

MINUTES - DDSC Meeting

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Prepared by Barbara White, Secretary

After a lunch provided by the "Feed My Sheep" lunch program at Mariners Bethel United Methodist Church in Ocean View, the meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm. There were 27 people in attendance.

Officer's Reports:

President Mike Childs welcomed everyone and thanked the volunteers who provided the lunch and the cake which depicted finger spelled letters for "Welcome" and honored IWDDeaf by writing "World Federation of the Deaf" on the cake. He noted this venue is only for this month and in October we go back to our regular meetings at the South Coastal Library in Bethany Beach (Next meeting is October 25th). He asked that visitors be introduced. He noted we need to recruit a new Chair or Co-Chairs for the 2019 Labor Day Picnic. This will be on the agenda for the October meeting.

Vice President Robert Balzer reported that the DDSC website is up and running at www.deafdelcsc.org. He has been paying the \$32.95 monthly fee since April out of pocket to the company called www.web.com. This comes to \$395.40 annually. There was some discussion about whether other providers will be cheaper. However, this company does much of the "leg work" for us so might be worth it since Robert has limited time to focus exclusively on this website. Angela Munn moved that DDSC repay him for his expenses but table the discussion until next month when more information can be shared about the various plans with this company. Joey DeLusant seconded the motion. Passed.

There are three ways to access information put out by DDSC: the website, Facebook and President Mike Childs' email distribution. Most everyone has access to a computer and can access information on the website now. However, Facebook may have more timely posted events such as the open captioned movies, but the website has more detailed information such as minutes, Bylaws, etc. Facebook is not a place to post organizational documents.

Robert presented 3 possible logo designs for the website. He asked that members share their own ideas with him and we can vote on a design at a future meeting. Mark Alford moved that we postpone the discussion to October meeting and Marg Buyas seconded.

Treasurer Denis Munn thanked Jerry Buyas for his serving as Treasurer in his absence. He announced that Allen Talbert will be the designated Treasurer from January to May 2019. He gave an unofficial financial report and said there will be a more detailed financial report at the October meeting after the official audit. The live and silent auction at the picnic netted \$1,036. The Labor Day picnic netted \$268.38. The balance in the Wells Fargo Bank is almost \$4,000.

Secretary Barbara White asked for approval of June minutes. Mark Alford moved that the June minutes be accepted. Marg Buyas seconded. Passed.

International Week of the Deaf update: Barbara White passed around a draft thank you letter that will be sent to the 30 businesses that supported our auction. The list of the businesses was also passed around. She thanked the IWDDeaf committee and everyone participating in the International Week of the Deaf. She suggested we do an IWDDeaf bi annually instead of yearly. She thanked Bruce White for the terrific public relations he managed and showed several articles from the *Coastal Point* covering the event. Senator Hocker and Representative Ron Grey showed up for the opening reception attended by 67 people and ABC, WBOC had reports on local TV. Other community leaders attended as well including the Bethany Beach EMS Chief, the Assistant County Librarian, Director and Assistant Director of the South Coastal Library, representatives from Ocean View and Bethany Beach Town Council, Deputy Mayor of Millville, VFW officer, the language bank coordinator at Beebe Hospital, Joanne Howe of the Clayton Theatre (who received the Deaf Ally award). Sherry Duhon gave a lively presentation on "Deaf Culture 101" on Monday. On Tuesday Professors Brian Greenwald and Billy Ennis led a panel discussion after the film "Through Deaf Eyes" attended by over 100 participants. Roz Rosen led a children's ASL story time with her Deaf version of "The Three Little Pigs" at the South Coastal library attended by 14 pre school children and their mothers. Thursday night Dennis Scott and Luanne Kowalski led an introduction to ASL class attended by 39 people and again on Friday with 27 people. That shows a significant interest in our community. Mariners Church are asking for instructors to set up ASL classes. IWDDeaf made a significant impact on our community.

Holiday Luncheon update. Sherry Duhon gave an update on the holiday luncheon at Bear Trap Dunes on Thursday December 6, 2018 from 12 noon to 4:00 pm. The price will be \$35 per person and includes a luncheon buffet of salmon, grilled chicken, sausage and peppers, fresh local vegetables, caesar salad, red skin potatoes and cake. The price is lower since DDSC has donated the door prizes. She passed out a registration form which should be submitted to Denis Munn, Treasurer by November 26th at his mailing address: 35570 Cypress Point Trail, Millville, DE 19967. Make checks payable to DDSC (not to Denis Munn).

Donald DeGeorge announced that the trip to the Apple Festival in PA is cancelled. He also announced a yard sale at Bay Forest Clubhouse on the upcoming Saturday.

Billy Bowman announced that the trip to NYC in December is cancelled.

Refreshments Coordinator Nancy Childs noted that people have signed up for October and November refreshments. October: The DeGeorges. November: Angela Munn and Norma Buemi. Another sign-up sheet will be passed out in November for 2019. Text to 911 update: ^{Due to time constraints} Bruce White asked to table the discussion about the meeting with the State Director of the Emergency Operations Center until next month. He would like Jay Innes to be present since he went to a follow up meeting.

Active Shooter Training - There will be a special workshop for the deaf community only on Thursday October 18th, 1:00-3:00 pm, Ocean View Police Headquarters, 201 Central Ave, Ocean View, DE 19970. Those who attended earlier said it was very worthwhile. Mark your calendar. ^{love it}

Update on NAD attorney. Anna Bittencourt communicated with Norma Buemi and Barbara White that the NAD has drafted a letter and is ready to send but they need to do more research before getting final approval from the legal team. Then they will send to Beebe. She noted that Beebe will be presenting on "Advanced Directives" at the October 25th DDSC meeting. This includes Power of Attorney, DNR, Living Wills. Norma noted that Beebe is asking us what other health related topics DDSC would like them to present on.

ASL interpreter list update. Norma Buemi presented the update on the list she and Barbara White have been working on. It is not perfect but a "work in progress". She noted that on the original list we passed out early in the year there were a number of non-certified interpreters on the list. She noted that if DDSC's name is on the list we may need a disclaimer. There have been incidences of non-certified interpreters being hired by health providers who are unethical. There was much discussion about the idea of removing non-certified names from the list. Sherry Duhon moved that we only list certified interpreters. Gordon Bergan moved to amend the motion to include approved state vendors and agencies. Marge seconded. Passed.

Connecting Generations mentoring program. MaryBeth Tkach, a certified interpreter who works for the Indian River School District, announced that the program is seeking deaf volunteers to work with deaf and hard of hearing children in the school district. She explained that mentoring is not teaching ASL but role modeling and establishing a trusting relationship with a deaf adult. There are 38 deaf and hard of hearing children in the IR School District, but only about 5 know ASL. There are only 3 ASL interpreters (there used to be 8). Mentors commit to one hour weekly during the school year and if you skip due to vacation that is fine. All mentoring takes place inside the school you are assigned to. She will be available after the meeting to recruit volunteers and sign up for the training which starts in October. Barbara White took the three-hour training last April and will start mentoring a first grader at Southern Delaware School for the Arts.

Adjourned at 3:00 pm.