

Monthly Board Meeting

June 22, 2015

The monthly meeting was held at the Northeast Independent Living Program center at 20 Ballard Road, Lawrence, MA 01843 and began at 7:20 PM.

Attending: Rachael Chambers-Stanley, Andrew DeCarlo, Adam Rajczyk, Daniel Rajczyk, Eva Rajczyk, Lisa Rajczyk, and Tom "Woody" Wood

MINUTES

A motion was made and voted on to accept the minutes of April 20, 2015 with correction (remove Richard Rodriguez from attendees list) presented to the Board by Eva Rajczyk.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Previous Balance	\$1,281.34
Deposit	\$ 5.00
Total	\$1,286.34
Disbursements	-\$ 0.00
Total	\$1,286.34

A motion was made and voted on to accept the treasurer's report with correction (deposit from Amazon Smile not PayPal) presented by Adam Rajczyk and file it for audit.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Andrew DeCarlo was voted in as a member of the Board.

Finn Gardiner and Doug Perry were both voted in as members of our Advisory Board.

FUNDRAISING/NETWORKING

- a. Salsa Fiesta/Kite Festival – June 6, 2015
 - (1) Rajczyk Family members were there to set up by 10:30 AM
 - (2) Organizer was not there due to illness
 - (3) Second-in-command had no record of our registration and had no table available for our use.
- b. Semana Hispana Parade – June 14, 2015 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
 - (1) Members of the Rajczyk Family were among the first to arrive at 10:30.
 - (2) Parade got underway around 1:00 PM.
 - (3) We were in the second section and were behind the Lawrence Senior Citizens Center bus.
 - (4) We were well-received and had a good time.
 - (5) Video and report are on our Website: <http://aspergerworks.org/2015-semana-hispana-parade/>
- d. Summerfest 2015 – Lawrence Community Boating – June 20, 2015 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

- (1) Beside the Rajczyk Family, Rachael and Tom came to man the table, which Daniel positioned near the water under the shade of a tree.
 - (2) We spoke with a number of people and some indicated that they would like to volunteer (including a student at Merrimack College who would like to have an internship with us)
 - (3) Rachael reported that one of our visitors told us that he was running for City Council in Haverhill; that he has connections with the Burlington Coat Factory; that he will run a fundraiser in conjunction with them for our benefit; that he guarantees that he will be able to raise \$250,000 by July 20th; and that he doesn't want anything in return.
- e. We were invited by Caroly Shumway, the Executive Director of [Merrimack River Watershed Council](#), to attend Merrifest 2015 on August 1, 2015 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Greater Lawrence Community Boat House, Lawrence, MA.
- f. There was a discussion about our involvement in the [National Disability Awareness Month](#) (October)
- (1) Fundraising dinner.
 - (2) List of other possible activities to be sent to Board and Advisory Board members by Eva.
 - (3) Further discussion was tabled until the meeting on July 20.

FUNDRAISING DINNER

- a. Working meeting scheduled for Saturday, July 18 from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM @ the Rajczyk home (pizza for all).
- b. Ideas were shared about what we should have
 - (1) Large hall or small, which can hold 125 people.
 - (2) Sen. Barbara L'Italien agreed to be keynote speaker
 - (3) Date not yet set – need to check with Barbara's aide
 - (4) Buffet – discussion about food allergies and sensitivities
 - (5) Silent auction – needs vendor tables, which would necessitate large hall
 - (6) Entertainment
 - i. DJ – cheaper than live band
 - ii. Magician
 - iii. Dancers from Lawrence
- c. Assigned roles – tabled until next meeting; but Tom wants to be greeter.

OTHER

- a. Daniel reported on his speaking engagement at DDS; will provide written report for dissemination.
- b. Daniel and Eva reported on their meetings with
 - (1) Joan Kulash and Lysbeth Noyes of [Jericho Road](#) (see attached [report](#))
 - (2) Martha Velez, Director of [Lawrence Senior Citizens Center](#) (see attached [Report](#))
- c. Daniel, Lisa, and Eva reported on their meeting with [State Senator Barbara L'Italien](#) (see attached [Report](#))
 - (1) Heated discussion about the Senator's suggestion that we should get in touch with Dania Jekel of AANE as well as Autism Speaks
 - (2) Andrew will get in touch with Ari Ne'eman, the President and co-founder of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) to get statistical data.
 - (3) Dania Jekel to be contacted as last resort.
 - (4) Possible working relationship with Autism Speaks tabled until next meeting
 - (5) Everyone liked the suggestion that if and when Daniel is asked to speak at other conferences or agencies, he should ask for paid honorarium (a source of income for our organization)

