



WVAD Newsletter

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

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News Here and There	2
Pageant News	3
Obituaries	4
Extra News	5
WVAD Meeting Minutes	6

From Editor:

Issue: July, Aug., Sept.

Deadline: Aug. 20

Receive Copy: Sept.



Message From The President's Desk

Greetings everyone!

On the behalf of the WVAD Board of Directors along with Pageant Directors, we deeply regret to announce that we, the Board made a decision not to send our Miss 2005-2007 Deaf West Virginia Pageant, Holly Palmer to the 48th Biennial National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Conference in Desert Palm, California this year. The reason for this decision is mainly because of not sufficient funding to send her to Miss Deaf America contest to represent us. The decision made for doing this is not very easy for all of us. We are hoping that we will be able to send our next Miss Deaf West Virginia 2007-2009 with the funds available to the next NAD conference in 2008.

The WVAD Board members are working very hard with the West Virginia Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH), the West Virginia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (WVRID), and the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) on new Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment (EIPA) program under the Department of Education's policy. We feel that part of our responsibility is to make sure that the new EIPA policy is GOOD with understanding and FAIRNESS to all qualified Educational Interpreters who interprets for the deaf children in public schools everyday. We believe that the EIPA is important to WVAD because we are also representing all deaf children in Kindergarten to Grade 12 in all public schools in this State of West Virginia too. The deaf children who are in the public schools deserve the best education as they can get by having a qualified Educational Interpreter who should meet all near future EIPA criteria and policy.

The WVAD also has another special project that is called "Deaf Drivers and Law Enforcement Officers Safety" (DDLEOS). The DDLEOS has to do with the safety issues between the Deaf Drivers and the Law Enforcement Officers at anytime when the police officers pull you off for traffic stops. The police officers are not aware that you are a deaf driver when he or she asks you for Driver's License and Registration card. You may or may not understand what the officer is asking you. However, if you don't understand what the officer is asking, you will perhaps grab a notepad and pen somewhere in your vehicle and the officer may think that you have some kind of dangerous weapons that could threaten the officer. The officer will either pull you abruptly out of your vehicle or shoot you. It can be disastrous mistake by the officer, just because you just intend to get a notepad and pen to communicate with the Officer. As a president, I appointed our Vice President John Burdette as a chairperson on DDLEOS to research what is the best method to prevent this incident from happening in the future such as some kind of identification or symbol for the officer to recognize that you are actual deaf driver before the officer approach you at your vehicle window. We, the WVAD want to ensure of your and the Law Enforcement Officer's safety. We need your help by writing your story if you ever had bad experience with a Law Enforcement Officer to John Burdette. John's mailing or email address can be found on the back of this newsletter. With your story, we can bring an example to the West Virginia State Government and/or proper State agencies, which will be very helpful to John and the WVAD.

My final note, our WVAD upcoming Picnic in August. I encourage you to consider carpooling with your friends to help out with sharing the rising cost of gas. This way you and your friends can come down and enjoy the picnic. The WVAD Board of Directors and I are looking forward to seeing you there and having fun.

Thank you and have a wonderful safe summer

Douglas Evans

News Here and There...

HOSPITAL USES SYSTEM TO LINK WITH 150 LANGUAGES

When workers at the Ohio State University Medical Center need a translator – which happened 15,000 times last year – they often push a computer cart to a patient's bedside and press a button to be connected to one, with cameras on both ends allowing translator and patient to see one another. According to the Columbus Dispatch, the Personal Assisted Languages system, or PALS, is operated by Language Access Network, a company with translators in Columbus who speak at least 17 languages. The company works with an Oregon firm that provides access to interpreters who speak 150 languages. American Sign Language is one of three languages available 24 hours a day (Spanish and Somali are the other two) and hospitals pay only for the minutes they use, at a rate of less than \$2 per minute. Translator Habiba Egal used to run from hospital to hospital, sometimes arriving an hour after a call. "Here, it is one click away," said Egal. "As soon as they call, I'm here."

~ From DeafDigest

Graduates Receive Scholarships from WVAD

Every year WVAD awards scholarships to the Valedictorian of West Virginia School for the Deaf and to any undergraduate student from West Virginia that graduates from Gallaudet University.

This year's Valedictorian was Tyler Labin from Morgantown, WV. After graduating he plans to attend Vocational Rehabilitation Center in Institute, WV.

The recipient of the Charles Weiner Award, which goes to undergraduates from West Virginia that graduate from Gallaudet, was Troy Osborne.

Congratulations to both!! Best of luck in your future endeavors.



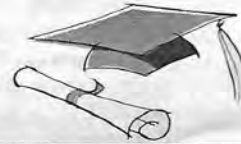
Congratulations to WVSD Graduates

This year WVSD graduates three seniors. They are Tyler Labin from Morgantown, John Oldaker from Hartford, and Mark Wheelwright from Shepherdstown. Tyler was Valedictorian this year.

