

# Kaleidoscope

*changing... adapting... growing*



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# Kaleidoscope

changing... adapting ... growing

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**Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania**  
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**Donations may be made on line at:**  
[www.sbawp.org](http://www.sbawp.org) or by check made payable to  
"Spina Bifida Association of Western PA"  
and mailed to: Spina Bifida Association of Western PA,  
3000 Stonewood Dr., Suite 100, Wexford, PA 15090

#### **Our Mission**

The Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania is committed to improving the quality of life for people with Spina Bifida and their families by providing a continuum of support services, education and advocacy.

#### **Executive Committee**

Chairperson | Joe McCormick  
President | John Liebenguth  
Vice President | Stephanie L. Schneck-Jacob, M.D.  
Treasurer | Jeryl Rauluk  
Secretary | Jeffrey B. Balicki, Esq.

#### **Board of Directors**

Joe H. Bucci, Esq.  
Joe Cieply  
Robert Davies  
Melanie Dragovits  
Cheryl Hawkins  
Kenneth Nickel  
Nikki Mason  
Susan Lanzel  
Archie Leonard III  
Christine Shambach  
Richard L. Smith  
Chelsea Weston

#### **Emeritus Board of Directors**

Peter Kochis



## Cheryl Hawkins

Cheryl Hawkins was elected as a Director to the SBAWP Board of Directors in September 2017. Cheryl is the owner of Staged With Appeal, LLC, a local home staging company in



the North Hills of Pittsburgh. Her business mission is to prepare homes for sale, giving them a competitive edge in the market by creating home designs that will leave lasting impressions and appeal to the greatest number of buyers.

Cheryl and her husband, David, recently moved to Bradford Woods from Chicago. She has 27 years of speech and language pathology experience including individual casework, teaching, supervision and curriculum development.

Cheryl has a commitment to service and is an active volunteer at our Gatehouse Program. The Gatehouse residents are enjoying vegetables from the garden she planted with them.

In her spare time, Cheryl enjoys gardening, nature photography, watercolor painting and traveling in their 1963 Bambi Airstream.

SBAWP welcomes Cheryl to the Board and we look forward to her participation, passion and involvement.

## Chairman's Award Presented to Dan Quinn

SBAWP has been annually presenting its Chairman's Award to an individual, or group who has demonstrated extraordinary generosity to the improvement of the quality of life for individuals with disabilities since 1996.



On July 31, 2017, Joe McCormick, Chairman of the SBAWP Board

of Directors, along with his daughter Abby McCormick presented the 2017 Chairman's Award to Dan Quinn at the 29th Annual Tony Yakemowicz Golf Tournament at the Hickory Heights Golf Club.

Dan Quinn is a familiar face at SBAWP as he has coordinated the Annual Tony Yakemowicz Golf Tournament for 29 years! Proceeds from the event benefit the SBAWP Summer Camp Program. The longevity and success of the event is due to Dan's selfless giving of his time, talents and treasures.

Dan Quinn retired in 2012 as a boilermaker for the Boilermakers Local 154 after 38 years of employment. After retirement, Dan happily agreed to serve as Honorary Chairman and continued to coordinate the annual golf tournament which involves months of planning and networking to solicit sponsors and donations for the day of the event. Dan has a gift for asking people to reach deep into their pockets and give back to their community and the SBAWP community.

When Dan is not busy volunteering he enjoys quality time with friends and family. He also enjoys boating, golfing and spending time at his summer home in Conneaut Lake.



Sixteen year old Abby McCormick, has spina bifida and has been a long time participant of the SBAWP Camps and Retreats programs. Abby was excited about the opportunity to present the award to Dan as she has benefited first hand from the SBAWP Camp Program, and she

appreciates what it means to her and the other campers over the years.

SBAWP wants to take this opportunity, on behalf of the SBAWP Board of Directors, staff, and campers to say "THANK YOU" to Dan Quinn for his friendship and continued support of the SBAWP and the very special individuals we serve.

