

## Disability Rights Legislative Day 2017

On March 15, members of People First chapters across the state joined hundreds of others at the Missouri State Capitol for Disability Rights Legislative Day. The theme of the day was, "We Choose."

The day began early for some People First members who met with their state senators and representatives before the rally began. Together, they talked about Missouri House and Senate bills that directly affect people with disabilities, their families, and providers.

The rally began at 11 am in the Capitol Rotunda. Emilio Vela, Jr., CEO of Southwest Center for Independent Living (SCIL) welcomed the group to the capitol. Senator Scott Sifton (D-01) spoke about state budget cuts and how they could impact people and their services. He encouraged citizens to talk to their representatives about their concerns. Representative

Jim Neely (R-008) spoke about guardianship reform and House Bill 626. Patty Goss, a self-advocate and member of People First of Missouri (Springfield chapter) spoke concerning budget cuts and her services. She told her story, past and present, as well as what she hopes for her future and the futures of other Missouri citizens with disabilities.

The crowd at the rally also watched a video of Missouri State Treasurer Eric Schmitt announce that Missouri and four other states are partnering to implement tax-advantaged ABLE savings accounts for expenses related to disabilities and special needs.

At the end of the rally, Emilio Vela closed by encouraging participants to go talk to their legislators if they hadn't done so. The crowd left energized to continue to advocate for themselves and others. •

*by Melony Grote, Pike County chapter*

*Photo below: Rally attendees filled the capitol rotunda and spilled into nearby hallways.*



### 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.

### In this Issue

- Disability Rights Legislative Day, p.1
- President's Message, p. 2
- Spring into Action conference flyer, p. 3
- Cut-and-mail Conference registration form, p. 4
- Chapter updates, p. 5-7
- Steering Committee gets ready for Legislators, p. 7
- Come to the Conference this April!, p. 8

## Message From the President

by Cathy Enfield, President

Happy Spring Everyone!

I know we have had a busy and somewhat confusing time since the beginning of the year. I hope you are all ready to stay busy because it looks like it's going to be needed.

I was pleased to see such a good turnout at the Disability Rights Legislative Day last month in Jefferson City. This is the kind of turnout we needed. The issues we are facing, particularly cuts in Medicaid, or just as bad, providing them as Block Grants to the State, will hit people with disabilities and the aging particularly hard. The weakening of supports will continue to get worse year after year if these changes in Medicaid are allowed to happen.

People First of Missouri held their annual Legislative Steering Committee meeting the day before Legislative Day. It was great to see our members prepare to advocate and then to go to the Capitol and

carry the message to our Legislators. This is very important for our future, and it will continue to be important that we speak up at every opportunity about these issues.

If you have not yet registered for the PFMO Conference being held April 21-23 in Osage Beach, Missouri, please join us. You can cut out and mail the registration form found on page four of this newsletter.

Many of you will receive this newsletter in your conference materials at the People First of Missouri biannual conference, which happens every other year. I want to take this opportunity to welcome each of you who are attending the conference this year. I hope it is useful, valuable, and fun for each of you.

I urge each of you to keep educating others and advocating for our rights and our futures as citizens of our communities. Never stop believing in our mission and in yourselves.

Your President,

Cathy



People First of Missouri

## People First of Missouri 2017 Officers

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# Spring into Action

## The 2017 Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference

Keynote Speaker  
**Julie Petty**

National leader in the self-advocacy movement, founder of People First of Arkansas, and former president of Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)



Featured Speaker  
**Chuck Graham**

Associate director of the Great Plains ADA Center at University of Missouri-Columbia, served four years as a Missouri state Senator and eight years in the state House of Representatives



Endnote Speaker  
**Chris Worth**

Activist, Community Organizer, Self-advocate and Team Manager at Paraquad; former lead organizer for the Enable Project Appalachia and volunteer organizer in the environmental movement for over 12 years



### Breakout Sessions Include:

- Anyone Can Lead - That Means You!
- Who's in Charge? Self-Directed Supports
- Map Your Money Using the LifeCourse Star
- Meet the New Project STIR
- How to Run Great Meetings
- Charting the LifeCourse: Getting Your Good Life
- Defend Yourself! Parts I and II
- Spread the Movement: Building Chapters
- On Our Own: Self-Advocates Living Independently
- Reaching Youth Today: The Next Wave
- Victimization: The Signs and What to Do ...and more!

