

# Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center

P.O. Box 754, Park Forest, Illinois 60466

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**NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING, 2017**

***PFLC SPRING GENERAL MEETING***

***\*\* SUNDAY \*\* APRIL 30, 2017***

***ELISABETH LUDEMAN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER***

***114 ORCHARD DRIVE, BUILDING 64***

***PARK FOREST, IL. 60466***

***REFRESHMENTS: 1:30 P.M.***

***MEETING: 2:00 P.M.***

## **AGENDA**

**JOHN HALEY, PFLC PRESIDENT**

**KELLY D. RICHARDS, NEW LUDEMAN CENTER DIRECTOR**

**WELCOME**

**LUDEMAN UPDATE**



**The Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center mission is to advocate for the rights of all the residents of Elisabeth Ludeman Center. We will work with the center to provide quality of life enhancement for individuals with disabilities, and to act as a support organization for the family members and friends of the residents. We are an all-volunteer organization.**

## **Featured Speaker at Our Spring General Meeting Meet Kelly Richards – The New Ludeman Center Director**

As you probably know by now, Ludeman has a new Center Director and we are very glad to have her as our featured speaker at the PFLC Spring General Meeting. Kelly Richards took on this new position starting last December. Ms. Richards brings with her valuable leadership experience, as well as fresh eyes and new ideas. Though new to the job, she is a quick study. Ms. Richards has held regular open forum meetings with staff to hear their ideas and concerns. She believes in a leadership style that grows new leaders from within the organization. Many hands leading to greater success. As she says, her goal is to make Ludeman the best Developmental Center in the state of Illinois.

Kelly looks forward to meeting you and hearing from all of you. Hope you can join us on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. for the PFLC Spring General Meeting.

**Elisabeth Ludeman Center Updates  
Kelly D. Richards, Center Director  
March 29, 2017**

### **Greetings from the New Center Director**

I would like to introduce myself to the Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center Organization. I hold a Bachelors of Arts in Public Administration. I previously worked for DHS with the Division of Family and Community Services. We administered the Cash, Medical and Food Stamp program for the State of Illinois. I have worked for the State of Illinois for 17 years in various management positions. It is my belief that my previous work experience working for the Division of Family Community Services coupled with my personal experiences and my education, demonstrates my ability and commitment to serve as the Center Director. I have a commitment and passion for leadership development and working with staff at all levels and positions. I started at the Elisabeth Ludeman Center on December 16, 2016. I am dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for the Individuals that reside at the Elisabeth Ludeman Center. I understand the challenges and hard decisions that families have, for I too have a family member with Developmental Disability challenges. I am committed to ensure that every individual is provided with the most optimal care possible. It is my personal goal to make Ludeman the model State Operated Developmental Center in Illinois.

### **INSPECTIONS/TAGS/and Peer Reviews**

Ludeman Center was cited with two tags on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The Tags were W153 and W154, which were related to not completing a thorough investigation and not contacting Public Health. A plan of correction has been developed and In-Servicing has been completed in an effort to reduce repeat tags. Additionally, there will be a Peer Review Survey conducted at Ludeman on April 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. The Peer Review will be conducted by staff from other SODC Facilities, where they will perform a mock survey similar to what IDPH conducts. This internal review affords the center an opportunity to address any areas that may need improvement to ensure that we can maintain certification. Having a successful Peer Review ensures that the Ludeman Center is taking measures to remain certified as an Intermediate Care Facility/Developmentally Disabled (ICF/DD) residential provider in the Federal Medicaid program.

The Center is currently in substantial compliance with ICF/DD Regulations. IDPH came to Ludeman on March 24<sup>th</sup> regarding a complaint and to review two incidents and they exited on March 29<sup>th</sup> with no deficiencies cited!

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, we held our Annual Women's Day Program to honor Women in History. Our Keynote speaker was Dr. Diane Washington, Chief Clinical Psychiatrist. She provided a powerful message to the women that attended the program. One individual gave a beautiful rendition of the Lord's Prayer.

We continue our efforts with monthly Open Forums for staff to voice issues and/or concerns that impact the Center. Our next Open Forum is tentatively scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

In the month of February, nine of our individuals attended two Taekwondo trainings near Springfield, led by Commander Heart from the Department of Corrections. On February 16, 2017, Ludeman had eight individuals demonstrate the skills that they learned in training and engage in finally testing before receiving their yellow belts in Taekwondo. All the individuals were very excited about their opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency.

