



Non Profit Status Established!

This year USBIA was pleased to announce that it officially became a public charity with tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Having been approved as a 501(c)(3) organization means that USBIA can continue to focus its efforts on meeting the needs of Alliance members across North America.

Lauer Testifies Before US Senate

Geoffrey Lauer, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa and a Founding Board Member of the USBIA, was invited by Senator Tom Harkin to testify this year before the United States Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELPS) Committee. The focus of his testimony and the hearing was barriers to economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities.



Geoffrey Lauer (left) testified before the Senate HELPs Committee, chaired by Senator Tom Harkin.

Management Firm Retained

USBIA announced a new partnership with MCC Association Management. MCC will assist the leadership of USBIA in a range of areas, including member support, social media and day-to-day administrative operations. Working with key stakeholders, MCC will develop a range of practical, hands-on resources to help USBIA members create and grow successful brain injury organizations in their state.



U.S. Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr. (left) with Barbara Geiger-Parker during the 2014 Brain Injury Awareness Day

Geiger-Parker Attends White House Summit

Barbara Geiger-Parker, Chair of USBIA, was invited to represent USBIA at President Obama's Healthy Kids & Safe Sports Concussion Summit at the White House. The Summit was attended by young athletes, parents, coaches, academics and experts, military service members, and other brain injury stakeholders. Barbara also was part of the contingent representing USBIA at the Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill.

News from the States

The Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona



The Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona's 2nd Annual Conference for Professionals will be held December 4, 2014. The location is the Desert Willow Conference Center, Phoenix, Arizona. Please visit biaaz.org for registration and details.

The Brian Injury Alliance of Iowa



The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa has been increasing statewide supports this past summer. Executive Director Geoffrey Lauer was appointed by Governor Branstad to serve on the State Mental Health/Developmental Disability Commission. In addition, new and expanded efforts were initiated including: the Iowa Brain Injury Resource Network (IBIRN) adding additional network sites; updating and distributing more than 1,000 BI tote bags; and expanding virtual supports for individuals with brain injury, families, and caregivers. We were able to increase staffing for our Neuro-resource Facilitation program to support an increasing caseload of Iowans with brain injury who seek to choose, get, and keep services and supports. In addition, we worked with the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) to review and update concussion and other brain injury informational materials for Iowa youth athletes, coaches, and families. We also partnered with the Iowa Department of Corrections to

enhance brain injury screening, training, and resource availability in community-based corrections settings. As well, we are improving the skills of Iowa service providers working with challenging brain-based behaviors among individuals with multi-occurring conditions (mental health, substance abuse, intellectual disability, and brain injury). By using the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine's (ACRM) "Cognitive Rehabilitation Manual", BIA-Iowa staff have been sharing evidence-based practice standards with the Community Mental Health Centers with the goal of increasing their commitment for referral to, and understanding of, cognitive rehab evidence-based practices.

The Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance

The Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance 2014



Walk for Thought welcomed over 2,000 walkers at four locations bringing in donations nearing \$100,000. In August, Going to Bat Against Brain Injury (GOBABI) – an event held in partnership with the Minnesota Twins Baseball Team - honored persons with brain injury on the field during the Twins pre-game at Target Field; the first pitch was thrown out by Kayla Meyer – a young woman who not only lives with the effects of concussion but testified three times before the Minnesota legislature to pass the Minnesota Concussion Law. This law requires online training for all coaches and officials and concussion education for all parents and athletes. This event has seen increasing interest both from the public and local media. In addition, in April the Annual Conference for Professionals in Brain Injury brought together over 600 brain injury professionals for a two-day conference and featured nationally known author and playwright, Kevin Kling, as its plenary speaker.

The Brain Injury Alliance of Montana



The Brain Injury Alliance of Montana has had a very busy 2014 with changes in staff and expansion of programs.

In May 2014 they said good-bye to Molly Walsh, Fund Developer, who returned to Missouri to be near her family. Molly's departure reduced the staff by 50% for 8 weeks which coincided with a highly stressful period of the year... the end of the fiscal year of their major funding source. The good news is Molly is doing great in Missouri and our staff has increased.

Charney Gonnerman joined BIAMT in July 2014 as the Outreach Coordinator. Charney brings to BIAMT experience as an executive director, fund developer, and program director over her forty-two year career in social services. Charney jumped in with both feet and helped in the planning of our October conference, "Building Your Brain Injury Toolbox". It did not take long for BIAMT to recognize and appreciate Charney's vast experience, skills, and passion for seeing BIAMT grow. We are thrilled Charney has accepted a new position as our Fund Developer. She approaches her work with a commitment to mission and a passion for developing resources to enhance the agency programs.

