

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT  
LIVING COUNCILS**

PRESENTS

**SILC CONGRESS 2020**

**FEBRUARY 24-26**

**SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**



**PROGRAM GUIDE**

## Table of Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Welcome to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual SILC Congress:.....</b>    | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Conference Schedule of Events: .....</b>                         | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>General Session Descriptions: .....</b>                          | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Workshop Descriptions: .....</b>                                 | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Presenter Biographies: .....</b>                                 | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>SILC Congress 2020 Executive Committee:.....</b>                 | <b>12</b> |
| <b>23<sup>rd</sup> Annual SILC Congress Business Meeting: .....</b> | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Federal Regions and Representatives:.....</b>                    | <b>14</b> |

## Welcome to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual SILC Congress:

---

The National Association of Statewide Independent Living Councils (NASILC), the SILC Congress Planning Committee, and Holiday Inn Bayside San Diego welcome you to 2020 SILC Congress. This year marks our 23rd congress. We thank you for your attendance and continued support.

This is a record year in terms of attendance, with more than 169 people preregistered and representation from at least 38 states/territories. 2019 was a year of growth for SILC Congress and NASILC as we found structure and became an official national organization with 501c3 status. Having held this annual gathering for 23 years, it is exciting to look at how far we have come and the future ahead. The current Executive Committee looks forward to the discussion of bylaws of NASILC during our business meeting this year and we encourage you to go read through the bylaws and bring your thoughts to the group.

As we think about this year's theme: *"Peer to Peer"* I look to this group to come together and offer peer support to strengthen SILCs autonomy and value. The next three days will provide you with information, opportunities for sharing success and barriers faced by peers, and networking that can hopefully be the start to some relationships with others across the nation.

While we may have entered 2020 with some unknowns such as, when will the SPIL template and instructions be final, or how do we plan with our local networks for deadlines that shift. 2020 is going to be a HUGE year, July 26, 2020 represents 30 years since the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act – ADA. I hope we can all come together and celebrate those before us, their accomplishments and the future.

As your current Chair and an active member of national independent living organizations, I feel it is essential that we work in partnership with CILs and other organizations both nationally and in our respective states to protect and secure funding, programs, and initiatives that are essential to people who have disabilities. The future of IL is about coming together, planning and making room for the next generation while welcoming that generation to the table.

The Executive Committee has worked hard to ensure that this conference will provide you with presentations, workshops, opportunities for dialogue and networking that will support your work. I thank you for the investment you have made in this conference and trust that you will benefit from what you have learned.

SILC Congress could not happen without the help of many dedicated people who volunteer a significant amount of time to plan and organize this conference. I want to take a moment to thank the Executive committee members, our registration coordinator and Regional Representatives for all their hard work to make SILC Congress a success, Thank YOU.

I am excited to be on this path with each of you.

Brooke Wilson, Chair – NASILC

## Conference Schedule of Events:

---

### ***Day 1 - Monday, February 24, 2020***

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Breakfast

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Check-in and Registration – Prefunction Area

9:00 am – 10:15 am: General Session 1 – Bayside Ballroom

- Welcome
- Conference Overview, Announcements, Remarks: Brooke Wilson, NASILC Chair
- IL History: Ami Hyten

10:15 am – 10:30 am: Break

10:30 am – 12:00 pm: General Session 2 – Bayside Ballroom

- Administration on Community Living/Office of Independent Living Programs: A FY2020 Vision of the Independent Living Services (ILS) Program – Dr. Corinna Stiles and Regina Blye

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm: Lunch – Bayside Ballroom

1:15 pm - 2:30 pm: General Session 3 – Bayside Ballroom

- Regional Break Out and State Sharing

2:30 pm - 2:45 pm: Break

2:45 pm - 4:00 pm: Workshop Session 1

- SILC 101 – Catalina Room*  
Paula McElwee
- Financial Management and Internal Controls for SILCs – La Playa Room*  
Jeremy Morris, Brooke Wilson and Mel Leviton
- Marketing and Branding SILCs – Silvergate Room*  
Melissa Ann (Mellie) Santora

