



WVAD NEWSLETTER



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

VOLUME 29 No. 4

OCT, NOV & DEC 2008

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MERRY Christmas.



Elizabeth McConnell



FROM EDITORS:

2009 Issue:

JAN, FEB, & MAR

Deadline:

MARCH 1, 2009

Distribution:

Between March 15—31, 09



Happy New Year!



Dear Friends,

Unfortunately, at this time, as the WVAD President, I usually write an official letter to you all, on the other hand, I do not have much to say for this letter and decide to save for the next newsletter in March 2009. However, I have a great story that I want to share with you. Just a few weeks ago, on December 1, it was around 7:00 p.m., I was driving ahead to home and was thinking myself with realizing that the Christmas was only 24 more days away. The Christmas is not only thing I was thinking about, but I also thought about the WVAD Conference, board meeting and planning for next year. I noticed something very odd in the sky through my windshield and there was a beautiful shining sleigh with a man in red outfit and a dozen reindeers pulling the sleigh. I said to myself "No way! That is impossible! Could it be Santa Claus and why now, it is not Christmas Eve yet?" As the sleigh flew away and disappeared from the sky. I kept pondering what I just saw earlier. When I got home and I indeed was excited to tell my better half, Robyn and my daughters: Nikki, Rosalyn and Jacinda what I just saw earlier on my way home. They thought hilariously and do not believe me. I was thinking like how I could prove to them what I actually saw but decide to let it go and goes on my daily routine things to do before I go to bed.

My family finally went to bed and I still stayed up to watch the CNN News channel talking about our new President-Elect Barack Obama and Vice-President Biden. It was like 2:00 a.m.; all of the sudden, my dogs (Tanner and Bandit) were barking at the front door (for FYI, our house does not have flashing light doorbell). I said to myself who in the world was at my door at 2:00 in the morning. I then opened the front door and find out who just knocked my door. There is a big man with a long whitish beard, seven foot tall and weight about 275 lbs, and had dark red on his cheek. He wore a plaid hunting coat exactly same the one our Vice President John Burdette wear his coat and Levis blue jean. I was very impression with the big man who introduced himself as Kris Kringle in fluently ASL and asked me if he could talk to me. Since Mr. Kringle can sign, so I decided to invite him inside my house and asked him to be quiet because of my daughters sleeping and that does not imply to Robyn since she is obviously deaf. I then lead Mr. Kringle to my kitchen and had him to seat one of chairs at the kitchen table. I served him a full glass of very cold and delicious milk and jumbo chocolate chip cookies with my excitement and shocking with wondering in my mind. I finally sat myself down the opposite side across the table from Mr. Kringle. We had wonderful two and half hours conversation with lot of laughing. Every time Kris laughed "HOHOHO!", Tanner and Bandit barked at him.

During the conversation with Kris, I asked him where he learned sign language that he was so fluently, Kris chuckled and told me that he learned ASL from his deaf ex-girlfriend many, many years ago. He also told me that I know who his ex-girlfriend was. I told him that I have no clue who was she. Kris said it was beautiful Veronda Morgan. I then said to him that I do not know Veronda Morgan. Kris replied to me that I do know her, I puzzled and asked Kris "Could it be Veronda Harrison who she married Jimmy Harrison?" Kris chuckled and said, "YES, that was her." I, then of course, shocked and wondered why Veronda did not want to marry Kris Kringle (the Santa Claus). Kris then explained the reason why Veronda did not want to be Mrs. Claus since she does not want to live with aging very long, long time. Therefore, she decided to terminate the relationship with Kris and married Jimmy instead. Behind my mind, that is how Veronda got her skills on how to make a handsomely crafts and delicious foods from the elves in North Pole.

West Virginia - Mountaineers ASLTA

The WV American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) will hold the meeting on Saturday, January 17, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Fairmont State University Clarksburg Caperton Campus in Clarksburg, WV. Please come for our first official meeting, Officers, Election, etc.... To get a direction, go to our website: www.wvad.org and to get more information on National ASLTA, the website is www.aslta.org.

