

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

NOVEMBER 2016

FALL ELECTION EDITION

Note from Tia Nelis, President of SABE



It's taking me time to think about what to say around the election, especially with kids who are scared. Kids telling other kids mean things who are not from the United States, like they don't belong here and

have to leave the country. What I would like to say is it a time to show support and love each other and to stick together. We need you, the disability community to **advocate strongly** for what we believe in! We **can't** stop now!

Remember to tell all your friends how much you care about and love them. Be sure to send or give them a hug!

To all my friends who I care about and love from different countries, different cultures, people from the Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual Queer community, and the disability community, I am here for you. I care about you and love you from the bottom of my heart! No matter what the president-elect or anyone else who agrees with him says, there are still people out there who care!

Stand strong and be proud of who you are just as Justin Dart would say "**Lead on!**"





SABE Executive Committee

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Illinois, Region 5

Cathy Enfield, Vice President

Missouri, Region 4

Chaqueta Stuckey, Secretary

South Carolina, Region 6

Ryan Duncanwood, Treasurer

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Darren Morris, Sergeant At Arms

Alabama, Region 6

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Region 2

John Britton, Arizona

Region 3

Vicki Wray, Colorado

Region 4

Joan Schiele, North Dakota

Region 5

Carrie Varner, Minnesota

Region 6

C. Stuckey (SC) & D. Morris (AL)

Region 7

Gary Rubin, New Jersey

Region 8

Anne Fracht (MA) & Eric McVay (ME)

Region 9

Dee Banta, Oklahoma

Bid Now for 2018 SABE Conference

It may seem like a long way off , but it's never too soon for your state to submit a bid for the **SABE 2018 Conference**.

You can find the bid packet with specific guidelines to host the conference the link below.

SABE will be part of the conference planning committee, it is up to you to make it a grand event.

Location: To Be Determined

Dates: To Be Determined

Sponsor: To Be Determined

Theme: To Be Determined

For more information

<http://www.sabeusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Conference-Bid-Packet-Revised-Jul-14.doc>

Quote here

Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center

“Self-Advocacy and Beyond!”

Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (**SARTAC**). The resource center is funded for five years as a [Project of National Significance](#) from the [Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#) under the [Administration on Disabilities](#). To learn more about our funder go to www.acl.gov

What is the mission of SARTAC?

It has been SABE’s vision to be recognized as the national “go to” resource for self advocacy. SARTAC is the first step of our vision. The mission of SARTAC is to strengthen the self advocacy movement by supporting self advocacy organizations to grow in diversity and leadership.

What are the activities of the Center?

- ~Create and manage a website where self advocates can learn about the best ways to organize and support the self advocacy community
- ~Communicate with the community through social media like Facebook and Twitter
- ~Share best practice tools created by the Regional Self Advocacy Technical Assistance Centers and by self advocacy organizations and allies from across the nation
- ~Work with a 12 person Advisory Committee to review information created by the Center
- ~Write a paper, make a video and lead a webinar about the history of the self advocacy movement

~Interview self advocacy and civil rights leaders about the things that are the same or different about our struggles for our rights

~Share success stories in self advocacy through webinars and video blogs

~Provide training and assistance to local, self-advocacy organizations and partners

~Provide a planning grant for the state organization who hosts the 2018 and 2020 SABE conference

~Provide 24 self advocates with policy leadership opportunities

How is SARTAC managed?

The Center’s Management Team is lead by SABE and includes partnerships with:



For more information about the project, please contact Teresa Moore, Director 602-725-3117 or mooreadvocacy@hotmail.com or Vicki Turnage vturnage33@yahoo.com

Also Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Self-Advocacy-Resource-and-Technical-Assistance-Center-SARTAC/>

SABE 2016 Voter's with Disabilities Survey

Just as it is important to know that **YOUR VOTE COUNTS**, we need to know that you have the accessibility needed to **MAKE IT COUNT**; therefore we are collecting surveys to learn about the voting experiences of people with disabilities for the 2016 Presidential Election.

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was passed in 2002 to make sure everyone in this country can cast a private and independent vote. Now, we want to make sure the law is working for voters with disabilities.

YOU can help us do that by completing a survey developed by Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), Protection and Advocacy organizations and self advocacy organizations across the country.

You can complete the survey using the link below or get a hard copy to fill out from the Voter Project staff by **January 1, 2017**. Here is the direct link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016VoterExperienceSurvey>

Not everyone has access to a computer or the internet; so the Voter Project has suggested that many self advocates and self advocacy groups across the country help members complete the survey by filling it out by hand at a self advocacy meeting or conference. Surveys completed by hand need to be returned to your state or local self advocacy group or your state Protection and Advocacy organization. These need to be mailed to

Essie Pederson, 5242 Sunrise View Circle, Liberty Township, OH 45044.

