

# IPVI INSIGHTS

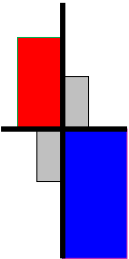


Connecting & Supporting Families Whose Children are Visually Impaired, Including Those with Additional Disabilities

JULY 2018

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Filiberto Almendarez III



It's July! A month for celebrating out in the great outdoors. One event that comes to mind is the 2018 IPVI Brookfield Zoo Outing. The anticipation and excitement is thrilling. By the time you read this, you should have submitted your shirt sizes, membership dues and have packed your necessities. Plus, make sure to get plenty of rest the night before, because the day will be very active with multiple activities scheduled. But, *"Sore today, Strong tomorrow"*.

Also, along with the guest speaker from Commissioner's Deer Office, we will have another speaker at this years event. Without further ado, I would like to introduce our additional guest speaker who is excited about the event. Her name is Pamela Berman. She is a member of "Guide Dogs for the Blind" and an advocate within the blind community. She enjoys educating people, especially children on all that is available for them through GDB. We welcome her and look forward to hearing about GDB and her journey. Thank you, Pam and thank you the Office of Commissioner Deer for their support of IPVI.

Lastly, I hope everyone had a great time at the Children Museum. I was unable to attend, but received enthusiastic responses from members and their experience and how they are looking forward to the Zoo event.

For now, take care and hope to see you and your child/children at the 2018 IPVI Brookfield Zoo Outing!



**Inside This Issue:**

President’s Report 1  
 Help Make Us Better 2  
 2018 Zoo Outing 3  
 Zoo Registration Form 4  
 Zoo Directions 5  
 Wonder Baby 6  
     The Essential Special Needs Seating Solution:... 6  
     BrailleBOT 6  
     7 Steps to Teach a Blind Child...Public Bathroom 6  
     Make Your Own Play Space... 6  
 Prevent Blindness on Firework Safety 7  
 New OCR Documents... Discipline 8  
 Efficacy of Common Reading & Math Interventions 8  
 Making Sense 8  
     Gamer’s Delight 8  
 AccessChicago 2018 9  
 IPVI Board of Directors 10  
 4th of July Poem 10  
 IPVI Membership Dues 11  
 IPVI Calendar of Events 12



When our daughter was born visually impaired, as young parents we were at a loss as to what to expect as she grew up. We wanted a community to join so we could ask questions and feel that we were not alone. It was at this time (1985) that Mary Zabelski and my husband, Bill, decided to begin an organization for the blind and visually impaired for the state of Illinois, “**Illinois Parents of the Visually Impaired or IPVI.**”

The organization grew and we had many members who were willing to help us as Board Members or volunteers. They also were young parents and were in the same place as we were.

So as our members continued to help and pay their dues, our organization grew and we were able to offer so much more to our IPVI families.

As the years went by, something happened to our organization. We no longer had help or younger people to volunteer to become a Board Member or volunteer. We actually had to rotate the members to do these important jobs.

My daughter is now 33 and Mary’s daughter has passed. Fil volunteered a few years ago as President with no prior experience. He does have a younger son and has been so very good as president. There should be 5 on the Board: President, 2 VP’s, Treasurer and Secretary. We are down to 3 people so 2 are doing double-duty.

We so hope that younger parents with younger children can find it in their hearts to help make IPVI great again. Your children will benefit from this and you will too. If you want to see what it is all about, we have 2 Board positions open, Treasurer and Vice President or Secretary. You will always have help to begin your IPVI journey. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

- Joan Bielawski, Temporary VP and Secretary



## 2018 IPVI Members' Outing

*"Literacy through Experience at Brookfield Zoo"*

Imagine (in the mind's eye) a sensory Zoo experience - listening to the animals, smelling the environment, touching real and simulated animals in their habitat.....well

### Saturday, July 21, 2018 at Brookfield Zoo

is the chance of a lifetime.....the only problem? Are you going to be there?

**ATTENTION! ATTENTION!** Brookfield Zoo is BIG and the choices are many—arrive early and plan on spending the entire day. **Plan to arrive at 9:30am, the Zoo opens at 10am.** Tons of activities are available throughout your day! Your IPVI T-Shirt will be your exclusive passport into all the action.....into the Zoo, the **Seven Seas Dolphin Show after lunch (with exclusive after show event), and tickets to other venues.** Sensory experiences abound!!

Our theme is *"Literacy through Experience at Brookfield Zoo"*.....ask questions, touch the special exhibits, analyze and enjoy the unique sounds, smells and textures of the Zoo!

Our luncheon, at the Discovery Ballroom, will include pizza, drinks, and a chance to meet other parents with children of all disabilities. Our Guest Speakers will be the Commissioner's Deers Office plus Pamela Berman Who is with Guide Dogs for the Blind.

**Become an IPVI member!** Dues paying members (\$20) receive free admission and parking at our Members' Only Events — Zoo Outing, Holiday Party, Play For All, etc. — activities intended to provide social and literacy opportunities for children, parents, teachers, professionals and friends.

Paid membership includes newsletters sent by email (so be sure to provide yours on the form), and invitations to various seminars and conferences from various other organizations.

If you'd like more information on how to attend the 2018 IPVI Zoo Outing, or on how to become a member of the "IPVI Family Network", call **Mary Zabelski at (773) 882-1331.** The registration form is on the following page.



**Mail Registration & Payment by June 30<sup>th</sup> to**

Gail Patterson  
The Chicago Lighthouse  
1850 W. Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, IL 60608



**2018 BROOKFIELD ZOO - IPVI MEMBERS' ONLY OUTING  
Saturday July 21<sup>st</sup> Registration & Payment Form**

Attendance is restricted to current (paid) members of IPVI\*\*. All attendees must pre-register, purchase a 2018 Zoo T-Shirt and show current identification at the Zoo. Attendees may be required to sign Release of Liability & Use of Photographs Form. Registration is limited to one family per IPVI which includes parents, their children only, and grandparents. **ANY OTHER FAMILIES OR FRIENDS OF THE PAID MEMBERS MUST HAVE THEIR OWN ZOO REGISTRATION FORM AND IF NOT A PAID MEMBER, MUST JOIN FOR \$20.00.**

Family Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ IPVI Current Membership [y/n] \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ city/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ H ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ C ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

1) MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

2) SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

3) CHILD: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

4) CHILD: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

5) CHILD: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

6) CHILD: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

7) CHILD: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

Admission to the "2018 IPVI Members' Only Event" includes parking (enter far South lot), buffet lunch, admission into Zoo, Dolphin Show and Hamill Family Play Area. The T-Shirt is required and identifies your participation and assists Zoo personnel in providing accommodations.

<b>Membership Dues (\$20.00/year per family</b>	
<b>Total Number of Zoo Admission T-Shirts @ \$12/person</b>	
<b>Additional Tax Deductible Donation to IPVI</b>	
<b>TOTAL MONEY INCLUDED - PAYABLE TO IPVI</b>	

