

Our mission is to support *County Boards of MRDD* in providing services and supports to individuals with disabilities.

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BOARDS

CELEBRATING THE ABILITIES OF OHIO'S 80,000 INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES OF MRDD



OACB President Robert Milliken accepts the Standards of Excellence Award from Jennifer Williams, OANO Executive Director. Also pictured is former OACB President Dave Dohnal.

OACB Now In Elite Group

The *Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD (OACB)* was one of only two non-profit organizations from across the state to be honored at the fourth annual *Ohio Nonprofit Organizations' (OANO)* Excellence Award Luncheon, which was held on May 12 at the *Ohio Statehouse Atrium*.

"It truly was an honor to accept this award on behalf of our entire association," said Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director. Also accepting the award on behalf of the *OACB* was its current Board President, Robert Milliken, and former Board President Dave Dohnal.

Mr. Dohnal, of Summit County, was

Board President when the *OACB* began the lengthy process of becoming certified. The process included several meetings, and then making certain policies were in place and procedures were being following throughout the organization.

Once applications were made, the *OANO* organized a peer review committee specifically to evaluate the *OACB*. The entire process took more than two years to complete.

"Our Board of Trustees took this des-

See "OANO"
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UPCOMING EVENTS

OPAC/MR GOLF OCT. 8

The *Golf Course of Dublin* will once again be the site of the annual *OPAC/MR* Golf Outing. This year, the event will be Thursday, October 8.

This is the largest fundraiser for this political action committee, which allows contributions to legislators who help make a difference for people with developmental disabilities statewide. Please plan on attending, or making a donation to this important event.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Mark your calendars today, and plan on attending the 26th annual *OACB CONVENTION* to be held Dec. 2-4. Once again, this event will be at the beautiful *Hilton Hotel* in Easton.

You spoke and we listened. You said you enjoyed the convention more in December than October, so we are back in December. We know many of you take advantage of the wonderful shopping opportunities the Easton affords. Details will be coming out later this summer, but please know the *OACB* staff is hard at work, finding the best presenters and programs.

Moving On, Moving Up And Moving Forward

By Dan Ohler

Executive Director, *OACB*

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Memorial Day weekend typically marks the beginning of summer, though the calendar indicates we must wait until June 21. Summer brings warm breezes, soaking rain showers, picnics, ball games, family vacations and daylight that often begins before many awaken and stretches into the late hours of evening. The spirits of most people rise in the summer, as the dark, cold, snowy days of winter really are behind us - at least for a few more months. Summer marks a time to 'move on'.



Dan Ohler

During the summer of 2009, one of our long-time leaders will quietly say good-bye as *Clark County Board of MRDD* Superintendent Deborah Clayton officially retires and Jenny Rousculp assumes the leadership post in Springfield. I first met Deborah when she was the Superintendent in Athens County, and I was with the *Ohio Department of MRDD (ODMRDD)*.

Deborah asked the most interesting, thought provoking questions - she still does. Her commitment to quality services for individuals with developmental disabilities was evident to me eleven-and-a-half years ago, and it remains so today. Actually, neither of us has changed, or even aged, a bit (pretty amazing when you think about it). In a recent telephone conversation with Board President Mike Barte, he

said, "Deborah was the right leader at the right time. She even knew when it was time to 'move on'." What a wonderful compliment! As she 'moves forward', we wish Deborah nothing but health and happiness.

Also 'moving on', but not for a few more months, is H. Michael Miller. Currently, the Superintendent of the *Stark County Board of MRDD*, Mike recently announced his intention to retire after 37 years in Ohio's MRDD service delivery system. Never one to face a challenge as anything other than an opportunity, Mike was an effective leader in several counties, as well as with the *ODMRDD*, leaving each of those agencies in a better place than when he had arrived.

His ability to 'move forward' served our system well. Never one to worry about a "legacy" (i.e., other than how he played on a golf course that bears that same name), we will avoid a six-month farewell tour for Michael, but we congratulate him on his decision to 'move on'.

On May 12, 2009, the *Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD (OACB)* received the Standards of Excellence Certification from the *Ohio Association of Non-Profit Organizations (OANO)* (see cover page article). This certification is an indication that *OACB* has not only 'moved on', but has also 'moved up'.

