As Summer comes to an end and Fall begins, I am looking forward to gearing up for Disability History Week, the second annual Disability History Essay Contest, and preparing for the 2014 Legislative Session.

Disability History Week is October 13-19th and all our public schools will be looking for speakers and activities to help them meet the mandate to provide instruction on disability history and the disability rights movement. Be sure to talk to your local schools and help them find the resources they need to make it a successful week. While you are there, remind them of the great opportunity for high school Seniors to earn cash awards through the Disability History Essay Contest and refer them to www.wvsilc.org for more details!

As you may know, I have been struggling to work from home while caring for my Mother for over a year now. In August, she experienced some mini-strokes (TIAs) and was in the hospital for two weeks. We are now coping at home with home health, and while I have the support of three siblings, I am reminded of the folks out there with little or no support. I am recommitted to ensuring home and community-based supports are there for the folks who need them, for themselves and/or a family members, to be able to stay at home and not be unnecessarily institutionalized. A society is only as good as the way it cares for its most vulnerable citizens. Let us continue to strive to ensure West Virginia supports people with disabilities where they want to be – at home with their families – and does not force them in to institutional settings because they are the only options available!

Ann McDaniel
Executive Director
The Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living (NWVCIL) is pleased to announce that it has received another Fair Housing Initiatives Program Grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to begin in November 2013.

Have you had trouble finding housing or received poor treatment from your landlord? If you think you may be the victim of discrimination call NWVCIL at 304-296-6091.

If you rent your housing you may be entitled to reasonable accommodations and modifications. Common accommodations:

* Service or support animals
* Assigned parking spaces
* Moving to a ground floor or an accessible unit
* Flashing fire alarms
* Delaying payment of rent to coincide with SS deposit date

Common modifications:

* Grab bars in bathrooms
* Ramps and threshold ramps
* Lowering cabinets or counter tops
* Widening doorways

Call NWVCIL for help making your accommodation or modification request or if you have been denied by your housing provider.

NWVCIL is also seeking paid volunteers to assist in combating housing discrimination. If you live in north central West Virginia and would like to join the fight please give us a call.

More information on Fair Housing, upcoming trainings and tester volunteer opportunities is available on our website at www.wvfairhousing.org or by calling 304-296-6091.

2013 Disability History Essay Contest for West Virginia High School Seniors

Institute, W.Va. – The Disability History Contest committee is proud to announce the 2013 Disability History Essay Contest in West Virginia.

This contest is designed to provide high school seniors an opportunity to showcase their writing skills and knowledge of the Disability Rights Movement and also earn some prize money!

All West Virginia high school seniors are encouraged to submit an entry. An overall state winner will be chosen. Six regional first place winners and six regional second place winners may also be chosen and prizes ranging from $500 - $2,000 will be awarded. All entries must include the completed entry form and must comply with the contest rules.

The essay topic is:

“How the disability rights movement has shaped our world.”

The contest is a collaborative effort of the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services, the Statewide Independent Living Council and the State Rehabilitation Council, with cooperation from the West Virginia Department of Education and the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts.

Please visit www.wvsilc.org for an application and contest rules. All entries must be postmarked, faxed or emailed by October 31, 2013.

For more information, please call the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council at 1-855-855-9743 or 1-304-766-4624.
NCIL’s 2013 Annual Conference on Independent Living was a resounding success! Over 600 advocates attended this year’s conference. First-time attendees were present in force and brought fierce passion to the annual march to and rally at the Capitol. This year’s march was robust and our chants for equality could be heard clearly as they reverberated through the historic streets that lead to the Capitol. The rally was followed by a press conference on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Advocates left fired up and fully prepared to bring our voices on our issues to Congress, including the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act and the establishment of an Independent Living Administration, NCIL’s top priority. Just a few days after our advocacy efforts, S. 1356 was successfully passed out of the Senate HELP Committee. We are truly thankful to the advocates who made this possible.

