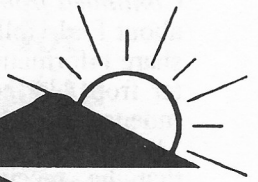




# WVAD Newsletter



Volume 21, No. 3

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

Aug., Sept., Oct., 2000

## 2000 National Association of the Deaf Conference

West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) President John Burdette attended the State Association Presidents Conference (SAPC) from June 30 through July 2.

President John Burdette and Vice-president Jimmy Harrison attended the 2000 National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Conference in Norfolk, Virginia as delegates from July 2 through 8 and spent nearly a week there. The conference was attended by more than 2,100 people from all over the United States included 22 West Virginians and many more in the overflow crowd at the Marriott and Sheraton Waterside convention center hotels.

The delegates spent a lot of time in forums and council of representative meetings where important issues were raised and then the top 20 mandates and the delegates voted for the next 10 mandates. The NAD has 30 mandates to work for the next two years.

On Monday evening the opening ceremony was grand with President, Libby Pollard and Virginia Association of the Deaf President, Gary Vail welcoming all to the conference.

There were the workshops and exhibits.

On Thursday noon the keynote speaker was Judith Heumann, Assistant Secretary of Education

for the Federal Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services.

On Saturday evening Lauren Teruel of Chicago, Illinois was elected the new Miss Deaf America Pageant for the 2000-2002, succeeding Amy Wong of California, a native of Indonesia.

The next NAD conference will be in Washington, DC from July 3-8, 2002 following the DEAF Way II. We hope you can able to go to the NAD Conference.

## West Virginia Association of the Deaf Board Meeting at Marino's Restaurant July 23, 2000

The West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) board meeting was held on July 23, 2000 at Marino's Restaurant at 10:54 a.m. in Fairmont, WV. In attendance: President, John Burdette; Vice-president, Jimmy Harrison; Secretary, Terry Ford; Treasurer, Liz Leisure; Trustee, Joey Major; Visitors: Linda Phillips, Donna Williams, Joshua Ballingee and Earl Hollinghead III; Not present: Trustees Ray Matos and Clyde Swartz.

The minutes from the March 4, 2000 WVAD board meeting were read and approved.

President's Report:

1. President John Burdette received a letter from Charity Reedy Hines, WVCDHH Executive Director to let people know about the new 711 Relay Services.

2. President Burdette received a

letter from NAD Region I about a survey to fill out by July 31, 2000.

3. President Burdette reported about 501-C. He feels WVAD should apply for it.

4. President Burdette reported that WVAD wanted to thank Veronda Harrison for designing the Certificate for Most Outstanding Senior at West Virginia School for the Deaf.

5. President Burdette reported that Deaf Camp is starting this week at Jackson Mill. He will go to Deaf Camp on Wednesday, July 26th to speak about WVAD to the Deaf Campers.

6. President Burdette reported that some people had complaints about problems contacting the 711 Relay Services.

7. President Burdette reported about the Deaf Awareness Day on September 9, 2000 at Fairmont. The WVAD, West Virginia Deaf Alumni Association, Fairmont Association of the Deaf, West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and West Virginia School for the Deaf will have exhibits.

8. President Burdette reported about Miss WVAD Pageant. He would like to start this pageant. We need to find someone, who would be interested in running in the WVAD Pageant.

9. President Burdette reported about the Voc. Rehabilitation's responsibility for the cost of Communications Access Services for students who are deaf and hard of hearing at colleges and universities.

10. President Burdette reported

*Continue on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

about Earl Hollinghead wanting to share information about a newsletter from Northern WV Center for Independence Living.

11. President Burdette reported that he received a letter from Charity Reedy Hines, Executive Director about the consideration and approval of Joan Ohl, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources and the members of the Board of the WVCDHH to relocate its office from Charleston to Romney, WV.

12. President Burdette reported that he received a letter from WV School for the Deaf thanking WVAD for presenting the WVAD awards at Graduation Day.

President Burdette reported that he received a letter from NAD President Libby Pollard wanting to thank WVAD for inviting her come to two different workshops at Wheeling on March 4, 2000 and also, was her pleasure to meet Charity Reedy Hines, Executive Director of WVCDHH during the Town Hall Meeting.

14. President Burdette reported that he received the letter from NAD about donating for "Burn the Mortgage".

Vice President's Report:

1. Vice President Jimmy Harrison reported about death of Alma Norton and spoke of honoring her and the following to Alma: Thelma Lemaster, Naomi Bradni, Wade Linger, Maude Smith Urse, June and Betty Harris.

2. Vice President Harrison reported that twelve members have been removed from the list due to death since October 1999.

The board approved Liz Leisure read WVAD Financial reports from April 1, 2000 to June 30, 2000.

Joey Major moved that we break recess for 30 minutes at 12:43 p.m.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Liz Leisure reported about getting a business license of Registration Certificate.

2. Liz reported about receiving

e-mail from Judy Holt requesting a copy of the WVAD IRS tax determination letter. Liz asked President Burdette to check with previous Treasurer, Roy Pyles about the letter since she is not able to locate it in her file.

