



## Here are some tips from Vermont on getting more local groups to send representatives to statewide board meetings and activities.

**Green Mountain Self-Advocates has 10 statewide meetings a year. Many times, we get 50 to 60 people. Overall about 18 of our 23 local groups send representatives to these statewide meetings on a regular basis.** People First of New Hampshire asked us to share ideas about getting people to attend our meetings.

Four of our statewide meetings are mandatory for board members to attend. Here are some ways that we keep our attendance high.



We reimburse mileage for transportation to and from our meetings.



Buy lunch for those who come.

We meet when people have staff so they have support to get to the meetings.



We offer people rides to and from our meetings when we can.

We make the meetings fun by beginning with ice breaker



We keep the meeting engaging by having people break into small groups to work on projects.



We end our meetings with a “hot seat in the middle” activity. This is where one person sits in the middle and people get to ask questions of them. This helps people get to know each other.

We send out flyers listing the dates of all of our meetings with the official meetings highlighted through email and post office mail.



We call our board members and allies the week before a meeting to remind them about the meeting.

It's best to keep meetings interactive and as entertaining as possible.