

SOUTH DAKOTA
COALITION
OF CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

Focus on Abilities

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Third Annual Disability Policy Summit Held July 20, 2010

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On Tuesday, July 20th, the Third Annual Disability Policy Summit was held at Cedar Shore Resort outside of Oacoma with participation from seventeen disability related organizations. These organizations represented people of all ages and with various disabilities.

The participating organizations are part of the Disability Advocacy Network in South Dakota, which has been formed in order to more effectively coordinate our efforts and strengthen our voice on issues impacting all South Dakotans with disabilities, their families and those who serve and support them.

Jack Mortenson, COALITION Board President, facilitated this year's event, and the agenda included a recap of the 2010 Network Activities, 2011 Legislative and Advocacy Goals of the participating organizations, evaluation of the Network's efforts thus far, identification of ways we can have an impact year round, exploration of how the Network can support member organizations, financial support of the summit and related activities, and identification of next steps.

Some of the strengths of the Network cited by participants were: helps us to know who to contact on specific issues; more avenues for support and involvement on issues; recognition of the reality that we have more issues that we agree upon than we differ on; flexibility to not participate on those efforts we don't agree with, sign on to those we do and still be an active partner in the process; and circulation of fact sheets on programs, services and issues so we're all sharing the same information.

Network members also spoke to the reality that the basis for a relationship means coming together more than once a year. Arrangements are underway to hold a follow-up face-to-face meeting in October, at which time most Network members will have set their priorities for the coming year and will be able to share more definite information on them.

This year's Summit was made possible through financial support from the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities, South Dakota RehabACTION, South Dakota Association of the Blind and the COALITION. Thank you to each of these organizations for believing in this effort and all we seek to accomplish through it.

DOJ Announces Plans to Prepare New ADA Regulations

(Friday, July 23 2010/DOJ Civil Rights Division)

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department announced today that it will publish four new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) proposals addressing the accessibility of websites, the provision of captioning and video description in movies shown in theaters, accessible equipment and furniture, and the ability of 9-1-1 centers to take text and video calls from individuals with disabilities. The proposals are in the form of advance notices of proposed rule making, or ANPRMs, which provide information on these ADA issues and ask questions seeking comments and information from the public. The four ANPRMs will be published in the Federal Register on July 26, 2010.

“We are working hard to ensure that the ADA keeps up with technological advances that were unimaginable 20 years ago,” said Attorney General Holder. “Just as these quantum leaps can help all of us, they can also set us back – if regulations are not updated or compliance codes become too confusing to implement. To avoid this, the Department will soon publish four advanced notices of proposed rule making regarding accessibility requirements for websites, movies, equipment and furniture, and 9-1-1 call-taking techniques.

Web Accessibility – State and local governments, businesses, educators, and other organizations covered by the ADA are increasingly using the web to provide information, goods, and services to the public. In the web accessibility ANPRM, the department presents for public comment a series of questions seeking input regarding how the department can develop a workable framework for website access that provides individuals with disabilities access to the critical information, programs, and services provided on the web, while respecting the unique characteristics of the internet and its transformative impact on everyday life.

Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1 – 9-1-1 centers are moving towards an Internet-enabled network to allow the general public to make a 9-1-1 “call” via voice, text, or video over the Internet and directly communicate with personnel at the centers. The NG 9-1-1 ANPRM seeks information on how the centers may be able to provide direct access to 9-1-1 for individuals with disabilities as they implement new communications technologies.

Captioning and Video Description in Movies Shown in Movie Theaters – Recent technologies have been developed to provide closed captions and video descriptions in movies being shown at movie theaters. Movie studios have begun to produce and distribute movies with captioning and video description. However, these features are not generally made available at movie theaters. In the captioning and video description ANPRM, the department asks for suggestions regarding the kind of accessibility requirements for captioning and video description it should consider as proposed rules for public comments, particularly in light of the industry’s conversion to digital technology.