Secretary's Report:

1. Terry Ford reported that she received a book from Charity Reedy Hines (WVCDHH) about a directory of Interpreting Services and American Sign Language Teachers. The directory will help find more information and tell how to contact them.

2. Terry reported that she received a letter from Clyde Swartz about problems with WVAD. She doesn't understand this letter. She checked with the board to reread it and they don't understand clearly either. President Burdette will check and talk with Clyde to make sure what the letter meant.

Old Business:

John Burdette moved to plan the 85th Anniversary Picnic.

John Burdette moved about fundraising for the 2001 Conference.

John Burdette will inform Ray Matos who knows the best chairperson.

Burdette moved about WVAD affiliate with others and will help to support WVAD.

Jimmy Harrison moved that old business adjourn at 2:55 p.m.

New Business:

1. Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD will donate "Burn the Mortgage" Fund. Liz Leisure amended that WVAD donate \$100.00 to NAD to help "Burn the Mortgage". Passed.

2. Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD would support Miss WV Deaf Pageant at the 2001 Conference. Passed.

3. Jimmy Harrison moved that the WVAD Banquet would invite Astrid Goodstein as keynote speaker for the 2001 Conference. Liz Leisure amended that if Astrid can't make it we will invite NAD President Libby Pollard to speak at the 2001 Conference.

Passed.

4. Joey Major moved that WVAD will invite Sean Marked to give a workshop at the conference. Passed.

5. Jimmy Harrison moved that Ernest Hairston from US Dept. of Education of DC give speak on HIV/AIDS. Liz Leisure amended that WVAD will invite Elizabeth Creamer to give a workshop about HIV/AIDS at the conference. Passed.

6. Joey Major moved that WVAD will invite Ernest Hairston to give a workshop at the conference. Passed.

7. Liz Leisure moved that the WVAD Banquet committee would invite Charity Reedy Hines to speak at the conference. Passed.

8. Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD will check the cost of an exhibit booth for possible purchase. Passed.

9. Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD would have a drawing to attract new members to sign up for memberships. Passed.

10. Joey Major moved that WVAD will buy T-shirts or caps for the board officers to wear at the 85th Anniversary Picnic to see if people would be interested in purchasing the item for fundraising purposes. Passed.

11. Jimmy Harrison reported that he received from Fairmont Association of the Deaf and WV Deaf Alumni Association for affiliation with WVAD. Congratulation to them!

Liz Leisure moved that the meeting adjourn at 4:30 p.m.

Reported by Secretary Terry Ford.

Pleasure is the  
beginning and the  
end of living  
happily.

-- Epicurus

## Obituaries

### Alma Norton

Alma P. McFerrin Norton, 91, of Wheeling, died Monday, June 19, 2000 in the Ohio Valley Medical Center, Wheeling, WV.

She was the daughter of the late Robert H. McFerrin and Daisy Yatee McFerrin Jackson.

She was a member of the Fourth Street United Methodist Church in Wheeling.

She was a member of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Franklin Norton.

Burial was in the Greenwood Cemetery, Wheeling.

Memorial contributions may be made to the West Virginia Association of the Deaf, 5 Cordoba Drive, Hurricane, WV 25526, or the DePaul Institute School for the Hearing Impaired, 2904 Castlegate Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226.

### Vincent Perry

Vincent Perry, 65, died September 4, 2000 at his home after a short illness.

He was a graduate of the West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney, WV in 1953.

He had a deaf brother, Accie Perry.

### Kenneth L. Corns

Kenneth L. Corns, 62, of Huntington, died Monday at home.

He enrolled in 1946 at the West Virginia School for the Deaf.

Survivors include two brothers, William Corns (deaf) of Charleston and David Corns of Huntington and four sisters, Wilma Berry (deaf) of Gilbertsville, Pa., Betty Mowdy of Huntington and Janice Bias of Huntington and Pauline Goff (deaf) of Upper Darby, Pa.

Graveside in Woodmere Park in Huntington.

### Juanita Ann Davis

Juanita Ann Davis, 66, of Durham, NC formerly of Belle, WV, died July 23, 2000, in Duke University Medical Center after a sudden illness.

She was a graduate of the West Virginia School for the Deaf in 1955.

She was retired keypunch operator from Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp., in Ravenswood, WV. She was a member of Judson Baptist Church, Belle.

Surviving: father, Walter B. Davis of Durham, formerly of Belle; brother, J. Michael Davis of Durham.

Entombment was in Sunset Memorial Park Mausoleum, South Charleston, WV.

## Deaf People Are World's Best Drivers

Deaf people make better drivers than people with normal hearing and they could be the world's safest motorists, a fascinating new study shows.

That's because they compensate for their disability by concentrating on watching the road, the research showed.

"They're got all over us hearing people when it comes to driving," said a spokesman for the National Association of Driver Education for the Disabled.

"They've always taken in everything with their eyes and as a result they tend to see everything when they've at the wheel."

And not being able to hear ambulance and other emergency sirens doesn't make deaf drivers unsafe at all. The study found that deaf drivers check their rear view mirrors frequently and can tell immediately if they should pull to the side of the road.

