



WVAD NEWSLETTER



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

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Monday, October 27, 2008—The second-grade class at Shoals Elementary signs the song "Country Roads" with Educational interpreter Antonia Hall. Even those Shoals students who can hear learn sign language.

WVSU to start training sign-language interpreters

October 27, 2008
WV Gazette
By Alison Knezevich, Staff Writer

CHARLESTON, W.Va.—When Brenda Hall's two deaf sons were in school, they sometimes knew more sign language than their classroom interpreters.

Things have improved since then Hall said. But West Virginia still doesn't have enough qualified educational interpreters to help students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Last year, the State Board of Education moved to strengthen standards for educational interpreters. Starting this July, interpreters had to score at least a 3 on the Educational Interpreter Proficiency Assessment. Scores on the EIPA range from 0 to 5.

Standards will get tougher in 2010, when interpreters must obtain a 3.5. But many of the State's approximately 75 interpreters haven't yet met the current requirement.

That's why Hall's daughter, Antonia Hall, and other interpreter are starting up a program at West Virginia State University to train people to interpret for students.

Classes start in January. The program will begin as a one-year certificate program, but coordinators hope to eventually apply for a federal grant and develop a four-year curriculum.

Even with the new State rule, interpreters who haven't passed the EIPA still are working in the schools, said Rikki Lowe, an interpreter and special education teacher who started the WVSU program with Hall.

Most States requires interpreters to take the EIPA will not hire them unless they score a 3.5, Lowe said. She and Hall say the State's testing requirement is long overdue.

"For years, deaf children have been left behind," Hall said.

But they understand the frustration of interpreters who lack in-depth training.

Fairmont State University runs the only similar program in the State, and it focuses more on general interpreting than classroom interpreting.

"I understand we need a standard," Lowe said. "But we have no consistent training program in West Virginia to fulfill this goal. You can't give a standard with no way to reach it."

When Lowe surveyed West Virginia's educational interpreters in March, only 30 percent had passed the EIPA, she said. That's risen to about 40 percent, state officials have told her.

Skilled interpreters are indispensable to students who attend regular-education classes, say those who work with the deaf and hearing-impaired. They act as mentors, teachers and advocates. "That is the window to the classroom for that child," said Annette Carey, coordinator of the blind/deaf program at the state Department of Education.

A classroom interpreter must keep students engaged, Carey said. When a hearing child looks away from the blackboard, he or she can still pick up what the teacher's saying.

"A hearing child turns away, and he still hears, she said. "Your ears never turn off."

Many deaf and hard of hearing students enter school five years behind in language, Hall said. Educators then mistakenly believe they have other disabilities.

"They can't write in complete sentences because that's not their first language, so that's why they're being misdiagnosed," she said.

On a recent morning at Shoals Elementary—which is Kanawha County's designated elementary school for the deaf and hard of hearing children — Hall helped second-grader Brianna Ellis as teacher Tonya Baird led class.

Baird is a regular-education teacher, but several of her students are deaf or hard of hearing.

During a spelling exercise, Hall interpreted all of Brianna's classmates' answers. She signed back and forth as Brianna, who is hard of hearing, tried to figure out why "collar" is spelled different than "color."

And whenever someone made an announcement over the classroom's intercom, she relayed that message, too.

All the while, Hall's eyes and mouth moved just as much as her hands did.



Georgia M. Hunt
Page 8



Inside this issue:

President Letter	1
WVAD News	2
WV Statewide News	3
Other Announcement	4
ASL FILMS AND SPRINT AD	5-6
Minutes	7-8
Obituaries	8
Puzzle Game	9
Contact Info.	10



Dear WVAD Members and Friends

Now, the year 2009 is here and it is time that we, the WVAD Officers and Standing Committees Chairpersons are busy to get the 37th Biennial Conference ball going, as we know the August 6-8, 2009 is approaching rapidly. As a WVAD President, I speak in confidence that this coming conference will be another accomplishment as we did in the past conferences.