## 2nd Annual Noll-Spratt Golf Scramble



The 2nd Annual Noll-Spratt Golf Scramble was a huge success raising close to \$6,500 for the Firefly Summer Camp Program. Special thanks to Tanner Spratt and Brandon Noll and the Noll and Spratt Families for graciously allowing SBAWP to continue to hold this event as a tribute to their hard work and dedication to SBAWP. Their families are an inspiration and SBAWP is grateful for their support!

Board Member, Christine Shambach, spearheaded and organized the event this year. Beaver Valley Golf Club again hosted the event on June 24, 2017 and SBAWP is thankful for the support they have shown to the event.

SBAWP thanks the generous sponsors and donors that helped to make the event such a success. We appreciate everyone that came to golf, volunteer, and be a part of the Noll-Spratt Golf Scramble this year. We are excited that this will now be an annual event!

The weather was golf perfect and all who attended had a wonderful time! ■



## 29th Annual Tony Yakemowicz Golf Tournament to Benefit SBAWP Summer Camps . . . Another Success!

The 29th Annual Boilermakers Local 154, Steamfitters Local 449 and the Ironworkers Local 3 Tony Yakemowicz Golf Tournament for the Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania was held on July 31, 2017 at the Hickory Heights Golf Club in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania. Once again, Dan Quinn, Honorary Chairman and retired Boilermaker, successfully organized the event. The weather was perfect for golfing. Sam Depe, golf pro and owner of the Hickory Heights Golf Club, and staff provided a delicious brunch, fresh grilled sandwich choices from the break cart and an amazing steak dinner for all attendees to enjoy.

This year's outing had over 80 sponsors and donors! Golfer's had a chance to win \$1 million on a hole-in-one, a set of golf clubs, autographed Sidney Crosby Penguin Jersey and numerous other door prizes. Skill prizes and awards were given along with a 50/50 raffle, and Chinese auction items. A framed Sidney Crosby lithograph was generously donated by Dino Guarino as a special raffle item. Past SBAWP program participants, Kelly Timms and Jonathan Dulemba, also attended the dinner and assisted with the drawings.



During the 29 years that the Unions have been golfing together, they have helped to send thousands of children and teens with spina bifida and other related disabilities to summer camp. The longtime relationship between SBAWP and the Boilermakers,

Steamfitters and Ironworkers local unions has a rich history of members who continue to give back to their community and the SBAWP community. Proceeds from this event help make what seems impossible, possible for these very special campers. Camp provides them a rare opportunity to connect with others in an environment of complete acceptance. At camp, youth who often are isolated by their disability, receive the support and encouragement that enable them to embrace success.

SBAWP gives a special, heartfelt "Thank You!" to Dan Quinn and all the dedicated sponsors and individuals who have supported this event for the past 29 years!



Plans are already underway for next year's event scheduled for July 30, 2018. Coincident with the next year's momentous 30th year celebration, a decision was made to change the name of the event from Tony Yakemowicz Spina Bifida Annual Golf Tournament to the John L. Moroney III Memorial Classic. The name change is in memory of John L. Moroney III, longtime SBAWP program participant, who passed on August 18, 2017. John was the son of retired Boilermaker, John L. Moroney, Jr. and his wife Patricia. Young John was about 2 years old when the Boilermaker's started fundraising with raffles, T-shirt sales, pledges for running and eventually the annual golf outing to benefit SBAWP summer camp. Additionally, members of the Boilermaker community helped raise funds for "family members" Kelly Timms, Jonathan Dulemba and Aaron Spang. ■









## FireFly Camps and Retreats 2017

### A Summer Experience Like No Other



This year's summer camp brought us to a new location full of exciting adventures, amazing staff, and a new found sense of accomplishment. Camp Guyasuta provided a beautiful backdrop as we whisked overhead on the zip line, took the slide into the pool, aimed our bows and BB guns at targets, and laughed and spent time with friends new and old. It was a definitely a summer we will never forget!