We held a Tech Select in February where seven trainees and seven transfers started March 16, 2017. We also have 18 staff participating in Tech III training which started March 6, 2017. We have promoted 4 RN1's to RN2's. Consequently, that has created a vacancy of 4 RN1's that we are currently attempting to fill. We have lost 3 staff in March due to retirement and anticipate the loss of a Social Worker, Cook, and Qualified Intellectual Development Professional.

Ludeman has some staff changes to announce. One nurse was promoted in the month of February to the Director of Nursing. Our Dietary Manager was promoted to Public Service Administrator in Dietary.

We are receiving donated White Sox tickets for April and May, with the hope that the White Sox will be offering more tickets throughout the season!

Ludeman continues our efforts in working with Cornerstone Services to start a Laundry Training Program that will provide training for our individuals, while also cleaning the linen for the facility. We hope to begin this program sometime this Spring.

We are planning for an Active Shooter Drill and will have a Table Top Discussion sometime in May or June.

Overtime is currently at 19.19% due to the significant staff shortages and call offs! We had seven Techs that retired at the end of December from one Unit alone and anticipate that additional staff are planning to retire this spring. We are continuing our efforts to reduce OT and meet our OT budget goal of 10%. We have opened up a Compliance Department that will track our call offs and help balance the overtime. We are attempting to hire staff for overtime 2 days in advance to help reduce the number of staff that are mandated to work. We are exploring the prospect of hiring retired RN's for 75 days in order to address our nursing shortage.

I look forward to working with each of you, to make The Ludeman Center the best SODC there is! Thank you, Parents & Friends for your continued support. I look forward to serving our individuals, Parents and Friends in the capacity of the Center Director.

Kelly D. Richards, Center Director, (708) 283-3001.

## **Friendly Reminder from the Parents & Friends of Ludeman Center**

When you come to the Center to visit with your family member/special loved one, please be sure to sign in and sign out at your Neighborhood House or the Main Switchboard, Building 61. Thank you!

### 3 IMPORTANT ISSUES TO BE AWARE OF & INVOLVED IN...

**1. Guardianship Bill** – A really terrible idea for a bill (HB2665) continues to be advanced despite overwhelming negative feedback from so many parents and guardians. The idea behind the bill proposed by Rep. William Davis (D, 30<sup>th</sup> District) would be to require guardians (even parents and legally appointed guardians) to complete a 4-6 hour training program designed by the Office of State Guardians (OSG) in order to maintain their guardianship status. According to the proposed statute, failure to complete this training would take away your guardianship rights and an OSG, a state appointed guardian, would take over your responsibilities.

OSGs have always been ‘guardians of last resort’ for those who have no one else to look out for them. This bill may or may not be well-intentioned, but as one critic described it “it’s a solution in search of a problem that doesn’t exist”. Minimally, it adds an unnecessary legal hurdle to those who have spent a lifetime caring for and looking out for their loved one. And at worst, this bill is a sinister effort to strip away guardian rights from family members. Let’s remember that it has often been individuals with an OSG who are the 1<sup>st</sup> to be pushed out of their SODC homes and into often times inappropriate CILAs (Community Integrated Living Arrangement). (See #2 below). Many of you have followed this issue on the PFLC website. Continue to do so and **please contact Rep. William Davis (708-799-7300 District Office & 217-782-8197 Springfield Office) and your state representatives. Express your strongest opposition to this bill.**

**2. Suffering In Secret** – The excellent Chicago Tribune watchdog series, *Suffering in Secret*, is still available for viewing through links on the PFLC website (ludemanpflc.org). The article addresses the appalling lack of oversight of many CILAs throughout the state and details what can be the dangerous and devastating result of this. In contrast, the Ludeman Center operates under the SODC system which requires frequent, ongoing, and recurring state inspections and oversight. There is nothing similar in place for the CILAs. Good journalism can have a powerful effect and the Chicago Tribune series has sparked General Assembly hearings and impetus for the Illinois Department of Human Services to begin addressing this serious problem. **If you haven’t already done so, be sure to read this important series and follow-up articles.**

**3. AFSCME Takes Strike Authorization Vote** – The ongoing contract impasse between the Governor and AFSCME union members continues. AFSCME workers have been working without a contract since their current contract expired in July 2015. Failure of the two sides to come together led to a strike authorization vote being taken at the end of February. It was approved by AFSCME members. This does not mean that a strike is imminent, but it clearly brings the possibility a very real step closer. Updates will be on the PFLC website.

