

WVAD Quarter News



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

Volume 30, No. 4

Winter 2009

NAD Leadership Training Conference '09

The 2nd annual NAD Leadership Training Conference was attended by WVAD President Linda Eckhart and Secretary Liz Leisure held on October 29 - October 31, 2009.

The theme of this year's conference was *Conquering Challenges: Leadership Beyond Barriers*.

The goal of this year's conference was to address leadership challenges and opportunities that deaf and hard of hearing individuals face within rapidly changing nonprofit, educational, governmental, and corporate environments.

Conference training areas were focused on promoting diversity and sharing of diverse viewpoints, characteristics of successful leaders, proactive

change leadership, coalition building and teamwork, accountable leaders, communicating effectively, conducting leadership search efforts, running healthy meetings, conflict resolution, and harnessing the power of social media.

Regional and affiliate caucuses were also held during the conference, to enable state association and affiliate representatives to confer on matters of importance within their respective areas. Resources support on youth leadership were also available during the conference.

For more information about what this conference offered, please see <http://www.nad.org/events/nad-leadership-training-conference-09>. ■

Joining WVAD

The West Virginia Association of the Deaf (WVAD) is a non-profit consumer advocacy organization which strives to promote the quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in West Virginia. It is supported by membership dues and contributions.

The WVAD is affiliated with the National Association of the Deaf (NAD).

WVAD membership is extended to deaf and hard of hearing residents of West Virginia, professionals who work with deaf people, hearing parents and guardians with deaf children, hearing children of deaf adults, and their friends and supporters.

Membership benefits include the following:

- Subscription to WVAD newsletter.
- Discounts on conference fees.
- Social and networking opportunities.
- Better quality of life in West Virginia as promoted by the WVAD objectives.

If you are interested in joining WVAD, please print and fill out a Membership Form (<http://wvad.org/WVAD%20Membership%20-New.pdf>) and send it along with your payment. ■

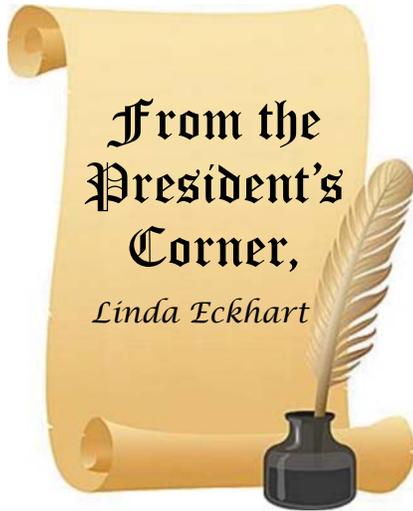
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Happy Holidays!

I wanted to share with you what has been happening since the last newsletter you received. Secretary Liz Leisure and myself attended the National Leadership Training Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on October 29 to 31, 2009. This was an opportunity for the delegates or representatives to attend workshops and meetings to improve leadership skills and assist in running better meetings. The workshops included fundraising ideas, parliamentary procedures, media, conflict resolutions, and teamwork. Also, during the weekend, the Region Caucuses were held. During this time, each region was able to meet with their state facilitators and all other states delegates to discuss issues happening within the region. Overall, it was an educational weekend. A lot of information was shared for us to bring home to

our state association. Now it is time to prepare for the NAD Conference in Philadelphia, PA, in July of 2010.

During the West Virginia School for the Deaf Homecoming, it was decided that WVSDA and WVAD will work together to plan the 140th Anniversary in 2010. We will keep you informed of what is happening with that as it happens.

We need to post future deaf events on the WVAD website. If your local deaf club has decided on a schedule or has events to announce, please send the information to wvad1930@wvad.org.

Our next WVAD Board meeting will be held in January. The date, time, and place will be announced in the near future so check the WVAD website (www.wvad.org) for updated information.

WVAD Board would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy

PUBLICATION INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

New Year. Stay safe and warm as you travel for the holidays.

Sincerely,

Linda Eckhart

WVAD President



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

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



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



WVAD Board Minutes

*Date: August 6, 2009
Location: Comfort Suites Conference Room, Mineral Wells, WV*

West Virginia Association of the Deaf Board Meeting, Comfort Suites Conference Room, Mineral Wells, West Virginia, August 6, 2009

Members Present: Doug Evans, Robyn Evans, Veronda Harrison, Liz Leisure, John Burdette, Worthy Devericks, and Linda Eckhart.

Standing Committee Members: Ruby Losh and Jimmy Harrison.

Visitors: Connie Davis, Lois Devericks, Erin Fulton, Dwight Mossor, Madelyn Mossor, Georgia Guzzi, and Jimmy Guzzi.

The regular meeting of WVAD was held in the conference room at the Comfort Suites, on Thursday morning, August 6, 2009, at 11:17 a.m. Minutes: Approved as read.

Treasurer Veronda Harrison gave the financial reports. The reports will be reviewed and audited by the trustees and two WVAD members this evening. The time will be set by the treasurer and the trustees.

President's Report:

President Douglas Evans called a special board meeting on May 30, 2009, to discuss the conference planning. All the board members attended except Liz and Linda.

President Evans announced that the new executive director for the WVCDHH has been hired and her name is Marissa Johnson. He has met with Ms. Johnson at the Fairmont Pig Roast on July 11, 2009.

President Evans has received four e-mails: The first e-mail was about the NAD Leadership Training Conference (NLTC '09) to be held at the Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus, Ohio, October 29-November 1, 2009. Conference registration is \$150

for NAD members and \$190 for non-members (membership is included). The hotel rate is \$82/single plus tax; \$107/double plus tax.

The second e-mail he received was from Chris Glavin who is the editor for K12 academics. Mr. Glavin wanted to post WVAD information on his website.

