

## MINUTES

### DDSCSC meeting

Delaware Deaf Senior Citizens of Sussex County

January 26, 2018

Mike Childs called the meeting to order at 10:20 am at South Coastal Library. There were 45 people in attendance.

Approval of the <sup>The</sup> November 2017 minutes *were approved.*

Marion DeLusant gave a report about the December holiday dinner at the VFW Post in Ocean View. There was a small deficit which was made up by the fund raising done by Joey DeLusant with the ~~lottery~~ *All Silver Bucks punchboard* game. She thanked DAD for the \$400 loan to reserve the venue and will repay the funds to DAD. She was thanked for all her hard work to make the event a success. Sherry Duhon will be next year's holiday dinner Chairperson.

Rosemary Balzer clarified that the holiday dinner funds should go to the picnic committee. She suggested that all the events sponsored by DDSC, including the holiday party, Labor Day picnic, ladies luncheon and men's breakfast be handled by the DDSC bank account.

Billy Bowman moved that that two major events sponsored by DDSC, the Holiday Party funds and the Labor Day Picnic funds, be kept and accounted for in the DDSC bank account. Jay Innes seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Sherry Duhon summarized the Public Safety training that was given to the Ocean View Police, Millville Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services, and Sussex County Sheriff's Department on January 17, 2018. Luanne Kowalski filled in for Dennise Scott who helped with the planning, along with Barbara White. There was a good amount of media exposure, including TV broadcast for the training. More training is being requested by other public safety departments, including the Delaware Police Academy. Jay Innes was thanked for his excellent work in public relations for the event. An article in Coastal Point should be coming out.

Jay Innes set up a Facebook page for DDSC a few months ago. Anyone can post items there. It is public. Even if you do not have a Facebook page, you can go there to get news. Later, when the DDSC web page is up and running, we will use both web and Facebook. Mike will continue to send out emails of events for those who do not have Facebook.

Jerry Buyas gave the financial report. DDSC balance is \$585.27. Discussion ensued about the need to set up a 501 c(3) nonprofit, since right now the bank account is a personal account; the bank would not allow the name DDSC be on the checking account.

A video was shown on improving communication between police and deaf people.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=deaf+person+interacting+with+police&adlt=strict&view=detail&mid=C838AAB5AC6BAFCE50A8C838AAB5AC6BAFCE50A8&&FORM=VDRVRV>

Interpreter Patty Short-Dyes was introduced.

Police Chief Kenneth McLaughlin and Joseph Thomas, Director, Sussex County Emergency Operations Center were the guest speakers. A lively presentation ensued with many questions asked about communications with police and the Sussex County 911 operations center. (Summary of their presentation is attached).

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Childs announced there is a phone number <sup>for</sup> of Apple users <sup>called Apple Care</sup> that is helpful: 877-204-3930

Mike said Fed Ex can be found at any Walgreens, including the one next to Hocker's on Route 26 & 17

Mike has extra forms for the strobe smoke alarms that the fire department will give you for free.

Mike announced the new coffee shop in Dagsboro called Dagsboro Days near the Clayton Theatre is run by the Miller family, and the daughter who is manager, Audrey Miller, is fluent in ASL. Barbara White will host the ladies luncheon there April 11.

Nancy announced the next DDSC meeting is Thursday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Wear your Valentine themed clothes.

Ricky Suiter offered to bring sweets for the February meeting.

Barbara White and Mike Childs will be chairs for the Labor Day Picnic in September. Let them know if you would like to be on this committee.

Barbara White announced that the lawyer from NAD, Anna Bitencourt, is hoping those with stories about their experiences with Beebe Health Care will contact her for an interview. Her email is [legal.intake@nad.org](mailto:legal.intake@nad.org) Subject: attention: Anna Bitencourt. We will postpone her visit to DDSC until the Spring.

Billy Bowman announced a DAD fund raiser is on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday March 17, 2018 at the Bay Forest Club House. The event includes dinner and Dingo. Doreen and Dick Moore are chairs of this event. More information will be announced.

Billy Bowman stated that DAD is looking for a host for the next DAD board meeting. It will be an all-day meeting in May or June, including morning workshops, lunch provided by DAD, and a board meeting. He hopes DDSC will be interested in considering hosting.

Pee Wee DeGeorge showed the product he bought online called Pull Over Pal. This can be shown to police officers if you are pulled over and identifies you as a deaf person. This was shown in the video we watched. <https://pullover-pal.myshopify.com/>

Barbara White printed sample visor cards for those who want them. These can be found online. There are other good ones out there, including from Michigan: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcr/Visor\\_card\\_525194\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcr/Visor_card_525194_7.pdf)

Billy Bowman said the Coffee with Senator Hocker was attended by 11 deaf residents last week with about 50 other residents. Topics included the bills up for vote in Dover and issues such as water quality. Senator Hocker will have more of these coffees in other locations and will provide interpreters upon

request. Representative Ron Gray was at this coffee and he offered to come to a DDSC meeting in the near future, possibly March.

Billy Bowman announced there will be a presentation at the Bethany Beach Library by Beebe Hospital on Wednesday January 31 at 2:00 pm regarding the new Beebe Health Center in Millville. An interpreter has been requested and waiting confirmation. *we are also*

Barbara White suggested we consider hosting a Deaf Awareness week in September. The United Nations declared the first International Day of Sign Languages will be celebrated on September 23, 2018 as part of the International Week of the Deaf. <https://wfdeaf.org/news/un-23-sept-as-international-day-of-sign-languages/> Let Barbara and Rosemary Balzer know if you are interested in being on a committee to explore how we can support this event and spread deaf awareness.

Rosemary Balzer announced the April 27-28 Ocean to Bay bike tour in Bethany Beach. Team <sup>3</sup> of 6 or more registered cyclists are eligible for a discounted rate. See info on the DDSC Facebook page. <http://oceantobaybiketour.com/> *She will send an email msg with details.*

Barbara White asked what topics the group would like to see for February and other meetings, so email her at [barbwhite99@gmail.com](mailto:barbwhite99@gmail.com)

Minutes submitted by:

Barbara White, Secretary

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