The two things I am asking you, the WVAD Members to take part of your obligation to do your duty by going to our WVAD website: www.wvad.org and click "WVAD By-Laws" button and then click "By-Laws" in red fonts to open up a document in (pdf.) format, where you can print the entire the By-Laws. I would like for you to review page by page to find if you feel that it needs to be revise or update. If you do, please e-mail to Linda Eckhart via trustee2@wvad.org and "cc" to President Douglas Evans via president@wvad.org to ensure that we both have a hard copy of your amendment form to revise or update the By-Laws during the General Assembly I or II at the biennial conference. Make sure to put down what page and what title as well as subtitle in your e-mail with your amendment form so that Linda and I can locate in the By-Laws. The By-Laws Steering Screening Committee and Coordinator have the rights to screen to retain or reject your amendment form, in exception, the Coordinator will write a letter or e-mail you with an explanation why your proposal is rejected.

In addition, from now until August 6—8, 2009, I also would like you to begin thinking hard by proposing a new business to seek what action the WVAD 2009—2011 Officers should take during their next two-year term. If you have an idea of new business to propose, please contact Linda Eckhart via videophone or e-mail to request a proposal form that she can mail it to you. Once you receive the form, please follow the instruction on the form to fill out in proper way, and make sure the seconded person to sign the form who agreed to your proposal. Without the seconded person on form will be invalid and immediately reject.

It is sad to inform you that the West Virginia Registry Interpreting for the Deaf (WVRID) President Eileen Brown announced a few months ago that the WVRID is temporarily shutting down until further notice. The reasons for this incident are insufficient interpreters to join WVRID membership as well as not enough from the deaf communities to become supporting members to support the WVRID and the interpreters in the statewide of West Virginia. I believe the WVRID is very important non-profit organization for the interpreters because they will be able to assist any sign language interpreters who need help to improve their skill for their future occupation.

Beside as a President, I am speaking as an acting WVAD Newsletter Editor, I beg you to send any article in relating to deaf communities, interpreting, obituary of our West Virginia School for the Deaf alumni and others in any newspapers in entire West Virginia to me. You may e-mail either to editor@wvad.org or mail to the address that can be found on page 10. I would like to keep the WVAD Newsletter exciting and pleasant for you to read.

You have a great winter season and keep yourselves warm. Thank you.

Douglas A. Evans, President

President Evans visited Greenbrier Valley Assoc. of the Deaf Club

JANUARY 10, 2009



<i>DEAF CLUBS</i>	<i>DATE TO VISIT</i> depending on WEATHER PERMIT IN THE WINTER SEASON	<i>VISITED / POSTPONED?</i>
Charleston Association of the Deaf	January 3, 2009	POSTPONED
Greenbrier Valley Association for the Deaf	January 10, 2009	VISITED!
Huntington Association of the Deaf	February 7, 2009	POSTPONED
Wheeling Association of the Deaf	To Be Determined	COMING SOON!
Beckley Association of the Deaf	April 4, 2009	COMING SOON!
Romney Association of the Deaf	May 2, 2009	COMING SOON!
Fairmont Association of the Deaf	May 9, 2009	COMING SOON!
Parkersburg Association of the Deaf	To Be Determined	COMING SOON!

The purpose of my visiting to the WV Deaf Clubs is to meet and talk to all members of each deaf clubs and as well as to have a meeting with the Officers. **Attention to all President or Chairperson of each clubs to please call me on VP at 866-696-0987 to confirm the above dates before February 28, 2009. Thank you!**

WEST VIRGINIA ASSOC. OF THE DEAF NEWS ②

continued from front cover page:

Many people don't understand that American Sign Language is a nuanced language with its own syntax and grammar, Lowe and Hall said.

"So many people sign word-for-word, and it doesn't mean anything," Hall said.

When an interpreter isn't up to snuff, it can lead to a lot of aggravation.

"You are frustrated because the unskilled interpreter is dumbing you down, and so you appear stupid," said Brenda Wilson, a special education professor at State. "Your interpreter can't interpret the complexity."

The shortage also causes logistical problems for schools

"If someone's absent, it's hard to find a substitute," said Margaret Bays, the principal at Shoals.

