

Bifida Beat

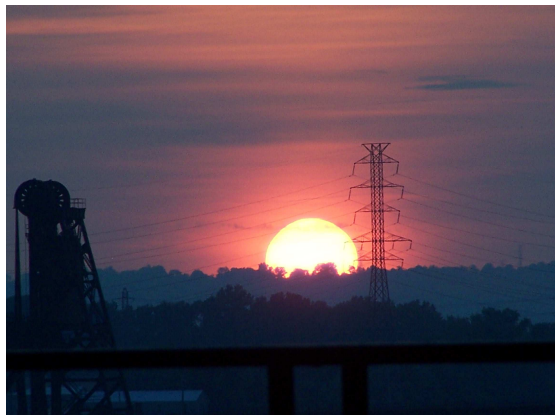
West Michigan Spina Bifida Association

Web Page: www.wmisba.org

Email: wmisba@hotmail.com

Upcoming Activities

- Annual Picnic on Saturday, September 22, at 11:00 am at Hagar Park in Jenison
- Grand Valley Corvette Club annual Raffle at Grand Lemmon Chevrolet in Coopersville at 2:00 pm
- October 8, 7:00 p.m. at MFB Second Floor Conference Room. OT will be speaking on skin care
- December 1 (tentative date) Christmas Party



2007 National SBA Conference

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The 2007 National SBA conference was held in Louisville (Looavul), Kentucky. Approximately 800 people were in attendance. Although no one from the West Michigan area attended the actual conference, Jodie Anderson and Carol Carpenter went to the Leadership days on Saturday and Sunday.

The national organization is presently in the midst of major restructuring and expanding their focus. One of the major things they did was to drop the "of America" from their name to become more inclusive. They are now the SBA and are beginning a "branding" campaign to get all chapters and support groups under them to "look the same" and work with a common mission. That process will involve logos, bylaws, mission statements, membership status. They have completed their new look and mission statements and are working on a operating manual for consistency in the way those associated with them do things.

A major change is in chapter/support group requirements. A chapter minimum requirement is to have a minimum \$50,000 annual operating budget and at least part-time paid staff in a permanent office. These new agreements are to be finalized in June of next year and then we will have 3 years from then to meet the chapter. At that time if we cannot or choose not to meet those requirements we could become a Support Group under the national SBA. That would mean giving up our independent non-profit status and our budget (income/expenses) would be overseen and regulated and controlled.

As this process continues we value your input because the decisions that are made will affect our group in the future. Some of these changes are major to our local organization and could impact the way we are able to do things. We will periodically be discussing some these points at meetings and keeping you updated on anything which comes from national.

We have recordings of the conference sessions in MP3 format. Let us know if you are interested in this information.

The 2008 conference is to be held in Tucson, Arizona.

FOR SALE

Quickie All-court sports chair, blue. For more information call Jodie Anderson at (616) 457-6806.

Picnic Events

Our annual summer picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 22, at 11:00am at Hagar Park in Jenison. (card will be sent out next month detailing picnic info and map). After the picnic we will be going to Lemmon Grand Chevrolet for the Grand Valley Corvette Raffle drawing to show our support. GVCC has been the major contributor to the West Michigan Spina Bifida community for over 25 years.

The association will provide grilled hamburgs and hot dogs, beverages, and tableware. Please bring a side dish or dessert to pass. We plan on eating at noon.

See info for corvette raffle drawing below:

Drawing on Saturday,

September 22, 2007

2:00 p.m. at ⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨



*Chevrolet, Pontiac, Buick
930 O'Malley Drive
Coopersville, MI 49404
(616) 837-3800 or (800) 853-2251*

Ticket sales not to exceed 4500. License number R90560

Partial proceeds to Down Syndrome Association and Spina Bifida of West Michigan

Form for ticket sales mail in can be obtained on the Grand Valley

Corvette Club website: www.grandvalleycorvette.org

To Order by Check Please make check payable to

GVCA

(\$20 per ticket)

Our first meeting in the fall will be on Monday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m. We will be meeting in the second floor conference room at Mary Free Bed Hospital. Susan Dykema, an Occupational Therapist at MFB Clinic will be talking to us about skin care. This is an area of self care that often gets neglected in gaining independence., but is of great concern in maintain good health. Please bring your kids which would benefit from this important information.



Happy Birthday To you —

Kendra Murdock	July 2
Austin Hamp	July 8
Hannah Shavinski	July 10
Elise Martin	July 13
Lilly Conklin	July 25
Chris Carpenter	July 28
Ashley Woodcox	July 31
Anneke Raider	August 10
Isaac Love	August 12
CJ Blackwell	August 15
Steve Schofield	August 26
Zoe Supanich	August 26
Caiden Cole	August 28
Tabitha Landon	August 29
Tabitha Ryerson	August 29
Tim White	August 30
Grace Slagle	September 3
Gene Beuker	September 10
Ronnie Joe Robillard	September 11

*Thank you!
Eric and Elizabeth Merchant held an event at their business, Merchant Automotive in Holland. As a result they donated over \$900 to the West Michigan SBA.*

We would like to extend our sympathy to the Krygier family on the passing of Sue's father, Bernard McWilliams (Ryan's grandfather). Contributions to the West Michigan Spina Bifida Association are being made in their name. Krygiers, our thoughts are prayers are with you.

Sports Update

Grand Rapids is a hub in Michigan for wheelchair sports opportunities with basketball, sled hockey, tennis, golf, etc. The West Michigan Spina Bifida group supports many of these activities. Wheelchair tennis practices on Monday evening at the Gainey Athletic Field on East Paris, in Kentwood. Sled hockey begins in the fall at Griff's Ice House on Coldbrook. Tyler Anderson, Matt Kwapis, and Tim White attended the national hockey camp in Rochester, NY. Chris Melton attended tennis camp in California. The Grand Rapids Wheelchair Association held sports camp at Grand Valley State University last week. A record number of kids attended this year (70).

Related Web Sites

- National SBA:
<http://www.sbaa.org/>
- Yahoo Groups:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/>
- Family Village:
waisman.wisc.edu/kennedy/Index.html
- Mary Free Bed:
www.mfbrc.com/
- National Latex Allergy Network:
www.latex-allergy.org
- Grand Valley Corvette Club:
www.grandvalleycorvette.org
- Paws with a Cause:
www.pawswithacause.org/
- Center for Human Genetics, Duke University:
www.chg.duke.edu/patients/neural.html#study
- Aquinas Conductive Ed:
www.aquinas.edu/cpmedd

West Michigan Spina Bifida Association

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