Hi Everyone,

The next general meeting of NVAD will be held Saturday, March 7, 2020, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at NVRC. Please bring breakfast items to share. We will also hold our 2nd Annual Chocolate Festival after this meeting. See the flyers for both the meeting and the Chocolate Festival elsewhere in this issue.

The minutes from the January 11, 2020, meeting will be sent out by the end of this month. Please take time to read them before the meeting and send any suggestions for corrections or changes to Danielle Thompson at danielletnthawaii@gmail.com.

Don’t forget to renew your membership dues for 2020. You can do this at the meeting on March 7. The membership form is in this issue.

The Super Bowl party held on February 2 was very well attended. I understand that there were about 52 people who came. It was truly exciting to watch the Kansas City Chiefs rally to beat the San Francisco 49ers after being behind for much of the game.

As you should know by now, this year is NVAD’s 75th anniversary. Tentative plans are to have the celebration on Saturday, September 19, 2020 because that is the exact date on which NVAD was established in 1945. Please send ideas for the celebration to Nancy Rarus and Danielle Thompson, 75th anniversary co-chairs, at nbrarus@gmail.com and danielletnthawaii@gmail.com. These can include ideas for master/mistress of ceremonies, guest speaker, party favors, restaurants, etc.

I will not go into details here, but I do want to say that I was bothered by the disruptions I saw during the January 11 general meeting. The board is working on a Code of Conduct to present to the members, most likely at the May meeting. We want to see NVAD continue to grow and prosper as an organization which represents the deaf community in the Northern Virginia area, but it will be difficult to attract new members if the disruptions continue.

Melanie Williams
President, NVAD
NVAD General Meeting

DATE: Saturday, March 7, 2020
TIME: 9:30AM
Meeting starts at 10:00AM

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!

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

For more information, contact NVAD President Melanie Williams mywilliams@verizon.net
Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf (NVAD)  

NVAD Chocolate Festival  

DATE: Saturday, March 7, 2020  
TIME: 12:30PM  

Please bring Chocolate items to share at the Chocolate Festival. Please let Jamie know what you will bring. Thank you! 

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

For more information, contact Jamie Berke at NorthernVaDeaf@gmail.com. Please let her know what Chocolate items you will bring so we can avoid duplicates.
Welcome back! Happy New Year!

- Please save comments until after each report is given.
- NVRC gave NVAD a $50 gift card from Wegmans. I used part of this to buy breakfast items for today’s meeting. Please help yourselves. Thanks, NVRC!
- NVAD’s Holiday Party was held on December 7, 2019, at Amphora Restaurant in Vienna. It was very well attended. It looked like people had a good time. Thank you to Jeanne Lavelle and Jamie Berke for organizing the party.
- I am pleased to let you all know that NVAD was one of the sponsors for the NVRC Gala on December 14, 2019. NVAD donated $1,000 to NVRC. This was in response to positive suggestions from several NVAD members. NVRC has been a real blessing for the Deaf community in Northern Virginia and I am happy to show them our appreciation in this way.
- Super Bowl party February 2. Flyer has been sent out. Will be potluck. NVAD will provide ham.
- Bruce Greenfield has added a link on NVRC’s website to NVAD’s page on VAD’s website.
- A job advertisement was sent by Rachel Bavister, vice president of VAD, for a position as Project Coordinator for the Services and Advocacy Project for Deaf and Hard of Hearing victims of intimate partners and sexual violence, funded through the Office on Violence Against Women Disability Grant Program.
- I have been invited to a meeting with the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) in DC next week to discuss the proposed open captioning legislation in Virginia. Eileen McCartin, NVRC director, Jamie Berke, NVAD vice president, and Don Doherty, president of the Virginia Beach chapter of HLAA, were also invited. Eileen and Don will attend on January 14 and Jamie and I will attend on January 17.
- I received an email from a deaf French writer, Patrice Giccuel, announcing his new book, Once Upon a Time...the French Deaf.
Highlights of Reports at NVAD’s Membership Meeting on Jan 11, 2020

Vice-President:
- DeafNation Expo May 1-2 and Celebrate Communication April 25. Need to vote on NVAD having a booth at both. Will help attract potential new members.
- Open Captioned Movie Bills for Virginia. HB 747 and SB 274. Time is short because legislative session only runs January 8 to March 5. Ask everyone you know to contact their legislators to ask for support!
  Links:  https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB747/2020
          https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/SB274/2020
- Smile.Amazon.com. Easy and painless way to support NVRC. Amazon takes 0.5% of what you pay and puts it into a pool of funds for NVRC. Amazon sends NVRC quarterly donations from that pool.

Treasurer:
Received two PayPal membership payments. Set up Zelle, offered by most banks. Can be used online and through the app. We may use other online payment options in the near future.

Social Committee - Jamie Berke:
- Family-friendly events: Working with Danielle to set up the annual Lego/Duplo event. Next movie event probably in March.
- NVRC Fundraisers: Board agreed that NVAD can do fundraising events to raise funds for NVRC. Contacted Ledo Kingstowne (pizza). They said yes to a fundraiser. Fairfax ASL Social has agreed to team up with us. Goal is a Fairfax ASL Social in March. Need member vote.
- Chocolate Festival: Need member vote on whether to have it after March meeting. We did it at the same time last year.

75th Anniversary Committee - Nancy Rarus:
- September 19 as possible date because that is actual date of NVAD’s establishment 75 years ago. Luncheon or evening dinner? Suggestions for master of ceremonies (MC) and guest speaker. How do you want the 75 years to be shared? Ideas for favors if any.

NVAD Representative - Melanie Williams:
- Certificates of appreciation for Paul and Peggy Daniels for participation on 2018 VAD Mini-Conference Committee. Tim Lavelle, Jeanne Lavelle, Pat Beech, and I received ours earlier.
- VAD Board meeting held November 16, 2019, at disAbility Resource Center in Fredericksburg.
- Two members-at-large chosen: Donna Graff-Viall and Devin Hamilton.
- Blue Ridge chapter inactive, Skyline chapter may become inactive, due to lack of members to run them. Hampton Roads is shut down. This leaves NVAD and Greater Richmond as the only two active chapters.
Highlights of Reports at NVAD’s Membership Meeting on Jan 11, 2020
(continued from page 5)

- Star Grieser resigned as Legislation chair.
- This year VAD will choose Deaf Father of the Year. NVAD needs to nominate someone.
- Much discussion about LEAD-K. Ultimately, VAD board agreed to support it.
- Video on Facebook of VAD board members introducing themselves.
- Mary Nunnally announced there will be State Interagency Team (SIT) Town Hall meeting and DARS to work with students as required by law.

Update on Open-Captioned Movie Bills
By Jamie Berke

The bills for open captioned movies in Virginia have been carried over to next year. On February 10, 2020, the Virginia Senate continued SB 274 (introduced by Senator George Barker) in the Commerce and Labor Committee, to the 2021 session. Earlier on January 28, 2020, the Virginia House continued HB 747 (introduced by Delegate Vivian Watts) in the Health, Welfare, and Institutions Committee to the 2021 session. The bills were continued because legislators were waiting for the results of a study on the impact of open captions on movie theater attendance. That study was paid for by the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO), and the results were not released yet at the time “The eNVADer” went to press.

So the bad news is that nothing will happen to make open captions a legal requirement in 2020. The good news is we have until 2021 to build our support base to make something happen next year. Over 700 people from Virginia have already signed the petition at https://tinyurl.com/ocmoviesnow! We also need support from libraries, literacy, and education organizations and autism organizations in Virginia. Northern Virginia has a huge deaf and hard of hearing community, and its support is critical to the chances of the success of the two bills next year.

Every signature on the petition from Virginia, especially Northern Virginia, really counts! Spread the word, by email, text, and video, privately and/or on social media. Let’s get that 700 up to over 1,000 to send a strong message to legislators that we are here and want open captions in movie theaters!
Pictures from NVAD’s Membership Meeting on January 11, 2020

Melanie Williams
President
calls the meeting to order

Parliamentarian Steve Williams administers the oath of office to the 2020 NVAD board members
Pictures from NVAD’s Membership Meeting on January 11, 2020

(continued from page 7)

NVAD Board
For 2020

Melanie Williams (President)
Jamie Berke (Vice President)
Robert Goodwin (Treasurer)
Danielle Thompson (Secretary)
Heather Kendrick (Member-at-large)
Jeanne Lavelle (Member-at-large)
Nancy Rarus (Member-at-large)
VOTE YES on SB 564

VA Hearing Loss Identification and Monitoring System; Language Development for Children.

January 7, 2020 - Introduced by Senator Edwards
February 7, 2020 – Read third time and Passed Senate (39-Y 0-N)
February 13, 2020 – Assigned to House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions – sub: Health

Support Early Language for ALL Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

“All identified and at-risk children and their families should have access to resources necessary to reach their maximum potential.”

