



# WVAD Quarter News



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

Volume 42, No. 2

Spring 2021

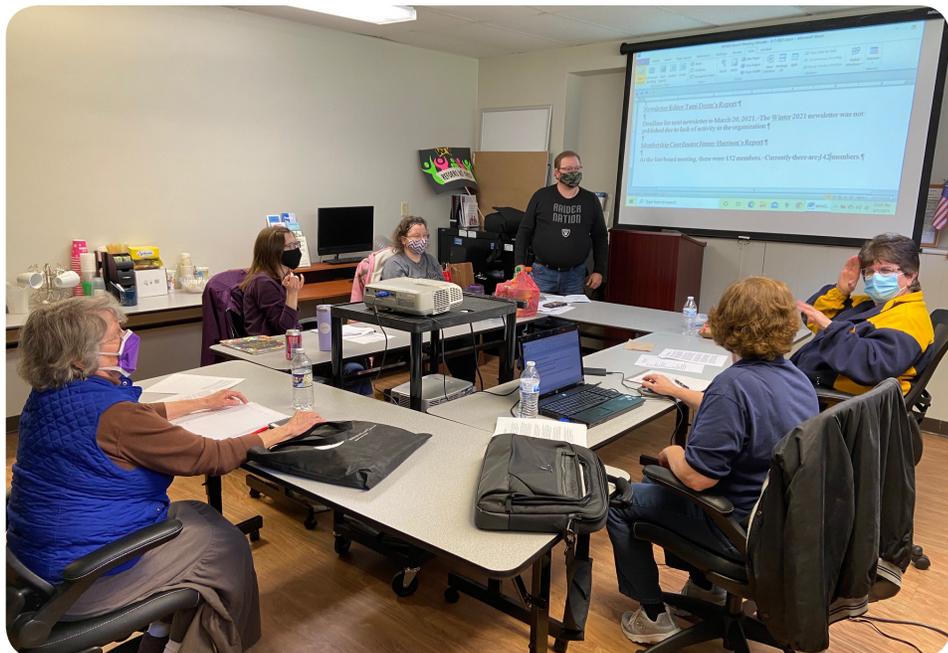
## WVAD Board's First In-Person Meeting Since August 2019 by Tamera A. Deem

The WVAD Board had its first in-person meeting on March 7, 2021, at the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living (NWVCIL), Morgantown, WV. We had not had a meeting in person since the conference in Morgantown, WV, in August 2019. We had several visitors in our meeting. They were Jimmy Harrison, Earl Hollen, Charles Lyne, and Robert Stewart.

The COVID-19 pandemic limited our ability to meet in person. Previously we had been meeting through videophone. It was so nice to be together again and be able to have a live meeting. Of course we followed the WV state guidelines by wearing our masks and social distance from each other.

The meeting went well and we covered a lot of things that we wanted to discuss.

The Board made a tough decision to cancel the 43rd Biennial Conference



*L-R: Vice President Gloria Hollen, Trustee Laura Crowder, Trustee Sylvia Mick, President Christopher Mick, Treasurer Veronda Harrison, and Secretary Tamera Deem. Trustee Scott Hottle did not make it to the meeting.*

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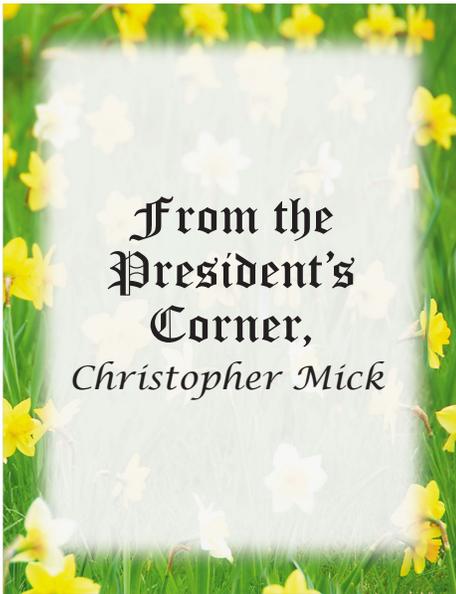
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scheduled for August 2021. We felt that it was in the best interest of everyone to stay safe until the pandemic is over. This means that the current Board will continue to serve for 2 more years until August 2023.

We will update everyone soon with information on the date and location for the 44th Biennial Conference in August 2023.

Our next Board meeting will be on June 13, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. through videophone.

We want to thank the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living for allowing us to use their building for our meeting. It was greatly appreciated. 🇺🇸



**PUBLICATION INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING RATES**

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

Full Page, 7 5/8" x 10"	\$100.00
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Hello and welcome to our spring newsletter!

I am looking forward to having nice weather to enjoy the outdoors and perhaps take a vacation. I cannot wait for the COVID-19 pandemic to go away and everything be back to normal so we can enjoy our events and be together again.

With heavy heart, the board has made a decision to cancel our 43rd Biennial Conference scheduled for August 2021. We felt that it was in the best interest of the organization and our attendees to stay safe from the COVID-19 pandemic and to continue to follow the West Virginia state government guidelines. We did discuss about having a virtual conference but it would be very hard to host one due to broadband issues in rural areas in the state of West Virginia. We will have our next biennial conference in August 2023. We will be sure to keep you updated on when and where it will be hosted at. The officers will remain in their positions until the conference in 2023.

We currently do not know the status of the Christmas party. It depends on the pandemic situation. Hopefully by this summer we will know where we stand on whether to have the party or not. We will keep you updated on this event.

Has anyone received a COVID-19 vaccine? If so, I hope you got along great and had no side effects from the vaccine. The article on page 5 gives you useful information that will help guide you on how to register for your

vaccine in the state of West Virginia if you have not gotten the vaccine yet.

For legislative news, our Legislative Chair John Burdette shared some information about what was going on with some of our bills in Legislative Session 2021. Please see page 19 for his report.

NAD Region 1 will host their State Associations Day on May 1, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST on Zoom. This event is a 1-day collaboration with TedX-style presentations and workshops for Deaf, DeafBlind, hard of hearing people, and hearing allies/advocates who live in Region 1. Region 1 states are West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, DC, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. The goal of this event is to collaborate, support, create, and empower. This event is open to any WVAD member. To register for the event, please see this link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbCyE\\_aS4ZviOqSnulhrfewXqIWwEXn9u-n3Oibjapz6JKQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbCyE_aS4ZviOqSnulhrfewXqIWwEXn9u-n3Oibjapz6JKQ/viewform). Registration will close on April 28, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. to allow time to finalize processing of registrations. The Zoom participation will be limited to 200 people and is a first come, first serve event. This event is free. Please see flyer on page 9 for more information.

Just a quick reminder for those who have not paid for expired membership (see page 23 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. I will continue to share the West Virginia Governor's daily COVID-19 briefings on Facebook. This info is also on our [www.wvad.org](http://www.wvad.org) page.

Stay healthy and be safe,

*Christopher T. Mick*  
Christopher T. Mick





# WVAD Board Minutes

## WVAD Board Meeting Held via Sorenson Videophone, November 8, 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, Gloria Hollen, Sylvia Mick, and Scott Hottle.

**Member Absent:** Laura Crowder.

**Visitors:** Liz Leisure, Linda Lawson, April Hottle, and Jimmy Harrison.

The regular board meeting of WVAD was held via Sorenson Videophone. President Chris Mick called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting held on July 26, 2020, were sent via e-mail. It was corrected and approved via videophone and e-mail. The minutes of the meeting will be published in the Fall 2020 WVAD newsletter.

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

Financial report from July 26, 2020 to November 7, 2020: Balance in checking account – \$536.86; balance in savings account – \$4,083.20; Mingo County Fund: \$14,554.26; WVAD Conference Fund – \$6,721.46; Deaf Youth Program – \$378.00; Education Fund – \$288.15; Certificate of Deposit – \$7,000.00. The board accepted the report as read.

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

- WVAD got a forwarded e-mail from Legislative Chair John Burdette on September 21, 2020, from Sonya Beckett, Case Manager from Harmony House in Huntington, WV. She asked WVAD for referrals to help homeless deaf clients that are housed at Harmony House. A

reply e-mail was made to her on November 7, 2020, with referrals (WV Rehab, WV Disability Rights).

