



WVAD Newsletter

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

Volume 28 No. 1

Jan., Feb., March 2007

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From Editor:

Issue: April, May, June

Deadline: May. 20

Receive Copy: June



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greeting everyone!

I have three exciting news events that I want to announce. First, the Spring Season has nearly arrived, beginning Wednesday, March 21. (I bet you are very excited and relieved.) Second, there are now over 100 registrars to attend this coming 36th Biennial WVAD Conference August 2 – 4, 2007. I want to thank each and every one of you who have registered to attend the conference. For those who have not registered for the conference, please check out our WVAD website: www.wvad.org and print out the registration and membership forms. Finally, as of January 31, 2007, the Hamilton Relay Service is now official West Virginia State Relay provider. Welcome to our "Almost Heaven" – the Mountaineer State!

If you recall from the last WVAD newsletter (Oct., Nov., and Dec. 2006 Issue) on page 5 in regards to the "Adopt an Interpreter" project that was established by Annette Carey with the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE). The WVAD, along with the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH), participated and are partnered with the WVDE on this worthwhile project. We believe that it is important to help the Educational Interpreters all over in West Virginia. The Educational Interpreters need our assistance to improve their signing skills in preparation to take Education Interpreters Performance Assessment (EIPA) examination in the near future. How can you help? It is very simple. If you are interested in becoming a deaf or a certified interpreting mentor to the Educational, you give your name, address, home or videophone number and county where you live to WVAD. The information that you give will be kept confidential and will absolutely NOT be given out to anyone without your permission. How does it work? Annette Carey (WVDE) has the names of all the Educational Interpreters who have already signed up to participate in this project while the WVAD receives the name of all the deaf participants. The WVAD, WVDE, and WVCDHH will meet and decide who will match with whom depending on the location. For example, I live in Harrison County and the Educational Interpreters, who are from the surrounding counties i.e.: Marion, Harrison, Lewis, Taylor, and so forth. The Educational Interpreters will then meet me at the Fairmont Association for the Deaf (FAD) or any event or chosen place. From there, we will get to know each other which will help the Educational Interpreters by improving their signing skills in a few hours. If you or you know of anyone who might be interested in participating in this critical project, please e-mail president@wvad.org or call 304-623-4863 (videophone). Your participation will be greatly appreciated by the WVAD, WVDE, and WVCDHH.

Look for the next WVAD newsletter in June 2007 for further information related to the 36th Biennial Conference and the 2007 WV Deaf Pageant update.

Thank you and enjoy your pleasant 2007 Spring Season!!

Douglas A. Evans, WVAD President

News..News..and more News..

Greece man celebrates 104th birthday

January 24, 2007 — GREECE — When you're turning 104 and going out to dinner, it doesn't matter if your favorite dish isn't on the menu. Living this long has some perks, Clifford Leach learned, as the chefs at a restaurant in Greece Mon-



ooked up a batch of spaghetti and meatballs just for special guest. Leach, who turns 104 today, lives with his wife, Ruth, 91, in their Greece apartment. They'll celebrate their 32nd anniversary Thursday night," Leach, who is deaf, said in sign language. Hedberg asked how he was doing. He sipped a glass of champagne while waiting for his spaghetti. He's clearly the senior member of Deaf Elders Around Rochester, and could be the oldest deaf person in the country who is deaf and is using sign language. "I know for sure," said his stepson, Dan Hedberg, of Greece. "There's no way to prove it. But they're all convinced that he is." Leach will spend part of his day today celebrating his 104th with his friends in the DEAR club, where he enjoys playing euchre. They'll have ice cream at the Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf, 564 Avenue. He still enjoys going to the senior club," said his niece, Peggy James, of Endwell, Broome County. "And they like to go out to eat, anytime somebody will take them." When Leach was 101, he received a replacement pacemaker. "He outlived his first pacemaker," Hedberg said. The new one came with a 10- or 12-year warranty, Leach said. He quit smoking cigars in 1988, and doesn't bowl or drive any more. Leach attributes his long life to "prayers and faith," he said. "He's very observant, his mind is very sharp," Hedberg said. "He's very interested in knowing how he can continue helping the deaf community." When he turned 100, Leach visited Rochester School for the Deaf to answer student questions about his life. A native of West Virginia, Leach lived in the Binghamton area while working at IBM from 1941 to 1968. He moved to the Rochester area to be closer to his wife's family, as well as to the large deaf community that Rochester is known for. Leach was a talented baseball player and played in a semi-pro league, where he had a .408 batting average one season. He remains an avid sports fan, watching his favorite teams (including the Yankees and St. Louis Cardinals) on television. His prediction for the Super Bowl: Indianapolis Colts, 20, Chicago Bears, 10.

From [DemocratandChronicle](#)

Editor's Note: Clifford attended WVSD and graduated. Also, "Greece" in this article is the name of a CITY near Rochester, New York - not the country of Greece

Girl Dies Of Bacterial Meningitis

OMAHA, Neb. -- An Omaha girl died of bacterial meningitis over the weekend after deteriorating very quickly. Katie Engle, 7, was a second-grader at Washington Elementary School. Her mother, Roxanne, said her daughter came home from school on Friday not feeling well. She was dead the next day. "She was happy one day and I took her to school and it went down hill from there," Engle said. The first symptom -- a headache -- showed up a few days earlier. Katie was admitted to a hospital on Friday. Engle said her daughter didn't have the other symptoms associated with bacterial meningitis, which include vomiting, fever and lethargy, until she got to the hospital. Doctors at Children's Hospital hydrated Katie, Engle said, and then she started to feel better. "She takes her pulse thing off and says, 'I'm all better now. I want to go home,'" Engle said. But the meningitis had caused Katie's brain to swell, and that ultimately killed her, Engle said. Doctors said bacterial meningitis is not contagious. They believe it may have been caused by Katie's cochlear implant. They said it could have been prevented with a vaccination. "I had tried and they were always out," Engle said. "After going back several times, I forgot about it." The family donated Katie's organs. Engle said Katie has seven siblings.

Editor's notes: I had to copy and insert this article because the picture in the newsletter cut off the words. The layout was fine before I sent it to the print shop so I am not sure what happened.

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Living this long has some perks, Clifford Leach learned, as the chefs at a restaurant in Greece Monday cooked up a batch of spaghetti and meatballs just for their special guest.

Leach, who turns 104 today, lives with his wife, Ruth, 91, in their Greece apartment. They'll celebrate their 32nd anniversary Thursday

"I feel fine," Leach, who is deaf, said in sign language when asked how he was doing. He sipped a glass of chardonnay while waiting for his spaghetti.

He's clearly the most senior member of Deaf Elders Around Rochester, and could be the oldest deaf person in the country who grew up deaf and is using sign language.

"Nobody knows for sure," said his stepson, Dan Hedberg, 67, of Greece. "There's no way to prove it. But they're all betting that he is."

Leach will spend part of his day today celebrating his 104th with his friends in the DEAR club, where he enjoys playing euchre. They'll have ice cream at noon at the Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf, 564 Lyell Ave.

"He still enjoys going to the senior club," said his niece, Peggy James, of Endwell, Broome County. "And they like to go out to eat, anytime somebody will take them."

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"He's very observant, his mind is very sharp," Hedberg said. "He's very interested in knowing how he can continue helping the deaf community."

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Leach was a talented baseball player and played in a semi-pro league, where he had a .408 batting average one season.

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His prediction for the Super Bowl: Indianapolis Colts, 20, Chicago Bears, 10.

Hamilton to Become the State of West Virginia's new TRS Provider

Aurora, Nebraska- December 18, 2006. The West Virginia Public Service Commission has granted Hamilton Telecommunications a temporary certificate to provide telecommunications relay service and CapTel™ service in the State of West Virginia. Hamilton will begin processing West Virginia relay calls on January 31, 2007. Telecommunications Relay Service is a valuable communications tool that allows people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Speech Disabled to use the telephone to communicate with standard telephone users. Individuals with hearing or speech difficulties use a Text Telephone (TTY) or other assistive telecommunications device to call a telecommunications relay center. A Communications Assistant answers the call and then places another call to the telephone number the person wishes to reach. The Communications Assistant then translates and relays conversations confidentially by converting voice information to typed communication and reading aloud typed messages to hearing persons. Standard phone users can also initiate a call through the relay.

CapTel is a new technology developed by Ultratec, Inc. of Madison, Wisconsin, that allows individuals with hearing loss to view word-for-word captions of their telephone conversations. This device is perfect for individuals who have understandable speech but do not hear well over the phone. Similar to a traditional telephone, the CapTel phone allows hard of hearing callers to talk and listen to individuals using a traditional phone. While listening to the voice of the other party, the CapTel phone also allows the user to read word for word captions of the other party's conversation on the CapTel's built-in screen. Captions are provided by a specially trained operator who "re-voices" everything heard from the hearing user into the voice-recognition technology, converting speech into text so that it can be read on the CapTel phone's screen. The captions appear almost simultaneously with the spoken word, allowing CapTel users to understand everything that is said - either by hearing it or by reading it.

