



## Planning begins for 2017 Conference

At its summer meeting, the PFMO Steering Committee covered several topics and began planning for the 2017 conference.

To prepare for next spring's conference, the full steering committee brainstormed possible topics, speakers, and location options. They discussed cost and conference meeting space needs, as well as possible hotels in the St. Charles/St. Louis, Columbia, and Lake areas. The group narrowed down the list and decided to explore three locations.

A conference planning committee was formed to work on details outside of full Steering Committee meetings. They will consider costs to People

First and attendees. The Steering Committee would like to keep registration fees at \$95, if possible.

Other topics discussed included the New Madrid Earthquake Exercise in August. The organizers were making an extra effort to include volunteers with disabilities as important participants in the exercise.

Vicky Davidson, Director of MODDD, discussed Disaster Readiness and how to prepare. Also, Ed Thomas, President of the Arc of Missouri, shared information about a new two-year grant to raise awareness of victimization of people with disabilities in Missouri. •

### People First of Missouri is Strong and Active

People First members and chapters are busy learning, giving, and growing. We make a positive difference in our communities.

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## Message From the President

by Cathy Enfield, President

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a great summer. As we move into fall I want to take this time to remind all of you that this fall we will have our national and local elections. These are always special falls but this year may be one of the most important elections we have ever had.

I can't tell you how important it is to vote and it is especially important this year. As you probably know there have been many things said so far in the various campaigns and much of it is troubling and confusing. I encourage you to continue to watch and listen and try to determine which candidate both at the local and national levels that you feel will do the things you believe in and the things that will make your life better.

I encourage you to talk to your friends and family about these issues

as well as to read and listen, but ultimately the decision about who you vote for must be yours and not someone else's. It must be made because you feel it is right no matter what anyone else says.

Voting is one of the most important ways that you can make our belief in "My Voice, My Choice" really happen in your life.

Voting is really, really important! I believe that it is your duty to your country as a citizen and that it is also your duty to yourself as a self-advocate to vote.

As your President I am asking you to vote the way you believe is right for you and to please be sure that you vote.

THANK YOU,

Cathy

## People First of Missouri 2016 Officers

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As seen in the Marshall Democrat-News, Friday, July 22, 2016

# The Marshall Democrat-News

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2016

MARSHALLNEWS.COM

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## People First chapter celebrates 25 years in Marshall

by Sarah Reed  
General Manager

The Marshall chapter of a self-advocacy organization will soon be celebrating 25 years, and some members say they hope to share what they've done for themselves with others.

People First of Marshall began July 23, 1991, according to chapter Vice President John Burriss, after a Center for Human Services employee was asked to be an advisor. Although it is not a nonprofit like the state-affiliated organization, its goals are the same.

"This organization is to help (people) learn how to live on your own and other things," Burriss said. "We try to tell people 'we are human beings

File photo  
Larie Hutson and John Burriss, of People First of Marshall, clean up a portion of Highway 41 at the intersection with Route 240 Wednesday, June 19, 2013, as part of MoDOT's Adopt-a-Highway program.



first, and our disability is second.' Some people don't see it that way."

The organization is operated by and was formed for people with de-

velopmental disabilities. Larie Hutson, who acts as secretary for the Marshall chapter, said she understands the challenge of advocating

within the community. The chapter has benefited her, as well as others.

"I know I have (benefited) personally," Hutson said. "I've learned how to manage my money better. I'm now my own payee — the chapter has helped me in that way."

Hutson said she also learned to speak up for herself.

Hutson and Burriss noted that verbiage regarding developmental disabilities has changed in American culture — a step forward in advocacy. One of the programs the Marshall chapter participates in, called Partners in Policymaking, trains those interested in leadership skills to better

see Chapter, page 2

## HSRN meeting and leader training

In late August, Six PFMO members attended the annual Heartland Self-advocacy Resource Network meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. The Missouri team, along with groups from Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas, worked on action plans for strengthening each state's self-advocacy organization. The meeting was part of a three-year project led by UMKC Institute for Human Development, which is now beginning its final year.

A high point of the meeting was a two-day leadership training taught by the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC), a non-profit organization whose mission is to teach anyone how to lead from where they are.

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## Chapter

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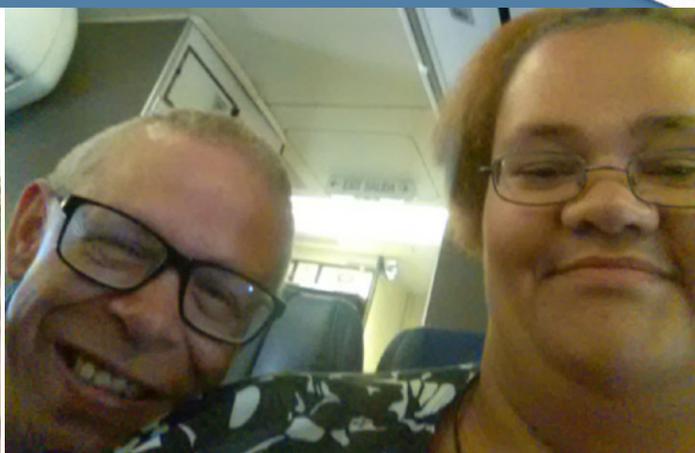
develop relationships with elected officials and other personnel who make policy decisions.

