

PFMO Makes a Statement

What does it mean to “make a statement”? For one thing, it means getting others to notice and pay attention to you. It also means letting others know what you think and feel about something important. People First of Missouri hopes to do both of these things by creating “position statements” to explain what matters most in the lives of people with disabilities in Missouri.

The PFMO Steering Committee began working on position statements at its November meeting by choosing 7 “Big Ideas” to focus on. The group talked about what we see happening in our world today that affects people with disabilities. Then we discussed how we feel about these things, what we want to be different, and how. We added more thoughts about these topics at the

March meeting. Then in July, the Steering committee read through written statements that tried to put all of the thoughts together. Members discussed whether the statements were true to life for most people with disabilities in our state. The committee thought about what more needed to be added, or if wording needed to be changed or taken away from the statements.

The end goal for the statements will be for People First members to use them to educate decision makers who affect our lives to make helpful decisions instead of ones that can hurt us. It is important to let people know what we think instead of letting others speak for us. Our opinions matter. Soon, we will share these position statements with all PFMO chapters and policymakers. ☺

Photo below, left: Steering Committee members discuss PFMO Position Statements on issues that matter to Missouri self-advocates. Photo below, right: PFMO statewide officers Kelly Ray, Secretary, and Cathy Enfield, President, take a break.



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

In early June, I attended the SABE National Conference along with many others from PFMO. At that meeting, I finished my term as national Vice President and Region 4 Representative/SABE Board member after more than 14 years. I am very happy to be able to report that my place as Rep will be taken by our own Roger Crome (PFMO Vice President), who will continue our unbroken string of 28 years of having a representative from Missouri on the SABE Board.

Congratulations to Roger and also Kelly Ray who was elected as Alternate Rep from Region 4. With the election of Roger and Kelly, I know I am leaving Region 4 in good hands.

While I was at the SABE conference, I presented on Technology with Shea Tanis from the Coleman Institute at the University of Colorado. I also presented on Guardianship with Dolores Sparks from the MODDC. I was honored to be the presenter of this year's Roland Johnson Award.



After that, I was invited to speak at the AAIDD Conference in St. Louis. I was the only self-advocate on a four person team of national advocates. We gave a 3-hour presentation on Medicaid issues.

Two weeks ago, I attended the NACDD National Conference in Washington, DC, where I participated in a 2-day Board Chair Leadership training. Later in the week, I presented on the value of participating in Partners in Policymaking at a Leadership in Self-Advocacy Training.

It has been a busy 2 months and a productive time, but it is good to be home!

I want to remind you that elections are in August. Many of you will be able to vote in primary elections and on the controversial "Right to Work" bill. It is very important that you vote in these August elections.

In November the regular mid-term elections will be held nationwide. The mid-term elections will be the most important thing you can do this year and possibly in your life to make your voice heard. They will set us on a path we will follow for many years.

I believe that this election requires a vote for what you sincerely believe is the right direction for our country and that it is too important for anyone to not vote. So this year, as Justin Dart said, "vote as if your life depends upon it!"

People First of Missouri 2018 Officers

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Photos above, left to right: Members of our Missouri group carry the PFMO flag in the SABE Parade of States; Patty Goss, Springfield chapter, competes in the Lipsync Battle; Roger Crome, PFMO Vice President, gives a candidate speech for Representative of Region 4 for the SABE Board.

Missouri goes to the National Self-Advocacy Conference

A group of almost 20 Missouri self-advocates and allies attended the Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) National Self Advocacy Conference in Birmingham, Alabama June 7-9, 2018. The theme for the conference was, "Let's Make It Happen! Disability Rights are Civil Rights," which tapped into the rich history of civil rights struggle that

began in Birmingham. Conference attendees were encouraged to visit the Civil Rights history museum while there, and enjoyed hearing music sung by an original civil rights gospel-style choir.

People First members chose from many different breakout sessions, which focused on familiar themes

of self-determination, speaking up about injustice, and speaking out.

During the conference, SABE held its Board elections. Roger Crome was elected as Region 4 Representative, continuing a 28-year tradition for Missouri. Kelly Ray was elected as Alternate Rep. The next national conference will be in Denver in 2020.

Learning the Social Capital Web

Marshall chapter hosted a training on the Social Capital Web on July 13 in downtown Marshall, Missouri. The training went through a workbook created by the UMKC Institute for Human Development as a product of the National Gateway to Self-Determination.

