Welcome -  Debbie Harris, President of Skyline Chapter welcomed us to the Conference. After giving us a few pointers on Main Hall and the Chapel, she yielded the floor to Jeanne Lavelle, President of the VAD.

Call to Order -  Jeanne Lavelle called the Membership Meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Roll Call -
Members of the Board present were Directors: Donna Kay Graff-Viall - Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf Chapter, Byron Heath – Greater Richmond Chapter, Theresa Farmer – Blue Ridge Chapter, Wayne Frick – Skyline Chapter; Officers: Jeanne Lavelle – President, MaryRose Scott Gonzalez – Vice-President, Jay Spraker – Treasurer, Rachel Bavister – Secretary. Star Grieser – Board Member- at-large was excused.

Forty eight members were registered. Approximately 20 visitors were present during the day.

Declaration of Quorum -  President Lavelle declared a quorum with over 20 members present.

Gary Viall agreed to be Parliamentarian until Steve Williams arrived.

Minutes of Membership Meeting (September 8, 2018)
The Minutes had been reviewed by a committee prior to this 2019 Membership Meeting. The Minutes were accepted as presented partly in the Program Book, and the remainder from the floor by the Secretary. (A copy is on file)

VAD Conference 2018 Financial Report – This report has been
audited (March 2019) and the net proceeds of $2,375.98 divided equally between NVAD and VAD. (A copy of this audited report is on file)

**VAD Financial Report – Treasurer Jay Spraker**

The Treasurer’s Report from May 1 to July 31, 2019 listed an income of $2,299.79 and expenditures of $3,164.31; the biggest expenses being for insurance. Discussion ensued among members to find insurance which is not so expensive.

The Treasurer pointed out that we have a balance in our Checking Account (as of 7/31/19) of $40,044.32. He would like to move some of this to an interest-bearing Savings Account.

*Byron Heath (Rachel Bavister) moved that the Treasurer do this. After some discussion about trusting the Treasurer to use his judgement, the motion was carried.*

**Officer Reports:**

**President – Jeanne Lavelle**

Although this is the 61st Biennial Conference of record, there are no records of meeting minutes from 1902-1911, so the 2019 Conference may not actually be the 61st, because there may have been other conferences during these earlier years that we do not know about.

**Licensure for Sign Language Interpreters**

VAD’s representative on an ad hoc committee under VDDHH Advisory Board is Rhonda Jennings-Arey. Work was finished when they submitted a petition to DPOR (Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation). DPOR is doing a study on licensure and opened it to the public for comments until September 16. DPOR also held public hearing in 4 locations. Jeanne took a day off from work to attend the hearing at NVRC in Fairfax on Sept 6 and gave her comments. Sign language interpreting is a skilled profession which should require licensing for legal, medical, court, job interviews/platform addresses, etc. To be “certified” is not sufficient to qualify. About 10 other states have passed licensure Bills.

*HB 2137 to replace the words “hearing impaired” in the Code of Virginia with appropriate terminology (Deaf and Hard of Hearing) passed both House and Senate unanimously. The Governor signed it.*

*SB 1741 (LEAD-K)  JCHC (Joint Commission on Health Care) needs our public comments until Sept 25. Information was E-mailed to members with instructions and a video by Rhonda Jennings-Arey.*

**Points:** -
we need to be vigilant about legislative actions on Bills relating to Deaf rights;

we need an ad hoc committee to submit a Bill on the recognition of ASL as the language of the Deaf/ also Deaf History Month. Some other states have this recognition.

The Richmond Deaf Resource Center planning group (RDRC) met twice at VDDHH to consider establishing a Deaf Center in the Richmond Metropolitan area. RDRC comprises RCD, GRCVAD, VAD, ASL Champs, and Deaf Seniors of Richmond. The goal is to establish a community center like Utah’s. It is a long term plan. It will meet again on October 1.

VAD is sponsoring Michelle Long at NLTC in Little Rock, Ark Oct 17-20. The President played Michelle’s video thanking VAD.

Suggestions:-

we close the LEAD K Account - VAD sponsored LEAD K therefore per agreement at one of the Board meetings, the money should be in VAD’s General Fund. LEAD K is only an ad hoc committee and there is no reason to have an account.

we launch a VAD Newsletter … an e-bulletin like NVAD’s e-NVADer.