"We have a rally every year" in Jefferson City, Hutson said. "Especially with Medicaid. We've been fighting with that for a long time ... and some people really need help."

The program is offered in monthly sessions by the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council.

People First of Marshall was initiated only one year after the statewide organization, which began with four chapters in 1990, according to Burriss.

Contact Sarah Reed at [sreed@marshallnews.com](mailto:sreed@marshallnews.com)



*Left to right: One of many vessels anchored in Baltimore; Selfie on the airplane bound for Baltimore.*

## Jason and Katie Take a Trip for Disability Rights

*By Jason Mize and Katie Kinder*

From June 14 – June 16, we went to the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) Annual Conference in Baltimore. We both serve on the board of Missouri Protection and Advocacy (MO P&A), who covered our expenses. MO P&A is a federally mandated system in the state of Missouri which provides protection of the rights of persons with disabilities through legally-based advocacy. The NDRN is like a huge gathering of all the P&A's from around the nation.

We feel strongly about equal rights for all people whether or not they have a disability. This was a great conference because it was all about ensuring the rights of people with disabilities are respected and protected. We are also members of People First of Boone County, a local self-advocacy group. We will use what we learned – things like talking to legislators and policy makers, organizing our efforts, talking to reporters, among other things. We want people with disabilities to be

fully included in their communities – in school, in life, in work. It was clear that everyone else at the conference did, too.

Baltimore is a very historical place. We learned the Star Spangled Banner came from there, both the song and the flag. One part of Baltimore still has old cobblestone streets. We took walking tours and saw boats and ships anchored in the harbor. We went to a restaurant called “Bubba Gump” – a Forrest Gump themed place that was lots of fun. Jason visited the Hard Rock Café for the first time ever. Others from Missouri were at the conference with us, including Susan Pritchard-Green and others with MO P&A, and Renee Carter, from Boone County Family Resources.

We are thankful that MO P&A made this possible for us.

Reprinted with permission, Boone County Family Resources Newsletter, [Hopelines Summer 2016](#). •

**Make sure  
your chapter  
is included  
in the next  
issue!**

**Send an update  
about what your  
chapter has been  
doing by emailing:**

**[underwooddm@  
umkc.edu](mailto:underwooddm@umkc.edu)**

**Articles and  
pictures  
are welcome!**

## PFMO Chapter Updates

### Boone County

We have a new flag for our group with the logo “Unity In Diversity.”

Katie Kinder, who was with the Boonslick Chapter, is now in Columbia, and we’re happy to have her in our group. In June, Jason Mize and Katie went to the National Disability Rights Network conference in Baltimore. We’re proud that Jason and Katie are both on the board of Missouri Protection and Advocacy, helping look out for our rights!

In August, we sent several people to Real Voices, Real Choices. Katie, Jason, and Jeff Johnson are involved with the HSRN state plan and went to the yearly meeting in Kansas City for four days to work on the team. We are planning a walkathon for October. It will be a fundraiser but also a celebration of Disability Awareness Month. In November, we hold new officer elections in Boone County.

### Boonslick

We had our first Flea Market fundraiser on June 11 at MERIL, our Independent Living Center, which let us use their parking lot. We had over 20 paid vendors and went from 10am to 3pm. People First of St. Joseph had a table for stuff and a food table. We were able to help send four members and one advisor to the Real Voices, Real Choices Conference.

We will be helping MERIL with Trunk or Treat in October doing a cookie walk for them. In November, we

will be working with the Salvation Army to help with Bell Ringing for Christmas.

### Branson

We have had an exciting time these past few months. We had a car wash fundraiser. Our local auto parts store donated supplies and our local workshop supplied the facility and utilities. Our small but mighty crew washed cars for four hours. It was a hot day, so they were happy to get in the water and play. Not only did they raise money, but they all got a good feeling of accomplishment. They were tired when it was over!

We had an Ice Cream Social/Meet & Greet at our August meeting. We had about 25 people show up. Half came just for the ice cream (and that’s okay), but the rest stayed and listened to the meeting. Previous members and members that have not attended for a bit showed up. We had one new attendee that was interested in coming again, and that shows success.

Our sidewalk project, although slow, is still in process. One member wrote a letter to our commissioner. Once the letter is proofread, it will be sent to the proper person. We also encouraged more of our members and visitors to write letters to the commission. One positive is a representative running for the Eastern Commissioner in our district won the primary election. She appears to want what our group wants. We have hope that the project will become a reality.

