

## NAD State Association Representatives Conference

I was pleased to have attended the Sixth Annual NAD State Association Representatives Conference (SARC) in Little Rock, Arkansas on April 29 through May 2, 1999. I want to extend my deepest thanks to the West Virginia Association of the Deaf Board for selecting me as a representative and making it possible for me to attend the SARC and it was very educational and beneficial. I stayed at Excelsior Hotel where President Bill Clinton held his President Campaign twice. SARC couldn't have done without the good sponsors. The conference was sponsored by the following businesses: Southwestern Bell and Bell Atlantic.

I would like to commend Ray Kenney, SARC chairperson in charge of this conference and Arkansas Association of the Deaf for doing an excellent job in hosting the conference in their home state. At the conference, the sessions for

Friday, April 30 were: NAD Mission and Strategic Planning shared by Phil Bravin, NAD Budget Briefing by Executive Director Nancy Bloch, Telecommunication and You, An Update by Nancy Bloch, Membership Issues by Associate Executive Director with NAD Vice-president Kent Kennedy, and Breakouts into Broadcaster Newsletter, Interpreting, State Association and SARC. Afterward, the Friday's session in the evening, we went to Arkansas School for the Deaf for a Pizza dinner, then watched the variety show by Jr.NAD Chapter. The Jr.NAD Chapter did a great job in doing the variety show. I enjoyed it very much.

The sessions for Saturday, May 1 were: NAD-RID Task Force Update with NAD President Libby Pollard and RID Vice-president Ben Hall, Regional NAD Conference Structure/Format briefing by Kent Kennedy, ADA Advocacy Training by NAD Regional Board Member Tom

Kober. Again, after the sessions, we went to Little Rock Association of the Deaf (LRAD) clubhouse for a Potluck Dinner/Social. It was a great potluck dinner. LRAD has owned the clubhouse since 1970's.

On Sunday, May 2, there was a short meeting and evaluation/wrap-up in the morning. I flew back home from Little Rock, Arkansas with a stop in Charlotte, NC, then arrived safely in Charleston, WV. It was a pleasant conference trip. I really enjoyed this conference and gained a wealth of knowledge on various issues by NAD and the State Associations. There will be NAD Conference 2006 in Little Rock, Arkansas. I am more than glad to share with everyone of you and strive to doing better things for the deaf and hard of hearing citizens in our beloved West Virginia.

Respectfully yours,  
John W. Burdette

## 1999 WVAD 32nd Conference Awards

Award Plaques in Appreciation for Outstanding Leadership and Willing to help in his/her deaf community, were presented to:

Huntington - Gerald Deering, who passed away May 10, 1999, and whose widow, Opal Burks Deering accepted his plaque with a sad heart.

Clarksburg - Worthy Devericks, Sr.

Parkersburg - Eileen Greathouse

Charleston/Statewide - Veronda K. Harrison

Wheeling - Ray Matos, Jr.

Morgantown/Fairmont - Gerald Musick

Beckley - Shannon O'Neil

Logan - Lilborn Stollings

Lewisburg - Clyde Swartz

Martinsburg - William Wright

Award Plaques in Appreciation for his continuous Love and Support for Deaf Community with our THANKS, were presented to: Dr. Michael Valentine; Dan Haught; and Jimmy Harrison.

Award Plaque in Memory of his long time Love with which he served Deaf Community, was presented to Joe W. James.

Awards in Appreciation for his Good Services as a Board Member, were presented to: William Cash and Joey

Major, Jr. President's Awards in Appreciation for his/her continuous Hard Work and Excellent Service for West Virginia Association of the Deaf, were presented to: Elizabeth Purvis-Leisure and John Burdette.

National Association of the Deaf Golden Hand Award in Appreciation for his long time services for West Virginia Association of the Deaf and several other statewide and local deaf organizations without pay, was presented to Jimmy Harrison.

# Obituaries

## Charles M. Fisher, Sr.

Charles M. Fisher, Sr., 81, of Mannington, died Friday, May 7, 1999, at Fairmont General Hospital.

He was born March 24, 1918, in Mannington, a son of the late, James and Leora Basnett Fisher.

He attended West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney. He worked at Consolidation Coal Company Mine #20 at Four States. He was a member of the UMWA. He was a member of the United Methodist Church in Bingamon and the Fairmont Association of the Deaf.

Surviving are his wife, Virginia Tarleton Fisher; one daughter, Nancy Haight, Romney; one son, Charles M. Fisher, Jr., Mannington; five grandchildren, Danny Haight, Amy Fisher, Brandi Fisher, Charles M. Fisher III, and Jason Hendershot; several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, John Fisher, Hugh Fisher and Clyde Fisher; three sisters, Elizabeth Damire, Inez Thobis and Ethel Lamp.

Services were conducted Tuesday, May 11 at 11 a.m., at the Masters Funeral Home, Manington. Interment was in Mannington Memorial Park Cemetery.

## Therman L. Johnson

Funeral services were held on Friday, Jan. 15, for Therman L. Johnson, 75, of 131 Redwood Drie, Beloit, who died at 12:15 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 12, at the Salem Community Hospital following a seven-month illness.

He was born on Sept. 14, 1923, in Silver Hill, WV to Earnest and Ines (McFadden) Johnson.

He retired in 1986 from the Transue & Williams Company in Alliance, where he worked as a millwright. He had worked there 21 years. He was a graduate of West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney, WV in 1944.

He was a member of the Alliance Church of the Nazarene.