- President Chris Mick received an e-mail from April Hottle on October 13, 2020, asking for a team meeting but half of the board members did not respond. President Mick went ahead and joined the meeting with DSC, Delegate Ruth Rowan, and Mary Ann Clendenin on October 22, 2020, but the meeting did not work out due to internet issues on President Mick's side. He missed the whole meeting. Legislative Chair John Burdette talked about creating a list of deaf people who are qualified to be on LEAD-K Advisory Board to submit to legislators.
- President Chris Mick received an e-mail from Fiona Gladden, Executive Recruiter, from a company called Avamere Health Services, a senior services organization, on October 14, 2020. They are recruiting for two key positions (Director of Nursing and Director of Sales) to support their award-winning deaf community at Avamere-Chestnut Lane in Gresham, Oregon. They wanted WVAD to spread the word about the two new positions for anyone who would be interested in applying for them. He sent an e-mail back to Fiona on November 7, 2020, to thank her for contacting WVAD and informing us about this opportunity.
- President Chris Mick made a vlog on Facebook on October 21, 2020, about the early vote. A lot of people

watched the vlog. He hopes the vlog helped some people.

- National Association of the Deaf (NAD) sent an e-mail on November 2, 2020, to let WVAD know that we have new NAD Region 1 representatives. They are Jacob Leffler from Maryland and Milmaglyn Morales from Connecticut. They will be working with WVAD for the next few years. Next NAD Region 1 meeting will be on December 1, 2020.

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

Vice President Gloria Hollen talked about getting three different prices from three different hotels for the conference.

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

Secretary Tami Deem and Legislative Chair John Burdette attended the virtual NAD COR meetings from October 1-4, 2020, and also on October 24, 2020, to finish up the top five priorities for NAD to work on in the next 2 years and resolutions. There were also meetings in between for Regions 1-4 to discuss and get feedback and/or information on different priorities. There is supposed to be a post-COR meeting sometime soon, probably before Thanksgiving.

#### **Trustee Laura Crowder's Report:**

- Trustee Laura Crowder shared about her interpreter issues at her workplace. She contacted NAD about providing budget information on interpreters. She hadn't heard from them. However, she [\(See Nov. Board Minutes on page 4\)](#)

**(Nov. Board Minutes from page 3)**

said it was hard to tell if someone tried to call her because she won't answer phone calls if the number is unfamiliar due to scam phone calls. She mentioned that she needs help on how to improve accessibility and how to educate the community. Secretary Tami Deem informed the Board that anyone can google the phone number on line and it will tell you who's calling.

- Face mask with clear box is still updating the information and you can now preorder (<https://safenclear.com/product/the-communicator-surgical-mask-with-a-clear-window/>).
- Fundraising – We should try to do virtual fundraising, such as Krispy Kreme donuts or offer to win gift cards or whatever to raise money for the conference.
- We need to discuss on making a new vlog to spread information to young deaf and/or hard of hearing adults about how to become a WVAD member and encourage them to become an officer after becoming a member. A reminder was made that new WVAD members have to be a member for 2 years before becoming an officer according to the bylaws.
- We also need to discuss on getting feedback from the deaf community on how we can improve our WVAD organization. For example: do Google poll survey for people to share on how we can improve WVAD and make it a better organization. The questions could be what they like best about WVAD and how we can make it a better organization.
- We need to review the five priorities that we decided on last fall at the retreat. What tasks are done and what tasks still needs to be worked on.
- Trustee Laura Crowder thinks that WVAD needs an accessibility coordinator.
- Trustee Laura Crowder would like to see the deaf community be involved and join in our WVAD meetings in person so they can voice their concerns rather than on Videophone. We need to revise the bylaws for issues such as weather

conditions or national disaster. (The Board informed Trustee Laura Crowder that we cannot change anything in the bylaws, only at biennial conferences where members can voice their concerns about issues in the bylaws and/or make amendments to the bylaws.)

**Trustee Scott Hottle's Report:**

Trustee Scott Hottle feels it is important to focus on deaf and hard of hearing children. WV Deaf Service Center (WVDSC) contacted Ski\*Hi to provide mentor training for parents of deaf and hard of hearing children. Ski\*Hi wants 15 people or more for them to start a mentor training program. They prefer deaf couples. (The Ski\*Hi Program is a home-based preschool/parent education program for deaf and hard of hearing children. The goal of Ski\*Hi is to use a child's natural environment to improve and increase the child's language and communications skills. The program also focuses on developing and improving auditory and speech skills.)

**Trustee Sylvia Mick's Report:**

Nothing to report.

**Newsletter Editor Tami Deem's Report:**

Deadline for next newsletter is December 20, 2020. The Fall 2020 newsletter is done but currently waiting on an article from NAD Region 1 representatives then it will be sent to print this week. It is late due to overwhelming month in October with the NAD COR meetings.

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

At the last board meeting, there were 158 members. Currently there are 152 members.

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

Legislative Chair John Burdette received an e-mail from Delegate Ruth Rowan (R-Hampshire County) about appointing people on the advisory board. John wants to amend the LEAD-K bill. He also wants to work on a bill related to captioning at movie theaters and public places. Interpreter license bill is another bill John wants to submit in the next legislature session.

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

Education Advocate April Hottle works at three different schools. She notices that there is a problem with interpreters through virtual schooling. They notice that a lot of deaf children that are mainstreamed are very hungry for communication. So they had a gathering for deaf mainstreamed kids at North Bend State Park so that they can communicate with other kids. They have several gatherings and received money from different funds and grants to help with deaf gatherings for the kids. Their gatherings have been very successful as long as they wear masks, social distance, and keep hands clean and so far no one has been affected by the COVID virus. They have sign language charts to help the kids pick up on learning sign language. They admit that the deaf schools do provide rich experience and helps kids pick up on sign language and communication whereas mainstreamed kids don't have that opportunity.

**Bylaws Committee Report:**

Linda Lawson suggested that we put a disclaimer in the bylaws when it comes to national disaster so that other members do not criticize the WVAD board. It will protect WVAD so that members do not scream and holler at WVAD. As far as bylaws, the Committee wants to split the bylaws into two parts: board policy manual (BPM) and bylaws so that the bylaws is not continuously being changed all the time. Bylaws should NOT change. With BPM, it can be frequently changed but the bylaws should not be changed all the time. Splitting the bylaws would reduce confusion. For education, donation, and other committees, there is a need to list duties for each committee. The Bylaws Committee wants to reduce the number of committees because there are not enough people to volunteer.

**Fundraising Veronda Harrison's Report:**

Jimmy Harrison suggested that we do disc fundraiser.

**Old Business:**

Nothing to report.

**(See Nov. Board Minutes on page 12)**

# What is West Virginia's Vaccination Plan?

(Updated March 31, 2021 — <https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>)

- The guiding principles in decision making for allocating the limited supplies of vaccines include protecting the most vulnerable West Virginians, reducing hospitalizations, reducing the rate of deaths, and ensuring the state and local communities can maintain critical services including our acute care system.
- All West Virginians 16 years of age and older are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Those 65 years of age and older will continue to be prioritized.
- Appointments are scheduled based on availability of the vaccine.
- Community vaccination clinic coordinators, community health centers, or your school/workplace may contact you with a specific appointment day, time, and location for appointment information.
- Another option is to schedule an appointment online or by calling pharmacies and some other health centers. To find community health centers or local pharmacies that carry COVID-19 vaccines, please visit [vaccinefinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org).

## How do I pre-register?

- West Virginians can pre-register online at [vaccinate.wv.gov](https://vaccinate.wv.gov) to sign up for vaccine appointment notifications and opt-in to receive other important messages related to the pandemic and emergencies. When a vaccine is available for you based on supply and your demographics and location, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment.

## How do I pre-register if I do not have internet access?

- West Virginians who need assistance or do not have internet access may pre-register by phone through the West Virginia COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line: 1-833-734-0965. The info line is open Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This service is available for any West Virginian who does not have the ability to register online or anyone preferring to speak to a person to pre-register.

## Who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination?

- All West Virginians 16 years of age and older are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Those 65 years of age and older will continue to be prioritized.

## How are appointments scheduled?

- Appointment scheduling varies depending on the vaccination location (community vaccination clinics, community health centers, pharmacies, and/or schools/workplaces).

## I pre-registered but haven't been contacted for an appointment. Should I pre-register again?

- Any West Virginians aged 65 and older who are still waiting on an appointment are urged to call the West Virginia COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line: 1-833-734-0965 to be scheduled for an appointment to be vaccinated. The Info Line is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- You only need to pre-register one time. You will be notified when there is an appointment available for you. Pre-registering multiple times will not increase your ability to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Appointments are scheduled based on availability of the vaccine. Vaccine supplies are limited, you might need to wait days or weeks before receiving an appointment.

