

◆ THE DERBY CITY NSCIA NEWSLETTER ◆

MAY 2008

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

Message From the President

Dear Members & Friends-

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN MAY.

June's meeting is our annual dinner at Kingfish River Road in Louisville. Details provided in next issue.

July's meeting will be held at Frazier Institute, 220 Abraham Flexner Way, 10th floor dining room, Louisville.

-David Allgood

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!!



DISABILITY 101: AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE ADA, DISABILITIES, & ACCOMMODATIONS

The first in a series of education seminars for Human Resource professionals & management

DATE: MAY 12, 2008 8:45 A.M.—2:30 P.M.

LOCATION: 12501 Lakefront Place, Louisville

Attendees will:

- Develop a basic understanding of the ADA
- Learn resources & practical solutions for accommodations
- Learn the legal requirements of ASL interpreters for deaf applicants & develop an understanding of deaf culture
- Hear from a fortune 500 company recruiter who works to promote the successful employment of persons with disabilities
- Increase knowledge of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), and the inexpensive accommodations that work for them.
- Share available resources and tools
- Learn training methods, facilitation techniques, instructional methods, and program delivery mechanisms for diverse groups.

COST: \$149 For Profit \$99 Non Profit
Includes light breakfast, lunch and 4 HR credits

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RECEIVE A REGISTRATION FORM, CONTACT BARB DAVIS AT (502) 589-6620 or bdavis@calky.org

Table of Contents

President's Message/Disability 101.....	1
Who Gets My Vote?.....	2
Calendar.....	3
College Sports for Disabled Athletes.....	4
For Sale.....	5

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.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

David Allgood - (502) 589-6620

VICE PRESIDENT

Adam Ford - (502) 425-2206

TREASURER

Tom Stokes- (502) 957-5865

LIAISON TO FRAZIER REHAB INSTITUTE

Jill Farmer , CTRS—(502) 582-7618

FUNDRAISING CHAIR

Betty Perry—(502) 647-0368

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY/WEB MASTER

Michael Feger- (502) 647-0368

PAST PRESIDENT

Adam Ford- (502) 425-2206

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE-

Mike Perry

Kelly Young

NSCIA

**DERBY CITY CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER**

Editor- Barbara Davis

Contributor- David Allgood

Visit Our Website at
www.DerbyCitySpinalCord.org

**The Derby City Area Chapter Newsletter is
brought to you through the generous support of
Frazier Rehab Institute**

From NewMobility.com

WHO GETS MY VOTE?

By Josie Byzek

I'm a registered Democrat in Pennsylvania and for the first time ever my primary vote actually matters. It's exciting, but it's scary. What if I choose wrong, and my vote is the vote that pushes my candidate into the White House, where he or she ends up being another dunker? Plus, I have a responsibility to figure out which candidate would do the best job on issues that matter most to the disability community. Given that none of the candidates, to my knowledge, has spoken the words, "disability issues" on Meet the Press or even The Tonight Show, this is a harder task than it seemed at first.

For openers I asked other Pennsylvanians with disabilities who they're voting for. Bill Beck, a wheelchair-using advocate with CP I know from my old organizing days, works at Freedom Valley Disability Enablement and lives in the Philly suburb of Broomall. He strikes me as a moderate guy, so I figured he could give me a feel for how folks are choosing their candidates.

"My party already determined its outcome, so I'm probably voting for McCain," says Beck, 56. "But I'm considering switching my party and voting in the Democratic primaries. The Democrats have exciting choices," says Beck.

Will Beck become an Obamacan or Hillraiser? Perhaps. But besides Obama's shine and Clinton's sizzle, what actual issues are important to Beck, or for that matter, to all of us?

"Disability is my consideration," he says, "but it's not the only factor. I care about the war. Housing. How the U.S. is seen by other countries. Also, the economy, jobs, violence, the environment, education and of course, health care."

To bone up on the issues, I visited the American Association of People with Disabilities website (www.aapd.com), where I found a bonanza of info on each presidential candidate, including contact info.

AAPD worked with such disability groups as ADAPT and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered to compile a list of questions that get at each candidate's position on issues ranging from employment to voting. Are these issues organized in order of importance to AAPD and the groups that put the questions together?

