

# Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

SEPTEMBER 2017

FALL EDITION

## Note from Tia Nelis, President of SABE

### Supporting Our Friends in Texas



You may have heard in recent news that Texas suffered extreme damage caused by Hurricane Harvey. Thousands of people have lost

their homes and have to go to temporary shelters. Officials say it will take a long time to recover. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Texas and others on the gulf coast affected by the Hurricane.

Storms are getting stronger and more powerful due to the Earth getting warmer. This is called "Climate change". These changes will affect everyone one around the world, especially people who are poor, or need the most help.

In a show of support for the people of Texas, SABE is donating \$500 to the statewide self advocacy group, Texas Advocates with the purpose of helping people with disabilities affected by the storm. We strongly encourage all states to take into consideration the needs of people with disabilities when creating their Emergency Preparedness Plans. As a nationwide self advocacy organization, we offer our help to state agencies and

first responders.

### What you can do:

- Join a committee with your local organizations on Emergency Preparedness, so they can have someone with a disability point of view
- Talk and Plan out with your family and staff about what you would need in an emergency (example water, food, medication, equipment)
- Know your plan of action if an event were to happen

Tia Nelis, President of Self Advocates Becoming Empowered encourages other Self Advocates to support our friends in the self advocacy community in Texas.

Every little bit helps and is greatly appreciated. If you would like to help, **please send gift cards or checks to:**

**Texas Advocates**  
**Attn: Annessa Lewis**  
**8001 Center Park Drive,**  
**Suite 100**  
**Austin, TX 78754**

<http://www.texadvocates.org/>





## **SABE Executive Committee**

**Tia Nelis, President**

Illinois, Region 5

**Cathy Enfield, Vice President**

Missouri, Region 4

**Chaqueta Stuckey, Secretary**

South Carolina, Region 6

**Ryan Duncanwood, Treasurer**

California, Region 2

**Darren Morris, Sergeant At Arms**

Alabama, Region 6

## **SABE Board Members**

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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**

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

Region 7

**Gary Rubin, New Jersey**

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**Anne Fracht (MA) & Eric McVay (ME)**

Region 9

**Dee Banta, Oklahoma**

# **2018 SABE Conference**

**LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!  
DISABILITY RIGHTS ARE  
CIVIL RIGHTS**

## **Registration starts October 1, 2017**

**Conference Hotel Rate** for 1-4 per room is \$130.00 plus 17.5% tax. Total \$152.75. This rate includes airport shuttle service for all conference attendees.

If you would like to be an exhibitor or sponsor, go to the **Exhibitor or Sponsorship** applications on the conference website below.

There is a cool feature that lets you **Plan your budget** (helps you plan out your trip and how much it will cost for you to go)

## **For more information about the SABE Conference**

**<http://sabeconference.org/>**

# Words Hurt

A note from Tia Nelis

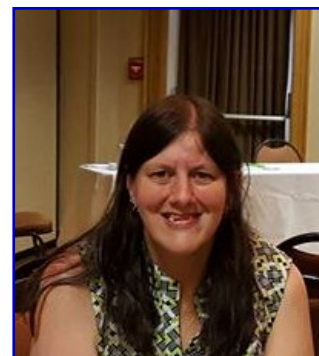
You may have seen on Facebook and Twitter a statement from Anne Coulter, "I don't believe Hurricane Harvey is God's punishment for Houston electing a lesbian mayor. But that is more credible than "climate change."


Tia Nelis, President of Self Advocates Becoming Empowered encourages Self Advocates to speak up and stop bullies and say, "That is not right, don't talk about people."

Some people use tragic events to get attention and put people down. These people are using fear and hate to ignite their followers and are not based on facts. The internet is full of great things, but sometimes people misuse it to push their ideas that may hurt others. You understand this more if you have been teased in the past and it is not funny.

