Virtual National Association of the Deaf Leadership Training Conference 2021
By Tamera Deem

National Association of the Deaf (NAD) held their virtual NAD Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) from September 19-25, 2021. Secretary Tamera Deem attended the conference, representing WV Association of the Deaf.

The conference was held every evening for the eastern time zone of the United States. Representatives from all the states were able to attend the conference. There were 450 representatives from all over the United States.

The first evening (Sunday – September 19, 2021) was NLTC Kickoff and Plenary: Constructing a Counternarrative Through Intersectional Lens, Part 1. Presenters were NAD President Melissa Draganac-Hawk and Akilah English. In this session participants learned the groundwork and practice of racial justice and how it relates to their lives, work, and community. Throughout the session, participants learned counter-narrative as the basis for understanding how systems of oppression and racism impact the lives of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened individuals. The participants had an opportunity to take ownership of their own narratives and shift the narratives by centering the voices of racially marginalized communities.

Monday – September 20, 2021 Workshops: Deaf Self-Advocacy Training (DSAT), presented by Corina Gutiérrez. This training was devoted to teaching Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind individuals to self-advocate for effective interpreting services. The content of the curriculum included concepts of self-esteem and self-determination, the law, ethics of working with interpreters, video relay interpreting, preparing for self-advocacy, and how to effectively tap resources.

The second workshop was Future is Deaf Youth: Mentoring and Organizational Involvement, presented by Domonic Gordine and DT Bruno. The workshop (See Virtual NAD NLTC... page 7)
Welcome to our fall newsletter!

I hope you are all enjoying the colorful mountains with all the leaves changing colors. Fall festival and pumpkin season is here. Hunting season is also coming and I am anxious to go hunting. Please stay safe hunters and be aware of your surroundings.

I am anxious to announce that our Youth Ambassador Director Laura Crowder started up a new program called Jr. WV AD to encourage young children and young adults to join our organization. This will help expose them about the deaf community, deaf culture, and encourage them to be future young leaders within our organization. I am very excited for this to happen and hope it will help encourage and attract more young people to be involved with our organization. Check out our new Facebook page called Jr. WV AD for young people to join (https://www.facebook.com/groups/406535151038589).

WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has been interviewing candidates for the Executive Director position. I hope we will soon have a new Executive Director as the deaf community is anxious to get this position filled.

WVAD will be hosting the Christmas party on December 4, 2021 (see pages 18-19 for flyer and directions). Please be sure to bring a mask with you to wear in case you would feel that you need to wear it for your own protection. If you do not feel well or feel sick, please do not come to the party as we do not want germs to spread to other people. Also, if you are showing symptoms, please do not come to the party. WVAD wants everyone to come to the party healthy and leave the party healthy.

WVAD is working on selecting a place and setting a date for the Biennial conference to be held in August 2023. More information will be coming soon about the conference.

WVAD Secretary Tamera Deem attended the virtual NAD Leadership Training Conference to represent WVAD from September 19-25, 2021. Please see the story about the conference on page 1.

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy from the COVID-19 pandemic as it is still around. COVID seems to start slowing down and numbers seem to be decreasing. I hope it will not go back up during the winter as I know we are all anxious to get back to our normal lives to enjoy life with family and friends. Please remember to wear your masks when it is needed, social distance, and wash your hands to keep yourself and others safe and healthy.

Please encourage your friends, colleagues, and relatives to join WVAD. Ongoing involvement and contributions from WVAD members, friends, and supporters make it possible for WVAD to provide a broad range of advocacy efforts to protect the civil rights of deaf and hard of hearing West Virginians in our state.

Just a quick reminder for those who have not paid for expired membership (see page 23 for membership form), please send the form and payment to our Membership Coordinator, Jimmy Harrison. WVAD accepts debit and credit cards for membership fees, donations, etc. We are currently accepting Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, and PayPal (wvad.treasurer@gmail.com). You may also pay through Cash apps ($WVA D1915). If you are not a member of WVAD, please join. If you have any questions about joining WVAD, please contact Jimmy Harrison. This would also be a good way to give someone a membership as a gift.

In closing, please check out our WVAD website (www.wvad.org) or WV Association of the Deaf page on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/West-Virginia-Association-of-the-Deaf-175193862245) for any ongoing information about WVAD.

Stay safe and healthy,

Christopher T. Mick

Christopher T. Mick
WVAD Board Meeting Held via Sorenson Videophone, October 3, 2021

West Virginia Association of the Deaf’s Mission Statement:

The West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc. (WVAD) operated by, of, for the Deaf Community, advocates, and promotes to improve the quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing individuals including but not limited to deaf-blind individuals, parents of deaf children, interpreters, late-deafened adults, and children of deaf adults.

Members Present: Christopher Mick, Gloria Hollen, Tami Deem, Veronda Harrison, Laura Crowder, and Sylvia Mick.

Members Absent: Scott Hottle.

Visitors Present: Jimmy Harrison and John Burdette.

The regular board meeting of WVAD was held through Sorenson VP. President Chris Mick called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting held on June 13, 2021, were sent via e-mail. It was corrected and approved via video-phone and e-mail. The minutes of the meeting was published in the summer 2021 WVAD newsletter.

Treasurer Veronda Harrison’s Financial Report:

Financial Report from June 12, 2021 to October 2, 2021: Balance in checking account – $579.99; balance in savings account – $4,083.56; Mingo County Fund: $14,555.44; WVAD Conference Fund – $9,918.84; Deaf Youth Program – $303.00; Education Fund – $288.15; Certificate of Deposit – $7,000.00. The board accepted the report as read.