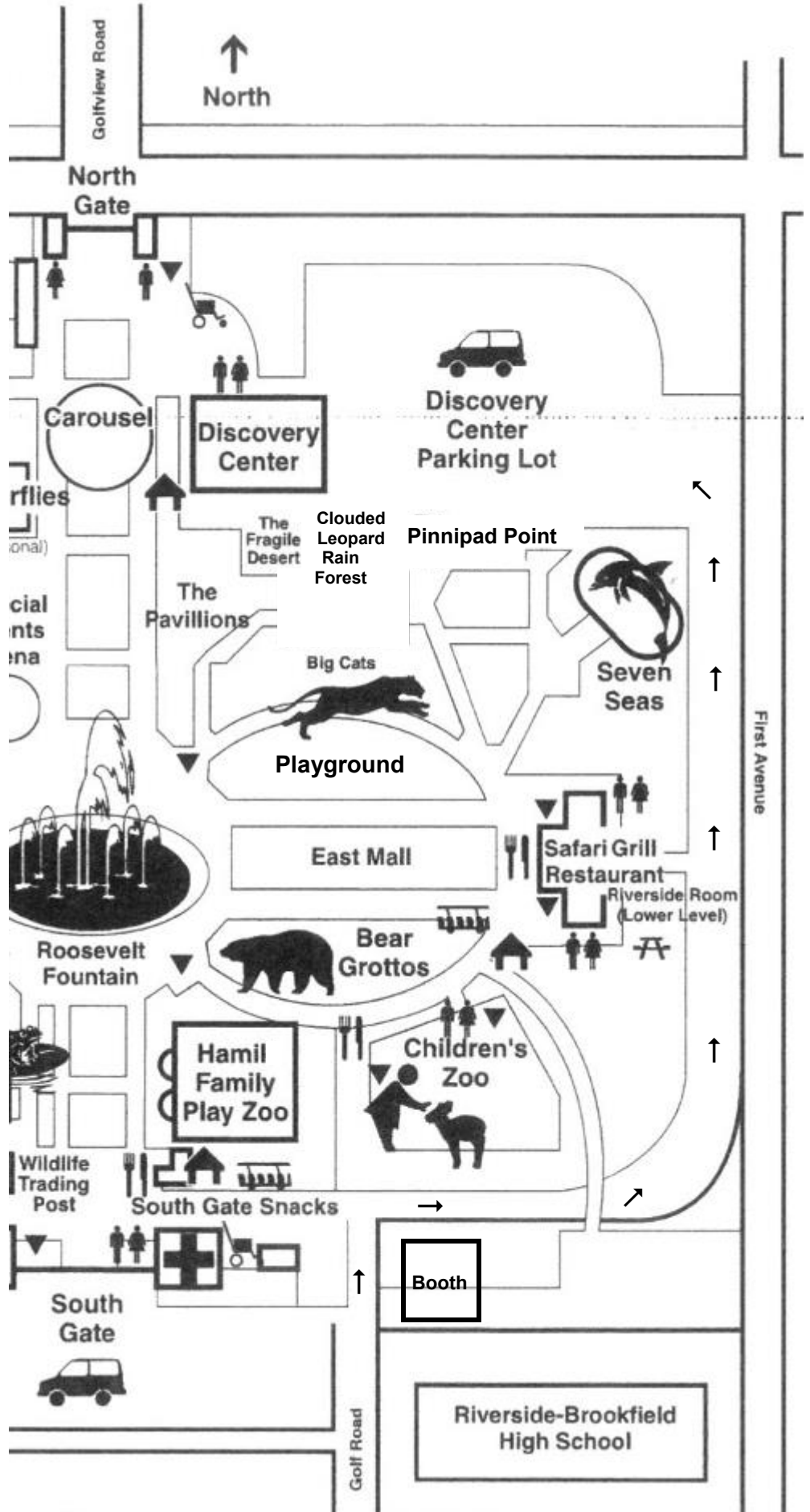
**REGISTRATION CLOSES ON JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

\*\*IPVI is funded from member dues, activity/event participation fees, & private and public donations. IPVI benefits are available to anyone who needs and applies for membership, regardless of their ability to pay. IPVI is an all volunteer organization. We sincerely welcome your participation, support and ideas. We focus on supporting families challenged by visual impairments.



We are gathering in the Discovery Center. We are to park in the Discovery Center Parking Lot. We need to enter at the SOUTH Entrance, not the main entrance. To get to the South Entrance, take 1st Avenue to Ridgewood Road (the first traffic light south of 31st street). Go west on Ridgewood to Golf Road. Turn right on Golf Road to the South Entrance Parking Booth (See map).

At the South Entrance Parking booth, say that you are with IPVI and you will not have to pay for parking. After the south parking booth, stay to the right and tell the next gate guard that you are with IPVI and they will let you on to the road leading to the Discovery Center parking lot. Come to the Discovery Center to check in and get your shirts and Zoo map. See you all there!





The brailleBOT is an educational toy developed by UNC-Chapel Hill 2012 Senior Design Group. AlphaBraille created a fun toy that helps children with visual impairment learn the Braille alphabet. READ MORE at: [www.wonderbaby.org/resources/braillebot](http://www.wonderbaby.org/resources/braillebot)



**The Essential Special Needs Seating Solution: Everything You Need to Know About the Yogibo**  
*By Amber Bobnar*

I've heard people talk about it and I knew it was supposed to be really cool, but I never really looked into it. Well, I finally went and checked out this thing called a **Yogibo** and I'm here to tell you that YOU NEED ONE OF THESE!  
READ MORE at: [www.wonderbaby.org](http://www.wonderbaby.org)



**BrailleBOT**  
*Shared by Hillary Kleck*

<http://www.braillebot.com>



**7 Steps to Teach a Blind Child How to Be Independent in Public Bathrooms**  
*By Rusty Perez*

Rusty has put together some sound advice on how you can help your older blind children navigate bathrooms on their own independently! READ MORE at: [www.wonderbaby.org/articles/independent-bathroom-skills-for-blind-kids](http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/independent-bathroom-skills-for-blind-kids)