The third e-mail was from James Kittell who is President of ASL expo. Mr. Kittell asked WVAD if it would be interested in exhibiting its organization at their expo.

The fourth e-mail was from Jennifer Casto informing that the Sorenson Relay Services will be having an open house on August 25, 2009, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Charleston, WV.

The fifth e-mail was from Angela Holley, State Coordinator for College Goal Sunday. Ms. Holley is looking for interpreters to volunteer to interpret for students that are applying for Federal Application Financial Student Aid (FAFSA). The event will be held on February 10, 2010, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 16 different locations in West Virginia.

Vice-President's Report:

Vice-President John Burdette has attended the West Virginia Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) meeting on May 14, 2009. He has also met Marissa Johnson, the new Executive Director for the WVCDHH. The meeting focused on working on the Deaf Child's Bill of Rights.

Secretary Liz Leisure has no report to give at this time.

Senior Trustee Worthy Devericks said there are some money issues but will put them on hold at this time.

Trustee Robyn Evans has no report to give at this time.

Trustee Linda Eckhart reported that she has received several e-mails concerning youth conference. Many parents including deaf parents and other interested individuals have asked for information on deaf clubs and deaf events. There are new faces in West Virginia that have asked about information about deaf events.

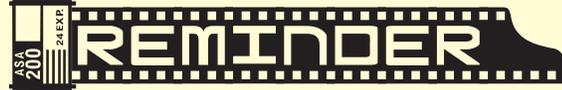
Projects Coordinators' Reports:

There was no report on the Youth Program.

Vice-President John Burdette as Coordinator for the DDLEOS stated that Caryn Keller has designed the back of communication tips and basis signs. He is still working on the cards. He will have to rewrite the script due to person retiring. After the new script is written, he will have to get an approval. The wallet size cards are on hold.

West Virginia Video Relay Services (WVAVRS): Robyn Evans reported that there has been no "V" meeting for quite some time. The new contract with money is based on the number of the WVAD members. Each "Z150 and Z340" product that WVAD sells, we can keep half of the money.

West Virginia Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Board - WVATRS: Ruby Losh reported that (See WVAD Board Minutes ... page 4)



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

(WVAD Board Minutes from page 3)

the Public Services Commission does not want to pay mileage. Sprint Relay has won the bid to provide the relay service in West Virginia to begin on September 30, 2009.

There was no update from Mary Kesler on ASL Task Force according to Robyn Evans.

Jimmy Harrison, Membership Chairperson, announced that there were 251 WVAD members two years ago. Now there are 178 WVAD members on the roll.

Conference Chairperson Linda Eckhart reported that we have sold 63 combo tickets.

Secretary Liz Leisure reported that she has mailed out 110 letters to sponsors and received no response. She said Brianna Butler and April Hottle have agreed to be our conference interpreters.

John Burdette's Report on Workshops: Ruby Losh will give a presentation on "How to Work With an Interpreter," Donald Trembly from the Social Security Administration will talk about Social Security benefits, and John Egbert will talk about Deaf Bilingual Coalition.

Robyn Evans' Report on Exhibitors: CSDVRS cannot come to the conference but Sorenson, Sprint, HOVRS, Hamilton, SNAP VRS, and the WVCDHH will come. There will be three crafters: Eileen Brown, Connie Davis, and Lois Devericks.

Linda Eckhart's Report on Entertainment: There will be no DJ; however, Bill and Caryn Keller will lend their sound equipment. Crom Saunders from Chicago will be there to perform on Saturday night.

WVAD Booster Report: Worthy Devericks raised \$430.00 for the 2009 conference.

There was no unfinished business.

The break started at 1:35 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 1:46 p.m.

New Business:

Veronda Harrison moved that WVAD sends two delegates to NLTC in Columbus, Ohio, in Columbus, Ohio. The motion passed.

John Burdette moved that WVAD give 500 dollars (100 dollars each game) for DINGO game for prizes. Motion was passed.

Linda moved that in DINGO game, that each team wins 100 dollars will have to split it among the 4 players, 25 dollars each. Motion was passed.

Linda moved that WVAD sell raffle tickets for cash prizes Saturday night. Robyn moved that we amend by adding "Friday and" after the words cash prizes. The motion passed.

Linda moved that WVAD charges an arm length of raffle tickets for 5 dollars or 10 raffle tickets for 5 dollars or 30 raffle tickets for 10 dollars. Motion was passed.

Find us on Facebook

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

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

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

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

Robyn moved that WVAD uses the WVAVRS's 350 dollars for Friday night's WVAD Feud Game. Motion was passed.

John moved that WVAD charges on floor registrants with the second combo rates. Veronda moved that we amended this motion by adding that if there are more than 70 registrants that we give them 5 dollars discount. Motion was passed.

There being no further business, by general consent, the President adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m. ■

Parents Ruby & Mike and Sister Maddie Losh Announce with Great Joy the Birth of

Calvin Lee Losh

November 24, 2009
7 lbs, 13 oz | 19" Long

Proud Maternal Grandparents:
James and Regina Ennis

Proud Paternal Grandparents:
Jesse and Vickie Losh
Garland and Betty May




Maddie and Calvin Losh sits on Santa's lap.

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Greenbrier Valley Association of the Deaf Announcement

GVAD will have an annual Ramp Dinner on April 2010.
More information to follow later in next Spring issue.



WVSDB 140th Anniversary and WVSD Homecoming Announcement

Dr. Shank announced that the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind will host its 140th Anniversary on September 24-26, 2010.

Our WVSD homecoming will be held on the same weekend (September 24-26, 2010). Pamela Thompson, Class of 2008, is working on the website for

our events. The link will be under www.wvad.org and the information will be ready by early December.

