Tuesday, November 8, 2016. A very important date for all Americans 18 years and older. There are elections at the National, State and local levels. We at Options strongly encourage you to review respective candidates' websites for their position on issues important to each individual.

One of the most important elections is that of President of the United States. People with disabilities and their families account for 62.4 million voters this election, approximately one fourth of the electorate. Please take a few minutes to reach out to your friends, family, and colleagues to share the REV UP Presidential Questionnaire responses from Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

The questionnaire was sent to all of the current presidential candidates on 20+ state ballots:


These links are also available on Options website at www.optionsil.com.

And most important, don’t forget to exercise your right as an American and vote!

Fox Valley Office has moved.

One other important issue is Options is moving its Fox Valley Office. The current office has been sold and we needed a new location. We have found a good location still in Appleton. See details on inside for location address. All office phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same.

“Every election is determined by the people who show up.”
~ Larry J. Sabato, Pendulum Swing ~
In Memory of Friends

Doug Sigl - 8/31/1959 – 10/15/2016

Doug Sigl, a very long time friend of Options for Independent Living, passed away on October 15, 2016. Doug had an accident in the early 1980’s resulting in a spinal cord injury. In 1988, he started his own computer consulting business. He was very successful and did work for some major companies.

Doug served on the Board of Directors for Options for six years. After completing his Board term, Doug served on Options Marketing & Development Committee. He was always involved in fundraising activities.

Doug was the epitome of the independent living philosophy. He fought fiercely to improve his independence. He always had a positive attitude. He was best known for his infectious smile. We at Options extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Vicky Lasch - 10/17/1960—4/19/2015

The Wisconsin Coalition for Independent Living Centers annually gives a relentless Badger Award to a staff person at each ILC that exhibits extensive advocacy above and beyond the person’s job description. Options nominated Vicky Lasch and this past spring she was awarded this honor posthumously. This summer Options hosted a reception and presented the award to her parents. Many other friends were also in attendance.

Vicky’s disability occurred at a very early age and so did her advocacy efforts. Whether it was in high school, college or in her employment endeavors, Vicky was a consummate advocate. In working at Options as an IL Coordinator she co-facilitated Routes for Change, a grassroots cross disability advocacy group in Brown County. She built relationships with local and state legislators to impact change.

In addition, Vicky championed accessibility issues in Green Bay which resulted in improved accessible parking at the local Farmer’s Market and an area restaurant changed their seating to accommodate guests using wheelchairs, and much more. She was a fearless and passionate advocate. She is missed by Options staff and her family and friends.
**Options Appleton Office is Moving!**

*Options* Appleton office will be moving from 820 College Ave to 2331 E. Lourdes Drive, Appleton, WI 54915 (formerly St Bernadette Parish School). The new office will be open on Monday, October 31, 2016. Phone numbers will remain the same. Also moving to this address is the Office for the Blind and Vision Loss and Easter Seals of the Fox Valley.

John Meissner, Advocacy Coordinator and Alyson Windle, IL Coordinator, will still be on hand to provide an array of *Options* services, i.e., advocacy, information and referral, independent living skills training, peer support, youth transition, and many others.

This is an exciting and busy time for the Appleton office. The new office site will allow room for growth. While the office will be open and services provided, the new site will go through a twelve month rehab phase.

**Options** has HOME funds for Home Accessibility, Rehabilitation, or Repair

*Options* for Independent Living, Inc. has received federal funding through the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Housing to administer the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME Loan Program). The HOME Loan Program provides deferred no payment and no interest loans to low or moderate income persons with a disability and those who are older for the purpose of making accessibility improvements and general home improvements or repairs to their single family home. The loan must be paid back when the property is sold, transferred or ceases to be the borrower’s principal place of residence.

Types of projects include (but not limited to) ramp construction, bathroom, kitchen and bedroom modifications, along with general housing rehabilitation and repairs. The counties served by this program include Brown (outside Green Bay City limits), Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago Counties. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements to be considered for a loan. For more information contact Steve LaFrombois at *Options*, 920-490-0500 or toll-free at 1-888-465-1515, ext. 122.

