



DP EXPRESS

SPRING 2016



2015 TOP TEN MOMENTS FOR THE ADA

The year 2016 is upon us and with the new year, we hope it will bring triumphs within the disability rights movement. 2015 did bring in changes, good and some not so good for Americans with disabilities. Listed below is 2015 top 10 moments chosen for their historical significance.

10. Gregg Abbott of Texas is the first U.S. Governor in more than 30 years to serve his term as a wheelchair user. Governor Abbot's own experiences continue to shed light on the limitations Americans with disabilities face each day.

9. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) leads to big changes for Americans with disabilities namely specific restrictions on sub-minimum wage pay in the workforce. WIOA sparks support for job seekers with disabilities, requiring career centers to be fully accessible and assurance Americans with disabilities are provided with meaningful opportunities.

8. The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act was passed giving Americans citizens the ability to build tax-free savings for individuals with disabilities.

7. The Department of Labor (DOL) proposed rules that changed the pay for personal assistants. Unfortunately, these changes resulted into cuts affecting Americans with disabilities in receiving less actual care and/or were tasked with finding an additional reliable attendant.

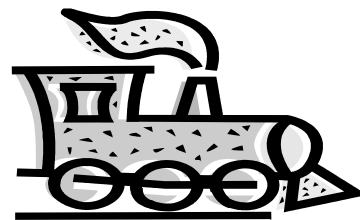
6. Coverage of Assistive Technology and Durable Equipment. Medicare enacted tighter requirements for American with disabilities who were currently using or were seeking to utilize advanced prosthetic devices.

5. 2015 brought a series of successes across the country for the supporters of the Olmstead Decision. The Decision prohibits the unjust institutionalization of individuals as discrimination against people with disabilities in health care and social services.

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Top Ten Moments (continued)

4. Over 40 years of alleged abuse and misconduct at the Lakeview NeuroRehabilitation Center in the White Mountains of New Hampshire was made public.
3. AbilityOne, the highest paid entity entrusted to secure employment for Americans with disabilities and the organization it sits under, SourceAmerica, along with many of its contracted partnerships, have come under scrutiny amidst allegations of funding mismanagement, racketeering, issuance of below-minimum wage pay and under employment of Americans with disabilities.
2. The “Murphy Bill” was introduced in 2015 which the purpose of the bill is to radically reform the current mental health care system. Major national organizations oppose the bill because it violates the civil rights of people with psychiatric disabilities and allows forced drugging.
1. 2015 marked the 25th anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). It was the first sweeping mandate to end discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, public accommodations, telecommunications, transportation, and state and local government. Celebrations commemorating ADA25 were held across the country.

Source: www.adalegacy.com

VOTING 2016



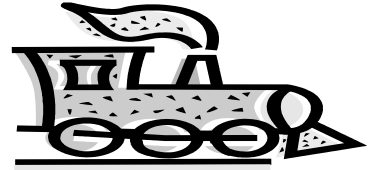
Presidential Primary and State Primary Election Day is Tuesday, March 15, 2016. If you have not registered to vote, deadline to register to vote in the Primary Election was February 19, 2016. As for the General elections, the deadline for voter registration is Friday, October 14, 2016. General Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

For 2016, photo identification is required to vote but the North Carolina General Assembly did pass a bill allowing voters who do not have government-issued photo identification to still vote in this election year by providing their date of birth, the last 4

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Voting 2016 (continued)

digits of their social security number and signing an affidavit stating there is “reasonable impediment” to obtain one of the six approved identification card.

Here are some facts to be aware of before you vote:

- To vote in North Carolina, one must be a U.S. citizen and resident of North Carolina who has lived in the county he or she intends to vote in for at least 30 days. A citizen must also be at least 18 years old. If the individual has been convicted of a felony, his or her right to vote must have been restored. A voter in North Carolina cannot claim the right to vote elsewhere. The deadline to register to vote is 25 days prior to Election Day. You may be able to apply to register to vote in person at the following public facilities:
 1. State or local voter registration and/or election offices.
 2. The department of motor vehicles
 3. Public assistance agencies
 4. Armed services recruitment centers
 5. State-funded programs that serve people with disabilities
 6. Any public facility that a state has designated as a voter registration agency
- North Carolina is one of 33 states along with the District of Columbia that permit some form of early voting. Early voting begins on the third Thursday before Election Day and ends Saturday prior to the election.
- All voters are eligible to vote absentee in North Carolina. A request to vote absentee must be received by the appropriate county board of elections no later than 5:00 pm on the last Tuesday before the Election. The completed ballot must be received by the elections office by 5:00 pm on the day before the election. You can contact your local board of elections and request a form or go to www.ncsbe.gov to print out a form.

Voter registration forms are available at DisAbility Partners and staff will be glad to assist you in completing the form, if needed.



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DISABILITY PARTNERS EXPRESS



EVENTS AT DISABILITY PARTNERS

Friday, March 11, 2016– Jewelry Making 2:00 to 4:00. Learn how to create your own jewelry. Supplies will be provided but if you have some special beads you would like to use, you may bring these to class.

Friday, March 11, 2016– Potluck at 4:00. DisAbility Partners is providing chili, meat and vegetarian. Suggested items to bring: crackers, cornbread, shredded cheese, salad, dessert, drinks.

Friday, April 8, 2016— Self– Advocacy 2:00 to 4:00. Learn or refresh your skills on effective self-advocacy practices. Be your own best advocate!

Friday, April 8, 2016– Taco Night at 4:00. DisAbility Partners will provide the taco filling, meat and vegetarian. Suggested items to bring: taco shells, hard and soft; shredded cheese, tomatoes, lettuce, sour cream, tortilla chips, salsa, drinks, dessert.

Friday, May 13, 2016– Gardening 2:00-4:00. Join in the fun by planting flowers and vegetable plants as a start to your summer garden.

Friday, May 13, 2016– Potluck at 4:00. Bring your favorite casserole. We will also need rolls/ bread, drinks, desserts.