
◆ THE DERBY CITY NSCIA NEWSLETTER ◆

APRIL 2010

The Derby City Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association Network- Serving Kentuckiana.

Message From the President

Dear Members & Friends-

There will NOT be a meeting in April or May. Our next meeting will be the Kingfish dinner in June. See future issues of this newsletter for details.

- David Allgood

From the Internet—ed.

SCUBA DIVING WITH HEART

Napa divers met at Queen of the Valley Medical Center's Wellness Medical Center Saturday to learn how to be dive buddies.

A dive buddy is a certified scuba diver who wants to learn how to assist disabled divers both in the pool and open waters.

Buddies learn how to assist disabled divers in both getting in an out of the water and moving around in it.

Diveheart, an Illinois-based nonprofit group that promotes scuba diving therapy, sponsored the training session.

Instructors Jackie Danielsson and Roger Haseltine said they hope to open up a chapter of Diveheart in Napa and work alongside Napa Spinal Cord Injury Network to offer scuba therapy to people with disabilities.



From the Internet—ed

“GLEE” CASTS ACTOR WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY IN GUEST-STARRING ROLE

The TV show “Glee” aired an episode in November 2009 called “Wheels,” which featured the struggle of a wheelchair user, Artie, when the glee club couldn’t afford a wheelchair-friendly bus to take them to regionals.

The episode featured two actresses with Down’s syndrome to portray characters with Down’s syndrome, which called attention to the fact that Kevin McHale, who plays Artie, is not disabled in real life. Criticism of the casting choice poured in from the Associated Press, the Media Access Office, and disabled “CSI” actor Robert David Hall.

On March 19 a letter was posted on the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation website from disabled actor Zac Weinstein who was recently hired for a guest-starring role on “Glee.”

Weinstein, who uses a wheelchair, couldn’t say much about the role, but did say that he’ll be playing “a character that suffered a spinal cord injury.” He also mentioned that he had his own trailer, complete with a wheelchair lift. “I got to say things like, “Call me when you’re ready—I’ll be in my trailer.”

Like his characters, Weinstein himself was disabled by a spinal cord injury—his happened in a summer camp boating accident.

In response to the criticism, Weinstein says, “I know for a fact that producers did audition actors who use wheelchairs for the role of Artie. If Kevin McHale was the best actor for the role, then it shouldn’t matter whether he is able to walk in real life.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President’s Message	1
“Glee” to Hire Disabled Actor	1
Calendar	2
Federal Hiring Event for Disabled	3
More Support for Disabled Travelers	4
For Sale	5

Refrigerator Calendar

2010

APRIL

- 5th
Mon** **Elderly & Disabled Advisory Council Meeting.
1:00 p.m.; TARC; 1000 W. Broadway; Board Room.**
- 19th
Mon** **Derby City Chapter, Spinal Cord Injury Asso.
NO Meeting in April.**
- 26th
Mon** **Metro disAbility Coalition Meeting; 3:15 p.m.
Spalding University; 845 S. Third Street; Louisville**

MAY

- 3rd
Mon** **Elderly & Disabled Advisory Council Meeting
1:00; TARC; 1000 W. Broadway; Board Room.**
- 17th
Mon** **Derby City Chapter, Spinal Cord Injury Assoc.
NO Meeting In May.**
- 24th
Mon** **Metro disAbility Coalition Meeting; 3:15 p.m.
Spalding University; 845 S. Third Street; Louisville.**

For More Information Call
David Allgood at 502-588-8574

Derby City Area Chapter
of the
National Spinal Cord Injury Association

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Derby City Area Chapter of the N.S.C.I.A. is a membership organization for individuals with spinal cord injuries, their families, and health professionals. Founded in 1984 as a Charter Member of the N.S.C.I.A., it was incorporated under IRS Section 501 (c) 3 as a not for profit organization. The Board of Directors consists of the Officers, Past President and the Board Members At Large.

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Visit Our Website at

www.DerbyCitySpinalCord.org

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to you through the generous support of Frazier
Rehab Institute**

From NewMobility.com

FEDERAL HIRING EVENT FOR THE DISABLED

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy are sponsoring a "hiring event" on April 26 for people with disabilities seeking federal employment. Representatives from government agencies will be reviewing resumes prior to the event and inviting prospective candidates for interviews.

"This is not your traditional 'job fair,'" announced ODEP's Assistant Secretary, Kathy Martinez, during the nationwide "listening tour" sponsored by ODEP. Martinez characterized the April event as a "federal hiring extravaganza." The tour — which sought comments from individuals with disabilities, agencies and advocates in six major cities throughout the United States — and the federal hiring event, are part of an aggressive federal initiative seeking to boost employment numbers for persons with disabilities.