Please keep an eye on the website for more information. If you have any ideas to make our 140th Anniversary the best one, please feel free. ■

Sound Off

Submitted to the News and Sentinel, Parkersburg, WV, Sunday, November 15, 2009

I'm one who prefers to walk the sidelines covering high school football games. You get the full effect of bodies colliding and helmets crashing.

The roar of the crowd is something you just can't describe when the game boils down to the final seconds. It could be a balmy, 70-degree night and you can still feel the chills.

Last Friday as Parkersburg lost to Bridgeport in the first round of the Class AAA state playoffs, I gained a greater appreciation for the sense of sound. Bridgeport running back Corey Wagner is deaf and uses an interpreter to relay the coaches' instructions.

When Wagner scored on a 14-yard run, the Bridgeport fans raised their arms and waved their hands in the air as the sign language for applause.

Some things in life just can't be taken for granted.

Contact Kerry Patrick at kpatrick@newsandsentinel.com. ■

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Cecelia Anne Evans



Cecelia Anne Evans, 73, of Oak Ridge, TN, departed this life, Friday, August 28, 2009, at Oak Ridge Methodist Medical Center.

She was born May 26, 1936, in Pocahontas, Virginia.

She was preceded in death by her parents Lawrence McCollum and Josephine Scales; husband Horace M. Evans.

She leaves to mourn her passing, daughters Mona K. (Luis) Prosper, Jersey City, NJ, Dawn M. (Anthony) Morris, Oak Ridge, TN; grandchildren Negrita McCollum, Xavier McCollum, Taurean Prosper, Jersey City, NJ, Sydney (Donald), Oak Ridge, TN; sisters Fern M. (Bill) Boone, Orlando, FL, Scarlette McCollum, Oak Ridge, TN; brothers Gene R. McCollum, Philadelphia, PA, Leslie V. (Almedia) McCollum, NC, Shelby McCollum, NC; eight great grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins; other relatives, and friends.

NOTE: Cecelia (McCollum) Evans graduated from WVSD in 1956. ■



With Deepest Sympathy

Clifford C. Leach



Clifford C. Leach, born in Moatsville, West Virginia, passed away Wednesday, October 28, 2009.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 32 years, Ruth (Hedberg) Leach.

Survived by his step-son, Dan (Maureen) Hedberg; step-son, Jim Morris; niece, Peggy (Jack) James of Endwell, NY; grandchildren, Mark H. (Ann) Hedberg, Kimberly Farr, Kevin (Jodi) Hedberg, Matthew (Nancy) Hedberg, Michael Heerkins, Brenda (Mark) Weber; great-grandchildren, Justine & Jaclyn Shults, Russell, Jacob, William, Kathryn, and Mary Grace Hedberg; great-great-grandchildren, Haylee Corcoran, Mathew & Tyler Weber; nephews, Richard (Dolores) Cross, Allen (Theresa) Leach, Orval Leach & Harold Leach.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Rochester School for the Deaf, 1545 St. Paul St., Rochester, NY 14621 in Clifford's Memory.

Funeral services were held by Bartolomeo and Perotto Funeral Home, Inc., 1411 Vintage Lane (between Rte 390 and Long Pond Rd) where Clifford's visitation was on Sunday 1-4 p.m. followed by his funeral service at 4 p.m. in the funeral home. Interment was private at the convenience of the family.

Clifford was born just after the turn of the century. A West Virginia native, Clifford lived in Binghamton while working at IBM before making his way to Greece. An avid sports fan, Clifford was an outfielder for a semi-professional baseball team and had a .408 batting average. He enjoyed playing sports and supporting his favorite teams.

He was a prominent member of the deaf community and a member of the Deaf Elders Around Rochester. Clifford educated and helped those in the deaf community.

NOTE: Clifford attended WVSD in 1932. ■



Jimmie Lee Guzzi



Jimmie Lee Guzzi, 74, of Clarksburg, WV, passed away at the United Hospital Center on December 5, 2009, following a brief illness. He was born on October 19, 1935, in Clarksburg, the son of the late Patsy John Guzzi and Thelma Muscar Guzzi.

Surviving are his wife, of 44 years, Georgia Staley Guzzi; two daughters, April Starks and her husband Timothy of Clarksburg and Robyn Evans and her husband Doug of Clarksburg; five grandchildren, Zachary Guzzi, Ake'sha, Jordan, and Kaitlyn Starks and Jacinda Evans; one brother, John Patsy Guzzi and his wife Cyndy of Clarksburg; two sisters, Patty Martino and her husband Frank of Clarksburg and Elayne Gucci of Clarksburg; several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Guzzi was a retired mechanic from the Department of WV Highways. He was a member of the Clarksburg Deaf Club and the WV Association of the Deaf. He was a 1955 graduate of the WV School for the Deaf.

Family and friends called on Tuesday, December 8, from noon to 8 p.m. at the Amos Carvelli Funeral Home, 201 Edison Street, Nutter Fort, WV. Funeral services were held at the funeral home on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at 10 a.m. Interment followed at the Holy Cross Cemetery. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.amos-carvelli.com. ■

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Sudoku Fun

How to Play Sudoku:

Fill in the empty fields with the numbers from 1 through 9. Every row must contain the numbers from 1 through 9. Every column must contain the numbers from 1 through 9. Every 3x3 square must contain the numbers from 1 through 9. Have fun!

