



# WVAD Newsletter



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

Volume 26, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept. 2005

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News Here and There	2
Pageant News	5
Conference Highlights	6
Obituaries	7
Extra News	8
Board Meeting Minutes	10

## President's Corner



**LET YOUR SIGNING HANDS SPEAK LOUD INSTEAD OF YOUR SIGNING HANDS BEING SILENT.**

Dear West Virginians

Hello!! I want to thank you for electing and giving me an opportunity to serve as your WVAD President for the next two years. In my two years tenure as a President, I am seeking that the WVAD work hard with the Office of the West Virginia Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the West Virginia School for the Deaf, the National Association of the Deaf and especially **YOU** as the deaf and hard of hearing West Virginia Citizens and/or Students to improve your quality of life for better in West Virginia.

As you see my motto at the top and what it does mean? It means that you have to speak for the WVAD Board members and the West Virginia to be heard (seen). It may include your equal rights, discriminations (job opportunities) and communication barriers. In order for the WVAD to serve you; we, the officers need your help by telling us in our regular board meeting, writing a letter or sending an email to us with your complaints, suggestions and/or goals to one of our Board members. Without it, we assume that you have no complaints, suggestions and/or goals, which I do not believe that. And, remember importantly, you are the West Virginia TAXPAYERS too. Please DO NOT be afraid, feel shame or embarrass; it is now time for you to be **BRAVE** and **SPEAK-UP**. If you wish your name to remain anonymous, then WVAD will honor your wish.

I encourage you to check out our new WVAD website: [www.wvad.org](http://www.wvad.org) that Ms. Linda Phillips, the Editor and Web Designer, who just completed redesigning it. Linda Phillips did an amazing job. I also would like for you to complete and mail the WVAD Conference Survey that can be found in this newsletter. With this survey, it will help us to improve for our next WVAD Conference in Charleston, WV in 2007 hosted by Charleston Association of the Deaf.

In regards to our recent the 35<sup>th</sup> WVAD Biennial Conference which was held at Clarksburg / Bridgeport Holiday Inn on August 4-6, 2005 hosted by Mt. Clarksburg Association of the Deaf (MCAD) was a very successful. I applauded everyone who was there to help us celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events, including the WVAD Officers, Exhibitors and the MCAD's 2005 WVAD Conference Committee for their outstanding job. I am very proud of you all. See cool photos on the WVAD website.

Finally, I will look forward to meeting you everywhere in the State of West Virginia. My wife, Robyn, and I are planning to visit you at your own Deaf Clubs in the next two years. Thank you and remember my motto. Smile!

Douglas A. Evans  
President

## From Editor:

Issue: Oct., Nov., Dec.

Deadline: Nov. 20

Receive Copy: Dec.



# News Here and There

## Romney Students Learn Archery

With a muffled thump, the first arrow thudded into its target. Along the firing line, the rest of the archers released their arrows. Thump. Thump. Thump. A cheer rose from the gymnasium's grandstands — not a loud, audible cheer, but the arms-raised, hand-waving silent cheer of the deaf. And just like that, the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind became the nation's first school for the deaf and blind to take part in the National Archery in the Schools Program.

"We're extremely proud to be the first school for the deaf and blind to have this program," said school superintendent Jane McBride. "We'd like to think that it's a sign that we try to 'think outside the box' when it comes to educating our students." More than 50 students and faculty members gathered on the school's Romney campus Wednesday afternoon to watch the first few students learn the basics of target archery. But had it not been for a chance conversation between program coordinator Scott Warner and his mother-in-law, the event might never have taken place. "I was telling her how we were signing up schools to participate in the program," Warner recalled. "She grew up in the Romney area, and she asked me if I'd thought about the School for the Deaf and Blind."

