

# WVAD Quarter News



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

Volume 31, No. 1

Spring 2010

## ESDAA Division II Girls' Basketball Tournament, 2nd Place by Mary Kesler

The ESDAA Division II Girls' Basketball tournament was held at the West Virginia School for the Deaf, Romney, WV, from Thursday, February 25, 2010, to Saturday, February 27, 2010, with seven teams and a local team participating. Many thanks to the staff who worked hard to make this tournament a big success! Also huge thanks to our fans who were rooting for our WVSD girls!

On Thursday, February 25, 2010, 4 games were played.

- **Game #1:** St. Mary's School for the Deaf versus New York State School for the Deaf (Rome): Final score was SMSD 44 — NYSSD 11. Crystle Marion, SMSD, led with 22 points.
- **Game #2:** Rhode Island School for the Deaf versus Mt. View Christian Academy, Winchester, VA: Final score was RISD 54 — MVCA 49. Electra Smith, RISD, led with 24 points.



*WVSD girls and their 2nd place trophy. (Photo provided by Jan Dodgins.)*

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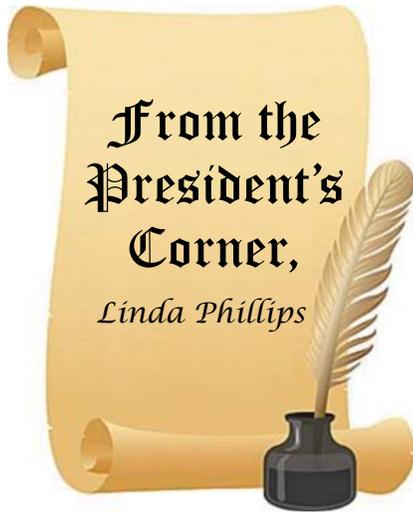
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- **Game #3:** West Virginia School for the Deaf versus Scranton School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children: Final score was WVSD 59 — SSDHHC 29. Polly Hodge, WVSD, led with 13 points. Maddie Mongold and Samantha Johnson, 12 points. Shawna Weatherholt, 10 points. The girls played hard and defended well in this game. Daphne Jones, SSDHHC, led with 12 points and Radoslava Slavova, 11 points.
- **Game #4:** Rochester School for the Deaf versus Delaware School for the Deaf: Final score was RSD 51 — DSD 23. Marissa Woodruff, RSD, led with 21 points. Christal Mitchell, 19 points. Isabel Glasman, DSD, led with 10 points.

**(ESDAA Division II Girls ... page 15)**



**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 (March, June, September, December). 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 Kapaldo.

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

Greetings,

I hope everyone stayed warm during these cold winter months and that this newsletter finds everyone well. I wanted to update everyone on things that will be happening in the coming months.

First, I am sad to inform you that WVAD no longer has a contract with ClearBlue. This was a decision made by ClearBlue which has affected all contracts with all states. This means that WVAVRS is no longer affiliated with WVAD. People can still make calls using WVAVRS until February 1, 2011. After that, WVAVRS will no longer work.

WVAD's Executive Board will be attending the Deaf Tech Fair in Charleston, WV on June 12, 2010, which is hosted by WVCDHH. Come and see us at our booth there.

On August 7, 2010, WVAD will be hosting our Biannual Picnic at Bulltown Campground at Shelter #5.

WVAD will provide the meat. Please bring a covered dish. There will be Corn Hole Tournament, Horseshoe Tournament, and water games. Come join us for a day of fun and campout with us that night, too. Keep an eye out for our flyer for more information.

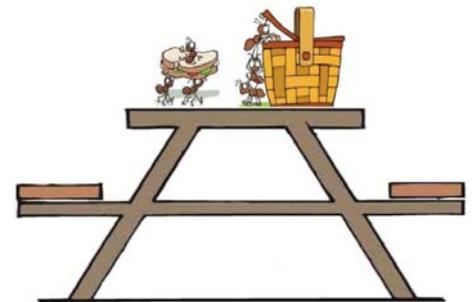
The Board is working hard to plan your next conference which will take place in Charleston, WV, in 2011. Continue to check our website, [www.wvad.org](http://www.wvad.org), and newsletter for more information and updates.

In closing, WVAD's next Board Meeting will be on April 3, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. in Ripley, WV. Anyone is welcome to stop by to observe and see what's going on with WVAD.

Sincerely,

*Linda Phillips (Eckhart)*

WVAD President



**WVAD Biannual Picnic  
 Bulltown Campground  
 Shelter #5  
 Bring covered dish and  
 join in the fun!**

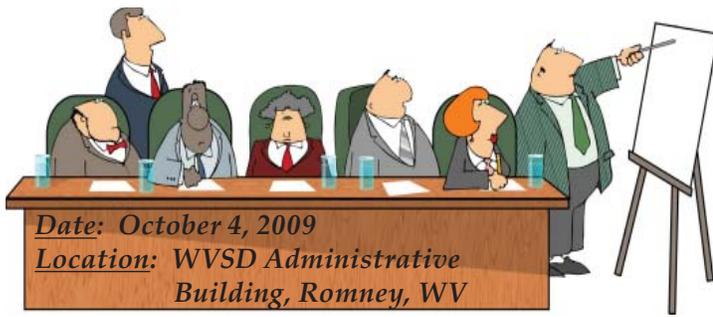
**AUGUST 7, 2010**

**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 Editor** 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*.



Editor:	<b>Tami Deem Kapaldo</b>
President:	<b>Linda Phillips</b>
Vice-President:	<b>Jimmy Harrison</b>
Secretary:	<b>Liz Leisure</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Veronda Harrison</b>
Senior Trustee:	<b>Jackie Sherrill-Robinson</b>
Trustee:	<b>Worthy Devericks</b>
Trustee:	<b>Scott Hottle</b>



# WVAD Board Minutes

*Date: October 4, 2009*

*Location: WVSD Administrative Building, Romney, WV*

## West Virginia Association of the Deaf Board Meeting, Conference Room – WVSD Administrative Building, Romney, WV, October 4, 2009

Members Present: Jackie Robinson, Veronda Harrison, Jimmy Harrison, Liz Leisure, Worthy Devericks, Scott Hottle, and Linda Eckhart.

Visitors: Connie Davis, Marilyn Bishop, Phoebe Richards, Emmanuel Robinson, Lois Devericks, Garnet Paugh, Tami Kapaldo, Erin Fulton, Kenny Stephens, and Debbie Pack.

Standing Committee Members: John Burdette and Caryn Keller.

The regular meeting of WVAD was held in the conference room at the West Virginia School for the Deaf Administrative Building, on Sunday morning, at 10:17 a.m. The minutes of the August 9, 2009 meeting was approved as read.

Treasurer Veronda Harrison gave the financial reports. As of September 30, 2009, the balance in the checking account was \$1,105.10; savings account - \$7,051.38; Mingo County Fund - \$15,063.86, and 2 certificates of deposits - \$12,003.63.

President Eckhart reported that an e-mail was sent to all officers asking them to choose two delegates to attend the NAD Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) to be held at Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus, Ohio. Six out of seven board members chose Liz Leisure and Linda Eckhart to attend the conference.

She reported that Ruby Losh has announced at the Romney Fire Hall Deaf Social on Saturday night (October 3, 2009) that the West Virginia School for the Deaf Alumni Association (WVSDAA)

and WVAD will work together on making plans for the WVSD's 140th year anniversary to be held in September 2010.

She reported that Danny Barrett from Sprint Relay Service, as well as John Burdette, expressed their interest in becoming partner with the WVAD to promote the new WV Relay Service.

She was informed that Sprint is no longer sponsoring the ASL films.

Vice-president Jimmy Harrison stated that he has received a complaint via e-mail that a person has been giving out his business cards to advertise his interpreting services. That person is not a certified interpreter.

Secretary Liz Leisure reported that she has answered several e-mails that were sent to the WVAD webpage.

None of the three trustees have anything to report at this time.

Tami Kapaldo is the new WVAD Editor. She discussed the need to set new rates for ads for advertisement in the WVAD newsletters.

Caryn Keller, Chairperson for the Deaf Youth Program, reported that since March 2009, she met with several teachers for the deaf and hard of hearing to review and discuss the educational interpreting guidelines. She asked that the wording on the membership form be changed by removing "the Deaf Pageant" and adding "the Youth Program" when requesting donations. If there should be any interest from girls to compete in the Deaf Pageant, the

money from the Youth Program can be used for that purpose.

John Burdette has nothing new to report on the DDLEOS project. He is still working on it.

He spoke on behalf of Ruby Losh, Chairperson for WVTRS, who was not able to attend the board meeting today. He said that Ruby is developing a new complaint form for the relay service.

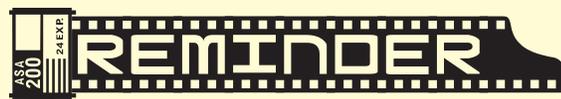
He announced that there is a new website for WV Relay Service – [www.westvirginiarelay.com](http://www.westvirginiarelay.com). West Virginia Relay and Sprint Relay partner to provide free accessible service for all citizens and visitors of West Virginia.

