



## State ARC Conference Report 2019

- by Bonnie Swatek

I again had the pleasure of attending the annual ARC Michigan Disability Policy Seminar in late June. As always, it was quite interesting.

I found the opening session by Elizabeth Wehl most informative. She reviewed the make-up of the Michigan Legislature: 148 elected members; 110 in the House and 38 in the Senate. Both currently have a Republican majority. She stated that Michigan's legislative term limits are the strictest in the nation. Therefore, many new members — 30 in the Senate and 47 in the House — are just learning the ropes. Often by the time the new legislators are comfortable in their roles, their term limits are approaching.

Betsy further stated there are current issues that may lead to impacts in funding for those the ARC serves.

- **Auto Insurance Reform** could have an impact on Medicaid, on health insurance premiums, and on other auto-related coverage.
- **Transportation Infrastructure** solutions may affect other state programs and services affected by General Fund, sales tax, etc.
- **Potential Redistricting** would affect practically everyone.

The State Budget is looking at MDHHS funding: Senate Bill 139, House Bill 4235 that could also affect those the ARC serves. There are discussions on autism services funding, information technology funding, behavioral health integration, managed long-term supports and services, direct caregiver wages, and the Medicaid behavioral health fee schedule.

**We need to advocate for those we care about — those who cannot advocate for themselves.** To be successful advocates, our role is to pay close attention to what is happening in Lansing. We need to engage our lawmakers in district whenever possible; we need to attend their coffee hours, ask questions, and give testimonies. We also must remember to be courteous, confident, and persistent.

Other sessions included:

- Transition Plan/HCBS Rules/Status of 1915 Waiver
- Social Security Benefits and Work Incentives
- Employment First

The last session was on Federal Updates by the always enthusiastic and energetic Nicole Jorwic, director - rights policy, The ARC of the United States.

I felt fortunate to catch Nicole after the seminar. I talked to her regarding the possibility of direct care workers being "certified". I explained when nurse assistants became certified, it changed the perception of the general population towards them for the better, it increased the nurse assistant's self-esteem, and their wages increased from the minimum wage to a more professional wage due to their increased knowledge and certification. I was thrilled to hear Nicole say it is an area they have begun investigating at the federal level.

## Here to serve you ...

**Staff Members:** Sondra Nocella-Thorn, *Executive Director*  
Wanda McCann, *Rep Payee*  
Linda Weick, *AARP Trainee*

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
**Closed on Friday**

**Located at:** 6021 Parkside Drive, Monroe, MI

**Phone:** 734.241.5881

**Fax:** 734.241.3694

**E-mail:** arcmonroe@sbcglobal.net

**Website:** www.monarcofmonroe.org

## We Need Your E-Mail Address!

We are collecting our members' e-mail addresses so we can send out electronic flyers, event reminders, action alerts, and other important information regarding Mon-Arc.

Please send us the e-mail address you would like us to use, either by e-mail to [arcmonroe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arcmonroe@sbcglobal.net) or call the office.

## Kroger and Amazon = Funds for Mon-Arc

Did you know you can support Mon-Arc just by shopping at Kroger and Amazon?

Both will donate .05% of the price of your purchases to our organization.

If you need help signing up with either of these businesses, check our website page under "**Get Involved**" or call our office at **734.241.5881**.

Thank you for your support!

## MON-ARC Board Members

**Maureen Dempsey**  
*President*

**John Deku**  
*Vice President*

**Connie Janus**  
*Secretary*

**Jeffrey Stoll**  
*Treasurer*

**Roxie Boll**  
*Member-at-Large*

**Nancy M. Feick**  
*Member-at-Large*

**Michelle Parrish**  
*Member-at-Large*

**Susan Pickens**  
*Member-at-Large*

**Bonnie Swatek**  
*Member-at-Large*

**Board meetings  
are held on  
the 3rd Tuesday  
of every month  
at 6 p.m.  
at the MON-ARC office.**

## IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP:

**September 27** **Octoberfest** at Monroe Knights of Columbus Hall

**October 25** **Dance** at Monroe County Community College

**November 22** **Dance** at Monroe County Community College

**December 20** **Dance** at Monroe Knights of Columbus Hall



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SONDRA THORN:

With fall comes cooler weather and exciting events. Fall is a flurry of activity here at the Mon-Arc offices. We look forward to supporting the local school children and their families as they start the new school year.

