

# Community League, Wassaic D.C. Chapter, NYSARC, Inc. The Arc Community League

## \$5 GOES A LONG WAY.....

Community League, Wassaic D.C. Chapter, NYSARC, Inc. has been advocating and providing services for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) for over 70 years. From advocacy, to lobbying against State and Federal budget cuts, our members have been the “voice” for people who cannot speak for themselves.

### WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING AT OUR CHAPTER?

These have been extra-ordinary times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Supplemental Group Day Habilitation Program had to cease operating for a few months which meant a substantial decrease in revenue that we depend on.

**We're back in swing** ..... although on a smaller scale. But because of the work of our dedicated Direct Support Professional (DSP) staff, participants are once again enjoying being with their friends and participating in "special" group activities that enhance community inclusion and daily living skill goals.

### WHAT’S HAPPENING ON THE STATE & NATIONAL LEVELS?

Part of your membership dues go toward ensuring that people with I/DD are served with the utmost of care by qualified, trained direct support professionals.

The Arc NY has long advocated for recognition of essential frontline staff. For over a decade that call has gone unheard, and the neglect of our vulnerable population resulted in an escalating crisis that threaten the safety, opportunity, and future of supports and services for people with I/DD. Direct Support Professionals provide care and supports, but currently a quarter of DSP positions are vacant statewide. As a result, nonprofit providers are being forced to eliminate or reduce programs due to lack of staff. A proposed 5.4% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) was proposed for DSP workers. This would increase direct care wages at a time when these essential jobs must compete with higher paying jobs offered in non-essential positions.

### WHY ARE YOUR MEMBERSHIP, SUPPORT AND “VOICE” NEEDED?

(1) To ensure that our work at The Arc Community League can continue aiding and supporting individuals and their families, (2) Because of lobbying and grass roots advocacy the 11% COLA has been achieved and front-line workers can be retained and recruited. This will hopefully reduce the staff shortage in homes and day programs, (3) To continue advocating for the I/DD population (4) To provide oversight that ensures people with I/DD receive needed services and supports, especially as they age and require more medical oversight.

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Being a member of The Arc Community League also makes you a member of The Arc New York (statewide) AND a member of the ARC of the US (nationally).

Please consider renewing your membership, soliciting new members and participating in our fundraising efforts.

For questions, call our Board President at 845-838-0515 ext. 8 or email [rosemary@communityleague-ny.org](mailto:rosemary@communityleague-ny.org)

On behalf of the individuals we serve, thank you for your support.