

*“Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence.”*

*Calvin Coolidge*

How many of us remember our Michigan Civics classes in elementary school where we learned, “How a bill becomes law?” I recall learning how the bill would (seemingly) move smoothly from one chamber to the next, and with polite debate, eventually land on the Governor’s desk for signature.

Oh, so neat and clean, these bills becoming laws. But like so many things we learned as children, that image is at odds with real political life today.

I certainly don’t recall that stick-figure, civics book explaining that the great American process of moving ideas into law involved paid political flacks or lobbyists greasing the skids to assure smooth sailing into law. Neither do I recall reading about highly paid PR consultants creating pressure on local legislators back home, or big money flowing into campaign accounts as part of the process. Clearly, all of this and more is part of the process of how—today—a “bill truly becomes law.”

Yet, solid public policy—to take the germ of an idea and make it law—today, as then, requires a champion: One with grit, determination, patience, persistence, and political finesse.

### **From Defeat to Victory**

Over a decade ago, after a child died in a school while being physically restrained, the State Board of Education—a state, constitutionally-established body with powers of “leadership and supervision” over all Michigan public education—took up the issue. After months of community input and public hearings, it passed a policy on the uses of “Seclusion and Restraint” in Michigan Schools.

The State Board champion who led the charge is a lifelong advocate for doing right by people—back then and now—Liz Bauer. Politics prevented her from getting all that she wanted and that our children deserve.

Tom Watkins in  
Dome Magazine  
January 5, 2017



The entrenched school lobby fought the policy saying it was “unnecessary” and violated “local control.” Yet, many local school districts were ahead of the State Board and had their own policies that severely limited what many call a “barbaric” practice in their schools. Others simply ignored the State Board “policy recommendation” and went their merry way...continuing to lock and tie up children.

**A group of advocates, known as the “Howell Group,” ably led by Dohn Hoyle with The Arc, met for decades at an ordinary meeting spot.** They had as their number one priority—going back decades—to eliminate this harmful practice. Yet, the education lobby groups thwarted them at every turn.

Years back—after serving as State Superintendent of Schools—I was approached by the Howell Group, originally to write a column to bring attention to this negative practice playing out in far too many schools. I drew up a multi-pronged approach to “help a bill become law” that would eliminate this practice in Michigan schools.

My plan required the power of parents, partner educators, and students—plus a legislative “champion.” The advocates were willing. But finding a champion with the will, passion, and ability to take on an entrenched interest group with resources (e.g. the education “lobby”) was more challenging. Most of the advocates had the ear of Democrat legislators, but they were out of power.

*Continued on pg. 3*



26049 Five Mile Road  
Redford, MI 48239

Phone: 313-532-7915 Fax: 313-532-7488

[www.thearcnw.org](http://www.thearcnw.org)

**Upcoming Board Meetings**  
**Monday, February 13, 2017**  
**March 14, 2017**

### OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT** Jean Walsh  
**VICE PRESIDENT** Janice Radon  
**SECRETARY** Bill Winkler  
**TREASURER** Marianne Licari

### DIRECTORS

Kristine Copeland Kathy Pfuhler  
Steve Erickson Ray Schuholz  
Susan Gardynik Rebecca Wenglinski

### STAFF

Executive Director: Christine Lerchen  
Office Manager: Shonda Jones  
Advocacy & Community  
Resource Director: Michelle Driscoll  
Advocate: Chesley Giertz  
Program & Services: Sandy Dobson  
Lekotek Play Leader: Lana Richardson  
Lekotek Librarian: Holly Balaka

**Achieve with us.**



## From the Director

### Michigan Prohibits Seclusion and Restraint in Schools

Students who communicate through behavior and express themselves inappropriately at times can no longer be punished through restraints or seclusion. The Arc NW sincerely thanks Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, father of a child with autism, for the hard work needed to achieve the passage of this legislation. Eleven bi-partisan bills passed last December banning Michigan schools from secluding and/or restraining students for non-emergency situations. The law clearly states that seclusion and restraint is only allowed for rare emergency cases when diligent assessments, monitoring, documentation, and reporting by trained personnel are in place.

