

Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center

P.O. Box 754, Park Forest, Illinois 60466

www.ludemanpflc.org

Ludeman.PFLC@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019

PFLC FALL GENERAL MEETING

***** SUNDAY ** OCTOBER 27, 2019***

ELISABETH LUDEMAN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

114 ORCHARD DRIVE, BUILDING 64

PARK FOREST, IL. 60466

REFRESHMENTS 1:30 P.M. MEETING: 2:00 P.M.

AGENDA

JOHN HALEY, PFLC PRESIDENT

LISA ROBINSON, LUDEMAN CENTER DIRECTOR

MIKE SPRICKER, ENGINEER, LUDEMAN CENTER

PAUL KEIPERT, PFLC TREASURER

BARBARA WHITTAKER, EPA COORDINATOR

WELCOME

LUDEMAN UPDATE

LUDEMAN ROADS PROJECT

WASHINGTON, D.C. VOR

CONFERENCE

LUDEMAN CHOIR DIRECTOR

AND THE LUDEMAN CHOIR

Barbara Whittaker, Ludeman Choir Director will direct and present the Ludeman Choir performance. The Ludeman Choir members have been practicing and singing their hearts out to put on a great performance for our meeting. We are so grateful for the time, energy, and talent provided by Barbara and the Ludeman Choir members!

Mike Spicker, Ludeman Engineer, will provide an update on the road repairs project and other major projects that are planned for the Ludeman grounds.

The Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center mission is to advocate for the rights of all the residents of Elisabeth Ludeman Center. We will work with the center to provide quality of life enhancement for individuals with disabilities, and to act as a support organization for the family members and friends of the residents. We are an all-volunteer organization.

ELISABETH LUDEMAN CENTER UPDATES

Lisa Y. Robinson, Center Director, Phone Number (708) 283-3001.

Greetings from the Assistant Center Director

October 1, 2019

The Elisabeth Ludeman Developmental Center continues to support and assist all people to enable them to achieve their goals.

Elisabeth Ludeman Activity Department:

- One of our “own” went to O’Hare Airport on Saturday, September 28, 2019 and participated in the Airplane Pull – a fun Special Olympic team challenge to take part in the ultimate tug-of-war – competing to pull an aircraft 12 feet as quickly as possible.
- On Saturday, August 10, 2019 the Activity Department escorted 20 individuals to the Bowling Tournament in Joliet, IL. One Individual won a Gold Metal, and other Individuals received Silver and Bronze Metals. Afterwards, all went out to dinner at the Golden Corral Buffet and Grill Restaurant.
- The Aktion Club will be attending the Park Forest Kiwanis Club’s “All You Can Eat Pancake Day” on Saturday, October 5, 2019 at Rich East High School.
- The Laundry Program is now picking up the laundry service for eight homes around the Ludeman campus. They’re doing a great job!

Other Happenings:

- The Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center sponsored the Fall Fun Fest on Saturday, September 21, 2019 and despite a little light rain everyone had a ball! Ludeman is still talking about all of the fun.

Environmental and Center Improvements

- If you haven’t been here recently, you’re in for a wonderful surprise. All of the roadways and parking lots have been thoroughly patched! This job should carry us over until the major road and pathway repaving project gets completed in the next two years. Also, all new sewer and water lines will be brought to each building.

Elisabeth Ludeman Center would like to thank the Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center for your continuous support!

Tim Montgomery
Assistant Center Director

Lisa Y. Robinson
Ludeman Center Director

HORTICULTURAL PROGRAM – FLOWER SALE

We are again anticipating a beautiful display and sale of flowers and plants for the upcoming holiday season at our Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center General Meeting on October 27, 2019. The Horticultural Program at the Ludeman Center has really evolved in the last couple of years. Take a look at the Ludeman grounds, especially the beautiful raised beds garden. It is full of fresh produce that is also used at the center! With the partnership and guidance of Cornerstone Services personnel, the Ludeman individuals participate in a wonderful program that lets them feel productive as well as enjoy the fruits of their labor.

What Will Replace the Annual PFLC Nut Sale?

For some 40+ years in this spot, we have told you about the launch of our big Annual PFLC Nut Sale which would normally be taking place at our upcoming October General Membership Meeting. But as you know the nut sale is no more. We have outlined for you the many reasons why the PLFC board made the decision, but the bottom line was that the Nut Sale despite all the work put into it, simply no longer was working as an effective means of raising funds.

