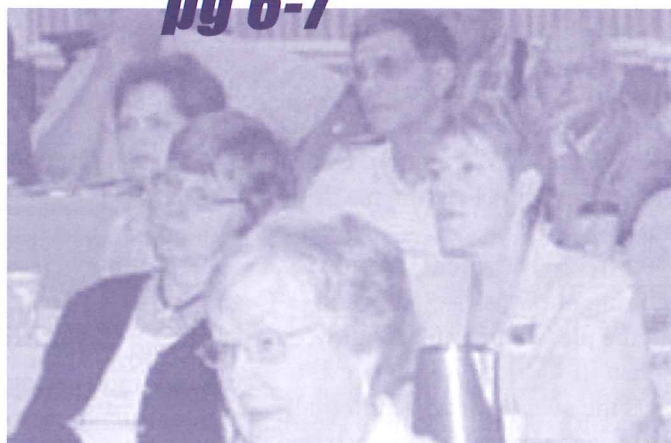
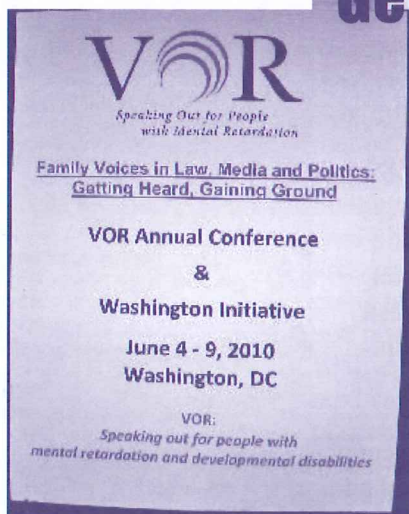




**2010 Annual Conference &
Washington Initiative
Getting Heard, Gaining Ground**
pg 6-7



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Constituents Count!

By Robin Sims, President

I am happy to report that our Washington Initiative was a great success. It was wonderful to see so many VOR members and as always our Hill visits and sharing times were very energizing.

One message that came through loud and clear from our visits with members of Congress and their staff was simply, "constituents count!"

This is not a startling, new revelation. We have always known that the most effective way to get the support of an elected official is through constituent contact, simply because constituents vote! Over the last few years, however, we have seen more and more how constituent contact with a Congressional member is far more effective than a visit or a drop-off from a non-constituent, especially someone from another state. Therefore, to get a jump on 2011 preparations, I will be working with Tamie to create a standard constituent letter that will be sent to all VOR members after the November elections. By doing this we will be able to have better access to members of Congress as issues arise during the year and Washington, D.C. visits are needed. Constituents do count!

The 2010 Voice Award

During our Washington event, I had the pleasure of honoring two people with VOR's Voice Award. This is the award we present to individuals each year who demonstrated unmatched commitment to the civil rights of our family members with mental retardation.

David Swain was honored for his decade-plus leadership on VOR's board of directors, including many years as VOR's treasurer. Last year, David stepped aside as treasurer, but

remained on the board to help mentor our new treasurer, Barb Cukierski. He also remained chairman of the finance committee until earlier this year.

Throughout his years of service, David has helped VOR through good and difficult financial times, helping to bring us forward as an organization. David remains on VOR's board of directors and as a member of the finance committee. Thank you David!

The other 2010 recipient of VOR's Voice Award was **Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz**. She is the first member of Congress to receive our award. She was recognized for her commitment to families of people with mental retardation, and for her leadership in support of H.R. 1255. Upon receiving her award at the 4th Annual Capitol Hill Reception, she honored attendees with an acceptance speech that told every family member in the room that she "gets it." She understands families; she understands why we are fighting so hard for passage of H.R. 1255. See page 4 for more details.

