

AMSTERDAM

Liberty ARC employee receives national award

Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, recently announced that employee Samantha Anthony was named the 2023 New York State Direct Support Professional (DSP) of the Year by The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR).

ANCOR is a national organization focused on federal policy and shared solutions to strengthen the ability of community-based providers to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Direct Support Professional Recognition Award is given to those who personify the values of ANCOR's National Advocacy Campaign, which works to ensure a well-trained and sustainable direct support workforce. Nominees are judged on the work they've done to build social networks, substantive community participation, and advocating for the people they serve.

"Liberty ARC is extremely proud of Samantha being recognized by ANCOR as their 2023 NYS DSP," said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders in the release. "Samantha is an outstanding employee who has truly made a lasting and significant impact in the lives of the people she supports. Creating meaningful relationships with the people she supports is at the core of her work. Every day, she takes a person-centered

approach with the families she is working with, always taking the time to understand the goals and desires of the people she supports. Samantha exemplifies the importance of a direct support professional."

Anthony has worked as a DSP in Liberty ARC's Family Support Services (FSS) program for the three years. Anthony was nominated by a fellow employee and was highlighted as a staff member "deserving of this award due to her dedication, leadership and advocacy, and her constantly going above and beyond for the people she supports."

"I can't believe it," Anthony said in a news release. "As it has set in that I am receiving this recognition, I feel so grateful and honored to receive such a wonderful award. I am flooded with so many emotions as my love for helping others is being recognized. I remember as a young girl is when I first found joy in helping others."

Anthony has supported a woman so she could build the skills necessary to have more independence to make her own medical appointments and to oversee all aspects of her medications. Anthony has also used her connections at a local food bank to find meaningful volunteer work for people she supports, and worked with a man and his elderly mother so they can continue to live in their

family home together.

"I love being a DSP because it is very rewarding to go to work every day and work with the people I support through FSS," Anthony said. "I am always looking for different ways to empower people. In Family Support we get to work with families and build meaningful relationships with not just the people we support, but their loved ones as well. We get to also see the people we support in different settings, including in their home and their community. I love the way the people I support make me laugh and smile through our adventures, and in turn do the same for them."

Direct Support Professionals provide a rich mosaic of daily support services for many Americans with disabilities. DSPs play an important role in the lives of the people they assist. They are there to listen, encourage, and support people to lead full and independent lives. Since 2007, ANCOR has honored exceptional Direct Support Professionals with this award for exemplary work in furthering community inclusion and full participation for the many Americans living with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities.

"For 17 years now, ANCOR has presented the Direct Support Professional of the Year Awards



PHOTO PROVIDED

Liberty ARC Direct Support Professional Samantha Anthony was named the 2023 New York State Direct Support Professional of the Year by The American Network of Community Options and Resources.

to recognize the outstanding professionals who power community inclusion for people with [intellectual and developmental disabilities]," said Barbara Merrill, CEO for ANCOR, in the release. "The outstanding DSPs being honored this year deliver life-enhancing supports amid no shortage of significant challenges, not the least of which is a long-standing crisis in the ability of providers to recruit and retain qualified DSPs. Through it all, these professionals demonstrate an unwavering commitment to

community inclusion and to the people they support. That's why we feel honored to celebrate Samantha and more than to other DSPs who exemplify excellence in our field."

Families have told FSS employees "how proud they are of their child's accomplishments and how it was Anthony's support that helped them get there." On Wednesday, ANCOR will present Anthony with the Direct Support Professional of the Year Award at its annual conference in Chicago.

Tuesday, April 25

OPPENHEIM SPECIAL MEETING

ST. JOHNSTOWN — The Town of Oppenheim will hold a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. on April 25 at 110 Route 331 to discuss the new Town Hall Project. For information, call 518-568-2837.

WILDLIFE MONITORING PROGRAM

FORT HUNTER — The Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site will host a presentation on the wildlife monitoring program at 6:30 p.m. on April 25 in the Enders House

adjacent to the Schoharie Crossing Visitor Center, 129 Schoharie St. Associate Director Sarah Walsh will share results from a collaborative study with The Nature Conservancy of the Mohawk Valley. Free and open to the public. For information, call 518-829-7516, email SchoharieCrossing@parks.ny.gov, or visit our Facebook page.

JOB FAIR

JOHNSTOWN — A community job fair will be held from noon to 3 p.m. on April 25 at the Fulton Montgomery Community College gymnasium, 2805 State Hwy 67. Over 50 employers will attend. Bring copies of your resume

and dress for success. For information, visit fmcc.link/FMCCJobFair

Wednesday, April 26

SOLOS SUPPORT GROUP

AMSTERDAM — Survivor Of a Loved One's Suicide (SOLOS) will meet from 7-8:30 p.m. on April 26 at St. Mary's Hospital, 427 Guy Park Ave. Open to all family and friends struggling with a loss. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. For information, call or text Bob Martin at 518-448 4679 or rmartin5@nycap.rr.com.

