Happy New Year! I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready for 2019. Let us pray that this year will be a much better year than last year.

Welcome to the second edition of the eNVADer newsletter. Pat Beech and I worked together on this issue, but anyone is more than welcome to contribute material for the eNVADer. Please feel free to share your thoughts and opinions of the newsletter. You can send news, announcements, photos, and editorials to Pat at pgbeech@aol.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

We are only sending this newsletter to current members of NVAD. Membership expires in January, so this is your opportunity to renew your membership. In order to spread awareness of NVAD and the eNVADer and to increase membership, I encourage you to share the newsletter with anyone that you think will be interested in becoming a member of NVAD. A copy of the membership form is included in this issue.

The next general meeting and the swearing in of the new board of NVAD will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at NVRC. I want to express my thanks to the outgoing board for their service this past year of 2018: Peggy Daniels, vice president; Donna Kay Graff-Viall, secretary; Paul Daniels, treasurer; and Russell Almond III, Joan Corley, and Anna Marie Sparks, members-at-large. Their contributions on the board are very much appreciated. Please come to this meeting, especially since an important vote will be taken on a motion to support NVRC. This motion is explained on page 4. I truly hope to see you all there!

Melanie Williams
President, NVAD

This is NVAD’s second issue.

If you have any news, stories, upcoming events, awards, etc., please email to Patricia Beech at pgbeech@aol.com.
Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf

Saturday, January 12, 2019

9:30AM to 12:00PM

NVAD General Meeting
and Swearing In of New Officers

Northern Virginia Resource Center
3951 Pender Drive, Suite 130
Fairfax, VA 22030

For more information, contact NVAD President Melanie Williams
mywilliams@verizon.net

In the event that NVAD cancels the NVAD General Meeting due to bad weather, watch for announcement via email, NVAD FB & website, www.vad.org/nvad.html.
President’s Report at NVAD’s Membership Meeting on November 3, 2018

1. Jill Moebus—nominations chairperson for election for officers for 2019. Members were to let her know if anyone were interested in running for any office — president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, one of 3 members at large.

2. Holiday party on December 8 — Jeanne Lavelle volunteered to look for restaurants. She told us about the restaurants being considered during the Social Committee’s report. Uncle Julio’s Mexican Restaurant at Fairfax Corner was selected by a majority vote.

3. I attended NTID’s 50th Anniversary Reunion in June. While there, learned about an organization called Deaf Refugee Advocacy. They work to provide welcoming environment for Deaf/HoH refugees and their families. I would like for NVAD to get involved in helping this underserved group, too. The website is deafrefugeeadvocacy.org.

4. Received email from Brenda Aron expressing concerns about inaccessibility of intercoms on public buildings to deaf people, absence of LEAD-K people and deaf education experts at Learning Community for Early Intervention Hearing Detection for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children (EHDI), and lack of requirements by Virginia for Deaf/HOH children in educational settings. Would like for NVAD to get involved in confronting these issues.

5. Received email from Shanna Sorrells, a deaf ASL teacher in Arlington. She is interested in the Arlington Public Schools ASL program having a partnership with NVAD.

6. We need to step up our efforts on attracting deaf parents with deaf and/or hearing kids and young deaf adults in general. We need your support and your help. Jamie Berke is thinking about events such as bowling, game night, etc.

7. Need to update NVAD brochure.

8. Need to create flyer or card that can be passed out at Deaf events to inform Deaf people about NVAD.

9. Pat Beech sent out the first eNVADer newsletter in October 2018. It was 4 pages long. If you have any news, stories, events, awards, photos, etc., for the eNVADer, please send them to Pat at pgbeech@aol.com.

NVAD Board For 2019

First Row: Melanie Williams (President), Jamie Berke (Vice President), and Robert Goodwin (Treasurer)

Second Row: Peggy Daniels (Member-at-large), Paul Daniels (Member-at-large), and Nancy Rarus (Secretary)

[Not pictured: MaryRose Gonzalez (Member-at-large)]
Motion Regarding NVRC Proposal
(explanation by Melanie Williams)

At the NVAD membership meeting on October 6, 2018, Tom Dowling made a motion for NVAD to donate $25,000 to the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People (NVRC) from NVAD’s investment portfolio. Steve Williams seconded this motion. The reason for this motion is that NVRC is having some financial struggles and can really use our support. However, because attendance at that meeting was low, Jeanne Lavelle moved to postpone this question to the November 3, 2018, meeting, seconded by Gary Viall. The second motion carried.

At the November 3 meeting, there was much energetic discussion of the motion, with no decision made. Nancy Rarus, seconded by Laurie Dowling, moved to once again postpone the question to the January 12, 2019, meeting.

Gary Viall, the chairperson of the Stock Committee, called a special meeting of this committee on November 29, 2018, to discuss the motion to donate $25,000 to NVRC, among other topics. Several visitors also attended this meeting to add their input. After much discussion, the majority of the committee voted to recommend that NVAD members support this motion to donate $25,000 to NVRC at the January 12, 2019, membership meeting.

A copy of NVRC’s proposal of what they will do with the $25,000 appears on page 5. Please take some time to read this proposal and be ready to vote on this motion at our next membership meeting. I myself know that NVRC will truly appreciate your support of its mission to provide vital services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community in Northern Virginia.

Audrey Moore
Fairfax County Supervisor

Audrey Moore passed on December 12, 2018. Starting in 1972, she spent 20 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, representing the Annandale area. The last four years were as board chairwoman. After leaving county politics, she became active in her retirement community, Greenspring Village in Springfield, VA. The Wakefield Park Recreation Center was renamed in her honor.

Mrs. Moore attended the FRCHI (Fairfax County Resource Center for Hearing Impaired, now NVRC) grand opening ceremony in May 1988.

Her obit can be seen at:
2018 One Time $25,000 Grant Proposal to NVAD

Goals:

1. Jump start the NVRC Deaf Senior Stay Connected! Program
2. Expand the NVRC Communications Access Fund
3. Establish the NVRC Technology Support and Media Center

**NVRC Deaf Senior Stay Connected! Program**
This is a voluntary program for Deaf seniors. This is based on a successful model launched by NORCAL, the Friendly Connections program (http://www.norcalcenter.org/scp/). There will be a team of volunteers who reach out via videophone and visits to Deaf Seniors who live alone. Volunteers have a scheduled list of calls to Seniors to see if they need anything, to proactively inform them of upcoming social events and to engage them in conversations on a regular basis. The program features a paid part-time coordinator who works 4 hours per week to coordinate volunteers. Direct Cost: $6,000. 4 hours per week x $20 per hour x 52 weeks = $4,160, travel reimbursement costs $840, cost of paying for tickets to cultural and sporting events = $1,000, for a total of $6,000.

**Expand the NVRC Communication Access Fund**
The NVRC Communication Access Fund. The Fund provides free or discounted ASL Interpreting services to Deaf persons on a sliding scale. The Fund will be increased by $4,000 increasing from $1,460 to $5,460.

**NVRC Technology Support and Media Center**
The goals of the NVRC Technology Support and Media Center are:

1. Provide technical computer support to seniors
2. Provide technical support for a) NVRC interactive informational webcasts including signing and captions that will reach a wider audience, including seniors at home, and b) interactive job training webcasts and e-learning targeted to Deaf Jobseekers.
3. Provide technical and job skills to Deaf and Hard of Hearing job seeking interns and offer them real world job experience in the areas of webcasting, video production, captioning and e-learning design and production, as well as e-learning Learning Management System administration skills. These are good paying tech jobs. Deaf and Hard of Hearing interns will work in a production team cluster with fellow Deaf interns.

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Phone: 703-352-9055  
VP: 703-352-9056  
TTY: 703-352-9058  
FAX: 703-352-9058  
Email: info@nvrc.org  
Web: NVRC.org
Photos from NVAD Holiday Party on December 8, 2018

Nancy Rarus, Steve Williams, and Tom Dowling
George Herberger, and Miles & Tamara Tully
Eileen Goran and Jill Moebus

Melanie Williams and Pat Beech
Pat Beech, Laurie Dowling, and Nancy Rarus
Kim Pellechi, Tim Lavelle, and Anna Marie Sparks

Serry Fahmy, Cecile “Cel” Lim, Alicia Mary Gilmartin-Almond, and Russell Almond III
Paul & Barbie Rauch and Daniel Murray
Photos from NVAD Holiday Party
(continued from page 6)

Jeremy Smith, Daniel Berke, and Jamie Berke
Luis Figueroa Montanez, Lizette Pagan, and Robert Goodwin

Paul & Peggy Daniels
William Mulligan and Michele Mulligan
Kim Taylor and Thomas Drake

Devin Hamilton and MaryRose Gonzalez
Courtney Walsh, and Laurie & Mark Avino
Tim & Jeanne Lavelle
Photos from NVAD Holiday Party
(continued from page 7)

Donna Hobbs, and Blue & Kitty Shenoy

George & Barbie Sidawy

Len & Brenda Aron

Donna & Gary Viall

Denise Drake and Andrew Magill

Peter & Karen Sepielli

Joan Corley and Donna Kay Graff-Viall

Janice Barker, Jeanne Lavelle, and Devin Hamilton
On December 11, 2018, a public hearing was held before the District of Columbia’s Committee of the Whole at the Wilson Building at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW in Washington, DC. The purpose of this hearing was to allow various people and organizations to testify either on behalf of or against the “Open Movie Captioning Requirement Act of 2018” (bill #B22-957). Charles Allen, councilmember from Ward 6 of the District, introduced this bill. Members of both the Deaf Community and the theater industry were present at the hearing.

Erik Nordlof of DC Deaf Moviegoers invited me to testify on behalf of NVAD at this hearing. I attended the hearing, accompanied by my husband, Steve Williams, and testified. There were about 30 altogether who testified. The representatives of the theater industry tried to say that they had not had any complaints about the use of hand-held captioning devices or captioning eyeglasses in movie theaters, but by and large, members of the Deaf Community refuted this argument. Nearly all said that they enjoy movies the most when open captioning is available on the screen for everyone to see. Mr. Allen himself, the councilmember who introduced the bill, commented on this disparity between what the theater industry and the Deaf Community said.