So, we will change with the times.

The mission and work of Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center will of course go on – as robustly and passionately as ever – working to enhance the lives of Ludeman residents and to advocate on their behalf and their families.

You, our members, have been remarkable in your support of PFLC. We have explained our needs and our goals to you and you have generously responded. You can expect a letter from us next month asking you to help us once again – this time to fill our fundraising gap. Until then on behalf of our board, I thank each of you for all you do to make a difference in the lives of our loved ones and the developmentally disabled community.

Truly,
John Haley
PFLC President

2019 Tootsie Roll Drive Alexis Pride, Committee Chairperson

Thanks to Alexis Pride, our Tootsie Roll Drive Chairperson, and our PFLC Volunteers that collected \$\$\$\$ on September 21ST at the Big Apple Restaurant for the Knights of Columbus Annual Tootsie Roll Drive. The drive benefits the Intellectually Disabled. A portion of the collections are donated to PFLC based on the number of volunteer collectors. This year's volunteers were:

Alexis Pride, Chairperson

Angie Kaskey, Volunteer

Fred Flynn, Volunteer

Website News – www.ludemanpflc.org

Amazon Smile Update – To date, we have received \$613.48 from the Amazon Smile Program and we have 74 supporters! Let's get to 100 supporters – pass the word around to your friends and families to sign up for the Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center charity. Go to our website, and click on the Amazon Smile "Get Started" button to have a portion of your purchase donated to PFLC! It's easy, and does not add additional charges to your order total. Please be sure to visit the website to view the 2019 Fall Fun Fest Photos!

2019 VOR Washington, D.C. Conference

I was honored to represent all of you and your loved ones at the 2019 VOR Annual Conference in Washington DC, from Saturday, June 8th through Tuesday, June 11th. 2019 was my seventh year attending this valuable conference.

Let me start by expressing my gratitude: to the board and all the general membership of PFLC for sponsoring my conference registration, hotel accommodations and ground transportation. Thanks to my mother-in-law, for donating her airline miles for my flights. A huge thank you goes to Rita Winkler from ILADD and the Murray Center Parents Group for arranging all the Congressional office appointments. Special thanks to VOR for all the planning and arrangements that they do behind the scenes to make the conference a success.

Saturday afternoon was the time for individual member state reports. So many states have disturbing stories of failures of severe and profound Intellectual and Developmental Disabled (I/DD) who have moved into “community” settings, about closures of more of the congregate Intermediate Care Facilities, and how changes have been made or are planned in how Medicare/Medicaid is being funded and managed in some states. When Rita Winkler gave the Illinois report, I again realized how blessed we in Illinois are to still have seven State Operated Developmental Centers (SODC) with no active threat to their existence, and that some new admittance has occurred at some centers. This year you can view the state reports by visiting: <https://www.vor.net>

On Sunday there were three presentations. First was a very uplifting presentation by Melissa Stone, who is the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services at the Arkansas Department of Human Services. Next, James Edmondson, M.D. PhD. had a presentation about Medicaid Managed Care. Amy S. F. Lutz is a parent of an Autistic child and is the founder of the National Council on Severe Autism, EASI Foundation. You can find links to YouTube versions of the presentations at <https://www.vor.net>

In our legislative visits we asked for Congress to support Medicaid funding for people with I/DD without changes that would reduce these critically necessary funds. Also, we asked for their support of the HEADS UP Act of 2019. This bill would designate people with I/DD as a Medically Underserved Population, providing them with better funding for primary and specialized care, incentivizing new research, and authorizing more favorable reimbursement rates for providers who treat this population.

We asked for support for the Autism CARES Act of 2019, which would extend the Autism CARES Act of 2014 and provide for further research into the causes, diagnosis, and early and ongoing detection, prevention, and treatment of autism spectrum disorder.

Most importantly, we asked our legislators to oppose the Disability Integration Act of 2019. This act would eliminate individual or family choice of residential settings for individuals with I/DD, strain federal and state budgets for Medicaid, and overturn key provisions in the landmark 1999 Supreme Court decision in Olmstead. These bills exist in both the House and the Senate, and have significant cosponsors in both parties. Both versions have strong language to close down congregate facilities, moving the entire ID/D population into the community, seemingly ignoring all of the important rights granted by the Olmstead decision. A group called ADAPT has done a real blitz on both houses of Congress to raise support for these bills, and many legislators that have agreed to cosponsor the bills don't see the destructive effect on SODCs and other congregate facilities as VOR sees it.

