



# SPINAL COURIER

The spinal cord disability information source for Arkansans since 1989

Vol. 22 No. 3

April 2011

www.spinalcord.ar.gov

## Governor Mike Beebe Appoints Ronnie Wheeler To Commission

Governor Mike Beebe appointed Ronnie Wheeler of Crossett to the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission on February 22, 2011. He replaces Jimmy Ashley who completed his ten year term in January.

Ronnie sustained a T12 spinal cord injury in 1984 when a mobile home fell on him. After completing his rehabilitation, Ronnie attended University of Arkansas at Monticello and received his Bachelor's degree in Marketing. After a short stint in the insurance industry, Ronnie became involved in the transition movement, helping young people with disabilities move toward independence and work after high school. Over the next two decades, he worked with numerous organizations in southeast Arkansas in this effort.



Ronnie Wheeler

Over the years he has been involved in many organizations that partner with the Commission including the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council, the ADA

Roundtable, Arkansas Disability Coalition and Partners for Inclusive Communities at UAMS. He retired in 2006.

Ronnie brings a strong background and experience to his new role with the Commission. In his free time he is an avid hunter, does woodwork, volunteers with his church and has recently taken up snow skiing.

Ronnie and his wife Becky have two sons and daughters in law and three grandchildren.

The members and staff welcome Ronnie to the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission.

## 2011 Conference: *Rollin' On*

Gary Karp, nationally noted speaker and author of books including *Life On Wheels: The A to Z Guide to Living Fully With Mobility Issues* and *Disability & the Art of Kissing: Qs & As on the True Nature of Intimacy* will provide the keynote address at the 2011 *Rollin' On A New Era* conference on Friday, May 20th at Pulaski Technical College Campus Center in North Little Rock, AR. Gary will educate and entertain with his frank assessment of disability in America and a little juggling. He will make you laugh and make you think. The conference will provide a full day of educational sessions by experts in the fields of urology, pain management wheelchair selection, adjustment and healing helpers. This year's panel of experts on the topic of working after spinal cord disability will include Shannon Cleveland, Virgil Irwin, Franklin McMurrian and Mark Stevens. Participants will enjoy a full exhibit hall, demonstrations indoors and out, continental breakfast and lunch and a chance to win a Quickie manual wheelchair. Registration scholarships and travel and hotel stipends are available to ASCC clients.

**Go to page 3 for the full conference brochure.**

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## SPINAL COURIER

Published quarterly by  
Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission

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Visit our website at:  
[www.spinalcord.ar.gov](http://www.spinalcord.ar.gov)

## With Thanks

Donations this quarter from:

Grover Evans  
Marti Wilkerson

**In Memory of John W. Wiggins**

Tom Wiggins

**In Memory of Carol Chapman**

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Donald Smith

Col Thomas Williams

John Heffernan

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**To honor Donald Hughes**

Ray and Jewell Hughes

ASCC accepts tax-deductible donations. Contributions are used to assist our clients through purchases of equipment and educational resources. To make a contribution, please contact ASCC at **501-296-1788 / 1-800-459-1517** (voice) **501-296-1794** (TDD).

## From the Director

2011 marks the 22nd year that the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission has conducted educational conferences. At our first conference in 1990, we hoped to get 100 participants and 99 attended – we were ecstatic! In 1997 we started alternating between the statewide conference in Little Rock and ‘miniconferences’ in smaller cities around the state. Several times we have combined our efforts with other organizations. We have only missed one year without a conference. Since 1990 we have had over 4,200 attendees.

Recently, someone suggested that conferences weren’t needed any more – we have the internet and online education and resources. I begged to differ. This is the best time to hold our conferences. We offer a chance for those who attend to meet experts in person, ask questions and hearing cutting edge information. We work hard to ‘vet’ our speakers, assure they are experts, not just someone who proclaims to be one online. Attendees at our conferences get to see and try out the latest in wheelchairs and other assistive technology, not just look at a picture. Our exhibitors are experts in the products that they show. This year, attendees will see real people who live with spinal cord disabilities demonstrating what they do best, working, traveling, painting, designing equipment.

I think the best thing about our conference is the opportunity to meet people in person, share information, talk to old friends and new. There are a few fellows (I won’t mention your names) who come to every conference and I’m not sure they ever see a session, but they share their experiences and knowledge with others, especially those with new injuries. Families get to talk with other families and therapists and other care providers are there to share and learn.