President Chris Mick’s Report:

- President Mick received an email from Megan Wray (WV Deaf Service Center) on July 1, 2021. She asked if WVAD had any deaf driver’s communication cards left. President Mick referred her to WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) to see if they had any cards left since WVAD doesn’t have any left.
- President Mick and Trustee Sylvia Mick went to Pipestem State Park for their July 4th vacation. They said that it was a beautiful place. President Mick talked to the manager about having WVAD conference there in August 2023. The lady was very nice and gave him a lot of information and pamphlets. They have three conference rooms we can use.
- President Mick received a forwarded email from Legislative Chair John Burdette on July 8, 2021. The email was from Cynthia Ware (Disability Integration Advisor from Federal Emergency Management Agency – FEMA) about outreach events July 13-16, 2021, related to getting assistance from FEMA for WV deaf citizens that were impacted by the flood that occurred in West Virginia.
- President Mick and Trustee Sylvia Mick went to WV Deaf Service Center deaf camp in Ripley, WV, on July 16, 2021, to give a presentation to the youth about WVAD.
- President Mick received a forwarded email from Legislative Chair John Burdette on August 18, 2021, about Fair Shake membership renewal.
- President Mick received an email from Marianna Santas from Dreamscape Company on August 20, 2021. She wanted to know if WVAD was interested in discussing with them about marketing program. Treasurer Veronda Harrison said it was a scam.
- President Mick received an email from Deaf Health Talk team on August 23, 2021. They wanted to let WVAD know about a virtual workshop being offered. The topic of the workshop was “Get Real about Drugs and Alcohol.”
- National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Region 1 didn’t have a meeting this summer. NAD recommends that presidents and officers create an email address that can be passed on to new officers in the future and recommends not using personal email addresses.

Vice President Gloria Hollen’s Report:

- On July 5, 2021, President Mick contacted Vice President Gloria Hollen about FEMA contacting him. On July 6th FEMA had a virtual meeting with WVAD and others. Legislative Chair John Burdette and WVCDHH Chairperson Paul See were there. FEMA contacted WVAD and WVCDHH at the last minute about providing help and collecting information about how to contact people with disabilities. Cabell, Kanawha, Mingo, and Wayne counties were impacted by flood in February and March 2021. Many of us didn’t know about this. FEMA wanted to help any deaf people who live in those counties that were impacted. It was a very good meeting. The representative contacted everyone and kept them updated. We don’t know if FEMA was able to help anyone or not. Ann McDaniel (WV Statewide Independent (See Board Minutes on page 4))
(Board Minutes from page 3)
Living Council Executive Director) was recommended to give a presentation about this and provide training on how to get assistance from FEMA. Vice President Gloria Holen sent Secretary Tami Deem the FEMA Assistance poster and Disaster Survivor’s Checklist poster to post on Facebook which she did. It would be great to have PJ Mattiacci (FEMA Region 3 Disability Integration Specialist) and Ann McDaniel give a workshop at our next WVAD conference. PJ asked if they knew of any deaf people who passed away from COVID. He said that there is a government benefit that will help pay for funerals for people who passed away from COVID.
- WVCDHH will interview two executive director candidates on October 5 and October 14, 2021.
- Vice President Gloria Holen was contacted by her friend from out of state. Her friend wanted to know if the WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WWSDB) was closed. Vice President Gloria Holen told her no she never heard that story. The school is still open. The deaf and blind students are now merged. The school mascot was changed to Black Bears. The school is now from 5th to 12th grades. The younger kids go to public schools.

Secretary Tami Deem’s Report:
- Secretary Tami Deem received an email from Vice President Gloria Holen on July 7, 2021, about posting FEMA Assistance poster and Disaster Survivor’s Checklist poster on Facebook. She posted the posters on WVAD Facebook page that day.
- Secretary Tami Deem received an email from Sherwood Forest Farms about setting up Sherwood Forest Farms evergreen fundraiser for the holidays on July 7, 2021. This fundraiser was set up on September 12, 2021, and posted on Facebook and WVAD webpage. So far we have gotten 3 orders. Please spread the word about this fundraiser.
- Set up CyberGrants Front Door for WVAD and was approved on August 1, 2021. The purpose of this CyberGrants Front Door is to be able to apply for grants from different Walmart and Sam’s Club stores in West Virginia. WVAD applied for 13 grants. We received $1,500 from Sam’s Club in Morgantown, WV; $1,000 from Sam’s Club in Clarksburg; and $1,000 from Walmart in Morgantown, WV (total of $3,500). One was rejected and 9 are pending.
- On August 2, 2021, NAD Bylaws Committee Chair Scot Pott emailed Secretary Tami Deem and said that she was nominated to be on the NAD Bylaws Committee. He asked her if she would be willing to talk to him on FaceTime for an "informal" interview. She told him sure. After their conversation, he decided that Tami was a good fit to be on the committee. There are 8 people on the committee from different regions. They had their first meeting yesterday (October 2, 2021). Next meeting will be on November 13, 2021.
- Sent a request for sponsorship from Sorenson on August 2, 2021. Followed up with them on September 23, 2021. They said they will be reviewing the sponsorship soon.
- Set up wvad.treasurer@gmail.com on August 5, 2021, so that the treasurer can have their own email. If we get a new treasurer, the new treasurer will take over this Gmail account.
- Sent a request for sponsorship from Sprint on August 28, 2021 – haven’t heard from them yet.
- Sent a request for sponsorship from T-Mobile on August 28, 2021 – haven’t heard from them yet.
- Set up PayPal for WVAD on August 30, 2021. The email address for WVAD PayPal account is wvad.treasurer@gmail.com.
- Cash app for WVAD was set up on August 30, 2021, and it is $wvad1915.
- Secretary Tami Deem wrote up a solicitation letter to send to different businesses in West Virginia and sent the letter to Liz Leisure for review on August 28, 2021. She thought it was a great letter. So Tami sent out 160 letters out asking for monetary donations on September 11, 2021. So far we have only received 3 donations. Sixteen (16) letters came back as undeliverable. This project replaces the UDS telemarketing service. Secretary Tami Deem wants to do some research to find another non-profit telemarketing company to do the solicitation work for WVAD.
- Throughout the months of June through September, Trustee Laura Crowder and Secretary Tami Deem went to different businesses in Morgantown, WV, and got various gift card donations and silent auction baskets for our 2021 Christmas party. Tami also emailed different companies on line for donations. This was not successful. It was better to go to different businesses in person.
- Secretary Tami Deem attended the virtual NAD Leadership Training Conference on September 19, 2021. This conference ended on September 25, 2021. The conference workshops provided rich information. Tami plans to write a story about this conference in the fall newsletter (see story on page 1).

