Hi Everyone,

As you all know, the biggest news right now is the coronavirus disease, also known as COVID-19, that has spread throughout the United States and the world. Many institutions such as schools, colleges, and universities, including Gallaudet University and NTID, have closed, and many conferences, sports events, and other mass gatherings have been cancelled out of an abundance of caution in response to this disease. Students, even elementary school students, will continue their education through remote learning. Some Federal agencies have also shut down and are having their employees telework from home.

So far, NVAD has responded to this crisis by cancelling the fundraiser that was to be hosted by NVAD and Fairfax ASL Social at Ledo Pizza in Kingstowne, Alexandria, VA, on Thursday, March 19, 2020. The ASL Honor Society at West Springfield High School has cancelled its ASL dinner and games on March 27, 2020. I am sure other events related to the Deaf Community will be cancelled, too. We will do our best to update you of any such cancellations as soon as possible. Check your email, NVAD's page on the VAD website, and NVAD's Facebook page. We will play it by ear regarding our next meeting on May 2, 2020.

So how to respond? The best and most reliable source of information is the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) website at https://www.cdc.gov. The Washington Post (https://www.washingtonpost.com/) is also posting many updates and tips for how to deal with this crisis. INOVA's website (https://www.inova.org/) is also an excellent source of information. And finally, regarding the impact on the Deaf Community, check the National Association of the Deaf’s website (https://www.nad.org/) and the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC) website (https://nvrc.org/). Howard Rosenblum, executive director, has posted a video on YouTube at https://youtu.be/mW-m_2ia9Vg.

I wish all of you the best of health during this stressful time. I never expected to see something like this in my lifetime, and others have said the same. Take care of each other.

Melanie Williams
President, NVAD
Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf (NVAD) and Fairfax ASL Social are hosting a fundraiser at Ledo Pizza Kingstowne to help NVAD and to raise funds for NVAD's 75th Anniversary Celebration. Please join us in supporting NVAD at Ledo!

Ledo Pizza Kingstowne
5890 Kingstowne Center
Alexandria, VA 22315

For more information, contact Jamie Berke, NVAD Vice President, at NorthernVaDeaf@gmail.com, or Daniel Berke, Fairfax ASL Social, at Facebook Messenger.
West Springfield High School
ASL Honor Society Presents:

dinner and games

Friday March 27th 2020
6:30 PM in the Orange Cafeteria
6100 Rolling Road, West Springfield, VA 22152

Admission $10
Includes dinner, beer, drink and entertainment

Proceeds donated to the
West Springfield School Deaf Academic Bowl Team

All welcome, No prior knowledge of ASL required, whiteboards provided.

Counts towards your Deaf community event!

RSVP by March 20 to WestSpringfieldASLHS@gmail.com

Special thanks to Wegmans
Highlights of Reports at NVAD’s Membership Meeting on March 7, 2020

President—Melanie Williams:
- President Melanie Williams is unable to attend the meeting today due to family plans in North Carolina. Jamie Berke will run the meeting.
- Enjoy the Chocolate Festival after the meeting today!
- Tom Dowling will act as Sergeant at Arms today. He will be responsible for minimizing disruptions during the meeting.
- Tim Lavelle will act as parliamentarian in Steve Williams’s place.
- Motion slips are available on which you can write your motions. Please give these to Danielle, the secretary. You can submit motions at any time during the meeting. Danielle will screen the motions and Jeanne Lavelle will type them out.
- The board has had two meetings since the January 11 general meeting.
  - Decided not to have a booth at Deaf Expo in May. Booth is expensive and we don’t have the manpower to be at the booth all day.
  - Agreed to have ads in the newsletter. The rates will be published in the next issue.

Vice President—Jamie Berke: Currently taking President’s floor and stepping out of her role while giving Vice President report.
- NVAD received an email from Kate Poms, who works at Arts on the Horizon, a theatre company in Alexandria. She told us about an interpreted play for small children. (showed email)
- March 11, Melanie and I will be meeting again with the National Association of Theatre Owners to learn the results of a study on the impact of open captioned movies on attendance. Several leaders in the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community will also attend.
- March 5, the Virginia legislature passed SB 423, the bill for insurance coverage of hearing aids for children.