Other: -

The President feels it is imperative that VAD be able to accept electronic payments. Many people have asked that we do this. We should ask Melanie Williams about NVAD which just opened an account with PayPal.

Vice President – MaryRose Gonzalez
Reminded us about VAD’s previous agreement to establish Deaf Mentors. Would like to see this get off the ground as soon as possible.

Secretary – Rachel Bavister

• Communicated with Star Grieser about Deaf Hood 101 and 201. Star has been in touch with headquarters in California. There is no lecturer/leader available right now. Hopefully, we will be able to sponsor 101 in the New Year which I will coordinate (ongoing) with VAD’s help.

• Communicated with President Lavelle about NAD’s leadership training in Little Rock. VAD advertised our sponsorship in the social media (multiple sites) and only recently had someone express interest in attending.

• Worked with Jay Spraker (Treasurer) to meet with Mary Ashby of Primerica with whom VAD invested monies from sale of land.

• Drafted a thank you letter to Mary Ashby and her husband for their personal donation of $100.00 for VAD’s educational projects.

• Met with Sarah Ellis from SHE (www.shelterforhelpinemergency.org) in Charlottesville who was applying for a Federal Grant to set up shelter/counseling for Deaf victims of domestic violence. With VAD’s approval, signed a MOU with SHE in January, 2019. Just heard from Sarah that SHE got this grant and will be calling on VAD and other signatories to get together in October to get Deaf services up and running.

(From the floor: Daphne Cox asked that we contact Deaf Women United and NAD for inclusion and assistance)

Chapter Reports:
Blue Ridge Chapter (Theresa Farmer) No report at this time

Greater Richmond Chapter (Byron Heath)

1. In February 2019, Greater Richmond Chapter hosted 11th Annual Valentine Party at Richmond East Moose Lodge #1947 in Mechanicsville. The meals and drinks were provided by the members of GRCVAD. There were several games like the best casual wear, most red color, door prizes given away, and LCR games till one winner. Next year, 2020 12th Annual Valentine Party will return to Richmond East Moose Lodge #1947 so please be on the lookout for upcoming announcement either Richmond Club of the Deaf newsletter or Facebook.
2. May 2019, GRCVAD hosted another event, Pre-Memorial Day Cookout at Pole Green Park in Mechanicsville. The hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks were provided and the members bring covered dishes. President cooked hotdogs and hamburgers so they were good! Everyone enjoyed the cookout. GRCVAD decided to move further back to possibly first or second weekend to host 2020 event.

3. GRCVAD, Richmond Club of the Deaf, Deaf Senior Citizens of Richmond, ASL Champs and Richmond Story Fellowship representatives met twice and discussed various ways to established Richmond Community Resources Center and also Virginia Association of the Deaf. The representatives decided to set up goals and finding a property either land or vacated church or small warehouse buildings. RCRC will provide various office spaces for different organizations in Richmond area. The site will be used for meeting room for all area organizations and even for social events. We realize that it will be a long progress but tough challenges ahead. We will meet again on October 1st at VDDHH.

4. GRCVAD had their meetings on January, March, May and September. Jennifer Kibutski came to our meeting to explain about Chesterfield Police already made the police placards for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Chesterfield residents. She distributed the police placards to the members. VDDHH have the similar ones but different features.

5. GRCVAD members decided to update the membership form with some changes. The new membership form includes Annual Membership Dues - $10.00 and Lifetime Membership - $25.00 with options.

6. GRCVAD membership stands at 55 as of now but in January 2020 will split two groups with annual members and lifetime members.

7. GRCVAD set up a planning committee for 2021 VAD Conference but welcome to assist us since we don’t want to do any double duties like in the past. GRCVAD selected a General Chairperson to lead the planning committee, Richard Goode.

Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf Chapter (Donna Kay Graff-Viall) Among the NVAD highlights were:

1. Lego, Comic Book, and Play-Doh Event for kids and their parents at NVRC, January 19;

2. Annual Super Bowl Party was sponsored at NVRC with potluck with about 40 people in attendance, February 3;
3. Chocolate Festival with various kinds of chocolates to eat! at NVRC, March 2;
4. Family Event with kids’ favorite superhero costumes at NVRC, May 18;
5. Annual Strawberry Festival at NVRC, June 1.