Puzzle 1

4								8
	3				2			
					5		9	
		5				2		
			8					7
			4			3		
		2			6	1		
			9					4

Puzzle 2

		2	9			4		
	3			4			9	2
					8		3	
		7		5		8		
		9						5
4				2				3
1					5			9
	7		4					
	5	3		8			6	

Puzzle 3

				1				
			5			3		
		4					6	
				9			8	
	6					5		
		2		4	6			
								9
							4	
5	3		7					

Puzzle 4

				4				3
		9						
		1			7			
					1	2		
4					6			7
3								
			5			1	9	
						7		
8				3				

(See Sudoku answers ... page 12)

Charleston Association of the Deaf
Happy New Year Social

Saturday, January 2, 2010
St. Albans City Hall
St. Albans, WV

\$1,000 Door Prize Giveaway

(Depends upon Attendance)

“Plus More”

Chance to Win

**Different Color Tickets: 10 tickets for \$5.00 or
30 tickets for \$10.00**

**Computer with 20” Monitor, Blu-Ray Disc Player, and More
Cash Prize**

\$25.00 per person includes meal with door prize

Ages from 5 to 17 - \$5.00 includes meal only

**If you bring covered dish or desserts, you get extra
ticket for door prize. (No chips, ice bags, pops)**

Handicap Access

4:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m.

Prizes – 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Menu

Ham

Turkey

Corn

Green beans

Rolls

Mashed Potatoes and more

Please Come One, Come All, and Have Fun!

From I-64 East Charleston: Get off at Exit 54, MacCorkle Avenue (US Rt. 60). Turn left at the traffic light at MacCorkle Avenue and keep straight onto US Rt. 60 West for about 6 miles and you will see the St. Albans City Hall on left side near K-Mart store.

From I-64 West Huntington: Get off at Exit 44, St. Albans. Turn right at the traffic light at Rt. 817 and go about 3 miles. Turn left at traffic light at MacCorkle Avenue. Keep straight onto US Rt. 60 East for about 4 miles. You will pass the K-Mart store then you will see the St. Albans City Hall on the right side.

For more information, contact:

Debby Steel, President

866-937-5954 VP or E-mail: sassysassypearl@aol.com



James Ennis bagged this 7-point buck in Marion County, West Virginia.



Mike Losh and his 8-point buck that he bagged in Marion County, West Virginia.



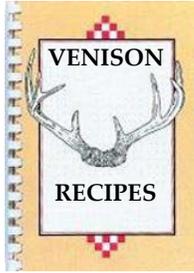
John Burdette and his 4-point buck that he bagged in Greenbrier County, West Virginia.



*John Tackett and his 8-point buck that he bagged in Kanawha County, West Virginia, on private property.
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Dalton Harrison, son of Veronda and Jimmy Harrison, bagged this 6-point deer in Mason County, West Virginia.



CHECK OUT OUR VENISON RECIPES!

Canned Deer Meat (Submitted by Tami Kapaldo)

Cut up deer meat into small chunks. Cook in shallow pan with little bit of water on the stove (covered up with a lid) until medium done.

Pack loose in jars (that have been heated in oven) with the juice. Add 1 teaspoon of salt in each jar. Cook at 10 pounds pressure in canner. 75 minutes for pints. 90 minutes for quarts.

This is very good if you cook canned deer meat in crockpot with potatoes, carrots, celery, onions, and packet of Lipton beef-flavored soup mix.



Deer Breakfast Steaks with Gravy (Submitted by John Burdette)

Deer steaks
Salt
4 Tbsp bacon grease or shortening
3/4 tsp pepper

Flour
Pepper
2 Tbsp flour
2-1/4 cups milk



Salt and pepper enough to coat meat with to taste. Shake the steaks in the mixture. Heat grease to sizzling and add steaks. Cook until browned. Remove steaks and set aside.

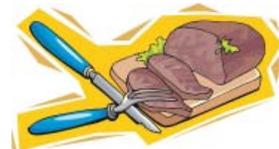
In skillet, add flour and pepper, add more shortening if needed. Stir until flour soaks up grease. Slowly add milk and stir to continue. Add steaks to skillet and bring to a slow boil over medium heat stirring constantly until gravy starts to thicken.

Cover and simmer for 10-15 minutes until steaks are tender.

Ground Deer Meat Loaf (Submitted by John Burdette)

1-1/2 pounds ground deer
1 can (8 oz) tomato sauce
3/4 cup quick oats
1-1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp garlic powder (optional)

2 eggs
1 medium onion, finely chopped
(optional)
1/4 tsp pepper



In a large bowl, lightly beat eggs. Add tomato sauce, onion, quick oats, salt and pepper, and garlic powder. Add deer meat and mix well. Press into an ungreased loaf pan.

Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 70 minutes.



In the News



Fraud Charges May Nix Viable Deal, Prospective Buyer Mulls

Acquisition of Rockville Deaf-Services Firm by Kevin James Shay, Staff Writer

Submitted to The Gazette, Gaithersburg, MD, Friday, November 27, 2009

A spokeswoman for the New York company that tentatively agreed to purchase beleaguered Rockville deaf services business Viable said this week it is now "considering its options" after Viable president John T.C. Yeh, three other Viable executives and leaders of six other companies nationwide were charged in a six-count indictment with conspiracy to defraud the federal government out of tens of millions of dollars.

Snap!VRS of Pearl River, a video relay service company, is "working through all the complications that have taken place since the indictments," said Maureen Ellenberger, vice president of marketing. Snap!VRS agreed to acquire Viable in August, but the deal has not been finalized, she said.

Snap!VRS executives released a statement saying they were "disappointed at the magnitude of unethical behavior in the use of video relay service which was revealed by the news of the FBI and Justice Department investigation. While Snap!VRS was not involved in the investigation, we are of the strong public stance that the harm done to relay consumers by the wrongful acts of some individuals is unacceptable, but these acts do not change the critical need for this technology for deaf people."