## Can I review and update my information in the West Virginia COVID-19 Vaccine Registration System?

- **Yes.** If you pre-registered online, you can edit your information at any time by logging into your account at [vaccinate.wv.gov](https://vaccinate.wv.gov). If you called the COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line to pre-register, you may call the info line again at 1-833-734-0965 to make changes to your account.

## Will I be charged for the COVID-19 vaccine?

- **No.** There is no fee for the COVID-19 vaccine. However, vaccination

providers can charge an administration fee for giving someone the shot. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for this by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund. No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay the vaccine administration fee.

## Why does the pre-registration form ask for my insurance information?

- This is an optional field. Some providers may bill insurance for the administration of the injection. However, there is no cost for the vaccine itself.

## What happens if vaccination clinics are canceled?

- Canceled vaccination clinics will be rescheduled. Currently local health departments are managing notifications for the vaccine clinic sites. Those registered in the West Virginia COVID-19 Vaccination Registration System may receive notifications about clinic changes through both the registration system and through announcements from local health departments at this time. Additional sources for information about clinic changes or delays are local news and the local health department's social media.

## What are the locations in West Virginia where COVID-19 vaccines are administered?

- For a list of community vaccination locations, click on the "Vaccine Clinic Information" button in this webpage (<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>).
- To locate pharmacies and community health centers, visit [vaccinefinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org).

## What should I bring to my COVID-19 vaccine appointment?

- Please bring some form of identification. If you are receiving a COVID-19 vaccination due to your occupation, please bring proof of (See [What is WV's... on page 12](#))



# Stay connected using Sprint IP Relay

Make or receive Sprint IP Relay calls using your mobile device or computer to anyone at any time.

## Benefits:

- Automated registration and identity verification
- One 10-digit number access for Sprint IP Relay
- Ability to change the font size, font and background color
- Ability to convert web or mobile app to Spanish
- Ability to receive Text Mail
- Access to Sprint Accessibility Care
- Ability to copy and email conversations
- Improved accessibility for people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, or have Speech Disability

[sprintrelay.com/sprintiprelay](http://sprintrelay.com/sprintiprelay)

Download Mobile App.\*



\* Internet connection required.

Registration required.



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

# Teleworking

## Are you teleworking?

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

## Actively participate through real-time captioning.

### What is Relay Conference Captioning (RCC)?

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

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



For more information:  
[westvirginiarelay.com/rcc](http://westvirginiarelay.com/rcc)

## FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

### WVAD Hillbilly Whittler T-Shirts For Sale

**\$15.00 EACH**

**Plus \$5.00 for Shipping & Handling**

#### **Red Ring with Black Print**



#### **Blue Ring with Black Print**



#### **Royal Blue with White Print**



#### **Light Blue with Black Print**



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

To register for the event, please see this link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbCyE\\_aS4Z-viOqSnulh-rfewXqIWwEXn9u-n3Oibjapz6JKQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbCyE_aS4Z-viOqSnulh-rfewXqIWwEXn9u-n3Oibjapz6JKQ/viewform). Registration will close on **April 28, 2021**, at 11:59 p.m. to allow time to finalize processing of registrations. The Zoom participation will be limited to 200 people and is a first come, first serve event. This event is free to any WVAD member.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## NAD Region I State Association Day

“Making Connections, Creating Change”

May 1st 2021 9am-4pm EST (via Zoom)

The committee of State Association representatives from NAD Region I is inviting people to a day of virtual workshops, panels, and discussions about D/DB/HH issues.

Cost: FREE!



**Who can attend?** Anyone who is Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing or who are hearing allies of the D/DB/HH community in Region I.

**Where?** The event will be on Zoom. Registrants will get an email link to join.

Topics for the workshops, panels, and Town Hall are TBA.  
Find out more about the event at this link and register by April 28t 2021::

<https://sites.google.com/view/nadregion1conference2021/home>

Questions? Comments? [region1deafconference@gmail.com](mailto:region1deafconference@gmail.com)



**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF THE DEAF**

Thank you to PSAD for sponsoring and hosting NAD Region I State Association Day.



**Rebecca Jo Nealis**

Rebecca Jo "Becky" Nealis, 56, of Romney, WV, passed away peacefully and unexpectedly at her home on Thursday, February 11, 2021.

Born October 14, 1964, in Winchester, VA, she was the daughter of the late Paul Nealis, Sr. and Donna Lou (Hannas) Nealis. Becky is preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Joe and Helen Hannas; her paternal grandparents, Presley and "Myrt" Presgraves; and by a special cousin, Lisa Benda Peterson.

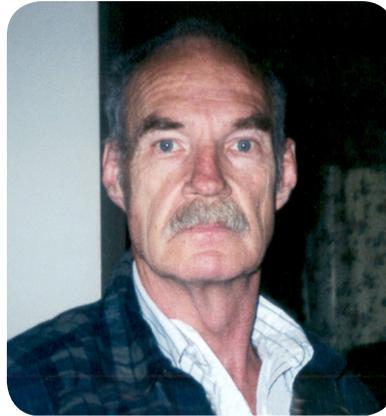
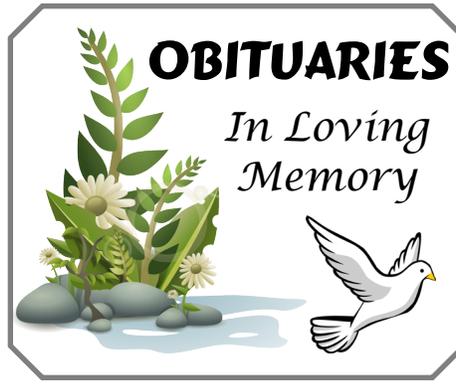
Becky is survived by her two brothers, Paul E. Nealis, Jr. (Darlene) of Chester Gap, VA, and Barry A. Nealis of Romney, WV.

Becky was a graduate of Hampshire High School with the Class of 1982. She worked for years at the WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. She was especially fond of the culture and needs of the deaf and blind students she cared for and was active with the music ensemble "Tapestry." Becky left WVSDb to care for her aging parents, but she always left the communication lines open for her kids. After the passing of her parents, she began her career at the Potomac Center.

Becky was a member of the Romney Moose Lodge 1371, the Romney VFW, and the American Legion Post 91, Romney.

Friends were received on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Shaffer Funeral Home in Romney. Funeral services followed immediately at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Don Kesner officiating. Interment was at Ebenezer Cemetery, Romney ([https://www.shafferfuneral.com/obituaries/Rebecca-Jo-Becky-Nealis?obId=19962910&fbclid=IwAR0liDngnXeY2XDk\\_dGpm7RsP3cNBiiDsN4HITfRumbQRZfy5bO4CajJA4#/celebrationWall](https://www.shafferfuneral.com/obituaries/Rebecca-Jo-Becky-Nealis?obId=19962910&fbclid=IwAR0liDngnXeY2XDk_dGpm7RsP3cNBiiDsN4HITfRumbQRZfy5bO4CajJA4#/celebrationWall)).

Friends were received on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Shaffer Funeral Home in Romney. Funeral services followed immediately at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Don Kesner officiating. Interment was at Ebenezer Cemetery, Romney ([https://www.shafferfuneral.com/obituaries/Rebecca-Jo-Becky-Nealis?obId=19962910&fbclid=IwAR0liDngnXeY2XDk\\_dGpm7RsP3cNBiiDsN4HITfRumbQRZfy5bO4CajJA4#/celebrationWall](https://www.shafferfuneral.com/obituaries/Rebecca-Jo-Becky-Nealis?obId=19962910&fbclid=IwAR0liDngnXeY2XDk_dGpm7RsP3cNBiiDsN4HITfRumbQRZfy5bO4CajJA4#/celebrationWall)).



**Arnold Stollings**

Arnold Stollings, 79, of Chapmanville, WV, departed this life on January 24, 2021 at St. Mary's Medical Center, Huntington, WV.

He was born October 21, 1941, the son of the late Russell Stollings and Rhoda Dingess Stollings.

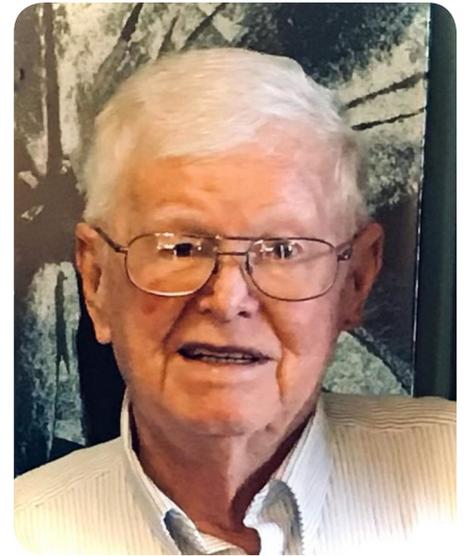
In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, John Paul Stollings and James Thomas Stollings; one sister, Arbutus Stollings; and two nephews, Russell Raymond Stollings and Jesse Lee Stollings.

