



***The Arc***™

*Bismarck*

## Annual Report

October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015

## **2015 Board of Directors**

**Linda Wurtz, President**

**Mike Schwab, Immediate Past President**

**Marlene Warnke, Vice President**

**Christine Hogan, Secretary/Treasurer**

**Cindy Schwab, Director**

**Tahna Stetson, Director**

## **The Arc of Bismarck Staff**

**Nicole Peske, Executive Director**

**April Dahme, Program Coordinator**

**Jerry Sandwick, Store Manager**



Dear Friends,

November 2015

It's been a busy year with staff changes, a busy legislative session, a successful partners program and plenty of internal updates to make The Arc of Bismarck run smoothly, efficiently and effectively.

It has been a privilege to serve as your executive director for the past six months. My wish is for you to see things from my fresh perspective. I see the passion, power, and commitment in the collective voice of this community. This is a dynamic group that includes a variety of supporters, including representatives from self-advocates, families, board, thrift store employees, and partners from the other agencies with whom we work. We are a force for the disability community as we move forward together to accomplish great things.

This document highlights the activities and accomplishments of The Arc of Bismarck over the past year. This would not have been possible without help from many champions who care deeply for The Arc.

*Our Board of Directors - Linda, Marlene, Mike, Tahna, Cindy and Christine:* When I started I was told we have a "working board" and that has proven to be true. Your dedication to your board positions is admirable and your willingness to step up when help is needed does not go unnoticed. I'm grateful for each of you.

*Linda Wurtz, President:* In my six months here, you have been an encyclopedia, a cheerleader, a teacher and a coach. You may be ending your term as president, but I will always have your cell phone number.

*April Dahme, Program Coordinator:* I would not change one single thing about you. You are a hard worker, a great team member and I feel fortunate to be working alongside someone who is ready to go and ready to go far.

*Thrift Store Team Members - Jerry, Mary Ann, Joe, Carisa, Steph, Brian, Roger, Steve, Bob, Lance, Sarah, Rachel, Jason, Justin, Sylvia, Pat, Sonia and our amazing volunteers:* I appreciate each of you separately for what you offer to the store. You collectively have helped us become the thrift store of choice for the Bismarck/Mandan area. That is something to be proud of. I can't wait to see what we can accomplish together in 2016.

*Members:* Where would we be without you? Thank you for validating the work we do for the people we serve.

*Donors:* We are grateful for your support and think that your financial commitment says something about you. Thank you for helping us reach further.

It's been a great year and I cannot wait to see what we can do in 2016.

Nicole Peske  
Executive Director

## MISSION STATEMENT

*"To provide education, advocacy and supports to children and adults with disabilities to foster empowerment and full inclusion in the community."*

## BACKGROUND

The Arc is a private, non-profit 501(c)3 advocacy organization formed in 1957 and incorporated in 1960. Originally founded by a small group of parents and stakeholders, The Arc has developed into a powerful membership-driven organization of over 700 state and local chapters. The Arc of Bismarck is affiliated with The Arc of the United States and The Arc of North Dakota. While the work of Arc chapters across the country is diverse, The Arc of Bismarck, like The Arc of North Dakota, does not provide any direct services to consumers. Throughout its history, The Arc of Bismarck has offered a variety of services and supports, always morphing to meet the current needs of individuals with disabilities and their families. The Arc of Bismarck is dedicated to improving community supports and services, influencing public policy at all levels, providing education and training for advocates, self-advocates, and parents, and achieving full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life. Through these efforts, the organization teaches effective self-advocacy skills, fosters empowerment, and seeks to advance the overall quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families. Many activities over the past year have allowed The Arc of Bismarck to remain relevant and important to the disability community.