-From *Weekly World News*

## It's a Boy for Marlee Matlin

It's a boy for Oscar-winning actress Marlee Matlin.

The child, the second for the actress and her policeman husband, Kevin Grandalski, was born at an undisclosed Los Angeles area hospital on Tuesday, September 19, 2000 Matlin's publicist said. The couple have a 4-year old daughter.

Matlin, 35, won an Academy Award for her role in "Children of a Lesser God." The deaf actress has a recurring role on NBC's "The West Wing."

-From *The Associated Press*

## A New Grandchild



Phoebe Richards and Baby Kaylie

It is a girl. Mike Gibson and Ammy Jo Deal are the parents of Kaylie Jo Gibson. She was born on July 15 at 6:09 a.m. She weights 6 lbs and 7 oz. and 18 1/2 inches long.

She is first granddaughter of Charles and Phoebe Richards. Her aunt April Richards and the uncle is Scott Richards.

They are all so proud of Kaylie Jo.

# Deal would give disabled more access

## 10 communities promise to improve public facilities

Attorney General Janet Reno was expected to announce settlements with 10 communities today that would provide disabled Americans greater access to civic life, from voting booths to baseball stadiums.

In some cases, communities promised to provide 911 systems accessible to the deaf, curbside balloting for the physically disabled and assisted listening systems for courtrooms and public auditoriums.

The agreements are the result of negotiations between the Justice Department and communities in Arkansas, Connecticut, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Tennessee, West Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

The department's settlement negotiations are underway in 15 other states.

Reno was to make the announcement today in Warm Springs, Ark., one of the 10 communities named in the initiative that ensures compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The settlements were timed to coincide with the upcoming 10th anniversary of the act on July 26.

As part of the initiative, federal investigators have been surveying cities, towns and villages across the nation to gauge access to public places of all kinds.

The survey of facilities included public swimming pools, senior citizen activity centers, libraries, courthouses, public parks, athletic fields and even bandstands.

"These agreements are models for towns and cities across the country to comply with the ADA," said Bill Lann Lee, who is acting assistant attorney general for civil

rights.

It was not immediately clear how much the improvements would cost the communities involved.

The public facilities initiative, named "Project Civic Access," was launched after the Justice Department reached a similar settlement with the city of Toledo, Ohio last August.

As part of that deal, the city agreed to remove barriers and relocate activities throughout the city government to allow greater access.

*-From USA Today  
July 19, 2000*

## Disabled mark ADA anniversary

As they marked the 10th anniversary of passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act on Wednesday, July 26, 2000, the disabled won more federal job opportunities and promises of beneficial new legislation and regulation.

In a ceremony at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, President Clinton directed federal agencies to hire 100,000 disabled Americans over the next five years. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., meanwhile, unveiled a bipartisan bill to expand health coverage for disabled Americans.

But as the disabled reflected on how their experience with the law had helped make their lives easier, a Justice Department official told members of Congress that of the 30 million adults with significant disabilities, 75 percent are unemployed or underemployed.

### High unemployment

"The high unemployment rate of people with significant disabilities is truly ironic, as many high-tech jobs go unfilled," said Liz Savage, acting assistant attorney general for civil rights.

"Many of these jobs may be ideal for people with disabilities."

Savage was among those testifying before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. She and other witnesses named several reasons that disabled workers aren't more fully employed.

Some blamed employer stereotyping and bias as factors but said more complex factors are also at work.

Savage said that while technology has helped many disabled people, poorly designed technology that does not take their needs into account often causes them to lose their jobs, such as new software that excludes online "screen readers" necessary for the blind.

Judith Heumann, assistant secretary of education for rehabilitative services, said "employers consistently note that they are not hiring more people with disabilities because they are not finding candidates who have the relevant experience or skill level required for employment."

In addition to changing employers attitudes about hiring disabled workers, she said, the government will continue to push programs to ensure that they receive high-quality education and do not drop out of school.

The ADA law not only bars discrimination in employment, but requires wheelchair ramps and other accommodations for the disabled, in the workplace and in public places.

### "They want opportunity"

In directing agencies to hire 100,000 workers over the next five years, the president said, "they don't want excuses. Instead, they want opportunity in terms of jobs and careers."

Clinton's executive order also would adjust annually how much people with disabilities could earn every month without losing their government benefits.

Now they can earn \$700 without losing benefits; this figure would

*(Continue on page 5)*

*Continued from page 4*

be changed to reflect increases in the average wage index.

The president ordered the creation of a Web site so the disabled could obtain information about employment health care, taxes and vocational education.

He also directed agencies to draft plans ensuring that programs are free from disability based discrimination.

#### **Technology not compatible**

At the Senate hearing, a more complex picture of employing the disabled was presented. Often new technological advances can create barriers for them, said Barbara Judy, director of the president's committee on employment of people with disabilities.

"The increased use of voice mail and automated telephone systems can be confusing and very frustrating for some individuals with cognitive or psychological difficulties and not readily useable by persons with hearing impairments without additional technology," she said.

