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As many of you are aware, much has been happening in the legislative world regarding people with disabilities.

Programs like Medicaid and others such as Affordable Care Act, SSI are vitally important for people with I/DD and their families. The importance of these programs helps to ensure all people are part of their community and have inclusion.

I am thankful for so many things but mostly, that we have the Arc, nationally and state wide, as well as local chapters. In 2017, at all levels, advocates from the Arc focused efforts to preserve these necessary programs. Challenges will continue to happen but I am so thankful, as I am sure all of you are, that we have a united force within all Arcs to look out for these programs now and in the future.

Locally, Arc Bay County has been blessed within our programs. **Education Advocacy** has been a very successful program. Over the last couple years, our

Education advocate Jill Schultz has been instrumental in helping those with I/DD have a successful education plan. Awareness has been spreading through her hard work.

Project Lifesaver has gained some more public awareness. The Sheriff department has a new leader, Deputy Ben overseeing this program. More of the department is trained and awareness is growing. The Sheriff Department posted on their Facebook page and the local news channels interviewed them regarding this life saving program for those with Alzheimer's or I/DD who tend to wander.

Representative Payee program has grown to 189 people whom the Arc oversees their budget in regards to their social security funds. This program keeps the local Arc very busy. The Arc passed the Social Security audit with flying colors.

Social Security/consulting is covered by Arlene Warner when the need arises. She does an amazing job.

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Our local office may be small but I could not be more thankful for my tireless hard working staff that keeps every running like clockwork. Thank you also to the Board of Directors, who in spite of their busy lives, find time to serve and promote the Arc and assist me as much as possible.

Most of all, thank you to all of you members who volunteer, support and give of yourselves. May this holiday season and 2018 be a blessed year for you.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



- **Strawberry Festival 2017** was a successful event thanks to all of you. I always worry will there be enough cupcakes, or help but it always seems to work out to be a wonderful event. The Arc made a profit of \$4384 on this event through sponsorships, donations and ticket sales. There were 400 people who attended the event. My hope or goal for 2018 is that we have an increase of numbers but am very thankful for the successful event it was.
- We have received **memorials** in memory of Marvin Wegener, Audrey Warzecha, and Irene Dubuis.
- **Thank you** to Knights of Columbus for their donations to our organization. We appreciate their support.
- **Thank you** to Pete Avery for revamping our web page and all his support!
- **Board Members:** We will have several openings on our board for next term which will start June 2018. If anyone is interested, feel free to call the Arc office. 893-1346.

- The Arc is happy to welcome **Kay Wagner** to the Arc office . Kay worked for the City of Bay City for 35 years with 30 of them at the Bay City Fire Department. In addition to working several days at the Arc, Kay is busy lady working at church as a secretary and very involved with her grandchildren.
- **Questions to research:** I would like to offer an option via email. If anyone has questions or issues that they would like some background on, email me at contact@arcbc.com. I will do my best to provide some info for you.



- WISHING EVERYONE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND A PROPSEROUS AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Area 9 Special Olympics is hosting a dance for Christmas and all athletes, consumers, clients, family are invited! They hope to see a lot of new faces along with familiar faces. They are beginning the basketball season on December 4th at Handy Middle School from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. ALL athletes interested in playing MUST attend this practice. A valid physical is required.

Winter Sports practice is this Saturday from 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at Bay City State Park TOBICO MARSH area.

Area 9 has apparel for sale - this is not a fundraiser, simply a way to sport Area 9... if you have that someone that you want to give a Christmas gift too but don't know what to give, call Special Olympics

If you ever have questions or concerns feel free to contact Janelle. For more up to date information visit our Facebook fan page: Area 9 Special Olympics - you do not need to have a Facebook account to see our page.

Area 9 Special Olympics - dates to jot down!!!



Basketball practice

December 4th

Handy Middle School, large gym

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

ANY athlete that plans to play MUST attend!



**Special
Olympics**
Michigan

Christmas dance...

December 7th

Bangor Twp. Hall

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

\$5 per person

Dinner will be served

DJ - Jeff Seifferly



Contact Information:

Janelle Miller, Area Director
(989) 450-6114
area09@som.org

Winter Sports

Practice begins:
November 18th

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Practices will be held at
the Bay City State Park
Tobico Marsh Trail.

Please watch the
weather and dress
accordingly.

If you have questions
contact Dave Pruder
(989) 455-5527



**A HUGE thank you to
everyone that supported
our Spaghetti dinner - we
had a great turnout!!!**

Other dates to remember:

February 12, 2018 - Meet the teams
(Basketball) & Community game

February 24, 2018 Bay City Polar Plunge

April 24, 2018 Miss Bay Arenac Special
Olympics Pageant

More details to follow all events