#### Upcoming Retreat Dates:

##### Adult Retreats:

September 29-October 1, 2017

December 1-3, 2017

February 23-25, 2018

##### Youth/Teen Retreats:

October 6-8, 2017

December 8-10, 2017

March 9-11, 2018



*Make a Difference!*  
**DONATE**

Please consider making a donation today, to help continue to make this day possible for every individual with spina bifida or a related disability!

You truly help make what seems impossible, possible and we couldn't provide these **AMAZING** experiences without you!

**"That's what today is all a**

We are sending a heartfelt thank you to every participant, and family that makes S





# about, trying something you never did before"- Ranger Mike

to every contributor, foundation, donor, staff, volunteer, friend,  
BAWP programs possible. Your support makes this day possible!



# *A Journey in Their Own Words*

## *Journey of Karin Thum in Her Own Words*

In 2009, I nervously moved into the Gatehouse. During my time in the program, I learned life skills (i.e. how to manage a check book, cooking, laundry etc.), made friends that have become family and gained confidence in myself that family and friends already knew I had, I just needed to find.



Shortly after moving into the Gatehouse, I sat with a staff member to look for a volunteer job. I knew I wanted to volunteer with Hospice as that is something very near and dear to my heart. I found a place in Wexford, close to the Gatehouse and sent in an application. Within a few weeks, I was a Hospice volunteer. SBAWP staff even took me and walked in with me on my first day.

While in the Gatehouse, I did briefly work but those jobs ended up not being a good fit for me. So, I continued to focus on volunteering.

In May of 2012, I moved from the Gatehouse Program into an apartment in the community. I had the support of my family, friends, and Gatehouse and Community staff so adjusting went smoothly.

Right before I “graduated” the Gatehouse Program, I filled out an application to work as a staff member at the Gatehouse. Going through the program sparked an interest in working there. About a year later, I got a call! A position as a Job Coach, working one on one with a Gatehouse Resident, was available. I don’t even think I hesitated saying “yes.” I remember I was on vacation with my mom and dad at the time and was thrilled to be able to tell them in person rather than having to pick up the phone to tell them.

May will always be a month that holds special achievements for me. It’s the anniversary month of when I “graduated” from the Gatehouse Program, moved to an apartment in the community and offered a job to work for the Gatehouse.



It has been said when you have a job you love, you never have to work a day in your life. I definitely love what I do. My days with my client are filled with work, but also laughter and fun. And, I’m also still volunteering for Hospice!

## *In Max Colecchi’s Own Words*

The journey between me and the Spina Bifida Association has been a lifelong commitment. I have been involved in their programs since the age of 7. I started going to their camps when they opened the programs up to everyone in the year 2000. Back then, I was a young pup, and I needed some guidance. Growing up with a disability is challenging, and to know that there was somewhere

I could go, and be with people that were just like me definitely helped me through my adolescent and teenage years. Some of the best memories of my childhood came through the programs of the Spina Bifida Association.



When I graduated high school, I wasn't really sure what my next step was going to be, so I moved into the Gatehouse. Even though my stay was short, I learned a lot and made the connections that would help me down the road. I think I was the best resident ever, but I bet Jody would argue that.

I spent the next 3 years at Edinboro University. Although I loved Edinboro, I found out that the college life was not for me, so I moved back home. I wasn't sure what I was doing next, but I knew I wanted to help others so I spoke with Corey at a SBAWP fundraiser. She recommended that I apply, so I did, and in April, I started in my new role at the Gatehouse. It feels good to be involved in the Association again, and to try to improve and contribute to their programs.

I work with the Gatehouse participants on trying to better themselves. I've helped them with job hunting and have created and presented educational PowerPoints. I also use the skills I have learned through presenting various trainings on advocacy at the PEAL (Parent, Education, Advocacy, and Leadership) Center with the participants at the Gatehouse. I feel as though it is a way for me to give back.