Arnold enjoyed running equipment and jewelry boxes and other types of boxes. He was employed by Caterpillar for many years assembling heavy equipment.

Those left to cherish his memory include three brothers, Jesse (Evelyn) Stollings, Don Arthur Stollings, and London (Brenda) Harper; four nieces and nephews, Jerry Stollings, Richard Stollings, London Earl Harper, and Diane Stollings.

Arnold graduated from the WV School for the Deaf in Romney, WV, in 1961.

Freeman Funeral Home, Chapmanville, WV was in charge of the arrangements (<https://www.freeman-funeralhomeinc.com/obituary/Arnold-Stollings>).



**Robert C. Patton**

Robert C. Patton, age 94, passed away suddenly Friday, March 19, 2021, at his residence in Dunbar, WV.

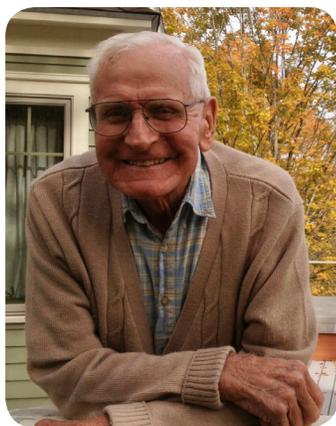
He was born November 2, 1926, in Belle, WV, to the late Alfred and Nora Patton. Robert worked as an upholsterer in Kanawha Valley until he moved to Romney, WV. There, he taught upholstery at the WV School for the Deaf until his retirement. He was a member of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Charleston Association of the Deaf, and West Virginia School for the Deaf Alumni Association.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by five brothers and one sister. Robert is survived by his wife of 73 years, his sweetheart, Mary; daughter Brenda Grinstead (Gary) of Dunbar, WV; son Dale Patton (Debbie) of Morgantown, WV; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sister, Frances "Frankie" Dolan (Larry) of Buckhannon, WV.

Robert attended WV School for the Deaf in 1933 and received his GED diploma in 1976.

Per his request, there will be no visitation or service. His body was donated to WVU Human Gift Registry. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the American Heart Association, 162 Court Street, Charleston, WV 26301. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.barlowbonsall.com](http://www.barlowbonsall.com). Barlow Bonsall Funeral Home, Charleston, WV, has been entrusted with the arrangements (<https://barlowbonsall.com/obituaries/mr-robert-clarence-patton/>).

(See Obituaries on page 11)



**Roy Ernest Pyles**

Roy Ernest Pyles, 89 of Seebert, WV, formerly of Cross Lanes, WV, passed away on March 14, 2021, from a sudden illness, not COVID-19 related, in Port Richey, Florida, surrounded by his loving wife and family.

Roy was a devoted husband, a wonderful father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend to many. Roy never met a stranger and greeted everyone with a smile and wave. His outlook on life was "I have lived a wonderful life." We could not ask for more.

Roy was born on August 6, 1931, to the late Ernest Jacob and Stella (Grimes) Pyles, on the family farm in Seebert, WV. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four brothers, Basil, Charles, James, and Richard Pyles and three sisters Dolly Cook, Wanda Wilfong, and Virginia Stull.

He was a 1953 graduate of West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney, WV where he mastered the skills to become a printer in the newspaper industry. Roy spent a few years in Richwood, WV. Soon thereafter he accepted a position with *The Charleston Gazette*, retiring with 40 years of service. Roy and Delores Stepp were married in 1954, in New York City, NY, on the nationally televised NBC show "Bride and Groom." He was involved with the Deaf community working with various organizations to improve the education, vocational training, employment, and mental health in West Virginia. He was a member of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf and served 17 years as a treasurer, Charleston Association of the Deaf, Lewisburg Association of the Deaf, board members WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2021

of D.E.A.F. and WV Advocates. His passion was helping parents of Deaf children with information regarding their educational choices. He also focused on programs to support Deaf citizens with mental illness. Roy was a proud West Virginian and enjoyed WVU football.

Upon his retirement he and Delores began their annual tradition, of 25 years, between their summer home in WV and their winter home in Port Richey, Florida. They enjoyed traveling, spending time with family, gardening, canning, and took great pride in his magical green thumb. Roy also enjoyed deep sea fishing, once in Alaska and often in Florida.

Roy is survived by the love of his life, his devoted wife of more than 66 years, Delores J. Pyles; daughters Carla Jean (Larry) Campbell of Myrtle Beach, SC; Kara Lee Russell of Lexington Park, MD; and one son, Harlan Roy (Dawn) Pyles, of Oak Island, NC; six grandchildren Catherine (Zane) Walker, Anna Monroe, Katie Begley, Brittany Campbell Lowe, Amber (CJ) McKinnon, and Casey (Jessica) Russell; 11 great-grandchildren; one brother Curtis (Irene) Pyles of Seebert, WV; and his best friends who were like family, Captain Ron and Barb Barnes. He is also survived by an abundance of nieces, nephews, and close friends.

The family would like to take this time to thank the exceptional staff at Bayonet Point Hospital, Dr. John Pirrello and staff, Jessica Harris Interpreting Agency, and HPH Hospice, all of Hudson, Florida. Last but not least, the staff, friends, and residents of Sundance Lakes RV Resort for their continuous support for the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to HPH Hospice, 12107 Majestic Blvd, Hudson, Florida 34668, or to your local hospice. To honor his wishes, he was cremated and no public service is planned. Arrangements were cared for by Faupel Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Port Richey, Florida. 🌿

### **Paul K. Waller**

Word was received that Paul Waller of Rochester, New York, passed away on February 22, 2021, from long illness. He was 68 years old. He graduated from the WV School for the Deaf, Romney, WV, in 1971.

There was no obituary for Paul. 🌿

### **Gladys J. Cassaday Rains**

Word was received that Gladys Rains of Cleveland, Ohio, passed away in February 2021. She was married to Bert Rains from Tennessee. She graduated from the WV School for the Deaf, Romney, WV, in 1955.

There was no obituary for Gladys. 🌿



**Accie Perry**

Accie Perry, age 79, of Selbyville, Delaware, passed away on April 6, 2021. He was born on December 15, 1941, and lived in Colcord, WV, during his childhood. He is preceded in death by his parents (Waymon and Clare Perry) and six siblings.

He graduated from the WV School for the Deaf, Romney, WV, in 1962.

Accie is survived by his wife Sarah (Warden) Perry. They got married in 1966 in Beckley, WV. He is also survived by 2 children: Ricky (Valerie) Perry and Julie Perry of Frederick, MD; and 5 grandchildren (Jamal Whitehurst, Brady Perry, Cassidy Perry, Jazie Perry, and Jovan Whitehurst).

Accie worked as a printer for several printing companies. He retired in 2002 from the *Baltimore Sun* newspaper company in Baltimore, MD. He enjoyed attending many Baltimore Colts and Baltimore Orioles games with his family; he was also a diehard fan of the Baltimore Ravens. He enjoyed attending Interstate Association of the Deaf, Silent Orioles Club, and Chesapeake Bay Association of the Deaf events. He was involved with deaf bowling leagues. Accie received his WVSD Hall of Fame in 2015 for his role in football.

A private family service was held. Contributions may be made in his memory to WVSD Hall of Fame, Doug Godfrey, P.O. Box 1764, Martinsburg, WV 25402. 🌿

**(Nov. Board Minutes from page 4)**

**New Business:**

**MOTION:** Secretary Tami Deem motioned to bring "That's My Pan" back to fund raise. Treasurer Veronda Harrison seconded. CARRIED

**MOTION:** Vice President Gloria Hollen motioned to find three different lodging places to compare prices for the next conference. Secretary Tami Deem seconded. CARRIED

**MOTION:** Vice President Gloria Hollen made a motion to sell WVAD masks. Trustee Sylvia Mick seconded. CARRIED

**MOTION:** Secretary Tami Deem made a motion to do fundraising selling

Christmas wreaths. Treasurer Veronda Harrison seconded. CARRIED

**Announcements:**

Trustee Scott Hottle is looking for deaf and hard of hearing couples to be involved with WVDSC's mentoring training program which would possibly be a 3-day program. He will let us know when and where the upcoming events will be.

Next board meeting will be held on February 21, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tamera Deem  
Secretary

**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.



**(What is WV's... from page 5)**

employment in the form of a badge/ID card, pay stub, or letter from your employer on official letterhead.

**Can I schedule my appointment?**

- **Yes.** Ways and locations to schedule appointments vary. Some ways West Virginians may schedule an appointment are visiting [vaccinefinder.org](http://vaccinefinder.org) and entering your zip code to find an available vaccine, responding to employer/school communication, or calling or visiting the websites of community vaccination clinics or local health departments.

will never be used for any purpose other than to send you notifications or information pertaining to COVID-19 vaccine appointments, pandemic-related information, or emergency response in West Virginia.

**Is my information secure in the West Virginia COVID-19 Vaccine Registration System?**

- **Yes.** The security framework is governed by ISO/IEC 27001:2013 Information Security Standard and utilizes a comprehensive set of security requirements and controls within U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-53 – Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems. Everbridge, the company contracted to deliver the state's vaccine registration system, has achieved internationally recognized ISO/IEC 27001:2013 certification. More details are available at <https://www.everbridge.com/about/legal/compliance/>.

**Will my information in the West Virginia COVID-19 Vaccine Registration System be shared with others?**

- **No.** The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) will never share or distribute your personal information from the West Virginia COVID-19 Vaccine Registration System, unless required to do so by law. Additionally, your information

**WVSD  
150th Anniversary**

WV School for the Deaf Alumni Association wants to make an announcement about the 150th Anniversary event. The event has been postponed to **June 10-12, 2022**, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check out our information at [www.wvsdaa.com](http://www.wvsdaa.com) or visit us at Facebook **WVSD 150th Anniversary**. Please be safe!



**Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines** ([https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/keythingstoknow.html?s\\_cid=10490:covid%20vaccination:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/keythingstoknow.html?s_cid=10490:covid%20vaccination:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21))

- COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**.
- You may have **side effects** after vaccination but these are normal.
- It typically takes 2 weeks after you are fully vaccinated for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Vaccines will become widely available in the coming months. Find a COVID-19 vaccine (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/How-Do-I-Get-a-COVID-19-Vaccine.html>).
- People **who have been fully vaccinated** can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

# Spring Sudoku Fun Page

**DIRECTIONS:** Word Sudoku plays just like a regular Sudoku. Each horizontal row must show each letter exactly once, each vertical column must show each letter exactly once, and each subgrid must show each letter exactly once.



SPROUT

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	T	R	P		
	P				U
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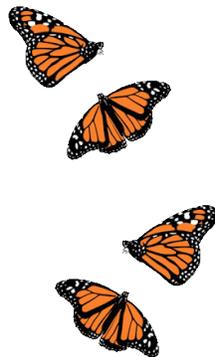
BASKET

	B	T			S
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SPRING

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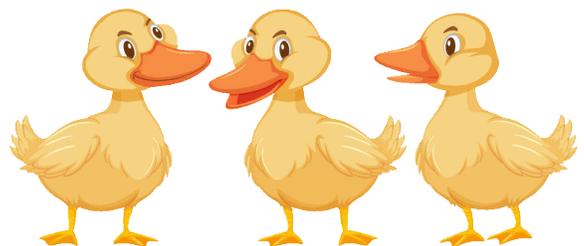
DUCKLINGS

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TULIPS



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(See Fun Page Answers on page 18)



# In the News



## Athletics Awaken at WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB)

By Nick Carroll, *Carroll's Corner – Hampshire Review*, March 31, 2021 ([https://www.hampshirereview.com/sports/article\\_a2df1a6e-8e47-11eb-a264-c3185550bd00.html](https://www.hampshirereview.com/sports/article_a2df1a6e-8e47-11eb-a264-c3185550bd00.html))

In the midst of a pandemic with staff downsizing and declining enrollment, the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind failed to relaunch athletics for the 2021 winter season. The prospect of Lions and Raiders sports seemed destined for extinction.

On Saturday afternoon, I posted my concerns regarding the repeated absence of WVSDB at conference meetings with the Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletic Association (ESDAA).

Was this a sign the state school planned to eliminate sports?

### Frank and Me

My coverage of WVSDB athletics began 4 years ago, attending basketball, soccer, volleyball, cheer, and goalball competitions.

Working as a sports editor at the *Mineral Daily News Tribune* and now for the *Hampshire Review*, athletics at WVSDB have been a consistent stop on my sports calendar.

I truly have cherished the rare opportunity to cover deaf and blind athletes. One of my most heartfelt moments as a journalist happened on this picturesque campus (another column for another day).

In recent years, I built a strong working relationship with former athletic director, Frank Allnutt, who managed state school sports from October 2018 to June 2020.

Frank guided WVSDB athletics into the 21st Century which included hosting ESDAA sanctioned tournaments and providing multiple athletic opportunities for deaf and blind student-athletes alike. He also improved athletic outreach with the creation of an athletics Facebook page that livestreamed games for free allowing parents to watch their sons and daughters compete. Frank was passionate about the rich history of WVSDB sports, posting highlights and snippets from yesteryear.

When the athletic director position was terminated/consolidated last year,



WVSDB Goalball

Frank was downtrodden and concerned about the future of sports.

Although his contract was not renewed, his loyalty to WVSDB athletics has maintained true, recently stating "I would love to get that job back."

### Pinpointing the Problems

#### Enrollment

My social media message expressed my trepidation of the current status of WVSDB sports which kindled a heated and quick response from concerned alumni.

Last Friday WVSDB announced a 20 percent reduction in workforce, eliminating 32 positions of current staffers. The reduction in staff correlates to low enrollment numbers.

"We have a rather small population of youngsters in both the deaf and the blind schools. We have 4 girls and 2 boys in grades 9 through 12th, and 5 girls and 4 boys in grades 6 through 8th," said temporary Superintendent Patricia Homberg who took over the role late last spring.

Homberg reported WVSDB's enrollment at 94 students: 51 residential

students and 43 day students. Of those, 58 students are enrolled in the School for the Blind and 36 students in the School for the Deaf.

Before the pandemic, enrollment hovered around 110 students. The low number of students enrolled in grades 7 through 12th is alarming. With numbers that low, the livelihood of team sports (especially those requiring 5 or more players) is in jeopardy.

Nevertheless, there is good news for some student athletes. If the state school does not have enough participants to form a team, kids can compete in the sport they desire if offered by Hampshire County Schools.

"We have 2 girls now, that are going to Romney Middle School (RMS) to participate in track," Homberg stated.

RMS track coach Christine Brinker confirmed 2 girls from WVSDB have attended practice.

"Any student that wants to participate in the Hampshire County schools programs, we provide transportation, and an adult is with them to interpret for them," detailed Homberg.

(See In the News on page 15)

**(In the News from page 14)**  
**COVID Restrictions**

No question the elephant in the room known as COVID caused chaos on campus including athletics getting shut down.

"Because of COVID, we didn't really have any athletic programs," said Homberg.

After Governor Jim Justice shut down spring sports in 2020, strict COVID guidelines were issued that restricted campus residents from traveling state-to-state. The inability to play deaf and blind schools from neighboring states added an unforeseen layer of complexity that effectively nixed all fall sports in 2020 as well.

In January 2021, Governor Justice announced winter sports were permitted to start practicing midway through February.

I was hopeful basketball and goalball seasons could be salvaged, but the resurrection of sports was placed on the backburner. I routinely checked WVSD's Facebook page for athletic updates, but nothing was mentioned.

With no announcements, no schedules, and no discussion of sports restarting, it appeared that sports might be eliminated.

**Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletic Association (ESDAA) Membership**

Another concern surrounded the two regional ESDAA meetings that were not attended by WVSD's administration.

The ESDAA oversees and regulates deaf interscholastic athletics for schools from Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Maine.

Homberg acknowledged athletic director Dave Simanski did not participate in back-to-back ESDAA Zoom calls, a requirement outlined in his job description.

As of now, WVSD is still an active member of the ESDAA, however, the current status and possible penalties stemming from missed meetings is still unknown.

Homberg was hesitant to make any further comments regarding the athletic director position repeatedly stating, "that is a personnel issue, but I hear what you are saying."

Homberg then mentioned her intent to have a conversation with Valentine Wojton, President of the ESDAA, in the near future to smooth things over.

"I have attempted to contact Valentine and he has called me, and now I have sent an e-mail to get a time to talk to him," said Homberg.

One of the topics she plans to discuss is how to handle low enrollment numbers, and seeks suggestions on how best to continue playing team sports.

Homberg mentioned her willingness to attend ESDAA regional meetings if they continue to happen via Zoom.

Eager to get more details regarding WVSD's membership, I went to the ESDAA website to look at membership bylaws but unfortunately the bylaws tab was a dead link claiming it was under construction. I went a step further and reached out to Valentine myself via e-mail, requesting bylaws and membership status. As of Friday morning, Valentine had not responded to my inquiry. (Article will be updated when information is received.)

**Staff Commitment**

Outside of the ESDAA, Homberg remained confident that sports will restart in the fall.

"I have talked to Dave about setting a schedule to figure out what we will participate in, in the fall and how we can let the students know."

Homberg continued, "Dave and I have talked about athletics, and those people that are coaches on continuing contracts. We are contacting them."

Some good news for blind student-athletes this week, as goalball was authorized to begin conditioning according to head coach Kristie Mills.

"Starting this week, they are allowing me to have conditioning 2 days a week after school," said Mills. "Currently we have 4 boys and 6 girls participating."

Although conditioning has been approved, the goalball season for 2020-2021 has ended. Nevertheless, Coach Mills has a creative plan in the works that might include some on-campus scrimmages featuring the boys versus girls or staff versus students. (Hey coach, me and two *Hampshire Review* employees volunteer to scrimmage your team!)

**Unfinished Facilities**

Before I embarrass myself by hurling a goalball into the bleachers while blindfolded, there is another hurdle that must be cleared beforehand: the opening of the physical education (PE) building. After the departure of students last spring, the PE building has remained closed due to construction.

"We will be opening the physical education building and pool on April 12," said Homberg.

"The physical education building has been closed all year to do work on HVAC systems, lighting, floor refinishing, and pool upgrades. But it will be open April 12th."

Ironically, April 12th marks the official beginning of spring sports in 2021. Lets hope the reopening of the PE building will be a symbolic relaunch of WVSD's athletics.

**Going Forward**

The road to resuming athletics is filled with potholes with five significant problems to overcome.

- Low enrollment numbers
- COVID restrictions
- ESDAA membership
- Staff commitment
- Unfinished facilities

The official resumption of sports has yet to take place, nevertheless, a small step in the right direction was taken this week. Thank you to the Raiders and Lions alumni that rallied together to awaken athletics at WVSD. 🦁





# WVAD Board Minutes

*Date: March 7, 2021  
 Location: Northern West Virginia Center  
 for Independent Living, Morgantown, WV*

## WVAD Board Meeting Held at Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living (NWVCIL), Morgantown, WV, March 7, 2021

### 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, Gloria Hollen, Tami Deem, Veronda Harrison, Laura Crowder, and Sylvia Mick.

**Member Absent:** Scott Hottle.

**Visitors:** Jimmy Harrison, Earl Hollen, Charles Lyne, and Robert Stewart.

The regular board meeting of WVAD was held at Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living (NWVCIL) in Morgantown, WV. President Chris Mick called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.

The minutes of the meeting held on November 7, 2020, were sent via e-mail. It was corrected and approved via video-phone and e-mail. The minutes of the meeting will be published in the Spring 2021 WVAD newsletter.

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

Financial report from November 8, 2020 to February 19, 2021: Balance in checking account – \$1,066.96; balance in savings account – \$4,083.32; Mingo County Fund: \$14,554.61; WVAD Conference Fund – \$6,705.96; Deaf Youth Program – \$378.00; Education Fund – \$288.15; Certificate of Deposit – \$7,000.00. The board accepted the report as read.

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

- President Chris Mick shares daily press briefings from the Governor's Office regarding the COVID-19 pandemic on Facebook. He also

makes special announcements when necessary on Facebook live. On the front of our [www.wvad.org](http://www.wvad.org) webpage, there is a link under WV Governor's COVID Briefings for people to click on. It will take you to the daily briefings from the Governor's Office. This is updated on a daily basis.

- On December 1, 2020, National Association of the Deaf (NAD) had their Region 1 meeting with Milmaglyn Morales and the new representative (Jacob Leffler). Secretary Tami Deem filled in for President Chris Mick as he had other commitments that night. Tami said that Milmaglyn introduced Jacob to everyone and they talked about the NAD COR meeting they had in October. They also discussed about the possibility of hosting NAD Region 1 Virtual Conference this spring. Tami said that it seemed like everyone was burned out from all the Zoom meetings they had during the NAD COR meetings. The meeting was very short.
- On December 2, 2020, President Chris Mick received an e-mail from Zainab Alkebsi from NAD asking WVAD to share the link with members ([www.nad.org/do-you-receive-benefits](http://www.nad.org/do-you-receive-benefits)). NAD stated that this link is an opportunity for deaf people to participate in an important investigation related to Deaf rights.
- On December 10, 2020, President Chris Mick received an e-mail from Kim Bianco-Majeri asking WVAD to

keep her up to date on any legislative bills we may submit to WV Legislative 2021 session. She also said that if we needed any specific training on different topics related to preparing to introduce bills, working with different stakeholders/ members of the community, researching topics or support during meetings with stakeholders, to let her know. NAD provides all kinds of training, especially now online through Zoom.

- On December 30, 2020, President Chris Mick received an e-mail from Stacy Bishop, Public Affairs Specialist from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of WV. She said that they were looking for information on certified ASL interpreters for use in their events, press conferences, and court proceedings. President Mick sent her the link to the WV Registry of Interpreters directory book from the WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) website.
- On January 5, 2021, President Chris Mick participated in NAD Region 1 meeting. Several things were discussed. We discussed concerns about COVID-19 virus, vaccines, interpreter issues, and state association conferences. Some states don't know if they would have a conference this year or not. Some states may have virtual state association conference and some may cancel their conference. A lot of the states still don't really know what their

(See March Board Minutes on page 17)

### **(March Board Minutes from page 16)**

plans are for their association conference this year.

- On January 21, 2021, President Chris Mick received an e-mail from Legislative Chair John Burdette about the Virtual One4All Disability Expo to be held on March 26-27, 2021. It is free for vendors and attendees to participate. One4All Disability Expo is an annual resource expo offering the community a wide range of information on concerns related to special health care needs. More information will be forthcoming by checking out this link: <https://one4alldisabilities.org/>.
- On January 26, 2021, President Chris Mick received an e-mail from Zoë Margolis from Rafi Nova Company. They sell clear-paneled masks for the deaf and hard of hearing community, sensory friendly masks, and other masks as well. For more information about their company, check out this link: <https://rafinova.com>. President Mick shared the e-mail with the board.
- On February 2, 2021, President Chris Mick participated in the NAD Region 1 meeting. We discussed continuous concerns about the COVID-19 virus within the deaf community, vaccines being provided to the deaf community, and different state associations submitting their legislative bills for this year. One state mentioned that they have COVID-19 vaccination days just for deaf people. Interpreters are provided during those vaccination days. President Mick thought that this was a great idea! He mentioned that WVAD plans to submit the Captioning Act Bill and amend the LEAD-K bill. NJ Association of the Deaf President Annmarie Buraczkeski shared their state's pre-vaccination checklist for COVID-19 vaccines communication card. It is in both English and Spanish.
- On February 18, 2021, President Chris Mick received an e-mail from NJ Association of the Deaf President Annmarie Buraczkeski announcing that they are starting a new committee for NAD Region 1 Virtual Conference to be held on May 1, 2021. This conference will give Region 1 an opportunity to voice

their concerns, give feedback, and share information between Region 1 states.

- On February 25, 2021, President Chris Mick had a meeting with Eastern Panhandle Deaf Allies (EPDA) President Mary Ann Jividen, Paul See from WVCDHH, Scott Hottle and April Hottle from WV Deaf Service Center (DSC). Mary Ann Jividen was concerned about WVCDHH not doing anything for almost a year. She was also concerned about WVCDHH not doing anything about giving information about COVID-19 virus to the deaf community and making sure that deaf people get their COVID-19 vaccines. Paul See said that WVCDHH is just now starting to interview several candidates for the Executive Director position. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security asked West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) about how to help deaf people get their vaccines. DHHR contacted WVCDHH for ideas on how to help deaf people get vaccinated. President Mick told them that he learned from NAD Region 1 meeting about having a Vaccination Day for deaf people only on certain days with time slots and that there would be interpreters there to help them communicate with healthcare providers that provide them the vaccine. They liked that idea. The meeting was about 2 hours long.
- President Chris Mick attended NAD's monthly Region 1 meeting on March 2, 2021. The meeting was about almost the same things discussed in last Region 1 meeting. Most states plan to have virtual conference this year. Maryland Association of the Deaf will have their conference in person. We also talked about submitting bills to state legislature. Some states have submitted interpreter licensure bill. Hopefully West Virginia can submit an interpreter licensure bill in the near future. Some states are saying that ASL is now recognized as foreign language. Some states have set up police training for law enforcement, making sure deaf

people have the same accessibility as hearing people. Hopefully we can do this in West Virginia. One or two states set up Youth Day. Parents are welcome to come and also people from National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) and Gallaudet University would come and tell the youth about their colleges. The sign for blind is moved to the side, not under eyes anymore because it offends the blind community. NAD told us not to use Support Service Provider (SSP) anymore. Now it's called co-navigator for the blind. That word is better and nice than SSP. Some lady showed us her clear mask. It was really nice and hugs your face while you speak, smile, or laugh with little to no adjustment. It also makes it easier to breathe. For 8 masks, it cost \$55.00. The website is [www.bendshapemask.com](http://www.bendshapemask.com). The lady said that it was good quality mask. President Mick liked the looks of it too. Lizzie Sorkin, Director of Communications from NAD, said she will soon send out training webinar on how to do virtual conference. (President Mick received that info from her on March 3, 2021, and he shared the e-mail with the board after he received the link from her. Training will be on March 10, 2021 for Part 1 and March 15, 2021 for Part 2 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on how to host virtual conference. You have to register to participate in the webinar.)

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

Vice President Gloria Hollen did some research on having a conference at Martinsburg Holiday Inn and Pipestem State Park. Pipestem State Park is small and the lady was very eager to work with Vice President Hollen. The dates are full in August to have anything planned. We would have to reserve 1 or 2 years ahead of time. They have 66 rooms plus camp sites for camping.

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

- Secretary Tami Deem started a Christmas wreath online fundraiser for WVAD with Lynch Creek Farm on November 8, 2020. WVAD raised \$88.04 from this fundraiser.

**(See March Board Minutes on page 20)**

## Officers' Contact Information

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**From the Editor**

### EDITOR'S NOTE

There was no  
Winter 2021 issue.  
Nothing was lost in the mail.

### **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.



(Fun Page Answers from page 13)

#### SPROUT

S	R	P	O	U	T
T	U	O	R	S	P
P	O	S	U	T	R
U	T	R	P	O	S
O	P	T	S	R	U
R	S	U	T	P	O

#### BASKET

E	B	T	K	A	S
S	A	K	E	B	T
A	E	B	T	S	K
T	K	S	A	E	B
K	S	A	B	T	E
B	T	E	S	K	A

#### DUCKLINGS

I	C	S	N	K	U	G	L	D
D	G	K	S	L	I	U	C	N
U	L	N	C	G	D	K	I	S
G	I	D	L	U	S	N	K	C
L	S	C	D	N	K	I	G	U
K	N	U	I	C	G	D	S	L
N	K	G	U	S	C	L	D	I
C	U	I	K	D	L	S	N	G
S	D	L	G	I	N	C	U	K

#### SPRING

R	P	N	S	I	G
I	G	S	R	P	N
N	I	G	P	S	R
S	R	P	G	N	I
G	S	I	N	R	P
P	N	R	I	G	S

#### TULIPS

L	P	S	U	I	T
U	T	I	P	S	L
I	L	P	S	T	U
S	U	T	L	P	I
T	S	L	I	U	P
P	I	U	T	L	S



**Happy Spring**

WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2021



# 2021 WV Legislative News

By John Burdette, WVAD Legislative Chair

WVAD submitted two bills (Motion Picture Open Captioning Act and Closed Captioning Act) and the LEAD-K amendment bill (HB 4414).

Senator Mike Caputo introduced SB 593 (Motion Picture Open Captioning Act) on March 8, 2021. SB 593 was double-referenced to Senate Economic Development Committee and then to Judiciary Committee. Unfortunately, SB 593 did not make it out of Economic Development Committee.

Three days later, Senator Caputo introduced SB 629 (Closed Captioning Act) on March 11, 2021. SB 629 was referenced to Government Organization Committee. It also did not move out of Government Organization Committee. Both bills were unfortunately stalled.

Legislative Chair John Burdette and Secretary Tami Deem worked together to add some amendments to HB 4414

(LEAD-K) to help strengthen the bill. They wanted to change and simplify the introduction of this bill and change the year to 2022 to start selecting people to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic instead of selecting in year 2021. They also wanted to make sure that people who serve on the Advisory Committee are able to sign fluently. This was a new experience for WVAD on submitting an amended bill.

Legislative Chair John Burdette had someone help him contact Senator Patricia Rucker, who is the Chair of Senate Education Committee. This person reached out to Senator Rucker with the LEAD-K amended bill. He was advised that Senator Rucker would probably not originate it. Senator Rucker stated that the amendment seems to be minor and does not appear to be a big

problem. So hopefully next year it will be submitted as a regularly introduced bill. Senator Rucker stated that she didn't think changing the year would be a problem either. Lots of organizations and committees were disrupted due to COVID-19 and the West Virginia income tax repeal bill. Legislative Chair John Burdette will submit the amended bill again next year to strengthen it.

Legislative Session 2021 has been different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The session began on February 10, 2021, and ended on April 10, 2021. Limited access to the Capitol has reduced citizen's voice from the galleys and Upper Rotunda.

Fair Shake Network (FSN) Legislative Team had their meetings by Zoom Video Conference every Wednesday instead of meeting in the Capitol cafeteria. 🍷



## WVAD 43rd BIENNIAL CONFERENCE CANCELLED

We regret to inform you that the WVAD 43rd Biennial Conference has been cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic concerns.

Our next conference will be in August 2023. More info on conference details coming soon.

### **(March Board Minutes from page 17)**

- Secretary Tami Deem e-mailed Carly Cale from Underground Printing in Morgantown, WV (same company that printed our Hill-billy t-shirts) on November 11, 2020, about ordering masks with WVAD logo on it. On November 12, 2020, Tami received a reply from Carly with mask info and forwarded the e-mail to Treasurer Veronda Harrison. Veronda didn't like the quality of the masks that Underground Printing Company had to offer so Tami never looked into it anymore.
- President Chris Mick and Secretary Tami Deem received a forwarded e-mail from Legislative Chair John Burdette on December 4, 2020 and December 10, 2020, that he received from Christina Gitto about adding <https://www.coverage.com/insurance/home/modifications-apps-for-deaf-and-hoh/> link on our [www.wvad.org](http://www.wvad.org) website. This link provides resources for people with limited or complete hearing loss that face unique challenges and with mandated face coverings across the nation due to COVID-19 pandemic. Their team created a guide for those who are living with hearing loss, whether it's been a gradual decline or something they have been experiencing long term. Secretary Tami Deem e-mailed her back on February 27, 2021, and told her that we would be glad to add the link to our webpage.
- Secretary Tami Deem and Treasurer Veronda Harrison received an e-mail from Legislative Chair John Burdette on January 3, 2021. He shared a communication card that New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing created for New Jersey deaf and hard of hearing patients who have been affected by COVID-19 virus. The COVID-19 communication card helps them to communicate with healthcare providers.
- Legislative Chair John Burdette and Secretary Tami Deem worked on amending the LEAD-K bill on February 8, 2021. We sent the amended changes to Education Advocate April Hottle and received her feedback on February 14, 2021.

We also received an e-mail with feedback from Kim Bianco-Majeri (NAD Legislative Affairs Program) on February 26, 2021. She suggested that we add "disaggregate data" info on the amended LEAD-K bill.

- Secretary Tami Deem called Kim Lapana (Regional Sales Manager for Oglebay Park, Wheeling, WV) around January 2, 2021, about hosting WVAD Biennial Conference there in August 2021. She replied back on January 5, 2021, and said that she would love to welcome us to their resort. She wants to invite us to come and see everything that Oglebay Park has to offer. Tami has not replied back because she wanted to talk to the Board as a group about this opportunity.
- Our [www.wvad.org](http://www.wvad.org) webmaster (Andrew Kapaldo) revamped our website and made it user friendly and it looks better. He also changed web hosting to a different company that charges \$31.84 per year. We paid \$177.00 in the past for previous web hosting.
- On February 28, 2021, Secretary Tami Deem printed out the \$88.04 check from Lynch Creek Farm fundraiser on line and mailed it to Treasurer Veronda Harrison the next day to deposit in WVAD's account.
- Secretary Tami Deem received an e-mail from Kim Lapana on March 1, 2021. She wanted to know what we decided on. Tami replied back to her and told her that she would get back with her after our March 7, 2021 board meeting and told her that hopefully a decision will be made on what to do about having our biennial conference this year.

### **Trustee Laura Crowder's Report:**

Trustee Laura Crowder had some concerns about receiving scam e-mails from President Chris Mick and wondered if we can remove our e-mail addresses and phone numbers from our WVAD webpage. In the bylaws it says you have to put e-mail address there so that members can contact you if necessary.

### **Trustee Scott Hottle's Report:**

Nothing to report.

### **Trustee Sylvia Mick's Report:**

Nothing to report.

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

Deadline for next newsletter is March 20, 2021. The Winter 2021 newsletter was not published due to lack of activity in the organization.

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

At the last board meeting, there were 152 members. Currently there are 142 members.

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

- Legislative Session 2021 has been different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The session begun on February 10, 2021 and will end on April 10, 2021. Limited access to the Capitol has reduced citizen's voice from the galleys or Upper Rotunda. Senate Bill 11: Teachers will not be allowed to participate in a concerted work stoppage or strike. They will be fined for this activity. This bill was passed in Senate then House and completed legislation. House Bill 2012: Charter schools bill was also passed both in House and Senate. In this bill, the total number of public charter schools authorized and in operation under an approved contract in this state shall be limited to 10 pilot public charter schools until July 1, 2023.
- Fair Shake Network (FSN) Legislative Team Meeting by Zoom Video Conference is scheduled for every Wednesday instead of meeting in the Capitol cafeteria.
- Senator Mike Caputo (D-Marion) was in House of Delegates for nearly 25 years. He was elected as a State Senator November 2020. Legislative Chair John Burdette sent two bills (Motion Picture Open Captioning Act and Closed Captioning Act) to Senator Caputo to introduce in Legislative Session 2021. This has not been submitted in the Legislature yet.
- Legislative Chair John Burdette and Secretary Tami Deem worked together to add some amendments

**(See March Board Minutes on page 21)**

WVAD Quarter News, Spring 2021

**(March Board Minutes from page 20)**

on HB 4414 (LEAD-K bill) to strengthen the bill. John and Tami wanted to change the introduction of this bill and change the year to 2022 to start selecting the ad hoc committee due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

- Legislative Chair John Burdette sent the draft amendments of the LEAD-K bill to April Hottle on February 8, 2021, for her thoughts and input. April noticed that we removed the complete “introduction” paragraph and replaced it with the original introduction paragraph that was in the original bill that we wanted in the first place for HB 4414. April mentioned that states must follow Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and do the minimum (in WV, they qualify deaf and hard of hearing (d/hh) children by hearing and communication) but some states choose to add additional measures and more details to their Part C programs. In West Virginia, regarding language for d/hh children in Part C, apparently we use just “Communication” and Ms. Pam Roush (Director for WV Birth to Three) recently said they measure the children when they first become part of the program and then annually. April feels that measuring “communication” one time per year is not enough, one time to join then one time per year. Otherwise April is concerned about what WV Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) does to help d/hh children from age 0-3 years.

Legislative Chair John Burdette also shared the draft LEAD-K bill amendments with Kim Bianco-Majeri (NAD State Legislative Affairs Coordinator) for her thoughts and input. She agreed with the amendments. Federal law does require measuring and collecting information on language acquisition from age 0-3 years with the reauthorization of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Act in 2017. Kim also mentioned that our bill says aggregate data which is fine and good. She also would like to see disaggregated

data included in the bill. Aggregate means a summary of all information. Disaggregate means to break down information into categories. For example:

- Aggregate Data: All children assessed have x language skills.
- Disaggregate Data: All ASL kids have x language skills; all oral kids, mainstream kids, kids in preschool, kids in daycare, kids in early intervention have x language skills. You can use that information to prove what works and what does not.

John and Kim were supposed to meet via videophone (VP) on March 4, 2021 to discuss the draft amendments in the LEAD-K bill but she was tied up that day. Hopefully John and Kim can do a VP call sometime this week.

**Education Advocate April Hottle’s Report:**

Nothing to report.

**Bylaws Committee Report:**

Charles Lyne said that he is still working with Liz Leisure and Linda Lawson on the bylaws.

**Fundraising Veronda Harrison’s Report:**

Treasurer Veronda Harrison said that she just got information on “That’s My Pan” fundraiser and she will be sending the catalogs to the Board.

**Old Business:**

The masks from Underground Printing is not good quality so we will try a different company or brand.

**New Business:**

**MOTION:** Treasurer Veronda Harrison motioned to cancel the WVAD conference this year due to COVID-19 pandemic. Vice President Gloria Hollen seconded. CARRIED

**MOTION:** Secretary Tami Deem motioned to start planning and find a place for WVAD conference in August 2023. Treasurer Veronda Harrison seconded. CARRIED

**MOTION:** Trustee Sylvia Mick motioned to sell clear masks as

fundraiser. Vice President Gloria Hollen seconded. CARRIED

**Announcements:**

NAD Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) will be a virtual conference this fall.

Next board meeting will be held on June 13, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. through videophone.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tamera Deem  
Secretary



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

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

## GARLICKY LAMB CHOPS

(<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a52403/garlicky-lamb-chops-recipe/>)

(Yields: 4 servings; Prep Time: 10 minutes; Total Time: 25 minutes)

1/4 cup freshly chopped rosemary  
Kosher salt  
2 pounds small lamb chops,  
trimmed of fat

5 cloves garlic, minced  
Freshly ground black pepper  
1 Tablespoon extra-virgin  
olive oil



### Directions:

1. On a large plate, combine rosemary and garlic and season with salt and pepper. Press lamb chops into mixture and set aside.
2. In a large skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Working in batches, cook lamb until nicely browned, about 6 to 10 minutes per side. Let rest 5 minutes before serving.



## MELT IN YOUR MOUTH POTATOES

(<https://letsdishrecipes.com/melt-in-your-mouth-potatoes/>)

(Yields: 6 servings; Prep Time: 10 minutes; Cook Time: 45 minutes; Total Time: 55 minutes)

3 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled  
1 teaspoon dried thyme  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 cup chicken broth  
2 Tablespoons fresh chopped parsley

6 Tablespoons butter, melted  
1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary  
1/2 teaspoon pepper  
2 to 3 cloves garlic, peeled and  
crushed



### Directions:

1. Place oven rack in upper-middle position. Preheat oven to 475 °F. Spray a large rimmed baking sheet with non-stick cooking spray.
2. In a small bowl, combine melted butter, thyme, rosemary, salt, and pepper.
3. Cut potatoes into 3/4 to 1 inch thick slices, discarding ends. Toss potatoes in butter mixture. Arrange in a single layer on prepared baking sheet.
4. Roast potatoes for 15 minutes. Remove from oven and flip potatoes over. Return to oven and roast for an additional 15 minutes.
5. Remove potatoes from oven and flip one more time. Add the broth and garlic to the pan and carefully return to oven. Roast for an additional 10 to 15 minutes, or until potatoes are tender. Sprinkle with parsley and serve.



## EASIEST CRÈME BRÛLÉE

(<https://letsdishrecipes.com/easiest-creme-brulee/>)

(Yields: 4 servings; Prep Time: 10 minutes; Cook Time: 45 minutes; Total Time: 55 minutes)

10 Tablespoons granulated sugar, divided  
6 egg yolks

2 cups heavy cream  
1 teaspoon vanilla



### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 °F. Set 4 ramekins in a 9x13 inch baking dish.
2. In a microwave safe bowl, whisk together 6 Tablespoons of sugar with the cream. Heat in microwave until warm, about 2 minutes, then whisk again until sugar is dissolved.
3. In a medium bowl, whisk together egg yolks and vanilla. Gradually whisk egg mixture into the cream mixture until smooth.
4. Pour the mixture into the prepared ramekins. Pour in enough hot water to reach halfway up the sides of the ramekins.
5. Carefully place the pan in the preheated oven and bake until crème brûlée is set but still slightly jiggle in the center, 40 to 50 minutes, depending on the size of your ramekins.
6. Remove ramekins from hot water and refrigerate until chilled, at least 2 hours. Sprinkle 1 Tablespoon of sugar evenly over each crème brûlée, then use a kitchen torch to melt the sugar until brown and bubbly. Garnish with fruit if desired. Serve immediately.

### 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!

