

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE October 23, 2020

If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Katie Haley at mary.haley@ucpcentralpa.org to have your name removed.

NOTE: This update is for informational purposes only. The PaRC and Support Staff are not responsible for the accuracy of this information. Some of the information found in this update you may have already received from another source. The PaRC or the Support Staff do not use this update as a vehicle to express their views and positions. As of **October 23, 2020**, all links have been verified. Please credit the PaRC Support Project for any information forwarded to others. Thank You.

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Council is to inform and advise the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Legislature, and the Governor on the diverse issues affecting employment of people with disabilities.

The PaRC 2019 Annual Report can be found on our webpage or by clicking on the following link

<http://parac.org/reports/2019AnnualReport.pdf>

Find Your Local CAC Meeting Dates: Please go to our website www.parac.org and click on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) link to find dates, locations, times, agendas and minutes, etc. for information on your CAC.

***** PaRC Calendar Year 2020 –Please Mark your Calendars *****

FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

PaRC Full Council meetings will be held at the **Harrisburg Hilton** from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM (unless otherwise noted). We will also have parking passes for those who park in the Strawberry Square Parking Garage. Please plan to stay for the entire meeting.

**November 18, 2020
(virtual meeting)**

The agenda will be posted on the PaRC website approx. 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html

PaRC Member Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars

CareerLink/WIOA

Next Call: To be Determined

Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: Wednesday November 4, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Transition & Education

Next Call: To be Determined

The PaRC Social Media and Outreach Committee in partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) produced 6 videos, 5 of which are OVR individual and business success stories, as well as a PaRC Recruitment video. We want to thank both the individuals and companies that participated in making these videos and OVR for supporting the project. The PaRC is pleased to present the following 6 videos. Please feel free to share.

[PaRC Aha Moment](#)

[PaRC Dream Partnership](#)

[PaRC Herr Foods Inc.](#)

[PaRC Keystone Blind Association](#)

[PaRC Assistive Technology](#)

PaRC COUNCIL OPENINGS: The PaRC is looking for candidates to fill new openings on the council. If interested, please go to our website (www.parac.org) and fill out an application.

1.) Forwarded from Linda Williams

Click on the picture for more information



(Advertisement for a zoom Halloween Costume contest hosted by PMHCA)

**2.) Zoo Reserves Time During COVID-19 For
Visitors With Disabilities Who Cannot Wear Masks
by Daniel Beekman, The Seattle Times/TNS
October 16, 2020**

SEATTLE — When Woodland Park Zoo reopened in July under COVID-19 conditions, the venue kept its indoor exhibits shuttered and adopted a strict requirement that all visitors older than 5 wear masks.

For the Seattle zoo's animals, employees and most visitors, the policy provided protection from the pandemic. For some visitors with disabilities, however, the requirement erected a barrier — with some families turned away. The timing could not have been worse for people with disabilities trying to remain active, because many other recreational options were still closed down, due to the coronavirus. To read more, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/10/16/zoo-time-covid-19-disabilities-cant-wear-masks/29040/>

3.) Contributions of employees with disabilities recognized

**By Emily Jennings, USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs
October 19, 2020**

WIESBADEN, Germany - U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden and U.S. Army Europe work to educate supervisors and workers to ensure equal employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

“Our focus this year, on the 75th anniversary of recognizing October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month, is identifying tangible actions we can take to not only employ individuals with disabilities, but ensure they receive the accommodations they need to enjoy equal employment opportunity in the workplace,” said Eric Zelko, Equal Employment Opportunity specialist, U.S. Army Europe. To continue reading, go to:

https://www.army.mil/article/240052/contributions_of_employees_with_disabilities_recognized

4.) Man says his signature changes due to learning disability, and his ballot has been rejected because of it

By CNN

October 16, 2020

CHICAGO, IL (WBBM) — Bryce Tuttle has a learning disability that affects his handwriting, and now his ballot.

His absentee ballot was rejected by the Chicago Board of Elections, and now, he is fighting to prove “it’s really him.”

