



WVAD Quarter News



"News brought to you by the West Virginia Association of the Deaf organization."

Volume 41, No. 4

Fall 2020

National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Council of Representatives (COR) Virtual Meeting Held on October 1-4, 2020 by Tamera Deem

National Association of the Deaf (NAD) had their 55th Biennial COR virtual meeting on October 1-4, 2020, through Zoom Video Conference. Originally the conference was supposed to be held in person at Chicago, Illinois, June 30 through July 5, 2020. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, NAD made the decision to cancel the in-person conference and do the Council of Representatives (COR) meeting virtually on October 1-4, 2020, from the comforts of our home to stay safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a total of 177 state association and affiliate delegates from all over the United States. WV Association of the Deaf had two delegates (Tamera Deem and John Burdette) representing the organization at the COR meeting. It was the first time in history that the NAD delegates participated in a virtual

COR meeting. It was a new, exciting experience for us all and the platform of the meeting was very interesting! NAD also made it possible to live stream the meeting on Facebook so that others can see how the meeting was going.

The COR meeting did not end on time as planned due to lack of time. Our last meeting was on October 24, 2020, to finish discussing our 2020 proposed priorities and resolutions.

The COR meeting consisted of NAD President Melissa Draganac-Hawk's announcements, standing rules, review of parliamentary procedures, virtual meeting conduct policy, sponsors of the virtual meeting, reports on 2018-2020 priorities, board candidates, bylaws amendment proposals, proposed priorities for 2020-2022, and proposed resolutions. There were also forums and caucus meetings.

The new NAD officers for the term 2020-2022 are Melissa Draganac-Hawk (President) from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Amy Gomme (Vice President) from Albuquerque, New Mexico; Michelle Cline (Treasurer) from Hudson, Massachusetts; and Jenny Buechner (Secretary) from Madison, Wisconsin. Jacob Leffler from Baltimore, Maryland, was selected as our new Region 1 Board Representative replacing Steve Lovi. His term will be for 4 years. Regions 2, 3, and 4 also selected new representatives for their regions.

The sponsors for the NAD COR meeting were JPMorgan Chase & Company and ZVRS/Purple Communications as Leadership Sponsors; Sorenson as Equality Sponsor; Comcast NBCUniversal, Telemundo, and Google as Vision Sponsors; Gallaudet University, Microsoft, Verizon, and RIT/NTID as Diversity Sponsors; AT&T, Ultratec, and Lyft as Justice Sponsors; Charter Communications as Advocacy Sponsor; Access Wireless and Tracfone Wireless, Inc. as Unity Sponsors; and Sprint Accessibility as Community Sponsor. Thank you NAD and to all the sponsors for making this virtual COR meeting possible and successful! 🇺🇸

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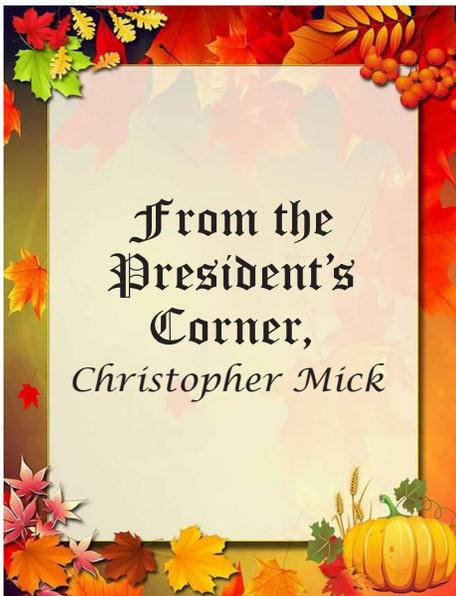
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(NAD COR Meeting Photos on page 8)



PUBLICATION INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING RATES

The *WVAD Quarter News* newsletter is a publication of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., published four times a year (January, April, July, October). Free subscription with paid dues. All advertisements must be paid in advance. The *WVAD Quarter News* reserves the right to reject any advertisement. Make checks payable to **WVAD**. Send ads with payment and any news to Tamera Deem.

Full Page, 7 5/8" x 10" \$100.00
 Half Page, 7 5/8" x 5" \$60.00

Hello and welcome to our Fall newsletter,

Are you ready for a colorful month? I am! I am anxious to enjoy the fall smell of pumpkins and falling leaves.

I hope everyone is staying safe from the COVID-19 pandemic as it is still around and surging in the state of West Virginia at the moment. Remember to wear your masks, social distance, and wash your hands to keep yourself safe and healthy.

I have been keeping everyone updated about the WV Governor's press conferences on Facebook. Check our Facebook page and WVAD webpage for any updates.

WVAD wrote a letter to Dr. W. Clayton Burch, State Superintendent of Schools, WV Department of Education (WVDE), on August 10, 2020, about our concerns regarding the hiring of the new WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB) Superintendent, Mr. Scott Cochran. They replied back to WVAD on August 12, 2020, and stated that our letter gave them a chance to reflect on our comments and also shared with us their expectations of the Superintendent position. Since then, the hired Superintendent Mr. Scott Cochran has resigned. The interim Superintendent Patricia Homberg was made into an official Superintendent of the WVSDB.

WVAD wrote a letter to Mary Ann Clendenin, Low Incidence Coordinator

with the WV Department of Education, on September 11, 2020, about interpreting issues for students who are attending virtual classes in WV public schools. Mary Anne replied back to WVAD on September 14, 2020, and stated that she was aware about this issue and that they are working very hard to provide equal access to deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) students. She stated that the WVDE provides resources for WV DHH teachers and educational interpreters. She also mentioned that she stays in weekly contact with all DHH teachers and interpreters who join the WVDE DHH and Educational Interpreters Teams pages, as well as the WVDE DHH listserv.