Again, we need PFLC members to raise their voices. **Contact Governor Rauner, legislators, union leaders, and local papers with the message that both sides need to get back to the bargaining table and arrive at a fair and equitable contract. Let them know that a strike in a facility like Ludeman Center would be reckless and would create a real danger to its residents.**

### 2017 VOR Washington, D.C. Conference

Paul Keipert, our PFLC Treasurer and Board Member, has volunteered to attend the VOR Conference to represent the PFLC Intellectually Disabled in Washington, D.C. from June 3 – 7th. Paul will be walking the halls of Congress to visit each office of our Illinois Legislators. Thank you, Paul, for devoting your time and talents to this important conference.

**VOR Link:** <http://www.vor.net/>

# Our 2016 Holiday Nut Sale Wrap-Up

Thanks to all of you for making PFLC's Annual Holiday Nut Sale a success. Each year the Holiday Nut Sale is Parents & Friends' biggest single fundraiser.

The Holiday Nut Sale only works because of everyone's efforts and support - whether you do it by buying nuts at the launch at our Fall General Meeting or you actively work as one of our sellers or you do both! Thank you again for your fantastic support!

As a result of your efforts, we raised over \$3,905 this year. Whereas this is down from last year's total of just over \$5,600, still know that every dollar we did raise will be used to enhance the quality of life for all the Ludeman residents and to advocate on their behalf.

Over the years, we have lost some of our top sellers to attrition. We encourage everyone who can to step up and add their name to the top sellers list next year! It's a great way to support PFLC and spread the word about the good things happening at the Ludeman Center.

A huge thank you to the many of you who put their time and energy into making this year's drive successful.

## Our Top Sellers

Haley Family – 42 Cases

Neil Sullivan – 17 Cases

Mark Svenningsen/SPRED Group – 9 Cases

Janelle McFadden – 8 Cases

Bob & Gayle Cooley – 5

Paul Keipert – 29 Cases

Shirley Walters Toliver – 16 Cases

Mary Beth Olsen – 8 Cases

Jean Roush – 7 Cases

## Illinois Special Olympics – Mark Your Calendars



Come on out and cheer on the Ludeman Center athletes!

The Area 7 Special Olympics Spring Games will be held on  
Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 7:30 am – 3:00 pm.

Where:

Thornwood High School  
17101 South Park Avenue  
South Holland, IL 60473

When a Special Olympian wins a Gold Metal at their Area games, they are qualified to participate in the State-Wide Special Olympics weekend in Normal, Illinois. The State-Wide Special Olympics will be held starting Friday and ending on Sunday June 10 – 12, 2016 in Normal, Illinois.

In past years, we have had many Ludeman Center athletes take the weekend trip of a lifetime. They look forward to attending the Area 7 Games as well as the State-Wide games.

# Spring Fling Dinner and Dance, 2017

## 2017 SPRING FLING

5:30pm WELCOME  
Kelly Richards, Center Director  
Christine McGee, Assistant Center Director

5:45pm REMARKS  
Sarah Ross,  
Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center

6:00pm DINNER

6:30pm Kiddie World Characters

7:00pm DANCE FLOOR OPEN

9:00pm END OF 2017 SPRING FLING

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Glenda Corbett, Assistant Deputy Director  
Kelly Richards, Center Director  
Christine McGee, Assistant Center Director  
Reginald Booker, Community Interest & Employee Relations Director  
Janelle McFadden, Executive Secretary III  
Dr. Vera Davis, Lead Physician  
Cynthia Dear, Residential Services Director  
Dr. Sam Osun, Special Operations  
Pamela Clay-Wilson, LEVRAS Director  
Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center  
PFLC Spring Fling Committee  
Activity Therapist Department  
Ricky Brand, Photographer  
DJ Thomas Bjorklund  
Kiddie World Characters

Spring Fling Sponsored by  
Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center

The 1<sup>st</sup> Spring Fling Dinner and Dance event was held at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park, Illinois on March 16, 2017. There were 117 Ludeman Dinner Guests, 55 Ludeman Center Staff, and PFLC family members in attendance.

Reginald Booker was the Master of Ceremonies, Center Director Kelly Richards welcomed the guests and family members, and Sarah Ross spoke on behalf of PFLC. Sarah provided an update on all the events, including the Spring Fling, as well as the new tent purchase for Ludeman events that was provided by PFLC. Dinner was served family style, and everyone had such a great time. The entertainment included a DJ, as well as the Kiddie World Characters Mickey and Minnie Mouse! Mickey and Minnie really got the party started on the dance floor.

