

MASWM MESA

Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshop Managers

Missouri Employment Supports and Advocacy, Inc.

Sharing the Message: Missouri Day on the Hill 2017

(On July 27, MASWM and A Team Missouri hosted the second annual Missouri Day on the Hill. The event is a chance for workshop employees and families to share their stories firsthand with the Missouri Delegation in Washington, D.C. At the same time, it's a chance for representatives in Congress and the Senate to meet those who are impacted by the laws they create – especially the many recent laws that affect workshops and employees with disabilities. Special thanks goes to Tracy Gritsenko of Industrial Aid and active member of A Team Missouri for providing all of the information and photos.)

While last year's Missouri Day on the Hill was pretty awesome, this year's trip was even better! For starters, we had nearly 50 people in our group, comprised of mostly families. In addition, we also had six workshop managers and Missouri House Rep. Rory Rowland. We had representation from all over our state. We also had 100 percent participation from the Missouri Delegation this year.

We were well organized and it showed. This was largely due to the assistance and pre-planning done by The Porter Group. Our schedule was fast and furious and changed a lot during the day. But, at the end of the day, all appointments were kept.

Contributing to the success was The Porter Group efforts throughout the day rearranging appointments so our group could concentrate on advocacy. The other key to our success was having a large room in the capitol to accommodate our group and where legislators and staffers could visit us. Having the room in the capitol made it much more convenient for the legislators, which meant



A portion of our group give a celebratory cheer on the steps of the US Capitol with Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II, Missouri Rep. Rory Rowland and the honorable Jon Porter.

we had much higher attendance. It was also easier for our group given its size.

We had a different approach this year. Part of our invitation to the Missouri Delegation to join us was the announcement that MASWM and A Team Missouri had an award to present to each of them. Missouri Rep. Rory Rowland made the trip with us so that he could not only present the award but could also communicate to each legislator that the Missouri Delegation has the backing of the entire Missouri House and Senate in their support for Missouri Sheltered Workshops.

The awards were official, signed parchment copies of the Missouri Resolution that was passed just this last session. They were professionally framed so they could display them in their D.C. offices. On

the back of each of the frames was a decorative envelope. Enclosed were personal handwritten and typed letters from parents and employees from within their legislative district. It not only gave the award a personal touch, but gave them either a word of thanks from their constituents and or words of encouragement as to why they should support sheltered workshops. It was received extremely well.

In wrapping up our day at the Capitol, MASWM President Bruce Young and Brian Hogan presented Rep. Rory Rowland a plaque from MASWM for all of his hard work and dedication in getting our Resolution passed. We were honored to have him make this trip to D.C. with us.

Inside this Issue:

Arriving at the CapitolPage 2

Missouri Day Schedule....Page 2

Congressional Reception....Page 3

MASWM

www.moworkshops.org • www.facebook.com/moworkshops/

MESA

www.dignityhasavoice.org • Facebook: Dignity Has A Voice

Arriving in the Nation's Capitol: Lots To Do!

Our families arrived at different times throughout the day, so we decided to do a meet-n-greet in a designated area in the lobby the evening before Mo Day.

A Team organizers put together welcome bags for all of our families, managers and staff.

Welcome bags had A Team Lanyards with printed name tags, bracelets, ACCSES notebooks, a schedule and other items.

The meeting in the lobby the night before was for socializing and meeting one another, but it was also a time to discuss what the day ahead of us held.

We went through some basic legislative information as well. Families were able to ask questions and feel more prepared.

Special thanks go to Gary Gooseman of ACCSES for making arrangements for our group to be together in the same hotel at a significantly reduced rate.



Look out D.C. - Here we come! St. Joe Workshop Manager Paul Bridenstine leads our families to the Congressional Reception.



Senator Claire McCaskill posing for a picture with our families after having coffee with our group. Families had a chance to give testimonies and the Senator responded with answers and support.