- d. Daniel reported on a grant of \$1,500 from [AHEPA-Haverhill Foundation](#) that we will be receiving (see [attached letter](#))
- e. Rachael reported on her strange contact with the leadership of [Mass. Advocates](#); will give us full report when she has a chance to finally speak with its Assistant Director.
- f. Discussion about Martha Velez' suggestion that we should introduce ourselves to local businesses (who could possibly sponsor us or with whom we may be able to place future clients) and offer our services in the form of workshops for employees and/or employers
 - (1) Tom stated that it would be important to emphasize the characteristics of Aspies that would impact their performance in the workplace
 - (2) Rachael said that first we need to develop a workshop
 - (3) Andrew added that it should be a short workshop, not a full-blown one.
 - (4) Discussion ensued about further workshops and charging for them.
- g. Support group
 - (1) Lisa nominated Andrew to be the co-facilitator of the support group with Tom. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea.
 - (2) Tom announced that the name of the support group will be the Merrimack Valley Aspies
 - (3) It will be run independently of Asperger Works, the parent organization but will have to report back with reports on attendance, effectiveness, etc. in order to have something to show when applying for grants
 - (4) Tom and Andrew will develop some basic information about MVA for our next meeting
 - (5) Proposed first meeting: August 8, 2015
 - i. Daniel will check for availability of conference room at NILP
 - ii. Tom will reserve one at Andover Library (to be cancelled if conference room at NILP is available)
 - (6) There was a short discussion about the need to advertise MVA's existence

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fundraising Dinner Working Meeting – Saturday, July 18, 2015 – 48 Marshland St., Haverhill (12:00 Noon -2:00 PM)
Board Meeting – Monday, July 20, 2015 – 20 Ballard Road, Lawrence (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM)
Pot Luck Anniversary Luncheon – Saturday, July 25, 2015 – 48 Marshland St., Haverhill (1:00 PM – 6:00 PM)
Merrifest 2015 – Saturday, August 1, 2015 – Lawrence Boat Club (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM)
Zip Trip Haverhill – Friday, August 7, 2015 - TBA
Board Training – Monday, August 17, 2015 – 20 Ballard Road, Lawrence (6:00 PM – 9:00 PM)
Bread & Roses Heritage Festival – Monday, September 7, 2015 – Lawrence Campagnone Common

Respectfully submitted,

Eva

Eva Rajczyk
Secretary

Meeting with Joan Kulash and Lysbeth Noyes of Jericho Road

May 29, 2015

Daniel and Eva Rajczyk met with Joan Kulash and Lysbeth Noyes of Jericho Road to discuss the possibility of some "Board Tune-up."

We agreed that such a session would be useful to all Board members since most have not served on a Board before.

The session will involve only Board members. We will discuss members' roles and what we are trying to achieve as a Board. We will work on prioritizing our goals and will work on Board development.

Lysbeth and Joan will discuss who they think would be the best fit as far as the available facilitator volunteers are concerned and will get back to us. Timing may be an issue but we will work all that out in a future meeting with the facilitator(s).

Daniel and Eva will need to provide facilitator(s) with organization's background and what we think we need help in.

It was suggested that all Board members be given a copy of requirements that they would each sign as a form of acknowledgement. After the first session, the facilitator(s) and Board will decide if there should be a Board Tune-up Refresher as new members join.

Daniel was also excited to learn that Jericho Road sponsors a Chair Roundtable where heads of organizations gather to discuss matters of interest to all (somewhat like a support group for non-profit CEOs) – Daniel will be attending the next meeting, which will be held on Monday, June 1 at 6:00 PM.

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Meeting with Martha Velez, Director of Lawrence Senior Citizens Center

June 15, 2015

Attending the meeting were Daniel and Eva Rajczyk. We talked a bit about our organization and what our needs are, especially in conjunction with the Citizens Center: translators, volunteers.

Martha indicated that it would be difficult to find any senior who would be able to do all the translations for us (especially the Website) but that she will see if she can find someone to translate our brochure to start off with.