This event could not have been a success without the Activity Department. Many thanks to Zhong Zi Tan, Alesia Knight, Steven Drotts, and Tim Wharton. The co-ordination effort alone can be overwhelming and involved the whole Center from Administration, Transportation, Medical, Neighborhood Houses, and most of all the House Technicians. The Ludeman dinner guests are dressed in evening attire; men are in suits, ladies are in evening dresses and some ladies even wear heels! The direct staff shops for the clothing and gets the dinner guests ready for an evening of fun. The Transportation involves several busses that can accommodate special needs.

Don't think for a minute that the Ludeman residents that are not able to attend are 'left out'. The Activity Department also provides an Annual Holiday Party on the grounds of the Ludeman Center, too!

The Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center provides the funds for the Ludeman staff dinners, Bus Transportation, and the DJ entertainment. We could not do this without your efforts that the Annual Nut Sale provides, as well as your generous donations throughout the year.

The Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center thanks the Ludeman Staff for going the extra mile for our family members and friends that reside at Ludeman.

## DONATIONS

Donations are still needed to fund the various activities PFLC sponsors for the enjoyment of the residents. We also continue to need your financial help for the Protect Our Residents legal fees. Your donations are put to good use. We are here for our residents. We are their voices. A little help from many goes a long way!

## YOUR MONEY AT WORK – PFLC EXPENDITURES – 2016/2017

PFLC continues to use your donations for the benefit of residents.

Fall Fun Fest	\$2,043.76
Winter DJ Dance	\$ 225.00
Spring Fling Banquet	\$2,690.00

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

### The Parents and Friends of Ludeman Center is a 501c (3) Non-Profit Organization

All donations are tax deductible. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. We accept money, time and talent.

### Fall Fun Fest

The 2016 Fall Fun Fest was a smash hit! The Elisabeth Ludeman Developmental Center was jumping with live music by The Nite Lites, Sunshine the Clown, and the Forest View horse-drawn wagon rides.

We also showcased the new Event Tent that was purchased with your donations and the Annual Nut Sale fundraiser. The new Event Tent includes sidewalls that can be put up to protect the residents in inclement weather.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Website News – [www.ludemanpflc.org](http://www.ludemanpflc.org)

**Amazon Smile Update** – As of February, 2017 the Amazon Smile Foundation has contributed \$205.76 to Parents and Friends. Go to our website, and click on the Amazon Smile “Get Started” button to have a portion of your purchase donated to PFLC! It’s easy, and does not add additional charges to your order total.

**Visitors from Near and Far** – From October, 2016 – March, 2017 (6 months) there have been 715 visitors that viewed 2,092 pages on our website!

**Followers** – Want to be “In the Know”? Sign up to receive PFLC Updates! It’s easy – go to the website, and in the lower right corner click on “Follow” and enter your e-mail address. You’ll get updates on new postings to the website.

### Ludeman Dream Gardeners News

The residents of Ludeman Center, “The Dream Gardeners”, and staff of Ludeman and the Cornerstone Gardening Program need your support to make their annual “Pre-Mother’s Day Spring Plant Sale” a success. The Ludeman Dream Gardeners have been working diligently throughout the winter months in preparation for the spring growing season.

The Pre-Sale will take place at our PFLC Spring General Meeting in the lobby of Building 64 on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> before and after the meeting. You’ll get to choose, purchase, and take home a beautiful assortment of hanging baskets, potted herbs, as well as other plants and exotic flowers. Come to the General Meeting and take home some springtime flowers and plants!

The official Spring Dream Gardeners Sale will begin just before Mother’s Day. Contact the Ludeman Center at 708-283-3000 for specific dates and times of the sale.

Parents & Friends of Ludeman Center  
P.O. Box 754  
Park Forest, IL 60466



## Spring Has Sprung – Come Out and Have Some Fun!



### Come Out and Support PLFC Sponsored Events

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, April 30 <sup>th</sup>       | <b>PFLC Spring General Meeting – Building 64</b><br><b>Ludeman Center, 114 Orchard Dr., Park Forest, IL</b><br><b>Refreshments 1:30 p.m. Meeting 2:00 p.m.</b> |
| Saturday, June 3 <sup>rd</sup>       | Summer Gala – Ludeman Center Grounds 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.   |
| Saturday, September 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Fall Fun Fest – Ludeman Center Grounds 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.   |
| Sunday, October 29 <sup>th</sup>     | <b>PFLC Fall General Meeting – Building 64</b><br><b>Ludeman Center, 114 Orchard Dr., Park Forest, IL</b><br><b>Refreshments 1:30 p.m. Meeting 2:00 p.m.</b>   |
| Sunday, November 12 <sup>th</sup>    | Fall Disc Jockey Dance – Ludeman, Building 64, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.   |