

IPVI INSIGHTS

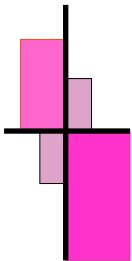


Connecting & Supporting Families Whose Children are Visually Impaired, Including Those with Additional Disabilities

May 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Filiberto Almendarez III



IPVI Families, I hope everyone is doing well or at least the best possible. I know Spring is here and physically trying to stay. So, go outdoors and enjoy Nature without being bundled up. Feel the Sun. Smell and touch the natural elements around you and experience the world.

On another note, I would like to revisit Education. I mentioned in a prior Newsletter about the shortage of educators in the Blind/Visually Impaired field. Recently, after speaking with school Educators, I realized the same discussion exists. Just in case, you missed prior news articles, I will state a few:

“There is more advancement in technology and special-education programs for visually impaired students and are more accessible, but the issue is teacher shortage that is possibly causing delays.”

“Administrators at Northern Illinois University and Illinois State University — the only two colleges in Illinois that offer degrees specializing in teaching blind and visually impaired students — say they are graduating far fewer teachers than the states' students need”.

“At Illinois State, the program for training teachers for the blind and visually impaired has had fewer than 20 graduates for each of the last five years”.

Education is vital. Especially, “learning independence at early stages”. It's been stated, that people do not enter the teaching field because they are not aware or do not know of the option. I say to All, Please pass this information along to bring awareness and maintain the quality of education for our children. Plus, the numerous job opportunity available in this re



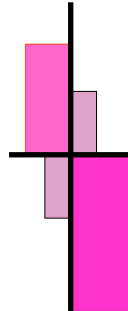
Inside This Issue:

President's Report	1
2019 IPVI Member's Outing	3
Zoo Registration Form	4
Zoo Map	5
IPVI Board of Directors	6
Mother's Day Poem	6
IPVI Membership Dues	7
IPVI Calendar of Events	8



President's Report (Cont.)

warding field, which I share below.



"ISU graduates received two job offers immediately after graduating".

"At Northern Illinois, graduates who receive a special-education teaching license in the area of blindness and visual impairment routinely consider three or four job offers".

Again, anyone interested in becoming a Special Education teacher, please reach out. The Universities exist right here in Illinois to educate you on becoming certified in a beautiful career.

Thank You and Take Care!





2019 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 20, 2019 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.

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 2019 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 30th to

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



**2019 BROOKFIELD ZOO - IPVI MEMBERS' ONLY OUTING
Saturday July 20st Registration & Payment Form**

Attendance is restricted to current (paid) members of IPVI**. All attendees must pre-register, purchase a 2019 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 "2019 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. Double and Triple extra large shirts available at extra cost of \$1.00/shirt.