Trustee Laura Crowder’s Report:
- Trustee Laura Crowder has been working closely with Secretary Tami Deem on donation project for several months and has been collecting several donations. Laura has been documenting the donation status, items, etc., on Google drive. Check out the file to see the progress on how we are doing on the donation project. So far, we have received several donations and we are excited about it.
- Google drive was set up for WVAD.
- Deaf Awareness Month was recognized by several businesses and communities. Trustee Laura Crowder felt that there was not enough awareness exposed due to lack of motivation, fear of meeting deaf people, and other reasons. Need to know if other nursing homes provided Deaf Awareness Program for employees and residents. Sundale Nursing Home in Morgantown, WV, promoted deaf awareness in their workplace that the employer approved and sponsored. They gave out information about communicating with the deaf community in the workplace, posted fingerspell flyers, etc.

(See Board Minutes on page 5)
(Board Minutes from page 4)
Trustee Sylvia Mick’s Report:
Nothing to report.
Newsletter Editor’s Report:
Deadline for the next newsletter was September 20, 2021.

Membership Coordinator Jimmy Harrison’s Report:
At the last board meeting, there were 132 members. Currently there are 111 members.

Legislative Chair John Burdette’s Report:
• Legislative Chair John Burdette found out that WV State Legislature had their interim meeting on September 12-14, 2021. He is not sure if the meeting was virtual or not. He will find out soon if they plan to have any interim meetings in the future. He wants to resubmit captioning bills. He doesn’t know if LEAD-K bill is moving forward or not. He will find out about that. State of New York just passed their captioning bill and if their bill’s language is better than WVAD’s, we will modify our bill. John would like to know what’s going on with LEAD-K at this time such as have they started the LEAD-K process or not.

Education Advocate April Hottle’s Report:
Nothing to report.

Bylaws Committee Report:
Nothing to report.

Fundraising Veronda Harrison’s Report:
That’s My Pan fundraiser is still going on. Wreath fundraiser is going on now. November 9, 2021, is the deadline.
Veronda hopes to start WVAD Ball fundraiser again soon.

Youth Ambassador Director Laura Crowder’s Report:
• Youth Ambassador Director Laura Crowder went to ASL Deaf Camp at Chestnut Ridge Park in Morgantown, WV, on July 28, 2021, to meet young deaf and hard of hearing children and adults. It was a fun experience and she enjoyed meeting new people. Laura received some information from several people who didn’t know about WVAD. She gave them information about the organization. She encouraged them to join and become a member.
• Youth Ambassador Director Laura Crowder wants to start up a Meet and Greet for the youth once a month on either Zoom or in person. This month will be on virtual Zoom to allow people to meet Laura and ask some questions and/or share concerns they may have. Please keep an eye out for a flyer for monthly meet and greet meetings. She would like to be able to provide interpreters for kids who can’t sign or have low vision.
• Laura Crowder posted on Facebook encouraging young people to be involved with WVAD and has been thinking about creating a new Facebook page called Jr. WVAD to encourage young people to join and allow them to share their concerns and suggestions soon. She will ask them to input their ideas on what they want to see within WVAD such as Youth Conference, Young Club Advisory, etc. Laura is trying to get the youth community involved through Facebook. She said it was hard to get them motivated. Her main goal is to recruit young deaf and hard of hearing kids and adults to become future WVAD leaders.
• Laura Crowder is thinking about doing deaf awareness promotion to support the deaf community during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Disability Day, Grandparents Day, etc.). If you have any ideas, please let her know by email or videophone.

Old Business:
• Chinese raffle is dropped.

New Business:
MOTION: Secretary Tami Deem motioned to have Zoom subscription at $15.00/month for WVAD. Treasurer Veronda Harrison seconded. Passed.
MOTION: Treasurer Veronda Harrison motioned to have WVAD Conference at Pipestem State Park August 3-6, 2023. Tami seconded. Passed.
MOTION: Investor Laura Crowder motioned to set up a Facebook page for Jr. WVAD group. Treasurer Veronda Harrison seconded. Passed.
MOTION: Treasurer Veronda Harrison motioned to distribute WVAD calendars at the Christmas party. Trustee Sylvia Mick seconded. Passed.
MOTION: Secretary Tami Deem motioned that WVAD pay for the calendars. Treasurer Veronda Harrison seconded. Passed.
MOTION: Treasurer Veronda Harrison motioned that new Jr. WVAD members get free membership for 2 years. Trustee Sylvia Mick seconded. Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tamera Deem
Secretary
Larry Des Richards

Larry Des Richards, 79, of Big Bend, WV, passed away on August 22, 2021, at his home.

He was born in Calhoun County, WV, on January 25, 1942, a son of the late Desmoin and Maggie (Dude) Richards.

Larry enjoyed visiting family, hunting, fishing, and he was an avid outdoorsman.

He graduated in 1961 from the WV School for the Deaf in Romney, WV.