Monroe County Community College held the annual **Welcome Back Barbeque** on September 10. Mon-Arc was one of more than 30 local organizations and businesses that showcased their services available in Monroe County.

The Mon-Arc of Monroe receives funding from the United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties, so we ask that you please consider donating to the United Way. We participated in the United Way's **Kick-off Breakfast and Golf Outing** on September 20 at the Monroe Golf & Country Club. It is the mission of the United Way to improve all lives.

On Friday, September 27, from 5-10 p.m., we will co-host an **Octoberfest** fundraiser with the CHS group. All proceeds will fund Christmas food baskets and gifts for needy people with developmental and intellectual disabilities in Monroe County. Help others by joining us for good food, music and a chance to buy some Christmas gifts of your own. Any donations you can provide will be greatly appreciated. You may drop them off at our office from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday until September 26.

We are taking donations for our emergency food program. This program will supply emergency food for consumers in need. Please drop off your donations at the office during normal business hours.

*"You fight for what's right, you set that vision of where we could be ... and then you go after it yourself."* - Chandui Portteus



**WHERE:** Knights of Columbus Hall, downtown Monroe

**WHEN:** Friday, September 27th, 2019

**WHAT:** Festive dinner, great food, toe-tapping music

**TICKETS:** Adults - \$20 per person

Children 4 years & above - \$5 per person for hot dog & chips

Children under 3 years - Free

**Questions? Call the Mon-Arc office at (734) 241-5881**

## **GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

### **TELL YOUR SENATORS —**

## **Fund The *Money Follows The Person* Program**

The future of the **Money Follows the Person (MFP)** program that has helped more than 91,000 seniors and individuals with disabilities move out of nursing homes and institutions is in jeopardy!

**Background:** MFP significantly improves the lives of older adults and people with disabilities by assisting them to transition out of institutional settings. By favoring community-based services, states save money and see better outcomes. That's why nearly every state has participated in the program!

Independent evaluations have proven MFP improves the quality of life for individuals and has reduced Medicaid and Medicare expenditures by approximately 23%. Without reauthorization, states will stop transitions to the community. Without action **NOW**, more people will be stuck in institutions.

**Act NOW:** The House passed a bill that included 4.5 years of funding for MFP. **It's time for the Senate to act!** We urge the Senate to pass the EMPOWER Care Act (S.548)!



### **UPCOMING DANCES**

#### **■ Friday, October 25th**

6-8 p.m. at Monroe County Community College  
COSTUMES OPTIONAL, BUT ENCOURAGED

#### **■ Friday, November 22nd**

6-8 p.m. at Monroe County Community College

#### **■ Friday, December 20th**

7-9 p.m. at Monroe Knights of Columbus Hall  
PIZZA WILL BE SERVED

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** You can check our Facebook page [The Mon-Arc of Monroe] or our website page [www.monarcofmonroe] for cancellation notices.



**WE'RE PLANNING ALL KINDS OF FUN  
FOR OUR HALLOWEEN-THEMED DANCE  
ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH!**

Costumes are encouraged.



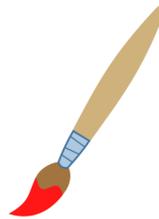
We  Art Classes!



Recent art classes included: tie-dying T-shirts, painting a Koi fish and a pumpkin on canvas, painted garden stones, sculpting with clay, cookie decorating, alcohol ink creations, and more. In addition to the art classes, we offer art-craft activities at each dance to include more people in creative opportunities.

Most of our art classes are held at the Art Emporium and at Elm House, but we are planning to have classes at the Barn Owl also.

If you are interested in attending any of our art classes, please call the office at **734.241.5881**. We have openings for YOU!