**Consumer Spotlight**

My wife and I are very happy with the bathroom remodel that *Options* for Independent Living gave us the opportunity to have done through *Options* HOME Program funds. We are both disabled and because of our “old” bathroom with the tub we were unable to take normal baths or showers. We have been taking “sponge baths” for years so that we didn’t have to worry about falling. Thanks to Steve LaFrombois and the *Options* for Independent Living team we now have a “new” bathroom. The safety features of our walk-in shower with a seat and the safe and secure multiple handrails have given us the security to take decent showers. *Options* for Independent Living is a great organization to help people in need to become more independent and able to stay in their own homes. Thanks again, Ron and Linda
Why You Should Vote…
From RespectAbility  http://therespectabilityreport.org

Voting is one of the most important rights and responsibilities that U. S. citizens have. About 150 million American citizens are qualified to vote. Unfortunately, many don’t. They give up on a chance to choose leaders and representative who will do things that are important to them.

As the number of people with disabilities increases, so should voter turnout of people with disabilities. There is power in numbers. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 54 million Americans have a disability. That represents approximately 20%, or 1 out of every 5 Americans. Think about what a huge impact could be made in regard to Local, State, and Federal government, policies, and services if every one of those 54 million people let their opinions and choices be known through The Power of the Disability Vote! In fact, of all the minority groups, this is the largest of them all, yet historically voting at a lower rate than the other groups. Access issues are slowly improving as voting officials make the polls more accessible and offer disability awareness training to the judges.

Voting empowers you. When you vote, you are making your opinion known, as well as shaping government and policies that may be important to you, your friends, your family, your community, your state, and your country.

Voting impacts what and how issues are addressed. When people with similar interests or concerns organize as a unified community, AND VOTE, public officials are more likely to pay attention and respond. Organized groups of voters are also more likely to have easier and frequent access to their elected officials. Elected officials know who votes. If your community is turning out to vote well above other groups, elected officials will pay more attention, make more appearances, and make more appeals to your issues.

Voters determine who runs for office. Wouldn’t it be nice if candidates were people who share similar experiences, backgrounds, and disabilities as you?

Voting is a positive civic action and connection to your community, and other people with disabilities. What you think might be good for you, might be of benefit to others as well.

You have the right to vote! Be empowered and exercise your right!

Ways to vote…

Of course, voting in person is available the day of the election, but there is still time for you to vote ahead of time by going to your local clerks office. Voting at the clerk’s office ends Friday, November 4.

If you are not registered you can register at your local clerks office or through a special registration deputy before November 8th, or register at the poll the day of the election. You must submit proof of residency when you register. Also, don’t forget your picture ID when you are registering or voting in person.

For more information on voting contact your local clerks office or Wisconsin Elections and Ethics Commission (formerly the Government Accountability Board) at 1-800– 947-8683 or online at http://www.gab.wi.gov/voters. But most important…don’t forget to vote!
Options Medicaid Personal Care Program

Options offers a Personal Care Program for people with permanent physical disabilities who are: Medicaid beneficiaries, medically stable, require personal care services, and have identified an individual to provide personal care.

The program is consumer directed and includes personal care assistance with: bathing, dressing/undressing, prosthetics, grooming, eating, mobility in home, toileting, transferring, and incidental services (laundry, light housekeeping, meal prep). The consumer must agree to responsibly use personal care services and have back-up support available as needed. Options does not provide emergency or back-up personal care services.

Consumers utilizing Options Personal Care Program must have chosen an individual who they are interested in hiring. The Personal Care Worker (PCW) candidate must be at least 18 years old and, ideally, be trained in the skill(s) necessary to provide cares to the consumer. The PCW can not be a parent/guardian of a minor child or a spouse.

If you have a referral or would like more information on Options Personal Care Program please contact Maia Xiong, HR Manager/Personal Care Program, at 920-490-8270 ext. 114 or toll-free at 888-465-1515, ext. 114 or e-mail at maiax@optionsil.org.

CenterPoint Going Green!

Just like trying to reuse durable medical equipment, Options tries to be environmentally friendly as much as possible. Therefore, we would like your help. Options publishes CenterPoint three times a year. We mail out approximately 2,500 editions each time. CenterPoint is now available in electronic form, PDF and Word text formats, through Options website at www.optionsil.com. You can also sign up to receive an email with the newsletter attachments. Go to the website Home page, scroll down and click on Newsletter Sign-up tab on the bottom left. Once you sign up, you will receive the newsletter via an email with a PDF and a Word Text attachment. Help us save the cost of paper, printing and postage by signing up today! Thank you!