President Eckhart was informed by Robyn Evans, Chairperson for CSDVRS, that she has received two checks from CSDVRS in the amount of \$325.00 each. A contract renewal is due in November 2009.

President Eckhart announced that WVAD has a new group page on Facebook that was developed by John Burdette.

### Unfinished Business:

We need to start working on preserving the old program books and newsletters that are stored in boxes in the storage building. We also need to sort through other boxes and decide what to keep or destroy. Caryn Keller has volunteered to fix any old pictures that we want to keep at no charge to WVAD. President Eckhart has appointed (See [WVAD Board Minutes ... page 20](#))



If you are submitting an article, please send any accompanying photos in a standard photo format, as a separate file. We cannot use photos that are embedded or included in a Word document. Photos with captions and articles should be submitted to the [WVAD Editor](#). Thank you.



# In the News



**NOTE:** This is an update from the previous story that was in the News section of WVAD Newsletter Winter 2009 issue. - TK

## Two Former Executives of Indicted Video Relay Services Company Plead Guilty to Defrauding FCC Program

PR Newswire, WASHINGTON, January 13, 2010

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Anthony Mowl, the former assistant vice president of business development for Viable Communications Inc. (Viable), and Donald Tropp, the former human resources manager for Viable, pleaded guilty today to engaging in a conspiracy to defraud the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Video Relay Service (VRS) program of more than \$2.5 million, announced Assistant Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer of the Criminal Division.

Today, Mowl, 25, and Tropp, 25, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Court Judge Joel A. Pisano in Trenton, N.J., to conspiracy to commit mail fraud. Mowl and Tropp were indicted on Nov. 19, 2009, along with Viable's president, John T.C. Yeh; Viable's vice president of corporate strategy, Joseph Yeh; and the Viable corporate entity.

In pleading guilty, Mowl and Tropp admitted that beginning in approximately fall of 2007 and continuing through approximately January 2009, they conspired with others to pay individuals to make fraudulent VRS phone calls using Viable's VRS service. According to the pleas, John and Joseph Yeh paid Mowl and Tropp who would then pay people for using Viable's VRS service. Mowl and Tropp kept a portion of the payments for themselves and distributed the remainder to the paid callers. Viable then caused the submission of fraudulent call minute claims to the FCC, causing the FCC to pay those claims at a rate of approximately \$390 per hour for each of the VRS calls that it processed.

According to the indictment, VRS is an online video translation service that allows people with hearing disabilities to communicate with hearing individuals through the use of interpreters

and web cameras. A person with a hearing disability who wants to communicate with a hearing person can do so by contacting a VRS provider through an audio and video Internet connection. The VRS provider, in turn, employs a video interpreter to view and interpret the hearing disabled person's signed conversation and relay the signed conversation orally to a hearing person. VRS is funded by fees assessed by telecommunications providers to telephone customers, and is provided at no cost to the VRS user.

According to information contained in the plea documents, Mowl and Tropp admitted that their role in defrauding the FCC's VRS program led to a total of between \$2.5 million and \$7 million in fraudulent billing to the program. At sentencing, both Mowl and Tropp face a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, as well as mandatory restitution and forfeiture. A sentencing date has not yet been set by the court.

Co-defendants John T.C. Yeh, Joseph Yeh and Viable are scheduled to stand trial on the charges in the indictment on May 24, 2010. An indictment is merely an accusation, and defendants are presumed innocent until and unless

proven guilty at trial beyond a reasonable doubt.

In addition to the indictment charging the Yehs, Mowl, Tropp and Viable, five indictments were unsealed on Nov. 19, 2009, charging an additional 22 people with engaging in a scheme to steal millions of dollars from the FCC's VRS program. The indictments charge owners and employees of the following six companies with engaging in a scheme to defraud the FCC's VRS program:

- Master Communications LLC, of Las Vegas;
- KL Communications LLC, of Phoenix;
- Mascom LLC of Austin, Texas;
- Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Interpreting Services Inc. (DHIS), of New York and New Jersey;
- Innovative Communication Services for the Deaf Corp. (ICSD), of Miami Lakes, Fla.; and
- Deaf Studio 29 of Huntington Beach, Calif.

These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant Chief Hank Bond Walther and Trial Attorney Brigham Cannon of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section. The cases are being investigated by FBI's Washington Field Office, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the FCC Office of Inspector General.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice

LINK: [http://www.bizjournals.com/prnewswire/press\\_releases/District\\_of\\_Columbia/2010/01/13/DC37349](http://www.bizjournals.com/prnewswire/press_releases/District_of_Columbia/2010/01/13/DC37349) ■

(See News ... page 5)



(News from page 4)

## Schools mark anniversary

### Deaf students perform patriotic songs for legislators

by Ry Rivard, Daily Mail Capitol Reporter

(<http://www.dailymail.com/News/statehouse/201003030781>)

#### STATEHOUSE NEWS

Thursday March 4, 2010

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Lawmakers wiggled their fingers and twisted their wrists to applaud students from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

About 25 students visited the House of Delegates chamber Wednesday to commemorate the deaf and blind school's founding by the Legislature 140 years ago.

Deaf students from the school's high school choir Tapestry opened with a sign language medley of patriotic songs. While lawmakers heard music, they watched the students sign "America the Beautiful" and the National Anthem.

The music ensemble's director Barry Nealis said putting songs into American Sign Language becomes complicated and there is a point where what the students sign is not exactly the lyrics to the song.

So, to keep up with "O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain," the students couldn't sign the words exactly.

"Instead we presented the sky as big," Nealis said.

Senior Roddy Stickley, 18, had his own troubles getting the song down. As a left-handed signer, he had to adapt all the gestures, which were designed for right-handers.

Following Nealis, then, became a bit like looking in the mirror for the southpaw.

"When I first started, it was confusing, but now it's become normal," Stickley said.

Blind and deaf students from the school's Mountaineer Melodies elementary choir also sang and signed "You're a Grand Old Flag."

Sixth-grader Tyler Greene, 11, who can see but has to read large print material, said he's always liked to hum, but he doesn't plan to become a musician.

He's more interested in studying math and science to become an architect.

"That's where I think I could use my imagination the most," Greene said.

The schools for the deaf and blind were formed on March 3, 1870. Before the school had its first class in the fall of that year, blind and deaf students in the state were "practically deprived of adequate educational opportunities" and had to cross state lines for school

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IS ONLINE

<http://www.wvad.org>

or suffer here, according to a citation the House passed Wednesday.

The schools, which work together, have grown from an initial class of 30 students to now serve 170 students at its campus in Romney and several hundred more across the state through extension programs.

Gov. Joe Manchin came to the House to watch and congratulate the students.

As "O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave," blared over the audio, the students pumped their biceps to sign "brave."

Then legislators put their hands at their sides and waved their hands by rotating them at the wrist. In American Sign Language, that means applause.

Contact writer Ry Rivard at [ry.riv...@dailymail.com](mailto:ry.riv...@dailymail.com) or 304-348-5185. ■



Students from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind perform Wednesday for the House of Delegates in Charleston. About 25 students visited the Capitol to commemorate the school's founding by the Legislature 140 years ago. Photo by Bob Wojcieszak.

Gov. Joe Manchin and House Speaker Rick Thompson, D-Wayne, present proclamations to children from the school. Photo by Bob Wojcieszak.



## WV Deaf News Today

February 15, 2010 (<http://deafnewstoday.blogspot.com/search/label/West%20Virginia>)

### School Marks Anniversary

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind will celebrate its 140th anniversary in just a few days. The school's 161 students live on campus. Back in the 1960s and early 1970s, the school typically had between 350 and 400 students.

### WV Funds

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind will get a share of the money going throughout the state to make sure students have access to the Internet. The Romney-based school will get nearly \$15,000 of the federal money from the ERate program.

### Nursing School Lawsuit

A hearing-impaired nursing student has filed a civil lawsuit for disability discrimination against Marshall University. Alexandra Bertolotti claims the West Virginia school failed to provide her the same assistance the university provided the daughter of State Treasurer John Perdue. Bertolotti missed making the nursing program by only a half percentage point. Her

complaint says Perdue's daughter was given the Dean as her lead professor in two independent study courses and provided opportunities to make up missed assignments. Bertolotti was not given these advantages. Bertolotti also claims the professor ridiculed her hearing difficulties in front of her classmates and questioned why she would even enroll in the University's Nursing Program. Marshall is denying any wrongdoing and trying to get the case moved to a different court or dismissed.

### Deaf Student Scholarship

A new scholarship at a West Virginia college will provide aid to deaf students. The William Johnson Memorial Scholarship will provide two \$1,500 scholarships to Marshall Community and Technical College. William Johnson was denied admission to college because he was deaf. His widow, who is also deaf, cried when she found out about the scholarship in his honor. Johnson lived his life by the motto "Deaf can, yes!"