The national investigation concerns a Federal Communications Commission program designed to help deaf and hard-of-hearing people communicate with hearing persons.

Besides Viable, companies whose executives were indicted on similar charges were Master Communications of Las Vegas; KL Communications of Desert Hills, Ariz.; Mascom of Round Rock, Texas; Deaf and Hard of Hearing Interpreting Services of New York City; Innovative Communication Services for the Deaf of Miami Lakes, Fla.; and Deaf Studio 29 of Huntington Beach, Calif.

These executives fraudulently billed the FCC about \$390 an hour to interpret WVAD Quarter News, Winter 2009

calls between deaf and hearing people, federal prosecutors said. The calls, generally referred to as "r calls," "rest calls" or "run calls," were illegitimate calls often made by friends or relatives that would be billed to the FCC's video relay service fund, officials said.

Viable is the central company in the alleged scheme, directly linked via business arrangements to five of the six other companies involved. Master Communications, KL Communications, Mascom, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Interpreting Services and Innovative Communication Services for the Deaf all operated call centers for Viable that generated and processed a large volume of fraudulent calls, according to the indictments.

"These defendants are alleged to have generated fraudulent call minutes by making it appear that deaf Americans were engaging in legitimate calls with hearing persons, when in reality, the defendants were simply attempting to steal money from an FCC program that is funded by every single American who pays their telephone bills," Lanny A. Breuer, assistant attorney general of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, said in a statement released Nov. 19. The FCC program is funded through a tax on regular telephone service.

The FBI's Washington field office, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and FCC Office of Inspector General conducted the nationwide probe.

Allison Polk, a Viable spokeswoman, referred questions to Ellenberger.

Other Viable executives charged are vice president of corporate strategy Joseph Yeh, a brother of John Yeh; assistant vice president for business development Anthony Mowl; and human relations manager Donald Tropp. The charges also include submitting false claims and mail fraud.

Viable has been under a cloud since a June visit by federal investigators.

The company also has been hit with lawsuits filed in federal and state courts by employees seeking back payment of wages.

This week, Nicholas Woodfield, who is representing 114 plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Greenbelt by former and current Viable employees seeking back wages, filed a motion for a default judgment against John Yeh, Joseph Yeh and Mary Yeh, John Yeh's wife. The filing said that Joseph Yeh had requested 20-day extensions twice to answer the complaint on behalf of the defendants, the last one being in mid-October. The Yehs had failed to respond to the complaint as of this week, according to the motion.

It's unclear what impact the indictments will have on the civil case, Woodfield said Wednesday.

"I'm sorry for my clients' sake that [Viable executives were] indicted because that is not a boon to them in their efforts to receive unpaid wages," Woodfield added. "Whether it will be significant or a bump in the road remains to be seen."

Bethesda lawyer John Pierce, who is listed as a representative for Viable in the civil class-action lawsuit, said in an e-mail this week that he was checking with his clients to see if they wanted to respond to a reporter's questions.

'Calls should look good ...important not raise red flag'

The evidence against Viable executives in the FCC case includes an e-mail allegedly sent by John Yeh in July 2007 to Larry Berke, the owner of KL Communications, which ran a call center for Viable, according to the federal indictment. Berke, of Phoenix, was also among 26 people across the country charged in the case.

"Your calls should look good — not too perfect and too long hours," Yeh wrote, according to the indictment. [\(See Fraud Charges ... page 12\)](#)

(Sudoku answers from page 7)

Answers to Puzzle 1

4	2	7	1	6	9	5	3	8
5	3	9	7	8	2	4	1	6
1	6	8	3	4	5	7	9	2
3	8	5	6	9	7	2	4	1
2	1	4	8	5	3	9	6	7
9	7	6	4	2	1	3	8	5
8	4	2	5	3	6	1	7	9
6	9	1	2	7	4	8	5	3
7	5	3	9	1	8	6	2	4

Answers to Puzzle 3

6	2	5	4	1	3	9	7	8
8	9	7	5	6	2	3	1	4
3	1	4	9	7	8	2	6	5
1	7	3	2	9	5	4	8	6
4	6	8	1	3	7	5	9	2
9	5	2	8	4	6	1	3	7
7	4	6	3	2	1	8	5	9
2	8	1	6	5	9	7	4	3
5	3	9	7	8	4	6	2	1

(Fraud Charges from page 11)

“Important not raise ‘red flag’ for FCC to see it. Understand me?”

John and Joseph Yeh would pay friends to generate the phony calls, officials said.

“For example, paid callers frequently called podcasts — which were prerecorded messages, like a recording of a radio program or a person reading a novel — and would routinely instruct the [video interpreters] not to actually interpret the calls,” the indictment said.

John and Joseph Yeh used Mowl and Tropp to recruit relatives and friends to make illegitimate calls, officials said. Mowl and Tropp would be paid \$30 an hour of phony calls and in turn pay people \$20 to \$25 per hour to make the calls, according to the indictment.

In a little more than a year from the fall of 2007 to last January, the Yehs paid Mowl and Tropp at least \$162,000 to pay the illegitimate callers, and those fraudulent calls alone resulted in \$2.1 million to be billed to the federal government, the indictment said. The Yeh brothers would instruct Mowl, Tropp and others to destroy documents to cover up their alleged misdeeds, officials said.