## What you can do:

- Get the facts. Do your homework, do not let bullies like Ann Coulter make you think bad things about others
- Do not follow people on Facebook that push hate, but if you must say something, write Ann Coulter and let her know how you feel on Twitter
- Support officials like mayors, especially those who help people with disabilities in their communities






## SABE Partnership with NDSS

In 2015, SABE began a partnership with the NDSS Self Advocacy Advisory Board (SAAB). The first project they are working on together is **VOTING**. Mitchell Levitz, Co-Chair for the NDSS Advisory Board, also serves on the SABE Voter Project Advisory Committee. In this way, the two national organizations stay in close touch with each other's activities. We like to thank NDSS for sharing the Voter Experience Survey with their membership. The findings were presented by Mitchell Levitz and Essie Pederson to SAAB Friday, September 15, 2017.

In July, Vote staff members Juliana Huereña and Bill Lucero met with NDSS staff. If you would like more information about the SABE Voter Project, you can contact Teresa Moore, SABE Voter Co-Director: [mooreadvocacy@hotmail.com](mailto:mooreadvocacy@hotmail.com)



# Spotlight Self-Advocates

By John Britton, Carrie Varner, and Chaqueta Stuckey



Eric McVay, Region 8 representative from Maine

## **Tell us a little about yourself.**

My name is Eric McVay and. I represent Region 8 for SABE. I love sports, especially the New England Patriots! I also like to go hiking, biking, and going to concerts.

## **How long have you been in self advocacy?**

I have been a self advocate since 2006.

## **Where do you see SABE going in 5 years?**

I see a lot of positive changes for SABE in 5 years, especially when it comes to employment, transportation, and housing.

## **What do you think SABE needs to do better?**

I think SABE needs to better address issues of major importance. By working with state and federal legislatures and our local representations, we can work together to get issues done.

## **What advice can you give to those new to the self advocacy movement?**

The best advice I can give is to be patient. It may take a while to get things done, however, when it is done, it'll help everyone.

## **What is the biggest issue for self advocates?**

Transportation is the biggest issue. We must be proactive and work with all organizations involved to get it done.



# Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center “Self-Advocacy and Beyond!”



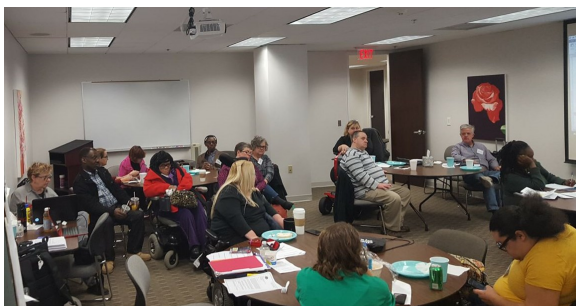
Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (**SARTAC**). The resource center is funded for five years as a **Project of National Significance** from the **Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities** under the **Administration on Disabilities**. To learn more about our funder go to [www.acl.gov](http://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
- ~Use social media like Facebook and Twitter to communicate with the community
- ~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 and create information and a Think Tank for self advocacy
- ~Share the history of the self advocacy movement
- ~Interview self advocacy and civil rights leaders about the same or differences 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 fellow 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 Vicki Hicks-Turnage [sabe.SARTACinfo@gmail.com](mailto:sabe.SARTACinfo@gmail.com)

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

# First Year of Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center Fellows Awarded

By Teresa Moore, SARTAC Director

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) and the leadership of the AIDD Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) is pleased to announce the 2017-2018 SARTAC Fellowship Awardees. Below is a list of each fellow, their host organization and the title of their project. Many innovative applications were received and we encourage other self advocates across the country to apply in the next three rounds of fellowship opportunities.

