

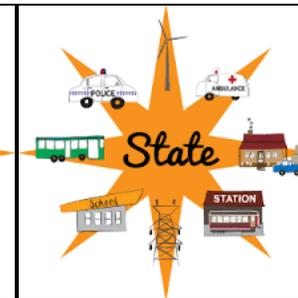


# Advocates in Action



# “Invisible No More”

*Using Strong Relationships To Improve Policy  
Self Advocates Guide to Working with Policy Makers*



for SARTAC  Oct 2018

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## Tips for Thanking Policy Makers

A statement of appreciation for meeting with you

### Example:

Dear (Title & Name):

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ I am writing to thank you for your time to understand my concerns for others in our community.

I would to learn more about how you plan to address the concerns regarding \_\_\_\_\_ in our community and how I can help you.

( Your Name): \_\_\_\_\_

(Address): \_\_\_\_\_

(Email): \_\_\_\_\_



Thank You

## *Sample Letter to Introduce Yourself to Policymakers*

Dear Support Brokers, Self- Advocacy Groups and Agencies,  
My name is Kevin Greenstein. I am contacting you because I am developing a project, in conjunction with SANYS, to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. This project will be funded through a SARTAC fellowship. The title of the project is ***“Invisible No More: Using Strong Relationships To Improve Policy.”***

My project seeks to provide tools to support self-advocates to understand politics and develop strong relationships with legislators regardless of barriers related to disability. My goal is train small teams of self-advocate leaders in each assembly district on Long Island to become stronger advocates around policies impacting people with developmental and other disabilities. These teams will develop relationships and become sounding boards for policy makers when considering policies related to disability issues.

I need your help to make this project a success and help interested people get within the disability community to get I involved. Your support is crucial in the expansions of this project.

***Thank you for all your help.***

Sincerely,

Kevin Greenstein

**HELLO**– My name is Kevin Greenstein:

I would like to welcome you to: **“Invisible No More— Using Strong Relationships to Improve Policy”** presentation.

In 2018, I applied and received a SARTAC Fellowship. A SARTAC Fellowship is a one year self advocacy project. The project should help the fellow grow their own skills as a leader. The project might work on finding new ideas to help solve problems many people have. I chose to teach others how to advocate and connect with their legislators. I feel it is vital that we are able to connect self advocates with politicians in our communities.

Over the last year, I have developed this guide and PowerPoint as a guide to learn to have a productive meeting with your Policymaker. I hope my guide and PowerPoint empowers you to make an appointment with your Policymaker to let your voice be heard. Below is my contact information, please feel free to reach out to me if you are interested in having me present at your group or organization. Also, check YouTube and my other links listed below

Thank you. Now let’s get started.

Email: **kevingpw@outlook.com**

YouTube:

(Other links??)



**DO: Be Prepared – Know your issue; have your questions prepared.**



**DO: Be respectful; - Be on time; Be aware of your body language!!**



**Do: Dress appropriately.**



## *Checklist to Organize Yourself:*

- Make an appointment
- Prepare questions and information about your issue
- Plan time
- Arrange transportation
- Confirm appointment
- Review Do's & Don'ts
- Send thank you after meeting



## Appendix:

- Sample Letter
- Sample Thank You Letter
- Checklists

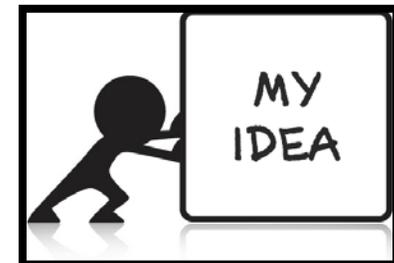
**DO:** Be aware of how much time you have.



**DO:** Use personal stories to highlight your issue.



**DO:** Be open to new ideas and suggestions.





**DON'T:** Expect instant results!!



**DON'T:** Be afraid to say I don't know.



**DON'T:** Interrupt the legislator or your fellow self-advocates.



**DON'T:** Think your solution is the only one.



**5. Take action**



**6. Celebrate every victory**



### 3. Make contacts



### 4. Make a plan

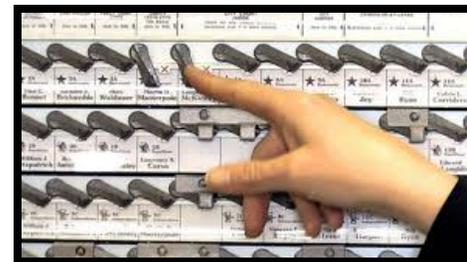


## What's Happening in Your Community?

*Identify Problem:*

**Issue:** I worked on making voting machines more accessible because I couldn't fill out the ballot manually.

**Outcome:** Due to my efforts, there was a statewide extension of old voting machines in non-partisan elections.

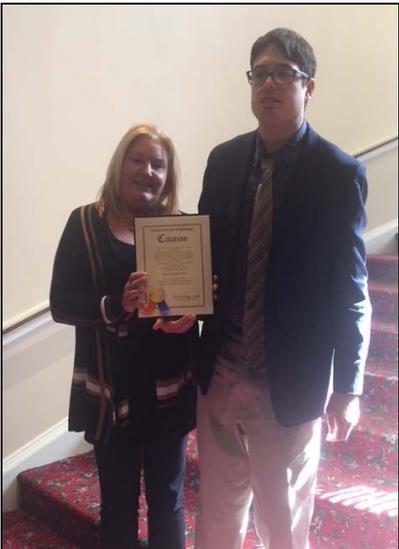


## *Lunch n Learn:* Connecting with Policymakers



*Kevin Greenstein*  
*Juan Vides-2018 candidate for the NYS Assembly*

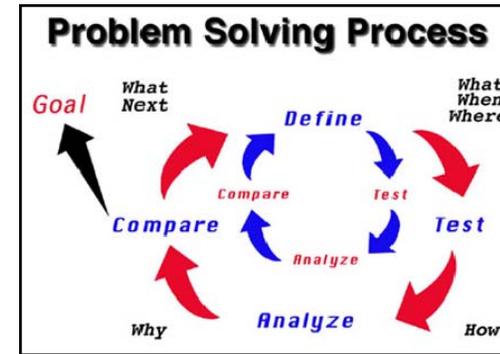
*Kevin receiving Citation from Toni Kessel, Legislative Aide to Delia DeRiggs-Whitton, Nassau County Legislator District 11*



*Citation received by Kevin from Delia DeRicci-Whitton, Nassau County, Legislator District 11*



## Steps to Effective Advocacy



**1. Identify the current problem**



**2. Look at the problem from another person's point of view**