---

### ***Day 2 - Tuesday, February 25, 2020***

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Breakfast

9:00 am – 10:30 am: General Session 4 – Bayside Ballroom

- IL-NET SPIL Development: Preparing Your SPIL and Recommendations from the SPIL Revision Committee- Ann McDaniel

10:30 am – 10:45 am: Break

10:45 am – 12:00 pm: General Session 5 – Bayside Ballroom

- "Inclusion: The Story of the Americans with Disabilities Act" Film Screening and Discussion - Shelly Simmons

## 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL SILC CONGRESS

### ***Day 2 – Tuesday, February 25, 2020- Continued***

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm: Lunch – Bayside Ballroom

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm: General Session 6 – Bayside Ballroom

- The Future of IL Panel – Brooke Wilson, Billy Altom, Kelly Buckland, Brooke Curtis and Fanisee Bias

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm: Break

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm: General Session 7 – Bayside Ballroom

- NASILC Business Meeting
- 

### ***Day 3 - Wednesday, February 26, 2020***

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Breakfast – Bayside Ballroom

9:00 am – 10:15 am: Workshop Session 2

- A. *Evaluation and Succession Plans* – La Playa Room  
Rob Ferris and Matt Enyart
- B. *SILCs and CILs Can Improve Emergency Management Outcomes with Intersectionality* –  
Catalina Room  
Sara Ann Joehnk, Susan Molloy and Scott Lindbloom
- C. *Hands-On Fiscal and Program Accountability Training for SILC Councils and Directors* –  
Silvergate Room  
Dawn Francis

10:15 am – 10:30 am: Break

10:30 am – 12:00 pm: General Session 8 – Bayside Ballroom

- IL-NET Creating an Effective SILC & DSE Relationship – Kathy Cooper, Joan LaBelle, Ann McDaniel and Peter Pike

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm: Lunch – Bayside Ballroom

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm: General Session 9 – Bayside Ballroom

- SILC Roundtable

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm: Break

3:15 pm – 4:30 pm: General Session 10 – Bayside Ballroom

- Administration on Community Living/Office of Independent Living Program: Ask ACL/ILA: Question and Answer Session – Regina Blye

## General Session Descriptions:

### 1. IL History

| **Ami Hyten**

A progressive account of Independent Living and the disability rights movement.

### 2. Administration on Community Living/OILA Administration: A FY2020 Vision of the Independent Living Services (ILS) Program

| **Dr. Corinna Stiles and Regina Blye**

This session is designed to provide a framework for the ILS program in FY2020. Participants will receive independent living program updates and hear about key issues that are trending across the network. Join us to learn about the current and future status of the ILS program.

### 3. Regional Break Out and State Sharing

This session is designed to provide SILCs with an opportunity to share what is happening in their state. Attendees have found this session to be a great place to share ideas and to learn from one another. For Regional breakouts meet with your region to discuss in more detail ideas and problem solve issues. Odd number regions will be electing new representatives. Find your region on page 14.

### 4. IL-NET SPIL Development: Preparing Your SPIL and Recommendations from the SPIL Revision Committee

| **Ann McDaniel**

State Plans for Independent Living (SPILs) are due in June. Hopefully your plan is nearly complete, but there's still time to improve your process. This session will cover the latest on the SPIL, including what are best practices for SPIL development, how to get the most out of your SPIL, and the recommendations of the SPIL Revision Committee – a group of SILC and IL advocates that advised the Administration for Community Living (ACL) on the forthcoming revisions to the SPIL instrument and instructions. This presentation is sponsored by IL-NET.

### 5. "Inclusion: The Story of the Americans with Disabilities Act" Film Screening and Discussion

| **Shelly Simmons**

A short 15 - 20 minute documentary with appearances from Judy Heumann, Ali Stroker, Mark Johnson, Kate Gainer, Anil Lewis, Shayla Jackson, and many more to tell the story of how the ADA came to be, what has happened since, and what we need to keep moving forward toward inclusion for all.