And the federal No Child Left Behind act—which requires students to make "adequate yearly progress" on standardized tests — has further highlighted the need for skilled interpreters, Lowes said.

"If a deaf child is getting a good education...they're going to do well on the WESTEST," she said.

She and Hall expect that the program at State will at first attract current interpreters who want to improve their skills. But they also want to recruit young people to pursue interpreting careers.

What does it take to interpret for children? Compassion, patience, and the willingness to always try to improve your skills, Lowe said.

But the rewards can be priceless, Lowe said. On her desk sits a photograph not only of her own children, but also of the 11-year-old girl she interpreted for last year.

"She reminds me that a child can achieve anything," Lowe said. "She defies statistics every day."

Reach Alison Knezevich at alis...@wvgazatte.com or 348-1240.

24th Annual WUDBA 24th Annual WUDWBA

MARCH 21 & 22, 2009

ELM GROVE LANES

68 EAST COVE AVENUE

WHEELING, WV

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CONTACT RUBY LOSH

via VP 304-367-4022 (daytime only)

PO Box 764, Rivesville, WV 26588

304-278-5723 TTY * 304-278-5663 FAX

WEBSITE: <http://www.wvad.org/778.html>

and then

scroll down to the bottom for forms and more info..

WEST VIRGINIA DEAF CLUBS

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

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

Contact: Nancy Nichols
24goby8@charter.net

Charleston Assoc. of the Deaf
Contact: Jimmy Harrison
JHarrison5@aol.com

Fairmont Assoc. of the Deaf
usually meets 2nd Saturday
Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov
Contact: Michael Losh
<http://wwad.org/FAD%202009.pdf>

Greenbrier Valley Assoc.
of the Deaf
usually meets 2nd Saturday
of the month

Contact: John Burdette
JBMiami@aol.com

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

Contact: Sej-Christina Bentley

Parkersburg Assoc. of the Deaf
meets three times a year
Contact: Liz Leisure
lizleisure@verizon.net

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

E-mail:
RAD_CLUB_26757@yahoo.com
Website:
www.geocities.com/rad_club_26757

Wheeling Assoc. of the Deaf
usually meets 1st Saturday
of the month
Contact: Ray Matos



WEST VIRGINIA STATEWIDE NEWS

Town Hall Meeting

hosted by

WVAD OFFICERS

When: SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2009

Where: FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Time: 1:00 P.M. ~ 4:00 P.M.

Cost: FREE except ASL FILMS (The Legend of Mountain Man)

DIRECTION TO

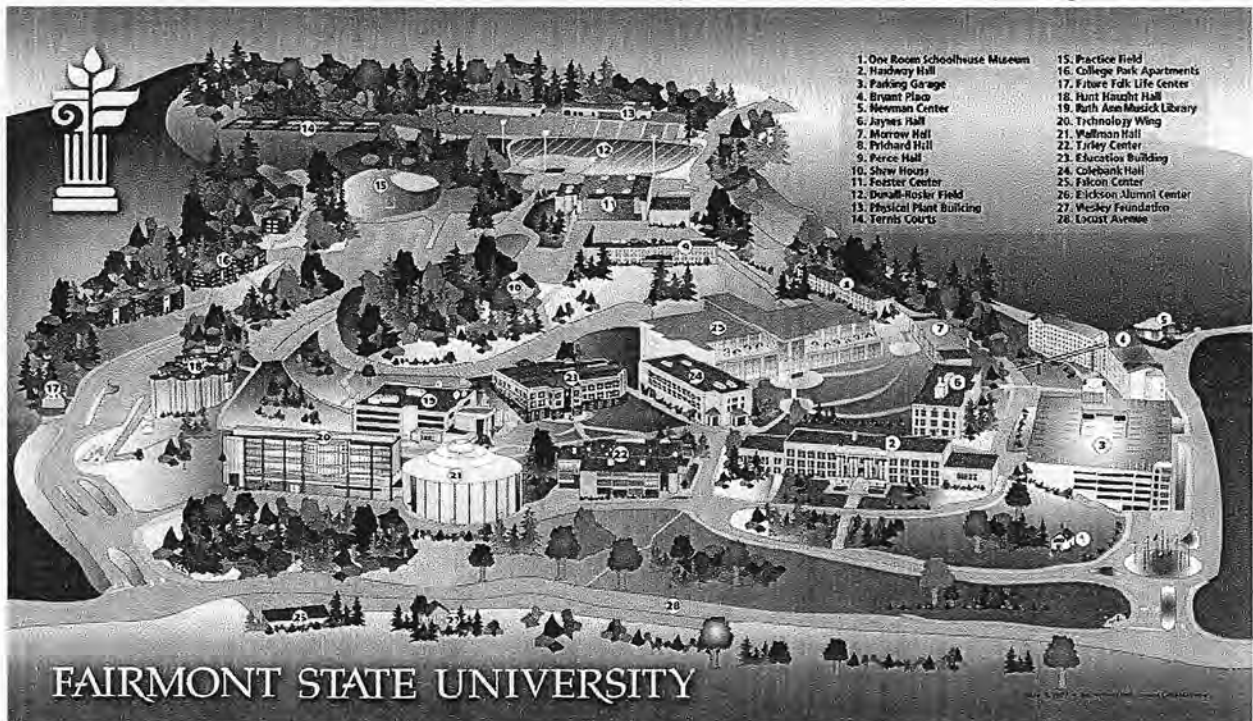
FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