Equipment and Furniture – Full use of the nation’s built environment can only be fully achieved by the use of accessible equipment. There is now improved availability of many different types of accessible equipment and furniture, ranging from accessible medical exam tables, chairs, scales, and radiological equipment and furniture to “talking” ATMs and interactive kiosks. In the equipment and furniture ANPRM, the department poses questions and seeks comments from the public, covered entities, equipment manufacturers, advocacy and trade groups about the nature of accessibility issues and proposed solutions for making equipment and furniture accessible to persons with disabilities.

The four ANPRMs are available for review at <http://ada.gov/anprm2010.htm>

(If these issues are important to you, we encourage you to provide comments.)

Our President's Message

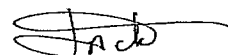
Old habits are hard to break! Sometimes, however, through practice and the building of a new routine, we make needed changes in our lives. One example of that is the Disability Advocacy Network (DAN).

For many years the diverse organizations which serve people with disabilities have worked hard to meet the needs of their members and constituents. They have worked, mostly alone, to broaden the public's understanding of their missions and to broaden the ways in which we can all work for Full Inclusion of people with disabilities in society. The need to spread the word and meet the needs often makes us focus on what we are doing, and we get so busy doing what we need to do, that we forget there are others out there who are paddling just as hard in the same water. Sometimes the waves push us along in the direction we're needing to go and sometimes they work against our progress. But we keep working hard, and we settle into the routine not seeing there might be other ways to accomplish our goals.

The Disability Advocacy Network is helping many organizations to break the old habit of paddling in the waters alone. The Disability Advocacy Summits have been well attended, and they've been a great place for sharing of ideas. Those attending share their work and needs, and at the same time they get feedback and support from others at the table. The conversations are stimulating, challenging, and fruitful. We are forming a new habit of working together so that we can have a stronger, more united voice as we all work for Full Inclusion of all people. This new habit will allow us to raise our voices in unison when we can and support others when that is the best we can do. The trick, however, is to build a habit of working together. If you're not part of the DAN, there is room at the table for you. We want and need you to join this new model of support and strength, and we invite you to contact us about it.

There is another old habit that needs changing - the habit of not recruiting members for the COALITION. I have it; you may have it; and I know others have it. The habit of not asking others to become members is so ingrained in me that I have let at least two great opportunities pass me by while I sat there without carrying membership materials or asking anyone to join. That's right I attended the Partners in Policymaking Banquet earlier this year without sharing our brochures or asking anyone to join. When I realized the great opportunity I had missed I was ashamed, and I just sat there. I vowed that I wouldn't miss such an opportunity again. Yet, it happened at an Lutheran Social Services Board meeting. There I was with people, who have great hearts, and again I didn't have anything information to share with them nor did I ask them to join. My bad habit of not seeking COALITION members must stop.

If you have this habit, please break it, and help me break it. Every time you sign up a member, shoot an email to the COALITION office (we'll let you know if you sign up too many). We'll keep a tally and report back to you. Hopefully, you'll see my name on the list, and you'll know that I'm doing what I'm asking you to do.



Thoughts from Our Executive Director

This edition of our newsletter will be the last one prior to the General Election on November 2nd. The various campaigns are moving full speed ahead. As each day passes, we know that our mailboxes and answering machines will be holding more and more messages from the candidates and their supporters telling us why we should vote for them. We also know we'll be hearing from the political parties, as well as various special interest groups, as to why we should vote for their candidates.

As a non-profit membership organization, we know a couple of things for certain. First, we are not in the business of endorsing candidates. We recognize that within our membership we have people and organizations who support a variety of candidates. We also know that our role is one of encouraging and supporting people in getting out and exercising their rights as citizens. It is also our role to encourage people to learn as much as they can about the candidates and the issues, so when November 2nd arrives, we can make informed decisions in the voting booth.

The results of this election will bring a new Governor into office. There is the potential for several new constitutional officers, as well as many new legislators at the State level. There is also the potential of having our seat in the U.S. House of Representatives filled by an incumbent or someone new. Whomever is elected in November faces a tough road, as our state and our country continues to try and find its way out of the recession and on to more stable financial ground.