Congress woman Tammy Duckworth, the first woman with a disability to serve in the House of Representatives, brought the house down during the opening plenary and prepared advocates to present their message to Congress effectively. The annual awards luncheon was especially moving. There was not a dry eye in the house as NCIL saluted the life of Michael Winter through a video tribute. Just afterward, Shannon Jones, co-chair of NCIL’s Rehabilitation Act Subcommittee, was surprised on stage by her son and granddaughter, who came in to witness her receive the Corey Rowley National Advocacy Award.

The Annual Meeting was the briefest in recorded history. Elections were held for President, Treasurer, and three Member-At-Large positions. The results of elections (held prior to the conference) for Representatives of Regions I, III, V, VII, and IX were also announced at the Annual Council Meeting. One resolution was passed by the NCIL membership regarding disability profiling.

Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging, US Department of Health and Human Services, delivered the closing plenary. She spoke of the role disability played in the life of the people closest to her. To thunderous applause, she told the crowds that the Independent Living Program would be welcomed with open arms should the proposed move to the Administration on Community Living be enacted.

(continues on page 4)
This year’s conference had an impact in many ways. The mix of hard-core veteran leaders and inspired new advocates created a dedicated army that left its mark on Washington. Thank you, once again, to the NCIL membership, which continues to impress and inspire the NCIL staff and Board.

Youth Take Charge at the NCIL Employment Preconference: Reform Social Security Disability Program for Youth Building Careers

NCIL youth Kendra Scalia, MPP, and Dana Fink presented and lead reform discussions at the NCIL Employment Preconference, July 23, 2013. The event was produced by the World Institute on Disability, NCIL, and PolicyWorks.

Kendra, Dana, and their colleagues presented on the sorry state of employment for Americans with disabilities. They discussed substantive reform options to Social Security’s current programs that do not support youth who are building careers.

They engaged a well-attended audience on the WID-NCIL-PolicyWorks Career Building ACCESS Pilot Projects for SSI Eligible Youth, while showcasing stunning success stories with current field practice models that are supporting careers for young Americans with disabilities.

Engaged legislative policy analysts from the US House and Senate, working for Republicans and Democrats, participated at the Preconference in a facilitated discussion with the youth presenters and the NCIL audience. Among other themes, the “Hill staff” made it crystal clear that the timing for bringing forward a sound grassroots employment reform proposal is ideal.

The ACCESS reform proposal is at Spotlight on the World Institute on Disability website: www.WID.org. For more details and to get involved, contact Kendra Scalia, kendrascalia@gmail.com, and Dawn Alford, dawn@nwgacil.org.

“Part of the problem, I believe, is rooted in the fact that these well-intentioned systems, designed decades ago, were created with little expectation that Americans with disabilities would ever be anything more than recipients of care, that they could not, in fact, become contributors to our economy, our tax base, and our communities.”

Tom Ridge, Chairman,
National Organization on Disability
2013 NCIL March & Rally Makes History for the IL Movement

Hundreds of NCIL advocates from across the country descended upon the reflecting pool of the Capitol to listen to remarks from lawmakers and activists from the disability community at the National Council on Independent Living’s 2013 Annual Rally. NCIL members marched through the streets of Washington, DC to demand civil rights and equality, creating a lot of noise and quite the disturbance on the streets of our nation’s capital.

The 2013 Rally was the most meaningful and successful gathering of this type that NCIL has held in years and it could not have come at a better time. The Senate bill to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act and Rehabilitation Act, S. 1356, was introduced the day of the rally. The importance of this legislation cannot be understated. Its passage would elevate the Independent Living program at the federal level by creating a new Independent Living Administration and updating language to advance America’s CILs and SILCs, marking the largest development for IL in more than a decade.

Immediately after the rally, NCIL members met with their members of Congress on the Hill, where they pushed lawmakers to reauthorize WIA and the Rehabilitation Act. The March, rally, and Hill visits are at the heart of the NCIL Conference, and 2013 did not disappoint. Attendees of this year’s Annual Conference were a part of history. This event marked an important milestone in for disability rights in America. Thanks to all the advocates for making it a huge success!

Annual Council Meeting

Elections for officers to NCIL’s Governing Board were first on the agenda. Lou Ann Kibbee of SKIL Resource Center in Hays, Kansas was elected as NCIL’s President. Mark Derry of Morgantown, West Virginia, longtime Chair of NCIL’s Civil Rights Subcommittee, was elected Vice President. Roger Howard, Executive Director of LINC in Boise, Idaho was elected Treasurer. Mary Margaret Moore, MA; Zainob Jamo, PA; Bruce Darling, NY; and Vicki Haws, OK were elected At-Large Board Members.

(cont. on Pg. 6)
Senator Jay Rockefeller Receives NCIL President Award

Ann McDaniel, Receives the 2013 National Council for Independent Living Women’s Caucus Award

Each year the President of the NCIL Governing Board identifies an individual(s) or organization(s) that she or he believes has contributed to the advancement of laws, and policies protecting and/or enhancing the rights of people with disabilities. The President may give one or more award each year. The President’s Award was presented to Senator Jay Rockefeller this year:

NCIL President’s Award presented to The Honorable John Davison Rockefeller IV
In recognition of his commitment to the National Council on Independent Living and his advocacy efforts to advance the Independent Living Movement and improve the lives of people with disabilities.

July 26, 2013

NCIL President, Dan Kessler, explained his reasoning for choosing Senator Rockefeller for the award. “Because of his commitment to health care and Medicaid, for championing health care reform, and for sustaining services people with disabilities depend upon.

The NCIL Women’s Caucus is open to all NCIL members who self-identify as women seeking support to erase the barriers to independent living in their lives and their sisters’ lives. Women with disabilities, living independently, who want their voices heard on issues specific to women with disabilities. The NCIL Women’s Caucus (a part of the NCIL Diversity Committee) meets monthly.

The NCIL Women’s Caucus Award, was presented at the 2013 NCIL Annual Conference in Washington, DC. The NCIL Women’s Caucus Award was established to recognize women contributing to the growth and efforts of the Independent Living Movement and NCIL.

The women selected for this award meet the following criteria:

- Is a recognized leader in advancing the Independent Living Movement
- Has served as a role model and/or mentor to other women in the Independent Living Movement
- Is a member of NCIL and has served the organization in a leadership role
- Has a demonstrated understanding of and commitment to the independent living philosophy
- Has contributed to a positive vision for the disability community and made a lifelong commitment to the Independent Living Movement
- Has demonstrated achievements that show a positive impact on the community of people with disabilities and leadership development of women in the IL Movement
- Has conducted / participated in activities addressing disability issues at the community, regional, and/or national level
- Has educated and organized others around disability issues and inclusiveness of women leadership

(cont. on Pg. 7)
My First Scooter Experience
By: Marian Steele

Before I went to the NCIL Conference in July, I had undergone a major surgery. So, I requested a mobility device so I could be more mobile at the conference. This was my first experience ever using a scooter.

I arrived at the hotel and the hotel staff had to find my scooter. I did not know that the speed on the scooter was adjustable, until the bell hop showed me.

I got on the elevator with it, but kept bumping into everything. When it was time to exit, it was very difficult to navigate my way off the elevator. I was getting frustrated and the more I had to navigate the scooter, the more I kept hitting things. When we got to my room I really got frustrated because I could not navigate the scooter into the room. I had to get off the scooter and let the bell hop get it into the room for me. I was so ashamed because I could not operate or navigate the scooter. I never realized how hard this would be! I ended up giving the bell hop $10.00 in tip, because of all the problems I had and him being so patient. He probably had a good laugh, with the other bell hops, about this problem.