Schedule for Missouri Day on the Hill:

- 7:00 a.m. Meet in the hotel restaurant for breakfast – wear “A Team” shirts, nametags, etc.
- 7:45 a.m. Gather at the front to meet our shuttle
- 8:00 a.m. Shuttle departs at 8:00 a.m. sharp
- 8:30 a.m. Group arrives at the Hart Senate Building
- 9:00 a.m. Coffee with Claire McCaskill and her staff – Conference Room 512
- 10:00 a.m. Travel to the Capitol via underground tunnels to our meeting room: HVC 201 A&B
- 10:15 a.m. Greetings and Legislative Briefing from Porter Group
- 10:30 a.m. Capitol Hill Meetings Begin:
 - Congressman Billy Long (R, MO-7)
 - Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer (R, MO-3)
 - Desiree Lowry, office of Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch / Break – Boxed lunches to be served in our meeting room
- 1:00 p.m. Capitol Hill Meetings Resume:
 - Congressman William “Lacy” Clay (D, MO-1)
 - Congresswoman Ann Wagner (R, MO-2)
 - Congressman Sam Graves (R, MO-6)
 - Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II (D, MO-5)
 - Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler (R, MO-4)
 - Andrew Gradison, Office of Congressman Jason Smith (R, MO-8)
- 4:30 p.m. VIP Tour of the US Capitol for our group given by Jon Porter and Dan Mauer
- 5:30 p.m. Congressional Reception with the Missouri State Society – to be held across the street from the Capitol at the Porter Group Offices/Townhome
- 6:30 p.m. Shuttle is available at 6:30 for those families that would like to head back at that time.
- 7:30 p.m. Congressional Reception will be ending

Congressional Reception: Delivering the Workshop Message

Following our tour of the capitol, which was amazing, MASWM and A Team Missouri co-sponsored a reception at the Porter House for the Missouri State Society which includes all of the Missouri Delegate's staff and interns. We had an incredible showing from their offices. Families were able to meet with staffers and share testimonials. A Team Missouri brought banners and large canvas prints showcasing our employees from throughout the state working on various jobs in different work environments. President Bruce Young, Treasurer Robert Greenwood and the entire MESA

Legislative Team were in attendance to address the crowd: Mike Stroud, Tracy Gritsenko, Brian Hogan and Kit Brewer. Also on hand were managers Paul Bridenstine, Jim Guyre and Valerie Gustine. It was a fun and productive evening, and perfect way to cap off our day.

Special thanks to the entire Porter Group, especially key members: the Honorable Jon C. Porter – Member of US Congress (Ret.); Chris Porter; Liz Butler; Brigadier General Robert T. Herbert; and Dan Mauer.

A much more detailed legislative effort and outcome will be given at the Octo-

ber MASWM Conference. There is legislative action in the works by Rep. Vicky Hartzler and Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, which will be shared as well.

Your MESA Legislative Team is happy to report that we have now obtained solid contacts in all eight representatives' offices and both Senate offices, and those lines of communication are now wide open. As of September 2017, we have full support from the entire Missouri Delegation! There is, of course, much work to be done moving forward, but we are now working as partners and have a pretty great base established.

Traveling to D.C. to Deliver The Missouri Workshop Message



Missouri families take a break from advocacy for a VIP Capitol tour, which included taking in the view from the Speakers Balcony.



Senator Roy Blunt (left) receiving award from Missouri Representative Rory Rowland.



Congressman William "Lacy" Clay (left) and the Honorable Jon Porter having fun with our group.



Missouri Rep. Rory Rowland (right) receiving an award of appreciation from MASWM Pres Bruce Young (left) and Kansas City workshop Manager and Legislative Team member Brian Hogan.

Congressional Reception: Delivering the Workshop Message



Congresswoman Vicki Hartzler joined with A Team Missouri members from across the state.



Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II accepting award from Missouri Rep Rory Rowland.

January Meeting Announced

The MASWM/MESA Winter Conference will be Jan. 29, 30 and 31 in Jefferson City. All events will be in the Capital Plaza Hotel except for the annual Legislative Breakfast.

Monday, Jan. 29, begins with the board luncheon at noon and board meeting at 1 p.m.

The MASWM General membership meeting and training will be Tuesday, Jan 30. Breakfast is from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. Training is from 8 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch from noon to 1 p.m. The general membership meeting and preparation for the Legislative Breakfast are from 1 to 5 p.m.

The MASWM/MESA Annual Legislative Breakfast will be from 7:30 to 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 31. The breakfast will be in Hearing Room No. 2 of the capital.



Congressman Billy Long proudly displaying his award presented by Missouri Rep. Rory Rowland.