



IGA NEWS- JANUARY 2007

The Illinois Guardianship Association
PO Box 64845
Chicago, IL 60664-0845
Phone 312-458-9867
www.illinoisguardianship.org

Please join the IGA for our Spring
Conference. . . date to be an-
nounced!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Year in Review

Among the traditions familiar to everyone this time of year is the custom of reconnecting with old friends and distant relatives through the exchange of cards and letters. An intriguing subset of these holiday greetings is the family newsletter, through which we are brought up to speed on the significant events of the past year, the baptisms and graduations, the awards and promotions, the trips to Hawaii or Italy. Similarly, one of my responsibilities as IGA President is to reach out to our community, vulnerable adults and those who care for them, and share with you the news and highlights of 2006. Indulge me as I mention just a couple:

IGA Fall Fee Conference.

Perhaps not as exciting as my brother-in-law's helicopter ride over an active volcano, but those who attended the IGA's second annual fall conference this past October in Mt. Vernon were treated to a full day of fabulous speakers and useful information, including inspirational talks from Janet Proctor, Pope Co. State's Attorney, and Jeff Plesko, supervising attorney for the new Carbondale regional office of Equip for Equality. Turnout at the conference was excellent, and the presentations were well-received across the board. Topics ranged from Medicare Part D, public benefits, and person-centered service provision, to financial planning and practice tips for new guardians.

As with any successful endeavor, there is a long list of people to thank, starting with our coordinator, Rhonda Williams, and the conference sponsors and exhibitors, the Illinois Dept. on Aging, St. Mary's Square Living Center, Mulberry Manor in Anna, Fayco Enterprises in

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONTINUED.

Vandalia, River to River Residential Services, the Egyptian Funeral Directors Association, and JJR Enterprises. Kim Mathews of Financial Freedom gave a great talk on reverse mortgages. Teresa Basinger from Pettett Funeral Home in Murphysboro provided very valuable advice on pre-need arrangements. Finally, I especially wish to recognize the hours and hours of volunteer work put in by the conference chairperson, Perry Patterson, and his committee, Cathy Goebel, Kathy Eddy, Gina Rossi, Jeff Ohlson, Fred Floreth, Ben Brown, and Greg Fitzgerald, several of whom did double-duty as speakers or panelists.

National Guardianship Association Annual Conference. As IGA President, I had the opportunity to attend the NGA conference in Newport Beach, California. I participated in the state affiliates meeting there, where I met with representatives of guardianship organizations from all over the country and discussed the various resources, a speakers bureau, internet tools, and websites, for example, by which we may expand our knowledge base and benefit our respective memberships. The NGA provides an excellent forum not only for continuing education and training, but for networking with fellow guardians and professionals as well. The conference agenda itself provided a multitude of informative sessions on issues such as special needs trusts, interstate guardianship jurisdiction, the prevention and prosecution of financial exploitation, and the management of difficult cases, and nationally renowned speakers such as Roger Crawford, Howard Dully, and Paul Greenwood provided the inspiration and energy. IGA member Madeleine Sharko gave the closing address, sending us on our way armed with a new perspective and renewed purpose.

Finally, I am glad to have had this opportunity to reconnect with our readership. As you have seen, there's always plenty of work to be done, in the coming year and beyond. If you want to pitch in, even if only to offer suggestions, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at Bill.Scheidemantel@illinois.gov, or visit the IGA website: www.illinoisguardianship.org



THE IGA WISHES YOU A HAPPY
AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!



NEW INITIATIVES IN ILLINOIS. . . .



Governor Blagojevich announces funding to assist 250 people with disabilities to reintegrate into the community

Two million dollars in funds was approved by the Illinois Housing Development Authority and will be administered by DHS; the funding enables Centers for Independent Living to expand their community reintegration programs.

Any adult living in a Nursing Home aged 18-59 can be assessed for community living by the Centers for Independent Living, which operate throughout Illinois. This program serves ALL disability types including mental illness. The referred individual will also be assessed for case management, homemaker services, medication assistance and more. The Centers for Independent Living provide a fully furnished and equipped apartment.

Please visit the link to access one of the MANY Centers for Independent Living in Illinois. . .

<http://www.incil.org/links.asp>

Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Individuals with Mental Illness



A U.S. District Court judge in Illinois has granted class-action status to a lawsuit brought by four individuals alleging that state policies in Illinois inhibit their ability to access community living in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The lawsuit alleges that thousands of people with mental illnesses are being needlessly segregated and warehoused in large nursing homes in Illinois.

Full Story:

Federal Court Advances Challenge to Illinois Policy Warehousing Residents with Mental Illness, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, November 20, 2006,

[http://www.bazelon.org/newsroom/2006/11-20-](http://www.bazelon.org/newsroom/2006/11-20-06Williams-v-Blagojevich.html)

[06Williams-v-Blagojevich.html](http://www.bazelon.org/newsroom/2006/11-20-06Williams-v-Blagojevich.html)

To read the complaint, go to:

<http://equipforequality.org/news/pressreleases/williamsblagojevichfiles.php>

*From the Disability Law and Policy-eNewsletter
December 18, 2006*

The IGA newsletter is a quarterly publication. Would YOU like to contribute? We'd like to hear from you. Please send all articles, questions or comments to Bill Scheidemantel via email bill.scheidemantel@illinois.gov

It is time for you to renew your IGA membership!