### 6. Future of IL

| **Brooke Wilson, Billy Altom, Kelly Buckland, Brooke Curtis and Fanisee Bias**

This panel will continue the series of conversations by leaders in the IL movement that was started back in 2016 at the APRIL conference. We will focus on topics like who are the next leaders, not just for SILCs but for everything, national organizations, trainers, the faces of IL, etc. The importance of remembering the history of IL, especially in SILCs with high turnover rates of councils and staff, and the collaboration of all the entities for the greater good of the movement.

### 7. NASILC Business Meeting

See page 13 for agenda

### 8. IL-NET Creating an Effective SILC & DSE Relationship

| Kathy Cooper, Joan LaBelle, Ann McDaniel and Peter Pike

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and the Designated State Entity (DSE) must work together. Don't take our word for it – it's the law! Our panel members will discuss the roles and responsibilities of the SILC and DSE, along with practical examples of how you can each improve your relationship. They will share real-world examples of how they built strong, collaborative relationships after a history of unproductive efforts. This presentation is sponsored by IL-NET.

### 9. SILC Roundtable

The round table is an opportunity for conference participants to get together in an informal setting to examine issues as they relate to SILC boards. There is no formal agenda the participants will determine the discussion points.

### 10. Administration on Community Living/IL Administration: Ask ACL/ILA: Question and Answer Session

| Regina Blye

This session is intended for attendees to ask OILP staff burning questions about issues and trends that affect the ILS network. We hope that you stay until the last session so that you don't miss out on this interactive learning experience.

## Workshop Descriptions:

### Session One

**SILC 101 – La Playa Room**

***Workshop A | Paula McElwee***

A look at what the law, regulations and indicators require of SILCs. We will examine the makeup of the council, the SILCs' role in the appointment process, and what the SILC is required to do and may do based on the State Plan for Independent Living.

**Financial Management and Internal Controls for SILCs – Catalina**

***Workshop B | Jeremy Morris, Brooke Wilson and Mel Leviton***

All SILCs must ensure proper accounting and financial controls are in place, some of these can vary depending on the way the SILC is organized. In this panel, you will learn how SILCs ranging from nonprofit to state agency implement proper financial management to ensure that funds are spent in accordance with grant restrictions, funds are properly tracked, and internal controls are protecting the organization. Attendees will gain information on useful tools and practices that can be implemented within their SILC.

**Marketing and Branding SILCs – Silvergate Room**

***Workshop C | Melissa Ann (Mellie) Santora***

This interactive session will provide practical approaches, opportunities, and methods SILCs can consider, embrace, and implement, to ensure their relevance, effectiveness, and impact.

## Session Two

### **Evaluation and Succession Plans – La Playa Room**

#### ***Workshop A | Rob Ferris and Mat Enyart***

It is the most difficult conversation to start. No one wants to hear that they are past their prime or that it is time for new leadership. Please join us for this session as we will discuss effective performance evaluations and succession plans.

### **SILCs and CILs Can Improve Emergency Management Outcomes with Intersectionality – Catalina Room**

#### ***Workshop B | Sara Ann Joehnk, Susan Molloy and Scott Lindbloom***

Centers for Independent Living are already grappling with disasters that affect their communities, their consumers, and their Centers. Since Hurricane Katrina, data has shown that the disability community is the most impacted by disasters and the least able to recover from them. As a result, the Administration for Community Living has encouraged CILs and SILCs to take a proactive role in disaster preparedness. The impact of a disaster is compounded on a community when those individuals belong to more than one marginalized population group. As SILCs and CILs increasingly contribute to emergency management, they are in a position to create a more equitable and effective system by deepening their understanding of this intersectionality in the communities they serve. Participants of this session will learn how intersectionality applies to emergency planning, response, and recovery at Centers for Independent Living, and what action steps Statewide Independent Living Councils can take to build partnerships and incorporate intersectional strategies into state and local government's policies and practices.

### **Hands-On Fiscal and Program Accountability Training for SILC Councils and Directors – Silvergate Room**

#### ***Workshop C | Dawn Francis***

This session will provide a hands-on tool for SILC Councils and Directors that will assist them in providing good fiscal and program management for their SILC. The training document will be provided to all participants, and the presenter will go over each section of the training in detail. Participants are invited to ask questions at any time during the presentation. Examples will be provided of problems that actually occurred at SILCs, and participants will be asked for examples of situations in their own SILCs that might be problematic, with discussion provided on how to possibly address those situations.

