



# WVAD Newsletter



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

Volume 28 No. 2

April, May, June 2007

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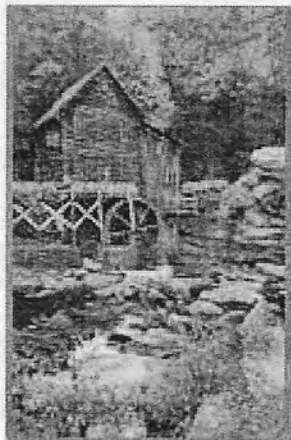
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### From Editor:

Issue: July, Aug., Sept.

Deadline: Aug. 20

Receive Copy: Sept.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear WVAD Members and friends,

The WVAD 36<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference is only several weeks away. So, are you ready for the fun and excitement including meeting new and old friends at the conference events? I am, too, and so is the all WVAD Board of Directors. We all worked hard to make this conference at the Embassy Suites in Charleston to give you the pleasant and worthwhile experience over the weekend.

There are a couple of friendly reminders. Perhaps, most of you already did, but I still need to remind other attendees.

The deadline date to make a room reservation at Embassy Suites is **July 11**. Have you made a reservation? If you did, that is great, but did you ask for the group code **WAD** to get the special rate? In case you forgot, please call the Charleston Embassy Suite at 304-347-8700 and make sure you have your confirmation number ready to give to the Reservation Representative

If you have not made a reservation, please do it today by calling Charleston Embassy Suites at 304-347-8700 and, remember, ask for the group code **WAD**.

To date, the total of attendees is 130. Decide to go to the Conference at the last minute? It is not too late! You may contact Jimmy Harrison by calling him on videophone at (304) 757-7863 or go to website at <http://www.badongo.com/file/1641641> and then click "Download Your File Here" button to obtain and print the conference registration form. For further information, please check out our website: [www.wvad.org](http://www.wvad.org).

In the meantime, the WVAD Officers and I want you to have a great and safe summer season. We look forward to seeing you (conference attendees) at the conference soon.

*Douglas H. Evans*

# WVAD CONFERENCE UPDATE



## WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

### Friday Morning

- CEPIN (9:00 a.m.)
- To Be Announced (10:30 a.m.)

### Friday Afternoon

- General Assembly I (1:00 p.m.)

### Friday Evening

- WVAD Feud Contest Game
  - Refreshments
- DINGO Game / Social

### Saturday Morning

- Hamilton Relay (9:00 a.m.)
- DDLEOS (10:30 a.m.)

### Saturday Afternoon

- General Assembly II

### Saturday Evening

- Dinner Banquet
- Keynote Speaker
- Entertainment (TBA)
  - Awards
  - DJ and Social

NOTICE: Subject to change

DON'T FORGET --TO GET ONE FREE



ATTEND EACH WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS TO WIN PRIZES!!!!

### REMEMBER OUR CONFERENCE THEME:

WVAD Needs You - Your Future is in Your Hands.

Come to the General Assembly Meeting and speak out.

Vote on new proposals and WVAD Officers 2007 - 2009



The Keynote Speaker at the 36th Biennial Banquet Dinner will be Mrs. Jenny Gember of the Hamilton Relay Inc.

The EXHIBITORS will exhibit their products and information on Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Have you seen the FAMILY FEUD game on TV show in 1970s??

Friday night, August 3, 2007 at the WVAD 36th biennial conference,  
The Charleston Association for the Deaf proudly presents the

# WVAD FEUD

performed by Douglas A. Evans

### 1st Place

5 team players will win  
CASH prizes.

### 2nd Place

5 team players will win  
CASH and cool PRIZES  
by variety vendors.

### 3rd Place

5 team players will win  
CASH and cool PRIZES  
by variety vendors.

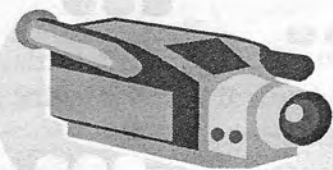
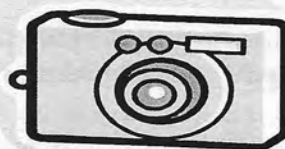
The amount of CASH and cool  
PRIZES will be announced at  
the game show.