After graduation Tyler plans to attend Vocational Rehabilitation Center. John plans to work in grounds keeping. Mark plans to travel and work.

Each graduate receives one year free membership from WVAD.

Congratulations to all three! Best of luck in your future.



Deaf Barber Celebrates

Emmanuel Robinson has owned his barber shop in Parkersburg, WV since he was 20 years old. Today he celebrates over 50 years of cutting hair.

Emmanuel also works at the United Postal Services in Parkersburg.

Congratulations on your success!



Emmanuel standing outside his shop

Pageant News



From the Desk of Miss Deaf West Virginia



To the members of WVAD and the WV Deaf Community,

At this time, it saddens me to inform you that I must resign my title as Miss Deaf West Virginia. When I was crowned Miss Deaf West Virginia it was one of the proudest moments that I have experienced in my life. I am so honored that WVAD and the Deaf community chose me to represent our state. Due to circumstances beyond my control, I felt it was only right to inform the WVAD Board and the Pageant Co-Directors that I left that I could not continue on representing the State with the various things going on in my life. I recently graduated from Fairmont State University and am pursuing academic studies. My family has had some serious medical situations that I feel I need to be more available to them as well. I want to thank the WVAD Board and the Pageant Co-Directors for their patience and understanding while this decision was being made and for their continued support. I plan on continuing to strive to fulfill my goals and to work closely with those in the Deaf community.

Sincerely,

Holly L. Palmer

Please continue to support the Miss Deaf West Virginia Pageant Program. Without your donations the program would not be possible. Send your donation in today.

Send donations to:

Linda Phillips, Co-Pageant Director
3302 Central Avenue
Parkersburg, WV 26104

Thank you for your continued support!

We are currently looking for contestants for our 2007 Miss Deaf West Virginia Pageant.

If you know of anyone who would be interested, please contact the co-pageant directors at pageant@wvad.org or check www.wvad.org under pageant for more information.

Obituaries

June (Luther) Hillard

June (Luther) Hillard, 74, of Catoosa, Oklahoma, passed away April 4, 2006 at St. John Hospital from lung cancer and pneumonia. She was born February 10, 1932. She attended West Virginia School for the Deaf. She was a member Tulsa Association of the Deaf. She enjoyed bowling and playing cards. She was married to the late George Hillard and had four children. Her partner, Robert Watson, and her youngest daughter, Lisa, survive her.

Harold Weingold



Note from Editor:

I apologize for not placing Harold's obituary. I did not receive obituary for Harold at this time. His obituary will be in the next issue of WVAD Newsletter.

Looking Back..

Iron Man, Harold Weingold, who departed us. In 1943, the Five Gallaudet Iron Men (Paul Baldrige, Don Padden, Earl Roberts, Roy Holcomb and Harold Weingold) won the 1943 Mason-Dixon Conference Basketball tournament despite a losing regular season record and being seeded last. They were called Iron Men because they played three full tournament games without substitution. Gallaudet had good players on the bench but the coach chose to stay with the winning combination on the floor. Harold was a long time resident of West Virginia after graduating from Gallaudet.

Thank you, Harold for giving Gallaudet its proudest hour in men's basketball.





Extra News...

ASL in Public Schools

Deafweekly dated March 29, 2006 where it stated that the Maryland State Board of Education has approved a proposal to make ASL classes count the same as foreign language courses in all public high schools. On February 28, 2006, the board voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the American Sign Language Work Group, a task force made up of teachers and education administrators. Rather than define ASL as a foreign language, the board decided to make it the "equivalent" of a foreign language. As a result, officials will not have to comply with No Child Left Behind rules that require foreign languages to be taught by highly qualified teachers. Perhaps, the West Virginia State Board of Education should do the same.

No Interpreter???

There was an article in the Deafweekly on March 29, 2006 about a deaf New Hampshire man named David Muise of Hinsdale who will receive \$85,000 in damages and legal fees from Cheshire Medical Center. Mr. Muise filed a lawsuit against the Cheshire Medical Center in 2004 because they failed to provide him with interpreting services on four separate occasions. The settlement requires the Keene, New Hampshire hospital to provide interpreters and other services as needed, increase staff training, and post better information about patients' rights. No hospital should deny interpreting services to any deaf patient.