Finally, we asked that Congress oppose both the Raise the Wage Act and the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act, as long as they contain provisions that would eliminate work opportunities for some individuals with I/DD whose disabilities are so severe they are unable to perform tasks sufficient to warrant the payment of a minimum wage.

Overall the visits went well. Some of the aides we spoke with were not well versed in the issues or were new to being an aide. For these, our presentations were more basic to make them aware of the existence of severe and profound ID/D people and their service needs. Others were very knowledgeable and remembered VOR from previous visits, and with these we could talk more about the specific bills and our specific “asks.” I included a wonderful montage of PFLC event photos to show the aides and that really helped make the issues real.

When I spoke, I told my brother Glenn’s story of how he had been on a waiting list for Misericordia and was admitted at age eleven. However, before he had been there for two years, he was unable to stay at this esteemed facility. They could not handle an individual like him because of his explosive and self-injurious behaviors. He was sent to Reed Mental Health center for almost a year before a placement was found for him at the relatively new Elisabeth Ludeman Development Center. Only ELDC accepted, kept, and cared for him. Now for over four decades Glenn has been a resident of Ludeman and the staff has done wonders for minimizing his behavioral issues. I hoped that the story would enforce the idea that if a place with the reputation of Misericordia could not help Glenn because of his needs and his situation, that it is unlikely that a community setting could help him.

I think my favorite moment was when we were discussing opposing the Disability Integration Act, a legislative aide looked it up and to her horror saw that her Congressman had indeed signed up to cosponsor the bill. As she dug a little deeper, she then said “In my defense, I was not working for the Congressman at the time!”

Many of the aides praised us as individuals for coming to Washington to present our stories and our views. They said it is a very powerful testament and has much more weight when individuals make such visits, over the visits that they get from the so-called advocacy groups.

What Can you Do?

Please reach out to your Legislative Representatives and Senators to express your opinion regarding various bills that will impact the Developmentally Disabled Community!

Links to Federal Government Elected Officials:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives> <https://www.senate.gov/>

VOR Link: <http://www.vor.net/>

DONATIONS

Donations are still needed to fund the various activities PFLC sponsors for the enjoyment of the residents. We also continue to need your financial help for the Protect Our Residents legal fees. Your donations are put to good use. We are here for our residents. We are their voices. A little help from many goes a long way!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

The Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center is a 501c (3) Non-Profit Organization

All donations are tax deductible. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. We accept money, time and talent.



“The measure of a civilization is how it treats its weakest members.”

By this measure, the state of Illinois seriously fails a special population that is easy to ignore and exploit because they are vulnerable and voiceless. That’s why it’s imperative that we all be their voice. Let’s make sure the Ludeman Center and the other six SODCs continue to be there for all those with such very special needs.

This is my sister, Jeanne Haley. She is 63 years old, but functions mentally as a one year old.

She doesn’t know how to talk, but she does vocalize her sentiments by making a variety of noises. She is diapered, as she has been since she was an infant.

She has a sleep disorder. It is very common for her to go three or four days at a time on as little as 2 or 3 hours sleep – TOTAL.

She is prone to falls when she gets this tired because she still fights sleep and keeps walking. This is why she wears a helmet. Also like many NFL players, Jeanne wears hip protectors due to her severe osteoporosis to protect in the event of a fall.

Despite all these precautions, Jeanne suffered a severe leg fracture this year while doing nothing more extreme than simply sitting down on her couch. All her life Jeanne has loved to walk. It’s been one of her few simple pleasures in this world. She would hold your hand and could safely walk on the pathways though the Ludeman grounds.

Jeanne has always received excellent care at Ludeman. Currently, that has been extended to include physical therapy to try to get her to walking once again.

Despite the way our SODCs are often negatively described, Jeanne is not “warehoused” in a state facility. Jeanne lives at the Ludeman Developmental Center in Park Forest at a home with 9 other residents. She is cared for around the clock by people with names like Julie, Jill, Rashida, & Lisa (to name just a few) who treat her with love and compassion.