---

## Presenter Biographies:

### **Ami Hyten**

Ami Hyten is a licensed attorney and the executive director of the Topeka Independent Living Resource Center (TILRC), a disability advocacy and human rights organization in Kansas. TILRC is celebrating 40 years of advocacy and services this year, as one of the several federally funded centers for independent living in Kansas. TILRC's commitment to systems advocacy as a critical adjunct to individual advocacy and services has allowed Ami to work with the National Council on Independent Living as the 2018- present Region VII representative, co-chair for the Long Term Services and Supports/Healthcare Committee, and as an organizer with Kansas and National ADAPT.



## **Ann McDaniel**

Ann McDaniel is the Executive Director of the West Virginia SILC. Ann has worked in independent living since 1985, eleven years at a CIL followed by her current position. She has helped develop seven SPILs and a few SPIL amendments and has served as a peer mentor to 8 other SILCs. Ann has provided national, state, and regional training on the history and philosophy of independent living, the roles and functions of SILCs, SPIL development, strategic planning, measuring consumer satisfaction, the legislative process, advocacy, parliamentary procedure, the Rehabilitation Act, and a variety of other disability and independent living topics.

## **Billy Altom**

Billy Altom is the Executive Director of the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL). APRIL is a national membership organization dedicated to advancing the rights and responsibilities of people with disabilities living in rural America. APRIL provides leadership and resources on rural independent living through a national network of rural centers for independent living, statewide independent living councils, programs and individuals concerned with the unique aspect of rural independent living. The goal of APRIL is to work together to find solutions to common problems and to bring rural issues in independent living into focus on the national level.

## **Brooke Curtis**

Brooke Curtis is the Program Coordinator for ILRU's IL-NET National Training and Technical Assistance Center for Independent Living. As the Program Coordinator, Brooke is responsible for managing training and publications activities for the IL-NET. Additionally, she played an active role in ILRU's "Disability, Diversity, and Intersectionality" project as a co-presenter for "Why Words Matter: Addressing Microaggressions to Create a Welcoming Environment." Prior to arriving at ILRU, Brooke conducted recruiting, training, and retention efforts for an education company and worked for a non-profit where she played a notable role in launching the non-profit's young professionals' group and Junior Board. Brooke received her B.A. in Biology from DePauw University and her master's at the School of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

## **Brooke Wilson**

Brooke Wilson is the Executive Director of the Oregon SILC, prior to moving to Oregon last fall she was the Executive Director of the Utah SILC since 2013 and has worked in the disability community for 15 years. She is currently the Chair of NASILC, serves as SILC representative board member of APRIL and on the NCIL Finance Committee. Brooke and her husband Corey have 4 children, 1 grandson and 1 grandson on the way, though Brooke loves children and is a "mom" to many.

## **Corinna H. Stiles, PhD, JD**

Dr. Stiles has held professional positions in the disability community since graduating law school in 2000. She started her career as the Advocacy Director at the Idaho Protection and Advocacy Agency from 2001-2012. In 2012, she moved to the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Education to work as a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist. Dr. Stiles moved to the Administration for Community Living in 2014 and began supervising in the independent living program in 2015. In November 2019, she was named the Director of the Office of Independent Living Programs. Since earning her PhD in May 2018 from the University of Idaho after defending her dissertation *Second Life: Virtual World Case Studies Exploring Self-Determination of Adults with Developmental Disability*, she likes to hit the open road and experience all that local communities

have to offer. She has just over 50,000 miles on her 2016 Harley Softail Deluxe and has ridden through 36 states.

### **Dawn Francis**

Dawn has been the Executive Director of the Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council for over 13 years. She is Chair of the Iowa Olmstead Consumer Task Force, and the organizer of the Iowa Disability and Aging Advocates Network (IDAAN), a group of consumers and disability and aging advocates/organizations that work on issues of importance to the disability and aging community, including a consumer group that is developing a statewide Consumer Leadership Coalition. Dawn is active at the national level on disability rights issues, serving on the National Council for Independent Living (NCIL) Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act Committee.

