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Winter 2016

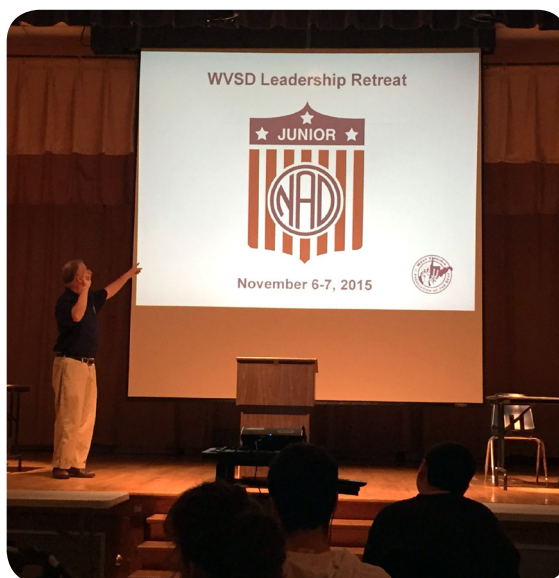
## WVSD Rejoins Jr. NAD Program, Combined with Student Council

By Scott Hottle

West Virginia School for the Deaf (WVSD) recently rejoined the Junior NAD, a program of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), combined with Student Council for the school year 2015-2016 with two new advisors, Scott Hottle and Krystal Shelton of WVSD Jr. NAD chapter. It is really exciting for every students to restart this high-level organization program to make our school life better.

We contacted and invited WVAD to come and meet with our secondary students on the weekend of November 6-8, 2015, for the WVSD Jr. NAD Leadership Retreat. We had the student debates for those who were interested in running for Jr. NAD officer positions, started with nominations of Jr. NAD and Student Council officers together. Prior to student debates on Friday, November 6th, we had many posts of those students who wanted to run for officers on the walls for two weeks.

WVSD Jr. NAD Leadership Retreat was filled with few presentations given by WV Association of the Deaf (WVAD),



*WVAD President John Burdette gives a presentation at the WVSD Jr. NAD Leadership Retreat at the WV School for the Deaf.*

WV Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH), and National Black Deaf Advocates (NDBA), followed by team building activities for the students led by the WVAD Board. WVAD President, John Burdette, talked about WVAD and his experiences in Jr. NAD

during his youth days; WVCDHH Project Director, Rachel Raja, shared information about services that are provided by WVCDHH. After lunch, WVAD led a Parliamentary Procedures Workshop for the students. Guest speaker for the (See [WVSD Rejoins... on page 5](#))

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## From the President's Corner,

John Burdette



## PUBLICATION INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING RATES

The WVAD *Quarter News* newsletter is a publication of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., published four times a year (January, April, July, October). Free subscription with paid dues. All advertisements must be paid in advance. The WVAD *Quarter News* reserves the right to reject any advertisement. Make checks payable to **WVAD**. Send ads with payment and any news to Tamera Deem.

Full Page, 7 5/8" x 10" \$100.00  
Half Page, 7 5/8" x 5" \$60.00

Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope you had a fantastic holiday with your family and friends this past Thanksgiving and Christmas!

On September 24-26, 2015, Donna M. Williams and I went to Birmingham, Alabama, to attend the NAD Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) (see story on page 6).

The WVAD Board had its first meeting on November 7, 2015, at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB). We were in Romney for WVSDB's Junior NAD Leadership Retreat. WVAD was very pleased to hear that WVSDB has rejoined the Jr. NAD program, combined with Student Council. See story on page 1. The location of the next biennial conference for 2017 has been selected and it will be held at Glade Springs Resort in Daniels, WV, near Beckley, WV.

I want to update everyone on projects or things that have been happening in West Virginia.

- WVAD Education Committee has been working on WV's Deaf Child Bill of Rights (DCBR) by revising/editing the bill, to be submitted to the WV Legislature by January 1st, to have it passed into law instead of it being a resolution. Currently, our WV DCBR is a resolution.
- West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) got a new logo makeover! The new logo looks great! Deaf Awareness Day at the Capitol, in partnership by WVCDHH and WVAD, will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more information/announcement either by WVCDHH or WVAD.

A quick reminder for those who have not paid for expired membership (see page 27 for membership form), please send the form and payment to

our Membership Coordinator, Larry Hubbard. Good news! WVAD is now accepting debit and credit cards for membership fees, etc. We are currently accepting Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. If you are not a member of WVAD, please join. If you have any questions about membership, please contact Larry Hubbard, our Membership Coordinator. Your support and dues help keep WVAD going. It is a good way to give someone a membership as a gift.

In closing, please check the WVAD website ([www.wvad.net](http://www.wvad.net)) or WV Association of the Deaf page on Facebook for any information about WVAD.



On behalf of the WVAD Board, we wish you all a great year in 2016!

*John W. Burdette*

WVAD President

**This is a West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) non-profit organization newsletter for our WVAD family and friends.**

It is the purpose of WVAD *Quarter News* to be an informative communications newsletter by all WVAD members and non-members, addressing WVAD programs, activities, issues, and member interests. WVAD *Quarter News* strives to maintain a balance between program and general interest news. Contact the WVAD *Quarter News* editor at **WVAD Editor** concerning material appearing in WVAD *Quarter News*. WVAD *Quarter News* will publish materials submitted by anyone, subject to editorial review and approval. Please remember to send references of any outside sources you may use. Authors' names will be withheld from publication at their request. The views and opinions expressed by contributors to WVAD *Quarter News* are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the staff of WVAD *Quarter News*.

WVAD Quarter News	
	
<small>"News brought to you by the West Virginia Association of the Deaf organization."</small>	
Editor:	Tamera Deem
President:	John Burdette
Vice-President:	Tamera Deem
Secretary:	Donna Williams
Treasurer:	Veronda Harrison
Senior Trustee:	Worthy Devericks
Trustee:	Larry Hubbard
Trustee:	Jeff Simmons





# WVAD Board Minutes

## WVAD Board Meeting Held at WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, Romney, WV, November 7, 2015

### West Virginia Association of the Deaf's Mission Statement:

*The West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., (WVAD) operated by, of, for the Deaf Community, advocates, and promotes to improve the quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing individuals including but not limited to deaf-blind individuals, parents of deaf children, interpreters, late-deafened adults, and children of deaf adults.*

**Members Present:** John Burdette, Tami Deem, Veronda Harrison, Donna Williams, Larry Hubbard, and Jeffery Simmons.

**Member Absent:** Worthy Devericks.

**Visitors Present:** Sally Hubbard and Lynnette Hull, Marshall University student to observe.

The regular board meeting of WVAD was held at West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB) in Romney, WV, on Saturday, November 7, 2015. President John Burdette called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. with Secretary Donna Williams present.

The minutes of the meeting held August 6, 2015, was sent via e-mail. It was corrected and approved via video phone and e-mail. The minutes of the meeting was published in the fall 2015 newsletter.

### **Treasurer Veronda Harrison's Financial Report:**

As of November 5, 2015, total expenses from August 9 to November 5, 2015, total assets – \$5,875.07; total expenses – \$5,014.90; checking account – \$273.45; savings account – \$2,064.51; Mingo County Fund – \$14,542.99; conference fund – \$1,609.33; Deaf Youth Program – \$1,263.00; 2 Certificates of Deposits – \$12,003.63. Total balance in all accounts – \$31,756.91. Donna moved to accept the treasurer's report.

### **President John Burdette's Report:**

- Snowshoe Mountain Resort (Biennial Conference): Received an e-mail from Kelly Plaugher, Front Desk Group Billing Coordinator, with a copy of final invoice. Forwarded this e-mail to Veronda Harrison, Treasurer, to have final invoice paid off.
- Sent a forwarded e-mail to board with a proposal from Glade Springs Resort.
- Sent an e-mail to Greg Haynes, Sales Manager at Glade Springs Resort, informing him that the WVAD executive board would like to have a site visit sometime soon.
- Sent an e-mail to board asking them who are interested in going to National Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) in Birmingham, Alabama, on September 24-26, 2015.
- Received an e-mail from Donna Williams, Secretary, with the minutes of the August 6th board meeting. It was approved by board via e-mail.
- Called and spoke with Shelly Gutta, Sales Manager at Stonewall Resort, requesting a proposal for possible conference to be held there in 2017.
- Received an e-mail from Shelly Gutta, Sales Manager at Stonewall Resort, with a proposal to be viewed by clicking the link. Shared the proposal with board.
- Sent an e-mail to Greg Haynes, Sales Manager at Glade Springs, with questions about an estimate cost of the meeting room.

- Made reservations for NLTC registration and hotel for Donna Williams and myself.
- Sent an e-mail to the board sharing information about Disability Education Awareness Forum to be held at Tamarack in Beckley, WV, on Thursday, October 22, 2015.
- NAD Region 1 videophone meeting.
- Received an e-mail from Earnest Covington III, WVCDHH Executive Director, with a few questions about providing workshops for deaf and hard of hearing citizens and asked for contact information of each deaf club in WV.
- Donna Williams and I attended NAD Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) in Birmingham, Alabama, September 24-27, 2015. Tami Deem also attended on her own.
- Received an e-mail from Rachel Torrence, WVCDHH Project Director, announcing that the Deaf Awareness Day at the Capitol will be on March 8, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Received an e-mail from Dr. Martin Keller, Superintendent of the WV Schools for the Deaf & the Blind (WVSDB), informing me that WVSDB recently established a Jr. NAD chapter and rejoined the national Jr. NAD. Scott Hottle is the new advisor. They would like to know if WVAD can come and meet with the secondary school students the weekend of November 6-8, 2015.