Door opens at 6:30 p.m. and  
the game starts at 7:00 p.m.

After the WVAD  
FEUD game, there will  
be delicious  
refreshments and then  
DINGO game.



Don't forget to bring your camera or camcorder





# News..News..and more NEWS..

## WVSD&B Has a New Superintendent



ROMNEY — One of Hampshire County's best-kept secrets has been revealed. Patsy Shank has been named the new superintendent for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

Shank has been a long-term employee of the state school for the deaf and hard of hearing and has worked hard during her tenure to keep a low profile. "My job has always been about the students and not about me," said Shank. Some things are about to change, other things never will. Shank said during an interview Monday that she realizes her days of being low keyed are over to some degree, but her job will always still be about the students. A Keyser native, Shank still lives in her hometown, but that's also about to change. According to Shank, once she takes over as superintendent of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, she will move into the superintendent's apartment on campus so she can be available when needed. And, she said, that she wants to become more of a part of the local community. Shank said she comes from humble beginnings. Her mother was a native of the Petersburg area and her dad was from Burlington. "I have no children and have never been married," Shank said. Her work has been her passion over the years. However, she said she has recently adopted a dog. After graduation from high school, Shank attended Bridgewater College in Virginia where she received her bachelor's degree in biology. She then became part of West Virginia University's doctoral program in anatomy in the department of medicine, teaching and doing research in the medical department. After two and one-half years at WVU, Shank said she wasn't satisfied with what she was doing and returned home to Keyser, giving up a full scholarship. "It was just not what I wanted to do with the rest of my life," Shank said. She said she wasn't sure what she wanted to do — that was until someone from her church told her about a science position available at the West Virginia School for the Deaf. "My response was 'so what?'" she said. "I had never been around the deaf culture and I didn't know the language." But in order to do something, she said she interviewed for the job and told the principal at the time that she would help until the end of the year. That was, if she could handle it that long. "From the first day I walked into the school I knew God had a plan," said Shank. "From day one it felt right. I felt like I belonged there." Shank said she has had a marvelous time during her tenure at the school. She did, at one point, take a sabbatical from the school, pursuing her education. Shank went back to school and received her master's degree from Western Maryland in deaf education before going on to the University of Virginia as a full time student.

~ from newspaper



The Miss Deaf West Virginia Pageant has been CANCELLED. Why?? We do not have enough contestants and National rules require now that we must have three contestants to have a pageant. We are sad that we must cancel it this year. We will work hard to find girls for the next pageant.

Instead of pageant Saturday night we will have different entertainment. What?? Come and find out. It will be exciting and fun!

~~ Linda Phillips and Caryn Keller Co-Pageant Directors~~

### HARKIN BILL PROVIDES \$100 MILLION FOR CAPTIONERS

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) has introduced "The Training for Realtime Writers Act of 2007," (S. 675, February 2007), a bill that would authorize \$100 million in grants for training and job placement of closed captioners and court reporters. The demand for realtime writers has grown, partly because of government rules requiring most new programming to have closed captioning. Those who complete their training nearly always find jobs quickly, said Harkin, since so few people enter the field. The Senate passed a similar bill two years ago but the House did not act on it. This year, Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wisc.) has introduced companion legislation, HR 1687.

~ From Deaf Weekly

### VRS PROVIDERS PETITION FCC ON NON-COMPETE DEALS

Five video relay service providers have petitioned the Federal Communications Commission to declare non-compete agreements on VRS interpreters "unreasonable." The petition – filed May 21 by Hands On VRS, CSDVRS, SnapVRS, GoAmerica and the Communication Access Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – asks the FCC to declare invalid an agreement used by competitor Sorenson Communications that bars employees from working for one year for a VRS competitor or for any entity that contracts with a competing VRS provider. Hands On CEO Ronald Obray said the FCC should protect interpreters' rights to work where they want and "ensure that this scarce resource is managed wisely."