If you have come before, we’ll be glad to see you again. If you have not, please consider coming this year. Thanks to our great sponsors, we are able to offer registration scholarships and assist with travel and hotel stipends, so hopefully cost will not keep anyone from coming.

I look forward to seeing you in May!

*Cheryl L. Vines*

## Jimmy Ashley Recognized for Service

The members of the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission honored outgoing Commission Chair Jimmy Ashley at their February 2, 2011 meeting. Mr. Ashley completed his 10-year term in January. Over the course of his tenure on the Commission, Mr. Ashley served as Chairperson twice, providing leadership and support. He has worked tirelessly to promote the Americans With Disabilities Act and provide recreational experiences to Arkansans with disabilities. Executive Director, Cheryl Vines, presented Mr. Ashley with a plaque to commemorate his decade of service.

Please join the members and staff of the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission in thanking Jimmy Ashley for his service.

A Conference for People with Spinal Cord Disabilities

# Rollin' On- A New Era

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2011

Pulaski Technical College

North Little Rock, Arkansas

9:00am – 4:30pm

Visit [www.pulaskitech.edu](http://www.pulaskitech.edu) for directions



**HEAR** keynote speaker *Gary Karp*

**LEARN** state of the art SCI treatment from experts in the field

**SEE** the latest equipment, assistive technology, resources and programs

**SHARE** experiences with others who live with spinal cord disabilities

**WIN** a Quickie wheelchair or other door prizes



Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission

Jackson T Stephens Spine Center at UAMS

United Seating & Mobility

Sunrise Medical Quickie

Baptist Health Rehabilitation Institute

## Conference Sponsors



Paralyzed Veterans of America Education Foundation

Snell Prosthetic and Orthotic Laboratory

Employability Project

Arkansas Department of Health  
Injury Prevention Branch

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011

Registration fee scholarships and travel assistance are available to  
ASCC clients and family members.



# Rollin' On- A New Era

A Conference for People with Spinal Cord Disabilities

**9:00 - 9:45**

**Registration**

**Continental Breakfast**

*Sponsored by United Seating & Mobility*

**9:45 - 10:00**

**Welcome**

Cheryl Vines, Executive Director  
Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission

**10:00 - 11:00**

**Keynote Address**

**Modern Disability: A Story of  
Historic Emergence**

Gary Karp, Writer & Speaker  
Modern Disability  
San Rafael, CA

*Sponsored by Jackson T Stevens  
Spine Center at UAMS*

**11:00 - 11:15 BREAK**

**11:15 - 12:15**

**Employment After SCI- A Panel of Experts**

Gary Karp, Moderator

Virgil Irvin  
Shannon Cleveland  
Franklin McMurrian  
Mark Stevens

**12:15 - 1:45**

**LUNCH**

*Sponsored by Snell Prosthetic & Orthotic Lab*

**Demonstrations & Exhibits**

**1:45 - 2:45 Concurrent Sessions:**

- **I Need A Wheelchair- What Do I Do or Where Do I Start?**  
Dr. Robbie Jones, Physical Therapist  
Dr. Alan Phillips, Physical Therapist  
Hot Springs Rehabilitation Hospital
- **Advances in Neuropathic Pain Management**  
Dr. Ahmed Ghaleb, Medical Director of Pain Medicine  
University of Arkansas of Medical Sciences
- **On the Humanness of Healers: The Malady "Forget Thyself" in Helpers (A Session for Caregivers Only)**  
Jillian Guthrie, LCSW  
Healers in Balance

**2:45 - 3:00 BREAK**

**3:00 - 4:00 Concurrent Sessions:**

- **Urologic Considerations in the SCI Patient**  
Dr. Jeff Marotte, FACS  
Conway Urology
- **Stages of Adjustment Following Traumatic Injury and Illness**  
Dr. Renee Magiera Planey, Psychologist  
Baptist Health Rehabilitation Institute

**4:00 - 4:15**

**Complete Evaluations**

**4:15 - 4:30**

**Drawings for Door Prizes**

**Drawing for Quickie Manual Wheelchair**

Sponsored by Sunrise Medical  
(Must be present to win)

# GARY KARP



Gary Karp is an internationally recognized public speaker, corporate trainer, facilitator, author, and editor. A highly regarded speaker, he incorporates personal experience—T12 spinal cord disability since 1973—along with an innovative approach as a musician and a juggler to engage his audience.