Dues News

At our Annual Board meeting we made the decision to modestly increase our dues (see details inside). This is the first increase we have had in many years and we did so after much discussion. We count on our membership dollars and additional donations to continue our work and this modest increase will help us greatly. We have plans to prepare our first Annual Report for members, which will show in greater detail how we advocate for our members and how we use your membership dues and donations. Also in this issue, Julie outlines the



Robin Sims

"Every Member Campaign." I think this campaign will help VOR without great burden on our members."

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and that the dog days will be few and far between. Please visit our website (www.vor.net) often to read about all the latest activities that VOR is doing.

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VOR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of VOR is to unite in advocacy, educate and assist families, organizations, public officials, and individuals concerned with the quality of life and choice for persons with mental retardation within residential options including home, community-based options and facility-based care.

Membership, giving keys to VOR's continued success



Julie M. Huso

Twenty-seven years ago when VOR was formed, I wonder if those founding members knew the significance of what VOR would become and the numbers of individuals and families our advocacy would assist?

The 2010 VOR Annual Meeting and Initiative were eye-opening and uplifting. Our speakers were outstanding and the stories we heard from members throughout the United States were both inspiring and troublesome.

I often take a moment and internally review the past 27 years that I have been in this field and the last year was one that was reviewed with concern. We have experienced many serious changes in our country.

Giving USA reported that in 2009 total charitable giving fell 3.6%, the steepest decline since they began its reporting process in 1956. Last year was also the worst year economically since the 1956 reporting process began and in America since the Great Depression. *Giving USA* estimates that charitable giving in 2009 represented 2.1% of the gross domestic product.

While the entire country and each of you experienced tough economic times, VOR was very fortunate to have several very substantial bequest donations. A bequest is a gift made to a charity through an individual's will.

Today, VOR has over 3,000 members; this figure includes individuals, organizations and professional associations.

Facing VOR's Financial Future

The VOR Board of Directors reviewed and approved a membership dues increase at our June annual meeting. For 27 years, VOR has maintained the same annual dues for individual membership, even as mailing costs and the expenses of doing business have dramatically increased. In order to remain financially stable and to continue existing and new programs, including legislative, legal, individual and family advocacy, this modest dues increase is necessary. VOR is 100% privately funded and receives more than 95% of its financial support from families of individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

VOR is a GREAT Investment!

Individuals investing in VOR through membership dues and donations enjoy the intangible benefit of supporting the only national organization advocating for the right of in-

dividuals and their families to choose from among an array of residential options, including own home, in-home, community-based and facility-based care. We recognize and champion the right of individuals and their families to be the primary decision makers regarding care and policy decisions.

During the last several months the membership committee addressed the needs of each state and the state coordinators in those states. A panel of three individuals — Jane Anthony (VA), Cristy Dwyer (NY), and Terri Anderson (WA) — conducted a session in Washington, DC allowing current state coordinators and those interested in becoming coordinators to join in on a discussion on how to improve. VOR is committed to providing up-to-date and useful information that will be of assistance to each of you in your state. You will find an article in this newsletter referencing the goals and objectives (6-7). I look forward to working with all the current State Coordinators and securing coordinators in states that we are currently not represented.

The Every Member Campaign!

During 2010-2011 VOR is pleased to announce "THE EVERY MEMBER CAMPAIGN"!! Our goal is to have 200 members pledge \$20 per month for 1 year. The financial goal is to raise \$48,000. This campaign is not only a financial goal but also a goal to increase the awareness of VOR and what we have accomplished. The VOR Board of Directors reviewed the goals and objectives of this campaign and gave their support and blessing to proceed. The staff, Tamie Hopp and I,

See **Giving** on page 5



VOR Board of Directors

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Mary McTernan (MA), *Past President*
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Sandra Reeves (TX)
Bill Ryerson (NC)
David Swain (NV)

Standing up for the civil rights of people with profound intellectual disabilities, families take their concerns to Congress

From June 4 – June 9, choice advocates from around the country attended VOR's Annual Conference and Initiative in Washington, D.C. Following VOR's Annual Conference and related events (see related story, page 6) more than 80 advocates volunteered their time bringing VOR's message to every Congressional office. Other key federal agencies within the Administration also received VOR's presentation.