Many of us who are intricately involved with the legislative process each year believe that this next legislative session in South Dakota is again going to be a difficult one, possibly the most difficult of recent years. As the cost of doing business continues to go up and the money to support services, programs, organizations, at best stays the same, or goes down, there will be tough decisions that will need to be made by our local, state and national leaders.

Please take the time in the coming months to learn as much as you can about the candidates and the issues. Listen to all of the voices, even those with which you don't agree, and on November 2nd - get out and vote! In that spirit, here are a couple quotes that made me take a step back. Let me know what you think of them...

"A citizen of America will cross the ocean to fight for democracy, but won't cross the street to vote in a national election." (Bill Vaughan)

"We preach the virtues of democracy abroad. We must practice its duties here at home. Voting is the 1st duty of democracy." (Lyndon Baines Johnson)

Let's make sure this election is an election where we cross the street and practice our 1st duty of democracy - vote! Let's support and encourage others to do the same. And whatever the election outcome, let's come together and work together to move forward on a positive path to life, liberty and full inclusion for all.

Shelly

Executive Order Increasing Federal Employment of Individuals with Disabilities

(NRA's Washington Wire – 7/28/10)

On the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) the President issued an Executive Order ordering Federal agencies to hire 100,000 more employees with disabilities over the next five years.

"As the Nation's largest employer, the Federal government must become a model for the employment of individuals with disabilities," said the President. "Executive department and agencies must improve their efforts to employ workers with disabilities through increased recruitment, hiring and retention of these individuals."

The President signed the Executive Order, which called for the Office of Personnel Management, among others, to design recruitment and hiring strategies that agencies can use as a model for hiring more individuals with disabilities WITHIN 60 days.

Once the recruitment development and hiring strategies are in place, agencies have 120 days to develop specific goals for employing people with disabilities. Those plans may need to be approved by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Moreover, each agency will also have to put a senior-level official in charge of improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Those officials will oversee the development of their agencies' plans, create recruitment and training programs, and coordinate employment counseling.

The President also advised that Federal agencies should increase their use of Schedule A excepted service hiring authority to hire more people with disabilities and increase their participation in internships, fellowships, and training and mentoring programs. Agencies should make a special effort to retain people

with disabilities, and do more to help people seriously injured on the job return to work.

At a White House ceremony commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the President said, "We're going to boost recruitment, we're going to boost training, we're going to boost retention. We'll better train hiring managers and I expect regular reports and we're going to post our progress online so that you can hold us accountable, too."

Outgoing Board Member Recognition

On July 20th, following the conclusion of the Third Annual Disability Policy Summit, the COALITION Board took time to recognize Brenda Schroeder and Larry Tolzin for their service on the Board of Directors. Brenda was a participant at the Summit, so Jack Mortenson, Board President, made the gift presentation to her. Larry was unable to be at the Summit, so his gift was mailed to him with our thanks for his service to The COALITION.



(L to R – Shelly Pfaff, Executive Director;
Brenda Schroeder, outgoing Board Member;
Jack Mortenson, Board President)

October 18, 2010
is the voter registration deadline
for the November 2nd
General Election

Justice Department Updates ADA Regulations and Standards

(Access Currents – July/August 2010)

The Department of Justice released updated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations and standards on July 26, the 20th anniversary of the law's enactment. The rules update requirements for state and local governments covered by title II of the ADA and those for private sector entities subject to title III. President Barack Obama announced the release along with other administrative initiatives to promote equality for people with disabilities at a ceremony on the south lawn of the White House celebrating the ADA's anniversary.

"Today, the Department of Justice is publishing two new rules prohibiting disability-based discrimination," the President noted, "and beginning 18 months from now, all new buildings must be constructed in a way that's compliant with the new 2010 standards."

The DOJ regulations update ADA standards governing the construction and alteration of facilities covered by the ADA, including places of public accommodation, commercial facilities, and state and local government facilities. The new standards are based on revised minimum **guidelines** previously established by the Access Board that include supplements for certain types of facilities and sites not addressed before. "For the very first time, these rules will cover recreational facilities like amusement parks and marinas and gyms and golf facilities and swimming pools, and municipal facilities like courtrooms and prisons," Obama stated.