Mr. Johnson is survived by his wife, Doris W. (Rice) whom he

married on July 8, 1954; two daughters, Debra Phillips of Sebring and Terry Kessler of Beloit; one son, Tim of Sebring; three sisters, Nola Mae Wos of St. Petersburg, FL, Zina "Babe" Woods and Flora "Sis" Gladkowski, both of Moundsville WV, two brothers, Clyde of Little Washington, PA, and Jake of St. Mary's, WV, 11 grandchildren; one great-grandson; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Bonnie Cox and Eva Richmond, and two brothers A. B. and Virgil.

Burial was in the Highland Memorial Park. The Gednetz Ruzek Funeral Home of Sebring had charge of the arrangements.

## James F. Norton, Jr.

James F. Norton, Jr., 92 of Garden Park Terrace, Wheeling, WV, died Wednesday, July 14, 1999, in Peterson Geriatric Hospital, Wheeling.

He was a retired employee from the former Earle Rogers Company, Wheeling and a member of Fourth Street United Methodist Church, Wheeling.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James F. and Matilda McConnell Norton; two brothers, Maxwell and Theodore. Surviving are his wife, Alma P. McFerrin Norton; a son, James E. of Fairmont; a daughter, Betty Jean Letzelter of Wheeling; two grandchildren, Bruce Letzelter of Rochester, NY and Trevor Norton of Fairmont.

Mr. Norton was a member of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf, and past president of the Wheeling Association of the Deaf. At the time of his death he was the oldest living member of the Wheeling Association of the Deaf.

He was also a member of the former Moose Lodge in Wheeling.

Friends received 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Friday, at Altmeyer Funeral Home, 1400 Eoff St., Wheeling, where services was at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Interment in Greenwood Cemetery, Wheeling. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fourth Street United Methodist Church, 11th and Chapline Streets, Wheeling.

# Delegate's wife loses battle with cancer

An Eastern Panhandle lawmaker's wife had died after struggling with breast cancer for nine years and inspiring her husband to help secure millions of dollars for state health-care funding.

Mary Mezzatesta was 51. She died Tuesday night, June 1, 1999 at her home in Romney.

A graduate of West Liberty State College, she taught for 28 years in Hampshire County schools and at the West Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, where her husband, Delegate Jerry Mezzatesta, also worked for many years.

This past session, Mezzatesta, D-Hampshire, helped capture nearly \$2 million from various funds to provide medical care for impoverished West Virginians and those without health insurance.

The House Education Committee chairman credited his wife with sensitizing him to the difficulties of dealing with catastrophic illness. Mezzatesta also has proposed that the state spend nearly \$1 million to pay for additional cancer screening and treatment.

Mrs. Mezzatesta was first diagnosed with cancer in 1990. It went into remission but returned last year, and she underwent a bone marrow transplant.

West Virginia University and the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center in Morgantown, where Mrs. Mezzatesta was treated, are now part of the largest study ever designed to prevent the disease. They are recruiting post-menopausal women to take two drugs over the next five years as part of the project. The American Cancer Society estimates that breast cancer strikes about 180,000 American women every year.

Mezzatesta was elected to the House in 1986 and has been reelected every two years since.

The couple, who celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary Saturday, have a son, Jeffrey.

-The Charleston Gazette

## Web can Aid Deaf Shoppers

### E-mail helps buyer, seller communicate

Like many consumers, Jerry Nelson dreaded buying a car.

The Brookville, MD, resident didn't like looking for a dealer with the car he wanted, then haggling about price.

But Nelson's Frustration goes beyond the typical consumer gripes. He's deaf. And that creates a whole new set of potential problems.

"I was always up against a wall when buying a car because of communication issues," Nelson says.

But he says his last three car-buying experiences have been terrific. Nelson has discovered the Internet.

"For me, it was armchair shopping," he says. "And I bought the cars without any haggling over the phone or in person at the dealership."

The Internet has become a convenient and easy-to-use tool for the hearing impaired.

"With today's technology, Web sites are the best way to shop," says Mike Kalka, who is hearing impaired and works as media relations director for Gallaudet University for the deaf in Washington, DC.

Nelson, 47, who runs a management and technology company for the deaf from his home, has bought two Lincoln Town Cars through [autobytel.com](http://autobytel.com), an Internet car-buying service. The cars came from East West Lincoln-Mercury in New Carrollton, MD.

He also used [Edmunds.com](http://Edmunds.com) to buy a 1987 Honda Prelude for his son from a private seller.

[Autobytel.com](http://Autobytel.com)'s pre-owned vehicle program allowed Nelson to search the dealer's inventory and view cars on his computer.

Because East West sells cars on the Web on a no-haggle basis, Nelson didn't have to negotiate price. He used e-mail to communicate with the dealership about details.

"The only time I spoke to anyone was when they brought the cars to my home," he says.

In the past, Nelson would visit a

dealership and read the lips of the sales people, but that often turned into miscommunication about prices and financing.

"If more people who are hearing impaired knew they could purchase a vehicle on the Web, I think many more would do it," says Vincent Trasatti, Jr., vice president of East West Lincoln-Mercury.

Mark Lorimer, president and CEO of [autobytel.com](http://autobytel.com), says he put Nelson's experience into the monthly newsletter that goes to its participating dealers.

"I pointed out to them that the Internet is something that accommodates a lot of different customers than they might see in their store," he says.

"Most people are unaccustomed to shopping by the Internet," Nelson says. "But when I tell them I bought my last three cars via the Internet, it blows their minds."

And Nelson has some advice for car dealers placing newspaper ads; "If all those ads on cars for sale had an e-mail address, you can bet people like us would use it."

