SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

The Interactive

February/March 2008

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Annual Meeting Recap

The 2008 Annual Meeting was held on January 13th at the Hospital for Special Care Research and Education Center in New Britain. Board Chairman Fred Liguori called the meeting to order and presented a photo slide show depicting the SBAC events of 2007. These included the annual conference, spaghetti supper, Stroll & Roll and Adopt-A-Ghost ®. After the slide show, Fred gave an overview of 2007 events, programs and financial status. Details of 2008 plans were presented. The last order of business was the election of directors. Three board members were elected: Lois Silver, Dr. Roger Thrall and Attorney Sharon Pope.

Lois Silver of Morris, CT was elected to her first term as a director. Lois, is a wife and mother. Her youngest daughter, Annie, has spina bifida. Lois previously served on last years conference planning committee and is working on this years as well.

Attorney Sharon Pope began her first full term on the board. Sharon was appointed to the remainder of a vacant position in 2007. Prior to joining the board, Sharon was a speaker at all three of our annual conferences presenting on the topic of Special Needs Trusts, a specialty of her law practice. Sharon will be assisting on our Bylaws Committee. Sharon has previous experience serving on non-profit boards and with disability law.

Dr. Roger Thrall was elected to a second term as an SBAC Director. Roger was instrumental in the creation of the Hospital for Special Care Research and Education Center, home of the SBAC's World Headquarters (our office space). Besides helping with nearly every event over the past two years, Roger has assisted in our grant writing efforts.

We look forward to a great 2008, and invite you all to join us.

A Message From Fred Liguori, Chairman

Of all the things that are required for the SBAC to function, the most important thing is volunteerism. The SBAC has been a volunteer organization until just recently, March 2007, when we hired our first part-time Executive Director. Volunteers do the vast majority of the work required to organize events and run our programs. At our Annual Meeting in January, two of our volunteers completed their terms on the Board of Directors and chose not to run for another term, they are Mario Moore and Marybeth Petersen.

Mario volunteered his time for the last 2 years and was the person who enabled us to capture our events with photos. He supplied us with literally hundreds of photos from every event held since he was elected to the Board. I want to thank him for permanently capturing those memories for us.

Marybeth Petersen I know will be embarrassed by this acknowledgement of her contribution to the SBAC, but her contribution cannot go unrecognized. She was a critical part of this organization for the last 6 years and tackled numerous tasks. She provided us with an exceptional newsletter every other month; a newsletter that was recognized with two awards from SBA national. She took over responsibility for our Educational Conference and organized every aspect of the conference the last few years. She has tackled every project with inherent organizational skills that has never overlooked even the smallest detail. To say that Marybeth was an asset to the SBAC would be a gross understatement. Marybeth chose not to return to the BOD and instead has taken a full-time job with the Farmington School District. I want to thank her for her contributions and wish her the best in her new career.

The SBAC continues to need volunteers to staff committees outside the Board of Directors. We have more active programs and more events then ever before. Although we hate to see our Board members leave, we embrace new individuals who come with fresh ideas and an open mind. Please be a part of the organization; take a role in our future. What we have accomplished the last few years is rewarding but we are far from our ultimate goals. Come help us reach those goals.

Fred

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Join us for an evening

Under The Stars

Gala Charity Auction

to benefit the
Spina Bifida Association
of Connecticut

Honoring:

Dr. Robert LaCamera
Yale/New Haven Hospital
Lifetime Achievement Award

Barbara Draheim, MSN, APRN/PNP
Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Distinguished Health Service Award

Hors D'Oeuvres - Wine & Beer Tasting
Live and Silent Auction

Friday, February 29, 2008
7:30 in the evening

The Pond House Cafe
Elizabeth Park - West Hartford, CT

Tickets - $75 per person
(tax deductible portion - $50)

Semi-Formal Attire

www.SBAC.org 800-574-6274

Items up for Bid

Terra Cotta Clay Portrait Bust
by Artist Marilyn Parkinson Thrall

James Taylor Tickets At Tanglewood on 7/4/08

UCONN Men's Basketball
tickets 3/8/08 at Gampel Pavilion
w/ parking pass

Double strand freshwater pearl
necklace with chips of semiprecious
stones w/ Bali clasp and matching
earrings

Live Taping of ESPN
BASEBALL TONIGHT
w/ Karl Ravech followed by tour for
4 & Goodies, hat, t-shirt

One of a kind square bowl

MAKBOARD clear snowboard

Bushnell: The Music from the Music
Man tickets for 4/22/08

YMCA Membership for 6 months

Blades beauty Basket

Spritz Salon Basket

Handcrafted wood (table boxes or
small furniture piece)

Wallingford Country Club 4 Card

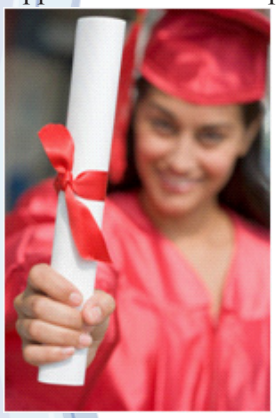
COW PARADE framed print
from Center Framing of West
Hartford

Lesson with golf pro at Rockledge
Country Club 1/2 hour

and much more!

