

Disability Advocacy Day Speaking Roster & Agenda

March 5, 2025 at the SC State House (North Grounds Steps)

Note: All times are approximate and subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we work to ensure a smooth event.

9:40 AM - 10:00 AM | Opening & Proclamations

- 9:40 AM – **William Farior**, Program Assistant, Partners in Policymaking with the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council – Master of Ceremonies
- 9:50 AM – **Valarie Bishop**, Executive Director, South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council – Reading of the Governor’s Proclamation
- 9:55 AM – **Padgett Mazingo**, President, Limitless Purpose – Reading of the Senate Resolution

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM | Keynote & State Leadership

- 10:00 AM – **The Honorable Pamela Evette** – Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina
- 10:05 AM – **The Honorable Tom Davis**, State Senator, South Carolina’s 46th District (Beaufort & Jasper Counties) – Keynote Speaker
- 10:10 AM – **William Farior, MC** – Presentation of SCPDO Advocate of the Year Award
- 10:15 AM – **The Honorable Curtis Loftis**, South Carolina State Treasurer
- 10:20 AM – **Margaret Alewine**, Bureau Chief of Policy, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS)
- 10:25 AM – **Michelle Woodhead**, Vice Chair, South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) Commission

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM | Self-Advocacy & Disability Services

- 10:30 AM – **McKenna Woodhead**, Self-Advocate
- 10:35 AM – **Anna Maria Conner**, Senior Attorney, Disability Rights South Carolina
- 10:40 AM – **Jennifer Bazer**, President, The Palmetto Council of the Blind; Self-Advocate
- 10:45 AM – **Ruth Bollinger**, Lead Coach, CarolinaLIFE Program; Self-Advocate
- 10:50 AM – **Dr. Joseph Ryan**, Distinguished Professor & Executive Director, ClemsonLIFE Program
- 10:55 AM – **Laura Kane**, Manager of Education and Interpretive Planning, South Carolina State Museum

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM | Advocacy & Workplace Inclusion

- 11:00 AM – **Ashley Abbott**, Business Owner accompanied by team members
- 11:10 AM – **WC Hoecke & Karl Hoecke**, Harmony Christian Community, Advocacy March
- 11:25 AM – **William Farior, MC** – Presentation of SCPDO Self-Advocate of the Year Award

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Family Advocacy & Autism Support

- 11:30 AM – **Zoe Wingard**, Self-Advocate
- 11:40 AM – **Tosha Rollins**, Advocate, Licensed Professional Counselor, Author, Autism Spectrum Specialist
- 11:45 AM – **Rachel Nash**, Founder of Nash Patient Advocacy & Counseling
- 11:50 AM – **Michelle Singleton**, Midlands Area Regional Marketing Specialist, Elite Home Care & Stokes Family

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM | Education, Barriers & Open Mic

- 12:00 PM – **Cait Fenchel**, Communications & Engagement Manager, Pattison’s Academy accompanied by Client Family
- 12:10 PM – **Anastasia Ford**, Disability Advocacy Coordinator, Akoma Cares with her son, Donovan, Self-Advocate
- 12:15 PM – **Michael Leaphart**, Self-Advocate
- 12:20 PM – **Open Mic** – Invitation for attendees to share their stories
- 12:30 PM – **Closing Remarks**