



Into the Light

ASCV 2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Virginia's lawmakers came together for the 2017 legislative session on January 11th and will meet until February 24th. You can make a difference in the decisions they make! Contact your legislators and let them know how their decisions impact you and your family. You don't have to be a policy expert! Telling your story about life with autism without home and community based waiver services can influence your legislators' decisions! (If you have services, let them know the difference it's made in your life!)

Not sure who your legislator is? Visit <http://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov/>

The Autism Society Central VA supports the 2017 Legislative Agenda of The Arc of VA.

Please join the ASCV in asking your legislators to:

- Reject the Governor's proposed \$10 million cut in DD Waiver waiting list funding.
- Provide additional DD Waivers to address the waiting list crisis of over 11,000 individuals.
- Transition the 4,000 people with DD from the EDCD Waiver to the DD Waiver, where their needs will be met with more appropriate services and supports.
- Direct the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to develop a long-range, statewide Inclusion Implementation Plan for children with developmental disabilities.
- Support recommendations in RD249 to ensure that students with developmental disabilities have appropriate services and supports in neighborhood schools.
- Support HB1995 which will remove the age cap (currently capped at age 10) from autism insurance coverage.

Your legislators make their decisions based on what they hear from their constituents. Our voices together can make a difference for the future of individuals with autism and our families.





Mission

To improve the lives of all affected by autism by maximizing the self-sufficiency, independence, and quality of life for all living with autism.

Vision

We are the local voice and resource of the autism community in education, advocacy, services, and support, committed to meaningful participation and self-determination in all aspects of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

Any age. Any stage.

Donate

Your gift will help support autism education, awareness, advocacy and most importantly, enable us to assist families and individuals living with autism in our community. You can help by making a donation today!

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Outreach & Program Director: Tammy Burns, M.Ed.

Recreational Facilitator: Brie King, M.A. LBA BCBA

Recreational Facilitator: Becky Early

This newsletter is a publication of: Autism Society Central Virginia.
200 South 3rd Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 257-0192

We accept for consideration any comments, personal vignettes, book reviews, information, announcements, or advertisements for publication in our newsletter. The deadline for submission for the March newsletter is February 15th. You may send your contributions to the above address or email contributions to info@ascv.org.

The Autism Society Central Virginia does not endorse nor promote any program or service provider. The information contained in this newsletter is provided for informational purposes only. The Board reserves the right to refuse to include any information, organization, business, or group where evidence-based practices are not evident. Ads for personal or organization fundraisers will not be accepted. The Society is a 501(c)3 organization providing information, support, and encouragement to individuals with autism, their families, and professionals in the Central Virginia area.

This edition was edited by ASCV staff.



From Our Executive Director

February Brings a Few Changes for the ASCV -

A special Thank-You to all who attended the Open House the Autism Society Central VA hosted for Bradford Hulcher on January 6th! It was a celebration of her passion for the organization and the people she has



touched through her 22 years of work in our community. The ASCV has been blessed by her commitment in all the many capacities she has served over the years. We hope that you will join us in wishing her all the best in her retirement! Bradford will still be involved in advocacy efforts through volunteer service with the ASCV, so you will hopefully still see her at some of our programs and events! If you were unable to attend the Open House and would like to send a card or note to Bradford, please feel free to send them to the ASCV Office, 200 South 3rd Street, Richmond, VA 23219. We will make sure she gets them.

We would also like to announce the promotion of Tammy Burns to Program and Outreach Director effective February 1, 2017. In this full-time role, Tammy will continue to use her education and experience to provide Information & Referral, and to plan and oversee all current and new Outreach and Program activities and events. The ASCV is blessed to have someone as knowledgeable and devoted as Tammy to step into this role.

It's a great month to welcome a new Board Member too! The ASCV would like to introduce you to Jennie Nesbitt who joined the Board of Directors in January 2017.

Jennifer Sublett Nesbitt was raised in Virginia. She attended the College of William & Mary, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. She then earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. Jennie served as a judicial clerk for the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond before working for nearly ten years as a prosecutor in the Richmond Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney. In August of 2015, she entered private practice, joining the Nesbitt Law Firm, PLLC. She also teaches as an adjunct professor at the University of Richmond School of Law. Jennie became a lawyer because she wanted to advocate for people who could not effectively protect and promote their own interests. In volunteering for the Autism Society Central VA, she hopes to use her skills to provide support for individuals with autism and their families.



