

SUMMER/FALL NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Summer and Fall of 2018! We are on the road again traveling in our RV. Some of the RV parks are very accessible to those of us with disabilities and some are not. Before you book any State or Federal Park or RV Park be sure to call ahead and find out how accessible they will be for your particular disability. Know that you often need to make reservations early to find spots in the state parks. You may have to go online to make the reservations as well.

If you go out of the country, there are different rules for taking your RV and making reservations. Canada has put new restrictions on Service Animals. Some places will not let you take your Service Animal into their stores and restaurants. It may not be fair, but other countries are not the US and not subject to the same ADA rules.

If you use the **Camping World** book, it tells you about each Park and will often say, "Partially Handicapped accessible." When you call to make reservations, ask exactly what that means. It can mean anything from a concrete slab to park your RV on to the entire Park is concrete and the bathrooms are totally accessible. The book does include Canada and can be helpful when considering your travels.

I would love to hear from other people who have traveled and stayed in any of the Parks as to your experiences and thoughts. We can all help each other and at the same time have a good time. Where you want to travel and stay depends on your own individual tastes and desires. My husband and I choose to not stay in the public parks or travel out of the country.

Also, there is a book available that has hundreds of places to see and stay if you are disabled. I found the book somewhat helpful. The book is called, "**Guide To The Great Views Of Washington For The Disabled And Everyone Else.**"

<https://www.facebook.com/Guide-to-the-Great-Views-of-Washington-for-the-Disabled-and-Everybody-else-1938285569720848/>

However, I had two problems with the book. 1. He calls those of us with disabilities, the physically Impaired. 2. He talks about places you can get "out" of your scooter and walk around. Not helpful to people in wheelchairs or scooters who can't be mobile!

We are now entering the Fall season. We hope you had a great Summer. If it is Fall, then it is time to get your free annual Flu shot and to vote. We all have the ability to vote by absentee ballot. This is the best way to vote. It comes early in your home mail along with the Voter's Pamphlet and has all the information you need to know to vote. It is also free to vote! There are Ballot Boxes in every neighborhood. You can even mail your ballot without a stamp and it will still get delivered.

Absentee ballot deadlines are listed here:

<https://www.vote.org/absentee-ballot-deadlines/>

OTHER NEWS

Reports from the Governor's Committee states that there are more problems coming to individual states with respect to the ADA and the federal laws. There is still high unemployment among people with disabilities and a lack of accessible housing as well. Also, because the area is muddled about Service animals and Comfort animals, it is now much harder to travel with your Service animal. You will be required to file more paperwork weeks before you fly or travel by train or other public transportation.

The federal Government wants to give the individual states the ADA choices and regulations. They want out of the business of deciding what the states should rule on ADA cases. This would be a bad precedent to set! Individual states would then make their own decisions about following the ADA. It is important for all of us to vote and to let our representatives know how we feel. Going from state to state could be a nightmare if states do not honor the ADA laws. There are already states that are way behind in following the current ADA laws.

This leads me to an interesting event that happened to me at a graduation this year. My oldest grandson graduated from high school and the graduation was held at the Tacoma Dome's Event Center. I had not attended an event there before and was unsure of the accessibility of the Event Center. I called ahead and was told the person who handles ADA issues for the Dome didn't handle the event center. Hmmmmm ... interesting.

Here we go again! What can we do as people with disabilities to get the same access as able-bodied people? 1. Call ahead of the event to get the correct information. What can you do if that person doesn't handle your problem? 2. Join a lawsuit, file your own lawsuit or find someone else to ask? 3. I had to call the school for the answer and wait until the actual graduation to find out the answer.

We had great seating near the front and could see everything. However, to get into the Event Center, you have to go through a metal detector. I couldn't in my scooter and thought I would get wand-ed. Nope! They checked my purse and camera bag thoroughly and then felt me all over with their hands!

The good news is that the tickets did not have to come from Ticketmaster and they were correct! I will have more information in a future Newsletter about tickets and Ticketmaster. You can write to DAHRT and tell us your experience with tickets and Ticketmaster or other ticket venues and we will respond.

We hope you all have a wonderful Fall and Winter. Stay warm and safe. Included are a few websites you may find of interest.