

John Murphy, Lincoln, Nebraska

May 2023

I was hired by Disability Rights Nebraska (Nebraska Advocacy Services at the time) in 1985 as Program Consultant for Citizen Advocacy offices. Later that summer, several Nebraska coordinators, the Deputy Director at Disability Rights at that time, and I traveled to Syracuse to attend a workshop of Wolf's titled, "Fidelity to the Citizen Advocacy Principles."

At the request of Wolf and/or Nancy Wolfensberger, I assumed an organizing role for four events held in Nebraska, including the 1990 Citizen Advocacy World Congress in Lincoln, the 30 Year Citizen Advocacy Conference in Omaha in 2000, two special Citizen Advocacy workshops offered by the TI for state leaders and policy makers & parents, and the 2014 Citizen Advocacy Get Together, held at the request of Susan Thomas and Margaret Wolfensberger to use the remaining funds from the Citizen Advocacy Fund to underwrite costs for attendees.

Wolf's work has had a huge impact on my life both personally and professionally. Wolf's work has played an enormous role in helping me form a strong foundation of understanding on which the work I support is based. Without it, Citizen Advocacy would not exist. Wolf's work has provided me with clarity and a depth of knowledge for which I am and will always be grateful.

At the 1st (SRV) International Conference (Ottawa 1994), Wolf responded to a critique from one of the attendees who suggested that vulnerable people gather together in a coalition and storm the castle - my interpretation. The way Wolf responded is something I will never forget. He said that anyone who thinks that you can kick sand at the power structure and not thinking that the boot will come down and crush you and everyone around you, are fooling themselves. He referenced the rise of fascism, militarism, and authoritarianism in Europe before World War II. I was in awe of the power and clarity of his response and I will never forget it.

As the Values-Based Director at Disability Rights Nebraska, it is my job to incorporate values-based training into the work I support. Since 1985, Nebraska Citizen Advocacy Coordinators, board members and people involved in Citizen Advocacy relationships have been given opportunities to attend values-based workshops in Nebraska and throughout North America. It is a required part of training for new and established coordinators. In 2006, we began working on a project to expand the training that until that time, was offered only to people involved in Citizen Advocacy. The Nebraska

Values-Based Education Coalition was formed. We have worked closely with Darcy Elks to plan and expand the workshops that are offered. In addition to annual Social Role Valorization workshops, the Coalition has organized two PASSING workshops, a number of Power of Roles Workshops, and two Institutes providing attendees with examples of supports that are authentic and inclusive. As you can see, values-based training is a central component of my work.