In May 2014 the BIAMT began work on a contract to develop a media campaign and provide four educational conferences between October 2014 and May 2015. This was a major undertaking that has expanded our awareness and education programs. The media campaign consists of four 30 second spots for network television, cable, and radio. The spots focus on awareness of BIAMT, symptoms of brain injury, Veterans, and four regional conferences.

Montana is a vast rural state which presents challenges for service providers, survivors, and family members

to participate in an annual brain injury conference. The contract with the

Department of Public Health and Human Services allows BIAMT to expand from one annual conference to four regional conferences. The first "Building Your Brain Injury Toolbox" conference was held October 10 & 11, 2014 in Bozeman, MT and was an overwhelming success!

Attendance more than doubled the 2013 conference in just this region alone. We anticipate overall attendance for the four conferences to reach 500 attendees. Service providers attending the conference included representatives from education, domestic violence, universities, Veteran organizations, rehabilitation, probation/parole, assisted living, independent living centers, and state agencies.

Additional program expansion:

- Annual Helmet Give-away: with the support of the Montana Trial Lawyers Association, BIAMT added Billings, MT to our annual event. A total of 222 helmets were distributed by volunteers at Minor League baseball games; Missoula Osprey and Billings Mustangs.
- Bowl for Brain Strong: BIAMT held its first Bowl for Brain Strong fundraiser and raised approximately \$8,000. Plans are in the works for two Bowl for Brain Strong events in the Spring of 2015. Our fundraising goal is \$20,000.

The Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey



The Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey (BIANJ) is pleased to announce that Governor Chris Christie recently signed into law a budget bill which reinstated \$140,000 for BIANJ to continue providing community-based

brain injury services. The services can be categorized in the areas of advocacy, education, information/resources helpline, and support services.

On July 28, 2014, NJ Senate President Steve Sweeney visited BIANJ to speak about the importance of the above-mentioned community-based services for the brain injury community. He also stated he will push legislation that would secure another \$280,000 for BIANJ over the next two years.

On September 26, 2014, the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University co-sponsored an evening of education and discussion about concussion in youth sports as a public health concern. Led by experts, the conference explored the roles that media, legislation, neuroscience, and professional sports have on the future of youth sports.

Looking to highlight the family's journey when a loved one experiences a brain injury, the Alliance will host a Fall Family Conference on October 18, 2014, in Sayreville, NJ. Topics will include: Community Reintegration, Behaviors, and Lessons Learned from Families.

In addition, the Alliance is set to launch a pilot Brain Injury Resource Support service for individuals who have sustained a brain injury and their family members. Funded by the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Disability Services, and the Traumatic Brain Injury Fund, the program will partner with discharge planners at hospitals to help identify newly injured individuals who consent to be contacted by BIANJ for information about resources and services available. For more information on the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey, visit www.bianj.org.

The Brain Injury Alliance of Utah



The Brain Injury Alliance of Utah Celebrates 30 Years! "As we approach our 30 year anniversary of the Brain Injury Alliance of Utah, I can't help but think where all of the thousands of people we have served would be if it weren't for our organization. The future of the BIAU is very bright, not because we have an abundance of resources, but because we have a core group of men and women that remain committed to our cause" said George Gehling, BIAU Executive Director!

Roskos Receives Warm Farewell - Former Executive Director Ron Roskos leaves a legacy of compassion and hard work for the Brain Injury Alliance of Utah community to follow. Roskos shared, "People are so wonderful in their appreciation for my work here, but it's not just about me. There have been countless volunteers, staff, board members and those we have helped, and who have brought all of our work together. I couldn't have done it without all of them!"

We relaunched our website and Facebook to convey a fresher, more contemporary face. The site focuses on helping us fulfill our initiatives to provide resource facilitation to those with a brain injury, raise awareness about brain injury, and provide education and helmets to prevent brain injuries in the first place. You can see our event calendar, register for our upcoming conference, purchase a \$5 helmet, or become a BIAU member. Visit www.biau.org today.

The Brain Alliance of Washington



The Brain Alliance of Washington had a terrific summer. Not only was the weather glorious, but the activities for BIAWA could not have been better. Deborah Crawley, Executive Director and Patrice

Roney, Board President, reported that from the strong start of the Annual meeting in mid-June, where they had a great turn out of over 60 people, they were seeing new faces and catching up with friends and looking celebrating the past and looking forward to a great future.

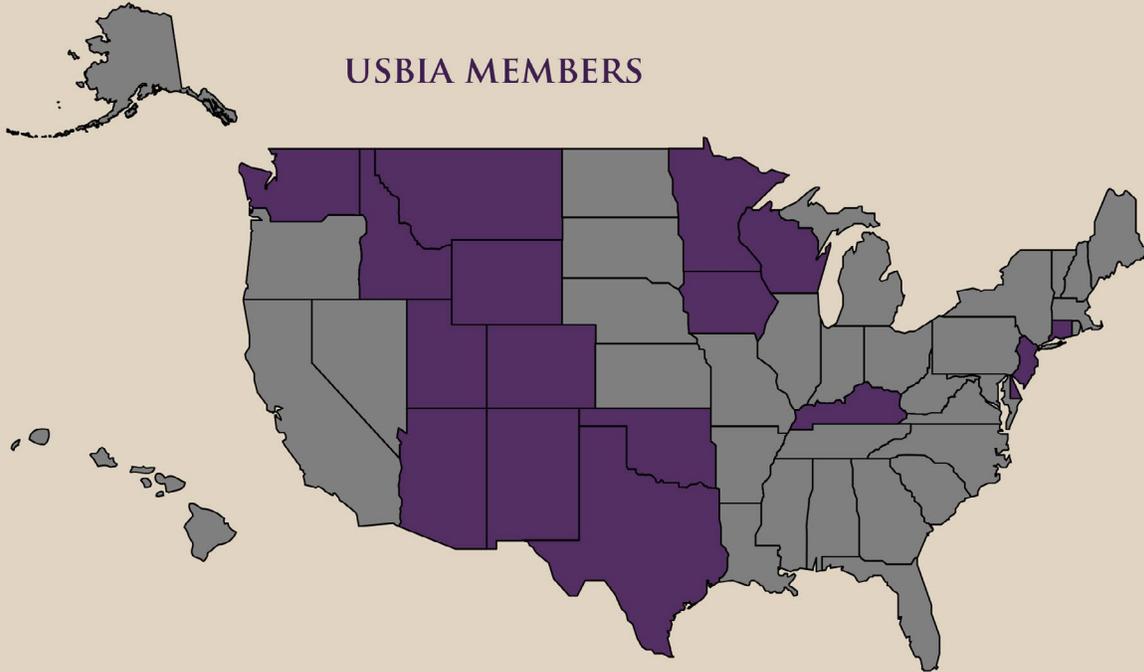
While fundraising at their events is critical to support current and new services, the most important part is outreach. In particular, at one smaller event, they connected with a family who was struggling with a recent brain injury and who met BIAWA for the first time that evening. They now have become engaged and supported (even made it out to the walk)! It proves that sometimes it is one by one that we reach out and that is often the most important.

It was great to attend a number of our community events. Everyone had a great time at the benefit concert at the Triple Door Musiquarium, sponsored by Brandon Blake and his band. It was Brandon's first public performance since surviving a traumatic brain injury in July 2013. His performance was very inspiring as was the support provided by the community.

The Walk Run and Roll was held July 27th at Magnuson Park. It was an amazing success on an absolutely beautiful Seattle summer day. Over 300 people registered for the event and funds raised were the largest ever. That was followed by the "not to be missed" Art Show in September as is the B.I.G. (Brain Injury Gala) in November.

As you can see, BIAWA is very busy and thanks all individuals, members, sponsors, family members, survivors, and professionals who reach out and support them to expand their connections. They will tell you that they grow as a community when they come together and raise voices... this summer and fall their voices are strong and clear!

USBIA MEMBERS



- Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona
- Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado
- Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut
- Brain Injury Alliance of Idaho
- Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa
- Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky
- Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance
- Brain Injury Alliance of Montana
- Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey
- Brain Injury Alliance of New Mexico
- Brain Injury Alliance of Oklahoma
- Texas Brain Injury Alliance
- Brain Injury Alliance of Utah
- Brain Injury Alliance of Washington
- Brain Injury Alliance of Wisconsin
- Brain Injury Alliance of Wyoming

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ABOUT US

The United States Brain Injury Alliance (USBIA) was formed in 2012. The Alliance is comprised of 16 statewide brain injury organizations from all regions of the United States. The member states contain close to 100,000,000 people and represent slightly more than 30% of the population according to the 2010 Census.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the United States Brain Injury Alliance is to engage the community in preventing brain injuries and improving lives. We will accomplish this through awareness, prevention, advocacy, support, research, and community engagement.

USBIA Administrative Office

PO Box 1804

Alexandria, VA 22313

info@usbia.org usbia.org

703-960-6500