



CommunicAbility

A Quarterly Newsletter For Our Community Members with Disabilities

Winter/Spring 2016
Vol. 16, Ed. 1

2016 Election

- Your Voice Matters
- Vote Smart
- Word Search

“The secret to change is not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”

~ Socrates

No Internet?

If you do not have access to the Internet at home, and are unable to access the websites listed in this newsletter, we would be happy to mail you a printed copy of the information that is available online.

To request a printed copy, please contact us via phone 414-299-0124.

Thank you!

Your Voice Matters. Use it, and use it wisely!

Did you know that less than 20 percent of the voting age population cast a ballot in the last major US Election in 2014?

That's a problem and here's why...

When voter turnout is low, it's very common for the incumbent to remain in office. Now that isn't to say all elected officials should get the boot, but something can be said for the importance of accountability. If our elected officials aren't worried about their job security because 80 percent of their constituents don't vote, then who's to say they'll work for "the people."

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

We need to hold our elected officials accountable. We need to remind them that they are in fact working for us and that we have the power to remove them from office if they don't. It has become increasingly clear over this past year that a great many of our politicians no longer have the best interests of their constituents in mind. They fight, not for the people, but for special interests – for the dollars that will get them reelected. Lobbyists are barking wildly at our elected officials, pulling this string and that; creating a future that they paid for.

All the while, "we the people" have become a silent many. We stood by and watched it all happen. And, we continue to watch, silently as democracy slowly dies, freedom erodes, and our power as a people is lost. We cannot allow this to continue!

As advocates we continue to fight because you and the millions of other Americans with disabilities are worth fighting for! But here's the thing – we can't fight without you. We can't fight for people who are unwilling to fight for themselves. You must be an active part of the process!

Too many people, particularly those with disabilities, choose to ignore politics, or worse, go to the polls misinformed. This needs to change! There is no better time than now to begin preparing yourself to vote! The 2016 Presidential Election season is off and running. The debates are on, the primaries and caucuses have already begun! This is your chance to get ahead of the curve. Begin now so that you can determine, with confidence, which candidates are listening to you and which just don't seem to get it.

This is how you do it...

First, you need to honestly evaluate what kind of voter you are. Odds are that you fall into one of the following categories...

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New Horizons Un-Limited is a Milwaukee-based, non-profit organization that provides individuals with lifelong disabilities increased access to the information, tools and life experiences that will enable them to improve their lives.



new-horizons.org



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“As a general rule, the most successful man [or woman] in life is the man [or woman] who has the best information.” - Benjamin Disraeli

What kind of voter am I?

- The sometimes or non-voter (because it doesn't matter anyway)
- The misinformed voter (because political ads are all I see)
- The impartial, uninformed voter (because it's my duty)
- The partisan voter (because my political party has all the answers)

If you do fall into one of these categories, we hope that you will make an effort to move towards the only category that will bring balance to our democracy “The Educated, Well Informed Voter.” As much as we would like to think so, most of us are not this type of voter. Here's why...

As we begin to develop our political “tastes” we tend to be drawn towards the media that supports our viewpoints. We nod our heads in agreement with nearly everything our respective media representatives have to say because we've lost our ability to see the gray area. We begin to draw lines in the sand and become incapable of seeing past our own points of view.

It's called partisanship and it's ruining our democracy!!

We need to stop relying on political ads and partisan media – opinion and self-serving agendas often override facts from too many news outlets. Unfortunately, given the extreme partisanship in this country, we really cannot take much at face value these days. We need to cross check and verify what we hear or read. We also need to look to our political candidates' records. What laws have they passed that could impact us as advocates and Americans with disabilities? Perhaps more importantly, how have those laws worked for or against us?

VOTEsmart

Learn about the candidates. Learn about the issues. Go to the polls as an educated voter.

It seems like a daunting task, but with technology at our fingertips it's really quite painless!