I think my future with the Association is bright. I love being in a position to help people. I hope to eventually work with other projects and be more involved in the Association. I think I have a lot to give and I think I can help in many ways.



After almost a year of planning, the dedicated and determined SNPJ #223 Charity Bike Run Committee held their event on June 24, 2017. This year they chose the Spina Bifida Association of Western PA as the organization to support.

In addition to the Committee, there were 101 sponsors and many volunteers that helped make the event a success. Sponsors were recognized on T-shirts and on a sign at the SNPJ club. Generous members of the community donated over 50 items (from gift cards to a certificate for Limo rental) for baskets raffle. During the month of May and June, club members were able to sign their name to a Support Spina Bifida ribbon to hang on the wall for a donation.

The day of the ride, Bike Run for Spina Bifida T-shirts were given to the 90 riders. There was a 50/50 raffle and poker hand for those who participated in the run to 5 different locations.

Meanwhile back at the SNPJ club, an all day 50/50 raffle, chances for the baskets, and bike run T-shirts were sold. Volunteers prepared the meal, also graciously donated by various sponsors, for the participants. After dinner, basket prizes and 50/50 were drawn and entertainment was provided by DJ Randy Clontz.

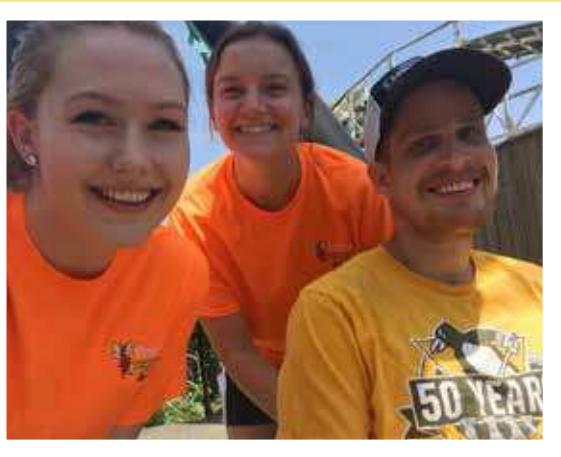
Due to all the effort of the committee/volunteers and support of our sponsors, riders, and SNPJ #223, we are very proud to announce we were able to donate \$10,000 to the Spina Bifida Association of Western PA.

-SNPJ Lodge

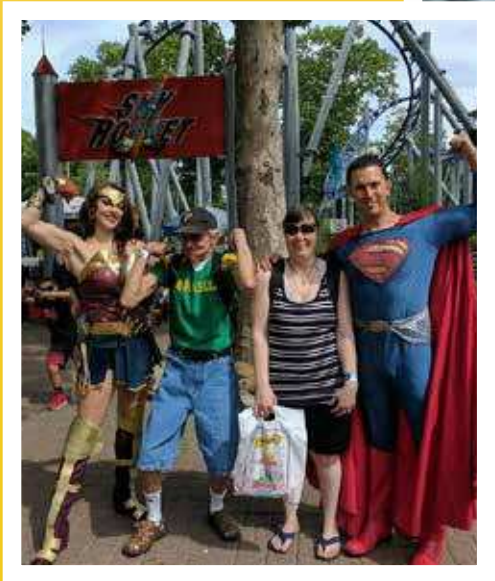


# Community Outings Sponsored by SBAWP

SBAWP receives ticket donations from generous donors such as Pirates Baseball and Kennywood Park. Group outings with staff are planned so that program participant can enjoy a day with friends from across the Pittsburgh area.



## Kennywood Park





**We ♥ to  
Celebrate  
Birthdays!**



**Painting With A Twist traveled to  
the Fithian House for an enjoyable  
and artistic evening**



## **Pirates Game**



**A beautiful sunny day at the Fithian  
House with residents joining in to clean  
the van.**





## SBAWP's Wellness Conference

The 3rd Annual Wellness Conference was held on August 12, 2017 at the DoubleTree by Hilton. Attendees started their morning with breakfast and networking with each other, vendors, and professionals. Topics for the day included: Sepsis Prevention, Transition in Healthcare, and Colorectal Care. Thank you to our amazing speakers who graciously donated their time and expertise: Dr. Brad Dicianno, MD, Ms. Rachel Young, MSN, CPNP-BC, AOD and Ms. Kimberly Cogley, MSN, MBA.

The Wellness Conference would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, vendors, and volunteers. The signature sponsor McKesson Patient Care Solutions also provided child care for the conference. We are looking forward to next year's conference!



*Signature Sponsor*  
**McKesson Patient  
Care Solutions**

**MCKESSON**

**McKesson Patient Care Solutions**

# Partners in Care

McKesson Patient Care Solutions' (MPCS) Partners in Care program helps people with chronic neurogenic disorders lead healthier lives.

### **Exceptional Service and Resources**

- Knowledgeable representatives to help educate patients on products and insurance guidelines
- Support continuity of care, bill patients' insurance on their behalf and ship supplies directly to their door.

For more information please contact:

**855.625.2580 | [mpcs.mckesson.com/partnersincare](https://mpcs.mckesson.com/partnersincare)**



*Ladies come out for an afternoon of fun, food  
and your favorite purses such as...*

**Kate Spade • Michael Kors • Coach • Tory Burch**

*All purses are authentic*

girlfriends  
for good

**4th Annual**  
**Purse Bash**

**Saturday, November 4, 2017**

**Pine Community Center**

**100 Pine Park Drive, Wexford, PA 15090**

**Noon - 3:00 PM**

Only 160 tickets will be sold, \$50 each  
Admission with Pre-Purchased Ticket

Doors open at noon for vendor shopping  
Drawings begin at 1:00 pm

Heavy Hors d'oeuvres, Beverages, and  
Wine provided



**[www.sbawp.org](http://www.sbawp.org) • [info@sbawp.org](mailto:info@sbawp.org) • 724-934-9600**



Girlfriends for Good proceeds benefit children and young adults with spina bifida and related disabilities.

# Calendar of Events

## November 2017

- 4 Purse Bash
- 5 Soup & Salad Lunch
- 19 BluePrints Partylane
- 19 Sing Sing Give - Jergel's Rhythm Grille

## December 2017

- 1-3 Adult Retreat
- 8-10 Youth and Teen Retreat

## February 2018

- 23-24 Adult Retreat

## March 2018

- 9-11 Youth and Teen Retreat
- 24 Jamfest - Jergel's Rhythm Grille



**BENEFITING SBAWP**

**SUNDAY NOV. 19**

**1:00 PM**

**JERGEL'S RHYTHM GRILLE**

**ENTERTAINMENT BY:**

**SING SING SING STUDENTS, THE VOLOS,  
MELODY LARUE, VICTORIA COLLONELO  
& MORE!**

**Phone: 1-800-243-5787**

**Fax: 724-934-9610**

**www.sbawp.org • info@sbawp.org**

## **JOIN US FOR A Soup/Salad Brunch**



**Sunday,  
November 5, 2017  
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

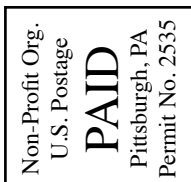
**Cranberry Community  
United Presbyterian Church  
2662 Rochester Road,  
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066**

**Menu Includes:**

**SOUPS, SALAD, BREAD, DESSERTS  
& BEVERAGES**

**\*\*Gluten Free Soups & Take Out Available\*\***

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE SPINA BIFIDA  
ASSOCIATION OF W. PA**



## **AFTERNOON JAMFEST**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH  
1:00-5:00 PM**

**JERGEL'S RHYTHM GRILLE  
LIVE MUSIC, 50/50 & BASKET AUCTION**



**Spina Bifida Association  
of Western Pennsylvania  
3000 Stonewood Drive, Suite 100  
Wexford, PA 15090**