### Conference Registration

\$95 Per Person - includes three meals, participation in all events, & conference materials. Hotel not included.  
T-shirts - \$5 each

### Hotel Reservations

Must be made separately through Tan-Tar-A Resort by calling (800) 826-8272 or at Tan-Tar-A.com. Room rate is \$95+tax per night of stay for up to four people.

April 21-23, 2017  
Tan-Tar-A Resort  
Osage Beach, MO

# People First of Missouri

**REGISTRATION:**  
**Deadline - April 15, 2017**

- Full Registration - \$95**  
Includes all sessions, materials, two meals on Saturday, and Sunday brunch
- Saturday Only - \$75**  
Includes Saturday sessions, materials, and two meals
- Sunday Only - \$50**  
Includes Sunday sessions, materials, and brunch

**Late Registration - After April 15**  
 Same registration options and fees as above but meals are not guaranteed to be included

**HOTEL INFORMATION**  
 Each registrant is responsible for reserving and paying for their hotel room. Make your reservation by contacting:

**Tan-Tar-Resort:**  
 (800)826-8272 or (573)348-3131  
 Room Rates - \$95 / night  
 Single/Double (1 - 4 adults)

A block of rooms is **reserved under code "PEOP."** A limited number of accessible rooms are available on a first come, first served basis. Make your reservations as soon as possible for the best room choice.



Please REGISTER ONLINE at: [MissouriPeopleFirst.org](http://MissouriPeopleFirst.org)  
 If you are unable to register online, you may use the form below.

**Conference Agenda**

**Friday, April 21, 2017**

- 5:00 pm Registration
- 7:00 pm Welcome Reception
- 7:30 pm Networking
- 8:00 pm Dance and Karaoke

**Saturday, April 22, 2017**

- 9:00 am Registration
- 9:30 am Welcome and Flag Ceremony
- 10:00 am Keynote Speaker - Julie Petty followed by the Heartland Self-Advocacy Resource Network panel
- 12:00 pm Lunch on your own
- 1:15 pm Featured Speaker - Chuck Graham
- 2:15 pm Breakout Session 1
- 3:30 pm Break
- 3:45 pm Breakout Session 2
- 5:00 pm Break
- 6:30 pm Dinner and Award Ceremony
- 8:15 pm Dance

**Sunday, April 23, 2017**

- 9:00 am Breakout Session 3
- 10:30 am Brunch and Endnote Speaker - Christopher Worth
- 12:30 pm Closing Ceremony and Door Prizes

**Breakout Session Topics**

**Session 1:**

- A. Charting the LifeCourse
- B. PFMO Chapters in Action, Past and Present
- C. Victimization: The Signs and What to Do
- D. Anyone Can Lead... That Means YOU!
- E. Who's in Charge? Self-Directed Supports

**Session 2:**

- F. Defend Yourself, Part I
- G. How to Run Great Meetings
- H. Map Your Money Using the LifeCourse Star
- I. Meet the New Project STIR
- J. Disability Rights - Take Action

**Session 3:**

- K. LifeCourse Tools for Advocacy
- L. Spread the Movement: Building People First Chapters
- M. On Our Own: Self-Advocates Living Independently
- N. Defend Yourself: Part II
- O. Reaching Youth Today: The Next Wave

**ALTERNATIVE REGISTRATION FORM DIRECTIONS:**

- 1) Cut on the line below.
- 2) Mail one form for each participant with your check or money order.
- 3) Write name(s) of attendees on payment.

**4) Mail to:** People First of Missouri  
 UMKC-IHD  
 215 W. Pershing Rd., 5th Floor  
 Kansas City, MO 64108

**2017 People First of Missouri Spring into Action Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Check Registration Type:**

- Full Registration: **\$95** \_\_\_\_\_
- Saturday Only: **\$75** \_\_\_\_\_
- Sunday Only: **\$50** \_\_\_\_\_

Remember to allow for mailing time. Registrations must be received by cutoff date of April 15 for guaranteed meals.

**Conference T-shirt** pre-orders are now closed. There will be a limited number of t-shirts available for cash purchase at the conference for \$7 each.

Which breakout sessions will you most likely attend? (Circle **one** for each session. Topics are listed above, right section.)

Session 1: A B C D E    Session 2: F G H I J    Session 3: K L M N O

Accommodations needed (e.g., ASL Interpreter, Large Print or electronic communications, diet restrictions, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_



**PFMO Chapter Updates**

**Boone County**

We usually hold our holiday dance in December, but had to postpone it until January because of weather this year. We made it into a New Year's theme and served a huge sheet cake. Over a hundred people came.