Warner contacted the school, but his initial contact wasn't encouraging. "They said they had limited financial resources, and probably wouldn't be able to afford the \$2,500 it takes to purchase the equipment kit," he said. Not long after that, however, Warner got a call from Bob Farkasovsky, state director for the National Wild Turkey Federation. "Bob said the Turkey Federation was really impressed by the Archery in the Schools Program and would like to sponsor a school. I suggested the School for the Deaf and Blind. Bob thought that was a great idea," Warner said.

In August, Bob Haines, the school's physical education instructor, underwent the required National Archery Association training to become a Level I instructor. Archery in the Schools guidelines call for Haines to incorporate at least two weeks' worth of archery training into the school's phys-ed curriculum during the course of the school year. Haines said he would introduce the curriculum to the school's deaf students first, but eventually would adapt the instruction to blind students as well. "I think we'll be able to do that by having coaches line up behind the blind students and tell them how to adjust their aim," he said. Both Haines and his students are excited by the prospect of experiencing something new.



"This is a real punch in the arm for our school and our kids," he said. "The students — especially the girls — are especially excited." The enthusiasm showed as Warner and co-instructor Dave McClung set up the equipment and went through the initial safety briefing. As the two DNR employees issued their instructions verbally, Haines and principal J.D. Corbin relayed the commands to the students in American Sign Language. "You can tell the students are into it," Corbin said during a break in the instruction. "They're not talking or signing among themselves. All their attention is on us." The students' eagerness for instruction became apparent as soon as they released their first arrows. Even though most of the teenagers had never shot a bow before, 24 of their first 25 arrows embedded in the targets 5 yards downrange. That lone errant shot hit a target, but bounced off instead of burying. "Boy, they picked it up quick," said the DNR's Warner. "These kids are good. There's no difference between them and the students at any other school."

As the afternoon wore on and the two squads of shooters rotated to the firing line, their accuracy improved. By the end of the session, a handful of shooters were clumping their arrows squarely in the targets' centers. "I think we'll see some of these kids in tournament action someday," Warner said admiringly. The students, however, didn't appear to be worried about competitive glory. They were too busy reveling in the moment.

"I'm going to love this," said Michael Jarvis, a 15-year-old from the little Calhoun County town of Chloe. "I had never shot a bow before. I thought it was going to be hard, but it's really easy." "I like this much better than basketball or volleyball," said 13-year-old Brittany Austin of Morgantown. "I was really nervous, but I had a lot of fun."

Archery wasn't exactly a new activity for Joshua Duff of Smithville. Like many youngsters in deer-rich Ritchie County, he'd already tried his hand at bowhunting. "I have a little experience," he said with a smile as he fired arrow after arrow into the center of his target's bull-eye. Superintendent McBride said she expects the school's fledgling archery program to "introduce our students to something they can literally do for the rest of their lives." "Not only is archery a 'life skill' that they'll be able to acquire, it's part of the outdoor culture of West Virginia," she added. "It gives students something different to do and reminds them of their roots, all at the same time."



~ From Charleston Gazette 9-9-05

## ***THE END OF A GALLAUDET FOOTBALL TRADITION?***

A Gallaudet football tradition that endured for 35 years coming to an end?

We are talking about the Gallaudet football drum that was invented by Dr. Orin Cornett (who also invented the Cued Speech).

The drum was not used in the first Gallaudet football game of the season last week-end against a team from Shenandoah University. Ed Hottle, the newly hired full time football coach and his coaching staff, led the team to a 21-13 win in the game without using the drum. Did the drum really help Gallaudet win more games over the years? Not really - but it helped draw maybe one or two offside penalties by the hearing opponents in every game. And it attracted public attention to Gallaudet football games.

The drum, however, will not die away. The football team uses the drum during practice sessions to call attention to different drills by different practice stations. But for the games itself, the tradition probably has ended.



~From Deaf Digest

### **For Your Information...**

The West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is now a local test administrator (LTA) for the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA).

Information about the test is available

on the WVCDHH website at [www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh](http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh).

Or Contact Deanna Stone for more information.

