



Minutes of the 68th Annual Convention
San Diego, CA
Friday, November 3rd, 2017

Call to Order	The Business Meeting of the 68th Annual Convention of The Arc was called to order by President Elise McMillan at 12:18pm.
Welcome	President McMillan welcomed the visitors and guests to the Business portion of the Convention and introduced the other members at the head table: Fred Misilo, Vice President; Carol Wheeler, Secretary; Doug Church, Treasurer; Ronald Brown, Immediate Past President; Peter Berns, Chief Executive Officer; and Carrie Hobbs-Guiden, NCE Steering Committee Chair.
Credentials Report	Secretary Wheeler read the credentialing report: a total of 1392 of 3589 possible votes had registered at the convention.
Establishment of Quorum	Secretary Wheeler declared that a quorum was not present.
Review of Business Meeting Operating Rules	President McMillan informed the attendees that the Operating Rules have been pre-circulated, and the chair will use them as a guide for conducting today's meeting.
Review of Business Meeting Agenda	President McMillan informed the attendees that the meetings agenda has been pre-circulated and the Chair will follow this order of business.
Appointments	President McMillan announced that Secretary Wheeler was appointed as timekeeper.
Annual Business Meeting Minutes	President McMillan explained the minutes of the 2016 Annual Business Meeting have been published and asked if there are any questions or corrections. No one approached the microphone.
President's Report	Please See Attached President's Report
Chief Executive Officer's Report	Please See Attached CEO Report
NCE Report	Please See Attached NCE Report
Listening Session: Public Policy Position Statements	President McMillan welcomed Fred Misilo, Chair of Policy and Positions Committee to the podium. The Chairs held a listening session on what chapters felt would be important to include in the revisions on the position statements for Education and Self-Determination.
Listening Session: General Input from Chapters	President McMillan held a thirty-minute listening session on General Input from Chapters. The session covered topics including access to transportation; the FINDS Survey, and work to Transform The Arc's Online Advocacy Presence.

New Business	President McMillan stated that there was no new business.
Announcements	President McMillan asked if there was any announcement before the meeting is adjourned.
Adjourn	There being no further business, President McMillan adjourned the 68th Annual Convention Business Meeting at 1:47pm.

Approved:

Carol Wheeler, Secretary

Date

The Arc US President's Report November 2017

Welcome to Convention

Welcome to San Diego and The Arc spending US Convention. My thanks to board members, committee members, volunteers, Peter and the staff who have made this convention possible. Even though planning and implementation of the Convention takes a great deal of time, that doesn't mean the business of The Arc in many other areas slows down. A few updates on this incredible year:

Are we daring to hope?

Our network faced many challenges this year with the impact of hurricanes that devastated many states and territories. Through all the challenges, The Arc's network remained strong, unified and resilient. I appreciate the stories that many of you have shared.

The hurricanes left a path of destruction. Many of The Arc's chapters in Texas, Louisiana, and Florida sustained damage and the families that rely on those chapters ended up turning to them in their hour of need. Our chapter staff and volunteers in impacted areas worked over time to support those who were reliant on them. Even more inspiring was the outpouring of support from other chapters across the country in the form of donations, calls, and emails.

Are we daring to build community?

On Thursday morning The Arc's Board Diversity Committee held a breakfast to welcome diverse scholarship recipients to The Arc's National Convention. Gatherings like that don't just happen. They take planning and determination by board members, volunteers and staff. My thanks go to Kelly, Mary, and other board members who volunteered when asked at our board meeting in St. Louis. Working with Peter, Dawn and staff, they have put together several activities that will spotlight our commitment to diversity.

In addition to awarding scholarships for first time attendees, the group had planned the breakfast, a Board Committee Meeting while we're in San Diego and a breakout session, Faces of Disparity. More details can be found in your Convention materials.

Are we daring to grow?

Finally, we can't do any of the activities mentioned above or those in our Strategic Plan if we don't have the resources to support our work. One way of increasing resources was the dues increase that will take effect Jan. 1. My thanks to Doug Church and his committee, Peter and the staff in helping us plan for this needed increase.

A big thanks to Randy and Jose and their committee who have worked this year to launch our Resource Development Committee. Their report and the discussion we'll have at the board meeting highlight the work that they've already done and the impressive plans they have for this group. However, without support and ideas from all of us, they won't be nearly as successful.

Finally, thank you again for allowing me to serve as your board president. It's hard to believe that it's been a year since we were together in Orlando. I have appreciated a chance to work with all of you and I know I speak for all of the board of directors when I thank you for your service and look forward to making 2018 even better.

2017 Annual Business Meeting

Chief Executive Officer's Report

November 3, 2017

Good Afternoon. Thank you for attending the Annual Meeting of chapters of The Arc.