### **Fanisee Bias**

Fanisee Bias is a youth activist, organizer and MacDonalld Scholar in her community of Boise, Idaho and now, San Diego, at the University of San Diego. She is studying Sociology with a concentration in Social Justice and hopes to develop her advocacy in a new environment with new communities. She interns at United Front Multicultural Commons focusing on liberating people of marginalized identities and being a resource to underserved communities. She attended Idaho's Youth Leadership Forum in the summer of 2019 which lead her to attend the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) for the 1st time in 2019. Fanisee was elected to be Vice-Chair of the APRIL Youth Steering Committee and has also been selected to be one of the participants for the AAPD Summer Internship Program in Washington DC this summer.

### **Jeremy Morris**

Jeremy Morris is the Executive Director of the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council. Before joining the SILC in 2017, Jeremy had spent almost 10 years working in Independent Living, previously serving as the Executive Director of the Access Center in Dayton, Ohio and Finance Coordinator at the Western Reserve ILC in Warren, Ohio. His background in Centers for Independent Living includes direct services, advocacy and community partnerships, and operations management.

### **Joan LaBelle**

Joan LaBelle is the Executive Director of Disabled Resource Services (DRS), one of nine Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in Colorado. Joan has lived with her disability since the age of five. She has held almost every position within Centers for Independent Living (CIL) across the country and has more than 35 years within the disability movement.

She has been active on SILCs across the country, serving in multiple capacities. In Colorado she is the current Chair. Nationally, Joan has served on the board of the APRIL and on committees for NCIL.

### **Kathy Cooper**

Kathy Cooper is the Executive Director for the SILC of Kansas. She has a long history of IL service and advocacy in KS and some of her previous positions include; Coordinator for Capacity Building Initiatives for KS Rehab Services, the Director of HCBS at Coalition for Independence, and Legislative Advocate at Resource Center for Independent Living. Kathy is currently the Vice Chair of NASILC and a SILC Peer Mentor. Outside of work her passions include horses, barrel racing and rodeo.

## **Kelly Buckland**

Kelly Buckland is a person with a disability who has been actively involved in disability issues since 1979. Kelly started his career as an employee for Idaho's Protection and Advocacy system. He served for over twenty years as the Executive Director of the Boise CIL, Living Independence Network Corp. and the Idaho State Independent Living Council. He has served on the Idaho Developmental Disabilities Council, the State Employment and Training Council, and the State Help America Vote Act Steering Committee.

Additionally, Kelly has a long history with the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL). He has served on numerous NCIL Legislative and Advocacy Subcommittees and other standing NCIL committees, the NCIL Governing Board since 1998, as NCIL Vice-President from 2001-2005, and as NCIL President from 2005 to 2009. Kelly is currently employed as the Executive Director of NCIL.

## **Matt Enyart**

Matt J. Enyart is the Director of Training and Advocacy Supports of Kansas (TASK) and the current Chair of the State Independent Living Council of Kansas. He has more than twenty-six years of experience promoting and supporting the inclusion of children, adolescents, and adults with a variety of abilities. Matt has a master's in special education and in 2020, will complete his Doctorate in Special Education, with a focus on quality of life evaluation and enhancement strategies. The independent living philosophy is a personal issue for him, as he and his family, have had to advocate for effective supports to achieve their own quality of life goals.

## **Mel Leviton**

Mel Leviton has been the Executive Director of the Idaho SILC since 2015. She has worked with people with disabilities in the private, non-profit and public sectors for more than 25-years. She is the Chair of the Intermountain Fair Housing Council and serves on several other local, state and interstate boards. As a person with visible and invisible disabilities, she believes it isn't enough to speak up for others: people must learn to find their own voice, use it, and be supported in the learning and the doing. She and her wife Elva have five children and six grandchildren between them.

## **Melissa Ann Santora**

As the Director of Innovation at Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council, Melissa Ann "Mellie" Santora oversees the AZSILC Statewide Initiatives, which are dynamic, responsive, and outcome driven. Mellie has been instrumental to the development and implementation of AZSILC Strategic Planning, Marketing and Branding, and culture of Collaborative Leadership.