### **Aviation Hotline**

Toll free number that consumers who experience disability Related air travel problems may use to obtain information and assistance.

The office is staffed from 7 am to 11 pm local time in Washington, D.C., seven days a week and provides general information to consumers about the rights of air travelers with disabilities and assists air travelers in resolving time-sensitive disability-related issues that need to be addressed in real time.

**1-800-778-4838 (voice)**

**or**

**1-800-455-9880 (TTY).**





### **Miss Deaf West Virginia 2003-2005 Bids Farewell**



It has been an amazing journey the last two years, and it's hard to believe how fast time has gone by. I can remember standing on the stage at the conference in Bluefield accepting the crown. Now it is my turn to crown the next Miss Deaf WV.

I have learned so much in the two years, both here in WV as well at the National level. I was excited to be able to see things "behind the scenes" and learn how I could help as Miss Deaf WV. At the national level, it was quite an experience for me, one that I will never forget and will always influence me in times to come. The things I learned there, I was able to bring back home with me and share with other young people and the association. I could see that it helped the contestants while they were competing during the state pageant.

Now that I look to the future, I'm excited to work with the new Miss Deaf WV. I know she will do great things. I do feel the pageant will grow and become stronger and better. With your continued support, this can be done.



Please know that, even though I am passing on my crown, I am still your advocate and friend. WVAD and WV will be and is always in my heart. Please continue sharing with me your concerns, issues, and stories. I am always happy to listen.

I want to take this time to thank the WVAD Board for their wonderful support during my reign. They were a wonderful team to work with. I also want to thank my chaperone, Caryn Keller. I honestly don't know where I would be without her. Finally, thank you to my wonderful family for being there for me and being so supportive. Love you all.

Linda Phillips  
MDWV 2003-2005

### **Celebrating PATHS to Real Choice Conference**

- WHAT:** Celebrating PATHS to Real Choice Conference  
**WHEN:** February 14 and 15, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Charleston Civic Center, Charleston, WV  
**WHO:** The Center for Excellence in Disabilities at WVU  
**OVERVIEW:** The conference will be useful to anyone interested in learning about services and supports for adults with disabilities and long term health care needs.  
**REGISTRATION:** Registration will be available in November by mail, online at [www.cedwvu.org](http://www.cedwvu.org) (click on the "What's New at CED" tab) or at the door the day of the conference.  
**CONTACT:** Rose Vergara  
304-293-4692  
304-293-7294 (fax)  
1-800-841-8436  
[rvergara@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:rvergara@hsc.wvu.edu)

# Pageant News

## Meet Our New Miss Deaf WV 2005-2007



Greetings! I would like to introduce myself. My name is Holly Palmer. I was recently crowned Miss Deaf West Virginia (MDWV) 2005-2007 by Linda Phillips, previous MDWV of 2003-2005. I am really excited to take this opportunity to be MDWV. I am looking forward to new experiences as I represent you and the communities in West Virginia.

I am aware that I am a new face to many of you since I am a new member. I will tell you a bit about myself. I was deaf at birth. I am a life-long resident of Marshall County. I have two older sisters. My older sister is deaf also. Other than my deaf sister, there is no deafness in my family history. I graduated from John Marshall High School in 1999. Currently, I am attending Fairmont State University to study education and sociology. I plan to graduate soon. One day, I would like have a Master's degree in Deaf Education. I like fishing, scrap booking, working out, outdoors activities, sports, and few other

things. I am always up for new things!

In the future, I would like to see more young people joining WVAD. I would like to try and help to make it grow. Also, I would like to see more and bigger advertisements about regular and new events going on for WVAD. From what I saw from the recent conference in Bridgeport/Clarksburg, WVAD is a great organization! I enjoyed meeting new people and seeing friends that I have not seen for a while. It was a great feeling that we all got together and had a good time! There is a great and strong bond between each other! I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to become MDWV.

Holly Lynn Palmer  
MDWV 2005-2007

Want to invite Holly to present at your event??