The Social Capital Web helps people look at all the relationships they have in their lives and see how they can

use their connections to themselves and others. Those who attended learned they have more connections than they first realized! They also had fun talking about how they might combine their connections to help their chapter grow in the future. The Marshall chapter promoted its training through Facebook and by calling nearby chapters to invite them to join the meeting.

Photo, below: PFMO Marshall chapter hosted a Social Capital Web training in July. Participants learned how to grow their own "webs."



Missouri Self-Advocates attend the NDRN Confererence

In June, Missouri Protection and Advocacy (P&A) sponsored Katie Kinder and Jason Mize to attend the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) Annual Conference in Baltimore. Katie and Jason are board members with P&A. They, along with several other P&A board members and staff from Missouri, joined hundreds of advocates from across the country at the conference.



Photo, above: Jason Mize and Katie Kinder traveled to Baltimore for the National Disability Rights Network.

“There were lots of classes,” said Jason, who is People First of Boone County Vice President. “Our People First group is concerned about students with disabilities being segregated. There were classes on that subject. Students with disabilities, especially students of color with disabilities, are basically getting kicked

out of regular school too much. Then, a lot of times, they don’t get a good education. Sometimes they wind up with the juvenile justice system. Some eventually wind up in jail. In one class, they called it the ‘school to prison pipeline.’”

One of the roles of P&A is to help make sure student rights are protected. There are laws that help:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that schools provide a “free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment;” The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits disability discrimination in state and local programs. The ADA Olmstead decision says “unjustified institutional isolation of persons with disabilities is a form of discrimination.”

“The problem is, sometimes a student might just be trying to communicate,” said Jason. “They might be having a problem and they don’t know how to talk about it. So they “act out” and get removed from regular school. Instead of helping look for the problem, the school might just segregate them.”

The Baltimore trip wasn’t all about classes though, said Jason. “We met people from other states, ran into old friends, like Tia from SABE, and Julie from Disability Rights Arkansas. We walked around and visited places on the harbor. I love Baltimore.”

2019 Disability Rights Legislative Day

Save the date! PFMO will join with many other people and organizations to let our state legislators know we are watching and we vote. More details to come!

**Wednesday,
March 13,
2019**



You’re invited to Boonslick!

Boonslick chapter would like to invite everyone to attend our formal dance, October 5th, 2018 from 6pm to 9pm. It is Disco Fever theme. It will be held at Eagles Post #1022 Lodge, 708 11th street, Boonville, MO 65233. [Map](#) Cost is \$10.00 per ticket. Proceeds will benefit Boonslick People First. Dress up nice, but no need to wear tuxedos. A dress shirt and dress pants will work, gentlemen. No Jeans or T-shirts. All are invited. For questions, email Jonathan Spencer at sparkyluone@outlook.com or call 660-537-5514.

PFMO chapter updates

Boone County

In May, Boone County chapter officers were interviewed and photographed for a newspaper article about mental illness and gun violence. We wanted to make the point that most people with mental illness are not violent. They are far more likely to be victims of violence than to commit acts of violence.

When there is a mass shooting, people seem to blame mental illness, when the problem of gun violence is really more complex. We don’t want to see people with mental illness and other disabilities segregated by attitudes or institutions because people think they’re violent.

In June, chapter members Jason Mize and Katie Kinder went to the SABE National Conference in Birmingham, Alabama and to the P&A/CAP Annual Conference hosted by the National Disability Rights Network in Baltimore, Maryland. (See article on page 4) Jason and Katie are board members with Missouri Protection and Advocacy, which sent them to these conferences. In July, we enjoyed as much air conditioning as we could find.

Independence

The Independence Chapter missed our meeting in June due to several members traveling. We were unable to make a meeting schedule work. At our July meeting, we caught up on each other’s summer travels and planned for our annual picnic in September.

Two of our members will be moving next month so unless they can find reliable transportation, which is always a problem, our little group may shrink even more. Have a happy summer everyone and be sure you vote.

Lake Area

In May we had a speaker on Rules, Rights, and Responsibilities, plus we had a dance with Karaoke. In June we watched a movie since it was so warm outside. In July we played Bingo after our meeting and had ice cream and snacks. We are planning on maybe having an end of summer dance with Karaoke in August.