WHEN APPROACHING FAIRMONT FROM THE NORTH ON I-79:

- I-79 South to Exit 132 (South Fairmont Exit). At light, turn right onto Route 250 North.
- Follow 250 North and at 2nd light turn left onto Country Club Road.
- At 1st light, turn right onto Locust Avenue.
- At 3rd light, turn left at the main entrance to campus and proceed up hill to parking.
-

WHEN APPROACHING FAIRMONT FROM SOUTH ON I-79:

- I-79 North to Exit 132 (South Fairmont Exit). At light, turn left onto Route 250 North.
- Follow 250 North and at 4th light turn left onto Country Club Road.
- At 1st light, turn right onto Locust Avenue.
- At 3rd light turn left at the main entrance to campus and proceed up hill to parking.



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT



ASL FILMS

From the Director and Producer of Forget Me Not and Wrong Game



IT IS NO ORIGINAL BEDTIME STORY

THE LEGEND OF THE MOUNTAIN MAN

Sprint
Relay

www.aslfilms.com

Saturday, March 7, 2009 • 5:30 PM

Fairmont State University • Ruth Ann Musick Library • Multi Media A
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\$10 Admission

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Tickets/Info: Robyn Evans • Email: trustee1@wvad.org

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May require up to a \$36 activation fee/line, credit approval & deposit. \$2.00 early termination fee/line applies. A BlackBerry Data Plan required for all BlackBerry handsets from Sprint. **Service Plan Disclosure:** Voice minutes not included in this data only plan. Voice calling billed 20 cents per minute and long distance 40 cents per minute, if applicable. If you need voice plan, please contact your Sprint Relay Store regional sales manager for more information. **Other Terms:** Coverage not available everywhere. Offers not available in all markets/retail locations or for all phones/networks. Pricing, offer terms, fees & features may vary for existing customers. Other restrictions apply. See store or Sprint.com for details. Sprint National and Mobile Broadband Networks reach over 262 and 217 million people, respectively. Coverage not available everywhere - see sprint.com/coverage for details. ©2008 Sprint Nextel. All rights reserved. Research In Motion, the RIM logo, BlackBerry, and the BlackBerry are registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and may be pending or registered in other countries - these and other marks of Research In Motion Limited are used under license.

October 5, 2008

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Present: Douglas Evans, Robyn Evans, John Burdette, Liz Leisure, Veronda Harrison, Worthy Devericks, and Linda Eckhart.

Standing Committee Members: Caryn Keller, Jimmy Harrison, Ruby Losh, and Mary Kesler.

