

# Seguin RCA

Serving Individuals With Developmental Disabilities

## The Speaker

Thank you to the Scholarship Committee (Ginny Grecco, Chair; Mary DeMars; Georgann Grecco; and Kathleen Grecco) for their hard work . They were faced with the difficult task of selecting who would receive one of the four \$2,000 scholarships Seguin RCA awarded this year.

The winners are:

**Emily Bastain - Lyons Township HS**  
**Marie Geraghty - Lyons Township HS**

**Steven Copher - Oak Park/River Forest HS**  
**Charlette Only-Randle UCP Seguin Services**

To quote Katherine Hickey, a 2013 Seguin RCA scholarship recipient,

"I am so thankful that your organization saw my potential and aided me in my journey to becoming a special educator."



Left to right: Kathleen Grecco, Georgann Grecco, Marie Geraghty, Steven Copher, Emily Bastain, Ginny Grecco, Mary DeMars



Danielle McCormick  
2014 Seguin RCA  
Scholarship Recipient

# A Message from the President

by Ralph Salvino III, Board President



**Ralph Salvino III, Board President**  
Cicero

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Forest View

At the March Board meeting Helen Kossler notified the Board that she has accepted a full time position with the Illinois Board of Education as Principal Consultant.

Under Helen's leadership we have added a ninth week to our Summer Camp, completed a successful respite weekend, put plans in place for a Memorial Day Respite Weekend, helped develop a camp website and initiated the reformatting of *The Speaker*.

Although Helen will not be active in Seguin RCA's day-to-day activities, she has volunteered to be a member of the Farm Committee. Thank you, Helen, for all your efforts.

Our condolences to the family of Paul, Bob and Janet, on the death of their mother, Diane Franklin. Diane, might have been a little woman in physical stature, but she stood tall with her grace, enthusiasm, love and respect for all persons with developmental disabilities. As one of her many friends said, "Diane was a real spit fire."

Although Seguin RCA has been in existence for 66 years, we still depend upon a core group of volunteers to keep our programs going. But, we'd like to expand and welcome members, both old and new, to lend their ideas and energy to our organization. We are seeking members to join Seguin RCA's Nominating Committee for 2015, to expand our volunteer base and find new Board members for the coming fiscal year.

Please consider joining us as we work to support families and individuals with developmental disabilities.

The memorials that Seguin RCA has received since the September/October 2014 issue will be published in the upcoming May/June 2015 issue.

# Family News



The Seguin RCA Valentine Party might have been delayed two weeks because of weather but the enthusiasm was not. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped create after-Valentine's Day memories. Maybe Hallmark can market a new greeting card capturing after-Valentine's Day memories?

Seguin RCA's  
**ROUTE FOR  
66 YEARS**  
1949 - 2015



Seguin RCA's benefit luncheon "ROUTE FOR 66 YEARS" was held on Sunday, March 8. I would like to thank the committee for their ideas, hard work and dedication to Seguin RCA; the volunteers who helped make our benefit a total success; our MC, Ron Keifer (Darien's Man of the Year) and the individuals who attended. I hope you enjoyed your afternoon as much as we enjoyed having you. Also, thank you to those who placed ads in our ad book and to our printer, JD Productions, who printed an outstanding book.

Congratulations to the scholarship winners and I hope your college experiences are memorable. Seguin RCA appreciates everyone's support.

*Eileen Tumpach, Chair*

Mark your calendars for...

## Seguin RCA's Spring Fling

Sunday, April 12

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Crystal Sky Banquets

7941 West 47th Street - Lyons

Dancing, balloon maker, finger food, and more.....



# Did You Know?

by Helen Kossler

## **Illinois Budget Cuts**

In his Budget Address, Governor Rauner called for "shared sacrifice" in addressing the budget shortfall. One sacrifice will be the elimination of all funds for respite care. This will impact any family that currently receives funding and support for respite care whether in-home or not. The governor requested a 10% across-the-board cut in the budgets of all agencies. Effects have already been seen in Human Services budgets and programs. The State has frozen already-awarded grants to Parks and Recreation Districts in Berwyn, Forest Park and Oak Park. It is unknown what effect this will have on people in nursing homes who are part of the Ligas Consent Decree and their ability to move into the community. Individuals on the PUNS list, even with critical or emergency needs, are not being funded at this time.

