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2009 VOR Annual Meeting and Washington Initiative, June 12, 2009

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YOUR FAMILY ASSOCIATION CAN HELP!

Distribute Annual Meeting/Initiative Flyers and Sponsorship Flyers

Put information about these opportunities in your newsletters.

Contact Tamie at 605-399-1624; Tamie327@hotmail.com for information.

VOR Weekly E-Mail Update

February 20, 2009

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TELECONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILY ADVOCATES

1. FEBRUARY 25, 2009: SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING -

An Interactive Online Seminar presented by EPLiveOnline and Merrill Lynch (archive will also be available)

2. THREE TELECONFERENCES - March 2, April 6, May 4: National Conversation on the State of the States' Budgets

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***VOR Disclaimer:** This opportunity is being shared for your information and interest. By sharing this information, VOR is not endorsing any financial planning product or advice.*

February 25, 2009
7:00 - 9:30 PM EST

Registration: http://www.epliveonline.org/ep_20090225_reg.html

Join a Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor, a third-party special needs trust attorney, and a representative from a third-party disability organization as they discuss the financial, legal and social challenges faced by families like yours.

(Please note that neither Merrill Lynch nor its personnel provide tax, accounting, or legal advice).

Location:

www.epliveonline.com in 2 convenient formats
Live, one-way audio/video streamed with e-mail chat
Archived (viewed online after the event)

Our panel of experts will:

. Explore the team approach to special needs planning
Discuss the financial challenges facing families of children with disabilities and review the key elements of an effective financial strategy
Examine how a Special Needs Trust can be used to supplement income and protect quality of life for your child with special needs
Explain how third-party disability organizations can play a role in the special needs planning process

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There is no registration fee to participate in this program.

Who Should Attend:

Nurses - Educators and School Administrators - Physicians - Allied Health Care Professionals - Families and Caregivers

Others Who Would Benefit: Institutions Serving the MR/DD Population - State and Private Facilities - Military Healthcare Personnel.

Panelists:

Frank Quacinella, CFP, CSNA, First Vice President-Investments, Wealth Management Advisor, Merrill Lynch

Frank is a national spokesperson for Merrill Lynch's Families of Children with Disabilities Program which offers a wide array of special needs financial solutions. He works closely with disability organizations conducting training and educational workshops, and frequently provides source information for articles published in media publication like: The Record, The Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, and Time Warner for articles regarding Special Needs Planning.

Bernard A. Krooks, J.D., CPA, LLM (in taxation), CELA, Founding Partner, Littman Krooks LLP. President of the Special Needs Alliance (www.specialneedsalliance.org), a national network of attorneys dedicated to assisting families with special needs planning. Past President of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), Fellow of NAELA, a founding member and past President of the New York Chapter of NAELA. In addition, he is certified as an Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation. A member of the editorial advisory board of Exceptional Parent magazine, Mr. Krooks serves on the board of directors and volunteers his time to a number of organizations in the disability community. The law firm of Littman Krooks has offices in New York City, White Plains, and Fishkill.

Ellen Ball Nalven, M. Ed, Executive Director, Planned Lifetime Assistance Network (PLAN/NJ). Ellen's 30 years of employment experience encompasses working with individuals with a variety of disabilities including developmental disabilities, deafness and severe mental illness. Ellen is on the executive

committee of the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, State Rehabilitation Council, and is board member and first president of the NJ Association of Persons in Supported Employment.

2. THREE TELECONFERENCES - March 2, April 6, May 4: National Conversation on the State of the States' Budgets

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National Conversation on the State of the States' Budgets

REGISTER NOW! (<http://www.hsri.org/leaders/theriot/Teleconference%20Registration%20Form.pdf>)

Go here for more information: <http://www.hsri.org/leaders/theriot/National%20Conversation.html>

Sign up now to participate in 3 teleconferences featuring real talk between self-advocates and state directors of developmental disability services.

The national economy is in trouble. Every day we hear news about people losing their jobs and people spending less. This will reduce state budgets which will affect disability services. We are already hearing about cuts to services. This is not a good thing.

And so we must act!

Self-advocates and State Directors need to talk about things and work together to reduce the impact of these cuts on people's lives. But first, we must work together to come up with some common solutions. After all... self-advocates say "Nothing About Us Without Us!"

There are 3 teleconferences, each lasting 90 minutes. Each teleconference will start at 3 p.m. EASTERN TIME, and will be facilitated by Julie Petty of HSRI, a nationally respected self-advocate. During each call, our speakers will have time to talk with one another and then will answer questions from you and others across the nation.

. The first one, on **March 2**, will give state directors a chance to explain to self-advocates what is going on around the country and why. Three state directors will lead the discussion. They include Mary Lee Fay from Oregon, Steve Hall from Georgia and Max Chamura from New York.

. The second one, on **April 6**, will focus on self-advocate opinions about what to do about it. Three self-advocates will lead that discussion. They include Mike Rogers of Washington, Chester Finn of New York and one other.

. The third one, on **May 4**, will give state directors and self-advocates a chance to talk about what they can do together during these troubled times. It important for self-advocates and state directors to work together!

The registration fee for each teleconference is \$25. If you register for all three the cost is \$60. You can listen on your own or bring people together around a speaker phone. This is a GREAT WAY for self-advocates to hear about what is going on and to join with others nationally. Parents and staff are invited too!

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**VOR MEMBERSHIP/CONTRIBUTION FORM
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

TO JOIN OR CONTRIBUTE: \$25 per individual, \$150 per family organization, or \$200 per provider/professional organization. Extra donations are welcome!

You may pay by check or credit card

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Tamie327@hotmail.com (for referrals or credit card payments)

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City St Zip

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Family/Professional Organization Affiliation (if applicable)
If paying by credit card, please provide the following information:

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