VOR's legislative platform included calls for reform to stop abuses by some state DD Act programs, such as DD Councils and Protection & Advocacy (P&A) agencies. VOR expressly pushed for reautho-

rization of the DD Act to adopt reforms aimed at ensuring that the federally-funded DD Act programs carry out the Act's requirement to respect family decision-making regarding residential choice.

The DD Act's authorization expired in 2007, with funding the last three fiscal years provided through the appropriations process only. Yet many DD Act programs are violating their federal requirement to respect family decision-making regarding residential choice by working to eliminate ICFs/MR entirely. Where facilities have closed, citizens with profound intellectual and developmental disabilities, many of whom are also medically fragile, have too often suffered abuse and even death.

Support for H.R. 1255 continues to grow

H.R. 1255, a bill to restore fundamental decision-making rights of individuals and families in the context of certain federally-funded class action lawsuits, now enjoys the support of 87 cosponsors; 13 more since VOR's Initiative. Introduction of a Senate version is pending.

VOR honors Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz at 4th Annual Capitol Hill Reception

On June 7, 2010, VOR honored Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz with the VOR Voice Award for her legislative advocacy on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities

The Voice Award is presented annually to individuals who have demonstrated unmatched commitment to the civil rights of individuals with intellectual disabilities. Wasserman Schultz, who is the first member of Congress to receive the award, was presented with the honor at VOR's 4th Annual Capitol Hill Reception in June 2010.

"She's a mom first," said Robin Sims, VOR's president and the mother of two disabled children. "Behind her every decision are the faces of her children. She gets us. She knows what we are going through."

Wasserman Schultz has championed H.R. 1255, legislation to restore the civil rights of individuals with profound intellectual disabilities who reside in licensed residential facilities, and the rights of families to make this choice.

For more than a decade, people who believe that everyone can receive better care in smaller settings have pursued

every avenue, including lawsuits, to close these facilities. In so doing, they have often trampled on the objections of concerned families, and their efforts have sometimes resulted in abuse and even deaths in settings unprepared for such profoundly disabled people.

"Too many perfectly good intensive care facilities are being shut down. Too many individuals are being shut out of the process," Wasserman Schultz said to an assembled crowd, which included many families who would be given the right to choose what they believe will be the best living arrangements for their disabled relatives if this legislation passes.

"I learned that there was a way to give our loved ones and their families a voice and a choice in the process," she said, explaining her decision to support H.R. 1255, introduced by Congressman Barney Frank.

H.R. 1255 now has 87 cosponsors, with nearly equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans. Families around the country continue to promote its passage.

"VOR will continue to do all we can to secure support and passage of this critically necessary legislation," said

Sims. "All across the country individuals and their families are suffering unnecessarily. H.R. 1255 will help restore our rights when faced with certain lawsuits."

Moving people to small settings that lack quality of care, staff, and equipment, and away from intensive care facilities that are capable of providing these services is often a matter of "life or death," said Wasserman Schultz.

"Until [all community programs] can achieve this, many individuals with profound developmental challenges will continue to suffer in environments where they don't have access to the specific kinds of care they need."



Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz with Mary McTernan, VOR past president

Legislative Update continued on page 5

Giving continued from page 3

have also pledged our financial commitment to this effort.

The leadership of VOR is letting each of you know by their pledges and financial commitment that they believe in the past and future efforts of this organization prior to this being announced to each of you. Please watch for additional information and know that by participating you will be ensuring

***We recognize and champion
the right of individuals and ... families
to be the primary decision makers
regarding care and policy decisions***

that VOR will continue to be in a financial position to assist you and your loved ones when you need us.

Thank you to everyone who continues to fight the fight, to advocate, to be a committed member of VOR and to those who were able to attend the 2010 VOR Annual Meeting and Washington Initiative.