DOJ's regulations allow covered entities the choice of following either the updated standards or the original standards during the first 18 months. After this period of time, use of the 2010 standards will become mandatory. In setting the effective dates, DOJ sought to allow sufficient time for transitioning to the updated standards so as not to disrupt design and construction projects already underway.

DOJ's new rules also revise or supplement other sections of its ADA regulations, including those covering existing facilities, service animals, policies and programs, maintenance of accessible features, auxiliary aids and services, and effective communication. The new rules and additional information are available on DOJ's ADA website.

Most Common Questions on New Accessibility Standards for Title II and III of the ADA

(Source: Great Plains & Rocky Mountain ADA Centers)

1. What do the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design replace?

The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design replace the 1991 Standards for Accessible Design – commonly known as ADAAG.

2. When do the new standards go into effect?

The newly adopted standards from the U.S. Department of Justice will be published in the Federal Register within a matter of weeks. Implementation will be on the following timetable:

- **Six months** from the Federal Register publication date, newly constructed and altered facilities may choose to follow **either** the 1991 accessibility standards **or** the 2010 accessibility standards.
- **Eighteen months** after the Federal Register publication date, (one year after the six month date) all newly constructed and altered facilities must comply with the 2010 accessibility standards, only.

3. How do I get more information about the new accessibility standards?

Go to
<http://www.ada.gov>

Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) Helping South Dakotans

Although the "Help is Here Express" bus tour was not able to come to South Dakota this year, the Partnership for Prescription Assistance program is available all the time over the phone or web for free. So far, the PPA has helped over 17,113 people in South Dakota receive assistance paying for their prescription medications.

The PPA program is a portal to 475 prescription assistance programs and helps low-income or under-insured patients get access to programs that can help them receive free or nearly free medications. It is free and confidential, and available at www.PPARx.org or 1-888-4PPA-NOW. It is sponsored by the pharmaceutical companies that provide the programs.

If you or your organization would like brochures or have questions about the PPA, please contact Leslie Rosedahl at LRosedahl@pubaffairscs.com.

2010 Election Calendar

September 21	Absentee voting begins
October 18	Voter registration deadline for the general election
November 2	General Election Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. – legal time

Recession Battled States Cut Budgets for the Disabled

By Marisol Bello
USA TODAY – 8/6/10

Blane Beckwith wants to keep living at home with his mother and younger brother in Berkeley, California.

For that to happen, Beckwith, 54, who has spinal muscular atrophy and uses a wheelchair, relies on an aide paid by the state to get him in and out of bed, bathe him, feed him, dress him and do everything he can't do for himself.

Now that kind of help is in jeopardy. California, facing a \$19.1 billion budget gap, is considering a reduction in funding that pays for home care aides for the disabled. It already cut funds last year.

Beckwith worries that under the new, tighter rules, he might no longer qualify for his aide and other assistance and that he'll end up in a nursing home.

"I'd rather be dead," he says. "Twenty years after the Americans With Disabilities Act was signed, things are getting worse for us. States want to save money by cutting services to the most vulnerable people. That's us, the disabled."

Last month, the nation celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), a law that for 50 million disabled people is the equivalent of *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, the landmark Supreme Court ruling that ended racial segregation in schools and paved the way for the civil rights movement.

The ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, public accommodations, transportation and state and local services.

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South Dakota Voter Registration Process and Locations

Voter registration requirements in South Dakota are:

- Citizen of the United States
- Age 18 or older on or before the next election day
- Resides in South Dakota and has no present intention of leaving
- Not be currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction which included imprisonment, served or suspended, in an adult penitentiary
- Not be judged mentally incompetent by a court of law
- Must provide a South Dakota driver's license number. If you do not have a South Dakota driver's license, then you must provide the last four digits of your social security number

Voter registration locations are:

- County auditor's office
- City finance office
- Driver's license station
- Public assistance agencies providing food stamps, TANF or WIC
- Department of Human Services offices which provide assistance to the disabled
- Military recruitment offices
- Mail-in registration with forms from the county auditor's office or www.sdsos.gov
- Secretary of State's Office

Party Registration – South Dakota has closed primary elections. To be eligible to vote in the primaries, voters must indicate their political party choice on the registration cards. Democratic, Republican and Constitution parties are the recognized political parties in South Dakota.