**Fellow:** Marie Malinowski, New York



**Host Organization:** Self Advocacy Association of New York State and VOICE Buffalo

**Title of Project:** A Path to

**Power: Self Advocates as Community Organizers to Enhance Human Rights**

**Fellow:** Shiloh Blackburn, Idaho



**Host Organization:** University of Idaho Center on Disabilities and Human Development

**Title of Project:** Developing

**Accessible Online Leadership Trainings and Resources**

**Fellow:** Robert Peterson, Illinois



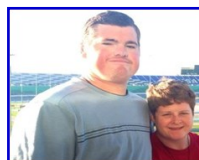
**Host Organization:** University of Chicago-Illinois Institute on Disability and Human Development

**Title and Summary of**

**Project: Advocating for More Flexible**

**Self-Directed Services and Supports to Promote Employment**

**Fellow:** Cole Browne, Kansas



**Host Organization:** Self Advocacy Coalition of Kansas

**Title and Summary of**

**Project: Raising the Heat Self Advocate Style:**

Using the principles of the Kansas Leadership Center to provide self advocates with leadership tools

**Fellow:** Danielle McGill, Florida



**Host Organization:** The Ann Storck Center of Florida

**Title and Summary of**

**Project: "A-Ride-Away: An**

**Advocates Guide to Going Places!"**

Increasing awareness of the transportation needs for people with disabilities with policy recommendations through a guide for self advocates, educators and community members

**Fellow:** Steven Powe, District of Columbia



**Host Organization:** Project ACTION!

**Title and Summary of**

**Project: A Place at the Table:**

Preparing Self Advocates to Serve on Human Rights Committees

# SARTAC Fellowship Announcement



**What is a Fellowship?** A Fellowship is a year-long opportunity for self-advocates and a supporting organization to work on policy issues or a project that builds leadership skills. The host organization will receive \$5,000.00 to pay to the Self-advocate to complete the project. The host organization is expected to match \$5,000 with cash or other supports like: space or equipment to complete the project.

## **When is the deadline to apply?**

The host organization and Fellow will complete the application together and send it to SARTAC. The next group of Fellows application will open in November 2017. Notification of the New Fellows will be announced January 2018. If you have any questions, please connect with Teresa Moore, SARTAC Project director at [sabeSARTACinfo@gmail.com](mailto:sabeSARTACinfo@gmail.com)

**What organizations can apply to host a fellow?** Organizations that apply must be a 501-C 3 or governmental or educational organization.

**What do I need to do to become a host organization?** In the application, tell us about a policy experience or project experience that a self-advocate can develop and lead with the plan and carry through of a project.

## **What does it take to be Self Advocate Fellow?**

Self-advocates experience should include: 5 years of experience as a leader in the local, state, or national self-advocacy movement; have not worked for the host organization in the past; desire to dedicate themselves to the project and to learn and grow their skills in the area of policy and leadership; be able to write and or communicate their thoughts.

## **How do I get information about current Fellows and their projects?**

The awarded projects will address policy issues of concern to the self advocacy movement such as transportation, civil rights, and grassroots organizing. To get the latest news on the current fellows and be the first to know when the next application is released please [like us on Facebook](#). Also please visit our SARTAC website [www.selfadvocacyinfo.org](http://www.selfadvocacyinfo.org) for a one-stop location for self-advocacy resources which is updated frequently. Please visit <http://selfadvocacyinfo.org/fellows/> to learn more about each of these outstanding self advocates.

# Results of the SABE 2016 Voter's with Disabilities Survey Collection

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

**Did you know** the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was passed in 2002? HAVA makes sure that everyone in this country can cast a private and independent vote. One way we find out if it is working is to do a survey of the Election experience of voters with disabilities.

In 2016, it was important to know that **YOUR VOTE COUNTED!** And to know that you had the accessibility you needed to **MAKE IT COUNT!**

**FIRST, thanks to the many of you who completed the SABE Voting Experience Survey for the 2016 Election! Get ready for 2018.**



**810** voters completed the survey from **40** states. To learn more about the voting experiences of people with disabilities for the **2016 Elections**, go to the SABE website: [www.sabeusa.org](http://www.sabeusa.org) or [www.govoter.org](http://www.govoter.org)

## You as voters told us:

- Not every voter could vote privately, other voters could see their ballot
- Most voters could vote by themselves which they liked
- Many voters had problems talking with Poll Workers, like their understanding me, treating me with respect, and to making sure I had the right machine to vote on my own