### Interpreter Denied by Medical Office

A deaf patient denied an -ASL interpreter by a medical office has agreed to a settlement. Medbrook Medical Associates in Bridgeport, WV, required his sick wife to serve as an interpreter for him. He was told the office would never hire interpreters. The U.S. Justice Department says office will pay \$8,000 in damages and \$1,000 in civil penalties. The doctors at Medbrook have agreed to make a new policy in line with ADA law, post it in waiting rooms and train their staff on how to deal with hearing-impaired patients.

### New Standard in West Virginia

West Virginia will require sign language interpreters in schools to score a three on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment starting in July. That standard will increase to 3.5 by 2010. The EIPA rating ranges from 0 to 5. Many school interpreters in the state do not have that level of skill. The interpreters are videotaped and scored by officials in Omaha, Nebraska, at the Boys Town National Research Hospital. ■

## 140 Years: Landmark Anniversary For Deaf, Blind School

Story by Christine Miller Ford, The State Journal

(<http://www.statejournal.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=75751>)

**West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind prepares to celebrate its 140th anniversary and shows how technology is changing the way students learn.**

ROMNEY — With the 140th anniversary of the creation of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind just a week away, one instructor says it's mind-boggling to think about the changes she's seen on campus just in her lifetime.

Mary Ennis Kesler, 30, said she sometimes tries to explain to her students just how much cell phone text-messaging, the Internet and other technology have changed life for people with hearing impairments.

"We have access to the whole world now," said Kesler, a Lewis County native who enrolled at the Romney school in 1984 when she was 4. "Technology has made it so that not being able to hear doesn't keep a person from doing

anything they want to do. There are all these ways to communicate, all these ways to learn. We're not isolated like before."

Situated on the same campus, the state's School for the Blind also is experiencing a revolution in technology with a plethora of devices such as Braille PDAs and laptops equipped with the latest in voice-recognition software.

Despite the tech revolution, the Romney school in many ways approaches its mission in the same way it did in its earliest days, said Patsy Shank, the school's superintendent.

"It's about our students and what they need as individuals," said Shank, a Keyser native who began teaching here in 1981 and became superintendent in mid-2007.

"Technology allows our teachers to teach more effectively and more creatively, there's no doubt. But what

we're doing now is what we've always done -- put to use the most cutting-edge tools we have available so that our students can access information and achieve their highest potentials."

Priscilla Bohrer, the school's technology coordinator, said she tries diligently to stretch the technology budget by securing grants wherever possible and also by making careful buying decisions -- typically taking new products on loan and asking students to test them before the school makes a purchase.

"We like the students to give something a try for 30 days and see if it really fits their needs," she said. "They're very honest. If something works, they tell me so. If something doesn't work, typically you'll see them just not using it."

Some students ride a bus to school from within Hampshire County or neighboring communities, but most of (See 140 Years ... page 7)

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## (140 Years from page 6)

the school's 161 students live on campus, so the recent installation of wireless Internet access throughout the dorms was widely cheered, Bohrer said.

The school also purchased 30 mini laptops for juniors and seniors. They come with software that blocks all shopping sites, social networking outlets such as Facebook, and other destinations deemed inappropriate.

### Classroom Changes

Kesler, who studied anthropology and sociology at West Virginia University and earned her master's degree at Fairmont State University, remembers her parents, both hearing-impaired, embracing new technology as it became available, notably the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), an electronic apparatus that beginning in the 1960s allowed for text conversations via a telephone line.

"That was a big deal because it allowed them to function so much better," she said.

But to her students, the TDD -- a much smaller machine these days with a computer screen to display text rather than the words printing out on paper -- hardly qualifies as technology, Kesler continued. "Now our students stay in touch with their parents back home by using video phones."

The technology allows deaf students to hold phone conversations not only with others with hearing impairments but also allows for conversations between the deaf and the hearing. After picking up the videophone connected to a TV, a deaf student sees a trained sign language interpreter appear on screen. The student signs to the interpreter, who then talks to the hearing user via a regular phone line.

There are three such units on campus, Bohrer said, and parents with hearing impairments are provided equipment for their homes.

"We know it's very important for our students to be able to stay in touch with the people they love back home," she said.

Kesler remembers in the years before TDDs were widely used when face-to-face offered the sole means for communication to most deaf people.

"You'd have to drive to someone's house, see if they were even home, just to ask a simple question," she said.

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By allowing people with hearing impairments greater access to every aspect of modern life, technology has opened doors to a range of occupations and aspirations, Kesler said.

"Before, if you were deaf, you went into a vocation such as printing or clerical work," she said. "Now with so much work being done on computers, there are so many different businesses you can choose from. You can work from home or invent your own business. Before, the number of options was limited, like a pinpoint. Now it's wide, wide open."

In the classroom, technology gets students excited about what they're studying in class, boosts their understanding and allows more give and take as opposed to her giving a lecture and the students sitting and listening, Kesler said.

Kesler, who teaches at the elementary level, is devoted to her "smart board," which allows her to use her laptop to quickly project photos, drawings, and text onto a display board and then manipulate the images with a pen, finger, or other device.

Because students with hearing impairments depend more on their sense of vision, it's a huge learning boost to be able to quickly offer an image to help a student understand a new concept, Kesler said.

Mike Coleman, principal for the elementary School for the Deaf, said Kesler and other teachers make the latest technology an everyday part of the classroom.

"Years ago, if you were reading about Texas and the text mentioned an armadillo, a student would naturally want to know what an armadillo looks like," he said. "So the teacher would have to go to an encyclopedia, flip through to find the entry and maybe there'd be one small, black and white illustration. Now you can find photos, multiple photos of armadillos. You can video showing armadillos actually digging. You have that instant visual and all the other information you could possibly want, literally right there at the teacher's fingertips."

### A Crisis in Braille?

For Braille users, the technology tsunami of recent years has spawned unease that old-school Braille will

become a forgotten way for the blind to read and create written communication.

"It's a huge concern," said Romney teacher Donna Brown, who learned to read Braille from kindergarten as a student at Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia.

"Like so many things, there's a good side to what technology can do, and there are aspects that can be a bit troubling," said Brown, who is 50 and joined the faculty at the School for the Blind 27 years ago.

As voice recognition software has become more sophisticated and less expensive, many people with visual impairments rely on such programs to read email, complete paperwork, and handle other day-to-day tasks that require reading and writing.

"When I talk with someone who says he or she doesn't see the need to learn Braille, I ask what they'd do if their technology breaks down," Brown explained. "How would you even write a note? You've got to be able to use the low-tech method, too."

Learning Braille also requires mastery of spelling, grammar, and punctuation rules, Brown said.

"If you've written something on your computer through voice, you may not catch an extra space between a period or realize how you should organize sentences into a paragraph," she said.

A recent report from the National Federation of the Blind called the decline in Braille use a crisis, saying just 10 percent of blind school-age children use it as their primary means of reading and writing.

It's been nearly two centuries since Louis Braille, a blind Frenchman, created the method of communication that organizes raised dots into distinct characters.

But in recent decades, Braille instruction has faltered, according to officials with the National Federation of the Blind, because of a shortage of Braille instructors and a belief by some that Braille instruction is no longer a must.

Brown said Braille instruction remains a strict requirement at her school. It can take a couple of years for students to become fluent. Patience and practice are essential, she said.

(See 140 Years ... page 19)

# WINTER WALLOP

Blizzard Dumps More Than a Foot of Snow!



*Snow that was dumped in Staunton, VA.*



*14 inches of snow fell in Morgantown, WV.*



*The beauty of Ole Winter Man in Morgantown, WV.*



*16 inches of snow fell in Brandonville, WV.*



*A buried ATV in more than 2 feet of snow, Hazelton, WV.*



*The beauty of Ole Winter Man, Rt. 7, Core, WV.*



## PHILIP W. BUCHANAN

Buchanan, Philip W., 61, of Midlothian, passed away December 22, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn G. Buchanan; two daughters, Maggie J. and Tina A. Buchanan; two brothers and two sisters. Philip was a graduate of the West Virginia School of the Deaf and Blind in Romney, WV. He was a member of the Richmond Club of the Deaf. A funeral service was held 2 p.m. Sunday at Bliley's-Chippenham, 6900 Hull Street Rd. Interment was private.

Philip graduated from WVSD in 1967. ■

## VERNA "ELLY" ELOISE BOLEN

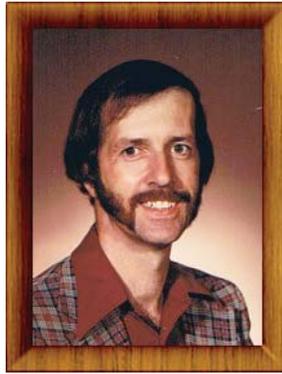
Verna Eloise Bolen, 81, of St. Augustine, Fla. passed away on Dec. 14, 2009. Bolen was born on July 4, 1928 in Mullens, West Virginia. A graduate from Gallaudet University in 1955, where she was co-founder of Delta Epsilon Sorority. Bolen went on to teach language and fine arts at South Carolina and Florida Schools for the Deaf. She leaves behind her daughter, Jodi Tiberio Stach (Jeff); grandchildren, Chelsea and Zachary Stanch, all of Jacksonville. Memorial Services were held on Dec. 18 at Craig Funeral Home in St. Augustine, Fla. Memorial contributions can be made to Gallaudet University, ATTN: Development Office, in memory of Eloise Bolen, to Delta Epsilon Sorority, at this address 800 Florida Ave NE, Washington, D.C. 20002.