Each school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy (charter school) is required to adopt and implement a local policy that it prohibits in all circumstances, including emergency situations:

- Corporal punishment
- Deprivation of basic needs
- Child abuse
- Seclusion, other than emergency seclusion
- The intentional application of any noxious substance or stimulus that results in physical pain or extreme discomfort, whether the substance or stimulus is generally acknowledged or is specific to the pupil; and
- Restraint of a pupil, including mechanical; chemical; any restraint that negatively impacts breathing; prone restraint; physical restraint, other than emergency physical restraint; or any other type of restraint.

Specific provisions for emergency seclusion and emergency physical restraint include requirements that address the safety and well-being of the student. All incidents of seclusion and restraint require immediate communication to the school administration and parents or guardian as well as a written report filed within seven days.

For students that display a pattern of behavior indicative of a future emergency situation, school personnel should develop an emergency intervention plan, in partnership with the parent(s), that protects the health, safety, and dignity of the student. Plans need to be developed to eliminate the use of emergency seclusion and restraint through behavioral assessments and positive behavioral interventions.

Comprehensive training is required for school personnel. The law also recommends training in positive behavioral intervention and support strategies. The implementation of this important legislation will be monitored by Arc advocates.

*Chris*



**“Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence.” ~ Calvin Coolidge**

***Continued from pg. 1***

### **Wherefore Art thou, Champion?**

On these very pages in 2013, I trolled for a “champion” to help us end this horrible and harmful “treatment option” still taking place in Michigan schools in the 21st century. I found our champion in Lt. Governor Brian Calley (see: *Locked Up And Left Alone At School*

<http://domemagazine.com/tomwatkins/tw062813>)

When I informed the Lt. Governor that Michigan school children were being secluded and restrained (a practice more regulated in Michigan prisons than in schools and, if done by a parent, could trigger a visit by Protective Services), he was aghast. More importantly, he vowed to take action to better regulate—if not outright ban—this practice being inflicted on children.

### **Champions do Prevail**

Lt. Gov. Calley methodically studied the issue, formed a statewide special education task force, built bi-partisan coalitions, met continuously with “doubters” and “obstructionists”, sought compromise and helped push through a series of bills that significantly change how and when seclusion and restraint can be used in Michigan schools. The bill establishes reporting requirements to assure more transparency when and if kids are locked or tied up at school.

The nine-bill bipartisan package was sponsored by state Democratic Reps. Frank Liberati and Christine Greig of Farmington Hills, and Republican Reps. Amanda Price of Park Township, Hank Vaupel of Fowlerville, Jim Tedder of Clarkston and Kurt Heise of Plymouth.

Then, on December 29, 2016 at an Inclusion Rally held in Troy, Michigan, the “Bills Became Law!” The uses of non-emergency seclusion and restraint are no longer allowed in Michigan schools. Schools must now report to the Michigan Department of Education on a regular basis when this practice is used, and parents must be notified.

Are the bills perfect? Of course not. As is usual in the give and take of the legislative process, compromises were made, but the principal of human dignity was not compromised. Most legislation is like Christmas morning: You seldom get everything you ask for. Yet, even as these changes appear a small step in the legislative process, they are a HUGE leap forward for our children.

Calley’s active partner from the other side of the aisle—State Rep. Frank Liberati, D-Allen Park, and other champions including Senators Hertel, Knollenberg, Jones, Pavlov, Reps. Greig and Vaupel, along with nearly 300 statewide special education advocates joined in the celebration. Parents literally cried, knowing that the practice involving seclusion and restraint that harmed their children would no longer be indiscriminately applied to another child.

The emcee for the Inclusion Rally was Frank Beckmann, the morning host for WJR radio, who helped educate the public and rally support to change the law. Mr. Beckman has a niece with Down Syndrome who has graced his life and he could not imagine her being mistreated in this way.

