



The Arc of Steuben Holds 2018 Annual Meeting

By: Sue Pietrzak, Administration & Development Executive

The Arc of Steuben held its 2018 Annual Membership meeting on May 9 at the Corning Radisson Hotel. Around 200 people attended the event where Peter Berns, CEO of The Arc US was the keynote speaker.

Elections were then held for the Board of Directors. Stephanie Craig was elected as the new Board President. Stephanie is a professor at Keuka College and has been serving on the board since 2002. Stephanie also serves as our Guardianship Chairperson. William Dinehart was elected as Vice President, Melissa Joint as Secretary and Joe Monaco as Treasurer.

Joining the Board for one year terms are Olivia Dates and Amie Pizura. Olivia works as an Assistant Director at Turning Point. She holds a Masters degree of Public Administration from Syracuse University. Amie works for Penn Yan Central School as a special education teacher. Amie also holds a Master degree in education.

Awards were presented to community partners at the event. Employer of the Year was awarded to Advance Auto, Vendor of the Year was awarded to Ca-

pabilities, and Customer of the Year was awarded to NYSID. Recognition awards were given out to community members for their special role in the lives of people supported by the agency. Awards for special achievements by people we support were given out also.

The event concluded with the naming of the Associate of the Year, Becky Miller. Becky has been with the agency since 2008. She was the Residence Manager at one of our Bath residences and recently took the position of Associate Director of Residential Services.

Congratulations to everyone that received recognition at the event!



The Arc Steuben
A Chapter of The Arc
New York

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Editor

Message from the Executive Director



Bernie Burns

I am extremely pleased to announce that The Arc of Steuben has received a second four year accreditation from the Council on Quality and Leadership.

Since 1969, The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) has been a leader in working with organizations that support people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. They work with agencies to continuously define, measure, and improve quality of life and quality of services. CQL offers accreditation to organization that share the vision of dignity, opportunity, and community for all people.

CQL accredits nationally and internationally. In explaining the value of CQL accreditation I often compare it to “The Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval” and “Underwriters Laboratory”. Being accredited tells people both inside and outside the organization that we have met rigorous standards of quality so that the people we support get the best possible services.

The Board of Director and staff of the Arc of Steuben are very proud of this accreditation. It took a lot of hard work and effort to make it happen. A big thank you to everyone involved.

~Bernie Burns

Message from the Board President



Stephanie Craig

Greetings! As this is my first newsletter, it seems only natural to introduce myself. I’m Stephanie Craig, LCSW-R, and I have been on the Board of Directors since 2002. My full-time job is Professor at Keuka College in the Social Work Division where I have worked for 17 years. In addition I have owned my own psychotherapy business since 1994: Professional Counseling Services. I have been serving families, children, adolescents, and adults in Steuben County since 1984 in various positions.

It is my honor to serve The Arc of Steuben as president of the Board of Directors. The most important aspect of my contributions to the board is my 36 years of experience as a parent of a daughter with Autism. One thing I can say that excites me about taking on this role is that I have never seen a place like

The Arc of Steuben. It puts the people they support first. Everyone I have met that serves the people is totally devoted to how important their roles are. Care and compassion outweigh any issues that may come forth.

I am not taking for granted the administrative staff and great people in addition to our direct service staff. They are amazing. Some of them pulled off another successful Golf Tournament raising over \$33,000. The whole of The Arc of Steuben is an incredibly caring group of people.

The beginning of my term starts with appreciation, excitement, and enthusiasm. We have a lot to do in the upcoming months. Looking forward to my term as President and working with an incredible Board of Directors.

~Stephanie Craig

“So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.” - Christopher Reeve

A Glance at Community Prevocational Services

By Sue Pietrzak, Administration & Development Executive



The Arc of Steuben currently offers Community Prevocational services to 33 people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The service offers learning and experiences, including volunteering, to further develop, “soft work skills.” Areas of skill development include, but are not limited to, following instructions, attention to tasks, problem solving, work-place safety, street safety, appropriate socializing in the workplace and employer expectations. Community Prevocational Services also provide people with the opportunity to explore different jobs and discover what interests them in the world of work. We find that the people we support, like many young adults, do not know what they want to do for a job. Time is spent exploring the many different jobs available within our community; providing people with a base of knowledge to help them make career choices.

The group currently volunteers at numerous businesses throughout Steuben County including the following:

- Finger Lakes Boating Museum
- Salvation Army - Bath, Corning and Hornell
- Meals On Wheels - Corning/Bath Area—*pictured above*
- Senior Dinner Club - Hornell Area
- Animal Shelters
- Howard Library
- Parks
- Fred & Harriett Taylor Health Center

With the experience of volunteering, people are realizing all the different opportunities they have for employment. Once a week the participants attend Bridges - a class that assists them in finding their interests and what skills are needed to gain employment in that field. Currently two people will graduate from the Community Prevocational program and continue their quest for employment. However, if reinforcement is needed, they may return for support. This is not a long term service. The goal is to help people get “employment ready.”

The Arc Star Golf Classic raises over \$33,000

By: Sue Pietrzak, Event Chair

The 24th annual Arc Star Golf Classic was held on June 7 at the Bath Country Club. Thanks to the continued support from local businesses we are able to offer one of the best tournaments in the area! Thirty teams participated this year, raising over \$33,000! Money raised through the event funds the Wish Upon An Arc Star program that grants wishes to people with disabilities for once in a lifetime experiences, and covers the cost of medical equipment not covered through insurance. Examples of items purchased in the past include adult strollers, an iPad to assist a person with communicating with family and teachers, tandem bicycles so people, with some support, can get out and enjoy the outdoors while getting exercise at the same time.