Marshall

Chapter President Kelly Ray attended the Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) national self-advocacy conference in June. The theme of the conference was Disability Rights are Civil Rights. People who attended got to choose from many different sessions about self-advocacy and also got to visit the [Civil Rights Institute](http://www.bcricri.org) (www.bcricri.org). SABE national and regional elections were held at the conference. Kelly was elected as alternate for Region 4 (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri).

We want to thank the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council and People First of Missouri for helping provide funds so members could attend from our state. We are looking forward to the 2020 SABE conference in Denver, Colorado and hope more PFMO members can go.

We hosted a training in July on the Social Capital Web workbook. On behalf of the Marshall chapter, we would like to thank Danielle Underwood from UMKC IHD for giving the training to our chapter members and highly recommend this training to other chapters as Danielle did an awesome job. We had a good turnout and even gained a new chapter member. We also would like to welcome



Photo, above: New Marshall advisor Pamela Williams

Monroe City

People First of Monroe City has been doing some fun things in our community. We participated in Pets in the Park by handing out fliers. These fliers had information about how to be a responsible pet owner and how to keep your pets safe in the heat. We were excited to advocate for those who couldn’t advocate for themselves. We also entered a float in the Monroe City 4th of July parade. We won 3rd place!

PFMO chapter updates, continued

NEMO (NorthEast Missouri - Hannibal)

In May, NEMO chapter walked in Hannibal's "Smile-A-Mile Buddy Walk." The members handed out waters and had a booth where we sold pictures, keychains, and bracelets. In July, the chapter was part of the 4th of July parade.

North Kansas City

We had 10 members in attendance at the May and June chapter meetings. John Whalen and Rob Beagel helped as our advisors. The members filled out applications for the Real Voices, Real Choices conference in August. We will not have an chapter meeting that month because of the conference.

Coming up next: State Senator-elect Lauren Arthur (District 17) will be at the People First picnic on September 18 at the Life Unlimited office. Cost will be \$3 per person.

Randolph County

People First Randolph County started a wristband fundraiser. The wristbands say "We are People, First," and we are selling them for \$2 per wristband. We recently purchased a new flag and T-shirts for the chapter. We are working on updating our brochures to be more informative for people in the community. We are in the first steps of doing our first big project which will be working on making a pavilion in the park more accessible.

Pike County

Pike County chapter has had another busy spring and summer. Our spring flower sales went well again this year. The chapter made \$280 in profit. We have several activities coming up. We will be working in the food



Photos, above and right: NEMO chapter walked in Hannibal's Independence Day Parade.



stand at our local Pike County Fair, filling backpacks for a back-to-school fair, and setting up a caramel apple stand again this fall at the local Heritage Day Festival in Pike County. With some money raised this year, the chapter has given \$400 to the local YMCA for an accessible bathroom remodel. The chapter has several ideas in the works for more fundraisers in the future.

Springfield

Here in Springfield, we are picking ourselves up, dusting ourselves off, and carrying on after the sudden and unexpected passing of our long-time advisor Dennis Brown, with us since 2003. We are continuing to advocate for each other and for needed change in our community. Patty Goss attended the SABE Conference in Birmingham and had a wonderful time. She went to the Civil Rights Institute while she was in Birmingham. At the conference, she learned a lot about "supported decision-making," which we will all be hearing a lot about in the next few months. Please make plans to attend the Arc of Missouri's 5th annual Education Summit on September 11th at the Courtyard by Marriott in Columbia. Then plan to stay for the Supported Decision Making Symposium on September 12th at the Holiday Inn Executive Center - Columbia. (See page 8 for more information.) This event is being led by UMKC IHD with help from a group of important partners in our state. You will learn a lot if you attend. Have a wonderful blessed summer.

Photo, left: Pike County chapter donated funds for an accessible bathroom remodel in their local YMCA.



PFMO chapter updates, continued

St. Charles

Our chapter keeps growing and we are now roughly around 70 members. We have given some People First Language presentations in our community this summer. We are working on a presentation to take into school districts in our community about Inclusion, People First Language, and "Who is People First?" Our chapter keeps growing and now has around 70 members. Sarah Miley, our chapter advisor, went to the SABE Conference in Alabama. Now our chapter is gearing up for the Real Voices, Real Choices conference in August.