In addition to his parents, Larry is preceded in death by his daughter, Heather Myer; three brothers, Denver Richards, Ronzel Richards, and Charlie Richards; four sisters, Ola Triplett, Patty Knight, Sadie Cunningham, and Dorothy Richards.

Larry is survived by two daughters, Vicki Poore, of Concord, NC, and Jessica Richards (Eric Cain) of Grantsville, WV; nine grandchildren, Hunter Poore, Kamaira Myer, Kaden Myer, Chandler Newell, Kylie Newell, Abby Cain, Baille Cain, Riley Cain, and Nick Cain; three great-grandchildren, Paisley Richards, Anessa Hamilton, and Dimitri Myer, who all were the joy of his life.

Larry is also survived by his sisters, Dessel Starcher of Barberton, OH, and Anna Music of Parkersburg, WV, and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held at Stump Funeral Home and Cremation, Inc., Grantsville, WV, on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Alfred Hickman officiating. Visitataion was 1 hour prior to the service. Interment followed at the Norman Ridge Cemetery. On-line condolences may be expressed at https://stumpfuneralhomes.com/book-of-memories/4704901/Richards-Larry-/index.php.

Anna Mae Dean

Anna Mae Dean passed away on September 7, 2021, at Hampshire Memorial Hospital at the age of 84.

Anna was preceded in death by her parents John Coleman Racey and Mary Ellen (Stump) Racey. She was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, James (Jim) L. Dean Sr., as well as five brothers and sisters. She is survived by her three children, Kimberly Ann Buckley and her husband, Gary, of Romney, Randy Steven Dean of Winchester, his three children, Michael, Matthew, and Meghan, along with James Lee Dean, Jr., of Concord, NH, and his wife, Brenna. She is also survived by her brother, Eugene ("Bud") Racey, and his wife, Joyce.

During her career as a houseparent at the WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, she was a devoted and nurturing caregiver.

Friends and family paid their respects at the Shaffer Funeral Home on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 12:30 p.m. (https://www.shafferfuneral.com/obituaries/obituary-listings?obId=22271608&fbclid=IwAR0lkeA3mtEcnu1gqEJsVZTqwo7LigNzA8giYCTHsc_tbjldqEgpC79Li).

Janet L. Buckley

Janet L. Buckley, 75, of Romney, WV, passed away on Friday, August 6, 2021, at her residence.

Born on January 29, 1946, in Hampshire Co., WV, she was the daughter of the late Roy W. Wolford and Frances V. Sink Wolford.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Dorothy and JoAnn Wolford.

She retired as a secretary for the WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. She was a member of the Romney Presbyterian Church, Romney Order of the Eastern Star, # 84, where she was a Past Worthy Matron, and the Romney Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She enjoyed cardinals, hummingbirds, and collecting Longaberger baskets.

She is survived by her husband, Elmer “Gene” Eugene Buckley, two sons, Allen Buckley (Laura) and Jeff Buckley (Debbie), both of Romney, a brother, Roy D. Wolford, a sister, Shirley Hartman, grandchildren, Angela Pyles and Justin Buckley, step-grandchildren, Laray Dotson and Eric Linville, and great-grandchild, Alexia Pyles.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

All arrangements were handled by McKee Funeral Home, Romney, WV (https://www.mckeefuneralhome.com/obituary/janet-buckley?uid=47212E1E44D1B3DABEB2487B783EA201&fbclid=IwAR1LKgWReBT5vHzyfJK2KTwrvTtwXfry5X5qg1_fz_ci_IBQVd-fUoHRV2sTQ).

(See Obituaries on page 7)

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Obituaries from page 6

Thomas Engelman, II

Thomas “Tom” Lawrence Arthur Engelman, II, age 75, of Romney, WV, died at the Hospice of The Panhandle Inpatient Care Facility in Kearneysville, WV, on Saturday, October 2, 2021. Tom is predeceased by his parents Thomas Lawrence Arthur Engelman and Anne Estelle Kinosh Engelman. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Jean Parker; his daughter, Amelia Grace Engelman; his beloved mother-in-law, Betty Jean Parker all of Romney, WV; an uncle, Peter Kinosh; and an aunt, Patricia Newcity both of Bristol, CT; and last, but certainly not least, his beloved feline companion, Kit.

Tom was born in Miami, FL, on October 9, 1945, and graduated from Coral Gables High School. He spent about 2 years with VISTA (Volunteers In Service to America) and that brought him to West Virginia and working on the Herriott Farm. In these years he met and married Jean Parker and the had a little girl, Amelia Grace. For extra money, Tom started subbing in the public school system. He later made a career out of teaching science at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, from which he retired after 30 years of service.

Tom liked to read and he enjoyed entertaining and being entertained with idle chatter. When he came into the funeral home years ago to make his arrangements, he made it very clear he wanted things to be simple. At that time he stated “I want to slip away like the fog.” Somewhere along the way Tom changed his plans from being cremated to donating his body to West Virginia University. When telling his wife his plans, she responded with “your dad always wanted you to go to medical school.” And on it went.

Tom was also very clear about his funeral services. There weren’t to be any. “People can raise their glass and make a toast if they wish.” Here’s to you Tom.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice of The Panhandle, 278 N. High St., Romney, WV 26757 or The Hampshire County Library, 153 W. Main St., Romney, WV, or the animal shelter of your choice. Inquiries may be directed to Shaffer Funeral Home. For more info, see link: https://www.shafferfuneral.com/obituaries/Thomas-Tom-Lawrence-Arthur-Engelman-II?obId=22573201#/celebrationWall.

John Kelly

Word was received that John Kelly passed away sometime in July 2021. He graduated from the Class of 1953 at the West Virginia School for the Deaf, Romney, WV. No obituary could be found for him.