Mary Anne said through these communities and by e-mail, she has shared instructions on how to use a variety of technology platforms to include an interpreter, as well as closed captioning if the student requires this accommodation by their IEP. She mentioned that each county DHH teacher and educational interpreter has received information on using Microsoft Teams, Loom, Zoom, and some counties have reached out that use MAC computer technology. She reminded us to please remember that each county chooses their own educational platform, the WVDE does not choose for them.

WVAD is sad to announce that we will not have our annual Christmas

party this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We want to make sure that we keep everyone safe and healthy. Hopefully, we will soon go back to normal and start having events again.

Just a quick reminder for those who have not paid for expired membership (see page 19 for membership form), please send the form and payment to our Membership Coordinator, Jimmy Harrison. WVAD accepts debit and credit cards for membership fees, etc. We are currently accepting Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, and PayPal. You may also pay through Cash Square apps but you will need to contact Jimmy (contact info is on the membership form) to make payment arrangements. If you are not a member of WVAD, please join. If you have any questions about joining WVAD, please contact Jimmy Harrison. Your support and dues help keep WVAD going. This would also be a good way to give someone a membership as a gift.

In closing, please check out our WVAD website (www.wvad.org) or WV Association of the Deaf page on Facebook for any ongoing information about WVAD.

Stay safe and healthy,

Christopher T. Mick

Christopher T. Mick

WVAD Quarter News, Fall 2020



WVAD Board Minutes

Date: July 26, 2020

Location: Sorenson Videophone

WVAD Board Meeting Held via Sorenson Videophone, July 26, 2020

West Virginia Association of the Deaf's Mission Statement:

The West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., (WVAD) operated by, of, for the Deaf Community, advocates, and promotes to improve the quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing individuals including but not limited to deaf-blind individuals, parents of deaf children, interpreters, late-deafened adults, and children of deaf adults.

Members Present: Chris Mick, Tami Deem, Veronda Harrison, Sylvia Mick, Laura Crowder, Gloria Hollen, and Scott Hottle.

Visitor Present: Worthy Devericks.

The regular board meeting of WVAD was held via Sorenson Videophone. President Chris Mick called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting held on May 3, 2020, were sent via e-mail. It was corrected and approved via videophone and e-mail. The minutes of the meeting was published in the Summer 2020 WVAD newsletter.

Treasurer Veronda Harrison's Financial Report:

Financial report from May 2, 2020 to July 25, 2020: Balance in checking account – \$691.86; balance in savings account – \$4,083.11; Mingo County Fund: \$14,553.91; WVAD Conference Fund – \$7,120.28; Deaf Youth Program – \$378.00; Education Fund – \$288.15; Certificate of Deposit – \$7,000.00. The board accepted the report as read.

President Chris Mick's Report:

- President Chris Mick went to the emergency room on June 27, 2020, for serious dehydration and vertigo with dizziness. The doctor and nurses would not change the mask to see through or remove the mask for him to understand them. We need to educate the hospitals, medical centers, and doctors' offices about the availability of clear masks

to make it accessible for deaf and hard of hearing patients. The Board suggested that maybe we can contact WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing or Disability Rights of WV and ask them if they can provide clear masks to health facilities since they get their funding from WV Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR).

- On June 28, 2020, President Chris Mick received an e-mail from Charleston Association of the Deaf (CAD) President, Jason Hanshaw. He informed us that CAD will not host our next conference in August 2021. We need to get started on planning our conference.
- On July 1, 2020, President Chris Mick received an e-mail from Mary Ann Jividen, President of the Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliances (EPDA), Inc. She stated that on behalf of EPDA, they needed to change their priorities for their future conference dates that are affected by the compliance of the Center Disease Control's mandates due to COVID-19. The EPDA Board Officers voted to cancel the upcoming conference called *Deaf Westival* on November 7, 2020, due to the possible second wave of COVID-19. Their main goal is to be healthy and safe for our community first most. They will keep you well informed for the next official date next year or so when the coronavirus no longer affects our lives. However, they will continue working with any agencies to meet the clients' needs. They requested that we post this important message

on WVAD *Quarter News* newsletter to let the WVAD members know about their cancellation. They welcome any questions at any time through either e-mail or phone number at 304-707-3202.

- President Chris Mick received an e-mail on July 13, 2020, from Angela Williams, a deaf educator from Raleigh County, WV, inviting him to participate in a Zoom meeting on July 15, 2020, at CAMP CAN-DO for deaf individuals, age 14-21 years old. Angela wanted him to explain to the students about what West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) is about and explain what the organization offers and how to join the organization. The students asked President Mick a few questions and he answered them.

Vice President Gloria Hollen's Report:

Nothing to report.

Secretary's Report:

- Secretary Tami Deem received an e-mail from Wes Harris, Outreach Coordinator for EduMed, on July 1, 2020, requesting that a link be added in our WVAD webpage that shares information about scholarships and resources for deaf and hard of hearing students. This link helps students with disabilities achieve their college and career goals through the free resources they publish on their website. They produce resources like this for students with disabilities and do their best to update their scholarship and resource lists on [\(See Board Minutes on page 4\)](#)

(Board Minutes from page 3)

a regular basis. The link that our Webmaster added is under the Links tab on our WVAD webpage: Scholarships and Education Resources: <https://www.edumed.org/financial-aid/students-with-hearing-loss-scholarships-resources/>.

