

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

MARCH 2017

SPRING EDITION

Note from Tia Nelis, President of SABE



**Exercise
your
rights. Use
your
voice.**

- There are no financial limits to how much health care you can get in a year or in your lifetime
- Community First Choice Option, where more people with disabilities live in the community (with supports) and not in institutions

We hope you join in working on these issues by working together, we can make a difference.

Now is the time. It is important for you to talk to your legislators.

Medicaid and Affordable Care Act (ACA) are in jeopardy. Share your personal stories of how it will affect you if these services are cut or eliminated.

People who receive Medicaid could:

- Lose their home and community-based services and supports because your state may decide to stop providing services
- States could return to the days of "warehousing" people with disabilities in institutions

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA):

- You cannot be denied health insurance if you have a disability or chronic condition



SABE would also like to congratulate Michael Gamel-McCormick who will be working with Senator Casey. He is a great advocate for people with disabilities.



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

Region 1

Jason Billehus, Montana

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>

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?

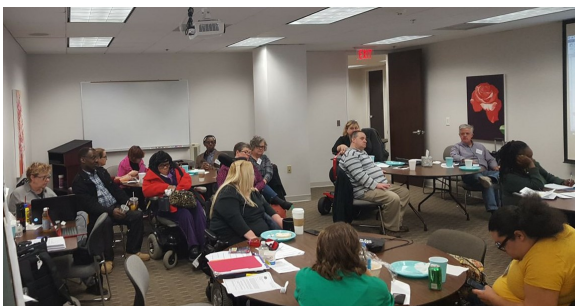
It has been SABE’s vision to be recognized as the national “go to” resource for self advocacy. SARTAC is the first step of our vision. The mission of SARTAC is to strengthen the self advocacy movement by supporting self advocacy organizations to grow in diversity and leadership.

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

~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 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 Collection Going Strong

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 Presidential Election.

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!**

So far this year, we have collected **745** surveys. To learn more about the voting experiences of people with disabilities for the **2016 Presidential Election**. Over the next few months, we will share what voters told us on the SABE website:

www.sabeusa.org

If you would like more information about the SABE Voter Project, you can contact Teresa Moore, SABE Voter Co-Director:

mooreadvocacy@hotmail.com

or (602) 725-3117

“There was no line, but it took over two hours before I could vote as they were unprepared with the (Accessible Voting) machine.”



“Primary (Presidential Preference Election) time 6 hours, (Presidential) Election day, early, 20 minutes...”

Thank you for voting in the 2016 elections and sharing your experiences. We will present the final results this Summer 2017.

Congratulations Tia and Darren on your new jobs!

SABE AT WORK



Get better Tia, John, Dee, and Jason!



Spotlight Self-Advocates

By John Britton, Carrie Varner, and Chaqueta Stuckey



Jason Billehus from Montana

Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Jason Billehus. I represent region 1 for SABE. I love to go bowling, go to the movies, driving, swimming, hanging out, and being with friends.

Where do you see SABE in 5 years?

I see SABE getting stronger and more competitive in the self-advocacy movement. I think SABE will have more members and better outreach on a national level. I also think that SABE will have a bigger presence in DC and will do a lot more work with legislatures. I also see SABE going to other countries and spreading the word about self-advocacy.

In the future; where do see yourself in SABE?

I see myself helping my region with outreach and getting more of them involved

in SABE. I also want to help with outreach and funding so that more people can get involved with SABE. I feel that self-advocates, parents, advisors, allies, and legislative leaders should work together to get these things done so that people with disabilities get the rights they deserve and help make sure that we keep our rights. When we work together, we get things done and we give back to our community.

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

The marriage penalty needs to be repealed, I won't rest until it is achieved! I also feel that group homes and sheltered workshops need to be reformed and shut-down as needed. I also feel that people with disabilities need to make sure they have help and resources available to make sure that their kids aren't automatically taken away from them just because they have a disability.

How will self advocacy help you 5 years from now?

