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President's Message

Written by: Dawn Watts *Translated by:* Megan Anderson-Christian

President's Message YouTube Link: [President's Message](#)

We are nearing the end of this month. As you know, March 13th-April 15th is a special time of year. It's the 5th anniversary of Ohio's Deaf History Month. Looking back, we started out as a small group, "the Deaf Grassroots Movement." As our small core team figured out our direction, we decided to change our name to "Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures." We continued on with the goal of establishing Ohio's Deaf History Month. After much work, we were thrilled to see it accepted by the state of Ohio. We continued to feel out our organization and have discussions with our board, we decided a name change was needed. We are now recognized by our new name.

Now we are working on a proposal for the United States Congress, for a National Deaf History Month. US Congresswoman Joyce Betty from Columbus Ohio has been eager to sponsor the bill along with several others. There were five co-sponsors ready to support the bill. Unfortunately, at that time Covid impacted everything. They were still eager to support the bill.

The National Association of the Deaf has a group called "Deaf Culture and History Section," where they held discussions about which month they wanted to assign to be "Deaf History Month." They chose the month of April. What's most important is national recognition. We are currently waiting for the American library association to approve this request. We should see a decision this upcoming April. So, keep your eyes open.

Also, ASL story hours are being held in libraries all over. I am amazed at how many small towns were interested in hosting ASL story times. I recently visited one of those libraries, just wow. We need to see more library's involved next year.

Deaf people have been telling me that they want to see displays in their local libraries. Which is absolutely wonderful! Wherever you live, go ahead and talk to your library yourself and advocate for a deaf history month display.

ODFL is currently selecting youths to help them become leaders. They will be working closely with Marsha Moore as Deaf Mentor, to help them grow.

Also Ronald Doubt has been selected to become a historian. He has been very active with OSDAA. His accounts of history are so important. We are grateful for their involvement.

We have also seen our student art contest grow. It started off with two only two students, then three and now four students have participated. I look forward to seeing more students participate next year.

Lastly, The Deaf Reader, our newsletter, will select various signers to sign select articles and upload them to youtube. Some of our readers seem to be able to read the articles but not fully understand the concept.

It is amazing to see how much you all have done for this non-profit organization, ODFL.

Again, Happy 5th anniversary, I look forward to doubling our time together and seeing our 10th anniversary.

Thank you and work together.

Dawn Watts

New Logo for Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library

Written by: Juanita Hall *Edited by:* Deborah Ozanich

It was decided by the Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures (OCDC) Board to change the name of their non-profit organization to Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library (ODFL). They realized that over the years since its establishment that many people didn't understand its name, Ohio Citizens of Deaf Cultures and its purpose with the Ohio Libraries. There has been precedent on the national level, for any organization that supports libraries to be called *Deaf Library* or *Friends of the Library*. The OCDC Board had a special meeting and voted to change its name to ODFL that will continue to spread awareness of Deaf culture, Deaf history, American Sign Language and other sign languages in various formats such as videos, books, and other resources.



This name change became official on Tuesday, January 6th, 2023 and the beautiful new logo is here!

The new logo was a wonderful team effort by the ODFL board. The idea was first brought up to the board by its President, Ms. Watts, which was approved. Then Tom Sephien drew a rough draft logo using color pencil drawing which included the signing and tactile signing hands, which was shared with the board.



Inside the logo tree, there are I Love You (I-L-Y) handshape signs. Also, there are "diversity" colorful hands. In the middle of the tree one can see the beautiful tactile hands which is a mode of communication where the DeafBlind communicate by touch. Lastly, in front of the tree is someone holding and reading a green book that represents a library to express that

we are the Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library. Members of the board shared their ideas and feedback on the logo. Andrew Knox edited the logo using modern digital artwork which resulted in this beautiful final logo. Thank you to the artists for their creation and dedication. Here is a photo of the logo being created.



Photos Description: Andrew Knox and Stepien Photos Credits: Google Images and Dawn Watts

From the Desk of ODFL's Librarian Advisor

Written by: Allison Ratcliff, Librarian Advisor *Edited by:* Deborah Ozanich

2023 is the 5th anniversary of the Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library (ODFL) hosting Ohio Deaf History Month. Because of this, ODFL wanted to make sure that this year's celebration was big! The best way to do that was to make sure as many people as possible knew about this special day so they could celebrate with us. In order to spread the word about Ohio Deaf History Month we contacted libraries all over Ohio to ask them to participate in hosting ASL Story Times and to also put up displays with books themed around Ohio Deaf History Month. This year has been a huge success with nine libraries located all over Ohio agreeing to host ASL Story Time programs! The libraries that have been involved include the following: Cleveland Heights – Coventry Village Branch, Dayton Metro Library, London Public Library, Napoleon Public Library, Portsmouth Public Library, Holland Branch Library, Worthington Public Library, Morley Library, and Willoughby-Eastlake Library. At these programs, children were able to see books signed in ASL, songs sung in ASL, and crafts centered around learning different ASL signs. These programs have allowed Deaf children to enjoy programs in their own language and hearing children to be introduced to a new language and culture.

So far four libraries have had story times and they have had a wonderful turnout to each of them. Cleveland Heights – Coventry Branch Library had a total of 14 people attending and the Worthington Public Library had 50 attendees. The Holland Branch Library had a total of 45 people that participated in their story time and the Portsmouth Public Library had 57 people attending theirs. A local bakery in Portsmouth, Kathy Sue's Bakery, even heard about the Portsmouth Public Library program and decided to donate snacks for everyone participating in the story time.

We are so thankful for everyone who volunteered their time to read or interpret for these events and are looking forward to hosting more ASL Story Times next year for Ohio Deaf History Month!

The Following libraries will be offering ASL Story Times in April:

London Public Library (London, OH): April 1st at 11:00AM

Morley Public Library (Painesville, OH): April 1st at 10:30AM

Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library (Eastlake, OH): April 5th at 10:00AM

Dayton Metro Library (Dayton, OH): April 12th at 10:00AM

Napoleon Public Library (Napoleon, OH): April 15th at 10:30AM

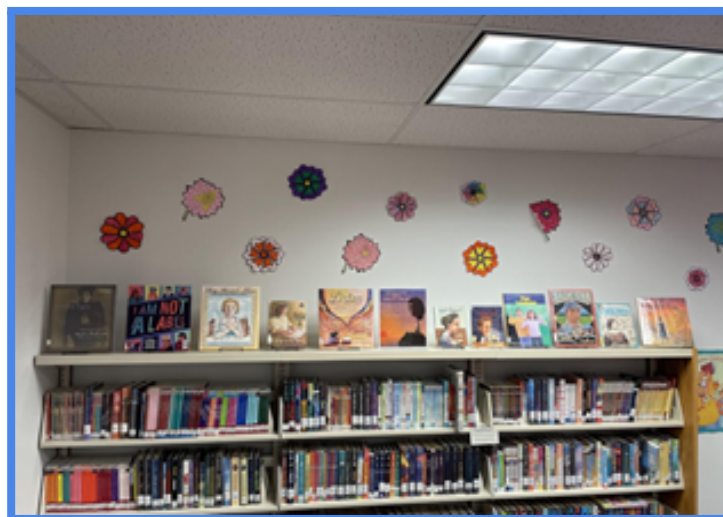
Worthington Park Library March 18, 2023



Photo Credit: Allison Ratcliff

[Malia Schneck's YouTube Message: Malia Schneck's Message](#)

