

Dear Reader

Just as in **Willie Nelson's** song, "On the Road Again," like last year's Awards Dinner, "The Road to Ruby," this year's Awards Dinner is another road trip—this time, to Diversity! Please look on page 2 of this Newsletter to see our beautiful Invitation to DRC's **41st Annual Awards Dinner, "Road to Diversity,"** which was designed by the talented and creative **Ilga Dravnieks**. Of course, the best part of any awards celebration is the awardees—and do we have awardees!

Jerry Stein Memorial Independent Living Award—Frances Emily Dawson Harris, Nurse, Poet, Advocate for People with Disabilities, and former Chair and Member of CACoD (Citizens Advisory Commission on Disabilities).

Civic Leadership Award—Christopher Garner, General Manager, Long Beach Water Department, and Mentor to Youth with Disabilities via CACoD's (Citizens Advisory Commission on Disabilities) Mentoring Day Program.

Community Service Award—Fran Itkoff, active since the 1970s as a volunteer leader of the Long Beach/Lakewood Multiple Sclerosis Support Group, and an active member of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Community Service Award—HAT (Hearing Assistive Technology) Committee, Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), volunteering in the community since 2009 to help people with hearing loss to live independently.

Volunteer of the Year Award—Richard Burnett, who volunteered 111.25 hours in 2016. Member of Metro Gateway Cities Service Council. Former employee of Social Security Administration and U. S. Government Printing Office, and Ticket to Work Specialist at DRC. Veteran, United States Army. B.A., California State University Los Angeles.

Outstanding Recognition Scholarship for Military Veteran—Kevin Whitney, graduating May 2017 with honors, California State University Long Beach; medical school applicant; active supporter of Shea Center for Therapeutic Riding; and Board Member of FSH Corp. (Food, Shelter, Health). Veteran, United States Navy.

The full bios on each awardee will be in DRC's Dinner Program.

Another Dinner treat—we are all going to be mesmerized by the haunting musical strains of the saxophone, as played by **Robert Colvin**. I heard him play at the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) Luncheon Honoring the "2017 Women Leaders of Southern California Transportation Awards" Winners. At the luncheon, I celebrated with my fellow LA Access Board of Directors Members as our Board Chair, **Nalini Ahuja**, received the Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Award, and **Faye Moseley**, Metro's Executive Director (CFO), Finance and Budget, received the Transportation Executive Leadership Award. I just had to find out **Robert Colvin's** information and get him to play for our Dinner!

I am hoping that all of you will have an opportunity to attend this year's Dinner at The Reef on the Water, in Long Beach. Tickets are only \$85.00 each. That cost for dinner and entertainment in such a beautiful venue is more reasonably priced than any of the other fundraising galas that I have seen recently.

Talking about galas—I was so honored to attend "A World of Difference," the 2017 fundraising event of Special Olympics Southern California, as the guest of **Supervisor Janice Hahn**, 4th District, and be able to take as my guest **Greg Kozlowski**, the famous Special Olympics athlete, Global Messenger, and longtime (over 20 years) DRC volunteer! It was such a fun evening, and a lot of money was raised for a wonderful cause! I am keeping my fingers crossed that some of that fundraising magic rubs off on DRC!

I know that I am going to run out of space, but I wanted to tell you about the contract that DRC was awarded by DOR, just one of 3 contracts that were awarded Statewide, to conduct a series of 5 two-week **Summer Youth Self-Advocacy Training Programs** for a total of 100 Transitional Youths, aged 16 to 21 years. The opportunity was open to all nonprofits, not just ILCs. We are so proud that DRC was selected to serve the Southern Counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Imperial, San Bernardino, and San Diego.

Just one more thing that I want to mention—that is our annual **Volunteer Awards Luncheon**, which took place on April 28th. One of my favorite things all year is to celebrate National Volunteer Month by honoring our outstanding and dedicated volunteers, who gave 6,415 hours of service last year. (See pictures on Page 3)

DRC could not begin to accomplish all of the wonderful things we do to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities, without our volunteers. To volunteer, they have to go through an 8-week training course before they can even begin volunteering. Seven of our past volunteers are now DRC staff members. As I often say, "A good way to get a job is to get your foot in the door first by volunteering."


As I close, please join me in welcoming our two new Board of Directors members: **Louis Burns**, Community Liaison, Planning and Government Affairs, for **Access Services**; and **Aida Douglas**, Regulatory Compliance and Civil Rights Officer, **Long Beach Transit**.

I look forward to our continued journey, and seeing all of you at the Dinner, "Road to Diversity."

Dolores Nason
Executive Director



DRC Invites You To Our 41th Annual Awards Dinner

The Board of Directors invites you to

Road to Diversity


41st Annual Awards Dinner



Thursday, June 15, 2017
 Harbor View Ballroom, The Reef on the Water
 880 Harbor Scenic Drive
 Long Beach CA 90802

Master of Ceremonies
 David Sanfilippo
 Director of Disabled Services CSULB

5:30 p.m. Reception and Silent Auction
 6:30 p.m. Dinner and Program

Music by Robert Colvin, saxophone
Business Casual



 **HEARING LOOP INSTALLED**  **CC CLOSED CAPTIONING**

2017 Honorees

Jerry Stein Memorial Independent Living Award
Frances Dawson Harris

Civic Leadership Award
Christopher Garner

Community Service Award
Fran Itkoff

Community Service Award
HAT (Hearing Assistive Technology) Committee

Volunteer of the Year Award
Richard Burnett




Outstanding Recognition Scholarship
 for Military Veteran
Kevin Whitney



Disabled Resources Center, Inc. (DRC)

41st Annual Awards Dinner

"3 Grand Prizes – winners' choice in order drawn"

-  4 Disneyland Park Hopper Tickets (\$628.00)
-  \$500.00 cash prize
-  Renaissance Hotel Long Beach complimentary
 2-night stay with complimentary valet parking
 (\$574.00)

DONATION: Opportunity Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Prizes awarded by choice in the order tickets are drawn. If winner not present, prizes will be awarded according to the order listed above.