Gary is a leading voice in the disability movement, spreading the word of the historic emergence of people with disabilities and all it means in our lives, the workplace, and society as a whole. The author of three distinguished books, his investigative articles have also appeared regularly in New Mobility magazine. His unique and extensive contributions to disability awareness won him induction into the Spinal Cord Injury Hall of Fame as a disability educator in 2007.

**GARY WILL CHALLENGE, ENERGIZE AND ENTERTAIN YOU. DON'T MISS HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS!**

## Demonstrations

**Accessible Van Demonstration**

**Hand Cycles & Racing Chairs**

**Universal Design Bathroom**

**Accessible RV**

**Mouth Stick Painting**

**Carving and more!!!**

### **5.25 CEUs will be offered in:**

Nursing\*, Social Work, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Professional Counseling, Therapeutic Recreation and Rehabilitation Counseling.\*

\*An application has been submitted to the AR Nurses Association and Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification.

**If you have needs that require an accommodation, such as interpreter services or large print materials, etc. ASCC will make every effort to meet your needs. Please contact Mary Jo Stanton at 1-800-459-1517 or 501-296-1788, 501-296-1794 TDD or via e-mail at [mary.stanton@arkansas.gov](mailto:mary.stanton@arkansas.gov) by May 13, 2011.**

## Hotel and Travel Help

With the high fuel costs, it may be difficult for some ASCC clients to travel to the conference. This year we have secured a sponsor to provide hotel reimbursements and travel stipends.

### Hotel Reimbursements

- Hotel reimbursements of \$100 are available only to ASCC clients who are traveling over 125 miles from the conference site.
- Hotel reimbursements will be provided at the end of the conference to those who have applied in advance (*hotel bill is required for payment*).
- To apply, check the "I request a hotel reimbursement" on the registration form. You will be informed of approval in advance of the conference.

### Travel Stipends

- Travel stipends will be available only to ASCC clients who live outside Pulaski County.
- Travel stipend amounts will be
  - \$25 for those living 50 miles or less from the conference site
  - \$50 for those living 51 – 150 miles from the conference site
  - \$75 for those living 151 or more from the conference site.
- To apply, check the "I request a travel stipend" box on the registration form. You will be informed of approval and amount of stipend in advance of the conference.

Deadline to apply for *hotel reimbursements and travel stipends is April 29, 2011* – a limited number of hotel reimbursements and stipends are available – apply early!

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### *Rollin' On – A New Era*

A Conference for People with Spinal Cord Disabilities  
**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011**

### *Registration Form*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Agency (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanying Person \_\_\_\_\_ Family Member / Personal Care Provider

Accompanying Person \_\_\_\_\_ Family Member / Personal Care Provider

Check all that apply:

- \$15/person with spinal cord disability (\$17 on-site)
- \$15/family member or personal care provider (\$17 on-site)
- \$50/health care professional (\$55 on-site)
- I request a scholarship for registration fee (ASCC client, family members and PCPs only)
- I request a travel stipend (*must live outside Pulaski County*)
- I request a hotel reimbursement (*must live over 125 miles from conference site*)

Please make additional copies of this registration form as needed, or go to the ASCC website: [www.spinalcord.ar.gov](http://www.spinalcord.ar.gov)

**Make checks payable and mail to: ASCC, 1501 N. University, Suite 470, Little Rock, AR 72207**

# ACT 68

## Spina Bifida Defined as Developmental Disability

In his first bill presented before the 88th General Assembly, Representative Andy Mayberry authored HB 1211, a bill to add spina bifida to the list of specific diagnoses listed under the Arkansas definition of developmental disability. Though many Arkansans with spina bifida meet the functional definition under the Arkansas law defining developmental disabilities, since spina bifida was not listed specifically, individuals and families had difficulty in applying for services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) and in applying for the state tax credit on their Arkansas tax returns.

Representative Mayberry, who also answers to 'Dad' to young Katie who lives with spina bifida, worked with DHS Developmental Disabilities Services Director Dr. Charlie Green, ASCC Director Cheryl Vines and advocates for those who live with Down's syndrome (also added to the list in the legislation) in honing the bill. The legislation met little opposition as Representative Mayberry shared his family's personal experiences in speaking for the bill. Governor Beebe signed the bill into law on February 18, 2011.