Bellville Library Deaf History Month Display



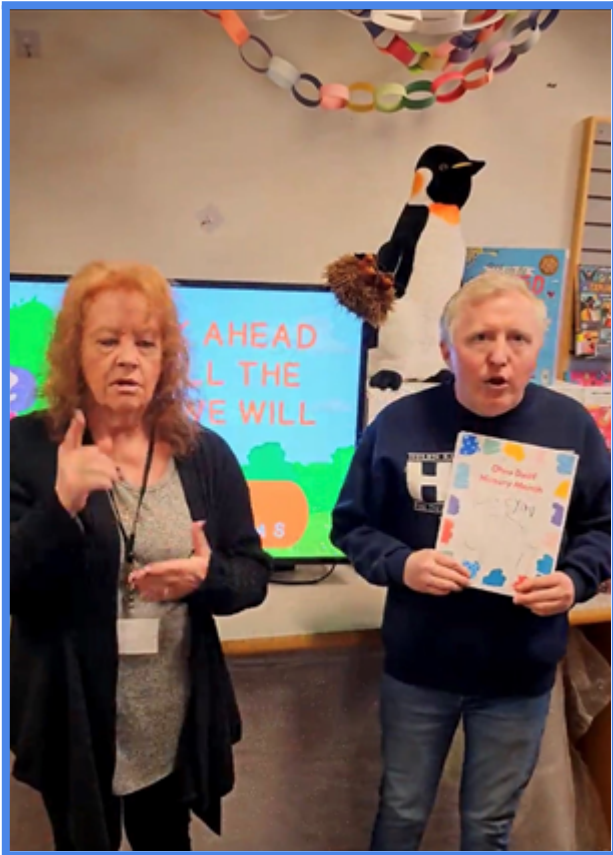
Photos Credit: Jessica Nini Fry

Athens Public Library Deaf Display



Photos Credit: Barbara Earth

Portsmouth Public Library Deaf Display



Photos Credit: Chris Cooley



Holland Public Library by Ann Bodette

Ohio Statehouse Display March 2023

Written by: Deborah Ozanich

If you can not get to the Ohio Statehouse, click on the link below to see a video of the display created by Debbie Brown & Dawn Watts. Go see it in person to see the pictures up close and read all the neat historical facts and the names of amazing influential people. Hope you enjoy this walk through video!

[Walk Through Video](#)

Following is the script of the video walk through at Ohio Statehouse Display, provided by ODFL.

Ohio Deaf History Month (ODHM) – March 13, 2023, to April 15, 2023

The State Library of Ohio Board proclaimed the period beginning March 13 and ending April 15, 2023, as Ohio's Deaf History Month and encourages Ohio libraries to display materials and host deaf awareness activities to highlight the significance of the many outstanding contributions made by Deaf and hearing pioneers, particularly in Deaf Education. Listed below are some of the accomplishments made in the Deaf Community.

384-322 B.C. **Aristotle**, ancient Greek philosopher, says those "born deaf become senseless and incapable of reason." His words echoed throughout Europe until the 1500s.

1520-1584 **Pedro Ponce de Leon**, was a Spanish Benedictine monk who is often credited as being "the first teacher of the deaf."

1755 **Abbe' Charles Michel de l' Epee** established the first school for the Deaf in the world, Paris, France. He, "Father of the Deaf," demonstrated that deaf people could develop communication with themselves and the hearing world through a system of conventional gestures, hand signs, and fingerspelling.

In 1814, **Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet** visited his family in Hartford, Connecticut. Looking out the window, he noticed that his younger brothers and sisters were not playing with another child. When he went out to investigate, he learned that this young woman, Alice Cogswell, was deaf. He didn't know how to sign, and he tried to communicate by pointing to his hat and writing H-A T in the dirt. She understood him, and he was inspired to teach her more. Her father, Mason Cogswell, a wealthy doctor, subsequently financed Thomas' trip to Europe since there were no schools for deaf children in the United States at that time.

1785-1869, **Laurent Clerc**, born in La Balme, a village in France. Became deaf at the age of one from falling off the chair by the fire in the kitchen of his home. The fire left a scar on his cheek. He lost his sense of smell and hearing. He began his education at the age of twelve because his family learned of a deaf school in Paris. His first teacher and mentor was Jean Massieu, who was a pioneering deaf educator that taught at the National Institute of the Deaf in Paris. Later he worked under Abbe' Sicard at the National Institute of the Deaf in Paris. Then later, he met Thomas Gallaudet in London in 1815, when Abbe' Sicard introduced Gallaudet to Laurent Clerc, a teacher, at a town hall where they gave a presentation about their school in Paris. Then later, Thomas Gallaudet bought Laurent Clerc by boat to come to the United States, and he was the first deaf teacher at American School for the Deaf on April 15, 1817.

April 15, 1817, **Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, Dr. Mason Cogswell,** and **Laurent Clerc** established the first American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut. The name of the school used to be "**Asylum for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb.**"

Alice Cogswell was the first deaf student taught by Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet at the American School for the Deaf.

1787-1851, **Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet** attended Yale University, earning his bachelor's degree in 1805, graduating at the age of 17, with the highest honors, and then earned a master's degree at Yale in 1808. He engaged in many things, such as studying law, trade, and theology. Later in 1814, he graduated from Andover Theological Seminary and attended there for two years. He declined several offers of the pastorate, due to ongoing concerns about his health.

He co-founded the first permanent institution for the education of the deaf in the United State, and he became its first principal. When it opened on April 15, 1817, it was called "**Connecticut Asylum for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons,**" but it is now known as the **American School for the Deaf** in Hartford, Connecticut.

His father, **Peter Wallace Gallaudet,** was a personal secretary to US President George Washington when the office of the President was in Philadelphia. He married one of his former deaf students, Sophia Fowler, in 1821. They have eight children together. Just days before his death, he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Case Western Reserve College in Cleveland, Ohio.

1827 **Colonel Smith's School for the Deaf** opens in Tallmadge, Ohio.

On October 18, 1829, **Ohio School for the Deaf** opened. The name of the school used to be called "Asylum for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb," then changed the name of the school to "Ohio Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb," then changed the name of the school to "Ohio School for the Deaf."

Robert Patterson, (1848-1942), Teacher and Principal. He was born on December 11, 1848, in Oakley, Fifeshire, Scotland. In 1852 his family immigrated to the U.S. They later moved to Ohio. He went to Ohio Institution (Ohio State School for the Deaf) in 1859. He went to Gallaudet College in the fall of 1886 and graduated in June 1870. He taught at Ohio Institution in the fall of 1870 to 1890 then he became a principal from 1890 to 1921. He and Superintendent **John W. Jones** wrote a book titled, "Ohio Institution for the Deaf Course of Instruction, 1896," outlining the course of instruction for the school and shops, and it also served as a manual for the teachers.

In March 1864, **President Abraham Lincoln** promoted Ulysses S. Grant to the rank of Lieutenant general. General Ulysses Grant was tone-deaf. He had no sense of rhythm and could not march correctly. Grant had grown up in Brown County, Ohio, and on his way to Washington, D. C. in early March to begin his new command, he stopped in Columbus, Ohio, and stayed with Governor David Todd. As the military escort made its way past the Ohio Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, a line of deaf students saluted the general and the soldiers accompanying him by waving handkerchiefs. Grant bowed his uncovered head to the crowd, and his carriage then stopped at the school. Superintendent George L. Weed stepped forward with Robert Patterson, a deaf student, and as Patterson signed his address congratulating Grant for his success, Weed spoke words to the audience. The great soldier graciously accepted the heartfelt message presented by the deaf

student.

On the day of April 8, 1864, **President Abraham Lincoln** signed the charter for the **Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb to National Deaf-Mute College**. The same day the US Senate passed the thirteenth amendment to abolish slavery in America.

On the day of April 29, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln's body was laid in the Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio. The deaf students at the Ohio Institution joined thousands of local townspeople in paying their last respects to the slain president.