Before I proceed with my remarks, I want to call to your attention one change we've made in the Agenda for the annual meeting. This year, you may have noticed that we do not have a separate Treasurer's Report on the Agenda. The reason is two fold. First, we wanted to allow more time on the agenda to hear from you during the listening sessions later in the program. Second, the end of fiscal year 2016 information that would typically be reported at the annual meeting is already ten months old, and was included in The Arc's annual report which was distributed previously. It is also available on The Arc's website.

So while we won't have a formal presentation of the Treasurer's Report, as you saw in the Annual Report, The Arc was in sound financial condition at the end of FY 2016. Both the Treasurer, Doug Church, and I will be available after the business meeting or later during the Convention, to answer any questions you may have about the organization's financial condition.

So now, let me turn to the remarks I would like to share with you today.

It has been quite a year since we last got together at the 2016 National Convention in Orlando, FL. Little did we know at that time that we would soon have a new Congress and a new Administration both of which would make it among their top priorities to dismantle everything that The Arc - that we, collectively, worked to build over the past 67 years.

All of the essential programs, services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families - Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act and supplemental Security Income - all were on the chopping block.

They proposed to cap and cut Medicaid, or convert it to block grants, to roll back the Medicaid expansion, to allow states to take away the protections for pre-existing conditions and other consumer protections under the Affordable Care Act. If enacted, this would have resulted in billions of dollars lost in funding for home and community based services, in many low-income family members and direct support workers losing their health insurance coverage entirely, and others having to pay more for less coverage.

Faced with this threat, we had to rally like never before. And rally we did - and I want to thank you for your advocacy!

Protecting Medicaid funding for home and community based services, and basic income supports through SSI and the Social Security Disability program, has been the national office's top priority this year. And we know it has been a top priority for you, our state and local chapter leaders, and for the individuals and families you serve.

Together, we stood strong in the face of unprecedented threats to these critical programs, organizing and mobilizing across the country. Self-advocates, parents, sibling, board members, chapter staff, coalition partners and community members visited their members of Congress, made calls, sent emails - they spoke truth to power.

At the national office, we viewed this a fight for the independence, autonomy and, in some cases, the lives of people with I/DD and for the very existence of chapters of The Arc. We didn't hesitate to dedicate all available resources to the cause ... and more.

1. We hired a Director of Advocacy & Mobilization, Claire Manning, to modernize our approach to online engagement and lead the campaign.
2. We gathered, vetted and shared the stories of people with I/DD - lifting their voices so experiences of real people is front and center before all media.
3. We trained new spokespersons - especially people with I/DD - to speak to the media and decision makers at rallies and in face-to-face interviews;
4. We flew and bussed families to Washington to share their stories directly with elected officials
5. We produced several short videos featuring families and individuals talking about the importance of Medicaid, and these videos have been viewed more than two million times!
6. We upgraded and improved our tools for activists, including providing recess toolkits and other resources to chapters, supporting your efforts to mobilize our constituents to reach out to and educate elected officials and opinion leaders
7. We used paid social media to target our messages to the members of Congress who were the swing votes.

And together we claimed victory - at least for now. But, as Marty Ford and our public policy team described at the general session earlier the fight is far from over!

As this fight was underway, we also studied with interest what other major advocacy and civil rights organizations were doing and how they were faring, and how the public responded.

We watched Planned Parenthood, an organization for which all federal funding was threatened, in a matter of months attracted more than 600,000 new donors and more than 36,000 volunteers.

We saw the ACLU raise \$24 million in the first three days after the travel ban was imposed, and more than \$80 million over a six-month period.

We saw the Sierra Club report that it has tripled the number of its monthly donors.

Meals on Wheels reported a 50 fold increase in daily donations after the Administration's proposed cuts to its funding.

We asked ourselves several questions -

- aren't the challenges our constituents face as serious as the travel ban,
- are the funding cuts our community faces any less draconian than those faced by Planned Parenthood or Meals on Wheel
- why is it that we're not having people rally to our cause as is happening with these other organizations and what can we do about it,
- can The Arc build a powerful and effective online movement in the model of the highest performing online movements in the country, such as the ACLU and Planned parenthood,

To answer these questions, we engaged Kivvit, a major public affairs and digital strategy firm to conduct a soup to nuts audit of our communications and digital organizing efforts and help us figure this out.

In the last few minutes I have with you today, I would like to share with you some of their recommendations.

The good news is that Kivvit concluded that we can do this - The Arc can build a powerful and effective online movement in the model of the highest performing online movements in the country.

According to Kivvit, we have the right mix of capabilities, commitment, and passion to be successful if we make the right moves and investments in the coming months and years. Among our strengths they identified:

- The fact that movement building is part of our history and identity
- Our national reach
- Our subject matter expertise
- The self-advocates, parents and siblings we bring to the table
- Our openness to experimentation and to using data to inform decisions,
- And the belief we have in our potential.

Kivvit shared with us several recommendations about our structure, systems and staffing that we need to address to move ahead with this next stage of transforming The Arc, and included in their recommendations is that we deepen the collaborative working relationships we have among national, state and local components of The Arc. In keeping with the grassroots nature and identity that is The Arc, Kivvit advised that we need to develop services and tools that will empower you, our chapters, to organize online.

