

I was born in Hanover, NH in August 1964 with a degenerative birth defect and grew up in Wilder, VT. While I used leg braces and crutches when I was younger, I have been a wheelchair user since 1985.

My family (Wagoner's, Warren's, Batchelder's, and Libby's) have lived in the Upper Valley area for generations and are known in one way or another to many local residents. I have been married for nearly 19 years to my wife Chris and we have two young children. Our son is in 5th grade at the Hanover Street School and our daughter attends pre-school in Lebanon. I enjoy travel, American history, target shooting, and barbershop quartet harmony. People seem to remember me for my relaxed, welcoming personality and offbeat humor.

I worked in retail and was a disc jockey on WTSL-AM for a short time before landing in the law enforcement field in 1982. While I was unable to become a patrol officer with my physical disability, I found my niche as a Communications Officer with the Hartford, VT Police Department. Over my 25+ year career I also worked for the Woodstock, VT Communications Center and the Vermont State Police.

I have worked for the Hanover, NH Police Department as a communications officer since 1985. The center provides emergency dispatch services for 22 Towns and 56 agencies in both Vermont and New Hampshire covering an area of over 900 square miles. I am a communications training officer, a critical incident stress debriefer, and the department's webmaster and ADA coordinator.

I began my political life in 1992 when I ran for the Vermont legislature, losing by a slim margin to the long time incumbent. The following year I ran for a position on the Hartford, VT Select Board and served two terms from 1993 – 1998. During my term on the board we handled matters related to solid waste disposal, storm water separation, waste water treatment, road maintenance, public safety and all of the other day to day operations of a thriving community. I have a proven record of fiscal responsibility and using good old fashioned New England common sense when making decisions that I feel are in the best interest of my constituents.

I have experience on both sides of the Labor/Management table having administered contracts on the management side as a Selectman and on the labor side as the president of the Hanover, NH Police Union.

I am a nationally recognized expert in the areas of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Accessibility and Disability Policy. Upon passage of the ADA in 1990 I was specifically selected by the US Department of Justice and the EEOC to be 1 of only 150 people nationwide to receive a two-part training as an ADA Compliance Consultant and Mediator taught by the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF).

I am a NASA trainer and offer ADA compliance training to businesses and specific trainings for Law Enforcement agencies on the ADA and interacting with people with disabilities both as complainants and arrestees. I have acted as an expert witness for several national law firms in ADA cases.

In June 1992, I provided testimony before the United States Senate related to ADA Implementation and Disability Policy and in 1993 was asked to participate in "People First – A Report to the President". I am a member of the National ADA Training and Implementation Network and serve as Adjunct Professor with Round Table Group, a Washington, DC think tank.

I have several published articles and two textbooks on the issues of the ADA and disability policy. I have also been interviewed by the *LA Times*, the *ABC Nightly News*, *Forbes Small Business Magazine*, *FORTUNE Small Business Magazine*, the *EEOC Review* and *Commercial Builder/Architect Magazine*.

I have been a Cub Scout Wolf Pack Leader, raised funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and pushed my wheelchair 26 miles, from downtown Hanover to the Lyme Town common and back along US Rt. 10, as part of the Norris Cotton Cancer Center Prouty Ride. I've served on many local, State and National committees and boards over the years and believe strongly in contributing to my community.

Positions:

I am a solid supporter of the rights of law abiding citizens under the second amendment of the US Constitution as well as the rights under our own NH State Constitution.

I respect the dedication and sacrifices made by our public safety professionals and the men and women who serve in our military.

I believe in a return to fiscal conservatism at the State level. We need to control spending or we will break the backs of our hardworking property owners. Perhaps our current national administration will follow our example before they indenture our children and grandchildren into a life of excessive taxation to pay for the out of control, trillion dollar level of spending that they call stimulus.

I support Personal Freedom and Personal Responsibility. A recent Gallup poll found that 51% of Americans thought that BIG GOVERNMENT was the largest threat to our country.

If you have specific questions about specific issues please feel free to contact me at:

rgw@nh3766.com or 1.603.443.1603