Drawing held June 15, 2017, at the DRC 41st Annual Awards Dinner. Proceeds support DRC, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) agency. TAX ID# 51-0204442

Winners need not be present, but will not be able to choose prizes.



DRC's Volunteer Luncheon honoring our 2016 Volunteers, who gave 6,415 hours of service last year. Certificates of Recognition of volunteer hours were given to all 26 volunteers. You will notice the cake had the names of every volunteer in 2016. Al Buck donated sports items for drawings throughout the luncheon. Samantha Mam was the chairman of a very enjoyable event.



Ciara and Dolores



Tina and Dolores



Al Buck



Consumer Comments



Dear Mrs. Nason,
Thank you so much for welcoming me into DRC as your intern this semester. Thanks to you, I have learned so much about the helping profession and the disabled community. You run some pretty amazing programs at DRC, and I just want to thank you for allowing me to be a part of it all! I will definitely be back to volunteer, but I will miss seeing you every week. Best wishes, A. M.



Dear Ms. Thomas,
Thank you so much for your service. I am a client from the Disabled Resources Center Employment Program. I am writing you today to say thank you for meeting with me this morning to work on your resume. It was a pleasure meeting and working with you today. I do apologize for being late to our appointment. Thank you for an amazing resume you have put together for me. Once again, thank you for your time. Have a nice day.
E. P.



Calendar of Events

WEEKLY GROUP ORIENTATION FOR NEW CONSUMERS:

EVERY THURSDAY AT 9:00 AM

HOUSING WORKSHOP EVERY FRIDAY AT 9:00AM

WEEKLY SUPPORT GROUP SCHEDULES:

MEN'S, WOMEN'S, AND CO-ED SUPPORT GROUPS- EVERY TUESDAY, THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 1:00PM-4:00PM

TRANSITIONAL YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP (AGES-14-24)- EVERY FRIDAY FROM 1:00PM-4:30PM

COMPUTER CLASSES ARE ON WEDNESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 9:30 AM-11:00 AM OR 1:30PM-3:00PM

SUMMER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM:

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 9:00AM-4:00PM , BEGINNING JUNE 19, 2017, THROUGH AUGUST 25, 2017



MAY 2017

- 1st—Stepping Stones to Employment/Peer Counseling Class @10:00am-11:30am
- 3rd—Board of Directors Awards Dinner Invitation Stuffing Party at 5:00pm
- 5th—KTLA Channel 5 Special Olympics with Greg Kozlowski 8:00am.-9:00am
- 8th—Stepping Stones to Employment/Peer Counseling Class @10:00am-11:30am

- 10th—DRC Advocacy Group Meeting @ NRC 2:00pm—4:00pm
- 11th—CACoD Meeting @ Long Beach City Hall @ 1:00pm
- 11th—Mobility Training @ City View 2:00pm-4:00pm
- 15th—Stepping Stones to Employment/Peer Counseling Class @10:00am-11:30am
- 17th—LB Asian Pacific Islander Family Mental Health Ctr. Reception 11:00am-1:00pm
- 22nd—Stepping Stones to Employment/Peer Counseling Class Graduation @10:00am
- 22nd—Access Paratransit Meeting @ LA Metro
- 24th—San Pedro Mental Health Center Resource Fair Training from 9:00am-1:00pm
- 24th and 26th—Job Club 8:30am-11:30am
- 25th—Mobility Training @ Lutheran Social Services 11:00am-1:00pm
- 25th—DRC Board of Directors Meeting 5:30pm
- 29th—MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY (CENTER CLOSED)

JUNE 2017

- 2nd—Housing Workshop at 9:00 am
- 6th—Board of Directors Awards Dinner Basket Making Party at 5:00pm
- 7th—Mobility Training @ Lutheran Social Services 11:00am-1:00pm
- 9th—Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 13th—Capitol Action Day in Sacramento
- 15th—CACoD Meeting @ Long Beach City Hall @ 1:00pm
- 15th—41st Annual Awards Dinner at the Reef, "Road to Diversity"
- 16th—Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 19th—Summer Youth and Leadership Advocacy starts 9:00am-4:00pm



DRC: Disabled Resources Center
The Key to Independence

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Return Service Requested

- 22nd—Long Beach Transit Paratransit Advisory Committee @ LB Transit 1:30pm
- 23rd—Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 26th—Access Paratransit Meeting @ El Monte
- 28th and 30th—Job Club:30am-11:30am
- 30th—Housing Workshop at 9:00 am

JULY 2017

- 4th—INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY (CENTER CLOSED)
- 7th—Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 13th—CACoD Meeting @ Long Beach City Hall @ 1:00pm
- 14th—Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 19th and 21st—Job Club from 8:30am-11:30am
- 21st—Housing Workshop 9:00am
- 22nd through 25th—APTA Transit Board Members Seminar in Chicago, IL
- 28th—Housing Workshop 9:00am



DRC's Mission Statement:

"To empower people with disabilities to live independently in the community, to make their own decisions about their lives, and advocate on their own behalf."