In March, we asked the Boone County Commission to issue a proclamation to make March Developmental Disabilities Month in our county. They agreed, and Jeff, Jason, and Katie were there to receive the proclamation. Commissioner Janet Thompson read the proclamation (see photo, middle right).

Also in March, some of our members, along with others from Columbia, went to Disability Rights Legislative Day at the Missouri state capitol. We met with our legislators and some of their aides. We talked with Representative Kip Kendrick and Senator Caleb Rowden about some of the issues and bills brought up at the rally. It was also good to just introduce ourselves and get to know each other.

*- chapter updates continued on next page*



*Pictured: Top right: New Year's celebration cake at the Boone County holiday dance. Middle right: The Boone County Commission declared March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and presented the proclamation to People First chapter members. Bottom left: Boone County self-advocates meet with Representative Kip Kendrick on Disability Rights Legislative Day. Bottom right: Chapter members meet with State Senator Caleb Rowden and staff.*

## PFMO Chapter Updates, continued

### Pike County

Pike County chapter had a Christmas party in December where we elected new officers. Sadly, one of our new members and a newly appointed steering committee member, Jessica Duke, passed away suddenly just a few days later. Since her passing, the chapter decided to host a fundraiser on February 14th to raise money to sponsor the People First Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference in Jessica's memory. Members raised \$247.45 by selling a ballpark hotdog lunch. We are excited to sponsor the conference.



*Pike County member Jessica Duke, age 19, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 27. Her chapter is honoring her by sponsoring the PFMO conference in her memory.*

March 1st we began our third annual flower sales fundraiser. The money we make from the flower sales goes towards different community events and activities chosen by the group. Several members attended the Disability Rights Legislative Day on March 15th and visited their legislators (see photo below left).

*Photo left: Pike County chapter members meet with Missouri State Representative Jim Hansen before the Disability Rights rally at the Capitol. Photo right: Randolph County chapter members organized a painting party fundraiser around Valentines Day at Stroke of Magic in Moberly.*



### Randolph County

Randolph County People First recently held elections and welcomed a new President, Brian Roselius, and a new Secretary, Brittany Lancaster. We held a fundraiser in conjunction with Pizza Hut that was moderately successful. We also organized a painting class fundraiser around Valentine's Day at Moberly's "Stroke of Magic." The group had so much fun! (see photo, bottom right)

Congratulations again to Brian and Brittany on their new positions. The officer installation ceremony was held during the December meeting.

### St. Charles

St. Charles Chapter is busy working on the campaign. We are going out to all the schools in our county, dropping off posters to each one individually and introducing ourselves. We presented at the Developmental Disabilities Resource Board last month and reminded them of People First language, inclusion, and "who we are." It went over extremely well.

We continue to have guest speakers attend each month from a variety of groups, clubs and agencies. We have - see St. Charles, Continued on next page



## PFMO Chapter Updates, continued



*Above, left: St. Charles Chapter members presented to their local DDRB Board; Above, right: Longtime chapter member Sandy Gray passed away recently.*

### St. Charles, continued

had presentations by Pre-employment, TASH, and the executive director from the Resource Board. Our chapter continues to grow as we continue to bring awareness to our community. On a sad note, we lost Sandy Gray this past month. She had been a member for over 10 years. •

## Steering Committee members get ready for Legislative Day

The PFMO Statewide Steering Committee gathered on March 13 for its spring quarterly meeting and to prepare for the next day's rally and self-advocacy with legislators.

Sub-committees met to continue working on PFMO goals and report to the full group. Conference planning committee led discussion about final preparations for the upcoming Spring into Action Conference on April 21-23, 2017.

The second part of the meeting focused on learning about this year's

legislative bills that affect people with disabilities. Cathy Brown, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at Paraquad, presented to the full committee, explaining different bills legislators have introduced this session and why they matter.

Members also got to practice skills related to meeting with state senators and representatives through role play and discussion. The next day, they attended the annual Disability Rights Rally in the capitol and visited their elected officials to share their stories and perspectives.

*PFMO Statewide Steering Committee held their spring meeting in Jefferson City to continue working on organization goals and prepare for legislative day.*



Are you registered? Come to the Conference! Details inside...



Please Join us for  
the 2017 Statewide  
Self-advocacy  
conference April  
21-23 at Tan-Tar-A  
Resort in Osage  
Beach, Missouri.

Registration  
closes April 15!



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