WVAD PRESIDENT EVANS PLANS TO VISIT THE WV DEAF CLUBS

<i>DEAF CLUBS</i>	<i>DATE TO VISIT</i> depending on WEATHER PERMIT IN THE WINTER SEASON	<i>ALTERNATIVE DATE TO VISIT</i>
Charleston Association of the Deaf	January 3, 2009	N/A
Greenbrier Valley Association for the Deaf	January 10, 2009	To be announced on www.wvad.org
Huntington Association of the Deaf	February 7, 2009	June 6, 2009
Fairmont Association of the Deaf	February 14, 2009	April 11, 2009
Wheeling Association of the Deaf	March 7, 2009	N/A
Beckley Association of the Deaf	April 4, 2009	N/A
Romney Association of the Deaf	May 2, 2009	N/A
Parkersburg Association of the Deaf	To Be Determined	N/A

The purpose of my visiting to the WV Deaf Clubs is to meet and talk to all members of each deaf clubs and as well as to have a meeting with the Officers. **Attention to all President or Chairperson of each clubs to please call me on VP at 866-696-0987 to confirm the above dates before January 31, 2009. Thank you!**



West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Heard of Hearing

will have their regular board meeting:

WHEN: Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. (tentative)

WHERE: John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston

For more info., contact secretary Kari Preslar at 1-866-461-3578 or e-mail to karipreslar@wvdhhr.org

WVAD
BOARD MEETING

January 10, 2008

1:00 P.M.

Lewisburg, WV

The location will be announced on the WVAD website:

www.wvad.org

WEST VIRGINIA STATEWIDE NEWS

'I ENJOY MY WORK'

Area plumber's handicap doesn't get in way of his chosen career.

November 2008

Clarksburg Exponent-Telegram Newspaper

By: Billy Wolfe, Staff Writer

MORGANTOWN – Jonathan Edwards' job as a plumber keeps him busy all week long.

Fitting pipes, installing sprinkler systems and laying water lines for King Brothers Services in Morgantown isn't an easy job, but it's what he has always wanted to do.

"I enjoy my work," he said. Edwards is like most plumbers, with one exception. He has been deaf since birth.

"The biggest challenge is being able to communicate with the hearing, being able to understand questions. Not hearing the words make it difficult to sometimes understand. It can be very frustrating," Edwards said in an e-mailed statement.

He is able to get his job done with the assistance of a coworker who knows some sign language. His bosses let him know what needs to be done at specific job sites via text messages. They also draw diagrams for him.

"I also write things down and watch body language," he said. But his disability also makes him a more efficient worker.

"They've told me he is one of their best employees, mostly because he doesn't waste a lot of time on small talk with customers. He knows what he needs to do and he gets it done," said Christine Boggs, Edwards' rehabilitation counselor.

A Morgantown native, Edwards attended the Romney School for the Deaf and Blind from kindergarten through 12th grade. He said he learned American Sign Language at Romney and enjoyed his school career. "The teachers and dorm parents treated me like family...I learned to overcome most of my problems at Romney," he said, adding that he enjoyed the field trips and skiing trips the most.

After graduating, Edwards got help from the Division of Rehabilitation Services, which assisted him on his career path.

The agency put him in touch with Boggs and paid for him to attend Putnam Career and Technical Center's plumbing technology program. Boggs also helped arrange for a sign language interpreter to help Edwards while he was in school at Putnam.

After completing the two-year program, Edwards proved himself when he beat out non-disabled contestants to win first place in the state Vocational Skills Competition. He then went on to the nationals in Kansas City, Mo., where he came in fifth in the nation for his skills in the trade.

Boggs called Edwards "everything you want in a client," and said she found his motivation to work hard inspiring.

Boggs herself benefited from the DRS, which helped her overcome complications from a bilateral cleft palate.

"I have an awesome job. They helped me too," she said.

A Division of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, the Division of Rehabilitation Services provides work-related counseling, training, job placement and other vocational rehabilitation services to thousands of disabled residents each year.

Staff writer Billy Wolfe can be reached at 304-626-1404 or by e-mail at bwolfe@exponent-telegram.com

MEBROOK SETTLES SIGN LANGUAGE COMPLAINT

December 9, 2008

Clarksburg Exponent-Telegram Newspaper

BRIDGEPORT (AP) – A West Virginia medical office has agreed to settle a federal complaint filed by a patient who alleged his request for a sign language interpreter was denied.

The U.S. Department of Justice says the settlement with Medbrook Medical Associates Inc. requires the Bridgeport business to pay a total of \$8,000 in compensatory damages and \$1,000 in civil penalties.

Monday's announcement stems from a complaint filed by a man who said Medbrook denied his request for an interpreter, and required his ill wife to act as his interpreter even though she didn't feel qualified.

The settlement requires Medbrook to establish a policy and training program to improve communication with its patients.

A call to Medbrook for comment was not immediately returned.

WEST VIRGINIA DEAF CLUBS

For those deaf friends who have no access to personal computer or Internet service. We have WV Deaf Clubs information for you.