The development of digital wireless equipment is not compatible with TTY telephone systems for the deaf, she said. And, she added, some computer software enhancements can't be used by blind people who require "screen readers," technology in which on-line written language is converted into spoken language.

John Pak, a disabled summer intern at the Justice Department, said many technologies that would help disabled people adapt to such changes are expensive because of their sparse demand.

Cost for smaller employers may be prohibitive, he said, and training is costly too.

Pak suggested federal subsidies and tax exemptions for employers to help remove some of the technological barriers.

#### **More access considered**

Savage said the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, a federal

agency commonly known as the "Access Board," is considering a new regulation that would require the federal government to make sure that its software, Web sites, telecommunications equipment, information kiosks and office machines are accessible to the disabled.

Not all federal workstations would have to meet this rule if there were no disabled workers present, she said.

Nevertheless, she said it could result in an expansion of assistance to disabled workers who need help in adapting to technology.

Deborah Lisi-Baker, director of the Vermont Center for Independent Living, said disabled workers often need help with travel to and from work, and that can be a barrier to employment.

*-From The Charleston Gazette  
July 27, 2000*

## **West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has moved to Romney, West Virginia**

New address and telephone numbers are:

WVCDHH  
PO Box 1755  
475 Depot Street  
Romney, WV 26757  
Toll Free number:  
1-877-461-3578  
(304) 822-8565 Voice/TTY  
(304) 822-2468 FAX

Webpage:

[www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh](http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh)  
Email: [WVCDHH@wvdhhr.org](mailto:WVCDHH@wvdhhr.org)

## **The Trough Canoe**



Front row: Daniel Cochran, Jason Wilson, and Marcus Leake. Back row: Joanne Shaffer, Donnie Everett, Marty Blakely, David Allen, and Ron Lake.

The Trough Canoe is one of the most exciting, but educational outdoor activities in this great state, West Virginia.

The West Virginia Association of the Deaf donated \$280.00 to the West Virginia School for the Deaf Senior/Junior students and two adults.

On Saturday afternoon, May 6, the Trough General Store provided

them with paddles, Coleman canoes, and life preservers. The school provided the meals. Also, they were obliged to teach the students how to canoe properly and safety before they went there.

The students enjoyed every minute of the canoeing activity.

They want to thank for your support!

## Two Teachers, Two Counties, One Cause



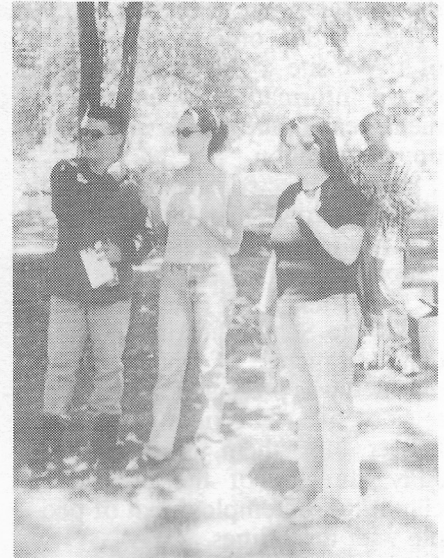
New River Jet Boat Ride - Front: Charlene Polk, Interpreter and Graham Drennen, deaf student. Back: Kari Stump, Janice McDaniel, Deaf Volunteer, and Trevor Coffman

Teachers, Dawn Cook of Fayette County and Ressie Brown of Nicholas County worked together to plan a "Silent Day" for their high school students from sign language class including three that are deaf/hard of hearing. This event occurred on May 16th at Hawk's Nest State Park of Anstead, WV.

Dawn Cook is no stranger to doing creative activities as such. She is the Founder of the WV Camp for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children that begun in 1987. Next she worked with Rod Burke, the preacher for the deaf to create an after school Bible study program for local deaf students from the Charleston area and then to help Mr. Burke incorporate a deaf Children's Revival with his State-wide yearly revival for the Deaf in 1991. Dawn went on to write a grant to help purchase sign language books and other items for a "Flying Fingers for Fantastic Fifth Graders" Project in 1994. Dawn was a first teacher for the clients of DEAF, Inc. Funded by the State Department Education during this experimental project in 1995. Believing that the deaf should have equal access, Dawn

was the one who convinced, Jo-Ann Fabrics Shop of Dunbar, WV to open craft classes to the deaf in 1996. Dawn interpreted and the deaf came. Then she went back into the school system as an interpreter for a few years before going back into teaching. She says it was a nice break from all the paperwork that a teacher is required to do. She now works as a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing in Fayette County. Burning the candle for many years at both ends as being both a teacher of the deaf and an interpreter for the Deaf left Dawn wanting a slower paced life. That she has found in Oak Hill, WV.

Ressie Brown, a teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Nicholas County is also self motivated to work in two professional fields at the same time. She also does church interpreting in her hometown for the local deaf people that live there. Ressie is a recent graduate of the Interpreting ASL program from Fairmont State College where she obtained a degree this past August. She is a Parent Advisor for SKI HI serving her county plus other nearby coun-



Social Time - Brian Adkins (Deaf), Brandi McClung, Wendy Rader, Dustine Cole, Volunteer

ties. SKI HI is an outreach program through the School for the Deaf in Romney, WV that serves young deaf children and their parents. Ressie also teaches a sign language class for interested adults at the Nicholas County Board of Education during the school year. She loves sign language and knows there is nothing else on this earth that she would rather be doing.

During the school year, it was amazing how these teachers often called each other to discuss the progress they were making, only to discover they were both following the same two textbooks: *Signing Naturally* and *the Joy of Signing*. When one came in with an idea: such as a silent trip to McDonalds to order breakfast food, the other teacher would also do that activity with their students. As the year progressed, Dawn and Ressie thought it would be a great thing to get all their students together for a fun day. Their dream would become a reality on May 16.

When the students arrived, they boarded a tram and rode down to a picnic shelter near the New River for the day's activities. The next

*Continue on page 7*

*Continued from page 6*

task the students did was to pin a clothespin on their shirt somewhere. This was to be explained soon after everyone gathered in a circle for the explanation of the day's events. The rules seemed simple and the activities were scheduled back to back to keep everyone busy. The students would do a variety of things such as: deaf culture games, a boat ride to see the New River Gorge Bridge, a nature walk, a bingo game invented from school and educational signs, a social time and even time to visit a gift shop nearby. It seemed easy enough only there was one catch. NO ONE was allowed to talk. Anyone, who talked, lost their clothespin making their chances slim for winning some of the nice prizes. The prizes were bought from a donation from the Quota International of the Plateau Area, which includes Oak Hill, Fayetteville, and Mt. Hope areas of Fayette County. Naturally, one of the winners of an American Sign Language Dictionary went to Brian Adkins. Some of the other gifts included: I Love You pins, pins with the "friends" sign on it, ILY writing pens, drinking mugs with the ILY emblem, Nike pencil holder pouch, address notebook, I Love You necklaces, school colored drawing markers, key chains with ILY emblem, and key chains with the "friends" sign on it.

Janice McDaniels and Shannon O'Neil came to help coordinate the day's activities and to also teach some of their culture games. Many of the students exchanged their email and home address to further keep in touch with their new found "signing" friends. Some of the students remarked how this experience helped them to understand a deaf persons world better and two or three of the students expressed a desire to learn more so they could become interpreters upon finishing their high school journey.

## Former state school official dies of cancer



Michael Valentine, an assistant state superintendent of schools, who inspired his colleagues by carrying on with his work even as he fought cancer, had died.

"He really fought courageously over the last couple of years," said Bill Luff, associate state superintendent. "He was bound and determined not to let this get in the way of the job he was doing, and he didn't. His determination to battle cancer was amazing."

Valentine, 53, of South Charleston died Friday, July 14, 2000 at home.

He was the assistant superintendent in charge of instruction. He was in charge of classroom essentials such as textbooks and materials, as well as instructional areas such as special education.

He had been the state director of special education and coordinator of educational services for the deaf and blind.

Valentine was especially interested in the aspects of his job that could benefit students with special education needs, said Dee Bodkins, the current director of the Office of Special Education.

His cancer made him even more sympathetic to the disabilities of others, Bodkins said. "He was a gentleman and a gentle man," he said. "He was a strong advocate for people with disabilities, particularly hearing impediments. He dedicated his professional career to improving the lives of students with disabilities."

Valentine also was a charter

member, Sunday school teacher, treasurer and pianist of Capital City Church of Christ.

He was a graduate of Charleston High School, received his Ph.D. from Gallaudet University, Washington, DC and degrees from Marshall University and West Virginia University, as well as a special certificate in counseling the deaf from the University of Tennessee.

He was the superintendent of Texas Schools for the Deaf from 1985-87. He was a faculty member of Marshall University, West Virginia College of Graduate Studies, Gallaudet University and Salem State College in Salem, Mass.

He received an award in 1999 from the National Association of State Directors of Special Education for his work with the disabled.

He also was a consultant for the US Department of Education, evaluating and assisting other states to establish special education programs.

He was preceded in death by his father, John Earl Valentine.

Surviving, wife, Rosemary Nichols Valentine; sons, Matthew A. Valentine and P. Timothy Valentine; mother, Belle Valentine of Charleston; and brother J. Randy Valentine of Charleston.

Service was 11 a.m. Monday at the Morris Memorial United Methodist Church, Kanawha City, with the Rev. Chuck Pullins officiating. Burial was at Cunningham Memorial Park, St. Albans. Services were interpreted for the hearing impaired.

The family suggest contributions to West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind Foundation, Inc., 301 E. Main Street, Romney, WV 26757.

# West Virginia Association of the Deaf

On August 5, 2000 the West Virginia Association of the Deaf 85th Anniversary Picnic was held at Burnsville Lake at Riffle Run Campground Shelter No. 3 and 4.

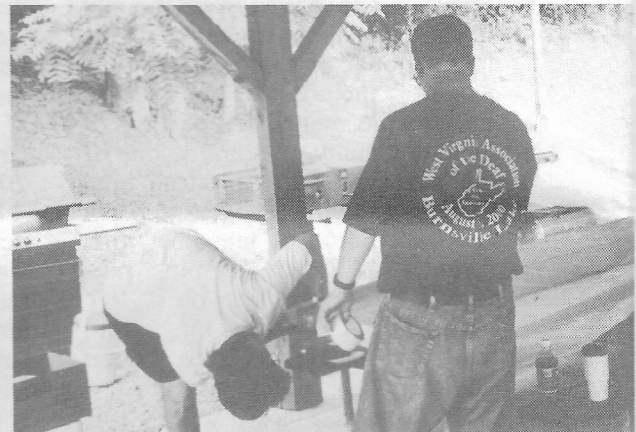
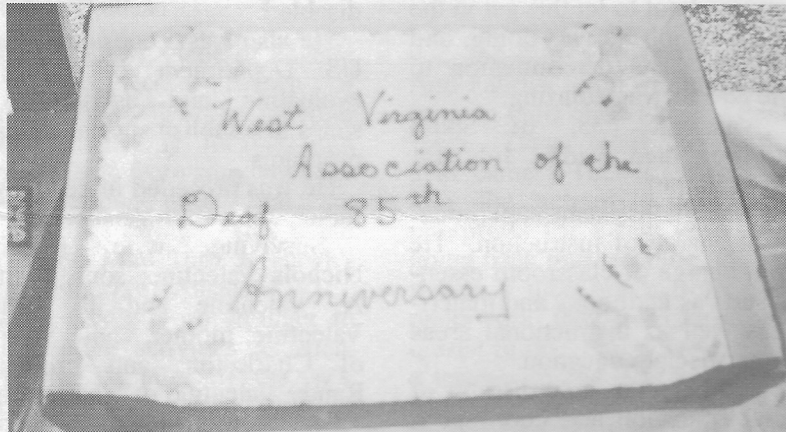
There were 47 people in attendance. Some people wanted to stay at the campsites for a few days.

They had a horseshoe tournament and water balloons. We gave away \$1,000.00 in cash prizes and had social time.

WVAD served lunch and dinner and also got a big sheet cake that said "West Virginia Association of the Deaf 85th Anniversary."

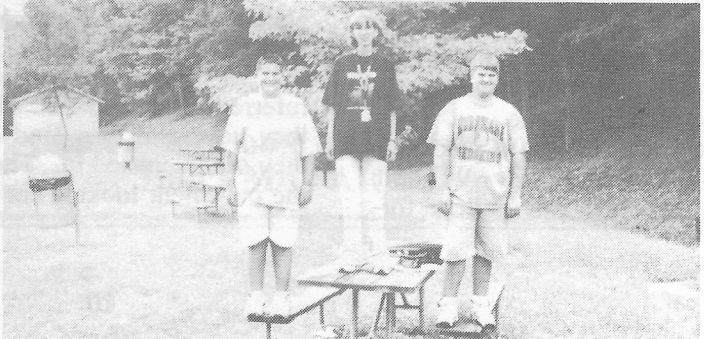
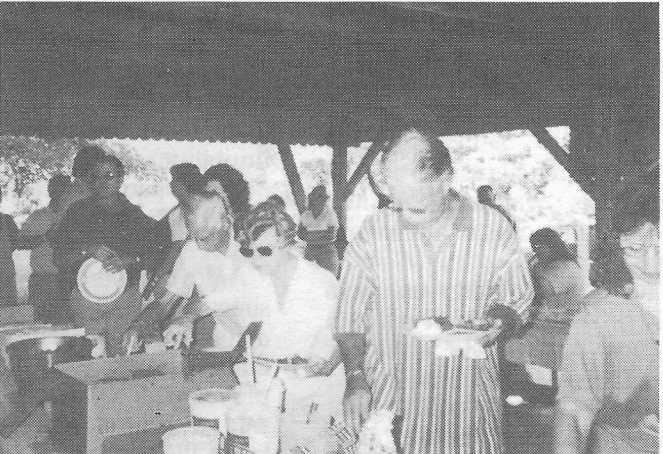
WVAD would like to thank you, the board and all members for working well as a team together.

Everyone had a wonderful time.





# 85th Anniversary Picnic



## Disabled man achieves dream of full-time work

All Marietta resident Rich Wilmoth has wanted since he reached adulthood is to work full-time.

The 25-year-old was born severely premature, which left him deaf since birth. He also has cerebral palsy. Both of those disabilities had made finding gainful employment difficult, until recently.

Wilmoth began working at Fenton Art Glass in Williamstown earlier this year. He just surpassed his probationary period and is now a full-fledged employee, working in the company's finishing department. The job comes with benefits and is a dream come true for Wilmoth, who has been sworn in to the trades union.

"Being (at Fenton), I get more job experience and work skills. It makes me feel important and proud," he said.

Wilmoth was able to achieve his goal with the help of the Employment Training Center in Athens. He has worked extensively with Libby Covey, a placement specialist for the center who deals specifically with Washington County residents.