Contact Pageant Directors  
Caryn Keller or Linda Phillips  
at  
pageant@wvad.org  
or  
(304)428-7761 (TDD/FAX)

Or visit the website at [www.wvad.org](http://www.wvad.org) for more information.

## We Need YOUR Support

Help send Miss Deaf WV to the National Competition.



The Miss Deaf America Pageant will take place in July of 2006, we need to raise \$7,000 to go to Nationals.

Please send your Donations to:  
WVAD Treasurer  
Jimmy Harrison  
5 Cordoba Drive  
Hurricane, WV 25526



# 35th Biennial Conference Highlights

West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at the 35<sup>th</sup> biennial conference on August 4-6, 2005 in Clarksburg, WV. The conference was hosted by Mt. Clarksburg Association of the Deaf (MCAD) with Robyn Evans as Chairperson. The committee worked hard



for several months to prepare for an exciting weekend.

The conference weekend kicked off Thursday afternoon with the board meeting and then social hour that evening. Friday morning, Sorenson provided a workshop to educate those in attendance on videophones and how it worked. After their workshop, WVAD held a by-law meeting to discuss changes that needed to be made. After lunch, everyone met again for our first general assembly. Friday night was game night, an opportunity to win prizes! MCAD hosted the Bulbs Game Show with Mr. and Mrs. Uncle Sam as our host and hostess. The game was fun and exciting as several people won prizes for getting the right answer. We were provided yummy appetizers that were sponsored by the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. After the show, everyone got into teams and played dingo to win more prizes. By the end of the day, everyone was tired and went off to bed to rest up for another exciting day.



By the end of the day, everyone was tired and went off to bed to rest up for another exciting day.

Saturday morning, we started off with a workshop from Susan Edwards with the WV Advocates, educating everyone on our rights and who can help us.

Then Yerker Anderssen, our Region One representative, gave a workshop on Fulton 3 and improved our knowledge about the purpose of it. After lunch, everyone came back once again for our second general assembly. We elected our officers for the next two years.

President: Doug Evans  
Vice-President: John Burdette  
Secretary: Liz Leisure  
Treasurer: Jimmy Harrison  
Senior Trustee: Worthy Devericks  
Trustee: Robyn Evans  
Trustee: David Weldrick



After the meeting, everyone left to clean up and look spiffy for the banquet and pageant. We all came back for the banquet and the food was wonderful.

Those who didn't come sure missed out. Yerker Anderssen was our keynote speaker. He presented on "Sign Language from Different Countries." His presentation was interesting, informative, and funny. After everyone had a bite of delicious cake, the lights dimmed, and the pageant began. Linda Phillips, Miss Deaf WV 2003-2005, bid farewell and passed on her crown to Holly Palmer, our new Miss Deaf WV 2005-2007. Door prizes were handed out. Then a big surprise was saved at the very last for one special person. John Burdette came out and proposed to his girlfriend, Erin, on his knee. Of course she said YES! There was a round of applause to them. Then finally the evening wore down,



and the DJ turned the dance music on, several got up on the stage, and danced the night away until 2:00 a.m. Everyone was exhausted! What a great weekend! There were 124 in attendance.

We will see you in Charleston, WV, for the 2007 Conference. DON'T MISS IT!!!



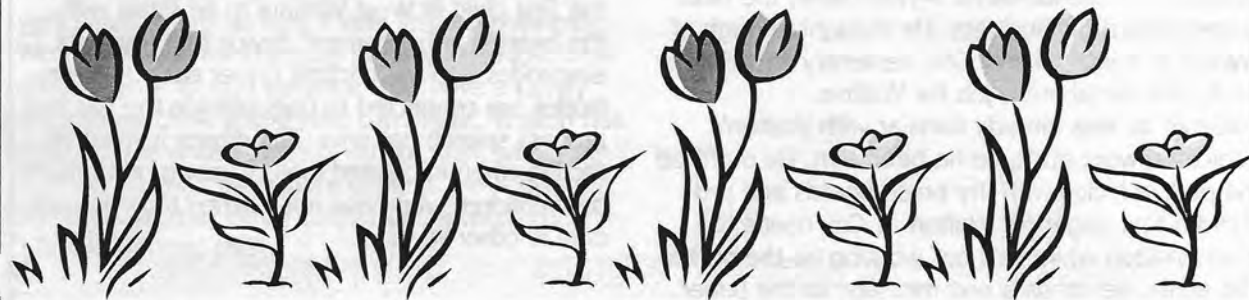
# Obituaries

## CHARLES VENETIS

Charles Venetis, 81, of Westerville, Ohio, formerly of North Olmstead, Ohio, passed away May 14, 2005, at home. He was a retired printer from Cleveland Plain Dealer in Cleveland, Ohio. He was a member of Columbus Senior Citizens of the Deaf and Cleveland Association of the Deaf. He is preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Marilyn Venetis, who passed away January 16, 2005, one sister, Kathryn Mitlowki and one brother, James Venetis. He is survived by one daughter, Mabel (Larry) Lloyd of Westerville; and one son, Nicholas (Diana) Venetis of Powell, Ohio; five granddaughters, several nieces and nephews. He was buried at Blendon Central Cemetery.

## ELEANOR MCCARTHY REIDELBERGER

Eleanor McCarthy Reidelberger, 92, passed away Friday, July 1, 2005, in Atlanta, Ga. Mrs. Reidelberger was born on Jan. 29, 1913, in Huntington, W. V. Mrs. Reidelberger worked as a proofreader for the Huntington Publishing Company. Mrs. Reidelberger began her career as a teacher at the WV School for the Deaf in Romney, W. V. It was there she met Henry James Reidelberger, her cherished husband of 53 years, who passed away in 1995. Mrs. Reidelberger was a teacher and guidance counselor at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind for 23 years. She is survived by two daughters, Anne (Brent) Stutzman and Mary (Bill) EuDaly; one son, Henry "Hank" Reidelberger; one sister, Virginia Magee; two sisters-in-law, Elaine Gladys Shondel and Jane McCarthy; one granddaughter, Alyse EuDaly; one grandson, Samuel Stutzman and many nieces and nephews.





# Extra News..

## **'I have a good life' Deaf landscaper digs his work**

Damron Walton doesn't let the fact that he can't hear or talk keep him from doing his job. He is a landscaper and stonemason at Spring Hill Cemetery Park.

While the cemetery residents obviously have no need for communication, the employees do.

"I like interacting with people. The people here are wonderful to work with," he said, through his interpreter, Pat Lineberry, who happens to be his mother. "I plan to stay here a long time. It's a good job with good pay and a secure future." At the cemetery, he helps with burials, sets headstones, waters and cares for trees, drives the dump truck and tinkers with equipment. But the 25-year-old Sissonville man is happiest when he gets his preferred assignment — building walls.

"It's kind of my specialty here," said Walton. "I've built four walls here. It's probably my favorite part of the job."

After graduating as salutatorian from the West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney, Walton held several seasonal groundskeeping jobs. When the owner of a local landscaping company agreed to give him a job, the man told Lineberry that he did not have reservations about hiring Walton, but he did expect a full day's work from him.

Spring Hill Cemetery Park was one of the landscaper's clients. Several years later, the landscaper closed his business. He thought enough of Walton to contact Perry Cox, cemetery superintendent, and ask about a job for Walton.

Cox said he was already familiar with Walton's dedicated work ethic, so he hired him. He outfitted the park vehicles with dry erase boards and procured a text pager for Walton. If Cox needs to reach Walton while he's out working on the park's 158 acres, he sends a text message to the pager.

"This has been a good experience for the city and for him," Cox said.

"Everybody gets along really well."