Absent: Monica and Josiah Kelly

Visitor: Erin Fulton

The regular meeting of WVAD was held in the conference room of the Administrative Building at the West Virginia School for the Deaf, on October 5, 2008, at 10:16 a.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting, February 2, 2008, was approved as read.

Treasurer Veronda Harrison gave the following report: As of September 30, 2008, there is \$4,270.21 in the checking account, \$3,393.77 in the savings account, \$16,260.63 in the Mingo County Fund and \$12,003.63 in the certificate of deposit accounts.

President Douglas Evans met with the West Virginia Public Service Commission on June 9, 2008. It was an informal meeting to discuss the establishment of the Telecommunication Relay Service Advisory Board. President Evans wrote a letter to the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Michael Albert, on October 3, 2008, appointing Ruby Losh as the Advisory Board Chairperson and requesting that they set up a formal meeting.

President Evans gave a brief report on each of the following: the WVAD Picnic Day at Sutton Lake that was held on August 2, 2008; the WVAD conference meeting that was held at Comfort Suites in Mineral Wells, WV, on September 6, 2008, the town hall and ASL meeting at the West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney that was held on September 26, 2008, the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Interview Committee has contacted one of the two candidates that was chosen for the Executive

Director's position to see if that person will accept the job or not; and the next NAD Leadership Training Conference 2009 that will be held in Chicago as voted by the Regional. President Evans scheduled a meeting with Dr. Pat Shanks on Monday, October 6, at 9:30 a.m. Some of the board members will be attending the meeting.

Vice-President John Burdette has no report to give at this time.

Secretary Liz Leisure has no report to give at this time.

Senior Trustee Worthy Devericks has no report to give at this time.

Trustees Robyn Evans and Linda Eckhart have no report to give at this time.

Projects Coordinators' Reports:

President Douglas A. Evans, as the Newsletter Editor, stated that he has not started the newsletter yet as he was waiting on the conference information.

Fundraisers/Telemarketers (FT) – Long Term

Vice-President John Burdette as Coordinator for the (DDLEOS) stated that he has not been in touch with Sergeant Lynch yet but plans to follow-up really soon. He finally got the quotes for the wallet size cards. The best quote he can find is \$151.00 for 5,000 cards at the Ohio Valley Press Shop. It is \$160.00 at the Office Depot. Caryn has not finished working on the communication tips yet.

Committee Moves TTY Signs (CMTS) - President Douglas Evans sent a letter to Mr. Paul Mattox at the West Virginia Department of Transportation requesting that the TTY signage be moved approximately one or two miles before the rest areas and/or the Welcome Center on the interstates.

2008 State Fair – Vice-President Burdette learned that Roy Forman announced during the WVCDHH board meeting that WVAD can share a booth with them at the State Fair but this was not communicated to him.

Liz Leisure's report on Liability Insurance Policy – The full annual premium is about \$905.00. If we choose to finance the premium, the down payment would be \$271.49 and 8 remaining

installments would be \$86.48 each. Liz will e-mail and ask what the premium would be for the events only.

Mingo County Scholarship Fund - A draft has been composed and it needs to be reviewed and approved by the board.

Budget Planning - Liz needs to receive a copy of the 2007 WVAD Conference Financial Report to plan a budget for the 2009 WVAD Conference.

Veronda Harrison's report on Promotions: Veronda talked about selling and showed the board members the hooded sweatshirts, jackets, sweatpants, and sweatshirts with the WVAD logos on them.

Senior Trustee Worthy Devericks – To be determined.

Robyn Evans' report on Workshops – Robyn reported that she has not set up any workshops yet. She is waiting to hear what kind of workshops the deaf people want before setting them up.

West Virginia Video Relay Services (WVAVRS) – Robyn reported that there is a new "Z" 340 videophone that can be carried around for traveling. It is a seven-inch screen videophone and it costs 99 dollars. There are currently 4,000 people on the waiting list wanting to buy this hot item.

