

# The Buzz

Summer 2023

Volume 7 Issue 2

## NEWSLETTER

### Golf Tournament Raises Nearly \$20,000 for Oswego Industries Programs and Services

FULTON—The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Oswego Industries Golf Tournament, presented by PaperWorks, teed off on Saturday, June 10 at Battle Island State Park Golf Course, and raised nearly \$20,000.

Money raised from this year's tournament will be used in part to modify our current program space to allow more independence, access, and opportunities for people with disabilities.

The winning team was UKG's 1000 Egyptian Kings, captained by Dan Pribula, who finished with an impressive 14 under par.

Team 1000 Giant Egyptian Kings  
Dan Pribula, Zaki Badawy, Randy King, Scott Thousand (L to R)



Putting Contest, Sponsored by Eagle Beverage, winner Dave DeCaire (RT)

## News From



### THE FIGHT IS NOT OVER!

A Message from Erik Geizer,  
CEO of the Arc of NY State

The final NYS budget was released on May 1, and we were all stunned and disappointed by the inadequate investment in our service system. This budget only reaffirmed that our fight is far from over.

We cannot let up on our advocacy – we need your voice! We will grow louder. We will grow fiercer. We will not let New Yorkers with I/DD be forgotten.

#### FINAL BUDGET RELEASED

In the final budget, nonprofit providers of supports and services for New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities will receive a mere 4% cost of living increase.

This minimal increase covers less than half the increase in inflation over the past year. It does nothing to reverse our escalating workforce crisis. Most importantly, it does not address the erosion of care and supports for New Yorkers with I/DD.

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# The Buzz

The Buzz is published four times a year by Oswego Industries Inc., and The Arc of Oswego County, Inc.

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## A Message from Erik Geizer (Continued)

Paired with the reality of inflation, a 4% COLA has become essentially a 4.5% cut.

New Yorkers with I/DD needed meaningful investment to sustain quality supports and care. Our staff needed meaningful investment to align their compensation with their skill and dedication. We called for an 8.5% COLA and a Direct Support Wage Enhancement to meet those needs. The legislature included an 8.5% COLA and no DSWE in their budgets. We advocated fiercely for that compromise to be realized, but the end result is entirely inadequate.



**Erik Geizer**  
CEO The Arc of NYS

We are grateful to the tireless advocates who raised their voices and their stories with passion and power. We thank our Champions in the legislature who fought for our families, staff, and the people we support..

## ADVOCACY PUSH FOR THE DSWE

Although we did not achieve all of our budget objectives during this fiscal year, we continue to advocate for The Direct Support Wage Enhancement (DSWE) as a stand-alone piece of legislation (\$4127/A5268) sponsored by Senator Mannion and Assemblymember Seawright.

With the DSWE, provider agencies would receive a permanent annual funding allocation of \$4,000 per eligible employee to be used for purposes of enhancing the hourly rate of pay for all staff that have direct care/support responsibilities for individuals with I/DD.

This proposed increase of \$4,000 equates to approximately \$2.19 an-hour for a full-time employee – a necessary amount that will allow DSPs and employees the ability to provide for their families and keep the I/DD sector competitive.

We've created a [one-click campaign](#) so you can quickly send a letter to the legislature in support of the DSWE. Please add your name, and share with family and friends in New York!

*“When you see something to say something. To that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation to say something. To do something.”*

—John Lewis

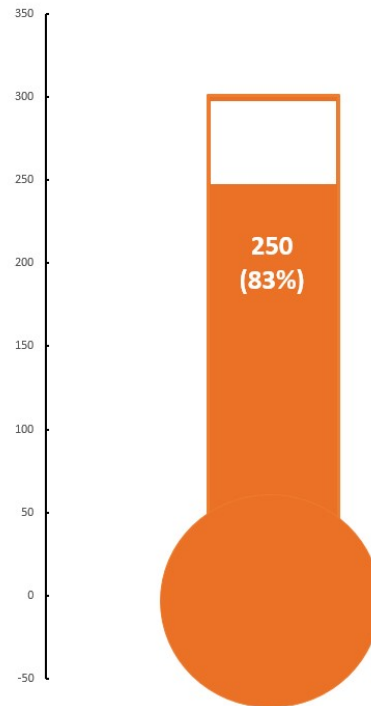
## Arc of Oswego County Membership Drive

Members = Delegates = Voting Power. The Arc of Oswego County is one of many chapters in New York State affiliated with The Arc New York and across the country affiliated with The Arc. The more members our chapter has, the more delegates and votes we earn for discussions involving state and local policy, and the greater our voice in advocating for the individuals we serve.

Members = Voters = Getting Heard. Politicians pay attention to numbers. When we tell a senator, congressman, or assemblyman that over 500 of his voters are members of our chapter of The Arc, they are more likely to listen to what we have to say.

Members = Supporters = New Donors. With government funding being cut dramatically, we need to increase donations from the community.

Every Member Counts...and We Count Every Member.



**Help Us Reach Our Goal of 301 Members by Monday, July 31, 2023! We need just 51 more members.**

### 2023 The Arc Membership: Payroll Deduction Form

Did you know... if half of our employees elected to deduct just \$3 from their paycheck for 1 year, our Membership campaign for The Arc would increase by 50%!?