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

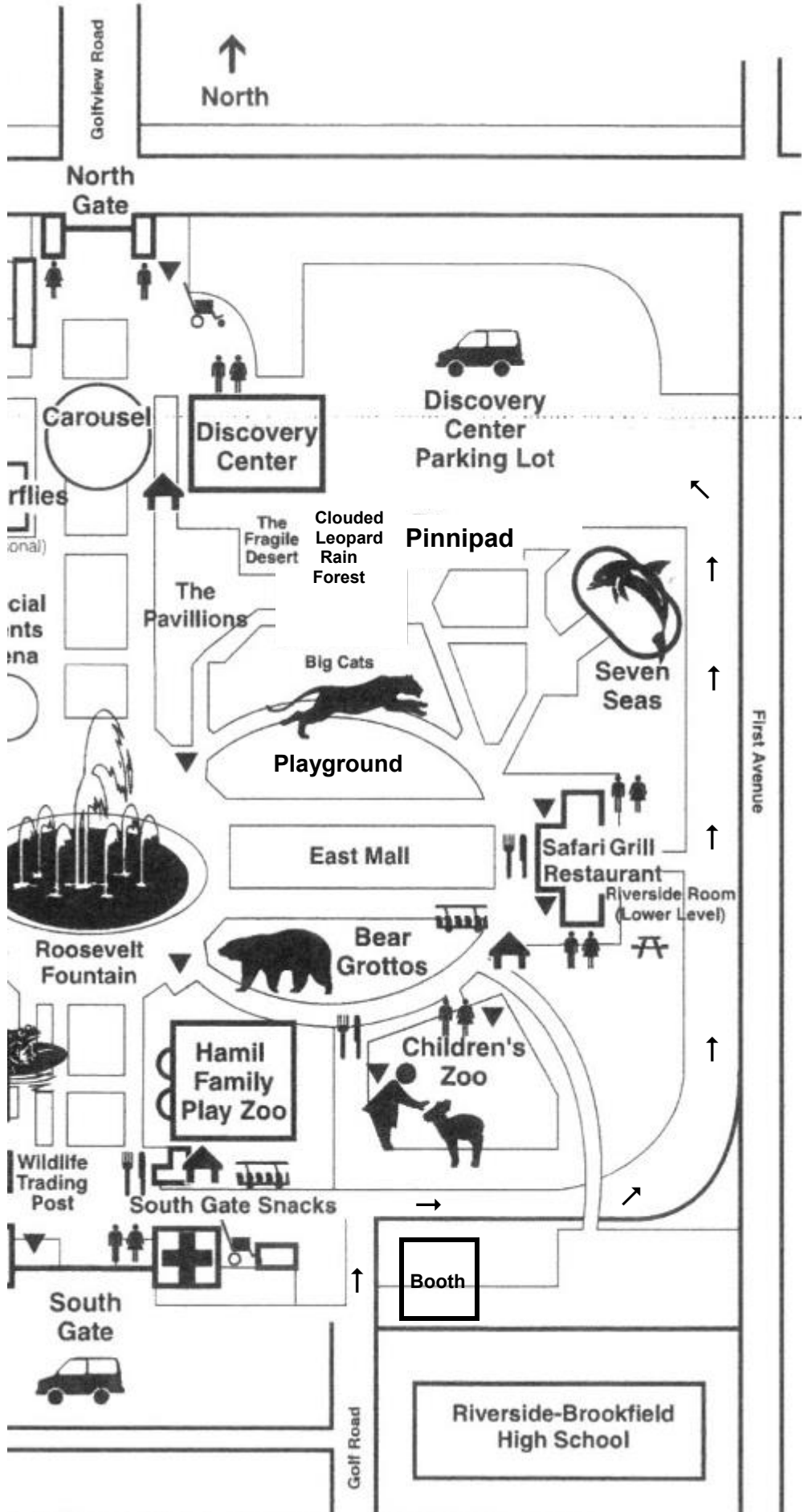
REGISTRATION CLOSSES ON JUNE 30th, 2019

**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



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!



IPVI

P.O. Box 316634, Chicago, IL 60631

1-773-882-1331 • Email: ipvi@ipvi.org • www.ipvi.org

PRESIDENT

Filiberto Almendarez III
5323 N Delphia Ave #124
Chicago, IL 60656
(773) 693-5713
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

TREASURER

Filiberto Almendarez III
(Temporary)

SECRETARY

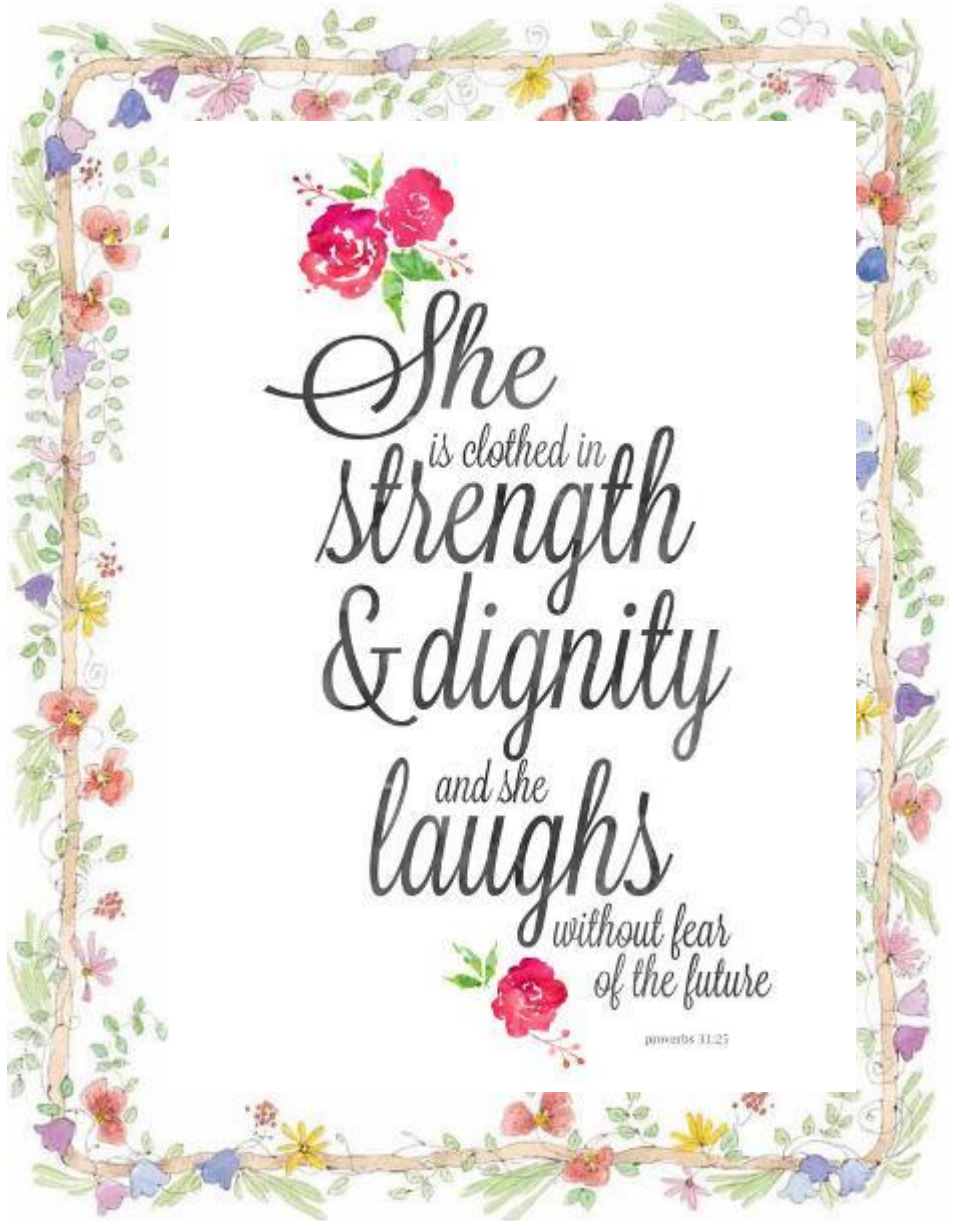
Joan Bielawski
421 Applegate Court
Naperville, IL 60565
(630) 357-8576
wjbielawski@yahoo.com

SPANISH TRANSLATOR

Noelia Gamino
708-655-2747

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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





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: \$15 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 \$15/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

2019 IPVI Members' Outing Saturday, July 20, 2019 at Brookfield Zoo

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

**Newsletter Deadline for
June 2019 is April 15, 2019**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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