

TO: Board Members, Advisory Board Members, State Coordinators, and Key Members

FROM: Mary McTernan, President
978-535-2472

RE: Your contribution to the VOR History Project

DATE: April 27, 2006

VOR's Board of Directors has approved the writing and publication of VOR's history. This is an exciting project that will help preserve and honor the important work of early advocates, while also speaking to VOR's past and future successes.

You are among the first to be selected to share your story and experiences. Accomplished author Deb Gilbert will be writing the history. She has asked that contributors share personal experiences from before and after VOR's 1983 incorporation. For example,

- 1 Your families' personal story - what motivated you to go beyond caring for your loved one to advocacy for all people with mental retardation
- 2 When did get involved with, or even form, your local and state advocacy organizations
- 3 The "kitchen table" anecdotes – meetings and mailings
- 4 The trips to state capitals and Washington, D.C.
- 5 Key meetings with notable state and federal policymakers
- 6 Your mentors
- 7 Realizing there was national reach to what you were involved with – before and after VOR was founded.
- 8 Your work today.

I realize that what VOR is asking is a major endeavor. Please know that there is no required format, except that Ms. Gilbert prefers any written submission be double spaced for easier editing. You are encouraged to be informal, relaxed and comfortable as you share your recollections. You may share your experiences in writing or by speaking into a tape recorder (which we will provide upon request). Consider nothing to be irrelevant; be detailed in your account.

Within 60 days (by June 30, 2006), please send your history, as well as the signed release form (enclosed), to:

Deb Gilbert
1436 Elmwood
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-3902
dwistargilbert@sbcglobal.net

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly. All of us at VOR are sincerely grateful for your contribution to this important project.

RELEASE

I, the undersigned, agree to submit my personal story about my loved one with mental retardation and my involvement in VOR for a book tentatively entitled Voices for the Voiceless. As guardian of this individual, I allow disclosure of personal and historical information regarding my loved one for publication.

I understand that my story will be edited for grammar, mechanics, and style. None of the facts will be changed. I will have the opportunity to review the edited version for my comments and suggestions.

I will submit my story to Deb Gilbert at her e-mail address, by mail, or by tape recording to:

Deb Gilbert
1436 Elmwood
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-3902
dwistargilbert@sbcglobal.net

Tamie will forward all submissions unedited to author Deb Gilbert.

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

I would like my story to be told under a pen name.
Check at the following line if this is so_____.

The pen name I would like to use is --