- Secretary Tami Deem stated that she would be happy to represent WVAD at the virtual NAD Council of Representatives (COR) meeting scheduled for October 1-4, 2020.

Trustee Scott Hottle's Report:

- Trustee Scott Hottle discussed about deaf camp hosted by WV Deaf Service Center (WVDSC). They had planned for it this summer. The WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is closed and Cedar Lakes closed their camp due to COVID-19. So WVDSC cancelled the deaf camp. DRS contacted him and said they can do virtual camp. So they set up virtual camp scheduled for August 3-18, 2020. So far WVDSC has only received one applicant. Seven to nine teachers will be available through virtual. They will send kits to applicants. Then the teachers will work with the kids through virtual. Six projects through virtual are planned and they hope to have up to 20 students.

Trustee Laura Crowder's Report:

- Sundale Nursing Home in Morgantown, WV, where Trustee Laura Crowder works ordered clear masks to make it accessible for deaf and hard of hearing people. A mask with no clear box makes it very frustrating due to lack of being able to see facial expressions and not being able to understand when communicating with the hearing community. KN95 seems to be most comfortable for cochlear implant users.
- For anyone who works at a health-care facility, hospital, etc., please check out the websites (www.faceviewmask.com and www.safenclear.com) for clear masks.
- Medical interpreters experience fogging behind the mask with a clear box. A couple of methods are to use to keep the masks from fogging up. They are Dawn dish soap

or shaving cream to help reduce the fog inside the clear mask. You can also research on the internet on how to defog clear masks.

- Interpreter issues at the workplace – Trustee Laura Crowder found video relay interpreting (VRI) services online and offered it to her boss to use for staff meetings, etc. The workplace's budget for accessibility was \$300 or so. She contacted National Association of the Deaf (NAD) via e-mail and have not heard from them yet. She also called them recently and left them a voicemail. Hopefully she will be hearing from them soon regarding accessibility at work.
- Trustee Laura Crowder has been working on ADA laws and posted ADA info on Facebook. She hasn't seen anyone commenting on them. It seems like no one is interested in learning about ADA laws.

Trustee Sylvia Mick's Report:

Nothing to report.

Newsletter Editor's Report:

Deadline for the next newsletter is September 20, 2020.

Membership Coordinator Jimmy Harrison's Report:

At the last board meeting, there were 154 members. Currently there are 158 members.

Legislative Chair John Burdette's Report:

No report.

Education Advocate April Hottle's Report:

No report.

ByLaws Committee Report (6/16/2020 E-mail from Linda Lawson):

The Bylaws Committee (Linda Lawson, Elizabeth Leisure, and Charles Lyne) have been working together and discussed/reviewed the following:

- Updated current bylaws with proposed and passed amendments.
- Reviewed items referred to Bylaws Committee.
- Reviewed items mentioned in new business at the 2019 conference.
- Discussed the idea of developing a separate document to include

rules and separate out those out of bylaws. This will create two separate documents for WVAD to follow. All in agreement that this needs done and recommendations will be developed to present at the next conference.

The following remains to be discussed:

- Changing the specific time for conference. As it currently stands, WVAD is required to have the conference the 1st week of August. Discussion was held to recommend removing that requirement to have it open to be more flexible.
- Discussion of committees and recommendations of combining or changing to make it less complicated.
- Addition of Education Committee – need to determine duties.
- Review of how many days for a conference. As it stands, bylaws state it is a two-day conference. It was suggested to try a 1-day conference but it was not proposed for change in the bylaws.
- Development of guidelines to submit new business and bylaw changes.
- Addition of Donation Committee – need to determine duties.
- Addition of Community Outreach Marketing – need to determine duties.
- Discussion of Youth Committee as well as the Youth Talent Competition.

At this time the committee will discuss via e-mail ideas and suggestions and meet again in person in a month or two.

Fundraising Veronda Harrison's Report:

Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- Spaghetti dinner planned for October 2020 is cancelled due to COVID-19.

New Business:

MOTION: Tami Deem asked if anyone had any priorities WVAD wants NAD to work on. None.

MOTION: Gloria Hollen moved to send 2 delegates to do NAD COR meeting. Veronda Harrison seconded. Veronda chose to appoint (See Board Minutes on page 5)

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(Board Minutes from page 4)

Secretary Tami Deem to be a delegate to represent WVAD. CARRIED

Vice President Gloria Hollen took the floor from President Chris Mick.

MOTION: Chris Mick wants to discuss the conference. Laura Crowder seconded. Wheeling, Lewisburg, or Martinsburg, WV. Tami Deem recommended that *Deaf WestiVal* and WVAD conference be combined. Gloria Hollen will talk with EPDA. TABLED

MOTION: Veronda Harrison motioned that Christmas party be cancelled. Laura Crowder seconded.

CARRIED (Chris Mick will make a vlog to announce that the Christmas party is cancelled.)

Need to work on fundraising for WVAD.

Next board meeting will be held November 8, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. on Videophone.

President Chris Mick adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tamera Deem
Secretary

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Your membership fees and donations make it possible for WVAD to protect the collective interests of West Virginia's deaf and hard of hearing community through advocacy efforts with our policy makers.

Please look at your newsletter address label for expiration date and renew before the expiration date. Join WVAD today!



This is a West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) non-profit organization newsletter for our WVAD family and friends.