## **Paula McElwee**

Paula McElwee is the Technical Assistance Coordinator for IL-NET and SILC Training and Technical Assistance projects at Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU). In addition to providing individualized technical assistance, Paula moderates training calls monthly for new CIL Executive Directors and Program Managers, and SILCs, and quarterly for DSEs and for Financial Managers. Her blog, <http://ilnet-ta.org/wp>, is a repository of technical assistance questions and answers from CILs and SILCs. Paula was the first Director of LINK, Inc. in Kansas (one of the first states funded through the Rehabilitation Act) beginning in 1979. She worked in the disability field in Kansas for 25 years and was appointed by two governors to serve three terms on the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas before moving to California in 2000. She has served on the board of Resources for

## **23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL SILC CONGRESS**

Independence of the Central Valley and served as interim executive director for four other CILs in California, assisting the boards to transition to their next executive director.

Paula has provided training, facilitation and consultation with state associations, SILCs, and numerous centers throughout the country.

### **Peter Pike**

Peter J. Pike has 30 years' experience assisting people with disabilities navigating federal disability programs, public assistance programs, and obtaining competitive integrated employment. His personal experience with disability has provided a perspective that drives his motivation to improve services for people with disabilities and advocate. As Program Manager of the Office of Independent Living Services at the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, he oversees the contracts with nine Centers for Independent Living, serves as the fiscal sponsor of the Colorado SILC, and monitors CIL certification adhering to the Standards and Indicators.

### **Regina Blye**

Regina Blye is a dynamic "Advocrat" committed to high-impact systems change. She targets public policy reform aimed at improving the quality of life for people with disabilities; by removing barriers to education, employment, healthcare, transportation, and housing. Her advocacy was noticed, and President Barack Obama appointed Regina to serve on the United States Access Board for two terms. As a board member, she was responsible for the development of accessibility guidelines and standards for the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA).

Regina served Texas for 10 years as the Executive Director of the Texas State Independent Living Council. She also served on local and statewide boards that strive for people with disabilities to have full inclusion in everyday life activities, just like everybody else. Two years ago, she left Texas to work for ACL/ILA in Washington DC as a Project Officer (PO). She is currently responsible for the Independent Living Services program (SILCs, DSEs, and SPILs) and the Training and Technical Assistance Center (ILRU).

Regina Blye is a gun violence survivor, Zumba instructor, and Boccia (Ba-chee) club player.

### **Rob Ferris**

Rob Ferris is a retired disabled Army staff sergeant with over thirty-four years of leadership, counseling and instructor experience. Since moving to Utah in 2001, he has served as a CEO for two non-profit organizations working with people who are disabled, disadvantaged or have some other barrier to employment. He is the Chairman of the Utah Statewide Independent Living Council (USILC), Chairman of the Homeless Housing Coordination Council (HHCC), and Past Chair of the State Rehabilitation Council.

During the past eighteen years in Utah he has demonstrated continued success in creating, implementing and maintaining non-profit social enterprises and educational programs. Rob is currently serving as the CEO of Advantage Services Inc. Advantage Services is a triple bottom line non-profit social enterprise started in 1992 that employs over 150 people with disabilities and other barriers utilizing a supportive employment model for success.

### **Sara Ann Joehnk**

Sara Ann Joehnk joined the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council in August 2017 as the Disability Integration Specialist. Sara Ann is an Arizona native and graduate from Arizona State University. Sara Ann works with governmental agencies, nonprofits, and other partners to include individuals who have disabilities in all aspects of emergency management. Sara Ann represents AZSILC

on Arizona's Access and Functional Needs Taskforce, which since 2012 has gained national recognition for their work to provide caches of durable medical equipment to all shelters; for their biennial Partners in Preparedness Summit, and for Arizona's Emergency Response Interpreter Credentialing Program (ERIC).