(See Board Minutes on page 4)

### **(Board Minutes from page 3)**

The students need to learn parliamentary procedures. He also thought it would be good for the students to meet the WVAD officers. The board can stay and sleep at Keller Hall on campus.

- Sent an e-mail to Greg Haynes and Susan Kennison at Glade Springs Resort, asking them if they were available on two dates for the site visit. Greg replied saying Monday, October 12th, would be a good day for him. Sent an e-mail confirming the site visit on Monday, October 12th at 1:00 p.m.
- Spoke with Earnest Covington III, WVCDHH Executive Director, at the Beckley Association of the Deaf about NAD Youth Day at Capitol.
- Sent an e-mail to the board sharing information about Disability Awareness Day at WV State University on Wednesday, October 14, 2015.
- Sent an e-mail to Christine Hook to ask about our group picture taken at Snowshoe Resort during the WVAD conference. She checked with Kurt, Photographer, and sent me the link for the photos.
- Sent a letter to Dr. Martin Keller via postal mail welcoming him to West Virginia and to WVSDB.
- Received an e-mail from Greg Haynes, Sales Manager at Glade Springs Resort, with attachment of current proposal they submitted a few months ago. The conference rooms rate would be \$1,000 for whole weekend and sleeping rooms would be \$99 per night.
- Dr. Martin Keller and Scott Hottle talked with me on videophone to finalize the plans for the weekend of November 6-8, 2015.

**Vice-President Tami Deem's Report:** None.

### **Secretary Donna Williams' Report:**

- Still on Interpreter Task Force. Completed the Interpreter Directory and it is on the WVCDHH website. Will continue to improve it. Next meeting will be Thursday afternoon, November 12th in Charleston.
- Attended the NLTC in Birmingham, Alabama, September 25-26, 2015.
- Received model (sample) DCBR

from NAD. Now, working with April Hottle; Toni Vaughan, Education Committee; and WVSD to revise it to fit WV and communicate with the legislators on the WV Legislative Education Committee.

- Revised current bylaws to add the motions made at the last conference.
- Researched KY, VA, MD, PA, and NC plus NAD bylaws. Really need to update WVAD bylaws all at one time instead of little at each conference. Two people contacted me wanting to be on the Bylaws Committee. I would like to do this.
- Continue to do monthly list of events and send out with fliers, etc., to communicate with those all over WV.
- October 7, sent e-mails to Pam Roush regarding Early Hearing Detection Intervention board. She referred me to Tennysa Mace. Sent e-mail to her October 9th and again October 18th, but no response. Will send letter via snail mail next week.
- Typed minutes for GA #1 and GA #2. Waiting for a few clarifications before finalizing.
- September 24, received e-mail from Earnest Covington asking for updated list of deaf clubs and other organizations in WV. Responded saying this is not WVAD Secretary's job plus I was on way to Birmingham, Alabama, for the NLTC; however, I will get to it as soon as possible. It was completed and sent to Earnest and all WVAD board members on October 14. Revised it again and will send this out to all on my list soon.
- Friday, October 2, attended the magic show at the Interpreter Retreat in Clarksburg, WV, that WVAD helped sponsor. Magician Vernon McNece was very good.
- October 14, Veronda asked me to send an e-mail to Paul Smith at Fair-Shake to find out when the membership was last paid and if can change from November to October instead of May to April. I also asked him who would be good to help WVAD with the DCBR and for list of Disability Awareness Days. Paul responded saying the membership was last paid May 2014. He also said it is a 12-month membership from when paid. He forwarded my

e-mail to two people he said would be good to help with the DCBR and would get back to me about other Disabilities Awareness Days. Have not heard from him since. Will send follow-up e-mail next week.

- October 19, received e-mail from Rachel (Torrence) Rajca from the WVCDHH asking if WVAD wants to join WVCDHH to donate/collect socks for homeless people. Only one board member responded via e-mail and another board member responded via videophone. So, decided I would do it with them. If have any donations can give to Donna.
- Continue to work with April Hottle and Toni Vaughan on the Education Committee.
- November 6, met with Dr. Martin Keller, Donna Keller, Karen Hott, and Ruth Rowan, WV Delegate from the Romney area. Ruth Rowan is also on the WV Legislative Education Committee and on the WVSDB board of trustees. She warned us about the Luke Lee Listening Center in the Huntington area. They are strong and promote the oral method. She also recommended Democrat Dave Perry to be on the committee. He is a strong supporter of WVSDB. She will contact him to let him know I will be contacting him. We agreed we would all look at the model DCBR and make comments. Send to all and then we will put it together. Ruth said she must have the bill finalized and ready to propose by the first of January. I will send everyone the DCBR from Texas, Nevada, and Delaware that Tawny Holmes said were the best.

**Trustees' Report:** None.

### **Editor Tami Deem's Report:**

- Deadline for next newsletter is November 30th.

### **Membership Larry Hubbard's Report:**

- In August at the conference, there were 197 members. Now, there are 192 members.

**Education Advocate April Hottle's Report:** None.

**(See Board Minutes on page 5)**

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### (Board Minutes from page 4)

#### Legislative Advocate Antonia Hall's

Report: None.

Old Business: None.

#### New Business:

- Veronda moved that WVAD have 2017 conference at Glade Springs Resort.

- 2016 WVAD picnic:
  - Donna moved to have WVAD picnic August 2017 at Summerville.
  - Tami amended for second choice at Coonskin Park.
  - Veronda amended for third choice at Bulltown.

- 2016 NAD Conference in Phoenix, Arizona:
  - Tami Deem and John Burdette volunteered to attend if finances permit.
- John moved to sell Hillbilly t-shirt starting in 2016.

Next meeting will be February 27 or March 5. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m. 🐼

### (WVSD Rejoins... from page 1)

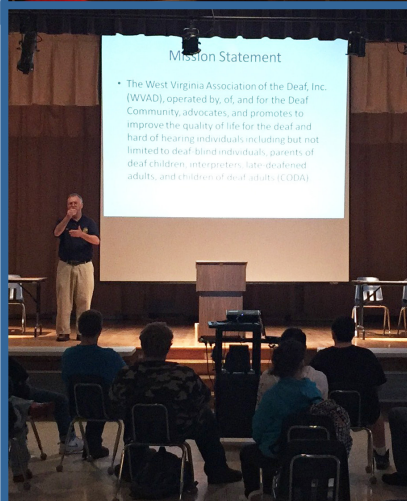
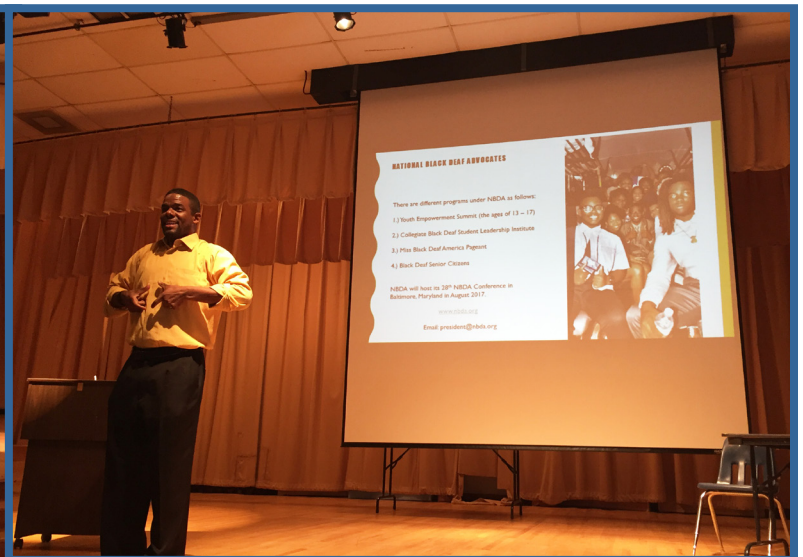
afternoon was Tim Albert, President of NBDA. It was a very exciting morning for everyone in the multi-purpose room.

In the evening, WVAD officers were in the gym to give WVSD students activities related to leadership development. WVSD Superintendent Martin Keller and his wife Donna joined with us in the activities. We also had a wonderful social.

In the election on Tuesday morning, November 10, staff and students voted; Jr. NAD President is Patrick Epperly, Vice-President is Anne Barnhart, Secretary is Jordan Simmons, Treasurer is Kaylee Edwards, Sergeant is Jacob Hundley. Two Representative of Student Council are Ashley Shuck and Miach Virts. Let us wish them much

success as WVSD officers to make the WVSD campus life successful.

We, WVSD staff and students, want to thank WVAD for coming and kicking off the Jr. NAD and Student Council organization. We are looking forward to a successful school year 2015-2016 with every individual's contribution to WVSD. 🐼



## National Leadership Training Conference (NLTC), Birmingham, Alabama, September 24-26, 2015 by John Burdette and Donna M. Williams

The National Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) in Birmingham, Alabama, was held on September 24-26, 2015. John Burdette and Donna M. Williams attended, representing West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD). It was a very rich and educational experience. They arrived in Birmingham Wednesday night, September 23.

Since we arrived in Birmingham, Alabama, Wednesday night, the next day we walked around to check out the surrounding areas outside of the hotel. Registration and welcome reception was held on Thursday evening, September 24, 2015. The welcome reception was hosted by the NAD Board. They introduced all the board members and the workshop presenters for Friday and Saturday. There were a total of 18 workshops and 5 sessions to attend. We were able to attend at least 5 workshops plus two lunch presentations. There were approximately 200 attendees at the conference.