Your opinions and comments matter to us and we will be responding to your requests. Maintaining open communication with our members is crucial, so please at anytime feel free to contact me at husoj@sio.midco.net and let me know what you think. Also, if you would like a VOR representative to attend a parent/family meeting and visit your facility please let me know!!

***YOUR VOICE
MAKES A DIFFERENCE!!***

Legislative Update continued from page 4

Senate Committee holds hearing on ADA/Olmstead Enforcement

In June, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, held a hearing that reviewed the impact of ADA and Olmstead on the opportunities for community integration. The focus of the hearing was on the need for expanded community opportunities for individuals with all types of disabilities. In response, VOR submitted written testimony for the hearing record which supported expanding quality community programs to meet the needs of individuals on waiting lists, but cautioned against attempts to meet this need by closing ICFs/MR. Doing so would only create greater need, more harm, and be contrary to the DD Act and Olmstead.

A Sibling's Perspective

By Bill Ryerson, VOR Board Member

My sister, Joyce, who will be 57 this month, has the mind of a 2 to 2 1/2 year old child. She can't speak but does make numerous sounds that sometimes express her mood. She is currently in a community home run by Search Development in the metropolitan Chicago area. She was previously in the state operated Anne M. Kiley Developmental Center in Waukegan, Illinois.

My brother, Wayne, and I became legal guardians of Joyce in the summer of 2002 when our father, Warren, died (Violet, our mother, had passed away two summers earlier). I am the "baby" of the family and grew up realizing, of course, that Joyce was mentally retarded but, to me, she was just my sister, albeit different. When we became her legal guardians, our perspective completely changed. All of a sudden, Wayne and I became the responsible ones – we had to now make all the decisions on Joyce's placement, care, etc. Watching out for Joyce was no longer our parents' "job," but ours.

Looking back, I have come to believe that our parents were trying to protect us. My parents didn't discuss the personal challenges in having a child with profound mental retardation. They rarely mentioned the numerous efforts to close or severely reduce the state support to the

***...the most important thing you can do is talk
to your children or other siblings. Keep them aware
of the challenges you face and, perhaps, even your fears.***

ICFs/MR. I only began to grasp the complexity of the issues when I joined VOR. In fact, I was only somewhat aware of the groups that my parents were active in before they died: VOR, Illinois League of Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled (IL-ADD), and the Kiley Parents group. I joined these groups after my parents were gone simply because they had been members.

As I have been involved in VOR, I have gained tremendous respect for all the parents, past and present. They were/are the ones who had to make the tough decisions as to what to do for their son or daughter – and sometimes, more than one child. As I have become older and hopefully wiser, I realize that, no matter what decision the parents of people with mental retardation made, they did a lot of second guessing subjecting themselves to needless guilt as to whether they were making the right choices. And, as we all know, back in the 50's and 60's, there weren't always good choices and certainly not easy ones.

I would like to urge today's parents (or siblings) to talk with their children (or other siblings) about what challenges we all face to ensure that our loved ones have safe, caring environments in which they can thrive as best as possible. Let them know about the good work that VOR does along with the local and state groups. While they may not be able to be active in these groups depending on their other responsibilities and stage in life, your loved ones could maintain an awareness of the challenges that are out there through membership and keeping informed. Finally, the most important thing you can do is talk to your children or other siblings. Keep them aware of the challenges you face and, perhaps, even your fears.

The logo for VOR (Volunteers of Resources) features the letters 'V' and 'R' in a bold, serif font. Between the two letters is a stylized graphic consisting of three concentric, overlapping arcs that resemble a rising sun or a stylized 'O'.

VOR 2010: ANNUAL CONFERENCE and WASHINGTON INITIATIVE: Family Voices in Law, Media and Politics – Getting Heard, Ga

VOR's 2010 Annual Conference and Initiative was a culmination of a year of hard work and advocacy by VOR leaders, members and staff.

