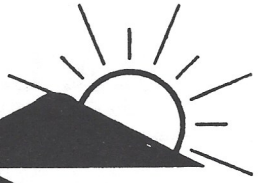




WVAD Newsletter



Volume 19, No. 2

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

Apr., May, June, 1998

Hearing of Newborns Will Be Tested Under New Law

By July 1999, all West Virginia newborns will receive hearing tests before leaving the hospital, according to legislation signed Wednesday by Gov. Cecil Underwood.

Charleston audiologist Cheryl Lustig applauded the development.

"We're going to see these kids anyway," she said, "I'd rather see them at one month of age, get a hearing aid on them and get them referred to an early intervention program."

The earlier a child is identified as deaf or hard of hearing, the earlier speech and language specialists can begin crucial therapy.

"If we can get these children from birth, there's so much greater chance of developing speech and language skills," said Lustig. "It affects how they're going to do educationally and down the road, vocationally."

Lawmakers have asked Department of Health and Human Resources Secretary Joan Ohl to put together a panel which will determine just what specific test is best. That panel will also make recommendations on monitoring and cost of testing.

Bureau for Public Health commissioner Henry Taylor will serve as committee chairman, a news release issued by the West Virginia Speech-Language-Hearing Association said. That panel will have until July 1999 to make its final recommendations. Hospitals will also have until then to fully implement testing.

Such tests are done by installing small microphones into the ears of newborns. The microphones feed

into laptop computers costing about \$8,000, or into handheld units costing a little less than \$6,000.

Data from the hand-held units can be downloaded into full-size personal computers, Lustig said.

West Virginia becomes the seventh state in the nation to pass such a law. The Wall Street Journal carried a front-page story on the subject Wednesday.

The American Academy of Pediatrics declined to endorse such testing in 1994, the Journal said, but more recent studies show the procedures are effective in terms of both cost and quality.

Lustig said she is familiar with a hospital in Utah which has its per test patient charge down to \$7.50 by using volunteer testers. More typical charges are \$18 to \$45 a child, she said.

The legislation was sponsored by Delegates Evan Jenkins, D-Cabell, Jerry Mezzatesta, D-Hampshire, and Sharon Spencer, D-Kanawha.

Historically, a child has not been detected as having a hearing impairment until the ages of 2 to 4, or maybe not until the child enters school, Jenkins said.

Cost of the computers is to be borne by the hospitals. Cabell-Huntington Hospital in Huntington is currently performing the tests, Jenkins said, while a hospital in Martinsburg is close to getting its program off the ground.

"A number of service organizations has stepped up to say they will help hospitals who aren't able to fund it," Jenkins said.

He said he didn't think the associated cost would keep any hospital from obtaining the equipment.



Florida Vacation

Gloria (Boyd) and Wilbur Asbury of Pittsburgh, PA spent a 2 1/2 weeks vacation in Florida last March. They visited Joan Smith Hodge of Palm Beach, Charles Venatis and his wife of Fort Meyers, Ruby and Nick Miceli of Lakeland, Hersey Hall of the Brooksville, Roy and Delores Pyles of Port Richey, Virginia Hopkins and Hazel Nester LaGreco both of Spring Hill, Sol and Dot Schwartzman of Orlando, and other deaf friends. The couple enjoyed the warmer and sunny climate for a while.

Evelyn Martin Pyles of Pasadena, MD and her sister, Alice Teger of Norwood, NJ went together to Florida to visit some of their family members, and met some deaf friends one day during the American Athletic Association of the Deaf Basketball Tournament, which was held during the week of March 29-April 4.

Surprised Visitor

Margaret Norwood, a widow of Malcolm, was traveling north for Maryland through Florida when she bumped into several deaf friends such as Virginia Hopkins, Delores and Roy Pyles, and others at a deaf club on March 18. What a happy reunion!

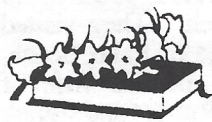


Sick List

Rumors about those nice, deaf friends, who were sick, and now are better:

Phyllis Akdins
Betty McConnell
Brinley Forman
Ruby Miceli
Donna (McGee) Keene

We salute Donna Keene for her long struggle with kidney problems before new kidney transplant. We wish her a long healthy life.



Our Sympathy Goes to:

Harold and Carroll Hamlin on the death of their beloved mother of Huntington. She died ten days before her 102nd birthday.

The family of Kathleen Mackey Green, who was found dead of a heart attack at her Arizona home last February.

Williams and Connie (Lester) Cash of Leon the death of their beloved first grandson on April 15.

Obituaries

Deborah J. Booth

Deborah Jean Booth was born on March 25, 1960, in Lanham Park, Maryland. She attended the West Virginia School for the Deaf as a child and spent the majority of her adult life in Baltimore. She relocated to Cumberland in July 1997 and resided at Longview Apts.

Deborah died at Memorial Hospital on Feb. 17, 1998, after a brief, but serious illness. She is survived by many good friends. Deborah had a love of animals, especially cats. Her other interests included music, painting, crocheting, corresponding with friends in Baltimore, and socializing with new friends in Cumberland.

Deborah had a strong faith in God.

Her favorite passage of scripture was Psalm 40. She will be sadly missed by many.

A candlelight memorial service was held in her honor on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 1998, at 4 p.m. at Longview Apartments.

*Note: Deborah and her sister, Brenda, attended WVSD 1972-1974 or 75.

Della Beatrice Wiley

Della Beatrice Wiley, 83, of Lewisburg, died Tuesday Feb. 17 at Columbus Colony Elderly Care, Columbus, OH, after a long illness.

She was born September 2, 1914, at Alvon, a daughter of the late Claude and Dora Vance Ramsey.

She attended the Baptist Church and was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Estil Wiley in 1976; a sister, Mattie Fleshman; a brother, Harry Ramsey; and a half brother Ruel Ramsey.

She is survived by three sisters, Margaret Ramsey Brown of Hopewell, VA, Laura Ramsey Jones of Cleveland, OH, and Muriel Goodnight of Cabin Creek; and one brother, Glen Ramsey of Lake George, MI.

Service was Sunday, February 21 at 11 a.m. at Wallace and Wallace Chapel, Rainelle. Burial followed in the Rainelle Cemetery, Rainelle.

Arrangements by Wallace and Wallace, Rainelle.

Nancy Kabulski

Nancy Kabulski, 67, of Charleston died Wednesday, April 8, 1998, at home after a long illness.

She was a member of Charleston and West Virginia Associations of the Deaf and a graduate of West Virginia School for the Deaf, Romney. She was preceded in death by her husband William Ronald Kabulski.

Surviving: daughters, Linda Rowh of Dublin, VA, Ruby Cavender of Big Chimney; sisters, Mary Jane Wyatt of Parkersburg, Elcanor Bell of Columbus, OH; special friend, Terry Clark; five grandchildren.

Service was 6 p.m. Friday at Elk Funeral Home, Charleston, with Pastor Dave Bess officiating and interpreter Sandra Snodgrass.

Friends may call from 3 to 6 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.



Purdy, Walls Wedding

Sandra Walls and Terrance Purdy were united in marriage Dec. 12, 1997. The double ring ceremony took place at the United Methodist Church in Danville, MD. The Rev. John Footen officiated with the assistance of Shari Loar who was the interpreter.

The bride is the daughter of Linda Walls from Oceana, WV and the late Norm Walls. The bridegroom is the son of John and Donna Purdy, Rawlings, who also served as the couple's attendants.

Given in marriage by Matt Chronister, the bride wore a designer gown of imported satin and beaded embroidery. The cathedral train was adorned with tiny pearls and crystal sequins with a matching lace and pearl headpiece.

The bride carried a bouquet of white and green carnations which was made by Amy Mullins.

Ring bearer was Jonathan Purdy, nephew of the bridegroom.

A reception was held at the home of the bridegroom's parents, Sonia Purdy, sister of the bridegroom, assisted with the reception and Virginia Northcraft served the cake.

The bride is a 1987 graduate of West Virginia School for the Deaf and is employed at Berryville Graphics in Berryville, VA.

