

Support and information for people with autism spectrum disorders, their families and others who care!

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

### GREETINGS:

It is with mixed feelings that I write this column, as it marks my last as chapter President. My three-year term expires at the end of June, when I will be succeeded by current chapter Vice President Scott Campbell. I will continue to serve on the board as Immediate Past President, and will stay active in various chapter fundraising and strategic communications initiatives.



When I joined the board, one of my first tasks was to travel to Richmond with my son Kyle and a group of representatives from our chapter and Autism Speaks to meet with elected officials. Four years later, the little boy in this picture taken with me back then is now a young man who will soon age out of the school system and face an uncertain future. He is just one of many local autistic adults

and those on the brink of adulthood who struggle to gain access to what many of us take for granted – jobs, housing, transportation, and opportunities for recreation and socializing.

Our chapter is committed to raising awareness among families, educators, employers, policymakers and the public at large about the importance of addressing these issues and looking at autism from a lifespan perspective. Too often, autism is portrayed as a condition for children, and there is little emphasis on the looming tidal wave of autistic adults who need and deserve the services and supports that will allow them to avoid leading isolated, unfulfilling lives. Virginia's track record in this area at the state and local level is mixed at best, and we will continue trying to improve this picture through the work of our Lifespan Committee.

## WELCOME, SCOTT!



### New Sheriff In Town

Incoming chapter President Scott Campbell, shown here with his son Ian, is a familiar face in the Northern Virginia autism community. In addition to his work with ASNV, Scott serves on the board of Parents of Autistic Children–Northern Virginia, and is Co-Chair of the Fairfax County School Board's Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities. He also has given 200+ presentations about autism and safety to employers, police departments and first responders. He is an active Army officer with more than 30 years of leadership and management experience

Fresh blood and fresh thinking are key ingredients to a successful organization, and we will be getting that from our new President Scott Campbell and Vice President Ray Nelson. Our focus during my term as President was revamping organizational nuts and bolts such as operations, bylaws, board development and fundraising. Thanks to the significant strides we have made in these areas, we are now poised to shift our efforts and resources to lifespan issues, where the rubber really hits the road and we can truly make a difference. We welcome your input on what our priority areas should be.

*“The future is bright for our chapter. Our leadership is strong, our finances and operations are sound, and our mission is clear.”*

# Autism Acceptance Month

Several months ago, Samantha Bodwell from our board recommended we rebrand April to be known as Autism Acceptance Month rather than Autism Awareness Month as it's been known in previous years. The board approved her recommendation, and the idea is gaining momentum as a new way of looking at the autism experience. We celebrated autism acceptance throughout the month with a full range of activities, including an Autism Acceptance Walk, a month-long promotion with Rosenthal Automotive Group, and a direct mail fundraising campaign and redesigned website for our chapter.

## Autism Acceptance Walk



ASNV Vice President Ray Nelson organized the first annual Autism Acceptance Walk in Fredericksburg on April 28th, and it was a tremendous success.

Ray, his son Raymond and his dog Blue led the way when the teams got down to business and generated more than \$15,000 in donations. Hats off to Ray and his friends in Fredericksburg for putting together an event that holds great promise as another annual fundraiser for our chapter.

## Kudos to Rosenthal Automotive Group

The Rosenthal Automotive Group held a sales promotion throughout the month of April to benefit our chapter. Rosenthal President Don Bavelly recently presented ASNV President Don Shipley with a check for \$25,000 that was raised in the promotion. Next time you're in the market for a new or previously owned vehicle, please visit a Rosenthal dealership and let them know you appreciate their support.



[www.rosenthalauto.com](http://www.rosenthalauto.com)

## Raising Awareness, Building Support

As part of our Autism Acceptance Month strategy, ASNV launched a redesigned website that has gotten rave reviews, and carried out our first direct mail fundraising campaign. Thanks to all who have complimented us on the website and sent donations in response to our mailing. In addition to donations from the direct mail campaign, ASNV also received generous gifts from Accenture, Cub Scout Pack #861, staff with the Fairfax County Department of Public Safety Communications, Front Page Arlington, and members of the girls' basketball team at Woodbridge Senior High School.



## Suntiva Leads Strategic Planning Exercise

Autism Acceptance Month marked a key milestone in our chapter's evolution as an organization, and thanks to ASNV board member Laura Hastings and her colleagues at Suntiva, we used it as an opportunity to take an in-depth look at how we might chart the course for our future serving the Northern Virginia autism community.

Suntiva is an innovative management consulting firm that leaders trust to provide specialized and cross-functional domain expertise in delivery of low-risk solutions and lasting results, and some of their top people recently facilitated a half-day strategic planning session with our chapter's leadership. Their team led us through a series of exercises designed to better define our vision, mission and strategic imperatives, and we emerged with a strong foundation for the strategic planning process ASNV will continue throughout the summer. We thank the entire team at Suntiva for being so generous with their time and talents, and for getting us started on an important next phase in our chapter's growth and future positioning.

[www.suntiva.com](http://www.suntiva.com)



Finally, this column would not be complete without thanking some of those who have made my job easier by contributing to the success of our chapter.

- ASNV's Executive Director Kymberly DeLoatche has tolerated my sometimes unorthodox management style for three years, and is probably ready to have a grown-up in the room now that Scott is President. Thanks for putting up with my quirks.
- Vice President Scott Campbell and Secretary Ray Nelson have been unfailingly reliable and responsive advisors. Thanks for having my back, and for making us one of the few chapters that has fathers so well represented on its board.
- Treasurer John Wall and his predecessor David Bruins have done a great job of keeping our financial house in order. Thanks for lending your expertise in an area where I needed all of the help I could get.
- Our board and volunteers have been generous with their time and talents by attending meetings, staffing events and overseeing governance of our chapter. Thanks for your commitment and sage advice.
- Barbara Wagner, Paola Quiroz, and Kit Hessel and our friends at Hooters have made the Walk for Autism–Virginia, Arts for Autism, and the golf tournament into successful signature fundraisers. Thank you for your vision and execution, and for the generosity of those who have supported these events.
- We continually receive donations for varying amounts from friends of the autism community. Thanks for supporting our mission and the families we serve.

The future is bright for our chapter. Our leadership is strong, our finances and operations are sound, and our mission is clear.

Your input and support will ensure we continue on that path forward.

Best regards,

*Don Shipley*

Parent of a Teen with Autism

## Chapter Fundraising Events

### ASNV Golf Tournament

ASNV's fourth annual golf tournament with Hooters and local firefighters is set for Thursday, July 19 at Twin Lakes Golf Course in Clifton, VA. Shown here at last year's tournament is local firefighter Kit Hessel, who has worked with Hooters and ASNV to organize each of the last four golf tournaments. Don't miss out on foursomes and hole sponsorships...they're going fast!



### Arts for Autism



Plans for the Arts for Autism gala and fundraiser are well underway, and we look forward to mingling with members of the local fashion community like event organizer Paola Quiroz (second from left)

and some of the other model-fundraisers from last year's event on behalf of our chapter at the Clarendon Ballroom on Saturday, November 10. Please contact us if you'd like to be a model fundraiser and walk the runway this fall. [www.arts-for-autism.org](http://www.arts-for-autism.org).

### LA Boxing Fight Night

Tyson's Corner LA Boxing gym recently held a fight night benefit for our chapter, and gym manager Quinn Masi presented us with a check for \$1,000. A card of 12 3-round fights between various amateur boxers who train at their gym made for an entertaining evening in front of an enthusiastic packed house.



[www.laboxing.com/tysonscorner](http://www.laboxing.com/tysonscorner)

# Mark Your Calendar

## Summer Family Fun Events

Summer is now upon us, and ASNV is offering a full array of activities and programs for our families in the coming months. Our discounted Kings Dominion tickets sold out within hours of when we announced them, but our water mine event, annual picnic, sensory movies and other family respite events remain open, and there are a variety of special audience nights by the Nationals and minor league baseball teams around the area. Be sure to check the calendar on our website for details on these upcoming events.