"He gets his point across," said co-worker Jack McClung, who works side-by-side



with Walton on the cemetery grounds. "He uses hand gestures and sign language and writes notes when he has to. We understand each other."

### **Shocking news**

Lineberry was stunned with the deaf diagnosis when she had Walton tested at age 15 months. Well aware that he was not reacting to sound, Lineberry expected to be told that he needed tubes in his ears.

"I was devastated when I realized that he was not hearing at all," she said. "They said there was nothing that they could do." After first grieving and then angry that her child would never hear, Lineberry accepted his diagnosis and began looking for solutions. She enrolled him in a special preschool program for children with hearing impairment at Shoals Elementary, where he remained a student through his elementary grades.

Walton was 8 years old when he got cochlear implants, then new on the market. He was the first child in West Virginia to be fitted with the hearing enhancement device that implants 22 electrodes into the cochlea (inner ear). The electrodes are connected to coils outside the ear that process speech patterns. The device is most effective when implanted in very young, profoundly deaf children who have not learned to communicate in other ways.



Because Walton was older when he received the implant, he cannot use it to process speech, but he can discern loud noises with it.

"I just wanted him to be able to respond to sounds such as a car horn," said his mother.

With a heavy heart, Lineberry took 12-year-old Damron to the state school for the deaf in Hampshire County to finish his education. She knew he would receive vocational and life skill training there that just was not available locally.

School officials tested Walton to determine what vocations might match his interests, abilities and skills. He enjoyed working outdoors and on mechanical objects, so his advisors recommended landscaping, among other jobs.

"As a senior, I wanted to be ready for the future and to get a job," he said. "I worked near Romney doing landscaping and got lots of on-the-job training."

Walton lives independently, but he does manage to find his way to his mother's house for dinner most nights.

He said he is grateful for his family's support, particularly his mother's efforts on his behalf. She learned sign language to help him, knowledge that launched her career as an interpreter in the school system. She interpreted first in Kanawha County schools and just started working in Jackson County.

### **Too few interpreters**

Both mother and son lament the shortage of interpreters for the deaf. A simple visit to the doctor becomes cumbersome for a deaf person who has to write down questions to which the busy doctor must reply also in writing.

West Virginia does not have a certification board, Lineberry said, and training is sporadic so there are few qualified interpreters. Lineberry accompanies her son whenever he needs an interpreter, but wonders how other deaf people manage.

"I worry about what would happen if Damron did not have me," she said. "We are a very, very small group serving a very large community. We really need for changes to happen." Most interpreters learn to sign because they have a family member or close friend who can't hear. Walton has deaf friends whose parents do not sign, which he said makes their lives more difficult. He is disappointed that they often cannot find interpreters when they need them.

Issues affecting the deaf community are often discussed at the Deaf Club in Ripley, where



Walton spends some of his free time. Sometimes speakers address issues affecting deaf people. Other times club members just relax by playing games and hanging out with friends who share an interest.

Walton also enjoys going to movies with both his hearing

and deaf friends. He can hear the movies in the theater relatively well, but uses close captioning when he watches movies at home. And he likes to ride his four-wheeler, swim and play basketball.

Because he finds fulfillment in his work, Walton said he wishes more deaf people were employed, instead of relying upon an uncertain Social Security system.

"I wish I could encourage more deaf people to work harder and find jobs so that they could have better lives and futures," Walton said. "Even if they can't hear, it's no excuse not to work or establish a better lifestyle."

Lineberry said she can't help but be proud of her son, who was a diligent student, even winning the Golden Horseshoe Award when he was in eighth grade, and who continues to push himself today.

"I enjoy my life. I have fun. I love to work," he said. "I love my family and to visit my friends. I have a good life."

~From Charleston Gazette 9-14-05

## West Virginia Association of the Deaf

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2005

The April 24, 2005 meeting was called to order by President John Burdette at 7:45 p.m. in the Appalachian Room at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport, West Virginia.