The bridegroom is a 1984 graduate of the Maryland School for the Deaf and attended Catonsville Community College. He also is employed at Berryville Graphics.

The couple reside in Martinsburg, WV.



Regular Board Meeting

The regular board meeting of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf was held on November 1, 1997, at 1:23 p.m. at the Marion County Library in Fairmont, WV.

Present were President, Jimmy Harrison; Vice-President, John Burdette, Secretary, Liz Purvis, Trustees: Bill Cash, Clyde Swartz, and Joey Major. Also present were representatives from Wheeling Association of the Deaf, Ray Matos, Richard Mackey, and Jim Stark. Visitors were Veronda Harrison and Connie Cash.

Absent were Jeff Simmons, Treasurer; Hubert Anderson, Jr., representatives from the Greater Huntington Association of the Deaf, Charleston Association of the Deaf, Logan Deaf Club, Beckley Association of the Deaf, Fairmont Association of the Deaf, and Clarksburg Mountain State of the Deaf.

The minutes from the September 27, 1997 WVAD board meeting were read and discussed. Correction was made and approved.

President's Report:

1. President Harrison did not receive a financial report from Jeff Simmons as requested in the letter dated October 24, 1997 from Secretary Purvis.
2. President Harrison received a letter from the Beckley Association of the Deaf stating that they would be proud to have the WVAD Convention in their area for the year of 2003.
3. President Harrison received a letter from Vanessa Bogges, who has a 17 years old deaf son, requesting information about our organization.
4. WVAD received a thank you letter from Norma Czernicki for the one hundred dollars contribution to the Joe James Memorial Fund.
5. President Harrison received a letter from the Washington School for the Deaf asking for a donation to sponsor the Western States.
6. President Harrison received a

letter from Judy Hott with the Heritage regarding transfer authorization for UDS.

7. President Harrison received a fax from John Burdette listing new WVAD members and contributions to WVAD.

8. President Harrison received a letter from Fairmont Association of the Deaf. They voted to send one hundred dollars deposit for the WVAD Convention in 2001.

9. President Harrison received a letter from Deb Kuglitsch, NAD Tour Coordinator, stating that NAD President Soukup was unable to come to West Virginia on November 8, 1997.

10. President Harrison received a letter from Ray Matos with the Wheeling Association of the Deaf concerning By-Laws.

Vice-President's Report:

1. Vice-President John Burdette received a total of \$240.00 in membership renewal fees. He showed us how he is keeping a record of the members and their paid/unpaid dues. The checks totaling \$240.00 will be sent to Jeff Simmons, Treasurer, for deposit.

2. Vice-President, Burdette received a fax from a friend regarding information on WV Internet and American Online (AOL). He will investigate further and inform us at the next board meeting as to which network he will choose for the home page.

3. Vice-President Burdette stated the Greenbrier Association of the Deaf wants to know the approximate number of meeting rooms and hotel rooms needed at the Brier Inn to make reservation confirmation for the 1999 WVAD Convention.

Secretary's Report:

1. Secretary Liz Purvis received a thank you note from Nancy Kabulski for the flowers sent to her from WVAD.

2. Secretary Purvis gave a report on how she and her friend worked together in getting a TDD at the St. Joseph's Hospital in Parkersburg operating again. She has also contacted the Camden-Clark Memorial Hospital about their TDD not answering her telephone calls. She made an appointment with Debi Martin and Sally

Swisher at the Camden-Clark Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, November 4, 1997, to discuss TDD problems and interpreting services for deaf and hard-of-hearing patients.

3. Secretary Purvis did a rough draft letter to all hospitals in the State of West Virginia regarding provision of interpreting services for all deaf and hard-of-hearing patients.

Treasurer's Report: Absent

Trustee's Report:

Trustee Bill Cash asked Treasurer Jeff Simmons personally for a financial report but he did not get one.

Both Trustees Clyde Swartz and Joey Major had no report for the board.

John Burdette (Bill Cash) moved that we have ten minutes recess at 2:50 p.m. The meeting resumed at 3:00 p.m.

Unfinished Business:

John Burdette asked how we may clear up a misunderstanding about the \$25.00 affiliated fee. Several members from different local deaf chapters have many questions about the affiliated fee. John Burdette (Bill Cash) moved that we table the \$25.00 affiliated fee for further information. Passed.