*-From USA Today*

## Announcing... of Interest to those Who Use Special Dogs

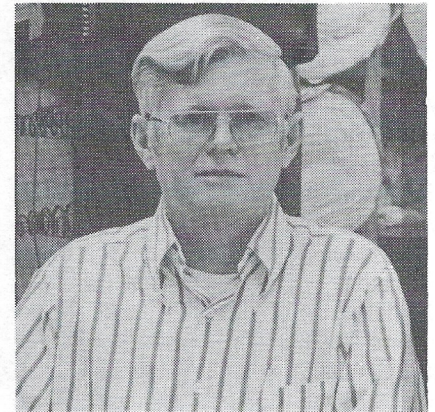
Grand opening of Nu-Capes, a deaf owned and operated company in Philadelphia, PA. If you are either owner, handler, or trainer of special dogs then you'll be thrilled to know this company exists.

Sound interesting? You are invited to visit my website: click here=><http://www.nucapes.com/nucapes/> or you may type: [www.nucapes.com](http://www.nucapes.com) on your browser.

We at Nu-Capes thank you for taking a few moment to visit our business site on the web. We sincerely hope you'll recommend us to someone you know.

Nu-Capes  
Reflective Identification Capes for  
Working Dogs

## Senior Spotlight



The Senior Spotlight choice for May is Robert C. Patton, who at the age of 72 has a healthful radiance that exemplifies the qualities of May.

He was born and raised in Charleston, in a family of five brothers and two sisters. Robert at the age of two lost his hearing due to an unknown illness.

On November 8, 1947, he married Mary F. Baker, who joins him regularly at the Romney center. They have two children, a son and a daughter. They are Brenda Grinstead of Dunbar and Dale Patton of Morgantown. He has five grandchildren. His mother, Nora Patton, of Seth, will be 100 years old on July 12th. The family plans a picnic in celebration.

Robert retired from the West Virginia School for the Deaf as a vocational teacher in upholstery. Among his hobbies are woodworking and furniture upholstery (his wife asserts that he's a jack-of-all-trades). He chooses football as his favorite sport. Other activities that he enjoys are reading, fishing and traveling. As a resident of Romney, he has been visiting the Romney Senior Center of 10 years and describes it as a "fine place." His favorite meal served at the center? All of them.

And that's how the center's list of favorite seniors reads: All of them - with Robert Patton's name high on the list.

*-Hampshire Review*

## Regular Board Meeting at the Fairlea Volunteer Fire Hall Department in Lewisburg

The board meeting of the West Virginia of the Deaf (WVAD) was held April 10, 1999 at 2:10 p.m. at the Fairlea Volunteer Fire Hall Department in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

Present were President Jimmy Harrison; Vice-president John Burdette; Secretary/Treasurer Liz Purvis-Leisure; Trustees Joey Major and Clyde Swartz; Trustee Bill Cash was absent. Also, present were visitors: Veronda Harrison, Robin Tackett, and Troy Osborne.

The minutes from the February 27, 1999 were corrected and approved as follows: Page 1 under President's Report, Number 2 - insert "booster" between "new and booklet." On page 2 under the 1999 WVAD Conference Committee's Report - Number 7 - Remove "A person needs to be appointed to" and add "Chairperson Burdette will." Then the minutes were approved.  
Treasurer's Report:

Liz Leisure reported that the WVAD has \$778.39 in the checking account and \$10,281.58 in the savings account. The report was approved.

### President's Report:

1. President Harrison reported that he, Veronda, and Vice-president Burdette met Friday night (4/9/99) to review and discuss the bylaws for changes and recommendations. The changes and recommendations will be presented at the June 1999 WVAD Conference for voting and updating. The bills introduced and passed during the 1997 WVAD Conference were also reviewed and discussed. Most of the bills have been acted upon during the past two years.

2. President Harrison reported that Vice-president Burdette showed him the location of the June 1999 WVAD Conference. President Harrison was pleased with what he saw. A movie screen is available and a good lighting system for dancing. Vice-president Burdette will be checking about getting an

easel, overhead projector and a TV with a VHS recorder for use in the conference.

3. As Ruby Losh requested, President Harrison and Vice-president Burdette developed guidelines on how to host a WVAD conference. The information was then faxed to Ruby Losh this morning so she may present it to the deaf club meeting in Fairmont tonight.

### Vice-president's Report:

Vice-president Burdette reported that he received more checks and money orders for membership renewals. He will send all checks and money orders to the Treasurer for deposit.

### Secretary's Report:

Secretary Purvis-Leisure received a letter from Judy Holt, Account Executive with the Heritage, requesting dates of our Fiscal Year and renewal registration so that they can schedule the next solicitation campaign. She will send the requested information next week.

### Trustee's Report:

None

### 1999 WVAD Conference Committee's Report:

Chairperson Burdette reported the following:

1. In the GVAD/WVAD checking account, there is a balance of \$3,000.00+.
2. GVAD/WVAD sent payment in the amount of \$300.00 for a comedy show.
3. To date, 61 people have registered for the 1999 WVAD Conference.
4. He is still trying to come up with some topics for a workshop. We will have one workshop on the "Real World Success." The cost of this workshop will be between \$450 and \$500.
5. He has not received any responses or donations from any businesses yet.
6. Clyde Swartz has collected \$700.00+ in fundraising.
7. Robin Tackett is responsible for the ballroom, reception and banquet. Clyde Swartz is responsible for boosters and helping with other duties. Two members on the

committee have resigned.