Community placements serve some individuals very well, but my sister, as well as a high percentage of her fellow residents would be put at serious risk and inadequately served by such a community placement.

Since our parents died, my sister and I are Jeanne’s co-guardians. We visit her regularly driving the 90-mile round trip and though it is doubtful she knows exactly who we are, she knows she is loved by her family and by her extended Ludeman family for whom we are grateful.

Truly,

John Haley

Jeanne’s brother, co-guardian, and President of *Parent & Friends of Ludeman Center*

FALL FUN FEST, 2019

The Fall Fun Fest was a very special event this year. The Family of Ludeman resident, Patrick Shekleton co-sponsored the event with the Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center. The Shekleton siblings banded together and provided a substantial amount of sponsorship funds in honor of their brother. Thank you, Shekleton Family!!

PLFC was awarded a generous donation from the 100+ Women Who Care of Chicago Southland. With their donation, and with the additional funding you provide when you donate to PFLC, we were able to purchase a beautiful Glider Swing for the Ludeman individuals to enjoy the outdoors. PFLC was proud to display and dedicate the Glider Swing at the Fall Fun Fest. Thank you, Patti Byrnes for nominating PFLC for this generous donation, and thank you Jim Byrnes and the 100+ Women of Chicago Southland for your generosity!!

The Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center Fall Fun Fest was a success despite the unpredictable weather – high winds and periodic showers, but the show must go on! Our volunteers, the Ludeman Activity Department and Engineering staff were true troopers ready to assist when the need called. I must say, we had a wonderful event despite the weather. Thank you to the Ludeman Staff, volunteers, and entertainment – our great band, The Nite Lites, Forest View Farm's horse-drawn wagon rides, and Those Funny Little People that kept the day upbeat!

LUDEMAN CENTER INFORMATION

It is important that you know the following information to contact the right Ludeman Center resource. First, know what Unit and House Number your family member/friend resides in. There is a full complement of staff to help you at the Unit level. Should any issues arise, they should be your first point of contact.

Unit 1, Houses 4 – 22

Unit Director	708-283-3300
Mental Health Admin.	708-283-3147
Executive Secretary	708-283-3301
Nursing Office	708-283-3315/3142
Social Worker	708-283-3414
Residential Supervisors	708-283-3304/3413

Unit 2, Houses 24 - 39

Unit Director	708-283-3348/3074
Mental Health Admin.	708-283-3292
Executive Secretary	708-283-3064
Nursing Office	708-283-3347/3345
Social Worker	708-283-3068/3069
Residential Supervisors	708-283-3344/3189

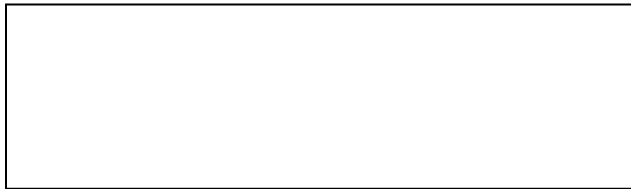
Unit 3, Houses 40-56

Unit Director	708-283-3380
Mental Health Admin.	708-283-3087
Executive Secretary	708-283-3381
Nursing Office	708-283-3386/3387
Social Worker	708-283-3395
Residential Supervisors	708-283-3384/3290

General

Switchboard	708-283-3000
Director's Office & Staff	708-283-3001, 3004, 3006, 3007
Health Center	708-283-3175, 3168, 3021, 3010, 3893, 3118
Dental Office	708-283-3100, 3103, 3104
Psychological Services	Contact Switchboard
Trust Fund	708-283-3039, 3040
Developmental Training	708-283-3101
Activity Therapist	708-283-3107
Dietary	708-283-3432

**Parents & Friends of Ludeman Center
P.O. Box 754
Park Forest, IL 60466**



Thanks for your great support of last month's Fall Fun Fest. Delighted to have so many of you there making the individuals' day so enjoyable! Special thanks to our Volunteers, Donors, the Ludeman Staff, Administration, and Activity Department for making the day so successful!!

Hay Rides and Pumpkin Pies – Here Comes Fall!



Come Out and Support PLFC Sponsored Events

Sunday, October 27th

**PFLC Fall General Meeting – Building 64
Ludeman Center, 114 Orchard Dr., Park Forest, IL
Refreshments 1:30 p.m. Meeting 2:00 p.m.**