The Yeh brothers would also partner with KL and other call centers, and encourage the owners of those centers to make the bogus calls, officials

Answers to Puzzle 2

5	6	2	9	1	3	4	8	7
8	3	1	5	4	7	6	9	2
7	9	4	2	6	8	5	3	1
3	2	7	1	5	9	8	4	6
6	8	9	3	7	4	2	1	5
4	1	5	8	2	6	9	7	3
1	4	8	6	3	5	7	2	9
2	7	6	4	9	1	3	5	8
9	5	3	7	8	2	1	6	4

Answers to Puzzle 4

7	2	8	9	4	5	6	1	3
6	4	9	2	1	3	8	7	5
5	3	1	6	8	7	4	2	9
9	8	7	3	5	1	2	4	6
4	1	2	8	9	6	3	5	7
3	5	6	7	2	4	9	8	1
2	6	3	5	7	8	1	9	4
1	9	5	4	6	2	7	3	8
8	7	4	1	3	9	5	6	2

said. The Yehs would instruct the owners “how to make the run calls appear legitimate” by varying the call lengths, numbers and Internet protocol addresses, the indictment said.

Snap!VRS: Critical to retain services

Because video relay services allow deaf people to have phone conversations in the comfort of their homes, rather than having to communicate via sign language in person, the technology creates economic opportunities for deaf people that were not previously possible, Snap!VRS executives said.

“Given the transformative benefits and opportunities that VRS has brought to deaf people, it is critical for Snap!VRS and other VRS companies to continue an ongoing dialogue with the FCC and consumer organizations to keep this irreplaceable service effective for relay consumers,” Snap!VRS executives said in a statement. “Snap!VRS will continue to operate as it has in the past, conducting its business with the highest priority placed on ethical standards and customer service.”

FCC Chief of Staff Edward Lazarus called the case both a tragedy and opportunity.

“The tragedy is the unfortunate truth that a significant number of unscrupulous individuals, at great cost to the nation, have preyed on a

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very important program for delivering essential telecommunications services to persons with hearing disabilities,” Lazarus said in a statement. “The opportunity is the chance to reiterate our commitment to the VRS program and to follow through on efforts, already begun at the FCC, to safeguard the program against further waste, fraud and abuse.”

John Yeh has long been involved with organizations that advocate for the deaf community, such as the National Asian Deaf Congress and National Deaf Business Institute. He was a trustee of Gallaudet University of Washington, D.C., which specializes in education for deaf people, for more than a decade.

In January, Deaf Life, a monthly national magazine, honored Yeh as Deaf Person of the Year. Last year, The Gazette of Politics and Business named Yeh one of its “25 CEOs You Need to Know” and Viable as one of its “Exceptional 53” businesses and nonprofits.

A native of Taiwan who immigrated to the U.S. as a teenager, Yeh helped form a Rockville software engineering and integration company before co-founding Viable in 2005. The company grew from a handful of employees to more than 240 but has shed numerous employees and closed call centers this year. Yeh's son, Jason, and a daughter, Mei Kennedy, both work for Viable but were not indicted.

About a year ago, speaking through a deaf interpreter to a Gazette reporter, John Yeh gave little indication of any trouble.

“The company is still fairly new,” he said then. “We have to be careful about what we do.” (http://deaftimes.net/index.php/news/article/snapvrs_buying_viable_may_not_continue/) ■

Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz Appointed as Gallaudet University's 10th President

Submitted to the Gallaudet University Website (<http://news.gallaudet.edu/x34183.xml>), Sunday, October 18, 2009

Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz has been appointed by the Board of Trustees as Gallaudet University's tenth president. The announcement was made by Dr. Benjamin Soukup, chair of the Board of Trustees, on October 18 before an overflow crowd in the University's Swindells Auditorium.

Hurwitz currently serves as president of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), one of eight colleges within the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), and vice president and dean of RIT. He has worked at NTID/RIT since 1970, first as an instructor in RIT's College of Engineering and, subsequently, as an NTID professor, department chair, dean, and the college's president. Throughout his career he has been active in a variety of professional organizations, including serving as president of both the National Association of the Deaf and the World Organization of Jewish Deaf.

"In Dr. Alan Hurwitz the Board of Trustees has chosen a leader for Gallaudet who possesses an extensive and distinguished track record in the field of higher education for deaf and hard of hearing persons," said Soukup. "This expertise, along with his commitment to Gallaudet's unique

mission and strategic plan, ensures that he is the right person to lead the University as it seeks to attract and educate students from a variety of educational and communication backgrounds."

Dr. Soukup introduced Dr. Hurwitz and Gallaudet's new first lady, Vicki Hurwitz, to the exuberant crowd that had assembled for the announcement. Hurwitz called the occasion "a very emotional time, as well as an exciting time for me and my wife, Vicki." He thanked the Board of Trustees and the Gallaudet community "for their support and confidence in my selection," he said. "I enthusiastically accept the appointment."

Hurwitz, who will take office in January, succeeds Dr. Robert Davila, the University's president since 2007. Hurwitz said, "I'm humbled to follow in Dr. Robert Davila's footsteps," and he praised the other finalists for the position, Dr. Roslyn Rosen, Dr. Ronald Stern, and Dr. Stephen Weiner, as "outstanding individuals. ... I love all three of them." Hurwitz said he looked forward to working closely with all the University's constituents in pursuing Gallaudet's mission and strategic goals.

Davila, who joined Hurwitz on the stage, remarked, "I'm confident he'll do well," and added that Gallaudet will be fortunate to benefit from "his wealth of skill and knowledge." Noting that Hurwitz was wearing a Gallaudet jacket, Davila commented "one thing is missing," and went over to the new president to attach a "Team Gallaudet" pin to his jacket.

In closing, Gallaudet University Alumni Association (GUAA) Board President Alyce Slater Reynolds congratulated Hurwitz on behalf of GUAA's 17,000 members, and said, "We look forward to joining you on the journey we're taking." ■



Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz, Gallaudet University's 10th President

Interesting Facts About WVSDB

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind were established by an Act of the Legislature on March 3, 1870. The School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind offer comprehensive educational programs for hearing impaired and visually impaired students respectively. There is also a unit for deaf-blind and multihandicapped children. Students are eligible to enroll at the age of three. They must also be residents of the state of West Virginia and exhibit a hearing or visual loss sufficient enough to prevent normal progress in the usual public school setting. The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind are located on a campus in Romney in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. Locally, the schools are referred to simply as the The D&B School.

