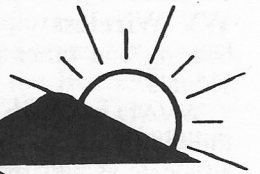




# WVAD Newsletter



Volume 23, No. 4

A Publication of West Virginia Assn. of the Deaf, Inc.

Oct., Nov., Dec., 2002

## West Virginia Wireless Raises Funds for the West Virginia Association of the Deaf



From left to right: Jimmy Harrison, Veronda Harrison, Ty Pennington, Connie Pittman, Doug Wilson, John Burdette.

September 27, 2002, West Virginia Wireless, the region's local wireless provider, is proud to announce it has raised more than \$2,300 at its grand opening celebrations for the West Virginia Association of the Deaf.

As a part of the grand opening events, West Virginia Wireless held two Trading Spaces shows, featuring Doug Wilson and Ty Pennington, where all proceeds from the events were donated to the WVAD.

"The money that was raised during our events is being given to the WVAD to help promote their education and awareness programs for the deaf and hard of hearing. We are proud to be working together with the WVAD and to be able to give something back to our community," said Bob Wilson, General Manager of West Virginia Wireless.

"As a representative of the WVAD, we can't thank West Virginia Wireless enough for letting us be the beneficiary of their generosity. We are so pleased to have formed this partnership and look forward to working closely with West Virginia Wireless," said John Burdette, President of the WVAD.

As part of their partnership, West Virginia Wireless is developing a one price, unlimited messaging plan specifically designed for members of the WVAD. In the same way that West Virginia Wireless encourages all of its customers to design their own rate plans, members of the WVAD will have the ability to add features to their custom-designed rate plan that fit their own unique situations. West Virginia Wireless offers several optional features, such as roadside assistance, and news,

weather and sports updates via text messaging. In addition, West Virginia Wireless will offer the ability to add voice minutes to text messaging rate plans, which might appeal to users sharing their wireless phone with hearing members of their family.

West Virginia Wireless is currently working with members of the WVAD, who are providing input on the rate plans being developed for its members, West Virginia Wireless expects the plans to become available in mid-October.

### About West Virginia Wireless:

West Virginia Wireless was established in 2002 to provide residents in West Virginia with reliable wireless service. The company launched service in the greater Charleston and Huntington areas in August using GSM, the world's leading wireless technology, and will expand coverage to the Beckley and Bluefield markets later this year. West Virginia Wireless offers uncomplicated service plans, and has developed a program in which rate plans can be designed to enhance the unique lifestyle of each customer. For more information about West Virginia Wireless, visit [www.westvirginiawireless.com](http://www.westvirginiawireless.com).

### About West Virginia Association of the Deaf:

The West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) was organized in 1915. It was established and incorporated in 1930 and is one of 51 affiliated state associations. WVAD recognizes ten chapters within the state and is governed by an Executive Board of Directors, who serve on a voluntary basis. Membership includes deaf, hard of hearing, and professionals who work with the deaf and hard of

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## WV Wireless

hearing and other interested individuals.

WVAD serves a wide array of individuals with hearing loss as an advocate as well as an information network. It hosts a State Association Biennial Conference and sends representative(s) to the National Association of the Deaf's Regional and Biennial Conferences to voice concerns gathered from the State Association Biennial Conference. For more information visit <http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh/-wvad>.

## Norma McCarty Czernicki

*Norma McCarty Czernicki attended the West Virginia School for the Deaf from 1946 until 1950. She returned to Romney 19 years later and realized her dream of teaching the deaf. Here, she reflects on her years as a student.*

I was born in Lumberport, Harrison County, to Wayman and Virginia McCarty. My parents owned a small dairy farm a few miles from Lumberport on Nolan's Run. I had two younger hearing sisters, Glenna (now deceased) and Peggy of Mount Clare.

The loss of my hearing started in the third grade. The cause was unknown. By the sixth grade, I had no hearing left. The Lumberport High School principal would not accept me when I finished the sixth grade because I had no lip-reading skills. He felt it would be too hard on his teachers. Therefore, my parents enrolled me at the West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney as a seventh-grade student.

Stanley R. Harris was superintendent of the school at the time. In my opinion, he was a good, strict man who had the schools at heart. He was often seen in the dining room and the school building, checking on things.