The law will go into effect later this year and will allow families to check the spina bifida box when they file their 2012 state taxes as well as complete applications for developmental disabilities services.

Please join the Commission members and staff in thanking Representative Andy Mayberry and his wife, advocate extraordinaire, Julie for their work on this important issue.

## Toney LeQuieu 2011 Outstanding Therapeutic Recreator

The Arkansas therapeutic Recreation Society honored Russellville Case Manager Toney LeQuieu as the 2011 Outstanding Therapeutic Recreation Professional at their annual conference in May. Toney is a 1996 graduate of Henderson State University with a degree in Therapeutic Recreation. He is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. Toney is involved in virtually all disabled hunts in our state. If he is not coordinating the hunt himself through the Corp of Engineers, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, or a local hunt group, he is working with other groups to get individuals involved. He assists individuals in adapting recreation equipment and serves as the Commission's 'resident expert' in equipment repair, adaption and acquisition. He is an ADA specialist, assisting organizations in meeting both the spirit and the letter of the law. In 2010 he was integral in the development of a local wheelchair accessible archery range in Northwest Arkansas. For these and many other contributions Toney was honored by his peers with this award. Congratulations Toney!

## UCA Sports and Leisure Exposition July 8, 2011

If you have ever wanted to try adapted tennis, basketball, cycling, golf, hunting/ fishing, fitness, art or therapeutic horseback riding, mark your calendar for July 8, 2011.

The University of Central Arkansas Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Departments, Conway Regional Hospital, and Increasing Capabilities Access Network are hosting this event, with a goal of giving students and people with spinal cord disabilities a chance to try out adaptive sports and recreation equipment.

Michael Cottingham, PhD, wheelchair user and head coach for the wheelchair tennis team at University of Southern Mississippi will kick off the day on the UCA campus in the morning. In the afternoon, join the him and other wheelchair athletes at Conway Regional Health and Fitness Center to see and try out a variety of sports and leisure activities including tennis, basketball, cycling, golf, hunting/ fishing, fitness, and mouthstick painting/ art.

The event is FREE and begins at 9 a.m. so plan to be in Conway in July!

To RSVP and for location and times please go to <http://uca.edu/pt/> or contact Dr. Twala Maresh at [twalam@uca.edu](mailto:twalam@uca.edu) or Dr. Lorrie George at [lorrieg@uca.edu](mailto:lorrieg@uca.edu). Please state Sports and Leisure Expo in the subject line!!!!

# New Staff In ASCC Field Offices

Over the past few months, new voices can be heard answering the phones in the Russellville and Fayetteville Case Management Offices. Julie White began



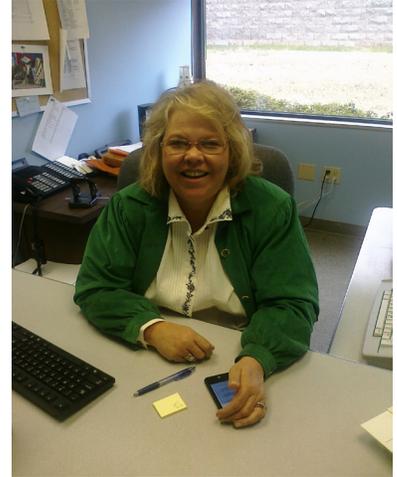
*Julie White*

providing support to Russellville ASCC Case Manager Toney LeQuieu last September and has quickly adapted to her responsibilities. She attended Garland County Community College, has excellent computer skills and a strong customer service background. Julie, husband Kevin, twins, David and Cindy age 16 and Casey, age 18 love to spend time outdoors, hiking, hunting and four wheeling.

Cindy Couch joined the Fayetteville office in November providing support to Case Manager, Maryanne Caldwell. She has excellent administrative support skills and attended the Vocational Technical College in Springdale. Cindy has also studied Graphic Design and enjoys

designing in her free time. Photography is also one of her favorite passions.

Please join us in welcoming Julie and Cindy.



*Cindy Couch*

Please remove my name from your mailing list

Please add my name to your mailing list

Change name or address as shown on address label

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission  
1501 North University, Suite 470  
Little Rock, AR 72207

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PERMIT # 3168