"They are not," says Anne Sommers, policy council for AAPD. "We tried to represent the policy interests of the entire cross-disability community, so certain of the issues will strike a chord with more people than others." Some people with disabilities may be moved by which candidate participated the most with AAPD-sponsored activities, while others will want the nitty-gritty details on a specific policy.

Of the three contenders who still have a shot at becoming president in November, only the two Democrats actually completed the questionnaire. But on Nov. 2, AAPD held a

Refrigerator Calendar

***2008**

MAY

5th - Elderly & Disabled Advisory Council Meeting.

Mon 1:00 p.m.; TARC; 1000 W. Broadway; Board Room.

19th - Derby City Chapter meeting; 6:30 p.m; Frazier Rehab Institute.

Mon 220 Abraham Flexner Way; Louisville; 10th floor dining room.

17th - Metro disAbility Coalition Meeting; 3:15 p.m.

Sat Urban County Government Center; Barrett Avenue; Louisville

JUNE

2nd - Elderly & Disabled Advisory Council Meeting

Mon 1:00; TARC; 1000 W. Broadway; Board Room.

16th - Derby City Chapter meeting; 6:30 p.m.; Frazier Rehab Institute

Mon 220 Abraham Flexner Way; Louisville; 10th Floor dining room.

21st - Metro disAbility Coalition Meeting; 3:15 p.m.

Sat Urban County Government Center; Barrett Avenue; Louisville

UPCOMING

**CHAPTER PICNIC SEPTEMBER 21ST
SEE FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS FOR DETAILS**

**For More Information Call
David Allgood at 502-589-6620**

VOTING, CONT'D

candidate forum and most of the big hitters showed up, including Clinton and McCain, who participated by phone. Obama, however, was a no-show. So maybe Clinton's dedication to our community is more solid. But then Obama has a strong outreach to people with disabilities, including holding conference calls specifically for members of our community who are interested in his positions.

Obama's team, which includes disability advocates, sent out a press release trumpeting his support of the Community Choice Act. That's great, but Clinton is an original co-sponsor and Obama is not. So which is better, strong outreach to our community, or consistently embracing our issues?

After talking to Beck, and wading through all the info on AAPD's election resource website, my next step was to explore the disability issues closest to my own heart. Two domestic issues will influence my vote in both the primary and the general election.

First, I'd like to ensure we don't get any more undoers on federal courts and the Supreme Courts. "Undoer" is my own term for those justices who undo civil rights laws. For example, recent decisions have successfully undone Title I of the ADA to such a degree that only 3 percent of people with disabilities claiming job discrimination actually win their cases. And my second big issue is health care, which touches all Americans, regardless of disability status. Since neither Dem candidate will make far-right appointees to anything, rather than delving into the issues of balancing the Courts, I decided to focus on health care.

Like just about everybody who's employed full time, my premiums are out of control, and despite having MS, I've actually considered dropping my policy altogether. So who can deliver the goods on letting me keep more of the money I earn?

After exploring Clinton, Obama and McCain's websites, I was surprised to find McCain's plan resonates with me. For McCain, it's all about tax credits. Under his plan, I'd be able to recoup about \$2,500 of what I spend on health care at tax time.

That sounds pretty good to me! But.....

"Tax credits are nice for people who pay taxes," says Lucy Spruill, a wheelchair user with Spina Bifida who teaches a class on health care policy for the University of Pittsburgh. "And that right off excludes most people with disabilities, who either don't have any taxable income or don't have enough to pay taxes." Spruill, 63, has advocated

for single-payer universal health care since the early 90's, when she supported Clinton's plan as an organizer with our state's chapter of Health Care for All.

But, I confessed to Spruill, I'm not sure what single-payer means. "Think of Medicare," she says. "Medicare is single-payer and so we have a large working model for a single-payer plan here in the United States, although we don't call it that."

Spruill says she'd love a universal model, similar to what Clinton proposes, so you'd think she supports Clinton. But she's actually in Obama's camp, even though his plan isn't completely single-payer or mandatory, and that's not truly universal.

"I think Hilary's plan is probably a very good plan – she's very smart about health care policy," says Spruill. "However, I don't think it stands a snowball's chance in hell of passing. Ever."