Clyde Swartz (Joey Major) moved that we close unfinished business. Motion was carried.

New Business

John Burdette (Clyde Swartz) moved that we set up a limitation on numbers of absents from the WVAD board meetings so that we may send a warning letter. Motion was carried.

Veronda Harrison (Joey Major) moved that the reimbursement rate for mileage be changed from 15 cents to 31 cents a mile. Motion was carried.

Veronda Harrison (Joey Major) motioned that the new mileage rate take effective today. Motion was carried.

John Burdette (Joey Major) moved that Veronda Harrison be appointed as an assistant to the By-Laws Committee. Motion was carried.

Bill Cash (Joey Major) motioned that the \$25 affiliated fee be tabled. Motion was carried.

Joey Major (Bill Cash) moved that Secretary Liz Purvis be appointed chairperson for a new committee in contacting all hospitals regarding TDD operation. This committee will be called "Hospital Education Committee."

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next board meeting will be held February 14, 1998 in Lewisburg, WV.

Recorded by Secretary Liz Purvis.

The Generous Donation

The West Virginia Association of the Deaf donated \$200.00 to the "National Association of the Deaf Tree of Life" Endowment Fund in memory of Hubert Anderson, Jr.

A Special Honor in A Quiet World

A Monongah man received a covered honor recently from the special school he attended as a youngster.

Frank Vandetta was inducted into the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind's Sports Hall of Fame.

Frank, who has been deaf since infancy, was honored on the 50th anniversary of his playing career at the school's homecoming.

Was he excited when he learned of his award?

"Oh yeah!" he mouthed the words very emphatically.

But in discussing the honor with him with the aid of his daughter, Tina Bogard, he said that a fire had destroyed many records at the school a few years back and he figured all facts and figures from his athletic career there were gone forever.

He was wrong.

He remains a real-sports fan, attending many local games. "And he never misses any sports on TV," his daughter said. "He's a real North Marion fan and goes to all their games.

He gained his interest in sports from a former Monongah High School coach and put his athletic

talents to good use at the school, which was called the West Virginia School for the Deaf at that time.

Frank lists baseball as his favorite sport but says he likes them all.

He was a quarterback on the Romney school's football team and a catcher in baseball.

A souvenir program for one of the games his senior year lists him wearing No. 21 and weighing 138 pounds. Two other Fairmonters were on that team -- Cledith Williams and Pedro Dela Pas.

Vandetta and his wife, Fannie, who also is deaf, are the parents of three sons, along with their daughter. Their sons are Frank Vandetta of Monongah, and John Vandetta and Sonny Vandetta of Fairmont. Vandetta and Fannie have been married for 43 years and have six grandchildren.

Fannie has been deaf since she was 6 years old as a result of spinal meningitis. Frank's deafness followed a bout of scarlet fever when he was one year old.

Tina was asked if it was difficult for her and her brothers growing up with deaf parents.

"Not, not really," she replied. "We can understand her pretty well and she reads lips real well.

Frank was employed at the Fairmont Westinghouse Plant for 35 years, starting out as a custodian but later becoming a mechanic for the forklift machines.

Frank sometimes attends meetings with other hearing-impaired people in the area and Tina says her father is very handy with his hands.

"He's the type that can build anything. He has every tool you can imagine and a lot of abilities for craftsmanship. He's also an electrician and plumber -- he can do it all."

He was a member of the deaf school's first football team back in 1948. Its homecoming game that year was against the New Jersey School for the Deaf and it also played such opponents as the Keyser High reserves, Ohio School for the Deaf, Virginia School for the Deaf and Parsons High School.

Frank is a great fan of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Pittsburgh Steelers but has steered clear of Three River Stadium in recent

years because of the traffic.

Among his favorite Pirates are Hall of Fames Roberto Clemente.

(Times West Virginian)



Reading: A Shared Experience

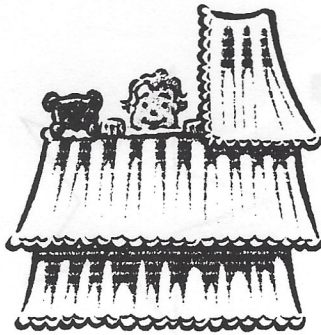
"Shared Reading" describes a special project for parents of children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. The West Virginia School for the Deaf recently was selected as one of five sites across the United States to participate in a research study to promote literacy among children who cannot hear the words when books are read aloud. This shared reading project, launched in October across the state serves 20 families with children ranging in age from two to seven years.

Participants in the project benefit from a program provided in their own homes with a tutor bringing storybooks to be read through the use of sign language. These tutors are themselves native users of sign language and during weekly visits they show family members how a "sign" the storybooks to their deaf child. The book, a videotape which shows a person signing the story, and recommended reading activity guides are left each week with the families.

The project is funded by Gallaudet University's National Missions Program, and by the WV School for the Deaf. For more information about the many outreach educational and evaluation programs offered by the WV School for the Deaf, contact Jane McBride, Superintendent at 301 E. Main St., Romney, WV 26757 or call (304) 822-4800.

Editor's New E-Mail

Editor Veronda Harrison has a new e-mail and her address is: VerApple@aol.com.



Birth Announcement

Dori Stickley and Gary Truman of Craigsville, became proud parents of Joshua, who was born January 30. He weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. and was 19 inches long at birth. He has a 6 year old brother, Roderick "Roddy." As Joshua grows bigger, he looks more like his daddy, Gary. Congratulations!

For one of the best experiences in your life, plan to attend the

National Association of the Deaf

1998 Biennial Conference

July 6 thru July 11

San Antonio, Texas

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COMING EVENTS

June 6

Mixed King & Queen of the Hill Bowling Handicap at St. Albans, WV

June 12

WV School for the Deaf & Blind Graduation Day

June 13

Beckley Association of the Deaf Picnic at Summersville, WV

June 13

4th Annual WV Deaf Bass Fishing Tournament

July 6-11

National Association of the Deaf Biennial Conference

July 25

Charleston Association of the Deaf 50th Golden Anniversary at Cross Lanes, WV

September 12

Men & Women Classic Bowling Tournament at Fairmont, WV

October 10

Homecoming at Romney, WV

"In that day the deaf will hear the words of the bible..." -Isaiah 29:18

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AND MORE...