By learning new skills, I will be able to help with outreach and getting self-advocacy more out there. I also want to get the youth more involved with self-advocacy.

WHY JOIN SELF ADVOCATES BECOMING EMPOWERED



HELP US MEET OUR 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 mistakes.

JOIN SABE

Become a part of the only national self advocacy organization in the USA led by self advocates for self advocates. SABE influences the direction of the self advocacy movement and legislation that affects the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Each standing committee and ad hoc committees created by the President (except the Finance Committee), will appoint three members at large * to the committees every two years at the discretion of the president of SABE. Become a member of SABE and get your voice heard!

Members at large serving on committees for a two year term are not required to attend board meetings. 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% for self advocates and 10% for 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

Please make check or money order payable to:

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered
c/o Darrell Burton
6245 Snidercrest Road,
Mason, OH 45040

Once your check or money order is received, your membership will be processed.

Our Community Standing Strong: Continuum

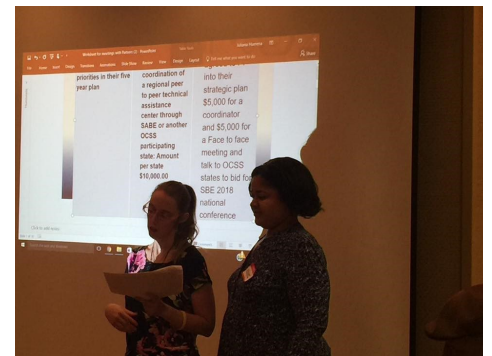


'when self advocacy gets started it is like Kudzu you can't stop it!
Gail Bottoms "Kudzu Summit"2001

Alabama Arkansas Florida Georgia Mississippi North Carolina Oklahoma South Carolina Tennessee

Brittany Gore and Nikki Dawson, People First of Alabama are the new coordinators for the project.

The project continues its work with regular state calls and webinars on issues of importance. Our first of webinar for the year was on Emergency Preparedness. Each state will produce two Video Blogs on disability issues. We will host a Regional Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas on September 25 and 26.



One way our DD Partners are supporting the project through assisting us with funding for our coordinators, and with our Regional Meeting.

We would also like to congratulate Brittany Gore for being honored at the Arc of Alabama Conference as The Self Advocate of Distinction. Chaqueta Stuckey, former Co-Director of Our Community Standing Strong and the Secretary of SABE moderated a panel on policy and presented on SABE at the Arc of Alabama Conference February 27, 2017.



SABE Collaborates with UMass-Boston ICI to Focus on What is Employment First

We are currently working on a new Article that will have stories about how important employment is to people with disabilities. If you have a story that you would like share about employment, please send it to SABE at: SABEnation@gmail.com.



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 Team at jacksonlw@umkc.edu or fax to 816-235-1762 to: Laura Jackson by 5:00pm EST on April 12th, 2017. Fellows will be notified by May 3rd, 2017.

When does the fellowship begin and end? The fellowships will begin on June 1, 2017 and end on May 31, 2018.