### **Political Promises**

Earlier this year, Michael Squirewell met the Lt. Governor at a “Walk a Mile in My Shoes” Rally at the State Capitol, inviting him to see his consumer-run “Club House in Detroit.” Brian Calley took him up on his invite. Michael gave the Lt. Governor a pen set as a commemorative gift of his visit to the Club House. Lt. Governor Calley told the crowd that he would use the pens they gave him to sign the anti-seclusion and restraint legislation—when passed—in their honor.

Lt Gov Calley signed the Seclusion and Restraint Bill using Michael’s gift – a tribute to both men and the causes they care passionately about. Talk about a class act!

The fight to end this barbaric practice, pushed by advocates and parents, is over. The voluntary State Board of Education policy—championed by Liz Bauer—involving appropriate use of restraint and seclusion practices is now law.

Those who care about protecting children—assuring that all children receive a quality education—owe a debt of gratitude to pioneers in this effort: Liz Bauer, Dohn Hoyle, Elmer Cerano (P&A), Chris Hench (a parent formerly with JARC), Marcie Lynn Lipsitt (parent advocate extraordinaire), and especially Lt. Governor Brian Calley, for his determination and persistence in demonstrating “How a Bill Becomes Law!”

*Tom Watkins served the citizens of Michigan leading two departments of state government: Mental Health and Education. He is the President and CEO of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority ([www.dwmha.com](http://www.dwmha.com))*

He can be emailed at: [tdwatkins88@gmail.com](mailto:tdwatkins88@gmail.com), or followed on twitter at: [@tdwatkins88](https://twitter.com/tdwatkins88)



## \*\*\*\* POKER / MILLIONAIRE PARTY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED \*\*\*\*

Volunteers for The Arc NW's Athletic Program arrange and direct poker/millionaire parties that raise funds to support our athletes by purchasing uniforms, practice venues, tournament fees, and more. Please help us raise funds by volunteering for one or more of the following events. Email Pat Zagar (pzagar3@gmail.com) with your availability. You don't have to commit to the entire shift - partial shift volunteers are also welcome.

### ***Krazy Kopz Vision Lanes***

38250 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185

**March 30, 2017-April 2, 2017**

Thurs/Fri from 11am-6pm, Sat/Sun from 6:30pm-2am

**July 27, 2017-July 30, 2017**

Thurs/Fri from 11am-6pm, Sat/Sun from 6:30pm-2am

Information sessions are held monthly during the school year at the

### ***Western Wayne Skill Center***

8075 Ritz Road, Westland, MI 48185

Thursday Evenings 6:30pm - 8:30pm

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County  
The Arc of Western Wayne County



## ***After I'm Gone Program***

**February 9th**

**6:30pm - 8:30pm**

### ***How to Get What You Want Out of Life***

Speakers Michelle Driscoll and Christy Courtney will discuss how to use Person Centered Planning and Self-Determination to live the life you want to live in the community.

**February 23rd**

**6:30pm - 8:30pm**

### ***Social Security & Dept Health & Human Services***

Speakers will discuss the programs and services available to your son or daughter with a disability including SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, Food Assistance, and Adult Home Help.

## **Memorials**

### **In Memory of Kenneth Marshall**

Vincent & Nancy Stefanelli

Michael Bencik

Ladd J. Bird, Jr.

Stephen & Barbara Arnest

Angelo & Tara Colone

James & Christina Ziadeh

Nevin E. Gilbert

### **In Memory of John Webley**

Adrian & Janet Giaccaglia



# JUST FUN CLUB NEWS

Happy New Year

What a wonderful way to end 2016 with our annual Christmas Dinner Dance at the Hellenic Center on Dec. 10th. After having our delicious meal, everyone was invited to go to the Photo Booth to have a strip of 4 pictures taken with family and friends. Members could go up as often as they wanted to get their photos taken. This was a new addition for us and it was a big hit with everyone! We also had a visit from Santa that night. He was busy hugging and shaking hands with everyone, while many others enjoyed dancing to the songs by the Trademark band.

