



The Riot!?



A National E-Newsletter from the Self-Advocate Leadership Network at HSRI

Burning with Love
for The Riot!?



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Dear Riot! Reader,

We need your help! We know you love **The Riot!** You love the opportunities **The Riot!** gives self-advocates to speak up on timely issues. You also love the opportunity it gives others to learn firsthand what self-advocates are thinking. We bet too that **The Riot!** also makes you laugh now and again. Admit it. It does. But now we need your support.

During this Valentine season we are offering you an opportunity to become a part of **The Riot!** family. Show us how much you care! Be our Valentine! You can become a member by paying an annual subscription. Members will receive special benefits for joining **The Riot!** (see chart) If becoming a member of **The Riot!** family is not for you, you can become a supporter by making a one-time contribution to us. Both your subscription and one-time contribution are tax-exempt.

What is the Riot!?

The Riot! started as an e-newsletter compiled largely by self-advocates for self-advocates. It comes out four times a year. It's free and reaches thousands of people in the United States and countries around the world.

We cover topics that are important to self-advocates. Sometimes, an issue speaks directly to self-advocates. Remember that issue on eating well and exercising? Other times, an issue takes on a tough topic that is not so easy to talk about such as sheltered work, relationships or the "R-Word".

In every issue, we use humor to make you smile or help explore a tough topic. We also include fun stuff like puzzles, cartoons and advice columns. There is also an *Action Page* with suggestions for things to do during a self-advocacy meeting.

The Riot! webpage offers a *Fun Page*. You can find us on *Facebook*. We produced, for free, several *Jabbers* games for self-advocates. We sponsored three *National Conversation Series* teleconferences. The most recent series on "intimate relationships" was a wild success.

The e-newsletter and our other products inform self-advocates and develop leadership skills cost efficiently. It also gives parents, teachers, support staff and others a good look inside of self-advocacy. [The Riot!](#) is [an essential source of information for self-advocates and others.](#)

How Are The Riot! and Its Products Put Together?

The Riot! and its products are a voluntary effort! Self-advocate editors guide production of the newsletter. The articles and columns are written by self-advocates from the United States and sometimes from other countries. Other Riot! products are produced with the same emphasis on self-advocate leadership.

Planning, producing and publishing The Riot! and its products requires time and other resources. All these efforts are supported by the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). Additionally, we pay a very small number of our contributors a fee for their efforts. We do NOT have any government or private grant funding to offset our expenses. HSRI is a private, not-for-profit agency that relies on outside funding for its work. As a result, we need you support.

How Can YOU Help?

Our goal this year is to collect **\$10,000** to offset our annual expenses. That is **\$10,000** to produce and bring you four amazing, new issues of The Riot! and all its other products. Please help us reach our goal by subscribing to a membership or making a one-time contribution.

To become a member of The Riot! family or make a one-time contribution use **PayPal** or the **Member Form** provided. Or go to our website www.theriotrocks.org and follow the directions there. Depending on the membership level you select you will receive several benefits including discounts on Riot! products and an annual Status Report on Self-Advocacy (see chart.)

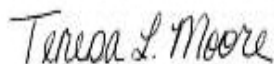
What will we do with your contributions? We are particularly interested in using your subscription and contribution to:

- Pay our freelance self-advocate writers a fee for their efforts! After all, they do give us their expertise and we want to continue to attract talent to maintain the quality you expect.
- Pay for marketing and distribution costs such the internet service that we use so you can receive The Riot! every quarter.
- Continue to develop quality products that you have begun to associate with The Riot!
- Expand the reach of The Riot! across North America and to countries around the world.
- Support our editors to complete activities so you can continue to learn from their personal experiences through The Riot!

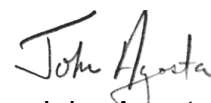
To achieve these goals we need your help. We realize that you are contacted by many organizations asking for support. However, your support is needed more now than ever.

We are a non-profit organization making a difference in the lives of many. Please return the enclosed form with your subscription or contribution to The Riot! today. You can also visit our website www.theriotrocks.org. With your help we can continue this important learning opportunity for self-advocates and their allies. Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,



Teresa Moore
Chief Editor of The Riot!



John Agosta
Vice-President of HSRI