Friday, September 25, 2015, breakfast was on our own with registration and sponsors' exhibits. John and Donna attended "Board Governance, Leadership, and Accountability" workshop, presented by NAD President, Chris Wagner. He said that running a non-profit organization is never easy. There are many things each organization must work on—financial difficulties, state legislative threats, political issues, membership, communication, the board dynamics, etc. Chris also said each state association should be incorporated. WVAD is incorporated. He also said bylaws should be used as a guide; however, membership dues, etc., should be in a separate Board Policy Guidebook. He also said that it is not healthy to keep revising the by-laws every 2 years. Through it all, the foundation of keeping an organization running well is board governance. This workshop focused on best practices for leadership and governance of board operations, including the agenda and structure of board meetings, assigning board tasks, etc. Also, discussed was what makes a person a good leader and how does the community hold the leaders accountable. It is important



*Steve Lovi and Michelle Cline, Region 1 representatives, discussing priorities in the Region 1 caucus meeting.*

to have a good relationship with the community.

The 2nd workshop John attended on Friday afternoon was "Multigenerational Leadership" presented by Frank Turk. He stressed the importance of and need for purpose to join the adults and youth groups to create a positive community of deaf and hard of hearing generations. As the Deaf population become older, it is important to connect the older adults and the young adults. The young adults need the older adults to Believe in them, to Encourage them, to Share with them, and Trust them (BEST), etc. Working together, the two groups can make incredible things happen for their respective programs, organizations, and communities. They can develop mutual respect and trust, build relationships that last, and, as partners, maintain and enhance successful plan for all state associations of the deaf throughout Deaf America.

Plenary (presentation) and Luncheon — "Governance and Conflict: Prevention and Resolution" was presented by Heather Harker. This plenary session discussed the intersections between governance and conflict and explained how they impact both the prevention and resolution of organizational conflict. Some strategies for governance include: (1) Is the purpose clear? (2) Are the outcomes clear? (3) Is decision making clear? (4) Is communication effective? Communication is more critical in the Deaf community.

Regional and Professional Causes — There are 4 regions, including affiliates. WVAD is in Region 1. Each region were to discuss their concerns and make suggestions what NAD could do to help them, such as bring bills on national level that will help impact all state levels. In our region, we discussed state issues, Deaf Child Bill of Rights (DCBR), Lead-K: Early Hearing Detection Intervention (EHDI), elderly deaf in nursing homes, etc. It was encouraged that each state find out about the state EHDI board and try to get a board member on the board. WVAD is still trying to get more information about this.

Friday afternoon Donna attended "Looking through the Eyes of the Mainstream," presented by Wendy Brehm and Nancy Holdren. Nancy is an educational interpreter and researcher. Wendy was an intern working at NAD. This workshop addressed the current issues that students in the mainstreamed schools/programs face from an "inside perspective." There were many questions and answers among those who attended. Learned that 85 percent of children between the ages of 6 and 21 years old attend mainstream schools, partially and/or full time (Schick, Skaliky, Edwards, & Kushalnagar, 2013).

Friday evening, the Alabama Association of the Deaf (AAD) hosted a "Meet & Greet Dinner/Mixer" at the Mugshots Grill and Bar. Dinner and drinks were on our own. Mugshots donated 15 percent of their profits that [\(See NLTC Conference... on page 7\)](#)

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### (NLTC Conference... from page 6)

evening to AAD for their Youth and Mental Health Programs.

Saturday, September 26, 2015, breakfast was on our own with continued registration and sponsors' exhibits.

On Saturday morning, John attended the workshop on "Metro Jr. NAD and Youth Day in Your State" presented by a panel. The members of the panel were NAD Secretary Joshua Beckman, Lissette Molina-Wood, Martin Price, and NAD Youth Program Coordinator Allie Rice. The Junior NAD has been a successful program for deaf and hard of hearing students in the 7th through 12th grades for the past 55 years. Historically, the Junior NAD chapters have been set up within various schools for the deaf or mainstreamed schools with programs serving deaf and hard of hearing students. However, there are many deaf and hard of hearing students enrolled in mainstreamed programs that may not be large enough to support a Jr. NAD chapter. The NAD believes that every deaf and hard of hearing student should have an opportunity to be part of the Jr. NAD experience, and to address this issue, NAD has been developing the Metro Jr. NAD program which allows students from various schools to form a Jr. NAD chapter instead of one that is school based.

The second workshop John attended was on "Effective Advocacy in Emergency Management and Planning" presented by Neil McDevitt. Emergency management and planning is a crucial aspect of government at all levels. This was made clear after failures to ensure the safety of deaf and hard of hearing individuals during 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy, and even the events in WV such as the Derecho summer of 2012 and the chemical spill in the Charleston, WV, water January 2014. For advocates to become truly effective in this area, they need to have a basic understanding of the field of emergency management. Advocates must also understand the roles of local, state, and federal emergency management agencies. This workshop provided examples of recent incidents, what worked well and what needs to be improved. Also, we discussed how training for the Deaf and hard of hearing community has evolved and what options are available.

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*Chris Wagner, President of NAD, gave his presentation on "Governance, Leadership, and Community Accountability: Supporting Our Leaders and Advancing Our Goals Together."*

On Saturday morning Donna attended "NAD Educational Updates: Where are We?" presented by NAD Staff Attorney and Educational Advocate Tawny Holmes. Tawny shared what she, the NAD attorneys, and the NAD Education Strategy Team have been doing since the 2014 NAD conference and their goals for the next few years. Tawny has provided 35 presentations at various schools/programs and 26 education-related conferences. Topics included Education Advocacy, IEP Advocacy, Language Acquisition, ADA Guidelines on Effective Communication, etc. WVAD would like to have Tawny come to WV. There are now Education Advocates in 44 states, including WV. She also helps focus on legislative bills in the states. The 16 members of the Education Strategy Team are committed to ASL-English bilingual education to prevent language deprivation, legislative advocacy, and diversity in education. About 55 percent of deaf and hard of hearing children are students of color. This team has been a member of the planning committee on the Early Hearing Detection Intervention (EHDI) for 3 years. They encourage each state association to get involved with this organization by asking to be a member of the advisory board. WVAD is still trying to get more information about this group in WV. This team is also involved in promoting the Cogswell and Macy Sullivan Act on the federal level.

The second workshop Donna attended Saturday morning was "Identifying and Intervening with Deaf Children at Risk for Language Deprivation" presented by Wyatte Hall. Professionals who work with deaf and hard of hearing children and adults, such as teachers and clinicians, often observe poor language skills in both English and ASL. These individuals can be described as having information gaps, limited social skills, diminished coping skills, reduced reasoning abilities, and more likely to experience trauma and addiction. Mr. Hall quoted Dr. Sanjay Gulati, a communication specialist at Boston Children's Hospital, "The single greatest risk faced by Deaf people is inadequate exposure to a usable first language." Mr. Hall showed research that proves that ASL helps build English and that the longer deaf and hard of hearing children are in bilingual bimodal school/environment, the better their language scores are. What can we, as a community, do? (1) Value ASL and written English equally. (2) Keep our children in schools for the Deaf. (3) Demand higher accountability and signing skills from teachers of the deaf. (4) Understand the IEP process and know how to use it to create bilingual environments for deaf and hard of hearing children. This would help decrease language deprivation among deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Luncheon and Keynote Presentation: The presentation was "Legislative (See NLTC Conference... on page 8)

### (NLTC Conference... from page 7)

Overview and Model Bills” presented by Kim Bianco-Majeri. She shared NAD’s top priorities: interpreters, deaf schools, EHDI/early intervention, mental health. Other priorities include the Deaf Child Bill of Right (DCBR), LEAD-K, and Language Deprivation Mandate. NAD now has model bills for the DCBR and shared the LEAD-K from California and Rhode Island that can be used as a model. LEAD-K focuses on providing language to deaf and hard of hearing children birth to age 5. DCBR focuses on all deaf and hard of hearing children birth to age 21. Kim emphasized on getting involved in the community and legislature if you want anything changed. All politics begin in our local area. We must also work with the state commission. She ended her presentation with this quote by Doug Firebaugh “Every day do something that will inch you closer to a better tomorrow.”

After the luncheon and keynote presentation, we had another regional and professional caucus meeting to continue the discussions from the day before. We brainstormed ideas for priorities for the next NAD conference to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, July 5-9, 2016. The 3 priorities Region 1 decided on are LEAD-K (for deaf and hard of hearing children birth to age 5), Deaf Child Bill of Rights (DCBR—for any deaf and hard of hearing child), and Early Hearing

Detection Intervention (EHDI). These were proposed at the general meeting of all the regions.

The last workshop Saturday afternoon, John attended “Does Your Organization Reflect the Community?” presented by Richard McCowan. This workshop addressed a very common issue within nonprofit organizations in the deaf and hard of hearing community. Questions that were asked included (1) Are our organizations representing or reflecting the whole deaf and hard of hearing community in our local areas? If not, can it be done? (2) How do we reach out to people who have traditionally not been involved in our organizations? (3) What have other organizations done to successfully bring in all types of people regardless of age, religion, race, nationality, education, or background to work together for our common goals and become strong unified community? These are hard questions that need to be answered.

The last workshop Donna attended was “IEP Advocacy 101” presented by NAD Staff Attorney and Education Advocate Tawny Holmes and Christine Moody, Program Coordinator of Texas Hands and Voices. The presenters compared Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Parents need to use the IDEA and the IEP—not Section 504 or

the ADA. Parents should be encouraged to request a communication plan be attached to the IEP. The presenters explained the IEP process in detail and provided a list of rights the parents have. Some common challenges for parents and school districts include access to qualified interpreters, lack of access to speech/language specialists, access to ASL in early intervention, school districts saying no to send child to the school for the deaf, lack of experienced teachers, and different expectations for child by school and parents. Eighty percent due process (complaint) are lost because parents did not keep documentations. The presenters also discussed the amendment to the IDEA law that was proposed September 2015—the Cogswell & Macy Sullivan Act that would require data tracking for every state, provide family training/support through K-12 and not only in early intervention, access to ASL and English, and qualified professionals fluent in language. Many references and resources were provided.

Saturday evening NAD showed the movie “No Ordinary Hero” and popcorn was provided.

Overall, the NLTC was a wonderful, rich learning experience for all. The next NLTC conference will be in 2017 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. For more information about NAD and their events, please see <https://nad.org>.





## COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

WV Association of the Deaf (WVAD) is selling cookbooks. They are \$20.00 a book (plus \$5.00 shipping & handling). The cookbooks are 110 pages long. This cookbook would make a perfect gift for Christmas, weddings, anniversaries, and birthdays. Proceeds will go towards the WVAD non-profit organization. If anyone is interested in buying a cookbook, please see John Burdette, Jimmy Harrison, Veronda Harrison, Donna Williams, Tami Deem, Larry Hubbard, Jeff Simmons, or Worthy Devericks. For credit card purchases, please contact Veronda Harrison (Treasurer) at 304-964-6025 Videophone or e-mail [verapple@aol.com](mailto:verapple@aol.com). Feel free to let your family and friends know about this as they are more than welcome to purchase a cookbook!

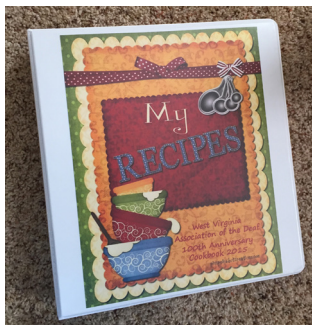


### ORDER FORM

Use the order form below to obtain additional copies of this Cookbook.

Fill in Order Form Below — Cut Out and Mail to:

Veronda Harrison  
WVAD Treasurer  
5 Cordoba Drive  
Hurricane, WV 25526



You may order as many copies of our Cookbook as you wish for the regular price at \$20.00 each, plus \$5.00 postage and packing per book ordered.

Please mail \_\_\_\_\_ copies of your Cookbook.

*(Please print clearly. One form per person. You can make a copy for second person. Make personal check or money order payable to WVAD and write "COOKBOOK" on check memo line. Mail to Veronda Harrison, WVAD Treasurer, 5 Cordoba Drive, Hurricane, WV 25526.)*

#### Mail book(s) to:

First Name, Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Video Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (Text) No.: \_\_\_\_\_

E mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Or complete the credit card information below:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover Card

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Acct. No.: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVS (Security Code Number on Back): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4th Annual WVAD Christmas Party by Tamera Deem

WVAD held its fourth annual Christmas party at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Clarksburg, WV, on December 12, 2015. The party was a success and everyone enjoyed their time there.

Eighty-one (81) people came from far and near. The weather was great and seasonably warm which was a blessing so that everyone could get home safe, without worrying about the snow.

The main dishes were provided by WVAD, which consisted of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green beans, yams, rolls, etc., plus

covered dishes and desserts that people brought to complete our meal.

Veronda Harrison, being the chef, and several volunteers were a big help in the kitchen and they cooked a wonderful meal for us. Thanks to them! We also appreciate the efforts of others who pitched in, in the kitchen and helped with the clean up after the party.

There were prizes that included \$1,000 in cash giveaways and Christmas wreath (donated by Tina Stump) from admission, \$300 cash giveaways from the cash prize, a 43-inch TV, 2 iPad minis, and digital photo frame.

Everyone enjoyed meeting old friends and new friends, catching up on news and reminiscing old memories that brought out laughter. I am sure that everyone had a wonderful time!

We want to thank Robert Stewart for making reservations at the VFW for us earlier in the year. We also want to thank everyone who helped with the little chores before, during, and after the party to make it a success! It was very much appreciated!

Thanks to everyone who came to make our annual Christmas party a success! We look forward to our next Christmas party! 🍷



(See more photos on page 11)









### James "Scott" Johnson

James Scott Johnson, 47, of Huntington, WV, entered Heaven's gates Thursday, October 1, 2015, after a brief illness. Scott was born deaf, but did not let that stop him. He graduated in 1988, from the WV School for the Deaf and Blind, in Romney, WV, and always faced the many challenges in his life, with a smile on his face. He attended Grace Gospel Church in the early years of his life. He never met a stranger, and new friends learned very quickly of his love for Marshall University's "Thundering Herd" of which he was an avid fan for many years.

Surviving Scott are his parents, Rose and Marvin Gray, and Jim and Theresa Johnson, all of Huntington; a sister and brother-in-law, Kimberly and Mike Webb; brother and sister-in-law, Brian and Brenda Johnson; three step-brothers and sisters-in-laws, Sean and Ann Gray, Neil and Chanda Gray, and Nathan and Cassie Hefner; two step-sisters, Shauna and Tony Curtis and Robyn Gray; and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Scott's friends, and the staff at Pleasant Valley Nursing and Rehab, for the love and care that was shown to him during the time that he lived there. Also to the doctors and nurses at Pleasant Valley Hospital, and the ICU at Cabell Huntington Hospital, "You are truly

## "In Memory of Loved Ones"

### Kadell Chapman Johnson

Kadell Chapman Johnson, 79, of Charleston, received her wings, Saturday, October 3, 2015, with her family surrounding her.

She was born February 12, 1936, in Saluda, SC, to the late Julius Chapman and Ida Mae Abney. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by Warther Close, sisters Elnora Hill and Benny Collins, brother Jimmel Chapman; two sons, Ronnie Close and James "Jimbo" Johnson.

She is survived by her aunt, Elizabeth Washington, of Monetta, SC; daughters Barbara Davis, Pamela Medley, Carol Johnson-Cyrus, and Dorothy Johnson (daughter-in-law); sons Daniel (Leslie) Johnson of Charlotte, NC, and Keith Johnson; and a host of nieces, nephews, and loved ones.

Services was at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 10, 2015, at Grace Bible Church, 600 Kanawha Blvd. W., Charleston, WV 25302. Visitation was 1 hour prior to service. Preston Funeral Home was in charge of services.

See more at <http://www.wvgazette.com/article/20151008/OBIT/310089993/1120>. 🖨



angels here on earth. We cannot thank you enough, for the exceptional care that Scott received. May you continue to bless others as you have us."

Friends called from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., service time on Saturday, October 3, 2015, at Chapman's Mortuary, with Pastor Phil Wilson officiating. Burial was at White Chapel Memorial Gardens, Barboursville.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to the charity of one's choice in memory of Scott. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.chapmans-mortuary.com](http://www.chapmans-mortuary.com).

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of James Scott Johnson, please visit our sympathy store. 🖨



### Nannie Lee Wood Hundley

LEESBURG, Va. — Nannie Lee Wood Hundley, 88, of Lucketts (Leesburg), Virginia, went to be with the Lord on Friday, October 16, 2015.

Born September 1, 1927, at Dempsey, WV, Nannie was the fourth child of the late Dallas William and Sarah Eileen Robinette Wood.

Nannie attended the WV School for the Deaf and Blind and graduated in 1950. She later worked in Washington, DC, where she met and married her husband, Cy Hundley. They were blessed with one child, Mary Meade. Eventually, Nannie moved back to Fayetteville, WV, to raise her daughter and care for her mother.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her three brothers, Eldridge, Leonard, and Lavern Wood, and her husband, Cy Hundley.

Left to cherish her memories are her daughter, Mary Meade Hundley; her niece, Linda Ramsey; nephews, Bruce and Craig Wood; care manager and special friend, Megan Descutner; along with many great-nieces, nephews, and friends.

Graveside services was at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 21, 2015, at Huse Memorial Park, Fayetteville, WV, with Pastor Ron George Jr. officiating.

Submitted by Dodd-Payne-Hess Funeral Home, Fayetteville, WV ([http://www.register-herald.com/obituaries/nannie-lee-wood-hundley/article\\_2f34d1f6-6537-5d4a-87b7-483c9dc3588d.html](http://www.register-herald.com/obituaries/nannie-lee-wood-hundley/article_2f34d1f6-6537-5d4a-87b7-483c9dc3588d.html)). 🖨



(See Obituaries on page 13)

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### Edna Jean (Bennett) Gibbens

Edna Jean Gibbens passed away peacefully at 4:21 a.m. on November 6, 2015, at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Downey, CA, after she sustained injury from the result of an automobile-pedestrian accident last Halloween Day on Saturday morning at 7:24 a.m. near her home in Lynwood, CA.

Edna was born January 12, 1936, in Huntington, WV, to William "Bill" Kaiser and Gladys Virginia Bennett. Edna was very lucky to be rescued from the terrible 1936 Wheeling Flood when she was 2 months old. Both parents were unfortunately deceased from the Flood. Grandparents (James Elliott Bennett and Minnie Pearl Gillispie) legally adopted her. She received her high school diploma in 1956 from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind in Romney, WV.

Edna married the love of her life, Harry Gibbens, in 1960 and then moved westbound across the country to Huntington Park, CA, for a very short time (3 months). Finally, she settled in Lynwood, CA, to become a lifelong resident. Edna was an environment conscious by collecting recyclable bottles to keep the city beautified and donated them to a worthy cause. She was an expert of recognizing almost all of the Hollywood movie stars. She was a great supporter in the city political activities by attending countless City Council meetings.

Edna was an avid camper and love to attend summer Utah Deaf Women's Camp at Camp Wapiti near Tooele, Utah, every 2 years. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and served in several calling capacities.

WVAD Quarter News, Winter 2016

Edna is survived by her husband, Harry Gibbens, Sr., of Lynwood, CA, and her children: Harry Gibbens, Jr. of Payson, UT; Caroline Campbell of Midvale, ID; and Samuel (Stefanie) Gibbens of Broomfield, CO; and two grandchildren (Carley Gibbens of Boulder, CO, and James Gibbens of Broomfield, CO). She was preceded in death by two infants (Creighton in 1964 and James in 1971).

Funeral services was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 5, 2015, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Torrance 4th ASL Branch), 2000 W. Artesia Blvd., Torrance, CA 90504. Interment was at 1:00 p.m. in Forest Lawn Memorial Park - Hollywood Hills, 6300 Forest Lawn Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90068. ASL interpreting and Spanish speaking language was provided at both events. Online condolences may be shared at [www.forestlawn.com/find](http://www.forestlawn.com/find).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you take someone that you love to lunch or dinner and remind them that you love and forgive them. Sympathy cards are welcome and may be sent to Harry Gibbens, Sr., P.O. Box 1614, South Gate, CA 90280-1614. 🍀



### Gene Berdell Persinger

Gene Berdell Persinger, age 57, of Linn, West Virginia, departed this life Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at the Mt. Carmel-St. Ann's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, following an extended illness. Born January 23, 1957, in Bedford, Ohio, Gene was the son of the late James and Mary McHenry Persinger.

Gene was a graduate of the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Romney, West Virginia, Class of 1976. In his spare time, Gene enjoyed watching TV shows such as Lassic and Walker Texas Ranger, spending time with family and friends, and spoiling his grandchildren. Gene was also a Methodist by faith.

On June 15, 1980, he was united in marriage to Debra Powers Persinger, who survives at their Linn, WV, home. Surviving are 3 children, Jamie Persinger of Linn, WV; Andy Persinger of Chloe, WV; and Kerry Powers of Weston, WV; and 5 grandchildren, Jada Persinger, Jobe Loudin, Kole Persinger, Jerec Loudin, and Duke Persinger. Also

### Brenda Sue Mathew

Brenda Sue Mathew, 67, of Jeffrey, WV, was born August 11, 1947, and passed away July 11, 2015, at CAMC General Hospital, Charleston, WV.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur Jones Napier and Francis Lucille White Napier; and brother, Clifton Jones Napier.

She is survived by husband, Larry Mathew; son, Greg and Bella Napier; grandsons, Tanis, Garrett, and Landen; brother, Arthur and Scherri Napier; nephews, Chad and Wendy Napier and their children, Gage and Chase and Mark Napier and his children, Ali and Makinley; nieces, Scherri Ann and David Posey and their children, Kaden and Kirsten and Jennifer (Jimmy) Barker and their children, Heaven, Felicia, and Ashley.

Service was held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 15, 2015, at Handley Funeral Home, Danville with the Rev. Jim Butcher officiating. Friends called one hour prior to the service. To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Brenda Sue Mathew, please visit [http://www.handleyfh.com/store/?icn=desktop\\_memorial\\_obituary\\_link#](http://www.handleyfh.com/store/?icn=desktop_memorial_obituary_link#). (EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a reprint due to error in last edition.) 🍀



surviving are 6 siblings, Linda Ice and husband Larry of Salem, WV; Jack Persinger and wife Susan of Linn, WV; Jimmy Persinger and wife Pam of Apple Creek, Ohio; Judith Albanese of Dallas, Texas; Cora Persinger and husband Robert Wiggins of Linn, WV; and Scotty Riffle and wife Nicole of Linn, WV, and step-father, Harold Riffle of Linn, WV. Along with his parents, Gene was preceded in death by 1 sister, Helen Riffle.

Funeral services was conducted at the Ellyson Mortuary Inc., 2 Vanhorn Drive, Glenville, WV, 26351 at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, November 14, 2015, with Rev. Phil Wilson officiating. Burial followed in the McHenry I Cemetery in Linn, WV. Friends called from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Friday evening, November 13, 2015, at the mortuary.

Ellyson Mortuary, Inc. assisted the family of Gene Berdell Persinger with arrangements (<http://ellysonmortuary.com.ipage.com/>). 🍀  
(See Obituaries on page 14)



## Anna Belle McClung Yates

Anna Belle McClung Yates, 90, of Staunton, passed away Wednesday, September 23, 2015, at Kings Daughters Community Health & Rehab. She was born in Greenbrier County, West Virginia on August 19, 1925, a daughter of the late Jacob Ralph McClung and Ida Pearl.

Anna Belle was a graduate of the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Gallaudet University. She was a member of the sorority, Phi Kappa Zeta. Anna Belle worked for over 30 years as the librarian at the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind. She greatly enjoyed reading, traveling, and dancing. Anna Belle had a great passion for her home state, "montani semper liberi," and she loved animals. She also took great pride in being a mother, taking care of and loving her family.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Fred P. Yates, Jr. Survivors include her son, Ralph A. Yates and wife, Pam of Warner Robins, Georgia; two daughters, Jo Belle Anthony and husband, David H. and April Y. Keegan and husband Ty all of Staunton; eight grandchildren, Fred P. Yates III, Michanne Yates, Mathew Altmyer, and Erin Newton all of Georgia, Jessica Baake and husband Paul of Chester, Joshua Anthony and wife, Molly of Charlottesville, Lyndsey Keegan of Staunton, and Kelsey Sprouse and husband, Josh of Fulks Run; three great-grandchildren; a sister, Lula Dickey of Independence, Missouri.

A memorial service was conducted at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, September 26, 2015, at the Staunton Chapel of Reynolds Hamrick Funeral Homes with Pastor John Eicker officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Anna Belle's memory to the Virginia School of the Deaf Alumni Association, Staunton, and/or your local SPCA.

Relatives and friends may share condolences and memories with the family online by visiting [www.reynoldshamrickfuneralhomes.com](http://www.reynoldshamrickfuneralhomes.com). 🕯



## Mary Elizabeth Ganoe

Mary Elizabeth Ganoe, 68, of Romney, WV, passed away on Sunday, December 20, 2015, at home with family and friends by her side.

She was born on March 7, 1947, in Purgitsville, WV, to the late Robert and Myra (Haggerty) High. She was one of thirteen children.

Mary was married to Gary Lee Ganoe also of Romney. She was preceded in death by her husband; two sons, Robert Lee Ganoe and Billy Ganoe; a sister, Peg Keplinger; and three brothers, Robert "Dick" High, Mervin "Tom" High, and Sam High.

She worked at Peterkin Conference Center as a Food Supervisor, as well as a cook until her retirement from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. Mary and Gary were foster parents for a number of years. Her love of children will always be remembered, as well as many "unofficially" adopted children.

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

The quarterly newsletter edition will come out in January, April, July, October, effective 2016. There are too many activities and things going on in December. Thank you!

Surviving are two daughters, Lisa Ganoe of Romney and Tina Ganoe Fisher with husband Russ, daughter Marianna and son Russel III of Aldie, VA; four sons: James Dye, wife Amanda and daughter Emma of Petersburg, WV, Raymond Dye of Cumberland, MD, and Richard Dye, companion Sierra Taylor, and daughter Ziva and son Jacob Dye of Springfield, WV, Joey Willis and wife Amanda of Snowflake, AZ, a daughter-in-law, Sallie Crites-Ganoe and son Adam Sager with wife Beth, son Owen and daughter Sydney of Purgitsville, WV, and daughter Katie Crites of Virginia Beach, VA; seven brothers: Ernest High, John High, Paul "Pete" High, Norman High, Michael "Mike" High, all of Purgitsville, WV, Nim High of Old Field, WV, Gene High of Augusta, and sister, Iva "Polly" Davy of Purgitsville, WV; sister-in-law Ruth Ganoe of Romney, WV, and a number of nieces, nephews, and grandchildren.

There were no funeral services, but friends and family were invited to join together for a covered dish Celebration of Life that was held on Sunday, January 3, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at the Mill Creek Ruritan in Purgitsville, WV, with Pastor James Dye officiating.

Mary had it in her wishes to donate to the following charities: St. Jude's Children's Hospital, March of Dimes, and Warm the Children.

All arrangements were handled by McKee Funeral Home, Romney, WV (<http://www.mckeefuneralhome.com/obits/obituary.php?id=583699>). 🕯





# FUN PAGE



## WINTER WORD SEARCH

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blanket  
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December  
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fireplace  
flannel  
heater  
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holidays

hot chocolate  
jacket  
January  
migrate  
mittens

quilt  
skates  
sled  
sleigh  
snowball

snowflake  
snowman  
vacation  
winter





# In the News



## Did You Know?

By National Association of the Deaf (NAD), <https://www.facebook.com/NAD1880/photos/a.10152795501263810.1073741846.152917038809/10153637237938810/>, Posted: Friday, October 16, 2015



Martin Keller Jr.

#didyounow 

**LOOK:** Did you know Martin Keller Jr. is West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind's first deaf Superintendent in the school's 145 year history? After months of searching, the State Board of Education appointed Martin to lead the School starting last month. The NAD congratulates Martin on this amazing historical accomplishment. For more information about Dr. Martin Keller, Jr., please see [http://deafpeople.com/dp\\_of\\_month/KellerMartinPJr.html](http://deafpeople.com/dp_of_month/KellerMartinPJr.html).

## Food Lion Employee Wins State Ability Works Award

By WV Division of Rehabilitation Services, *The Register-Herald*, [http://www.register-herald.com/news/food-lion-employee-wins-state-ability-works-award/article\\_78f893f2-71c5-5887-991e-3f4a25809e93.html](http://www.register-herald.com/news/food-lion-employee-wins-state-ability-works-award/article_78f893f2-71c5-5887-991e-3f4a25809e93.html), Posted: Sunday, November 1, 2015, 2:00 a.m.