There were plenty of activities for the students: hiking, parties, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts,

Covell Literary Society, handicrafts club, Future Homemakers of America, cheerleaders, pep squad, football, softball, basketball. In the fall, the girls walked to a local orchard for apples, at the owner's invitation. In the winter, some of the students ice skated on the dam near the school. It is no longer there.

Once a week, students went shopping downtown. We girls would stop at Hill's Drug Store and purchase ice cream, then sit at the small glass tables, eating and talking. What fun! We also bowled in the old bowling alley in the basement of the Elementary School for the Deaf.

Before entering the West Virginia School for the Deaf, I had never seen the language of signs used. At first, I thought it a strange way to communicate. Then, I realized it was very much needed. It took a while for me to use it. Students and a teacher were willing to help me.

*Norma entered Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., at the age of 16. She graduated from Gallaudet in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in two majors - education and library science. Norma followed her husband to his teaching job in Great Falls, Montana, where she became chief cataloger at the local public library. She later became chief cataloger for the Tennessee Valley Authority libraries in Knoxville, Tennessee.*

*Since returning to Romney in 1969, Norma earned a master's degree in education from Frostburg State University and a master's degree in library science from the University of Kentucky. Retired from her last position at the School for the Deaf, she currently works at the Hampshire County Public Library in Romney.*

*From - Goldenseal Fall 2002*



## West Virginia Association of the Deaf Board Meeting September 28, 2002

Board meeting began at 10:07 a.m. September 28, 2002 at the Nitro of Woman's Club in Nitro, WV.

Present: John Burdette, Jimmy Harrison, Liz Leisure, Donna M Williams, Joey Major, Jr., Charles Tuell, and Clyde Swartz. Visitors: Ruth Tuell, Lucy Towler, Opal Deering, and Veronda Harrison.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as read and revised.

### President's Report

1. WV Wireless donated two large banners to WVAD. John will write a letter thanking them. Open House was held in Huntington and in Charleston on September 22. John Burdette, Jimmy and Veronda Harrison and Donna M. Williams attended. Two TV Personalities from "Trading Spaces" were at the Open House. Doug Wilson and Ty Pennington from the "Trading Spaces" show were at both Open Houses. WVAD sold their pictures for \$5.00 each. WVAD received \$1,117 in Huntington and \$1,199.46 in Charleston - total of \$2,316.46. Veronda presented checks to Liz Leisure for deposit. Jimmy and John have been testing the text message cell phones for a week. WV Wireless hopes to expand throughout the state and help deaf to be the same as hearing people. They also want to provide better rates with more characters for deaf customers because it takes longer to write messages.

2. WV Wireless has done 2 press releases.

3. At the NAD Conference last summer in Washington, DC, there were many events and new cultural arts. Each region met to propose bills for NAD to work on the next two years. Then, these were brought up to the general assembly and the top 20 bills were voted on. The states no longer pay the \$3 quota fee for each member. We now pay only \$100 for affiliate

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*Continued from page 2*

### **Meeting**

fee. Therefore, we will no longer receive the NAD newsletter. We are encouraged to become direct members of NAD to receive the NADMag and NADStates newsletter. The new president of NAD is Kent Kennedy.

4. Charity Reedy Hines and Alex Young resigned from the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Commission will relocate to Charleston when the new executive director is appointed. The announcement for the two positions has been posted in DeafDigest.

5. John received a letter from Federal Communications Commission (FCC) about phones for people with low income.

6. John learned that some states have a relay advisory committee. He wonders if WV should set up a committee. He also announced that we could now use the web relays on the computer free of charge.

7. The third annual Deaf Awareness Day will be October 5th in Romney, WV. John received an e-mail from Doug Godfrey, President of the Alumni Association, asking WVAD to contribute to paying for the Gallaudet Dance Company to come to Romney to perform on Saturday. Next year, Charleston will sponsor the Deaf Awareness Day - possible during the NAD Regional 1 Conference.

8. The WVAD Newsletter is on hold due to budget. John learned that some states have their newsletter via e-mail and renewing membership via e-mail. Perhaps WVAD could consider the same thing to save money.

### **Vice President's Report**

1. Membership drive - we currently have 316 members. We lost 100 members due to people not having enough money to pay \$30 per person. Are we recruiting enough? Is it too much for the people? It costs too much postage to send out reminders. Veronda did put a reminder on those newsletters if it was their last

issues. This helped some.

2. All organizations are past due as affiliates. We need to update the form before sending out for renewal. We need to add that the organization can get tax-exempt certificate.