~ From Deaf Weekly

### *Did you Know????*



- There are approximately 15 to 20 known Deaf dentists in America?
- Statistics prove that deaf people live longer than hearing people?
- The first state sales tax in the United States went into effect in West Virginia on July 1, 1921?
- The world's oldest deaf person is 105 years old? Her name is Maurice Richter from California.
- Nearly 75% of West Virginia is covered by forests?
- The first federal prison exclusively for women in the United States was opened in 1926 in West Virginia?



# West Virginia Relay

Volume 1, Issue 1  
Spring 2007

## West Virginia Relay News

West Virginia Relay, provided by Hamilton Relay, is free service that allows people who are Hearing, Hard of Hearing, Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Speech disabled to communicate with each other via the telephone. Through the use of specialized equipment, relay users communicate freely with friends, family and businesses that use a standard telephone.

West Virginia Relay offers variety of services that fit the communication needs of every relay user. Below are the different services offered:

### TTY (Text Telephone):

The TTY is the most common way to connect to the relay—the relay users' messages are typed, and the other person's responses are read.

A TTY (or text telephone) device includes a keyboard for typing the relay users' side of the conversation—and a screen on which the other person's responses appear, typed by a Communication Assistant (CA).

### Voice:

Hamilton Relay allows hearing people to communicate with important people in their life who are Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired.

When placing a call through Hamilton Relay, the hearing person's side of the conversation is typed (or signed in Video Relay calls) by the Communications Assistant (CA) and "relayed" to the person being called. The CA then voices typed or signed responses from called party. It's a simple, easy and effective way to communicate with friends, family and businesses.

### VCO (Voice Carryover):

For individuals who can communicate clearly by talking, but have difficulty hearing on the phone, Voice Carry Over (VCO) is a terrific service. With VCO, one speaks directly to the person called, and their responses are typed back. It's like having telephone conversations captioned. No more worry about struggling to hear the person on the other end of the line. VCO users enjoy the freedom of using their own voice—while borrowing our ears.

VCO is especially helpful for people who can speak clearly, but may have a hard time hearing over the phone.

### CapTel® (Captioned Telephone):

Continue to enjoy telephone conversations with the added confidence of captioning!

CapTel allows users to talk on the phone and listen to the person they are talking with, along with receiving captioned text of conversation ensuring that no part of the conversation is missed. CapTel is especially helpful for people who have understandable speech, but have some degree of hearing loss. CapTel enables them to stay in touch on the phone without worrying about misunderstanding the conversation.



**HCO (Hearing Carryover):**

Hearing Carry Over (HCO) is especially useful for people who can hear on the phone, but have a difficult time speaking.

With HCO, users listen directly to the person on the other end of the telephone conversation. Using a TTY (text telephone), the HCO user types responses to the Communication Assistant (CA) who will speak what's typed. Users enjoy the freedom of using your own ears—while borrowing our voice.

HCO is especially helpful for people with impaired speech as a result of cerebral palsy or other speech disorder.

**STS (Speech-to-Speech):**

Speech-to-Speech is especially for people who have a difficult time speaking or being understood on the phone.

Having a difficult time speaking does not have to prevent one from talking on the telephone. Speech-to-Speech relay involves specially trained Communication Assistants who are familiar with a wide variety of speech patterns of callers with cerebral palsy, stroke complications, voice disorders or other speech disabilities. The CA revoices as needed, so no longer do STS users have to worry if the person on the other end of the line has understood them.

**Spanish:**

All West Virginia Relay services are also available in the Spanish language. English-to-Spanish translation is also available in which one caller is using Spanish and the other is using English.

You may learn more about the variety of relay services by visiting the website at:

<http://www.hamiltonrelay.com/states/wv.htm>

If you have further questions about the West Virginia Relay, contact West Virginia Relay Customer Service: 866-430-1274 TTY/Voice or email: [wvrelay@hamiltonrelay.com](mailto:wvrelay@hamiltonrelay.com).

In addition, Hamilton provides other advanced telecommunication services in West Virginia.

Hamilton Relay VRS allows people with are deaf, hard of hearing or speech disabled, who also use American Sign Language (ASL), to make use of video equipment, high speed Internet access and interpreters to communicate with standard telephone users.

Hamilton Relay Internet allows relay users to connect to Hamilton Relay via the Internet using their computer or other web enabled device in order to place a call to any standard telephone user. During an Internet Relay call, The CA handles the call the same as a traditional relay call.

Hamilton Relay Wireless enables people to place Internet Relay calls using pagers, PDAs, cell phones and other mobile devices. Hamilton Relay Wireless will work with any mobile device that makes use of AOL Instant Messenger (AIM<sup>®</sup>) or browser on their wireless device.

All services are available at [www.hamiltonrelay.com](http://www.hamiltonrelay.com)

For more information, contact Mitchell Levy, Regional Account Manager

Email: [mitchell.levy@hamiltonrelay.com](mailto:mitchell.levy@hamiltonrelay.com)

West Virginia Relay Customer Service: 1-866-430-1274 TTY/Voice

# Obituaries

## **Myrtle Pack**

Myrtle Pack, 84, of Oak Hill, West Virginia, passed away Tuesday, February 20, 2007. Myrtle enjoyed writing her pen pals, reading, sewing, going on picnics, watching golf, football, and NASCAR on TV. She attended the Romney School for the Deaf and Blind. She was the oldest member of the Beckley Association of the Deaf. Those left to cherish her memory include sons, Robert Pack and wife, Carla, of Vine Grove, Ky., Jerry Pack of Louisville, Ky., Dallas Pack and fiancée, Teresa, of Louisville, Ky., and Patrick and wife, Candi, of Vine Grove; daughters, Shirley Treadway and husband, Larry, of Ocean Isle Beach, N.C. and Susie Duncan and husband, Freddie, of Oak Hill; brother, William West of Elizabeth; sisters, Hilda Hill and Betty Cottrell of Parkersburg; 10 grandchildren; 16 great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews and great ones, too; and special friends, Scotty and Derryl. Service was held February 24, at Blue Ridge Funeral Home, Beckley, with Pastor Darrell McNeely officiating. Myrtle was buried at High Lawn Memorial Park, Oak Hill.

## **Elfrieda Marie (Poland) Shanholtzer**

Elfrieda Marie (Poland) Shanholtzer, 96, of Romney, WV died at her home on Sunday, June 3, 2007. Her husband, Edgar J. Shanholtzer in 1989; a daughter, Betty Jean; one brother, Arthur N. Poland; and two sisters, Blanche Bard and Helen P. Parker, preceded her in death.

Mrs. Shanholtzer was a graduate of Romney High School Class of 1928. She retired from the West Virginia School for the Deaf in 1975 where she taught in the Elementary Department for 31 years. She was a member of the Romney First United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Women, the West Virginia Retired Teachers Association, NRTA, the General Federation of Women's Club of Romney and the Hampshire County Association of Retired School Employees.

She is survived by one son: William E. Shanholtzer, and wife, Pat, Winchester, VA, one brother: Dailey L. Poland, Great Falls, VA. three grandchildren: William E. Shanholtzer, Jr., and wife Shawn, Lisa S. Whitt and husband, Jeff, all of Manteo, NC, Jeannie S. Edmonds, and husband, Tim, of Fredericksburg, VA, seven great grandchildren and one great great grandson, several nieces and nephews. The service was held Wednesday, June 6, at the Romney First United Methodist Church with Rev. Richard L. Longbon officiating. Mrs. Shanholtzer was buried at Indian Mound Cemetery, Romney, WV.



### **Thomas Black**

Thomas Black, 63, of Agnew Street, Moundsville, WV, passed away April 6, 2007, in Wheeling Hospital. Service was held April 9, at Anderson Funeral Home, Moundsville, with Reverend Paul K. Smith officiating.