**Make Your Own Play Space for Your Blind Baby**  
*By Amber Bobnar*

Blind babies may need help learning how to interact with and be actively involved in their environment. You can build your own active learning play space so your baby can learn through hands-on learning in a structured play space. READ MORE at:

[www.wonderbaby.org/articles/make-your-own-play-space](http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/make-your-own-play-space)



## Prevent Blindness Warns Public on the Dangers of Fireworks, Potential for Devastating Injuries

**CHICAGO (June 18, 2018)** – While many Americans spend the Fourth of July holiday with friends and family, some actually spend their time being medically treated for a fireworks injury. The latest report from the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission found an estimated 7,600 fireworks-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments during the Independence Day period.

There were an estimated 11,100 fireworks-related injuries for the year. Unfortunately, many injuries are to children. In fact, children younger than 15 years of age accounted for 31 percent of the estimated injuries. Although most injuries result in burns, firework-related injuries to the eye include contusions, lacerations, and foreign bodies. Injuries may be so severe that permanent vision loss or blindness may occur. And, in 2016, four people died from direct impacts from fireworks.

Prevent Blindness, the nation's oldest eye health and safety non-profit organization, and a member of the National Fire Protection Association's "Alliance to Stop Consumer Fireworks," supports the development and enforcement of bans on the importation, sale and use of all fireworks and sparklers, except those used in authorized public displays by competent licensed operators. However, the group also warns that even professional displays can be dangerous, due to the erratic or unpredictable nature of fireworks.

In the event of an eye emergency, Prevent Blindness recommends:

- Seek help from a medical professional immediately.
- Do not rub the eye. Rubbing the eye may increase bleeding or make the injury worse.
- Do not attempt to rinse out the eye. This can be even more damaging than rubbing.
- Do not apply pressure to the eye itself. Holding or taping a foam cup or the bottom of a juice carton to the eye are just two tips. Protecting the eye from further contact with any item is the goal.
- Do not stop for medicine! Over-the-counter pain relievers will not do much to relieve pain. Aspirin (should never be given to children) and ibuprofen can thin the blood, increasing bleeding. Take the injured person to the emergency room at once.
- Do not apply ointment. Ointment, which may not be sterile, makes the area around the eye slippery and harder for the doctor to examine.

"Every year, thousands of people are injured due to accidents involving fireworks. These happen in a split second, often to bystanders, and some injuries are so severe that permanent damage occurs," said Jeff Todd, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness. "We urge everyone to leave the fireworks to the experts and to always be vigilant, even during professional displays."



**New OCR data documents  
disproportionate discipline and  
restraint and seclusion of students  
with disabilities**



The US Department of Education has released a disturbing report that documents that students with disabilities are dramatically more likely to be subject to school disciplinary procedures than students in regular education. In fact, they are being suspended, expelled or arrested at rates at least double the proportion of students in regular education. Of greatest concern,

*“The vast majority of the estimated 122,000 students restrained or secluded at school had disabilities”,* the Education Department said. Children served under IDEA represented 71 percent of those restrained and 66 percent of kids subject to seclusion.

(OCR data, [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2015-16.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2015-16.html))

Disability Scoop,

[www.disabilityscoop.com/2018/04/24/feds-restraint-seclusion-schools/25015/](http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2018/04/24/feds-restraint-seclusion-schools/25015/)

**New website provides information on  
efficacy of common reading and  
math interventions**



Both the IDEA and ESSA require that schools used research-based methodologies to teach reading and math. It is very important that schools be sure that they are using appropriate and effective methods to instruct their students. It is equally important that parents verify that the programs being used are actually appropriate and effective to address their particular student's needs. This new site provides information on the research (or lack thereof) in relation to many of the most commonly used instructional programs. Check it out:

[www.evidenceforessa.org/programs/reading/middlehigh-school](http://www.evidenceforessa.org/programs/reading/middlehigh-school)

**MAKING SENSE**

**Gamer's Delight:** If you love to play video games but have given up because of your vision loss, check this out! A Hero's Call is a new 3D audio, role-playing game (RPG) that David Flament highly recommends. The game is designed to play on your PC (no smart phone version available) with headphones. Sounds come from all directions as you explore new lands, complete quests and combat foes. The game is produced by Out of Sight Games and costs \$20.