3. Thinks it would be nice to send the people in WV Wireless a newsletter as our partners.

4. We want to thank interpreters, Connie Pitman and Julie Barie, for interpreting during the WV Wireless VIP Reception and Open House.

### **Secretary's Report**

1. Still working on gathering information from the deaf clubs. Fairmont has requested their names be removed and just add their website. But, Donna feels their name, address, and phone number should still be included for those who do not have a computer. Can add their website. Will update this list as soon as finished getting all new information. Please continue to remind everyone to let Donna know of any changes and about events so to update the web site and distribute to everyone. Donna received a note from Sandy Bragg saying she is no longer the contact person for Wheeling. Trying to find out who the new contact person is. If anyone has a problem with giving the information to Donna, please stress it is to have open communication between all the organizations and ask them to see or talk to Donna.

2. As we know, Charity Hines and Alex Young left the WVCDHH. Donna wrote them an e-mail thanking them for all their work and cooperation with WVAD.

3. Kara Russell from the WVCDHH contacted President John Burdette and Secretary Donna M. Williams about having an interpreting training conference the same time as the WVAD conference. Donna provided the necessary information about the conference in Bluefield on August 2003. After the conference in Flatwoods, Kara informed Donna that the interpreters do not want to go to Bluefield. Perhaps another time when the location is more

convenient.

### **Treasurer's Report**

1. Liz discussed some tax issues. She completed the IRS 990 Form and sent it to IRS. The yearly financial report has been filed with the state tax department.

2. Liz distributed three financial reports - pageant, general, and picnic.

3. WVAD should receive a guarantee check from United Deaf Services about October 15th.

Break at 12:25 p.m. for lunch.

Meeting resumed 1:10 p.m.

### **Trustee's Report - None**

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Pageant:**

1. Donna is still working on getting a place to have the pageant. She has called both the Bluefield High School and the Bluefield State College. Everytime she calls, the person she needs to speak with is out of the office. The college did send her the papers, but it says must have a sponsor who is either an organization or employee of the college. She has been trying to reach them to inquire more about this. She will continue to try to reach the high school.

2. She is also working with Kara Russell and Annette Carey trying to get a list of high schools with deaf kids. Their database includes all teachers - not by grades. We do not want to spend as much money on postage this time. Now, she is trying to get the names of the special education or deaf education coordinator of each county.

3. She is also trying to get a contact person at WVSD, but not having any luck. Will keep trying.

#### **Old Business:**

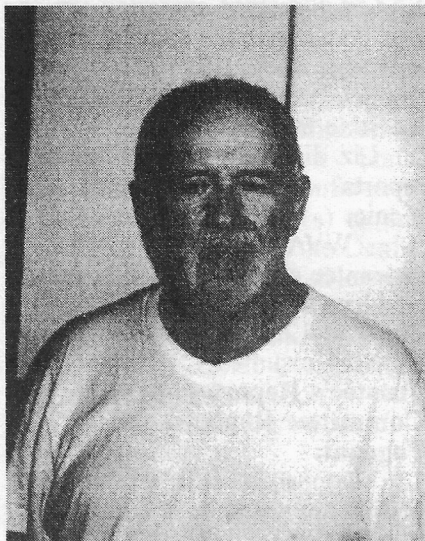
Benefits Planning, Assistance and Outreach (BPAO) Donna contacted some people on the speaker's bureau with the BPAO. They do not normally give presentations on weekends.

Sell T-shirts: Donna went to a place in Romney and got some information about T-shirts. But, since she moved to the Parkersburg area, she prefers to work with someone in that area.

*See More Meeting on page 5*

## Billy Jack Was Found

By Delores Pyles



Last summer we had been asked where Billy Jack Weddington was. We knew the last time that he lived in Belle, WV. When we found out later where in Belle he lived, my husband, Roy E. and I decided to pay him a surprise short visit on August 27, 2002. He still remembered us even when we had not seen each other for many years. I got his permission to share his story with anyone.

Billy Jack was born in Coal Run, KY in 1931 and attended the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville from ages 5 to 10 before moving to Virginia. He graduated from the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Staunton in 1952.

