



# Let's get Down to it...

January 2015

[www.lldss.org](http://www.lldss.org)

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- A Message from the President
- Scholarship info
- News and Noteworthy

## Upcoming Events

- Jan 25 UCP Telethon
- Feb 13 - LLDSS Valentine's Dance, 6:30 - 8:30, Erin's Pavilion
- March 12th - LLDSS Meeting, 6 - 8, Erin's Pavilion
- April 9<sup>nd</sup> - LLDSS Meeting, 6-8, Erin's Pavilion
- May 14<sup>th</sup> - LLDSS Meeting, 6-8, Erin's Pavilion
- June 5 - LLDSS Golf Outing

## Executive Officers

### President

Jared Owen

### Vice President

Rachel Jackson

### Treasurer

Andrew Gossrow

### Secretary

Pam Rigby

## Board of Directors

Barb Fiedler

Terry Horstman

Josh Houser

Heather Ivers

Becky Johnson

Tara Owen

Julie Ressler

Tim Rigby

Ben Simpson

Kristy Wagner

Ann Wells

## A Message from the President

Greetings LLDSS Members!

A great new year is upon us and with that many changes to the face of our Society. After 2 years of steadfast leadership, Julie Ressler has decided not to run for another term as President and has instead decided to focus her efforts on making this year's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Buddy Walk the best one yet. As you can imagine, Julie's decision left a large void at the top of our group's chain of command, but it also presented a wonderful opportunity.

In the final months of 2014, I had asked Julie if she would entertain my bid to be Vice President. Julie graciously accepted my offer but then asked me very bluntly if I would consider becoming President as she had hopes of focusing her efforts on the Buddy Walk, like I mentioned above. Enthusiastically, I agreed.

For the past 5 years, I have acted as Golf Outing Co-Chair, but now that my daughter, Lily, is getting a little older, I thought 2015 was an opportune time to get involved as an officer. For the past 7 years, my wife Tara and I have actively sought after and received the LLDSS scholarship for our daughter Lily. In that time, the eligibility award has doubled due to fundraising efforts by our group! I am actively committed to making sure the scholarship remains available for its members for the many years to come. Thanks to past officers, the LLDSS has a very solid foundation as a group, our finances are in order, we have many fantastic opportunities for scholarship recipients, and our reputation in the community is stronger than ever. I am very dedicated to seeing this doesn't change!

Other LLDSS members feel the exact same way and have harnessed their leadership capabilities by signing on or continuing in their roles; Rachel Jackson has kindly accepted the role of Vice President. Andrew Gossrow has agreed to stay on as Treasurer and Pam Rigby will continue to be our Secretary.

The four of us are supported by an excellent Board that comprises of Barb Fiedler, Terry Horstman, Josh Houser, Heather Ivers, Becky Johnson, Tara Owen, Julie Ressler, Tim Rigby, Ben Simpson, Kristy Wagner, and Ann Wells.

I look forward to working with you in 2015. I am very excited to be your President and will gladly do my best to be resourceful for you.

Best regards and well wishes to you in the new year,

Jared Owen

217-899-1718

[Oderaj78@yahoo.com](mailto:Oderaj78@yahoo.com)

## And speaking of scholarships...

Many new families have joined the group since we last provided a refresher on the LLDSS scholarship program, so it's probably not a bad topic to start the 2015 year with. Currently, each member may be eligible for \$500 per period. There are two periods per year: January 1-June 30 and July 1-December 31. This amount will be re-evaluated each year. As a reminder, the purpose of the program is to encourage members to participate in extracurricular, therapeutic and educational opportunities.

The only criteria for receiving scholarship funds from LLDSS are as follows:

- Individuals with Down syndrome will be eligible to receive scholarship funds;
- Scholarship funds must be used for therapeutic and/or educational purposes.

## Useful Links

Lincoln Land Down Syndrome Society  
<http://www.LLDSS.org>

National Down Syndrome Society  
<http://www.ndss.org/>

Sparc <http://www.spfldsparc.org/>

United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln  
<http://ucpll.org/>

PUNS List Information  
<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=47620>

LLDSS Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lincoln-Land-Down-Syndrome-Society/100514010032422>

Down Syndrome Association of Greater St. Louis  
<http://dsagsl.org/programs/community-groups/>

LLDSS Moms Group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/404921159550855/?fref=nf>

## Contact Us

Website  
[www.LLDSS.org](http://www.LLDSS.org)  
Facebook –[click here](#)  
Twitter @TheLLDSS

Jared Owen  
[Oderaj78@yahoo.com](mailto:Oderaj78@yahoo.com)  
217-899-1718

Examples of qualifying expenses include but are not limited to swimming classes, dance classes, therapy, camps, etc. Examples of non-qualifying expenses include but are not limited to uniforms, lodging and travel;

- Except as provided for by the LLDSS Executive Committee, LLDSS will pay scholarship funds directly to the provider and it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide a copy of an invoice for payment to Treasurer, Andrew Gossrow, i.e., LLDSS cannot pay the member directly in the event they pay for the activity and seek reimbursement;
- One or both parents/guardians of scholarship program participants must either (i) volunteer to serve as a chairperson or serve as lead of a committee for a major LLDSS fundraising event (Buddy Walk, golf outing, etc.) or (ii) attend two (2) meetings in each scholarship period; and
- The LLDSS executive committee may determine whether the above criteria are met.

If you have any questions regarding the scholarship, contact Jared Owen or Andrew Gossrow at [gossrow3@comcast.net](mailto:gossrow3@comcast.net)

## News and Noteworthy



The Lincoln Land Down Syndrome Society is having their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf outing this year on June 5<sup>th</sup> at Edgewood Golf Course in Auburn. Past President Jason Schnepf has agreed to co-chair the event with Ryan Johnson for what is sure to be another huge success. Thanks Jason and Ryan!

Interested in scholarship funds, but looking for ideas on what they have been used on in the past? Here are some ideas: Springfield Park District Fun Shop; UCP Camp; Dance lessons from Springfield Dance, TNT Dance Centre, Turnout Dance Studio, and Dance Creations to name a few; The Music Factory, YMCA Swim Lessons, St. Louis Reading Program; Camp Barnabas; Horse Riding; Tutoring Programs. If you have other scholarship ideas, contact Jared and he will add them to this growing list.

LLDSS is hosting a Social Sunday Gathering at Midstate Gymnastics on January 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00PM. The address of Midstate Gymnastics is 3720 Hollis Dr in Springfield (located right off Wabash). We ask that you please arrive on time and be ready to bounce! Cupcakes and juice will be provided. We also ask that you please RSVP via email to Deb Gossrow with # of children that you are going to bring. [Gossrow3@comcast.net](mailto:Gossrow3@comcast.net)

There is no meeting in February as we are having the Valentines Dance. We will meet again in March, April, and May. No meeting will be held in June because of the Golf Outing. We are looking at hosting an Estate Planning Seminar in March. This will be especially important if you are interested in understanding how the recent passing of The Able Act will affect you. In April we are looking to invite our friends from Sparc to discuss the PUNS (Prioritization for Urgency of Need Services) List. In May we will host a meeting to discuss the organization strategies for June's Golf Outing.

Lastly, don't forget to support our LLDSS Members that are working the UCP Telethon on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.ildss.org](http://www.ildss.org) to find out how you can pledge!