Dr. Edward Miner Gallaudet was involved in a historic debate with **Alexander Graham Bell** over ASL and Oralism at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., in the year 1886. Both men did not win the debate. At the **Milan Conference in 1886**, the delegates voted to support oralism in the school system. After that, many teachers supported Bell with Oralism. AND Sign Language was banned in the U.S. Oral Schools for a century.

On November 14, 1892, The **Cleveland Day School for the Deaf** was opened by John H. Geary. He was deaf and also was the Principal of the School.

Robert P. McGregor was deaf, and he was born in Ohio. In 1880, the National Association of the Deaf-Mutes, which is now called the National Association for the Deaf (NAD), hosted its first conference founded by him in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the first president of the NAD (1880-1883).

Robert P. McGregor was the Founder of the first Ohio Home for the Aged and Infirm Deaf in 1896 in Westerville, Ohio. Now the name is called **Columbus Colony Elderly Care**.

In 1915, **St. Rita School for the Deaf** opened. St. Rita School for the Deaf is an independent Roman Catholic school located in the village of Evendale, near Cincinnati, Ohio.

Art Kruger has been called the "architect," "guiding light," "father," and "wizard" of the **American Athletic Association of the Deaf (AAAD)**, which he co-founded in 1945. He used to work for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio, back then.

Frances Woods was born deaf, and she was from Ohio. She was a dancer. She was married to **Billy Bray**, who was hearing, and he was a dancer. They both travel to dance in nightclubs and hotels nationwide and beyond. Robert L. Ripley, of "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" Fame called them "The Wonder Dancers."

The merger of the **Ohio Deaf Motorists Association** and **Ohio Federation of Organizations of the Deaf** set the pattern for a strong group on October 3, 1959, in Ohio. Later they changed the name to become **Ohio Association for the Deaf (OAD)** in 1961.

The birthplace of the **Registry Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)** was at Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, on June 16, 1964.

Frederick C. Schreiber became deaf at the age of six. He graduated from Gallaudet University in 1942, and became actively involved in local, then national, Deaf politics. At the National Association for the Deaf (NAD)

1964 convention, he was elected Secretary Treasurer, an unpaid position. At the 1966 convention, the position of Executive Director was created, and he was unanimously elected. He was a leader and advocate. He and his wife used to live in Akron, Ohio, where he worked for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.

On June 8, 1965, President Johnston signed **Public Law 89-36**, establishing NTID into law at a special ceremony in the White House Rose Garden.

Malcolm J Norwood, known as "Mac," to friends, stands out in the Deaf and hard-of hearing community as "The Father of Closed Captioning."

Robert Haig Weibrecht is the first deaf person who invented the first Teletypewriter (TTY) in 1964.

Louise Hume became deaf at the age of 14. She moved to Akron, Ohio, after she graduated from Gallaudet University. She used to work for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company for two years in Akron. She and her husband, Boyd Hume, helped in the establishment of a successful Vocational Rehabilitation Program for the Deaf in Ohio. She established a story hour for deaf children at the Akron Library. She did a lot more to help the deaf community through the years. Also, she received a lot of different awards during her lifetime of service.

Alice L. Hagemeyer worked for the District of Columbia Public Library for 34 years. She's cited in Deaf Heritage as one of the earliest organizers of the Deaf Awareness Week (now known as Deaf Heritage Week). In 1976 she began serving as "Librarian for the Deaf Community". In 1986, she founded Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action (FOLDA).

Dr. William Stokoe, Jr. is called "The Father of ASL Linguistics".

The **Deaf President Now (DPN)** were four student leaders (Jerry Covell, Tim Rarus, Greg Hlibok, and Bridgetta Bourne-Firl) to help to protect Gallaudet University with the students from March 6-13, 1988, captured the world's attention to have a first Deaf President.

On March 13, 1988, **Dr. I. King Jordan** became the first Deaf President at Gallaudet University.

On July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**, the most sweeping affirmation of rights for the disabled in American history at the time, into law.

Skip Bergquist, who is deaf, had helped and worked for the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission for many years. He was a good leader for the deaf.

Jeffrey Bohrman was born profoundly deaf and lost his sight later in life due to Usher's Syndrome. After receiving his doctorate in pharmacology, he worked as a research toxicologist for a number of years before changing his career to work as a leader and advocate within local, statewide, national, and international organizations serving the needs of people who are disabled and DeafBlind. He worked as a research scientist for the government. He was instrumental in establishing the Ohio DeafBlind Outreach Program at the Columbus Speech and Hearing Center, and the Ohio Association of the DeafBlind. Jeff served in different capacities with the American Association of the DeafBlind. In the middle of the 2000s, the Ohio DeafBlind Outreach Program closed due to a lack of finances. He passed away on November 7, 2022.

Willian E. "Dummy Hoy, born May 23, 1862, in Houcktown, Ohio. He was not Major League Baseball's first deaf player, but he was the game's most successful. He finished his career, which spanned from 1888-1902, with 2,048 hits, 596 stolen bases, and 725 runs batted in. In the 21st century, Hoy received consideration by the Veterans Committee for induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. (He becomes the second Deaf Player in Professional Baseball).

Troy Kotsur won Best Supporting Actor at the 94th Academy Awards for his role "CODA". He was only the second deaf actor ever to win an Oscar. His win also marked the first time a deaf actor won an award at the ceremony in 36 years, after his "CODA" co-star Marlee Marlin's historic win for "Children of a Lesser God." Needless to say, he's made his mark.

Clevelander **Charles "Chuck" Williams** Has Been Fighting for Black Deaf Lives for More Than 70 Years.

The **Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library** for the 1st Annual Children's Drawing Art Contest for the Ohio Deaf History Month was established in the year 2021.

Artist's Statement, "much of my work depicts the Deaf experience expressed in the most appropriate form of communication: visual art. I present both the suppression, and the beauty of Deaf Culture and American Sign Language as I see it; in the past, and in the present. I hope this work, and the understanding that may arise from this visual expression will help bridge the gap between the Deaf world, and the hearing world. By Betty Miller, Artist 1934-2012.
Credit to: Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library, 2023

American Sign Language Storytime

Saturday, April 1st
10:30 AM

Join us for a special Storytime in American Sign Language presented by Crystal White!
No registration required.
March 13th-April 15th is Ohio Deaf History Month.

Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library

MORLEY LIBRARY
184 Phelps St. Painesville, OH 44077
440-352-3383 www.morleylibrary.org

ASL STORYTIME

Join Kelly from Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library as she presents storytime in American Sign Language!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 10AM
Willoughby Public Library
30 Public Square, Willoughby OH

Register online at WE247.org or call 440.942.3200

SCAN ME

we
Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library

ASL Storytime at Worthington Park Library

Written By: Brad Race

On Saturday, March 18th, 2023, Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library (ODFL) held an ASL Storytime event at the Worthington Park Library. In fact, it was the first time that the ODFL held an ASL Storytime at this library and I'm very pleased to say it exceeded all expectations and was a rousing success.

ODFL collaborated with the Worthington Park library and the Ohio School for the Deaf to help celebrate Ohio Deaf History Month, which occurs annually from March 13th to April 15th. Once more, this collaboration also helped in celebrating American sign language and Deaf Culture. With their help, we managed to have an excellent turnout of fifty-two people in attendance. Of the fifty-two, twenty-three were children of Preschool and Kindergarten ages. Three of the twenty-three children were Deaf.

At the forefront of our successful ASL Storytime were Malia Schneck, our deaf ASL Storyteller, Brittany Watts, Interpreter, and Laela Tague-Behler, Saturday's Story Time coordinator. All three worked together so seamlessly in signing/singing, teaching signs, and doing crafts. With sign language being added to storytime, it was neat to watch the children and their parents actively participate in the stories by signing keywords as it was told. Children and parents alike also enjoyed the thrill of participation and the choreography of movements.