Both the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind are supervised by the West Virginia Board of Education, supported by the state of West Virginia, and fully accredited by the North Central WVAD Quarter News, Winter 2009

Association for Colleges and Schools at the elementary and secondary levels.

The idea to establish a school in West Virginia for the deaf and blind began in the late 1860s and early 1870s. Professor H. H. Johnson of Franklin, himself blind, was instrumental in bringing a school for the deaf and blind to West Virginia. During his youth, Johnson had attended the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind in Staunton, Virginia. Shortly after West Virginia's statehood, Johnson recognized the need for such a school in the state and he began canvassing the state gathering support for his project. Several towns including Romney, Clarksburg, and Parkersburg all lobbied to have the school located there, but Romney was selected following an offer consisting of the buildings and grounds of the Romney Literary Society's Romney Classical Institute. The Romney Classical Institute had laid dormant since the American Civil War when its libraries' volumes were

destroyed and its campus was left beyond repair.

On March 3, 1870, H. H. Johnson's dreams became a reality when the West Virginia Legislature approved a measure calling for the creation of the West Virginia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind. The school opened on September 29, 1870 with thirty students, twenty-five deaf and five blind students. Through the years, additional buildings and grounds have been added to accommodate increasing enrollment. Currently, the main campus consists of sixteen major buildings, containing approximately 302,000 square feet (28,100 m²), situated on seventy-nine acres of land.

On May 17, 1916, Helen Keller visited the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Virginia_Schools_for_the_Deaf_and_Blind). ■

61st Annual Charleston Association of the Deaf Picnic by Tami Kapaldo

The Charleston Association of the Deaf held their 61st annual picnic on August 29, 2009, at Hurricane Valley Park. There were approximately 71 people in attendance. People brought covered dish and for those who brought a covered dish got an extra ticket for the door prize.

Dalton Harrison, son of Veronda and Jimmy Harrison, was the chairperson for the corn hole game. Missy Barie and Veronda Harrison won \$25 each for first prize. Dennis Matherly and Tom McCombs won second prize for \$15 each.

John Burdette won a 32-inch LCD HDTV, Melinda Hurd won a portable DVD player, and Charlotte Thomas won a chocolate fondue.

Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed socializing with their families and friends. ■





WVSD Basketball Schedule



Varsity Boys' Basketball Schedule (22 Games)

1	CANCELLED	H	Virginia School for the Deaf
2	12/10/09 6:00 p.m.	A	Western Penn School for the Deaf, 66 - 30 W
3	12/15/09 6:00 p.m.	H	Harman
4	12/17/09 7:15 p.m.	A	At Union 5 6:15-7 p.m.
5	01/07/10 6:00 p.m.	A	At Harman
6	01/11/10 7:00 p.m.	H	Paw Paw
7	01/14/10 6:00 p.m.	A	At Virginia School for the Deaf
8	01/20/10 6:00 p.m.	A	At Moorefield
9	01/22/10 7:00 p.m.	H	Pennsylvania School for the Deaf
10	01/23/10 1:45 a.m.	H	Pennsylvania School for the Deaf
11	01/25/10 7:15 p.m.	H	Union 5 6:15-7 p.m.
12	01/26/10 7:00 p.m.	A	Maryland School for the Deaf
13	01/28/10 7:15 p.m.	H	Mt. View, VA
14	02/02/10 7:00 p.m.	A	Mt. View, VA
15	02/03/10 6:00 p.m.	A	At East Hardy
16	02/04/10 6:00 p.m.	H	Timberidge, VA
17	02/15/10 6:00 p.m.	H	East Hardy
18	02/16/10 7:00 p.m.	A	At Paw Paw
19	02/19/10 7:00 p.m.	A	At Vermont ESDAA Tournament
20	02/20/10 1:00 p.m.	A	At Vermont ESDAA Tournament
21	02/23/10 7:00 p.m.	A	At Timberidge, VA
22	03/01/10 7:00 p.m.	A	WVSSAC Sectional Tournament



Varsity Girls' Basketball Schedule (23 Games)



1	CANCELLED	H	Virginia School for the Deaf
2	CANCELLED	H	Moorefield
3	12/10/09 4:30 p.m.	A	Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, 51 - 8 W
4	12/15/09 6:00 p.m.	A	At East Hardy
5	12/17/09 6:00 p.m.	A	At Union
6	01/05/10 4:00 p.m.	H	Virginia School for the Deaf
7	01/06/10 6:00 p.m.	A	At Harman
8	01/11/10 6:00 p.m.	H	Paw Paw
9	01/13/10 6:00 p.m.	H	Harman
10	01/14/10 4:00 p.m.	A	At Virginia School for the Deaf
11	01/20/10 6:00 p.m.	H	Moorefield
12	01/22/10 6:00 p.m.	H	Pennsylvania School for the Deaf
13	01/23/10 11:00 a.m.	H	Pennsylvania School for the Deaf
14	01/25/10 6:00 p.m.	H	Union
15	01/26/10 6:00 p.m.	A	Maryland School for the Deaf
16	01/28/10 6:00 p.m.	H	Mt. View, VA
17	02/02/10 6:00 p.m.	A	At Mt. View, VA
18	02/08/10 6:15 p.m.	A	At Moorefield
19	02/11/10 2:00 p.m.	H	ESDAA Tournament at WVSD
20	02/12/10 6:00 p.m.	H	ESDAA Tournament at WVSD
21	02/13/10 1:00 p.m.	H	ESDAA Tournament at WVSD
22	02/17/10 6:00 p.m.	A	At Paw Paw
23	03/02/10 7:00 p.m.	A	Sectional Game (TBA)

Class of 1978 and 1979 Reunion by Tami Kapaldo

The Class of 1978 and 1979 had their class reunion at Romney, WV, during the homecoming weekend on October 3, 2009.

