



Let's get Down to it...

April 2016

www.lldss.org

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Upcoming Events

- **WEDNESDAY** April 13th, LLDSS Monthly Meeting 6-8PM Erin's Pavilion
- **THURSDAY** May 12, LLDSS Monthly Meeting 6-8PM Erin's Pavilion
- Friday, June 3rd, Annual LLDSS Golf Outing - Edgewood Golf Course

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A Message from the President

Greetings LLDSS Members!

We are off to a very benevolent start to 2016. In January, LLDSS members joined in to help the United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln raise over \$250,000! Then in early March, many of our members braved the cold weather to Plunge into Lake Springfield for Special Olympics. That effort helped to raise over \$55,000 for our very wonderful athletes! Participating in these events, I often ask myself how the LLDSS can continue to keep our group's events fresh and exciting. What can we do to continue to offer new and exciting opportunities to our guests that come to our events? I truly believe it is about the goal we establish for our beneficiaries. Take our golf outing for example, in the past we have raised money for a bicycle program designed to help those with special needs learn how to ride a 2-wheel bike. We have raised money for the construction of a Park, a swim program designed specifically for our members, as well as countless dollars to fund our annual scholarship program. The point is, we find our greatest successes when our community sees what we are driving towards (no pun intended).

As with every year, the Golf Outing Committee gets together and discusses how the proceeds for this year's event should be disbursed. This year, there was overwhelming support for Sparc's Kamp Kaleidoscope. Kamp Kaleidoscope is a summer program that provides individuals with developmental disabilities, from the ages of 4-22, the opportunity to experience summer camp in a safe, secure setting. Unfortunately, the funds that historically have been available for this camp were eliminated in the State budget. Sparc recognizes the importance of providing meaningful summer activities for individuals with disabilities as well as offering a camp like setting that will prevent summer learning loss while having fun at the same time. Sparc is committed to offering Kamp Kaleidoscope as a viable option this summer to children who look forward to attending camp each summer, for this reason our decision to support them was an easy one. Please help us support this cause by promoting, playing in, donating to, or volunteering at this year's LLDSS 11th Annual Golf Outing on June 3rd. Registration is now open by visiting our website at www.lldss.org.

We hope to see you all there!

Very Kindly,

Jared Owen

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News and Noteworthy

Jason Schnepf has settled into his role as Treasurer exquisitely. If you have scholarship related questions, please feel free to correspond with him. Jason.schnepf@gmail.com

LLDSS is looking at bringing the St. Louis Learning Program Behavior Course to you. We have discussed this with them and they are on board, we just need to iron out some logistics. As soon as we have more information we will let you know. As you may remember, the St. Louis Learning Program is a specialized program designed for people with Down Syndrome. Let's keep our fingers crossed this works out!

Remember our next meeting is WEDNESDAY, April 13th. Erin's Pavilion had some scheduling issues so we had to move the meeting to a Wednesday instead of Thursday. This meeting will host our annual discussion of Special Needs Estate Planning, and equally important, the funding of such a plan. With tax season serving as a current reminder, now is a great time to prepare a plan for the person with special needs in your family.

OFFICER ELECTIONS will also be held at the April 13th meeting! I am aware of 1 vacancy for a board member position; If you are interested in assuming the role of an elected board member, we ask that you please attend the meeting. If you would like to know more about the position, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

It is that time of year again where the golf outing committee is working on collecting donations for our golf outing. If you or someone you know is interested in donating prizes or sponsoring a hole, we are currently accepting these offers! Donated items in the past have been discount coupons, gift certificates, free services, and gift baskets just to name a few. Our golf outing prides itself on having some of the best SWAG (Stuff We All Get) of any local golf outing. People really like free stuff ☺ You may contact me if you have questions or donations @ oderaj78@yahoo.com

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>

Special Olympics Illinois
www.soill.org

LLDSS Parents Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LLDSSParentsGroup/>

Contact Us

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

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Member Spotlight

You! Well, soon it will be you. I mentioned that one of my goals was to build a new pamphlet for our organization that illustrates many of our more recent successes.

Even though our old pamphlet photos are great, we no longer have the originals and need updated images. This is where you come in...

If you get some time, I would like you to send me 1 of your very best photos of your child that could appear in our new pamphlet. Ideally, we would like to bridge the gap of all of our member's ages and their interests. Participating in swim, dance, special Olympics, etc... Timeless photos generally work the best, meaning shirts with dates on them tend to not work out as well. After all, who knows when we will update this new pamphlet, I think the current one is 10 years old now ☺ Any help you could offer will really make our group look great to all future pamphlet viewers! Please email oderaj78@yahoo.com your very best photos and I will do my best to select the finest ones!

