



# Voices of SSAN

Newsletter of the Statewide  
Self Advocacy Network  
Volume 2- April 2015

## SSAN's Mission

The Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN) promotes leadership and builds bridges that strengthen advocacy among disability communities by focusing on policy change.

*"We have a voice! The strength of our voice needs to be heard by all individuals in California. Our job is to make their voice loud as well. As we strengthen those voices they will be empowered to speak up and express what is needed to improve their lives."*

*~Cheryl Hewitt,  
SSAN Chair*

## From Cheryl Hewitt, SSAN Chair

Welcome to "Voice of SSAN," a newsletter of the Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN)!



Hi there, my name is Ramón

**Hernandez.** I was raised in the town of Oxnard, California and continue to reside in the County of Ventura. I was reared by two loving, hard working parents who wanted nothing but the best for me in order to lead the best life possible. It was through their hard work and dedication that I later

on realized my parents were my first advocates. At the age of 13, I began to witness the injustices and inequalities taking place in my environment. At 17 years old, this is where I started analyze and make sense of everything that was taking place around me, in which also initiated my interest in history and politics. It was not until I became involved in community organizing at the grass-roots level in my hometown that I noticed people-power could make a tremendous impact. Although it was not intentional, I felt excluded from these activities because the issues I encountered as a person with a developmental disability were not being addressed. It was not until I moved into a program called, Training for Independent Living from the Arc of Ventura County that I came to terms with my identity as a person who is developmentally disabled. Not long after, I came across a state agency that provides services to people who are developmentally disabled in order to help them achieve self-determination and integrate into their communities called, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, also known as SCDD. In this (Continued on page 2-Hernandez)



## SSAN Members

- Jennifer Allen, Sacramento
- Michael Arbios, North Bay
- Robert Balderama, North Valley Hills
- Desiree Boykin, ARCA
- Rebecca Donabed, Sequoia
- David Forderer, SCDD
- Julie Gaona, Los Angeles
- Ramon Hernandez, Central Coast
- Cheryl Hewitt, Silicon Valley Monterey Bay
- Charles Horne-Nutt, North State
- Ted Jackson, CFILC
- Robert Levy, UC Davis MIND Institute
- Paul Mansell, San Diego Imperial
- Joe Meadours, PFCA
- Kyle Minnis, Orange County
- Nicole Patterson, DDS
- Kecia Weller, UCLA Tarjan Center
- Regina Woodliff, Bay Area

(Continued from page 1- Hernandez)  
state agency, I currently serve as a member on the Regional Advisory Committee of the Central Coast office. As a person who serves in this committee, I finally found a place where I can assert myself in and give back to my community. From there, I was chosen to be the Statewide Self-Advocate Network Representative, also known as SSAN. As a SSAN representative, I serve as a link to other organizations across the state of California who work in unison to protect the rights of people who are developmentally disabled; therefore, I find myself fortunate to be surrounded by individuals who share a similar personal background and goals in self-advocacy work.



## MEET OUR NEW SECRETARY

**Desiree Boykin** attended El Camino College, Torrance campus and then transferred to California State University, Dominguez Hills earning a B.A. in Human Services in 2008. Ms. Boykin is employed by the SCLARC as a Consumer Advocate working on behalf of all consumers in the agency's service

area. She is also represents SCLARC on the Association for Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) and currently on the Statewide Self –Advocacy Network (SSAN) as the ARCA representative. Desiree was elected as the Secretary at the March SSAN meeting.



## STOP BULLYING

### SSAN Members share their bully stories

#### **My bullying story by Regina Woodliff**

As a child growing up, I was called names and I was beat up and jumped. I was sexually assaulted too.

(Continued on page 3- Bullying)



### **SSAN Partner Agencies**

- Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)
- California Foundation of Independent Living Centers (CFILC)
- Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
- Disability Rights California (DRC)
- People First of California (PFCA)
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
- University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) UC Davis MIND Institute
- UCEDD UCLA Tarjan Center
- UCEDD USC

### **SSAN Officers**

Cheryl Hewitt, Chair  
Jennifer Allen, Vice Chair  
Desiree Boykin, Secretary

Continued from page 2- Bullying)

### **My bullying Story by David Forderer**

I was bullied when I was younger by a caretaker who had a problem with drugs. He threatened me by not providing me with help when I need it.

### **My bullying story by Ramon Hernandez**

In elementary school, I would always witness someone with an intellectual disability being called the R word. and name called needs to be stopped.

### **My bullying story by Cheryl Hewitt**

When I was real young my sisters pushed me to a neighbor's house in my house and we starting to talk. There were about 4 to 5 kids from the neighborhood sitting there. All of a sudden they picked up pebbles and starting throwing them at me. This went on for 10 minutes. When they finally stopped my sister pushed me back home and I told my mother I didn't understand why they were throwing rocks at me. She stated all people throw rocks or do some things to someone weaker than them.