Beckley Assoc. of the Deaf
usually meets the 1st Saturday
of the month

Contact: Nancy Nichols
24goby8@charter.net

Charleston Assoc. of the Deaf

Contact: Jimmy Harrison
JHarrison5@aol.com

Fairmont Assoc. of the Deaf

usually meets 2nd Saturday
Of the month

Contact: Michael Losh
fmtdeaf@yahoo.com
www.geocities.com/fmtdeaf

Greenbrier Valley Assoc.
of the Deaf

usually meets 2nd Saturday
of the month

Contact: John Burdette
JBMiami@aol.com

Huntington Assoc. of the Deaf

usually meets 1st Saturday
of the month

Contact: Sej-Christina Bentley

Parkersburg Assoc. of the Deaf

meets three times a year

Contact: Liz Leisure
lizleisure@verizon.net

Romney Assoc. of the Deaf

usually meets 1st Saturday
of the month

E-mail:

RAD_CLUB_26757@yahoo.com

Website:

www.geocities.com/rad_club_26757

Wheeling Assoc. of the Deaf

usually meets 1st Saturday
of the month

Contact: Ray Matos

Charleston Association of the Deaf

Happy New Year Social

Saturday, January 3, 2009

at St. Albans City Hall
St. Albans, WV

CASH

Fun

\$1000 - Door prize Giveaway

Depends upon Attendance

" Plus More "

Chance to Win

2 Different Color Tickets: 10 tickets for \$5.00

26" or 32" HDTV and more gifts

\$25.00 per person included meal with doorprize

Ages from 5 to 17 - \$5.00 included meal with no doorprize

If you bring dish cover & desserts and will give you extra ticket for doorprize. (No chips and Pops for extra tickets)

Welcome Children with your parents responsible.

Handicap Access

Dinner

4:00 pm till Midnight

Dinner starts at 5:00 pm

Prizes - 7:00 - 10:00 pm

Ham

Turkey & dressing

Mashed Potatoes

Corn

Rolls

Green Beans

and More

Please Come One , Come All, and Have Fun!

From I-64 East Charleston: Get off at Exit 54 MacCorkle Ave. (US Rt. 60) . Take turn left at the traffic lights at MacCorkle Ave. and keep straight onto US Rt. 60. West to take about 6 miles and you will see the St. Albans City Hall on left side near Kmart store.

From I-64 West Huntington: Get off at Exit 44 St. Albans. Take turn right at the traffic lights at Rt. 817 and take about 3 miles and take turn left at traffic lights at Rt. 60 MacCorkle Ave. Keep straight onto US Rt. 60 East to take about 4 miles. You will pass the Kmart store and you will see the St. Albans City Hall on the right side.

Bring your Friends

For more information, contact:

Jimmy Harrison, President

(304) 757-7863 VP

Email: JHarrison5@aol.com

Door Prizes

JAN. 1

OBITUARIES



ELIZABETH McCONNELL, 90, of Huntington, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, November 23, 2008, at St. Mary's Medical Center, Huntington. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Reger Funeral Chapel by Pastor Jerry Matt and Interpreter Linda Johnson. Burial will be in Ridgelawn Memorial Park, Huntington. She was born August 8, 1918 in Upshur County, W.Va., a daughter of the late William Jefferson and Robirdie May Grose Allman. Deaf since childhood, Betty was a graduate of the Romney School for the Deaf. She was a talented seamstress who was employed by and retired from the Huntington Manufacturing Company where she was a member of the ILGWU, Local 420. Betty was a member of Grace Gospel Church Deaf Ministry, the West Virginia Association of the Deaf and in 1955 founded the Greater Huntington Association of the Deaf. Her friends and remember Betty as a kind and genteel spirit who love everyone. Her sense of humor knew no bounds! Her loyalty and generosity to those she loved were immeasurable, yet it was her humility and love family

and true friends that we shall always remember with much affection. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Jenning McConnell on June 13, 1996, her brother I. D. "Jack" Allman, her sister, Thelma A. West, RN and her nephew, William B. Allman. Survivors include her niece and spouse, Matile West and F. Michael Hugo of Brunswick, ME, two great grandnephews, Michael G. Hugo of Arlington, VA, and Buckley J. Hugo and his wife Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo of Brunswick, ME, and their two children Thaddeus "Tad" and Magdalyn "Maggie", her caregiver, Margaret McClure of Huntington, and her wide circle of friends in the deaf community. Friends may call from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at Reger Funeral Home, Huntington. Contributions may be made to the Greater Huntington Association for the Deaf, Westmoreland Woman's Club, 2962 Bradley Road, Huntington, WV 25704, ATT: Treasurer Charles Duncan or to the Grace Gospel Church Deaf Ministry, 1111 Adams Ave., Huntington, WV 25704

