Hi Everyone,

In order to spread awareness of NVAD and “The eNVADer”, this newsletter will be sent to members and non-members alike from now on. The newsletter is now posted on the VAD website at http://www.vad.org/nvad.html, so there is no longer any reason to restrict it to members only. I do encourage you to become a member of NVAD. You can contact Joan Corley at tigger531@aol.com for the membership form.

Remember that the next general meeting of NVAD will be held next Saturday, November 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at NVRC. There will also be an election of officers for the 2020 term (see page 3). I will be running for a third term as your president. Hope to see you all there! I am again asking our members to chip in with refreshments for our meeting. This needs to be a joint effort by all our members, not just the board or the social committee. Send me an email at mywilliams@verizon.net to let me know what you will bring. Thank you! It looks like we MAY have childcare during the meeting. However, we need to know for sure that there will be children for the ASL high school students to take care of. It is VERY IMPORTANT that parents RSVP Jamie Berke at NorthernVaDeaf@gmail.com and let her know if you are bringing your children.

The minutes from the September 14, 2019, meeting were sent out on October 24. Please take time to read the minutes before the meeting and send any suggestions for corrections or changes to Nancy Rarus at nbrarus@gmail.com. If there are questions during the meeting, I will show that portion of the minutes, but not the whole thing. We want to have time for a real business meeting and real issues.

The Virginia Association of the Deaf (VAD) held its biannual conference on September 20–21, 2019, at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) in Staunton, VA. The new officers are as follows: President - MaryRose Gonzalez; Vice President - Rachel Bavister; Secretary - Jeanne Lavelle; and Treasurer - Jay Spraker. I was sworn in as NVAD’s representative to the VAD Board along with the new officers. Thank you for electing me as your representative. I will give my first report as NVAD representative at the November 2 meeting.

Several VAD members expressed interest in “The eNVADer” and NVAD’s family-friendly events during the conference. Apparently other chapters are interested in starting their own newsletters. They are also concerned about declining membership and lack of participation by young people.

I may sound like a broken record, but I want to remind all of you again to continue to respect the people who give reports and make motions during the meeting. Everyone deserves 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
NVAD GENERAL MEETING / ELECTION

Saturday - November 2, 2019

General Meeting: 9:30AM

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

If you need child care, please let Melanie Williams know ASAP at her email given below. Thank you.

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 let Melanie know what you will bring. Thank you!

For more information, contact NVAD President Melanie Williams
mywilliams@verizon.net
You may nominate an NVAD member or yourself. A candidate must be a member of NVAD for one year.

PRESIDENT; VICE-PRESIDENT; SECRETARY; TREASURER; BOARD-AT-LARGE (3)

Nominations will be announced at the NVAD General Meeting / Election on Saturday, November 2, 2019.

If any of you is interested in running for any of the offices listed above, please let Nominations Chairperson Paul Daniels know at p7daniels@gmail.com.
President’s Report at NVAD’s Membership Meeting on September 14, 2019

- We need to finish by noon due to some members wanting to go to Deafopia at Gallaudet today.
- Minutes. Again, we will not show the minutes during the meeting since they were sent out to all members by email. We will only vote in favor or not of accepting.
- VAD Conference is next weekend, September 20-21, at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) in Staunton.
- Donna Graff-Viall’s term as NVAD representative on the VAD Board expires at the end of the VAD Conference. We will elect a new representative today.
- There will be an election for 2020 officers and board at the November 2 NVAD general meeting. (Paul Daniels volunteered to be nominations chairperson. Please let him know at p7daniels@yahoo.com if you are interested in running for any position.)
- The VAD Deaf Mother of the Year award lunch for Laurie Dowling will be held September 28. A sign-up sheet is on the table near the entrance.
- The DC Association of the Deaf (DCAD) held a roundtable discussion last Saturday, September 7. A great variety of topics were discussed. See my article in the September eNVADer for more details.
- Do we want Patricia Raswant to give her presentation on Audism, Part II, on October 19? (President’s note: There will be additional information about this at the November 2 meeting.)
- The Maryland Horse Rescue farm tour in Mt. Airy, MD, is on November 9. Sign-up sheet and liability release form are available on the table near the entrance.
- We need to get moving on NVAD’s 75th Anniversary. There is also a sign-up sheet for this on the table.
Highlights of Reports at NVAD’s Membership Meeting on Sep 14, 2019

1. **Vice President:** Jamie Berke reported on the numbers of likes and follows on the following Facebook pages: NVAD, Northern Virginia Deaf Community, Northern Virginia Open Captioned Movies, and Caption Action. The Hawaii open captioned law took effect July 1, 2019. After NVAD election in November, she will reach out to try to get a bill for open captioned movies in Virginia. One family friendly event this summer was a free open-captioned movies event at the University Mall theatres. Eleven children from five families came.

2. **Treasurer:** Robert Goodwin reported that the beginning balance is $12,086.06. New accounts were created: Gmail - nvadtreasurer1945@gmail.com; Square – two card readers; allows Apple Pay and Google Pay; PayPal - https://paypal.me/nvad1945; Zelle is offered by most banks. We had our final audit back in June, which went well. One of the recommendations was to create a check ledger in Excel. Our yearly payment to the SCC (State Corporation Commission) is due in mid-November. He is waiting for answers to questions about the IRS Form 1023 (Recognition of Exemption under 501c3).

3. **Stock Committee:** Gary Viall reported two balances as follows:

   - Account #1 $59,709.81 (2 accounts)
   - Account #2 $77,164.56 (21 accounts)
   - Total $136,874.37 (increase of $3,714.90)

4. **NVAD Representative:** Donna Graff-Viall reported the following:
   a. VAD Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, September 20-21, 2019 in Staunton, VA.
   b. Last May, VAD hosted Town Hall Meeting in Abingdon, VA. Southwest Virginia people need our help. Lack of interpreter services and Deaf services. VAD established an ad hoc committee to study and report on Education and Services for the Deaf in SW Virginia. Rachel Bavister and Kat Brockway both volunteered for this committee.
   c. Deafhood 101 and 102 has been postponed to next year due to lack of trainers and schedules.
   d. NAD’s National Leadership Training Conference will be held in Little Rock, AR, in October. Michelle Long was the only member to express an interest in attending. VAD is sponsoring Michele to the conference.
   e. Licensure for Sign Language Interpreters. VAD had a representative, Rhonda Jennings-Arey, on the ad hoc committee under VDDHH advisory board. They submitted a petition to the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR). DPOR is doing a study. Send comments to this link: https://townhall.virignia.gov/L/View. VAD sent a letter to DPOR in strong support of ASL-English Licensure for Sign Language Interpreters in Commonwealth of Virginia.
   f. At the request of Delegate Bob Thomas, patron of HB 2137, a letter was sent to State Senators that VAD supports this bill to replace the words “hearing impaired’ in the Code of Virginia with “Deaf and Hard of Hearing”. It passed both the House and the Senate unanimously and the Governor signed it.
Pictures from NVAD’s Membership Meeting on September 14, 2019

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Pat Beech
Editor, NVAD
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Pictures from NVAD’s Membership Meeting on September 14, 2019

(continued from page 5)

Melanie Williams
President

Jeanne Lavelle and Donna Graff-Viall
Licensure for Sign Language Interpreters

Donna Graff-Viall
VAD Representative

Election of a new representative to VAD

Danielle Thompson-Ochoa
with her mother

Gary Viall
Stocks Committee

Nancy Rarus, Secretary
Steve Williams, Bylaws

Robert Goodwin
Treasurer

Gary Viall
Stocks Committee

Jeanne Lavelle and Donna Graff-Viall
Licensure for Sign Language Interpreters
On September 21, 2019, the Virginia Association of the Deaf (VAD) presented the Golden Hand Award to the ASL T-Shirt Committee for their arduous work and their impact on the Deaf Community in Virginia. The NAD/VAD 2000 planning committee created the “Top Ten Reasons for Learning Sign Language” in 1997 and had them printed on T-shirts to raise funds for the NAD Conference which VAD hosted in Norfolk, VA. VAD received a U.S. copyright for these words in 2000. The ASL T-Shirt Committee sold these shirts at booths in 21 states and in Washington, DC, for over 20 years.

These ASL t-shirts have had a great impact on everyone—deaf and hearing customers, interpreters, sign language students and teachers, emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, and families. These shirts with the “Top Ten Reasons for Learning Sign Language” are widely accepted and hugely popular.

During the first Deaf Way International Conference and Festival in Washington, DC, in 1989, the committee sold French and Spanish ASL T-shirts. It later gave a framed ASL T-shirt to the NAD national home office.

The purpose of selling these ASL T-shirts is twofold: (1) to raise funds for the Virginia Leadership Training Fund for future Virginia deaf leaders and (2) to bring deaf awareness and education to not only deaf but also hearing customers.

Also at the VAD Conference, these officers were elected and sworn in for the 2019-2021 term: MaryRose Gonzalez, president; Rachel Bavister, vice president; Jeanne Lavelle, secretary; Jay Spraker, treasurer; and Melanie Williams, NVAD representative.

(Editor’s Note: The information about the Golden Hand Award was taken from slides shown by Daphne Cox during the presentation of the award.)
Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf hosted an award ceremony lunch for Laurie Dowling at Ozzie’s Good Eats in Fairfax, VA on September 28, 2019.

Melanie Williams (NVAD president), Donna Graff-Viall (Chairperson of Mother of the Year Committee), Laurie Dowling (recipient of the Mother of the Year 2019 Award), and MaryRose Gonzalez (VAD president)

Nancy Rarus, Mistress of Ceremony, asked the daughters questions about their mother.

Laurie Dowling with daughters Ashley and Kara and husband Tom
2019 Deaf Mother of the Year
Progress Report on the NVAD Grant

Deaf Seniors Stay Connected Program:

- Debbie Jones, Bruce Greenfield, and Eileen McCartin met twice with the steering committee. Robert Loftur-Thun also met with the steering and Happy Hands groups.
- Debbie and Bruce developed and implemented a survey asking for interested candidates. Research about how to outreach begun.
- Team developed a job description, created an email address for inquiries, sent out the announcement and thus far have two applicants. Those resumes were shared with steering committee.
- Costs thus far for DSSC:
  Costs thus far staff time ~ $1584
- Future costs now through June 30, 2019:
  Salary for DSSC coordinator, mileage, continued NVRC staff time ~ $7000
- Thus Far and Projected Total: $8,584 (end June 30, 2020)

Expand the NVRC Communication Access:

- Costs thus far $600

Technology Support and Media Center:

- Spent thus far:
  - Best Buy TV - $379.98
  - Apple Mac Mini Hardware - $1499
  - Quote Frame Picture - $179.13
  - White board, eraser, markers - $297.63
  - Wirecast Pro Software - $696.50
  - Provatange Purchases (Port usb, HDMI, Video Conference Cam) - $989.39
  - Wayfair furniture (Shelf Chairs, Table) - $836.13
  - Research, staff time - $4,517
- Costs thus far: $9,394.76
Bob spent a lot of time on this contacting businesses and joining chambers of commerce associations. He also worked hard on trying to develop partnerships with DARS to develop a program for DHH job seekers but this did not come to fruition for various reasons.

NVRC will continue to work with our community to develop ways we can develop technology and media support including producing additional webinars and researching tech developments specifically for DHH persons. We’ve done two webinars with embedded captions and interpreters. Staff is learning the software for doing new things which takes time. We look forward to this challenge of learning about improving technology and applications to the lives of persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Eileen McCartin
NVRC Executive Director

Deaf Seniors Stay Connected! Program Committee
Melanie Williams (NVAD), Pat Beech (Happy Hands), Bruce Greenfield (NVRC), Robert Loftur-Thun (NVRC), Nancy Rarus (DSA), and Don Ames (Happy Hands)
NVAD’s e-newsletter, “The eNVADer,” has now been in circulation for a year. The first issue was published in October 2018. It has varied in length from 4 to 17 pages, depending on the content that was submitted. Pat Beech has done simply a wonderful job as editor. I could not have gotten this newsletter off the ground without her expertise and her gracious offer to help.

Pat and I truly hope that you all have been enjoying the eNVADer and have benefitted from the information that has been presented in its pages. I hope to be able to keep this newsletter going for as long as possible.

However, I must add that for the most part, Pat and I have created most of the issues by ourselves. That is, Pat has done all the work of putting each issue together. She has taken nearly all the photographs that have appeared, with a few from me. I have written most of the articles, with a few submitted by a couple of other people. Both of us have put in a few items that we got from other sources. In addition, nearly all the flyers that have been included in the newsletter have been designed by Joan Corley, with a few by Pat.

We have asked you to let us know what you think of the newsletter. Only a few people have commented. We have asked for contributions of articles, news, announcements, photographs, anything that you think is newsworthy. Very few have been forthcoming. It feels almost as if the newsletter is now being taken for granted. It takes time and effort to produce the eNVADer.

As much as Pat and I enjoy putting this newsletter together, we cannot continue to do it alone. We need to know that the newsletter is appreciated, and we need help with ideas for what to include in future issues.

Thank you for listening. Feel free to email Pat at pgbeech@aol.com and/or me at mywilliams@verizon.net.

Melanie Williams
President, NVAD
President's Column
My Thoughts As Your President
By Michael Williams, President 2019-2021

I have been president of the Southern Virginia Association of the Blind (SVAB) for 10 months, ending in January 2020. I recommed that you all make sure your presidents, officers, and board members do the same. It’s important to check in with them and show your appreciation. I hope that your officers are doing well!

The most recent event was the annual SVAB springtime meeting. I hope you all were able to attend. We had a fantastic turnout with over 50 attendees. The meeting started with an introduction speech by our new secretary, Elizabeth. She did a wonderful job and thanked everyone for coming. Following her speech, we had a roundtable discussion on various topics such as accessibility and technology. It was a very productive meeting. The meeting concluded with a Q&A session where everyone had the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, June 6, 2020, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The meeting will be held at the Southern Virginia University (SVU) in the ballroom. I encourage everyone to attend. It will be a great opportunity to network with other members and share ideas. I hope to see you all there!

Thank you for your support and dedication to SVAB. I look forward to another successful year as your president.

Michael Williams
President 2019-2021

President's Column
My Thoughts As Your President
Our next meeting is this Saturday, September 3, 2020, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The meeting will be held at the Southern Virginia University (SVU) in the ballroom. I encourage everyone to attend. It will be a great opportunity to network with other members and share ideas. I hope to see you all there!

Remember to register for the upcoming SVAB conference. It will be held on October 21-23, 2020, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Roanoke, VA. I encourage everyone to attend. It will be a great opportunity to network with other members and share ideas. I hope to see you all there!

Thank you for your support and dedication to SVAB. I look forward to another successful year as your president.

Michael Williams
President 2019-2021

President's Column
My Thoughts As Your President
We are looking forward to our next meeting on November 1, 2020, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The meeting will be held at the Southern Virginia University (SVU) in the ballroom. I encourage everyone to attend. It will be a great opportunity to network with other members and share ideas. I hope to see you all there!

Remember to register for the upcoming SVAB conference. It will be held on December 7-9, 2020, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Roanoke, VA. I encourage everyone to attend. It will be a great opportunity to network with other members and share ideas. I hope to see you all there!

Thank you for your support and dedication to SVAB. I look forward to another successful year as your president.

Michael Williams
President 2019-2021