Then she made a number of recommendations:

- We should contact the YMCA and YWCA to tell them about our program so that they are aware of us.
- Identify and then contact universities that have research programs and ask them if they had done any research study of the number of people with Asperger's in the Merrimack Valley – we need to have data to back our claim for need of our program (she said that the minute such a study is labeled as a research study it is much easier to gather statistical data)
 - Lowell
 - Worcester
 - Some schools in Boston
- She told us that she has just joined a new group at Jericho Road that will work on an inclusion program for Latinos, since many are not aware of the fact that they could join Boards and/or what their duties would be as Board members. She advised that we should talk with Joan Kulash to see if she could recommend a Latino or Latina to be on our Board.
- Board membership – beside being on the Spectrum, Board members should be made up of three groups
 - Those who have much enthusiasm but who may not have money of their own to donate and/or have difficulty finding donors or may not have jobs;
 - Those who do have money and/or are able to get funds donated; and
 - Those with jobs
- The best way to get the word out about our organization and get potential sponsors is by going to local employers to let them know what we could offer them (for instance, workshop about Asperger's) like
 - New Balance
 - Lawrence General (Diane Anderson, CEO)
 - Valley Works
 - Career Resources
- She also said that it is essential for us to build partnerships with other non-profits that might be able to connect us with corporations willing to fund us.
- Just as others before her have told us, we should not expect any response for Sal Lupoli. We should get in touch with businesses and organizations that care about the Greater Lawrence community.
- She also assured us that Barbara L'Italien will be our greatest supporter and that she will definitely be of much help to us. She advised that we ask her whether or not we should get some of the local representatives involved as well.

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Meeting with State Senator Barbara L'Italien

June 22, 2015

Present at the meeting: Barbara L'Italien, Daniel, Lisa, and Eva Rajczyk

Following were Senator L'Italien's suggestions as to what we should do in order to become a recognized entity and to receive funding:

- We need to come up with a definitive plan as to what we will be doing
 - It has to be more than just a theoretical idea of what we want to do
 - We have to have a detailed plan of action, especially regarding training program for mentors and/or job coaches
- It is imperative that we get in touch with Dania Jekel, the Executive Director of AANE, and have an in-depth conversation with her outlining what we are doing and what our needs are. Since AANE is located in Boston and is working in the Greater Boston area, she will not consider our organization as a form of competition. She would also be the person who could definitely give us the statistical data we need about how many adults have Asperger's; how many are employed (probably underemployed); and how many are unemployed.
- We should have a conversation with Bob Harris of CLASS Inc. emphasizing that our organization would be willing contract with them for service they need.
- Although Mass. Rehab. does not have a stellar record about helping people with Asperger's, still we should make a point of setting up a meeting with the head of the local branch, but especially the Salem, MA branch
- See if we can become a subset of (in order to get DDS contracts/Mass. Rehab.) any of the following organizations so that we can develop a track record – we should be able to prove what we can do
 - NE Independent Living Program
 - CLASS Inc.
 - Opportunity Works
 - NE ARC (check out Project Search) – Jerry McCarthy, present director
- There are two large foundations that we could get in touch with in order to get some funding
 - The Ruderman Family Foundation (Newton) – their main focus is Asperger's
 - Nancy Lurie Marks Foundation – collaborated with Mass Rehab in the past (Wellesley)
- It is important to develop a dialogue with Autism Speaks
 - They could provide us with grant money; we need to know about their grant requirement
 - We should piggyback with them
- Here is a list of people we should contact
 - Dan Rosen, MD (Wellesley) – together with his wife works only with patients with Asperger's
 - Leo Farkissian of ARC of Massachusetts
 - Career Resources
 - ARC of Greater Haverhill, located on Wingate Street
 - Luis Bachman – places clients in jobs through individualization
 - Buddy Bostick – places clients in jobs through individualization
 - Tom Coppinger of Greater Lawrence Club House (15 Union Street, Room 70)
 - Autism Support Center

She agreed that it would be a good idea to go to colleges and universities and speak with members of psych departments

- To explain the needs of people with Asperger's
- Good source for getting interns and volunteers

She also feels that if DDS wants Daniel to do speaking engagements throughout the State that he should ask for paid honorarium. In fact, Daniel could speak to different groups about Asperger's since he has a compelling story to tell as a person with AS for which he could charge a fee, thereby bringing in some money.

She would be very happy to be our keynote speaker. She has to check her schedule since sometime in October she has to go to Seattle for a conference. She will get back to us.

We asked her to check with her son, Rudy, to see if he would like to become a part of our organization. Since he does have Asperger's, and is in his early 20s, his presence on the Board would fulfill our need for some younger blood.

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