

Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance

The Alliance News

Issue #81

December 2018



**“Every great dream begins with a dreamer.
Always remember that you have within you the
strength, the patience and the passion to reach for
the stars to change the world.”**

~ Harriet Tubman

We hope that 2019 is filled with great dreams, strength, and passion. Keep on Speaking Up and Speaking Out!



The Alliance Staff

From left to right:

Jae Jin Pak, Krescene Beck, Tara Ahern, Tracey Wyant

Our Vision

Our vision is for self-advocates to work together to get the support we need to live the life we want in the community.

Our Mission

Our mission is to speak up for ourselves and each other while working together to make changes in our communities and in Illinois.

Our Focus

Our focus is on empowering people to speak up about what they want and need, don't want and don't need, action plan their goals and participate in advocacy at the personal, agency, community and statewide levels.



This newsletter was developed under an investment by the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

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Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

WE NEED YOU! TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

WE NEED YOU... to contribute to The Alliance newsletter each month. Share your ideas, hopes, dreams, success stories and challenges with The Alliance. You can submit an article, a poem, a piece of artwork, photography, write a column, or ask a question.

Let us know if you have any questions. Submit your content to info@selfadvocacyalliance.org.

We are a lot stronger when we are working together!



The Alliance currently has 22 member groups all around Illinois, and our goal is to have 40 member groups by 2021.

If you are interested in learning more about membership, visit <http://selfadvocacyalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Alliance-Membership-Levels-and-Benefits-2018-1.pdf>

Want to become a member group? Check out the membership application at <http://selfadvocacyalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Alliance-Membership-Application-2018-1.pdf>



Keep up with all the exciting news in between monthly newsletters by finding and liking The Alliance on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance.



Congratulations to the Newest Alliance Ambassadors!

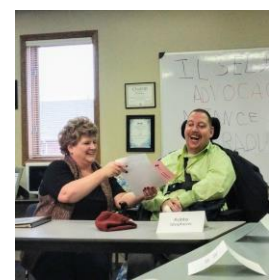
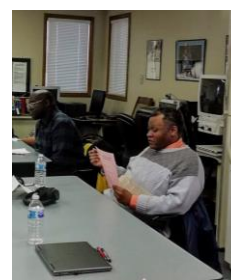


Graduates included Judy D. from CTF Advocacy Center (Charleston); Jamie R. from Livingston County Advocates in Action (Pontiac); Derenda G. from Vocational Voices (Chicago); Robby S. from Change to Independence Altogether (Normal); Terry T. from CTF Advocacy Center (Charleston); Mark J. from CTF Tigers (Homewood); Derrick M. from Chicago; and Donta J. from Vocational Voices (Chicago).

During the five-month Ambassador Leadership Program, self-advocate participants learned advocacy skills, leadership skills, and public speaking skills through educational webinars, large group trainings, monthly one-on-one mentoring with an Alliance staff member and independent learning in the areas of Research & Using Technology; Planning Meetings & Events; Public Speaking; and Advocacy & Outreach.



"I learned about different ways to speak up and be a self-advocate. I learned many new skills and had opportunities that I didn't have before. I caught the presenting bug and I want to do it a WHOLE LOT MORE! I am more motivated and less discouraged."



"We can help out our groups back home. I learned not to be afraid, especially of presentations. The other self-advocates look up to me more, asking me questions. I am more of a leader and that feels pretty good."



Learning and Advocacy with Livingston County Advocates in Action (Pontiac)

~ Jamie R., self-advocate

Our monthly bulletin board was a reindeer that has a red nose. We chose him because he was picked on until he helped Santa with his sleigh. We are a lot like him in a way because we were picked on because we are different but that has not stopped us.

The things we put on our board is the song, a picture, and some fun facts.



YO! connects, organizes and educates youth with disabilities! YO! gives youth leadership opportunities, social networks, resources and more. YO! is for youth with disabilities to be PROUD of who we are and what we can achieve!

Check us out at <https://yodisabledproud.org/>

National Voter Experience Survey



Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), in conjunction with the National Disability Rights Network, collects this data as part of the Help America Vote Act. The survey has been set up so that multiple surveys can be entered on one computer to help make it easier for staff who may be helping multiple people complete the survey. The survey is available in English and Spanish.

Survey link in English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018GoVoterSurvey>

Survey link in Spanish:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018Encuestadeexperienciaelectoral>

I Can Be Safe Online Webinar

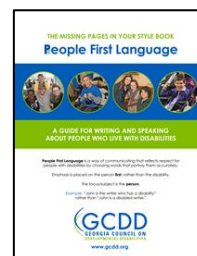
Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 10:00am CST

Do you use social media? Email? Dating websites? The internet is a great way to learn and to connect but it can put your safety and privacy at risk. Let's learn together about staying safe online.

About the Presenter: John Paschedag is a self-advocate from Edwardsville, Illinois. He is a member of Self-Advocates of Madison County self-advocacy group. John likes to stay active by bowling, hiking, bike riding, and country line dancing. John believes that self-advocacy is a good way to promote yourself and the things that are important to you.

Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1775376322927564290>

**Want to learn more about People First Language?
Want to advocate for using People First Language?**



Check out "People First language: A Guide for Writing and Speaking About People Who Live with Disabilities" from the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities at https://www.gcdd.org/images/Blogs/2016/GCDD_PeopleFirstBrochure20161.pdf

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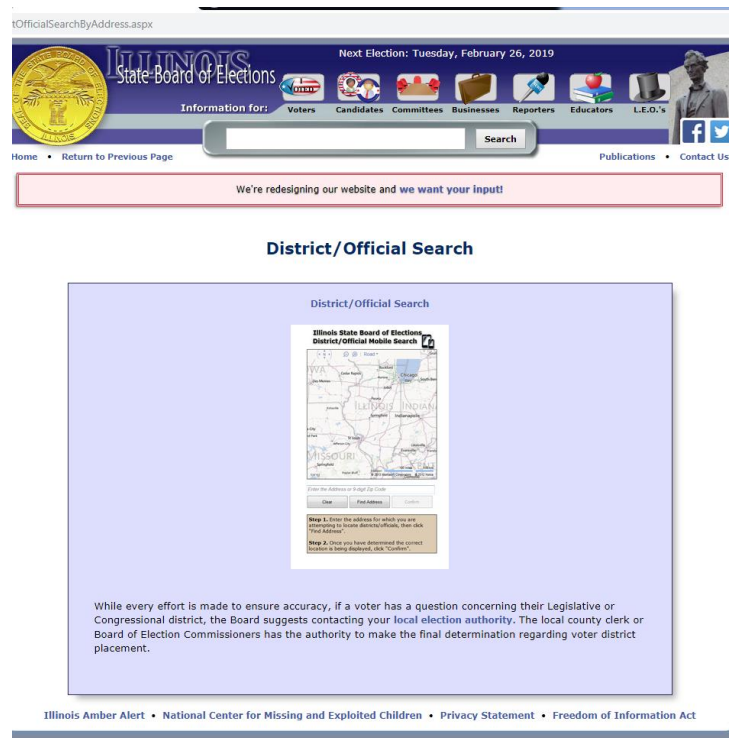
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Make a New Year’s Resolution to connection with your elected officials! You can call, write, email, visit them at their local offices or invite them to come visit with you. It is important to speak up and speak out and let them know what you want and need!

Find your elected officials on the Illinois State Board of Elections website by entering your address at

<https://www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx>



Vote Smart's mission is to provide free, factual, unbiased information on candidates and elected officials to ALL Americans. Learn more at <https://votesmart.org/>.