Members present: John Burdette, Jimmy Harrison, Doug Evans, Liz Leisure, and Robyn Guzzi

Members absent: Charles Tuell and Worthy Devericks

Guests present: Jerry Whitlock, Robert Stewart, and Linda Phillips

The minutes from October 4, 2004 board meeting in Romney, West Virginia, were read and approved as corrected.

### President's Report:

President John Burdette stated that he received a Fall 2004/Winter 2005 newsletter of the Gallaudet Research Institute. He also received a letter from Virginia Beach, who became the first Deaf person to receive a Firewalking Instructor's Certification from the Firewalking Institute of Research and Education (F.I.R.E.). She is conducting firewalk workshops for the State Associations of the Deaf, and then donating a percentage of the profits back to the State Association and also a percentage donated to the National Association of the Deaf in the name of the State Association. She stated that Firewalks can be an excellent way to raise money for our organization. She is offering to do a firewalk seminar, preferably at our State Association conference. We can look at her letter for more information, if interested.

He received a check in the amount of \$6,000 from UDS on November 23, 2004. This check was given to Treasurer Jimmy Harrison for deposit.

He received an e-mail from Steven Florio. Mr. Florio would like to have one hour with our State Association during our WVAD conference in August to update and discuss Fulton III.

He announced that the State Association Presidents will have their retreat in Florida in September 2005.

He thanked Linda Phillips for the great work she did on our new WVAD webpage and the newsletters.

He contacted Veronda Harrison about e-mailing J.C. Corbin at West Virginia School for the Deaf to find out who will be the salutatorian and valedictorian this year. Also, he asked her to get the names and addresses of all seniors so that they can be given one year of free WVAD membership. He does not think there is any WV graduate at Gallaudet University this year.

He stated that the WV Registry Interpreting for the Deaf (WVRID) Chapter gave information on membership and affiliation. He discussed that the ID wants the WVAD to oversee their organization.

He announced that the Deaf Tech Fair will be held on May 21, 2005 at the Charleston Civic Center. We will have a booth. The WV Deaf Pageant will also have a booth.

He discussed the membership rate for a couple that was tabled at the last meeting in Romney.

He discussed the results of the survey on the credit card usage.

### Vice-President's Report:

Vice-President Doug Evans talked about deaf people's complaint that the Governor's oath and State of the State Address were not closed captioned on TV. Deaf people sent letters to the WV Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing about this issue.

### Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Jimmy Harrison reported the following: As of April 13, 2005, there is \$6,474.87 in the checking account; \$11,121.92 in the savings account; \$12,000.00 in the Certificate of Deposit account, and \$16,053.98 in the Mingo County Fund. As of April 13, 2005, there is \$595.59 in the Miss Deaf WV Pageant Fund.

Treasurer Jimmy Harrison reported that the number of WVAD members has increased from 159 to 175.

Liz Leisure completed the Form 990-EZ with the assistance of Janice Bowling. The form along with a cover letter was sent to the IRS on February 25, 2005. Liz distributed copies of these to the board members. Treasurer Jimmy Harrison stated that, to date, he has not heard anything from the IRS.

**Secretary's Report:** Nothing to report

**Deaf Pageant's Report:**

Linda Phillips gave a report in Molly Simonton's absence. Linda, Molly, and Caryn Keller have been meeting online every Wednesday afternoon to discuss the upcoming deaf pageant event. To date, there are two candidates. Molly and Linda will go to WVSD on May 2 to talk to four more possible candidates.

**WVAD Conference Committee's Report:**

Robyn Guzzi, Committee Chairperson, showed and distributed a new Mt. Clarksburg Association of the Deaf (MCAD) booster book. She announced that the committee will be having a meeting tomorrow to make some selections from the menu for our banquet. She stated that a checkbook cover was chosen to be given out as a souvenir. She can order 250 checkbook covers for 88 cents.

**Old Business:**

The issues about the WVAD membership rate for a couple and the credit card survey will be on hold until the conference.

