GMSA Board Meeting Agenda for February 26, 2024

- Review and approve the agenda.
- Introductions. Share an update about your local self-advocacy group
- Read and approve the January minutes.
- 2024 GMSA Board Officer Elections. Today people will say if they want to run. Speeches are made at the March Board meeting.
- Legislative and Policy Update
- Board Retreat
- Voices and Choices Conference
- Peer Advocacy - Jobs available
- The DD Council is looking for new members.
2024 Officer Elections

- Today we will find out who is interested in running
- In March people will make their campaign speeches
- Members will vote during April and May
- Announcement of new officers in May 2024
President

The president will run and lead meetings or ask for a volunteer to run the meeting. They must be willing to share the spotlight. Be willing to represent the group.

Be willing to listen to and respect the other person’s point of view. Work with others to prepare the agenda, possibly at the Officer’s meeting.

The President must be their own guardian.

Attend 1 officer meeting a month on Zoom.

David Frye and Lisa Rudiakov are running for President.
The Vice President will do the work of the President if the President is absent. They may be asked to represent Green Mountain Self-Advocates at meetings with other groups.

Attend 1 officer meeting a month on Zoom.

Levi Gardner and Marje Burns are running for Vice-President.
The Secretary will read the minutes at Board meetings. They will help with the e-newsletter and facebook postings.

They may be asked to represent Green Mountain Self-Advocates at meetings with other groups.

Attend 1 officer meeting a month on Zoom.

Nicole Villemaire is running for Secretary
The Treasurer will present money reports at Board meetings 4 times a year.

They will sign official documents.

They will work on making our budget for the year.

They may be asked to represent Green Mountain Self-Advocates at meetings with other groups. They will attend 1 officer meeting a month on Zoom.

The Treasurer must be their own guardian.

Chad Cleverley is running for Treasurer
Legislative and Policy Update

● The state is changing the way you get money in your budget for services. You answer questions on a form called the SIS-A. You get a score of 1 to 6. How much money you get to pay for your services is based on your score. There are ways to get more money if it is needed.

● The state is looking at what all the agencies spend now. In May the state will put out a list of how much they will pay agencies for services in the future. This is important information we need to know.

● The Governor’s budget has a 3% increase for Developmental Services. But this is misleading. Last year they gave us an increase **BUT the money was only good for one year. When the legislature gives us money it must be permanent, and not just for one year. The 3% is NOT really an increase. It makes the one time money we got last year permanent. It makes us even.**
Board Retreat in Killington Vermont

Overnight Retreat for Board Members and Officers in May 2024. We are working with the hotel to get dates that work for everyone.

Killington Grand Hotel - it is free for Board members to attend.

Day One
● Arrive for Lunch 12:00 to 1:00
● Work from 1 to 4 (with lots of breaks)
● 4:00 check in to our hotel rooms.
● 6:30 Dinner and relax.

Day Two
● Breakfast together 8:00
● Work from 9 to noon (with lots of breaks)
● Lunch 12:00 to 1:00
● 2:00 Leave
Voices & Choices

- The board decided NOT to give a special discount to our members. Instead members who regularly attend group meetings will get a prize or gift. Ideas include:
  - backpack
  - fleese blanket

- Deadline for early cheaper registration is being extended to March 29th
- We got a good response and have many people willing to teach workshop but we still looking for a few more. Is anyone wanting to teach a workshop we need to know this week.
- Tia Nelis is our keynote speaker.
- Can you tell us what kinds of art workshops you like to do?
Pick Our Statewide Ally Of The Year

To get you thinking, here is a list of winners from the past

● Suki, Kirsten Murphy, Skye, DRVT, VT LEND, Workers Center, Katherine Mclaughlin, Jeff Coy, Pascal, Harvey Lavoy, DD Council, Anthony Polina, Theresa Wood…

● We are looking for someone who supports GMSA and self-advocacy on a statewide level.

● Some suggestions for this year are:
  ○ Theresa Wood for sounding the alarm about the forensic facility
  ○ June Bascom is retiring and she is a long time supporter of people who type and GMSA overall.
  ○ CDCI
Our conference theme is our 30th anniversary
What messages do we want want to share.
- Long lasting friendships and meeting new friends
- Just be you; We matter; Free to be us;
- Join us and see what we are all about
- Don't give up on your dreams chase them relentlessly
- We are people too and need to be free to live our lives in our own way
- Our communities need us - we bring so much to where we live and work
- We have a voice; we all belong; nothing about us without us
- We will never forget; we will not go back; Let us be free
- Forward Together NOT one step back; we have come so far; we refuse to go back;
- Do Not let people put you down; our disability community contributes to the US and the world;
- Reflections over the years, highlighting what has come out of it.
- Every group give us one great story to share; - A list local groups accomplishment
Planning Committee for Voices and Choices

All are welcome
Committee members included:
  Chris D, Lisa R., Erik J., Karen Noone, and Marj B.
Meetings are second Monday of month From 10:30 to 12

● March 11
● April 8

Use GMSA link - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/905238684
Applications delayed because we did not get our contract from the state until last 2/22/24

February 26th - Applications open for:

- 3 co-coordinators (2 with the lived experience of receiving developmental services)
- Hire up to 16 Peer Advocates who get services from HCRS, Lincoln Street, Families First, NKHS, Community Associates, Champlain Community Services, Howard, and Upper Valley Services
- Peer Advocates work together to teach workshops
  - Getting ready for your Person-Centered Planning or ISA
  - Know your Rights Under the HCBS Rule and What to Do if My Rights Are Not Respected;
- Peer Advocates, working in teams of at least 2 people to provide “office hours” twice a week
The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council needs members. They are a board that identifies and addresses important issues for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

To apply you must be an adult with a developmental disability or a family member. A developmental disability is any disability that began to show itself before the age of 22.

Our members meet 4 times a year. It is an all day meeting. You get a stipend and lunch. You may attend in-person or on Zoom. We talk with legislators, learn what’s going on in our state, and decide how VTDDC’s funding can best help Vermonters with developmental disabilities. Many members serve on sub-committees.
The application for membership is totally accessible and should only take a few minutes of your time.

>> You do not need to know how to read or write English to apply.

>> Would you like support to finish your application? Reach out to Council staff and let's get started!

CONTACT VTDDC:

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