8. He is still working on the program book. The deadline for printing is May 15, 1999.

9. He has selected two different souvenirs for the 1999 WVAD Conference.

10. He is going to check with the motel and see if a new elevator will be installed before the conference is held.

John Burdette (Clyde Swartz) moved that we have ten minutes recess at 3:35 p.m. The meeting resumed at 3:45 p.m.

There was no unfinished business conducted.

### New Business:

John Burdette (Clyde Swartz) moved that we change the Senior Citizen's age from 62 to 60 and above. Motion was carried.

Clyde Swartz (Liz Purvis-Leisure) moved that WVAD approves payment for travel, meals, and lodging expenses for John Burdette's trip to Arkansas to attend the SARC meeting on April 29, 1999 to May 2, 1999. Motion was carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

## Awards Given at Graduation

Melora Brock won the Robert C. Byrd Award, West Virginia Association of the Deaf Award, Carl D. Stickley Scholarship Award, United Auto Workers Academic Scholarship Award, Joe W. James Memorial Award, Gallaudet University President's Scholarship Award, and Mary Heishman Award.

Damron Walton won the West Virginia Association of the Deaf and the Loyal Order of the Moose Scholarship Awards, Samuel McCraw also won the Loyal Order of the Moose Award.

All seniors were given free membership to West Virginia Association of the Deaf for two years.

## Letters to the Editor Someone who cares

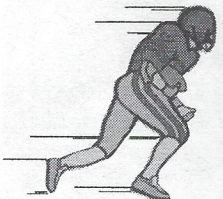
Editor:

As the start of school nears, athletics also begin, I want to take this opportunity to bring some recognition to a wonderful man in our midst. Mr. Pierre Sevigny is a teacher at the West Virginia School for the Deaf, but every track season he becomes the most dedicated coach I know.

Everyday after school, Mr. Sevigny is at the high school helping both the high school and junior high discus throwers. He teaches those new to the event and refines the techniques of the experienced ones. On Saturdays, he is there the entire morning to give us the personal attention that is not possible throughout the week. He is at every track meet coaching and encouraging; all without pay.

He cheers when we succeed and is disappointed when we don't achieve the potential he knows we can. Throughout it all, he is there. I just want to tell him thank you for everything. He shows me that there are still people who care.

*-Heather Bean, Romney  
Hampshire Review*



## WVSD Football Players

Keith Richardson, an eighth grade student at West Virginia School for the Deaf, is one of four football captains at Romney Middle School. This school was formerly Romney Junior High School. Keith is playing on the first team as a center. John Bittner, a seventh grade student, is also playing on the team.



## WVSD students honored

Chris Mick of Cherry Grove and Melora Brock of Morgantown represented the West Virginia School for the Deaf in the Mr./Mrs. Teen Deaf America Pageant held at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. Chris and Melora each won first runner-up in competition with representatives from ten schools for the deaf. Contestants were scored on interviews, talent, formal wear and regional costume. The students brought back trophies which will be on permanent display at WVSD.

*-Hampshire Review*

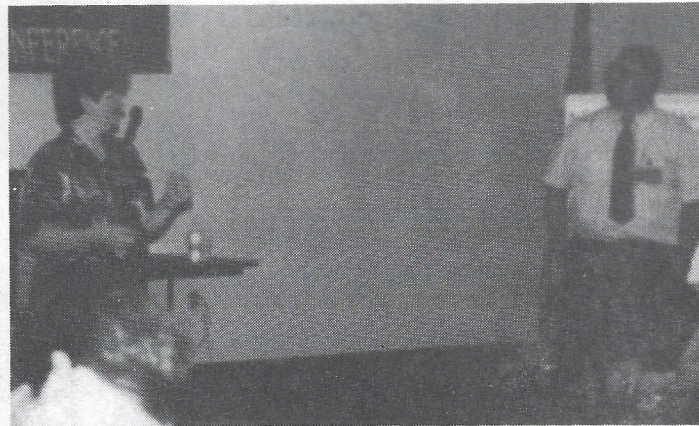
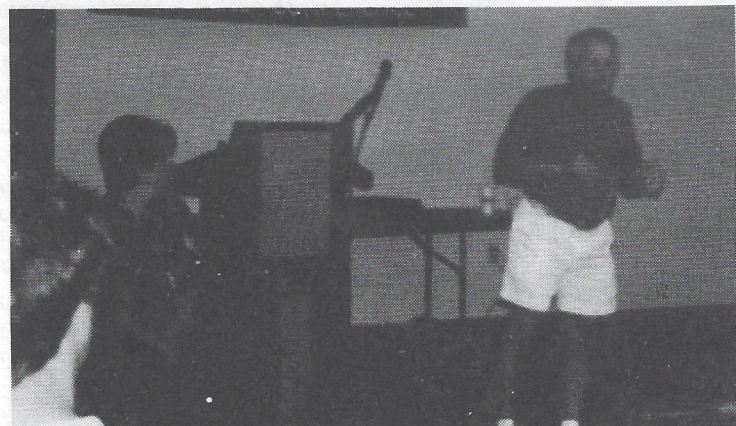
## WVSD Graduation Class of 1999