It is the purpose of *WVAD Quarter News* to be an informative communications newsletter by all WVAD members and non-members, addressing WVAD programs, activities, issues, and member interests. *WVAD Quarter News* strives to maintain a balance between program and general interest news. Contact the *WVAD Quarter News* editor at wvad.newsletter.editor@gmail.com concerning material appearing in *WVAD Quarter News*. *WVAD Quarter News* will publish materials submitted by anyone, subject to editorial review and approval. Please remember to send references of any outside sources you may use. Authors' names will be withheld from publication at their request. The views and opinions expressed by contributors to *WVAD Quarter News* are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the staff of *WVAD Quarter News*.

DEAF WESTIVAL CANCELLED

Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliances, Inc. (EPDA) made an announcement that they have made a decision to cancel the upcoming Deaf Westival Conference in Martinsburg, WV, scheduled for November 7, 2020, due to the possible second wave of COVID-19. Their main goal is for the deaf community to stay healthy and safe.



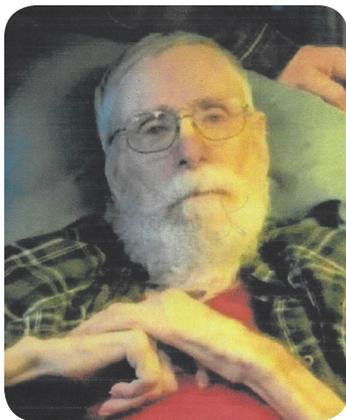
Cecelia S. Snyder

Birth Date: April 9, 1942
Death Date: July 21, 2020
WV School for the Deaf Class of 1961
Online Obituary: <https://polingstclair.com/tribute/details/2413/Cecelia-Snyder/obituary.html>



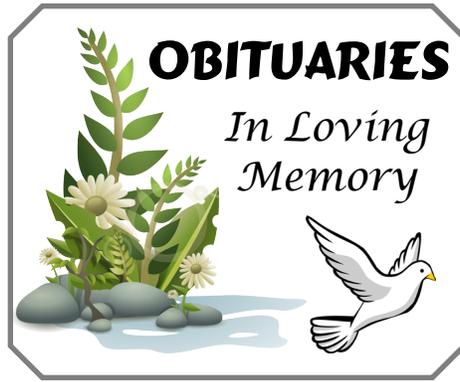
Wilma (Fetty) Steil

Death Date: July 25, 2020
WV School for the Deaf Class of 1967
Online Obituary: Not available.



Larry K. Titus

Birth Date: May 8, 1943
Death Date: August 25, 2020
WV School for the Deaf Class of 1963
Online Obituary: <https://www.fickesfuneralhome.com/obituary/Larry-Titus>



Clarence Broecker, Jr.

Birth Year: 1927
Death Date: September 3, 2020
Former WVSD Staff
(Married to Carol Aldridge, Class of 1968)
Online Obituary: https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?n=clarence-broecker&pid=196751503&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=obitshare&utm_content=p196751503&fbclid=IwAR3iPR5DHWzgTDZpqUuqOotibSxKmbx3l63ADoNtt4-8slBjsVDsWh9f-YU



Norma F. Czernicki

Birth Date: July 27, 1934
Death Date: September 12, 2020
WV School for the Deaf Staff (32 years)
Online Obituary: <https://www.mcalebfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Norma-Czernicki/#!/Obituary>

Carolyn (Baughman) Miller

Death Date: September 12, 2020
WV School for the Deaf Class of 1961
Online Obituary: Not available.



Clemmet R. Richards

Birth Date: July 18, 1971
Death Date: September 21, 2020
Former WV School for the Deaf Student, Enrolled 1981
Online Obituary: <https://www.free-manfuneralhomeinc.com/obituary/ClemmetFuddy-Richards?fbclid=IwAR3EGCHgZG6m1mESWYtdn6dXhq4oXinXkQEdYk5JGiLYZw9JVxD90o7FddQ>



Virginia C. Hopkins

Birth Date: April 16, 1930
Death Date: October 3, 2020
Long Time WVAD Member
Online Obituary: Not available.
(See Obituaries on page 7)

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Alexander A. Rubiano

Birth Date: January 5, 1934

Death Date: October 9, 2020

Former WVSD Staff

Online Obituary: <https://www.gunder-sonfh.com/obituaries/Alexander-Anthony-Rubiano?obId=18611391#/obituaryInfo>



Dorothy J. Jackson

Birth Date: June 29, 1941

Death Date: October 14, 2020

WV School for the Deaf Class of 1961

Online Obituary: <https://obituaries.times-news.com/obituary/dorothy-jackson-1080520501>



What You Need to Know About Social Security

by Mary Ann Jividen

Due to COVID-19, Social Security offices are closed for walk-in customers. Social Security office staff had contacted Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliances, Inc. (EPDA) to share their concerns about deaf/hard of hearing customers who need help. They want you to know that all staff at Social Security offices are working from home, not in offices for now.

On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, Social Security suspended face to face services to the public. They gave us some ways for you to contact them when you need help from Social Security. Their office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

There are several ways to get help.

The list is as follows:

1. If you have a Videophone or if you are hearing who uses the phone, their phone number is 1-866-416-1919.
2. If you have TTY only, use the number 1-800-325-0778 between 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
3. If you prefer to use their website, visit www.ssa.gov. The national 800 phone number is 1-800-772-1213. Many Social Security services can be completed online. If you have applied or requested for Social Security, go to www.ssa.gov/onlineservices/. On the website, you can:
 1. Review your information.
 2. Apply for retirement benefits, disability benefits, or apply for medicare benefits.
 3. Check the status of an application or appeal a decision.

4. Request for a replacement Social Security card (in most areas).
5. Print a benefit verification letter and much more.

If you sign up and create a new account or sign in, you would get information directly related to your Social Security.