Our Hawaiian Luau dance was held on Friday, January 20, at Thurston High School. Pizza, salad, pop, water and chocolate, strawberry and vanilla ice cream cups were enjoyed by everyone! Hawaiian leis and beaded necklaces were available to those who wanted one. Our raffle ticket winners were: Sharonda Gamble, Ann Munn, Pat Schoenbert, Greg Neschich, Carl Solak, Craig Pitlock, Jimmy Brooks, Peter McGrath, Chris Russo, Sam Gardner and Debra H.

Please mark your calendar for the next upcoming events:

**Valentine Dance, Friday, February 10, 7:00 - 9:30pm, Thurston High School**

**St. Patrick's Day Dance, Friday, March 17, 7:00-9:30pm, Thurston High School**

**Chicken Dinner/Dance, Friday, April 28, 6:30-9:30pm, Thurston High School, MUST \*Pre- pay at the Arc by April 19**

**Ice Cream Social Dance, Friday, May 12, 6:30-9:30pm, Canton High School, MUST \* Pre-pay at the Arc by May 3**

Looking forward to Spring!  
Jackie Norris

## The Arc Sports News

Hi Athletes & Coaches,

Mark your calendars for Sport Program Annual Bowling fundraiser: Friday, May 5, at Oak Lanes. Start getting your teams together. Watch for more information in April's newsletter.

Swimming starts February 26 at Schoolcraft College. Times are 5pm and 6pm. (Unfortunately, as I write this article, I do not have information regarding Field & Track start date. Debi Hedges did give me the date but I forgot to write it down.)

Franklin Area basketball tournament takes place February 11 at Franklin High School. District Basketball tournament March 4 at Northville HS. Women's team will be attending the State Tournament in Grand Rapids March 24 & 25. Men's teams must win both games at Northville tournament to play in Grand Rapids. Good luck to all the teams & our wonderful coaches!!

**Coaches** – Get a jump start and check the SOMI website to make sure the assistant coaches, volunteers, chaperones, and your forms are up to date before Jackie and Rick start sending out emails. To check the website for this information go to: SOMI.org

Click the Sports tab which will bring up a pull-down window

Click on Coaches Corner

Click Check Your Certification Status (in middle of page)

Scroll down to A23 (which starts at line 12784) and look for the names of your coaches/chaperones/volunteers.

Sport Program Meeting: February 16 at 6pm, at the Arc. Coaches, if you cannot attend please send someone to take your place and to update you on meeting information. Also coaches, if you have any signed Code of Conduct forms completed, please bring them. They are due to Jackie in March at the next Area meeting.

Thank you – Janice Bearden

## Donations

John & Carol Zago  
Hugheen M. Timm  
William Godwin  
Richard McClain & Emily  
McClain  
Larry & Linda Boulton  
Rosemary Mondro  
Ron Shemet & Tonya Melton

*In Great Appreciation for  
Michelle Driscoll &  
Chesley Giertz  
Douglas & Sandra  
McClennen*

*Just Fun Club and  
Athletic Program  
Donation  
Daniel & Barbara Collins*

*Lekotek  
Allysande Scott  
Kris & Jesse Copeland*

*In Honor of  
Anthony B. Arini  
Nardina Mein*

## Annual Appeal

Derek & Janet Espley  
Ifeyinwa Ilechukwu  
Cynthia Dziurgot  
Stephan Kanyo  
Douglas & Sharon Visocchi  
Diane Walsh  
Susan Gardynik  
Mr. & Mrs. Alois Anderle  
Nazzeno Troiani  
Mr. Donald McClellan  
James Gusfa  
Victoria Tong  
Ms. Janet Webley  
Sid & Barbara Read  
Christopher Szefi  
John Hokett  
Michelle Brodish-Mog  
Kathryn Strobel  
Mr. Kenneth Ferrari  
Annie Sterling  
William Rosso  
Thomas & Christine Lerchen  
Gerald & Patricia Stebbins  
Vadaver Ramchandren  
Kenny Chandler  
Fernanda Ficara  
Jean Stegen  
Audrean Stovall  
Michael & Karen Parkinson  
Kerrie Edgeworth Abell & Lucas  
Edgeworth  
James Ashley & Joyce Wickman  
Susan S. Gordon  
Maureen Dooley  
Eric Smith  
Norman & Jessica Mackay  
Lynn Jones