As stated by Robin Sims in her Message to the Members, VOR's annual event provides participants the opportunity for "Remember, Reunion and Resolve." **Remembering** the heroes who have come before us; enjoying the **reunion** with like-minded advocates from around the country; and the **resolve** to keep our critically necessary advocacy going.

Diverse Speakers Mark 2010 Event

2010 Annual Conference attendees were treated to a diverse line up of relevant speakers.

Robin Sims provided the membership with an organizational update, including highlights from VOR's national committees. **Julie Huso** focused on advocacy successes, unveiling a wonderful new VOR video (see page 10) and an "advocacy map" which vividly presents the national impact of VOR's advocacy (www.vor.net/images/map.pdf).

Markus Rose, legislative assistant for Rep. Barney Frank, provided helpful insights into the federal legislative process. Encouraging patience and persistence, he likened the legislative process to a 5,000 meter race, not a sprint.



Markus Rose

Tom York and **Christine Consiglio**, attorneys who represent states in their defense of DOJ actions provided an overview of CRIPA, the federal law which gives DOJ authority and significant discretion to investigate state ICFs/MR and file suit. The new trend, they stated, is for DOJ to combine CRIPA actions with ADA claims (Olmstead). Noting that the



Tom York, Esq.

best offense is a strong defense, family advocates were advised to continue efforts to educate their governors and legislators as to the value and cost effectiveness of ICFs/MR.

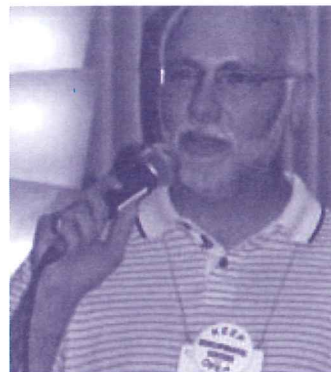
Mark Diorio, director of the Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC), and **Bob Shrewsberry**, director of the Southeastern VA TC, discussed the evolution of "institutions" from "Colonies to Centers of Support," noting that now and in the future, ICFs/MR must continue to provide specialized supports to the most disabled citizens, while also offering these services to nonresidents (as is done now in each Virginia center).



Sybil Finken & Marilyn Straw

Their presentation concluded with Dr. Shrewsberry's vision for SEVTC, to include total renovation, which is now underway. These improvements are being challenged by Virginia Arc and P&A groups.

Paul Heckt, a VOR member, attorney and president of Special Planning, LLC, presented on the topic of "Estate Planning, Medical Assistance, and Supplemental Needs Trusts." Using humor and personal anecdotes, Paul provided an



Mark Diorio

overview of basic estate Assistance rules, and sup receive gifts or bequests person without risking be

Carrawa



Robin Sims with Ed 8

with 2nd Annu

At VOR's national e raway received the Jord jointly by Supporters fo (SRC) and VOR.



Paul Heckt

VOR hosted a State as part of its 2010 DC e of three SCs, Jane Anth (NY) and Terri Anderso cussion to a group of ne cluding 13 SCs. Jane, C working to reorganize a ness of VOR's critically

See 2010 Washin

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Virginia Carraway

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Engels Award, presently
Residential Choice

The Carraways, from
la, were recognized for
outstanding advocacy on
f of those who have no
and for making a dif-
ce every day with their
ess, determination, and
vity. "They are incredi-
edicated and together are
g the best husband and
advocacy team I know,"
Robin Sims, upon pre-
g the award.

VOR hosts Coordinator Forum

ordinator (SC) Forum
ent. A VOR workgroup
y (VA), Cristy Dwyer
(WA) led the panel dis-
ly 30 participants, in-
isty and Terri are
l improve the effective-
important SC program.

ton Initiative page 9

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

VOR's Annual Conference and Initiative would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. For additional links and information about VOR's 2010 sponsors, and a complete list of participant sponsors, visit <http://www.vor.net/events/>.