## As voters, what can we do to make the voting experiences for people with disabilities better?

- Educate local board of elections and your state and national representatives about the findings in this report
- Contact your local board of elections to offer to do training on disability awareness for Poll Workers or to be a Poll Worker yourself

## Make sure you know who to call if you have any problems voting

Contact your state Disability Law Center (Protection and Advocacy Organization) Go to [www.ndrn.org](http://www.ndrn.org) to get the number

**Call the Election Protection Hotline  
866-OUR-VOTE or  
[www.866ourvote.org](http://www.866ourvote.org)**



# WHAT YOU TOLD US ABOUT YOUR VOTING EXPERIENCES

6 out of 10 of you were treated with respect

6 out of 10 of you felt you were treated like you could not vote

5 out of 10 of you did not know who to call if you had problems voting

4 out of 10 of you had problems working with Poll Workers

1 out of 10 of you were treated like you could not vote

When using the accessible voting machine 6 out of 10 of you had problems

**Get out and vote and share your experiences!**

Excerpts from the 2016 Voters with Disabilities Election Report, SABE Voter Project. For complete report go to [www.sabeusa.org](http://www.sabeusa.org) or [www.govoter.org](http://www.govoter.org)

# Our Community Standing Strong: Continues

By Chaqueta Stuckey, Former OCSS Co-Director



## OCSS Stays Connected

It has been a year since OCSS-Our Community Standing Strong, a Regional Self Advocacy Technical Assistance Center through SABE, funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities ended its three year grant. However, the work continued its efforts through the building of state to state connections. Alabama Self Advocates, **Brittaney Gore (left) and Niki Dawson** have taking the lead to sustain OCSS along with other southern state participation. This duo team has stood strong in keeping the work alive and sustainability is real!

The biggest weapon of power has been the ongoing webinars hosted by various self advocates. This is a way to continue educating the nation as well as the community on self advocacy and topics that are important to self advocates. Video blogging is also another powerful way that the self advocacy work has been sustained. These video has provided strength for self advocates to express themselves in a different way. It has been an exciting way to get the message across.

Southern states will have a regional conference in Arkansas in September 25-26, 2017, Little Rock. Over 100 self advocates are expected to be in attendance with participating southern states of: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

OCSS former Co-Directors, Chaqueta Stuckey (South Carolina) and Vicki Turnage (Alabama) along with their advisory board and support team are proud of the work that continues to increase and support self advocacy through relationships and partnerships at the community level. OCSS is in action and alive through Sustainability! We are keeping the connections!



# SABE Collaborates with UMass-Boston ICI: What is Employment First?

Members from SABE, Jason Billehus, John Britton, Eric McVay, and Max Barrow with supports from Juliana Huereña and Karen Topper meet monthly. 3 of the 5 White papers are complete

“Employment is a way for people with disabilities to give to the community and see what they have to offer.

We’re givers, not just takers.”

SABE member, 2017

**The Truth Comes from Us**, 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. As employment professionals receive more education, they will be in a better position to empower the people they support to pursue their dream careers.

**APSE EMPLOYMENT FIRST STATEMENT**  
Adapted by Green Mountain Self Advocates and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

All people with disabilities should have opportunities to work. Public dollars should be used to pay for supports for people to work in the community.  
People with disabilities, their families, and their allies believe that:

- Too many people with disabilities do not have a job. This is unacceptable.
- All people should have opportunities for real jobs with real wages. It will get us out of poverty. We will be more independent. We will feel more included.
- All people, with and without disabilities, can work in jobs together earning minimum wage or higher.
- Like everyone else, people with disabilities should have access to supports that they need to work successfully.
- All people, no matter what disability they have, have the right to work a job they choose that matches their skills and interests.
- Public policies must support people with disabilities having real jobs. Money for services should be spent on people having jobs in the community.
- Just calling your state an Employment First state is not enough. “Employment First” is when everyone who wants a job, has a job.

APSE  
SELF-ADVOCATES BECOMING EMPOWERED

EMSA  
EMPLOYMENT FIRST STATE

ThinkWork!  
I CAN DO IT!