The Class of 1979 went on a train ride on the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad, along with some of their children and friends they had invited.

For three hours we enjoyed a narrated (interpreted by Julie Simmons' daughter Jessica) train ride through the West Virginia mountains. We viewed historic farms and lush mountain greenery along with the leaves changing colors. We also saw native wildflowers, evergreens, and mixed hardwoods in a countryside environment. We experienced "The Trough," a spectacular narrow mountain

valley. Below us was the South Branch of the Potomac River, where the water was so clear that you could see the fish as they lie resting in the shade.

We saw the American bald eagles fly. These birds flew high above in their natural habitat, undisturbed by the rumblings of the occasional train and the passengers who have come for a sighting. We also saw the eagle's nest. It was so large, compared to a little bird's nest.

On this train ride, there were a couple open-air cars behind the locomotives on the south end of the train. One of them was an open-top gondola car. This car had benches, so passengers can step outside and see the view of the Trough.

The second open-air car was covered, but had large wide-open windows where you can lean out a little bit to get a better look of the scenery.

Nothing can match the awestruck scenery we witnessed. It was awesome to see this beauty in our home state!

After our train ride, we went to Mario's Italian restaurant and ate together. Dinner was great! After dinner we went to the fire hall. The Class of 1978 gathered in a group and had their photos taken. They also spent some time reminiscing about the old times with each other, along with the Class of 1979.

We had a great weekend together! ■



CHECK OUT OUR QUARTER RECIPES!



Mawey's Cranberry Mold Dessert (Serves 6)

(Submitted by Marilyn K. Bishop)

- 1 cup ground raw cranberries (you can use a food processor but the cranberries are a different texture)
- 1 cup ground un-pared apples (about 3); just remove the core and stem, leave the peel on
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 package lemon flavored gelatin and 3 oz raspberry for a double batch
- 1 cup hot water
- 1 cup pineapple syrup
- 1/2 cup seeded grapes halved (Mawey used one little can crushed pineapple instead of grapes)
- 1/4 cup broken English walnuts

Combine cranberries, apples, and sugar. Set aside. Dissolve gelatin in hot water; add syrup; chill until partially set. Add cranberry-apple mixture, pineapple, and nuts. Pour into mold; chill until firm. Unmold on lettuce leaves, if desired, and serve with mayonnaise.

Chicken Dip

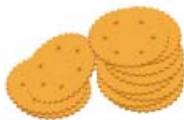
(Submitted by Liz Leisure)



- 2 cups shredded cooked chicken
- 1/2 pkg of Hidden Valley Ranch dip mix
- 1/2 cup salad dressing

- 1-8oz softened cream cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup chopped onions-optional
(green one tastes better)

Mix all ingredients, chill, and serve with crackers. If it's too dry, add more salad dressing. Good with Wheat Thins.



Beef Dip

(Submitted by Liz Leisure)

- 1-3 oz Armour dried beef, rinsed with water and finely chopped
- 1/2 cup of sour cream
- 1/2 cup of salad dressing

- 1-8 oz softened cream cheese
- 1/2 pkg of Hidden Valley Ranch dip mix
- 1/4 cup chopped onions-optional

Mix all ingredients, chill, and serve with crackers.



LINDA ECKHART

What made you want to be the WVAD President? Several people asked me if I was interested. During the conference in Parkersburg, I was nominated and won the election. After being asked I seriously thought about it because I knew it would be a big responsibility. I have been involved with WVAD as Miss Deaf WV, Co-Pageant Director, Trustee, and on several committees. I wanted to remain involved and figured I could make a difference in any way that I was involved.

What is the name of your hometown? Parkersburg, WV.

Where do you work at and what do you do? Psychological Assessment Intervention Services (P.A.I.S.). I work as a Behavior Analyst. I write behavior support plans, habilitation programs, provide assessments, and supervision of staff that work in client's home.

How long have you worked there? One year on December 15th.

Where did you receive your college education? Bachelor of Arts degree from Gallaudet University in 2004 (Psychology); Master of Science from West Virginia University in 2008 (Rehab Counseling).

What accomplishments are you most proud of? That I obtained my Masters degree.

What is your secret ambition? I don't think I have a secret ambition, my ambitions are usually known.

What person has been the biggest influence on your life? My mom.

What is your favorite vacation spot? St. Martin.

Who is your favorite cartoon character? Garfield.

What is your favorite thing to do in your spare time? Read – but I seem to lack spare time these days.

Name three things you can do without. Beans, needles, and stress.

What person, real or fictional, would you most like to meet? Matthew McConaughey.

What movie could you see any time? Any of the Harry Potter movies.

What is your all-time favorite TV show? House.

Name three things always found in your kitchen. Mountain Dew, microwave oven, and mom's home cooked food (I don't like to cook).

What would you do with a million dollars? Pay my bills, save some, and go on a nice vacation.

What is an interesting, but little known fact about you? I've been on four cruises. My mom wanted me to add that I can be a very stubborn person.

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

*The WVAD Organization Staff
Wishes Everyone
and Their Families
A Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year!*

Linda Eckhart

Jimmy Harrison

Jackie Sherrill-Robinson

Worthy Devericks

Scott Hottle

Veronda Harrison

Liz Leisure

Tami Kapaldo