2008 Summer Picnic - The picnic went well at Sutton Lake with 52 attendees.

Town Hall – The ASL movie and town hall was held at the WV School for the Deaf on September 26, 2008. The movie that was shown titled "Wrong Game". Tickets were sold at \$5.00 each and \$250.00 was earned that evening. 50 people attended this event.

Linda Eckhart's report on 2009 37th Biennial Conference – The conference will be held at the Comfort Suites in Mineral Wells, WV.

Website Master – A one-year contract with the Website has been renewed.

WVAD ByLaws – The Bylaws will not be touched until the next conference.

Ruby Losh's report on WV Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Board – Ruby reported that there was a meeting with the Public Service Commission on

June 9, 2008, in Charleston, West Virginia, with the positive results. There were 51 responses to the survey that was inserted in the WVAD newsletter. President Douglas Evans sent a letter to Chairman Michael Albert appointing Ruby Losh as Chairperson to work with the Public Service Commission.

Ruby stated that her future goals are to have an official meeting with the Public Service Commission, ask the Hamilton Relay Service to promote the WVAD 2009 Conference, and promote WVATRS at the WVAD conference on August 7 and 8 including having a seminar for one hour. The Sorenson Relay Services has been established in Charleston, West Virginia.

There was no report for WVAD Advocacy by Monica Kelly as she was absent today.

100th 2015 Anniversary Conference report by Jimmy Harrison. Jimmy has asked for some old pictures but he has not received any yet. He plans to sell recipe books and beach towels to raise money for the conference.

Awards report – To be announced later by Worthy Devericks.

ASL Task Force report by Mary Kesler - Talked about Robert Crawford. (Notes from Mary Kesler will be published in the next newsletter.)

Youth Program Report by Caryn Keller and Linda Eckhart. Caryn stated that she will send her ideas for everyone to read and let her know whether or not they like them. She would like to have a mini-conference for parents with deaf children so they could meet the board members. She has updated some forms for the deaf pageant.

Membership Report. There are currently 211 WVAD members.

There was no old business.

New Business:

Linda Eckhart moved that WVAD open a second checking account for the 2009 WVAD Conference. The motion passed.

Robyn Evans moved that WVAD cancel the safe box account. The motion passed.

Veronda Harrison moved that WVAD drop the cruise idea for the 2009 WVAD conference and have the Saturday night event instead at the Comfort Suites. The motion passed.

Robyn Evans moved that WVAD take the same combo rates used two years ago. Linda moved that this motion be amended by changing the motion by adding \$5.00 to the combo rates used two years ago for the WVAD 2009 Conference.

The motion passed.

Linda Eckhart moved that we accept the combo ticket rates as indicated on the forms. The motion passed.

Robyn Evans moved that the some of the funds come from the WVAVRS will be used to pay for the refreshments at each town hall. The motion passed.

Veronda Harrison moved that WVAD pay mileage to the WVAD board members only for attending the meeting today. The motion passed.

John Burdette moved that WVAD use a tax exemption form for future purchases from Sprint. The motion passed.

Linda Eckhart moved that WVAD use the Mingo County Funds to purchase one laptop for the secretary. The motion passed.

Veronda Harrison moved that we purchase a new LCD projector using the Mingo County Funds. The motion passed.

Linda Eckhart moved that WVAD purchase warranty for both the new LCD projector and the laptop. The motion passed.

John Burdette moved that WVAD purchase an extra bulb for the new LCD projector as a backup. The motion passed.

Veronda Harrison moved that Linda Eckhart develop the ad rates and send them to all board members for vote of approval via e-mail. The motion passed.

The next board meeting will be held in the Lewisburg area on January 10, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. The location will be announced at a later date by John Burdette.

A board meeting for April 2009 will be schedule at a later date.

There being no further business, by general consent, the President adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

(NOTE FOR DOUGLAS: Doug will ask Patsy Shanks tomorrow about having a WVAD representative to serve on WVSD board to represent deaf children.)

O B I T U A R I E S

GEORGIA MAY HUNT— AGE 90—JUNE 18, 2008

Georgia May Hunt was born in Greenville, WV to the late Douglas and Virginia Winfrey. At a young age she lost her hearing and attended the West Virginia School for the Deaf. After she completed school she moved to Washington, D.C. where she worked painting airplanes during the war years. There she met and married her husband of 37 years, the late Charlie Hunt.