In addition to positions available in Washington, D.C., federal agencies may have jobs available in various locations. To come to the nation's capital on April 26, an applicant must be invited for an interview. Arrangements can be made for a different interview process or location with the agency listing the job opportunity. The April 26 hiring event is the focal point of the employment initiative, but interviews and hiring will happen on other dates as well. This event is just the beginning.

Many different agencies will take part in the event. Applicants can be hired through Schedule A authority, which means the application process targets qualified applicants with severe disabilities and does not have to be open to the public. For more info on the Schedule A process, click on <http://www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/publicat.htm>, then scroll down to "Employment Options" and click on "The ABCs of Schedule A for Applicants with Disabilities."

Christine Griffin is the newly hired deputy director of OPM, co-sponsor of the hiring event. A wheelchair user and labor and employment attorney, Griffin previously worked for the Disability Law Center in Boston and also the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, where she established Project LEAD (Leadership for Employment of Applicants with Disabilities). While at the EEOC, she was surprised to learn of the low numbers of people with disabilities being hired by the federal government. One of the worst hiring percentages, ironically, came from OPM.

"I don't know anyone around here who has been as vocal as I have been, and now that I'm here at OPM, it's a wonderful opportunity. and this is just the beginning."

(Continued On Page Four)

FEDERAL HIRING EVENT, CONT'D

We have a President and an Administration who really appreciate this issue, and John Berry, OPM's director, really gets it. The federal government has not been the friendliest place for people with disabilities to find employment in the past, but today is a new day, and this is just the beginning.

Griffin's immediate goal is to boost the current percentage of workers with disabilities employed by the federal government from .88 (less than one percent) to 2 percent or more. "That would represent a doubling right there. If we can accomplish this in a couple of years, then we'll set a higher goal." A rise of only 1 percent represents nearly 20,000 jobs. The OPM has had hiring events before, but none that targeted people with disabilities. "This is the first time that so many agencies have come together for any federal hiring event."

As an attorney at Boston's Disability Law Center, Griffin saw a lot of discrimination in the workplace. She says the traditional ways of dealing with discrimination — "disability education, disability awareness, disability this and that" — have resulted in "next to nothing." The only thing she's seen that makes a difference, she says, is people working side by side. "And then attitudes change. That's why I've always been passionate about employment. We fight for transportation, health care, housing — but if at the end of the day you are able to work and want to work, but don't have a job, what do you have?"

To apply for a federal job and participate in the April 26 hiring event: Go to www.usajobs.com and click on "Special Hiring Events." More than 40 agencies are participating with numerous occupations and locations. This page will have further information on how to apply and the types of documentation required.



MORE SUPPORT NEEDED FOR DISABLED TRAVELERS TO EUROPE

Better communication between airlines, airports and holiday operators is needed to ensure that disabled people are treated fairly when traveling by air, according to new research.

This week the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) gave its verdict on how well airports had implemented new European Union laws – introduced in 2008 – that make it the responsibility of airports to provide assistance to disabled travelers and passengers with reduced mobility.

The CAA has urged travel companies to improve the provision and accessibility of information, and to make it easier for disabled passengers to pre-book assistance. The number of routes available for passengers travelling with assistance dogs should also be increased, according to the report, while better signage and information at airports is also required. It also called for greater awareness among airport staff of the range of impairments covered by the legislation.

"This review is a further step in ensuring that disabled people and people with reduced mobility receive equal treatment while travelling by air," said Andrew Haines, the chief executive of the CAA. "The findings of this review are being used to influence the next steps we will take to ensure that no matter which airport or airline someone uses, and no matter how their mobility is impaired, they are treated equally."

The report follows research carried out last month by Tourism for All, a British-based charity that specialises in travel for the disabled, that suggested travel companies are failing to serve the needs of disabled travellers.

A survey of its members found that 85 per cent of respondents did not believe travel agents understand the needs of disabled travellers. More than three quarters of those questioned said they did not feel they were catered for by high street agents.

Meanwhile, the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) admitted that the level of awareness of disability issues within its membership was not as high as it should be, although they claimed there had been a significant improvement in recent years.



**MOBILITY BRIDGE OFFERS NEW WAY OF
USING YOUR MOBILE**

By [Ben Crompton](#)

A new innovation is in the works which allows those with conditions that affect movement, posture and coordination to effectively operate mobile phones and computer [technology](#).

Called the [Mobility Bridge](#), the device has two methods of operation: one uses a combination magnet to activate a contactless switch, and another uses a more sophisticated proximity sensor.

Through various body movements a signal can be sent to operate the [mobile](#) phone via Bluetooth, the action from the individual can then be interpreted by way of an application on the phone being used. Viewing the phone can also take place on an optional larger screen.

