

**Minutes
DDSC Meeting
South Coastal Library
February 22, 2018**

- Approval of Minutes from January; Mark Alford approved, Marg Buyas seconded
- Introduction of new people: Welcome Keith Robertson and Hazel Rinas
- Thanks to Ricky Suiter for donating pastries, and Nancy Childs for Valentines surprise (Cheeses and summer sausages, cookies). Marg Buyas volunteered to bring pastries for March 29th meeting.
- Financial Report: Jerry Buyas reported a balance of **\$551.28**
- Discussion about getting an EIN (Employer Identification Number) in order to get a bank account with our name on it. Keith Robertson said he could help. He also said he could help with setting up a 501c3 nonprofit, as he had experience in NJ with this. Barbara said the Chamber of Commerce will get back to her in March and look for a volunteer that helps local organizations set up nonprofits. Then we can be a member of the Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce which offers numerous benefits to nonprofits. She offered a possible mission statement for discussion: *The Delaware Deaf Senior Citizens of Sussex County is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing educational, social and recreational opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing senior citizens of Sussex County, Delaware.*
- Follow up with health care issues: Two NAD attorneys (Anna Bitencourt and Deborah Patkin) will present to us on rights to health care on the May 24 meeting; (the presentation on advanced directives will be moved to the Fall). Anna Bitencourt would like to hear from you if you want to set up a VP call to share your story on dissatisfaction with Beebe Health Care at email: Legal.intake@nad.org ATTN: Anna Bitencourt. They can also interview people individually on May 24th.
- The DDSC Facebook page—although it is a “public page” some people may not be able to access it if they do not have a Facebook account. Google “DDSC Facebook” --it takes you to a cricket team by the same name.
- Bowling league - Ricky Suiter announced that Allen Talbert wants to know if there is interest in a bowling league; he passed a sign-up sheet to vote which day is best--Tuesday or Friday OR BOTH.
- February is Black History Month. 8-minute Vlog in ASL about the story of Henrietta Lacks; Internet speed was too slow to show it, but it can be found here: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=173149536629131&id=152910341986384
- The newly released film “Seeds of Hope” by Gary Brooks at Gallaudet University on the life of Andrew Foster can be found online at: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ij3d-GiqTyA>
- What we want from DDSCSC. Discussion of possible ideas for speakers, field trips, activities. For example: state park trips, Trap Pond State Park, Pea Patch Island, Harriet Tubman Museum, Apple Festival in October in Gettysburg. A paper was passed around to write down ideas. Suggestions were: estates/trusts, driving for seniors, fishing licenses, beach safety, emergency for boaters, legal issues for seniors, how to beat summer traffic and emergency evacuation

- Barbara thanked those who brought donations for the homeless such as toiletries and travel shampoos, towels, etc. The Mariners Methodist Church collects them for distribution. She will collect these things at the March-June meetings also.
- 50/50 chance was won by Mike Childs, who donated his share to DDSCSC. The 50/50 helps increase our funds for future activities (interpreters, etc.) We will do a basket raffle at the March 29th meeting to increase the funds.

Announcements/Mark Your Calendar:

Trap Pond State Park in Laurel, DE. **Monday, May 21.** Bring your own picnic lunch; pontoon boat ride through bald cypress tree swamp. **IMPORTANT:** the driver into the park must have a national park disability access pass (America the Beautiful Disabled Access) to enter the park for free. Barbara White and Doreen Moore will coordinate this picnic outing. There will be 5 boat tours on the hour from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Cost to be determined with the park. (Approximately \$10 with tip.) Interpreter will be provided. Maximum 35 people. We passed around a sign-up sheet; few spaces left. Email Barbara if interested at barbwhite99@gmail.com

Mariners Bethel United Methodist Church (Route 26 and Central Ave.) has a lunch by donation (\$3) **every Thursday, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.** They welcome any deaf seniors who want to have a lunch and socialize. Watch for announcement about an interpreted Easter Service at Mariners at 11:15 am service **Sunday April 1st.**

Beach grass planting **March 17 at 9:00 am**, meet at north Indian River Bridge parking lot. We will be done by 12:00 noon, or you can leave earlier. A sign-up sheet was passed around with 11 people interested.

Deaf Awareness Week **September 24-28;** the library will reserve the meeting room all week. We need a committee; let Barbara White know if interested and bring your ideas to spread deaf awareness such as ASL class, films, speakers, performances.

Labor Day Picnic **Sunday September 2,** John West Park, Ocean View already reserved (free this year; next year need to pay if not a 501c3)

Doyle's Restaurant has been reserved for our holiday dinner **Thursday December 6, 2018, 3:00-7:00 pm.** Sherry and Barbara will go there later in the Spring to select the menu and get pricing. No charge for the dining room.

Ocean to Bay bike ride April 27 and 28. Those riding on the tour should register with DC Deaf Bikers at <http://oceantobaybiketour.com/> Contact Rosemary Balzer if you have questions. We also have been asked by the Chamber of Commerce to recruit deaf volunteers to help with registration for deaf riders, and at rest stops along the way. Let Barbara and Bruce White know if you can help Friday April 27 between 12:00 noon and 8:00 pm and on Saturday April 28 from 7:00 am to 9:00 am, as well as at the following rest stops: Tower Road Bayside, Bay Forest Clubhouse, Bishops Landing Clubhouse, Selbyville, Bayside, Lighthouse Lakes. More details at March meeting.

Next DDSC meeting March 29