

George McDermott New Board Member

George McDermott of North Arlington has been appointed to the Board of Directors of NJSOCF. George is a dispatcher with the North Arlington Police Department and captain of the Volunteer Emergency Squad. He has battled CF his entire life and never let it defeat him. Now in his forties, he has two daughters and, in addition to his job, is active in his community.

He is vice-president of the North Arlington Board of Education; president of the Health Department, and a volunteer fireman with the North Arlington Fire Department.

For many years he has served as the adult spokesperson for NJSOCF and wants as many people as possible to learn about the disorder and the financial and emotional toll it can take. He chairs an annual bowling event – “Bowl For CF Awareness - each fall.

Executive Director Debra Sikkema said “George came to mind immediately as an excellent addition to our board. He has had a very long history with the organization, as well as a close association with our founder, the late Estelle Sikkema. George has raised awareness of CF over the years in many significant ways, including fundraising events for NJSOCF. We look forward to his presence on the board.”

NEW JERSEY STATE ORGANIZATION OF CYSTIC FIBROSIS

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Special Events – Coming and Going

Bardi's Bar and Grill in Pequannock opened its doors last December 18 to honor the memory of Wesley William Purves. Wesley, who was on our Adult Program, lost his battle with CF in October of 2013 at the age of 23 and left a big void in the lives of his friends, family, and especially his Mom. The party honoring Wesley featured the Hot Mott Rhythm and Blues Band, a 50/50 raffle, TV raffle, and more prizes. All proceeds went to NJSOCF.

The New Brunswick Rotary Club hosted a Casino Night on February 6 to benefit NJSOCF. The fun-filled evening featured a night of casino games and a chance to win prizes. Casino games included blackjack, craps, roulette and more. Gamblers had a chance to win one of many donated prize baskets and enjoy plentiful refreshments. Rich and Kaitlyn Boisch organized the successful event.

Events for the Rest of the Year...Information to Come!

Mother's Day Tea – April – May

Casino Night – Pompton Lakes Elks Lodge – Friday, May 15

32nd Annual Golf Tournament at Crystal Springs – Friday, August 7

38th Annual Fall Dinner at The Brownstone – Thursday, October 1

Bowl for CF Awareness - Saturday, November 7

Our Mission is...

To help ease the heavy financial burden placed on CF patients and their families and to provide needed information. No other cystic fibrosis organization in New Jersey offers the same type of focused financial assistance combined with education and counseling.

How to Donate

On-Line

Making a donation on line is simple and convenient, Just visit www.justgive.org, type in New Jersey State Organization of Cystic Fibrosis, open and click on “Donate now.” Or visit www.njsocf.org

Memorial Gifts

A memorial gift to NJSOCF makes a lasting tribute to a departed loved one. A special occasion gift can be used to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and even be given in lieu of wedding favors.

For all “in memory of” and “in honor of” donations, NJSOCF will immediately send a card to the family of the individual mentioned. The donor will receive a separate acknowledgement card mentioning the specific amount of the gift for tax purposes.

United Way

Employees that participate in the United Way payroll deduction program at work can designate their contributions 100% to NJSOCF. If no designation is made, each contribution is divided among the many organizations the United Way helps support. If you want to make a 100% contribution to NJSOCF, fill out the forms provided at work.

Matching Gifts

Many medium-sized and large companies offer a matching gift program. Your employer will match your personal, tax-deductible donation to NJSOCF with an equal amount of company funds.

Amazon Smile - You shop, Amazon gives

Choose us as your Amazon Smile Charity

BREATHE EASY

New Jersey State Organization of Cystic Fibrosis

Established in 1977

“We are the ones who help them breathe easier”

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Joe Armenti: A Legal Career Takes Off

Law is a profession that demands keen intelligence, dedication and lots of hard work.

Joe Armenti of Pine Brook is equal to the challenge, starting a career in corporate law at a large Hackensack firm in 2014.

The 26 year-old CF patient is happy in his new career and believes he made the right decision to attend law school. “I like to think about complex issues and solve problems,” he said. “I wasn’t sure of the exact area of the law I would end up in, but felt the profession was a good choice for me.”

Early years

Joe, an only child, was diagnosed with CF at the age of three months. “This was in 1988 and my parents, Lucretia and Wayne, were told that I probably wouldn’t live very long. At the time, while many medical advancements were in the works, treatments were not as refined as they are today.”

Joe proved his doctors wrong and went on to grammar school where CF played a minimal role in his life. High school, however, presented new CF-related challenges.

“My high school years were difficult health-wise due to serious respiratory and sinus problems. Thanks to friends and a few amazing teachers, I learned a lot about perseverance. I received my diploma in 2006 and went on to college. My parents and grandparents always stressed the importance of education.”

After graduating from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA in May of 2010 with a B.A. degree, cum laude, in Political

Science and English, it was off to pursue law at the Seton Hall University School of Law. Once again, Joe excelled, receiving his law degree magna cum laude in May of 2014.

That was a busy time in Joe’s life, coinciding with the NY and NJ bar exams and marriage to his wife, Erin, in August of 2014. “We didn’t even have time for a real honeymoon,” he said. “I took the bar exams and got married. We went to Cape May for a weekend and then I had sinus surgery. I started at the firm on September 8 of 2014. It was an exciting time.”



Cole-Schotz P.C. placed Joe in its corporate department, which he said he enjoys and finds very interesting. When the longer hours required of young lawyers began to interfere with his treatments, he told the firm that he had CF. “They were very understanding and worked with me to meet my needs. It is an empowering feeling to know that I have the support of my firm.”

Joe says he now feels well physically and has gotten back into a healthy routine. In addition to his treatments, he tries to exercise three to four times a week. Joe said, “I enjoy lifting weights. It clears my head.”

“Everything is coming together,” he said. “I believe I have found the right balance. My life is a work in progress and I am both thankful for the opportunities I’ve had and looking forward to whatever the future has in store.”

New Intern - Ava Kathryn Shaw

Bringing NJSOCF's digital communications and social media outreach up to the "cutting edge" of today is the focus for new intern Ava Kathryn Shaw.

Ava, a Montclair resident, is currently attending Rutgers University with a major in computer science and a minor in business administration, said she believes her skills can be a big help to NJSOCF.

"I became involved through the mother of a friend of mine, Wesley Purves, who lost his battle with CF in 2013," she said. "Knowing NJSOCF was looking for help in the area of outreach, she later recommended me. I was happy to do it because of my relationship with Wesley."

Ava started work in January of this year, beginning with updating the organization's website. "I have had meetings with the staff and the board and we have talked about how to improve overall marketing through things like e-mail blasts and Facebook. The overall goal is to make it easier for NJSOCF to communicate with and reach out to more people."



Ava Shaw, right, with Kit Taylor of Ava's Marketing and Design

"I love working with the NJSOCF staff and board. They are a great group," she said. "I hope we have a long term relationship and that my knowledge of digital technology and a fresh perspective on what they do will be a big benefit to them."

Volunteers Jo-Ann Laubach and Mary Ellen Kaufer "NJSOCF is Like a Family"

Mary Ellen Kaufer met the NJSOCF staff while working in the same office building, pre-Sandy. She kept in close touch after the move to new space on Union Boulevard.

"We would meet in the lobby and out front to chat when we were on break. Once Deb and Bernice told me what NJSOCF was all about I was very interested. One thing led to another and our relationship just blossomed. Soon I was volunteering to help with different projects and really enjoying it. We are all 'girlfriends' now and pitch in for different mailings and help with special events."

Mary Ellen, a Little Falls resident, said she puts in quite a few hours. "When I am needed, I am there. I like the feeling of helping people that are hurting and it's nice to see how many friends and supporters are willing to donate, if only a little. It all adds up."



Mary Ellen Kaufer, second from left, and Jo-Ann Laubach, right, with CF Staffer Bernice DeMeritt and volunteer, Rosemary Egan

Jo-Ann Laubach of Cedar Grove has been volunteering with NJSOCF for well over forty years. "I started back when the founder, Estelle Sikke- ma, was getting started," she said. "Estelle depended on her volun- teers to help with her fundraisers and we all pulled together. Then when Debra took over after her mother retired I continued and even increased my activities."

Jo-Ann said she loves the staff at NJSOCF. "Debra and Bernice and everyone else make things fun for us and show they really appreciate our efforts," she said. "It's a real family atmosphere. I go in and we have a good time, whether it's mailings or anything else that needs doing. I also go to as many special events as I can to show my support for the organization and we always have a great time."

37th Annual Fall Dinner and Fashion Show

Children's fashion show, a magician, delicious food and plenty of prizes marked our 37th Annual Fall Dinner and Fashion Show, held last November 6 at the Westmount Country Club in Woodland Park.

The fundraiser brought back the popular "Once Upon A Time: A Special Occasions Boutique," with its beautiful clothes designed for youngsters. The store specializes in clothing for communions, christenings and other events that were modeled by children from among NJSOCF's friends and supporters.



Before the show started guests enjoyed an elegant cocktail hour, delicious three-course dinner and entertainment from magician Henry Carlyle and vocalist Greg Caldarone.

As always, guests had the chance to go home with one of the dozens of beautiful prizes raffled off that night. A 60-inch Sharp HDTV topped the list, which included more than a hundred Tricky Tray and "Jard-O" raffle prizes.

31st Annual Golf Tournament

The weather was great and the golfers enthusiastic as they gathered for NJSOCF's 31st Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, August 1.

The always popular and fun-filled event was once again held at two beautiful courses: The Ballyowen Golf Club

and the Wild Turkey Golf Club, both in Hamburg. Awards and prizes were given out at the traditional post-tournament awards dinner at the luxurious Crystal Springs



Country Club. "Year after year, the tournament, a crucial fundraiser now in its fourth decade, raises money for our very important cause," said NJSOCF Executive Director Debra Sikkema. "This year we were blessed with good weather and had an excellent turnout. Everyone had a great time. On behalf of the patients we serve throughout the state, I would like to thank all of our friends and supporters who helped us to make this yet another outstanding event."

NJSOCF has already picked the date for the 32nd tournament: Friday, August 7. "You will be hearing from us over the summer with all

of the details," Ms. Sikkema said. "We look forward to seeing you there."