If you do not know where your local Social Security office is, use Social Security Office Locator. You can find it in the Social Security website. Click "Office Locator" button (under Ways to Contact Us) or go to www.ssa.gov/locator/. Use your zip code after you click on "Office Locator" button. It will tell you where to go to your nearby office.

If you do not understand what Social Security staff had tried to explain, you can let her/him know that you do not understand and that you need an appointment to meet in person to understand better; please tell her/him to get a sign language interpreter for you. It is your responsibility to ask for an interpreter. They will be glad to get one for you for better communication between you and the Social Security staff.

If you have a computer or mobile cell phone, check out EPDA's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/160267387723570/videos/904307766759507>. You will find President Mary Ann Jividen of EPDA explaining and/or clarifying information about Social Security.

For your own safety, please visit www.CDC.gov for any information about COVID-19. Please stay safe and healthy! EPDA Board cares about you!





VIRTUAL BIENNIAL MEETING 2020

2020-PUB-10 Interpreter & Caption Access

Forum Track: Interpreter & Caption Access
Author: Jacob Leffler
Seconded by: Tamera Deem

Proposed Solution:
NAD should create a Task Force where they can work with Amtrak, FAA, and airports to ensure that Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing people have access to information including VP or text if there are any changes, emergencies, or safety information. The Task Force also should develop a position statement for the State Associations to pass on to work on local transportation for subway, metro, bus, and public transportation. The Task Force also should develop resources to educate about the transportation accessibility.

IP Morgan Chase & Co. PUPP
Screen Manager (Lizzie)

VIRTUAL BIENNIAL MEETING 2020

Council of Representatives IV

Sunday, October 4, 2020 · Livestreamed

Screen Manager (Lizzie)

VIRTUAL BIENNIAL MEETING 2020 02:52

Screen Manager (Lizzie) Jacob Leffler

Jacob?

zoom

2020 Proposed Priorities

Please select only your top 5 proposed priorities that you want the NAD to work on for 2020-2022

* Required

Email address *

Your email _____

Pick your top 5 *

- Serving with Distinction
- Selection of Conference Sites
- Accountability Task Force
- Achieving Equity in Deaf Education
- Campaign to Spotlight the Adverse Impacts of Language Deprivation
- Eugenics and Eradication of Deaf People



10 things you can do to manage your COVID-19 symptoms at home

Accessible Version: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

If you have possible or confirmed COVID-19:

1. **Stay home** from work and school. And stay away from other public places. If you must go out, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.



6. **Cover your cough and sneezes** with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow.



2. **Monitor your symptoms** carefully. If your symptoms get worse, call your healthcare provider immediately.



7. **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



3. **Get rest and stay hydrated.**



8. As much as possible, **stay** in a specific room and **away from other people** in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people in or outside of the home, wear a mask.



4. If you have a medical appointment, **call the healthcare provider** ahead of time and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19.



9. **Avoid sharing personal items** with other people in your household, like dishes, towels, and bedding.



5. For medical emergencies, call 911 and **notify the dispatch personnel** that you have or may have COVID-19.



10. **Clean all surfaces** that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs. Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.



CS 315822-A 07/01/2020

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



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- Ability to receive Text Mail
- Access to Sprint Accessibility Care
- Ability to copy and email conversations
- Improved accessibility for people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, or have Speech Disability

sprintrelay.com/sprintiprelay

Download Mobile App:*



* Internet connection required.

Registration required.



Although Sprint IP, Fed IP, and Sprint Mobile IP app can be used for emergency calling, such emergency calling may not function the same as traditional 911/E911 services. By using Sprint IP, Fed IP, and Sprint Mobile IP app for emergency calling, you agree that Sprint is not responsible for any damages resulting from errors, defects, malfunctions, interruptions or failures in accessing or attempting to access emergency services through Sprint IP, Fed IP, and Sprint Mobile IP app; whether caused by the negligence of Sprint or otherwise. Other restrictions apply. For details, see www.sprintrelay.com © 2018 Sprint. Sprint and logos are trademarks of Sprint. Other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. A-FM20-0710

Teleworking

Are you teleworking?

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability, and working from home, Relay Conference Captioning (RCC) makes it possible for you to stay connected to your workplace.

Actively participate through real-time captioning.

What is Relay Conference Captioning (RCC)?

RCC is a free service available for West Virginia residents who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability to actively participate in multi-party teleconference calls or web conferences by reading live captions through a web browser on an internet-connected computer or mobile device.

It's the ideal conference call solution for anyone who is teleworking!



For more information:
westvirginiarelay.com/rcc

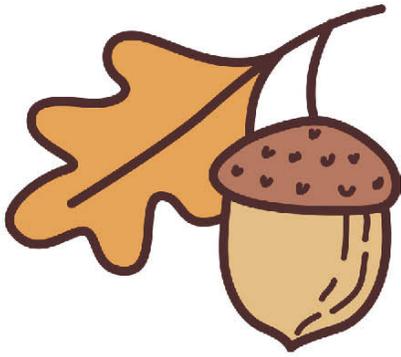
Connecting Life

Experience the best possible VRS with easy-to-use, cutting-edge technology. Connect Life through the clearest video, greatest features, and highest-quality Sorenson Relay interpreters available!