## SUPPORTS

### *Information and Referral*

The Arc of Bismarck provides individuals with disabilities and their families assistance in finding appropriate community resources. Trained professionals help self-advocates, parents, and community members understand and navigate complex systems of education, government, and community institutions. During the past year, information and referrals have been given on a variety of topics, such as housing, guardianship, low-income services, family services, adaptive equipment, and education. The Arc of Bismarck has seen the volume of calls for information and referral requests steadily increase over the past year. Several factors have likely contributed to this increase, namely the population growth in the local area.

### *Community Living Program*

This program provides people with disabilities transitioning out of an institutional setting and into the community a voucher that can be used at our thrift store for household items and personal effects. The Arc of Bismarck does not see large volumes of requests for this service. However, The Arc continues to provide assistance to people transitioning into independent living environments. We are actively involved with the Money Follows the Person program, which provides funding for one-time moving costs to people with disabilities and adults and assists individuals in obtaining the services and supports needed to live independently.

## *American People Self-Advocacy Association*



American People is a self-advocacy organization run by and for people with disabilities whose mission is, “Helping all people with disabilities learn about their rights and responsibilities, while promoting self and systems advocacy in the community.” This group is provided with advisory and fiscal support by The Arc of Bismarck. During the past year, The Arc has worked closely with this group to encourage growth and membership development. Some highlights include:

attending transit meetings; selling cookbooks at community events and The Arc Thrift Store; hosting presenters on various topics at membership meetings; and sponsoring several social events, including a Halloween party, summer barbeque, and the annual Christmas dance. All adults (18+) with disabilities are invited to attend the group’s monthly membership meetings to learn more and get involved in self-advocacy. Meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Bismarck Public Library.

## **ADVOCACY**

### *Individual and Systems Advocacy*

The Arc of Bismarck knows the critical role advocacy plays in independence, and is an active advocate for issues and concerns regarding the rights of people with disabilities and their families. Individual advocacy is provided upon request and has come largely in the form of information dispersal and connecting citizens with their legislators. Systems advocacy at The Arc of Bismarck is displayed through continued participation in the local Legislative Working Group, North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Consortium, and other collaborative activities. The Arc is especially proud to have completed the twenty-second year of the North Dakota Partners in Policymaking program.

### *Legislative Advocacy*

During the 2015 legislative session, The Arc of Bismarck tracked and monitored over 30 disability related bills and provided written and oral testimony on several. The Arc of Bismarck secured a contract and provided legislative advocacy services to The Arc of North Dakota for the 2015 Legislative Session. The Arc’s legislative priorities included employment, housing, transition services, and the marriage penalty in Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI). The number of individuals with disabilities and those receiving services continues to increase as the state experiences a population boom. Below is a list with brief descriptions of a few of the bills that we took a position on in the 2015 session. Find the full legislative recap on the website at [www.thearcofbismarck.org](http://www.thearcofbismarck.org).

Provided Testimony:

#### **HB 1327 Sales and use tax exemption for nonprofit thrift store sales.**

This bill would have eliminated sales tax at nonprofit thrift stores. The Arc testified on this bill at the request of the prime sponsor. This bill would have addressed the

issue of double taxation, as used merchandise which has been donated to a thrift store was taxed when it was purchased new. It also would have helped low-income individuals and people with disabilities who regularly shop at thrift stores and typically have lower incomes. The bill did not get a recommendation from the committee, as committee members were split 7-7 on the bill. This bill has been submitted in several sessions and we hope it will be again. Failed in the House.

**SB 2012 DHS Budget - Vocational Rehabilitation Section** - We presented suggestions that people with disabilities deserve minimum wage, that perhaps VR could make use of new employment techniques such as job carve-outs, and that there are too many people falling through the cracks of the VR system. The budget for VR was basically level from the previous biennium.

**SB 2012 DHS Budget - Life Skills and Transition Center Section** - There was a lot of discussion about the center having 481 employees for 85 residents. The Arc testimony encouraged a renewed commitment to moving all of the residents into their home communities and dissolving this institution for good. There is money in the budget for heating plant upgrades, window replacement, equipment, and extraordinary repairs. (\$1.94 million) There is authority to sell the Prairie View building for a dollar to a non-profit in Grafton. There was also a study requested that will look for the most efficient use of the LSTC property, potential to transfer residents to the state hospital or community settings, and potential alternative uses for the campus and buildings.