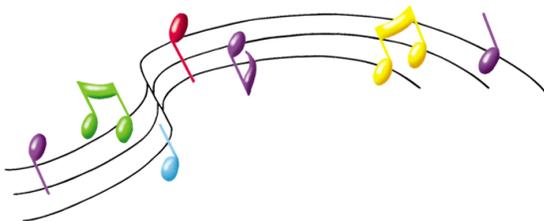




*"You should be dancin' ..."*



*"The more we get together,  
the happier we'll be!"*





## Very Special Thanks to ...

■ **Monroe Knights of Columbus -  
Monroe Council #1244**

for their generous donation of \$2,056.55.

The Knights work tirelessly on their Tootsie Roll Drive and we are grateful for their continued support.

■ **Father Bowers Dundee**

**Knights of Columbus #8698**

for their donation of 18 tickets

to the Mud Hens game in August.

How thoughtful of you to remember our people.



## Membership in Mon-Arc Is Crucial to Our Success

The Mon-Arc of Monroe, Inc., was established in 1962. It exists today to improve the welfare of all citizens with developmental challenges and to provide and promote services on their behalf.

Advocating for persons with developmental disabilities and their families is one of the most important tasks the Mon-Arc performs. We have appreciated your support in the past and hope that you will continue to support the Mon-Arc by renewing your membership with our organization.

If you have not been a member in the past, but would like to become a member, you can register on-line, contact our office at **734.241.5881**, or send the membership form that is included on the back cover of this newsletter.



### *The Christmas Season Is a Time to Celebrate and Remember Someone Special in Your Life*

By making a gift to The Mon-Arc of Monroe, you can commemorate the passing of a loved one, celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or give a gift to the person who has it all. Your gift will allow us to continue our work of advocating and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve their life goals.

Please send your donation to our office: **The Mon-Arc of Monroe;  
6021 Parkside Drive; Monroe, MI 48161**

Questions? Please call the Mon-Arc office at **734.241.5881**.

*Memorial and tribute donations to the Mon-Arc of Monroe, Inc., are fully tax-deductible as provided by law.*



**We appreciate our new  
and renewal members!**

#### **NEW MEMBER:**

Laura & Tom Imlach

Michele Parrish

#### **RENEWED**

#### **MEMBERSHIPS:**

Carolyn & Ed Alston

Barbara & John Bacarella

Marge & Dave Burnett

CHS Group

Maureen Dempsey

& Joe Fileccia

Michael Dempsey

Sue & Chuck Leibenguth

Mary May

Cindy Mayes

Carol Millette

Sue & Ken Miller

Anne Murphy

Robert Patterson

Marcie Plaskiwicz & James

Eugene Poupard

Mary Ann & Ted Reed

Martha Slick

Jeff Stoll

Faye & Jerry Stromberger

Lynde & Dale Woolace

Consider a membership donation to recognize a consumer, parent or interested individual or organization. People have honored others by purchasing a year's membership in our organization as a gift or remembrance.



For people with intellectual  
and developmental disabilities

**Mon-Arc of Monroe, Inc.**  
6021 Parkside Drive  
Monroe, MI 48161

Affiliated with:  
The ARC U.S.  
The ARC Michigan

Proud to be a United Way agency.



Community Partner

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP:
Phone (Home):	Phone (cell):	
Email Address:		
<b>Please check all that apply</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> I/DD Challenged Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Sibling/Family
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Arc Staff/Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Membership <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership <i>(See Below)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> I/DD Challenged . . . . .	\$10.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family Membership . . . . .	\$25.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Membership . . . . .	\$50.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Membership . . . . .	\$100.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron . . . . .	\$200.00	<b>Grand Total:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution to Mon-Arc . . . . .	\$ _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am unable to contribute but would appreciate receiving the newsletter.		

Send to **MON-ARC; 6021 Parkside Drive: Monroe, MI 48161.**

**For Office Use Only:**

Date Rec: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Rec: \_\_\_\_\_ Ck. # \_\_\_\_\_ Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_ Mem. Comm. \_\_\_\_\_