



THE Independence



AL-APSE Board Meets for Strategic Planning

The AL-APSE Board met during the month of April to begin developing a strategic plan in order to strengthen its board, its membership and its future as an organization in order to continue to provide quality training and leadership in the field of supported employment. Mr. Dale Verstegen who contracts with Georgia State University in their Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program facilitated the session which was held in beautiful Orange Beach, Alabama.

During the two days, board members learned valuable information about the history of AL-APSE beginning with its inception in 1997. Currently, three members of the AL-APSE Board were part of that initial movement: Lisa Alford, Brenda McComb and Randy Phillips. Through the historical overview, board members began to focus on where AL-APSE needs to go as an organization. All were challenged to think of ways to improve membership, enhance training and maximize resources.

Mr. Verstegen was an effective facilitator challenging Board Members to take more active roles within the organization. As a result, the Board was given various tasks in the areas of leadership development, advisory council development, and increasing AL-APSE's impact as an organization. The AL-APSE Board will meet again in June to continue working on these activities and have asked Mr. Verstegen to lead the Board in becoming a more effective network of people dedicated to AL-APSE's mission, to enhance the lives of individuals with the most significant disabilities through employment.



Alabama APSE is looking for future leaders to take the organization to new heights. As part of their strategic plan for the future, leadership training will be available to those interested in taking a more active role in the expansion of supported employment and independence in Alabama at this year's AL-APSE conference. Concurrent sessions will be offered to help you decide if you might be a future AL-APSE leader.



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New Board Member Criteria

The AL-APSE Board is working to adopt more formal board member criteria in order to select future board members who can bring different strengths and viewpoints as they serve the AL-APSE Membership. The following criteria are being suggested and if you are interested in becoming a board member please take note of the following as you begin applying: 1) Minimum 6 month's membership in AL-APSE, 2) Proven Interest and Volunteering Spirit in AL-APSE activities (regional training, conferences). The application process will consist of a letter of interest, updated resume and one letter of reference. This membership information/application process will also be added to the AL-APSE website for your convenience in the near future.

These session titles include "Leadership: The Catalyst for Strategic Change" and "Leadership in the 21st Century". For those interested in becoming more involved in AL-APSE, these sessions are for YOU. Strong leaders make a strong organization.

Ms. Sandy Wallace of Mobile has been selected by National APSE as the 2007 Personal Achievement Award Winner and will be recognized at the 18th Annual APSE Conference in Kansas City, Missouri in July. Ms. Wallace was nominated by her employer, Volunteers of America, Southeast. In pursuing supported employment, Ms. Wallace expressed three specific goals that she planned to achieve. Her first objective was to obtain a job that would afford her the opportunity to work with people with disabilities so that she could share her experiences, strength and hope with them to motivate them to pursue their goals and dreams. Her second objective was to work her way into full time employment. Finally, she was committed to getting off disability and to become entirely self-supporting. Sandy has achieved all three of her goals and has overcome tremendous barriers in order to do so. Congratulations Sandy for your accomplishments and for being named the 2007 Personal Achievement Award Winner. Alabama has been fortunate to have national winners from our state for the past five years.



Chuck Sheehan Scholarship is available in the amount of \$1500 to an individual with a disability who is pursuing higher learning. To apply for this scholarship, please follow these instructions:

The Sheehan Scholarship will be awarded each year to an individual with a disability seeking higher learning. The award criteria are listed below:

- The recipient must be enrolled in an accredited program.
- The recipient must provide proof of registration in the training program.
- This is a one-year scholarship in the amount of \$1500.00.
- Recipients may re-apply any year they are enrolled in school.
- Award will be paid directly to the training program.

APPLICATION

NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TRAINING PROGRAM _____ HIGH SCHOOL GPA _____

Tell us briefly about yourself and your goals _____

Attach letters of recommendation and mail or fax to:

**Lisa Alford
PO BOX 1610**

Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

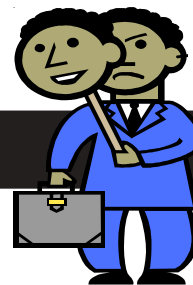
Phone (205)554-1300 Fax (205)554-1369

DEADLINE for APPLICATION IS JUNE 30th!

REGISTRATION
FORM



AL-APSE



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OF EMPLOYMENT

Name _____ 9th Annual Training Conference

Organization _____ August 20 – 22, 2007
Mobile, AL

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ Email: _____

Registration Fee: _____ \$75.00 Members _____ \$125.00 Non-Members
Membership # _____

Registration Fees are non-refundable; however you can send a substitute.

Special Accommodations Needed (i.e. Interpreter, Braille, etc.) _____ Yes _____ No
Accommodation Needed: _____

Accommodations Must Be Requested By August 1, 2007

_____ I will attend the Awards Luncheon
_____ I will not attend the Awards Luncheon

Make Registration Checks payable to AL-APSE and mail to:
Lisa Alford, P. O. Box 1610, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

You can also charge registration to Visa or Mastercard a \$2.00 processing fee applies.
Please contact Lisa Alford at 205-554-1322 to charge your registration.



By registering for the conference each attendee understands that photographs and videos will be taken throughout the conference for use in publications, presentations, and other events. The photos will remain the property of AL-APSE.

_____ **Please Check if you
Plan on attending**

BEST PRACTICES IN SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATE BASED JOB COACH TRAINING

TRAINERS: Howard Green & Vicki Brooke of Virginia Commonwealth University

This training is required of all Milestones Supported Employment Project Personnel. The last available session for 2007 will be offered in conjunction with this year's AL-APSE conference. Participants in this training will remain in the certificate based job coach training track throughout the conference. However, you will be able to attend the general sessions and the awards luncheon.

YOU WILL NEED TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS TRAINING.

Continuing Education and CRC Credit Available

There will be a charge of \$20 for Continuing Education Credits.
This program is offered for 9.5 Continuing Education Credits (9.5 clock hours)

This program is co-sponsored by the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and by Alabama APSE, The Network on Employment. The Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation is an approved provider of continuing education for **Social Workers** in the State of Alabama through the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners; is an NBCC Approved Continuing Education Provider (ACEPTM) and a co-sponsor of this event/program. The Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation may award NBCC approved clock hours for events or programs that meet NBCC requirements. The ACEP maintains responsibility for the content of this event. **Eligible participants must be in attendance for the full program to receive credit for completing the course.**





The Alabama APSE conference will kick off with our annual Awards Luncheon at 12:00 noon. In order to make this a successful event, we will need nominations from you for this year's awards. You can obtain an awards nomination at www.al-apse.org or by contacting Byron White at 334-613-3522. **The deadline to submit nominations this year is June 30, 2007.**



AL-APSE REGIONAL TRAINING EVENTS

A Useful **ADA** Update for Employers or Those Who Work with Them

This training will focus on current trends concerning employer requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Covered topics will include reasonable accommodation, direct threat (safety issues), definition of disability and essential functions, among other areas.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand Basic Employer Requirements Under the ADA
2. Learn about Current ADA Trends Regarding Employers
3. Be Able to Apply This Knowledge to Employer ADA Situations

<u>LOCATIONS</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>TIMES</u>
Montgomery	August 8, 2007	10 – 12 AIDT
Mobile	September 6, 2007	10 – 12 Location TBD
Birmingham	September 7, 2007	10 – 12 Lakeshore Rehabilitation Community Room
Huntsville	September 20, 2007	10 – 12 ADRS Conference Room

*For more information email Alabama APSE at alabamaapse@aol.com
or visit our website at www.al-apse.org*

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