The next morning, of July 23, 2013, I had to get the scooter out of the room on my own. As I tried to get out of the room I moved the bed with the scooter, and jammed the scooter on the door a couple of times. Once I got out of the room, I was a little frustrated. I tried to adjust the speed so I would be more comfortable with the scooter. I drove straight into the elevator because I knew if I did anything else, I would not be able to get the scooter out of the elevator. Once I got to the lobby of the hotel, I had to find the elevator to the lower levels. Like an idiot, before I got on the elevator I did not check what floor I had to get off, but luckily I guessed right! Just lucky I could drive straight off the elevator, but it was still a tight fit. Then, I had to find a place in the Independence Ball Room, to park the scooter while listening to the speaker. I chose the back of the room because I still was not comfortable with the scooter and navigating it. I left the scooter in place to go get lunch, because I did not want to fight with it that day. Also I never took the scooter into any bathrooms; because I was afraid I would hit something or someone. So once the pre-conference was over, I took the scooter back up to the Lobby, navigated the Lobby to get to the room elevator; and then took the scooter to my room.

The awardees for 2013 were Ann McDaniel, Executive Director of the West Virginia SILC; Julie Sain, Executive Director of Disability Rights and Resources in Charlotte, NC; and Michelle Krajewski (presented posthumously) Director of Public Policy at the Whole Person in Kansas City, MO.

Congratulations to these women who have made a difference for Independent Living and for women in our movement!!!
As I tried to enter the room, I hit the door jam, but I drove the scooter directly in. I left the scooter in my room while I went to dinner at a restaurant in the hotel.

The first day of the conference, my roommate held the door for me, but I still moved her bed and bumped the door jam leaving the room. After a good deal of trouble locating the room service elevator and then the freight elevator, I finally made it back to the Independence Ball Room. I tried to pick a place where I would not be in anyone’s way, and people with other devices could move around me. I still had to move a couple of times to let people out of the room. At lunch time I decided not to leave the scooter behind, because I wanted to get more experience with it for the March & Rally the next day.

The last day I used the scooter was July 25, 2013, which was the day of the NCIL March and Rally. I was up early because I wanted to get downstairs early and not have to wait on an elevator. I got downstairs and out onto the sidewalk. I had made sure that I charged the scooter up the night before. My worst fear was that my scooter would run out of power. The march started, and we were supposed to keep it 2 to 3 people across the line. I tried to keep my scooter where it was supposed to be and make sure I don’t get caught up in any holes or bumps or dips along the way. People who were walking were trying to mark these spots for us. Finally we reached the Reflecting Pool and got our lunches. I could not get close to the pool, because there was no ramp I could see to get close.

Governor Joe Manchin signed HB4491 into law April 3, 2006, establishing the third week in October as Disability History Week in West Virginia. The bill was initiated by the delegates to the 2005 West Virginia Youth Disability Caucus youth with disabilities age 16-21 from across West Virginia, and was sponsored by Speaker of the House, Robert Kiss, House Education Committee Chairman Tom Campbell, and Senate Education Committee Chairman Robert Plymale.

“This is landmark legislation, the first of its kind in the country. The youth with disabilities in West Virginia have been the lead and other states are beginning to follow,” Ann McDaniel, executive director of the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council.

The third week in October is now designated as Disability History Week in West Virginia, and public schools, grades K-12, are required to provide instruction on disability history and disability rights. This ensures that all public school students in West Virginia will have more knowledge and understanding of people with disabilities and the contributions they have made to our society.

Near the end of the 2005 Youth Caucus, the delegates were informed that Speaker of the House, Bob Kiss, would help sponsor a bill for Disability History Week. We decided that with this bill we wanted the third week of October, Disability History Month, to become a week in which schools around the state would teach and make available information on disabilities, accomplishments by people with disabilities and general awareness about the disability community.