JOHNSTOWN BOE SPECIAL MEETING

JOHNSTOWN — The Greater Johnstown School District Board of Education will hold a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. on April 26 in the Knox Building Auditorium, 400 S. Perry St. Open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

LIBRARY BOARD MEETS

AMSTERDAM — The Amsterdam Free Library Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. on April 26 at the library, 28 Church St. For information, call 518-842-1080.

IN-PERSON TAX PAYMENTS

AMSTERDAM — The Greater Amsterdam School District will be accepting in-person GASD tax payments from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. on April 26 at the District Office/CAB Wing, 140 Saratoga Ave. NO CASH will be collected. Personal checks and money orders made payable to GASD or Greater Amsterdam School District will be accepted. For information, <https://www.gasd.org/>.

PHOTO CLUB MEETING

GALWAY — The Galway Photography Club will

meet at 6 p.m. on April 26 at the Galway Public Library, 2112 East St. Linda E. Eastman will present session one of a two-part workshop on Texture Art in processing photographic images. Handouts will be available to attendees. Linda will present part two at the May meeting. Anyone interested in photography and improving their technical and artistic skills regardless of experience level is encouraged to attend. For information, contact Dave Waite at davewaitefinearts@gmail.com.

CANJO BOE SPECIAL MEETING

CANAJOHARIE — The Canajoharie School District Board of Education will have a special meeting at 7:45 a.m. on April 26 in the Canajoharie High School conference room, 136 Scholastic Way for the purpose of voting on the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery Board of Cooperative Educational Services annual budget.

MAYFIELD BOE SPECIAL MEETING

MAYFIELD — The Mayfield Central School District will hold a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. on April 26 in the Junior/Senior High School Library, 27 School St.

B-P SPECIAL MEETING

BROADALBIN — The Board of Education of the Broadalbin-Perth Central School District will hold a special meeting at 8 a.m. on April 26 to vote on the HFM BOCES budget and board member election at the district office, 20 Pine St.

GESD REGULAR MEETING

GLOVERSVILLE — The Gloversville Enlarged School District Board of Education regular meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on April 26 in the BOE conference room, 199 Lincoln St. A link to the meeting will be provided at <https://www.gesdkl2.org/>.

FFCS BOARD TO HOST SPECIAL MEETING

FONDA — The Fonda-Fultonville Central School District Board of Education will hold a special meeting at 9 a.m. on April 26 in the Superintendent's Office, 112 Old Johnstown Road to vote on the HFM BOCES administrative budget and board election.

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 April 27 – 28
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PUSHY SLAM
 Neither vulnerable, West deals

NORTH
 ♠ Q 8 3
 ♥ A 4
 ♦ A Q 10 8 4
 ♣ A K 5

WEST **EAST**
 ♠ K 10 7 5 ♠ 4
 ♥ K J 9 ♥ Q 10 8 6 5 3 2
 ♦ 3 ♦ J 9 6
 ♣ J 10 8 2 ♣ 9 6

SOUTH
 ♠ A J 9 6 2
 ♥ 7
 ♦ K 7 5 2
 ♣ 7 4 3

The bidding:
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 1♣ Dbl 1♥ 2♠
 Pass 3♣ Pass 4♦
 Pass 5NT Pass 6♦
 All pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♥

This was the bidding during a recent tournament in Australia. It seems a bit pushy to us, starting with West's opening bid, but it resulted in an excellent slam contract.

South won the opening heart lead with dummy's ace and drew trumps in three rounds, ending in his hand. He led a low spade to dummy's

queen as West correctly ducked his king. South led a low spade from dummy and was disappointed to see East show out. Declarer played the nine of spades from his hand, losing to West's 10. West continued hearts, ruffed in hand, and South had a problem. He could ruff a spade to set up the fifth spade, but he could no longer get back to it. Instead, he led a club to dummy's ace and cashed a high trump. This was the position:

NORTH
 ♠ 8
 ♥ Void
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K 5

EAST
 ♠ Void
 ♥ Q 10 8
 ♦ Void
 ♣ 9

SOUTH
 ♠ A J 6
 ♥ Void
 ♦ Void
 ♣ 7

South led dummy's last diamond, discarding a spade, and West could not defend the position. West chose to discard a club, so South led a spade to his ace. He led a club back to dummy's king and cashed the five of clubs for his twelfth trick. Well done!

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