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VOR

Tennessee judge rules for Families, against People First and DOJ

As families prepare for the closure of the Clover Bottom Developmental Center, on May 28 a court ruled in favor of the right individuals and legal guardians to choose another ICF/MR (deemed a "congregate" setting), even when professionals have determined the individuals could be provided in a more integrated setting.

The question before the federal district court in Tennessee was whether the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) precluded Clover Bottom residents, or their legal guardians, from choosing "congregate care." The U.S. Department of Justice and People First of Tennessee argued against the right of choice when professionals have deemed another setting to be more "integrated."

Citing Olmstead and Medicaid law, the Court ruled in favor of the state and families, recognizing the freedom to choose a large ICFs/MR placement even if the individual could be appropriately served in a more integrated setting.

"The intersection of citizen choice and the ADA was addressed by the Supreme Court in *Olmstead v. L.C.*," wrote the court. "[T]here is no federal requirement under the ADA that community-based treatment must be imposed on citizens who do not desire it."

The Court was particularly persuaded by the brief of the Parent Guardian Association (PGA), which argued that "Conservators [and guardians] – who have the longest and most meaningful relationship with their loved ones and the greatest investment in their well-being – are in the best position" to weigh all benefits and risks of any placement option, and will give due consideration to the opinion of professionals.

There is "no merit to the contention of the United States [DOJ] and People First that the professional judgments . . . as to appropriate community placement of a class member must always prevail over the citizen's own choice (expressed individually or through a guardian or conservator) of a qualified provider."

In addition, Medicaid law also requires that recipients have the "right to choose whether to receive services through an ICF/MR or a Home and Community-Based Services Waiver," the court held. "There can be no doubt, that under the Medicaid Act, CBDC residents who are eligible for and receive Medicaid assistance from the State have freedom of choice to choose among a range of qualified providers."

The case is *People First of Tennessee v. Clover Bottom*. The decision can be found at VOR's website at <http://www.vor.net/get-help/legal-resources/>.

Illinois: Private ICFs/MR residents granted intervention; class decertified

A second settlement attempt between Illinois and the plaintiffs in *Ligas v. Maram* was defeated earlier this year, after objectors – residents of Illinois' private ICFs/MR, and their families – successfully challenged the proposed agreement for the second time since July 2009.

On April 7, the judge granted a motion to intervene, holding that Intervenor residents (residents of private ICFs/MR) have a protectable interest in ensuring that Illinois has sufficient resources both to expand community living facilities, as sought by Plaintiffs, and to meet the needs of individuals who choose ICF/MR care. The very next day, the judge declined to certify the class and declined to preliminarily approve the second settlement, instead encouraging the parties to try and forge an agreement with the intervenors.

Settlement negotiations, including intervenors, are ongoing. The court also agreed to a request by U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to participate in these discussions. Previously, the DOJ filed a Statement of Interest in support of the second proposed settlement agreement. A settlement conference and status hearing were held in late June.

U.S. Supreme Court to review right of P&A to access records

As early as this fall, the U.S. Supreme Court says it will decide whether Virginia's Protection & Advocacy (VOPA) can force state officials to provide records relating to deaths and injuries at state mental health facilities. The justices have agreed to review a federal appeals court ruling dismissing VOPA's lawsuit which asserts its right to access these records.

The issue for the court is whether the Eleventh Amendment prohibits a state agency from going to federal court to sue officials of the same state. The state itself could not be sued in the same circumstances.

The case is *VOPA v. Reinhard*, 09-529. (Source: AP, June 21, 2010)



Washington 2010 participants: (L-R) Peter Kinzler, Sandra Reeves, Ileene Robinson and Pilar Faló (counsel for Rep. Barney Frank)

Procedural win is moral victory for family

On June 22, 2010, a California appellate court found that Gail Bowen's legal battles on behalf of her profoundly disabled son, Michael, should never have been. The Court overturned a lower court ruling on a January 2009 lawsuit filed by the public defender to force Michael into a "community setting." The court found the filing improper because just one month earlier (December 2008), an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) had held that Sonoma Developmental Center was the least restrictive environment. The lawsuit filed by the public defender amounted to a re-litigation of issues that had already been resolved.