## **Developmental Disabilities Director Resigns**

Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Kevin Casey, has tendered his resignation and plans to take a position as Executive Director of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities. His last day with the agency was March 13th.

Greg Fenton will assume the role as Acting Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Greg is currently the Deputy Director of state-operated developmental centers for the Division of Developmental Disabilities at the Illinois Department of Human Services. Kris Smith will be the Acting Director for the Division of Rehabilitation Services. Kris served most recently as Deputy Director of Vocational Services.

## **Federal Government Issues**

Currently, efforts are moving forward to amend the Constitution to enact a balanced budget amendment (BBA). Such an amendment would force drastic cuts in Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare and other federal programs that people with disabilities rely on to live in the community. The Arc and other disability advocacy groups are strongly opposed to a BBA.

Learn more at: <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4166>

## **The Arc Convention**

The Arc's 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will be at the Hilton Hotel in Lisle again this year on April 22-23. This is open to parents, caregivers and self-advocates. There are stipends available to help pay for registration. There are information sessions on housing, employment and the Ligas Decree. Call the Consumer Involvement Program at 815/464-1832 for more information.

## Did You Know? (continued)

### Seguin RCA Respite Weekends and Summer Camp

The first weekend respite camp was a success. Everyone, including the staff, had a good time. The group went to the Nicolas Conservatory, the Harley-Davidson Museum and the Ice Hogs Hockey Game. We took lots of pictures. Even the bone-chilling cold did not deter the fun.



The next respite weekend is planned for May 22-24 (Memorial Day weekend). The group will be going to BraveHeart for a full day program with horses. Many groups in the area use this organization including UCP-Seguin, Garden Center and Helping Hand, so we know they do a fine job of programming for people with disabilities. The cost for the weekend is \$200 which includes round-trip transportation, all activity fees and all meals. The van leaves for camp around 7 PM on Friday and arrives back at Berwyn on Sunday afternoon around 2 PM. For more information call the office at 708/788-5777.

There are still openings in the Summer Camp but they're filling up fast. This year we have extended the summer camp by one week. You can check out [www.campsequin.org](http://www.campsequin.org) or call 708/788-5777 for more information. But don't wait because we expect to have a full house this year.

### March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month

Seguin RCA is part of a DD Consortium along with other area agencies. Look for the consortium ad which will appear in The Wednesday Journal, The Landmark and the Forest Park Review showcasing developmental disabilities. It's part of an effort to make sure that people with disabilities are part of the community in all areas - housing, employment, education and recreation. The Consortium also represents an effort on the part of the member agencies to improve communication among agencies and to make it easier for families and individuals to get services and support they need.

# Seguin RCA

Serving Individuals with  
Developmental Disabilities  
6223 W. Ogden Avenue  
Berwyn, IL 60402  
Phone: (708) 788-5777  
[www.seguinrca.org](http://www.seguinrca.org)  
[www.campseguin.org](http://www.campseguin.org)

The mission of Seguin RCA is to provide advocacy services to persons with developmental disabilities and their families, promote community awareness and support programs that will enhance a positive quality of life for this population.

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Berwyn, IL 60402

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## 2015 Spring Calendar

### Monday, March 23

7:00 PM - Berwyn  
Seguin RCA Membership Meeting

### Tuesday, March 24

6:00 PM - Berwyn  
Seguin RCA Art Class (FREE)

### Sunday, April 12

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Crystal Sky Banquets - McCook  
Seguin RCA Spring Fling (FREE)

### Monday, April 13

7:00 PM - Berwyn  
Seguin RCA Board Meeting

### Tuesday, April 14

6:00 PM - Berwyn  
Seguin RCA Art Class (FREE)

### Tuesday, April 28

6:00 PM - Berwyn  
Seguin RCA Art Class (FREE)

### Monday, May 11

7:00 PM - Berwyn  
Seguin RCA Board Meeting

### Tuesday, May 12

6:00 PM - Berwyn  
Seguin RCA Art Class (FREE)

### Monday, May 18

7:00 PM - Berwyn  
Seguin RCA Annual Meeting

### Friday, May 22 - Sunday, May 24

Memorial Day Respite Camp Weekend  
Camp Seguin—Winnebago, IL



[facebook.com](http://facebook.com)  
[Camp Seguin](http://CampSeguin)