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Your membership fees and donations make it possible for WVAD to protect the collective interests of West Virginia’s deaf and hard of hearing community through advocacy efforts with our policy makers.

Please look at your newsletter address label for expiration date and renew before the expiration date. Join WVAD today!

(Virtual NAD NLTC... from page 1)

focused on the importance of mentoring and creating an inclusive organization to attract Deaf youth leaders. The participants learned the (1) importance of mentoring for Deaf youth, (2) past and current mentoring efforts including MoiSigne ASL, (3) current challenges of Deaf youth involvement with Deaf associations/affiliates, and (4) steps to take to recruit/retain Deaf youth membership.

Tuesday – September 21, 2021 workshops were Befriending Legislators, presented by Kim Bianco-Majeri, Chad Ludwig, Opeoluwa Sontonwa, and Karen Atwood. This workshop encouraged everyone to become aware of and hopefully become involved with the legislative process. Oftentimes people get involved when there is a crisis or WVAD Quarter News, Fall 2021
a bad bill. Relationship building and consistent communications will foster an understanding of our issues and needs and reduce the need to react to bad bills.

The second workshop was Communication Strategies by Justin Cha, Marlene Valle, and Brianna Keogh. This workshop covered strategies and different platforms to consider when you need to communicate with your members. Not everyone receives information the same way - in fact, different options are best! The key is identifying which information should be kept internal and which can be shared publicly. Once you share with the public, are you using all possible platforms to reach your community? One Facebook post isn't enough because not everyone uses Facebook, so what should you do? How do you ensure your community is getting the information you're sharing? This workshop was very informational.

Wednesday – September 22, 2021 workshops were Self Care and Mental Health During the COVID Pandemic, presented by Concetta Pucci and Lynda Myers. This workshop helped those of us who are on the frontlines trying to manage our personal responsibilities while helping to support and organize the deaf community during a pandemic. We reviewed self-care ideas such as mindfulness activity, COVID-19 traumatic responses, four Ms (mindfulness, mastery, movement, and meaningful engagement) of mental health care, and how to take care of ourselves.

The second workshop of the evening was Organizational Unity Through Consensus, presented by Dr. Glenn Anderson and NAD CEO Howard Rosenblum. Many nonprofit organizations are struggling now with disagreements between members of the community or between board members. As a result, many organizations have a hard time with gaining new leaders or to come together to achieve goals. In today’s divisive world, it can be tough to figure out how to motivate members or to get new members. What are the strategies that leaders can use to unify the board and the community to strengthen their organizations? Dr. Glenn Anderson and Howard Rosenblum shared their experiences and ideas in developing these strategies.

Thursday – September 23, 2021 workshops presented were Leadership and Mental Health by Kent Schafer. Change is necessary. Leadership requires developing a plan and managing resistance and conflict through change. With the current pandemic, change has been messy. Mental health has a complex relationship within organizations. With information at the palm of our hands, people are more likely to judge instead of think about change. During this interaction, we recognized various stressors that may affect organizations during the past 18 months. We created several solutions to promote our psychological well-being and embrace change.

The second workshop was Maintaining Funds by Michelle Cline. The success of any non-profit organization depends on making sure money is managed appropriately, with the whole board oversight. The goal of any organization is to ensure proper revenue and spending – that aligns with your organization goals. To do this, it is very important to make sure the organization follows best practices in money management and also complies with all federal and state requirements.

(See Virtual NAD NLTC... page 9)
Friday – September 24, 2021 workshops were Easy FUNdraising, presented by Haydee Garcia and Carmen Aguilar. Every non-profit organization can only succeed with good fundraising. But how do you raise money? What are the possible ways to bring in more money to your organization? There are many creative ideas, and the presenters had a lot of experience raising money for various organizations. They shared their many stories of fundraising and provided us with unlimited possibilities to give us new ideas to help our organization succeed!

The second workshop of the evening was Working Together, Not Against Each Other, presented by BJ Wood, Kevin Barber, Rhonda Jennings-Arey, Stephanie Hakulin, Mingchen Yang, and Roberto Cabrera. We learned how to bring a great leadership transition to our new/future board from this discussion. Our four great panelists shared their actionable, tangible strategies to boost success, providing takeaways that helped us to step into our new leadership role as a non-profit board member.

Saturday – September 25, 2021 workshops were Plenary: Narratives and Dialogues presented by Amy Gomme, Stephanie Hakulin, Melissa Draganac-Hawk, and Panel, Reginald “Reggie” Bess, Evon Black, Benro Oguniype, and Nicholas Lalanne. We joined this no-holds barred plenary session to learn about the Black Deaf experience and the unpacking work that must be done by the Deaf community and Deaf organizations. There were two parts to this plenary:

During the first part, Black Deaf narrators shared stories of what Black Deaf people have experienced in different parts of life including education, employment, law enforcement, courts, restaurants, non-profit organizations, and the Deaf community. Before there can be progress within the Deaf community, everyone must learn about the Deaf Black experience and recognize the inequity and oppression that require dismantling.

The second part focused on the importance of unpacking and recognizing the privileges that non-profit organizations and their leaders and members need to do. Several members of the NAD Board discussed some of the internal work that they have done to understand and address their individual and collective attitudes and experiences with respect to racism.

These narratives and dialogues are central to the work that must be done to provide equality and equity within the Deaf community, especially for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color who are deaf.

The second workshop was Plenary: Constructing a Counternarrative Through Intersectional Lens, Part 2, presented by Akilah English. This session included facilitated conversations and activities on colorblind, anti-black, anti-social justice policies, pedagogies, and practices. We examined the lived experiences through multiple dimensions of race, disability, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status, and more and how to respond to them by way of practicing crafting counternarratives centering on race.