You may also reach out to the SABE Voter Team and complete the survey with them. You can contact Teresa Moore, SABE Voter staff person at:

mooreadvocacy@hotmail.com

or (602) 725-3117

Any problems making copies of the survey for meetings or postage to mail them to SABE; contact Essie Pederson, SABE Voter staff person at:

Essie.pederson@gmail.com

Since 2002 SABE has operated The National Technical Assistance Center for Voting and Cognitive Access in partnership with National Disability Rights Network to help protection and advocacy systems, election officials and people with disabilities to make voting accessible for all citizens. www.sabeusa.org

Remember to submit your Voter Experience Survey by January 1, 2017.



SABE AT WORK



Spotlight Self-Advocates

By John Britton, Carrie Varner, and Chaqueta Stuckey



Dee Banta, Oklahoma

Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Dee Banta; I am from Oklahoma which is in SABE's Region 9.

Where do you see SABE going in 5 years?

More widespread, more people will be involved. Get the word out across the country. I would like to see more people wanting to know what SABE Voter Project is all about.

In the future; where do see yourself in SABE?

I want to be an **officer** of SABE and be a lot **more involved**. Priorities would be unity of what all the people of the board want, not just what I want. I would work hard to get the different regions and the **states talking** to each other.

What issues will you want to work on in the next 5 years? What we call the hot button issues.

Fundraising, go for more grants so SABE could be more self-sufficient. Have **money** for conferences whenever and wherever they want.

Deal with the Social Security **marriage penalty**. I would like to be **legally married** and not have to turn money in that I make or he makes.

Medicare and Medicaid seeing the doctors I want to see, including doctors that are not under my plan. Also, remove the very limited number of visits you can have with Specialist. This is a huge when you have medical needs; like Orthopedic Specialists that are **not on my plan**. Then I have to pay.

How will self advocacy help you 5 years from now?

More people will know what **self advocacy** is and I won't have to explain what it is all is about, **every time**.

For example; people will remember and when I am doing fundraising they will know what it is.

“Even in my church they don't know what it is all about.”

WHY JOIN SELF ADVOCATES BECOMING EMPOWERED

HELP SABE MEET IT'S MISSION:

Become a member



If you agree with SABE's mission to ensure that people with disabilities are treated as equals and that they are given the same decisions, choices, rights, responsibilities, and chances to speak up to empower themselves; opportunities to make new friends; and to learn from their misstates; then join!

JOIN SABE

Becoming a part of the only national self advocacy organization in the USA led by self advocates for self advocates has greater power with a large membership. The more members SABE has the more SABE can influence the direction of the self advocacy movement and legislation that affects the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Go to www.sabeusa.org to complete the membership form.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- SABE membership is for two years, renewable at national conferences or on-line

- Voting members can elect officers and recommend priority issues for SABE to support
- Only voting members can be nominated to run for the SABE Board of Directors or as an officer
- Eligible for appointment to SABE Committees. This appointment does not require attendance at board meetings
- Receive a SABE Membership Card and Button
- Discounts on SABE Products
15% - self advocates and 10% allies/others

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Self Advocate (Voting Member)	\$ 15.
Individual (Non-Voting Member) allies, family members and others	\$ 20.
Self Advocacy Group*	\$ 25.
Advocacy and Non-Profit Organizations	\$100.
For Profit Organizations, Corporations, etc.	\$500.

Our Community Standing Strong: The Finale!

It all began three years ago, in October 2013. Self Advocates Becoming Empowered was awarded a grant by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to establish Our Community Standing Strong (OCSS). How exciting that nine Southern states came together to revive the self advocacy movement. There were many challenges, however, nothing could stop the energy, dedication, commitment and the passion for OCSS to move forward the self advocacy movement in the south.

Many accomplishment have been launched during this time. Here are some of our proudest work and accomplishments.

- ~1360 Individual Needs Assessments completed
- ~9 Statewide Organizational Needs Assessments
- ~18 Webinars on various self advocacy organizational topics
- ~64 Video Blogs on disability issues and OCSS State Challenges and Successes
- ~17 How to Videos that compliment the My Technology Handbook
- ~6 Face to Face Meetings (TN, AL, SC, FL, 2 in GA)
- ~Developed Strong Partnership in each state to collaborate on state activities
- ~On site Technical Assistance (Alabama and Arkansas)
- ~Numerous Facebook and website postings of activities
- ~State Sustainability Plans were developed that included DD Partners and community
- ~Developed and completed OCSS activities by self advocates
- ~At least 3 self advocates were employed to continue the activities after funding ended

As a result of OCSS's work, we have fueled the self advocacy movement in the south and diversified our relationships. Others can replicate our work by going to our website www.sabeusa.org/OCSS. The partner organizations will forever be bonded by the impact OCSS has made on self advocacy. It has enriched and enhanced our abilities to ensure self advocacy is alive and thriving. Most of all, we have learned how to work together to make a difference for all people. OCSS will continue its activities by each state implementing their sustainability plan, peer to peer training, and face to face meetings. If you have any questions please connect with Chaqueta Stuckey at chequetastuckey2011@gmail.com.



SABE Collaborates with Institute for Community Inclusion of UMass-Boston to Focus on Employment

Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered recently collaborated with the Institute for Community Inclusion of UMass-Boston and completed a White Paper titled, “**The Truth Comes from Us**”. It focuses on the importance of persons with disabilities working at real jobs. This paper has great information on how Employment Professionals can best support persons with disabilities to find and keep their jobs. The paper starts out with a great story from a Self-Advocate who is a member of Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE). In it, he shares his experience on find the job he currently has.

As we began this project, SABE had the idea of gathering input from persons with disabilities across the U.S. on how they can be best supported to have real jobs. There were 7 themes that came out through the information we received. The themes were: Get to know me, Teach me to do my job, Help keep me balanced so my emotions do not interfere with my work performance, Make adjustments to the job site for ongoing success, Be a good role model, Recognize the importance of peer-to-peer connections, Know we may run into ongoing barriers, and keep supporting me. In these several themes, there are important points that are made that match each theme.

We continue to do more of these kinds of projects. For example, we are currently working on a new White Paper that will have stories about what employment means to persons with disabilities. If anyone has a story they would like share on employment, please send it to SABE email at: SABEnation@gmail.com.

The Truth Comes From Us

Supporting Workers with Developmental Disabilities

By Max Barrows, Jason Billehus, John Britton, Allison Cohen Hall, Juliana Huereño, Nicole LeBlanc, Eric McVay, and Karen Topper



Employment professionals play a powerful role in the pursuit of true inclusion. This paper by self-advocates outlines key steps on how allies can move people with developmental disabilities out of poverty and into the heart of our communities.



ThinkWork!

On Target

by John Britton

In 2000, I was living on my own with really supportive personal assistants coming in the mornings and evenings. But I just lost my job that a high school teacher had helped me get at an attorney's office. What to do next? I shopped at Target all the time. I like to help people and thought it would be a good place to work. My parents were worried and said, "Johnny, I don't know about this one."

Back in those days you asked for an application. The person I asked said, "Who is this for?" I replied, "It's for me." They responded with a puzzled look saying, "Really?" I said, "Yes," and rolled away.

My assistant helped me fill out the application. I turned it in the next day. The person said, "Thank you, we will call you." I called them after a few days. It took a couple of times for them to figure out what I was saying. I would say, "Wait, don't hang up, I want a job." They kept saying the person who hires is not here. I kept asking and got a time to see her.

I went in to see her and she said, "We don't have anything right now." I kept on bugging them. When it rained I called. When the weather was nice, I would roll in and ask to see her. If she was busy I would tell them I would shop and wait for her. Then she would say, "Hi John, wow you don't stop." I went in about five times over a month. They figured I was not kidding around. They eventually called me for an interview.

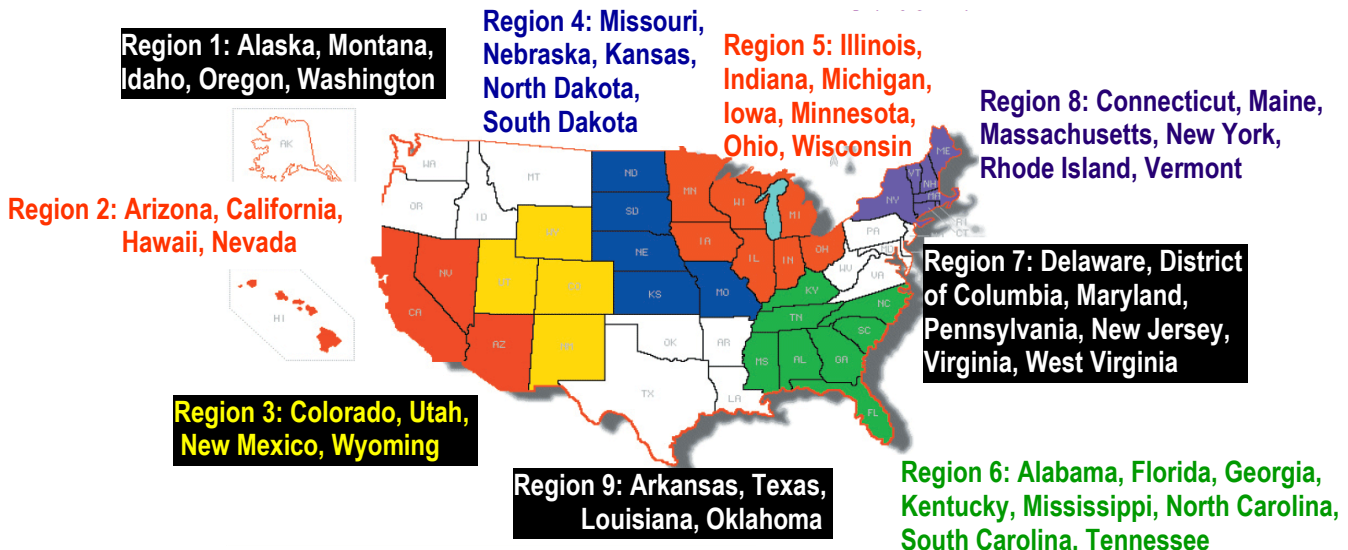
I was so excited for the interview. I went with a personal assistant. Like many times in my life, I introduced my assistant saying, "She is here to interpret if you don't understand me. But please, talk to me, not her." She sat in on the interview, but only interpreted when she needed to. The Target manager seemed ok with it. She asked me, "What can you do for us?" I answered, "I really like Target and want to work here. Let me look around and see what I can do and come back to you." We parted positively and with a smile.

Over the next couple of days, I looked around the whole store. When I met with the manager again I said, "I have been looking around and it seems like you need some help keeping the service desk returns picked up. I can put stuff back." She replied, "Oh, you're right. The 'go-backs' area does get busy and extra help is always needed. Anything else you're thinking about?" I suggested, "What about if I keep things picked up around the store?" I added, "Give me a chance and if I don't do a good job I will roll out of here."



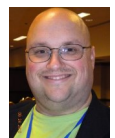
The rest is history. I have been working at Target for 16 years now. That includes a move from Illinois to Arizona, where I transferred stores but stayed with the company!

The lessons for employment professionals are: help when asked, and assume I can do it on my own unless I ask for help. I can do my job mostly without supports. I get some help at break time—to eat lunch or to shop. For the most part, when I need help, I'll just ask a co-worker.




**Having trouble remembering which region you are in
or do you need to get in contact with your regional representative?
Here is a quick and easy way to get connected!**

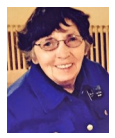
Region 1

	<p>Jason Billehus Email: coconutman@charter.net Cell: (406) 493-5168 Montana</p>	<p>Vacant Seat</p>
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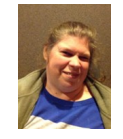
Region 2

	<p>Ryan Duncanwood (Treasurer) Email: rmduncanwood@gmail.com Phone: (530) 221-8770 California</p>		<p>John Britton Email : bigturbo39@hotmail.com Phone: (480) 785-0171 Arizona</p>
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Region 3

	<p>Vicki Wray Email: vickiwrays1@hotmail.com Phone: (303) 534-0681 Colorado</p>	<p>Vacant Seat</p>
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Region 4

	<p>Cathy Enfield (Vice President) Email: mswings9@comcast.net Cell: (816) 808-4080 Missouri</p>		<p>Joan Schiele Email: billstor@aol.com Cell: (701) 213-5691 North Dakota</p>
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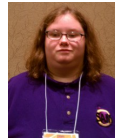
Region 5



Tia Nelis (President)

Email: tianelis@uic.edu
Cell: (630) 808-8883

Illinois



Carrie Varner

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Minnesota

Region 6



Darren Morris (Sergeant of Arms)

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Alabama



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Region 7



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New Jersey

Vacant Seat

Region 8



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Region 9

Vacant Seat



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National Advisors



Advisor

VACANT



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Florence, SC. 29504

My Technology Handbook Updates

Most of us are not satisfied with a phone that just makes phone calls or a computer that types letters anymore. We want computers or phones to help us connect with people and groups important in our lives. Before you can decide what you want the technology to help you with, you might like to understand how things work and what is possible, especially on internet safety. The **My Technology Handbook** will help you understand the very basic terms you will need to know in order for you to use technology important to you.

The SABE **My Technology Handbook** answers questions that most of us who are new or just learning about technology ask. This Handbook answers many questions by using step by step direction and pictures to learn these skills. Remember it was written by people with disabilities for people with disabilities.

SABE has **NEW** this fall 17 videos that complement the chapters and created by several Regional Technical Assistance Centers (Our Community Standing Strong, SW Alliance, and North East Advocates Together). Here is the link to the video series

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHe4SX3HJvyvlsmeJOu_jsTrcVwpbh20M

