

MINUTES - DDSC Meeting
Friday, April 20, 2018

The meeting began with a coffee/social and silent auction. Following this, Caroline Greene, a nationally certified ASL interpreter and Coda, presented on "Your Rights in the State of Delaware to an ASL Interpreter." She gave an overview of her background, including her struggles with quality interpreting services for her deaf parents. She reviewed the state of Delaware organization chart. The governor is not at the top of the chart, the "residents of Delaware" are at the top; government is there to serve and protect the consumer, and elected representatives work for the people. She stressed the importance of self-advocacy when requesting an interpreter for any state agency (unfortunately, this does not include private medical providers, but these providers need to follow the ADA if they get even one penny from the federal government, including Medicare). She went through the Request for Proposal process to award interpreter contracts, and showed where to find the 5 vendors awarded contracts in Delaware at this website:

http://bidcondocs.delaware.gov/GSS/GSS_17602_ANrev.pdf

The five vendors awarded state contract are: ASLI (New York), DHCC (New Castle County Only), Definitions and Interpreting, Ms. Caroline Greene and Ms. Peg Stewart. (Although ASLI is based in NY, the agency contracts with interpreters close to the job request in Delaware). There are 28 certified ASL interpreters in Delaware and no Interpreter Training Programs. There is a cumbersome process to submit a bid and the requirements are the interpreters must be a) licensed, b) insured, and c) certified by RID (unless they can meet other requirements). Ms. Greene closed by saying the world of interpreting is not perfect in Delaware, and there are agencies and individuals trying to improve interpreting services. This includes the Working Group for Interpreter Regulations, which is under the State Council for Persons with Disabilities in the Department of Homeland Security. Their mission is to a) create legislation requiring minimum standards for sign language interpreter in Delaware. b) create a Registry for interpreters in Delaware who meet minimum standards and c) reduce or eliminate bad interpreting practices in the state.

The presentation was followed by the business meeting:

1. Call to order by the President – We will have a sign-up sheet to determine the number of people in attendance. There are 37 people here today. Mike

reminded everyone about the auction which helps DDSC raise funds. He also asked the group not to ring the bell since library staff need to keep running to the door. (If you are late coming to a Friday meeting and the door is locked, it is best to go around and wave through the glass windows since the library itself does not open until 1:00).

2. Reading/correction/approval of minutes from March meeting – seconded by Allen Talbert; approved.
3. Officers' reports (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) – no reports from President; Vice President moved his report on the website to old business; Treasurer Jerry Buyas gave a financial report (attached) and reported DDSC has \$904 cash in hand (we earned \$217 from the first silent auction in March); Denis Munn thanked Jerry for his service while he was absent. Barbara White asked if people want her to add all the announcements to the minutes--the consensus was yes; it is especially helpful for people not present.
4. Standing/special committees' reports (Bylaws Committee: VP Robert Balzer). The Bylaws committee met at Mike Child's home recently. Jay Innes did research and presented a draft of Bylaws. The group made revisions to this document. This document will be sent to members two weeks before the June 15th meeting. At that meeting, it is hoped the membership will approve of these Bylaws, which will guide our operations, and eventually prepare us to apply for 501 (c)3status.
5. Unfinished business – web page (R. Balzer). Everyone was pleased when Robert announced the DDSC webpage is ready. The address is: <http://deafdelsc.org> Right now it is a "shell" but Robert will fill it in with information, pictures, etc. He asked the group to approve payment for the website which will cost around \$12.99/monthly. Sherry moved to approve the request and Denis Munn seconded. Passed.
6. New business – none
7. Announcements:
 - a. Holiday luncheon – S. Duhon announced she met with the sales manager at Bear Trap Dunes and reserved the facility for Thursday December 6 from noon- 4:00 PM; It will be a full buffet luncheon with cash bar (price TBD but under \$40).
 - b. Ocean to Bay Bike tour: Rosemary Balzer said about 15 deaf cyclists registered for the April 27-28 event. Barbara White announced she, Bruce and Sherry will volunteer for registration on Friday April 27th to guide deaf registrants coming for the charity ride. There is a need for any other volunteer monitors, especially from 7:00 am to 11:00 am at Bay Forest, one of the rest stops. She has a form you need to bring if you volunteer:
[file:///C:/Users/barbw/AppData/Local/Packages/microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps_8wekyb3d8bbwe/Local/State/Files/SO/52299/BT%20Volunteer%20Options%202018\[55571\].pdf](file:///C:/Users/barbw/AppData/Local/Packages/microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps_8wekyb3d8bbwe/Local/State/Files/SO/52299/BT%20Volunteer%20Options%202018[55571].pdf)

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- c. Trap Pond May 21 outing: Barbara White asked for payment of \$10 if you signed up for the boat tour. She sent out an email to those who pre-registered. Check your assigned time, which had to be moved around a bit to accompany the interpreter and special requests.
 - d. Barbara is finished with the revised interpreters list, which includes the 5 vendors awarded contracts by the state of Delaware. Please send names of interpreters who are not on the list to barbwhite99@gmail.com She will send to Robert to post on the new DDSC website.
 - e. Open Captioned Movie at the Clayton on Wednesday May 2, 2:30 and 7:00 pm: the thriller "A Quiet Place" that features a young deaf actress, Millie Simmonds.
 - f. May 24th DDSC meeting guest speaker is Anna Bitencourt, Esq. – An attorney with the NAD Law Center who will address health care rights. Let Barbara know if you would like a private interview with her to discuss your experiences with Beebe Health Care after her presentation in one of the library's study rooms.
 - g. Barbara will meet with the library to reserve blocks of time for the September 24-28 Deaf Awareness Week. In May she will call a meeting of the 11 people who volunteered to be on the committee: B. White, R. Balzer, S. Duhon, D. Moore, R. Meadows, M. Alford, B. Alford, M. DeLusant, N. Buemi, A. Munn, G. Francini.
 - h. Bruce White announced that the May 8 and May 10 tour at 2:00 pm of the Emergency Operations Center in Georgetown will be confirmed soon. He will email those who signed up for the tours to confirm.
 - i. Allen Talbert announced that the bowling league will begin September 17th and run through November 30th, each Friday from 12:00 to 2:30. There will be a "dry run" on August 24th. Contact Allen with more information if interested in signing up. Cost is \$8.50.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00.