[outofsightgames.com](http://outofsightgames.com)

*Reprinted from MAKING SENSE, June 2018, Second Sense: Beyond vision loss, 312-236-8569, [www.second-sense.org](http://www.second-sense.org).*





## MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**AccessChicago Thursday, July 19th, 2018, Navy Pier, Festival Hall B, 9am - 4pm**

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities is excited to announce the return of

### **AccessChicago 2018**

registration is up, and running, and ready to go!



Fun Photo Booth and Raffle prizes –what do all of these have in common? They'll be featured under one roof at the highly anticipated event, AccessChicago on: Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, located at Navy Pier. Chicago's premier exposition of products and services for people with disabilities.

#### **What is there to do at Access Chicago?**

- Scales & Tales Traveling Petting Zoo
- Bingo
- ITA Therapeutic Art Workshops
- I See Music LLC Musical performance
- Fishing, Golf, Bowling and Bean-Bag Toss, sponsored by Chicago Park District
- WIPA Seminar
- Attendees/Consumer Frequently Asked Questions
- AccessChicago Transportation Guide

#### **AccessChicago is the perfect event for people with disabilities of all ages and disabilities!**

- Test products, learn about new and existing services and connect with community organizations to learn about available disability-related social services.
- Participate in new activities; such as cooking demos and interactive therapeutic art sessions.
- Take part in various adaptive sports and recreational demonstrations.
- Receive free health screenings in our health pavilion.
- Discount parking will be provided.
- Great family event! Fun activities for children!

**IPVI**

**P.O. Box 316634, Chicago, IL 60631**

1-773-882-1331 • Email: [ipvi@ipvi.org](mailto:ipvi@ipvi.org) • [www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)

**PRESIDENT**

Filiberto Almendarez III  
5323 N Delphia Ave #124  
Chicago, IL 60656  
(773) 693-5713  
[falmendareziii@yahoo.com](mailto:falmendareziii@yahoo.com)

**OPERATIONS VP**

Joan Bielawski  
(Temporary)

**SERVICES VP**

Mary Zabelski  
6153 N. Nettleton Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60631  
(773) 882-1331  
[maryzabelski@hotmail.com](mailto:maryzabelski@hotmail.com)

**TREASURER**

Filiberto Almendarez III  
(Temporary)

**SECRETARY**

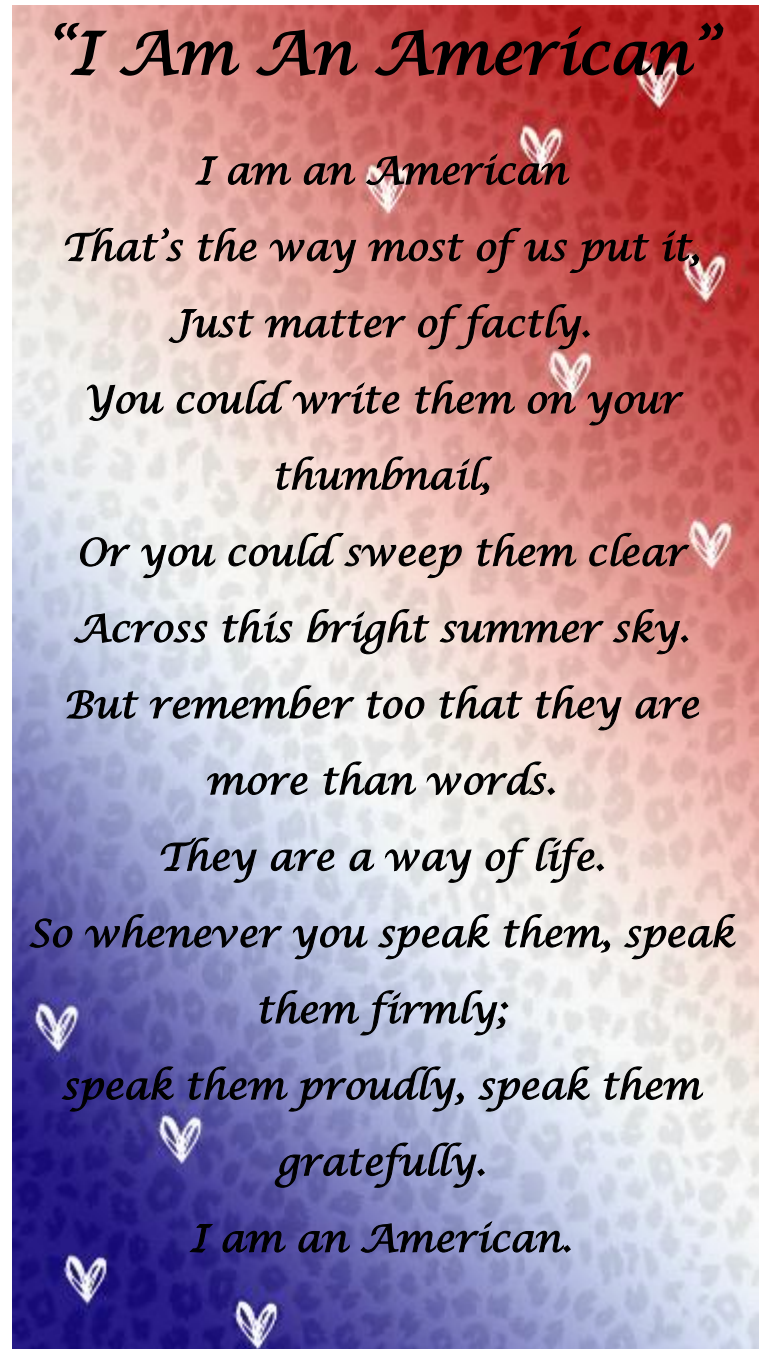
Joan Bielawski  
421 Applegate Court  
Naperville, IL 60565  
(630) 357-8576  
[wjbielawski@yahoo.com](mailto:wjbielawski@yahoo.com)