In order for the bill to not pose a burden on public schools, the Youth Caucus will be developing and making the information available to schools beforehand. The bill encourages colleges to get involved as well. Many of our Youth Delegates are already either in college or close to it, and will be on campus to promote disability history.
I ate my lunch and then saw some of my friends, so I walked down the short distance to see the Reflecting Pool and feed the ducks. I got back on the scooter and went to the rally area. The rally started, but I had to leave within fifteen minutes to make Hill visits. When you cross the streets, you need to make sure that you use the curb cuts, but the problem with that is that sometimes these do not match up. We had to go the long way around to get to the accessible entrance to the office building. We went through security. They had to take our bags to be scanned, then they wand us and the scooters. There was another lady in the group that used a scooter also. We went to our first visit, luckily in the hallway there were electrical outlets, so she and I plugged into the outlets to charge our scooters. When we got to the next visit there were no outlets. Also we had to use the elevators to get up to our visits, but we had to take two elevators, because we could not fit two scooters on the same elevator at a time. Our visit was over, so now we went sightseeing, I went with part of the group that was there from the Beckley center for independent living, to visit the Botanical Gardens, plus the Smithsonian Museum along the Mall.

The first problem at the Botanical Gardens was that there was no accessible entrance so we had to have other visitors open the doors for us to get in the building. Once you are in the building the doors open automatic into the different exhibits, but the walkways are narrow, so they are hard to navigate when people are moving around you. Otherwise the exhibits were beautiful. I finally made it to the front of the building and met up with the rest of my group. We headed out to the visit the Smithsonian Museums.

The first one we came across was the Native Americans. Once we got into the building I just stayed on the ground floor because I didn't want to try getting on the elevator. I also found an outlet and so I was able to give my scooter more charge. When we finally left there, we went to the Air and Space Museum. We had one person that wanted to go inside and the rest of us waited outside. I wanted to go see the Castle, but it was closed for repairs. I went to the Hiroshima Gardens and sculpture garden. It had ramps at both ends so it was pretty easy to see the displays. I finally caught up with the rest of the group at the Natural History Museum.

The whole group met up again and we headed back to the hotel, plus we needed to get something to eat. We made it about three blocks, when the other lady’s scooter died at a curb cut. The three ladies with her pushed her across the street. We tried to find a place where she could plug her scooter up, but could not find any place. Finally called the scooter rental place for help, but they could not do anything for them until they got back to the hotel. So we tried again to get the scooter moving, there was even talk about towing it with my scooter, but we did not do need to do that.

(Dispability Awareness month cont; from pg. 8)

By establishing a Disability History Week, we would provide information for school students to learn more about the contributions of people with disabilities to society and to educate students to better understand people with disabilities.

It is our goal that through education and diversity awareness, we will promote acceptance of people with disabilities. By raising the self esteem of people with disabilities, we will all move toward self fulfillment.

Erick Dowdy
2005 WV Youth Disability Caucus Delegate

“If you believe people have no history worth mentioning, it’s easy to believe they have no humanity worth defending.”

William Loren Katz
We stopped again, because the scooter rental place called back and had her run a couple of tests on the scooter to see what the problem was. The scooter place told her to stay where she was, and they would bring a charger. By now it is 8:30 pm at night, I was hungry, but no one wanted to go and eat with me across the street. I really did not want to leave them, but I needed to get back to the hotel. One of the ladies gave me instructions on how to get back to the hotel. I got there and they called me to say the scooter rental place had brought them a replacement scooter. I parked my scooter until it was time to check out of the hotel. I hope things improve for the people who use mobility devices in the future. I also know there are times people need them, but I hope it will be a long time before I have to use one again.

Marian Steele
WVSILC Member

My Experience as “Acting Chair”

Say what? A consumer is in charge of a meeting? Better believe it! Usually, someone like Anne Weeks, Vanessa VanGilder, and others would be the chair. What is it like to be a “Acting” Chairperson of the SILC? You have to plan the meeting with Ann McDaniel in advance and have an executive committee meeting either in Institute, WV or have a teleconference with the group. You have to go over every piece of information, plan the schedule, etc. Then if the chairperson has any questions, contact either Ann McDaniel or Kathi Young at the SILC office. And if neither is available, heck, try the new employee at SILC, Ms. Lindsay Roberts.