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Rod Burke, Deaf Minister

114 Knollwood Drive

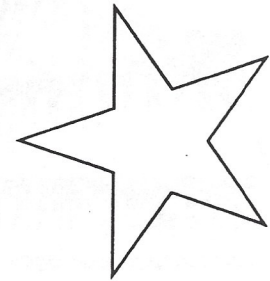
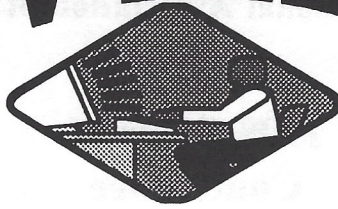
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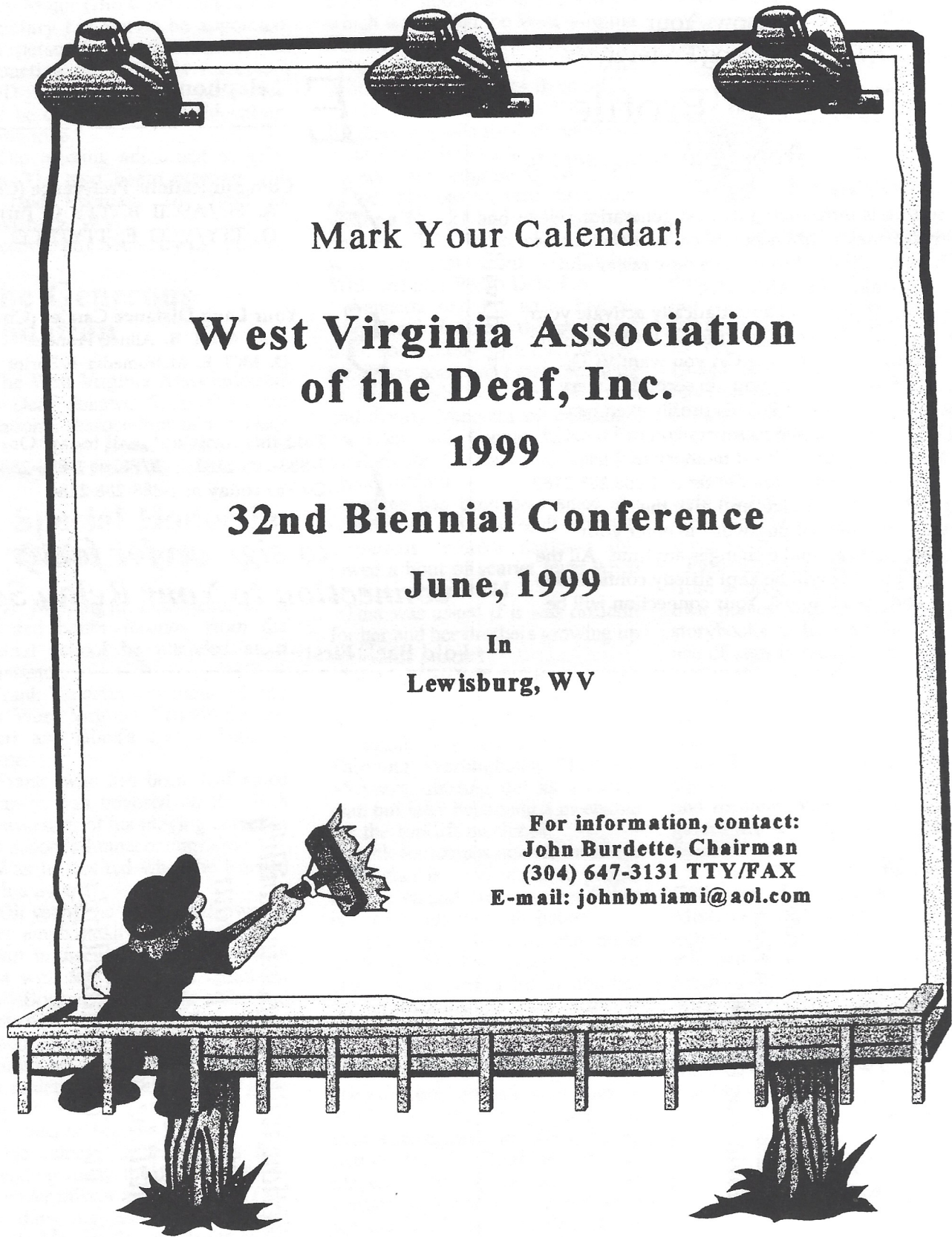
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Mark Your Calendar!

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

1999

32nd Biennial Conference

June, 1999

In

Lewisburg, WV

**For information, contact:
John Burdette, Chairman
(304) 647-3131 TTY/FAX
E-mail: johnbmiami@aol.com**

50th Golden Anniversary

Charleston Association of the Deaf

at

Cross Lanes Community Center
Cross Lanes, WV

Saturday, July 25, 1998

at 4:00 p.m. till 11:00 p.m.

\$1,000

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\$20.00 per person

\$30.00 per person (After July 15, 1998)

Direction: Go off Exit 47 from the Interstate 64. Take a right turn at the traffic lights. Go pass next traffic lights. Take about one mile and you see before the fire station and take a left turn and see the building of the Community Center.

More information, contact: Marzina Brown at (304) 937-4044 TDD
or Debby Steel at (304) 776-5258 TDD or FAX.

Make check payable to: **Charleston Association of the Deaf** and mail to: Marzina Brown,
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How many? _____ How much? _____

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1997-98 Officers**

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PROOFREADER

Norma Czernicki

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Announcement From Editor

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Issue for Date..... | July-Sept. |
| Editor's Deadline..... | July 18 |
| Date You Receive Your Copy..... | Aug. |

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. Deadline for advertisements is the same as for editorial copy. Make checks payable to the WVAD. Send ads with payment and any news to Veronda Harrison, 5 Cordoba Drive, Hurricane, WV 25526.

West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.

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