St. Joseph

On June 8th, People First of St. Joseph held a "Bingo Fundraiser" at MERIL located in St. Joseph. Our President appeared on "Live at Five" to market the event. We sold Bingo cards, 5 cards for \$3, and had hot dogs, chips and soda pop available for purchase. Participants had a great time playing 5 games of Bingo and some won prizes. Many people kept going back to buy more Bingo Cards, which were 50 cents for each additional card. The group found someone to donate his time to call the Bingo, while our advisor wrote down the numbers called. People First members brought prizes for the Bingo games. It was a great success and one member had a birthday, which we celebrated with a cake surrounded by cupcakes. The entire event secured donations to make Bingo Night a no-cost event to People First of St. Joseph.



Photo, above: St. Joseph chapter Bingo fundraiser night

St. Louis

People First of St. Louis has been busy! At the end of May our chapter held its second annual Disability Pride Rally in Downtown St. Louis. We had around 50 members and supporters out in front of a popular convention spot. The rally highlighted a number of issues important to our chapter, but had a broad theme of, "No More Bullying." It happens in a lot of different ways, and not just at school. We specifically talked about bullying at home by family members and at work by employers and co-workers. A number of the speakers and members at the rally raised concerns about the low wages paid to chapter members at workshops.

In June, the member who organized the event, Dahnyel Walters, was recognized by the Coalition for Truth in Independence. She received the Adonis Reddick Memorial Award for her work organizing the rally for the past two years. Also, the chapter began planning an open house in late September. The open house is part of our outreach strategy to bring new people into the organization. It will also raise money to help pay for the People First of Missouri Conference.

Finally, in July our chapter is doing a Voter Rights Training with the Missouri Coalition for Voting Access to make sure that our members are ready to hit the polls for the primary election in August!

Photo, below: St. Louis chapter member Dahnyel Walters (far right) received an award for organizing two Disability Rights rallies in her community.



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. Articles and pictures are welcome!

Save These Dates!

5th Annual Education Summit - Arc of MO; MO Symposium on Supported Decision Making

Back to back events in Jefferson City, MO to help you learn about Supported Decision Making (SDM), a less restrictive alternative to guardianship.

At the Education Summit, learn about changes to guardianship law, how to practice SDM, and more. To register, go to: www.eventbrite.com/e/5th-annual-education-summit-guardianship-supported-decision-making-tickets-43940586477.



MISSOURI SYMPOSIUM ON SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING

Come for the Arc of Missouri Education Summit. Stay for the SDM Symposium.*

When: Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 8:30am - 4pm
The day after the Arc of Missouri's 5th Annual Education Summit on Guardianship and Supported Decision Making

Where: Holiday Inn Executive Center - Columbia
 2200 Interstate 70 in SC, Columbia, MO 65202's Parliament Ballroom

Why: This Symposium is being held to start a coordinated effort concerning the implementation of SDM in Missouri.

What will be accomplished:

- Learn more about the rights and principles which led to Supported Decision Making
- Gain a common understanding of SDM - its benefits and limitations
- Identify and address the benefits, challenges and concerns associated with the implementation of SDM (both informal and formal), and
- Identify a coordinated path (with action steps) that moves forward the implementation of SDM in Missouri and remains true to the original intent of SDM.

Who should participate:

All who have an interest in the successful implementation of SDM in Missouri. This includes individuals who have a need for supported decision making, their families, and those responsible for providing support, as well as leaders within the legal, health, education, and financial sectors of the community.

This symposium is sponsored by:

- The Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council
- The UMKC Institute for Human Development, a University Center for Excellence in Disabilities
- Missouri Protection and Advocacy
- The Missouri Division of Developmental Disabilities

and hosted by a consortium of organizations listed here.

Cost (includes lunch):
 Individuals with disabilities and family members - FREE
 Professionals - \$25

REGISTER TO ATTEND: https://mo_sdm_symposium.eventbrite.com

*Details concerning the symposium agenda and discussion facilitators can be found on page two.
 *You are encouraged, but not required, to attend both day's events.

[education-summit-guardianship-supported-decision-making-tickets-43940586477](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/5th-annual-education-summit-guardianship-supported-decision-making-tickets-43940586477).

At the Symposium, be part of the discussion about how we move SDM forward in Missouri. Register at: https://mo_sdm_symposium.eventbrite.com/

Sept. 11 & 12, 2018



Get excited for our next conference!

PFMO is excited to announce that we will be the host state for a regional advocacy and leadership conference in 2019. We will have a Missouri-only rally to kick off the festivities, followed by a fantastic conference with self-advocate friends and supporters from Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska! Mark your calendar now to join the fun!

May 31-June 2, 2019 • Independence, MO

KF780

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