If the chairperson gets stuck in a rut, contact Ann. Ann has been an expert on absolutely anything, especially advocating. Ann’s also a good advisor. No one can replace Ann, No One! And if you think you have to control the people, you are wrong. It’s just as tough being sergeant-at-arms at People First. WVSILC usually has 20-25 people in attendance, whereas, People First have 30-270!

Think about it. It’s not that easy. When you represent People First, you control the crowded environment while the Chairperson in charge. WVSILC, when you represent the group, you’re in charge. And Ann, or Kathi, can back it up over various subjects. There wouldn’t be teamwork without the letter “T”. If you think that’s tough, compare it with NCIL group or the SILC Congress. NCIL or SILC Congress? Yes. It is much harder, many commitments, much more agenda notes, etc. What does WVSILC, NCIL, SILC Congress, & People First, have in common? They all go and meet members of the House and Senate, not only in Washington D.C., also at their respective state capitals.

What else can I say, except, who will be the chairperson come October? Who knows? All I can say is may the best person win, deserve it, and eat cake too. One piece of good advice is to be extremely prepared and if you drink coffee, you are in luck! But if you drink diet cola or water or both, buy your own. SILC is on a tight budget.

James Qualls
WVSILC Member
In 2015, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will turn twenty-five. In celebrating passage of this historic civil rights legislation, we will be looking at the past, present, and future of Americans with disabilities. This is what The ADA Legacy Project (TALP) is all about. Our mission is to honor the contributions of people with disabilities and their allies by:

- preserving and promoting the history of the disability rights movement;
- celebrating the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as other related disability rights legislation and accomplishments; and
- educating the public to create opportunities for inclusion, access, and equal rights for the future.

Donate on-line at [www.ncil.org](http://www.ncil.org) or by check, made out to the ADA Legacy Project, and mail to:

NCIL
Attn: The ADA Legacy Project
2013 H St. NW, 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006

**Goals**

1. To encourage the collection of historical materials related to the disability rights movement and to connect efforts to preserve, promote, and exhibit materials from the disability rights movements.
2. To coordinate activities for the ADA25 Anniversary in 2015.
3. To promote the development and use of educational curricula that raises awareness of the history, contributions, and issues still facing people with disabilities, and promotes involvement in advocacy.

The disability community is a thriving network of individuals and organizations who are actively involved in many of these initiatives. As such, the role of The ADA Legacy Project is simply to connect, coordinate and communicate these efforts. This is how we will accomplish our goals.

For more information, contact Kristen Vincent, Project Coordinator, at 770-823-4848 or kristen@adalegacy.com.

The SILC is a member of [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com). “GoodSearch” donates money to your favorite cause, “WVSILC-West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council”, Charity ID#: 815277, when you search the Internet, shop online or dine out at local restaurants! Use Goodsearch.com to search the Internet and they donate a penny per search to WVSILC. Use GoodShop.com when you shop online and they donate a percentage of every purchase and offer over 100,000 coupons to help you save money too! Sign up for their GoodDining program and they’ll donate a percentage of your restaurant bill when you eat at any one of thousands of participating restaurants. It’s really easy; it’s free and turns simple everyday actions into a way to make the world a better place. Please sign up today to help support WVSILC! Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) to get started.

**New SILC Officers**

At the October 2, 2013 SILC meeting, the following individuals were elected to the SILC Executive Committee:

Chairperson - Joyce Floyd
Vice-Chairperson – Cathy Hutchinson
Secretary - Beverley Jones
Treasurer - Marian Steele
Immediate Past Chair - James Qualls
October 10, 2013 - World Mental Health Awareness Day
Disability Policy Summit: October 23 & 24, 2013 @ Charleston Marriott.
APRIL Conference: October 25-28, 2013 @ Oklahoma.
RYPAS Board Meeting: November 5th & December 3 @ 1:30pm, WVSILC Office
SILC Council Meeting: December 4, 2013 @ DRS Nitro from 9am-5pm
SILC Congress: January 18-21, 2014 @ San Deigo, CA

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