#### **SCR 4006 Arc of ND bill**

##### **Study the impact of the marriage penalty in SSI under the Social Security Act.**

The marriage penalty in SSI has proven to be a barrier to marriage for many people with disabilities. Individuals on SSI who are married experience a significant reduction in benefits because their spouse's income is used in determining eligibility, forcing some couples to forgo their dreams of marriage or be faced with potentially living in poverty. This study would quantify the impact for North Dakotans, look at the cost of living and what poverty means in North Dakota, and research what other states have done about the issue. House Political Subs added an amendment to include the penalty to retirees in Social Security. Adopted. This study went to legislative management, but was not selected.



#### ***Federal Policy***

The Arc has also been vigilant in monitoring the new federal regulations on home and community based services (HCBS) provided by states through the federal Medicaid waiver. The rule provides a new definition of “home and community based” and adds protection for individuals receiving services through the waiver. The intent of the rule is to ensure that individual choice is at the center of HCBS settings and programs,

individuals have full access to the benefits of community living, and individuals receive services in the most integrated settings. The Arc supports the intent of the federal rule and will continue to follow the state's transition plan and activities in becoming compliant.

## EDUCATION

### *Partners in Policymaking*

The Arc of Bismarck coordinates North Dakota's Partners in Policymaking program, an intensive training program for adults with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities. The program teaches advocacy and leadership skills and creates paths for personal independence through a series of weekend training sessions. In the past year, 15 graduates received education in the program's topic areas, such as legislative processes, disability issues, and best practices. The program's intent is to achieve a productive partnership between people utilizing services and those providing services and creating policy. Partners continues to be a popular program, supported during the past year by the Otto Bremer Foundation, Walter L. Braun & Lucille Braun Family Charitable Gift Fund, Comfort Inn, and numerous individual contributors.



### *Speaking Engagements*

At The Arc of Bismarck, we make ourselves available to do presentations within the community on a variety of subjects. This year we were asked to speak at the Self-Advocacy Solutions conference and an event for the Dakota Center for Independent Living.

## THE ARC OF NORTH DAKOTA

In March of 2014, The Arc of Bismarck entered into a contractual agreement with The Arc of North Dakota to provide administrative services to the state organization. This contract has allowed The Arc of North Dakota to return to Bismarck, improving access to legislators, policy, and state agencies. While the state organization is now housed at The Arc of Bismarck, it remains its own fiscal and legal entity and is managed by The Arc of Bismarck's executive director at the direction of the state board. Notable state activities over the past year include: a successful 2015 legislative session, participation on a variety of committees that impact the disability community and the start of monthly call-ins with chapter directors to share best practices and problem-solve. North Dakota President Linda Wurtz and Nicole Peske are currently visiting each local chapter to talk about their activities and how The Arc of ND fits into their local mission.

Affiliate chapters of The Arc of North Dakota remain vital to the success of the state organization. A special thanks to all of the local chapters for their efforts over the past year: The Arc of Barnes County (Valley City), The Arc of Bismarck, The Arc of Cass County (Fargo), The Arc of Dickinson, The Arc of Little Missouri (Bowman), and The Arc, Upper Valley (Grand Forks).

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATION:

The Arc of Bismarck provided support to individuals and organizations to enhance community involvement. This is an opportunity for The Arc to invest in worthy individuals and efforts by providing financial or in-kind support. It also allows The Arc of Bismarck to form partnerships with future organizational stakeholders and build relationships within the community.

The Arc of Bismarck is dedicated to collaboration with diverse entities throughout the state to enhance opportunities available to people with disabilities, families, and others. In order to utilize resources responsibly and foster a collaborative spirit, The Arc worked with several organizations over the past year. Special thanks to our primary collaborators: Comfort Inn, AccessPoint Solutions, Inc., North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Consortium, Designer Genes, and many disability stakeholder organizations who have helped with our programming and education efforts.

### SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR PROGRAMS

#### *Chapter Efforts*

The Arc of Bismarck is able to fund quality programs and services through several resources. Through dues and membership fees, The Arc's 120 members have helped support Arc programming. In addition, The Arc also holds fundraisers, receives revenue from corporate sponsors and foundations through grant writing, and operates a thrift store. Over the past year, The Arc was generously supported by the Sam McQuade Sr./Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament, Walter L. Braun & Lucille Braun Family Charitable Gift Fund, MidContinent Communications, Aetna, HDR, Community Options, Wells Fargo Advisors - Kirk Pandolfo, MDU Resources Group, Security First Bank, American Bank Center and the Otto Bremer Foundation. The financial support of these organizations is greatly appreciated and ensures the impact and success of our efforts.

#### *The Arc Thrift Store*

The Arc Thrift Store provides monetary support for the Bismarck chapter's programs. Thrift store sales for 2014-2015 were \$336,006.60, down 10.4% from the same period a year earlier. However, overall expenses were also reduced by 8.2%. The net loss for the 2014-15 period was -\$18,537.27 which is a 39% change from the 2013-14 net loss of -\$13,342.51. Strategies are being developed to continue to reduce expenses while creative, cost-effective marketing efforts are explored.

The Arc Thrift Store continues to thrive in a business climate that is increasingly competitive for employees and in a community of many thrift stores.

During this period alone, the store brought in over 40,000 customers and received over 6,800 donations of goods and household items. Volunteers have put in over 7,200 hours so far this year, and dedicated employees have clocked in nearly 20,000 hours.

### A LOOK AHEAD

In April of 2010, members, self-advocates, and staff collaborated to update The Arc of Bismarck's strategic plan. Five growth areas were identified as organizational goals: 1) To support The Arc of North Dakota by exploring the taking of leadership; 2) To expand existing and grow new programs; 3) To retain paid staff to maintain integrity and credibility of The Arc of Bismarck; 4) To leverage finances to address buildings and grounds needs; and 5) To educate the public about disability issues in an effort to change attitudes. The Arc of Bismarck has done much to accomplish these goals, such as: 1) raised base wages of employees, 2) offer health insurance to full-time store employees, 3) completed remodel of the thrift store and updated certain fixtures, 4) sell items through online mediums, 5) secured administrative services agreement and legislative advocacy services agreement with The Arc of North Dakota, and 6) completed another year of our Partners in Policymaking and Capability Chronicles programs, to name a few. The Arc of Bismarck revisited The Arc's strategic plan in the past year to identify new and existing growth areas as they relate to people with disabilities and the board is planning to form a new strategic plan at the beginning of 2016.

Thank you for your continued support of our organization and people with disabilities.

**PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT  
PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON**

	Oct '14 - Sept 15	Oct '13 - Sept 14	\$ Change	% Change
<b>Income</b>				
Sales	336,006.60	375,111.89	-39,105.29	-10.4%
Dues	1,563.00	2,567.00	-1,004.00	-39.11%
Contributions	5,446.63	1,578.13	3,868.50	245.1%
Projects Income	80,120.95	89,776.88	-9,655.93	-10.8%
Interest Income	2,365.41	1,109.94	1,255.47	113.1%
Misc. Income	16,370.71	10,993.94	5,376.77	48.9%
Unrealized Gain/Loss	-4,105.07	1,646.84	-5,751.91	-349.3%
Realized Gains/Losses	0	1,183.65	-1,183.65	-100%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>437,768.23</b>	<b>483,968.27</b>	<b>-46,200.04</b>	<b>-9.5%</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>437,768.23</b>	<b>483,968.27</b>	<b>-43,200.04</b>	<b>-9.5%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Payroll Expenses	297,929.28	312,022.86	-14093.58	-4.5%
Vehicle/Travel Expenses	929.71	1,359.03	-429.32	-31.6%
General & Admin. Expense	53,566.16	45,214.29	8,351.87	18.5%
Insurance	10,666.00	9,876.00	790	7.9%
State/National Affiliation Fees	9,183.22	6,995.10	2,188.12	31%
National Conferences	3,992.86	5,310.48	-1317.62	-24.8%
State Meetings	1,270.28	1,850.93	-580.65	-31.4%
Committee Expenses	235.00	1,063.36	-828.36	-77.9%
Property Expenses	23,012.92	25,955.79	-2,942.87	-11.3%
Depreciation	0.00	0.00	0	0%
Project Expenses	55,520.07	87,662.94	-32142.87	-36.7%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>456,305.50</b>	<b>497,310.78</b>	<b>-41005.28</b>	<b>-8.2%</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>-18,537.27</b>	<b>-13,342.51</b>	<b>-5194.76</b>	<b>38.9%</b>

## BALANCE SHEET - PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON

	Sept 30, 15	Sept 30, 14	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Bank Accounts	33,490.27	46,989.88	-13499.61	-28.7%
Investments	<u>45,611.01</u>	<u>47,493.75</u>	<u>-1882.74</u>	<u>-4.0%</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	79,101.28	94,568.97	-15467.69	-16.4%
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Equipment	41,962.60	41,962.60	0.00	0.0%
Accumulated Depreciation	-230,563.90	-176,808.90	-5,3755	30.4%
Vehicle	15,645.00	15,645.00	0.00	0.0%
Leasehold Improvements	300,769.29	300,769.29	0.00	0.0%
Building	<u>200,000.00</u>	<u>200,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>327,812.99</u>	<u>381,567.99</u>	<u>-53,755</u>	<u>-14%</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>406,914.27</u></b>	<b><u>476,136.96</u></b>	<b><u>-69222.69</u></b>	<b><u>-14.5%</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Payroll	666.15	649.66	16.49	2.5%
Funds Owed to PIP	28,838.55	23,086.06	5,752.49	24.9%
Funds Owed to Amer. People	80.00	208.00	-128	-61.5%
Funds Owed to Cap. Chronicles	174.49	174.49	0	0%
Sales Tax Payable	<u>1,200.12</u>	<u>1,206.12</u>	<u>-6</u>	<u>-0.5%</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	30,587.11	25,324.33	5,262.78	20.8%
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>				
Capital Lease Obligation	<u>2,919.05</u>	<u>5,027.03</u>	<u>-2,107.98</u>	<u>-41.9%</u>
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<u>2,919.05</u>	<u>5,027.03</u>	<u>-2107.98</u>	<u>-41.9%</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	33,506.16	30,351.36	3,154.80	10.4%
<b>Equity</b>				
Opening Bal Equity	254,015.47	254,015.47	0.00	0.0%
Retained Earnings	124,936.43	166,850.65	-41,914.22	-25%
Restricted Retained Earnings	21,964.88	21,964.88	0.00	0.0%
Net Income	-27,508.67	2,954.60	-30,463.27	-1,031%

Total Equity	373,408.11	445,785.60	-72,377.49	-16.2%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>406,914.27</u>	<u>476,136.96</u>	<u>-69,222.69</u>	<u>-14.5%</u>

**The Arcs of Bismarck & North Dakota  
2014 Annual Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 2014**

THE ARC OF BISMARCK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Wurtz, Mike Schwab, Tahna Stetson, Sandy Wheeler, Marlene Warnke, and Mark Hardy

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Christine Hogan

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Becky Rosenkranz, Cally Musland, Anna Anderson, Roxane Romanick, Pam and Roy Musland, Chester and Cindy Schwab, Elaine Grasl, April Dahme, and Gerald Weninger