SBAC Scholarship Fund Accepting Applications

The SBAC Scholarship Fund was established to help individuals living with Spina Bifida achieve their maximum potential through higher education. Applications are now being accepted for scholarships for the 2008-09 school year. Applicant must have Spina Bifida. The amount of each Scholarship Award is $1000.00. The Allocation committee will determine annually the number of awards. This decision is based on available funds.



The SBAC Scholarship Committee awarded three $1,000.00 scholarships last year to some very deserving young ladies.. "We are proud of the accomplishments of these young ladies and are glad to support them and, hopefully, many others to come." says SBAC Chairperson Fred Liguori.

Applications with full instructions and requirements are available at www.sbac.org or by calling the SBAC at 800-574-6274. Deadline for application is April 15, 2008.

National Scholarship Opportunity

The 2008 National SBA Scholarship Program is open and accepting applications. Applicants must submit their completed application postmarked no later than Friday, March 7, 2008.

National SBA Scholarship Programs include:
SBA One-Year Scholarship
SBA Four-Year Scholarship

If you have any questions concerning the SBA Scholarship Program feel free to contact:

Tanya Coogan
Director of Chapter Development
202-944-3285 ext. 23
202-944-3295 (fax)
tcoogan@sbaa.org

Or visit www.spinabifidaassociation.org .

4th Annual Conference

The SBAC 4th Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the University of Hartford Magnet School. A full day of speakers has been scheduled including:

Dr. Jeffrey Thomson, Orthopedics, CCMC
Dr. Paul Kanev, Neurosurgery, CCMC
Jan Stilkey, RN, MSN, PNP, Maine Medical Center

Adults living with Spina Bifida will have sessions specific to their needs. A full day of Kid's Camp is available for the youngsters, with special activities scheduled. New this year will be the Teen Lounge. A place to hang-out, play some video games and socialize. A special teen-centered session has also been scheduled. Registration information and a complete schedule of sessions will sent out at a later date, as well as posted on our website www.sbac.org.

Speaker and sessions subject to change.

HSC Adaptive Sports Programs

The Hospital for Special Care is offering adaptive sports clinics throughout the month of February.

Saturday, February 9, 2008

9:00 am - 11:00 am Wheelchair Soccer
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Wheelchair Basketball

Saturday, February 23, 2008

9:15 am - 11:15 am Table Tennis and Track & Field
12:15 pm - 2:15 pm Swimming

All sessions, except swimming, are held at the HSC Research and Education Center, 370 Osgood Avenue in New Britain. Swimming is held at the HSC Aquatic Center at 2150 Corbin Avenue in New Britain.

For more information or to register for any of the session call HSC at 860-832-6220.

Consumers Needed for Council

The SBAC was recently awarded a grant to help promote the use of Folic Acid in helping to prevent Spina Bifida. As part of this program the SBAC is forming the Connecticut Council on Folic Acid. The Council will consist of representatives from agencies, organizations and medical professionals who deal with women's / reproductive health issues. The Council is seeking a mother, who has a child with Spina Bifida and supports the use of Folic Acid to join the council.

While this program is intended for all women who are capable of becoming pregnant, a particular focus of this grant is on educating women of Hispanic and Asian decent. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a part of this group, please contact the SBAC at 800-574-6274 or by e-mail at sbac@sbac.org .

Baseball Outing Scheduled

Take me out to the ball game! Mark your calendars, because the SBAC will once again be hosting an outing to see the New Britain Rockcats play.

Included in the ticket price is an all-you-can eat cook-out along the third baseline.

This outing is scheduled for Wednesday, July 23rd. A small fee will be charged for each ticket. Stay tuned to The Interactive and our website, SBAC.org, for more information.

"Get Well" wishes go out to Jake Fowler who is recovering from a major surgery and a recent illness. Hope your feeling better, Jake.

Supporter's Corner

Selfless Acts Support the SBAC

When Roaring Brook Elementary School teacher Kevin Caselli was asked, by one of his room mothers, what type of Christmas gift he would like from the class, he said he would like it to be donations to the SBAC.

Kevin has a young son with Spina Bifida and was very grateful for the support his family received from the SBAC. Kevin's 3rd grade class donated $475.00 in their honor.

Max and Andrah Stone, of Burlington, CT, both celebrated birthdays recently. Instead of getting gifts at their parties, they requested that donations be made to the SBAC.

Their baby-sitter, Alicia, was, at the time, pregnant with a child with Spina Bifida. Both parties brought in a total of $455.00 in their honor.

Alicia and her child are both doing well.

If you haven't any charity in your heart,
then you have the worst kind of heart trouble
- - - Bob Hope

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Spina Bifida Association of Connecticut
P.O. Box 2545
Hartford, CT 06146-2545
www.sbac.org
ph. 800.574.6274

Have you returned your membership form for this year?

If not we have included one for you.

Our Mission is to promote the prevention of Spina Bifida and enhance the lives of all affected.

SBAC Allocations Fund

The SBAC Allocations Fund was created to provide financial assistance to members.

The fund reimburses a portion of out-of-pocket expenses for medical, recreational, and accessibility costs.

Reimbursement Available for:

- Vehicle Modifications
- Home Accessibility modifications
- Un-reimbursed Medical Expenses

Applications and funding guidelines are available on-line at www.sbac.org or by calling 800.574.6274.

Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2008