Lawsuit

A former service coordinator with Deaf Education and Advocacy Focus (DEAF) of South Charleston, W.V. has filed a lawsuit against his former employer, alleging he was fired because he has cancer. According to The West Virginia Record, Kristopher Cook filed the lawsuit May 24 against the agency and his former supervisor, Patrick Black. Cook, who began his job in April 2005, said he told Black of his cancer on August 17 and was assured he would not be fired for missing work. However, Cook said Black became hostile toward him and suggested he look for another job. When Cook missed work due to what he calls a wrongful arrest by police, "the defendant saw this incident as an opportunity to get rid of the plaintiff," says the complaint. Cook is seeking damages for loss of wages, pain and suffering, mental anguish, emotional distress and humiliation, as well as punitive damages.

~ From Deafweekly

Breaking a Sound Barrier

The Postal Service is launching a nationwide push to install videophone devices and services that will make it easier for its 4,000 deaf employees to communicate with their colleagues. The videophones, known as VP-100s and supported by Sorenson Video Relay Service, are being installed this month at post offices in Boston and Hartford that employ deaf workers. The devices let the deaf communicate directly with one another without an interpreter.

"We were having a difficult time getting interpreters at 10 p.m. or midnight or 2 a.m., even though some of our deaf workers were working the late-night shift," said Chung-Hall. "On weekends and holidays, we couldn't get interpreters. We couldn't get them when the weather was bad."

The Postal Service will use Sorenson's Video Relay Service and its video remote interpreting service. Both types of calls are transmitted over a high-speed Internet line and provide deaf viewers with images through a VP-100 videophone. The Postal Service will pay \$35 for the first 10 minutes of video remote interpreting and \$3 per minute thereafter. The Postal Service is also leasing the equipment for \$190 per month per unit. In the past, it hired on-site interpreters to translate for its deaf employees, but costs ranged from \$60 to \$120 per hour, with a two-hour minimum, said spokesman Dave Partenheimer.

~ From the Boston Globe

West Virginia Association of the Deaf
March 11, 2006
Parkersburg Public Library
Parkersburg, WV

Present: Douglas Evans, John Burdette, Jimmy Harrison, Liz Leisure, Robyn Evans, and David Weldrick.

Committee Members: Linda Phillips and Caryn Keller

Absent: Worthy Devericks

Visitors: Regina Jenkins, Roy Forman, Paula Forman, Scott and April Hottle, Shiloh Thompson, Eileen Great-house, Mary West, Stephanie Jaggie w/daughter,

The regular meeting of WVAD was held in the conference room of the Parkersburg Public Library on Saturday, March 11, 2006, at 1:20 p.m. President Doug Evans presided with Secretary Liz Leisure present.

The minutes of the previous meeting, December 31, 2005, were corrected and approved as read.

The treasurer (Jimmy Harrison) gave the financial reports. He reported a balance of \$2,330.77 in the checking account; \$10,390.97 in the savings account; \$12,000.00 in the CDE accounts; \$16,118.12 in the Mingo County Fund Account and \$1,296.07 in the Miss WV Deaf Pageant Fund as of March 10, 2006.

The treasurer also reported that WVAD has 192 members on the list.

President Douglas Evans gave a report about the meeting we had with Delegate Tim Ennis and Deanna Stone, Executive Director with the WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on January 30, 2006 to discuss our concerns about the educational interpreters, speeches by our State Governor not being closed captioned and interpreted in sign language on television stations other than PBS, and the lack of TTY symbol signs on the interstates near the rest areas where TTY are installed.

Caryn Keller received a letter from Barry Warhoftig who is the director of the Traffic Engineering Division on February 10, 2006. In his letter, Mr. Warhoftig stated that the Division of Highways is in the final stages of TTY installation and operational testing at each of the Welcome Center and Rest Areas in West Virginia. After all the TTY devices have been installed and tested, they will install TTY symbol signs. They anticipate that this will take approximately 60 to 90 days.

He received a letter from Deanna Stone, WVCDHH Executive Director, regarding the House Bill 4377 that would establish standards for educational interpreters. We sent a letter to Delegate Tom Campbell opposing the bill.

He received a State Association Credential Delegate and Alternate Registration Form for the NAD Conference 2006 that will need to be completed and mailed before March 15, 2006.

He received a Deaf Tech Fair Exhibitor Application Form. He asked Liz to mail the form after Jimmy writes a check.

Vice-president John Burdette informed President Evans that he would need to go to WV School for the Deaf to give scholarship awards to WVSD graduates this year. He had no other reports to give at this time.

Secretary Liz Leisure, as well as other board members, received a letter from April Hottle today regarding our opposition to House Bill 4377. In her letter, Mrs. Hottle explained why the bill was introduced without discussing it first with WVAD and WV Registry of Interpreters.

There was no trustee report.

