



Bobby Jindal
Governor

September 28, 2011

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs will be hosting along with the State Fire Marshal's Office and the ARC of Louisiana an American with Disability Act Symposium. It will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at the State Fire Marshal's Office at 8181 Independence Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA. The Symposium will have three sessions: (1) the State Fire Marshal's guide to the impact of the new changes in the ADA law (2) "Overcoming Fear to Create a Workplace Sensitive to Employees with Disabilities" by a speaker representing the Southwest ADA Center and (3) "Moving beyond the ADA" by the ARC of Louisiana. With the new changes to the ADA law coming into effect, GODA wanted to host an event to give advocates and members of the public an opportunity to hear about the new law and ask questions. If you would like to sign up for the Symposium please contact Joey Cooper at 225-219-7550.

We are busy working on two upcoming GODA events, the GOLD Awards and the Inclusive Art Show. We have expanded the Inclusive Art Show again this year. By working with the Department of Education we targeted over 130 Special Education programs across the state to participate in this year's contest. We are expecting over two hundred pieces of art this year. The GOLD Awards are continuing to grow and strive from each year's previous success. Nomination packets are currently available, if you would like one please see the GODA website or contact Brandon Burris.

GODA is preparing its new "Louisiana Disability Survey." The survey's goal is to collect accurate information about the needs of the state's disability population. GACDA is currently reviewing the collected information from the last survey to determine the



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questions and desired data for the upcoming survey. GACDA is focusing on distribution of the survey and seeking new outlets to help reach untapped populations of the disability community.

The Statewide Independent Living Council will be holding its quarterly meeting on Thursday, November 3rd in Baton Rouge. This meeting marks the implementation of Year 2 of the federal State Plan for Independent Living and will be coordinated by the newly elected executive committee. Mitch Granger was elected to Chairman of the SILC. Gale Dean is serving as Vice-Chair, with Alisha Hammond returning as Secretary, Dr. Cynthia Wagnon serving as Treasurer, and Tara Warner serving as Member at Large.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs will host its fall quarterly meeting on October 11, 2011 at the Louisiana State Museum on Fourth Street in Baton Rouge, LA.