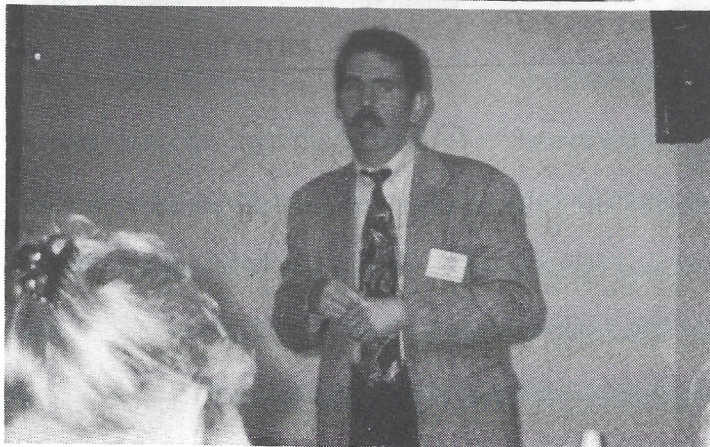
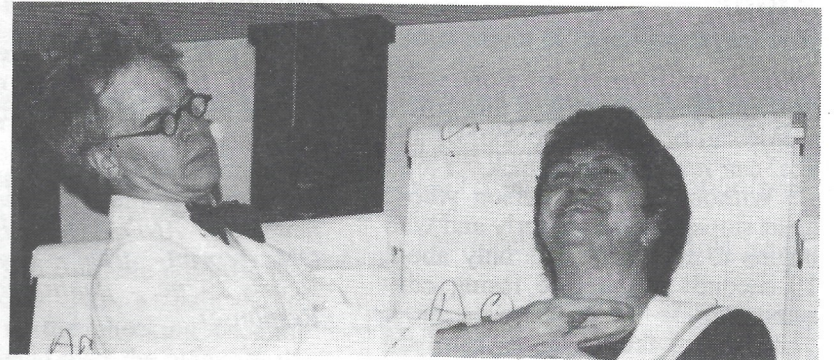
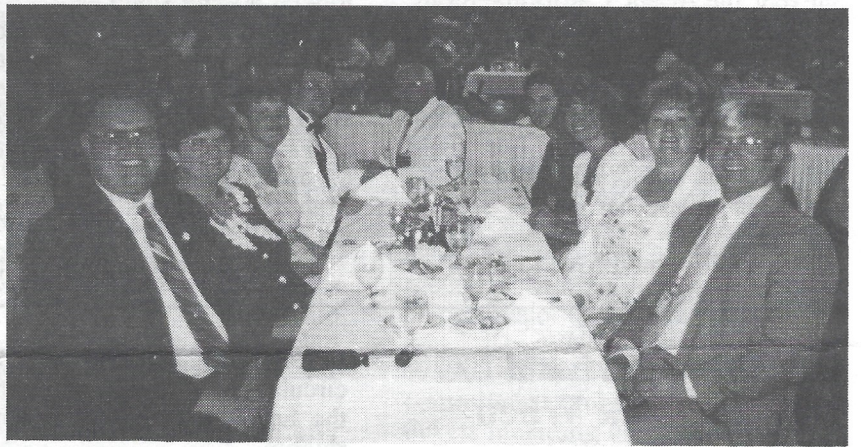
Front row, left to right: Jeffrey Quimby, Newell, WV; Jeffrey Wright, Romney, WV; Sylvia Eller, Rock, WV; Melora Brock, Morgantown, WV. Back row, left to right: Latasha Hackett, Falling Waters, WV; Samuel McCraw, Sutton, WV; Damron Walton, Charleston, WV; Justin Catlett, Martinsburg, WV.

*Editor's Note:* Melora Brock, Valedictorian and Damron Walton, Salutatorian

# Highlights of WVAD



# 32nd Biennial Conference



First Row Left: Craft Show

First Row Right: 1999-2001 New Officers

Second Row Left: To donate their closed captioned devices to the WVAD.

Second Row Right: Banquet

Third Row Left: Golden Hand Award

Third Row Right: Ken Glickman, Deafology 101: "Deaf Culture As Seen Through the Eye of a Deaf Comedian"

Last Row Left: Richard Morris, Real World Success Workshop: Effective Communication at the Workplace"

## A League of Her Own

### When the town baseball league refused to let her son play ball, Sylvia vowed, We'll see about that!

Sylvia Rodriguer heard "No" one more time, she thought she'd scream.

"No," everyone told her, "A deaf child can't play on the local baseball team--it's too dangerous."

"Give him a chance!" she'd plead.

But they didn't want to take a chance on her son David, five. And if Sylvia had to say no again to David and see his shoulders slump--she thought her heart would break.

"I want to play," he'd sign, and Sylvia saw the gleam in his eyes as he watched other kids play. Then one day, the Arleta, California, mom realized: I can't be the only one with a deaf child who wants to play ball. There must be a lot of hearing-impaired children in the Los Angeles area. Why not form our own league? She put an ad in the paper, and right away, her phone started ringing.

"My child would love to play!"

parents cried. "But how would they communicate on the field?"

"I'm working on that one," Sylvia confessed. Then she had an idea: why not call the local colleges that had sign language classes to see if students would volunteer?

They did! And on the day of the first practice, Sylvia waited nervously in the park. Will anybody show up? she fretted.

But then they poured in: the student volunteers, the parents and the boys and girls, ages five and six, who looked around shyly.

There were no uniforms, and, at first, no bases just a patch of grass with some trees. But as the volunteers signed greetings, young faces broke into smiles. We're really going to play baseball? they signed. Great! And the Mainstream Sports League got underway!

As the students explained the game

in sign language, parents ran the bases in this case, the trees with their kids.

Sylvia's eyes filled with tears one day as she watched David slide into second. He dusted himself off and beamed at her. I love you! he signed.

I love you too! she wept.

Folks who'd heard about the league donated uniforms and bases, even coaches and the league grew to three teams, then six, then nine for kids ages 5 to 11!

Today, Sylvia watches from the sidelines as a beaming youngster connects with his first ball and cheers as David, a veteran at 11, rounds the bases.

"I can't tell you what it means to these kids to be treated like everyone else," she says. "Every child should have a place to prove themselves!"

-From Woman's World

## How To Survive a Heart Attack When Alone

(Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, this article seemed in order). A person, of any age, can have a heart attack.

Without help the person whose heart stops beating properly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

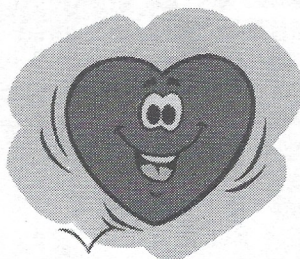
However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements

squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm.

In this way, heart attack victims can get to a phone and, between breaths, call for help. Tell as many other people as possible about this, it could save their lives!

-From *Health Cares*, Rochester General Hospital via Chapter 240's newsletter *AND THE BEAT GOES ON...* (reprint from *The Mended Hearts, Inc.* publication, *Heart Response*)



## After Calling In An Emergency to 911

After calling in an emergency to 911 and assuring the patient is as safe and comfortable as possible what should you do until help arrives? How about:

- \* Turning on exterior lights
- \* Making sure the house number can be clearly seen
- \* Unlocking the exterior door which provides easiest access to the patient
- \* Clearing a path to the patient
- \* Putting pets where they will not interfere with emergency staff
- \* Readyng a list of the patient's medications
- \* Making sure the patient's insurance card is available
- \* Leaving a note for family members.



## Regular Board Meeting at the Brier Inn Motel Convention Center in Lewisburg

The board meeting of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) was held June 17, 1999, at 7:45 p.m. at the Brier Inn Motel Convention Center in Lewisburg, WV.

Present were President Jimmy Harrison; Vice-president John Burdette; Secretary/Treasurer Liz Purvis-Leisure; Trustees Joey Major and Clyde Swartz. Trustee Bill Cash was absent. Also, present were visitors: Troy Osborne and Delores Pyles.

The minutes from the April 10, 1999 were corrected and approved as follows: Page 1 under President's Report, Number 3, change Jimmy Harrison to John Burdette. Then the minutes were approved as read.

### Treasurer's Report:

Liz discussed the financial report for the years July 1997 to June 1999. As of June 17, 1999, the WVAD has \$2,719.03 in the checking account, \$8,369.09 in the saving account, and \$12,000.00 total in the certificate of deposits (2). The balances do not include assets and expenditures for the 1999 WVAD/GVAD Conference. This will be done at a later date after all the bills incurred during the conference are paid. The financial report was approved.

### President's Report:

1. President Harrison reported that he picked up the Dingo Board he is borrowing from the Huntington Association of the Deaf to be used to play dingo game planned for tonight.

2. President Harrison remarked that Veronda Harrison did a good job putting together a program book for the conference. He said that there was no time to proofread the book before printing. Norma Czernicki has agreed to proofread the book. If any error is found, the correction will be made in the next program book.

3. President Harrison bought two large banners for display at the conference. The banners were

purchased at the last minutes and they were made by Sign Now. President Harrison apologized to the board for not getting a prior approval to purchase the banners but he felt they were needed for the conference.

4. President Harrison informed the board that the proposed changes for the WVAD Constitution and By-laws have been made. The changes will be distributed during the First General Assembly tomorrow for review and discussion.

5. President Harrison bought new films to take pictures at the conference. The pictures from the previous conference (1997) will be shown in the exhibit room.

6. President Harrison said two President's Awards will be presented to the winners during the Award Banquet on Saturday night, June 19, 1999.

### Vice-president's Report:

1. Vice-president Burdette went to the West Virginia School for the Deaf to present a \$100.00 award to the Valedictorian and \$50.00 award to the Salutatorian.

2. Vice-president Burdette received a total of \$355.00 for membership renewals. He sent the checks and money orders to the Treasurer for deposit.

3. Vice-president Burdette briefly discussed his recent trip to Little Rock, Arkansas, to attend the SARC meeting. He said the meeting was very beneficial and educational. He is ready for challenges.

**Secretary's Report:** None

**Trustee's Report:** None

### 1999 WVAD Conference

#### Committee's Report:

1. Chairperson Burdette reported that WVAD/GVAD has a balance of \$7,435.79 in the checking account. He briefly went over the plans for the next two days and nights. Everything seems to be working out very well.

2. Chairperson Burdette hired Kara Russell and Trudy Ford as the interpreters for the conference. Since Trudy will not be available until Saturday, we can ask Priscilla Runyon if she would be willing to interpret for Friday night, if needed.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

John Burdette (Clyde Swartz)

moved that we decide on the dollars amount for winners at the Dingo Game. Passed. After much discussion, Clyde Swartz (Joey Major) moved that we give away the following cash prizes: \$30.00 for "D"; \$35.00 for "I"; \$40.00 for "N"; \$45.00 for "G"; and \$50.00 for "O". If there is no winner for the D, I, N, G, and O games after 29 cards are used, then \$20.00 bonus on each letter will be given to the ones who win the game. Motion was carried.

Joey Major (Clyde Swartz) moved that the WVAD sells the posters (drawing of the WV School for the Deaf campus) for three dollars each. Liz Leisure (Clyde Swartz) amended the cost to two dollars each. Motion was carried.

Liz Leisure (John Burdette) moved that we approve payment for the banners purchased for the WVAD conference. Motion was carried.

Joey Major (Clyde Swartz) moved that the board members be reimbursed for mileage and one meal each for the trip to this board meeting. Motion was carried.

Joey Major (Clyde Swartz) moved that the WVAD reimburse the WVAD officers and WVAD/GVAD committee members for the combo tickets including the hotel expenses. Passed.

Joey Major (Clyde Swartz) moved that the WVAD pays Veronda Harrison a salary in the amount of \$125.00 for her work in getting the program book together for the 1999 WVAD Conference. Motion was carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

## Do you know?

Do you know the word "FAMILY" means?

F - Father  
A - And  
M - Mother  
I - I  
L - Love  
Y - You

How do you like this?

**West Virginia Association  
of the Deaf  
32nd Biennial Conference  
at the Brier Inn Motel &  
Convention Center  
in Lewisburg, WV**

The conference was held at Brier Inn in Lewisburg and was hosted by the Greenbrier Valley Association of the Deaf. The conference began with registration at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, June 17, 1999. The WVAD board meeting met from 7:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. in one of the conference rooms on the second floor.

On Friday morning, June 18, 1999, the registrants had breakfast on their own and returned to the conference room at 9:00 a.m. for the Welcome remarks given by WVAD President Jimmy Harrison and Vice-president John Burdette. Vice-president made a few announcements about the weekend plans and a tour. Exhibits were held all weekend at the conference.

The By-laws meeting started at 9:35 a.m. with Chairperson Veronda Harrison.

The following changes on the By-laws were made and passed as follows:

Chairperson Veronda Harrison explained why the word "convention" has been changed to "conference" throughout the By-laws

Article II - Membership Section 1 (d) - Remove "Any deaf or hard of hearing person who has been charged with, but not yet convicted, of a felony shall have his or her membership suspended."

Article II - Membership, Section 3: Change the age of senior citizen from "60" to "55".

Article III - Officers, Section 6: Change to "Any officer who misses three consecutive meetings without being excused by the President shall lose his/her office."

Article III - Officers, Section 8: Add "or other family member" after the word "wife".

Article VI - Auditor, Section 1: Tabled for further information.

Article VIII - Dues and Assessments, Section 1 (b): Change

senior citizen membership dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00.

Article VIII - Section 1 (c): Change student membership dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

Article VIII - Section 1 add "(d) college students non-members are guests with no voicing or voting privileges in a regular meeting. They must pay for other events at a conference. They will receive free registration.

Article VIII - Section 2: Change "the" to "a" and change "pay" to "pays".

Article X - Expenses of Officers, Chairmen, Committees - Section 1: Add "or conferences" after the word "meetings" and add "lodging" after the word "mileage".

Article X - Section 5: Delete "No officer or chairman shall be reimbursed for attendance at Regular or Special conferences."

Article XI - Regular and Special Conferences - Section 1 (b): Change the word "following" to "after".

Article XI - Section 1: Add (e) The conference shall have two sessions for two days.

Article XI - Section 3: Conference Bids (a): Change the word "conference" to "association". Add "If the local deaf association drops hosting the Association Conference, it shall lose the \$100 deposit."

Article XII - Local Conference Committees - Section 1 and 2 (a): Change "Local Conference Committees" to "Local Deaf Association Committees". Section 1: Change "Conference" to "Association" and Section 2 (a): Change "A" to "The" and change "Conference" to "Association".

The By-laws meeting adjourned for a lunch recess at 12 noon and resumed at 1:40 p.m.

Article XV - Entertainments - Section 1: Change "At" to "at" and add "Section 2: A member must pay \$5.00 for the replacement of a lost registration badge."

Article XVIII - Quorum: Change "Fifty" to "Twenty-five".

Article XIX - Parliamentary Authority: Add (Robert's Rules of Order) after the Authority.

Article XX - Order of Business: Add "12. Election of new officers and conference bids" and "14.

Adjournments".

The By-Laws meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

The First General Session was called to order by President Jimmy Harrison at 3:35 p.m. A Salute to the Flag was made. A welcome remark to the 32nd Biennial Conference was also made. The minutes of the 1997 Conference were corrected as follows: Bill #013 - it should have been read as "in June" not "six months apart" and "on the 3rd weekend of June". Bill #116 - the word "chapter" should be changed to "organization". After the corrections were made, the minutes were accepted as read.

Norma Czernicki inquired whether the bill #011 has been carried out as read. Secretary Liz Leisure stated that she had sent letters to all hospitals in the state of West Virginia about providing interpreters for deaf patients as required by federal law. She also stated that she had received letters from about six hospitals assuring us that they are providing the services for the deaf and hard of hearing patients when asked.

President Harrison reported that the Fairmont Association of the Deaf has dropped hosting the 2001 WVAD Conference.

Unfinished Business closed.

New Business:

Wilbur Wright (Bill McCoy) moved that we cancel the Bill #007 requiring each deaf association to send a representative to all regular board meetings. Motion was passed.

President Harrison reported that the WVAD board voted to cancel the Bill #016 because some deaf associations do not want to pay the \$25.00 for affiliation fee. Bill McCoy (Larry Hubbard) moved that we keep the Bill #016. President Harrison (Bill McCoy) moved to amend that we raise the affiliation fee to \$100 for two years including free ads to be placed in the WVAD Newsletters. Motion was carried.

The First General Session Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

On Saturday, June 19, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Richard Morris, who is a professional deaf

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speaker and the president of Real World Success, conducted a workshop on "Effective Communication at the Workplace." After the workshop, a lunch recess was called.

President Harrison called the Second General Session Meeting to order at 1:55 p.m. Necrology Committee Chairman John Burdette showed a list from the program book of those deaf people who passed on by using the overhead projector. A silent prayer was held in memory of the deceased. Additional names were added to the list that were not included in the program book.

