DDSC Meeting
January 15, 2026
Evans Park Community Center
Attendance: 26

Call to Order

President Dave Staehle called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

Reading/Correction/Approval of Minutes

December 18, 2025 minutes need to be read, corrected if needed and approved.
Jeff Leach (Dennise Scott) moved to approve the draft minutes for the meeting on December 18, 2025 to be approved as read. Passed.

Officers' Reports

President- Dave Staehle

Agenda/ Report

1. DSD Eastern Regional Academic Bowl
   The DDSC board decided to give $500 to support DSD to run the event.
2. Social Chairperson
   VP Fred Hartman will share more info when he comes to the next meeting.
3. DAD's Request to Use DDSC Mailing Address
   President Dave Staehle explained why DAD wants to use the DSSC mailing address.
4. Delaware Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH) Town Hall
   -DODHH Community Relations Coordinator Christina Feil will lead the DODHH Town Hall meeting after our meeting today.
5. Clarification for the Handling the Profits from the DDSC fundraisers

According to the minutes written for the October 2024 meeting:

Ad Hoc fundraising funds planning committee
President Allen Talbert showed four different choices/ options that the ad hoc committee had come up with. President Allen Talbert asked Secretary Mary Ann Richmond to take over running the meeting as the president pro tempore, so he could report about the ad hoc committee's work regarding how to spend profits. Lisa Jacobs helped to take over the secretarial role as the secretary pro tempore.
Gordon Bergan (Mike Childs) moved to choose Plan D- 100% monies go to the general fund. Passed.

However, the fundraiser committees can make motions to designate a percentage of profits from DDSC fundraisers to go to service fund and/or student support fund.

Vice President- Fred Hartman (absent)
President Dave Staehle shared Vice President Fred Hartman's report.

1. Liability Insurance
   Vice President Fred Hartman and President Dave Staehle had a meeting with Trish Marcules who works at the Millville Town Hall. Trish Marcules informed them that we, DDSC, will have to pay rent to reserve the meeting room at the Evans Park Community Center. We will use the town hall chamber meeting room since it is rent free. However, they require us to have liability insurance. So the DDSC board has approved purchasing liability insurance that will cover our monthly meetings and events for 2026.
2. Workshop Survey
   Only 25 responded, we need more responses from the members.

Secretary- Mary Ann Richmond

1. Delaware Association of the Deaf (DAD) and Delaware Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH)
   Secretary Mary Ann Richmond will share the links for both

organizations with the DDSC members. She encouraged the members to join both organizations to receive their email blasts.

Treasurer- Paul Haring

1. Financial report for December 2025 audited by Shahryar Shilati and Keith Worek. The current balance is $20,385.53.

Standing/Special Committee's Report

DAD Board Affiliate Representative- Martha Sheridan

1. Delaware School for the Deaf Junior NAD members attended and observed the DAD board meeting on January 14, 2025 via Zoom.
2. DAD is considering joining two other states to sponsor a Parliamentary Procedure workshop with Mark Apadaco. They are wondering if DDSC would like to participate and share costs. More information on costs is needed.
3. DAD held two town hall meetings and collected feedback on priorities. Eighteen people attended. Issues raised include access, potential legislation, DAD fundraising and public information, LEAD-K, ODHH expansion, and collaboration/networking with other associations. The issues and next steps will be addressed in a future DAD meeting or retreat.
4. We donated $500 to Delaware School for the Deaf for student participation in the Academic Bowl.
5. We voted to continue our NAD State Affiliate membership

Deaf Night Out- Beth Benedict and Becky Hartman

No report

Student Support Committee- Linda Lytle

No report

Workshop Committee- Billy Bowman

No report

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Request from some of the members: Clarification needed for the motion made last month by Beth regarding DNO.

Mark Alford (Barbara Simpson) moved to close the new business. Passed.

Announcements

Mike Childs- AARP provides tax service. We can ask for an interpreter.

Jay Innes- DAD St. Patrick's Day Friday March 13th from 4 pm to 8 pm at the Evans Park Community Center. We will have dinner and DINGO.

Barbara White- Training for the Beebe MyChart last Tuesday was a successful one. Let her know if we want another training in the spring by sending her an email at barbwhite99@gmail.com.
She is also open to meeting in person with any concerns you have about your experience with Beebe Healthcare. She is on the Patient and Family Advisory Council at Beebe, and they meet quarterly, so she can provide feedback. Beebe is now advertising for a full time ASL interpreter. They will still use other interpreters on their vendor list. She also mentioned that Dr. David Tam, CEO and President of Beebe Healthcare, presented to the Millville Town Council in this same room last Tuesday night. He talked about how Beebe is trying to keep up with the population increase in Sussex County by expanding services. He would like to see a medical school in Sussex County as the residents who come for training tend to stay in the county.

DDSC Meeting Schedule and Location:

February 19, 2026 1-4pm
At Town of Millville, 36416 Clubhouse Rd, Millville
The meeting is on the 2nd floor if the heating system works.

For the rest of the year after February, the meetings will be held at
Town of Millville, Chamber Room, 36404 Clubhouse Road, Millville
March 19, 2026 1-4pm
April 16, 2026 1-4pm
May 21, 2026 1-4pm
June 18, 2026 10 am-1pm

Announce 50/50 raffle winner

Nancy Childs $20 DDSC $21

Richard Simpson won the Salted Vines $50 tasting certificate.

Adjournment of the Meeting

Martha Sheridan (Margaret Buyas) moved to adjourn the meeting. Passed.
The meeting was adjourned at 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ann Richmond, Secretary