

The OADDP Newslane

The Ohio Association of Developmental Disabilities Professionals

A Department of The Ohio Education Association

OADDP Annual Membership Conference

Self-Advocacy speaker to address members

The OADDP Annual Membership Conference will be held March 4-5, 2016, at the Mohican State Park Lodge and Resort. This year's theme is *"Jumping into the Future,"* which is intended to get everyone thinking about how our futures are so closely tied to the future of the DD services we are dedicated to.

The keynote speaker on Saturday afternoon will be Harvey Yeager, a former association member from the Cuyahoga County Board of DD and now a private provider. He will share with us how to be part of that endeavor, as it increasingly becomes the way that services are provided to people with developmental disabilities. With county boards not enrolling any new consumers, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) pushing for at least 70% of services to be provided by private providers, many current Board of DD staff will want to continue in this line of work in a new capacity.

In addition to Harvey, there will be the popular informative sessions by Kathy McKinley, OEA Plan Attorney, on legal decisions affecting DDs; legislative updates by Melissa Clark, OEA Government Relations; and remarks by OEA officers. Professional Development units have been applied for. Also added to the agenda is Megan Rothermel, a motivational speaker and self-advocate, who will address the members during lunch. All this for only \$25/members, \$35/non-members.

Members should have received their registration form by now. If you have not, check the website, oaddp.org, for registration information. Share it with your colleagues and encourage them to come with you.

Important Dates

Annual Conference
March 4-5, 2016

Board Meetings

January 9, 2016

April 16, 2016

May 13, 2016
OEA RA, Columbus

July 9, 2016

Watch your email or check the website, oaddp.org, for meeting times and locations.

Update your contact info on the "Contact Us" section of the website.

IMPORTANT INFO

Things you need to know about that you'll only hear here!

NETWORKING

Talk to members from other locals about what is happening.

FOOD AND FUN

Good breakfast, lunch, dinner, social hour and raffles!

Conference Attendees to be Inspired by lunchtime Speaker

Megan Rothermel, motivational speaker and self-advocate, shares and recounts many stories during her presentation on growing up with Down Syndrome, her medical issues, the challenges she faced through school, and the obstacles she has overcome. She has always had the philosophy that you can do anything you want if you put your mind to it - and she has!

Megan attended four years of college at Kent State University, her major interests being languages, and has learned Spanish and American sign language. Her presentation shares her family's story of how they sought out so much more for Megan than just love. Starting with early intervention and home-made adapted equipment (when no other equipment was available to suit her needs), Megan learned from her parent's example how to become her own self-advocate. It was a remarkable journey, with the trials, tribulations, triumphs and accomplishments that this small town family experienced. Now, with continued support, Megan works to reach her goal of informing the public of what it is like to live with Down Syndrome and most importantly, how we are more alike than different. Megan speaks to many audiences, including school age children, County Boards, and for the ARC of Ohio.

Her past speaking engagements include:

- The DDNA 2014 conference in Orlando, FL
- The NAQ 2014 conference in Nashville, TN
- The Illinois DDNA chapter conference in Chicago, IL

Future engagements:

- The ARC of Portage & Summit County
- Parent Council of Summit County in February
- OADDP conference March 2016
- The DDNA 2016 conference in San Diego, CA

She would love to continue as a public speaker and continue to raise awareness and educate people. Megan has the most remarkable spirit, tenacity for life, and an attitude that anything is possible if you believe in yourself. Her personality is an inspiration to us all.



Attention Public School Special Education Staff

We Need You!

by Christina West, OADDP Chairperson

OADDP is growing and wants to become better at advocating for staff who work with students with developmental disabilities in public schools. We would like to learn more about what it takes to support the dedicated teachers, assistants, aides, and specialists who are with those students being served in local school districts.

OADDP monitors legislation and legal decisions that effect members and consumers; has a relationship with the Ohio Department of DD and the Ohio Department of Education, assists locals with organizing, puts on an annual conference, sends out periodic updates with important information, sends out a quarterly newsletter, and gives PR grants.

Please contact me and share some of the issues you face daily as you work hard to provide the best education you can for your students. I can be reached via email at cwest@oaddp.org. I look forward to hearing from you!



MORE WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

OADDP is able to appoint members to all OEA committees to represent our interests in Columbus. At this point, due to retirements and term limits, there are several openings that you might be interested in. Meetings happen twice/year in Columbus, with expenses covered. The open slots are on the following committees: Convention Planning, Collective Bargaining, Local Development and Training, and Organizing Strategies.

We also need a new Treasurer, as the current one retired and moved out of town. While he can manage the books for a little while from afar, having one closer to home would certainly be preferable!

Can you see yourself in one of these jobs or want further information? Contact Christina West, Chairperson, cwest@oaddp.org.

Local Focus...Summit County

by Leslie Frank

The members of the Weaver Workshop Support Association (WWSA) have long been supportive of OADDP and its goals and mission. However, in the past, the Constitution and Bylaws did not allow for the dues for the organization to be paid through payroll deduction along with their NEA, OEA and local dues. In the past, the Treasurer collected the dues and forwarded them to OEA; however, this was not an allowed procedure. WWSA members missed a year of membership while the issue was solved.

Recognizing the value of paying only \$9/year for the many benefits that come with belonging to OADDP, WWSA members recently approved a C & B amendment that allows dues to be efficiently deducted along with their other United Education Profession dues. Members are now once again enjoying all that OADDP has to offer.