## Autism in the Workforce Workshop

The DC Metro Business Leadership Network (BLN) and Freddie Mac will host the BLN program on “Successful Employment for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum” on Wednesday, November 7 at Freddie Mac in McLean. BLN is a non-profit business led organization that uses a B2B approach to educate employers on the value of including individuals with disabilities in the workforce. As one of 61 affiliates of the USBLN®, the local chapter holds monthly educational programs in Northern VA, DC and Suburban MD highlighting best practices and directed to the needs of human resources, diversity and inclusion and AA/EEO professionals. [www.dcmetrobln.org](http://www.dcmetrobln.org)

## Quarterly Minigrant Application Now Online

As part of the recent overhaul of the ASNV website, visitors can now apply for minigrants online on the Family Services page, making it faster and easier to submit your applications. The minigrants to help defray the costs of lifespan services are still available for individuals of any age in our chapter’s territory with autism spectrum disorder, and requirements for receiving them remain the same. If you have any questions about eligibility or the application process please contact Sarah at [minigrant@asnv.org](mailto:minigrant@asnv.org) for help and support. Deadlines for applying are October 1, January 1, April 1 and July 1.



## Join the Lunch Bunch

Parents, self-advocates and caregivers are encouraged to join the Lunch Bunch with The Arc, ASNV and DSANV every other Tuesday from noon to 2pm at the Hospitality Center at 98 N. Washington Street, Falls Church, VA. Bring a bag lunch and talk to experts about your questions and concerns about navigating the maze of services for individuals with disabilities and on the spectrum. Call 703-532-3214 and ask to RSVP for Lunch Bunch. Sample topics include getting a diagnosis, Medicaid Waivers, IEPs and other school issues, guardianships, special needs trusts, recreation, transportation, housing, and whatever else is on the top of your priority list.

# Lifespan and Advocacy Update

## DOJ - Commonwealth Lawsuit/Settlement

ASNV has been closely monitoring the debate among the U.S. Department of Justice, the Commonwealth of Virginia and various stakeholders over a DOJ proposal to expand community based services. The Commonwealth has proposed to close five Virginia Training Centers over the next few years and replace them with more community-based services that are more inclusive than those currently only serving a limited number of adults with disabilities housed in the training centers. The proposal is strongly opposed by a small but vocal group of families that currently receive services at the centers.

## Prevalence Rates Rise Locally and Nationally

Recently released data shows autism prevalence rates are on the rise both locally and nationally. According to the Virginia Department of Education, the number of autistic students in the state's public school system increased from 11,703 in 2010 to 13,528 in 2011, a jump of more than 15 percent. Nationally, the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control announced 1 in 88 American children are now on

the spectrum, which represents a 23 percent increase from 2006-2008, the most recent government data.

The new prevalence data comes at the same time significant budget cuts are being made in Fairfax County, and there's every reason to think similar cuts are in store for other counties and municipalities in our territory. The Fairfax Community Board of Supervisors, which oversees the Fairfax County-Falls Church Community Services Board and determines the budgets for a wide range of services to those in need such as seniors, veterans, and people with physical and intellectual disabilities, has already forced the publicly funded agency to freeze hiring and cut programs, and it is considering more drastic measures.

Please join us in making sure this doesn't happen. The Fairfax Community Board of Supervisors meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Fairfax Government Center, and CSB chair Sharon Bulova can be reached at 703/324-2321.

## AUTISM SOCIETY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

The Autism Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV) promotes the general welfare of children and adults with autism spectrum disorders, provides support for their families, and the educational, vocational training and recreational needs of those with autism, and aids in the collection and dissemination of information to parents, professionals and the public.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Campbell, President  
Ray Nelson, Vice President  
John Wall, Treasurer  
Laura Hastings, Secretary  
Don Shipley, Immediate Past President

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jugnu Agrawal, Samantha Bodwell, Pat DiBari, Matt Klein, Linnea Nelson, Joe Syron, Ed Zetlin

### PERSONNEL

Executive Director: Kymberly DeLoatche: [director@asnv.org](mailto:director@asnv.org)  
Assistant Director: Sarah Peterson: [assistant.director@asnv.org](mailto:assistant.director@asnv.org)

Board meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month (unless noted differently on our website) at 7:00pm at our office. ASNV members are encouraged and welcome to attend.

98 N. Washington Street, Falls Church, VA 22046  
Phone: (703) 495-8444 | Fax: (703) 563-6099  
E-mail: [info@asnv.org](mailto:info@asnv.org) | [www.asnv.org](http://www.asnv.org)

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Visit us at [www.asnv.org](http://www.asnv.org)

#33589



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*Northern Virginia*

*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism*

**AUTISM SOCIETY** 

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