We asked old friends if they knew her. They said she had enrolled at WV School for the Deaf in 1942 and left to go to Florida School for the Deaf after that.

Mullens, WV, is in Wyoming County. ■  
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## *"In Memory of Loved Ones"*



## EDWIN ALEXANDER STICKEL

Memorial Services for Edwin Alexander Stickel will be held at Bedington United Methodist Church on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Robert Barnes and Rev. Walter Bowers officiating.

Edwin passed away in Salt Lake City on November 18, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Barbara of Rigby, Idaho; three step-children, Elizabeth, Jerry, and Sharleen; his parents, Marvin W. and Peggy Stickel; three brothers, Paul A. Tyson, II, Kevin W. Stickel, and M. Andrew Stickel all of Martinsburg; three sisters, Karen M. Huelseman of Xenia, Ohio, Bonnie L. Barrett of Martinsburg, and Connie L. Noll of Rouzerville, PA; three foster sisters, Bonnie Jean Pearrell, Sara Jane Nealis, and Lillie Mae Pryle, all of Martinsburg; aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews, and also many hearing and deaf friends.

Edwin was a graduate of the School of the Deaf in Romney, WV, in 1972, and a retired employee of Harpers Ferry National Park Service and Wright Motors.

Arrangements were by Brown Funeral Home. ■

## PEGGY MILLER

LEON, W.Va. — Peggy Miller, 77, of Leon, passed away Saturday, November 28, 2009, at Holzer Medical Center.

Born September 16, 1932, in Lorado, she was a daughter to the late Joe and Augusta Snodgrass Miller. Also preceding her in death was her husband, Earl Miller; two sisters; one brother; one daughter, and two granddaughters.

Peggy was a homemaker.

Survivors include one daughter, Peggy (David) McCormack of Leon; one son, Michael Miller of Amherst, Ohio; grandchildren, Derrick (Kimberly) Miller, Zachary McCormack, Steven McCormack and Hannah McCormack, all of Point Pleasant, and Jessica Adams of Logan; great-grandchildren, Hayden and Preston Miller of Harts and Elijah, Kaiden and Alexis Miller, all of Point Pleasant; brothers, Clarence (Carol) Chandler and Clayton (Patty) Chandler, both of Lorain, Ohio, and sisters, Wanda Estworthy of Newark, Ohio, and Ruby King of Racine.

Services were held at 8 p.m. on December 1, at the Deal Funeral Home with Rev. James McCormack officiating. Burial with a graveside service was held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, December 2, at Highland Memory Gardens at Godby.

Visitation was from 6 p.m. until time of services at the funeral home.

Deal Funeral Home of Point Pleasant was in charge of the arrangements.

Peggy enrolled at WVSD in 1943. ■

## DARRELL N. WELCH, JR.

Darrell N. Welch, Jr., 54, of St. Albans passed away Jan. 23, 2010, at Thomas Memorial Hospital.

Born Jan. 1, 1956, he was a son of the late Darrell N. Sr. and Shirley Casto Welch.

Darrell attended the Romney School for the Deaf and was a former printer for the state of West Virginia.

He is survived by a sister, Lindy Boswell; and a brother, Mike Welch, both of London, Ky.; half brother, Derrick Welch of Tampa, Fla.; and aunts, Margie, Barbara, Arlene and JoAnn.

Memorial service was at 7 p.m. on January 28, at Elk Funeral Home, 2001 Pennsylvania Ave., Charleston. Burial will be at a later date.

The family received friends 1 hour before the service at the funeral home.

Arrangements were in the care of Elk Funeral Home, Charleston. ■

# WV School for the Deaf Boys' Basketball Team Came in 3rd Place at ESDAA Tournament

by Paul See

We traveled to Austine School for the Deaf in Vermont for the ESDAA Boys Division II Basketball tournament held on February 18–20, 2010. Since only 7 teams participated in this tournament, Austine originally invited American School for the Deaf to participate as No. 8 team. Unfortunately, American varsity team had to attend to their ESDAA Division I basketball tournament at Western Pennsylvania. American organized a team consisted of very young boys. This game allowed my bench players to play for the whole game to maintain the competition level between two teams.

We opened up the 1st quarter with the 8–2 lead and never looked back as we maintained the lead, 25–12 at halftime. The score showed 38–16 at the end of 3rd quarter. Final score was WVSD 52 — American JV 42.

Trent McGee and Brandon Lewis led the team with 12 points each. Jonathan Stokes followed up with 7 points. Jordan Clark scored 6 points. Patrick Lee and Jensen Greenstein each scored 5 points. DeSean Thomas scored 1 point February 19th.

We faced Delaware in semi final. Delaware took the lead 12–7 in 1st quarter. Delaware maintained the lead 26–23 at halftime. Delaware closed the 3rd quarter with 46–35 lead. Final score was WVSD 46 — Delaware 53.

Roderick Stickley led the team with 15 points. DeSean Thomas followed up with 10 points. Patrick Lee scored 9 points. Jonathan Stokes scored 7 points. Ethan Bolyard fought his way to earn 5 points. We faced Rochester for 3rd and 4th place the next day. WVSD's record was 7–9.

On February 20th, we faced Rochester for 3rd and 4th place in ESDAA Division II Boys tournament. We opened the first quarter with 18–6 lead and never looked back as we maintained the lead 39–10 at halftime. We closed the 3rd quarter with 48–16 lead. The players from the bench got to get some playing time in 4th quarter. Final score was WVSD 55 — Rochester 20.

Roderick Stickley led the team with 16 points. Jonathan Stokes followed up with 10 points. Ethan Bolyard and

Patrick Lee each scored 8 points. DeSean Thomas fought his way to earn 6 points. Brandon Lewis scored 5 points. Jensen Greenstein contributed the team with 2 points. WVSD's record improved to 8–9.

Roderick Stickley was selected to be on the All ESDAA First Team as Jonathan Stokes and Patrick Lee received Honorable Mentions.

Scranton won the championship and Delaware came in second. West Virginia claimed 3rd place as Rochester fell to 4th place. Rhode Island took 5th place while Mill Neck Manor ended up in 6th place. Austine came in 7th.

Scranton took home Team 21 shooting and Team foul shooting titles as Rochester took home team 3 pointer shooting.

Coach See was elected to serve as the ESDAA Boys Division II chairperson.

Roderick Stickley (player) and Coach See were selected to represent the East for East/West Classic High School All Stars in Louisville, KY, on April 9, 2010. ■



WVSD boys placed 3rd in the ESDAA Tournament.



ESDAA Division II Boys 1st All Star Players



1st All Star Players: Roderick Stickley from WVSD is in the middle.

# Deaf Chat at Teays Valley, WV

Deaf Chat is held at Teays Valley, WV, once a month, 1st Friday of the month at Tim Horton's coffee shop. They meet at 5:00 p.m. and stay until everyone is ready to go home. They get together to meet old and new



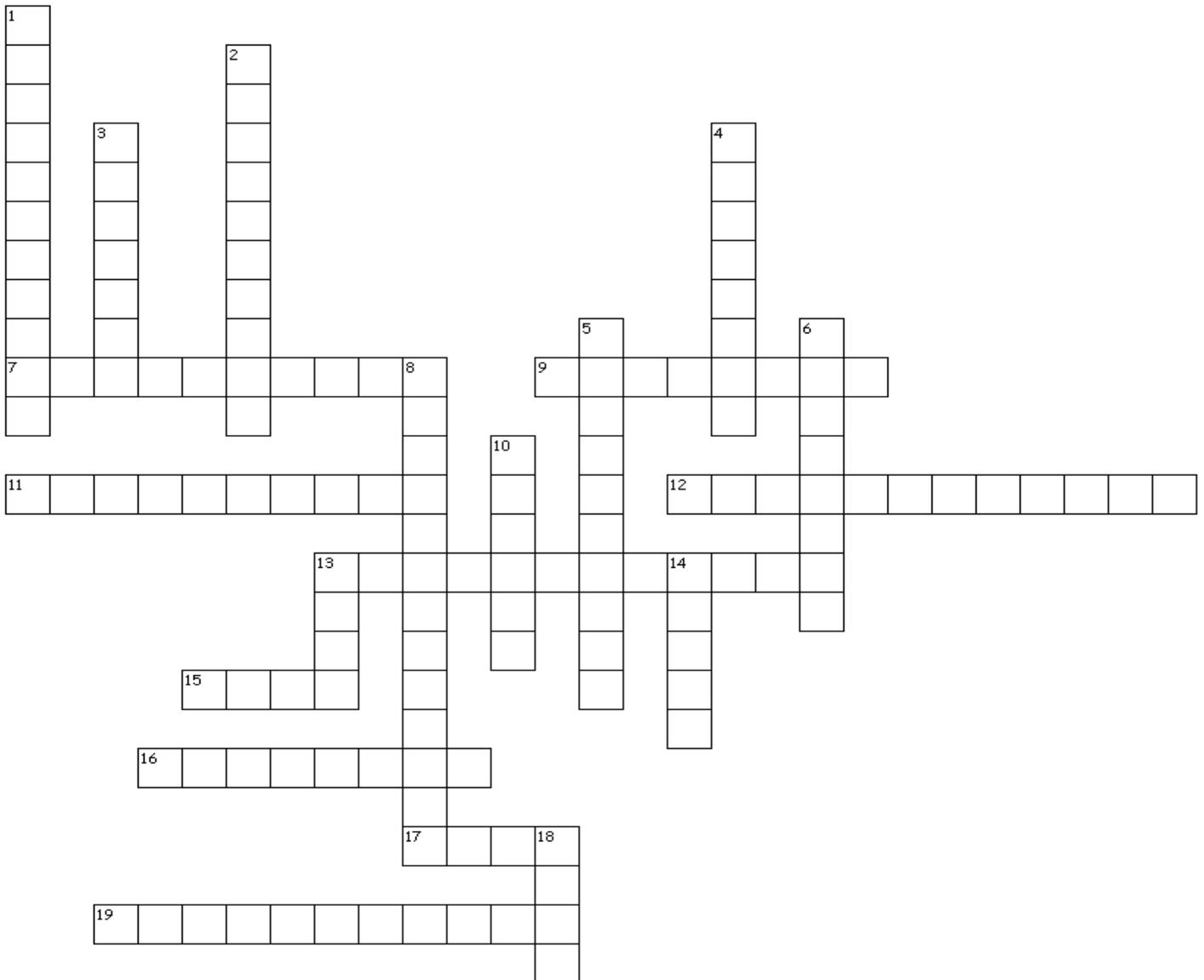
friends, have a cup of coffee or tea, and something to eat, while they enjoy each other's company. Approximately 20-25 people would come. Everyone is welcome to come! The photos below were taken on March 5th, 2010. ■





## WVAD History

To help you find answers for your crossword puzzle, the clues are in the story on the next page "The WVAD Conference: A Look Back ..." Have fun!



### Across:

7. Who was the guest speaker from WV Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in 1947?
9. In 1920, what was granted to deaf people in the state by the State Road Commission?
11. In 1979, what city was the host for the first time?
12. Who donated a gift to start a home for aged and infirm deaf?

(See Fun Page on page 13)

WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2010

### (Fun Page from page 12)

13. Who described what the VR Division was doing on behalf of the handicapped at Institute?
15. How many deaf people have worked in the coal mines?
16. In 1930, a bronze wall memorial tablet dedicated by the Association and placed in the Administrative Building was to honor deaf \_\_\_\_\_ who taught at Romney.
17. In 1960, they couldn't find the Association \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Where was the 31st convention held?

### Down:

1. Where in the eastern panhandle was the conference held in 1987?
2. Where is the 2011 WVAD conference going to be located?
3. Where was the convention held in the southern city for the first time in 1985?
4. Where was the association officially born?
5. What was distributed to deaf drivers at the 36th conference?
6. Who was the Superintendent in 1936?
8. Who came out favoring the use of both oralism and sign language in a combination system of education?
10. Where was WVSD's 50th Anniversary held in 1920?
13. At what hotel was the subject of a Labor Bureau for the Deaf in the state brought up?
14. In 2007, the 36th conference theme was "WVAD – The Future Is in Your \_\_\_\_\_."
18. In 2005, WVAD adopted a new \_\_\_\_\_.

(See answers on page 14)

## The WVAD Conference: A Look Back...

**1914:** ROMNEY: First organizational convention held. **1916:** WHEELING: First Constitution and By-Laws, first officers elected; association officially born. **1918:** CHARLESTON: First membership fee of one dollar passed.

**1920:** ROMNEY: WVSD's 50th Anniversary. Resolution made commending State Road Commission for granting licenses to the deaf people in the state at a time when many states were denying the same privilege. **1923:** ROMNEY: Proposal for teaching updated vocational trades at the school was encouraged so graduates could get better jobs. **1927:** ROMNEY: Gift by Emma Barlett to start a home for aged and infirm deaf was accepted.

**1930:** ROMNEY: A bronze wall memorial tablet dedicated by the association and placed in the Administrative Building to honor the deaf teachers who taught at Romney. **1934:** HUNTINGTON: Association told of its state incorporation charter December 30, 1930, as a non-profit organization for the general welfare of the deaf in the State. **1936:** ROMNEY: Questions were raised about the Covell Literary Society, which Superintendent A. E. Krause promised to keep active. **1939:** CLARKSBURG: WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2010

Gore Hotel; subject of a Labor Bureau for the Deaf in the state was brought up; also how to use the Bartlett gift. 247 attended. 129 paid members.

**1947:** CHARLESTON: Ray F. Powers of the West Virginia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation was guest speaker and answered questions on the aid available to the handicapped in WV. 250 registered. 215 paid members.

**1950:** WHEELING: Superintendent Stanley Harris, in an address, came out favoring the use of both oralism and sign language in a combination system of education; all monies were voted into the general fund, the basis being the fund is "for the welfare of the deaf" in the state, therefore requiring no special clause for the endowment fund. 220 registered. **1953:** PARKERSBURG: New By-Laws needing updating were passed. 234 registered. **1956:** WHEELING: Held here in place of Morgantown, which made no preparations. 153 registered.

**1960:** CHARLESTON: Held here due to Clarksburg making no preparations. Could not find Association seal. 220 in attendance. **1963:** PARKERSBURG: Floral spray for deceased at convention time; started cash award for outstanding graduating senior. 204 in attendance.

**1966:** ROMNEY: Held here for first time in 30 years to prepare centennial of the school; membership fee increased to \$3.00; Glenn Mathews of VR described what the division was doing on behalf of the handicapped at Institute. 269 registered. **1969:** WHEELING: Pay registration fee before partaking of any entertainment; minutes of prior convention be printed; buy bank certificates in place of U.S. Bonds; addition of third trustee. 119 registered.

**1972:** CHARLESTON: Association return to biennial (75-5); first day begin on Thursday and end with last session on Saturday; 270 registered. **1975:** PARKERSBURG: Two firsts: headquartered in Holiday Inn motel, buffet banquet; new By-Laws to be voted on at Clarksburg in 1977. 211 registered. **1977:** CLARKSBURG: Sheraton Inn – most of the sessions devoted to updating the By-Laws. Convention began on Thursday; 174 attended buffet banquet and 215 in attendance at the ballroom. 272 registered – making this our largest convention to date. **1979:** MORGANTOWN: First time as host. Hearing people interested in the (See WVAD Conference ... page 14)

**(WVAD Conference from page 13)**

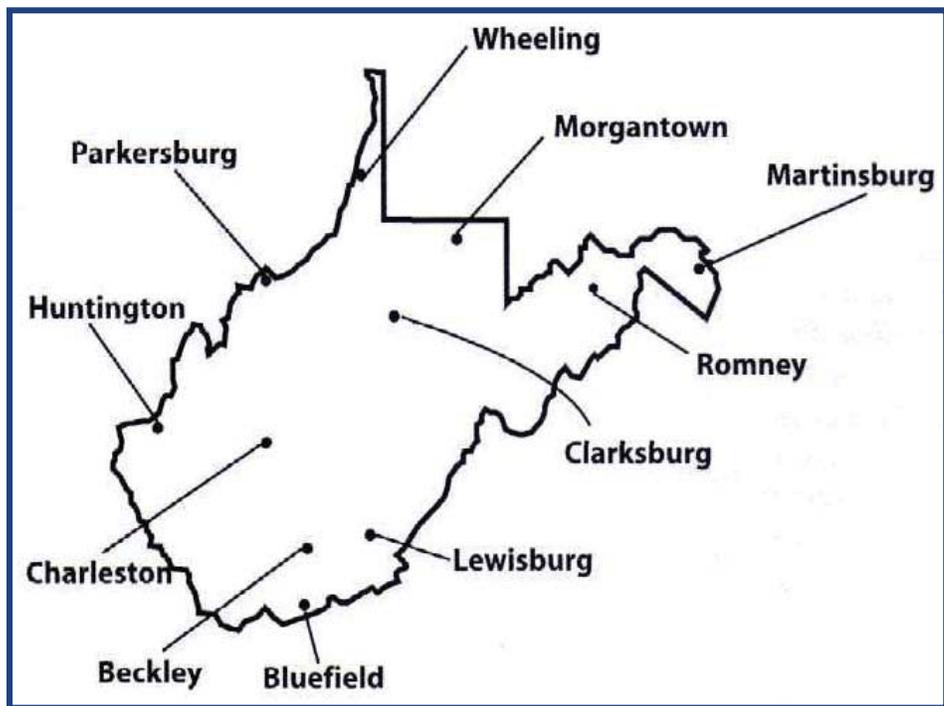
association can become members and participate. 187 registered.

**1980:** CHARLESTON: Had first seminar on education at Vocational Rehabilitation Center at Institute. **1981:** HUNTINGTON: Held here first time since 1934 at downtown Holiday Inn; close to 200 attended; final ongoing changes made to By-Laws. **1982:** CHARLESTON: Second seminar on education held at Vocational Rehabilitation Center. **1983:** CHARLESTON: 24th convention held at Ramada Inn (South Charleston); more power given to Executive Board to act in between the conventions; over 200 attended, with a full house for the Miss Deaf West Virginia Pageant. **1984:** Conference on Automobile Insurance held at the Vocational Rehabilitation Center; close to 100 participated. **1985:** BECKLEY: First time convention has been held in this southern city, at its Ramada Inn. First time the conventioners saw likeness of a coal mine, except five deaf persons who have worked in coal mining. **1986:** CLARKSBURG: Conference on Education of the Deaf at Ramada Inn. **1987:** MARTINSBURG: First time for convention to be held in Eastern Panhandle at its Sheraton Inn. **1988:**

CHARLESTON: Conference on Legislative and Political Processing at Holiday Inn. **1989:** CLARKSBURG: Convention at Holiday Inn.

**1990:** ROMNEY: WVAD's 75th Anniversary Celebration at the West Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind. The attendance was close to 600 people. **1991:** WHEELING: To be hosted for WVAD's 28th Biennial Convention at the Wheeling East-Quality Inn since 1969. **1992:** CHARLESTON: Mini-convention for one-day workshop on "Parliamentary Procedures" at the Health and Human Resources. **1993:** CHARLESTON: 29th Convention held at Ramada Inn (South Charleston). The theme was "From the Old Deaf Culture to the New Deaf Culture." **1995:** FAIRMONT: Mini-convention one-day workshop on "Parliamentary Procedures." **1995:** ROMNEY: WV School for the Deaf 125th Anniversary and convention at the school. **1996:** CHARLESTON: Held in Health and Human Resources; 35 attended. **1997:** PARKERSBURG: 31st Convention held at Holiday Inn. The sessions devoted to updating the By-Laws. 150 in attendance. **1999:** LEWISBURG: 32nd Conference held at the Brier Inn and Convention

Center. Most of the sessions were devoted to updating the By-Laws; 100 in attendance. **2001:** WHEELING: 33rd Conference at the Holiday Express Inn. The theme was "Y2D: It's Time for a Change." Miss Deaf West Virginia Pageant came back. 94 in attendance. **2003:** BLUEFIELD: 34th Conference at the Holiday Inn. The theme was "Looking Ahead to the Future." **2005:** CLARKSBURG: 35th Conference at the Holiday Inn. The theme was "Step Forward to Better Leaders, Technology, Education." WVAD adopts new logo. Celebrated 90 years. 124 in attendance. **2007:** CHARLESTON: 36th Conference held at Embassy Suites. The theme was "WVAD - The Future Is in Your Hands." Deaf Drivers and Law Enforcement Officers Safety Project was presented and visor cards to deaf drivers were distributed. 171 in attendance. **2009:** PARKERSBURG: 37th Conference held at Comfort Suites Inn in Mineral Wells. The theme was "Jump on Board with WVAD." 70 people attended. **2011:** CHARLESTON: To be announced later. Please watch for more information in the [www.wvad.org](http://www.wvad.org) website. ■



**(Fun Page answers from page 12)**

**Across:**

- 7. Ray F. Powers
- 9. Licenses
- 11. Morgantown
- 12. Emma Bartlett
- 13. Glenn Mathews
- 15. Five
- 16. Teachers
- 17. Seal
- 19. Parkersburg

**Down:**

- 1. Martinsburg
- 2. Charleston
- 3. Beckley
- 4. Wheeling
- 5. Visor cards
- 6. A. E. Krause
- 8. Stanley Harris
- 10. Romney
- 13. Gore
- 14. Hands
- 18. Logo

## ESDAA Division II Girls from page 1)

On Friday, February 26, 2010, 4 games were played.

- **Game #5:** Scranton versus Delaware. Final score was SSDHHC 37 — DSD 35. Danielle Brunner, SSDHHC, led with 15 points and Radoslava Slavova, 10 points. Kiona Drayton, DSD, led with 21 points.
- **Game #6:** Rome versus Bishop Walsh, Cumberland, MD. Final score was NYSSD 37 — BW 48. Amanda Miller, NYSSD, led with 25 points. She made 7 3-point shots.
- **Game #7:** Rhode Island versus St. Mary's. Final score was RISD 25 — SMSD 40. Dominique Chasse, RISD, led with 10 points. Crystle Marion, SMSD, led with 16 points.
- **Game #8:** Rochester versus West Virginia. Final score was RSD 36 — WVSD 50. Marissa Woodruff, RSD, led with 14 points. Summer Loucks, 13 points. Polly Hodge, WVSD, led with 17 points. Amber Williams, 10 points. The girls struggled in the first quarter, but after second quarter, WVSD girls played and shot to make points. By the fourth quarter, one could think that WVSD girls may have lost the momentum, but the fans

helped by cheering and showing spirit.

On Saturday, February 27, 2010, 3 games were played.

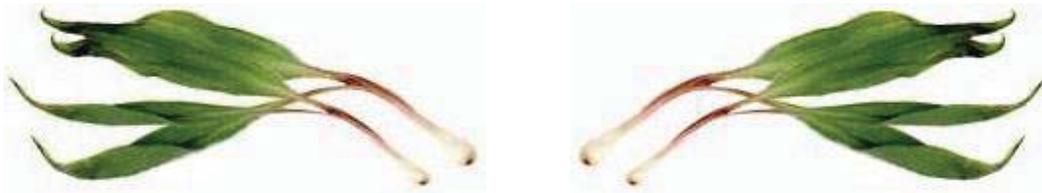
- **Game #9:** Scranton versus Rome for 5th place. The final score was SSDHHC 30 — NYSSD 23. Danielle Brunner, SSDHHC, led with 10 points. Amanda Miller, NYSSD, led with 14 points.
- **Game #10:** Rhode Island versus Rochester for 3rd place. Final score was RISD 26 — RSD 50. Electra Smith, RISD, led with 18 points. Marissa Woodruff, RSD, led with 22 points. Rochester won 3rd place.
- **Game #11:** West Virginia versus St. Mary's for Championship. The final score was WVSD 43 — SMSD 58. Cassie Heaster, WVSD, led with 8 points. After the game, the girls were disappointed, but Coach Kesler was not because she knew that the girls played their best and really had difficulty defending the tall girls from SMSD! Coach Kesler was proud of her girls for their effort and spirit during the weekend. Crystle Marion, SMSD, led with 30 points. St. Mary's won the championship. WVSD placed 2nd place.

The awards are given after the Championship game. Kist Free Throw shooting competition champion was WVSD. 3-point shooting competition champion was RISD. Tom Berry "21" shooting competition champion was WVSD. First Team All-Stars were Crystle Marion, SMSD; Polly Hodge, WVSD; Electra Smith, RISD; Maddie Mongold, WVSD; and Marissa Woodruff, RSD. Second Team All-Stars were Christal Mitchell, RSD; Kiona Drayton, DSD; Amanda Miller, NYSSD; Radoslava Slavova, SSDHHC; and Summer Loucks, RSD.

Honorable Mention All-Stars were Daphne Jones, SSDHHC; Sarah Flowers, SMSD; Danielle Brunner, SSDHHC; Dominique Chasse, RISD; and Amber Williams, WVSD. Anne Leo Award went to Suada Abdulkadir, SMSD for her courage, determination, and enthusiasm. John Carty Sportsmanship Award went to Scranton School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

We want to thank WVSD staff and alumni for supporting our tournament and for being the greatest fans on Earth for our WVSD girls! Let's go, Lions! Good job, ladies! ■





# 5th Annual Ramp Dinner

Saturday, April 24, 2010

11 AM till ???

at

Alderson Community Center

## **Menu includes:**

Ramps	Corns
Ham	Fried potatoes
Scrambled eggs	Brown beans
Cole slaw	Cornbread or bread
Desserts	Iced tea & coffee

Carryouts are available.

## **Meal Price:**

\$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

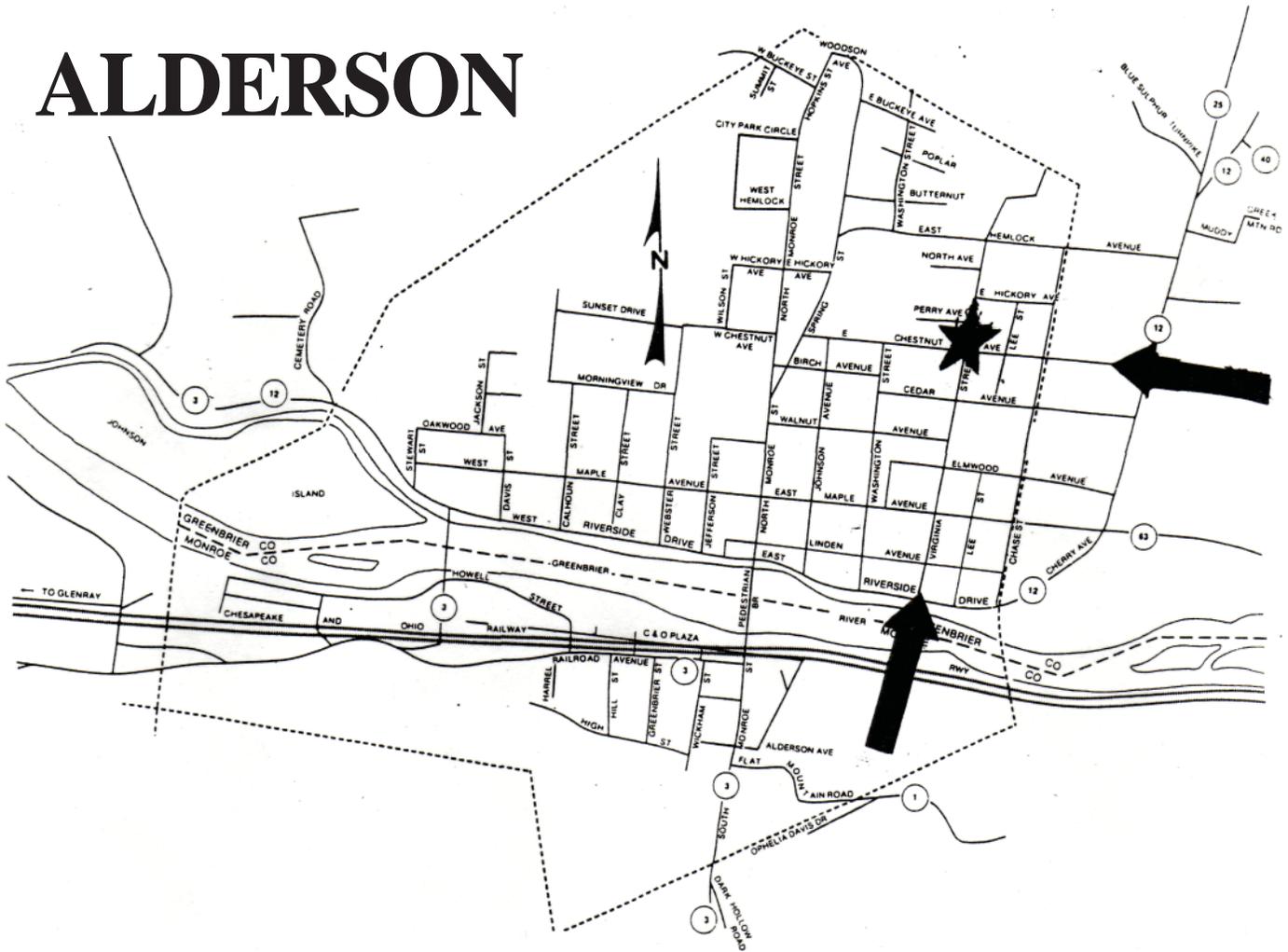
Sponsored by  
Greenbrier Valley Association of the Deaf

For more information, e-mail [jwburdette@sprint.blackberry.net](mailto:jwburdette@sprint.blackberry.net) or call VP 304-707-3209

(See 5th Annual Ramp ... page 17)

WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2010

# ALDERSON



## Direction to Alderson Community Center

**From Charleston, WV:** Take Interstate 64 East to Alta/Alderson Exit 161, turn right on Rt.12 for 11 miles. Watch for the deaf club sign beside the BP gas station. It's on the right on East Chestnut Ave. You will see the old brick school building.

**From Lexington, VA:** Take Interstate 64 West to the Alta/Alderson Exit 161, turn left on Rt. 12 for 11 miles. Watch for the deaf club sign beside the BP gas station. It's on the right on East Chestnut Ave. You will see the old brick school building.

**From Bluefield, WV:** Take Interstate 77 North to Beckley and then Interstate 64 East to Alta/Alderson Exit 161. Turn right on Rt. 12 for 11 miles. Watch for the deaf club sign beside the BP gas station. It's on the right on East Chestnut Ave. You will see the old brick school building.

# CAD Happy New Year Social Party by Jimmy and Veronda Harrison

The Charleston Association of the Deaf (CAD) held their Happy New Year Social Party on January 2, 2010, at City Hall in St. Albans, WV. Even though the weather was cold and windy, the social at CAD remained open with

106 brave people attending. Those people who brought a covered dish received an extra ticket for the door prize. Alvin Waggy won a Blu-Ray disc player, Sharon Drake won a desktop computer with 20-inch monitor, and

Nina Sampson won a 32-inch LCD HDTV. There were 18 door prizes given away. Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed socializing with their friends. ■



## (140 Years from page 7)

"You have to develop that sensitivity in your fingertips," Brown said. "Motivation is another big part of the equation. Sometimes students who still have some vision feel like they don't need to learn Braille. Or sometimes a person with deteriorating vision is just beginning to learn Braille when they're older, and that can be more difficult."

Brown herself uses both Braille and the voice-to-text readers.

"When the first programs came out, I'll admit I wasn't used to listening and felt pretty reluctant to use them," Brown said.

But following staff development classes in technology, Brown said she began to recognize the new methods' value.

"When I could create my own IEPs (Individualized Education Programs) and didn't have to dictate them to anyone, that's when I knew. I love being able to handle my own paperwork."

Brown still uses Braille for all kinds of undertakings, including exploring web sites. Her go-to device is a refreshable Braille display machine with wireless Internet access.

"It's kind of like a laptop," she said. "The Braille translation of what's on the web site pops up on my display, I read over it and it refreshes to the next line. The only downside is that it's expensive."

The reader that Brown uses cost \$6,000, she said, and a refreshable Braille display stand-alone unit that can be used with any computer runs about \$2,000, she said.

The cost of Braille devices and books is often cited as one of the reasons its use has declined. Braille translations also can be cumbersome. When the final edition of J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series was published in 2007, the Braille edition of the 1,100-page "Deathly Hallows" took up 10 volumes and weighed 12 pounds.

Whatever its drawbacks, Brown said she believes Braille must not be shoved to the side in favor of just listening to text and delivering dictation.

"This is a topic that's very near and dear to me, and I try to have conversations anytime I can about how important Braille is," she said. "Being able to read and write is as essential to the visually impaired as it is to anyone else."

WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2010

## Serving Smaller Numbers

When J.D. Corbin began his career teaching high school at the School for the Deaf in 1979, enrollment still was large enough to allow the school to field a football team.

"I have the distinction of serving as coach of the school's last football team," said Corbin, who has been the school's principal for 12 years. "That was in 1983. We just didn't have enough kids."

In the past five years, the school's enrollment has ranged from a low of 150 to a high of 175, while in the 1960s and early 1970s, the school typically had between 350 and 400 students, Shank said.

The school's enrollment has been in decline since the mid-1970s following federal legislation that called for students with visual, auditory, or other disabilities to be taught in their neighborhood schools if they so chose.

Another part of the decline in the school's student numbers: advances in technology -- cochlear implants, for example, and realizing the detrimental effects of supplemental oxygen on premature infants -- mean fewer children are dealing with vision and hearing losses, Shank pointed out.

Medical breakthroughs coupled with more children with vision and hearing disabilities being mainstreamed in their home school districts likely means the school's numbers will continue to decline, Corbin said.

He said everyone at the school works hard to ensure students are nurtured and challenged.

"One thing that sets our school apart, that I think is a real advantage to our students, would be all the opportunities for involvement -- and to not only be involved but to be the leaders running the show," he said.

The school maintains wrestling and basketball teams, a cheerleading squad, clubs such as Future Farmers of America, newsletter and yearbook staffs, and many other extracurricular offerings, he said.

"We have a lot of very devoted alumni, too," Corbin said. "They sponsor students in various activities and just find ways to stay close to the school. When we have homecoming events or induct athletes in our hall of fame, we always have a lot of our former students come back."

Doug Godfrey, chairman of the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and a 1986 graduate of the School for the Deaf, continues to be involved at the school.

Godfrey, who was appointed to the commission by Gov. Bob Wise in 2002, said he looks forward to his weekly visits to Romney, where he has volunteered for a decade in the elementary school's Shared Reading program.

"I love reading with these kids," said Godfrey, who works with Unisys computer systems for the IRS. "These children need to develop strong reading and literacy skills because most of them are likely to miss out on language development that come primarily through listening."

Godfrey, whose roots are in Northfork in McDowell County, attended the school in Romney from age 6. He said he inevitably forms connections with students as he spends time with them.

"Since I am a graduate of the school, young students often asked me what it was like when I was in their situation -- living in the dorm instead of with families, eating cafeteria food, etc.," Godfrey explained in an e-mail exchange.

He pointed out that nationally, more than 90 percent of deaf children come from hearing families.

"When I get to know students at the school, there is a sense of bond between us that not many of them have with other adults," he said.

Godfrey said he's excited to his see the school reaching this landmark anniversary.

"I think it is a big deal to celebrate 140 years," he said. "Deaf and blind schools in other states have either closed or threatened to close or trim services due to budgetary cuts. I think this is one of the reasons the existence of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind should be celebrated."

"It's the only school specifically geared toward the education of deaf, hard hearing, and visually impaired youth in West Virginia."

The fact that West Virginia has such a school and that it continues to be supported by elected leaders of both political parties, Godfrey said, is something to be "deeply appreciated." ■

### **(WVAD Board Minutes from page 3)**

John Burdette to be Chairperson of the Preservation Committee.

It was noted that the TTY signage at rest areas have not been moved as was requested in the letters sent by former President Douglas Evans.

Vice-president Jimmy Harrison wished to give up the responsibility of being the chairperson for the 100th year anniversary. We need to find a replacement.

We need to follow-up on making some videotapes that was requested by Caryn Keller to be used for practice on voice interpreting.

#### New Business:

Scott Hottle moved that WVAD do a survey on how many deaf children in West Virginia have received the cochlear implants and how many deaf adults are still using their cochlear implants. Jimmy Harrison moved that we refer this motion to the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Veronda Harrison moved that we sell only one full page and one-half page ads to publish in the WVAD newsletter. Motion was passed.

Scott Hottle moved that we keep the same ad rates that are advertised in the newsletter - \$100.00 for one full page and

\$60.00 for one-half page for the remaining year of 2009. Motion was passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that we hold the plans for our August summer picnic in 2010. Veronda moved that we amend this motion by changing this motion by saying "that we make plans to have our summer picnic in June 2010 instead of August 2010." Motion was passed.

The break started at 12:05 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 12:15 p.m.

Worthy Devericks moved that the June 2010 summer picnic be held in Burnsville, West Virginia. Motion was passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that we remove the donations to "Deaf Pageant" and add "Deaf Youth Program" on the WVAD membership form. Motion was passed.

Veronda Harrison moved that Tami Kapaldo show us her first new WVAD newsletter during the board meeting today. Motion was passed.

Worthy Devericks moved that we copy and sell the WVAD's 75th year anniversary videotapes to raise funds for the WVAD's 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Motion was passed.

Liz Leisure moved that we start publishing our WVAD newsletters on our website beginning January 2010 to save postage and printing costs. Motion was passed.

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 Find us on  
**Facebook**

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=670803243&ref=name#/group.php?gid=136005551663&ref=mf>

West Virginia Association of the Deaf has a Facebook group page which was started this past fall. You will be able to keep up with WVAD news and information every time you check your Facebook. You will also be able to post events and be involved in discussions.

Check out the West Virginia Association of the Deaf Facebook page today to see what's happening.

Many thanks to John Burdette for doing this for our organization!

Jimmy Harrison moved that we reimburse Linda Eckhart and Liz Leisure for two nights lodging at Hyatt Hotel in Columbus while attending the NLTC on October 29 and October 30, 2009. Motion was passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that we remove the old e-mails from the WVAD e-mail account effective after this board meeting. Motion was passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that we reimburse all board members for one night lodging including mileage for attending this board meeting. Motion was passed.

Jimmy Harrison moved that we choose a new chairperson for the 2011 WVAD Conference. Motion was passed.

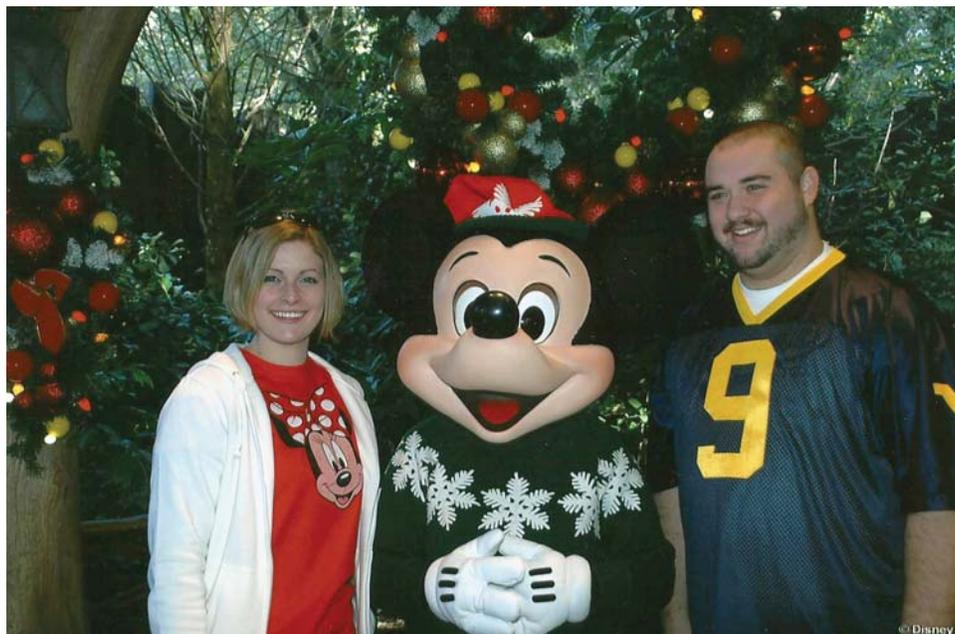
Veronda Harrison moved that we have a separate checking account for WVAD Deaf Youth program. Motion was passed.

Veronda Harrison moved that we have our next regular board meeting in Charleston, West Virginia, in January 2010 at 11:00 a.m. Motion was passed.

Liz Leisure moved that we purchase a new briefcase for our treasurer. Motion was passed.

There being no further business, by general consent, the President adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m. ■





# CHECK OUT OUR QUARTER RECIPES!



## Cole Slaw

by Veronda Harrison

Cabbage  
Salt, dashed  
1 tsp white vinegar  
1-1/2 or more Tbsp heaping  
Kraft mayonnaise

1/2 carrot  
Black pepper, dashed  
3 tsps heaping sugar



To shred the cabbage in the small bowl. To grate the half carrot in the cabbage bowl. Add vinegar, sugar, salt, pepper, and mayonnaise and mix well. Refrigerate. Serve three people.



## Taco Soup

by Veronda Harrison

1 lb ground beef  
1 package dry ranch dip  
1 can kidney beans  
1 can corn

1 package dry taco seasoning  
1 can pinto beans  
1 can black beans  
1 can diced tomatoes with green chiles



Cook the ground beef in a pot until brown and drain. Add taco seasoning and ranch dip in the ground beef and mix well. Add beans, corn, and tomatoes without draining in the ground beef. Mix all together in pot. As soon as it heats up, remove stove. Serve in the bowls with shredded cheese, tortilla chips, and sour cream.

## Angel Food Pudding

by Veronda Harrison

1 large box vanilla instant pudding  
12 ounces cool whip

1 quart fresh strawberries, cut pieces  
1 Angel Food Cake

Wash the strawberries and cut the strawberries up. Follow the direction on the pudding box. Then add the cool whip in the pudding and whip well.

- Layer ingredients in a bowl as follows:
- First — Thin layer of pudding on the bottom bowl.
- Second — Angel Food Cake pieces on the layer pudding.
- Third — Add the strawberries on the layer.

Then repeat the layers until finished. Top off the pudding. Refrigerate.





## JIMMY HARRISON

**What made you want to be the WVAD Vice-President?** I wanted to be the Vice-President to help the President when she is absent. I also want to help the WVAD organization be successful in the future.

**What is the name of your hometown?** Crites, WV, a very small town in the southern part of WV (Logan County).

**Where do you work at and what do you do?** I work for the U.S. Postal Service as an automation operator.

**How long have you worked there?** 30 years.

**What accomplishments are you most proud of?** Being involved with the WVAD organization that was influenced by late Hubert Anderson who encouraged me to get involved with the organization and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) organization.

**What person has been the biggest influence on your life?** Late Hubert Anderson.

**What is your favorite vacation spot?** Camping and boating on the lake at Summersville, WV.

**What is your favorite thing to do in your spare time?** Play with my dog which helps to relieve my stress.

**Name three things you can do without.** Rude, traffic at Southridge (South Charleston, WV), and stress.

**What person, real or fictional, would you most like to meet?** Tom Cruise.

**What movie could you see any time?** I hardly watch movies because I work all the time.

**What is your all-time favorite TV show?** ESPN channel (football and basketball) and also the news.

**Name three things always found in your kitchen.** Coffeemaker, strawberry jam, and newspaper.

**What would you do with a million dollars?** Pay off my bills and buy a big house with a lot of property to ride my ATV on.

**What is an interesting, but little known fact about you?** I got a Cabinetmaking Merit Award (Gold Hammer) from my woodworking shop teacher, Mr. Pierre Seigny, in 1978.

*All members are encouraged to nominate a friend for the "Meet Me" column. Please submit all nominees to WVAD Quarter News Editor.*