

# The Sixth Annual Twilight Gala

March 7th, 2015

6:30 PM - Midnight

Aqua Turf Club



Sponsored by

**NSCIA Connecticut Chapter**

## 2015 TWILIGHT GALA EVENT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The Event is from 6:30 PM - Midnight

- 6:30 PM Registration starts, Silent Auction bidding starts,  
Appetizers are brought around 6:30 PM to bidders, bar is open.
- 8:00 PM Close Auction, Dinner service begins
- 8:05 PM **Bill Mancini**, NSCIA CT President's Welcome
- 8:10 PM Guest Speaker, **Darren Jernigan**
- 8:30 PM Live Auction during dinner, Hosted by ESPN's **Jay Harris**
- 9:30 PM Close of dinner, purchase silent auction items, dancing begins
- 12:00 AM Stop Music & Close Event

### 2015 Twilight Gala Committee

**Raymond Gorneault**  
Gala Co-Chairman

**Joseph Uccello**  
Gala Co-Chairman

Tim Fournier

Bill Mancini

Diana Pernigotti

Mitchell Pearlman

Susan Pearlman

Dr Subramani Seetharama

Bryan Tronosky

Jenna Murphy

Gina Mancini

## **WHO WE ARE:**

- We are individuals with spinal cord injuries and/or spinal cord injury related diseases.
- We are family members and friends of persons with spinal cord injuries.
- We are professionals in various related fields striving to improve the quality of life for persons with spinal cord injuries.

Our purpose is to help persons with spinal cord injury and/or disease restructure and rebuild their lives. We offer the experiences and support of persons who successfully live with spinal cord injury. We can provide an individual with information regarding spinal cord injury. We want to help you learn to live with the extensive changes you will experience at home, at work, at school and in various relationships with others.

The Connecticut Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association is part of a nationwide network of people committed to: Providing better services to individuals, families and communities to assist persons with spinal cord injuries. Prevention activities and campaigns to reduce the incidents that cause spinal cord injuries. Supporting research aimed at improving the quality of medical care and eventually a cure for paralysis.

The Chapter is committed to ensuring anyone with a spinal cord injury has the opportunity for a full, meaningful, independent and active life.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

### **NSCIA CT Chapter**

Call 203-284-2910

Email [nsciact@gmail.com](mailto:nsciact@gmail.com)

Website [www.sciact.org](http://www.sciact.org)

## **GOALS:**

### **SUPPORT & SHARING**

We share our experiences and ideas with each other through community support groups. Through our Peer Assistance Program, spinal cord injured persons who have successfully coped with the results of their injuries assist newly injured individuals and their families adjust to changes in their lifestyle.

### **RESOURCES**

We provide information about specific programs and services available to spinal cord injured persons. Use our Connecticut Resource Directory as a helpful resource. We also provide a quarterly membership newsletter, The ConnCord. We also have a website available to all interested parties, [www.sciact.org](http://www.sciact.org).

### **COMMUNITY AWARENESS & PREVENTION**

We share information on spinal cord injury and its impact on a person's lifestyle. Our Stop Trauma Program explains the causes and consequences of spinal cord and acquired brain injury. This program is available to those interested on request to educators who want to bring the message of trauma prevention into the classroom.

### **EDUCATION**

We sponsor and support informational seminars for persons with spinal cord injury and/or related diseases, health care professionals and the general public addressing issues of spinal cord injury.

### **ADVOCACY & LEGISLATION**

We fight for the rights of present and future spinal cord injured persons and their families. We inform newly injured individuals of these rights.

## Special Guest Emcee: Tim Lammers



Tim Lammers is an Anchor for the Fox CT Morning News, Monday-Friday mornings from 4-10am.

Tim came to FoxCT in 2002 as a Sports Producer and never left. Since then, he has filled the roles of Anchor, Reporter, Producer and Videographer in the Sports Department, as well as being a News Feature and Health Reporter. His business cards used to be huge.

Tim's main beat in the Sports Department was following the UConn Football program's rise to national respectability, including the school's first-ever BCS Bowl berth in the 2011 Fiesta Bowl in Glendale, AZ.

He also covered the UConn Men's Basketball team's third National Championship at the 2012 Final Four in Houston, TX.

As a health reporter, Tim turned the camera around to do an Emmy-nominated story about his own challenge of finding a treatment for Avascular Necrosis, a rare degenerative bone disease he has. The story culminated in Tim going under the knife, on camera, to receive a cutting-edge stem cell transplant using his own bone marrow. Since then, he has received a constant response from the story, as people all over the world have contacted him to find out more about the procedure and the disease.