If you would like to learn more about this bill and see the video from the hearing, please click on this link: http://dccouncil.us/event/committee-whole-public-hearing-41/.

Following is my testimony:

Testimony of
Melanie Williams
President, Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf
Regarding The “Open Movie Captioning Requirement Act of 2018” (#B22-957)

Good afternoon. My name is Melanie Williams. I reside in Centreville, Virginia, and I am the current president of the Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf (NVAD). I am here to testify in support of the “Open Movie Captioning Requirement Act of 2018” (bill # 22-957).

As a deaf resident of the DC Metropolitan Area, I enjoy going to movies as much as anyone else. I truly appreciate the captioning devices that have been provided by many movie theaters for the benefit of their deaf and hard of hearing patrons. I also appreciate the few theaters in Northern Virginia that provide open captioning now and then.

However, I don’t attend movies very often. Why? Accessibility is still limited. The devices can be very cumbersome. Those boxlike devices on a flexible arm in front of you, with captions going across a small
screen, sometimes don’t work, and even when they do work, they often won’t stay in place. They swing around or flop down and I constantly need to readjust them to a comfortable viewing position. Those devices that resemble eyeglasses are simply uncomfortable, especially for those people who already wear eyeglasses, like me. They don’t fit comfortably over regular eyeglasses. My best viewing experiences have been when a movie theater provided open captions, where the captions are right there on the movie screen for everyone to see and no adjustment of devices are required. I truly enjoyed those movies. However, I have only attended two movies that were open captioned. These movies were special showings on a Friday night, which was a good time to go. However, open captioned movies are usually shown only once a month on a Sunday night at a theater not convenient to my home. Sunday night is a not a good time, especially for deaf people who have to work the next day or for deaf children who have school the next day.

One more benefit I would like to mention is that I believe captions help children learn to read. In my home, I have always kept the captions on my TV all the time, even though my children and grandchildren are hearing. I believe that is one reason they are good readers today.

I am more likely to attend movies more often if they were shown on a more regular, more predictable schedule and at more convenient times, such as during the day or on Friday and Saturday nights. I might even come to DC if a movie I want to see is shown during the day between the morning and evening hours of rush hour traffic.

All that said, I truly hope, and I encourage you to support the open captioned movie bill in the interest of providing equal accessibility to a good time at the movies to everyone, not just to those who can hear.

Thank you very much.

Open Captioned Movies

AMC Hoffman in Alexandria will show the below with open captions:

- “Bumblebee” on January 5 at 2:00PM
- “Aquaman” on January 6 at 1:45PM

On the second Sunday of the month, the Cinema Arts Theatre in Fairfax (in the Fair City Mall near Woodson High School) offers movies in open captioned format between 4 and 5 pm. This theater offers a mix of currently popular films and recently popular films. This theater focuses on quality over popularity.
Family Friendly Events
By Jamie Berke

Families. Something that has not been seen at NVAD meetings or events for a long time. Yet, young parents are the very people NVAD needs so NVAD can stay engaged with the deaf community.

So, last year, NVAD began holding family-friendly activities outside of NVAD meetings. These activities, held on weekend afternoons, build goodwill with parents, give their children fun things to do and a chance to interact with other deaf and hearing children, and attract new members to NVAD.

Two family friendly events have been held to date. The first one, in July 2018, was appreciated by the several parents who came and brought their children. The second one, in August 2018, had no families attend but a young at heart adult did come and joined NVAD on the spot.

A third event was planned but postponed. It will now be held on January 19, and features Legos, comics, and PlayDoh! We need ideas for more future family friendly events!

Ford’s Theatre Seeks Guidance
By Melanie Williams

I received an email from Allison Alonzy, the Associate Director of Visitor Operations at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, DC. The theatre wants to continue to share information about its ASL interpreted performances with the Deaf community, but Ms. Alonzy is not sure how to share this information. She said because of staff changes, the contact information they have had does not seem to get passed along. I plan to reply to her email and let her know that she can share this information with NVRC, Happy Hands, and NVAD. She also wants to build a relationship with Gallaudet University, so I will need to find the appropriate contact for her at Gallaudet.

The theatre wants to begin planning events designed for (and with) the Deaf community. For example, they would like to host a History and ASL night, so they need guidance, especially from those who are interested in history. They hope to do a lot more to make the theatre readily accessible to Deaf visitors and would like consultation on this.

If anyone is interested in working with Ford’s Theatre, let me know. Thank you.
Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf
Membership Application
YEAR:_______

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Contributions

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Please make your check or money order payable to NVAD and mail with membership form to:

NVAD Membership Coordinator
3951 Pender Drive, Suite 130
Fairfax, VA 22030

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:
NVAD at nvadevents@gmail.com

NAME:______________________________________________________________
ADDRESS:________________________________________________________________
CITY:_______________________________ STATE:_________ ZIP:______________
EMAIL:_________________________________________________________________
VP:__________________________________________ TOTAL: $____________

Visit our website: http://www.vad.org/nvad.html

NVAD is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
Thank you for your support!