NVAD reactivated The eNVADER by printing April, February, May and September issues, averaging about eight pages.

NVAD’s Treasurer researched NVAD nonprofit status which ended due to nonrenewal and checked for IRS Form 1023EZ renewal.

NVAD gave a grant check of $25,000 to NVRC that helps to jump-start the new NVRC Deaf Seniors Stay Connected! Program, expand the NVRC Communications Access Fund, and establish the NVRC Digital Opportunities Center, February 21.

NVAD sponsored a booth at the “NVRC Celebrate Communication!” at Springfield Mall, April 27.

NVAD had several high school ASL students who volunteered to provide childcare at some of the general meetings; supported two silent dinners provided by high school ASL students; had several high school student volunteers at the Strawberry Festival.

NVAD President attended a roundtable discussion “Shaping the Future of Deaf People in Greater DC” in Washington, DC, September 7. The program was hosted by the District of Columbia Association of the Deaf (DCAD) and several other organization representatives (about 30) attended.

NVAD is delighted to have its own member Laurie Dowling as the newest VAD Deaf Mother of the Year and will host a luncheon in her honor in Fairfax, September 28.…….congrats to Laurie!

Pat Raswant will give a talk on Part II Audism and Oppression in October (date to be announced) at NVRC.

NVAD plans to host a Tour of Maryland Horse Rescue in Mt. Airy, MD, November 9.

NVAD is making plans to host NVAD’s 75th Anniversary in 2020.

Melanie Williams was recently elected as VAD rep to the VAD Board for the 2020-2021 term.

NVAD unfortunately lost its long time member Elaine Shaffer, July 2019.

**Skyline Chapter (Wayne Frick) No report at this time.** President of Skyline, Debbie Harris is Chair of the Conference and available to answer any questions and lend a hand to Conference attendees.

**Recess was called for lunch 11:45 a.m.**
VAD Awards

Daphne Cox (Chair) asked for approval to extend VAD’s appreciation to Virginia legislator Delegate Robert “Bob” Thomas for sponsoring legislation to change wording from Hearing – Impaired to Deaf. (HB 2137 Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing; replaces certain terminology. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing; terminology. Replaces the term "hearing impaired" and its variations with "deaf or hard of hearing" and "hearing loss" throughout the Code of Virginia. The bill also renames the Virginia Hearing Impairment Identification and Monitoring System as the Virginia Hearing Loss Identification and Monitoring System.) The Membership approved.

Awards were presented and the Membership applauded Daphne for a very nice job. (A complete list of Awards and recipients is on file).

The Membership Meeting was called back to order by President Jeanne Lavelle at 1:05 p.m.

Standing VAD Committee Reports:
- Auditing – Gary Viall is chair, with Deb Moore and Theresa Farmer. Their work is ongoing.
- Bylaws – Steve Williams No report at this time
- Finance Committee- Gary Viall
  The report of the Finance Committee meeting in Crozet, VA, August 24, 2019 is on file. At the Crozet Meeting, the Committee:-
  1) discussed and agreed to expand the membership dues for second-year and third-year terms as follows: 
     First year term Active and Associate for $15; 
     Two-year term Active and Associate for $25; 
     Three-year term Active and Associate for $40 (Carried by the Membership, September 21, 2019)
  2) voted to reduce the annual chapter affiliation fee from $100 to $50. (Carried by the Membership, September 21, 2019)
  3) discussed the travel mileage for VAD Board members and representatives in depth. It agreed to retain the current $0.50 cents a mile. (Sent to New Business for the Membership, September 21, 2019)
Gary then presented the Budget which is on file and approved by the Membership
- VAD Stocks (Gary Viall – Chair)
Gary discussed VAD Stocks and addressed questions. All documents are on file. The Treasurer also has a copy.

- **Legislation** – See above (LEAD-K and HB 2137)

**Other Committee Reports:**

**Deaf Mother of the Year – Donna Graff-Viall**

The Virginia Association of the Deaf is pleased to announce the selection of Virginia’s Deaf Mother of the Year for 2019: Laurie Dowling of Fairfax, Virginia.

