

**Maine APSE Board Meeting**  
**Via teleconference**  
**December 8, 2011**  
**3:00 – 4:00 pm**

**Board Members present:** Gail Fanjoy, Chris Flynn, Debbie Gilmer, Betsy Hopkins, Janet May, Deb Rousseau and Sally Sweeney.

**AFP Update:** Betsy's feeling overall was that it was a good conference; she was not very happy with one of the keynote speakers being the head of Special Olympics, however. And she added that the elephant in the room was that there was no mention of sub-minimum wage. Gail agreed with all of Betsy's points. And she added that Tim Shriver's statistics were rather squirrely... Gail thought it was a great group of people from Maine. Betsy shared that she enjoyed hanging out with some self-advocates, and connecting and reconnecting with other members of the Maine team. Betsy reported that Carolyn Lockwood, BRS director also seemed to enjoy the event, and appreciated learning about some of these topics which are new to her. *A follow-up state team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 12/13 at 2:00 p.m. at DRC in Augusta.* Gail and Chris would prefer to call in if possible.

**Plan for Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> APSE membership meeting in Augusta:** We would like to have a presentation from the AFP state team, and Betsy will organize that. The board members agreed that Avery Olmsted would be a good member to have on the Maine APSE board because of his positive contributions and participation at the Alliance conference. Janet will talk to him about becoming a board member, and joining the panel at this meeting. Gail volunteered Chris Flynn as another panel member. Betsy will highlight the Employment First information she got. Debbie would like to ask: "Based on the information you came back with, what is your organization planning to do? What are your next steps? and how can APSE support you?" We should add a link to AFP on our website, so people can access the handouts. Betsy has booked the Francis Perkins Room at USDOL in Augusta, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Debbie will take care of snacks. Betsy orders food from the Business Enterprises group – they will prepare it all and bill you, and she will send Debbie the phone number.

For discussion, Gail suggested the "breakfast roundtable" format, with employment-related topics and leaders to facilitate discussion. Polycom is also available. It would be great if we could get Laura Owens to do a "Welcome to APSE". And Debbie could discuss the Maine Chapter and give an overview of APSE. We intend to hold elections for the board at this time, hold a business meeting and give a financial report. Right now we have the minimum number of board members. We are hoping for 25 to 30 people in attendance (Betsy reports that VR is sending 10 people). We should make time for everyone to introduce themselves. Let's limit it to four tables and topics: Deb would like "workforce development & training needs", Sally & Gail could do "how organizations need to transform themselves to remain relevant", Betsy could do "employment first". After discussion, Betsy suggests we throw out the roundtable idea and do a facilitated discussion with the whole group. "Integrated employment: what's on your mind... and how do we improve employment outcomes in Maine".

**VR Conference in June:** Betsy has a confirm from Steve Wooderson as keynote on the first day. In the afternoon, Doug and Nancy from Georgia will present.

**Financial report:** We currently have \$10,462; however, still owe \$2,000 for Avery's attendance at AFP.

**ACRE training:** Available the last week of February for Employment Specialists and the link is on the website – [www.employmentformewds.org](http://www.employmentformewds.org) The Job Squad (West Virginia) website is highly recommended.

**Next teleconference meeting:** Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sally Sweeney*

Secretary-Treasurer