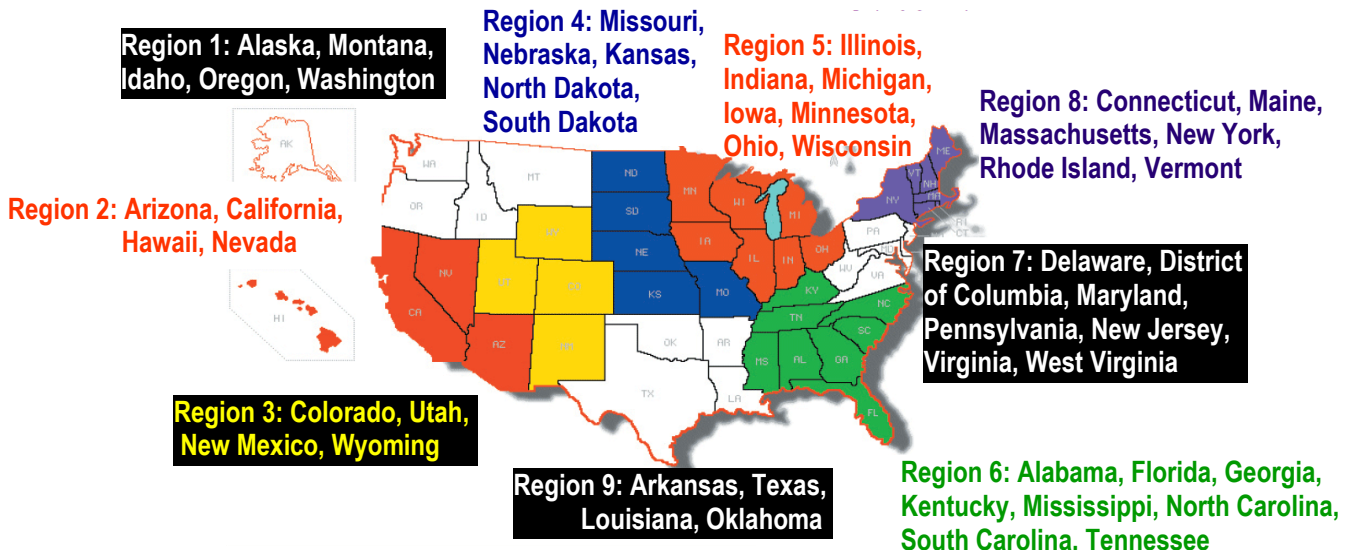
What organizations can apply to host a fellow? Organizations that apply must be a 501-C 3 or governmental or educational organization.

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?

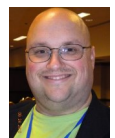
Self-advocates experience should include: 5 years of experience as a leader in the local, state, or national self-advocacy movement; have not worked for the host organization in the past; desire to dedicate themselves to the project and to learn and grow their skills in the area of policy and leadership;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

Willing to participate in monthly calls with other fellows to share their experiences. Share what their successes and challenges in a leadership presentation at the National Self Advocacy Conference in 2018. Presentation may be video or in person.



**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!**

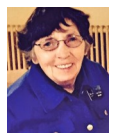
Region 1

	<p>Jason Billehus Email: jasonbillehus@gmail.com Cell: (406) 493-5168</p> <p align="right">Montana</p>	<p align="center">Vacant Seat</p>
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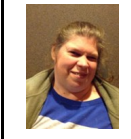
Region 2

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

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

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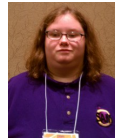
Region 5



Tia Nelis (President)

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

Illinois



Carrie Varner

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

Minnesota

Region 6



Darren Morris (Sergeant of Arms)

Email: darrenmorris70@yahoo.com
Phone: (344) 538-7574

Alabama

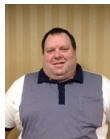


Chaqueta Stuckey (Secretary)

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

South Carolina

Region 7



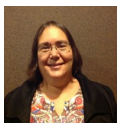
Gary Rubin

Email: garyben1965@aol.com
Phone: (908) 220-9378

New Jersey

Vacant Seat

Region 8



Anne Fracht

Email: annefracht5@gmail.com
Work: (802) 229-2600

Massachusetts



Eric McVay

Email: ericdonald240@gmail.com
Cell: (207) 852-4322

Maine

Region 9

Vacant Seat



Dee Banta

Email: deedeelee29db@gmail.com
Phone: (405) 481-9583

Oklahoma

National Advisors

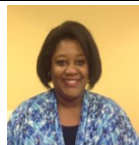


Advisor
VACANT



Heidi Haines

Email: heidi@thearcofco.org
Cell: (720) 238-7321



Glenda Singleton

Email: gsingletonary@fcdsn.org
Cell: (843) 601-7139



PO Box 12239

Florence, SC. 29504

My Technology Handbook Updates

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.

“I was not comfortable with technology, but after looking at the videos and book together, I feel more confident.”



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