Congratulations, Laurie, for an honor well deserved!

**Nominations - Janice Couch Dillman**

Nominations for 2019-2021 (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) are open. Please contact Janice before the election if you are interested in running. There are also 2 Director-at-Large positions on the Board.

**Other Reports:**

**Mini-Conference - Emily Bowers, President of Blue Ridge Chapter**

reported on plans for 2020 Mini Conference in Roanoke, VA

**Necrology – Janet Wright** led a moment of silence to remember VAD’s members and friends who died over the past year (2018-2019). A list of names is on file. The Membership stood to remember people and thank them for their contributions to the community and the Association.

**Unfinished Business** – Most of this is ongoing - Deafhood, Mentoring, working with the Deaf/HH community in Tidewater to re-establish a VAD Chapter there, setting up an Ad Hoc committee on future conferences, establishing an Ad Hoc committee to boost membership recruitment efforts for VAD and its chapters by selecting 2 VAD members from each region and several VAD Board members to serve on this committee and planning recruitment activities.

**New Business**

a) Jennifer Witteborg (Rachel Bavister) moved that VAD sponsor Legislative Training for Virginians with NAD’s trainers to be held in Richmond, VA as soon as possible during the 2019 -2021 term.

**Carried**
b) Jennifer Witteborg (Rachel Bavister) moved that VAD continue to advocate for State Licensure for ASL interpreters. Carried

c) Jennifer Witteborg (Rachel Bavister) moved that VAD communicate with/inquire of VDOE about their educational interpreter qualifications. Carried

d) Jennifer Witteborg (Rachel Bavister) moved that VAD recommend that all educational interpreters be nationally certified and/or paired with a Deaf interpreter/CDI. Carried

e) Jennifer Witteborg (Jeanne Lavelle) moved that VAD close the LEADK-VA bank account. Carried

f) The Finance Committee moves membership dues be:
   One-year term Active and Associate - $15;
   Two-year term Active and Associate - $25;
   Three-year term Active and Associate - $40.
   Students with I.D. - $10.00, $15.00, $25.00. Carried

g) The Finance Committee moves to reduce the annual chapter affiliation fee from $100 to $50. Carried

h) Tim Lavelle (Debbie Harris) moved VAD’s mileage rate change from $.50/mile to $0.30/mile. Failed

i) Rachel Bavister (Gary Viall) moves that VAD appoints Devin Hamilton as a member at large on the Board of Directors (2019-2021). Referred to the Board

j) Rachel Bavister (Jill Moebus) moves that VAD appoints Jenny Witteborg as a member at large on the Board of Directors (2019-2021). Referred to the Board

k) Kim Taylor (Jill Moebus) moves that VAD appoints Donna Graff-Viall as a member at large on the Board of Directors (2019-2021). Referred to the Board

l) Daphne Cox (Deb Moore) moves that VAD celebrates International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) on September 23 and International Week of Sign Languages (IWSL) annually. Carried

There being no further new business, and in accordance with VAD’s Bylaws, President Jeanne Lavelle called for VAD’s biennial election.
Election – Janice Couch Dillman, Chair
For President: Nominees – Jeanne Lavelle and Mary Rose Gonzalez.
President (2019-2021) MaryRose Gonzalez
For Vice-President: Nominees - Jeanne Lavelle and Rachel Bavister. Jeanne
Lavelle withdrew. There being only one nomination, the VAD Secretary
cast the vote.
Vice-President (2019-2021) Rachel Bavister
For Secretary: Nominee - Jeanne Lavelle. There being only one nomination,
the VAD Secretary cast the vote.
Secretary (2019-2021) Jeanne Lavelle
For Treasurer: Nominee – Jay Spraker. There being only one nomination,
the VAD Secretary cast the vote.
Treasurer (2019-2021) Jay Spraker

Steve Williams administered the Oath of Office to the new VAD Officers
(2019-2021)
After congratulations all round, and thanks to Skyline Chapter for hosting
the Conference, Outgoing President Jeanne Lavelle announced
Adjournment sine die (4:33 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted:
Rachel Bavister
Outgoing Secretary