Covey said finding a match between a potential employer and a disabled person with a desire to work can be challenging. However, she has placed dozens of individuals in a variety of positions and said she knew Fenton's work environment was going to be a good match for Wilmoth's skills.

"I had placed another guy here and (the staff) works well with hearing impaired individuals. Once they met Rich, they just fell in love with him," she said.

The wait for such a placement was a long one for Wilmoth, Covey said. He was 'patient' for

three years and had tried two short-term jobs at other companies before being hired by Fenton. Covey said her goal is to look for a position that will utilize the skills each disabled person has rather than focus on what his or her limitations are.

"I was patient while I had to wait and I never gave up," Wilmoth said.

A devout Christian, he credits his success to God, Covey said prayers certainly helped, but so did the fact that Wilmoth is a dedicated employee with a variety of skills. She said a Fenton representative had taken the time to observe Wilmoth at another job site and was impressed with his performance.

"Rich has been trained at a variety of work stations (at Fenton). A couple of great ladies worked with him during his training and throughout the training process, people would just stop by and write notes to him."

Covey said it is not difficult for Wilmoth to communicate with fellow employees or for them to communicate with him. He has taken the time to teach those who are interested sign language and note pads are used when needed. Covey also stayed with Wilmoth during the training process and acted as an interpreter. She said that is just one of the many services the training center provides to help ease the transition for both employers and employees.

"We have services that focus on job finding and placing, coaching individuals once they get to work, acting as cheerleaders and a support system as well as assisting with training," she said.

People are referred to the training center through the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, which is a state sponsored program, Covey said.

"We meet the person (who is referred) and find out what skills they have and then find out what they are interested in. Then we hit the pavement looking for the right

job," she said.

Wilmoth said he has found his niche at Fenton. He takes pride in his work and said he enjoys handling the beautiful glass creations. Trying not to break anything is something Wilmoth said he takes pride in and he strives for perfection when finishing a piece.

"I like working on the mill and making the glass smooth and level," he said.

He also enjoys interacting with those he works with. Wilmoth said he relishes break time when "people smile and talk." Covey said Wilmoth's smile is one of his greatest attributes and draws his coworkers to him.

Shirley Stilgenbauer assisted with Wilmoth's training. She said he has brought a lot to the finishing department and doesn't remember what it was like before Wilmoth joined their team.

"He always has a smile and really is a blessing," she said.

Joe Parrish works beside Wilmoth as a fellow finisher. He said he has learned from watching Wilmoth even though Parrish is a seasoned veteran within the department.

"A lot of the guys see Rich working here and what he is able to accomplish with his handicaps. Even though he is disabled, he is turning and burning and keeping up with the pace. I think he lifts morale here a little bit and reminds us to keep our chins up," he said.

Andy Williams, a production supervisor at Fenton, said Wilmoth is "an inspiration to watch."

"There really wasn't much we had to do to make things fit. Everything Rich does has to be with his upper body...but he struggles to do a good job and cares about his work," Williams said.

Wilmoth considers himself "successful" and has been able to live on his own thanks to his new position and the support of several state programs. He enjoys serving as an example to others with

*Continue on page 11*

Continued from page 10

disabilities, particularly those who are hearing impaired. He said he hopes that others will have the same opportunity he has had to enter the world of work.

Wilmoth said he does not want special treatment. He just wants to be a productive member of society who is treated like anyone else. He said working with him is like working with any employee.

"You need to have patience and respect and good manners," he said.

Covey would like to see more employers open their doors to the disabled. She said it can be a win-win situation and is always looking for potential placement locations.

"I have a lot of businesses that say they are going to get back with me and never do. I would hope that this will go a long way toward finding a few (companies) that would be very receptive about placing someone with them," she said.

Covey's office is located within the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services in Marietta. For more information on the program, contact her office at (740) 374-7167.

-From the Parkersburg News

## Thank you for your Donation

John Burdette  
Norma Czernicki  
Margaret Fraser  
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Mary Dallas Herrold  
William & Dorothy Herrold, Sr.  
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## New and Renewal Memberships

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## West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.

### 33rd Biennial Conference

June, 2001

at

Hotel (To Be Announced)  
Wheeling, WV

**\$1,000.00**

**Cash Prizes Giveaways**

Reception  
Guest Speakers  
Sightseeing Places

Workshops  
Entertainment  
Socialize

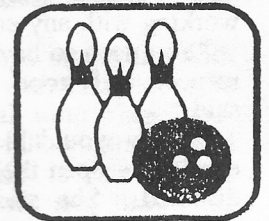
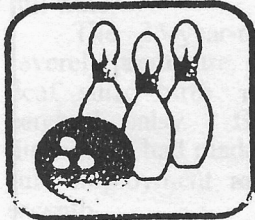
Meetings  
Ballroom  
Banquet

If you are an early bird and purchase a combo ticket before May 31, 2001, you will get two tickets per person for cash prizes. If you purchase a combo ticket after June 1, 2001, you will get one ticket per person for cash prizes.

