Greetings,

We've had a great start to 2016 and are on our way to having another fantastic year. Coming off the heels of our annual conference I'd like to thank everyone who attended and volunteered to make this year’s conference another wonderful success. Your continued dedication and support helps our community more than you know. Thank you!

Starting this fall, working with WisconSibs and other local partners, we have 4 Sibshops currently scheduled starting September 17th and running into January 2017. Locations are set are Madison, Green Bay, Door County and Wausau. We’re also working on a Sibshop in Laona, with more information about the date and location coming soon. You will find further information on our Sibling Support Project in this newsletter. If you don't see something in your area, reach out and let us know and we will see if we can accommodate you.

This year our annual Fall Conference will be held in La Crosse in October. This is the first year that we’ve ever been this far west in the state and we look forward to the many new faces that this location will bring. Registration is now open, sign up now to reserve your spot!

I'm very happy to report that we've just concluded our first “Autism in Wisconsin” survey. With just over 1,000 responses we feel the information received will be invaluable in helping us plan our programs and support services going into 2017. Thank you for everyone that took the time and effort to complete the survey. Look for a summary of the results to be posted later this year, and again THANK YOU for your support and help on this!

I encourage you to browse through the rest of the newsletter and check out what is happening within your local affiliate. You’ll find great events listed from each of the affiliates. Mark your calendars and plan on getting involved. Our community includes you and we’d love to see you.

Until next time, thank you again for giving me the honor of representing such a wonderful organization and community of people that bring their best every day!

Respectfully,

Mike Riemer
President
Autism Society of Wisconsin
Building Social Relationships through Evidence Based Social Skills Programming for Youth with Autism Spectrum

The workshop will provide an overview of the Building Social Relationships (BSR) program, a social skills instructional model developed by Dr. Bellini. The workshop integrates research on social-emotional functioning with effective strategies for teaching social skills to children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The BSR program provides a systematic and comprehensive framework to guide parents and practitioners in the development and implementation of social skills programming.

Learning Objectives for Participants

- Increase knowledge of social and emotional functioning
- Increase awareness of the relationship between social skill deficits and social anxiety
- Develop skills necessary to assess social functioning
- Increase awareness of skill acquisition versus performance deficits
- Increase awareness of evidence based social skill strategies
- Develop skills necessary to implement social skills strategies

Scott Bellini, PhD is the Director of the Social Skills Research Clinic (SSRC), a university based center specializing in developing and empirically examining the outcomes of social skill interventions for youth with ASD. He is also a faculty member in the School Psychology program at Indiana University, Bloomington. He is a licensed psychologist in the state of Indiana and an endorsed Health Services Provider in Psychology. He is currently conducting research on professional development outcomes for educators, anxiety disorders, and social skill interventions, including video modeling for youth with ASD. He has published numerous research manuscripts and has provided consultation and training to families and professionals in over 35 states on the topic of social skills programming for students with ASD. He is the author of the book, Building Social Relationships, which was named the Literary Work of the Year by the Autism Society of America.

Registration to attend or exhibit is now open!

www.asw4autism.org
LOCAL SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

August 3
9:30–11:30 am
Parent Support Group—Green Bay
Hosted by the Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin
For more information call 920.264.8067 or email administrator@asnew.org

August 6
7:00–9 pm
Member Pool Party, Monona Community Pool
Hosted by the Autism Society of South Central
Free for members, $10 per family for non–members  For more information email info@autismsouthcentral.org or call 608.630.9147

August 7
6:00–8:00 pm
Parent Support Group, –Appleton
Hosted by the Autism Society of the Fox Valley
Come join other parents in a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere. Meet other families and share resources. For more info contact 920.540.6856 or kristinwahl99@yahoo.com

August 11
5:00pm
Night out with the Timber Rattlers: Tailgate, Baseball Game & Fireworks, Appleton
Hosted by the Autism Society of the Fox Valley
Join us from 5:00 until game time for a tailgate party.
For more information contact Steve at sbrennan78@yahoo.com or call 920.739.2596

August 12
6:30–8:30
Cool Waters Member Swim Event, West Allis
Hosted by the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin
Member only swim event. For more information call 414.988.1260 or email: info@assew.org

August 18
6:30–8:00 pm
Swing & Swim—Village Inn, Two Rivers
Hosted by the Autism Society of the Lakeshore
Miniature golf followed by swimming For more information email autismlakeshore@gmail.com

August 22
6:30–8:30
Screen Free Game Night for Teens & Young Adults—Madison
Hosted by the Autism Society of South Central
For more information email info@autismsouthcentral.org or call 608.630.9147

September 11
Dylan's Run, 2 Mile Walk/Run—Milwaukee
Hosted by the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin
For more information visit http://www.dylansrun.com/home.html

September 17
Autism Awareness Walk—Green Isle Park, Green Bay
Hosted by the Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin
For more information email smottl5779@aol.com or call 920.264.8067

September 17
10:30 am–3pm
Football Camp—Appleton
Hosted by the Autism Society of the Fox Valley
For more information visit autismfoxvalley.org or call 920.788.5298
What is the AAC Network?

Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) is a term used to describe any communication method that takes the place of speech. For some children it might be pictures to communication (PECS), or using a communication device.

I started my journey with AAC 16 years ago. At that time, my family and I didn’t know any other adults who used a communication device to speak. We didn’t realize that there is a great community around the country that can help families get a voice for their loved one. I remember my first AAC event in 2007, it was so great to be with other teenagers and adults who use a communication device too. Think about not having a voice to have your wants and needs known. Before my communication device, I never talked to my family members, my friends, and my IEP team, now I don’t stop talking. That is how AAC changed my life and why I started Wisconsin AAC Network.

Wisconsin AAC network is a network for people who use Augmentative & Alternative Communication, their family members, and people who work with people who use AAC. Wisconsin AAC network is new in Wisconsin. We have three programs:

1. New families to AAC– A mentor and support system for families starting out on their AAC journey. In the future we will be having a new family’s class. In the class, you will learn about AAC, United States Society of AAC, and helpful tools and websites.

1. Education – classes for families, siblings, classmates, and people who work with those who use AAC. I can talk to a class or whole school about how important it is to support their friends who use AAC.

3. Leadership Team– meet quarterly to talk on the internet or in person about what is happening in Wisconsin for people who use AAC. The leadership team will include one speech therapist and one special education teacher for school districts around Wisconsin, parents, young adults and adults who use AAC. The team will talk about what they are working on, what they are having trouble with, and any great news like a student is starting to use their communication device.

It will be up to the members of the leadership team on how many times we will meet. Please e mail me if you would like to be a part of the AAC leadership team.

Thank you and please like Wisconsin AAC network on Facebook.

Mike Hipple

mike4@new.rr.com
The Autism Sibling Support Project is a grant funded project designed to provide support to brothers and sisters of children on the autism spectrum. The project began in January of 2016 and will extend through February of 2017.

Siblings of children with autism are in the position to have a significant impact on the life of their brother or sister with autism for many reasons. The sibling relationship is likely to be the longest lasting relationship in the family over the course of the lifetime. Siblings, with the exception of the child's parents, will generally spend more time with a child with autism than almost any other person. For these reasons, it is extremely important that siblings of children with autism have access to information and support programs that will help them in their role as a sibling.

Through the Autism Sibling Support project, the Autism Society of Wisconsin plans to hold a series of Sibshops throughout Wisconsin. A Sibshop is a workshop model developed by Don Meyer that offers peer support and education to brothers and sisters of children with special health and developmental needs, within a recreational context. The Sibshops will be open to siblings ages 6 through 12 years of age. The Autism Sibling Support will also provide information to parents about supporting siblings through a newsletter article, webinar, and distribution of sibling related resources.

The Autism Society of Wisconsin's mission is to improve the lives of all affected by autism. We're excited to extend our support services to siblings through this new project.

**Sibshops – Save the Dates!**

**McFarland, WI—September 17, 2016**
Local Partner: Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin

**Green Bay, WI—October 22, 2016**
Local Partner: Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin

**Door County, WI—January 14, 2017**
Local Partner: PATH of Door County

**Wausau, WI—January 28, 2017**
Local Partner: Autism Society of Central Wisconsin

**Laona, WI—Date TBD**

Please contact Melissa Vande Velden at mvandevelden@asw4autism.org or 920-973-6636 with any questions.
Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for volunteers to help us sell seat back rentals before select events at Lambeau field this summer/fall/winter. A portion of the sales is donated back to the Autism Society of Wisconsin in exchange for your volunteer time. Volunteers must be 18 or older and should be comfortable standing for approximately three hours. Volunteers are responsible for lifting and stacking the seat backs in preparation for sales and/or handling money and counting change for sales.

The dates include:
♦ August 12, 3:00-7:00 pm
♦ September 3, 11:30-2:30 pm
♦ December 4, 9:00-noon

Sign up through our website or by contacting ASW Board Member, Kerry Hoops at khoops@wiautism.com or 920–362–0394.

www.asw4autism.org/volunteer.html
Fall 2016 CoP ASD/DD
Topic: Becoming an Adult

Date: October 1, 2016 (SATURDAY!)

Location: Madison College, Truax Campus, Health Education Building

Time (tentative): 9:00am–12:30pm

More and more sisters and brothers of people with disabilities from throughout Wisconsin have been connecting with one another and asking for an event just for them. The Sibling Summit presented by WisconSibs, Inc is being created by siblings for siblings. It will inspire, inform, and help siblings connect with one another and many valuable resources they seek.

Plan to attend this first-ever Sibling Summit hosted by WisconSibs, filled with information, inspiration and networking for adults who have siblings with disabilities. Held at the beautiful American Family Headquarters just northeast of Madison, WI, this one-day conference will feature speakers and activities critical to siblings, family members and professionals.

For more information or to register, visit info@wisconsibs.org or call 920-968-1742
Giving Opportunities

Invest in the future of the Autism Society of Wisconsin!

Explore all the ways to give:

- **Employee/Matching Gifts** – Many employers encourage employees to give by matching employee gifts dollar-for-dollar. Check with your human resource department to find out more.
- **Honorary** – Celebrate a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion with a gift honoring a spouse, friend, family member or other loved one.
- **Memorial** – Memorial gifts made to the Autism Society of Wisconsin are to celebrate and honor the life of a loved one.
- **Planned Giving** – Receive tax and other financial benefits while giving to the Autism Society. Plan a gift for the future by working with a financial advisor to set up an IRA Charitable Rollover, trust or bequest, or beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy.
- **Unrestricted Giving** – Give a cash donation that allows us to fund programs which need it most. Donations can be mailed to the ASW office or can be made online through our Network for Good site, accessed from our home page: www.asw4autism.org.

Autism Society of Wisconsin
1477 Kenwood Dr.
Menasha, WI 54952

Please call our office for more information on any of these giving opportunities.
Wisconsin Promise

One of Wisconsin’s Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (WBPDD) current projects is the result of a 5 year, multi-million dollar grant to partner with DWD (DVR) and the Department of Health Services to run a research project called Promise. Promise is about connecting youth with disabilities with the services they need to be successful in school and eventually in college and/or employment. The goal is to measure whether or not youth whose families receive intensive services from a DVR counselor will be successfully employed after 5 years. In order to qualify, youth must have a disability and be eligible for social security benefits based on income.

One part of the grant is to hold community conversations across the state bringing together the families, local employers, school staff, and community leaders. It will be a time when the youth can be exposed to real employers and talk to them about what the employers are looking for in their employees. It’s also a time to discuss how the community can make the local workforce more diverse and leverage the resources that exist in the community as well as provide opportunities for youth and their families to meet prospective employers. Since the start of the community conversations, several youth have been offered interviews on the spot. The next Community Conversation will be held in the Fox Cities on September 22.

The goal of bringing everyone together is to:

⇒ Create new relationships and broaden the local network

⇒ Learn about community resources (resources that support families, resources that help businesses successfully hire people with disabilities, etc.)

⇒ Gain new perspectives and have an opportunity to voice different viewpoints (families get to share their ideas; business leaders get to share their needs and ideas, etc.)

⇒ Identify new strategies that can help solve the issue of youth unemployment

⇒ Recognize roles in helping to solve the issue.

Everyone is welcome! To register online visit foxcitiescommunityforum.splashthat.com
For more information about the Fox Cities Community Conversation please contact Jennifer Neugart at Jennifer.Neugart@wisconsin.gov or call 1-608-261-7528. For more information about Wisconsin Promise visit https://promisewi.com/
Help us fulfill our mission!

Support the Autism Society of Wisconsin by making a tax deductible gift! All donations are appreciated.

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Donations may be sent to:
Autism Society of Wisconsin
1477 Kenwood Drive
Menasha, WI 54952

We also accept donations online. Click the Donate Now button on our homepage: www.asw4autism.org

Thank you for your support!

Board of Directors

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Mike Riemer</td>
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<tr>
<td>President Elect</td>
<td>Robert Johnston</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Kerry Hoops</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Michele Matz</td>
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<td>Past President</td>
<td>Michele Matz</td>
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<td>Members At Large</td>
<td>Kendra Mateni, Kerry Hoops, Robert Peyton</td>
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Affiliate Representatives:
- Fox Valley: Michele Matz
- Lakeshore: Kelly Shariff
- Chippewa Valley: Bobbi Wagner
- Central WI: Dale Prahl

Staff

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<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Kirsten Cooper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events Coordinator</td>
<td>Melissa Vande Velden</td>
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<td>Office Manager</td>
<td>Kelly Brodhagen</td>
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ASW Board Meeting
October 15, 2016