### **A bullying story shared by Michael Arbios**

### **It's Time To Stop Using The Word "Retard"**

By Kasey Studdard Offensive Guard for the Houston Texans and also the Tennessee Titans.

<https://medium.com/the-cauldron/its-time-to-stop-using-the-word-retard-7389f4fbaeed>

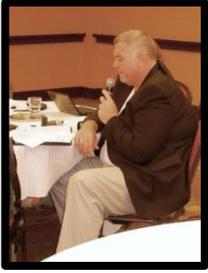
### **Check out these RESOURCES**

<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/>

[www.R-word.org](http://www.R-word.org)

<https://www.causes.com/campaigns/84605-stop-violence-abuse-bullying-of-people-with-disabilities>

[www.ddssafety.net](http://www.ddssafety.net)



12th Annual Disability Capitol Action Day May 20, 2015  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Sacramento, CA

*Disability Capitol Action Day is an annual event coordinated by **The Disability Action Coalition** as an opportunity for people of cross disabilities and their allies to come together in solidarity for learning, resources, unity and to share the current issues that affect their daily lives in California.*

*“There’s an unexplainable feeling I get when I’m at the State Capitol surrounded by people like me. I’ve never been able to sleep the night before. The actual day of the event is so exciting I rarely get the time to go to the restroom,” says Christina Mills, the Organizer of Disability Capitol Action Day 2015.*

*Disability Capitol Action Day is in its 12<sup>th</sup> year. This year’s event stands out for a couple of different reasons. The coalition that has been planning the event for years, the Disability Action Coalition has become more formal this year, “we bylaws and a team of dedicated executive officers,” said Mills.*

*The Disability Action Coalition has always included diverse disability rights organizations and allies, but with the new bylaws in place the coalition is now made up entirely of disability organizations that represent the best interest of people with disabilities of all ages. Disability Rights California, the California Association of Public Authorities for In Home Support Services and Californians for Disability Rights are the organizations that make up the executive council.*

*Teresa Favuzzi, Executive Director of the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers co-founded Disability Capitol Action Day, organized and mobilized hundreds of people with disabilities, supporters and allies to the State Capitol the first three years of the event.*

*“The event came together after a conversation with former Disability Rights California staff, Virginia Knowlton. We talked about how we didn’t know what the other was doing and that we should be working together to making a bigger event and get people from all over the state across all types of disabilities, ethnicities and languages to have a multicultural Disability Capitol Action Day, “ said Favuzzi.*

*Today, Disability Capitol Action Day has become one of the largest cross-disability events in the country. It is the day that people with disabilities from all over the state come to the capitol to learn, share and have their voices heard! The event includes a disability resource fair, an educational rally, public policy information and added specifically for this year, an Americans with Disability Act 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Forum that is being hosted by Youth Organizing (YO!) Disabled and Proud.*

*It takes almost \$40,000 to host Disability Capitol Action Day. It’s one of the most multicultural disability accessible events around. Each year the coalition raises the funds needed to make the event a reality. Sign Language Interpreters, Spanish & Cantonese Translators, materials in large print, braille and electronic formats are just a few examples of how the funding is spent. When the coalition hits its fundraising goal they have also been able to provide at least \$10,000 in transportation scholarships, which allows people to come by plane, train, bus and car. Lunch is a significant cost and is typically provided to the first 1,000 registered participants.*

*“It never gets old. The energy of the day is powerful and most people that come take the opportunity to go into the Capitol and educate their legislator on important public policy issues impacting the disability community or their personal life,” says Mills.*

*Disability Capitol Action Day will take place on May 20, 2015 from 9am – 3pm on the west lawn of the State Capitol. To register, make a donation or to get additional details about the event we invite you to visit the coalition’s website, [www.disabilityactioncoalition.org](http://www.disabilityactioncoalition.org).*

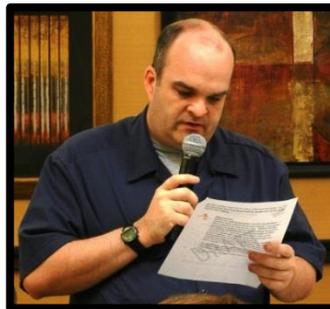
# 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference “Celebrate Self-Advocacy”

Friday & Saturday May 1st & 2nd, 2015  
Crowne Plaza Hotel Sacramento, CA.

**Employment First session** Statewide Self-Advocacy Network, SCDD  
Robert Levy, presenter. Friday, May 1, 2015 Session #3 • 2:00 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.

**Self-Determination session** Statewide Self-Advocacy Network, SCDD  
David Forderer and Charles Horn Nutt, presenters. Saturday, May 2, 2015  
Sessions Session #6 • 2:00 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.

Both David Forderer and Charles Horne Nutt pictured for Self Determination and Robert Levy are pictured for Employment First presentation.



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State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)



## State Plan Survey

SCDD wants to help and we need information from you. Please take a moment to complete our online survey by May 29, 2015.

