



DECEMBER 2009



**NEWSLETTER TOPICS:**

- State Affiliate Award
- “When Did You Become My Voice?” - Seminars on Diminished Capacity
- GAND President Message
- New Board Positions
- NGA Update

*Newsletter*

**JUDY VETTER-HONORED BY NGA**

Judy Vetter has been a member of GAND since its inception in 1997 and several years ago she became a Board member. Her enthusiasm and energy helped GAND get off the ground and Judy has worked tirelessly on each of the annual GAND conferences and workshops. In 2006, Judy and a fellow Board member submitted a grant so that the GAND Board could go through an in-depth strategic planning process. An integral member of an Olmstead Commission committee that had the primary purpose of educating ND legislators about guardianship and alternatives to guardianship, she spent hours assisting in the creation of a Guardianship Handbook which was shared with legislators and was included on the ND Department of Human Services/Aging Services Division website. Our Association is very proud of Judy for receiving this award and we thank her for all that she’s done and continues to do for this organization. Way to go Judy!



**“WHEN DID YOU BECOME MY VOICE?”-2009 SEMINARS**

GAND hosted two educational seminars on diminished capacity this year our spring meeting was held in Bismarck while our fall meeting was hosted in Fargo. The guest speakers were Curtis Volesky, Director of Medicaid Eligibility, ND Department of Human Services, Dr. Madeline Free, psychiatrist for the North Dakota State Hospital, Casey Chapman, J.D., and Susan E. Johnson-Drenth, CELA. The audience received information on a number of topics provided by the speakers some of which were; common misconceptions regarding legalities of guardianship, basic behavioral differences seen in the various dementias, and valuable Medicaid updates. GAND has plans to host another educational meeting May 2010 in Bismarck. This meeting will offer continuing education credits to attorneys and social workers for attendance. There will be a discounted attendance fee for all GAND members. \*If you have a topic idea or speaker in mind for a future meeting please contact: [Christine@aptnd.com](mailto:Christine@aptnd.com).



## GAND PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

Greetings GAND Members:

The Holiday Season seems to stir the need within us to pause and reflect on the year and all that has transpired.

GAND put on two conferences this year. Our spring conference was held in Bismarck and the fall conference was held in Fargo. We had exceptional presenters at both conferences and we received favorable evaluations on their presentations from those that attended the trainings.

We had speakers that covered information related to legal perspectives of guardianship and special needs trusts, medical information related to capacity issues and updates on Medicaid guidelines and the new legislative changes that impact Medicaid.

This coming New Year, we will be offering more training opportunities that are relevant to the work that is being done to help meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations of our State. Guardianship / Conservatorship and Alternatives are important issues that affect every community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the GAND Board of Directors for their nominating me as the “Outstanding State Affiliate” for North Dakota. I attended the National Guardianship Association conference in October where I received the award and recognition. I am honored by their nomination.

I look forward to the coming New Year “2010” in serving as your newly elected President of GAND.

I encourage all of our members to personally invite your associates and any community partners you work with to join our association. We offer valuable trainings and opportunities to network with many professional individuals that work in the arena of guardianship.

Best Wishes,

Judy Vetter,  
GAND President

*Winter*

“Helping protect our adult citizens...today” -GAND



WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.GAND.ORG

## 2009 GAND BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS:

Judy Vetter-President  
Email: [jvetter@gapsinc.org](mailto:jvetter@gapsinc.org)

Marilyn Jensen-Director  
Email: [krgh@westriv.com](mailto:krgh@westriv.com)

Jerri Weiss-Secretary  
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Bonnie Storbakken-Director  
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Karla Johnson-Treasurer  
Email: [kjohnson@catholiccharitiesnd.org](mailto:kjohnson@catholiccharitiesnd.org)

Mark Westereng-Director  
Email: [ambi@minot.com](mailto:ambi@minot.com)

Bill Chaussee-Director  
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Bruce Murry-Director  
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Email: [dbyzewski@catholiccharitiesnd.org](mailto:dbyzewski@catholiccharitiesnd.org)

## NGA NEWS

The National Guardianship Association reached a milestone in terms of total membership. Currently NGA has 1003 members this is up from 888 last year. Its mission is to establish and promote a nationally recognized standard of excellence in guardianship.

NGA held it's National Conference on Guardianship October 3-6, 2009 in Las Vegas, NV. The annual Conference on Guardianship is the only national program that merges education, networking, personal development, and motivation into an event specifically tailored for guardians, conservators and fiduciaries.

Membership Dues for NGA:

\$170 - Individual Membership

\$250 - Organization Membership, plus additional members of my organization @ \$100 each

(Organizations paying for additional memberships should also submit the information section of this form for each additional person.)

\$ 50 - Family, Volunteer, or Retired Membership

Visit NGA on the web: [www.guardianship.org](http://www.guardianship.org)

*"Challenges are what make life interesting; overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."*

*-Joshua Marine*





## Guardianship Association Of North Dakota

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*The Guardianship Association of North Dakota (GAND) is a non-profit organization of professionals, families and concerned individuals committed to supporting guardians and other surrogate decision makers in enhancing the lives of the people they serve.*



WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.GAND.ORG](http://WWW.GAND.ORG)

*"You can tell more about a person by what he says about others than you can by what others say about him."*

*-Anonymous*

