President’s Column

Our next meeting is this Saturday, September 14, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We are starting later this fall because of the Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) Conference that was held this past week in Seattle, Washington. Several of our members attended. I look forward to hearing about their experiences at the conference.

I am asking our members to chip in with breakfast items for our meetings. Neither the board nor the social committee should have sole responsibility for providing refreshments during the meetings. This should be a joint effort. Please help out. Send me an email at mywilliams@verizon.net to let me know what you will bring. Thank you!

Remember that I am no longer going to show the minutes of the past meeting on the screen. We have spent far too much time haggling over details of the minutes during meetings. The minutes are sent to you for review and corrections before each meeting. Please take time to READ the minutes. If there are questions, I will show that portion of the minutes, but not the whole thing. Another point I want to make is that many of you saw the reports given at the last meeting. We really do not need to see them again in addition to the new reports given at the current meeting. We want to do a real business meeting and discuss real issues.

The Virginia Association of the Deaf (VAD) is holding its annual conference on September 20-21, 2019, at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) in Staunton, VA. Donna Graff-Viall’s term as NVAD’s representative on the VAD Board is up at the end of the conference. We will hold an election this Saturday to choose a new representative. I am planning to run for this position because I believe that as president of NVAD, I need to be more involved in VAD.

I want to remind all of you to respect the people who give reports and make motions during the meeting. All members deserve to be treated with respect even when others disagree with them. Please be considerate and polite when addressing concerns that you have with reports and motions. Thank you.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again!

Melanie Williams
President, NVAD
Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf

Saturday, September 14, 2019

9:30AM to 12:00PM

NVAD General Meeting

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

Please bring breakfast items to share at the meeting, such as bagels and cream cheese, donuts, orange juice or other juice, and so on. Please email Melanie at the email given below to let her know what you will bring. Thank you!

For more information, contact NVAD President Melanie Williams
mywilliams@verizon.net
1. The Peer Mentor Program has an event at 1:00 p.m. It will be presented by Dr. Larry Medwetsky of Gallaudet. If any of you are interested in participating in this program, you are more than welcome to stay. Set-up for this program will begin at 12:30 p.m. Please respect their need for space as they set up. Thank you.

2. Bob Loftur-Thun, interim executive director of NVRC, would like to say a few words to us. He announced that his time as interim director will end on June 30, 2019.

3. Did you all read the minutes sent out this week? I will only ask all in favor or not of accepting the minutes. Will not show them on the screen. If anyone objects, we will take a vote on whether to show or not. If most vote to show the minutes, we will have to wait until September because we don’t have time today.

4. Three ASL students have volunteered to provide childcare today. Two can stay through the Strawberry Festival.

5. NVRC, NVAD, and Happy Hands are working together to establish a new program, Deaf Seniors Stay Connected! NVRC is using part of the grant from NVAD for this. Working group has been set up consisting of Pat Beech, Nancy Rarus, Don Ames, Bob Loftur-Thun, Bruce Greenfield, Debbie Jones, and myself. Drafts of job descriptions have been written and we will have a Zoom meeting with Sheri Farinha, NORCAL Executive Director, on Friday, June 7.

6. Thanks to Joan Corley for making flyers and sending out the minutes, newsletters, announcements, and flyers to keep members and nonmembers informed. I truly appreciate her help.

7. Next meeting is Saturday, September 14, after the DSA Conference in Seattle.
1. **Vice President**: Jamie Berke reported on how many likes and followers there are on social media related to NVAD, the Northern Virginia Deaf Community, and Northern Virginia open captioned movies. The Hawaii open caption bill is now law. She is staying in touch with her delegate re: proposing a similar bill for Virginia. One deaf couple with children came to the family friendly event on May 18.

2. **Treasurer**: Robert Goodwin reported that the beginning balance is $13,271.37. He also wants to get together a group to work on the IRS Form 1023 (Recognition of Exemption under 501c3) since it is an online-only form. This is NOT a one-person job. The group will go through the instruction book and the answers will be written down to be used on the form.