Learning Outcomes: (1) Understand the role of counternarratives in building racial equity and justice; (2) learn intersectional examples of how counter-narratives have been used to resist oppression; and (3) identify, deconstruct, and reconstruct the countering narratives to the dominating narratives by centering the voices of racially marginalized Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened individuals.

The workshops provided rich information and was an eye opener for many of us. For more detailed information about these workshops, please visit NAD's website (https://www.nad.org/nltc-2021/workshops-eastern/).

Thank you NAD for providing virtual educational workshops from the comfort of our homes. The next NLTC conference will be at Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 2023.
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RCC is a no-cost service available for West Virginia residents who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability to actively participate in multi-party teleconference calls or web conferences by reading live captions through a web browser on an internet-connected computer or mobile device.

It's the ideal conference call solution for anyone who is teleworking!

For more information:
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(Un)covering WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB)

By Jim King, On the Loose, Hampshire Review Staff, Posted 9/1/2021

I don’t write often about our efforts to put together the news – other than to brag once a year when we’ve been honored for our work.

Generally, I think readers are a lot more interested in the story (or photo) itself than the hoops we had to jump through to get that news to you. That’s our burden, not yours.

But a story has been evolving this summer that’s of vital importance to our community and of interest to so many people here.

Covering it has been nigh on impossible thanks to the public employees who are at the center of it.

The West Virginia Department of Education has seemingly gone out of its way to avoid answering questions about its intervention at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in any kind of timely manner.

You should be concerned. I’m concerned and frustrated.

My tale of woe and intrigue has a good opening chapter on July 30, a Friday, when the brass from Charleston rolled into Romney to tout the grand opening of the Technical Assistance Center on the WVSDB campus.

It truly is good news for Romney and the school. I was there along with about 70 other people, and an upside to the moment (I thought) was I was introduced to Christy Day, the Department of Education’s communications director, and Matt Hicks, who is heading up the team from Charleston that’s leading the overhaul.

I thought I had the opportunity to set up contacts for ongoing coverage of the story.

You see, I believe that the rest of the state – people in Charleston or Elkins or Weirton – care about this story of an intervention of WVSDB in broad brushstrokes. They want to know that it’s happening, a sense of why and a sum up of the big changes when it’s all over.

But here in Hampshire, I told Day and Hicks, here we care about this story on a week-in, week-out basis. If work is being shifted from one building to another, we have workers who want to know that – along with their relatives, neighbors, and friends.

This is an ongoing story of massive change at the county’s 3rd largest employer, a 150-year-old institution that in many ways has defined Romney’s personality.

So I asked if Day and Hicks could identify a person here who could talk with me on an ongoing basis and be a source for weekly coverage.

I wanted this because nobody at WVSDB – nobody – was talking to me. Phone calls went unanswered; so did emails. I still don’t know if the campus leadership was just scared to talk or directed not to.

But what Christy Day told me on July 30 was to submit questions to her via email and she would get them answered and back to me.

So I did, with a list of questions on August 5 to give her plenty of time to get me responses before our August 11 issue. Only she didn’t – didn’t get me answers or even respond in any way to acknowledge that I had sent questions.

So I tried again the next week with new questions, and the same lack of results.

And the next. Ditto. Only this time I cc’d her boss, Clayton Burch.

Four weeks in, I sent a new list of questions to Day and Burch. I finally got my first reply from Day. It was an automatically generated message that she was out of the office and to send pressing inquiries to her assistant director, Megan Archer.

And do you know what? Megan Archer got back to me within 24 hours with responses to all my current questions and requests as well as from the 3 previous weeks.

Which, I noted in a pretty direct reply to her, that if she could do that so easily, what a shame it was that her office had been unable or unwilling to do so for the 3 weeks before that.

Their lack of response single-handedly undermined the effort to report with authority what’s happening on the 75 acres in the middle of Romney – what’s happening by public appointed officials, using public funds, carrying out the public’s work.

We got responses to our questions, but you’d be hard pressed to call them answers. One was a chewing out that I hadn’t interviewed the head of the Technical Assistance Center on July 30 when they held the grand opening.

A couple of questions about how the use of buildings was changing from a plan that had just been approved in March brought this response: “The uses for all buildings will be under consideration as the CEFP is reviewed and updated to best meet the needs of the school.”

That’s called bureaucratese – the say-nothing language bureaucrats resort to when they simply don’t want to say what’s really going on. It sounds official; it simply comes off as officious (and that’s not a good thing).

Other things we know from the long-delayed responses:

• State Superintendent Clayton Burch is making monthly trips here, but he won’t be able to find time to do a face-to-face interview.

I did get a phone interview with him when the report that led to the intervention first became news (well him and Christy Day). He’s found the time to sit with Hoppy Kercheval twice in these months.

• “Stakeholder” meetings that Burch began with some people from here have stopped after two of them. They never included a local business owner, campus neighbor, current WVSDB staff member, or alumni (either deaf or blind).

• Although the Technical Assistance Center sits just 4 blocks from the Review office, the Department of

(See In the News on page 13)
WVSDB Combines Most Classes

82 on Campus for Opening Day By Jim King, Hampshire Review Staff, Posted 9/1/2021

A new era began last week in the 151-year-old West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB).

Just 82 students were on campus to begin classes, the lowest total in the modern history of the schools.

Beginning last Monday “schools” became, effectively, “school.” Students with both vision and hearing loss were all being taught in the Pierre Sevigny Building, which locals know better as the School for the Deaf.

And most classes included students with vision and hearing impairments, a break from the past.

Plans were announced late last winter to combine deaf and blind students by grade, with pre-K through 5th grade in the Sevigny Building and grades 6-12 in the School for the Blind.

