for more details.

INFORMATION FOR CDR MEMBERS FOR CDRF FUNDRAISER

CDRF has an opportunity to teach the community and at the same time make some money for scholarships and the “New World”, the publication that educates people with disabilities about changes that are being made every day in our “new world” of disabilities.

One of the most annoying problems that people in wheelchairs encounter is that “bump” that happens when they get to a door and have to bump up over a 1 to 2 inch threshold including sliding glass doors!

CDRF is here to help remedy that problem! SafePath Products produces environmentally friendly ramps made with recycled materials—rubber or plastics that are guaranteed for 10 years!

For every ramp sold at retail price, CDRF can make money! A **CDR** member can make a 25% commission (over the wholesale price) for themselves and give 25% to the tax deductible CDR Foundation as well! To join CDR go to www.disabilityrights-cdr.org to learn how to join.

Descriptions of the ramps are at: www.safepathproducts.com. So pick the type you want, measure the height and width of the threshold, then call or email me with the measurements. I will get a quote/invoice for you; you deliver the quote to the buyer and get the payment sent to me. I make the order and pay the company and when they get the order & \$, they drop ship the ramp with instructions and adhesive to the customer. The customer installs it themselves (or has someone help them)! It is very easy to do and it will make your life and others so much easier.

In partnership with SafePath Products, Inc., a portion of the ramp sales from this campaign are going to:

**CDR'S “NEW WORLD” publication and the annual
LAURA WILLIAMS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Please contact Susan Chandler of “Ramps R Us”

Contact: barnonhill@aol.com or 805 528-4695 or cell 805 441-8031



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For campaign details, contact:

Susan Chandler at 805-528-4695 or barnonhill@aol.com

Or

Shira Leeder, CDRF Chair, at Shira@leeder.com



**For product details, go to:
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**In partnership with SafePath Products, Inc.,
a portion of the ramp sales will go to
CDR'S “NEW WORLD” PUBLICATION
& LAURA WILLIAMS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

ACTION ALERT FOR THE CALIFORNIA BUDGET IN JUNE

Please tell your legislator and the Governor your stories and what it means to you to be living with the 8% cut in IHSS hours, and if you would be affected by capping, tell them your story too! My letter is below:

As an advocate with a disability who is a senior who does not use IHSS, it pains me to see stories of people who are hampered by a system that is very **stingy** with its resources, especially now with the budget surplus. IHSS is a wonderful program that helps seniors and people with disabilities stay living independently in their own homes!!!

Believe me, I have spent time in Nursing Homes and they are NO FUN! There is no privacy, you cannot control your own schedule, you have a very tiny "allowance" to spend--not enough for a cell phone (I don't think), and you have to rely on friends and family (if you have any) to bring you cheer and little perks that you could get yourself if you lived in your own home!

Capping hours of workers to avoid paying overtime is a really poor decision! Many of the households who get the maximum hours only get 9 hours a day but these people need 24/7 care and are cared for by family members and loved ones and they never get full compensation for 24/7--ever! These people have been able to carve out a living with the meager wages they do earn. This cap would force them to open their homes FOR ONE LOUSY HOUR to strangers who have little knowledge of their loved one's idiosyncrasies and health problems, possibly causing a lot of harm, damage, medical emergencies, not to say MONEY, which could have been avoided by allowing the caregivers one more measly hour! Come on Governor, give them a break!

In addition to the cap, we want to have the recently implemented 8% cut in hours restored along with removing the cap and even paying the overtime! What a concept!

We are no longer going to allow people to be treated like they have no worth--it is our turn to stand up, be counted, and speak for ourselves and for those who cannot!

CONGRATULATIONS!

CDR wants to congratulate their members Randy Hicks and Kathleen Barajas for being nominees for the Jack Campbell Award, given at Disability Capitol Action Day!

LAURA WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIP

The Foundation board is seeking any student advocates with a disability who are going to enroll or are currently studying at any university or college and to apply for the foundation's scholarship of \$500. It is mandatory for applicants to join CDR to be an applicant. When you go to the website go to the membership section and sign up as a student for only \$10! You can pay with PayPal.

Applications are now being accepted for CDR Foundation's Laura Williams Memorial Scholarship. Laura was known and respected for her work on behalf of people with disabilities and seniors, including the state's compliance with the 1990 passage of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the 1999 U.S. Supreme Court's Olmstead Decision.

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to people with disabilities who have been admitted to or are enrolled in a Post High School training program, or California college or university and who are committed to taking a leadership role in improving the lives of persons with disabilities.

More information and the application form can be found at <http://www.disabilityrights-cdr.org/foundation/scholarship.html>.

The deadline to apply is **September 1, 2014**. The scholarship recipient will be announced on October 20, 2014, and award will be given out on October 27, 2014.

CIVIL RIGHTS (Cont.)

atory lawsuits who have defamed the disability community.

Tony will be speaking with Gene Wong, General Counsel for the Senate, to obtain a direction we will be able to plot a course for. We will then have a plan and a strategy for CDR and the coalition to be co-sponsors of these bills. Finally, we can work to get the authors lined up before January 2015, when the next legislative year begins.

We are on the cusp of the 25th anniversary of the ADA and the mantra is: "It's Our Turn".

JOIN CDR TODAY!!!

Become a member of California's oldest and largest membership organization of persons with disabilities!

Membership applications can be done online at: www.disabilityrights-cdr.org/memberform_elec.html

*Payments can be made via PayPal or mail.