My Thoughts as Your President

Our next meeting is this Saturday, June 1, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Our annual Strawberry Festival will start immediately after the meeting. I found out today (May 28) that another group has scheduled an event for 1:00 p.m. this Saturday. Some of their members will arrive at 12:30 p.m. to set up for the event. This may cause some confusion, so I ask that you please respect their need to set up and give them space to do so. We especially need to make the meeting shorter this time so that we have time for the Strawberry Festival before the next event.

We are going to try something new, starting with this Saturday’s meeting. I am no longer going to show the minutes on the screen at the meeting. If there is an objection to the minutes not being shown, I will ask the members to vote on whether to show the minutes or not. We have been spending far too much time haggling over details of the minutes during meetings. The minutes are sent to you for review and corrections before each meeting. Please take time to READ the minutes. Print it out and bring your copy if you have any questions. If you have a question, I am willing to show that portion of the minutes, but not the whole thing. Another point I want to make is that many of you saw the previous reports given at the last meeting. Do we really need to see them again, plus the new reports that will be given at the current meeting?

We want to be able to do a real business meeting. Going through the minutes and reports takes so much time that it does not allow for people to discuss new motions in depth, or to discuss new ideas and issues. There were only three motions at the last meeting, but we had to rush through those motions. No time was left to discuss other things that might be on the minds of the members.

One more thing I want to bring up is behavior at the meetings. It really disheartens me to see the way some members become angry and belittle other members. This is especially evident during reports and during new business when motions are made. These reports and motions are made because they are important to the people who make them. All members deserve to be treated with respect even when others disagree with them. Please be considerate and polite when addressing concerns that you have with reports and motions. Thank you.

Melanie Williams
President, NVAD
Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf (NVAD)

Saturday, June 1, 2019

9:30AM to 1:00PM
General meeting to start at 10:00AM and
Strawberry Festival to commence immediately
after the meeting

Northern Virginia Resource Center
3951 Pender Drive, Suite 130
Fairfax, VA 22030

~ The Strawberry Sensations ~
Strawberry Shortcake with ice cream topped with
whipped cream, Strawberries topped with whipped cream,
and Strawberries over ice cream

For more information, contact
NVAD President Melanie Williams
mywilliams@verizon.net

There will be no NVAD General Meeting in July and August 2019.
See you in September 2019.
Have a great summer!
President’s Report at NVAD’s Membership Meeting on May 4, 2019

1. Once again, the meeting needs to end at 12:00 sharp. A few of us, including myself, have other plans after the meeting, and we can’t be late.

2. Celebrate Communication. Springfield Town Center, April 27, 2019. Bruce Greenfield said it was successful and thanked us for our participation.

3. Deaf Mother of the Year. NVAD has a nominee for to submit to VAD’s DMOTY committee. Will announce at the break between reports and business section of the meeting.

4. NVAD representative to VAD. Term is up in September 2019. Need nominations for new rep. Nominees will be asked at June meeting to give their vision for what VAD should do over the next two years, then election will be held. This person will be sworn in at the VAD Conference in September.

5. Strawberry Festival after June 1 meeting. Russell Almond III and Jeremy Smith will make the plans.

6. NVAD’s 75th Anniversary. Motion was made at March 2 meeting that board should lead the planning, with help from a committee. Who is interested in chairing the committee and working with the board?

7. Jamie’s motion that we hold a “Parent Camp” during the summer. Board discussed it. Still working on it. Need speakers and ideas.

8. Awards. Jill Moebus informed me that awards will be presented in December at the Holiday Party. Peggy Daniels and Jeanne Lavelle are on the committee, with Tom Dowling as advisor. Who has guidelines from the past?
1. **Vice President**: Jamie Berke reported on the status of open captions in movies. Angelika Mosaic has become so supportive of open captions that it now publishes a notice in its weekly email. She also said that the next family-friendly event is a super-hero dress-up event for kids on May 18.

2. **Treasurer**: Robert Goodwin reported that:
   a. NVAD’s reinstatement with the State Corporation Commission (SCC) is now official.
   b. There are still some questions remaining about NVAD’s 501(c)(3) status.
   c. He wants to create a fillable PDF membership form.
   d. He wants to make it possible for members to pay dues online.
   e. Up to $200 is allowed per event held by NVAD.

3. **Auditing Committee**: Tom Dowling volunteered to be the chair and was accepted by the members. He will hold a meeting before the next membership meeting on June 1.

4. **Bylaws Committee**: Steve Williams, the chair, told the members a meeting was held on May 3 to discuss proposed amendments. Another meeting will be held before June 1.

5. **Social Committee**: Jeremy Smith, chair, reported we will have a Strawberry Festival on June 1 after the membership meeting. Russell Almond III is in charge of the festival.

6. **Stock Committee**: Gary Viall, chair, reported that the total balance of NVAD’s two stock accounts as of April 25, 2019, is $133,159.47, an increase of $984.59. There are plans to draft guidelines for awarding scholarships to deserving students.

7. **Tours/Lectures Committee**: Paul and Peggy Daniels, chairs, said we have three possible speakers and a tour coming up:
   a. Patricia Raswant on Audism, Part II.
   b. Dr. Mark Leekoff, a deaf neurologist in Baltimore, MD. He was recommended by Tom Dowling. Dr. Leekoff is from Fairfax County.
   c. Paul Ogden of San Diego, CA, author of several books, including The Silent Garden.
   d. Tour of Maryland Horse Rescue farm in Mt. Airy, MD.

8. **Virginia LEAD-K Legislation**: Tom Dowling reported that bill SB 1741, “Language Development for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Assessment Resources for Parent and Educators”, sponsored by Senator John Edwards of Roanoke, was referred to the Virginia Joint Commission on Health Care (JCHC) for a one-year study by the Senate Education and Health Committee on January 24, 2019.

9. **EHDI**: Tom Dowling reported that EHDI (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention) was due for a five year reauthorization. Deaf citizens are urged to contact their senators and representatives to influence them to change the law and make sure deaf and hard of hearing children get the language services they need.

10. **Special report**: MaryRose Gonzalez reported that she and Jeanne Lavelle attended a meeting a few weeks ago at the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) in Richmond about the possibility of building a “Deaf Center”, similar to the one in Utah. This will be a long-term project.
Pictures from NVAD’s Membership Meeting on May 4, 2019

Jamie Berke
Vice-President

Robert Goodwin
Treasurer

Gary Viall
Stocks Committee

Tom Dowling, Auditing Committee

Steve Williams, Bylaws Committee
Pictures from NVAD’s Membership Meeting on May 4, 2019
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Jeremy Smith
Social Committee

Tom Dowling
Virginia LEAD-K Legislation

Paul Daniels
Tours/Lectures Committee

Donna Kay Graff-Viall
VAD Representative

MaryRose Gonzalez
Special Report

NVAD provided babysitting during Membership Meeting
NVAD’s Nomination for Mother of the Year

Announced on May 4, 2019

NVAD nominated Laurie Dowling for Mother of the Year at the Membership Meeting on May 4, 2019.

Laurie was born in Seattle, WA as the only deaf person in her family. She went to University of Washington, and later transferred to Gallaudet University, where she first learned sign language. She graduated in 1972 with BA in Mathematics. In later years, she continued her education at Gallaudet in Accounting / Business Administration.

After graduation, she worked for U.S. Agency for International Development. Today, she works for Duartek, Inc., where she has been there for over 15 years. She participated in many organizations, such as Veditz Chapter of ASLTA, Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf, Virginia Association of the Deaf, and Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons. She also has spent many years teaching ASL classes in Northern Virginia.

Laurie married Tom Dowling in June 1972. They raised two daughters: Kara and Ashley. They were both born deaf.

Wanting to make sure that they had full communication access with medical staff during their second pregnancy, Laurie and Tom worked with Sign Language Associates (SLA) to set up a program called Babywatch. Ashley was the first baby for this Babywatch program.

Laurie and Tom worked hard to make sure that the daughters got the best service possible for their education. Kara went to W.T. Woodson High School, and graduated in 2003 from Rochester Institute of Technology with a major in Media Arts and Technology. She works at Xerox as a Solution Integration and Developer in Rochester, NY. Ashley went to Model Secondary School for the Deaf, and finished with Rochester Institute of Technology, majoring in Information and Computing Studies in 2006. She works for MCI USA as a manager for AM&C Client Operations at Tyson Corners, VA.

“Mom has been always supportive of everything we wanted to do. She always made our world feel like we could do anything and we never once heard her complain. It didn’t matter if we were deaf, if we were girls, if we were tall or short, good or bad at sports – we were never left feeling that there was something we couldn’t take on. She gave us the confidence to lead our lives as full and happy as we wanted. No one else could ask for a better mom!” - Kara & Ashley
Pictures from Celebrate Communication on April 20, 2019
Pictures from Family Event on May 18, 2019

John & Jane Lee with daughters Jennifer, Jessie, and Julia
Requesting Interpreters from Gallaudet University

For Pro Bono Interpreting Services, Danielle Ochoa provided this link:

https://sites.google.com/a/gallaudet.edu/student-interpreting/

We need to wait until after August 15 before making requests. Students interpreters are available only during the Fall and Spring Semesters. They are not available during the Summer or Winter breaks.

Read this first:

https://sites.google.com/a/gallaudet.edu/student-interpreting/community-interpreting

Frequent Asked Questions:

https://sites.google.com/a/gallaudet.edu/student-interpreting/faq

For more information, contact: studentscheduling@gallaudet.edu.