In 1957 Billy Jack married Myrtle Allen, who graduated from the Ohio School for the Deaf in 1955. They had no children. He retired from the West Virginia Printing in Charleston in 1989 to take care of his sick wife, who later died. Since her death, he has hardly seen any deaf person for many years. He does not have a car, TV, TDD, or phone, but he loves to read newspaper to catch up on news, to take a daily walk to the Post Office to pick up his mail, and has gone to the Methodist Church for 16 years.

Billy Jack said he had lived in Belle for 31 years. He now lives in a rented house at 423-5th Avenue in Belle, but his mailing

address is P.O. Box 613, Belle, WV 25015. He said he would love to hear from his long lost friends or for them to visit him anytime.

Billy Jack seemed to be in good health despite his past few surgeries and slow walk. He said he lost some weight and needed a pair of suspenders to hold his pants up, but he could not find any to buy yet. Maybe someone, who reads this story, would like to give him a pair for a gift. It would be nice if he could receive a few cards or letters from his friends to brighten his day. He is 71 years old. His birthday was on December 23rd.

## Obituaries

### Harold Medley

Harold L. Medley, 84, of Belmont, WV, died July 8, 2002, at the St. Joseph's Hospital in Parkersburg.

He was born April 10, 1923 in New Martinsville, WV.

He was a member of the Akron Baptist Temple; attended West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney in 1927. He worked for the Firestone Rubber Company Akron for 35 years. He enjoyed golf and baseball.

He was preceded in death by his wife Mary Louise Drake Medley.

Burial was in the Pleasants Memorial Estates in Eureka, WV.

### Williams L. "Nick" Kandis

Williams L. "Nick" Kandis, 72, of Thorn Avenue, Moundsville, died Monday, July 8, 2002, at home.

He was born April 17, 1930 in Moundsville, WV. He was a retired baker with Gast Bakery and retired from the body shop Pepsi Cola, the former owner-operator of Nick's Body Shop, a member of WV Deaf Association and Moundsville Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Carol Martinez Kandis.

**Editor's Note:** He was enrolled in 1936 at the WV School for the Deaf.

### Rosalee Montgomery

Rosalee Montgomery, 37, of Roanoke, VA, died Friday, October 18, 2002.

She graduated in 1984 from the WV School for the Deaf.

### Harry E. Oates

Harry E. Oates, 70, Romney, died Saturday, Aug. 31, 2002, at Hampshire Memorial Hospital in Romney.

He was a retired steel worker. He was a member of Maranatha Baptist Church, Romney. He was graduate of West Virginia School for the Deaf in 1952. He was a member of the Cumberland and Romney Association for the Deaf.

He is survived by his wife, Norma Ellen Baker Oates.

Interment was in Ebenezer Cemetery, Romney.

### Lewis Evans

Lewis Evans, of Columbus, Ohio, died Sunday, November 10, 2002 at St. Ann's Hospital.

He was a graduate of the West Virginia School for the Deaf in 1967.

### Emery T. Nomeland

Emery Theodore Nomeland, 96, of Romney, WV, died Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2002, at Hampshire Memorial Long Term Care Center, Romney.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Olivia Dahl Nomeland on July 8, 2001.

He was retired from the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind, where he served as an instructor.

*Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and discover they were the big things.*

*-- Anonymous*

*Continued from page 3*

### **More Meeting**

She went to one place that deals with lots of companies. They loaned her a book. The T-shirt will cost \$6.25 each. They said most places charge \$10-12 for a profit of \$3.75 to \$5.75. The Virginia Association sells these shirts for \$18.

### **New Business:**

Jimmy (Donna) moved not to pay officers mileage to attend board meetings due to budget constraints. Liz (Joey) amended to continue not paying mileage until budget permits. Passed.

John (Clyde) moved to decide which hotel to host the NAD Regional 1 Conference in Charleston fall of 2003. Passed.

Donna (Liz) moved to select the Embassy Suites to be the host hotel for the NAD Regional 1 Conference October 24-26, 2003. Passed.

Jimmy (Clyde) moved to charge \$75 registration fee for each delegate to attend the NAD Regional 1 Conference. Passed.

Jimmy (Clyde) moved the \$2,316.46 we earned at the WV Wireless Open House be put in the savings account to be used for the WVAD 2003 Conference Fund. Passed.

Clyde (Jimmy) moved to send President John Burdette, Treasurer Liz Leisure, Secretary Donna M. Williams, and Veronda Harrison to attend the Settlement Hearing for the estate of Flora Gervas on October 21, 2002 in Mingo County. Passed.