But those plans were upended by a review from the State Department of Education in late April that led to an intervention plan to overhaul the schools.

State Superintendent Clayton Burch has led a team from Charleston in repeated visits to the Romney campus to address issues from building use to staffing to the criteria for accepting students.

The unending changes since intervention began in earnest in June have been marked by massive personnel changes.

WVSDB had 138 employees under contract last week, the Department of Education said in a series of short responses to emailed questions. In December 2019, the school reported 272 people on payroll.

Departures had the schools looking for six classroom teachers a couple of days after classes started August 23.

The resignation of Jamie Vittoria solved one staffing issue. She was one of two principals under the spring plan.

Now, the state says, Dave Simansky remains as principal and athletic director.

Melanie Hesse has been moved from the outreach program to the new position of dean of students. Burch told the State Board of Education 3 weeks ago that he was searching for someone to take on that role to oversee the students’ education and residential needs.

And Pat Homburg, the retired state director of special education who came to campus a year ago as interim superintendent, now has the title of interim coordinator of special education and student services, the state said.

The State Board of Education, which is responsible under state law for direct oversight of WVSDB, meets again next Wednesday in Charleston, WV.

(See In the News on page 17)
FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

WVAD Hillbilly Whittler T-Shirts For Sale

$15.00 EACH
Plus $5.00 for Shipping & Handling

Red Ring with Black Print

Blue Ring with Black Print

Royal Blue with White Print

Light Blue with Black Print

Proceeds will go towards the WVAD organization. If anyone is interested in purchasing a T-shirt, please contact Veronda Harrison (Treasurer) at 304-964-6025 Videophone or e-mail at verapple@aol.com. Feel free to let your family and friends know about this as they are welcome to purchase anything to support our organization.
Kroger Community Rewards & Amazon Smile

Free & Easy Ways You Can Help...

Check out our trusted partners and after a quick signup process or app download, they will donate to our WV Association of the Deaf organization every time you complete your shopping at the grocery store or on line. Thank you for your support!

Directions on How to Sign WVAD Up on Your Kroger Rewards Card

1. Go to https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards. Make sure you are registered on the Kroger website. If not, you will need to register so you can have an account with them.
2. Scroll down and click on I'm a Customer.
3. Select Find an Organization.
4. “Find an Organization” screen comes up. Type in West Virginia Association of the Deaf. Click on Enroll on the West Virginia Association of the Deaf box. Now you are all set! Thank you for supporting our organization!

If you need help with this, please contact Veronda Harrison at (304) 964-6025 or Tami Deem at (304) 212-2291.

SUPPORT WVAD!  AMAZON SMILE WILL GIVE 0.5% OF YOUR ELIGIBLE PURCHASES TO WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF.

West Virginia Association of the Deaf has partnered with Amazon Smile Program! This is a program where our organization receives 0.5% donations from Amazon Smile EVERY TIME you shop on line at no additional cost! Sign up is easy! No need to re-register annually.

Here’s how to donate:

- Log into Amazon Smile: https://smile.amazon.com. If you do not have an account with Amazon, set one up.
- When you are logged in, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to give to.
- Scroll down to “pick your own charitable organization” and type in West Virginia Association of the Deaf.
- Select West Virginia Association of the Deaf. You only have to do this once and you are set to go!

Just login to Amazon Smile every time you shop on line. Enjoy shopping on Amazon Smile! Please share this with your family and friends!
Instructions: Find and circle the words that are hidden in the grid. Make sure to look in all directions – straight across, up, down, diagonally, and backward.

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MAIZE
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RAKE
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SEEDS
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SWEATER

SWIRLING
SYRUP
THANKSGIVING
TRACTOR
TRADITION
TREES
WAGON
WARM DRINKS
WEATHER
YELLOW

(See Fun Page Answers on page 21)
WVAD Quarter News, Fall 2021
United and Fierce
WVSDB Enters New, Combined Chapter With New Mascot and Motto
By Emma June Grosskoff, Hampshire Review Staff, Posted 9/29/2021

ROMNEY — For the last 150 years, the only thing that the West Virginia School for the Blind and its counterpart, the West Virginia School for the Deaf, have had in common are their school colors: blue and gold.

Now, after a century-and-a-half of separation, the schools are “united and fierce,” with a new school motto and mascot.

“Last spring, it was announced that our two schools would be combining into one program,” said Melanie Hesse, Dean of Students. “The first question from the students was ‘what will our mascot be?’”

Well, it’s official: the school’s new mascot is the black bear, which students selected from a list of possibilities that also included rattlesnakes, rockets, and breakers.

Hesse added that some of the reasons students gave for this choice were that the black bear is the state animal, but also that “it is big and fierce” and that “we want other schools to see we are strong.”

Lead teacher Kristie Mills pointed out that students are also designing a school flag, adding their unique take to what the school’s logo will be down the line.

“I am so proud of our students and the thought that they put into creating something that they can be proud of for years to come,” Mills said. “Their ideas are very impressive.”

With the history of separation between the schools for the deaf and the blind, from separate dorms to separate buildings, separate sports to separate mascots, the school’s new chapter is stepping forward into unity.

So the school also has a new motto: “United and Fierce.”

“This entire process has been exciting to watch as our students create their brand, decide what they want their school to be going forward,” Mills added, “and become a part of something that they will be proud to come back to years from now and say ‘I was a part of that.’”

WV Association of the Deaf is having a fundraiser with That’s My Pan! If anyone is interested in shopping for bakewares or other items with your own preferred design, please contact one of the board members (Chris Mick, Gloria Hollen, Veronda Harrison, Tami Deem, Laura Crowder, Sylvia Mick, Scott Hottle, or John Burdette) if you need help. Order deadline is November 13, 2021. It would be a great gift for Christmas, birthday, wedding, anniversary, etc. To order online, see website link: https://www.thatsmypan.biz/wvad1915.