She resided in both Alexandria, VA and W Palm Beach, FL for a number of years before moving to Delaware in 1996. She was an avid quilter and created many beautiful quilts for family and loved ones.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her brother Ralph Wickline, and sisters, Kathryn Wickline, Frances Winfrey and Edna Pence.

She is survived by her daughters, Frances May King and her husband George of Watertown, TN., Susie Elizabeth Hunt and her life partner, Linda Holcomb of Seafood, DE and her beloved Grandson, Charles Edward Hawkins and his wife Barbara of Murfreesboro, TN. Also, two sisters, Bertie Van Starven of WV. Pauline Winfrey of Ohio, and two brothers, John Winfrey of WV and Harry Winfrey of Ohio.



Valentine's Day!



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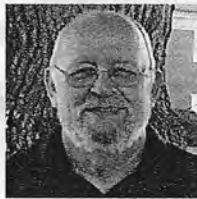
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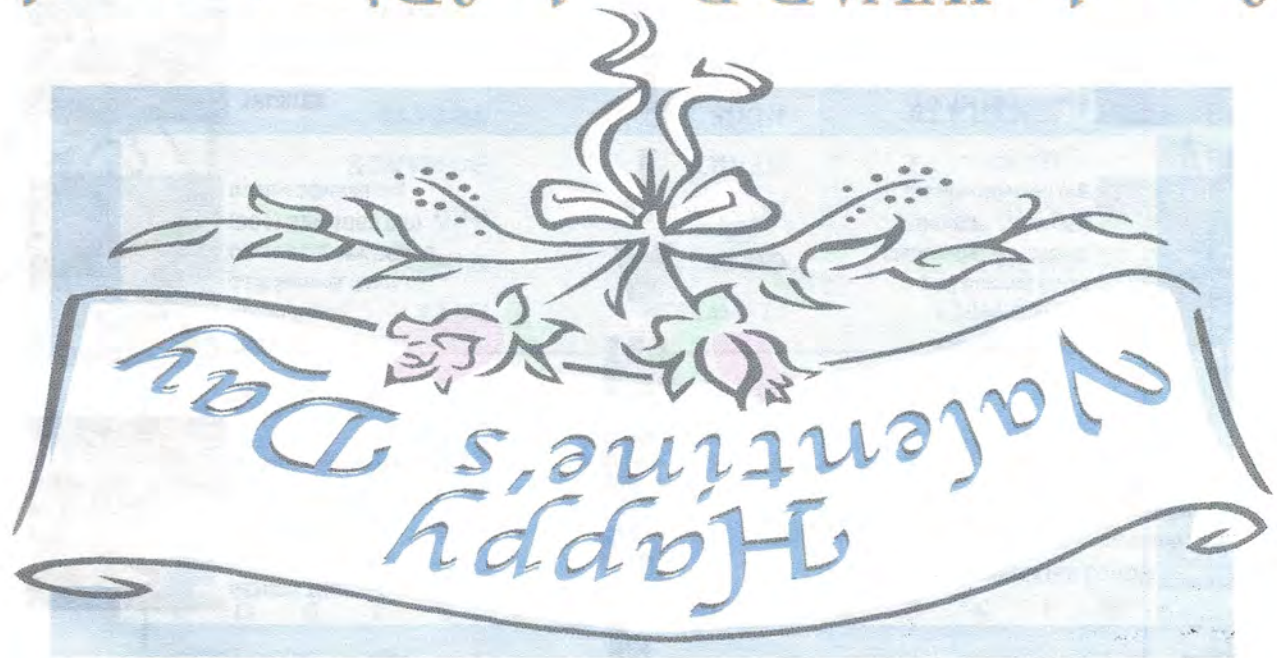


YOUTH PROGRAMS
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Standing Committees Chairpersons!!
from the WVAD Board of Directors and



West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.

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

POSTMASTER: Address Correction Request