



Voices of SSAN

Newsletter of the Statewide
Self-Advocacy Network
Volume 4- December 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)!

Meet our NEW Members!!!



My name is **Charles Adams** and I am the new North Coast representative for Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties.

When I was born in Sacramento, I was 3 months early. I was small but I've always had a big heart so you might say that I have been an advocate my whole life. When I was 5, my mom died, so I moved to

Mendocino County to live with family. I have lived in Mendocino County for 15 years.

Currently I work at Fort Bragg Feed and Pet and I am a student at the Transition Learning Center where I am working toward my diploma. My goal is to go to school to become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) after I graduate from high school.

(Continued-See **Adams** page 5)



My name is **Chen Curtiss**. I represent the State Council North Bay office. I was born in San Francisco and went to school in Forestville (Sonoma County). I have gone to many different programs. I didn't like the programs where I couldn't work.

(Continued -See **Curtiss** page 6)

SSAN Members

- Charles Adams, North Coast
- Robert Balderama, North Valley Hills
- Desiree Boykin, ARCA
- Lisa Cooley, Sacramento
- Chen Curtiss, North Bay
- Rebecca Donabed, Sequoia
- David Forderer, SCDD
- Julie Gaona, Los Angeles
- Ramon Hernandez, Central Coast
- Cheryl Hewitt, Silicon Valley Monterey Bay
- Vacant, North State
- Ted Jackson, CFILC
- Arman Khodaei, San Bernardino
- Robert Levy, UC Davis MIND Institute
- Paul Mansell, San Diego Imperial
- Joe Meadours, PFCA
- Kyle Minnis, Orange
- Nicole Patterson, DDS
- Marinda Reed- DRC
- Kecia Weller, UCLA Tarjan Center
- Regina Woodliff, Bay Area

Experiences of the leadership training in Seattle By Robert Levy

David Forderer experiences are the State Plan group sessions when discussing the state goal of becoming a non-profit. Boundaries Exercises staying in charge of your Facilitator. Ari Ne eman's presentation on Managing a Self Advocacy Organization.



My Experiences are S.M.A.R.T Goals and Boundaries. Rebecca Donabed experiences are Boundaries, Role Playing, the S.M.A.R.T Goals and I really enjoyed it. Charles Horne Nutt (Former SSAN Member) experiences are the S.M.A.R.T Goals, Boundaries and Fundraising information.

That's all the information from all of us from all of our experiences of the Leadership training in Seattle, Washington back on 8/16/15-8/20/15.

My highlighted outreach event story when I meet Dr. Temple Grandin By Robert Levy

It was on February 11, 2015 when Temple Grandin came to the UCD MIND Institute to talk about her new book called " Temple talks about Autism and sensory issues " that was released on April 4, 2015. I thought it was great to meet her in person there were about 80 people and on February 10, 2015 at the Mondavi center then there were about hundreds of people who attended too. I got her autograph from one of her books. Now you can order her new book on line or you go to your local book store and buy one there too.

(Continued –See **Levy** next page)

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
Regina Woodliff, Vice Chair
Desiree Boykin, Secretary

Newsletter Committee

Robert Levy-chair
Desiree Boyton-vice chair
Cheryl Hewitt
Joe Meadours
Kecia Weller

(Levy story continued from page 2)



It should a great book to read and you can learn a lot from her what she had gone with her life living with Autism. When she went to college and got her doctorate degree in 1989. Now at the age of 68 she came a long

way she even drives her around and lives independently by doing what everybody else for other people out in the community who don't have developmental disabilities like Autism. You can even watch her movie even on the computer or netflix on your T.V. I thought Temple did a great talk. She currently lives in Colorado and still is a college professor. She even does presentations to the community. She is even has her own website worldwide and she is a famous celebrity and a legend and a great Self Advocate.