Credit must also be given to those who worked behind the scenes to make this ASL Storytime successful. They were Allison Ratcliff, Kate Shumaker, Mrs. Schneck, and Dawn Watts. Thank you all for your contributions.

In closing, I'd like to emphasize the importance of ASL Storytime. Storytimes incorporating American Sign Language can introduce families with hearing young ones to a hands-on second language and add an appealing new twist, making storytime even more fun, educational, and engaging. For deaf children, ASL storytime gives them an equitable and inclusive learning environment as well as provides the opportunity for socialization.



Photo Credit: Dawn K Watts

“Celebrate Deaf History with us!”

Shared from: National Association of the Deaf (NAD) via Youtube

Our Deaf History should be preserved like any other history. We have so much history - each and every one of us, not just the NAD as a deaf civil rights organization since 1880 - it's you, your classmate, your state association, your organization, your sign language dialects and variations, your deaf doctor, your deaf carpenter, etc... we all contribute to deaf history. And our Deaf history should be honored like others. And THAT's what we're celebrating April 1-30, our Deaf history.

[Celebrate Deaf History Video \(click to watch a movie\)](#)



Cleveland Clinic
Lerner College of Medicine

I'm So Amazing

A documentary film exploring disability



Meet Angie C. Orlando, a writer who happens to be DeafBlind. Orlando and others describe life experiences pertaining to those with various types of bodies. Issues such as Inspiration Porn and the state of services offered to people with disabilities are explored.

Stay for the Q&A with Angie and the filmmakers after the film.

More information and to register:

 burkek@ccf.org

 [Register here](#)

Directed by David Smeltzer
Produced by Kenneth and Leah Subak

Sponsored by the Program in Medical Humanities at CCLCM

 Health Education Campus
9501 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland OH 44106

Wednesday, April 12
Reception: 6:30 p.m.
Film: 7 p.m.
Health Education Campus,
Room 176

Statewide Need for Support Service Providers for DeafBlind Ohioans

Written by: Terry Blosser

On March 7th, 2023, members and supporters/advocates of the Ohio Association of the DeafBlind went to the Ohio Statehouse to provide testimony to the Ohio House Health and Human Services subcommittee on the need for a statewide Support Service Provider (SSP) for DeafBlind Ohioans (this includes individuals who may identify as having a combined vision and hearing loss). Many of you may have heard or read the term “CoNavigator or CN.” SSP and CN can and are oftentimes used interchangeably.

Those who came to support and advocate for OADB and the SSP program were: Dawn Watts (50+years advocating and being an SSP for DB Ohioans; Donna Schultz (President of OADB); Art Roehrig (member of OADB); Rick Schultz (SSP); John Filek (Regional Representative of the Helen Keller National Center); Alexia Kemmerling (Disability Rights Ohio Community Liaison); Julie Felts (Columbus Speech and Hearing Center SSP Program Manager); Jason Judy (member of OADB); and Terry Blosser with his guide dog, Pickles (member of OADB). Donna, Art, Dawn, and Terry all spoke (testified) before the committee chaired by Sarah Carruthers, Ranking Republican member on the House Health and Human Services subcommittee.

All of the individuals who spoke stressed the need for an SSP/CN program for Ohio. Over 30+ SSP programs already exist throughout the United States. All spoke about the challenges that face DB individuals in their daily lives and how much an SSP program would help the DB communities, to be able to be a part of their local community, their family, and more importantly, provide these individuals a semblance of normalcy by empowering them to be able to make more decisions on their own, with the aid of an SSP.

Various subcommittee members expressed their interest in learning more about the SSP program and some have already met with key figures in the Ohio House and Senate, sharing their stories, expressing the need and urgency for the SSP program. With the help of DRO and others, we ARE making progress in getting our voices heard. We hope, over the next few weeks, to make more progress by partnering with the OAO Alliance, various advocacy groups, and members of the House and Senate, to get the SSP program funded and established here in Ohio.

As more information becomes available, we will be sure to let all of you know and we hope that you too will contact your state legislators and ask them to also support an SSP program for DB Ohioans. Stay tuned!



Donna Schultz discussed with Rep. LaRe



John F, Terry Blosser, Art



John Filek, Region HKNC, Rep. Hoops, Art Roehrig and Dawn Watts

Photos credit: Dawn Watts

Donna Schultz, President of the Ohio Association of the DeafBlind requests you to please support HB 33 (House Finance on Disabilities) for Support Service Providers in the statewide OHIO.

Here is YOUTUBE:[Donna Schultz, President OADB movie](#) (click to watch a movie)

Description: Video shows: Donna Schultz at the Ohio State house. She is an older woman with glasses, her hair is light brown and shoulder length. She is wearing glasses, a burgundy-colored button up shirt with a black beaded necklace.

Transcript: My name is Donna Schultz, I am the president of the Ohio Association of the Deaf Blind. We are at the Ohio State House today, March 7th. I am here with two other Deaf blind individuals and one other deaf individual- Myself, Terry Blosser, who is hard of hearing and blind, Art Roehrig, who is deaf blind, and Dawn Watts, who is an experienced SSP (support service provider,) with 50 years of experience, and is Deaf. We came here to give testimony about SSP's. We took turns as the finance committee listened to each of our testimonies. In the afternoon the legislative house of representatives will speak with us. We need your support. Thank you.

REDS **HEARING SPEECH + DEAF CENTER**

REDS vs. **PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES** **April 15th // 4:10pm**

Come join Hearing Speech + Deaf Center for a game at Great American Ball Park as the Cincinnati Reds take on the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday, April 15th at 4:10pm.

To purchase tickets, please scan this QR code with your smart device:

For questions or group purchases of 15 or more please email Annie at amenegay@reds.com.

reds.Com / Groups

Third Annual Student Drawing Art Contest 2023

First Place Winners!

Kindergarten to Second Grade Group: Ean Kelly, 6 years old, Kindergarten from Fairview Park, Ohio



Third to Fifth Grade Group: Nori Penfield, 9 years old, Third grade, from Sandusky, Ohio



Second Place Winners!

Kindergarten to Second Grade Group: Matthew Fry, 8 years old, Second grade from Bellville, Ohio

Third to Fifth Grade Group: Gwenneth Kelly, 8 years old, Third grade from Fairview Park, Ohio

Sixth to Eighth Grade Group: (none submitted)

Third Place Winners!

Kindergarten to Second Grade Group: Emersyn Korecky, 7 years old, First grade from Brunswick, Ohio

Third to Fifth Grade Group: Mila Parsons, 9 years old, Third grade from Brunswick, Ohio

Sixth to Eighth Grade Group: (none submitted)

Ninth to Twelfth Grade Group: Anisha Monger, 17 years old, Eleventh grade from Brooklyn, Ohio

Honorable Mentions!

Kindergarten to Second Grade Group: Madeleine Fry, 8 years old, Second grade from Bellville, Ohio

Third to Fifth Grade Group:

- Devon Gonzales, 9 years old, Third grade from Sandusky, Ohio
- Devon Gonzales, 9 years old, Third grade from Sandusky, Ohio

Congratulations on our Winners!

**HUGE thanks to our sponsor,
the Advocates 4 Kids**

**Check out all the wonderful drawings on ODFL's
Facebook page!**

Broken Promises to the Blind and Low Vision Community

Written by: Dawn Watts *Reprinted with Permission:* Ohio Association of the DeafBlind

To: OADB eNEWS <oadb.eneews@gmail.com>

From: ACB-Conversation@acblists.org

Nearly 5 decades of broken promises to the blind and low vision community has left the United States an outlier in the developed world – the only country whose paper currency is inaccessible to those with disabilities. But together we can push the Biden Administration and US Treasury to put us on a course to accessible and inclusive currency for all.