Sign up today at svrs.com/apply or download our app:



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Autumn Days

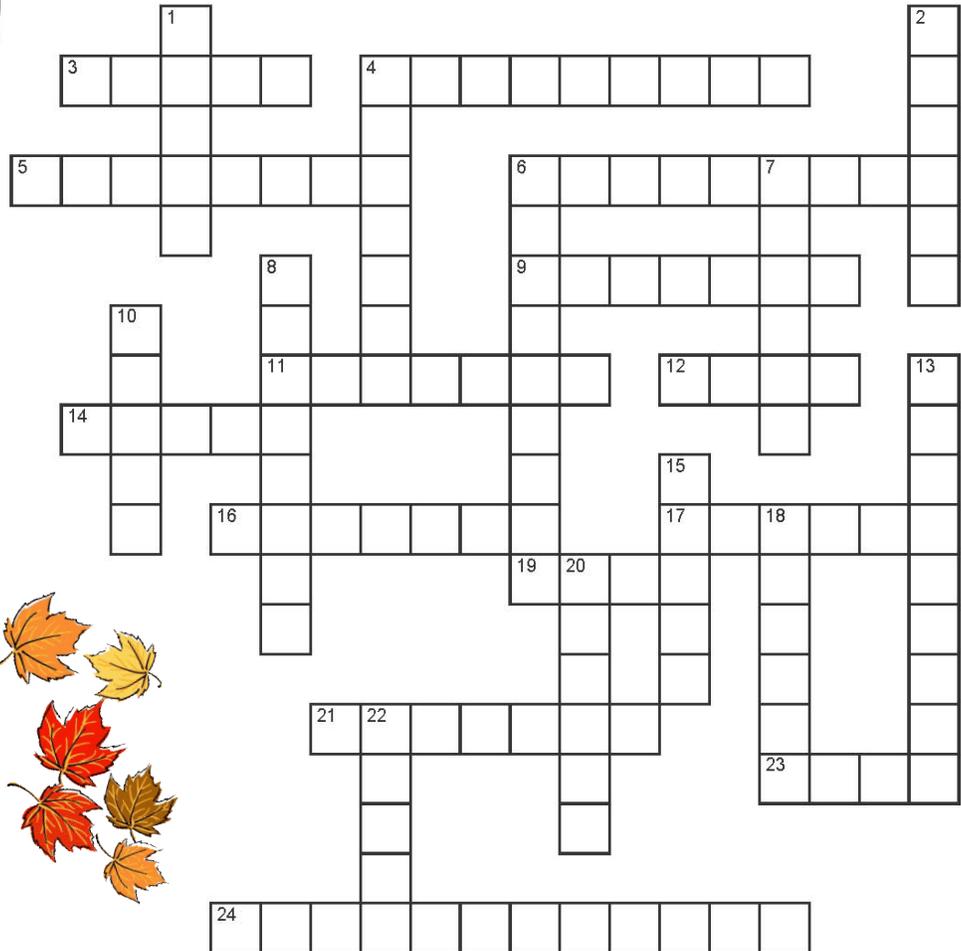
Crossword

Across

- 3. Also known as corn.
- 4. October 31st.
- 5. The eleventh month of the year.
- 6. Used to keep birds off of crops.
- 9. Jack-o-lantern gourd.
- 11. The tenth month of the year.
- 12. The season that follows summer.
- 14. Might be patchwork.
- 16. Fun activity on a farm.
- 17. They fall from trees.
- 19. Leaf gathering yard tool.
- 21. Seat at a square dance (two words).
- 23. What squirrels often gather.
- 24. The fourth Thursday in November.

Down

- 1. Drink made from apples.
- 2. Halloween decoration made by a spider.
- 4. The gathering of crops.
- 6. The ninth month of the year.
- 7. A bit cold.
- 8. Popular autumn sport.
- 10. Decorative squash.
- 13. They're roasted on an open fire.
- 15. Semi-frozen rain.
- 18. Another word for the fall season.
- 20. Honeycrisp
- 22. Oak tree's fruit.



WORD BANK

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| ACORN | HAYRIDE |
| APPLES | LEAVES |
| AUTUMN | MAIZE |
| CHESTNUTS | NOVEMBER |
| CHILLY | NUTS |
| CIDER | OCTOBER |
| COBWEB | PUMPKIN |
| FALL | QUILT |
| FOOTBALL | RAKE |
| GOURD | SCARECROW |
| HALLOWEEN | SEPTEMBER |
| HARVEST | SLEET |
| HAY BALE | THANKSGIVING |



(See Fun Page Answers on page 17)

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

WVAD Hillbilly Whittler T-Shirts For Sale

\$15.00 EACH

Plus \$5.00 for Shipping & Handling

Red Ring with Black Print



Blue Ring with Black Print



Royal Blue with White Print



Light Blue with Black Print



Proceeds will go towards the WVAD organization. If anyone is interested in purchasing a T-shirt, please contact Veronda Harrison (Treasurer) at 304-964-6025 Videophone or e-mail at verapple@aol.com. Feel free to let your family and friends know about this as they are welcome to purchase anything to support our organization.

2020 WVAD HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER



WE EARN 15%

*Supporting our fundraiser is easy...
Simply decorate your home or send
an elegant evergreen gift!*



SUPPORT OUR CAUSE

- 1 Visit <https://www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/teams/252908-west-virginia-association-of-the-deaf>
- 2 Click on a product category or Shop Online
- 3 Choose a Team Member to support (if applicable)
- 4 Click Shop Now to give back 15% of your purchase!

ENTIRE PRODUCT AVAILABILITY ONLINE
PREFER TO ORDER BY PHONE? CALL 1-888-426-0781 AND REFERENCE CAMPAIGN # 252908



You shop. Amazon gives.

SUPPORT WVAD! AMAZON SMILE WILL GIVE 0.5% OF YOUR ELIGIBLE PURCHASES TO WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF.