**SPANISH TRANSLATOR**

Noelia Gamino  
708-655-2747

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Joan Bielawski  
421 Applegate Court  
Naperville, IL 60565  
(630) 357-8576  
[wjbielawski@yahoo.com](mailto:wjbielawski@yahoo.com)





# Join **IPVI** or renew your membership today!

The *Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments* is a state-wide, non-profit organization that enables parents to find information and resources for their children who are blind or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities.

## Your IPVI membership dues or generous contributions help to support all of our ongoing efforts:

- Regular communications which include: workshops, conferences, training seminars, legislative issues, organizational announcements, products, and advice about raising a child who is visually impaired.
- Offers several \$500 college scholarships each year.
- Publishes a resource catalog which includes anything and everything to do with visual impairment.
- Conducts training and support sessions where parents share experiences and ideas.
- Holds fun outings adapted for children with visual impairments at athletic, cultural, educational, and entertainment settings.
- Represents parents of children with visual impairments at conferences, public hearings, and on committees.

## What does IPVI do?

- Promotes and provides information through meetings, correspondence, publications, etc., which will help parents meet the special needs of their children with visual impairments.
- Facilitates the sharing of experiences and concerns in order to provide emotional support and relief from feelings of isolation for parents and their families.
- Creates a climate of opportunity for children who are blind in the home, school, and society.
- Fosters communication and coordination of services among federal, state, and local agencies and organizations involved with providing services to people who are visually impaired.
- Advocates on a statewide level for services to children who are visually impaired and their families.
- Keeps members informed about current proposals and actions which impact on children with visual impairments and their families.

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$20 per year.

Child(ren)'s Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate(s) of my visually impaired child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_

My child(ren)'s eye condition: \_\_\_\_\_

I give my permission to release my name to other parents.

Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

Extended Family/Friend Assoc. Membership \$20/year.

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (tax deductible)

New Membership

Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose this form along with your payment by check to:

IPVI • P.O.Box 316634 • Chicago, IL 60631

**Have questions or need more information?**

**Call us at  
1-773-882-1331**

**Illinois Association for Parents of  
Children with Visual Impairments  
P. O. Box 316634  
Chicago, IL 60631**

## **IPVI CALENDAR**

- |                  |                                  |                   |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| ▶ <b>July 19</b> | <b>AccessChicago 2018</b>        | <b>Navy Pier</b>  |
| ▶ <b>July 21</b> | <b>2018 IPVI Members' Outing</b> | <b>Brookfield</b> |

Please call  
1-773-882-1331  
for any questions, concerns,  
or comments that IPVI can  
help you with.

**Newsletter Deadline for  
August 2018 is July 15, 2018**



**Check Out  
[www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)**

Calendar of Events!  
News and Updates!  
Useful Links to Web Sites!  
And more...