So in 2018 and beyond, we will be coming to you and asking you to work together with us on this next stage of building The Arc into the advocacy and fundraising powerhouse we all want and need it to be.

- We will be inviting your input about revamping The Arc's website, including making this and other communications vehicles more useful to you,
- We will be asking for your advice about what we can do to empower your advocacy.
- We will be looking for chapters to participate in piloting new online organizing strategies as they are developed.
- We will be reaching out to digital savvy chapter staff to help bring the strategies to life, participating in developing new tools, resources and services for the field and to plan and support their implementation.
- We will be developing new in-person and online training opportunities, and communications vehicles, to take bring the new online movement building to scale.
- We will be asking you what introductions you can broker that will help us build relationships in diverse communities.

And, most importantly, we will immediately start using these new tools to rack up more successes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Eight years ago, as we were about to roll out our new, ten-year, Strategic Framework for the Future of The Arc, I stood before you and said that The Arc was like a Sleeping Giant....

Together, we awakened that Sleeping Giant - and just in the nick of time.

Now it is up to all of us to build the power we need to achieve the vision of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities being included as full members of the community, and of The Arc as the nation's leading advocate for all people with I/DD and their families and the premier provider of the supports and services that people want and need.

We look forward to continuing the journey with you.

Thank you.

National Conference of Executives of The Arc (NCE) Report

Summer Leadership Institute

Despite record-breaking heat in St. Louis and a weather emergency that forced the cancellation of our key note speaker, this year's Summer Leadership Institute drew 188 registered attendees. One hundred of those were first-timers, thirty-five were from external organizations and we even had one attendee from the U.S. Virgin Islands!

Closing keynote Joe Macbeth from the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) drew rave reviews as the closing keynote and sessions on dementia in people with I/DD, ramping up advocacy efforts, developing criminal justice programs and special education advocacy programs drew were popular. The evening events were well attended, especially the Cardinals vs. Rockies game. We had our own private suites with plenty of food and air conditioning. The evening at the glass factory offered great barbecue and an opportunity to see artisans at work. Both events offered opportunities to engage with co-workers in a relaxed environment. The hotel was absolutely amazing - who knew such luxury could be so reasonably priced? The wonderful staff and accommodations added to the enjoyment of the event. Plans are already in the works for SLI 2018 - in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Many thanks to Chris and Karen, Vice-Chairs of NCE, Dawn, Robin and everyone else who helped make SLI 2017 a success.

Professional Development Seminar

As of this writing, 115 people have registered for Professional Development Seminar at The Arc National Convention. Chris Littlefield, Founder of Acknowledgement Works, will conduct "The Engagement Clinic" and we are excited to have him! We have been promoting PDS since the summer and will continue our efforts. Leadership have been encouraged to bring their HR staff or others on their team and we have offered discounts for additional staff to attend.

Awards Task Group

The NCE Awards Committee, under the leadership of Jon Meyers, have made their choices for the award winners for 2017. Below are the winners:

- Diversity & Cultural Competence Achievement - John Nash, Executive Director, The Arc of North Carolina, NC
- Executive Excellence - Thomas Kendziorski, Executive Director, The Arc of Oakland County, MI AND Kim Dodson, Executive Director, The Arc of Indiana, IN

- Exemplary Career Leadership - Marijo Rymer, Executive Director, The Arc of Colorado, CO
- Exemplary Mentor - Penny Spillman, Executive Director, Y.E.S. The Arc, AZ
- Lifetime Achievement - Mary Gonzalez, Founder, Gamaliel Foundation, IL
- Rising Star - Rob Malone, Executive Director, The Arc of Prince George's County, MD
- Outstanding Professional Achievement - Kevin Crosley, Executive Director, The Arc Herkimer, NY
- Program Innovation - Mary Van Haneghan, Executive Director, The Arc of the Capital Area

I hope you were able to attend the Luncheon in San Diego to honor them in person!

Silent Auction Task Group

The Silent Auction Task Group, under the leadership of Dan Stewart, Carrie Hobbs Guiden, Gary Horner and Karen Shoemaker, have been hard at work making this year's silent auction the best yet. "Bigger, better, more" is once again this year's theme. New this year is on-line bidding component. People will be able to track bidding on-line and make bids on-line, so you don't have to physically be in the silent auction space to up your bid. You don't even have to be at convention to participate! This year, up to 10% of the funds raised will go to help chapters impacted by the hurricanes and other natural disasters. The balance will go to fund scholarships for Execs and Next Generation leaders to attend SLI or PDS. Items available for bid include hotel stays, gift baskets, art, jewelry, event tickets, one-of-a-kind items, gift cards, autographed memorabilia and more. Join in the fun and register to bid on items. Help NCE make this our most successful year yet!

Lastly, many thanks to Dawn Cooper for her ongoing support of NCE. She keeps us organized!

Submitted by: Carrie Hobbs Guiden
NCE Steering Committee Chair