Vice-president Burdette was not able to find out the name of the WVAD President who served from 1916-18. He asked the audience for assistance in finding out the name of the president so that he may have it on the records.

Vice-president Burdette said the total of 1997-99 membership drive was \$4,482.50. There are WVAD members on the list most of which are senior citizens.

Resolution Committee Members Norma Czernicki and Delores Pyles wrote a list of resolutions. The following resolutions were:

Be it resolved: Our sincere thanks to Brier Inn for their wonderful hospitality.

Recognition of chairman, John Burdette and his committee for the conference of 1999 for working hard to earn money for the conference through car washes, bake sales, and donations.

Richard Morris of Real World Success for a very helpful workshop on Effective Communication at the Workplace.

Greenbrier Valley Association of the Deaf for hosting the reception and dingo games on Friday evening

Marty Blakely, Dean of Seaton Hall at West Virginia School for the Deaf, for his speech at the banquet.

Ken Glickman for his skit on Deaf Culture as seen through the eye of a deaf comedian.

WVAD Board for its hard work preparing for two years for the conference.

Many businesses who gave donations for the conference.

Boosters who gave donations for

the conference.

Brittany Campbell and Amber Begley, granddaughters of Roy and Delores Pyles, for the floral decorations for the banquet.

The interpreters, Kara Russell, Trudy Ford, and Priscilla Runyon for interpreting in voice for all meetings.

Veronda Harrison for the very well prepared conference program book.

A two-year (1997-1999) financial report was given by Liz Purvis-Leisure. Charles Lynce (Delores Pyles) moved that the report be accepted and that the auditing be waived. Motion was carried.

Wilbur Wright (Bill McCoy) moved that the WVAD purchase two laptop computers for the secretary and the treasurer. Motion was passed. Bill McCoy (Ed Czernicki) moved to amend that the WVAD spends up to \$5,000.00 for the laptop computers. Motion was passed.

Edward Johnson (A. Wright) moved that the WVAD purchase a printer. Motion was passed.

Pierre Sevigny (Worthy Devericks) moved that WVAD send a letter to the State Department of Education encouraging the junior and senior deaf students join the WVAD at no charge for two years. Motion was carried.

Vice-president Burdette discussed the need in getting more young deaf people involved in the state association.

Kara Russell spoke to the audience about purchasing a closed captioning device for a 4 year old deaf child whose parents cannot afford to buy one. She asked if WVAD would be willing to purchase a new device for the child. After Bill McCoy stated that he has a device that he will donate to the WVAD to give to the family, the following deaf people have agreed to donate their devices to the WVAD: Jackie Sherrill, Worthy Devericks, Victoria Cooker, Larry Adkins, Tom Morris, Larry Hubbard, and Emanuel Robinson.

Bill McCoy (Ed Czernicki) moved that a story be written in the newspapers about WVAD donating a closed captioning device to the deaf child in his home area. This would make a good advertisement for the WVAD. Motion was passed.

New business was closed.

The bidders were Wheeling Association of the Deaf and Princeton area. The Wheeling Association of the Deaf won the bid for the 2001 WVAD Conference. Ray Matos will send a check of \$100.00 for deposit for the conference. Since the Beckley Association of the Deaf failed to send a one hundred dollars deposit, they lost their bid for the 2003 WVAD Conference. The 2003 WVAD Conference will be held in Princeton, West Virginia.

Wilbur Wright ( ) moved that WVAD be in charge of the 2003 WVAD Conference. Motion was carried.

Since there is no local deaf association in the Princeton area, a \$100.00 deposit is not required. Charles Tuell was told that all they would have to do is to find a hotel location for the conference.

Election for the new officers was held by Roy Pyles and Ed Czernicki. Candidates for the new WVAD officers for the 1999-2001 are: John Burdette, President; Jimmy Harrison, Vice-president; Terry Ford, Secretary; Liz Purvis-Leisure, Treasurer. Clyde Swartz became the Senior Trustee; Ray Matos was elected for 4-year trustee and Joey Major for 2-year trustee. The oath was administered to the new officers by Roy Pyles.

Kara Russell announced that the WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing have several TTYs available for loan. A person must be a resident of West Virginia to be eligible for the loan.

Veronda Harrison (Ray Matos) moved that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m. Awards Banquet was held and several awards were presented by Delores Pyles, Awards Chairperson, and Jimmy Harrison, WVAD President.

The banquet was followed by a guest speaker, Marty Blakely, a comedy show given by Ken Glickman, and a closing ball. About 120 people attended the conference. Everyone enjoyed the conference.

Recorded by Liz Purvis-Leisure, Secretary.

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Check one or more:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 for 2 years individual (Members receive free WVAD Newsletter).

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 for 2 years senior (55+) (Members receive free WVAD Newsletter).

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 for 2 years students (age 12-18)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 for a year WVAD Newsletter subscription only.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the WVAD. Thank you!

Please check below about yourself/spouse.

I am \_\_\_\_\_ deaf OR \_\_\_\_\_ hearing. My spouse is \_\_\_\_\_ deaf OR \_\_\_\_\_ hearing.

\_\_\_\_\_ I attended WVSD OR \_\_\_\_\_ other school. When graduated? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My spouse attended WVSD OR \_\_\_\_\_ other school. When graduated? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (Voice or TDD)

FAX No: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to **WVAD**. Thank you for your support!

Mail to: **WV Association of the Deaf**

**Jimmy Harrison, Vice-President**

**5 Cordoba Drive**

**Hurricane, WV 25526**

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