Becky

Becky Boswell, MBA
Executive Director
director@ascv.org

15th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism

Mark the Date - Registration Opens February 1, 2017

We are excited to be celebrating a milestone anniversary this year – the **15th** Annual ASCV 5K Run/Walk for Autism will take place on Saturday, May 27, 2017! Plans are underway to make this our biggest and best 5K yet, including a 15th Anniversary 5K Run/Walk for Autism **full color** t-shirt for all registrants in 2017!!

The ASCV 5K registration will officially open on February 1, 2017. At that time, you will be able to register yourself, start a team, and officially begin your fundraising page! To honor our 15th year, we will also be offering several special pricing incentives:

- Register for the 2017 5K between February 1 and February 15 at the 2016 Early Bird Prices!
- 2017 Early Bird pricing will run from February 16th through April 15th.
- After April 15, 2017, registration will be at full 2017 rates.

Sponsorship is also a great way to get involved. Many different levels of Sponsorship opportunities are available for the 2017 5K. Contact director@ascv.org for more details.

Watch for other upcoming announcements about special ways we will be celebrating the 15th year of this special event!! And plan to join us on May 27th for the party!



New ASCV Scholarship Program Added for 2017

The ASCV has offered a Recreation and Social Scholarship Program to area children, youth, and adults with ASD since 2013. To be eligible for these scholarships, an individual must have a diagnosis of autism and reside in Metro-Richmond or a surrounding city/county. Scholarships for ASCV Membership are also available for families experiencing difficult financial times or for whom membership would place a financial burden.

In January 2017, the ASCV added an additional scholarship opportunity, open only to ASCV members. The Education and Enrichment Scholarship Program is designed to improve the quality of life for individuals with autism and their families/caregivers. This award may be used by the individual and/or family members/caregivers towards educational enrichment opportunities. A total of up to \$300 per membership is available per calendar year. Examples of qualifying activities include conference registration, workshops, webinars, tuition, and fees related to educational endeavors related to ASD. Additional information is posted on our website.

Become a Partner in Policymaking

The Virginia Board is now accepting applications for the next session of Partners in Policymaking (PIP), a premier advocacy and leadership training program. The 2017-18 class will consist of seven two-day sessions beginning September of 2017 and lasting through April of 2018. Eligible applicants are adults with developmental disabilities and/or parents of young children with developmental disabilities. The application deadline is Friday, March 31, 2017, by 5 pm.

For more details and to download the application, visit <http://bit.ly/2hj2eYJ>



ABLEnow Has Launched

ABLEnow is the national ABLE savings program offered by the Commonwealth of Virginia. It's a new financial tool for individuals with disabilities and their families to save, invest, and pay for qualified disability-related expenses. This exciting new program allows people with disabilities to save like never before. Fast facts about ABLEnow:

- National enrollment
- Available to eligible individuals who developed the onset of their disability before age 26
- Save up to \$14,000 a year without endangering eligibility for certain disability benefits
- Open an account with as little as \$25
- Earnings grow free from federal taxes
- Virginians may receive an annual state income tax deduction of up to \$2,000 per contributor
- Use the ABLEnow Card to pay for qualified disability expenses, beyond just medical care
- Administered by Virginia529, the nation's largest college savings plan

To learn more visit <https://www.able-now.com/>



NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY CENTRAL VIRGINIA BOARD

In December and January, the Autism Society Central Virginia worked to fulfill our mission to "improve the lives of all affected by autism" in the following ways:

Education

- Participated in Region IV Housing Workshop
- Hosted Society Meeting: *Through Their Eyes: A Panel of Siblings of Individuals with Autism*

Services and Supports

- Sponsored ASCV Member Holiday Party
- Sponsored Sensory Friendly Movies in collaboration with the Byrd Theatre
- Sponsored Inclusive Lego and Game Clubs
- Sponsored Adults with Asperger's Interest Group
- Sponsored Parents of Adults with Asperger's Group
- Sponsored Asperger's/HFA Teen Social Club
- Sponsored Sibshops
- Sponsored bowling for children, youth, and adults with ASD

Advocacy

- Attended VDOE Advocacy Advisory Group
- Attended Interagency Housing Advisory Committee
- Attended Region IV Children's Crisis Advisory Committee
- Sponsored transportation to and participated in DD Advocacy Day at the VA General Assembly

Awareness

- Exhibited at the Science Museum of VA's sensory friendly event, *Minds of All Kinds*

Registration Open for March 18th Sibshops

The ASCV hosts bi-monthly Sibshops as an opportunity for brothers and sisters of children with any developmental disabilities to obtain peer support and education in a fun recreational environment. Our Sibshops are open to any sibling, ages 7-12, of a child with a special need. We meet every other month from 10am to noon. Sibshops acknowledge that being the brother or sister of a person with special needs is for some a good thing, for others a not-so-good thing, and for many somewhere in between. The Sibshop model intersperses information and discussion activities with recreation and games (designed to be unique, off-beat, and appealing). Registration closes on March 13. Learn more and register here: <http://ascv.org/meetings-events/sibshops/>



This February, the Autism Society Central VA will sponsor or participate in the following events. All events take place at River Road UMC, 8800 River Rd, Henrico, unless otherwise specified. For information: 257-0192 or info@ascv.org.

02/03	7pm	Monthly Society Meeting: Diploma Options , learn more and register at https://diplomaoptions.eventbrite.com
02/03		Asperger's/HFA Teen Social Club (Grades 6-10) free for ASCV members; check your email for Eventbrite invitation and registration
02/04	10 am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club – Chester , details and registration: https://legofebchester.eventbrite.com
02/04		ASCV Members at VCU Women's Basketball check your email for Eventbrite invitation and registration
02/07		ASCV Board Meeting 200 South 3 rd Street, Richmond
02/12		Bowling Event for children/youth/adults with ASD; free for ASCV members; check your email for Eventbrite invitation and registration
02/17		ASCV Members Winter Family Pool Party check your email for Eventbrite invitation and registration
02/25	10 am	Inclusive Lego & Game Club – Downtown , details and registration: https://feblegodowntown.eventbrite.com
02/25	2 pm	Sensory Friendly Movie at the Byrd Theatre, Carytown
02/27	7 pm	Parents of Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group
02/27	7 pm	Adults with Asperger's/HFA Interest Group (open only to adults with Asperger's/HFA)

**AUTISM
SOCIETY
CENTRAL
VIRGINIA**

**FEBRUARY
CALENDAR**

Save the Dates! 2017 ASCV Learning Opportunities

Mark your calendars for our Winter/Spring learning opportunities:

February 3	<i>Diploma Options</i> with the VA Department of Education
March 3	<i>Annual Recreation Resource Fair</i>
March 31 / April 1	<i>IEP Boot Camp</i>
May 5	<i>Friendship Building Skills</i> with Amanda Randall, M.Ed, BCBA, LBA, Self Determination State Coordinator at James Madison University



ASCV Member's Indoor Pool Event

Escape the COLD days of winter, and join us for a warm indoor pool time! ASCV members watch your email for the Eventbrite invitation for this February 17th evening swim!

The deadline to register/cancel for this event is 6pm on February 14th.

It's going to be a "SPLASHING" good time! We hope to see you there!



2017 I'm Determined Youth and Parent Summit Application Now Open

The Virginia Department of Education's I'm Determined project, in conjunction with the Partnership for People with Disabilities, invites applications for sponsorship to the 11th Annual I'm Determined Youth and Parent Summit at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Youth with disabilities from across the Commonwealth will meet to identify ways to become better advocates and lead more self-determined lives. The selected individuals and a parent/guardian will receive paid registration, dormitory accommodations, travel expenses and meals for the three-day event. A concurrent Parent Summit for the selected participant's parent/guardian will be held at the university. Parent attendance is based on their child applying and being accepted to the summit. Parents do not complete an application.

The Youth and Parent Summit will start on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 and will end on Friday, June 16, 2017. More detailed information regarding the Youth and Parent Summit will be provided upon acceptance of the youth. The deadline for application submission is 5pm on March 9, 2017.

More info and the application can be found here - <https://goo.gl/96Mf4M>



FEBRUARY COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

(Dates provided as published by sponsoring organizations; contact organizations for confirmation)