### **Ruth A. Leach (Hedberg) (Hamilton)**

Ruth A. Leach (Hedberg) (Hamilton) of Greece, NY, passed away, June 12, 2007, at age 91. She graduated from the Rochester School for the Deaf in June 1936. She married her first husband, Lawrence Hedberg, in September 1936. He passed away in 1954. Ruth worked for Stromberg Carlson for 26 years from 1952 to 1978. She married her husband, Clifford Curtis Leach on January 25, 1975. She was a Baptist and was a member of Alpha Lutheran Deaf Church on Clinton Avenue. She is survived by her husband, Clifford Leach; son, Dan (Maureen) Hedberg; six grandchildren, nine great grandchildren; and one great great grandchild; one brother-in-law, Robert (Ellen) Hamilton; several nieces, nephews, and many friends in the deaf community. Service was held June 15, at Bartolomeo & Perotto Funeral Home, Inc., 1411 Vintage Lane. She was buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery. The donations may be made in Ruth's Memory to the Rochester School for the Deaf, 1545 St. Paul Boulevard, Rochester, NY 14621.

### **Lucy May Boyko**

Lucy May Boyko, age 83, of Prosperity, WV, died June 17, 2007, at the Beckley Appalachian Regional Hospital following a long illness. Mrs. Boyko was a homemaker and a 60-year resident of Prosperity. She was a 1943 graduate of the WV School for the Deaf and Blind at Romney. Survivors include her husband of 60 years, William Boyko; two sons, William R. (Freda Ann) Boyko, of North Sandbranch, and Willis R. Boyko of Prosperity; a daughter, Carrie (Roger) Halliwell of Prosperity; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Service was held June 20, at Rose and Quesenberry Funeral Home Peace Chapel in Beckley with the Reverend Fred Lovell officiating. Mrs. Boyko was buried at Sunset Memorial Park in Beckley.

West Virginia Association of the Deaf  
October 6, 2006  
Conference Room in the Administrative Building  
West Virginia School for the Deaf  
Romney, West Virginia

**Present:** Douglas Evans, Robyn Evans, Worthy Devericks, Liz Leisure, John Burdette, David Weldrick, and Jimmy Harrison

**Committee Members:** Linda Phillips and Caryn Keller

**Visitors:** Erin Fulton, Regina Jenkins, Mike Parker, and Doug Casto

The regular meeting of WVAD was held in the conference room of the Administrative Building at the WV School for the Deaf in Romney, West Virginia, on October 6, 2006, at 1:36 p.m. President Doug Evans presided with Secretary Liz Leisure present.

The minutes of the previous meeting, August 6, 2006, were corrected and approved as read.

The treasurer (Jimmy Harrison) gave the financial reports. He reported a balance of \$2,377.74 in the checking account; \$5,914.87 in the savings account; \$12,000.00 in the CD accounts; \$16,165.44 in the Mingo County Fund Account and -\$408.55 as of September 30, 2006. The reports were accepted as given.

President Doug Evans reported that he and John Burdette attended the hearing on August 8, 2006 at the Public Service Commission (PSC) for public notice of invitation to apply for a certificate to provide telecommunication relay services (TRS) in WV. Hamilton Relay Services, Sprint, and Lauttamus Communications, Inc., applied for the certificate. He wrote a letter to the PSC asking that they choose the most qualified relay service.

He attended the Charleston Association of the Deaf Picnic on August 28, 2006.

He went to Liz Leisure's house on September 4, 2006, to work on the sponsor's letter and application form. He will try to update the form by the end of this month so we can start sending out letters.

He, John Burdette, Liz Leisure, and Caryn Keller, met with Deanna Stone, Executive Director with the WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Roy Forman, Deputy Director, on September 23, 2006, to discuss Deanna's proposal to make the "Driver is Deaf" project a joint effort

He was on the Deaf Panel on September 25, 2006 that was hosted by the Fairmont State University during the Deaf Awareness Week.