Clyde (Joey) moved WVAD ask each local deaf club to help with fund raising for workshops and conferences. Passed.

Joey (Charles) moved to have a 10-minute break.

Meeting resumed at 3:12 p.m.

Donna (Liz) moved that WVAD start selling T-shirts as part of the fundraising project. It was suggested that we get one dozen of gold T-shirts with a blue WVAD (6) and ILY logo (6) and one dozen of royal blue T-shirts with a gold WVAD (6) and ILY logo (6) to be used as samples. Passed.

Jimmy (Clyde) moved to buy

different candy to sell as part of fundraising project. Passed.

Jimmy (Joey) moved WVAD charge the same registration fee as 2001 conference. Passed.

Liz (Donna) moved WVD charge separate fee for the pageant to be determined later. Passed.

Jimmy (Joey) moved to have a BPAO workshop on Friday and Kelby Brick give a workshop on Saturday at the 2003 Conference. Passed.

Liz (Donna) moved to have Sponsorship Levels for the WVAD Conference. Platinum Level for \$5,000; Gold Level for \$2,500; Silver Level for \$1,000; and Bronze Level for \$500. Passed.

Joey moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Next meeting Saturday, November 16, 2002, possibly in Clarksburg.

### **New Service from Sprint! Sprint Relay Online!**

You can now make free long distance calls through the relay service!

How? Use your computer and go to [www.sprintrelayonline.com](http://www.sprintrelayonline.com). It's easy to use and it's free!

Yes, free long distance calls, available 24 hours everyday! Try it! It's new!

You don't need a TTY. You only need a computer and internet access to use it.

High speed internet (cable or DSL) is not required for using [www.sprintrelayonline.com](http://www.sprintrelayonline.com).

And another new service from Sprint and CSD! Video Relay Service!

How? Use your computer and web cam and go to [www.usavrs.com](http://www.usavrs.com). It's also easy to use and it's also free!

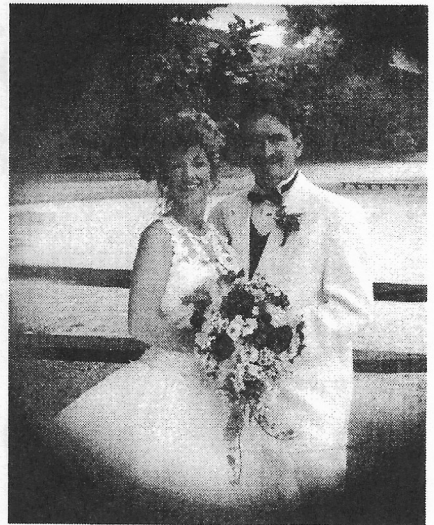
You can use sign language to make relay calls! You will use your computer and a web camera to sign to the interpreter who acts as a relay agent/operator. You will need to have high speed internet access. Cable or DSL hook up is needed.

Go to [www.usavrs.com](http://www.usavrs.com) and check it out! Long distance calls are also free!

Any questions? Need assistance with computer or web cam set up?

Contact your Sprint Account Manager in your or neighboring state. Need to know who? Need their email address? Go to "Sprint Relay" web page at [www.sprint.com/relay](http://www.sprint.com/relay) and click on "contacts" to find your manager. Enjoy!

## **Wedding Announcement**



**Dukich-Barie**

Charlene "Missy" Dukich and Larry James Barie of Nitro, WV were married on June 29, 2002 at Ridenour Lake. Joining with their special event were Ellen Dukich, daughter of the bride, as maid of honor; Julie Barie, daughter of the groom, as bridesmaid Sheridan Aspinwall, niece of the bride, as flowergirl; and Alan Barie, son of the groom, as best man. Yolanda D. was interpreter and Pastor Mike Miller did the ceremony.

Missy graduated in 1981 at Briarcliff High School in Atlanta, Ga. Her dad and his wife, Oliver and Liz Aspinwall lives in Florida. Her mother, Alice Brown lives in Georgia.

Larry graduated in 1978 from the West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney, WV. His parents are Peggy and Robert Barie of Romney.

Both are employed with the U.S. Postal Service.

# Miss Deaf West Virginia Pageant



The West Virginia Association of the Deaf welcomes young Deaf and Hard of Hearing ladies to join as contestants in the Miss Deaf West Virginia Pageant on August 9, 2003 in Bluefield, WV.