Our work is far from complete, but our commitment to ensuring that your trade association is one that you can be proud of is important to us. We are committed to working in the best interests of our

customers and doing so in a quality manner. Thank you to all of our members for supporting us; we could not have 'moved forward' without you!

We have 'moved on' from the Memorial Day holiday and are looking forward to the 4th of July holiday. By then, Ohio should have a state budget in place for the next two years. 'Moving forward' will be a challenge for many businesses and service industries in this state. In fact, far too many have already shuttered their doors.

The *County Boards of MRDD* will meet the challenges we face and 'move forward'. We will do that because we must. The 85,000-plus individuals with developmental disabilities that rely on *County Boards of MRDD* will still be relying on us, regardless of the outcome of the state budget process. Crisis breeds opportunities and our members have always responded to crisis in a positive manner that keeps the best interests of individuals with developmental disabilities at the forefront.

No matter the outcome of the legislative process, no matter the official name of our boards, we shall 'move on', we shall 'move up' and we shall 'move forward' because we are committed to enhancing the quality of life for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

Have a great summer!





OANO *(From Page 1)*

ignation very seriously. It is the ultimate manner in which to prove our efficiency and transparency as a non-profit organization to our 88 member counties," Ohler said.

"Certainly, it is just one tool to show our commitment to excellence, but it is a very important one," he said, noting that the *OACB* is in the middle of a customer satisfaction survey process that will indicate the effectiveness of various *OACB* programs.

Jennifer Williams, *OANO* Executive Director, also attended the *OACB* SPRING CONFERENCE and presented the award so that the entire membership could gain a full appreciation for the importance of this designation.

OACB has joined more than 25 other nonprofit organizations in Ohio that have achieved the "standards of excellence" certification. Attaining this designation enables each organization to display the "Seal of Excellence" on all of its materials. Each group voluntarily agrees to undergo an anonymous peer review process to confirm adherence to a comprehensive code of conduct that promotes accountability through self-regulation.

WE WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU

The *OACB* currently is updating its Board Member Roster.

Make certain we have your most current communication information by visiting our website by or clicking [here](#) or at www.oacbmRDD.org.

Questions? Call us at 614-431-0616

Talent Abounds in Tuscarawas County

By Teri Stein

Of the Bargain Hunter

With everything from a flying papier-mâché pig, egg shell art, a polka dot flower pot, and many other paintings and original art work, visitors to the first *Tuscarawas County Board of MRDD* Art show called the works impressive.

"I could not be more pleased," said Jeannine Kennedy, Director of the *Tuscarawas County Center for the Arts* in New Philadelphia. "It's been wonderful; I'd like to thank all the artists."

"A lot of time people don't realize the talents that our individuals have. I'm just amazed myself. You can see some of the great things they've accomplished," said Natalie Lupi, *TCBMRDD* superintendent.

Many types of art work were displayed including a variety of oil and watercolor paintings, photography, original drawings, and crafts including garden stones.

More than highlighting their abilities, the show meant so much to the artists whose skills very often get over-

looked.

"I worked hard on it. I'm so happy," said artist Bonnie Auman of Dover.

Artist Melodie Myers of Tuscarawas was in attendance at the art show with her brother, Dave.

"I see a little bit of pride in those eyes," said Dave as he snapped a photo of his sister with her painting entitled "Portholes." "It says 'Look what I've accomplished.'"

Artist Rosalie Williams' painting of a sea turtle attracted much attention.

"She did it herself. I was so proud of her. She is a good artist," said Bonnie France, a member of the *TCBMRDD* staff. France noted that Williams even helped others with their art.

"It's impressive to see the talents that folks have," said Chris Abbuhl, county commissioner. "All are good but you can see some have exceptional talent."

The OACB encourages people looking for unusual and beautiful gift ideas to click [here](#) to be taken directly to our website.

Pizza Parlor Run By Quadco Rehabilitation Center

Contributed Story

A pizza shop owned and operated by *Quadco Rehabilitation Center* has opened in Stryker. The store will serve up hot pizzas ready at a moment's notice, while also providing training to the individuals with disabilities served by the center that are looking to get jobs in the community.

