DDSC Meeting Agenda
August 20, 2026
Millville Town Hall
Attendance:18 members

Call to Order

President Dave Staehle called the meeting to order at 10:16 am

Reading/Correction/Approval of Minutes

July 16, 2026 meeting minutes need to be read, corrected if needed and approved.

One correction to the minutes from Linda Lytle. The date of the Holiday party is missing; add it.

Jerry Cohen (Barbara White) moved to approve the minutes for the June 16, 2026 meeting as corrected. Passed.

Officers' Reports

President- Dave Staehle
Agenda

1. President Staehle started the meeting by announcing that as of Oct 24, Martha Sheridan will resign as representative to DAD. (See the DAD Affiliate report for more details).

Vice President- Fred Hartman

1. Fred received a request to post an announcement of a deaf event hosted by a church and requested membership input into if this is something we should do. Discussion followed with most in favor of posting, with the understanding that members have the choice of attending or not.

Secretary- Mary Ann Richmond (absent)

No report.

Treasurer- Paul Haring (absent)

No Financial report was given for July 2026

Standing/Special Committee Reports

DAD Board Affiliate Representative- Martha Sheridan

Martha will step down as affiliate representative effective after the October 24th DAD statewide meeting. The board will appoint a new representative. Martha will assist in the transition and invites the new rep to attend the statewide meeting with her.

The DAD board met last week to prepare for the October 24th statewide meeting. No major actions taken. Details on the statewide meeting to be held at the Dover Library are forthcoming. Members are encouraged to attend.

Keith Robertson set up a DNO fundraiser for DAD at Thompson Island Brewery in Rehoboth Beach for September 24th from 4-6 pm. DAD needs everyone's support for fundraising, and we hope you will attend.

Keith also explained that DAD will be focusing on proposed bylaw changes at the statewide meeting. He encouraged those of us who are interested to work on that committee. He reminded us that the Bylaws indicate that proposed changes to the bylaws must be submitted 90 days in advance of the meeting. Changes will not be accepted at the meeting.

Deaf Night Out - Beth Benedict and Becky Hartman

Becky Hartman talked about tonight's Rock the Boat event and the upcoming events:

Sept 18 DNO Deaf Pickleball at the Beach event at Landing Bar and Grille 11am – 9pm. Proceeds to go to the DDSC general fund.

Oct 20 DNO event at Crooked Hammock Brewery 11am – 9pm. Waiting for management approval for donations.

Nov 12 DNO event at Vista Rooftop coordinated by Sherry Duhon. This is a tentative event/date.

Dec 10 event at Bethany Blues coordinated by Jay and Ruth Innes, This is also a tentative event/date.

Becky asked that events for DDSC be separate from DNO events. Post those announcements in the Eastern Shore Deaf group, not DNO.

Holiday Dinner- Jean Koch and Mary Ann Richmond

No report as neither chair was present.

Labor Day Picnic Committee- Jerry Cohen

Numbers are low but Jerry is confident they will increase. He promised high quality food.

Pickleball Tournament Committee- Jay Innes

Carla Hanyzewski and Beth Benedict have been helping to solicit sponsors for our tournament and have been very successful. Jay showed us the sponsorship list which totaled $1,585 in value. Plus, we received individual donations of $1,035 for a total of $2,620.00. More letters requesting sponsorships are out so we expect more funds coming in the future. Jay asks for volunteers from the north to approach venues same as Beth and Carla did here in the south. Additionally, as we have several items to auction off, a decision needs to be made about where and how to hold that auction. Jay's committee will meet tomorrow to address this issue, among others.

There are now 32 individual registrants for the tournament, with 2 more coming. This number is low. We have enough for men's 3.5 and 3.0 level and for women's 3.5 and 3.0 levels. Sept 5th is the deadline and we will then look at total numbers.

Student Support Committee- Barbara White

Four students received our scholarship funds and we have 3 more thank you videos. We will show those videos next month when we have more members here. Barbara also mentioned that our fund is running low so we need to raise more funds.

Workshop Committee- Martha Sheridan

Billy Bowman has stepped down from the workshop committee. Martha expressed that we owe him much gratitude for his outstanding work keeping the workshop committee going for several years and contributing to our ongoing learning. Martha will now be committee chair and expects to add additional members to the committee.

There are several upcoming workshops planned:

1. Village Volunteers: Helping Older Adults Age in Place. August 27, 2026 10 am –12 pm at the Millville Town Hall Council. Representatives from both South Coastal Village Volunteers and Village Volunteers of Lewes will meet us, tell us about their program, and discuss how we can be involved. This is a community-based, neighbor-helping-neighbor type service and the workshop will be a mutual learning experience. They want to learn about us too.
2. On October 15, 2026, Jewish Family Services (JFS) will give a workshop at Millville Town Hall Council Chambers at 1:00 pm. JFS is a non-sectarian agency with professional staff that offers services to older adults, including home health care, cancer care, dementia services, case management, mental health services and volunteer services. Details are forthcoming. Amie Baker is the presenter. It is important for us to know what services are available to seniors in our community.
3. Scott McIndoe shared that he is working on an AI workshop. This will be a Zoom presentation with Raja Kushalnagar and Christian Volger from Gallaudet's AI research and training program. Date TBD, most likely in November. Details are forthcoming.

Social Committee – Alan Talbert

There are two upcoming events:

Longwood Gardens Oct 14th 11am.

Dogfish head Brewery event date to be decided.

Barbara White – Deaf Awareness Events Happening in September 2026

Eric Bears has made beautiful flyers. Thank you.

There will be events in both Lewes and Coastal Libraries. This includes 2 children's workshops, 2 sign language classes and 3 presentations. Please come and/or post information about these events on your social media. There is a nice write-up about these events in today's Coastal Point.

Additionally, Barbara has talked to Feta Fernsler about asking the Governor's office to announce Deaf Awareness Month next year (It's too late for this year) so it will generate more attention.

Unfinished Business

New Business

No new business.

Announcements

1. President Staehle reminded us that our next meeting moves to 1:00pm.

2. Sherry Duhon announced that on Sept 12th the Sandhill Fields has a 10k Relay for Life walk and event to promote cancer awareness. She's hoping many of us will participate and asks if we would like her to proceed with coordinating with the organization for interpreters, etc. to form a team. DDSC members told her to proceed.

3. Jay Innes is concerned that DSSC flyers are very prominent right now. This is a new organization and Jay feels we need to communicate with them. He also suggests that the ODHH could post all deaf related events in a calendar so we all can see what is happening and coordinate better, avoiding confusion, especially given how closely our names align.

4. Jerry Cohen discussed the need to be careful and ask permission before adding and removing names from groups, such as Men's Breakfast group.

DDSC Meeting Schedule and Location:
Every third Thursday of month until December 2026 at
Town of Millville, Chamber Room
36404 Clubhouse Road, Millville
September 17th 1- 4pm
October 15th 1- 4pm
November 19th 1- 4pm
December 17th 1- 4pm

Announce 50/50 raffle winner

Mike Childs announced Lisa Jacobs won the raffle drawing - of $20.00 from a total of $40.00 in all. Lisa gave her $20 winning to the Pickleball Tournament fund.

Adjournment of the Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 with Jerry Cohen (Dick Moore) making this motion.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Lytle, subbing for Secretary Mary Ann Richmond.