Betty Berry, a quality assurance associate for Food Lion, Beckley, is the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services 2015 State Ability Works award winner from the Beckley District. The award, given each October during National Disability Employment Awareness Month, recognizes exemplary vocational rehabilitation success.

The Beckley District serves Braxton, Fayette, Greenbrier, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Summers, and Webster counties.

Finding a job wasn't easy for Berry, but now she works as a quality assurance associate, a job that she loves and hopes to keep for a long time.

Berry has been deaf her entire life and has low vision that has progressively gotten worse over time, which

puts her in the category as someone who has deaf-blindness.

Berry uses American Sign Language to communicate. She attended the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, graduating in 1996.

Because she wanted to find work and it was not going to be easy to accomplish, Berry approached the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services to help her. Her first attempt was unsuccessful. But, according to Alyce Almond, Berry's vocational rehabilitation counselor, after reapplying for services with DRS, her job search took about two years, but Berry didn't give up.

"Globally, people probably think her deafness is her biggest barrier because she requires an interpreter for some things like meetings," explained

Almond. "But, Berry I believe, did not see her deafness as her biggest barrier, it was her vision loss."

According to Berry, she uses sign language or writes notes to communicate. But when it comes to her vision, "I have to have about 4 feet to talk to people ... I can't see past that."

Working with DRS, Berry received many services, including vocational counseling and guidance throughout the process, as well as assessments to help identify her interests and abilities.

During this time, Almond teamed up with Ken Harer, an employment specialist with Mountain State Centers for Independent Living, which provides community rehabilitation program services to some DRS clients.

(See In the News on page 17)



**(In the News from page 16)**

Harer worked directly with Berry, helping her with her job search and identifying potential employment opportunities for her. Harer helped Berry with her résumé and with her job interviewing skills. And, he began approaching local businesses about potential job opportunities for Berry.

"Harer probably went to 20 different employers and advocated for Berry," said Almond.

All the hard work paid off when he met Don Smith, Food Lion's store manager. After Harer and Smith met, things started coming together for Berry.

Smith interviewed Berry and things progressed from there. "I had an interpreter with me at the interview and Don did say, 'I have a feeling that I think I'm going to hire you,'" explained Berry. "And I said, 'Wow!' The reason why, I told the interpreter, is that sometimes people are close-minded."

That wasn't the case with Smith. He worked very closely with Almond and Harer to determine what accommodations Berry would need in the workplace.



*Division of Rehabilitation Services Director Donna L. Ashworth, left, presents the Ability Works Recognition award to Betty Berry. (Submitted photo.)*



*Betty's guests at the ceremony. From left to right, John Burdette (WV Association of the Deaf President), Milton Bowles, Betty Berry, Bettie Carlson, and Erin Fulton.*

**(See In the News on page 18)**



**(In the News from page 17)**

One thing Berry insisted on was having a name badge that indicated to customers she was deaf. She did not want people to assume she was rude when she didn't respond because she couldn't hear what they were saying to her.

An expert from the Helen Keller National Center, which specializes in working with individuals who are deaf-blind, visited Berry's worksite, providing recommendations on things like assistive technology devices, enlarging the print on work materials, and lighting in the store that would help her do her job.

Berry worked with a job coach to help her learn her responsibilities. According to Smith, one of his employees who worked with Berry to train her, picked up on signing and learned

to communicate very well with Berry. Later, she decided to leave the company and Berry took over her role at the store.

Berry's quality assurance responsibilities include making sure the store and its perimeter are clean and neat looking. This involves everything from cleaning the windows to the parking lot and the employee break room. Her job is a lot of work, but she does not complain.

While Smith believes he has a store full of good associates, he refers to Berry as his "go-to lady for quality assurance."

Harer believes Berry's willingness to face her challenges head-on speaks volumes to those who work with and interact with her at the store. He hopes that her strong determination and work ethic serve as an inspiration to her community.

Berry is grateful for the assistance she received from Almond and Harer. "They tried to encourage me and to change my life for a better future," said Berry.

DRS, a division of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, is the state agency responsible for the federal vocational rehabilitation program in West Virginia. Each year, DRS helps thousands of West Virginians with disabilities meet their employment goals by providing individualized work-related counseling, training, job placement, and other vocational rehabilitation services through 30 field offices across the state.

For information about DRS and its programs, call 1-800-642-8207 or visit the division's website at [wvdrs.org](http://wvdrs.org). In the Beckley District, call 304-256-6900. 🗺️



**It's not about our disabilities,  
it's our abilities that count!**

**(See In the News on page 19)**



(In the News from page 18)

## Drawing of Moths from West Virginia School for the Deaf

By Alex Abenchuchan, ASL Deaf Host, *The Daily Moth*, <https://www.facebook.com/TheDailyMoth/videos/454937208041518/>,  
Posted: Wednesday, November 4, 2015

*The Daily Moth* received several drawings of moths from Dr. Martin Keller, Deaf Superintendent at West Virginia School for the Deaf. They were drawn by the WV School for the Deaf middle school and high school students under the guidance of teacher Kristian Haines. See photos for a list of students' names and their grades, and also their drawings.

Awesome job, students at WV School for the Deaf! Thanks for sending them in, Dr. Keller! 🐛

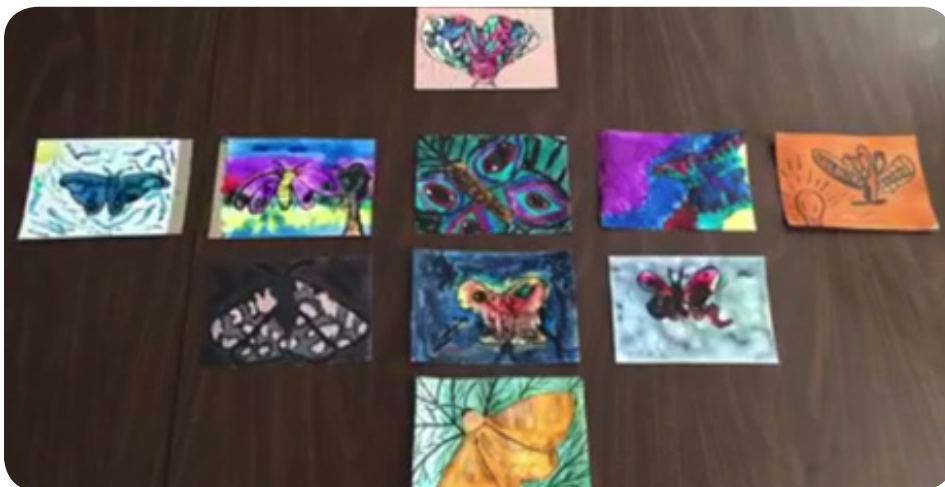


*The Daily Moth* deaf host Alex Abenchuchan announcing the news about the WV School for the Deaf middle and high school students submitting their drawings of the moths.



(The Daily Moth logo: Credited to Tim Woodford)

Students: Joshua Simmons, 9th grade; Matthew Wagoner, 8th grade; Kailian Bowers-Haney, 8th grade; Bobbi Ann Hundley, 10th grade; Makenzi Perry, 7th grade; Jordan Stanley, 8th grade; Christian Stump, 10th grade; Sarah Beeseck, 7th grade; Faith Grissinger, 6th grade; and Jacob Buccanon, 7th grade



(See In the News on page 20)

(In the News from page 19)

## Robotics, Cooking, Welding Among New Plans for WVSDb

By Marla Pisciotta, *The State Journal*, <http://www.statejournal.com/story/30560878/robotics-cooking-welding-among-new-plans-for-wvsdb>, Posted: November 19, 2015, 1:26 p.m. EST, Updated: December 19, 2015, 1:26 p.m. EST

In his two short months of serving as superintendent of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, Martin Keller Jr., along with his Chief Operating Officer Patrick McCord and Chief Financial Officer Mark Gandolfi, has been creating a CEF, or Comprehensive Education Facilities Plan, including rigorous curriculum for the future of the schools.

One of his many plans is to bring a robotics program to the schools.

"I recently visited the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, because I had heard they had a wonderful robot program," Keller said.

Keller, who is deaf, said he was familiar with such a program since he helped start one at the New York School for the Deaf.

"I want to implement it here," Keller said. "We worked on the kind of equipment and technology we'd need, saw the program, and interviewed students."

Keller's interview for this article was conducted via video interview.

"This was my first video interview," he said.

Keller said technology is helping both the deaf and the blind leap over barriers. He has a close friend who is deaf and works for NASA. NASA's Robotic Alliance Project consists of members from across government and education dedicated to the promotion of robotics through competitions. The alliance mission is to create a human, technical, and programmatic resource of robotics capabilities to enable the implementation of future robotic space exploration mission.

Keller has plans for the deaf students to participate in the competition.

"I know some people think there are barriers the deaf and blind can't do," he said. "I look forward to overcoming the myths about our abilities."

"Hopefully one day there will be a universal design concept where there will be no barriers for any disabled group."

He said he hopes to have the robotics program in place by the beginning of the 2016 school year. Keller said the big barrier for the deaf is communication,



*Martin P. Keller, Jr., Superintendent for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, Romney, WV. (Photo Credit: Marla Pisciotta, for The State Journal)*

but through technology, that is rapidly changing.

"English is challenging. For the deaf, their first language is ASL, American Sign Language," Keller said. "Often people have a misconception of the deaf. They are amazed when they read my writing."