**Come one, Come all, and Have Fun!  
Please Don't Miss A Chance to Win!**

17th Annual  
 West Virginia Deaf Bowling Association  
 and  
 West Virginia Deaf Women Bowling Association

Hosted by  
 Fairmont Association of the Deaf Sports  
 E-mail: [ennisra@aol.com](mailto:ennisra@aol.com)



March 8-10, 2002  
 Fairmont, West Virginia

**FAN COMBO**

Program Book and  
 Registration Fee Required: \$10.00  
 \*Friday - Sunday  
 (Bowling Alley) \$10.00  
 Friday Night \$15.00  
 Saturday Night \$25.00  
 Total \$60.00  
 \*Not Separated

**FADS BEST SPECIAL**

\$20.00 (SAVE \$40.00)  
 Before December 15, 2000

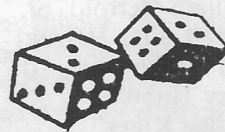
**FADS GOOD SPECIAL**

\$30.00 (SAVE \$30.00)  
 Before December 15, 2001

**FADS SPECIAL**

\$40.00 (SAVE \$20.00)  
 Before February 15, 2002

**CASINO**



**Friday Night**

**\$2,500  
 Given Away  
 Saturday Night**

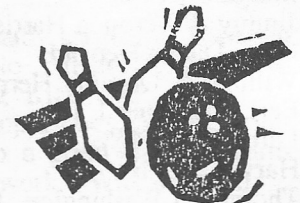
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**FRIDAY NIGHT  
 ~CASINO & CASH PRIZES~  
 FAIRMONT ASSOC. OF THE  
 DEAF SPORTS**

at  
 Winfield Community  
 Exit 139 on I-79  
 Fairmont, West Virginia 26554

**SATURDAY NIGHT  
 ~\$2,500 GIVEN AWAY & BINGO~**

at  
**HOTEL HEADQUARTER**  
 Ramada Inn-Morgantown  
 Route 119 South at I-68 & I-79  
 Morgantown, West Virginia 26505  
 304-296-3431 Voice only  
 Rates: To Be Announcement



×

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Person \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order or Cashier Check will be accept

Make payable to: FADS and send your combo to Regina Ennis, Rt. 1 Box, 111, Orlando, WV 26412

Sutton Motel  
(304) 765-7351

# Welcome

Days Inn Motel  
(304) 765-5055

*The Deaf Clubs of West Virginia Including:  
Charleston Beckley Clarksburg Fairmont Ohio Valley  
Huntington Parkersburg Lewisburg Wheeling*

3rd Annual

## Christmas Party

December 9, 2000  
at Flatwoods Bowling Alley  
Open 3:00pm to 1:00am

Cost: \$20.00 Per Person

Appetizers Cash Prizes No Refunds

100 People - \$2000

200 People - \$4000

300 People - \$6000

Raffle Prizes

\$5000.00

*PLEASE NO CHILDREN*

**Chairman:**  
Joey Mayor  
John Burdette

(5 TICKETS or 1 Book) \$5.00

Tickets for Cash Prizes

---

Make Check, Money Order or Personal Check To: **The Deaf Club of West Virginia**

Mail this form with check or money order to:

*Bob Smith*

*104 Virginia Street West*

*St. Albans, West Virginia 25177*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Please Note: After December 4, 2000 the cost is \$30.00 per person. After December 4, 2000 Cash Payment Only*

### DIRECTIONS TO BOWLING ALLEY

From S I-79 go to N I-79 Exit 67 (Flatwoods), go to traffic light, turn left. Go Straight to Bowling Restaurant is on your right side about 1/4 miles from the traffic light.

From N I-79 go to S I-79 Exit 67 (Flatwoods), go to traffic light, turn left. Go Straight to Bowling Restaurant is on your right side about 1/4 miles from the traffic light.

I-79 North  
Clarksburg

Flatwoods  
Exit 67

MOTEL  
304-  
756-  
7341

Go  
Mart

Bowling Alley  
Restaurant

EXXON

SUTTON  
MOTEL  
304-765-7351

WAFFLE  
HUT

Shoney's

SUB-  
WAY

BANK

Flatwoods  
Exit 67

Day Inn  
Motel  
304-765-5055

I-79 South  
Charleston

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1999-2001 Officers**

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Ronceverte, WV 24970

**West Virginia Deaf Bowling Association**

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Morgantown, WV 26505

**Wheeling Deaf Association**

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Geneva on the Lake, OH 44041

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Please pay your membership dues (for free newsletter subscription).

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#### MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Check one or more:

- \$30.00 for 2 years individual (Members receive free WVAD Newsletter).
- \$15.00 for one year 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 one year WVAD Newsletter subscription only.
- \$100.00 for two years organization affiliation
- I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the WVAD. Thank you!

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

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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, Membership Coordinator  
5 Cordoba Drive  
Hurricane, WV 25526

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1/8 Page (3 5/8"X2 3/8").....	\$20
Photos (All Sizes).....	\$8 Each

#### Announcement From Editor

Issue for Date.....	Oct.-Dec.
Editor's Deadline.....	Nov. 6
Date You Receive Your Copy.....	Dec.

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

Veronda Harrison, Editor  
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Hurricane, WV 25526

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