Treasurer—Robert Goodwin:
- I sent the IRS a letter with questions on January 24 via certified mail asking if we need to register as a nonprofit, filling out Form 1023-EZ. No response yet. We know these facts:
  - Membership is around 50 people and has been less than 100 in the last 10 years.
  - Our income is less than $25,000 a year, including low-cost annual memberships.
  - It has been established that the IRS has never had any kind of record of the NVAD.
  - I have a list of questions from Form 1023-EZ to answer that are too long to include in this report and would make this meeting too long. In the interest of keeping things short, I would like to have members meet with me after the general meeting and chocolate festival to help answer these questions.
- We will have a table at Celebrate Communication 2020 and have paid NVRC $75 as of March 4.

Standing Committee Reports:
Social—Jamie Berke:
- Family-friendly event: Lego/Duplo event was a success! About five families brought young deaf and hearing children. One deaf couple said that they brought their deaf kids because they wanted them to be exposed to what was available in their community—something they did not have growing up themselves.
Highlights of Reports at NVAD’s Membership Meeting on March 7, 2020

- **NVRC/NVAD Fundraisers**: Everything is all set for the first NVAD/NVRC fundraiser on March 19! At Ledo Pizza Kingstowne from 5 to 9 pm. We need at least 30 people total to show up! Funds raised will be split as a donation to NVRC and to support NVAD’s 75th anniversary this fall.

- **Chocolate Festival**: Today!

**Special Reports:**

**Legislative—Tom Dowling:**

- **LEAD-K Senate SB 564 bill died** when it was read in a House of Delegates sub-appropriations (finance) committee and it was tabled. Subcommittee was unable to match the state budget offered by the Senate side. As a result, the bill was removed before it reached the full appropriations committee. It was one step away (full house of delegates) from receiving the governor’s signature.

- Our people advocated vigorously in their last effort to meet the members of the committee (mostly with the aides) and passed out the fact sheets and copies of letters from the Senate side at the General Assembly Building (Pocahontas Building).

- If it had passed, it would mandate the following points:
  1. Two language specialists (one spoken English and another ASL) to serve on EHDI Advisory Committee.
  2. Milestones to be selected by the advisory committee.
  3. Data tracking by the agencies (VA DBHDS and VA DOE).

- Our advocacy would not have come this far if our patron, Senator Edwards, representing the people in Roanoke, VA, and his legislative aide, Luke Priddy) and supporters had not helped to push the bill through the Senate side successfully. It was amazing to watch how the deaf and hard of hearing people, parents, and friends helped us by attending the committee meetings, speaking, meeting the legislators, and calling and emailing them. Thank you!

**75th Anniversary Committee—Nancy Rarus:**

- Suggestions for where to have the anniversary celebration -- at NVRC with catering or an outside venue, e.g., hotel, banquet hall, etc. Luncheon or evening dinner.
- Some considerations for location: Mt. Vernon Country Club, Clyde's Restaurant at Mark Center, Hilton Hotel Old Town. Must consider distance, accessibility, cost, parking availability.
- If dinner, concerns are cost and some individuals may not be able to drive at night.
- Considerations for speaker: NAD President Melissa Draganac-Hawk, NAD CEO Howard Rosenblum, VDDHH Director Eric Raff.
- Considerations for emcee: Maybe longest serving NVAD member? At this time, it appears to be Gary Viall.
- NVAD already has a logo. New logo not needed for anniversary, but committee will add 75th Anniversary temporarily to the logo.
- Date will be Saturday, September 19, same date NVAD was established 75 years ago. Alternative date will be September 26.
- Committee will have more information at next general meeting.
Pictures from NVAD’s Membership Meeting on March 7, 2020

Jamie Berke
Vice-President
presides at the meeting

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Pictures from NVAD’s Membership Meeting on March 7, 2020

(continued from page 7)

Joan Corley
Membership

Jamie Berke
Vice-President

Nancy Rarus introduces
Bruce Greenfield,
NVRC Media Production Manager

Robert Goodwin
Treasurer

Danielle Thompson and Nancy Rarus
Co-Chairs, NVAD 75th Anniversary Committee

Nancy Rarus introduces
Barbara Eger-Klatt
Coordinator of
Deaf Seniors Stay Connected!
Program (part-time)

Tom Dowling talks about SB 564
[Virginia Hearing Loss Identification and Monitoring System]

Gary Viall
Stocks Committee
NVAD Advertisement Rates

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Please make the check payable to NVAD, and send it to the address below:
NVAD Treasurer; c/o NVRC; 3951 Pender Drive, Suite 130; Fairfax VA 22030
Also, please put in memo what the check is for (i.e.; 3-time ad)

For more information, contact Pat Beech at pgbeech@aol.com.

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)