

DDSC Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 8, 2024
Evans Park Community Center
Attendance: 36

At 10:15 am - Presentation given by Christina Feil, Public Information Officer, from the Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH).

Christina Feil:

-She is learning the ropes of her position/duties. She was hired to replace Loretta Sarro as the Public Information Officer working for the Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Loretta Sarro retired last December 2023.

-Loretta Sarro did a lot for us during her term (40 years) behind the scenes.

- Wants to expand the office/services. Working on changing the role/duties of her office.

-Her goals:

- Use social media to share information about the DODHH.
- To have a new FB page for the DODHH.
- Creating transparency with Deaf community is important to her.
- Working with TeleMed to provide the Delaware Deaf community direct communication access with medical professionals by creating a QR code to give them access to an interpreting service quickly.
- To create an oversight of interpreters' certification/licensure
- To have an advisory board
- Change the wordings of the law written for the allocation of funds for analog to digital resources and for other purposes such as hosting workshops and training

-She is currently working with the Convo to set up a QR code for the Delaware state agencies to have and use it to obtain interpreting service when we, the Deaf community members, come to their offices, they automatically have the accessible VRI system using the QR code.

-She works with the State Council for People with Disabilities (SCPD) and has requested that the plans to build new places include ADA accessibility features for the deaf and hard of hearing people.

-Alerting system for the nuclear plant in Smyrna needs a better and effective emergency alert system for the Deaf community. She works on this too.

-Her office is in Fox Valley in North Wilmington.

Questions from the Members:

-DAD has a committee working on drafting a DODHH bill to have DODHH as a separate independent state agency. What's her thoughts about this bill? Christiana Feil: The Delaware State doesn't have a surplus of money and the money to fund the DODHH is tied to the state funds. If DODHH wants to be a separate entity, no state money will be allocated to fund the DODHH as a separate agency.

-Does the DODHH perform oversight of the Delaware Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS)? Christiana Feil: The DODHH is on the advisory council. Keith Robertson is the president of this council. There is a meeting coming up in May or June.

-Why is the DODHH placed under the Department of Labor? Why not have this office placed under the Governor's office? Christiana Feil: No offices are managed under the Governor's office.

-Can she create ASL videos in addition to the printed information and announcements from her office on the DODHH website and FB page to provide full access to the printed information. Christiana Feil: Yes, she can

and wants for us to do the same when we share our announcements and events with her.

-DE code for the DODHH, one of them focuses on advocacy. Will she include the advocacy work in her office? Christiana Feil: Yes, however the expectations become blurry and not clear over the years. She wants to educate the police departments how to communicate with the Deaf community, provide Deaf Awareness workshops/training for public groups/ community workers. She can work with Christy Hennessy who works for the Independent Resources Inc. (IRI) to share the costs to run workshops and training.

-Lack of housing and nursing homes geared for the Deaf seniors, will she address this issue? Christiana Feil: She has been attending meetings related to housing.

-What's her 5 yr goal? Christiana Feil: Hope to expand the office to include more personnel, need at least 3 people to work with her focusing on supporting the three counties, legal issues and to create an advisory board.

She will give her work contact information to the DDSC secretary, Mary Ann Richmond. So Mary Ann Richmond can share the contact information for Christiana Feil with the DDSC members. She looks forward to working collaboratively with the DDSC and Delaware Association of the Deaf (DAD).

Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Allen Talbert at 11:11am.

Reading/Correction/Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes

Billy Bowman (Mike Childs) moved to approve the meeting minutes for March 11, 2024 as read. Passed.

Officers' Reports

President - Allen Talbert's Agenda

-Review of the DDSC Website Joe Stanislow will show us the DDSC website and explain different tabs of the website.

-Plan on having a booth or mini-workshop about voters' rights Suz Dennis and Martha Sheridan will share the update on the plan to provide us a workshop explaining the voters' rights.