The US Treasury is currently redesigning the \$20 bill to include a portrait of Harriet Tubman, and a 2008 Federal Court Order says that any new currency redesigns must include accommodations to individuals who are blind or low vision. The Administration is hoping to sneak through the redesign without making the bills accessible – they're hoping we won't notice or put up a fight.

That's why on March 10th – Harriet Tubman Day – we're coming together for a rally in front of the White House with one clear demand: we need accessible and inclusive currency now! Join us at 1:30pm in Lafayette Square and let's show the Administration we won't let them kick the can down the road again!

This isn't rocket science. The solutions are clear – different size notes, braille, large print denominations, high color contrast – that's why they've been implemented by over a hundred countries around the world.

It's time for the Biden Administration to step up to the plate and commit to currency that's both accessible and inclusive. Let's show them we're serious – Click here to RSVP. Even if you can't make it in person, you can still RSVP for the rally to show your support!

Since 1961 the American Council of the Blind has been working to increase the independence, security, equality of opportunity, and to improve the quality of life of all individuals who are blind or experiencing vision loss – see you on March 10th to keep up the fight.

“Three Girls Before and Now”

Written by: Dawn Watts *Translated by:* Megan Anderson-Christian

[“Three Girls Before and Now” ASL Translation Video](#)

Description: Dawn sitting in a room at a table with three girls standing behind the table. All four of them facing the camera. Hello I am Dawn Watts, here with three deaf girls. During our first interview we talked about audism and then deaf history month. That first interview took place 9 years ago. Let me show the girls today.

Three girls: Hi, Hi, Hi. Felicia: I’m Felicia, I’m in the 10th grade and soon will be 16 years old. Gianna: I’m Gianna (shows sign name) I’m in the 9th grade and 14 years old. Elisa: I’m Elisa, I am 11 in the 6th grade

Dawn: I am so happy to be here again with these girls. I have several questions for these girls. First, do you remember that you told a story about audism? All three girls: Yes, I remember. (All smiling)

Dawn: I had a hard time with Elisa (dawn points to Elisa and she smiles) She wouldn’t talk with me. I’m Deaf too, but I had to give her time to warm up. But with the two sisters (Felicia and Gianna) helping. We started chatting right away and talked for a while. Later in that discussion we talked about the US Congresswoman Joyce Betty and her sponsorship of the bill supporting a National Deaf History Month. Do you girls remember that discussion? Felicia and Gianna: Yes, I remember. Elisa: No, I don’t remember.

Dawn: Oh Elisa doesn’t remember. Well now all three of these girls are teenagers or about to be. They are not children anymore. So now I’m letting them know that we had talked with US Congresswoman Joyce Betty’s assistant about this bill. At that time everything was thrown off because of Covid 19. Now the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) has approved and will be proposing National Deaf History Month to the American Library Association for their approval. We are hoping to hear that next April they will approve a National Deaf History Month. Fingers Crossed. All three girls cross their fingers.

Dawn: Last thing I want to ask the girls is what do they want to do with their future. They are growing up. First, I will ask Felicia (uses her sign name) what she wants to do? Felicia: I want to become a teacher for deaf children. Dawn: Now Gianna? Gianna: I want to be a zoologist or a veterinarian. Dawn: Wow, that’s challenging work. And Elisa? Elisa: I want to become an art teacher.

Dawn: Wow, I wish you all good luck. For my last question, I want to see what you have noticed from our first conversation until now. Almost 10 years later as you have grown. Felicia: I have seen a lot of displays spreading awareness about deaf culture. Finally, Gianna: I have seen a lot of advertisements for ASL classes and clubs. Elisa: I’m seeing a lot more deaf movies with signing. It’s very cool.

Dawn: Yes definitely. I have noticed a lot of our libraries in Ohio are signing stories. Maybe next year these three girls will sign stories in one of our libraries here in Columbus. Would you girls like that? All three girls: Yes, yes, yes. (smiling)

Dawn: ASL is beautiful right? All three girls: Right!

Dawn: Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Description: Interview followed by the girls playing outside by a pine tree. Signing dramatically and playfully to stop oppression and hugging each other, emphasizing equality and respect. Then followed by a picture of the three girls sitting next to each other as children with the words Deaf History Month across the screen. Then a picture of Dawn Watts talking with the three girls at the library. Followed by more slides of the three girls.

Statehood Day at the Statehouse March 2, 2023

Written by: Debbie Brown *Edited by:* Deborah Ozanich

I attended the Statehood Day on March 2, 2023 at the Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio. They host it once a year. It is a wonderful opportunity to advocate for Ohio History and showcase everything that is great about our state. It is the third time that I attended. I really love it and there is so much more to learn about our state history. Ohio became a state 220 years ago, on March 1st.

This year, the annual Statehood Day is a joint effort by: the Ohio History Connection, Heritage Ohio, The Ohio Academy of History, The Ohio Archaeological Council, The Ohio Local History Alliance, The Ohio Travel Association, The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board, The Ohio Museums Association, Ohio Humanities, Preservation Ohio, The Ohio Genealogical Society, The Ohio Council for Social Studies, The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board and the Society of Ohio Archivists. It was really interesting to learn more about it.

I was so excited to have an opportunity to meet Cameron Fontana, he is the host of Good Day Columbus on ABC6 and FOX28, the Governor Mike DeWine and his wife Fran DeWine, Former US Senator Robert Jones Portman and Miss Ohio Elizabetta Nies. I did not have an interpreter with me but I was very eager to meet them.

I encourage you to attend the Statehouse Day once a year, during the first week of March.



Photos Credit: Debbie Brown

Welcome Aboard! Rolland Doudt's Historian Eye

Written by: Rolland Doudt *Edited by:* Deborah Ozanich

Rolland Doudt is a historian for the Ohio School for the Deaf Alumni Association (OSDAA). Interests also include two deaf residential schools, East Town and Morse Road and telling in ASL signs of historical happenings. He has researched and collected data collecting from the year of 1970 thru 1996 school weekly paper known as The Ohio Chronicle.

He is currently collecting all vintage photos/documents and films to convert into digital systems. All collections should be filed at the Ohio School for the Deaf Alumni and Ohio Library archive files.

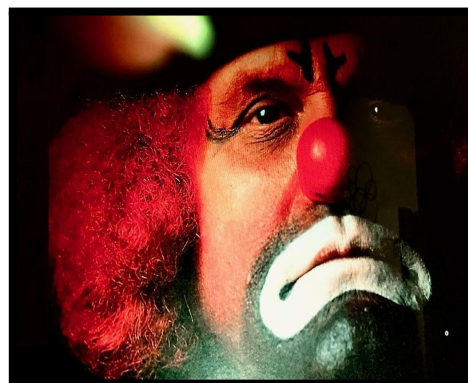
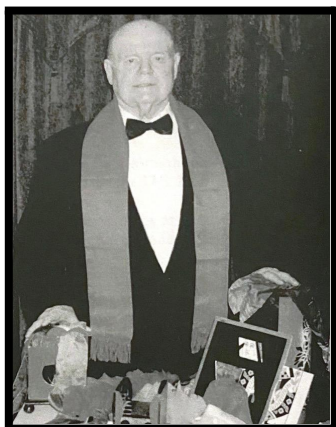


Heartbreak and Humors of Aging: Freeman “Smitty” Smith Appears at 58th Biennial OSDAA Convention

Written by: Rolland Doudt, Contributor

The upcoming 58th Biennial Convention of the Ohio School for the Deaf Alumni Association features an exciting event under the entertainment program, announced by Convention Chairman, Elwin Babb. Former OSD alumnus member, Freeman Smith of Chicago, alias “Smitty the Clown,” was employed as a professional clown for 40 years. Freeman plans to appear June 24 at Columbus Colony Community Center, Westerville, OH.