West Virginia Association of the Deaf has partnered with Amazon Smile Program! This is a program where our organization receives 0.5% donations from Amazon Smile EVERY TIME you shop on line at no additional cost! Sign up is easy! No need to re-register annually.

Here's how to donate:

- Log into Amazon Smile: <https://smile.amazon.com>. If you do not have an account with Amazon, set one up.
- When you are logged in, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to give to.
- Scroll down to "pick your own charitable organization" and type in West Virginia Association of the Deaf.
- Select West Virginia Association of the Deaf. You only have to do this once and you are set to go!

Just login to Amazon Smile every time you shop on line. Enjoy shopping on Amazon Smile! Please share this with your family and friends!

Free & Easy Ways You Can Help...

Check out our trusted partners and after a quick signup process or app download, they will donate to our WV Association of the Deaf organization every time you complete your shopping at the grocery store or on line. Thank you for your support!



SUPPORT WVAD! IT'S AS EASY AS SWIPING YOUR KROGER REWARDS CARD EACH TIME YOU SHOP!

West Virginia Association of the Deaf has partnered with Kroger's Community Reward Program! This is a program where our organization receives 0.5% donations from Kroger EVERY TIME you purchase groceries in ANY of their stores using your rewards card at no additional cost! Sign up is easy!

Simply register online at <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/> and choose West Virginia Association of the Deaf! Please share this with your family and friends!

Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliances, Inc. (EPDA) by Mary Ann Jividen

On behalf of the Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliances, Inc. (EPDA), we, the board officers, want to share with you about the progression of our services to the Deaf/Hard of Hearing people who live in the Eastern Panhandle counties of West Virginia. We also serve people from out of state asking for help related to anything that is in the State of West Virginia.

Due to our experiences in helping people with hearing/vision loss, serving them at our residences in the past, the number of requests had increased that prompted us to formally establish services for them. The date of EPDA establishment was on June 1, 2017.

The number of advocacy requests has increased ever since, and we also serve the hearing professionals or hearing people who need help adjusting in their lives when they lose a percentage of their hearing. At the beginning of 2017, the number was 14 advocacy services; services increased to 17 in 2018 and last year it was 39 services. The numbers of our endeavors regarding not to help at once, we had done

more than one help on each person's case.

We have been working on many cases in regards to info/referring, advocating, housing, interpreter services, and many more.

The EPDA non-profit organization has been on the United Way of Eastern Panhandle's list of non-profit organizations. There are many non-profit organizations that share information, discuss issues, share fundraising ideas, and meet with each other to make our organizations stronger. Last year for the first time, EPDA got \$2,667.39 from United Way of Eastern Panhandle Unity Campaign 2019. Due to COVID-19, the meetings had to be put on hold, however, there is an alternative way to proceed through our website or internet.

We also put our big festival called "Clear Communication in Your Community" under "Deaf WestVal" on hold until perhaps in 2022 when vaccines are available to protect us from this terrible virus. We plan to provide some workshops, free exhibition booths, and many more.

The expenses of this event will be covered by the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH).

In closing, our mission is to get four well-paid staff working here in Martinsburg, West Virginia, to take our place soon. The word "soon" is unpredictable due to many reasons including COVID-19 virus that has stalled the process of hiring a new WVCDHH Director to replace the previous director Earnest Covington. We hope to achieve our goal, the sooner, the better.

At last, we deeply appreciate WVAD's generous and thoughtfulness by presenting EPDA a lovely award plaque for our services at the West Virginia Association of the Deaf 42nd Biennial Conference, held in Morgantown, WV, August 10, 2019. We plan to hang the plaque when we officially have a new office with new paid staff soon.

With warm regards,
Mary Ann Jividen, President
Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliances, Inc.



L-R: Mary Ann Jividen, President of Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliances, Inc.; Penny Porter, CEO from United Way of the Eastern Panhandle; and Kaye Peacock, Treasurer of Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliances, Inc.



L-R: Kaye Peacock, Mary Ann Jividen, and WVAD Outgoing President John Burdette presenting Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliances, Inc. a WVAD Plaque at the 42nd Biennial Conference in Morgantown, WV on August 10, 2019.



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*From the Desk of NAD
Region 1 Representatives*

National Association of the Deaf (NAD) would like to introduce WVAD's two NAD Region 1 representatives.

Milmaglyn Morales, a native of Ponce, Puerto Rico, lives in Connecticut. She was appointed as the Region 1 Representative (2020-2022) of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). Currently, she is the Director of Early Childhood Center at Marie Philip School in Framingham, MA. She serves as the Bylaws Chair for the Connecticut Association of the Deaf. She has served on the Council de Manos Board as Vice President in the past. Her passion to end injustice amongst of Deaf Latinx community and her desire to ensure equal accessibility are her goals for all future assignments and practices. During her free time, she enjoys crafting and spending time with her family.

Jacob Leffler was recently elected as the Region 1 Representative (2020-2024) of the NAD. He hails from Buffalo, New York, and he currently lives in Baltimore, Maryland. He works for the Federal Government. He has served on various committees within the NAD since 2012 including the Bylaws committee and the National Employment Resources Center committee. He also serves as Secretary of the Maryland Association of the Deaf. Jacob also enjoys cruising and traveling around the world.

The National Association of the Deaf had its first ever virtual conference on October 1-4, 2020, and delegates voted to have a fifth session on October 24, 2020. During this conference, the delegates voted and determined the NAD's top five priorities for the next 2 years. They are:

- Achieving Equity in the Deaf Education
- Campaign to Spotlight the Adverse Impacts of Language Deprivation
- Dismantling the Racism in the Deaf Community
- Eliminating Barriers to Quality Care for Deaf Seniors
- Foster Care Bill of Rights

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at milmaglyn.morales@nad.org and jacob.leffler@nad.org.

