Hello everyone,

This has been a very unique and very unpredictable year for all of us. The COVID-19 pandemic, the Black Lives Matter movement, all the wrangling between political parties in Congress, the upcoming Presidential election, the commemoration of the 1963 March on Washington...all of these have served to make us sit back and take a look at ourselves and examine what we believe about all the issues that have arisen this year. I hope all of you are doing well and doing your best to cope with the “new normal” that we are now experiencing...masks, social distancing, thorough hand washing, online learning for students, and other restrictions and changes to our daily lives.

Pat Beech and I took a much-needed break from producing “The eNVADer” this summer. This is the first issue since May 2020. I am using this opportunity to update you all on what has been going on with NVAD.

The NVAD Board has met eight times this year. Six of these meetings were via Zoom because of COVID-19. Committee chairs attended two of these meetings. We used these meetings to practice using Zoom for larger meetings in preparation for our first virtual general meeting. It will be on Saturday, September 19, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, due to conflicts on September 5 and 12. Pat has been essential in teaching us how to use Zoom.

Because we have not met since March 2020, the September 19 meeting will be purely an educational and social meeting. There will be no reports and no motions at this meeting. We will also use this opportunity to observe NVAD's 75th Anniversary. A flyer about the meeting is on page 3 in this issue.

- Pat will explain how to use different aspects of Zoom, such as Gallery View, Speaker View, Spotlight, Pin, Chat, and so on.
- Meeting protocols to be followed will be explained.
- Members will have an opportunity to catch up with each other and become familiar with using Zoom.
- I will ask members to share how they have been doing since the COVID-19 pandemic began, what projects they have been working on, and what experiences they have had coping as deaf individuals during the pandemic.
- Pat will spotlight anyone who wants to talk.
- The 75th Anniversary portion will be recorded for history.

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President’s Perspective

(continued from page 1)

The next virtual general meeting will be on Saturday, October 10, 2020, also from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. This will be an actual business meeting. We are meeting on October 10 because the NAD Council of Representatives is meeting on October 1 through 4.

• Reports from officers and committee chairs need to be submitted two weeks before the meeting so that the secretary, Danielle Thompson, and I will have time to organize them.
• These reports will be sent to members one week before the meeting.
• Pat will explain again how to use Zoom. She will ask members to type in Chat if they have comments or questions about a report.
• Only highlights of the reports will be given at the meeting.
• When a report is done, Pat will spotlight the person who has a comment or question.
• After reports, unfinished business, possibly motions made at the March 7 meeting.
• New business if any.
• Announcements

I will ask for the members’ permission at the September 19 meeting to record the October 10 meeting. I will ask the secretary to explain why. This recording will be only for the secretary’s and the president’s use and will be deleted after it has fulfilled its purpose.

Although we have not been able to meet physically since the March meeting, I hope you all can see that the Board and the committee chairs have been busy preparing for virtual general meetings. Once again, I want to thank Pat Beech for her time and patience in teaching us how to conduct Zoom meetings so that NVAD can continue to be active and productive.

I look forward to seeing everyone on September 19. Take care and stay healthy!

Melanie Williams
President, NVAD

Nominations for
2020 NVAD Election

Tom Dowling has been appointed Nominations Chairperson by the NVAD Board for the election of NVAD officers and members-at-large to take place in November 2020. A specific date has not been decided yet. The positions on the NVAD Board are president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and three members-at-large. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for one of these positions, please send your nominations to Tom at dowlingt12@gmail.com by October 31, 2020.

Thank you,
Melanie Williams
President, NVAD
First virtual general meeting on Zoom

Saturday, September 19, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

There will be no reports and no motions at this meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to help us become comfortable with Zoom and to bring us all back together again. Here is Zoom Info:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87329897868?pwd=Wkc1d0V5bHFwUXA4T0IxMUN4M1Qzdz09
Meeting ID: 873 2989 7868
Passcode: 117956

We will also have a brief celebration of NVAD’s 75th Anniversary at this meeting. Please have a cupcake with a candle for this virtual celebration. At one moment during the celebration, we will all blow out our candles at once. Also, this special moment will be recorded for historic purposes.

For more information, contact NVAD President Melanie Williams
mywilliams@verizon.net
These are the protocols we will follow for NVAD virtual meetings. The president, Melanie Williams, asked Pat Beech to be the HOST and facilitator for the meetings. This allows Melanie to focus on running the meetings.

Please join the meeting 15 minutes early.

- **GALLERY VIEW vs SPEAKER VIEW**
  - Gallery View allows you to see everyone.
  - Speaker View allows you to see whoever is speaking more clearly.
- First preference is for members to use PIN VIDEO rather than SPOTLIGHT. If people have trouble understanding how to use PIN VIDEO, then the HOST will SPOTLIGHT. Only the HOST can SPOTLIGHT.
- If SPOTLIGHT is used, PIN VIDEO won’t work. SPOTLIGHT has to be off for PIN VIDEO to work.
- Position your screen so that you and your signs can be seen.
- Computers and laptops are better to use with Zoom, not iPads or phones.
- The meeting will be recorded for the secretary’s benefit.
- Use CHAT to state that you have a comment, question, etc.
- The president will let the HOST know who has the “floor”. WAIT until you are spotlighted before you start speaking.
- SPOTLIGHT is necessary if we have 25 or more at a virtual meeting.
- If two people raise their hands at the same time to speak, the president will say who goes first and who goes second.
- If a person does not want to be seen on the recording, that person can use CHAT. President or HOST will acknowledge the CHAT messages. The CHAT window can be separated from the ZOOM window.
- We can hide those who don't want to be seen. For the quorum, however, at the beginning and end of the meeting, we must be able to see everyone to show who is attending.
- If you do not have a webcam, you can still attend the meeting and use CHAT to participate.
- Joan Corley will write up the attendance list.

## Communicating with Masks during Coronavirus

During this COVID-19, people should wear masks in public. At the same time, many masks hide the lips and half of the face, which makes it harder to understand speech. NAD’s guidelines explain the best ways to communicate with deaf and hard of hearing people while following health recommendations. For more information, see:
Election on
November 3, 2020

Deadline to register to vote or update an existing registration is Tuesday, October 13, 2020. Deadline to request an absentee ballot to be mailed to you is Friday, October 23, 2020. Your request must be received by your Registrar by 5:00PM.

For more information, see: https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/calendars-schedules/upcoming-elections.html

COVID-19 in Virginia

From the Virginia Department of Health’s website:

- VDH urges all Virginians to continue to limit exposure by staying 6 feet from others and wearing a cloth mask while in public settings.
- Wash your hands often, stay home if you are sick, and disinfect high-touch surfaces. These are all very important ways to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- It is important for people at increased risk of serious illness from COVID-19, such as older adults and people of any age with certain medical conditions, to protect themselves from getting COVID-19.
- All Virginians should limit group gatherings of more than 250.

For more information, see: https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/ https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/

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)

E-mail: info@nvrc.org
URL: www.nvrc.org

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