**APSE EMPLOYMENT FIRST STATEMENT**, Adapted by Green Mountain Self Advocates and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered . All people with disabilities should have opportunities to work. Public dollars should be used to pay for supports for people to work in the community. Copy the link to view statement.

<http://selfadvocacyinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/APSE-Employment-First.pdf>

**Employment First from our Perspective**  
Coming soon.

You can read these white papers on the Employment project page at [www.sabeusa.org](http://www.sabeusa.org)



# SABE AT WORK



SABE outreach table at DPS March 2017



SABE Voter Project August 2017, FL



DC March 2017

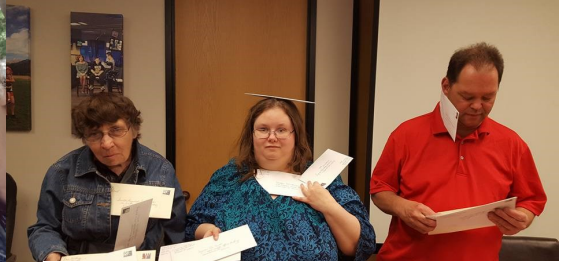


Georgetown Diversity presents March 2017



SABE Board enjoying Bomb pops

End of day June 2017



SABE sends out letters June 2017



SABE Board meeting June 2017, CO



SABE Board meeting June 2017, CO



SABE Board meeting 2017, MD



DPS 2017



Disability Policy Seminar, DPS 2017

# LADY JUSTICE SPEAKS



**LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!  
DISABILITY RIGHTS ARE CIVIL RIGHTS**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**NATIONAL SELF ADVOCACY CONFERENCE  
JUNE 7-9, 2018**

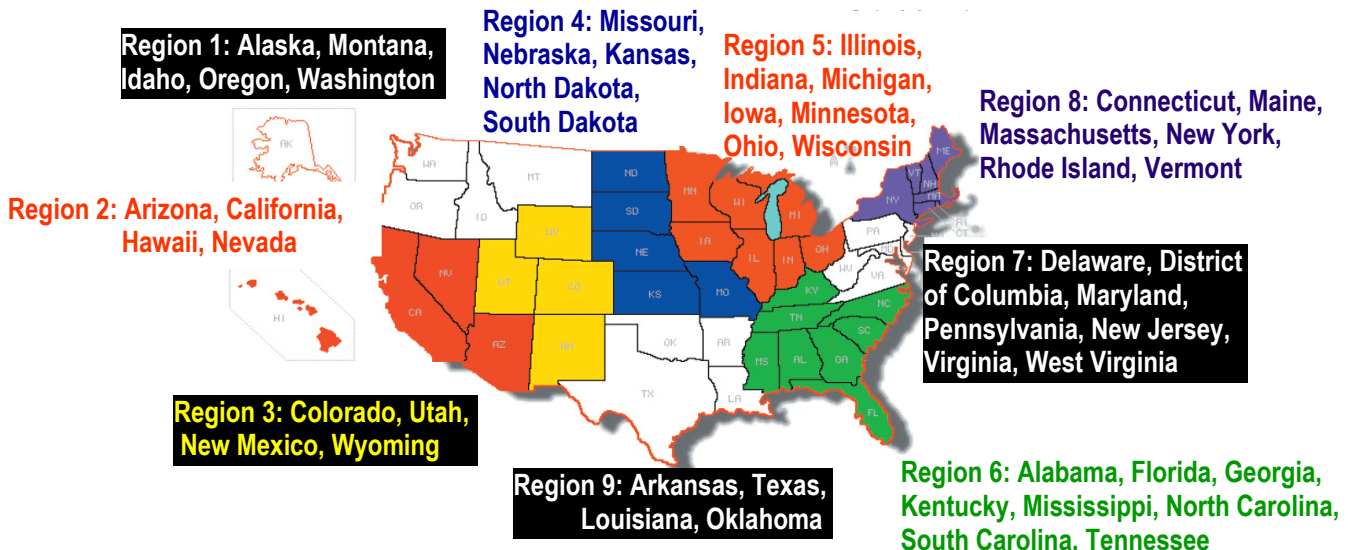
Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center  
2100 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd North Birmingham, AL