- 02/03 **Special Night for Special Needs** at Children's Museum Central; 5:30 pm, for info: <http://www.c-mor.org/events/special-nights>
- 02/06 **Hanover County Special Education Advisory Committee** meets at 7 pm at Hanover County School Board Office, 200 Berkley Street, Ashland; Topic: *Assistive Technology*; open to the public
- 02/06 **Sky Zone Special Needs Sensory Friendly Night** <http://www.skyzone.com/richmond>, 804-379-2500
- 02/07 **Jumpology** special needs night; <http://www.jumpology.us/Calendar>
- 02/08 **Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee** meets at 5 pm at the Career and Technical Center, 13900 Hull Street Road, room 256; open to the public; topic: *Dyslexia*; contact 804-639-8918 for more info and info on making public comment
- 02/09 **Asperger's Support Group - Northside**, meeting for adults with Asperger's / HFA and parents of children with this diagnosis, 7pm – 9pm at River City Diner, Parham Rd.
- 02/11 **Regal My Way Matinee** sensory friendly movie, *A Dog's Purpose*, 10:30am; Regal Short Pump Stadium 14, tickets \$6.50 each
- 02/14 **Richmond Special Education Advisory Committee** 12 pm-1:30 pm; open to the public; call 780-7710 for the location of the meeting
- 02/21 **Monkey Joe's Special Needs Night** from 5 pm-7 pm; kids ages 2-12 with special needs free; closed to public; siblings welcome \$5; info 897-5867
- 02/21 **Asperger's Support Group – West End / Northern Chesterfield**, meeting for adults with Asperger's / HFA and parents of children with this diagnosis, 7pm – 9pm at Positive Vibe Café, 2825 Hathaway Road, Richmond
- 02/22 **Gaviota Group** support group for Latino families with autism; meets at the Sacred Heart Center, 1400 Perry Street, Richmond, 23224; RSVP at 804-646-0145

March 4th Recreation Resource Fair

The ASCV will host our 9th Annual Recreation Resource Fair, featuring over 25 providers serving children, youth, and adults with ASD. Come learn about opportunities for camps, social groups, music, dance, martial arts, soccer, sailing, swimming, gymnastics, and much more! This event is free and open to the community; learn more and register at <https://ascvrecfair.eventbrite.com>.



WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

- 02/04 **"From PossAbilities to Practical Applications" Disability Education Conference**
learn more: <http://dsagr.org/present-et-urna-turpis-sadips/>
- 02/14 **Conducting Appropriate FBAs** free webcast from VCU ACE; learn more and register at <https://vcuautismcenter.org/te/webcasts/>
- 02/16 **Special Needs Planning Workshop** free; hosted by The Founders Center; topics covered: Guardianship & Alternatives; Special Needs Financial Planning; 6:30pm – 8pm; details and registration at <http://thefounderscenter.org/news-events/>
- 02/18 **Asperger's Syndrome: Optimism and Untapped Potential** free; speaker: John Toscano, CEO of Commonwealth Autism; 11am – 1pm; hosted by Courage to Succeed; RSVP by 2/10 to Kelly at kmagee@umfs.org
- 03/08,03/09 **Commonwealth Autism Annual Conference** early bird registration (by 2/17) \$245 registration fee; scholarships available; **Scholarship Applications are due by February 17, 2017**; learn more at <http://www.autismva.org/2017annualconference>
- 03/14 **Inclusion: What Does It Mean and Who Is It For?** free webcast from VCU ACE; learn more and register at <https://vcuautismcenter.org/te/webcasts/>
- 3/11 **CollaborATE: A Transdisciplinary Approach to Assistive Technology through the Lifespan**; at the Children's Hospital Brook Road location, registration and more info <http://www.chrichmond.org/2017-AT-Symposium.htm>



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SAVE THE DATE

The 15th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Autism
will occur on
Saturday, May 27, 2017!!



Run/Walk
May 27, 2017

Contact director@ascv.org for Sponsor info now!

Thank You To Our Volunteers

Lauren Parker
 Shara Smith
 Ann Flippin
 Katilyn Ledford
 Kyle Ledford
 Ryan Cope
 Katie Topham
 Alyssa White
 Octavia Bunton
 Kristin Davidson
 Travis Faber
 Madison Nahrup
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 Hayden Vozar
 Chris Del Bueno
 Rachel Valentino
 Mary Bess Bolin
 Donna Sabel
 Allison Thurman
 Nancy Andelin
 Kyra Owen
 Julia Hara

Mr. Kern's Deep Run Class
 Erin Jordan
 Linda Oggel
 Laurel Kovalshick
 Jesse Anderson
 Mannal Rahman
 Yumna Rahman
 Phong Truong
 Rachel Miller
 Judy Dong
 Mrudula Bandaru
 William Craun
 Woody Sikes
 Staci Carr
 Peter Carr
 Morgan Carr
 Greg Carr
 Lisa de Groot
 Peter de Groot
 Frank Grochowaski
 Brittany Ellis
 Jim Hamilton
 Nikole Kaple
 Nick King
 Vaidehi Patel
 Anna-Lena Witte
 Diana Simion
 Brett Burns



We would love to add your name to this list. We are always looking for individuals, 18 and older, who would like to get involved. Contact Tammy at outreach@ascv.org to find out how you can volunteer for the ASCV too!

Thank You For the Following Donations

All donations stay in the Central Virginia area to support individuals and families affected by autism.

Eric Schmude
Mamie Robinson
Tracey Matthews
Nateishia Barbour
Larry Scarborough
Staci Carr
Becky Boswell
Latosha Frye
Jennifer Barnum
Linda Oggel
Neeraja Ravindran
Judi Saxon
Virginia Woodhead
Kathy & Bob Calhoun
Cecil Comer
Lisa Keene
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Sean Healy
Sedona Taphouse
Thomas Whalen
Jennifer Wade
Gerda
Kendra Scott

The following donation was made in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Coates:
Martha Mason

The following donation was made in honor of Bill & Betty Thompson:
Judith Kane

The following donation was made in honor of Kat Lynch:
Marilyn Heebner

The following donations were made in honor of Bradford Hulcher:
Commonwealth Autism
Jesselle Christenson



Thank You!



I.E.P. Boot Camp

Enlist Today!

This 2 session workshop series will empower parents / caregivers to understand and become effective partners in the I.E.P. process.

Attendance at both sessions is required.



Topics covered and included in Boot Camp Toolkit:

- Beginning with the End in Mind
- Person Centered Planning
- Present Level of Performance
- Goals and Objectives
- Accommodations / Modifications
- Extended School Year
- What if You Don't Agree
- Collaboration Strategies
- Behavior Plans
- Transition
- Rights and Regulations
- And much, much more!

Session Dates:

March 31, 2017
 (6:30pm-9pm)
 April 1, 2017
 (9am-2pm)

Cost:

\$10 ASCV Members
 \$35 Non-members
****Plus Processing Fees****

Location:

River Road United
 Methodist Church
 8800 River Road
 Richmond, 23229

Pizza dinner will be provided on 3/31 and a light breakfast will be provided on 4/1.

Space is limited – Register Early!

Childcare registration is available for 3/31 on a first come basis.

Co-Sponsored by:

Center for Family Involvement



For more info and to register:
<https://iepbootcamp2017.eventbrite.com>

www.ascv.org

info@ascv.org

804-257-0192

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join with hundreds of individuals with autism, their families and other caring individuals; become a part of a larger community - the Autism Society Central Virginia. We can't be heard alone, but with more voices joining daily, that small voice can become a roar. We invite you to become a part of a community of hope.

Membership in the Autism Society Central Virginia provides the following benefits:

- ASCV's monthly newsletter, the local resource for information regarding local and state autism-related issues, workshops, and community events
- ASCV's weekly e-mail updates
- Discounted workshops and conferences
- Free ASCV sponsored social/recreational activities

Membership Levels:

___ \$5 ~ Self-Advocate (Adult w/ ASD) ___ \$25 ~ Household ___ \$1500 ~ Lifetime

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

(By providing your e-mail, you will receive our weekly e-mail; your e-mail will be kept confidential)

Additional Donation:

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 _____ please specify amount

Payment information:

___ Check (made payable to **Autism Society Central Virginia**) ___ Visa ___ Mastercard

Name on card: _____ Expiration: _____

Card #: _____

CVV# (security code on back of card) _____ **or join online at www.ascv.org**

Signature: _____

How would you prefer to receive your newsletter: ☐ by mail ☐ electronically

Which free gift may we send you: ☐ car magnet ☐ refrigerator magnet ☐ no gift needed

New Members, how did you hear about the ASCV? ☐ family ☐ friend ☐ internet ☐ other _____

Please mail, email, or fax with payment to:

Autism Society Central Virginia
200 South 3rd Street
Richmond, VA 23219
outreach@ascv.org (email)
(804) 655-0484 (fax)

Autism Society Central Virginia

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Would you like to place an Ad in *"Into The Light"*?

Our newsletter reaches over 700+ families, professionals and educators on a monthly basis and is archived on our website. If you would like to place an advertisement, please email it to info@ascv.org or mail it to us at 200 South 3rd Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Deadline for entry and payment is Feb.15th.

Ad Rates:

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\$75.00 1/2 page (\$68 non profit)
\$100 full page (\$90 non profit)

Long term ad discounts: 6-11 months 10% discount, 12 months or longer 15% discount

The Board reserves the right to refuse to place an advertisement.