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Ann Burlingame, Tracie Hieb, Anna Neis, Jason Neis, Justin Neis, Alan and Lori Marx, Ken and LaVonne Merkes, Rachel Hafner, Jim and Suzy Berglie, Audra Stone, Janell Ness, Rob Guthmiller, Sarah Weiss, Karen Thompson, Pam Kolling, and Jim Kambeitz

The 2014 Arcs of Bismarck & North Dakota annual meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Cally Musland, Executive Director of The Arc of Bismarck, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cally stated that she was excited to see several members of The Arc of ND present this evening as well. Cally thanked The Aspen Quartet for their pre-meeting entertainment.

Cally introduced Linda Wurtz, President of both The Arc of Bismarck and The Arc of ND. President Wurtz welcomed everyone to the joint 2014 Arc of Bismarck/Arc of ND annual meeting.

President Wurtz introduced The Arc of Bismarck board members in attendance at tonight's meeting: Tahna Stetson, Sandy Wheeler, Mark Hardy, Marlene Warnke, and Mike Schwab. Christine Hogan was unable to attend the meeting.

President Wurtz also introduced several members of The Arc of ND in attendance. President Wurtz established that a quorum was present for tonight's meeting.

### APPROVAL OF 2013 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES:

President Wurtz asked if there were any corrections to the 2013 Arc of Bismarck annual meeting minutes. There were no corrections noted.

MOTION: A motion was made by Pam Musland and seconded by Mike Schwab that the meeting minutes of the 2013 Arc of Bismarck annual meeting be approved as typed. The motion passed.

President Wurtz asked Cally to come forward to present The Arc of Bismarck's 2014 annual report and to introduce staff from The Thrift Store and The Arc of Bismarck.

### 2014 ANNUAL REPORT & STAFF INTRODUCTIONS – CALLY MUSLAND:

Cally expressed her appreciation for the ability to work for such a great organization at something that she loves to do. She added that The Arc has such a strong history and she wants to see it continue. Cally stated that everyone should have received a copy of The Arc of Bismarck's annual report (covering the period from September 30, 2013 – October 1, 2014) and asked that everyone take the time to look over the report at their convenience and to be sure and contact her if there are any questions.

Cally noted that The Arc of Bismarck has had an exciting year. She added that The Arc has had several workload and staff changes over the last year, but that The Arc's vision of full inclusion remains the same.

Cally stated that the Partners in Policymaking program just completed its 21<sup>st</sup> year of programming. She added that the Capability Chronicles program continues to thrive; in March of 2014 The Arc of Bismarck took on responsibilities of The Arc of ND; The Arc of Bismarck established a contract for lobbying; and contractual work on The Thrift Store parking lot continues. Cally stated that she feels very fortunate to work with such an amazing group of individuals at both The Thrift Store and The Arc of Bismarck.

At this time Cally recognized several of The Thrift Store staff that was in attendance at the meeting. She expressed her sincere appreciation for all of their hard work in making The Thrift Store such a success.

Cally asked Rob, The Arc's Thrift Store Manager, to join her at this time. Cally noted that Rob has been with The Arc for approximately seven years and became manager in June of 2014. Cally noted that hiring Rob as store manager has made her job a lot easier. She added that Rob truly cares about store sales and believes in The Arc's mission. Cally presented Rob with a jacket that was embroidered with The Arc's logo.

Cally introduced Ms. April Dahme, The Arc's new Program Coordinator for the Partners in Policymaking program. Cally expressed that she has great confidence in April's ability to take the Partners program to the next level.

Cally thanked The Arc of Bismarck's board of directors for their continued support and dedication to The Arc's mission and their tireless efforts in assuring that the day-to-day operations at The Arc and The Thrift Store run smoothly.

#### APPROVAL OF BY-LAWS – BISMARCK:

President Wurtz provided some highlights of the changes to The Arc of North Dakota and The Arc of Bismarck by-laws. She noted the biggest element in the by-laws to be changed was the use of the "R" word throughout each document. President Wurtz stated that this change has also been implemented in state law.

President Wurtz expressed her appreciation to Cally and Joy Wezelman for their hard work on the by-law revisions.

MOTION: A motion was made by Roy Musland and seconded by Mike Schwab that the revisions to The Arc of Bismarck by-laws be accepted as presented. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

#### APPROVAL OF BY-LAWS – NORTH DAKOTA;

MOTION: A motion was made by Jim Berglie and seconded by Ken Merkes that the revisions to The Arc of ND by-laws be accepted as presented. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

#### ELECTIONS – BISMARCK (MIKE SCHWAB, PAST PRESIDENT):

Mike presented the slate of board nominations for 2015 for The Arc of Bismarck. These included: Marlene Warnke for a two-year term as Vice President; Christine Hogan for a two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer; Tahna Stetson for a two-year term as Director; Cindy Schwab for a two-year term as Director; Tracy Williams for a two-year term as Director; and Mike Schwab, Tahna Stetson, Sandy Wheeler, Leon Dietrich, and Becky Rosenkranz for a one-year term as Nominating Committee members.

Mike noted that for future reference, the Nominating Committee will be referred to as The Arc's Board Development Committee.

Mike asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor and the motion was called for.

MOTION: A motion was made by Anna Anderson and seconded by Tahna Stetson that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for the slate of board nominations for 2015 for The Arc of Bismarck. The motion passed.

#### ELECTIONS – NORTH DAKOTA (JIM BERGLIE, PAST PRESIDENT)

Jim presented the slate of board nominations for 2015 for The Arc of North Dakota. These included: Karen Thompson, for a two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer and Jim Berglie, Rhonda Cottrell, Teresa Larsen, and Allan Marx, Sr. for a one-year term as Nominating Committee members.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mike Schwab and seconded by Allan Marx, Sr. that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for the slate of board nominations for 2015 for The Arc of ND. The motion passed.

#### RECOGNITION CEREMONY:

Cally advised that she would like to give several "Recognition Awards" at this time. She added that the individuals receiving these awards are being recognized for their many contributions to The Arc of Bismarck over the past year.

Cally asked Jim Kambeitz, Production Manager at Dakota Media Access, to join her at this time. Cally stated that The Arc of Bismarck would like to recognize Jim for his active role in the continued development of the Capability Chronicles program. She noted that Jim has worked with this program from the very beginning and has been a huge asset in the program's success.

Cally stated that Joy Wezelman, a very busy attorney in Bismarck, was not able to be here this evening, but The Arc of Bismarck would like to recognize Joy as the brains behind the by-laws project. Cally added that Joy spent countless hours reviewing the by-laws for both The Arc of Bismarck and The Arc of North Dakota. Joy has been a long-time member of The Arc, often serving as its parliamentarian.

Cally noted that The Arc has two of its board members that will finish their terms and going off the board at the end of this year. These include: Sandy Wheeler, Director and Mark Hardy, Secretary/Treasurer. Cally thanked both Mark and Sandy for their commitment to serving people with disabilities and for their time and talents in making The Arc a stronger organization.

At this time, Cally asked Rachel Hafner, Executive Director of The Arc, Upper Valley; Pam Kolling, Executive Director of The Arc of Dickinson; and Janell Ness, Executive Director of The Arc of Cass County to join her.

Cally stated that it has been an honor to collaborate with these three women for the past year and a half and sincerely hope that it will continue. She noted that collaboration at this level has never been done by The Arc in the past. She added

that the four of them have similar work experiences and it has been really beneficial to be able to bounce something off of one or the other of them knowing that they can relate to similar situations.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Cally thanked everyone for coming to the joint meeting of The Arc of Bismarck and The Arc of North Dakota. President Wurtz joined Cally in expressing her appreciation for everyone's attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.