There will be all day events including meetings, luncheon and banquet with “Smitty the Clown” appearance. (His last stop in Columbus was for a performance for Tebala Klowns of Tebala Shriners in the 90s.) “This is a piece about joy, loss and searching for my journey,” Freeman said. He says he is mostly anxious about meeting old and new school friends. Freeman plans to share treasure boxes that will reveal a collection of past memories. Plan to join us! For further information and tickets, check OSDAA website, <https://columbuscolony.org/Alums>



Golfer Honored at St. Rita's School for the Deaf Scholarship Benefit

Shared from [Kevin Hall Golfer Video \(Click to Watch the Video\)](#)

By Morgan Parrish

Published: Mar. 25, 2023 at 10:59 PM EDT|Updated: Mar. 26, 2023 at 8:13 AM EDT

CINCINNATI (WXIX) - A Tri-State PGA golfer and St. Rita's School for the Deaf alumnae was recognized Saturday for being a trailblazer in the community.

Kevin Hall broke ground as the first Black golfer to play at Ohio State, is a Big Ten champion, and is a four-time Advocates Professional Golf Association Tour winner.

And this year, Hall was chosen as St. Rita's honoree at the 47th Annual Dream Maker's Scholarship Benefit.

The benefit helps fund scholarships for its students. Honorees are advocates of the deaf community who have gone on to succeed in their endeavors.

"It's a really special feeling, because all my life, I worked really hard achieving my goals and dreams; now my family is being recognized for it," Hall said. "I'm happy to share this honor with my parent. It is a real special night, family and friends all around."

"We're all very proud of Kevin; he's come a long way. He's had to overcome some obstacles and challenges, but he's done it, and he's done it with class and grace, and we're proud of his accomplishments, said Angela Frith, St. Rita's' president.

The St. Rita motto is "Dream... Achieve...Soar," which is what Hall did, despite losing his hearing as a two-year-old after battling H-flu meningitis.

By age nine, Hall picked up his first golf club, and the rest is history.

"I want the next generation to know if you have a dream, you can arrive at your dream if you work hard and have a plan," he said.

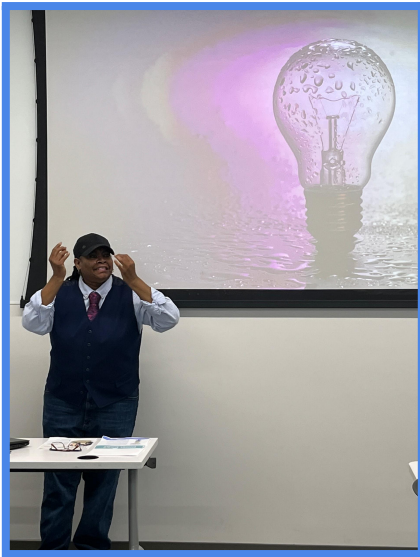
The St. Rita's class of 2000 graduate became a professional golfer who has been inducted into the African American Golfers Hall of Fame.

"He definitely doesn't forget where he came from; his parents have raised a fabulous person, and he makes an impact wherever he goes- he's very inspirational," Frith said.

"Really, it was special for me because I've always gone on the road less traveled," Hall shared. "I don't wanna be normal - I wanna be different...kids can look up to me because of that - that's how my parents raised me. Don't settle for ordinary; try to be extraordinary."

Black Deaf Community: Antines “NuNu” Davis

[Antines "NuNu" Davis Black Deaf Community \(click to watch a movie\)](#)



Columbus Public Library and Cleveland Speech Hearing Center on March 11, 2023.



Coming “Juneteenth Cook Day” in Cleveland. Mark on your calendar June 17th. Juneteenth for the year 2023 is celebrated on Monday, June 19. It is an annual holiday commemorating the emancipation of the enslaved African Americans back in 1865. More information and contact to Aileen Reusche at areusche@chsc.org

Mentor Wellness Program

Written by: Dawn Watts

Exercise program self care. Dawn took this course virtually every meeting, It is fun to learn how to care of myself because of my senior age. The National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (HCHPAD) offers classes. It is an eight week Mentor Wellness Program. They provide four classes: Mindfulness, Exercise, Nutrition, and Health Coaching with closed captioned, but you can request an ASL interpreter.

“We work to foster an environment where all MENTOR participants can thrive on wellness through learning, belonging, and self-discover of true assets that you discover through the portals of mind, body and spirit”. Mentor’s Health Coach Core Value.



Just call 202-957-3772 or email to aimee98@uab.edu

<https://mentor.nchpad.org/>

COLUMBUS DEAF THEATRE

The purpose of CDT is to establish a Deaf-centric space where the community can find arts and programming in their language. By using local talent, we can promote and encourage the success of local Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and Deaf-disabled individuals.

"A dream in the making..."

Get Involved

Anybody of any age and experience level can get involved! We have upcoming opportunities for actors, directors, dance coaches, interpreters, wardrobe, and tech crew experts! Keep an eye on our social media for upcoming productions, casting calls, and workshops. Please contact us for any specific inquires.

Our Vision

We envision a future where CDT is a successful theatre agency for the Deaf community in the state of Ohio. We hope that CDT will eventually travel across Ohio and other states to perform. Someday, CDT might get the opportunity to establish our own commercial space with all the equipment needed to create outstanding productions!

Board Members

Visit our social media to learn more about our Founding Board Members. Coming soon on our social pages - Board Officer announcements!

Future Productions

Presenting "All Columbus Deaf Theatre is Here" at DeafNation Expo on April 29th.

Donations

We are very grateful to have the community's support in founding this non-profit organization! If you would like to donate to us, our Venmo is @columbusdeaftheatre.

@columbusdeaftheatre columbusdeaftheatre@gmail.com [Columbus Deaf Theatre](#)

Columbus
EAT TO SUPPORT 2023 ASLTA NPDC - Deaf Art

04.12.23
11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

USE PROMO CODE
FundA

CITY BARBEQUE
2111 W Henderson Rd, Columbus

City BARBELUE

MUSEUM of DEAF HISTORY, ARTS, & CULTURE

DEAFHOOD INSTITUTE

Museum Store Online: New items in the Museum Store!

The Museum is open to the public Wednesday to Saturday:
10am - 4pm

Free Docent Tour on 2nd Saturday of the month

(Next one is on April 8th).

Take a Deafhood 101 Class with Deafhood Institute

Deafhood 101 is an introduction to consciousness-raising of the “Deaf Being” through the lens of phono-centric surdinalism of the Deaf peoples. We explore the hidden discourses behind the medical/scientific hegemony controlling the education of Deaf people. We promote a better understanding of the unlimited potential of our Deaf people.

Within our curriculum, we cover the following: phonocentric colonialism, Deafhood vs deafness, the Deaf community before surdinalism , Deaf culture status, minorities within the Deaf community, subalterns, identity, deficit thinking, eugenics, reframing, and 1,001 victories.

Date: Two Weekend Course - Meets 4 times per weekend: April 22nd - April 30th, 2023

Time: Saturdays: 10am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 4pm CST

Time: Sundays: 10am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 4pm CST

Location: Online (Zoom)

Cost: \$195

Audience: For Deaf people only (The language of the class is in ASL.)

Facilitator: Dr. Jenny Gough

Deafhood 101 is a 20-hour course based on a framework of Paddy Ladd's powerful book, Understanding Deaf Culture: In Search of Deafhood and the work of the Deafhood Institute Curriculum Development Team.

MDHAC's Deafhood Institute was just in Atlanta, Danville (KY), Denver, Knoxville and St. Paul this year for in-person classes and workshops! We are headed to Memphis later this Spring!

This year Johnson County Kansas Heritage Foundation is hosting a fun and interactive murder mystery dinner party. Dust off your saddle shoes and step back to 1957 to solve the mystery at the sock hop.