To read more, go to: <https://keyt.com/news/national-world/2020/10/16/man-says-his-signature-changes-due-to-learning-disability-and-his-ballot-has-been-rejected-because-of-it/>

5.) Disabilities and the Workforce: A Community Too Long Overlooked

By: Cheyenne Leonard

October 20, 2020

It has been well documented that marginalized communities face wage and employment discrimination. A significant wage gap exists between women and men, and people of color experience unfair employment practices. But did you know that members of the disabilities community also experience a significant amount of discrimination? Since October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, this is a perfect time to shed light on barriers people with disabilities face when it comes to employment practices and, in particular, accessible employment. To continue reading, go to: <https://womensenews.org/2020/10/disabilities-and-the-workforce-a-community-too-long-overlooked/>

6.) New app empowers voters with disabilities Brink Election Guide app co-founded by Oak Park native

By Stacey Sheridan Staff Reporter

Wednesday, October 21st, 2020 8:58 AM

If people with disabilities voted at the same rate as non-disabled people, there would be about 2.35 million more voters in the United States, according to a 2018 Rutgers University study.

"That is a huge, huge amount of people that certainly can swing a statewide election; it can swing a national election as well," said Stephen Puszis, Oak Park native and co-founder of Brink Election Guide, a new mobile app that makes the voting process more accessible. To read more, go to:

<https://www.oakpark.com/News/Articles/10-21-2020/New-app-empowers-voters-with-disabilities---/>

7.) In Bold Benchmarking Move, Microsoft Reveals 6.1% Disability Representation For The First Time Denise Brodey Senior Contributor Diversity & Inclusion October 21, 2020

A newly released report from Microsoft reveals that 6.1 % of the company's U.S. employees self-identify as disabled, meaning they have a physical, mental, or cognitive disability. If you are not quite sure how to put that number in context, that's because few companies ever disclose similar numbers. This is the first time Microsoft has included disability in their annual diversity and inclusion report—and although the number may be modest, its significance will be understood worldwide. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/denisebrodey/2020/10/21/in-bold-benchmarking-move-microsoft-reveals-61-disability-representation-for-the-first-time/#3235fac14b09>

8.) Heart, Lung, Diabetic Conditions More Common In Adults On The Spectrum

by Michelle Diamant

October 16, 2020

Adults with autism are up to four times more likely than others to have chronic physical health conditions, new research suggests, and lifestyle factors do not appear to be the reason why.

On average, adults on the spectrum have low blood pressure, arrhythmias, asthma, prediabetes, and other conditions at rates that are 1.5 to 4.3 times higher. The increased occurrence does not appear to be tied to typical risk factors like smoking, alcohol use or a person's body mass index, according to findings published recently in the journal Autism. To read more, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/10/16/heart-lung-diabetic-conditions-more-common-in-adults-on-the-spectrum/29038/>

9.) Academy Celebrates 30th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act Courtesy:

Oscars.Go.com.

October 21, 2020

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will present a special virtual program titled "ACCESSIBILITY/VISIBILITY: Breaking Down the Barriers for People with Disabilities in Media," going live October 26 at 5 p.m.

The live stream will feature conversations with filmmakers with disabilities examining the struggles and successes of the disabled community in Hollywood.

With a welcome by Academy governor and Oscar-winning actor Whoopi Goldberg and hosted by Oscar-winning actor Marlee Matlin, the three-panel event will be available on Oscars.org. For more information, go to: <https://scvnews.com/academy-celebrates-30th-anniversary-of-americans-with-disabilities-act/>

**10) Blind and Autistic Vocalist, and Disability Advocate, Lavender Darcangelo, Hosts Virtual Concert in Support of Disability Awareness Month
NEWS PROVIDED BY BBIP (Best Buddies International Programs)
Oct 22, 2020**

FITCHBURG, Mass., Oct. 22, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- On Sunday, October 18, Lavender Darcangelo, 25, a blind and autistic vocalist and disability advocate, hosted a free virtual concert on YouTube in honor of Disability Awareness Month.

The virtual concert featured videos of both live and studio recordings, including music of various styles as a symbol of strength through diversity – including both unique and traditional covers of "River Deep, Mountain High," "Rise Up," "Love Wins," and "Respect." The concert also featured an original song composed by Lavender, "Will I Ever," the studio recording of which also appears on an album she recorded with dozens of peers and her adoptive father, Wil Darcangelo, called Strange Among the Different released in 2019 as part of an afterschool music empowerment program called the Tribe. To continue reading, go to: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/blind-and-autistic-vocalist-and-disability-advocate-lavender-darcangelo-hosts-virtual-concert-in-support-of-disability-awareness-month-301158018.html>

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