FINIS C. DICKEY, 81, of Independence, MO passed away on Tuesday, August 26, 2008. Mr. Dickey was born on September 25, 1926 in Oskaloosa, MO. He was a longtime Independence area resident. He retired from Cunningham Oldsmobile where he worked in the body repair shop. Mr. Dickey was a member of the Deaf Liberty Baptist Church in Olathe KS. He is survived by his wife, Lula Dickey of the home, son and daughter-in-law Marc and Sonya Dickey of Raytown, MO, brother Bill Dickey of Clinton, MO and sister Velma Armstrong of Springfield, MO. He also is survived by 6 grandchildren; Naomi, Felix, Blair, Courtney, Marinda and Joseph. Services will be Friday, August 29th at Mt. Washington Forever Mausoleum Chapel, Independence, 816-252-4141. Visitation will be at 10:30 a.m. followed by memorial service at 11:00 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's unit at the Groves 1415 W. White Oak, Independence, MO or to the Deaf Liberty Baptist Church. **Notice: Worthy Devericks request to put this in WVAD Newsletter since Mr. Dickey's survived wife is Lula McLung and she graduated from WVSD in 1955.**

SPECIAL NOTICE

The WVAD Newsletter Editor wants to thank to some WVAD members for sending obituaries clipping with photo if possible to the Editor to publish in this newsletter. Editor Doug Evans would like you to continue if you know any West Virginia School for the Deaf friends and faculty/staff who passed away, please e-mail the hard copy obituary from newspapers or online to the editor@wvad.org or mail to the following address and THANK YOU:

DOUGLAS A. EVANS, 112 SUMMIT COURT; CLARKSBURG, WV 26301

President Letter continues

In addition, Kris mentioned that in the last newsletter (July, Aug and Sept 08 Issue) where it stated that if anyone receive this Oct, Nov and Dec 2008 newsletter or postmark stamp on newsletter before Christmas, which means they are very good girls and boys this year. However, he then said, "Except you (Doug Evans), you are being naughty this year; that is why I am here and talked to you." I said to him, "Me, I'm naughty this year, how come?" Kris refused to tell me what did I do that I am being naughty this year. Except, he gave me his Santa hat (see my self-portrait with the Santa hat at below) instead and said to me, "With this hat, I am giving to you to remind yourself to be good guy for the whole year in 2009, I will come back and visit you again with a good or naughty report." He put his red plaid coat on and walked out to the front door. At the door, he patted my left shoulder and said, "Douglas Adam Evans, Merry Christmas, I am sorry that you are not getting a present this year but if you are being good boy next year. I will bring you a very nice gift next year. So, wear my hat to keep yourself remind to be good boy." He laughed (HOHOHO). To my surprise, Kris Kringle had my favorite old and dead blue Ford Festiva car, he got in and driven away with waving his left hand.

I looked up at the clock and it showed 4:45 a.m., and said to myself "it is time to go to sleep or should I wake Robyn up and tell her that I had long conversation with Santa Claus earlier?" Then, the more I thought and decided not to say anything to Robyn and my girls since I knew they would not believe me. My only witnesses that the Santa Claus was actually with me are my dogs, Tanner and Bandit. That is the end of my true story.

On the behalf of WVAD Executive Directors and Committee Chairpersons, we all wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you people next year!

Douglas A. Evans
WVAD President



CHRISTMAS TIME

F	P	R	T	Y	O	J	D	N	A	E	C	A	E	P
I	R	P	S	U	X	Z	W	Q	L	E	S	O	S	R
B	W	I	O	A	U	S	E	V	L	E	C	A	N	E
Z	F	K	E	J	F	L	H	H	W	R	M	N	O	I
N	S	C	S	N	T	A	E	I	G	T	I	E	W	N
G	N	T	T	A	D	Y	M	Y	S	L	E	D	N	D
E	O	G	N	M	N	S	F	I	H	T	J	L	P	E
O	I	V	E	U	Q	T	R	E	L	A	A	C	L	E
T	T	Q	M	A	O	H	A	I	R	Y	E	R	Y	R
E	A	R	A	B	C	W	O	C	G	G	I	F	T	S
L	R	O	N	Y	U	E	V	O	L	A	W	Y	E	R
T	O	P	G	U	N	T	N	W	I	A	T	L	M	P
S	C	R	O	O	G	G	E	Y	D	O	U	G	L	A
I	E	V	E	A	G	M	P	P	Q	E	E	S	O	I
M	D	F	G	E	L	G	N	I	R	K	S	I	R	K

WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF OFFICERS 2007-09

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Trudy Ford or April Starks

PUBLICATION INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING RATES

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

ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page	7 5/8" X 10"	\$100.00
Half Page	7 5/8" X 5"	\$ 60.00
1/4 Page	3 5/8" X 5"	\$ 30.00
1/8 Page	3 5/8" X 2 3/8"	\$ 20.00

WVAD STAFF & STANDING COMMITTEES

Find out who is on the WVAD Staff & Standing Committees, go to:
<http://www.wvad.org/694/7722.html>

If you are either interest or thinking about being on the WVAD team, please call the WVAD President Doug on VP or e-mail to:
president@wvad.org

We're on the WEB!