Location: Thompson Barn-11184 Lackman Rd Lenexa, KS

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Attire: 1950s theme.....think Poodle Skirts and Leather Jackets!

THE DEAF READER



Cost: \$100-includes dinner, drinks, silent auction and a night of intrigue

The money raised from this evening will provide grant opportunities to affiliate members for projects that help tell and preserve the history of our area. To find out more about these organizations, check out the JCKHF website.

Register - JCKHF

Save the Date!

5th Biennial Boots & BBQ Un-Gala Benefit

November 4, 2023

4pm-8pm (CST)

Location: Old Historic Shawnee Town

More info about Tours at MDHAC can be found at:

Facebook: TheDeafMuseum

Instagram: thedeafmuseum

Website: www.museumofdeaf.org

Become a Friend of MDHAC as a member, partner, sponsor or donor.

Your annual support and additional contributions will help preserve the language, history, arts, culture and contributions of diverse Deaf people nationally and worldwide for future generations to appreciate and understand about the Deaf community as a cultro-linguistic minority.

BECOME A FRIEND! Subscribe for Updates

455 E Park St, Olathe, KS, United States

913.324.5348

**ODFL Board Meeting
January 19, 2023
Zoom Meeting**

Attendees: Gail T, Lori L, Ann B, Chuck W, Angie P, Regis Christ, Paul W, Allison R, Martin T, Debbie B, Deb O, Brad R, Juanita H, Bonnie S, Dawn W *Excused: Tim M, Kimberly S, Andrew K*

Visitors: Malia Schneck, Christine Stepien, and Sarah (DWAVE) Volunteer Interpreters: Lori Luk and Maria

The zoom meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by President Dawn Watts

Debbie Brown (Martin Teltser) moved that October 13, 2022 minute report be accepted as read. **PASSED**

Martin T (Chuck Williams) moved that January 4, 2023 minute report be accepted as read. **PASSED**

Dawn introduced Christine Stepien who is may be interested to be ODFL Secretary. Also, Malia Schneck who is a Senior from Ohio School for the Deaf, was excited to learn our parliamentary procedure in the ODFL meeting. Welcome them to the ODFL.

President's Report - Dawn Watts (attached report)

Alice H mentioned to me that she would send her Tool Kit for Libraries Annual Events, but I didn't get it. And I added YouTube, the Black Deaf Advocate workshop on March 11th. Discussed with Bob Donaldson-Pirc about our ODFL Advisor for Bylaws. He accepted. On Tuesday, Jan 24, the Bylaws committee (Angie, Juanita, Lori, Regis) will meet. Brad Race is interested in becoming Rep for Columbus. We need to set up our scheduled meeting for 2023: April 20, 2023.

August ? (First or second week of August) Short meeting and Retreat Nov. 16, 2023. Election voting.

Remind you that this year will be your last officers. You can run for another year if you want or bring a new candidate who may like to elect for the new officers next year, 2024. Last week, I attended the OSU Health Disability Advisory Leaders by zoom meeting. To improve the DeafBlind people for the SSP. Now, they are interested to get the Deaf Reader Newsletter. Increased about 40 emails on the list.

Vice President's Report (Kimberly Savage) Sick

Created flyer: Black Deaf Advocates in Columbus Library on March 11, 2023. Cleveland is interested to set up zoom meetings where Black Deaf people can attend.

Treasurer's Report - (Gail Teltser)

Angie P (Debbie B) moved to accept the 2022 4th Quarter October 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, with two audits' signatures. She will ask for two audits for the 2022 year and then send us as soon as possible. Charities by Amazon is no longer a service.

ODFL Reps: Angie Potosky would like to take her people in the local ASL Storyteller in the libraries.

Dawn agreed and supported the concept for all Reps who will take their duties with deaf people who want to sign for ASL Storyteller in the library. It needs to report to our Allison R, ODFL Librarian Advisor.

Allison R, ODFL Librarian Advisor said, "tomorrow morning, she will send us the schedule, who, where, when, and so forth for ASL Storyteller." Dawn said that Allison has all different books, songs, art/crafts for the 5th Anniversary of Ohio Deaf History Month on March 13 to April 15, 2023. Encouraged all Reps or others to contact Allison.

Chairpersons' Report:

Debbie B: attached is her report. Any reps contacted their local libraries for Ohio Deaf History Month Display. Contacted the Ohio statehouse for displaying recently. It was in March 2022 but the COVID impact. The statehouse was closed. Allison did inform other libraries about Ohio Deaf History Month.

Bonnie S: attached her report. Advocates for 4 Kids donated 500.00 for Art's Drawing Contest, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, in different ages group. They also will donate color and paper to the child who doesn't have money.

Gail will write THANKS to the Advocates for 4 Kids. Dawn will send a letter THANKS to them after Art's contest with a small gift. Much appreciated. Malia is willing to share this news on TV at Ohio School for the Deaf.

Martin T: I added Jack Gannon and Bernard Bragg's Bluff/Blue article to the website. Dawn asked all people to share with Martin for your feedback about the website. Increase more resources in the website such as the Deaf community, CCDs', Deaf Celebration Day, well known deaf people in Ohio or USA.

Deb O: The Deaf Reader Newsletter with Juanita H and Megan A, we are still working on the newsletter, we deleted ODCD and add ODFL. Waiting for the new LOGO. Also, we would like to add ASL by ODFL YouTube for the Deaf Reader newsletter, but not all. Just select a few important to share. Because most deaf people understood ASL instead of English reading.

OLD BUSINESS

Paul W (Ann B) moved to close Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

1. Paul W (Angie P) moved to have ODFL Booth in the Deaf Nation Expo on Saturday, April 29, 2023, in Columbus, Ohio. Discussed: How much cost? Very expensive cost, 500 to 1,000? Paul decided to **withdraw his motion**. Angie agreed. Paul will research the price and will email it to us.

2. Martin T (Paul W) moved to have Bob Donaldson-Pirc as ODFL Bylaws advisor. **PASSED**

3. Debbie B (Deb O) moved to accept Brad Race as ODFL Rep in Columbus. **PASSED**

4. Deb O (Juanita) moved to make a new ODFL LOGO Drawing Contest for 50.00 in the public. Discussed that it would be confusing, too many people, and so forth. Prefer to find someone who can design a new LOGO private or by paying. Would like to have it before the final Student's art drawing contest due to the logo on the certification on March 3, 2023. **Dead motion.**

Interrupted by interpreters due to their exhaustion. President, Dawn Watts ordered the meeting due to over 15 minutes in the meeting. We can discuss more details in the email.

Announcement:

The OAO meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023, by zoom at 6 pm. Chuck wanted to say THANKS to the WONDERFUL, STRONGEST interpreters.

Adj at 7:45 pm.

Electronic voted:

1. **Feb 20, 2023** - Brad Race (Chris C) moves to accept all of the updates ODFL Bylaws. 10- **PASSED**

2. **Feb 26, 2023** - Deb Ozanich (Debbie Brown) moves to withdraw \$25.00 for the ODFL Booth fee at the Partner exhibitor on May 6th Hands/Voices event. 12 **PASSED**

3. **Feb 27, 2023** - Debbie Brown (Paul W) moves a motion to accept the ODFL Zoom meeting to the public. Open Discussion, Lori Luk said that CSCC ASL interpreting program is approved for internship students in the public by zoom meeting. 9 **PASSED**.

4. **March 20, 2023** - Angie Potosky (Debbie Brown) moves a motion to accept a new ODFL Logo, brochure, and letterhead. 8 **PASSED**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn K Watts

Dawn K Watts for Secretary
THE DEAF READER

Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library
President's report
January 20, to April 20, 2023

FB: ODFL 1,499 (+20)

FB: OFOLDA and ASL Book Club 212 (+5)

The Deaf Reader: 1, 170 (+38)

Meetings:

Deaf Streetlight

New Secretary

Bylaws and Guidelines committee

New ODFL s logo

Allison Ratcliff, Librarian for ASL Storytelling Day

Andrew Knox and Tom Stephien ODFL logo

State Health Assessment with the Ohio State University/Ohio University The Deaf Reader newsletter, Director and committee

Debbie Brown for Ohio Deaf History Month Displaying.