By Desiree Boykin

On July 25 to August 2, 2015 Los Angeles California welcomed millions of Special Olympics athletes from around the world. These athletes participated in many different sports Basketball, Handball, Track and field, Roller skating, and Swimming for the truly went by the Special Olympic oath " Let win but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt." Many athletes felt welcomed by the their host cities Carson, Pasadena, and Long Beach for Southern California . The University of
(Continued on page- see Olympics)



**SSAN’s chair- Cheryl Hewitt
 Receives the Carlo Quintong
 Self Advocacy Award! By
 Robert Balderama**

I had the pleasure of attending the **Carlos Quintong-Celebration of Self Advocacy** in Berkeley on Friday, October 23, 2015. From the flyer is said “This celebration is to honor the memory of Carlos Quintong, a local leader in the self-advocacy movement. He was the founding member and president of South

Alameda County People First and Bay Area People First, and President of People First of California. Carlos spoke to many groups in California and throughout the country. He participated in the President’s Committee in Intellectual Disabilities. He exemplified self-advocacy”. SSAN’s own Cheryl Hewitt was nominated for this award by David Forderer, SCDD representative and David Grady, manager from the SCDD/Silicon Valley-Monterrey Bay office. David Grady read his nomination and gave Cheryl this well-deserved award. Cheryl has worked hard as the SSAN chairperson and for self-advocacy in her area too. It was a great evening!



Above-SSAN members David Forderer, Cheryl Hewitt, Regina Woodliff & Robert Balderama celebrate Cheryl’s award!

4 Left-David Grady presents Cheryl Hewitt with the award.

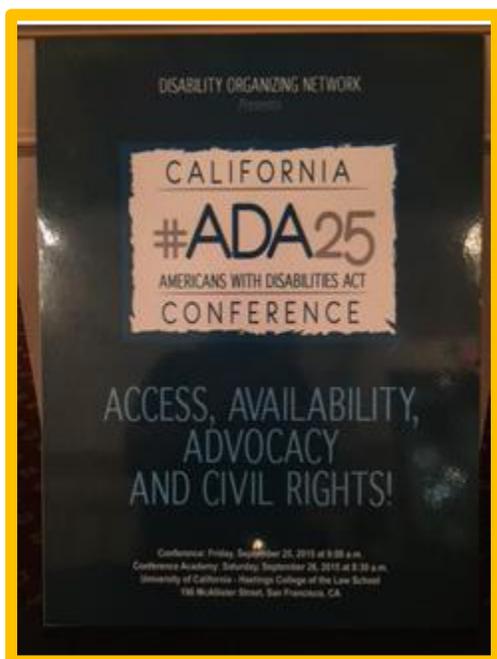
(ADAMS-Continued from page 1)

In my free time I participate in Special Olympics softball and basketball plus I coach the Mendocino Youth Lacrosse team. I am studying to get my driver's license.

I became interested in self-advocacy at a very early age when I attended People First community activities with a family member at age 8. I now serve as the Vice-Chair for the local Fort Bragg Chapter of People First. I applied to be on the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network because I was looking to get more involved in advocacy.

Our region is very large so one of my first projects will be to set up a website where people in my region can let me know about issues they have and what is happening in their communities.

I am glad that I was appointed to be on the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network and I look forward to representing the North Coast.



California #ADA 25 Conference By Ted Jackson

In September 2015 the Disability Organizing Network (DONetwork) celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act by hosting the **California #ADA25 Conference**. The conference was attended by 193 people with disabilities and their allies from across California as well as New York, Washington, D.C. and Canada – not bad for our little community organizing network.

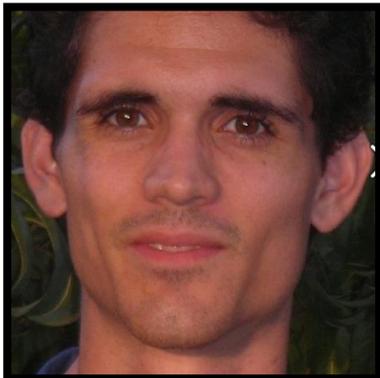
The conference hosted 31 workshops in community organizing and access to voting, education, healthcare, employment, assistive technology and social life. Our keynote speakers included California's Secretary of State Alex Padilla and Immigration Equality's Pamela Denzer. Secretary Padilla's words strengthened his commitment to equal access to voting for all citizens. (Continued –see **ADA** page 7)

(Curtiss- Continued from page 1)

I first got involved in self advocacy at a program called Gone for Good. I like helping people learn to be advocates. I learned how I could take charge of my IPP meeting at the self advocacy group. I led my IPP meeting using my own powerpoint. When I led my meeting, people listened to me more. I got help to meet my goals. One of my goals was to get a job and I just got my first job, working at Walmart.

