

THE BEACON



2040 US Highway 50
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Board Members

Greg Carson

President

Kim Pellington

Vice President

Robert Grant

Secretary

Laurie Benintendi

Board Member

Emily Chesnut

Board Member

Rex Parsons

Board Member

Harry Snyder

Board Member

December 2017

As we wind down another year, it has been a year of celebration and reflection. It has been 50 years since Ohio Senate Bill 169 was first enacted essentially creating the County Board of Developmental Disabilities system in Ohio. In fact, on October 25, we celebrated the official day of the enactment of the legislation by holding our annual Good Fortune Dinner. It was a great night, with one of our largest crowds in attendance for such an event. There were pictures and a slide show that depicted so many of the faces and places that defined what the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been about for the past 50 years. It wrapped up with everyone singing Happy Birthday. Thanks to all those who made it a great night.

At the Good Fortune Dinner, I quoted John F. Kennedy who so famously said, "History is a relentless master, it has no present, only the past rushing into the future. To try to hold fast is to be swept aside." Our theme for our 50 year celebration is "Always There". While we reflectively look back on 50 years of service to those with developmental and intellectual disabilities in our community, we continue to look forward into 2018 and beyond to ensure that we at the County Board recognize what it means to be there for those we serve and their families. We will continue to strive to hit the mark using the resources afforded us by the citizens here in Clermont County.

Finally, I would like to offer up a note of gratitude to four of our Board members who will not be returning in 2018, when we reconvene. They are Laurie Benintendi, Greg Carson, Rex Parsons, and Harry Snyder. Mrs. Benintendi, Mr. Carson, and Mr. Snyder, are term limited, meaning they have served three consecutive four year terms. Mr. Parsons has served one term and has done so admirably. Mr. Snyder, Mr. Carson, and Mr. Parsons have all fulfilled the role of Board President within their terms. Each one of these members helped provide incredible leadership through some times of transition with the agency that included replacing Sharon Woodrow, upon her retirement. I will be indebted to them for affording me the opportunity to do so and to promise to not let them down! Each one will be terribly missed, but I look forward to working with the new members starting in 2018.

I want to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Ottke".

Dan Ottke

Superintendent

Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities



50th Anniversary Celebration



Superintendent Dan Ottke welcomes the audience and embarks on a celebration of 50 years of services to individuals with developmental disabilities in Ohio.



Outstanding providers were recognized.



Bastin Home, Provider of the Year



A few self advocates were there.



Ethan Stuempfle, Self Advocate of the Year



Grant Family Foster Family of the Year



Employers were in attendance.



Pam Brown, Advocate of the Year



**Donatos Pizza
Business of the Year**



**Country Lane Pet Resorts
Business Partner of the Year**



**Clermont Family YMCA
Business Partner of the Year**



**Jennifer Neal
Volunteer of the Year**



**Outgoing Board Member
Volunteer Recognition**



**Several volunteers were
in attendance.**



**Bethel-Tate High School
Volunteer Group of the Year**



**Jet's Pizza and Pete Miller received
the Friends of DD Award.**



**Staff Triumph Award Nominees: Amy Sparks, David
Sininger, Pete Wood, & Michael Marinković (winner)**



**Stephen Caraway from Governor
John Kasich's office, congratulating
Clermont DD on 50 years.**



**Greg Sojka, University of Cincinnati
professor, was Master of Cerem**



50th Anniversary Statehouse Celebration - October 24, 2017
Meetings with Legislators and Time Capsule Presentation



Week of Service - July 17-21, 2017
Clean up at East Fork State Park Office



**ALWAYS
THERE**
50 YEARS OHIO COUNTY BOARDS OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES





VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.CLERMONTDD.ORG



Whenever inclement weather arrives, you can check our website as well as call our Calamity Hotline (732-7000, Option 2) or check our social media sites to find out about delays and closings. We will also list them on all 4 news channels in Cincinnati, they will be announced on Cincy radio, and we will also send out a One Call to those in programs. Let's hope we don't have to do any of this!

The mission of the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to promote safe and supportive environments while understanding our responsibility to respect the choices and needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and to empower them to be engaged in their community.