Gail Bowen, along with Michael's father and co-conservator (James), will be the first to agree that their legal struggles, which began following a 2007 Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) meeting for Michael, were unnecessary and unjustified.

Because Agnews, which had been Michael's home since 1986, was clos-

ing, Gail sought a transfer to Sonoma. All members of Michael's IDT agreed except one: The San Andreas Regional Center (SARC), a state contracted agency charged with developing individual program plans for California citizens with developmental disabilities who are in need of services. SARC's refusal blocked Michael's admission to Sonoma, forcing his family to request a Fair Hearing before an administrative judge to appeal SARC's decision.

In December 2008, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Karen Brandt found in favor of the family's request that Michael be transferred to Sonoma, noting that "it was evident Michael's family was motivated by their love and devotion to him . . . [and] given his very severe and significant developmental disabilities and medical issues, a developmental center is the least restrictive and best environment for him. The determination of what is the least restrictive environment must be based upon factors that are specific to Michael's individual needs."

The public defender challenged this decision in court in January 2009 – a fil-

ing the appellate court described as "ostensibly on behalf of Michael but effectively on behalf of SARC." Still, the trial court sided with the public defender and against the family's wishes, holding that Sonoma was not the least restrictive environment for Michael.

Gail Bowen appealed and won. Although the appellate court's decision hinges on a technicality that restores the ALJ's decision in support of Michael's placement at Sonoma, it is not a hollow victory. In its decision, the appellate court also provides important guidance for other families seeking to protect developmental center placements. The due process requirements for an initial admission to any developmental center (called Hop hearings in California) are not meant to be replayed over and over again to justify continued admission or transfers to another developmental center.

"The due process concerns for retention in a developmental center are not the same due process concerns that are present when a developmentally disabled person is first involuntarily committed."

2010 Washington Initiative continued from page 7

The panel posed three questions to the audience:

- 1) What can SCs do to promote VOR's mission?
- 2) How can SCs find out what services are needed most?
- 3) How can SCs best identify and connect with like-minded grassroots advocacy groups in our area?

Several suggestions emerged from the discussion, including but not limited to: (1) having your facility send a parent/family consent form to all families allowing the facility to share family contact information with the family group. From this, email lists and other



VOR state coordinator,
Jane Anthony (VA)

organizing tools can emerge; (2) telephone calling trees were encouraged to reach people without email; (3) obtain contact information for people who are leaving the facility to allow this family to continue networking and provide updates; (3) stoke depth in leadership

whenever possible (by mentoring, etc.).

Certain "Action Items" will be immediately pursued, including a glossary of acronyms; a listserv for state coordi-

nators, and a VOR mentor program to assist new Coordinators.

VOR

New VOR Highlights DVD Now Available

At the 2010 Annual Conference, Julie Huso unveiled a wonderful new DVD highlighting VOR advocates, their family members, and VOR's activities and accomplishments over the years. This DVD would make a great presentation to your family association, civic and church groups, staff gatherings and more. Copies are just \$10, by check or credit card. Order yours today! Questions: huso@vio.midco.net.

SEND TO: VOR, 836 S. Arlington Heights Rd., #351, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

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Where's the state news?

Because we wanted to bring you the most complete coverage of the 2010 Annual Conference and Washington Initiative possible and include important legal news, it was not possible to include the latest state news, including summaries of the state reports we received at the 2010 State Report Forum in Washington, D.C.

To read these summaries and other state news, we ask that you take a moment to access the website at:

www.VOR.net

(And while you're there, make sure to set it as your home page.)

President:
Robin Sims
Editor:
Rochelle Hagel

Making a Will Bequest to VOR!!

What?

