



Each quarter, LARADON'S newsletter will bring you information about returning to work, navigating your benefits, and community resources. If you have an idea for a newsletter topic, we want to hear from you!

October – December 2017

DID YOU KNOW? October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Where we've been.....

- **1920** saw the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- On **August 11, 1945**, President Harry S. Truman approves a Congressional resolution declaring the first week in October "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week."
- Congress passes the **Vocational Rehabilitation Amendments of 1954**, increasing the scope of the VR system. Targeting people who could proceed or return to work with assistance, VR helps thousands of people obtain employment.
- Congress passed the **Social Security Amendments of 1956**, which created the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program for workers with disabilities aged 50 to 64.
- **December 1999**, President Bill Clinton signs the **Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act**, which aims to create a more secure financial and healthcare framework so that more Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries can move toward financial independence through work without fear of losing needed supports.

See the full timeline here: <https://www.dol.gov/featured/ada>

What can you do to raise awareness?

Talk to your employer and coworkers about your success story and encourage your employer to hire others with disabilities. Use social media to tell your story and encourage others to return to work. Tell others about Ticket to Work, VR, the workforce centers, and other agencies which can assist in returning to work.



TICKET HOLDER SPOTLIGHT

Rewarding beneficiaries for submitting paystubs has been wildly popular! It is great to hear from you, see the paystubs roll in, and notice those raises. Laradon is still eager to reward for:

- ❖ Submitting all paystubs throughout the quarter for work above SGA (\$1170/mo. gross)
- ❖ Graduation from the TTW program
- ❖ Attaining benefits cessation
- ❖ For those who are self-employed, send us a copy of your quarterly income document demonstrating work above SGA.

SLIGHT CHANGE: Unfortunately, SSA no longer allows us to reward for obtaining a new job or receiving a promotion. ☹ We'll come up with another way to earn a gift card reward.

SUCCESS STORY

SSA's Choose Work website contains an encouraging story from a beneficiary who grew up living in foster homes, found successful employment, and then was involved in a serious car accident leading to many years of rehabilitation. Her story describes her return to work and how her EN assisted in the process.

Read the full story here: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/library/sandy-success-story>

Let us know if you would like to submit your success story to be highlighted in one of our quarterly newsletters. If your story is chosen to be included in a newsletter, you will receive a \$25 gift card.

July – September 2017 \$25 gift card summary

- 7 People reported income above SGA for the entire quarter
- 1 Person is now off benefits

SHARPENING YOUR SKILLS – Interview Preparation

Employers will generally ask behavioral interview questions from approximately ten different categories. Your job is to think about specific situations from your past that fall into these ten categories. Use varied examples to cover aspects of your education, work experiences, and community involvement. Consider specific experiences from your past that will likely address the interviewer's behavioral questions. Be specific and on point. This worksheet can be a useful tool in organizing your thoughts prior to your interview.

STAR stands for Situation, Task, Action and Result. Create talking points for each of the following areas. Have an example where you have exhibited the following qualities:

Leadership Situation: Task: Action: Result:	Goal Setting Situation: Task: Action: Result:
Teamwork Situation: Task: Action: Result:	Problem Solving Situation: Task: Action: Result:
Conflict Situation: Task: Action: Result:	Organization Situation: Task: Action: Result:

HOLIDAY STRESS

The next few months can be super exciting and fun for many, but not everyone experiences it that way. Planning gatherings, eating and drinking more than we are used to, remembering loved ones who have passed, time with family and friends, and loneliness can all be a part of the holiday months. Make time to take care of yourself and reach out to those around you who may be struggling.

YOUR TICKET TEAM WISHES YOU ALL A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON.