

Epilepsy News

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Welcome to Epilepsy News. We pride ourselves at sending you the most up-to-date information about epilepsy events, conferences, and issues that are important to you.



Please consult our website for further information: www.efnj.com.

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- [Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey](#)
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Assembly Committee Approves Two Epilepsy Bills

The Assembly Health and Human Services Committee released two bills endorsed by the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey today.

1. The Committee approved the bill sponsored by the Committee Chairman Herb Conaway to provide for the establishment of a statewide task force on epilepsy by a unanimous vote. A2913 was introduced by Sen. Fred Madden several weeks ago.
2. The Committee approved an amended version of A1995 that modifies provisions of the original patient protection bill supported by EFNJ. As amended, the new bill reiterates that doctors will be notified if a switch is made at the pharmacy for anticonvulsant medications.

Both bills are expected to be voted on next Monday by the full Assembly.

Students Walk For Epilepsy

On May 20, 2010, teachers, parents, and students gathered for the Alpine School's annual Fitness Frenzy in Sparta, NJ. The proceeds of this year's event will benefit the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey. About 720 children, 40 teachers, and many class parent volunteers, walked one mile to raise awareness and funds to support EFNJ.

Sarah Dau, mother of our 2010 Kids Speak Up Speak Out representative Jack Dau, coordinated the event along with fellow Alpine parent Kristine Simmons. They received approximately \$3,053.37 in donations by the students, their families, and the Alpine staff! The students and planning committee decided to earmark the funds for two full scholarships, and one half scholarship for the 2010 Camp NOVA season. Camp NOVA is a one week sleep away camp for children and young adults ages 12-28 in Branchville, NJ. With recent cutbacks in funding, EFNJ is relying greatly on the community to help bridge the gap in funding so that no camper is turned away because of the inability to pay. The cost is \$1,200 per camper per week so the efforts in Sparta will have a tremendous impact.

Prior to the walk, EFNJ staff visited the school to educate the children on epilepsy, awareness, first aid, and how to be a good friend to other children who have epilepsy. Thank you to Ms. Dau and Ms. Simmons for all of their planning and hard work, and kudos to the children, teachers and administrators for a job well done!

Are you interested in helping a camper attend Camp NOVA this year? Please call Heather Comstock 609-392-4900 for more information on how you can make a difference.

Fifth Annual Fundraiser Hosted by the Meehan Family Benefits EFNJ

The Sentinel

By Jennifer Amato, Staff Writer

The fifth annual barbecue fundraiser in memory of Michael Meehan was held on June 12 at North Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company No. 3 on Cozzens Lane in New Brunswick where family and friends of Meehan will remember the life cut short by a tragic motor vehicle accident in February 2006.

"This is a great day for friends and family to come out. It's so hard these days to gather everyone together. Mike's family and friends enjoy doing this event each year in honor of Mike to celebrate his life, and to show how many people he has touched," said his brother, Kevin, the chief of Fire Company No. 3.



Since Michael Meehan, a 26-year-old North Brunswick and Kendall Park resident, had suffered with epilepsy since childhood, the barbecue also serves as a fundraiser to support the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey.

In previous years, the Meehans have raised around \$18,000 in support of the Michael Meehan Emergency Medication Fund through the Epilepsy Foundation. Because Michael was on medication to prevent seizures, which can be very expensive, his parents decided to help other people with the disease who cannot afford their prescriptions.

This year, the barbeque raised \$3,000, and ScottTrade will be matching that amount.

"[The barbecue] has been a huge success to raise funds to help others. Our rep from the Epilepsy Foundation usually sends [us information about] where the money we raise goes to. They have helped a lot of people with Mike's help," Kevin Meehan said.

Camden RiverSharks Game



The Epilepsy Awareness Day at the Riversharks game on June 6th was a success! It was a beautiful day for the game! EFNJ received a check for \$125 from the tickets sold. Many people stopped by the table to check out the available resources, with a few sharing personal stories of friends and family who have been affected or diagnosed with epilepsy. We hope next year will be even more successful than this year!

Camp Counselors Wanted for Camp NOVA

The Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey's Camp NOVA is celebrating its 22nd year in operation. This year camp will be being held from August 15th-21st, with a mandatory training day for counselors on August 14th, at the Linwood MacDonald YMCA camp facility in Branchville, NJ. Camp NOVA is a wonderful opportunity for children and young adults living with epilepsy and other developmental disabilities to enjoy summer camp. Camp NOVA, which provides an exciting and independent camping experience in an environment filled with fun experiences and memories that last a lifetime, is a one-week overnight camp for young people ages 12-28. Camp activities include acting, arts and crafts, boating, fishing, karate, swimming and yoga.

We are currently seeking camp counselors for the week. If you are above the age of 18, have a background of working with individuals with Epilepsy or other developmental disabilities, and are looking to have fun, apply! All counselors are required to have a criminal background check and be certified in CPR and first aid. For an application, please call or email Jenna Andolora at 800.336.5843 or jandolora@efnj.com.

20th Anniversary of the ADA

Join us for a celebration and symposium on the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act

Monday, July 26, 2010
11:00am-1:30pm
New Jersey Statehouse Annex
Committee Meeting Room 4-5
Trenton, NJ

This event is being hosted by The Family Support Center of NJ.
Please contact Cheryl at 732-528-8080 for more information and to RSVP.

Seizure Management Series 2010: Part II

Tuesday, July 20, 2010
7:00-9:00 PM Eastern DST
This online event is Free!

Part II Seminar Coverage: How to Beat Bad Seizures

Including a discussion of chronic AED meds and Diastat; Discussing DIASTAT with your doctor; Use of DIASTAT in various settings as school, work, vacation, etc.; Summer travel, summer camp, returning to school, and having Diastat on hand for these situation; Case studies; Review of various state laws relating to which professionals can administer DIASTAT.

Who Should Attend:

Families and Caregivers; Physicians; Nurses; Educators and School Administrators; Allied Health Care Professionals; Institutions Serving the ID/DD Population: State and privately-held facilities, Military Healthcare personnel.

Distinguished faculty includes:

Steven M. Wolf, MD

Director of Pediatric Epilepsy at Beth Israel Medical Center, NY
Director of Pediatric Neurology at St Lukes Roosevelt Medical Center

Patricia E. McGoldrick, CPNP
Pediatric Neurology & Epilepsy
Associate Director - Developmental Disability Center, Roosevelt Hospital

Moderated by: Rick Rader, MD,
Director, Morton J. Kent Habilitation Center,
Orange Grove Center, Chattanooga, TN

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Sincerely,

Andrea Racioppi
Associate Director
Epilepsy Foundation of NJ

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