

**DDSC Meeting
November 20, 2025
Evans Park Community Center
Attendance: 24**

Call to Order

President Dave Staehle called the meeting to order at 10:18 am.

Reading/Correction/Approval of Minutes

October 14, 2025 minutes need to be read, corrected if needed and approved. Allen Talbert (Barbara White) moved to approve the minutes for the meeting on October 14, 2025 as read. Passed.

Officers' Reports

President- Dave Staehle

Agenda

1. Chairpersons needed for different events for 2026:
 - Appreciation Day Picnic
 - Labor Day Cookout
 - Pickleball Tournament
 - Annual Holiday Celebration
2. What should we do with the DDSC Sponsor Banner?

Vice President- Fred Hartman

- Potential future project: Collaborative work with other Deaf seniors organizations

Secretary- Mary Ann Richmond

- No report

Treasurer- Paul Haring (Absent)

- Financial reports will be shared during the next meeting.

Standing/Special Committees Report

Beebe Representative- Barbara White

Barbara White asked if we are interested in having a training session with Beebe staff on the use of MyChart, the new portal by the company called EPIC. Beebe is offering this training to community groups, and they offered to do training with interpreters if there is interest. Many of us showed interest in receiving this training. Barbara White will contact them to set up the training.

DAD Board Affiliate Representative- Martha Sheridan

Martha Sheridan asked Mary Ann Richmond to share her report. Martha Sheridan attended the DAD Statewide meeting last Saturday, Nov. 15th, at the Dover public library

- At least forty-six members in attendance
- Elections (President, Treasurer and County Representatives)
President: Feta Fernsler (re-elected)
Treasurer: Dave Staehle
Kent County Representatives: Alanna Smith and John Castrese
New Castle County Representative: Kelli Adasko
Sussex County Representatives: Jay Innes and Fred Hartman
Continuing Officers
Secretary: Mary Ann Richmond
Vice President: Keith Robertson
DDSC Affiliate Representative: Martha Sheridan
DSD Affiliate Representative: Matthew Bezzaire
- Bylaws: Worked on minor bylaw revisions, including mission and vision

statements, and the Immediate Past President's term was changed to two years.

- Membership: The board is revisiting membership fees.
- Town Halls: President Feta Fernsler is considering holding a town hall in the north and south parts of the state to discuss priorities.
- DDSC Sponsorship for lunch: DAD recognized and expressed their appreciation for DDSC's lunch donation of \$150.

Annual Holiday Celebration/ DNO- Sherry Duhon & Lisa Jacobs

Sherry Duhon and Lisa Jacobs shared few things about the upcoming DNO:

- 72 people have rsvpped.
- Please wear ugly sweaters.
- The change of the venue to Fenwick Island Rooftop Restaurant. From 3-6 pm the bar area. .

Student Support Committee- Sherry Duhon

Sherry Duhon mentioned the student support committee would like for us to give Delaware School for the Deaf (DSD) Parent and Teacher Organization (PTO) some money and let them figure out what to give to needy students during the holidays. We can make a motion during the new business.

Workshop Committee- Fred Hartman

Fred Hartman explained the plan to have the funeral planning workshop on December 9th will be rescheduled due to having the DDSC Ugly Sweater DNO on the same day.

Discussion: Some of us wanted for the committee to ask around to find out what topics we are interested in and to review the survey we filled out two years ago.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business

New Business

Jay Innes (Lisa Jacobs) moved for DDSC to give \$925 to DSD PTO, \$25 per family - 37 families. Jerry Cohen (Keith Robertson) amended the motion to add 37 families or more if needed. Passed. Keith Robertson (Robert Harrington) moved to amend the motion to change the \$25 to \$40. Passed. For the whole motion including the amended motions. Passed. amendments. Passed.

Jay Innes (Mike Childs) moved that the executive board and workshop committee work together to develop a survey to find out what topics and activities we, the DDSC members, are interested in. Passed.

Announcements

Barbara White announced that the main contact for scheduling interpreters at Beebe Healthcare, Alina Ferrer, is retiring in December after 22 years. The person taking her place is Sue Thiele, Manager of Guest Relations. Barbara passed out pink papers with the new contact information which can be carried in your wallet or added to your phone contacts:

Sue Thiele, Manager, Guest Relations

Email: sthiele@beebehealthcare.org

Office Phone: (302) 645-3100 extension 5858

Lou Volpinsta donated \$1000 to the DDSC general fund.

Sherry Duhon shared info regarding the South Coastal Village Volunteers organization. They want to meet with deaf seniors. Sherry Duhon will meet with them then she will share with us what she will learn from the meeting.

Sherry Duhon informed us that she and Mary Ann Richmond will volunteer to meet with the ASL students at the Indian River High School in December.

-Next DDSC meeting: December 18th at 1 pm.

50/50 raffle winner: Robert Harrington donated his winnings of \$35 to

DDSC. A total of \$65 dollars will be deposited in the DDSC general fund.

Adjournment of the Meeting

Jerry Cohen (Shahryar Shilati) moved to adjourn the meeting. Passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ann Richmond, Secretary