"Hamilton is excited to have this opportunity to provide service to the relay users in West Virginia," says Dixie Ziegler, Vice President of Hamilton Relay. "Hamilton will provide West Virginia relay users with a high quality telephone communication and will bring the latest developments in telecommunications and technology to West Virginia relay users. We look forward to working with the WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the WV Association of the Deaf to provide assistance in areas of outreach in West Virginia."

Anyone can access the Relay by dialing 711 or one of the toll-free numbers below:

- a.. TTY/ASCII/Telebraille: 1-800-982-8771
- b.. Voice: 1-800-982-8772
- c.. Speech to Speech: 1-866-519-0570*
- d.. Spanish: 1-866-519-0569*
- e.. Customer Service: 1-866-430-1274 V/TTY*

*indicates new West Virginia Relay telephone numbers that will be available beginning January 31, 2007.

Individuals and organizations who would like more information, can contact Hamilton Relay at 1-800-618-4781 (V/TTY) or via e-mail to info@hamiltonrelay.com.

About Hamilton Relay Hamilton Relay offers a variety of services including Internet Relay, Video Relay, Wireless Relay and CapTel. All services are available at www.hamiltonrelay.com. Hamilton Relay also provides traditional relay services to 11 states, the District of Columbia, the Island of Saipan and the Virgin Islands. CapTel is a trademark and service mark of Ultratec, Inc.



That's what I'm talking about

The Miss Deaf West Virginia Pageant Is looking for YOU!

Are you a young lady between the ages 17 and 28? Deaf or hard of hearing? Have the desire to be a leader and encourage other young children? Want to educate others about Deaf culture?

If so, sign up today to be in the Miss Deaf West Virginia Pageant. The next pageant takes place on August 4th 2007 in Charleston, WV.

Check the website (www.wvad.org) for more information or contact the directors (Linda Phillips or Caryn Keller) at pageant@wvad.org or 304-428-7761 (TTY/VP).



If you have any interesting, sad, or funny stories to share



Please send them to me

I'll be happy to put them in the newsletter.

Thanks :-)

Linda Phillips, Editor
3302 Central Avenue
Parkersburg, WV 26104



REMINDER...

Next deadline for early bird combo is

May 21, 2007



Come join us at Embassy Suites August 2 - 4, 2007 in Charleston, WV.

Don't miss out on the exciting workshops, exhibits, and other exciting events!
Send in your combo today.

Obituaries

Willmott Winfield McChord Jr.

Willmott Winfield McChord Jr., August 9, 1940-Dec 8, 2006, passed away from a cerebral hemorrhage. A proud son of deaf parents, he graduated from Transylvania College in 1962. He was a Phi Kappa Tau, an avid Thespian and Mr. Pioneer. As a student, his film won first prize at the International Symposium of Psychologists in Bonn, Germany. He earned his Masters Degree at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., in 1963 instead of accepting a scholarship at The Episcopal Theological Seminary at Cambridge, MA. He also pursued doctoral studies at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Virginia. He served as a classroom teacher 1963-66 and later as Principal 1967-69 at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind in Staunton. He was the nation's youngest Principal of a school for the deaf upon his appointment in 1966-67 at the West Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind in Romney. He returned to his home state in 1969 as Principal of the Kentucky School for the Deaf, where his parents graduated in 1935. In 1971, he became KSD's Superintendent, the youngest Superintendent in the U.S. of a school for the deaf. After 10 years in Jacobs Hall at KSD, the McChords moved to West Hartford, CT, where he served for 21 years as Headmaster of the American School for the Deaf, the first and oldest school for the deaf in America. He also served as Interim President of the St. Mary's School for the Deaf, 2001-03, in Buffalo, N.Y., and the Superintendent of the Georgia School for the Deaf, 2004-05, in Cave Spring, GA. He was the first Masters Skills Certificate interpreter for the deaf in America 1973; President of the Conference of Educational Administrators serving the Deaf 1988-90; visiting professor at Huazhong Normal University in Wuhan, Mainland China 1990; President of the National Association of Private Special Education Centers 2000-03; a member of the Bicentennial Celebration Committee of the School for the Deaf in Paris, France; and host of the 1997 Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf in Hartford, CT. He interpreted for U.S. Vice President Gore and U.S. Presidents Kennedy and Clinton. He was generally recognized as one of the leaders of deaf education in the United States. He was preceded in death (1999) by his wife Charlotte Lewis Bryant McChord, who had been a practicing attorney in Kentucky as Assistant Commonwealth Attorney for Boyle County and in private practice in West Hartford, CT. Predeceasing also were his parents: Winfield McChord, Sr. (1996) and Iona Varney McChord (2002), his brother Jack (2002), and nephew Matthew (1994). "Win" is survived by his daughter, Shannon Lewis McChord, Lexington, KY; brother Ed (Nanette) McChord, Lexington, KY; nieces and nephews Katie, Andy, Sam, Emily and Byron; sister-in-law Marianne McChord, Portland, OR; and brother-in-law Murray Bryant of Mayfield, KY. The ultimate gentleman, Winfield McChord loved and was devoted to his wife, daughter, family and friends, and especially to deaf children everywhere. Memorial service was held at Grow Hall, Kentucky School for the Deaf. Donations can be made to the Kentucky School for the Deaf Museum, 303 S 2nd St, Danville, KY 40422; or the American School for the Deaf Museum, 139 N Main St, West Hartford, CT 06107. www.milwardfuneral.com.

