

Message From the President

by Cathy Enfield, PFMO President

Hello. I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you again. As you may know, election of statewide PFMO officers will be held during our Fall Steering Committee meeting. I will be stepping down as your President at that time, as my term is up.

I want to take this opportunity to say “thank you” for the support you have given me over the past four years. I deeply appreciate the opportunity it provided me to work with all of you.

I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish during that time but realize that there is much left to do. I also realize that the coming years will be filled with challenges for People First and for self-advocacy. For this reason, I am urging you to seriously consider how you want our organization to go forward and who

might be the best leaders to make that happen. Talk to your chapter members back home as well as other Steering Committee members to listen and work together. We will need the support of each other if we are to move forward successfully.

It is also not too early to start thinking about the elections coming up in our country next year. I urge you all to start now. Listen and learn about issues and candidates and prepare to make the best decision you can for your own life when you go the polls. And please, please, please, make sure you vote. Encourage everyone you know to vote as well. There is no better way for a self-advocate to make their voice heard than by voting.

Thank you again for the honor of being your President and the opportunity to work with each of you.

As you move forward in life, I want to encourage you one more time to:

“Be the change that you want to see in the world”.

THANK YOU!

Cathy



People First of Missouri 2019 Officers

Cathy Enfield
President

Roger Crome
Vice President

Katie Kinder
Treasurer

Kelly Ray
Secretary

Johanna Wortmann
Sergeant at Arms

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A Look Back at SOAR Conference!



PFMO Prepares for SOAR, Cheers Leaders at Missouri Meeting

People First Steering Committee members met early Friday, May 31, to learn about their role as conference hosts. They had a lot of work to do to get ready for SOAR, preparing bags, booklets, and giveaways for participants from four states. Members pitched in to help move items to the welcome table and answer questions from people as they arrived for the weekend.

Friday night, Missouri held its state meeting where PFMO gave awards to people who are making a difference. Awards went to: Kayla Aldridge, self-advocate

of the year; Mark Satterwhite, chapter adviser of the year; Robin Stockdall, direct support professional of the year; and Developmental Disabilities Resource Board/Family Advocacy and Community Training, agency of the year. A Lifetime Achievement award was announced for Dolores Sparks, who recently retired from the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council.

Afterwards, Missouri joined other states for an outdoor mixer, complete with live music, dancing, and a fire pit.

Self-Advocates from Four States SOAR Together

May 31-June 2, 2019, People First of Missouri hosted over 220 self-advocates, family members, and allies from four states. The **Seeking Opportunities for an Advocacy Revolution (SOAR)** Conference was the first-ever Midwest regional conference for Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas, member states in the **Heartland Self-advocacy Resource Network**.

The event offered fun, networking, and learning. Speakers included national disability leader and self-advocate, Ollie Cantos; MMA fighter and self-advocate, Garrett

Holve; comedian and self-advocate, Michael Beers; and leadership expert Ed O'Malley. There were also 10 breakout session choices and exhibitors from each of the four states.

Other fun included a dance with disc jockey, paper airplane flying contest, and a photo booth/selfie station. The conference received great reviews!

To see SOAR photos and read comments from surveys, visit: <http://heartlandselfadvocacy.org/conference/>.

Goodbye to a Friend and Self-Advocate Leader



Alicia Meyer, center, helping in a PFMO Steering Committee meeting.

On July 13, 2019, People First of Missouri members gathered to say goodbye to our friend Alicia Meyer at her memorial service. We joined many others who also miss her.

On her way to SOAR Conference on May 31, Alicia was in an accident that took her life. We lost a strong advocate and dear friend that day.

Alicia was a member of the PFMO Steering Committee for several years, former president of her local chapter, and member of the SOAR planning committee. She was also in the current class of Partners in Policymaking. Alicia was a strong advocate who spoke up for herself and others. We will never forget her.

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