Sharon & Doug Govan  
Maureen Beaty  
Maureen DiPonio  
Jean Walsh  
Roman Surowiec  
Rita Wygonik  
Dixie Hibner  
Lina & James Barnes  
Edward Hibner

## Membership Renewals

### February 2017

Janice Bearden  
Joseph & Debra Breitenbeck  
Billy & Judith Cline  
Richard & Cynthia Dziurgot  
Marcus Ealy  
Richard & Constance Ellswood  
Kim & Katlyn Hahn  
Bill & Helene Heaton  
Roy & Lee Ann Horton  
Clifford R. Kitchen  
Sylvia Kloc  
Carey Leach  
Norman & Cynthia Mackay  
Rita & John Marzec  
Michele Mog  
Sidney & Barbara Read  
Sharon & Doug Visocchi  
Jean Walsh  
Sandra Zagar

# February 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	<p><b>Board Meeting</b> <b>Monday</b> <b>February 13</b> 6:00pm Arc Office</p>		<p>1  <b>Basketball</b> Wildcats 6 - 7pm Skill Center   Pistons 7 - 8pm Skill Center</p>	2	3	4 No Afternoon Bowling
5	<p>6  <b>Basketball</b> Wolverines 7 - 8pm Skill Center</p>	<p>7  Hot Shots 6 - 7pm Lightning 7 - 8pm Skill Center</p>	<p>8  <b>Basketball</b> Wildcats 6 - 7pm Skill Center   Pistons 7 - 8pm Skill Center</p>	9 <b>AIG</b> How to Get What You Want Out of Life 6:30 WW Skill Ctr	10 <b>JFC Valentine Dance</b> Thurston HS 7 - 9:30pm 	11 Bowling 9:30am Oak Lanes No Afternoon Bowling Area Basketball Tournament Franklin HS 
12	<p>13  <b>Basketball</b> Wolverines 7 - 8pm Skill Center</p>	<p>14  Hot Shots 6 - 7pm Lightning 7 - 8pm Skill Center</p>	<p>15  <b>Basketball</b> Wildcats 6 - 7pm Skill Center   Pistons 7 - 8pm Skill</p>	16 <b>Athletic Comm. Meeting</b> Arc NW Brd Rm 6pm	17	18 Polar Plunge Belleville Yacht Club Guys & Dolls Bowling 1:30pm 
19	20	<p>21  Hot Shots 6 - 7pm Lightning 7 - 8pm Skill Center</p>	<p>22  <b>Basketball</b> Wildcats 6 - 7pm Skill Center   Pistons 7 - 8pm Skill Center</p>	23 <b>AIG</b> Social Security Dept Health Human Services 6:30 WW Skill Ctr	24	25 Bowling 9:30am Oak Lanes Guys & Dolls Bowling 1:30pm 
26 Swim 4 - 6pm 	<p>27  <b>Basketball</b> Wolverines 7 - 8pm Skill Center</p>	<p>28  Hot Shots 6 - 7pm Lightning 7 - 8pm Skill Center</p>				

**CHECK IT OUT!**  
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County's  
Web Site  
[thearcnw.org](http://thearcnw.org)

Friend  
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County  
on  
**Facebook**



26049 Five Mile Road  
Redford, MI 48239

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Detroit, MI  
Permit No. 1778



Each edition of this newsletter is prepared for mailing by volunteers from Zeta Tau Alpha.



26049 Five Mile Road  
Redford, Michigan 48239  
313-532-7915

Inside The Arc is also available online at  
**thearcnw.org**  
Call 313-532-7915 to end your printed mailed newsletter.

### Membership Application

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Daytime Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birth Date** \_\_\_\_\_

(Name line above for member(s) with intellectual and developmental disability)

Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

*Welcome!*

### Membership Dues

- New Member
- Renewing Member
- Associate Member
- \$35 Annual Family or Group Home Membership
- \$25 Individual Membership
- \$25 Associate Membership

**DONATIONS**  \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$150  \_\_\_\_\_ Other