The system can thereby be attached to a wheel chair allowing the user to see and operate the phone. This patent-pending technology appears to be very adaptable, which is essential for it to be able to operate with a variety of devices and, more importantly, people with very different and often complex impairments, such as cerebral palsy.

This could be a marked improvement on current devices which often suffer from reliability issues and can be costly.

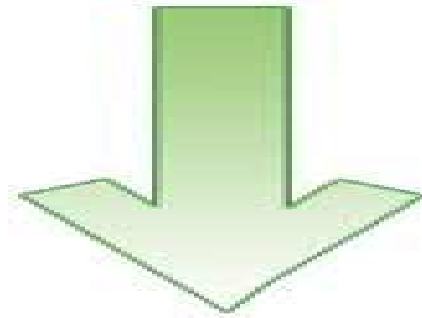
Mobility Bridge is a spin-off from the [Wheeltop project funded by BT](#), and is a collaborative effort between industry, academia and Beaumont College, [Scope's](#) Further Education College in Lancaster and has been part funded by the Government's Technology Strategy Board.

**FREE TAX PREPARATION
ASSISTANCE DEADLINE**

The last appointment day for free tax assistant through the Center for Accessible Living's VITA Tax Program is April 15, 2010. The tax site is open by appointment only on Tuesdays and Fridays.

If you are interested in this service contact Beverly Alford at 589-6620 or balford@calky.org.

FOR SALE ***



2004 Buick Rendezvous CX, Gold Sport Utility 4D, AWD; 52,953 mi; seats 5—rear compartment contains Sonic scooter Bruno lift; new battery; numerous special features. \$8,800. Call Bryan Fantoni at 502-644-4446 or email at Bryan.Fantoni@mozlaw.com.

Easy Stand Glider 600; like new—barely used; allows transfer, stand and glider movement of legs. Paid \$6,000. Will sell for \$3,000. Call Shirley at 502/228-1271.

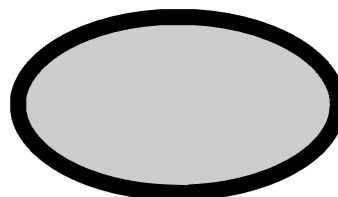
93" E150; EZ Lock WC System Elec. w/Quantum 600 wc/swivel captain's chairs/3-way power driver's seat/remote start burglar alarm/front-rear air/power wc lift/new upholstery. \$11,000, negotiable. **(502) 543-5948/(502) 773-2337**.

****If assistance is needed to pay for any of the above items, contact Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation at 1-800-327-5287 for information on loans at 5% interest to qualified individuals.*

***Cookbooks for Sale:** Recipes compiled by Chapter members; \$10:00. Call David @ 585-8574.

***Video tapes for sale.** Various topics related to spinal cord injuries. Call David Allgood or Buddy Lawson.

♦ **SCI -Shirts for sale.** S, M, L, XL. David—589-6620.



You are cordially invited to join us!

The Derby City Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association consists of people with spinal cord injuries and similar physical conditions, their family members, friends, and professionals or other interested parties.

We meet:

WHEN- Third Monday of every month from 6:30 to 9:00 PM

WHERE- Frazier Rehab Institute, 10th floor Dining Room
220 Abraham Flexner Way, Louisville, KY 40202

If you wish to be a member, donor, and/or be on the mailing list of the Derby City Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association please complete and mail the following form to the address below

National Spinal Cord Injury Association
Derby City Chapter

Membership & Organization Sponsorship Form

Name: Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. _____ Date _____
 Address: _____ Apt.# _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Business (if any): _____
 Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____
 Date of Birth _____
 Para: _____ Quad _____ Hemiplegic: _____
 Level of Disability _____ Other Disability _____
 Able-Bodied(yes/no): _____
 New Member: _____ Renewal _____ Newsletter Subscription
 (only \$12): _____
 Special Interests /Hobbies/Sports: _____

Membership is open to all individuals and sponsorship to all organizations interested in spinal cord injury.

Mark Type of TAX DEDUCTIBLE Individual Membership or Organization Donor Category Desired***

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| _____ Regular-\$12 | _____ Bronze Organization-\$100-249 |
| _____ Sponsor-\$25 | _____ Silver Organization-\$250-499 |
| _____ Patron \$50 | _____ Gold Organization- \$500-999 |
| _____ Benefactor-\$100 | _____ Platinum Organization-\$1000-2499 |
| _____ Permanent- \$1000/lifetime** | _____ Diamond Organization-\$2500 Or Over. |

Please make checks payable to: **NSCIA Derby City Chapter**

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