Regina Gale Hunter

Regina Gale Hunter, 73, of Jeffrey, Boone County, died Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006, after a long illness. Born September 19, 1933, at Greenview, she was the daughter of the late Opie and Belva Walls Hunter. Miss Hunter was a Christian and attended the WV School for the Deaf. Survivors include her brothers, Wilbur Hunter of Jeffrey, Larry Hunter of Washington state, Thomas Hunter of Virginia, Woodrow Hunter of Hamlin; sister, Elnora White of Boone County; and several nieces and nephews. Funeral service was held Wednesday, December 20, at Stevens Funeral Home, Madison, with the Rev. Joe Lane officiating. Ms. Hunter was buried at Memory Gardens, Madison.

Vasilios J. Bongalis



VASILIOS J. BONGALIS, age 76, of Wickliffe. Mr. Bongalis's nickname was Billy and was a 1947 graduate of the West Virginia School for the Deaf. Billy was the devoted husband of the late Janice Eleanor (nee Marks); loving father of Paul, Melanie

(Edmund) Busch, Cindy (Terence) Barnwell, Wendy (Fiancee Ken Royer) and Sirena (Mike) O'Hara; grandfather of 12 and great grandfather of two. Also survived by a brother and eight sisters. Two brothers and two sisters are deceased. The funeral service was held Thursday, January 25, at the Orlando-Donsante Funeral Home, 29550 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe

**West Virginia Association of the Deaf
August 6, 2006
Country Inn & Suites
Summersville, West Virginia**

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

Committee Member: Linda Phillips

Visitors: Lois Devericks, Regina Jenkins, April and Scott Hottle, Erin Fulton, Ed and Flo Johnson, Jenny Gember, Jerry Whitlock, and Veronda Harrison.

The regular meeting of WVAD was held in the meeting room of the Country Inn and Suites on Sunday, August 6, 2006, at 11:45 a.m. President Doug Evans presided with Secretary Liz Leisure present.

The minutes of the previous meeting, May 19, 2006, were corrected and approved as read.

Currently, there are 187 WVAD members. The report was accepted as given.

The treasurer also reported that WVAD has made a profit of \$751.15 from the picnic yesterday.

President's report:

President Douglas Evans attended the May 20, 2006 Deaf Tech Fair at the Civic Center in Charleston, WV.

President Evans received a letter from Governor Joe Manchin on June 5, 2006 stating that he is not able to confirm or deny our request to be the keynote speaker at our 2007 WVAD Conference in August. It was suggested that we contact him again about four to five weeks prior to the conference.

He was not able to attend the Graduation Day at the West Virginia School for the Deaf on June 9, 2006 due to a death in the family. Instead, he sent letters of congratulation to the students on graduation.

He is planning to attend the Homecoming at West Virginia School for the Deaf this fall.

He gave a report about his attendance to the 47th Biennial NAD Conference in Palm Desert, California, from June 26 through July 4, 2006.

He talked to Judy Holt with the United Deaf Services on July 13, 2006 regarding our contract with them that will expire on December 31, 2006. He was told that they will be having a board meeting in October to discuss whether or not a new contract will be made with us. We will be informed of their decision after the meeting. We will receive one more check from them.

He and John Burdette met with Kim Calabretta from Sprint and Jenny Gember, Regional Outreach Coordinator for Hamilton Relay, Inc., yesterday to find out what services they each provide. They will be attending a hearing on Tuesday, August 8, 2006, at the Public Service Commission who will bid on the next Telecommunications Relay Service in WV.

Jenny Gember gave a presentation on Hamilton Relay Service.

There was no vice president's report at this time.

