

**VOR AWARENESS MONTH – OCTOBER 2010!!**  
**Let's work to together to EDUCATE and RECRUIT**

During the last 27 years VOR has accomplished many things due to the support our loyal members and donors.

We are proud and excited about what we have been able to accomplish over the past two decades (see attached for an overview of some of our more recent accomplishments).

**We need your help** now to let others know about VOR's important work. With VOR's 2010 Awareness campaign we are calling on ALL VOR members to EDUCATE existing donors and RECRUIT as many new members as possible.

We need the help of all of you to get the word out and make October 2010 a really special time for VOR Awareness.

**How you can help**

We are calling on each of you to work with your Facilities, Family Groups and others to increase the awareness and visibility of VOR!! There are lots of ways to help:

- ✓ Include an announcement or story about VOR Awareness Month (October 2010) in your newsletter and other publications.
- ✓ Host an event that encourages membership and involvement in VOR. This can be in your home, at your church, in conjunction with a family association meeting, or other venue.
- ✓ Send a letter or an email blast to your family association members and others about VOR, encouraging them to join and donate to VOR.
- ✓ Host an event such as a walkathon, bake sale, Tupperware party (with a portion of the sale proceeds going to VOR).

These are just a few ideas. You may have some great ideas too. As you prepare for events or activities please let VOR know what great plans you have in place and also how it turned out so we can share success stories. We would like very much to include your story and pictures of activities in our newsletter and on our website.

**The time is now!**

Like many other organizations, this is a difficult time for VOR. Regardless, our Mission is too critical; we will not falter. With your help, VOR will continue to successfully pursue our mission as the only national organization that expressly opposes efforts to eliminate the facility option, recognizing that the individual and their family are the primary decision-makers.

Thank you in advance for your participation! We are here to help. Contact Julie Huso at [jhuso@vor.net](mailto:jhuso@vor.net) or Tamie Hopp at [thopp@vor.net](mailto:thopp@vor.net) for questions, handouts for your events, story ideas for your newsletters, or whatever you may need to make your event on VOR's behalf successful. VOR's Membership Committee is also standing by to answer any questions. Their contact information follows.

Thank you again. Now, go EDUCATE and RECRUIT in October 2010!

Sincerely,

Julie M. Huso  
Executive Director

3605 W. Ralph Rogers Rd, #106  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108  
605-370-4652  
605-271-0445 fax  
[jhuso@vor.net](mailto:jhuso@vor.net)

## **VOR RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

\* 87 U.S. Representatives have cosponsored (due solely to VOR's advocacy) H.R. 1255, a federal bill which will restore residents' and legal guardians' decision-making authority in certain class action lawsuits involving our family members.

\* With VOR's help, more than 2,500 of families of residents of private and public facilities in Illinois, spoke up and defeated a potentially dangerous settlement agreement. (So each six parties must be an individual Action. One week later, the judge issued an opinion rejecting the proposed settlement AND decertifying the class, relying, in part, on the Olmstead decision. Objectors could not have asked for more. We believe the judge recognized that the disabled community -- like any community -- is too varied to be treated as everyone having the same needs. It also recognizes that when it comes to caring for our most vulnerable members of society, one size does not fit all, and true choice is a two way street. VOR is now working to identify other cases in which this great legal precedent will help.

\* VOR just launched a new and improved website ([www.vor.net](http://www.vor.net)), which aims to serve as a one-stop resource for families and other advocates who support residential choice. The site features advocacy toolkits for family advocates and legislators, as well as news, VOR legislative updates and more.

\* In June, as we do annually, VOR volunteers visited EVERY Congressional office, the White House, and other federal agencies, representing CHOICE.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ROSTER**  
**2010-2011**

**Mary Kay Cowen, Chair**

5100 Willowtree Rd  
Marrero, LA 70072  
504-494-0170  
[mkmcowen@cox.net](mailto:mkmcowen@cox.net)

**Jane Anthony**

2055 Wethersfield Ct.  
Reston, VA 20191-3628  
703-860-8652  
[Janthonyjane@comcast.net](mailto:Janthonyjane@comcast.net)

**Cristy Dwyer**

72 Carmine Street, Rear Duplex  
New York, NY 10014  
212-929-4197  
[myromax@earthlink.net](mailto:myromax@earthlink.net)

**Darrell Pickney**

204 NE 2nd Street  
Hoxie, AR 72433  
870-930-5574  
[ddpickney@yahoo.com](mailto:ddpickney@yahoo.com)

**Alan Fortney**

85 Lauren Drive  
Plumerville, AR 72127  
501-208-5966  
[AlanFortney@hughes.net](mailto:AlanFortney@hughes.net)

**Barbara Cukierski**

1508 N. Lincoln Court  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004  
847-308-5728  
[BCuk217@aol.co](mailto:BCuk217@aol.co),