Linda Phillips and Caryn Keller, Pageant Directors, reported that they are working on fundraising and grants. They have been discussing many ideas to raise money for the pageant fund. The NAD retreat will be held at Riverside on June 23 to June 29. Linda and Caryn developed a new contract for Miss Deaf West Virginia. They will discuss the new contract with Miss Deaf West Virginia, Holly Palmer, on March 25th when they meet in Clarksburg. Their main focus in Pageant right now is the national competition. After the nationals, they will focus on state pageant and recruiting the girls.

There was a ten minutes recess started at 2:05 p.m.

Committee Reports:

WVAD Biennial Picnic – John Burdette, Chairperson, made a tentative flyer for the August 5, 2006 picnic to be held at Summerville Lake. He has already reserved a shelter for the picnic.

South – Workshop – John Burdette, Co-chairperson, will be looking for a place to have a workshop on Medicare Plan D and then he will be setting up a workshop on Diabetes.

North – Workshop – Robyn Evans, Co-chairperson, will be setting up a workshop on Education on Diabetes. It will be a 45 minutes session. She may set up a workshop on CPR in the afternoon. She may also offer Medicare workshop later.

2007 WVAD Convention - Jimmy Harrison, Chairperson, gave a comparison between two hotels – Embassy and Holiday Inn-The Charleston House.

Unfinished Business:

Hotels Reward Points – Robyn Evans will check and see if a treasurer can be added to the Holiday Inn account.

New Business:

John Burdette moved that WVAD place a full ad in the WVDBA program book. The motion was passed.

Robyn Evans moved that WVAD add the information about the picnic to the ad in the WVDBA program book. The motion was passed. Jimmy Harrison moved to amend the motion by adding another full page to the program book about the WVAD biennial picnic. The amendment was passed.

John Burdette moved to discuss the admission price and food costs for the picnic. The motion was passed.

Robyn Evans moved to offer one free shirt, one free admission ticket to the WVAD 2007 conference, and one free year of WVAD membership at the picnic as prizes. The motion was passed.

Doug Evans moved that WVAD buy two exhibit boards – One for WVAD and one for WV Deaf Pageant. The motion was passed.

Robyn Evans moved that WVAD send Liz Leisure to the NAD Conference 2007 as an Alternate. The motion was passed. Doug Evans moved to amend by adding to pay for Liz's air fare and NAD combo ticket. The amendment was passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD set up guidelines for the host of WVAD conference. The motion was passed. President Evans appointed Linda Phillips and Robyn Evans to develop the guidelines.

John Burdette moved that WVAD provide a horseshoe tournament for \$5 per person and any additional games. The motion was passed. Robyn Evans moved that we amend by adding to have tips. The amendment was passed.

Doug Evans moved that WVAD order new shirts with our new logo. The motion was passed. Jimmy Harrison moved that we amend by adding the board members' names on the front. One shirt with a logo sown on the front and one shirt with a logo pressed on the back. The amendment was passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD choose Embassy Suite for the 2007 WVAD Conference. The motion was passed.

Doug Evans moved that WVAD reimburse him \$280 for the air fare for trip to the NAD Convention in California. The motion was passed.

John Burdette moved that WVAD have an exhibit at the State Fair in August 2006. The motion was tabled. The deadline for this motion is April 11, 2006.

Announcements:

The Deaf Tech Fair will be held on May 20, 2006, at the Charleston Civic Center – Each Board Member will be assigned to the booth for one hour.

The Panel is scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

President Douglas Evans encouraged everyone to buy airline ticket on or before March 31, 2006.

The WV Registry of Interpreter meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2006 at Clarksburg Caperton Center at 1:00 p.m.

The Parkersburg Association of the Deaf Club is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. this evening.

The Charleston Deaf Club is scheduled for March 25, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. in St. Albans, WV.

April Hottle and Shiloh Thompson gave their comments about the House Bill 4377 that would establish standards for educational interpreters.

Roy Forman, Deputy Director, gave a position statement regarding the need for better educational and community interpreters.

The next board meeting will be held on May 19, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at The Embassy Hotel in Charleston, WV.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Liz Leisure, Secretary



West Virginia Association of the Deaf Officers

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

ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page (7 5/8"x 10")..... \$100
Half Page (7 5/8"x5").....\$60
1/4 Page (3 5/8"x5").....\$30
1/8 Page (3 5/8"x2 3/8").....\$20

WVAD Membership— Join Now!

Name _____ \$15 for one year Regular

Address _____ \$ 25 for two years Regular

City/State/Zip _____ \$20 for two years Senior Citizen (55+)

TTY _____ FAX _____ \$10 for two years Student (Age 12 to 18)

EMAIL _____ Yes! Here is my Donation \$ _____

_____ Yes! I want to donate to WVAD Deaf Pageant \$ _____

Total Membership & Donation & _____ Pageant \$ _____

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

West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.

Linda Phillips, Editor
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Parkersburg, WV 26104

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED