



Speaking out for people with intellectual & developmental disabilities



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Recruit 5 New
VOR Members
Today!**

VOR Weekly News Update

News and views for VOR Advocates

[Registration now open for VOR's Annual Conference and Washington Initiative, June 8 - 12, 2013 in Washington, D.C. Please join us!](#)

Did you receive this as forwarded e-mail? If so, someone thought you would benefit from VOR's information. Please consider [joining VOR](#) and receive this E-News Update publication weekly!

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Calendar Reminders

* **Wednesday, February 13 at 12:00 pm central / 1:00 pm mountain**

VOR State Coordinator and Member Webinar (free). Registration details below.

* **Sunday, June 9, 2013**

VOR Annual Conference * Washington, D.C. [Registration now available. Details online.](#)

* **Begins Monday, June 10, 2013**

VOR Washington Initiative (Begins Monday, June 10, 2013) * Washington, D.C. [Details online.](#)

VOR and YOU

1. Registration Information for VOR State Coordinators and Key Members Webinar

On February 13, 2013, VOR will hold its first State Coordinator and Key Member Webinar.

Attendees will receive an overview of the State Coordinator program, including a review of VOR's Public Awareness Campaign, the roles of State of Coordinators and the supports VOR is offering to Coordinators.

The free webinar is open to all VOR members. Registration details follow:

Date: Wed, Feb 13, 2013

Time: 10:00 AM Pacific; 11:00 AM Mountain; 12:00 PM Central; 1:00 PM Eastern

Dial-In Number for Audio: 866.740.1260

[Registration Link](#)

Access Code: 4562930

2. Be a Sponsor. Get a

Sponsor: [Sponsorship opportunities now available](#), in partnership with *EP Magazine*

In celebration of our 30th year of advocating for people with I/DD and their families, VOR is pleased to announce our partnership with [EP Magazine](#), the preeminent leader in publishing for for children and adults with disabilities and special health care needs.

VOR's partnership with *EP Magazine*, coupled with our outreach to our membership and social media networks. offers the following sponsors

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the opportunity to be listed in *EP Magazine* which reaches 300,000 readers, in its June and July 2013 issues of EP Magazine:

- 30th Anniversary Sponsors (\$12,500 +)
- Martin Pratt Founder Sponsors (\$8,500 +), and
- Protecting Choice & Quality level Sponsors (\$6,500 +).

All Sponsors of VOR's 30th Anniversary Annual Conference and Initiative will receive the following marketing outreach opportunities through VOR's recognition promises:

- Direct recognition in VOR's print publication, which reaches over 3000 thousand family members, organizations, companies, facilities, professionals and educators from every State, Puerto Rico, and Aruba.
- Recognition on VOR's website and in social media for one year.
- Recognition for one month in VOR's Weekly E-News Publication, received by thousands of recipients each month.
- Links to sponsor recognition page on all VOR staff emails for one year reaching hundreds of recipients each month.
- Recognition in the Conference Program and signage.
- Attendance (networking) at VOR's Annual Conference.
- Opportunity to share your literature with Conference attendees (\$350 level or higher)

These [Sponsorship opportunities](#) provide your organization maximum exposure throughout the Annual Conference and beyond. This is your opportunity to have your name associated nationally with support to advocate for choice and quality care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Please reference the sponsorship flyer listing the opportunities that are available. We would like to invite you to participate in the VOR Annual event. Thank you for your consideration.

[Complete Sponsorship details, including categories, benefits and pledge form. can be](#)

[downloaded from VOR's website](#). To be a sponsor or refer a sponsor, contact Julie Huso at 605-370-4652 or jhuso@vor.net.

3. Focus on VOR's Florida State Coordinators, Ed and Virginia Carraway: To Tallahassee and Back: DSI Supporters and the Importance of Community Advocates

New Port Richey Patch (Florida) * February 6, 2013
*** by Greg Giordano**

During my years in Tallahassee I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with a wide cross-section of people from both within Florida and sometimes from without. Anyone who takes the time to travel to The Capitol to advocate for a cause or a bill is, by that very action, committed to what they are doing. I could probably write a book if I tried to share my personal stories about the many fine people I have had the opportunity to spend time working with on a bill or an amendment. Since this space does not allow for book-length pieces, I will confine this week's post to just one organization: DSI Supporters.

At the time I first came into contact with DSI Supporters the president was Ed Carraway, assisted by his able and extremely learned wife Virginia. The mission of this fine group is as follows: DSI Supporters, Inc., along with its Board of Directors, educate, inform and advocate for people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, and their friends and families. Our core constituency is comprised of individuals who need residential services in Florida's Developmental Services Institutions (DSI's), regardless of whether they need DSI care now or in the future. The introduction came through New Port Richey resident Don Stover who is active in this and a related group, the nationally recognized VOR (also an advocacy group for those with developmental

and related intellectual disabilities).

Ed Carraway is a gregarious man who had a successful career in business. His wife, a medical professional, is also a professor and an accomplished expert in her own right. The two of them, along with a very dedicated core of individuals, work very hard to keep the spotlight on Florida's developmental services institutions and the needed residential option they offer. As each member of DSI Supporters has someone in their respective family who resides in a state-run residential setting, they work hard to make sure policymakers understand the importance of keeping these residences viable.

If there is one thing I have learned during my nearly two decades in Tallahassee is that one-size does NOT fit all. That is why facility-based residential programs are a vital and needed alternative, for those who may need that level of support, when compared to community-based services that seem to be the way of the future. Group homes and assisted living facilities are all needed. However, there are people who need the highly structured environment that a residential institution offers. All options are needed as any one cannot meet the needs of every individual with a disability.

[Read more](#)

State News

4. California: Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) forum opens dialogue

***Index-Tribune* * January 31, 2013**

An audience comprised largely of current and former staff of the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC), parents and family members of residents and Glen Ellen neighbors turned out to participate in an open community forum and panel discussion on the future of SDC.

The crowd of more than 140 showed up to

weigh in and offer support, suggestions and feedback on the future of the developmental center, marking the first of any such public forum on the fate of the facility.

For more than a century, the campus that is now home to SDC has been a part of Sonoma Valley, and its fate clearly affects a large swath of those who live here.

“The handwriting may well be on the wall,” said panelist Kathleen Miller, who as a parent of a resident at SDC and the head of the Parents Hospital Association advocacy group, has been vocal on issues relating to SDC for years.

“I don’t know, but right now I’m concerned about right now,” she said. “The community does not feel ready for our folks.” When a developmental center closes, the people who lived in it need to be placed into the community, such as in for-profit board and care-type facilities.

Panelists agreed that DDS Director Terri Delgadillo has said at hearings in the past that, “The community is not ready to handle the closure of the developmental center.”

Despite the consensus that closure might be inevitable, the discussion, buoyed by responses from the audience, turned to ways the center could be kept open, and how its use could evolve to serve the larger community of the Valley.

[Read More](#)

5. California: Where the Buck stops at Sonoma Developmental Center

Index-Tribune * February 7, 2013

He’s been there for as long as anyone can recall and, as far back as most can remember he’s gone almost every day to the same concrete bridge over Sonoma Creek at the Sonoma Developmental Center and tossed rocks into the water. He tosses slowly, methodically and with amazing accuracy.

Though he doesn’t speak. if you are walking

or jogging by he'll excitedly gesture, and often grunt in an effort to communicate, urging you to admire his handiwork.

His routine is to scout a pile of gravel, picking up the rocks that please him and passing over or discarding others, then walk over to one of two spots on the bridge where he lays his pebbles out. He then tosses them one-by-one into the creek about 20 feet below. Then he goes back to the gravel pile and collects another batch and returns to the very same spot to toss those into the water. Then he'll repeat the whole process again.

"Oh, that's Bucky," said Richard Dale, director of the Sonoma Ecology Center, which maintains the creek bed and has a station at the Marian Rose White Bridge, from which Bucky throws his rocks. Dale said Bucky has been there as long the Ecology Center has and is well-known to the staff.

On the top of the parapet, close to where Bucky lays the rocks he's collected, someone has affixed a plaque that reads "The Buck Stops Here."

[Read more](#)

6. New York: Investigation into group home abuse allegations

WABC-TV * January 30, 2013

Eyewitness News began investigating the group home after a frantic family member contacted the Investigators about the abuse of a loved one. Several cases of abuse were discovered, even some that required emergency medical treatment.

The group home says the problem has been corrected. One family and a former worker are not so sure.

[Read more](#)

Federal News

7. Budget - Debt ceiling deal reached.

temporarily removing threat of default from spending and revenue obligations

Capitol Insider (The Arc) * February 4, 2013

On Jan 23 and 31, respectively, the House and Senate passed the “No Budget, No Pay Act of 2013” to temporarily increase the nation’s debt limit until May 19. This action postpones the threat of federal government defaulting on its obligations. President Obama is expected to sign the bill. The legislation temporarily suspends the \$16.4 trillion limit on federal borrowing, which will allow the government to meet obligations like Social Security benefits and government salaries. It also holds the salaries of Members of Congress in escrow if the House and Senate fail to pass a budget resolution by April 15.

The measure changes the order of major fiscal showdowns Congress faces. The debt ceiling increase now moves to the end of the series of critical budget events:

- * March 01 - Across-the-board spending cuts (“sequestration”) to take effect
- * March 27 - FY 2013 short term appropriation (“continuing resolution”) ends
- * March 30 - President Obama expected to submit FY 2014 Budget Request
- * April 15 - Deadline for House and Senate to pass FY 2014 Budget Resolution
- * May 19 - Debt ceiling increase expires

Republican leadership in the House of Representatives initiated this effort to try to force the Senate to describe its proposal to address the federal deficit. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), the new chair of the Senate Budget Committee, had earlier announced her intention to have the Committee produce a budget resolution. Having a budget resolution passed by the Senate would mark a new starting point for negotiations on a long term deal.

The Arc will continue to advocate for the protection of disability-related entitlement and discretionary programs and for a balanced approach to deficit reduction that includes revenues during these critical budget events.

Related News: [The Huffington Post \(1/31/2013\)](#) (“[Some initiatives, such as Social Security, Medicaid, food stamps and children's health insurance, are exempt \[from sequestration-related cuts\].](#)”)

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