It's easy. Just complete the invoice on page 4 and return it to the IGA with payment.

Questions? Give us a call (312) 458-9867

Thank You to the Illinois Guardianship Association

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Illinois Guardianship Association and Board of Directors for their vote of confidence in nominating me as the Outstanding Affiliate Member of the Year for 2006. This award was announced at the annual National Guardianship Association's conference in California in October. I am honored by the recognition of my peers in this fine organization. I will continue to help move forward the goals and objectives of the IGA and promote the education of others interested in learning more about guardianship issues in Illinois and nationally.



Submitted by Catherine Goebel
Outstanding Affiliate Member of the Year 2006

Everybody needs a vacation. . . Some organizations schedule group trips for people with disabilities, and others simply send along a trained professional to accompany a person with disabilities who might need some assistance while traveling.

Check out these websites:

www.searchbeyond.com

www.alctrips.com



Thank you for your interest and participation in the Illinois Guardianship Association. For questions, concerns, information or to become involved in one of our many committees, please contact Gina Rossi via email at gina.rossi@illinois.gov

February 2007

Invoice
Illinois Guardianship Association

Illinois Guardianship Association
501 c3
PO Box 64845
Chicago, IL 60664-0845

Phone 312-458-9867
Federal ID#36-4254121

Description: Renewal of IGA Membership Fee for 2007

Detach and mail with payment

Total Amount Due (check one):

\$75 Illinois Guardianship Association member only

\$25 Member of the National Guardianship Association and Illinois Guardianship Association

\$25 Family, Consumer, Student, Non-Professional

Name: _____

Company/Agency Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

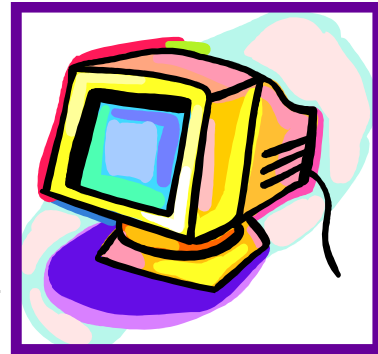
Phone _____ Fax _____

****Email _____

**** Required

Dues Payable to:
Illinois Guardianship Association
P O Box 64845
Chicago, IL 60664-0845

Looking for Inexpensive Computers for Wards or Providers ?



\$35 Recycled Computers

Retro-Tech Electronics (RTE) and Recycling for Illinois, Inc. (RFI) are celebrating their second year of recycling e-waste and making electronics available to people with disabilities and others.

RFI and RTE are working together to create an e-waste solution for non-working and unwanted electronics, to spare landfills from this waste. RFI collects the e-waste and gives them to RTE. RTE then goes over them, fixing what is necessary. The electronics are then distributed to people with disabilities, students of all ages and the general public through the placement program or by browsing their retail store in Peoria.

Regardless of household income students can receive a complete Pentium, Internet-ready computer system. There is a limit of two computers per household and a \$35.00 per computer fee.

The computer systems include:

- a complete CPU
- windows 98SE
- a video card
- a sound card
- 128 Mb of RAM
- CD-Rom
- monitor
- keyboard
- mouse
- power cords

Printers, modem or NIC, speakers networking equipment, laptops, copiers and other business equipment are available for additional fees.

For more information contact Retro-Tech Electronics, 401 N.E. Rock Island Avenue, Peoria IL 61603.309-682-0675.

Please email us. . .

The Illinois Guardianship Association's Newsletters will soon be distributed via email. Many IGA Members do not have current email addresses listed with us. We feel we can serve our valued members much more efficiently through email distributions of notices, invites to conferences and newsletters.



Please send a quick email to:

contact@illinoisguardianship.org

Include your name, organization (if any) your current address, phone number and a current email address.

Would you like to access IGA's **Member Directory** on our website?

It's EASY!

The user name to access the membership directory is: igamembers

The password is: password1

Would you like to nominate someone to the IGA Board? Please contact Ben Brown of the nominating committee at benbrown@lollaf.org



The Illinois Guardianship Association would like to congratulate Veronique Baker as a newly elected Board member to the National Guardianship Association! Veronique is the Director of the Legal Advocacy Service, a programmatic division of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission. Congratulations Veronique!

Would you like to become a REGISTERED GUARDIAN ?

Contact the National Guardianship Association at www.guardianship.org

**Visit us on the world wide web at
www.illinoisguardianship.org**

IGA Board of Directors

President- Bill Scheidemantel
Vice President- Terrence Godbolt
President Elect- John Erbes
Treasurer- Sandra Hayes
Secretary- Gina Rossi
Immediate Past President- Ben Brown

IGA Board Members

Cathy Goebel
Helen Godlewski-Brownfield
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John Wank
Greg Fitzgerald