3. **Auditing Committee**: Tom Dowling reported that the Audit Committee completed review of the 2017 and 2018 annual financial statements. Everything was consistent with accounting principles, with a few corrections. The committee also discovered some practices that were inappropriate. Tom thanked Steve Williams, Laurie Dowling, Tim Beatty, Paul Daniels, and Robert Goodwin for their help.

4. **Bylaws Committee**: Steve Williams reported that the Bylaws Committee met twice to review the bylaws and discuss changes to the bylaws. They hope to have the proposed amendments ready for the membership at the September meeting.

5. **Social Committee**: Jeremy Smith was unable to attend the meeting, but he sent a video clip in which he talked about today’s Strawberry Festival and asked if anyone wanted to have a summer event.

7. **Tours/Lectures Committee**: Melanie Williams gave this report because Paul and Peggy Daniels were out of town:
   
   a. Patricia Raswant told me that Saturday, September 21, is a good time for her to present Part II of her workshop on Audism. I need a vote on this during new business. *(President’s Note: unfortunately, no vote was taken. As it turns out, we have the VAD Conference that weekend anyway. I will contact Patricia again.)*
   
   b. We will have a tour of the Maryland Horse Rescue farm in Mt. Airy, MD, on Saturday, November 9, at 10:00 a.m. I have copies of the volunteer liability release form for you to fill out if you are interested in going. Nancy Walker of Frederick, MD, will interpret for us.
   
   c. I talked with Paul Ogden, of Fresno, CA, deaf author and professor at University of California at Fresno. He could not make it last month to speak to us, but he is very interested and willing to speak to us next year, 2020, perhaps in the fall. I will keep you posted on this.
Pictures from NVAD’s Membership Meeting on June 1, 2019

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Pictures from NVAD’s Membership Meeting on June 1, 2019
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Pictures from Strawberry Festival on June 1, 2019

Russell Almond III
Strawberry Festival

Rebecca Klosko, Miky Tewolde, and Candace Broadnax
2019 VAD Conference
September 20-21, 2019
Staunton VA
Chapel on the campus of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind

Site of the first VAD Conference in the Chapel in 1884

For more information, contact Debbie Harris, Chair, by e-mail DeborahHarris74@gmail.com or call 540-860-4932

Schedule

September 20, 2019
4:00 pm SVCD Clubhouse Registration
7:00 pm SVCD Clubhouse VSDGO Game

September 21, 2019
8:00 am VSDB Chapel Registration Breakfast
9:00 am General Meeting
12:00 pm Lunch and Awards
1:30 pm Election of Officers
2:30 pm Administration of Oath
4:00 pm Adjournment

Registration: $25 per person

Bag Lunch Sandwich Choices
Bag lunches come with a sandwich of your choice, potato chips, a pickle spear, oatmeal raisin cookie, utensils, and napkin with a can of soda.

Choose one:

[ ] Masonic - ham, Swiss, lettuce, and tomato on rye with mustard

[ ] Crowle - turkey breast, Muenster, lettuce and tomato on multigrain ciabatta with mayo

[ ] Blue Ridge - humus, cucumbers, lettuce, tomato, onion, and carrots in a pita fold

Choose one:

[ ] Coke [ ] Diet Coke
[ ] Sprite [ ] Sprite Zero

Deadline: September 7, 2019

Please cut out the coupon below, fill it out and send this coupon and check for $25 per person to Janet Wright, Registration (804-277-4089, vsdb81@gmail.com ), 8346 Raven Run Dr., Mechanicsville, VA 23111-5021 on or before September 7, 2019.

Name __________________________ Address __________________________

I am enclosing a check made payable to “2019 VAD Conference” for $____ and my sandwich and drink choices are below (only one sandwich and one drink per person):

[ ] Masonic [ ] Crowle [ ] Blue Ridge [ ] Coke [ ] Diet Coke [ ] Sprite [ ] Sprite Zero
Virginia Association of the Deaf
2019 Deaf Mother of the Year
Laurie Dowling

Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf will host an award ceremony lunch for Laurie Dowling of Fairfax, VA

September 28, 2019
2:00PM to 4:00PM

Ozzie’s Good Eats
11800 Grand Commons Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22030

RSVPs are required. If you plan to attend, please let Pat Beech at pgbeech@aol.com know by September 20.
Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf
Tour of Maryland Horse Rescue

November 9, 2019
Time 10:00AM

14001 Mattie Haines Road
Mount Airy, MD 21771
https://mdhorserescue.net/

Those who want to participate in the tour must sign the Volunteer Liability Release Form (see page 11).

For more information, contact Paul Daniels at paulwdaniels@cox.net.
Volunteer Liability Release Form

Volunteer's Name: ___________________________ Age: ________

Mailing Address: _____________________________ Home Phone: ________

City/State/Zip: _______________________________ Work Phone: ________

Email: _____________________________ Cell/Pager: ________

The undersigned volunteer, in consideration of participating in any and all horse related activities, hereby forever releases and discharges Maryland Horse Rescue, MD Horse Rescue Inc. (MHR), its officers, directors, agents, volunteers, advisors and/or representatives in any location where horse related activities are conducted or horses and/or property are used from any and all claims, rights, demands, actions, causes of action, expenses and damages of any kind which he or she may ever have, whether known or unknown. The undersigned further understands the risk involved in participating in volunteer activities to include serious injury or death and fully assumes said risk for any injury, loss or damage of any kind resulting from such associated activities.

It is further understood that all volunteers should maintain a policy of insurance covering medical treatment and all related costs in the event of an injury as a result of participating in any and all activities and that should said volunteer choose not to maintain a policy of insurance that they are liable for medical treatment and all related costs in the event of an injury as a result of participating in any and all MHR activities. Volunteers hereby agree to assume all expenses, medical, liability, or otherwise, arising out of any injury to them while participating in any horse related activity or event either at MHR or at a satellite location, and understands that HorseNet does not provide health, accident, or liability insurance to participants in horse related activities.

I acknowledge that I must treat the horses and fellow volunteers with respect and dignity and under no circumstances will any form of abuse physical, verbal or otherwise be tolerated against any animal and person, and should said references events occur I will asked to leave and will no longer be eligible to participate in any volunteer MHR activities.

The person executing this release acknowledges that there is a valid consideration to executing this release. The invalidity of any statement or waiver of rights above under local, state or federal law does not invalidate any other statement or waiver of rights above and have read, fully understand and voluntarily agree to this release and that no oral representations, statements or inducements apart from this Release have been made to me.

In the event of an emergency contact:

Name: ___________________________ Relation: ________ Phone: ________

Medical Consent to Treat / Medical Consent to NOT Treat

In the event that emergency medical aid/treatment is required by me for illness or injury while on any HorseNet property or participating in any MHR related activity I DO I DO NOT authorize MHR to secure and obtain medical treatment and/or transportation if needed. (This authorization includes any treatment / procedure deemed "life saving" by a physician, hospital or other medical facility. This provision will only be invoked if the emergency contacts listed above cannot be reached and Md Horse Rescue must act on my behalf.)

Photographic Release. The Volunteer does hereby grant and convey unto MHR and its Releasees all right, title, and interest in any and all photographic images and video or audio recordings made by MHR and/or its Releasees, during the Volunteer's work, including, but not limited to, any royalties, proceeds or other benefits derived from such photographs or recordings.

Volunteer Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________

Guardian Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________

I, as parent or guardian, of the above applicant represent to MD Horse Rescue, Inc. that the facts herein concerning my child or ward are true. I hereby give my permission for my child or ward to participate in any equine related activity, and, further, in consideration of allowing my child or ward to participate in such activities, agree individually and on behalf of my child or ward, to the terms of the above foregoing release, waiver and indemnity agreement.

Last Updated 10/22/2016
Graham Forsey, the new president of the District of Columbia Association of the Deaf (DCAD), invited representatives from several organizations of the deaf in the DC Metropolitan Area to attend a roundtable discussion, “Shaping the Future of Deaf People in Greater DC.” This event took place on Saturday, September 7, 2019, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Northeast Neighborhood Library, 330 7th St. NE Washington, DC 20002. DCAD provided a continental breakfast and refreshments.

I attended as president of NVAD, along with my husband, Steve Williams. As far as I could see, we were the only people there from Virginia. Everyone else was from organizations in DC and Maryland. Some examples are the Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD), a Maryland deaf senior citizen group based in Wheaton, the Latino Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association of the Metropolitan DC Area (LDHH), the Greater Washington Asian Deaf Association (GWADA), the Potomac Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PCRID), among several others. I would say that about 25-30 people were at this roundtable discussion.

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Each representative was asked to bring up the top two or three issues affecting the Deaf members of their organization. For NVAD, I brought up the issues of assisted living accessibility for deaf senior citizens and getting young people involved in our organization. I was also asked by one NVAD member to bring up open captioned movies, but that was brought up by others.

The number of issues raised by everyone in the various discussions was quite staggering, at least to me. Among the issues discussed were:

- Discrimination and barriers in employment
- Deaf-led representation in interpreting field
- Social justice awareness
- Self advocacy, training, peer mentoring
- Services for Deaf seniors
- Increasing membership, especially of young people
- Advocacy, conferences, events, newsletters (news, social media), i.e., reaching everyone about what’s happening
- Collaboration across organizations, age groups
- Divide between “serious advocacy” and fun/social events (some apathy)
- Board members burn out?
- Being intentional with professional and community development (more inclusive)
- Employment and educating employers with resources to be able to provide interpreters
- Collaboration with hearing organizations (for minority groups)—access to their resources, their not being familiar with Deaf, Deaf/Blind
- Make city/state/county resources accessible to Deaf community
- GAPS in connecting community with existing resources, due to not being ASL-centric
- More expertise/awareness needed within community
- Access to healthcare information, mental health, affordable housing
- Emergency communication (including getting information to homeless Deaf)
- Improve interpreter quality and certification
- Access to accessible communication
- Awareness of legal rights
- Diversity at social events
- More Deaf community members need to go to area events, like the recent National Book Festival, so they will continue to provide interpreters
- Cultural awareness
Even with as many issues and barriers that I have listed above, there were even more than these that were brought up. There is no way that I can list everything that concerned everyone at the roundtable discussion. Most of the ones that I listed above were from my group’s discussion only.

In his invitation to the roundtable, Mr. Forsey shared these thoughts:

“We hope to come together, develop bonds and gain a common understanding of all issues affecting our Deaf members in a productive and valuable collaboration. Thank you again for supporting the Deaf community in Greater DC. This is the opportunity to share your members’ perspectives with all other local Deaf organizations.

“DCAD is committed to the betterment of Deaf people throughout the greater DC area, including Maryland and Virginia where many of our members commute from. Your participation in this DC Deaf Community Roundtable will help us identify primary issues affecting Deaf people for DCAD to support and focus on. These issues may include but are not limited to affordable housing, interpreting, education, accessibility in public spaces, health care, sign language rights, captioning, and government services. It is time for the Deaf Community to unite and collaborate on what really matters to the entire Deaf Community of the beautiful District of Columbia!”

DCAD plans to host a Town Hall on Thursday, October 10, 2019, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., with location to be determined. I am going to ask them to try to move it to a Saturday during daylight hours to make it easier for those who don’t want to drive at night and to avoid the rush hour traffic that is prevalent in DC at that time.

In conclusion, what impressed me the most at this meeting was the excitement and the commitment shown by everyone to try and resolve the issues and frustrations and barriers faced by Deaf people everywhere. I was also very impressed by the respect shown by everyone for each other’s point of view, with no one trying to steal center stage. Meeting all these people and hearing all the issues on everyone’s mind made me understand even more how important it is to network and to partnership with other organizations. We all need to work together to improve accessibility and inclusivity for the Deaf community in all parts of life.