- A great place to start is **Vote Smart - votesmart.org**, a non-biased, fact-based political outlet that can connect you to just about anything you need to know about the candidates vying for your vote.
- Another excellent resource is **PolitiFact - politiifact.com**, a fact checking website that separates fact from fiction among the dozens of statements made by our political candidates and their pundits.
- As an American with a disability, **The Respectability Report - therespectabilityreport.org**, is a must use resource, providing non-biased political commentary as it relates to the candidates' stances related to Americans with disabilities.
- If you are well versed and confident on your stance of the major political issues check out **I Side With - isidewith.com**. After answering a series of questions on the issues, you will be presented with the candidates that best meet your views.

Remember, in a Democracy, majority rules! The only way to get noticed is to unite and move as one recognizable voting force...we can only do this with your help!

Now that you're armed with all of this amazing knowledge, it's up to you to spread the word. If you come across an important piece of information about a candidate, share it far and wide.



Don't be afraid to contact the candidates directly. Let them know that you are here, that you matter, and that you are listening. Tell them what's important to you. Make sure they hear you! You are the voice that carries!

This is how we get noticed! This is how we create a movement! We have 8 months to make waves, let's get started today!

Thank You to NHU's Spring 2016 Benefit Raffle and Silent Auction Donors

Thank you to all of the individuals, businesses and organizations that kindly donated items for use in our spring raffle and silent auction. Without you, this event would not have been possible. Our 14th Annual NHU Benefit Raffle and Silent Auction was a great success, raising a great deal for our community initiatives on behalf of our family, friends and neighbors with disabilities. There are no words to express our appreciation!



Adventure Rock
Alioto's Restaurant
Arlene's Knitting
Betty Brinn Children's Museum
Breadsmith
Capital Brewery
Care-a-lotta
Children's Museum of Green Bay
Colectivo
Comedy City De Pere
Danceworks
East Troy Electric Railroad
Elkhart Lakes Road America
Experimental Aircraft
Association
Florentine Opera
German Fest
Glaze Pottery
Gold'n Treasures
Green Bay Packers
Harley Davidson Museum
Hawk's View Golf Club

In-Tandem Theatre
Intercontinental Milwaukee
Kopp's Frozen Custard
La Fluente Restaurant
Mid-Continent Railway Museum
Milwaukee Ale House
Milwaukee Chamber Theatre
Milwaukee Community
Acupuncture
Milwaukee County Zoo
Milwaukee Food and City Tours
MilwaukeeHome
Milwaukee Irish Fest
Milwaukee Polish Fest
Milwaukee Public Museum
Milwaukee Repertory Theater
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
Milwaukee Wave
Minneapolis Institute of Art
Morningstar Golfers Club
Next Act Theatre
Old World Foundation

Oro di Oliva
Ozaukee Skateland
Panera Bread
Plumbing Parts Plus
Potawatomi Hotel and Casino
Rupena's Fine Foods
Saz's
Schlitz Audubon Nature Center
Science Museum of
Minnesota
Shedd Aquarium
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Sprecher Brewery
Staller Estate Winery
Summerfest
Sunset Playhouse
Valleyfair
Vera Bradley
Walt Disney World
Wilson's Restaurant & Ice Cream
Wisconsin Athletic Club



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Your Voice Matters

If you want to ensure a strong future for you and your fellow citizens with disabilities it is more important than ever that you take an active role in our country's democratic process. It starts with your vote and it continues with your ongoing advocacy and outreach. We hope that these words will inspire you to participate!

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| ADVOCATE | RALLY |
| BE ACTIVE | REACH OUT |
| BE THE CHANGE | RESEARCH |
| COME TOGETHER | SPEAK UP |
| EVALUATE | STAND PROUD |
| EDUCATE | TAKE A STAND |
| GO TO THE POLLS | VOTE SMART |
| ORGANIZE | |

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Since 1994, New Horizons Un-Limited has supported our community members with disabilities on their personal journeys. We provide the information, tools, training, and personalized guidance they need to find purpose and fulfillment in their lives.

Nearly all of our services are offered completely FREE of charge to ensure that every individual may benefit. Your contribution will provide FREE consultations, FREE job skills development, FREE home computers, FREE computer training, FREE computer support services, and more. Please consider giving so that others may receive the gift of growth and progress. THANK YOU!!

Via mail: New Horizons Un-Limited, 811 E Wisconsin Avenue, Ste. 937, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Online: new-horizons.org/donate.html