### **Scott Lindbloom**

For 14 years, Scott Lindbloom served on the Developmental Disability Advisory Committee Nebraska. After moving to Arizona, Scott decided to dedicate his available time in the service of others, becoming a member of several councils, including the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council (AZSILC). He tirelessly works to ensure members of rural communities have access to transportation, skills training, and employment opportunities. In 2018, Scott was awarded a Champion of Equal Opportunity Award by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities. Scott Lindbloom is the chair of AZSILC's Emergency Preparedness Committee and champions emergency preparedness as an independent living skill.

### **Shelly Simmons**

Shelly Simmons is the Executive Director of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia (SILCGA), a non-profit organization, founded in 1995, with the vision of, "equal participation of people with disabilities in their communities." She works closely with various agencies & organizations and the legislature to help develop effective and efficient policy directed towards Georgians with disabilities.

Shelly graduated from California State University, Long Beach with a bachelor's in communications. Upon graduation, she worked for a production house, but health challenges soon directed her to the local Vocational Rehabilitation office and down a different occupational path. Seeking additional services & resources, Shelly contacted her local Center for Independent Living (CIL). With the support of both entities, she began her career working in Independent Living (IL).

Shelly has worked as a Disability Navigator, Benefits Specialist and Client Assistant Program Coordinator in California. After relocating to Georgia, she continued working in IL and reached out to the Statewide Independent Living Council and served as board member, vice-chair and chair. In 2016, Shelly was appointed Executive Director of the SILCGA.

### **Susan Molloy**

Susan Molloy grew up in northern California where she launched an environmental illness advocacy newsletter and received a master's degree in disability policy. In 1994, Susan move to Snowflake, Arizona and continued to advocate for individuals living with multiple chemical sensitivity. Susan worked at New Horizons Center for Independent Living in Prescott Valley for several years and joined the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council (AZSILC) in 2012. Susan is a member of the National Council on Independent Living and serves on the Housing Subcommittee. Susan is now the President of AZSILC and member of the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

## **SILC Congress Executive Committee:**

**Chair:** Brooke Wilson  
**Organization:** Oregon SILC  
**Phone:** 503-945-6621  
**Email:** Chair.SILCCongress@gmail.com

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Cooper  
**Organization:** SILC of Kansas  
**Phone:** 785 234-6990  
**Email:** kathy.cooper@silck.org

**Secretary:** Jami Davis  
**Organization:** Idaho SILC  
**Phone:** 208 334-3800  
**Email:** Jami.davis@silc.idaho.gov

**Treasurer:** Sidna Madden  
**Organization:** Oklahoma SILC  
**Phone:** 405-951-3581  
**Email:** smadden@oksilc.org

## **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual SILC Congress Business Meeting:**

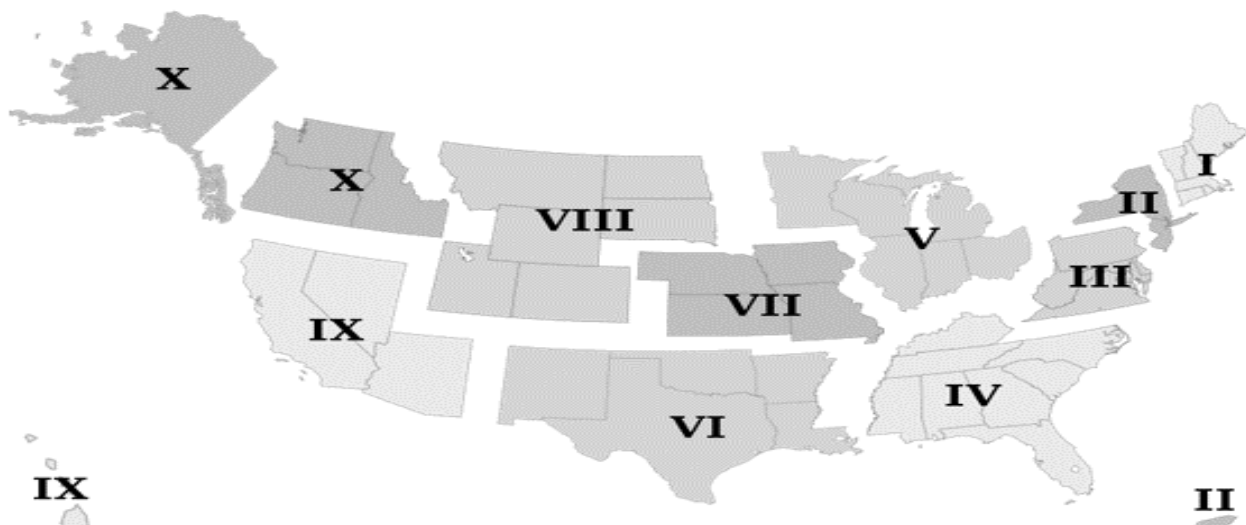
**Tuesday, February 25, 2020 2:45 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**Holiday Inn Bayside – Bayside Ballroom**  
**4875 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, California 92106**

