# Events Committee Minutes (Approved)

Minnesota State Council on Disability

September 25, 2012, 11:30-12:30 p.m.

121 E 7th Place, Suite 107, St. Paul, MN 55101

## Members present:

Dean Ascheman

Mark Hughes

## Members on conference call

Kathy Wingen

Kathy Peterson

Michele Trapp

Stephen Grams

Dave Schwartzkopf

## Members excused:

Barb Stensland

## Staff and Guest Present:

Linda Lingen (Ex Officio)

Tricia Drury

Chair Ascheman called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Hughes motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Wingen. Approved by voice vote.

Wingen motioned to approve minutes from August 22, 2012 meeting. Seconded by Trapp. Approved by voice vote.

Discussion begin on Nominations for 2012 MSCOD Annual Awards Event.

Category were discussed in the following order:

### ABOVE AND BEYOND VETERAN’S EMPLOYMENT AWARD

One nomination (Ascheman abstained)

**WINNER: Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota (DAVMN)**

With the challenge to hire 4-5 additional employees, the organization focused on new returning combat veterans disabled in the current wars. The DAV has successfully hired 5 young Iraq/Afghanistan disabled veterans.

**Approved by voice vote**

### ACCESS AWARD

One nomination

**WINNER: Bob Brown, of CILNM in Mountain Iron, MN**

Bob, who is the Access Director at Center for Independent Living of Northeastern Minnesota Services, is been involved with the Ramp Project for 18 years. He’s help build more than 700 home access ramps for people who use wheelchairs.

**Approved by voice vote.**

### EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR (large)

Two nominations

**WINNER: Walgreens Distribution Center in Rogers, MN**

The facility in Rogers employs about two dozen workers with disabilities, some deaf or hard-of-hearing, and some who have other types of disabilities. For example, Walgreens supports deaf employees is by hiring sign language interpreters and promoting signing in the workplace.

**Approved by voice vote.**

### EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR (small)

Two nominations

**LJP Enterprises Waste & Recycling in North Mankato**

LJP is an exemplary employer in providing accommodations for applicants and employees during the job application process, in the work environment. It provides disability awareness training to employees, job restructuring for employees with disabilities, requested and paid for sign language interpreters, and modified training materials.

**Approved by voice vote.**

### FRIEND OF THE COUNCIL AWARD

Five nominations

**Elmer and Vernette Knutson, of Fairfax, MN**

This couple is past retirement age, but still live on the family farm where they accumulate items such as wheelchairs and other items to offer to people who need them. They've got a barn to store them in. They also volunteer at the food shelf.

**Approved by voice vote.**

**NOTE:** Committee agreed to split Mentorship category into two parts: Corporate and Individuals.

### MENTORSHIP AWARD (Corporate)

4 nominations

**Cargill’s LEARN Program in Hopkins**

This program is committed to removing barriers to employment and post-secondary education for high school students with disabilities. It serves young adults with disabilities, ages 18-21, who are enrolled in Transition Plus, a shared student transition program between Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Minnetonka school districts. The program providing individual career exploration and job skill development through work-based learning experiences with Cargill businesses and functions. The long-term goal is to help students develop skills and independence to enable their success in entry-level employment and/or explore post-secondary training and education opportunities aligned with their career goals.

**Approved by voice vote.**

### MENTORSHIP AWARD (Individual)

4 nominations

**Vicki Dalle Molle of SEMCIL and DHS**

Vicki became Executive Director of SEMCIL over 10 years ago. She now is going to DHS. SEMCIL has provided extensive services to people with disabilities from independent living to home care and beyond.

**Approved by voice vote.**

### MINNESOTA AWARD

Five nominations

**Bruce Lattu of MnDOT**

Regardless of his own disability, Bruce goes out of his way improve someone’s day. Throughout his career he has worked to empower those with disabilities to be self advocates. He has also worked to ensure that MnDOT as well as other state agencies are aware of not only the minimum expectations of what the law requires but also why it is not only right, but good to go beyond those basic levels. In his more than 20 years of service to the State of Minnesota as an employee, Bruce has worked to empower others to ask for the reasonable accommodations they are entitled to and has worked to find creative ways to meet the needs of people with disabilities so that they can get and maintain employment. Through Bruce's work on such committees as the Central Corridor Project the community at large has a greater awareness of disability and that it doesn't have to be a scary thing to be avoided.

**Approved by voice vote.**

## ****Discussion of next meeting****

Discussion of when to meet next. Agreed that we will meet again before the Oct. 18 event depending on participant availability.

## Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Hughes. Meeting was adjourned at 12:29.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tricia Drury