Secretary Liz Leisure reported that Caryn Keller received a letter from the Division of Highways on July 26, 2006, stating that they have completed the TTY assessment at each of the Welcome Centers and Rest Areas within the State. The TTYs are in the operational order. They will now begin sign installation to direct users to the TTY phone. It will take approximately 60 to 90 days to complete.

She posted her public comments on behalf of WVAD related to policy 5202 on improving educational interpreters in the state. The policy passed with some modification.

She, Linda Phillips, and Caryn Keller went to the multicultural festival in June 17, 2006, to teach children basic American Sign Language.

She attended the NAD conference as an Alternate. When she was not needed, she attended some workshops. She learned a lot to help benefit our organization and state.

She explained what she learned about the Directors and Officers liability insurance. We need to investigate more and find what we need to get for WVAD.

She attended a workshop about the Deaf-Blind Community. It was a very interesting workshop and she thinks that we should invite the presenter, Jamie Pope, to give the similar workshop at our conference in 2007.

She also attended a workshop to learn how to host a Cancer Education Workshop. She was given free videotapes to show our deaf community. Maybe we can use those tapes for future workshops.

There was no trustee report.

2007 WVAD Conference Committee Report:

Jimmy Harrison, Chairperson, reported that the committee has raised \$2,500 and still counting. They had a great hot dog sale at the post office. They plan to have it on a monthly basis.

John Burdette – Deaf Drivers & Law Enforcement Officers Safety (DDLEOS) Coordinator. John reported that he checked on other states to see what kind of cards they have for its deaf drivers. He showed some samples from the other states. He also showed some ideas that were designed by Caryn Keller.

Workshop Committee Report:

Robyn Evans reported that since she has not heard from the person about rescheduling the CPR workshop in the northern part of the state, she decided not to have one this fall.

John Burdette reported that he, too, has not been able to get in touch with the man to schedule a workshop on Medicare Plan D. He focused most of his time researching on the deaf driver safety cards.

Scott Hottle, guest speaker, gave a presentation on Content Standard Objectives for American Sign Language (CSO). He would like to see that American Sign Language Teacher Association (ASLTA) be recommended as part of the requirements for the teacher to teach ASL as a foreign language.

There was a twenty minutes recess started at 3:15 p.m.

Pageant Director's Report:

Linda Phillips, Co-Pageant Director, reported that Holly Palmer has resigned as Miss Deaf West Virginia. She and Caryn Keller went to the Pageant Director Meetings at the NAD Conference from June 28 through July 3, 2006. Half of the State Pageant Directors that were in attendance were new. Linda and Caryn picked up some new ideas for raise fund for the deaf pageant. Some of the ideas are making a calendar with some pictures and favorite recipes from the WVAD members, collectible post cards, shorts and tops, and a GPS navigator. They are planning to start a first Jr. Miss Deaf WV pageant.

Unfinished Business:

John Burdette moved that WVAD raise the new conference combo rates as proposed. The motion was passed.

New Business:

Jimmy Harrison moved that WVAD increase the exhibitor fee. John moved that we tabled this motion. The motion was passed.

John Burdette moved that we untabled the motion to increase the exhibitor fee. The motion was passed. John Burdette moved to amend by adding \$150 for profit and \$100 for non-profit. The motion was passed. Worthy moved to amend by adding registration fee to both profit and non-profit exhibitor fee. The motion to add the registration fee to both profit and non-profit exhibitor fee was passed. Jimmy Harrison moved to amend by increasing the business fee to \$300.00. The motion failed.

Robyn Evans moved that Liz Leisure check on the Directors and Officers insurance policy for the WVAD. The motion was passed.

John Burdette moved that WVAD charge the exhibitors the Internet and/or other audio-visual service fee at the 2007 WVAD Conference, if needed. The motion was tabled.

Worthy Devericks moved that WVAD not allow children under 12 to attend the 2007 WVAD conference. The motion failed. Robyn moved to amend by appointing the host to be responsible for day care services during the conference. The motion was passed.

Robyn moved that exhibitor pay a \$25.00 fee for a second table. The motion was tabled.

Robyn moved that we discuss on our next board meeting date and location in January 2007. The motion was passed. To be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Liz Leisure, Secretary



Want to attend a board meeting?
Check online at www.wvad.org to
see when our next meeting is and
where.

West Virginia Association of the Deaf Officers

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Liz Leisure

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

WVAD Membership— Join Now!

Name _____ \$15 for one year Regular

Address _____ \$ 25 for two years Regular

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

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

EMAIL _____ Yes! Here is my Donation \$ _____

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

Total Membership & Donation & _____

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

West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.

Linda Phillips, Editor
3302 Central Avenue
Parkersburg, WV 26104

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED