

Minutes

Delaware Deaf Senior Citizens (DDSC)

March 2, 2018

Call to order – 35 people in attendance

Mike Childs, President, announced we will have a Silent Auction at this meeting; feel free to browse the 25 items. Bids will close at 12:30. Then pay Jerry Buyas if you win, cash or check to Gerald Buyas. (*Note: \$217 was earned from the auction.*)

Report from Robert Balzer, Vice President: Robert was not able to attend the meeting but sent an email report. He updated the database based on e-mail addresses. About one-fourth of those on the email list do not have Gmail addresses, so they won't have access to the Google web page he developed. He plans to convert the web page into a Weebly web page; he is asking DDSC to approve the \$10 monthly payment. There were numerous questions from the floor. Mark Alford moved to table this discussion until the April meeting. Joe DeLusant seconded.

The February minutes were approved.

Pursuing nonprofit status (501(c)3): The Board met with a volunteer consultant, Mr. Len Kidwell, of SCORE <http://score.org>. We learned of the pros and cons of becoming a nonprofit 501 (c)3 organization, and the 8 steps required for this process. These are: 1) Verify and choose a name, 2) Appoint a registered agent and initial directors, 3) File certificate of incorporation, 4) get EIN, 5) Develop Bylaws, 6) Start a corporate records book, 7) Apply for tax exemption, 8) Set up bank account and manage finances.

An overhead was shown with the pros and cons of starting a nonprofit:

Pros: 1) Pay no federal, state, or local taxes, 2) Qualify for special grants and government funding, 3) Eligible to receive discounts at stores, lower postage rates, and waiver of fees for use of space/facilities in some cases, 4) Providing donors with tax deduction which encourages donations, 5) Shield owners and directors from liability through status as a corporation, 6) Can join Chamber of Commerce with many benefits for networking with area businesses

Cons: 1) Lengthier, more-involved application and qualification process, 2) Requires payment of multiple fees and costs (need start-up costs for filing fees, etc. and annual fees), 3) Must comply with numerous regulatory requirements, including submitting annual reports to federal and state agencies, 4) Board of Directors would be all volunteers, 6) Must distribute assets to other non-profits if dissolved, 7) Requires

experience and expertise to operate, 7) Need ongoing commitment from members, 8) Need follow up reports to IRS and careful accounting

Options were considered, including moving forward to set up nonprofit, waiting a year until we raise more funds, staying as an informal social club, and affiliating with DAD.

Billy Bowman elaborated further on these options and invited DDSC to affiliate with DAD. Sherry Duhon moved we affiliate with DAD, Marion DeLusant seconded (passed)

Billy Bowman and Jay Innes both suggested working with Mr. Apocada, Financial Officer at the New Mexico School for the Deaf, who has been helping DAD reinstate their nonprofit status. He also mentioned there is a benefit to affiliating with Deaf Seniors of America (DSA). DDSC would still need Bylaws, an EIN number, keep its own bank account and run our own meetings. It would just be a partnership. They suggested to look into the pros and cons of affiliation with DSA. If we affiliate with DSA we can affiliate with DAD at no cost. If we do not affiliate with DSA, then its \$50 to affiliate with DAD.

Discussion of a new name. The group voted to eliminate "Sussex County" in the name and keep DDSC – Delaware Deaf Senior Citizens.

A Bylaws Committee will be set up, including the Board and 3 volunteers: Jay Innes, Allen Talbert and Joe DeLusant.

Gordon Bergan reported on the status of the picnic fund. He announced there is \$697.29 forthcoming to this fund. \$400 was loaned for the holiday dinner. Marion DeLusant reported \$300 was paid back, and \$100 still outstanding. She reported the holiday dinner generated \$2,510 and \$2,281.34 was spent.

Billy Bowman reported the annual DAD meeting will be Saturday June 2nd at the library, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. He is working on scheduling a workshop. Let him know what ideas you have.

Barbara White asked for volunteers to form a Committee for Deaf Awareness Week September 24-28. The library is reserving this meeting room all week for us. Those interested in working on this are: Barbara White, Rosemary Balzer, Sherry Duhon, Dick Moore, Rich Meadows, Mark Alford, Beverly Alford, Marion DeLusant, Norma Buemi, Angela Munn, Gerry Francini.

Sherry Duhon will be the Holiday Dinner Chair. She asked for the group's preference for either a lunch or dinner. She is checking our Bear Trap.

Carla Hanezewsky volunteered to bring pastries to the April 20th meeting. Marge Norwood volunteered to bring pastries to the May 24th meeting.

Mike Childs won the 50/50 for the second time in a row. He donated his winnings to DDSC.

Announcements:

- Tax Day Monday April 17
- Beebe Urgent Care Millville has a new pager system for waiting room in lab and imaging center. (Jay Innes suggested sending a letter of appreciation to Beebe)
- Bruce White is working with Ocean View Police Chief Ken McLaughlin to coordinate a tour to Emergency Operations Center in Georgetown– sign up for either Tuesday May 8 or Thursday May 10 (up to 12 people each tour). Address of the EOC is: 21911 Rudder Lane P.O. Box 589. Georgetown, DE 19947.
- Donations for the homeless still being collected at each meeting
- Mariner's United Methodist Church in Ocean View welcomes the community, including deaf seniors to lunch, each Thursday, 11:30 am-1:00 pm; \$3 donation
- Mariner's United Methodist Church will have an interpreter at the 11:15 am service on Easter Sunday 4/1/18
- Rosemary Balzer requested people who sign up for the Ocean to Bay Bike Ride on April 28 to let her know. She also said others not riding are welcome to join the happy hour at Mangos after the ride around 12:30 pm
- Allen Talbert will set up bowling teams this fall.
- The next open captioned movie at The Clayton Theatre is Wednesday, April 11th at 2:30 and 7:00 pm. "*I Can Only Imagine*" (Barbara White is hosting ladies luncheon that same day at noon at Dagsboro Days coffee house – those who want to go to the movie after lunch can do so).
- May 21 trip to Trap Pond State Park – An interpreter will be provided; almost all slots are filled except one (total 35 seats for 5 consecutive 40-minute pontoon boat tours of the bald cypress trees). \$10 per person, bring cash or check to April 20th meeting. Or mail to 21 Hudson Avenue, Ocean View, DE 19970. This will raise some funds for DDSC as the park is giving a discount on the tours. Remember to bring your National Park disability pass, so the entrance fee to the park will be waived. You can get one of these passes in person at Assateague National Park.
- April 20th meeting: Caroline Greene will present on "State of Delaware and interpreting rights"
- April 20th meeting - we will host another silent auction. Let Barbara White know what you can donate. Examples can be: classes in sewing, pickleball, bocce, cooking, crafts, bocce, tennis, pickleball, yoga, or offer a wine and cheese party, golf outing, dinner outing, etc. Use your imagination!

Submitted by Barbara White, Secretary