"When you can't speak, many deaf people type well and speech read. Learning how to speak will not teach them to write."

Keller said the school has a Reading Counts program, where the students work only with other students to earn points for reading.

"We just joined the national competition, Battle of the Books. The middle school students have to read three books, know all the details and compete with other students through video," he said.

Keller said the school works with blind teachers Donna Brown and Anita Atkins, who is an alumna of the school, and he wants to see the students become leaders.

"Anita is involved with the local community," he said. "We have 35 students involved in the Jr. NAD — that helps build leadership skills."

The deaf and the blind have unique senses, says Keller.

"Deaf people may not have all five senses," he said. "Our eyes are more attuned — our peripheral vision is greater. The blind have a sense of touch that is more keen than those with sight."

Keller hopes to get a new, ADA-compliant dorm constructed on campus and financing will be sought from the School Building Authority.

"We want to be compatible with deaf and blind needs," he said. "We plan to visit the Legislature in the spring; we'll also have some of our students be (legislative) pages for a day."

"It will be a very good experience. A deaf student can do anything, given the chance."

Keller said the school's academic curriculum is rigorous and both STEM and STEAM are stressed at the schools.

"We want them to be prepared for college and for whatever direction they want to take," he said.

The Family School Association, which functions like a PTA, recently was formed at the schools. Participants include parents, staff and the community.

"We know it requires a village to raise a deaf or blind child," Keller said. "Parents have to be fully invested."

He said it's important that parents understand the schools' programs and services in order for their children to

(See In the News on page 21)



### (In the News from page 20)

be strong and viable. Keller hails from a family of 10, with eight brothers and sisters; both of his parents were deaf.

"I've seen them grow up with deaf education for 20 years," he said. "Too many students fall through the cracks. Teachers often shuffle students along. Here, our deaf and blind students are reading and writing at grade level."

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind have 126 students enrolled and 650 students in the outreach program.

As part of the outreach program, eight staffers work closely with families of the blind and others work with the deaf families in services such as training, language, and communication.

Keller's ideas seem limitless — he's also looking at post-graduate programs, Career Tech Education programs and more classes with more skills, such as cooking, mechanics, welding and cosmetology.

This story first appeared in the print edition of The State Journal. 🐼



## WVSD Academic Bowl Team Excels in Ohio

By Ed DeWitt, Review Staff, *Hampshire Review*, [http://www.hampshirereview.com/news/article\\_517b8d38-ae6a-11e5-b3af-074df56467e4.html](http://www.hampshirereview.com/news/article_517b8d38-ae6a-11e5-b3af-074df56467e4.html), Posted: Wednesday, December 30, 2015, 9:00 a.m., Updated: December 30, 2015, 9:18 a.m.

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The West Virginia School for the Deaf Academic Bowl team participated in the Gallaudet University Midwest Regional Academic Bowl competition December 3-5, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio. They participated with 14 other teams from the midwest at this tournament.

"We played 6 matches in our pool, winning 3 and losing 3," said coach Donna Keller. "The team practices and studies together all year."

The school has had teams participate in the past, but this team was formed in September. There are 4 other regional tournaments, totaling about 90 teams nationwide from schools for the deaf and mainstreamed programs.

The top four teams from each regional tournament — about 24 teams, the top 4 from each regional bowl, plus 4 wild card teams — will go to Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, for the national competition in the spring.

"Though WVSD will not be going to the nationals," Keller said, "we will continue to practice, study, and do research together, plus expand the team with new members."

According to the Gallaudet University website, the Academic Bowl for Deaf and Hard of Hearing High School students was established with the goal of fostering the pursuit of academic excellence, promoting a spirit of academic competition and sportsmanship, and providing social opportunities for the development of collegiality and lifelong friendships.

The midwest regional competition, held at the Ohio School for the Deaf, saw the WVSD beat a team from Delaware and 2 from Illinois.



WVSD Academic Bowl Team — L-R: Annie Barnhart, Patrick Epperly, Logan Gray, and Taylor James. Sitting in front is their coach, Donna Keller.

The Illinois School for the Deaf team they beat ended up in the top four. Each match has 3 rounds. The 1st round is made up of 12 toss-up questions and any team member can buzz in to answer. Correct answers give the team the opportunity to answer bonus questions.

In the 2nd round, which again has 12 questions, individual team members take turns answering the questions, and the opposing team answers the same ones.

In the 3rd round, each team is given a categorical question, and writes 10 answers to the question in 2 minutes. An example could be writing the capital cities of the given countries of the world or identifying the literary work from which a character comes.

"The students prepare for the competition by studying, doing research,

creating and presenting presentations, and engaging in practice matches," Keller said.

"The questions are pretty much like Jeopardy that you see on TV and can range from very difficult to easy. There were a lot of questions related to our current Presidential candidates, their parties, states, and where they stand."

Categories include social studies, language and literature, science and technology, mathematics, the arts, deaf studies, current events, potpourri, pop culture, leisure, and sports.

Three seniors, Patrick Epperly, Annie Barnhart, and Logan Gray, and 1 junior, Taylor James, made up the team.

"The students voluntarily joined the team," Keller said. "We are hoping to set up a formal class that meets daily. That would be a great way to (See In the News on page 24)



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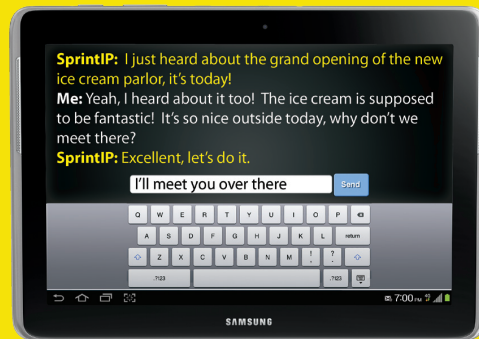
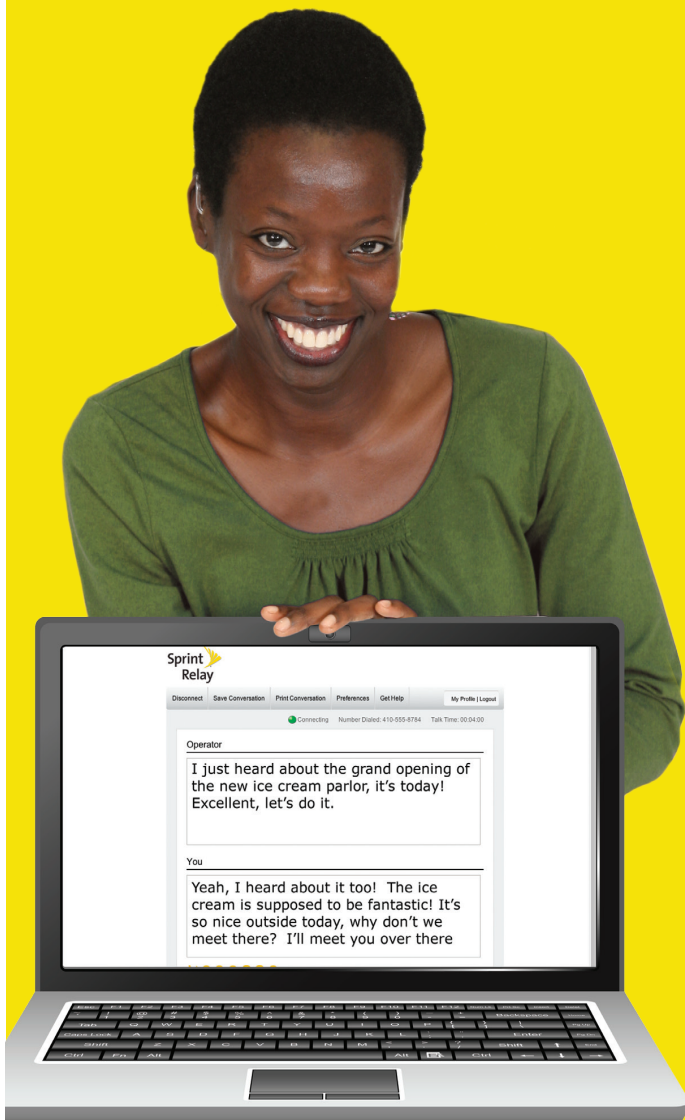


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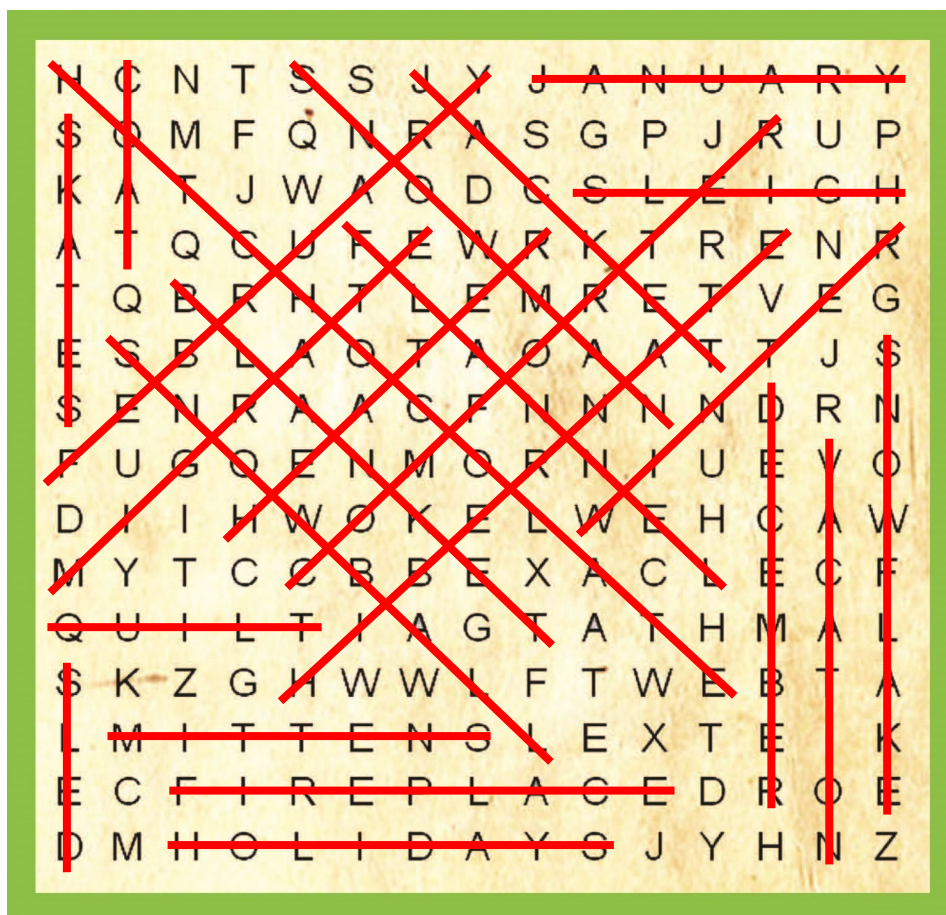