If you register to vote through a private entity or individual, they are required to provide you with their contact information.

A Power of Attorney cannot be used for voter registration purposes.

Identification at the Polls

All voters are required to provide identification before voting or obtaining an absentee ballot. The personal identification that may be presented shall either be:

1. A South Dakota driver's license or nondriver identification card;
2. A passport or an identification card, including a picture, issued by an agency of the United States government;
3. A tribal identification card, including a picture; or
4. A current student identification card, including a picture, issued by a high school or an accredited institution of higher education, including a university, college, or technical school, located within the State of South Dakota.

If a voter is not able to present personal identification, the voter may complete an affidavit in lieu of personal identification.

Absentee Voting

Any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot. Voters do not need to provide a reason in order to absentee vote. Absentee ballots are available six weeks prior to the election.

An absentee voter desiring to vote by mail may apply to the person in charge of the election for an absentee ballot. The application or request shall be made in writing and be signed by the applicant and state the applicant's voter registration address. The application or request shall contain an oath verifying the validity of the information contained in the application or request. The oath shall be administered by a notary public or other officer authorized by statute to administer an oath. If the application or request does not contain an oath, the application or request shall be accompanied by a copy of the voter's identification card. The requirement of the oath or the submission of the voter's identification card is waived for voters covered under UOCAVA (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act).

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Recession Battered States Cut Budgets for Disabled

(Continued from Page 7)

Now, though, gains made under the ADA are running into recession-battered state budgets. At least 17 states have cut into funding for assistance to the disabled since 2009 or are planning to do it this year, says Phil Oliff, a policy analyst with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, which analyzes the effect of public spending on low-income people. The cuts include cash, home nursing services and grants to agencies that help the disabled live independently.

Under the ADA and a 1999 Supreme Court decision upholding it, the disabled have a right to live in their communities. States, within their resources, must provide community-based services that make it possible.

That means states are up against opposing mandates: Under the ADA, the court said, states must provide care that best integrates a person into the community — as long as the states can pay for it. However, Medicaid rules require them to pay for nursing home care, but not home care, for people with disabilities.

"I think every state wants to provide more community-based care, but they just can't afford it," says Ann Kohler, executive director of the National Association of State Medicaid Directors, which manages services to the disabled.

About 3 million Americans who need long-term care live at home and get state-paid services, according to the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.

"States are in terrible fiscal constraints right now," Kohler says. "The one thing they can cut are optional services and rates (that states pay for optional and mandatory services), and they are doing both. Home-based care is optional. Personal care is optional. Those things are going down."

The Obama administration argues that, budget constraints or not, states have to provide home services. The Justice Department has filed lawsuits and, in other cases, supporting briefs in 11 states.

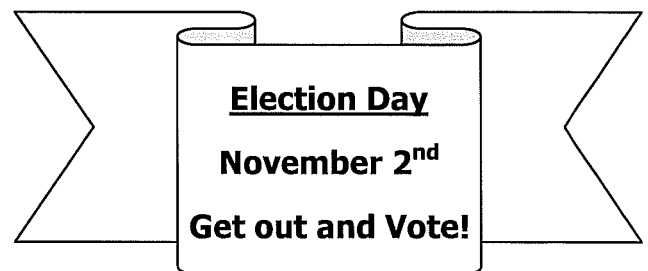
Not being able to afford the community-based services is not an excuse, says Thomas Perez, assistant attorney general for civil rights. He says his department has been working with the Department of Health and Human Services to find more funding for some of the states it is going up against in court.

"People with disabilities want to be free and independent and robust participants in the community," Perez says. "It's hard if not impossible to accomplish that if you are warehoused in an institution."

Rahnee Patrick of Chicago knows about independent living. Patrick, 36, has psoriasis and arthritis so severe that she cannot use her arms and hands. She and her husband, Mike Irvin, 53, who uses a wheelchair because of multiple sclerosis, live in their own home but need aides.

Now, Illinois plans to reduce services to the disabled as part of \$1.4 billion in budget cuts. She doesn't know what the impact of the reduction will be on her or her husband, but she says that without the services, she'd still be living with her parents and would not have married her husband of four years.

"I get to live the life I never dreamed for myself," she says. "These cuts would take that away."



Absentee Voting

(Continued from Page 8)

UOCAVA voters can submit the application for absentee ballot by fax or email image including a signature to the jurisdiction in charge of the election.

The application or request may be used to obtain an absentee ballot for all elections in that calendar year conducted by the jurisdiction receiving the application or request if so indicated.

At anytime prior to an election, a voter may apply in person to the person in charge of the election for an absentee ballot during regular office hours up to 3:00 p.m. of the day of the election. If the voter applies in person, the voter shall show the person in charge of the election voter's identification card or complete a personal identification affidavit.

In the event of confinement, because of sickness or disability, a qualified voter may request an absentee ballot in writing, naming an authorized messenger who will deliver the ballot to the voter. An application for a ballot by authorized messenger must be received by the person in charge of the election before 3:00 p.m. the day of the election.

The voter must sign a statement on the absentee ballot envelope prior to returning the ballot. All voted ballots must be returned to the person in charge of the election in time to be delivered to the appropriate polling place prior to the closing of the polls.

An application for absentee ballot can be obtained at a county auditor's office or printed from the Secretary of State's website at www.sdsos.gov

A Power of Attorney cannot be used for absentee voting purposes.

(Source: Excerpts from General Information on South Dakota Elections 2010 – Chris Nelson, Secretary of State)

ADA Voters are A Key Constituency

By Mark Mellman – 08/03/10

As a result of suffering a very temporary disability, my respect for those truly and permanently disabled grew enormously.

I'd like to be able to say I tore my ACL making a difficult traverse while climbing the final pitch of Yosemite's El Capitan, or in running my 10th marathon, but alas, I sustained the injury while dancing at a wedding.

However embarrassing the proximate cause, the loss of that crucial ligament confined me to a wheelchair for several weeks. I thanked heaven each day of my captivity in that chair for the strength and foresight of people like Tony Coelho, Steny Hoyer, Tom Harkin and (back in the day when Republicans would cooperate with Democrats in the name of the public good) Bob Dole, in passing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was signed into law 20 years ago last week.

Its impact has been dramatic. A non-scientific survey of 870 disabled people conducted by a University of Texas profession found two-thirds saying the ADA has had more influence on their lives than any other social, cultural or legislative change. One survey respondent wrote: "I became disabled in 1982. I woke up from a coma to find out I was a second-class citizen! I could not go anywhere or do anything. I was an RN and lost my license because I was disabled. In 1990, ADA changed all that. To me the ADA means I have my civil rights and liberties back."

Access to public accommodations, retail and commercial establishments has improved. "Almost all shops and restaurants are now accessible in the small community I grew up in. It is wonderful to be able to access these establishments with our non-disabled peers," another respondent wrote.

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ADA Voters are A Key Constituency

(Continued from Page 10)

As I can attest from personal experience, though, even in an ADA world, problems remain. Seemingly minor obstacles loom large. A small ledge at the threshold of my office building, which I had never even noticed as a biped, emerged as a source of daily struggle in my wheelchair. When I could no longer put off incessant professional travel and the plane on which I was flying parked on the tarmac, the flight attendant told me she hoped I could find a way to get down the steps. Fortunately, I could, slowly, with a pair of crutches. Three days before I would have been stuck.

The Capitol is surely ADA-compliant, but wheeling myself up the ramps to the building was no mean feat, and if I hadn't been able to reach across to both handrails, I would have been hurtling down those ramps at 30 miles an hour.

Every task becomes more difficult and more time-consuming. The loss of independence and mobility, even for a short time, was a wrenching experience that renewed my respect for those who live with disability as a constant companion.

We often forget, though, that people with disabilities are also voters. They rarely show up on our cross-tabs or campaign plans, but more than 30 million Americans with disabilities are of voting age, and some 15 million actually turned out in 2008, despite physical impediments at over a quarter of the national polling places, according to a Government Accountability Office study.

To put those numbers in perspective, the "disabled vote" is nearly as large as the African-American vote, 50 percent larger than the Latino vote and many times larger than the Jewish vote – all segments that do receive substantial attention from campaigns.

The disabled vote is not only large, it's also swing – supporting George W. Bush in '04 and Barack Obama in '08.

Campaigns as well as lawmakers would do well to devote more attention to this overlooked but important segment.

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ADDITIONAL NOTE: The above article was found on the AAPD (American Association of People with Disabilities) website under the AAPD Disability **VOTE** Project. A couple of additional notes found at this site are:

- In this year's elections, turnout will drop 25 – 60% depending on the race.
- The census will document disability turnout for the first time in a nonpresidential election.
- Voter drop-off is largest amongst first time and infrequent voters.
- More than 4 million voters with disabilities are first time or infrequent voters.

Employment and Benefits Training with Mike Walling

October 18th – Hot Springs

October 19th – Rapid City

October 20th – Oacoma

October 21st – Huron

October 22nd – Watertown

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**“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.” (Henry Ford)**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I/We wish to become members of The COALITION (South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities)

Name/Agency: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

_____ New	Annual Individual Dues:	\$20.00 _____
_____ Renewal	Annual Organizational Dues:	\$35.00 _____

Donation: \$ _____

Our membership year runs on a calendar year basis.
Current members receive renewal notices in December of each year.

New memberships are welcomed at any time!

Mail to: The COALITION, 221 S. Central Ave., Pierre, SD 57501-2479

THANK YOU!

New & Renewing Organizational Memberships

October 01, 2009 thru August 26, 2010

Huron Center for Independence
DakotaAbilities
Kober Funeral Home
Meeting The Challenge, Inc.
NAMI South Dakota
Prostollo Motors
SD School for the Blind
& Visually Impaired
SD United for Hope & Recovery
Western Resources for
dis-ABLED Independence
CSD – Sioux Falls
North Central Chapter
of MS Society
SESDAC, Inc.
Rapid City Mayor's
Committee on Disability
Center for Disabilities-USD
Wall St. Mission-Goodwill
Office of Special Education-DOE
SD Association of the Blind
SD Parent Connection
SD Association of the Deaf
SD Guardianship Program
Learning Disabilities Association
National Federation of the
Blind/SD

Dakota Milestones
SD Achieve
Kreisers, Inc.
Menno State Bank
Independent Living Choices
SD RehabACTion
SD Association of Community
Based Service Providers
Community Connections, Inc.
SD Council of Mental
Health Centers
Dakota Counseling Institute
Opportunities for
Independent Living
Oahe, Inc.
Council on Developmental
Disabilities
Black Hills Special Services Coop.
Children's Care Hospital & School
SD Advocacy Services
Pathways-Asbury United Methodist
Advance
Larson Manufacturing
Korkow Rodeos
Fair Housing of the Dakotas
North Central Chapter of Paralyzed
Veterans of America

We apologize if anyone was unintentionally left off these lists. We appreciate all your support.

THANK YOU!

COALITION BUILDERS For Your DONATIONS!

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We apologize if anyone was unintentionally left off these lists. We appreciate all your support.

Disasters Especially Tough on People with Disabilities, Mental Disorders

(Science Daily – August 23, 2010)

As hurricane season gets into full swing, mental health teams will be ready to respond and help survivors cope with possible devastation. Psychologists have analyzed decades of research and found that disaster response strategies should address the needs of the population affected, specifically those with disabilities and mental disorders.