Mama DeLuca's Pizza Now! is a co-brand with *SUBWAY Restaurants*, and the Stryker store is attached to the *SUBWAY Restaurant Quadco* has been operating for the past three years. The restaurant features a no-wait 12-inch pepperoni or cheese pizza that is ready for customers when they walk in the door, as well as custom-made pizzas with original crust, the deep-dish Big DeLuca or an extra thin-crust flat bread pizza.

Bruce Abell, *Quadco* Executive Director, said he is excited to see the pizza shop open. "I think it's going to be great for *Quadco*, the consumers and the community," Mr. Abell said. "Building on the success of our *SUBWAY Restaurant*, we can expand our training opportunities for the people that we serve."

When *Quadco* opened their *SUBWAY Restaurant* in Stryker three years ago, it became the first rehabilitation center to own and operate a *SUBWAY* franchise as both a restaurant for the community and place to train individuals with disabilities and remains that way today. Some of the individuals trained at *Quadco's SUBWAY Restaurant* have gone on to work at other restaurants around the area.

Quadco officials expect the *Mama DeLuca's Pizza Now!* shop will provide a good training ground for the workers needed at area pizza shops and restaurants. For instance, the dough at *Mama DeLuca's Pizza Now!* is made fresh every day. So workers will get the op-



Benjamin (left) and Sara Short of Stryker get their lunch from *Mama DeLuca's Pizza Now!* worker Jordan Koepp (right) while Megan Lytle, a teacher at Stryker, places her order with store manager Sharon von Seggern.

portunity to learn how to prepare fresh pizza dough each day for the pizzas they make, as well as preparing the orders made by the customers who come in the door.

The *Mama DeLuca's Pizza Now!* restaurant in Stryker will be open every day

from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Orders may be called in for pickup at 419-682-9019.

Individuals from Williams, Defiance, Henry and Fulton Counties all participate in the Quadco Council of Government.

Wood Co. Superintendent Honored

Melanie Stretchbery was one of 18 alumni honored by the *Bowling Green State University Alumni Association* as accomplished graduates during a spring awards banquet. The honorees represent each of the university's seven colleges and are recognized for outstanding contributions to their profession and involvement in the community.

Stretchbery is superintendent of the *Wood County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD)*, where she has worked in various capacities since starting there as a

support services supervisor and social worker in 1983. Her 27-year career in Social Services and Administration began at the *ODMRDD*, which she joined after receiving a bachelor's degree in social work from *BGSU* in 1981. Stretchbery is one of three alumni chosen by the *College of Health and Human Services*.

Her experience also includes work as a field instructor and adjunct instructor for social work methodology and policy, as well as a social work consultant at the *Tiffin Developmental Center*.

Leopold Remembered At Spring Conference

The 2009 OACB SPRING CONFERENCE was held in memory of Terry Leopold, a longtime superintendent from *Ottawa County Board of MRDD* who passed away late last year. In honor of the occasion, *Van Wert County Board of MRDD* Superintendent and close friend Jim Stripe presented Terry's wife Janet with a plaque commemorating the event. Also pictured are Terry and Janet's three daughters, Shelly, Vicky and Wendy *Auglaize County Board of MRDD* Superintendent and OACB Trustee Al Willis, and Dan Ohler, OACB Executive Director.



Consumers told their own stories in a session on Community Advocacy. Joe Vance from Allen County used his Dynabox to tell his story, with a little help from Kristen Miller. Joe wowed the crowd when he told them he spent 32 hours working on his 15-minute presentation. A group from the *Hamilton County Advocacy Team* also presented. They included Diana Mairose, DJ Maes, Mike Fasanella, Walter Vaughn, and Robert Shuemak. This group talked about their successes as they visited people throughout Greater Cincinnati.



State Looking For Potential Voters

The *Ohio Secretary of State's* office is in the process of distributing *Voter Access Guide*, a complete handbook to help those with disabilities gain a better understanding of their rights to vot-

ing. The 44-page booklet is being distributed to all *County Boards of MRDD*. We will be emailing you to get a count of the number of individuals over the age of 18 this month.