He reported that on September 27, 2006, the PSC has awarded a 18 month temporary certificate to Hamilton Relay Service.

VicePresident John Burdette reported that he has been a "watchdog" for TRS.

He has been in contact with Mitchell Levy, Outreach Manager with Hamilton Relay Service, regarding a Web Banner.

He has eight or nine TV closed caption decoders that are still in good condition and wanted to know what can be done with them.

Secretary Liz Leisure has names of two contact people in the Parkersburg area to call to check on insurance premiums for Directors and Officers Liability Insurance for State Associations. The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) stated that they do not offer insurance because State Associations operate independently of the NAD.

She has an appointment with Stephen Hupp at WVU-Parkersburg on October 13, 2006, to learn how to use their Foundation Center Directory Online. The Directory Online contains records for 80,000 foundations and 1/2 million grants. This database is only available at the WVU-Parkersburg Library.

She was invited by Vickie Williams to attend the meeting on September 26, 2006, at the WV Rehabilitation Center to talk about setting up a support group for deaf-blind people. She was not able to go due to work conflict. Cynthia Inghram from the Helen Keller Center was in the meeting.

Senior Trustee Worthy Devericks said he was happy to see everyone here and also for the rainy weather. He had nothing to report to the board today. Neither Robyn Evans nor David Weldrick had anything to report at this time.

Pageant Director Linda Phillips reported that she was invited by Marty Blakely to come and help celebrate the Deaf Awareness Week at the West Virginia School for the Deaf on September 29, 2006. She talked to the deaf and hard of hearing students about the Deaf Pageant, WVAD, and Jr. NAD. She talked about the possibility of having a deaf camp on the WVSD campus.

She also talked about encouraging the WVSD students to attend the WVAD conference. While there, she and Co-Pageant Director spoke with a few potential contestants for the 2007 WVAD Deaf Pageant. Caryn suggested having different workshops for contestants to give them some ideas for their talents, make-ups, and presentations.

**WVAD Conference Committee:** Chairperson Jimmy Harrison reported that the Charleston Post Office has been asking for another hot dog sale. He will set up a date for another fundraising soon.

**Workshop Committee:** Both Chairpersons John Burdette and Robyn Evans decided to postpone the workshops that were to have been scheduled this Fall until next Spring due to the fact that they have not been able to get in touch with the presenters.

**Deaf Drivers and Law Enforcement Officers Safety (DDLEOS):** Chairperson John Burdette met with Deanna Stone and Roy Forman two weeks ago Saturday to discuss the proposal drawn up by Deanna. One of the goals is to have a workshop on DDLEOS at the conference. It was agreed that the WVAD will design its own placard and WVCDHH will pay all costs of producing the "Driver is Deaf" placard. John showed some sample placards to the board that was designed by Caryn Keller.

There was a 15 minutes recess started at 4:20 p.m.

Under unfinished business, the motions postponed from the previous meeting that "we discuss the exhibitor, internet, and second table fees," was presented. The motion passed.

**New Business:**

John Burdette moved that we charge 50 dollars per vendor per day for the internet service. The motion passed.

John Burdette moved that we make a decision on what to do with the items that are still kept in the storage. Jimmy Harrison moved that we postpone the motion to the next meeting. The motion passed.

Robyn Evans moved that we set up an ASL task force. The motion passed. President Doug Evans will talk with Mary Ennis Kessler about the task force.

Jimmy Harrison moved that we add an organization fee for businesses in order for them to join our organization. The motion was referred to the General Assembly.

Jimmy Harrison moved that all exhibitors pay the registration fee as listed in the conference book. The motion passed.

There being no further business, by general consent the President adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Liz Leisure  
Secretary



Want to attend a board meeting?  
Check online at [www.wvad.org](http://www.wvad.org) to  
see when our next meeting is and  
where.

**Next Board Meeting:**

August 2, 2007  
At Charleston Embassy Suites  
1 p.m



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Liz Leisure

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 & \_\_\_\_\_

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**