Find Options on facebook!!

Options for Independent Living can be found on “facebook.” Check it out for the latest happenings, advocacy updates, information, etc. Then go ahead and like us on “facebook.”
Tech Closet News

The latest addition to our model showcase home will be completed this fall. We are relocating and enhancing our assistive technology room. Our new room is located on the first floor near the main entrance and will contain a model office and living room in addition to displaying all of our great assistive technology. Our room will now contain a variety of “smart home” choices that can greatly benefit individuals living with disabilities.

The gap has been narrowed between “environmental controls” which were highly specialized systems that would allow an individual with physical limitations to control devices in their home such as lights, thermostats, televisions, etc and “smart homes” which is the latest advances in technology. “Smart Home” technology allows the mass public to be able to control those same devices within their home from their smartphones or tablets and if needed, through voice activation. Because this new technology is now being marketed at the masses, it has greatly decreased pricing and increased competition which gives us many more choices at lower prices. See the information below for examples of what a smart home is and what kinds of products we have available to demonstrate in order to help people gain or maintain independence in their home.

Options AT Specialist can assess an individual with a disability to determine the role assistive technology can play in achieving greater independence. For more information on the pictured technology or other assistive technology that can help you reach your goal of independence, contact Calvin Richtig, Options AT Specialist, at 920-490-8270, ext. 130 or toll-free at 888-465-1515, ext. 130.
Want to Get Involved in Legislative Advocacy? Join Act Now!

Justin Dart, considered the father of the Americans with Disabilities Act, is quoted as saying “Get into politics as if your life depends on it. It does!” In an effort to gather advocates together on disability related issues, Options has a strong and active legislative advocacy network called Act Now. Individuals in the network receive, via email or mail, legislative alerts and updates on issues impacting people with disabilities. When an alert or update is received, the individual is encouraged to pursue the issue by contacting their area legislator.

Contacting your legislator about issues that may affect you, or someone you know, is important. Your legislator wants to hear first hand how legislation being considered can impact your life positively or negatively. It helps in their decision making. Joining Act Now will assist you in those efforts. This network will educate you on the issues and help you to advocate more effectively. And the more people in the network, the greater the impact.

If you are interested in joining Act Now, contact Sandy Popp at Options (920) 393-1043 or toll-free at (888) 465-1515, ext. 179. Remember, your voice can make a difference!

Options Benefits Buzz

2017 SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA): Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2014 through the third quarter of 2016, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a 0.3 percent COLA for 2017. Other important 2017 Social Security information is as follows:

Social Security Disability Thresholds: 2016 2017
Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)
  Non-Blind $1,130/mo. $1,170/mo.
  Blind $1,820/mo. $1,950/mo.
Trial Work Period (TWP) $810/mo. $840/mo.
SSI Federal Payment Standard:
  Individual $733/mo. $735/mo.
  Couple $1,100/mo. $1,103/mo.
SSI Resources Limits (has not changed):
  Individual $2,000 $2,000
  Couple $3,000 $3,000
SSI Student Exclusion:
  Monthly limit $1,780 $1,790
  Annual limit $7,180 $7,200
Support Groups Meeting at Options

Options for Independent Living hosts several support group meetings:

CARE Café – “A place for adults on the spectrum.” This is a social/support group for adults 18 and over on the autism spectrum. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Friday from 6-8 pm at Options. The meetings are free. For more information contact CARE Café on facebook or email mortongbay@aol.com or jjmorton@spectrumblue.net. You can also request that you be added to their email roster which will include updates on meeting plans and location, any meeting changes, etc.

Epilepsy Support Group – Meetings are held at Options every 1st Wednesday of the month from 6:30 – 8 pm. For more information contact Ann Hubbard toll-free at 1-800-693-2287 or direct at 715-341-5811 or email her at ahubbard@epilepsywisconsin.org.

ALS Support Group - Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Options from 6 pm—8 pm. For more information contact Carolynne Younk, MS, Care Service Coordinator for ALS Association WI Chapter Satellite office in Green Bay. Contact number is 920-288-7095.

NEW Tourette Syndrome Support Group - Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month from noon to 2:00 p.m. at Options. Open to all who are interested in learning more about Tourette Syndrome (TS). For more information, please contact Patti Bani at (920) 217-0032 or kbani@new.rr.com.

MDA Parent and Family Caregiver Support Group of Children Living with Muscle Disease Meetings are held at Options every third Thursday from 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. For more information, please contact Sarah Arndt at the Muscular Dystrophy Association at sarndt@mdausa.org or 920-499-4571.

How did Options staff and services make a difference in your life?

Below are a few responses to this satisfaction survey question from residents with disabilities in Options 17 county area who utilized our services in 2015-2016.

- My house has necessary updates and repair I would not have been able to afford.
- They helped me find the right tools to keep my husband independent as long as he could. Because of this I was able to keep him home along with help of Palliative Care Hospice.
- Help with moving forward for better accessibility at home.
- It made us aware of services & therefore we could take part in the services!
- Taught my daughter how to do living skills. She would not take orders or opinions from me.
- Helped me understand how working affects my SSDI.
- Provided equipment which allows me to work from home.
Wisconsin WisLoan Program

WisLoan is a state-wide alternative loan program helping Wisconsin residents with a disability to purchase assistive technology that assists them in living more independently and productively. Any Wisconsin resident with a disability over the age of 18 in need of assistive technology or home modifications is eligible to apply for a loan.

Some examples of assistive technology include wheelchairs, hearing aids, CCTV’s, and vehicles with modifications. In addition, loans have been approved for home modifications such as ramp construction and roll-in showers. Loan amounts range from $500.00 to $50,000.00, but the actual loan amount will depend on the items purchased and ability to repay.

Current interest rate on a WisLoan is 6.5%. If you have bad credit, including bankruptcy, your application will still be considered. The focus is on the ability to make monthly payments to pay back the loan. For more information or to apply for WisLoan call Options at 920-490-0500 or toll-free at 1-888-465-1515.

WisLoan is a federally-funded project of the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation, and a cooperative service of the WI Dept. of Health and Family Services, IndependenceFirst, and BMO Harris Bank.

Telework Loan Program

The Wisconsin Telework program is a statewide, alternative loan program that allows Wisconsin residents with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment needed to work from home or from other remotes sites away from the office, such as work on the road or at a telework center. Loan funds can be used to purchase equipment, training to use equipment, extended warranties, and cost of maintenance and repairs.

You can apply for the amount you need, but actual loan amounts will depend on the item purchased and your ability to repay the loan. The interest rate is 6.5%. Term length depends on the amount of the loan and the item purchased. For more information contact the staff at Options for Independent Living at 920-490-0500 or toll-free at 1-888-465-1515.

This program is made possible through a grant from Rehabilitative Services Administration and authorized by section (303)b of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and implemented by subsequent program regulation 34 C.F.R Part 373. The Department of Workforce Development-Division of Rehabilitation received the grant and provides programmatic and fiscal oversight. IndependenceFirst, a community based and consumer-controlled independent living center based in Milwaukee, administers the program in partnership with BMO Harris Bank and WI Independent Living Centers.
For Sale Items

**CCTV with stand on wheels** - Optelec ClearView + Color Reader with 19" Ultra Flexible Arm. Ideal for extended reading and writing. Bought new $2595.00. Will sell for $1100 with stand or negotiable. Contact Bob at 920-465-8350. Green Bay

**Acorn brand stair lift.** Only got a few weeks' worth of use and now is not needed. Paid $3000. Would like $1500 but would negotiate. Will need to have someone disassemble and reassemble. Contact 920-209-4241. Appleton

**Bariactric Rollator Walker**—Has a seat and basket. Holds up to 250 lbs. Hardly used. Asking $50 Contact Ivan at 920-632-7097. De Pere

**Golden Compass HD Power Wheelchair Model GP 620.** Excellent condition. Used only inside. 450 lb capacity, 20" turning radius, adjustable seat and headrest. Two years old. Battery charger included. Asking $2000 or best offer. For more information contact Rosemary at 920-434-1836. Green Bay

**Easy Stand - $700.00** Easy Stand great for person with mobility issue. Helps circulation, strength. Easy to take down for transportation. Contact Shawn at 906-364-7228. Menomonie MI

**La-z-boy recliner lift chair** - $300.00 Power lift and recliner chair. 300 lb capacity 34" width by 32" depth - not a wall recliner. Excellent condition -4 years old - non smoker. Dark chocolate brown in color. Contact Stu at 920-606-0007. Pulaski

**2000 GMC Savana Van with Lift** - $4500 2000 GMC Savana Customized by A&J Vans with Bruno curb-sider lift out of rear doors. 122,200 miles with tires, battery and spark plugs less than one year old. Contact Don at 920-233-6745. Oshkosh

Other Used Medical Equipment Resources

*Options website* has a classified tab where you may find other items listed that are not in the newsletter so check it out at [www.optionsil.com](http://www.optionsil.com). If you do not have access to the internet and want a print out of the website’s for sale list, contact Barb at *Options*, 888-465-1515, ext. 145, and the list will be sent to you. *Options also has a LEND closet* that contains donated medical equipment for people to use, such as walkers, bath benches, toilet seat risers, crutches, etc. If you do not have medical insurance that will cover these items and are in need of them, please give Barb at *Options* a call. We may have what you need in LEND.

*IndependenceFirst Mobility Store (Formerly the Wheelchair Recycling Program)* - used medical equipment. Call (608) 243-1785 - Madison area or (414) 988-5333 - Greater Milwaukee area. Website: [http://ifmobility.mcservices.com/](http://ifmobility.mcservices.com/)
**Options for Independent Living Inc.**

**VISION STATEMENT:** Options for Independent Living empowers people with disabilities.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Options for Independent Living, serving people with disabilities in 17 counties of Northeast Wisconsin, is the pre-eminent non-profit organization of choice to empower people with disabilities. Options provides opportunities, through advocacy and education, for individuals with all disabilities and ages, to actively access their communities, maximize their independence, and connect with the resources and funding available to them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Directory</th>
<th>Board of Directors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Office—Green Bay</strong>&lt;br&gt;555 Country Club Road&lt;br&gt;Toll Free 1-888-465-1515&lt;br&gt;Fax 920-490-0700&lt;br&gt;TTY 920-490-0600</td>
<td><strong>Mark Merrifield</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STAFF DIRECTORY</strong> To reach staff directly, Call (920) 490-8270, then the Extension below:</td>
<td><strong>Ann Jadin</strong>&lt;br&gt;Vice-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Director</strong>&lt;br&gt;Thomas J. Diedrick Ext 111&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:tomd@optionsil.org">tomd@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Eric Stream</strong>&lt;br&gt;Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assistant Director</strong>&lt;br&gt;Kathryn C. Barry Ext 183&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:kittyb@optionsil.org">kittyb@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Jim Feenstra</strong>&lt;br&gt;Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accountant</strong>&lt;br&gt;Peggy Maas Ext 142&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:peggym@optionsil.org">peggym@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Mari Charles</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rehabilitation Technology Specialist/Home Program Coordinator</strong>&lt;br&gt;Steve LaFrombois Ext 122&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:stevel@optionsil.org">stevel@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Hugh Danforth</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility Assessment Specialist</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sarah Dunks Ext 132&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:sarahd@optionsil.org">sarahd@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Joyce David</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Work Incentives Benefits Specialist</strong>&lt;br&gt;Karin Zuleger Ext 106&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:karinz@optionsil.org">karinz@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Scott Menzel</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Work Incentives Benefits Specialist</strong>&lt;br&gt;Stacy Schultz Ext 105&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:stacyw@optionsil.org">stacyw@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Autumn Nordall</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Independent Living Coordinator</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sandra L. Popp Ext 179&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:sandyp@optionsil.org">sandyp@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Kevin Pitts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assistive Technology Specialist</strong>&lt;br&gt;Calvin Richtig Ext 130&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:calvinr@optionsil.org">calvinr@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Karen Smits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Building Maintenance</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lori Nienhaus Ext 184&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:lorin@optionsil.org">lorin@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties served:</td>
<td>Mark your Calendars!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>November 8, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calumet</td>
<td>Election Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Door</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fond du Lac</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Lake</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kewaunee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitowoc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marinette</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marquette</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menominee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oconto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outagamie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawano</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheboygan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waupaca</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waushara</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnebago</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>