**New Business:**

Doug (Robyn) moved that WVAD use the Polo shirts that are left over to print the conference logo on the back of them. The blue shirts will be worn by the officers and gold by the committee members (at no cost to them) for identification purposes at the WVAD conference. The motion was passed.

Jimmy (Doug) moved that WVAD purchase a label printer. The motion was passed.

**THEMES FOR THE WVAD CONFERENCE:**

All hands united make a stronger front.

United we stand: Pushing forward for a better future.

Step forward to better leaders, technology and education.

United we stand: Working together towards a better future.

Let's LEAD: Leadership, Empowerment, Advocacy, and Development

The board selected the following theme for the 2005 WVAD conference: Step Forward to Better Leaders, Technology and Education.

Jimmy (Robyn) moved that WVAD have a workshop called "High Speed Internet" to be provided by the local high speed providers on Friday morning. The motion was passed.

Robyn (Jimmy) moved that WVAD have a Sorensen workshop on Friday morning. The motion was passed.

Robyn (Doug) moved that WVAD have a workshop on HIPPA on Saturday morning. The motion was passed.

Doug (Robyn) moved that WVAD invite someone to come and talk to us about the Fulton 3 at our workshop on Saturday morning and possible as a guest speaker at our banquet. The motion was passed.

Robyn (Jimmy) moved that we pick Doug Godfrey as the Award Chairperson. The motion was passed.

Liz (Robyn) moved that WVAD set up a By-Laws Committee now. The motion was passed. President Burdette appointed Linda Phillips as the Chairperson of the By-Laws Committee.

Doug (Robyn) moved that WVAD oversees WVRID as a subsection and that WVRID appoints someone as a liaison between WVAD and WVRID. The motion was passed.

Jimmy (Robyn) moved that WVAD pays WVRID the \$150 fee to affiliate with their organization. The motion was passed.

Robyn (Jimmy) moved that WVAD purchase new checkbook covers to be given out as souvenirs at the WVAD conference and then sell any leftovers. The motion was passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 p.m.





**West Virginia Association of the Deaf Officers**

**PRESIDENT**

Doug Evans  
112 Summit Court  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
(304) 623-4863 (TDD)  
(304) 623-9484 (FAX)  
WVADVPDE@aol.com

**VICE- PRESIDENT**

John Burdette  
Rt. 1, Box 12-G  
Ronceverte, WV 24970  
(304) 647-3131 (TDD/FAX)  
JohnBMiami@aol.com

**SECRETARY**

Liz Leisure  
3302 Central Avenue  
Parkersburg, WV 26104  
(304) 428-7761 (TTD/FAX)  
lizleisure@verizon.net

**TREASURER**

Jimmy Harrison  
5 Cordoba Drive  
Hurricane, WV 25526  
(304) 757-7863 (TDD/FAX)  
JHarrison@aol.com

**SENIOR TRUSTEE**

Worthy Devericks  
PO Box 455  
Romney, WV 26757

**TRUSTEE**

Robyn Evans  
112 Summit Court  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
(304) 623-4863 (TDD)  
(304) 623-9484 (FAX)  
RGuzzi7@aol.com

**TRUSTEE**

David Weldrick  
602 King Street  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
(304) 623-1088 (TDD)  
(304) 623-0151 (FAX)  
Davidw1956@aol.com

**WVAD Newsletter Staff**

**EDITOR**

Linda Phillips  
3302 Central Ave.  
Parkersburg, WV 26104  
(304) 428-7761 (TDD/FAX)  
lindajane04@verizon.net

**PROOFREADER**

Liz Leisure

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

**ADVERTISING RATES**

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

**WVAD Membership— Join Now!**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  \$15 for one year Regular

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  \$ 25 for two years Regular

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

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

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  Yes! Here is my Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total Membership & Donation & \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Linda Phillips, Editor  
3302 Central Avenue  
Parkersburg, WV 26104

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**