Spruill says Obama's plan has a better shot because it is incremental, piecemeal. And it's a good plan because it will institute something called, "community rating" over something else called "experience rating." Right now insurance companies decide our premiums based on small groups we're lumped in, and most small groups include a disparate amount of people with huge health care needs. Community rating, however, takes a very large group of people, like a whole state, and divides health care costs over that large number of people, which means more healthy people supporting those who aren't, and thus lower rates for everyone. Also, community rating would make "pre-existing condition" clauses obsolete. "What's happening now is essentially the insurance companies have it rigged. They set up the pools of people covered so as to maximize their rates," says Spruill.

So let's review: The centerpiece for McCain's healthcare plan is a tempting tax credit that leaves out most people with disabilities. Clinton's is the closest thing to a single-payer universal health care system, but it's mandatory and probably won't pass. Obama's is a series of tweaks and incremental changes that implements community rating, which should both cover those currently without insurance and lower most everyone's premiums.

Yet I'm still not sure who I'll touch the screen for on Pennsylvania's primary day, although it will probably be Obama. Hilary's competent and has a proven record of supporting our issues—and it would be awesome having a woman president. But Obama has a strong outreach to our community, a health care plan that might actually pass, and is inspiring—he makes me cry.

No Clinton has ever made me cry...at least not in a good way.

Besides health care, I'm still concerned about seating judges who won't dismantle civil rights laws like the ADA.

(Continued On Page Five)

VOTING, CONT'D

I have no problem voting across party lines—I voted twice for Republican Gov. Tom Ridge and about a gazillion times for Republican Sen. Arlen Specter. But I don't want a president who appoints conservative judges, as McCain says he'd do. Both Dems say they won't. So come November 4, I'm voting blue, regardless of who's nominated.

Editorial comment: The Derby City Chapter of the NSCIA is a non-partisan nonprofit. We do not endorse any candidate. However, we strongly encourage each of you to become informed about the candidates' stance on issues of importance to you, and VOTE in the primary and November election, for the candidate of your choice. Kentucky's primary is May 20. ☆

From New Mobility, May 2008

COLLEGE SPORTS FOR DISABLED ATHLETES?

The state of Georgia may make legislative history in the collegiate adaptive sport arena with HB 184. Approved March 6 by a 155-0 vote, the bill will establish two, five-year college-level pilot programs for athletes with physical disabilities. Programs are being considered at Kennesaw State University and the University of West Georgia. If the bill passes, Georgia will become one of the few states that provide collegiate sports programs for students with disabilities.

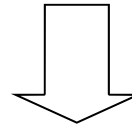
“No collegiate sports program has been created through legislation,” says Ann Cooly, director of partnership and public policy, BlazeSports America. “This will give Georgia's college students and veterans with disabilities, who are interested in pursuing and participating in sports, the opportunity to stay in Georgia's university system.”

SYMBOL MAKEOVER

Annie Hopkins, 3E Love's Founder, first sported her heart-shaped wheelchair design as a tattoo. After receiving positive feedback from strangers and seeing how it sparked disability positive dialogue, Hopkins decided to start her site, where she sells a variety of merchandise such as T-shirts and buttons, that feature the logo. Check it out at www.3elove.com



FOR SALE ***



WC Lift; \$1,700; Invacare Storm TDX 3 Power WC; full reclining; less than 1 year old; \$1500; Call David 589-6620.

NC topper; used; 3 E&J Manual chairs; used; 1 Quicksilver Action manual chair; Monarch hand controls. 93,000 miles. Price negotiable. Call Ruth @ 239-9754 after 5 p.m.

***Shower Chair; 2 yrs old, negotiable; Invacare 900 Action Power Chair; 4 yrs. Old; \$600. Call 448-5296.**

***Cookbooks for Sale:** Recipes compiled by Chapter members; \$10:00. Call David @ 589-6620.

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

****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.*

And as always, our lovely shirts are for sale, too!

**S, M, L XL
\$10**



HAPPY RUN FOR THE ROSES DAY!!



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**

David Allgood
6703 Triangle Drive
Louisville, KY. 40214