After I led my meeting, I gave a presentation at Gone for Good and some of my friends saw that they could lead their meetings too. I think more people should lead their own meetings. I gave a presentation at the Supported Life Conference this year to show other people that they could take charge of their meetings too.

I want to help other people know about how to meet their goals, and how to get a job. I am excited to be part of SSAN.



Arman Khodaei- New Member

Arman started as a self-advocate in 2008 when he began a support group for adults with autism and Asperger’s. He also started a YouTube channel that same year aimed at providing insights into the mind and life of autistic individuals. Arman was previously a board member for then Area Board 12 before joining SSAN in

2015. Arman is representing region 12 - the San Bernardino regional office of SCDD.



SCDD STATE PLAN SURVEY NOW IN MANY LANGUAGES!! Go to scdd.ca.gov and find the language you need and tell SCDD what you think should be on their next state plan!

(ADA- Continued from page 5)

And Ms. Denzer's remarks demonstrated how the ADA provides accommodation for HIV positive and LGBTQ people with disabilities seeking freedom from persecution and asylum in the United States.

And Frank Wu, Chancellor and Dean of UC Hasting-College of the Law, was certainly a highlight for the many disability historians in the room. CFILC puts a



lot of emphasis on disability history; in fact we have been a driving force for the implementation of Disability History Week and the FAIR Education Act in California's K-12 classrooms. It was wonderful to hear from a former Gallaudet University board member who was present during the Deaf President Campaign was inspiring to all.

We were also treated to an exploration of independent living advocacy from Laurie Hoirup. Laurie is the former Executive Director of Community Access Center and recently retired from the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. She spoke about her many years of advocating for increased access and the changes in the last 25 years since the ADA's passage. Laurie encouraged young advocates to continue expanding access for more people with disabilities.

Panels of experts outlined the history and stories to the passage of the ADA, the last 25 years of advocacy and the hope of young professionals for the next quarter century of increasing access.

We were lucky to wrap up our plenary sessions at a breakfast discussion with Representative Tony Coelho (U.S. House of Representatives-*retired*). Mr. Coelho added his unique view of the ADA's passage and encouraged us to embrace technology to increase access to employment and elections in the future.

The DOnetwork is a program of California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC). The mission of CFILC is increasing access and equal opportunity for people with disabilities by building the capacity of Independent Living Centers. The DOnetwork's goal is to organize for accessible communities wherever people with disabilities live, work, learn, shop, play and vote!

(**Olympics** continued from page 5)

Southern California held basketball at the Galen Center and swimming in their aquatic pool. The Los Angeles Convention center held Bocca, Handball, Roller Skating and Badminton . The University of Los Angeles California held track and field . The torch made it's way through many cities in Los Angeles finally ending up and the open ceremony at Los Angeles Coliseum. Among the many guest speakers with Tim form Tim's Place, First Lady Michelle Obama Maria Shriver, Tim Shriver, and NBA basketball player Damien Lillard .

Performances by Debbie Allen Dance Academy, Mr. Stevie Wonder, and many more artist. When every country came out with their flags the crowd cheered with joy. It wasn't about disability but the bond people feel when working to together. The next host city is Sydney Australia in 2019.



Employment First Committee Meeting by Lisa Cooley

In the last meeting, we discussed the blueprint for competitive integrated employment (CIE). The process starts with a memo of understanding to develop the blueprint. For more information WWW.chhs-ca.gov.

We also had a presentation on the promise grant. The promise grants help young people who have disabilities who have barriers to employment gain access to services to get a job.

Finally, we had a presentation from Progressive Employment Concepts. Progressive Employment Concepts is an organization which helps individuals who have Developmental Disabilities get jobs, volunteer or take classes and also have their own businesses out in the community. The next Employment First Committee group meeting will be on 1/12/16.