Details, details, details - a huge part of our success. The golf committee starts meeting in January to discuss every aspect of the tournament and how to improve for the upcoming year. We couldn't do the event without all our volunteers that day. Volunteers from the community, Board of Directors, Foundation Board and staff ensured the golfers had a great time. People supported by The Arc of Steuben manned the putting contest and took charge right from the get go. Volunteers worked the Hole in One contests and cheered the players on as they took their chance at prizes which included \$10,000 cash, TV, trips and golf equipment. We had three people volunteering at the grill, sharing laughs with the golfers and getting a little messy too. Our relief carts also drove around the course to ensure volunteers had everything they needed.

We have been very fortunate over the last 24 years with the upstate New York weather. This year was no exception. The skies were clear and the sun came out too. It was truly a perfect day.

At the end of the day everyone enjoyed a banquet from A Slice of 209. Raffle prizes were drawn and awards we given out for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams, Skins, Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive both for men and women.

Plans are already underway for the 25th annual tournament on June 5, 2020. We will be having a few surprises along with the awesome tournament that we are known for!



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To volunteer at an event or learn more about the 2020 golf tournament, please contact Sue Pietrzak at 607.622.1853.

John's Hard Work Pays Off

By: John Houck, Director of Business Operations



John Youngs

John Youngs is a person who demonstrates on a daily basis that a positive attitude, combined with persistence and perseverance are the path to an enriched life. John has overcome challenges in life both personally and professionally with his tireless efforts, hard work, and his adaptability to change. The past three years at The Arc of Steuben, John has embraced change in terms of learning new job skills, teamwork, and leadership. At the same time, John is the caregiver for his elderly mother who lives with him. A hard worker, with a never give up attitude best describes John.

John began his employment at The Arc of Steuben as a janitor. John's ambition and quality of work were quickly recognized, which led him to other opportunities in Light Assembly, boxing glass bottles for MYX Wine. As John's skills grew it became apparent that he was ready, willing, and able to assume more responsibilities, and became a Group Leader for the assembly team. As a Group Leader, John coordinated the flow of raw materials to and from the work floor, and coordinated the trucking logistics with the local trucking company. John has spent the last 18 months in that position, where he demonstrated his ability to lead the team, coordinate the needs of the customer with the team and trucking company.

John is the caretaker for his elderly mother, who lives with him. This responsibility is truly a priority to John, and his care and compassion are clearly evident. John is always there for his mother ensuring her doctor appointments, meals, or transportation around town are taken care of.

In addition to caring for his mother, John is pursuing a personal goal of a General Education Diploma. John attends online classes faithfully and plans to have his degree in the near future. Given John's work ethic and commitment, it's only a matter of time until John is rewarded. At work, John has obtained a forklift operator license and has recently passed a driving test with transportation that will allow him to transport people we serve. John is always looking to learn and grow his knowledge.

John is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys both hunting and fishing. In his spare time he can be found enjoying the great outdoors of New York's Finger Lakes. He recently obtained a boat and is working on getting this ready for the water. He is looking forward to the upcoming fishing season, and will certainly have lots of stories to share.

John's hard work at The Arc of Steuben has culminated into a job offer as a full time staff member! John is proof of what hard work, determination, and perseverance can do for someone. When offered the job, John said "I'm very thankful for his opportunity, [very proud of himself] and I'll show everyone I can do it". John is truly a role model and an inspiration to everyone around him.



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The Arc of Steuben Foundation Welcomes New Board Member

By: Sue Pietrzak, Administration & Development Executive



Lisa Bertrand

The Arc of Steuben Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Lisa Bertrand to the Foundation Board.

Lisa is a CPA and holds a BBA from Hofstra University and a Masters from New York University. Lisa resides in Corning with her husband and three children.



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Saturday, November 9, 2019 * 6pm–9pm

Glenn H. Curtiss Museum * Rte 54 * Hammondsport, NY

*Silent Auction *Live Music *Wine, Beer, Distillery and Cedar Tastings *Wine Pull *Food by Corning Catering

Tickets \$20

Call 607-622-1853 or visit our website at www.arcofsteuben.org to purchase tickets

Project Search Ends Second Year with Six Students Graduating

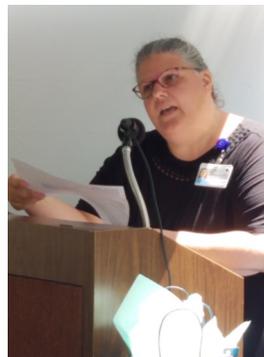
By: Sue Pietrzak, Administration & Development Executive

Project SEARCH is a school/work program for students who are in their last year of high school.

This year six students participated. The program is a collaboration of educational and service agencies, and a host business to provide work experiences to the students while still maintaining classroom requirements. The program’s goal is to prepare the participants for employment after graduation. Our partners, for the second year, are Ira Davenport Hospital, GST BOCES, and ACCES-VR.

Many of the students that graduated this year had already secured jobs at the time of graduation.

Their Job Coach, Supervisors, Administrators, and staff at IRA Davenport attended the graduation and were clearly proud of their accomplishments.




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