***That's the same as donating ONE medium cup of Dunkin coffee every other week!***

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

Address (required) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ One-time payment : Please deduct \$\_\_\_\_\_ from my next paycheck

☐ Payment Plan: Please deduct \$\_\_\_\_\_ from each paycheck \_\_\_\_\_ # of pays

Total Amount Deducted \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Example: If you wanted to donate the amount of a **cup of coffee** every other week, you would deduct \$3 from each paycheck for the next 26 pay periods. Your donation total would be \$78 AND your membership would be paid for 2023 AND 2024*

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# Program Happenings



Nikki Taylor, the owner of TNT Greenhouse Nursery, donated flowers and soil to OI. Nikki demonstrated and assisted the L.I.F.E Day Habilitation and Group Day Habilitation individuals to plant flowers in pots for Mother's Day or to bring home. The individuals that participated in this are as follows. L.I.F.E: Anthony BR, Michelle R, Barb C, Kim P, Bonnie B. Roy L, and Lynette W. GDH: Rhiannon C, Jillian K, Peggy A, Lauren D, Angie D, Derek G, Anna W, Josh L, and Kyle A.

Derek A, Germaine A, Toby H, and Anthony BR took a tour of Fort Ontario in Oswego NY.

Fort Ontario has quite a history. It was built on the ruins of three earlier fortifications which were the site of three French and Indian War and two War of 1812 battles. It was occupied by the U.S. Army through World War II. From 1944 to 1946 the fort served as the only refugee camp in the United States for mostly Jewish victims of the Nazi Holocaust under an Executive Order from President Franklin D. Roosevelt.



Tom McL, Tom Sc, Bonnie B, and Kim P, who are enrolled in Oswego Industries Inc., L.I.F.E Day Habilitation program, spent the day at Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville.

*Like and follow us on social media to see even more program happenings*







## In the Community...

Director of Services Lee Sullivan and our Employment Services Manager Su-Ann Howard attended the LIFEPlan Care Coordination Organization (CCO) Service Provider Fair in Liverpool.

LIFEPlan CCO is a partnership of community-based agencies with a long history of serving people with I/DD, providing advocacy, recreational, educational, and vocational services. We share a person-centered focus that improves services and supports through networking with highly trained human service, healthcare, and other specialists.



## Grants & Gifts



\$5,000 to update  
[www.oswegoindustriesinc.org](http://www.oswegoindustriesinc.org)



\$2,000 to update [www.arcofoswegocounty.org](http://www.arcofoswegocounty.org)



\$100 from the Staff at New Haven Elementary School who participated in Jeans Friday



\$60 from the congregation of the Minetto United Methodist Church

**Individual**

\$20 Maria Beth Hoebel, Oswego

## Save the Date

### OPEN ENROLLMENT

Now through Friday July 14th representatives will be onsite Monday, July 10th to meet with staff who have questions, signup sheet is outside HR.



To make a donation please scan the QR Code

*Event date, time and location are subject to change!*

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Award Date:



# STAFF Spotlight

## Welcome

### Senior Leadership Team

- Lisa Guernsey-Director of Operations

### Administration

- Tammy Salm-HR Specialist

### Employment Services

- Kyle Cushman-Employment Specialist I
- Loralie Wallace-Employment Specialist II

### Finance

- Sara Casey-Finance Associate

### Assembly and Packaging

- Jennifer Lyons
- Gerard Cernaru

### Textiles

- Bryan Helfer
- Jason Krause
- Keri Acome
- Charles Bailey

### Custodial and Janitorial

- Timothy Claflin-in House
- Jacob Rheame- in House

### Direct Support Professionals

- Bradley Liverman-Site Based GDH
- Caitlin Ranger-LIFE
- Christina Alvarado—LIFE
- Lisa Feliciano- LIFE
- Kathleen Spires—Comm Hab

### Programs & Services

- Tia Jordan-Registered Nurse

## People on the Move

### To Team Lead Positions

- Christina Bort, LIFE Team Lead
- Sara Becker, Group Day Hab Team Lead
- Michelle Petrie, Seniors Team Lead

### To Designated Trainer

- Kristen Caruso

### To Programs and Services

- Avery Sanders - Plan Coordinator

## Milestones

- After 40 years of Service, as Direct Support Professional at Oswego Industries, Dale Hubbard retired on April 4th
- Linda Frawley, in textiles, will retire on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Linda has been employed by Oswego Industries for 13 years and is Oswego Industries Textiles Supervisor.



7 Morrill Place  
Fulton, NY 13069

## About Oswego Industries Inc.

Our mission is to be a partner in the development of comprehensive community services designed to improve the quality of life for all people by providing the necessary support programs to enable individuals to grow with dignity and achieve their highest level of independence and self-fulfillment.



## About The Arc of Oswego County

The mission of The Arc of Oswego County is to be the premier provider of services to persons with developmental disabilities. Our commitment, first and foremost, is to individuals and their families, to provide choices, information, education and supports that will allow informed decisions and opportunities for growth, personal development and fulfillment.