- **Principle 9** - “Families should have access to information about all resources and programs for intervention, and support and counseling regarding the child’s educational and communication/language needs.” (Page 4)
- **Principle 11** - “Professionals with appropriate training should provide ongoing surveillance of communication development to all children with or without risk indicators.” (Page 4)
- **Guideline** - “Regardless of previous hearing-screening outcomes, all infants with or without risk factors should receive ongoing surveillance of communicative development beginning at 2 months of age during well-child visits in the medical home.” (Page 4)

- The Journal of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention 2019; 4(2)

The ISSUES:

- The current Virginia EHDI advisory committee represents professionals who specialize in assessing hearing and recommending hearing aids, assistive listening devices, and cochlear implants – but has no experts who specialize in language acquisition and development.

- During a presentation to the VA Disability Commission on November 28, 2017, John Eisenburg, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services Virginia Department of Education, reported that 52% of D/HH children exiting pre-school programs are functioning below age expectation in language.

- During the public comment period of the 2019 JCHC Study Mandate of Language Development Milestones for Young Deaf/Hard of Hearing Children, **239 of the total 265 responses were in support of introducing legislation** to require state agencies to select language milestones and track language development of D/HH children, age 0-5.

The SOLUTION:

In order for the Virginia EHDI advisory committee to keep abreast with the updated and expanding practices stipulated and endorsed in the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing, **§§ 22.1-214 and 32.1-64.1** of the Code of Virginia must be amended and reenacted such that –

1. The EHDI advisory committee must add two language specialists to its membership (one who uses the dual languages of American Sign Language and English; one who use spoken English)

2. The EHDI advisory committee shall select language developmental milestone assessments for educators and early intervention specialists **to have the option** to use in assessing the language and literacy development of children from birth to age five who are deaf or hard of hearing.

3. The Virginia Hearing Loss Identification and Monitoring System shall track the language development of children who are identified as deaf or hard of hearing.
The “Deaf Seniors Stay Connected Program” is a pilot program of the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC/DHHP). Its goal is to engage Deaf Seniors who are living alone or who are isolated in the Northern Virginia area. The program will engage volunteers who will check in with seniors via videophone on a regular basis. As coordinator, Barbara Eger-Klatt will work part-time, 6 hours a week from December, 2019 through July, 2020 to establish the program and begin outreach to seniors in the Northern Virginia area. Barbara will be working with the NVRC Executive Director, Eileen McCartin and NVRC Media Production Manager, Bruce Greenfield to establish a framework for the program, develop materials, recruit participants and establish training. Barbara can be reached at seniors@nvrc.org.

Barbara was an Activities Director/ASL Communication from 1997-1999 at New England Homes for the Deaf, Danvers, Massachusetts. She enjoyed working with seniors and developed different activities to keep them on their toes! Barbara is an avid gardener and loves to read. She is a certified YogAlign Posture Educator and working toward being a Certified Deaf Interpreter. She is enthusiastic to work with NVRC DSSCP with a goal to reduce isolation among seniors with hearing loss in Northern Virginia area. Stay tuned for more news and contact Barbara at seniors@nvrc.org, if you have any questions or concerns.

Deaf Seniors Stay Connected! Program Committee
Eileen McCartin (NVRC Executive Director), Nancy Rarus (Deaf Seniors of America), Barbara Eger-Klatt (DSSCP Coordinator), Melanie Williams (NVAD), Bruce Greenfield (NVRC Media Production Manager), Debbie Jones (NVRC Resource and Technology Manager), Don Ames (Happy Hands), and Pat Beech (Happy Hands)
Photos from NVAD Super Bowl Party on February 2, 2020

Made by Marion Worrell-Moore

20 - 31
Photos from NVAD Super Bowl Party
(continued from page 11)
Pictures from Family Event on February 15, 2020

Maverick, Jordyn, and Ashlyn Lanoue

Karthik & Alejandra Sethuraman with daughter Kara and son Jaime

Sofia Siliezar talks with Jamie Berke

Jonathan Kimball talks with Charles Sterling

Christie Kimball with daughter Alex

Sofia Siliezar & Charles Sterling with sons Aslan and Sami

Haley Dodson (ASL student)
Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf
Membership Application

YEAR:_______

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<th>____ Renewal Member</th>
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Contributions

| $10.00 ____ | $25.00 ____ | $30.00 ____ | $40.00 ____ | Other $ ____ |

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

For online payments: [https://paypal.me/nvad1945](https://paypal.me/nvad1945)
For credit card payments, meet the NVAD Treasurer at NVAD General Meetings/events.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:
NVAD at [nvadevents@gmail.com](mailto:nvadevents@gmail.com)

NAME:______________________________________________________________
ADDRESS:________________________________________________________________
CITY:_______________________________  STATE:_________  ZIP:______________
EMAIL:_________________________________________________________________
VP:_______________________________     TEXT:_____________________________
TOTAL: $______________________

Visit our website: [http://www.vad.org/nvad.html](http://www.vad.org/nvad.html)

Thank you for your support!