Host Hotel: Sheraton Birmingham

For more information visit our website:


[www.sabeconference.org](http://www.sabeconference.org)



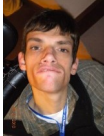


**Having trouble remembering which region you are in  
or do you need to get in contact with your regional representative?  
Here is a quick and easy way to get connected!**


**Region 1**

 <p><b>Jason Billehus</b> Email: <a href="mailto:jasonbillehus@gmail.com">jasonbillehus@gmail.com</a> Cell: (406) 493-5168</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Montana</b></p>	<b>Vacant Seat</b>
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**Region 2**

 <p><b>Ryan Duncanwood (Treasurer)</b> Email: <a href="mailto:rmduncanwood@gmail.com">rmduncanwood@gmail.com</a> Phone: (530) 221-8770</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>California</b></p>	 <p><b>John Britton</b> Email : <a href="mailto:bigturbo39@hotmail.com">bigturbo39@hotmail.com</a> Phone: (480) 785-0171</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Arizona</b></p>
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**Region 3**

 <p><b>Vicki Wray</b> Email: <a href="mailto:vickiwrays1@hotmail.com">vickiwrays1@hotmail.com</a> Phone: (303) 534-0681</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Colorado</b></p>	<b>Vacant Seat</b>
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**Region 4**

 <p><b>Cathy Enfield (Vice President)</b> Email: <a href="mailto:mswings9@comcast.net">mswings9@comcast.net</a> Cell: (816) 808-4080</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Missouri</b></p>	 <p><b>Joan Schiele</b> Email: <a href="mailto:jslittlemonkey@gmail.com">jslittlemonkey@gmail.com</a> Cell: (701) 213-5691</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>North Dakota</b></p>
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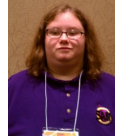
**Region 5**



**Tia Nelis (President)**

Email: [tnelis@tash.org](mailto:tnelis@tash.org)  
Cell: (630) 808-8883

Illinois



**Carrie Varner**

Email: [carriemv2001@yahoo.com](mailto:carriemv2001@yahoo.com)  
Cell: (320) 444-3337

Minnesota

**Region 6**



**Darren Morris (Sergeant of Arms)**

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Phone: (344) 538-7574

Alabama

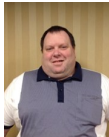


**Chaqueta Stuckey (Secretary)**

Email: [chaquetastuckey2011@gmail.com](mailto:chaquetastuckey2011@gmail.com)  
Cell: (843) 319-7379

South Carolina

**Region 7**



**Gary Rubin**

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Phone: (908) 220-9378

New Jersey

**Vacant Seat**

**Region 8**



**Anne Fracht**

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Work: (617) 823-8567

Massachusetts



**Eric McVay**

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Maine

**Region 9**

**Vacant Seat**



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Oklahoma

**National Advisors**



**Advisor  
VACANT**



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Cell: (720) 238-7321



**Glenda Singleton**

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Cell: (843) 601-7139



PO Box 12239

Florence, SC. 29504

## Exciting NEWS! My Technology Handbook Update!

The SABE **My Technology Handbook** will have a supplemental booklet created to learn more about technology. This project is made possible through a grant by the Coleman Institute.

Both books will answers questions that most of us who are new or just learning about technology. They will provide answers to many questions by using step by step direction and pictures to learn these skills. Self advocates talk about getting technology in a series of fund videos.



[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHe4SX3HJyvlsmeJOu\\_jsTrcVwpbh20M](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHe4SX3HJyvlsmeJOu_jsTrcVwpbh20M)

The 17 videos that complement the chapters were created by several Regional Technical Assistance Centers (Our Community Standing Strong, SW Alliance, and North East Advocates Together). To view the current video series click on the link.