WVAD Quarter News, Fall 2021
10th Annual WVAD Christmas Party

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021

Doors Open at 1:00 p.m. to Midnight
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
430 West Pike Street
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Age 18 and Above
Dinner Starts at 4:00 p.m.
Prize Giveaways
Starts at 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Handicap Accessible
(Elevator is Available)

TENTATIVE MENU:  Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Sweet Potatoes, Corn, Green Beans, Rolls, and Assorted Desserts
Please bring covered dish and/or dessert for an extra door prize ticket.

$1,000 Door Prize Giveaway – Cash & Gift Cards/Certificates (Depends Upon Attendance)

Ugly Sweater Contest
Various Gifts/Cash Prizes (Smart TV and More!)
Silent Auction

$20.00 per person includes Dinner and Door Prizes
Come One, Come All! Have Some Fun!
The uglier the sweater, will make the party better!

* Building Occupancy Limit: 200 People *
Directions to Veterans of Foreign Wars
430 West Pike Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

Traveling from North I-79, go South I-79, get on Exit 119, turn right on U.S. 50 West/West Main Street. Exit on South 2nd Street toward downtown. Turn right on West Pike Street.

Traveling from South I-79, go North I-79, get on Exit 119, turn left on U.S. 50 West/West Main Street. Exit on South 2nd Street toward downtown. Turn right on West Pike Street.

Traveling from East I-68, go West I-68 and merge onto South I-79 and get on Exit 119, turn right on U.S. 50 West/West Main Street. Exit on South 2nd Street toward downtown. Turn right on West Pike Street.

Traveling from Parkersburg, go on U.S. 50 East toward Clarksburg, get on Exit North 3rd Street. Turn right on West Pike Street.
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You would get your newsletter faster than paper copy (about 2 weeks earlier). You can print your own newsletter on your printer if you prefer to read on paper. Once you receive your newsletter in e-mail, you will no longer receive paper copy newsletter.

If you want to receive newsletter through e-mail, please e-mail Tami Deem (wvadnewsletter.editor@gmail.com) or Veronda Harrison (verapple@aol.com) and let us know.

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?
Please look at your newsletter address label for expiration date that was highlighted and renew before expiration date.

(WVAD Quarter News, Fall 2021)
CARAMEL APPLE FRUIT PIZZA
(Submitted by Lisa Keathley)

Sugar Cookie Crust:
1/4 cup butter       1/4 cup shortening
3/4 cup granulated sugar    1 egg
1/2 teaspoon vanilla      1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda    1-1/4 cups flour
Caramel Apple Fruit Pizza:
2 large apples, diced (about 2 cups)   1-1/2 cups club soda water
1/2 cup chopped pecans, toasted   1/2 cup caramel sauce
Cream Cheese Frosting:
4 oz package cream cheese, softened   1/4 cup butter, softened
1 cup powdered sugar     1 teaspoon vanilla
1 Tablespoon Half & Half, if necessary

Sugar Cookie Crust:
1. Beat the butter and shortening together.
2. Add granulated sugar and cream together for 2-3 minutes until lighter in color and fluffier in texture.
3. Mix in the egg and vanilla.
4. Mix in the baking powder, salt, and flour.
5. Press dough into a greased 9-inch springform pan.
6. Bake at 375 °F for 15-17 minutes.

Cream Cheese Frosting:
1. Beat the cream cheese until smooth.
2. Beat in the softened butter.
3. Mix in powdered sugar.
4. Add vanilla and Half & Half, if necessary.

Assembly:
1. Put the diced apples in the club soda water immediately after dicing them. Soak them in the water for about 3 minutes and then drain the water.
2. Spread the prepared cream cheese frosting on the cooled sugar cookie crust.
3. Top with diced apples, sprinkle with chopped pecans, and drizzle the caramel sauce over the top.

PECAN COBBLER
(Submitted by Veronda Harrison)

6 Tablespoon real butter (no substitutions)  1 cup pecans, chopped
1-1/2 cups self-rising flour   1-1/2 cups sugar
2/3 cup milk  1 teaspoon vanilla
1-1/2 cups brown sugar, packed  1-1/2 cups hot water

Directions:
1. Preheat oven to 350 °F.
2. Pour melted butter into a 9x13 baking dish.
3. Sprinkle pecans over butter.
4. In a bowl mix flour, sugar, milk, and vanilla. Stir to combine but do not over mix.
5. Pour batter over the pecans and butter but do not mix!
6. Sprinkle brown sugar evenly over the batter. Again DO NOT MIX!
7. Carefully pour the water over the mixture. Do not stir! Bake for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown. **Note:** Cobbler will have a slight jiggle. If concerned cook 8 minutes longer. Allow to cool completely just as you would with pecan pie before serving. Enjoy!
WVAD MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name ___________________________________________ ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Spouse’s Name ____________________________________ ☐ New ☐ Renewal

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City __________________________ State ______ Zip ______

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☐ Deaf ☐ Hard of Hearing ☐ Hearing ☐ Interpreter

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☐ $20 for 2 Years — Senior (Age 55 and up)
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TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION: $ __________

Make money order or personal check payable to WVAD or complete the credit card information below:

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Name on Credit Card: ___________________________ Exp. Date: ________ Security Code: ________

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Mail with membership application to:

West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.

Jimmy Harrison, WVAD Membership Coordinator

5 Cordoba Drive

Hurricane, WV 25526

Video Phone No.: 304-964-6025

Your membership fees and donations make it possible for WVAD to protect the collective interests of West Virginia’s deaf and hard of hearing community through advocacy efforts with our policy makers.

JOIN WVAD TODAY!