

October 10th, 2022



Good Morning Members,

I hope to find you well. I would like to update you about COVID. It seems that the numbers are going down. It is important to keep an eye on how you feel and if you don't feel well stay home or wear a mask if you need to go out. I know there are less mask restrictions like on the bus, but I will continue to wear mine because you never know.

Make sure to check the status of the number of cases and stay up to date on what is going on. Even though things are seeming to go back to normal I am still being cautious of wearing my mask in public and being smart about what I am doing with friends and family. I do think things are going better and I am looking forward to getting back to normal.

There are 4 weeks left before we are voting again. If you haven't registered to vote please do so, it is important because all of the votes matter. If you go to the polling place, please know that you are allowed to have help putting your ballot into the sorting machine. We were able to win that lawsuit saying that people with disabilities have the right to vote and that they should not be discouraged because they might not be able to place the ballot into the machine.

Wisconsin voters can receive their absentee ballot by mail. If you are a regular voter who would like to vote in the 2022 General Election, make sure to submit your request for an absentee ballot by November 3, 2022. If you do an absentee ballot make sure that your witness has their full name and address including the zip code or your vote won't count.

As a reminder that the election is on November 8<sup>th</sup> for Wisconsin. If you don't vote you can't complain. It is important for people with disabilities or anyone who is a minority to vote. Here is helpful information from The Disability Vote Coalition:

### **Voting in Person?**

If you are voting in person, make sure you are prepared to vote!

- Check your polling place as it may have changed: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Find-My-Polling-Place>
- View your ballot and review candidate information: <https://www.vote411.org/wisconsin>
- Bring your photo ID. Information is on <https://bringit.wi.gov/>

**If you have questions, contact the Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline at: 1-844-347- 8683 or email: [info@disabilityvote.org](mailto:info@disabilityvote.org)**

The Self Determination Conference is already next week! It will be help October 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you everyone there! Please let me know if you have questions about the conference. <https://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/wisconsin-self-determination-conference/>

Don't forget to check out our website for People First Wisconsin for events coming up! We have the meet-up tonight from 4:30pm-5:30pm and Thursday is from 6pm-7pm.

I hope you have a very blessed week! You can call my cell phone @ 414-852-6462 8:30am - 5:00pm, Monday - Thursday. If I am unable to take your call, I will call you back. You can reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) or 988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (now known as the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline), and is now active across the United States. This is the website: <https://988lifeline.org/>

I am going to start to leave quotes and poems at the end of my letters to help uplift members. Here is my first quote from Maya Angelou:

"I'm convinced of this: Good done anywhere is good done everywhere. For a change, start by speaking to people rather than walking by them like they're stones that don't matter. As long as you're breathing, it's never too late to do some good."

Maya Angelou

Sincerely,

Cindy Bentley

Executive Director

People First Wisconsin