(Fun Page Answers from page 13)



SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

(<https://natashaskitchen.com/sweet-potato-casserole/>)

(Prep Time: 20 minutes, Cook Time: 40 minutes, Total Time: 1 hour)

Easy sweet potato casserole with an irresistible crunchy pecan topping. This recipe is so flavorful. The sweet potatoes are soft, smooth, and puff up slightly while baking.

Sweet potatoes (4 lbs – 6 cups mashed)
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/2 Tablespoon vanilla extract
1 cup Craisins dried cranberries
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup pecans, coarsely chopped

3 large eggs
5 Tablespoons unsalted butter,
melted and slightly cooled
2/3 cup brown sugar, packed
3 Tablespoons unsalted butter, cold
and diced



How to Make Mashed Sweet Potatoes:

1. Peel and chop sweet potatoes into 1-inch chunks. Add to a large pot with enough water to cover surface of potatoes and bring to a boil. Cook uncovered at a medium/low boil until easily pierced with a fork (about 10-15 minutes). Drain and mash (mash with an electric mixer to make it creamier).

How to Make Sweet Potato Casserole:

1. Preheat oven to 350 °F. In a large bowl, whisk together 3 eggs, 1/2 cup sugar, 6 Tablespoons melted butter, and 1/2 Tablespoon vanilla. Stir butter mixture into cooked sweet potatoes then stir in 1 cup Craisins. Spread sweet potato mix evenly into a 9"x13" casserole dish.
2. For Pecan Topping: In a small bowl, combine 2/3 cup brown sugar and 1/3 cup flour. Add 3 Tablespoons cold diced butter and use your hands to rub the mixture together until pea-sized crumbs form or you can use pastry blender to keep your hands clean. Stir in 1 cup chopped pecans. Sprinkle mixture evenly over sweet potato mixture and bake uncovered at 350 °F for 35-40 minutes or until hot and sweet potatoes start to puff at edges.



BEST EVER BLUEBERRY CREAM CHEESE COOKIES

(<https://omgchocolatedesserts.com/best-ever-blueberry-cookies/>)

(Prep Time: 30 minutes; Bake Time: 16-18 Minutes; Serves: 12)

1-1/2 cups flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup unsalted butter
1 egg
4 oz white chocolate (chopped into
small chunks)

1 teaspoon corn starch
3/4 teaspoon baking powder
3/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
3/4 cup blueberries (or strawberries)

For filling:

2.5 oz cream cheese, softened
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

1 Tablespoon powdered sugar
3 to 4 Tablespoons blueberry jam



1. In a small bowl whisk together dry ingredients: flour, corn starch, salt, and baking powder; set aside.
2. Cream butter and sugar on high speed for about 2 minutes, until light and creamy. Add egg and vanilla and mix to combine. Running your mixer on low, mix in dry ingredients mix. Fold in about 3/4 of white chocolate chunks, reserve remaining to press on top of cookies. Finally, fold in blueberries with a rubber spatula, but do this really gently and try not to break the berries. The dough will be thick and sticky. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours.
3. To make the filling, mix cream cheese, vanilla, and powdered sugar just to combine and place in the refrigerator. When ready to bake, preheat the oven to 350 °F and line baking sheets with parchment paper.
4. To assemble the cookies, scoop one heaping Tablespoon of dough and make a deep bowl. Fill with 1 teaspoon of cream cheese mixture and about 3/4 teaspoon of blueberry jam. Top with 1/2 Tablespoon of cookie dough and seal any openings. Roll gently to make a ball. Press a few white chocolate chunks on top and sides of each cookie. Before baking, freeze cookie balls for 10 minutes in freezer.
5. Arrange cookie balls onto a baking sheet leaving 3 inches apart because the cookies will spread while baking. Bake 16 to 18 minutes. Cool on baking sheet for 10 minutes, then transfer on a rack to cool completely. Enjoy!

WVAD MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ New Renewal
 Spouse's Name _____ New Renewal
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone No. _____ VP Voice Both
 E-Mail Address _____

You

Deaf
 Hard of Hearing
 Hearing
 Interpreter

Dues for You

\$15 for 1 Year — Regular
 \$25 for 2 Years — Regular
 \$20 for 2 Years — Senior (Age 55 and up)
 \$10 for 2 Years — Student (Age 12 – 18)

Spouse

Deaf
 Hard of Hearing
 Hearing
 Interpreter

Dues for Spouse

\$15 for 1 Year — Regular
 \$25 for 2 Years — Regular
 \$20 for 2 Years — Senior (Age 55 and up)
 \$10 for 2 Years — Student (Age 12 – 18)

- Yes!** Here is my donation: \$ _____
- Yes!** I want to donate to Deaf Youth Program: \$ _____
- Yes!** I want to donate to Education Fund: \$ _____
- I want to be a WVAD volunteer.
- Spouse wants to be a WVAD volunteer.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION: \$ _____

Make money order or personal check payable to **WVAD** or complete the credit card information below:

Visa MasterCard Discover Card American Express

Name on Credit Card: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Credit Card Account No.: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail with membership application to:
 West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.
 Jimmy Harrison, WVAD Membership Coordinator
 5 Cordoba Drive
 Hurricane, WV 25526
 Video Phone No.: 304-964-6025

Your membership fees and donations make it possible for WVAD to protect the collective interests of West Virginia's deaf and hard of hearing community through advocacy efforts with our policy makers.

JOIN WVAD TODAY!

