

Guilford SEPTO Membership Meeting
Monday, February 26, 2018
6:00 – 7:30 pm
Guilford High School Library
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Board members present: Kim Beckett, Co-President; Kristen Eveland, Co-President; Sarah Kellogg, Co-Secretary; Amy Mason-Mann, Co-Secretary; Jaye Carlson, Co-Parliamentarian. Also present various Guilford SEPTO membership participants.
Board members absent: Matt McCleery, Co-Parliamentarian

Approval of January meeting minutes

- Motion was made by Jaye Carlson to approve the January Membership Meeting Minutes, seconded by Wendy Staschke. The vote passed unanimously.

General Announcements and Information

- Next meeting – Monday, March 19th 6-7:30pm: Unified Sports and Special Olympics, presented by Jaye Carlson

Guest Speakers: Shannon Jacovino, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy and Win Everts, Executive Director, The Arc Connecticut presenting “After the Cap & Gown”. Please see attached Power Point of their presentation, as well as summary and highlights of their talk below:

- Everyone was encouraged to sign-up for The Arc Connecticut email newsletters and Action Alerts
- Workshop presented is an overview

Shannon and Win stayed to take a variety of questions from the audience.

- Discussion regarding ABLE Act (A Better Life Experience) – was approved by federal government, however no funding in CT to set it up. An ABLE account can be set up in another state. Important to note once child dies all the money in the account will go towards reimbursing state for any services rendered.
- Emphasis put on reaching out to legislators, who want to know and meet their constituents. They are a wonderful resource.
- Letters to the Editor were recommended as a good advocacy tool.
- A collective letter to the editor of the Guilford Courier was discussed with lots of signatures to back it up was discussed.
- The Podcast “The State We’re In” was shown (can be found on The Arc Connecticut website)
- Discussion regarding the Southbury Training School featured in the podcast took place to help clarify some of the demographics and specifics of the program.
- It was recommended that all parents get to know and understand the budget. When testifying it is important to bring both emotion AND facts (and The Arc Connecticut can help supply the facts.)

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- The importance of understanding the differences between DDS (individuals with I/DD) and DSS (Medicaid and food stamps) was emphasized.
- Discussion regarding preparing children and adolescents with disabilities for the future focused on helping them learn to navigate their community.
- The group was encouraged to network with success stories as opposed to horror stories. And when advocating to tell your success stories – “this is what is possible”.
- Differences between services and benefits across states was also reviewed.
- Social sciences show that children who have a wage earning job in high school will have greater outcomes in life.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.