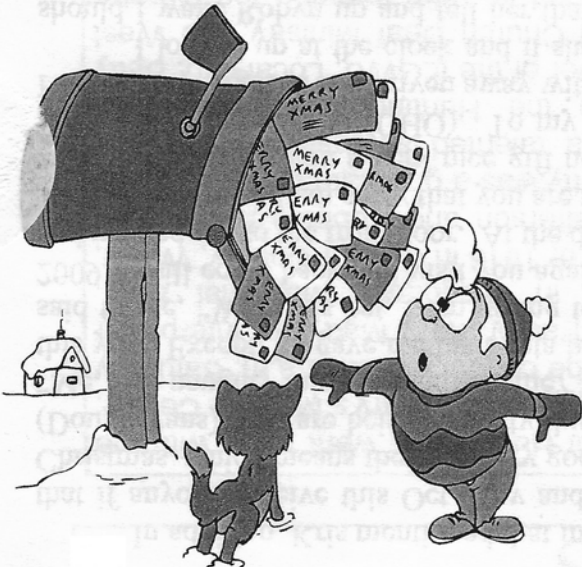
www.wvad.org



West Virginia Assoc. of the Deaf, Inc.

Douglas A. Evans
112 Summit Court
Clarksburg, WV 26301-2522

POSTMASTER: Address Correction Requested





WVAD

37th Biennial Conference

REGISTRATION FORM

August 6—8, 2009



Comfort Suites ~ Mineral Wells, West Virginia

Conference Attendees:

To reserve your room for your staying during the conference August 6-8, 2009, you may send your request via e-mail to Tammy McClung at tmclung@intlind.com or mail to:

Comfort Suites
Attn: Tammy McClung
167 Elizabeth Pike
Mineral Wells, WV 26150

The room rate for all rooms (King Size and Double Beds) is **\$79.00 per night**. Make sure you write down which room and how many nights you desire to reserve. In addition, be aware that there is no smoking rooms at all, however, there is nice smoking designation area for Smoker's convenience.

If you need more information, you may call Linda Eckhart via VP 304-428-8511.

EARLY BIRD COMBO RATES

<i>WVAD STATUS</i>	<i>COMBO 1</i> <i><u>Dec 1, 08—Apr 30, 09</u></i>	<i>COMBO 2</i> <i><u>May 1, 09—Jul 25, 09</u></i>	<i>On The Floor</i>
WVAD MEMBER	\$ 70.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 95.00
WVAD NON-MEMBER	\$ 85.00	\$120.00	\$135.00
SENIOR CITIZEN MEMBER (55 & UP)	\$ 65.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 85.00
SENIOR CITIZEN NON-MEMBER	\$ 75.00	\$ 95.00	\$110.00

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

NAME INFORMATION:

LAST:

FIRST:

Are you current member non-member renewal

SPOUSE:

WVAD MEMBER? YES NO

ADDRESS INFORMATION:

STREET:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

VP NO.:

TEXT MSG :

E-MAIL:

WVAD STATUS	COST <small>(see the chart to follow the combo rates based on DATE)</small>	HOW MANY	TOTAL
REGULAR MEMBER	\$		\$
NON-MEMBER	\$		\$
SENIOR CITIZEN MEMBER <small>(55 & UP)</small>	\$		\$
SENIOR CITIZEN NON-MEMBER	\$		\$
GRAND TOTAL:			\$

Please make check or money order payable to **WVAD**.

Mail this form and the payment to:

Veronda Harrison

WVAD Treasurer

5 Corboda Drive

Hurriance, WV 25526

Please do not write this box. For WVAD Treasurer only:

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Need to renew your membership or want to join to be WVAD member, please go to our WVAD website and click **MEMBERSHIP** then you see and click "Membership Form" in red to print and fill out the form.

If you don't have internet or access to the website for some reasons. Please call Veronda via VP or TTY by dialing 304-757-7863 or e-mail to: treasurer@wvad.org.