### **Agenda**

- I Call to order
- II SILC Congress report
- III Treasurers report
- IV Discussion on the organization of NASILC  
Draft Bylaws
- V Election of Vice Chair and Secretary
- VI Recognition of new Regional Representatives (Regions 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9)
- VII Adjourn

# Federal Regions and Representatives:

| Region | States in Region  | Current Reps   | Email  |
|--------|---|--|--|
| I      | Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont                                    | Sadie Simone (MA)<br>Alt: Peter Kriff (VT)               | <a href="mailto:sadie@masilc.org">sadie@masilc.org</a><br><a href="mailto:vtsilcpeter@gmail.com">vtsilcpeter@gmail.com</a>   |
| II     | New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Island                                       | Cliff Perez (NY)<br>Alt: Betzaida Ramos (PR)             | <a href="mailto:CPerez@ilchv.org">CPerez@ilchv.org</a><br><a href="mailto:directora@mavi-pr.org">directora@mavi-pr.org</a>   |
| III    | Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia             | Darnise Bush (DC)<br>Alt: Carissa Davis (WV)             | <a href="mailto:Darnise.bush@dc.gov">Darnise.bush@dc.gov</a><br><a href="mailto:Carissa.a.davis@wv.gov">Carissa.a.davis@wv.gov</a>   |
| IV     | Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee | Shelly Simmons (GA)<br>Alt: Beth Meyer (FL)              | <a href="mailto:SSimmons@silcga.org">SSimmons@silcga.org</a><br><a href="mailto:beth@floridasilc.org">beth@floridasilc.org</a>   |
| V      | Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin                                     | Amber OHaver (IN)<br>Alt: Jeremy Morris (OH)             | <a href="mailto:aohaver@insilc.org">aohaver@insilc.org</a><br><a href="mailto:jmorris@ohiosilc.org">jmorris@ohiosilc.org</a>   |
| VI     | Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas  | Sha Stevens (AR)<br>Alt: Sandra Breitengross Bitter (TX) | <a href="mailto:arsilcdirector@arsilc.org">arsilcdirector@arsilc.org</a><br><a href="mailto:sandra@txsilc.org">sandra@txsilc.org</a>   |
| VII    | Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska  | Andois Brown (MO)<br>Alt: Dawn Francis (IA)              | <a href="mailto:Missouri.silc.adonistbrown@gmail.com">Missouri.silc.adonistbrown@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:dawn@iowasilc.org">dawn@iowasilc.org</a>                             |
| VIII   | North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah                                | Joan LaBelle (CO)<br>Alt: Carlos Ramalho (MT)            | <a href="mailto:joan.l@disabledresourceservices.org">joan.l@disabledresourceservices.org</a><br><a href="mailto:carlosalbertoramalho@outlook.com">carlosalbertoramalho@outlook.com</a> |
| IX     | Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, America Samoa, Guam, CNMI                              | Sara Kader (AZ)<br>Alt: Rachel Uelle                     | <a href="mailto:skader@azsilc.org">skader@azsilc.org</a>   |
| X      | Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington   | Michael Christian (AK)<br>Alt: Mel Leviton (ID)          | <a href="mailto:michael@alaskasilc.org">michael@alaskasilc.org</a><br><a href="mailto:mel.leviton@silc.idaho.gov">mel.leviton@silc.idaho.gov</a>                                       |



Special Thank You to:

