



# WVAD Quarter News



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

Volume 41, No. 2

Spring 2020

## Sign Language Interpreters Play Important Role During COVID-19 Pandemic

by Charles Young, Senior Staff Writer, WVNews, March 29, 2020 ([https://www.wvnews.com/news/wvnews/sign-language-interpreters-play-important-role-during-pandemic/article\\_9b1fd186-adcf-5733-bf9b-3584e45088bc.html](https://www.wvnews.com/news/wvnews/sign-language-interpreters-play-important-role-during-pandemic/article_9b1fd186-adcf-5733-bf9b-3584e45088bc.html))

CHARLESTON — Sign language interpreters have been featured prominently at each of Governor Jim Justice’s daily briefings on the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and during his statewide addresses.

Jennifer Casto and Julie Turley, veteran interpreters who are contracted through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, have become familiar faces to the thousands of West Virginians who tune in each day.

Together Casto and Turley help ensure the state’s deaf community are able to receive important information and updates from officials and health-care experts in real time.

“The most important thing is communication access — especially given times like right now where information is so critical,” Turley said. “Everybody



Jennifer Casto provides sign language interpretation for Governor Jim Justice during his COVID-19 press briefing on Friday (March 27, 2020). PHOTO CREDIT: Office of Governor Jim Justice.

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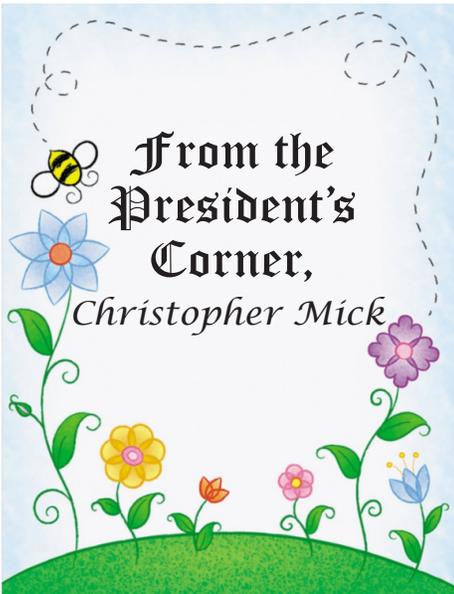


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needs access to that information. The fact that we haven’t missed a day of these press conferences and we have been able to provide that access to the residents of West Virginia I think says a lot for our state.”

Neither interpreter initially knew their services would be needed daily, Casto said.

“At first everybody was unsure of how often these were going to happen and to what extent — if it was going to be day to day, once a week,” she said. “In the beginning, they asked us if we had a team that would come down and be supportive. Julie and I agreed that we would go on rotation and provide (See Sign Language... on page 6)



**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.

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Hello and welcome to our Spring newsletter,

Is everyone ready for warm weather? I am ready for nice weather.

I hope that Easter was a nice quiet holiday for you all, especially with the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) situation we are going through. I hope everyone is staying home and staying healthy until the situation is resolved.

Trustee Sylvia Mick and I went to the State Capitol in Charleston, WV, on February 12, 2020, for Deaf Awareness Day. WVAD had a table set up there too. A good number of people came to the event and we enjoyed meeting some people.

I want to make a few announcements on what's been happening in our state. HB 4414 (LEAD-K bill) was introduced on January 20, 2020, and passed on both sides of the floor (House and Senate). Governor Jim Justice signed the bill on March 25, 2020. It is not a perfect bill and WVAD plans to submit amendments next year.

HB 4570 (The Motion Picture Open Captioning Act) was introduced on January 28, 2020, but did not make it to the Senate side. WVAD plans to reintroduce this bill again next year.

HB 4695 (The Closed Captioning Act) was introduced on February 5, 2020, and it also did not make it to the Senate side. WVAD plans to reintroduce this bill next year as well. Please see Legislative Chair John Burdette's legislative news about the

three bills WVAD introduced this year on page 10.

Senate Resolution 11 was introduced on January 21, 2020, by Senators Tarr, Cline, Hamilton, Prezioso, Rucker, and Stollings. SR 11 designated January 22, 2020, as Disability Advocacy Day at the Legislature. WVAD was recognized in the list of member organizations since we are affiliated with Fair Shake network.

WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) has received several applicants for the Executive Director position. The interview process is on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will resume with the process after the pandemic improves.

The WV primary election has been postponed to June 9, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

National Association of the Deaf (NAD) made an announcement on April 8, 2020, that the NAD Conference scheduled for June 30–July 5, 2020, to be held in Chicago, Illinois, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the NAD Bylaws require NAD to host the Council of Representatives meeting and the Forums this year, during even numbered years. The NAD Board is currently exploring options on how to do this. NAD will share updates when they have finalized their plans.

Just a quick reminder for those who have not paid for expired membership

(see page 15 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](http://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 Board Minutes

## WVAD Board Meeting Held via Sorenson Videophone, January 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:** Christopher Mick, Tami Deem, Veronda Harrison, Sylvia Mick, Scott Hottle, and Laura Crowder.

**Member Absent:** Gloria Hollen.

**Visitors Present:** John Burdette and April Hottle.

The regular board meeting of WVAD was held via Sorenson Videophone. President Chris Mick called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 2019, were sent via e-mail. It was corrected and approved via videophone and e-mail. The minutes of the meeting was published in the Winter 2020 WVAD newsletter.

#### **Treasurer Veronda Harrison's Financial Report:**

Financial report from October 13, 2019 to January 25, 2020: Balance in checking account – \$1,671.96; balance in savings account – \$4,068.34; Mingo County Fund: \$14,553.22; WVAD Conference Fund – \$6,423.39; Deaf Youth Program – \$478.00; Education Fund – \$288.15; Certificate of Deposit – \$7,000.00. The board accepted the report as read. CARRIED

#### **President Chris Mick's Report:**

- On October 24, 2019, John Burdette and Chris Mick spoke with John Hathaway II from *Seek the World* on Zoom video conference for about 45 minutes. They talked about the price list and what they cover if they came to West Virginia. Chris sent out the price list to the Board

members in an e-mail on January 15, 2020.

- Tami Deem and Chris Mick went to Little Rock, Arkansas, to attend the National Leadership Training Conference. They learned a lot from the conference and enjoyed their trip.
- It seems like WVAD Christmas party went very well. Chris apologized for not giving a speech at the party to thank people for coming to the party and helping to make the party a success. Also thank businesses for their donations for our silent auction. Chris made a vlog for Facebook afterwards and apologized on December 17, 2019.
- Received an e-mail from Sarah Lowther from WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) on December 16, 2019. They invited WVAD to come to the Capitol and have a booth on February 12, 2020, the same day as Deaf Awareness Day at the Capitol. Chris responded back and told her yes, WVAD will come. Chris sent the form back to her.
- Set up the Bylaws Committee. The team members are Linda Lawson, Liz Leisure, and Charles Lyne. They are currently working on the Bylaws.
- Received a report about LEAD-K progress but will let John Burdette, WVAD Legislative Chair, give the report in our Board meeting.
- Received a few complaints about Governor Justice not providing an interpreter and no closed caption on TV when he gave a speech on Live TV. Chris wants to set up a team to help him write a letter to the

Governor's Office and ask for a meeting about this issue.

#### **Vice President Gloria Hollen's Report:**

Nothing to report.

#### **Secretary Tami Deem's Report:**

- Worked with John Burdette, WVAD Legislative Chair, on the proposed bills (HB 4414 – LEAD-K bill, HB 4570 – The Motion Picture Open Captioning Act for movie theaters, and HB 4695 – Closed Captioning Act for public places).
- Traveled to Charleston, WV, on January 6th, 2020, to meet with legislators about WVAD's proposed bills. Tami was there for 2 days with Legislative Chair John Burdette.
- Received a Videophone call from Charles Lyne on January 7, 2020, wanting copies of the Bylaws forms from previous conferences. Tami hasn't called Charles back or sent him copies of the forms as she has been extremely busy.
- Sent thank you letters on January 23, 2020, to most businesses who donated items for WVAD Christmas party and silent auction.
- President Chris Mick called Tami Deem and invited John Burdette in on the Videophone conversation regarding WV Governor's speech on TV. Suggested that Tami write a letter to the Capitol and set up meeting with the media team.
- Sent a letter to Mary Anne Clendenin on January 23, 2020, as requested by Scott Hottle at the last board meeting about enforcing Marshall

(See Board Minutes on page 4)

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

University to provide ASL Proficiency Interviews at the school.

- Sent the same letters to Monica DellaMea and Pam Roush that Tami sent to Mary Anne Clendenin on January 24, 2020.
- Started scanning old newsletters on January 25, 2020. It's a long and slow process.

### **Trustees' Report:**

- Trustee Laura Crowder felt that the silent auction at the Christmas party was a success and everyone enjoyed it. Laura felt that some of the stores were not willing to give WVAD a donation; however, it was a good turnout anyway.
- Laura received an issue from someone about a nursing home and met with some of the people at the Christmas party. This one person mentioned to Laura about nursing home issues related to interpreter accessibility. Laura told them she would look into it.
- Regarding ADA, Laura hasn't researched much on ADA laws due to the holiday and was sick with the flu recently. Hopefully will start researching in February and post some information about it on Facebook soon.

### **Newsletter Editor's Report:**

Deadline for the next newsletter is March 20, 2020.

### **Membership Coordinator Jimmy Harrison's Report:**

At the last board meeting, there were 145 members. Currently there are 160 members.

### **Legislative Advocate Antonia Vaughan's Report:**

No report.

### **Education Advocate April Hottle's Report:**

April Hottle discussed her visits to the Capitol and told us that she met with some delegates and senators, educating them about HB 4414 (LEAD-K) bill that is in the Legislature.

### **Legislative Chair John Burdette's Report:**

John Burdette shared information with the Board about working on

various bills WVAD submitted to the Legislature and his visits to the Capitol. For more information about this, please see page 10 under Legislative News.

### **Fundraising Veronda Harrison's Report:**

Nothing to report.

### **Old Business:**

Nothing to report.

### **New Business:**

- The board decided not to invite Calvin Young from *Seek the World* to WV because it cost too much money to have him speak plus transportation and hotel expenses. Scott Hottle seconded. CARRIED
- Tami Deem motioned to have spaghetti dinner at St. Albans, WV. Laura Crowder seconded. Place and date will be determined at a later date. CARRIED
- Scott Hottle made a motion to have our WVAD picnic on second Saturday in August. Veronda Harrison seconded. Tami Deem suggested that we have the picnic at the Valley Park in Hurricane, WV. Second choice – Summersville Lake, Summersville, WV. CARRIED
- Sylvia Mick made a motion to have a silent auction at WVAD's picnic. Veronda Harrison seconded. CARRIED
- Tami Deem motioned to pay Jessica Withrow for interpreting for WVAD at the Capitol on January 7th. Veronda Harrison seconded. Tami Deem suggested that WVAD pay her \$100. Scott Hottle seconded. CARRIED
- Veronda Harrison motioned to have the Christmas party at VFW in Clarksburg, WV, on December 5, 2020. Scott Hottle seconded. CARRIED
- Sylvia Mick motioned to have gifts raffle at the picnic. Veronda Harrison seconded. CARRIED
- Tami Deem motioned to have cash raffle at the picnic. Veronda Harrison seconded. CARRIED
- Veronda Harrison motioned to make admission price \$20.00 for the picnic. Sylvia Mick seconded. Sylvia Mick amended to have admission from 5 years and under be free. 6 years to 18 years old,

\$5.00 admission fee. Laura Crowder seconded. CARRIED

- Sylvia Mick motioned to have activities for kids and adults at the picnic. Scott Hottle seconded. CARRIED
- Sylvia Mick motioned to charge \$5.00 for people to play corn hole and use that money for prizes. Scott Hottle seconded. CARRIED
- Laura Crowder motioned to select delegates to go to the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) conference this summer. Sylvia Mick seconded. Scott Hottle suggested that Chris Mick go to the NAD conference. Veronda Harrison suggested that Tami Deem go too. Veronda Harrison motioned to table this. TABLED
- Tami Deem motioned to have the next board meeting in person at Weston, WV, on May 3, 2020. Veronda Harrison seconded. CARRIED
- Laura Crowder motioned to close new business. Veronda Harrison seconded. CARRIED

New business closed.

Next board meeting will be held May 3, 2020, at Weston, WV.

### **Announcements:**

Scott Hottle made an announcement that WV Deaf Service Center (DSC) will host deaf camp at Cedar Lakes in Ripley, WV, on April 12-15, 2020, for deaf and hard of hearing students ages 14-21. He would like for the board to come to camp to meet the kids. The camp will focus on career development. DSC plans to have several camps each year to help the kids interact with each other. Meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tamera Deem  
Secretary

### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

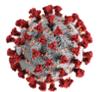
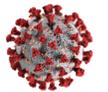
The Board meeting was changed to be held via Sorenson Videophone on May 3, 2020, due to COVID-19 pandemic.





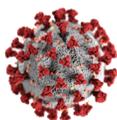
# CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

COVID-19



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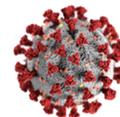
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 Disinfectant wipes  
 Stimulus package  
 Items shortage  
 Ventilators  
 Congress  
 Stay home  
 Furlough



Frontline workers  
 Testing centers  
 Economic crash  
 Ambulances  
 Doctors  
 Outbreak  
 Fever  
 Nurses



First responders  
 Daily briefings  
 Hand sanitizers  
 Quarantine  
 Hospitals  
 Telework  
 Gloves  
 Masks



Flatten the curve  
 President Trump  
 Governor Justice  
 Social distance  
 Medical gowns  
 Data graphs  
 Wash hands  
 Cough

(See Fun Page Answers on page 11)

**(Sign Language... from page 1)**

those services as long as they needed us.”

The times of the daily briefings vary and the interpreters find out when they are needed at the same way that the public and members of the media do, Casto said.

“We’re basically on standby and on call for the moment that the time is confirmed and we show up,” she said.

Governor Justice, who is known for using odd turns of phrase and folksy expressions in his public remarks, presents some interesting challenges for the interpreters, Casto said.

One of the Governor’s favorite figures of speech, emphasizing points by saying “in every way, shape, form, or fashion,” is not interpreted literally, Casto said.

“We’re actually signing ‘in every means possible,’” she said. “It’s our interpretation of what’s being said. We’re backing the meaning and the intent, but we’re not necessarily signing every single word that he’s saying.”

Ruby Losh, Program Coordinator for the American Sign Language and Interpreter Education Program at Pierpont Community & Technical College in Fairmont, said she and other members of the deaf community have been able to receive accurate, timely information, thanks to the work of Casto and Turley.

Just like in the hearing community, phrases like coronavirus and COVID-19 are new additions to the sign language lexicon, Losh said.



Julie (Barie) Turley interprets remarks from officials during a recent briefing on the COVID-19 pandemic. PHOTO CREDIT: Office of Governor Jim Justice.

There are three commonly used signs for COVID-19, Losh said.

“We have a few different ones,” she said. “There’s ‘virus up 19,’ you can finger spell COVID-19, CV-19 — there are a few different ones. There are three that I have seen on a daily basis.”

The interpreters have been receiving a lot of positive attention online from curious members of the public, Casto said.

“It’s kind of humbling and very flattering,” she said. “Julie and I have talked about that. I don’t want to steal the spotlight and I don’t think that’s our intent at all to come in and do that. I understand that to the hearing commu-

nity that might be the case, but our goal here is to maintain that communication access and we’re willing to do it in any way, shape, form, or fashion.”

Additional resources for the deaf community are available through the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Losh said.

Senior Staff Writer Charles Young can be reached at 304-626-1447 or e-mail ([cyoung@theet.com](mailto:cyoung@theet.com)).

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Jennifer Casto is the granddaughter of Sam Brown and the late Marzina Brown, and Julie Turley is the daughter of Larry and Missy Barie and Melinda and Howard Hurd. 🇺🇸

## COVID-19: What to know

<p><b>How it spreads:</b></p>  <p>Transmission between people within 6 feet of each other.</p> <p>Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.</p> <p>These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.</p>	<p><b>How to protect yourself:</b></p> <p>Avoid close contact with people who are sick.</p> <p>Put distance between yourself and other people. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.</p>  <p>Wash hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.</p>  <p>Use a hand sanitizer if washing hands is not an option.</p> <p>Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.</p>	<p><b>How to protect others:</b></p>  <p>Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.</p>  <p>Stay home if you are sick, except to seek medical care.</p>  <p>Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily: doorknobs, tables, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.</p>  <p>If you are sick, wear a facemask when you are around other people.</p> <p>If you are not sick, wear a facemask when caring for those who are sick.</p>
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These tips are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For more info and updates, visit [cdc.org/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.org/coronavirus)

# Respond Today

Online: [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov)

By Phone: [1-844-330-2020](tel:1-844-330-2020)

Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year. The results also determine how many seats in Congress each state gets.

Federal funds are sent to each state based on number of people who lives in the state.

The results of the 2020 Census will inform decisions about allocating hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding to communities across the country. The funds are allocated to more than 100 programs, including hospitals; schools; school lunch programs; highway construction; education; Medicaid; Head Start; block grants for community mental health services; the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); support for veterans, first responders, and families in need; broadband infrastructure; wastewater infrastructure; health clinics; fire departments; senior citizens; and other critical programs and services in the state. Your response to the census impacts your community everyday.

**So do your part and respond to the Census survey today!**

## You Matter. Be Counted.

United States®  
**Census**  
**2020**

### CORONAVIRUS SCAMS TARGET TAX PAYERS:



The IRS will **NOT** ask you to pay a fee in order to receive your economic impact payment.



**NEVER** give your personal/bank information to someone via email, phone call or social media.



If you get a suspicious check **DON'T** cash it.



You **WON'T** get your economic impact check faster by "hiring" someone to help.

**REPORT TAX FRAUD BY CALLING (304) 558-8520 OR VISIT [TAX.WV.GOV](http://TAX.WV.GOV)**



# In the News



## Embracing American Sign Language

By Barbara Layton, Reporter, *Jackson Newspapers*, Posted January 15, 2020 at 4:04 p.m. (<https://www.jacksonnewspapers.com/news/20200115/embracing-american-sign-language>)

The West Virginia Deaf Service Center is a nonprofit organization founded in 2018 by Scott and April Hottle. Located at 2557 Charleston Road in Ripley (in The New Life Fellowship Church building), the purpose of the center is to promote American Sign Language (ASL) fluency through education, community support, and social interaction.

Scott, who is deaf, uses the interpretive abilities of his wife April to help communicate his passion to others on the importance of ASL and being bi-lingual, both verbally and non-verbally.

Their mission through the WVDSC can be broken down into four main goals: promoting ASL, training interpreters, mentoring deaf children, and providing resources for families.

In order to fulfill their mission, the WVDSC offers beginning and intermediate ASL classes, interpreter training, and deaf mentoring through staff that includes both native signers and certified interpreters.

The WVDSC offers several ASL classes which have been taught by Scott, who has been teaching ASL for many years and currently teaches ASL classes at BridgeValley Community and Technical College. The Hottle's son Luke also teaches ASL classes through the WVDSC, and is working on obtaining his ASL certificate and Masters degree. He will possibly be teaching at BridgeValley as well, according to Scott who said ASL teachers are in high demand.

Mitchell Miller, who along with his wife Sara, have also had a hand in making the WVDSC a reality, is another ASL instructor used to teach ASL classes through the WVDSC.

The Center will be hosting their American Sign Language Class 1 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, January 21, 2020. It is a 12-week class taking place every Tuesday evening. The class itself is free, but a book is

needed. If the WVDSC needs to order the book, the cost will be \$40. The book, "A Basic Course in American Sign Language" by Tom Humphries, Carol Padden, and Terrance J. O'Rourke may also be purchased on Amazon.

According to April, ASL registration is normally under 10 participants for a beginning class and even less for the more advanced classes; however, Megan Wray, another member of the WVDSC group, said they currently have 24 registered for the January 21<sup>st</sup> class.

The Hottles feel it is important to offer ASL as a second language, just as Spanish or French. ASL classes have been offered at Ripley High School in the past, as well as several other college locations; however, they are typically done through a video or other form of media. According to Scott, ASL can be learned that way, but it takes the personal feel out of the equation.

"Physical interaction is so nice," Scott said. "Having a TV screen or trying to do it online is much more limited. You can make criticisms and tell somebody or show them how to sign properly, but you're still limited. They end up missing the social part of it."

Using ASL and being bi-lingual is important at any age level, according to the Hottles.

Research even suggests that baby sign language can give a baby the ability to communicate months earlier than those using only vocal communication. Scott feels both verbal and non-verbal communication is important to the learning process for any child. It is a way to stimulate the brain and eases frustration on both sides, that of the child and the parent. It opens up a whole new communication process for the family.

Having certified interpreters who are skilled enough in ASL to be able to teach small children is one thing that the Hottles say is extremely important.

"There are several interpreters in our area; however, not all of them are well versed in sign language," Scott said. "We want to create the ability to have interpreters who grow into instructors with the knowledge to help others correctly."

Failing to provide proper training can impair a child's ability to learn in any type of language.

The Hottles believe that social interaction is also an important way for people learning ASL to improve their skills.

"I always tell my class, you can learn the rules of ASL by coming to class, the grammar and all of that, but to learn the skills, you have to socialize," Scott said.

Through the WVDSC, people are able to attend social mixers, also known as Silent Deaf Coffee Chats, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Friday of each month. During these events, participants socialize by practicing sign language and playing ASL games. Refreshments are provided. April said they typically have 15 to 20 people at each chat.

In July the WVDSC offered a camp for the deaf and hard of hearing, *Camp New Frontier*. It was for ages 14 to 21 and was held at Cedar Lakes. Due to funding from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services, the camp was provided free of charge and hosted 10 campers.

The Hottles were excited with how the camp turned out and are hoping to host more camps in the future. Scott is hoping to be able to offer three camps during a year's time, not just one annual event.

Another age group that the WVDSC would like to focus a camp on is the 7 to 13 age group; however, there is currently no funding or a curriculum available for 7 to 13-year-olds.

"This is a group that needs opportunities badly," Scott said.

They hope to be able to offer two camps in the summer, one for the

(See In the News on page 9)



## Everett Dale Kesling

Everett Dale Kesling, age 89, of Stonewood, WV, passed away on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at UHC following a brief illness.

He was born in Stonewood, WV, on May 27, 1930, a son of the late Herbert Russell and Nola Carr Kesling.

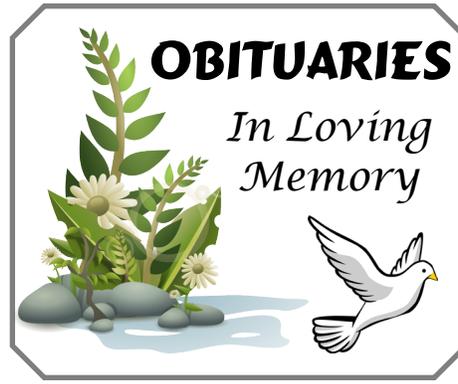
Mr. Kesling is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sandra Henline Kesling, who resides at their home in Stonewood.

He is also survived by two brothers, Robert Kesling and his wife Stella of Clarksburg and Donald Kesling and Connie VanBrooklin of Port Orange, FL; his sister, Sharon Kesling Diaz and her husband Roger of Clarksburg; a sister-in-law, Jackie Henline Mullenax of Mannington, several nieces and nephews, and a close family friend, Robert Stewart.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Kesling was preceded in death by his brother, Herbert Kesling, Jr., an infant brother, Virgil Kesling, sisters-in-laws, Robin Goughenour Kesling and Beatrice Carr Kesling, mother-in-law and father-in-law, Mason and Ruth Henline, sisters-in-laws and brothers-in-laws, Sharon and Edward Barron, Janice and Jack Dixon, Dick and Sue Henline, and Danny Mullenax all of Mannington.

A special thanks to the caring and loving staff at the Bridgeport Health Care Center where Dale resided since December 2018, and to the UHC ER, 7 North, hospice staff who were all wonderful and Patty Colanero who stayed with the family to support them during his final hours.

Dale graduated from WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind in Romney, WV, in 1949, and retired from the West WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2020



Virginia Department of Highways. He was a member of the Central WV Association of the Deaf Club.

Family and friends called the Amos Carvelli Funeral Home, 201 Edison Street, Nutter Fort, on Saturday, March 14, 2020, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m., where a funeral service was held at 3:00 p.m. with Pastor Josiah Pitts, presiding and Stephanie Woodall, interpreting.

Honoring the wishes of Mr. Kesling, he was cremated following the service.

Inurnment will be held at a late date in the Stonewall Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made in Dale's memory to the Fairmont Association for the Deaf Sports, 151 Lincova Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505.

Expressions of sympathy may be extended to the family at [www.amos-carvelli.com](http://www.amos-carvelli.com), a service of Amos Carvelli Funeral Home.

See link: <http://www.amoscarvelli.com/funerals/obituaries/everett-dale-kesling/1006/>.



## Barbara Jean Adkins

Word was received that Barbara Jean (Stollings) Adkins of Florida passed away on February 20, 2020. She was born on July 9, 1942.

Surviving are her husband, Larry Adkins, one son Joshua Adkins, and two grandchildren.

She graduated from the WV School for the Deaf in Romney, WV, in 1963.

There is no other obituary info available. See link: <http://www.farley-funeralhome.com/obituary/barbara-jean-adkins/>.

(In the News from page 8)

7 to 13 age group and another for the 14 to 21 age group.

Funding for the WVDSC comes from grants through the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services and recently they have partnered with the Jackson County Community Foundation as well.

The WVDSC is available to the community, to families, and to any individual of any age who wishes to learn ASL. They want to be able to provide their services as a resource to equip others so they too have the ability to communicate in any situation. ASL is not just for the deaf or hard of hearing, it is for everyone.

"Everyone should have the opportunity to communicate whether by speaking or signing," Scott said. "Just like learning Spanish or French, signing is a language and it is good to be bi-lingual."

For more information on their services and programs, or to sign up for a class, visit their Facebook page under WV Deaf Service Center, call 304-372-2030, or message [wvdeafservicecenter@gmail.com](mailto:wvdeafservicecenter@gmail.com).



**IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**

Please look at your newsletter address label for expiration date that was highlighted and renew before expiration date.



# 2020 WV Legislative News

John Burdette, WVAD Legislative Chair, attended two interim meetings at WV State Capitol in December 2019 and January 2020. On December 16, 2019, John Burdette met with Delegate Campbell for a short time to present him the award certificate from WVAD for HB 2816 that was passed in 2019 Legislature year and also met with other delegates and senators. Scott Hottle, April Hottle, and Luke Hottle came in the afternoon and met with Delegate Westfall about language deprivation and LEAD-K. Delegate Westfall told us he was not on the Education Committee. Also met with other delegates before another meeting with the Chairperson of Education Committee (Dr. Ellington).

Scott and April brought papers to share about language deprivation. We explained that's where LEAD-K comes into play. It was a good meeting.

On January 7, 2020, Tami Deem and John went to the Capitol and had a meeting with Delegate Ruth Rowan. In the meeting, she told us that she wanted to start with House Bill 2345, carried over from last year (ages 0-3). We told her no and that we wanted the bill to include ages 0-5 and not carry over HB 2345 from last year. The meeting was ok. Then we met with Monica DellaMea, Executive Director, Office of Early & Elementary Learning within the Department of Education. We explained to her that we wanted

ages 0-5 included in our LEAD-K bill. We told her that if she wanted to make amendments on our bill, we would be willing to work with her. We thought the meeting went well. We got Monica's edits on the following Thursday (January 9, 2020). Tami and John worked on revising the bill with Monica's edits and added WVAD's edits too. We requested that data be included in the bill and that the Advisory Committee needed to be better than what Monica wanted. They deleted WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB) from the list of Advisory Committee. When John got back to Monica with our edits, she never got back with us. It seemed like they didn't want to meet us halfway on the bill.

John and April Hottle, Education Advocate, had a meeting with Delegate Rowan along with Delegate Campbell on January 23, 2020, at the Capitol. We told Delegate Rowan that we were pleased that they decided to use our bill. However, this bill focuses on communication, not language and they needed to add data in the bill which was important and that the Advisory Committee needed to be worked on in the bill. Delegate Rowan said that the Department of Education did not want them added in the bill. John emphasized to Delegate Rowan that the LEAD-K bill is the deaf community's bill, not hers. He told Delegate Rowan that we must have people be able to sign fluently on the Advisory Committee. Delegate Rowan told John and April that she refused to amend the bill (with WVAD's suggested changes).

John received word from the WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing that our LEAD-K bill was introduced on January 20, 2020, and was assigned as HB 4414. HB 4414 passed both in House and Senate. An amendment was done to insert IEP in the bill on the House floor and the Senate floor added data requirements. The bill was signed by Governor Jim Justice on March 25, 2020. The bill will be effective on June 3, 2020. WVAD will continue to strengthen our bill next year to make it stronger and better.

The Motion Picture Open Captioning Act (HB 4570) was filed for introduction in House on January 28, 2020. The other bill, The Closed Captioning Act (HB 4695) for public places, was introduced on February 5, 2020. Both bills were referred to House Judiciary. For the legislature year of 2020, WVAD submitted three bills. 🇺🇸

## VOTING DATES 2020

### Election Days

- ★ **Primary Election:** Tuesday, June 9
- ★ **General Election:** Tuesday, November 3

### Registering or Switching Parties

- ★ **to VOTE in Primary Election:** register by Tuesday, May 19
- ★ **to VOTE in General Election:** register by Tuesday, October 13

### Absentee Voting

**Primary Election**  
Earliest day to apply: Wednesday, January 1  
Last day to apply: Wednesday, June 3

**County Clerk begins sending Ballots to Absentee Voters**  
Friday, April 24

**Early Voting**  
Wednesday, May 27 - Saturday, June 6

**Deadline to Submit**  
By mail: postmarked by Wednesday, June 3  
In person/hand deliver: Monday, June 8

**Mailed Absentee Ballots without Postmark Accepted**  
Wednesday, June 10

**Absentee Ballot postmarked by Election Day accepted if received by start of Canvass**  
Monday, June 15

**General Election**  
Earliest day to apply: Tuesday, August 11  
Last day to apply: Wednesday, October 28

**Deadline to Submit**  
By mail: postmarked by Tuesday, November 3  
In person: Monday, November 2

### Emergency Absentee Voting

**Primary Election**  
Earliest day to request: Tuesday, June 2  
Last day to request: noon Tuesday, June 9

**Deadline to Submit**  
By mail: postmarked by Wednesday, June 3

**General Election**  
Earliest day to request: Wednesday, October 27  
Last day to request: Tuesday, November 2

**Deadline to Submit**  
By mail: postmarked by Tuesday, November 3

### Early Voting

**Primary Election**  
Wednesday, May 27 - Saturday, June 6

**General Election**  
Wednesday, October 21 - Saturday, October 31



The funding for this publication is provided, at taxpayer expense, by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living.

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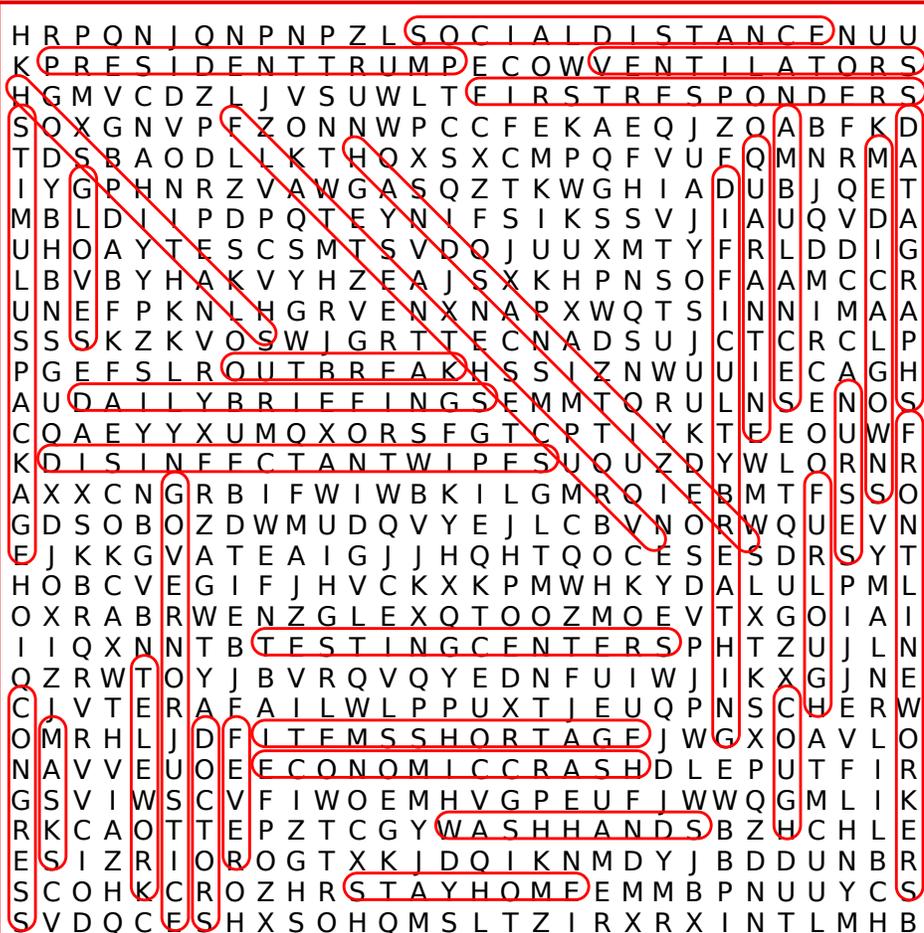
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Roy and Delores Pyles were honored as the longest married couple (66 years this year on July 22, 2020) at Sundance Lakes Resort, Port Richey, Florida, for their 50th wedding anniversary luncheon on February 5th, 2020.

### (Fun Page Answers from page 5)



Happy 66th Anniversary!

### DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR WVAD NEWSLETTER IN E-MAIL?

You would get your newsletter faster than paper copy (about 2 weeks earlier). You can print your own newsletter on your printer if you prefer to read on paper. Once you receive your newsletter in e-mail, you will no longer receive papercopy newsletter.

If you want to receive newsletter through e-mail, please e-mail Tami Deem ([wvad.newsletter.editor@gmail.com](mailto:wvad.newsletter.editor@gmail.com)) or Veronda Harrison ([verapple@aol.com](mailto:verapple@aol.com)) and let us know.



**STAY HOME, STAY SAFE!**





# Stay connected using Sprint IP Relay

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Download Mobile App.\*



\* Internet connection required.

Registration required.



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# Teleworking

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## 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.

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### 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](http://westvirginiarelay.com/rcc)

# MARKETING AND BRANDING EVENTS

## DEAF AWARENESS DAY WV Capitol ~ Charleston, WV February 12, 2020



### 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!