Will bequests are the most popular and personal way to making a difference beyond your lifetime. A bequest is a charitable gift of property to be delivered at the donor's death. You can create a will bequest simply by directing in your will that your interest in certain money or property be transferred from your estate to VOR.

Why?

Charitable bequests present an excellent way to pass on assets that may otherwise be substantially taxed.

The donor's estate may be entitled to an estate tax charitable deduction for the full, fair market value of the bequest.

You would be supporting a charitable organization that you believe in and passing on a legacy.

How?

If you would like additional information on how to leave a bequest to VOR please contact Executive Director Julie Huso at 605-370-4652 or huso@vio.midco.net

Make VOR your home page

Did you know that *each time someone visits VOR's website, our search standings on Google and other search engines improve?* That means more people are directed to VOR's website for help and information. One easy way for you to help is to *make VOR your home page so whenever you access the internet, VOR gets a "hit" and our search standings improve!* Need help: Contact Tamie327@hotmail.com.

VOR
Contact Information
Membership Dues/Contributions

836 S. Arlington Heights Rd., #351
 Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
 605-271-0445 fax
 877-399-4VOR toll free

Executive Director

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**Director of
 Govt. Relations/Advocacy**

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The Value of VOR Membership

VOR's advocacy, activities, mission and results are priceless.

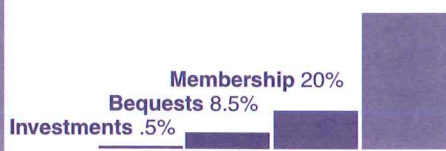
For 27 years, VOR has maintained the same annual dues for individual memberships, even as mailing costs and the expenses of doing business have dramatically increased.

The following new dues became effective July 1, 2010:

Membership Category	Current Dues	New Dues
Individual membership dues	\$25	\$40
Family organization dues	\$150	\$200
Professional organization dues	\$200	\$250

Income

Private Donations (including in-kind gifts) 71%



Expenses

Professional fees, Legal, Legislative & Grassroots Advocacy Support 77%



Membership/Contribution Form: Please send dues to—

VOR 836 S. Arlington Heights Rd., #351, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007; 605-271-0445 fax or donate online @ www.vor.net.

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Telephone _____</p> <p>Email Address _____</p>	<p>Membership Categories: Individual --- \$40 Parents' Association --- \$200 Professional Assoc./Corp. --- \$250</p> <p>An additional gift/pledge is enclosed for: ____ \$1,000 ____ \$500 ____ \$250 ____ \$100 ____ Other</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A check made payable to VOR is enclosed. Or please charge to my <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover</p> <p>Card Number: _____</p> <p>Expires: _____</p> <p>CVC Code: _____</p> <p>Amount to charge: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p>
<p>Please check as appropriate:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a new member</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a current member and my records need to be updated (i.e. new address, name, phone, etc.). I have circled the changes needed on this form.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No changes are needed.</p>	
<p>If the minimum dues requirement poses a financial difficulty, please contact our office in confidence (877-399-4VOR). It is in our best interest that you receive VOR's information, so please call if \$40 per year poses a financial hardship. July10NL</p>	



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www.vor.net

*A national, non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer association
of individuals and families working for persons with mental retardation*

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2857
Palatine, IL 60095

Tributes

IN MEMORY

*Murphy Crothy
Mary Beth Engberg
Nancy Houston
Catherine Hughes
Bill Jones
Deanna Roy
Sidney Sharf
Jackie Wanning
Dolores B. Welsh*

IN HONOR

*Diana Hoogestraat
Tamie Hopp
Jason Kinzler
Joanie Petersen
Don Renshaw*

HELP US HELP YOU

- **Your MAILING LABEL includes your membership expiration date. Please take a look!**
- **Leadership Changes?**
When your family association elects new leaders, please let VOR know so we can update our records. This ensures VOR's information gets to the right people.
- **E-Mail Changes?** Let us know so we can update our records and you can continue receiving the VOR Weekly E-Mail Update and important alerts.