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## Previous WVAD Quarter News



IS ONLINE



<http://www.wvad.net>

### (In the News from page 21)

expand our team and bring in more underclassmen."

Coaching the team brings a lot of joy to Keller. As for the most rewarding part?

"Seeing the team members grow as individuals and as a team," she said. "We practiced and worked hard as a team before the regionals and it made me proud to see the team members using the knowledge and skills they developed.

"The best part was before and after the matches, the students were fired up and would research topics on their iPhones, then quiz each other. I have seen leaders emerge in this group and have seen shy students blossom."

The future is bright for the team. If the formal class can be organized, it will benefit them on many levels.

"This would be very beneficial to the students because they would have the opportunity to develop a variety of skills," Keller said. Those skills include research, speedreading, presentation, and academic knowledge.

The midwest regional competition for the 2016-2017 school year will be at Indiana School for the Deaf in Indianapolis in February 2017.

"I plan to set up practice matches in the upcoming months against other schools for the deaf via videophone. There is a network of teams that play against each other throughout the year," Keller said. 🍀

## Officers' Contact Information

John Burdette, President  
605 Alderson Mnr  
Alderson, WV 24910  
VP Number: 304-707-3209  
[jwburdette90@gmail.com](mailto:jwburdette90@gmail.com)

Tamera Deem, Vice President and  
WVAD Newsletter Editor  
40 Par Lane  
Maidsville, WV 26541-8186  
VP Number: 304-212-2291  
[extraordinary45@comcast.net](mailto:extraordinary45@comcast.net)

Donna Williams, Secretary  
1517 Boulevard Drive  
Belpre, OH 45714  
VP Number: 740-314-4387  
[dmwilliams49@yahoo.com](mailto:dmwilliams49@yahoo.com)

Veronda Harrison, Treasurer  
5 Cordoba Drive  
Hurricane, WV 25526  
VP Number: 304-964-6025  
[VerApple@aol.com](mailto:VerApple@aol.com)

Worthy Devericks, Trustee  
231 Reno Street  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
VP Number: 304-460-0683  
[sunflower10933@aol.com](mailto:sunflower10933@aol.com)

Larry Hubbard, Trustee  
572 Thompson Road  
Culloden, WV 25510  
VP Number: 304-397-5729  
[hubbardlarry18@yahoo.com](mailto:hubbardlarry18@yahoo.com)

Jeff Simmons, Trustee  
5327 Edgebrook Drive  
Cross Lanes, WV 25313-1724  
VP Number: 304-759-8832  
[simmons8566@icloud.com](mailto:simmons8566@icloud.com)



## 21st WV Deaf Bass Club Fishing Tournament

The 21st WV Deaf Bass Club Fishing Tournament was held at New River in Hinton, WV, on September 19th, 2015.

The winners were Mike Losh, 1st place; Tony Keathley, 2nd place; and Lunker Mitchell Miller, none.

Next year's 22nd annual fishing tournament will be held sometime in August at New River. Please contact Tony Keathley at (304) 519-4746 VP for more information.

Please come to the fishing tournament and have fun this fall! 🐟



L-R: Mike Losh, 1st place; Tony Keathley, 2nd place; and Lunker Mitchell Miller, none.



# NEW ARRIVALS



**RYLEE ELIZABETH  
HARRISON**



10/26/2015 @ 8:59 P.M.  
7 LBS, 7 OZ, 20 INCHES

**PROUD PARENTS:**  
**DALTON & LAURA & BIG BROTHER RYDER**

**PROUD GRANDPARENTS:**  
**JIMMY & VERONDA HARRISON**

**LUKE ANDRE PIERRE  
SEVIGNY**



11/11/2015  
7 LBS, 12.6 OZ, 21 INCHES

**PROUD PARENTS:**  
**FORREST & AMANDA & BIG SISTER AVA**

**PROUD GRANDPARENTS:**  
**CHRISTIE & LATE PIERRE SEVIGNY**

**FAMILY BEGINNINGS BIRTH CENTER**  
**DAYTON, OHIO**

## PUFFED-PANCAKE BRUNCH CASSEROLE

1/2 cup butter  
2 cups milk  
1 cup shredded Swiss cheese (4 oz)  
1 package (2.1 oz) precooked bacon, chopped  
1/4 tsp salt  
Dash ground nutmeg

2 cups Original Bisquick  
8 eggs  
1 lb cubed cooked ham (about 3 cups)  
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese (8 oz)  
1/4 tsp ground mustard

1. Heat oven to 375 °F. Spray 13 x 9-inch (3-quart) glass baking dish with cooking spray. Place butter in dish; place in oven until melted, about 10 minutes.
2. In medium bowl, mix Bisquick, 1 cup of the milk, and 2 of the eggs with whisk until tiny lumps remain. Pour over butter in baking dish. Layer with Swiss cheese, ham, bacon, and Cheddar cheese. In large bowl, mix remaining 1 cup milk, remaining 6 eggs, salt, mustard, and nutmeg. Pour over casserole.
3. Bake uncovered 35 to 40 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.



## APPETIZER TORTILLA PINWHEELS

(TOTAL TIME: Prep: 20 min. + chilling MAKES: 16 servings)

1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream  
1 can (4-1/4 ounces) chopped ripe olives  
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Cheddar cheese  
Garlic powder to taste  
5, 10-inch flour tortillas, room temperature  
Salsa

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened  
1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies, well drained  
1/2 cup chopped green onions  
Seasoned salt to taste  
Fresh parsley for garnish

1. In a large bowl, beat the first eight ingredients until blended. Spread over the tortillas; roll up tightly. Wrap each with plastic wrap, twisting ends; refrigerate for several hours.
2. Unwrap; cut into 1/2-in. to 3/4-in. slices. (An electric knife works best.) Discard ends. Garnish with parsley. Serve with salsa if desired. Yield: about 4 dozen.

**Nutritional Facts:** 1 serving (3 each) equals 180 calories, 11 g fat (7 g saturated fat), 33 mg cholesterol, 305 mg sodium, 12 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 5 g protein.



## NAPA CABBAGE SALAD

1 head Chinese (Napa) cabbage  
1-1/2 cups sunflower seeds  
2 packages Ramen noodles, less seasoning  
(not Cup O'Noodles)

5 green onions  
3/4 cup slivered almonds  
1/2 stick butter

1. Melt the butter in a large skillet. Break the Ramen noodles and brown them and the almonds in the butter.
2. Chop the cabbage and onions.
3. Mix the cabbage, onions, noodles, almonds, and sunflower seeds in a large mixing bowl. Set aside.

### Dressing:

1/2 cup sugar  
1 cup oil

1/2 cup white vinegar  
3 Tablespoons soy sauce

Refrigerate salad and dressing separately until serving. Just before serving, mix dressing and toss with the cabbage salad. Add the dressing slowly because you might not need it all.





REVISED: 12/4/2014

## WVAD MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ New ☐ Renewal  
Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ New ☐ Renewal  
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ VP ☐ Voice ☐ Both  
E-Mail/Internet \_\_\_\_\_

### You

- ☐ Deaf  
☐ Hard of Hearing  
☐ Hearing  
☐ Interpreter

### Dues for You

- ☐ \$15 for 1 Year — Regular  
☐ \$25 for 2 Years — Regular  
☐ \$20 for 2 Years — Senior (Age 55 and up)  
☐ \$10 for 2 Years — Student (Age 12 – 18)

### Spouse

- ☐ Deaf  
☐ Hard of Hearing  
☐ Hearing  
☐ Interpreter

### Dues for Spouse

- ☐ \$15 for 1 Year — Regular  
☐ \$25 for 2 Years — Regular  
☐ \$20 for 2 Years — Senior (Age 55 and up)  
☐ \$10 for 2 Years — Student (Age 12 – 18)

- ☐ **Yes!** Here is my donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ **Yes!** I want to donate to Deaf Youth Program: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ I want to be a WVAD volunteer.  
☐ Spouse wants to be a WVAD volunteer.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with membership application to:  
West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.  
Larry Hubbard, WVAD Membership Coordinator  
572 Thompson Road  
Culloden, WV 25510  
Video Phone No.: 304-397-5729

*Your membership fees and donations make it possible for WVAD to protect the collective interests of West Virginia's deaf and hard of hearing community through advocacy efforts with our policy makers.*

## JOIN WVAD TODAY!