-Potential Fundraiser The KODACHrome (W)rapper "Def but not Deaf" movie by Willy Conley. Invite him to show his film, and have a Q & A session? At Clayton Theater? President Allen Talbert will talk with the owner of the Clayton Theater if we are interested in hosting this event/fundraiser.

-10 Year Anniversary Mike Childs, Nancy Childs, Dennis and Angela Munn volunteered to be the chairpersons for the DDSC 10-year anniversary celebration.

-DDSC Appreciation Picnic Carla Hanyzewski reserved the pavilion at the John West Park on June 3, 2024 for the DDSC Appreciation Day picnic.

-Advocacy Fund The DDSC board had a discussion and agreed to having 5 percent of the proceeds from the future fundraisers be transferred to the advocacy fund. Need a member to make a motion and have us approve it to have this done.

Vice President - Mark Alford

Mark Alford wants for us to make a motion to approve the new additions to the bylaws.

Treasurer - Paul Haring (not present)

President Allen Talbert explained the Deaf Fest proceeds are now transferred to the Student Support fund.

Secretary - Mary Ann Richmond

None

Standing/Special Committee's Report

Quick review of DDSC webpage, Facebook, Joe Stanislaw

- Website has records such as the past meeting minutes, agendas and treasurer's reports
- Connect the website to FB page, sharing the posts of different events and announcements
- Jeff Leach is the FB administrator for the DDSC FB
- Keep old info for history purposes
- Post information and pictures based on the President's approval
- Showed us the different sections of the website

We had a discussion about whether we should keep the meeting minutes and the treasurer's reports public or keep it private, only accessible for the members. Billy Bowman Googled and found the information that the IRS requires all 501c3 organizations to publicly post their minutes and treasurer's reports.

Upcoming date for Pickleball at the Beach Tournament September 14, 2024 Sherry Duhon

- The PickleBall at the Beach Tournament will be held on one day in September instead of two days. It will be on September 14th and the next day, the 15th, will be the rain date if it rains on the 14th.

Deaf Fest 2023 Barbara Simpson

Barbara Simpson took time to thank the members who worked to make this event a success.

Children Books Related to Deaf for the Sussex County Public Libraries

Martha Sheridan- DDSC had agreed to purchase \$250 worth of children books related to Deaf to be donated to the public libraries in Sussex County instead of doing the sponsorship of \$250 to support their upcoming children's book festival in May. Suz Dennis and Martha Sheridan had contacted the library. They will have a meeting soon. They will have more info after the meeting to share with us.

Unfinished Business

By-laws clarification for "Giving". Approval of final amended language to be added to the DDSC By-Laws.

Mark Alford (Louis Lapides) moved that we approve the new additions to the bylaws. Passed.

New Business

Patsy Bowman (Marg Buyas) moved for DDSC to take 5% of future fundraisers to be deposited in the advocacy fund. Passed.

Announcements

Sussex County libraries are hosting a Children's Book Festival on Saturday May 18th at the Georgetown Public Library from 10am-2pm, Milton Public Library, 121 Union Street, Milton, DE 19968

Deaf Expo in Wilmington, May 4, 2024 from 10am to 4pm at Delaware School for the Deaf, 630 E Chestnut Hill R, Newark, DE 19713

<https://www.delawaredeaf.org/links/expo-2024/>

Mike Childs - The DDSC 10th year anniversary will be held in Sept 2025 at the Cripple Creek clubhouse. His wife, Nancy Childs, Dennis Munn, Angela Munn and I are the co-hosts for this event.

Martha Sheridan explained she and Suz Dennis are working with DAD to have a mini-workshop about voters' rights after June when the Delaware Supreme Court finalizes the rules for the early voting and absentee voting system. She has been in contact with the League of Women Voters (LWV) and working on having one of their people come and conduct the workshop.

Adjournment of the Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17pm.

50/50 Raffle

Winner: Barbara White- She donated her winning \$56 to DDSC. The DDSC raised \$112 from this raffle.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ann Richmond, Secretary