Members of the New Hampshire Governor's Commission on Disability attend the Governor's Accessibility Awards

The staff of the New Hampshire Governor's Commission on Disability attended the Governor's Accessibility Awards on July 26, 2012, the 22nd anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ceremony took place in the Executive Council Chamber at the State House with Senator Lou D'Allesandro presenting the awards.

This year’s award recipients were:

**Nonprofit organization:** New England Handicapped Sports Association, Mt. Sunapee, Newbury.

**Businesses:** Ride-Away Corp.

**This year there are two additional special recognitions for Businesses** - Wendy's Restaurant and Individual: Sandy Teti

**Individual:** Jill Gravinik - Founder and Executive Director of Northeast Passage, Durham, NH.

**State Employee:** Jo Moncher - Bureau Chief, Community Based Military Programs - Department of Health and Human Services.

**Legislator:** Senator Lou d'Allesandro.
All Out Adventures provides adaptive kayaking on Dunn Pond.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and others joined members of the disability community and their families and friends to celebrate the 22nd anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 2012 at Dunn Pond State Park in Gardner, Massachusetts.

The day featured a live band, barbequed food and a variety of adaptive and recreational sport activities including kayaking, hiking on accessible trails and more!

Stories from Other States

Participants Sought for Online Survey on Returning to Work After a Stroke

We would like to ask your assistance with a survey research project being conducted by the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and sponsored by the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

This project concerns return to work after stroke. If you are a stroke survivor who is thinking about or has returned to work, we would like to know your opinions about this issue. The on line survey will take 20-30 minutes of your time to complete and the responses will be anonymous.

If you are a professional working with stroke survivors or know a stroke survivor who might be interested in offering their opinions on returning to work, please feel free to pass this information along to them. We value your thoughts to help find ways for stroke survivors to return to a productive work life. Go directly to the survey.

If you have difficulty connecting to the survey, please contact Dr. Robert Hartke, the Principal Investigator of this study, at rhartke@ric.org. If you wish, a paper copy of the survey one can be sent to you by contacting Dr. Hartke at rhartke@ric.org.

Take Part in an Online Assistive Technology Survey

Independent Living Research Utilization (IRU) is conducting a survey to assess the assistive technology needs of people with disabilities. The goal of this survey is to determine both the current availability of such technologies and the potential for new, innovative devices. By identifying the assistive technology needs of people with disabilities, IRU will be better able to work with policymakers and funders to address assistive technology needs.

Please distribute this information to anyone you know in the disability community who you feel may wish to take part so they can access the online survey.

USOC announces expanded coverage for London 2012 Paralympic Games

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - On August 14, 2012, the United States Olympic Committee announced broadcast and online coverage plans for the London 2012 Paralympic Games. By creating original video content for the U.S. Paralympics YouTube channel, YouTube.com/USParalympics, while also partnering with NBCUniversal and the International Paralympic Committee, U.S. Paralympics will provide the American public with more coverage of the U.S. Paralympic Team than any previous year.
Beginning on Aug. 29 and continuing through the conclusion of the Games on Sept. 9, U.S. Paralympics will provide 10 daily video highlights packages via its U.S. Paralympics YouTube channel. The videos will chronicle the competition, athlete stories and will also include the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Videos chronicling the lead-up to the Games will also be available in late August. Read the full press release.

The Mid-Atlantic ADA Center presents the 19th Annual Mid-Atlantic ADA Update

The Mid-Atlantic ADA Center presents the 19th Annual Mid-Atlantic ADA Update taking place Thursday, September 13 and Friday, September 14 at the BWI Airport Marriott Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland.

Don’t miss the region’s leading conference on the Americans with Disabilities Act! Hear the latest information on the Americans with Disabilities Act at our 19th annual conference featuring representatives from:

- U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Department of Justice
- Federal Transit Administration
- United States Access Board

This year’s breakout sessions will include tracks on:

- Accessibility & Design
- ADA & Employment
- General ADA Topics
- Title II - ADA Coordinator

Register online!

First ATM Accessibility Class Action Lawsuit

The 2010 ADA Standards include accessibility to ATMs for people who are blind or have low vision. Banks are required to upgrade ATMs to meet the Standards if the upgrade is "readily achievable" (easily accomplishable without much difficulty or expense).

The Standards state that ATMs have speech output and input, tactilely discernible input controls, numeric keys arranged in a 12-key ascending or descending telephone keypad layout with the number five key tactiley distinct from the other keys, requirements for the display screen and Braille instructions for initiating the speech mode.

The lawsuit was filed by the Pittsburgh-based law firm, Carlson Lynch against Beneficial Mutual Savings Bank. Read the accessibility standards for ATMs by scrolling to 707 Automatic Teller Machines and Fare Machines.

Justice Department Announces Americans with Disabilities Act Barrier-free Health Care Initiative by Us Attorney’s Offices Nationwide

U.S. Attorney’s offices across the nation are partnering with the Civil Rights Division to target their enforcement efforts on a critical area for individuals with disabilities through a new Barrier-Free Health Care Initiative, the Justice Department announced. Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Perez announced the new initiative at an event celebrating the anniversary of the ADA in Washington, D.C. Read the full press release.

U.S Access Board to Lead Effort to Develop Guidance on Accessible Drug Labels
The U.S. Access Board will lead an effort to develop guidance on making prescription drug labels accessible to people with vision impairments under an act signed into law by President Obama. The “Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act” includes measures to promote drug safety and to improve FDA procedures for reviewing new medicines and medical devices.

A working group will develop best practices for making information on prescription drug container labels accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired. This group, which will include equal representation from advocacy organizations and from industry, will develop best practices for pharmacies on providing independent access to prescription drug container labels. The working group will explore various alternatives, including braille, large print labels, and various auditory technologies such as “talking bottles” and radio frequency identification tags.

Participate in the 2012 National Center on Accessibility Golf Study

The purpose of this study is to look at what encourages or discourages a person with a disability and/or health condition to play golf.

A number of important events have occurred in recent years such as the invention or improvement of assistive devices for use in golf; development of ADA guidelines for recreation facilities including golf facilities; and an increase in the number of organizations promoting golf for persons with disabilities and health issues.

While one might assume that facilitators to pursuing golf have increased and barriers may have decreased, there is a need to determine the level of participation in golf by persons with disabilities, and what helps or hinders one’s interest in pursuing the game.

We would also appreciate if you could share this important study information with your network and resend it to people on your email lists. Many people also post this on their Facebook pages and other social media.

For questions about the study, please contact either Dr. Sherril York by email at shyork@indiana.edu (812) 856-4422 or Jeffrey Chait by email at jchait@indiana.edu (812) 964-0667. This survey is also available in alternative formats upon request.

Read more and complete the survey.