## ARE YOU:

- ▶ 17-28 years old (on or before July 1, 2003)?
- ▶ Single (never been married or given birth to a child)?
- ▶ A U.S. Citizen in good standing?
- ▶ Deaf or Hard of Hearing?
- ▶ Have fluent sign communication skills, i.e. American Sign Language or English?
- ▶ If yes to all above, then you can qualify.

**DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2003**

If interested, please contact Donna M. Williams, State Pageant Director

PO Box 881

Parkersburg, WV 26102-0881

E-mail: [dmwilliams49@yahoo.com](mailto:dmwilliams49@yahoo.com)

AOL Instant Messenger: DMWilliams49

# West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.

## 34th Biennial Conference

August 7-9, 2003

at

Holiday Inn - On the Hill

US Route 460

Bluefield, WV 24701

# \$1,000.00

## Cash Prizes Giveaways

(Depends Upon Attendance)

Reception  
Exhibitors  
Entertainment

Socialize with Old & New Friends  
West Virginia Deaf Pageant  
Banquet

Workshops  
Meetings  
Ballroom

If you are an early bird and purchase a combo ticket before July 18, 2003, you will get two tickets per person for cash prizes. If you purchase a combo ticket after July 19, 2003, you will get one ticket per person for cash prizes.

**Come one, Come all, and Have Fun!**  
**Please Don't Miss A Chance to Win!**

**West Virginia Association of the Deaf Officers**

**PRESIDENT**

John Burdette  
Rt. 1, Box 12-G  
Ronceverte, WV 24970  
(304) 647-3131 (TDD/FAX)  
JohnBMiami@aol.com

**SENIOR TRUSTEE**

Joey Major  
PO Box 881  
Parkersburg, WV 26102  
(740) 423-4393 (FAX)  
(740) 401-0585 (TDD)  
jmajorsteelers@yahoo.com

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Jimmy Harrison  
5 Cordoba Drive  
Hurricane, WV 25526  
(304) 757-7863 (TDD/FAX))  
WVADVP@aol.com

**TRUSTEE**

Clyde Swartz  
PO Box 217  
Rupert, WV 25984  
(304) 392-6158 (TDD)  
(304) 392-5460 (FAX)  
c.s.swartz0505@www.com

**SECRETARY**

Donna M. Williams  
PO Box 881  
Parkersburg, WV 26102  
(740) 423-4393 (FAX)  
(740) 401-0585 (TDD)  
Dmwilliams49@yahoo.com

**TRUSTEE**

Charles Tuell  
60 Franklin Street  
Welch, WV 24801  
(304) 436-4962 (FAX)  
Son's e-mail: rtuell@citlink.net

**TREASURER**

Liz Leisure  
3302 Central Avenue  
Parkersburg, WV 26104  
(304) 428-7761 (V/TDD/FAX)  
lizleisure@charter.net

**WVAD Newsletter Staff**

**EDITOR**

Veronda Harrison  
5 Cordoba Drive  
Hurricane, WV 25526  
(304) 757-7863 (TDD/FAX)  
VerApple@aol.com

**PROOFREADER**

Norma Czernicki

The WVAD Newsletter is a publication of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., published four times a year. Free subscription with paid membership dues. All advertisements must be paid for in advance. The WVAD Newsletter reserves the right to reject any advertising. Make checks payable to the WVAD. Send ads with payment and any news to Veronda Harrison.

**ADVERTISING RATES**

Full Page (7 5/8"X10").....\$100  
Half Page (7 5/8"X5").....\$60  
1/4 Page (3 5/8"X5").....\$30  
1/8 Page (3 5/8"X2 3/8").....\$20

**Announcement From Editor**

Issue for Date.....Jan.-Mar.  
Editor's Deadline.....Feb. 20  
Date You Receive Your Copy.....Mar.

**WVAD Membership - Join Now!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  \$15 for one year Regular  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  \$30 for two years Regular  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  \$20 for two years Senior Citizen (55+)  
TTY \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_  \$10 for two years Student (Age 12 to 18)  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  Yes! Here is my donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes! I want to donate to WVAD Deaf Pageant \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Membership & Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make money order or personal check payable to: **WVAD** and mail with membership form to: West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., Jimmy D. Harrison, Membership Coordinator, 5 Cordoba Drive, Hurricane, WV 25526

**West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.**

Veronda Harrison, Editor  
5 Cordoba Drive  
Hurricane, WV 25526

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**