*Photos below: Branson Carwash Fundraiser*



## PFMO Chapter Updates, continued

### Independence

People First of Independence had a good summer. Our attendance has been consistent and we are continuing to discuss self-advocacy and self-determination and also local and state issues that may impact us.

In August, several of our members attended the annual Real Voices, Real Choices Conference at Tan-Tar-A which they always enjoy doing. The day after the conference several members of our Chapter and some other People First of MO members joined a group of about one hundred people with disabilities to participate in the first ever National Emergency Response Training Exercise. The training was statewide but most of the 800 volunteers gathered in Independence to play various roles as disaster victims to help First Responders understand how to better deal with these emergencies and especially how to respond to the needs of people with disabilities in these situations. This training was based on the potential of an earthquake disaster at the New Madrid Fault in southeast Missouri and most of the people who took part felt it was very educational and worthwhile.

On September 11, 2016, our Chapter had its annual “end of summer picnic” which we always look forward to. As it was held this year on the fifteenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, we included some time to discuss the events of 9/11 including a moment of silence in honor of the victims, their families, and the responders.

We will be having discussions this fall about the upcoming elections and making sure that all of our members are prepared to vote and have a way to the polls.

### Lebanon

Lebanon chapter has been working on trying to find new members. We had a barbeque at the park on June 25. On September 17th, we are having a bake sale at Wal-Mart. One member went to the Real Voices, Real Choices conference at Tan-Tar-A in August. We are looking for a different fundraiser.

### North Kansas City

The North Kansas City chapter had monthly meetings in June, July, and August. Randy Todd reviewed what happened at Steering Committee and explained about plans being made for the next state conference. Officers and members reported to the group on the Quality Advisory Council and Real Voices, Real Choices. The chapter picnic is set for September 20 at Macken Park. Cost is \$3 per person. Concerned Care and Immaculata Manor are both changing their names to Life Unlimited.

### Rolla

In May, we held our regular meeting and planned a BBQ at the Lion’s Club Park in June. At the BBQ we had two visitors that came also.

July 15th and 16th, several members worked the Lemonade Stand. All funds raised go to help prevent

*Pictured below: The People First St. Joseph chapter held a flea market fundraiser this summer to earn money to send four members and one advisor to Real Voices, Real Choices.*



## PFMO Chapter Updates, continued



*Pictured above: More photographs of the St. Joseph chapter flea market fundraiser on sale day.*

Child Abuse in Phelps County. We took 3rd place on raising money out of all the booths.

July 18th, we held our regular business meeting. We had a Guest Speaker from the Fire Department come and talk about indoor and outdoor fires and how to prevent them, where you need smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, heat detectors, and what each is used for. July 20-23rd, we had a booth at the Phelps County Fair. Several members worked the booth all day, each day. We sold glow bracelets, lighted finger tips, and homemade dishcloths/potholders that a member of the chapter made.

### St. Charles

St. Charles had a busy summer having Cardinal game watch parties and gearing up for the coming campaign. We have also started a segment in our chapter meetings about "Life Skills." We are talking about manners, personal space, voting, going to a restaurant, job interviews, banking, and basic computer skills. We are having guest speakers come to our meetings as well. We had firefighters, TASH, and invited all our representatives to come to a meet and greet. We have a long list of more to come. We are hearing some amazing stories of a few of our members speaking up for themselves at work, home, and in the community, and making a difference. It is SO EXCITING that we are finding our voice.

### St. Joseph

We had our first Flea Market fundraiser on June 11 at MERIL, our Independent Living Center, which let us use their parking lot. We had over 20 paid vendors and went from 10am to 3pm. People First of St. Joseph had a table of items for sale and a food table. We were able to help send four members and one advisor to the Real Voices, Real Choices Conference.

We will be helping MERIL with Trunk or Treat in October doing a cookie walk for them. In November, we will be working with the Salvation Army to help with Bell Ringing for Christmas.

### Tiger Country

Tiger Country did not meet in May, June or July due to Greg Griffin having a heart attack in May. He was in the hospital for three weeks and then rehab for four weeks. In July, Greg went back to the hospital to have a pacemaker put in. Greg asks for your prayers for his health.

Tiger Country is looking for new members by making flyers and cards that can be put on doors. They are working on finding more places to reach people, like Hanover Estates. •



*Self-advocates from Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa joined six PFMO members at the annual HSRN meeting in August.*

## **HSRN meeting & training, continued**

KLC sent a teacher and a coach to help the HSRN participants think about their organization's challenges and ways to address them. The state groups shared concerns and ideas to help one another.

You can learn more about the Heartland Self-advocacy Resource Network by visiting [heartlandselfadvocacy.org](http://heartlandselfadvocacy.org). •

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Mark your calendar  
now for the

**People First  
of Missouri  
Conference**

**April 21-23, 2017**

KDV79

Kansas City, MO 64112

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POSTAGE  
HERE