Check out the survey at [www.scdd.ca.gov](http://www.scdd.ca.gov)

# SAVE THE DATE for Upcoming Events!

## MAY 2015



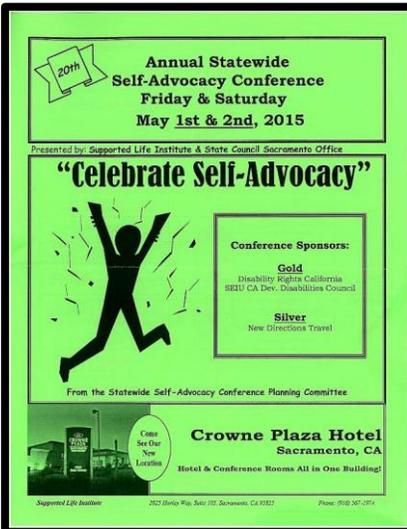
**The 28th Annual  
Safe  
CHOICES  
Home, Work, School  
and Community**  
Friday, May 1, 2015

Registration 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
Micro Business Fair 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Conference 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Location:**  
San Joaquin Co. Office of Education  
Wentworth Education Center  
2707 Transworld Dr., Stockton, CA

**Conference Presented by:**  
CHOICES Institute  
Central Valley Training Center, Inc.  
CLASP - Coalition of Local Area Service Providers  
Creative Support Alternatives / SDSU  
DRC - Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy  
Family Resource Network  
Los Unidos SELPA  
Person Centered Services, Inc.  
San Joaquin County Office of Education-SELPA  
SCDD - North Valley Hills  
Self Advocacy Council 6  
The Arc San Joaquin  
United Cerebral Palsy of Stanislaus  
Valley CAPS  
Valley Mountain Regional Center

CHOICES Conference  
Stockton, CA  
(209) 473-6950



**20th Annual Statewide  
Self-Advocacy Conference  
Friday & Saturday  
May 1st & 2nd, 2015**

Presented by: Supported Life Institute & State Council Sacramento Office

**"Celebrate Self-Advocacy"**

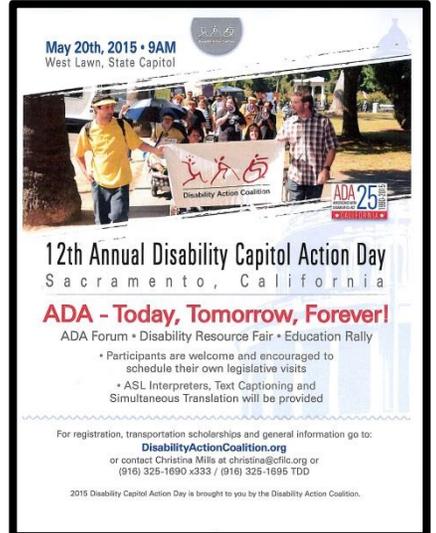
Conference Sponsors:  
**Gold**  
Disability Rights California  
REU CA Dev. Disabilities Council  
**Silver**  
New Directions Travel

From the Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference Planning Committee

**Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Sacramento, CA**  
Hotel & Conference Rooms All in One Building!

Sponsored Life Institute 2012 (Berkeley, Calif.) (916) 325-1690 Phone: (916) 325-1690

Annual Statewide  
Self Advocacy Conference  
(916) 567-1947



May 20th, 2015 • SAM  
West Lawn, State Capitol

**12th Annual Disability Capitol Action Day  
Sacramento, California**

**ADA - Today, Tomorrow, Forever!**  
ADA Forum • Disability Resource Fair • Education Rally

- Participants are welcome and encouraged to schedule their own legislative visits
- ASL Interpreters, Text Captioning and Simultaneous Translation will be provided

For registration, transportation scholarships and general information go to:  
**DisabilityActionCoalition.org**  
or contact Christina Mills at [christina@cflic.org](mailto:christina@cflic.org) or  
(916) 325-1690 x333 / (916) 325-1695 TDD

2015 Disability Capitol Action Day is brought to you by the Disability Action Coalition.

Capitol Action Day  
(916) 325-1690



**25TH ANNUAL SAN DIEGO PEOPLE FIRST  
SELF- ADVOCACY CONFERENCE  
"LIVING LONGER, GROWING STRONGER"  
MISSION VALLEY MARRIOTT, 8757 RIO SAN DIEGO DR, SAN DIEGO  
92108  
MAY 15TH – 17TH, 2015  
(858) 571-7803 x 118**

## **JUNE 2015**

People First of California is having their 4<sup>th</sup> annual Gathering

**June 12<sup>th</sup> thru June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Fresno Hotel and Conference Center**

**233 Ventura St, Fresno California, 93721**

Our theme for this Gathering will be “ADVOCACY IS A PATH...  
YOU CHOOSE THE DIRECTION”.



I will be a great opportunity for us to learn from each other,  
network, make new friends, and spread the People First  
message.

If you would like more information about the Gathering please  
give us a call at 916-704-7716. The registration information is  
on [www.peoplefirstca.org](http://www.peoplefirstca.org)