

**Colleen Wieck**

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**Sent:** Saturday, February 08, 2003 9:44 PM

**To:** Kris Avery; Celeste den Daas; Anna Dilley; Rennie Engstrom and Brenda Caya; Beth Fondell; Paris Gatlin; Antonietta Giovanni; Jan Grieser; Susan Hines; Beth Honecker; Kim Johnson; Susan Kane; Deb Kohlhardt; JoAnn Lawler; Barb Lemke; Lina Marin; Gene Martinez; Jacki McCormack; Lynn McDonald; Patty Nefstead; Mark Olson; Jennifer Oxborough; Luann Palmer; Toni Parrish; Tania Robinson; Janet Salo; Scott Schifsky; Lori Sedlezky; Mindy Thao; Wendy Watson; Mary Kay Wildes; Charlie Yanisch; Andrea Zuber; Dennis Collins; Jammi Hansen Blair; Katie Paschke; Ann Tuck; Deb Weston; ArcExecsCouncil@yahoogroups.com; ArcPresidentsMN@yahoogroups.com; SnapShotList@yahoogroups.com

**Subject:** [SnapShotList] Snap Shots 2/7/03

**Snap Shots**

*A weekly view of activities at Arc Minnesota for chapter execs, presidents, and other volunteer leaders*

**February 7, 2003**

**Your help is still needed!** Arc Minnesota sent out an Action Alert on Friday, February 7th. We continue to need your help in contacting your legislators, meeting your legislators, and encouraging friends and family to join our efforts. We also need assistance in organizing people around the state so we have an Arc member connected with each representative and senator in the Minnesota Legislature. Arc Minnesota Governmental Affairs Committee member Don Bordsen is helping us coordinate this effort. See the alert on our web site at [www.arcminnesota.com](http://www.arcminnesota.com) for more details about this campaign.

**The Governor cuts this year's budget.** Because the Legislature was unable to agree on a plan to balance the budget for the remainder of this fiscal year, Gov. Pawlenty used his authority, called "unallotment," to cut state spending on his own. Health and human services spending was cut by over \$11 million. Some of these cuts were contained in earlier House/Senate budget balancing bills, such as \$106,000 from a fetal alcohol syndrome grant and \$562,000 from a new autism program. In addition, \$199,000 was cut for rate adjustments for ICFs/MR, \$3.3 million was sliced from the Department of Human Services operating budget, and \$73,000 was taken from the operating budget of the Ombudsman Office for Mental Retardation and Mental Health. K-12 Education received almost \$27 million in cuts. You can get a more detailed breakdown of the Governor's cuts by going to <http://www.governor.state.mn.us/030207unallot.pdf>.

**Rebasing continues.** Work continues on rebasing, or recalculating, spending for waived services. An update/alert on this subject will be sent by Arc Minnesota the week of February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Thanks for making those visits!** Arc members continued to make visits with their legislators this week, including Jenna and Cindy Johnson, Mary Fenske and her son Paul, Rebecca Rooker and her son Trevor, and Karen Larson. Thanks to anyone else making legislative contacts whom we missed. Keep making those visits, and keep writing those letters! We have materials on our web site ([www.arcminnesota.com](http://www.arcminnesota.com)) with advice on visiting your legislators and sharing your story with them in detail; writing letters to your legislators; and writing letters to the editor.

**No advocates training this month.** Because of Arc Minnesota's commitments and activities at the State Capitol and preparations for the Day at the Capitol, there will be no advocates training for the month of February. We will notify Arc advocacy staff of future trainings.

**Challenges ahead on special education issues.** After sitting in on a meeting of the House of Representatives Education Finance Committee and visiting with some of the more influential members of that committee, it is clear that we will have some challenges this year. Arc and the Coalition for Children with Disabilities will need to be prepared to address eligibility and funding issues. In addition, we will need to clearly articulate the benefits of education for those individuals with the most challenging disabilities. Start to prepare your personal stories. More to come.

**Things are about ready to bloom...** Our Statewide Rose Sale will begin Feb. 24 and last through April 11<sup>th</sup>. Information about specific sites and dates during that period of time will be on our web site in the coming days. Contact Deb Weston at [arcmn114@yahoo.com](mailto:arcmn114@yahoo.com) for any assistance.

**Arc Hennepin-Carver moves office.** Arc Hennepin-Carver's office in Carver County has a new home at 106 Chestnut St. North in Chaska. The chapter held an open house at its new office space on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. Those stopping by for the celebration were also able to drop off items for the chapter's Value Village Thrift Stores.

**Representatives needed.** The Department of Children, Families and Learning (DCFL) is going to create new academic standards to replace the Profiles in Learning, and it is looking for citizens to serve on the committee that will draft these standards. Special education is one area that needs representation on this committee. If you are interested in applying, go to the DCFL website (<http://cfl.state.mn.us>) to review the application process. Contact Steve Larson at Arc Minnesota at [arcmn115@yahoo.com](mailto:arcmn115@yahoo.com) if you decide to apply.

**Attention self-advocates...** "Working Together for Change," the 2003 Self-Advocacy Conference, will be held at the Thunderbird Hotel in Bloomington on Friday and Saturday, April 25-26. For more information, contact Advocating Change Together at 651-641-0297, or 1-800-641-0059.

*If someone you know would like to receive this publication, contact Mike Gude at [arcmn113@yahoo.com](mailto:arcmn113@yahoo.com) to be put on the e-mail list.*

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