Tim grew up in South Windsor, and graduated from Syracuse University. A Central Connecticut "townie" if there ever was one, Tim considers a road trip to be driving 15 minutes to visit his father in Ellington. He is currently single, and lives in Manchester, 10 minutes away from where he grew up. In his spare time, he golfs horribly.

## Special Guest Auctioneer: Jay Harris



Jay Harris joined ESPN in February 2003 as an ESPNEWS and SportsCenter anchor. In August 2006, Harris was named anchor of the 6 p.m. ET edition of SportsCenter, ESPN's flagship sports news and information program. Harris has more than 14 years experience in television and radio news, including morning news anchor at WAMO-FM and national news at American Urban Radio Networks, both in Pittsburgh, and at WOWI-FM in Norfolk, Virginia.

His work outside of sports included the trapped coal miners near Pittsburgh, and, while in Virginia, the fatal USS Iowa battleship explosion. Among his other honors, Harris was part of SportsCenter's Sports Emmy-winning efforts in 2004 and 2005, and a recipient of the Silver World Medal from the New York Festival Awards, Robert L. Vann Award from the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation, and an EXCEL Award from the Hampton Roads Black Media Professionals.

## Tonight's Special Guest Speaker: Darren Jernigan



Darren Jernigan was born on Keesler Air Force base in Biloxi, Mississippi in 1969 and moved to Tennessee shortly after six months later. He moved into the Hermitage/Old Hickory area with his family in 1979. He comes from a family rich in military history. His great grandfather sent five sons to serve in WWII, his father in Vietnam, and his brother serving in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Darren grew up all over District 60 and has been a resident over 35 years.

He attended Dodson Elementary in Hermitage before transferring to DuPont Elementary in Old Hickory in 1981. Darren continued through the public school system at DuPont Hadley, DuPont High School, and graduating the 2nd class from Hunters Lane High School in 1988, shortly after DuPont High School closed. Darren's higher education continued at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN where he received degrees in Political Science and Public Relations.

During his sophomore year at Austin Peay, Darren was injured in an automobile accident while riding in the backseat leaving him paralyzed from the chest down. He fought through his rehabilitation for two years before returning back to school. Overcoming challenges has become a way of life for Darren.

Upon graduation, Darren moved to Washington D.C. to learn the mechanics of government working at the US Department of State and Congress. In 1997, Darren returned home to begin work on his Masters degree in Criminal Justice at Middle Tennessee State University. While attending school he worked at the Veterans Administration in the Division of Public Relations. Darren received his MCJ in May of 2000.

In 2001 Darren was appointed Commissioner of the Old Hickory Utility District where he served for six years. In 2002 Darren was elected as the Democratic Committeeman for District 11. Shortly after, in 2007 he was elected to the Metro Nashville City Council representing the Hermitage and Old Hickory area in District 11. After being elected to the Tennessee State House of Representatives in 2012, Darren resigned his seat on the Metro Council.

Darren is married to Michelle Morse Jernigan with four lovely children; Harris, Elise, Amanda and Claire. All four children are proud students within the Nashville public school system. The family attends Hermitage Church of the Nazarene.



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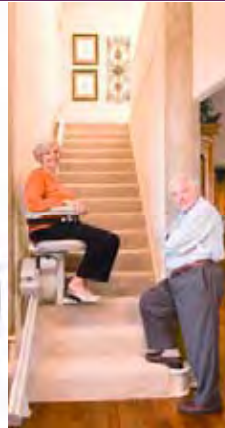
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thank you all for attending the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Twilight Gala and Auction to benefit the National Spinal Cord Injury Association, Connecticut Chapter. I was President a few years back and am looking forward to setting the Chapter in a positive direction in the coming years.

This year the board of directors is looking to continuing successful fundraising events, i.e., the Golf Tournament and Gala. However, we are also looking to build on our stable of support and resources that have made this Chapter a national role model.

We are in the process of scheduling a peer assistance training program and reorganizing it to make it more effective and open to newly injured individuals. In addition, we will be adding a support group in the Fairfield County area. The Powerful Tools for Caregivers program continues to hold training classes for family members who also struggle. We also plan on republishing the Resource Directory, and each NSCIA CT member will receive an updated issue.

I encourage all of you to attend our board meetings which meet on the second Wednesday of each month. The Board is looking to expand and has open spots available to those who are interested. Your voice is needed in order to continue providing support. If you would like to be included on our mailing list, please complete the bottom portion and mail to NSCIA CT Chapter, c/o Gaylord Hospital, PO Box 400, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Bill Mancini,  
President

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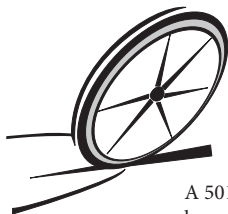
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Co-Chairperson

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**March 12th, 2016**

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