

President's Message

by Shelley Hansen-Blake



I watched a spectacular fireworks display over the 4th of July holiday weekend. It started with a Wisconsin National Guard F-16 Flyover and breathtaking nighttime jumps by the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team. With pyrotechnic sticks attached to their legs, the jumpers flew through the air at 120 miles per hour, creating a man-made meteor shower.

Amidst the music of "The Star Spangled Banner," the fireworks boomed and exploded into magnificent colors, shapes, and sizes. I started to think about the original "rockets red glare" and got a sense of what the Fourth of July is about.

It's about our nation's independence. *Our own Independence*. The right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. It is our Nation's Declaration of Independence. It took a revolution of citizen-soldiers to triumph over tyranny.

Let's examine this a bit more. A revolution is "the overthrow of a ruler or a political system." It is also a "dramatic change in ideas or practice." The original Declaration of Independence called for the overthrow of a ruler, but can we work *within* a political system to achieve dramatic change? I believe we can. We are doing that right now by transforming Wisconsin's long-term care system into a "care under management" system. Managed Care is about choice, access to resources, quality outcomes, and cost effectiveness. Quality outcomes and cost effectiveness can be achieved by proactively helping individuals make good choices about their lives and providing necessary resources. This is a radical change, yet historically Wisconsin has been a leader in system change to improve the lives of people in need.



A revolution is a process, not an event. Just because this Nation's founders declared independence didn't mean it was so. The *unalienable rights* written into the Declaration were hard fought to attain. And yet, these rights did not equally apply to the entire populace of our Country; from the Native People's who originally lived here, to slaves of African descent, to women, to lesbian and gay people, and to people with disabilities. In the short history of this Nation there have been many disenfranchised groups. Some of the injustices have been addressed. Some have not. Despite the foresight of our founders, it seems we need to learn certain lessons over and over again.

When we consider these rights in light of Family Care goals, we can ask *how* members are exercising these rights, not *if* they are being exercised.

The right to life: There is a difference between having a life and existing.

The right to liberty: This is the freedom to experience life to the fullest regardless of how independent we are in this quest or whether we falter along the way.

The pursuit of happiness: Our life is a continuous search for a state of happiness. What makes us happy is the event; happiness is a condition of being.

It is imperative that all stakeholders in the Family Care revolution uphold these unalienable rights as *Our Declaration of Independence* for people who receive long-term care services.

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Lobbyist's Report:

Working For You "Under the Dome"

by Ramie Zelenkova



Compared to its usual buzz the State Capitol is very quiet with election season in high gear. However, CAPOW has been working behind the scenes with other provider groups to advocate for a "fair and equitable residential

rate setting methodology," as one provider representative put it, as the Department of Health Services moves forward with a plan (still unknown) to develop a standardized methodology to set residential rates. CAPOW representatives have participated in several meetings with the Department to discuss our concerns with the development of a methodology that does not take into account necessary input from provider groups.

Most recently, on July 1, the Department hosted CAPOW and other provider groups for a listening session coordinated by Rehabilitation for Wisconsin (RFW) and John Villegas-Grubs, a consultant who assists state and county governments with the administration of Medicaid policy. Mr. Villegas-Grubs presented a pragmatic approach to develop a fair and equitable residential rate setting methodology. Participants are hopeful that the Department will embrace the approach presented; however, the Department has not yet responded to our inquiry about their reaction to the presentation. CAPOW representatives continue to work on this issue, as it is a top priority for the association.

Now, a more positive update – The Joint Legislative Audit Committee recently approved an audit of the Family Care Program. After months of negotiations and work, our efforts have paid off. Please stay tuned; this is a step in the right direction

Ramie Zelenkova

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More Powerful than You Know

The Un-Comfort Zone

by Robert Evans Wilson



“Writing is not a job; it’s a hobby!” thundered my father when I told him my plans for college. “You need to get a profession: medicine, law, engineering or accounting.”

I cheerlessly acquiesced and enrolled in a Pre-Med program, but at the end of my first year, after struggling through Chemistry, I changed my major to Philosophy. When I told Dad, he grunted, “That and a dime will get you a cup of coffee.” He passed away shortly after that, but his words echoed in the back of my mind for years.

After graduation I searched for a job in writing. At the same time, I wrote short stories like crazy, and sent them off to dozens of magazines. Years passed and I failed to find a job in writing, so I supported myself by waiting tables and bartending. Meanwhile, rejection letters from the magazines began piling up, and I was beginning to get discouraged.

Then one day, I met a friend for a beer in a bar near the campus of my alma mater. When I visited the restroom, some graffiti written on the wall with an arrow pointing to the toilet paper dispenser caught my eye. It read: “Bachelor of Arts Degrees – take only one, please!” Rather than laugh, I grimaced and thought, “Boy, does that sound like my Dad.”

Five years had gone by, and other than a few freelance jobs writing advertising copy, I had not made a penny from writing. I was beginning to re-think my life, when I recalled the encouraging words from my ninth grade English teacher.

She had assigned my class with several essays to write. I remembered the glowing paragraphs of praise she wrote in bright red ink at the top of all my papers. There must have been a dozen of those compositions, and just recalling them gave me hope. I thought, “At least one person in the world believes in my writing.”

It was just the encouragement I needed, and I doubled my efforts to find work. Soon I was getting a great deal more freelance work. Enough that I was able to quit working in restaurants. Enough to make a down payment on a house. Then whenever I needed a boost in confidence, I would think again of those dozen glowing paragraphs of praise written in bright red ink at the top of my essay papers.

Suddenly everything seemed to gel. I sold my first book; I won several very important advertising awards; and three colleges were asking me to teach a class in copywriting. I was feeling very grateful and once again thought of my ninth grade English teacher and those glowing paragraphs of praise written in bright red ink. I decided to look her up and give her a call.

When I got her on the phone my first shock was that she did not remember me. I was certain I had been one of her favorites. My second was when she told me that she never wrote paragraphs of praise. “There were simply too many papers to grade to write more than a word or two,” she said. “I would write ‘Nice Work’ or ‘Good Job,’ but never anything more.”

Unconvinced, when I got off the phone, I went up to the attic and dug out the box that held my old school work (yes, it’s true – I’m a total pack rat – especially when it comes to things I’ve written!). It took a while, but I finally found those old papers. She was right; there were no paragraphs. And, there was far less than a dozen – only two. About the only thing I remembered correctly was the bright red ink. I did, however, rate more than one or two words. On the first one she wrote, “Nicely written – well thought out.” On the other, “Good Sense of Humor!”



Upcoming Meetings

Next Meeting

Date: July 28, 2010

Time: Noon-2:00pm

Location: Easter Seals Waukesha Center
300 S Prairie Ave
Waukesha, WI

Officers for 2010

Shelley Hansen-Blake – President
Bob Glowacki – Vice President
Julie Nichols-Younes – Treasurer
Richard Berling – Secretary

Save the Date:

Candidate Forum on Aging & Disability Long Term Care

Friday, July 30, 2010

Green Bay Radisson Hotel and Conference Center
2040 Airport Drive • Green Bay, WI

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS
NEXT FRIDAY, JULY 23, 2010**

Registration Fees are on a sliding scale from \$10-\$35. Checks should be made payable to ARC-Wisconsin and mailed to:

John Shaw, Board for People With Developmental Disabilities (BPDD)
P.O. Box 184 • Windsor, WI 53598

Questions: 608-266-7707 or
John1.Shaw@wisconsin.gov.

Nine words. Nine little words that were so heartening that over the next 15 years they grew into hundreds in my mind. Nine words that motivated me to stick to my dreams. My point? Even the least bit of praise can be powerfully motivating. So, don’t keep it in – use your power!

Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert’s programs please visit www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com.