Research conducted in the aftermaths of the Oklahoma City bombing and Hurricane Katrina also showed that the type of disaster can have a distinct effect on how people respond psychologically. These and other findings are reported in a special section of *Rehabilitation Psychology* devoted to disaster management and people with disabilities. The journal is published by the American Psychological Association.

"Katrina taught us a harsh lesson about the plight of vulnerable people in times of disaster and national emergency," said the journal's editor, Timothy Elliott, PhD, of Texas A&M University. "Solutions to these problems won't be provided by any single profession or service, which is why this special section brings together colleagues from psychology, special education and rehabilitation administration to provide information that will help us find solutions."

In a study looking at Hurricane Katrina victims, researchers focused on survivors with a wide range of disabilities. Nearly two years after the storm, they surveyed and interviewed disaster case managers and supervisors who provided services to 2,047 individuals with disabilities and their families through the Katrina Aid Today project. They found that considerable barriers to housing, transportation and disaster services were still present two years after the storm. For example, they found that survivors with disabilities were less likely to own homes than survivors with disabilities. This meant that some of the Federal Emergency Management Agency homeowner programs did not help them or, in the case of FEMA trailers, were not accessible to them.

People with disabilities were also less likely to be employed, which affected their ability to pay utility bills or purchase furniture when they did transition to more permanent housing. Individuals with disabilities were more likely to have medical needs, which affected their ability to travel to service agencies or get jobs. Case management with the survivors with disabilities was seen as taking longer because these people needed assistance in multiple areas.

"Case managers who are knowledgeable about the needs of people with disabilities are essential when navigating an already difficult service system following a disaster of this magnitude," said the study's lead author, Laura Stough, PhD, from Texas A&M University.

Another analysis focused on two different studies – one examining the bombing's survivors and the other Hurricane Katrina evacuees. The Oklahoma City study assessed 182 survivors six months after the bombing. The Hurricane Katrina study sampled 421 people who had been evaluated in a mental health clinic at a Dallas shelter for Katrina evacuees.

Of the Oklahoma City bombing survivors, the most common psychiatric diagnosis was post-traumatic stress disorder, with 34 percent of participants suffering from the problem. The second most common psychiatric diagnosis was major depression, according to the article. Most of the participants, 87 percent, were injured in the bombing; 20 percent of those had to be hospitalized.

The research analysis noted that Hurricane Katrina affected a wider swath of an already disadvantaged population. The main tasks in the psychiatry clinic at the shelter were rapid diagnostic assessment, resumption of psychotropic medications, and linkage to ongoing psychiatric care for already existing disorders.

“Interventions to address unmet treatment needs for an abundance of pre-existing and persistent psychiatric illness would not have been the primary response needed for Oklahoma City survivors,” said the study’s lead author, Carol North, MD, from the Dallas Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. “This article represents just one example of why disaster intervention plans need to target expected mental health problems emerging in different populations, settings and time frames.”

Another study looked at the prevalence of injury and illness following Hurricane Ike in the Galveston, Texas, area. About 4 percent of the population had experienced injuries, and 16 percent of households had someone suffering from an illness two to six months following the disaster, according to a survey of 658 adults. The risk for injury or illness increased in areas where there was more damage. Some other stressors that occurred at the same time as these injuries or illnesses were post-traumatic stress, dysfunction and physical disability.

“The associations of injury with distress and disability suggest that community programs should reach out to injured people for early mental health and functional assessments,” said study author Fran Norris, PhD, director of the National Center for Disaster Mental Health Research at the Dartmouth Medical School. “Follow-up support services that address mental health and functional problems could be part of the treatment plan for those people treated for disaster-related injuries or illnesses.”

For Disaster Preparedness Resources Relating to People with Disabilities, check out the following websites:

http://www.disability.gov/emergency_preparedness

<http://www.nod.org>

<http://inclusivepreparedness.org>

<http://www.redcross.org>

<http://www.disabilitypreparedness.gov>

<http://www.disability911.com>

<http://www.fema.gov>