Martin Teltser, ODFL Website

Judges for Student Art Drawing Contest at Bonnie's

The Ohio Alliance Organizations

Malia Schneck, ODFL Youth

Tracey Davis

Gail Teltser: Budget and IRS Met with Chris Haulmark, Kansas

Phone/Emailed:

ODFL Board members: Lori, Marsha, Andrew, Martin, Allison, Brad, Angie,

Kimberly, Paul, Chuck, Regis, Anne, Roland, Chris C, Regis,

Bonnie Sandy, Student Art Drawing Contest

Debbie Brown, Ohio Deaf History Month

Paul W, Chairperson for the Deaf Expo Nation

HB 33 for SSP DeafBlind people

The Columbus Foundation

The Ohio Alliance Organizations

American Library Association Voted to the Members of Congress

Ben Gulyas and Liliana Aresena-Pokorny

Nicholas Semanko Assistant US Congresswoman Joyce Beatty National Deaf History Month on March 17th, March 29th.

Wendy Knapp, State Library of Ohio Librarian

Jenny Jakse, Mayfield School system

Steve Bright, CEO Deafy Community Resource Center, Dayton.

ODFL YouTube

Ohio Black Deaf Workshop

Search for a Deaf ASL Storyteller

Three vlogs: Support SSP for the DeafBlind

Antines “NuNu” Davis

ASL Storytelling Day

HB 33 SSP for the DeafBlind people Three Deaf Girls The Williams

Others:

Trip to Napoleon Public Library for ASL Storytelling Day

Trip to London Public Library for ASL Storytelling Day

Trip to St. Rita School for the Deaf for ODFL Booth

Trip to Bonnie Sandy’s house for Judge Day (student art drawing contest)

State Library of Ohio Donated a book, “Swishing”

Design ODFL Banner

Design Student Art Drawing notes

Edited ODFL Brochure

Prepare for Partners/Friends of Ohio Hands and Voices Booth for Family

Conference

Helped Debbie Brown to set up Ohio Deaf History Month in the Ohio

Statehouse

Taught Debbie Brown with her laptop

ASL Storyteller Flyer for Worthington Park Library

Trip to Cleveland for a guest speaker, Antines “NuNu” Davis on March 11th

**Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library
January 20th to April 20th 2023
Zoom Meeting
April 20, 2023
6 pm to 7:30 pm**

Roll names

Minutes Meeting: Jan 19, 2023

President: Dawn Watts’ report

Update for the ODFL Brochure, Business card, Banner

Appoint three people for the Code of Conduct Committee: Angie Potosky, Brad Race,

Gail Teltser

ODFL LOGO Tom Stephine

The Columbus Foundation

Student Art Drawing Contest Notes \$?

Deaf Streetlight in Cinn, Ohio

OAO MOU Committee

OADB - HB 33 SSP program

Hands/Voices on May 6th Over 80 organizations.

Deaf Author for the next year 2024

Retreat in August at my house?

Vice President: Kimberly Savage’s report

Black Deaf Speaker, Antines Davis

Black Deaf Nineteenth Soul on June 17th in Cleveland.

Secretary: Christine Stephine’s report

Thanks to Margot Repas Advocates 4 Kids

Treasurer: Gail Teltser’s report

ODFL Region Reps’ report

ODFL Bylaws and Guidelines, Angie Potosky

Children’s Art Drawing Contest Guideline for the next year 2024

Code of Conduct committee: Brad Race, Gail T, and Angie Potosky

Email issues, Make a motion suggestion, Concern about unresponsive Board Members.

ODFL Ohio Deaf History Month, Debbie Brown

ODFL Librarian Advisor, Allison Ratclif

ASL Storytelling Day this year and next year.

Next year, in 2024 a special Deaf Author guest speaker with different Libraries

The Deaf Reader newsletter by Deb Ozanich

Deaf Expo Nation, Paul Wernsing, Chairperson

April 29th Schedule

Old Business

New Business

Code of Conduct committee: Angie Potosky, Brad Race, Gail Teltser How much cost for the Student Art notes?
Retreat in August Where?

Announcement:

I am so Amazing in Cleveland Clinic on April 12 at 6:30 pm (attachment)

ASLTA conference from June 28th to July 1st in Columbus, OH

Deaf Senior Citizens Conference on June 25th to July 1st in Tampa, Florida

OSDAA conference on June 24 and 25, 2023 at OSDAA Community Center

Ohio Alliance Organization
Feb 16, 2023
Zoom meeting

Attendees: Donna Schultz, Rick Schultz, Debbie Brown, Mike Repas, Bill Skip Bergquist, Steve Barabas, Moses McIntosh, Kate Solar, Vicky Emerson, Susan Harvey, Dawn Watts

Absentees: Paul Wearing, Linda Adams, Debbie Ozanich.

Dawn called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm
 Mike Repas (Skip Bergquist) the minutes were then approved.

Deaf Service Center (DSC) in Columbus by Bill McGee and Mike Repas:

Bill said that he is on the DSC Board since last October 2022 because the board members resigned. I worked closely with Mike Repas because all DSC Board members resigned. I decided to help and keep DSC active as DSC Board Member. Mike Repas and I researched DSC's financial that is the most difficult to do because the DSC did not complete the book (account) since the spring of 2022. We changed the accounting system which is not finished, yet. It has a heavy debit because of COVID-19. Mike is set up with leaders who have financial skills on the committee. They observed DSC's finances and moved to the primary focus of what we need to work on, not another issue. Mike and Bill are working closer with Acting Co-CEO: Sharon Seger and Megan Menikhiem. Maybe the DSC will change in some way but still provide a job coach by OOD, job placement, interpreter agency, and so forth. Mike said that DSC is very difficult with the budget, it needs to match the income and expenses. At the same time, it is good for us to improve the DSC for the deaf community in the future. Maybe we need to sell the building to get a small building for the beginning. It is not the final answer, we need to make strategies for how to solve financial, first. Mike and Bill accepted Cheryl Prusinski as a Board member. We have three Board members now because we need to work on the crisis with the DSC. The DSC will search for more new Board members in the future.

Skip raised a question if DSC still getting money from the OOD. Mike said yes, they still continue paying DSC as the contract for the job coach. To help deaf people for finding jobs.

Susan said that she is willing to help and search for deaf young in the deaf community who can help with the DSC's finances. Mike appreciated her effort in searching.

Dawn asked, "how many people are on the committee?"

Bill said 8 people.

Searching for more DSC Board members in the future but now you have three people what are your DSC Bylaws for how many percent of deaf or hearing board members? In the past Majority hearing Mike and I want to see deaf people take the charge to overlook DSC.

Bill needs to leave due to his appointment, he was happy to see all of us, again.

Skip is wondering about the DSC board membership because he was involved with RSC Statewide of Ohio in the old times. Does the OOD require to have deaf and deafblind who are in Board members?

Mike said that in the beginning, RSC/OOD rules said that CCD's must be a program with a host agency already in the community. So, all CCDs had hearing Board members of the host agency and the CCD's themselves had advisory committees with deaf and hearing members. In the 1980s Netcare had two deaf reps: Bob Baird and Jay Crane as board members. In Columbus, the deaf community wants to have deaf members. In the 1990s CCD changed to DSC and bylaws changed to have over 51 percent of the Deaf as Board members. Today, we have three DSC Board members that will work on Bylaws to again consider 51 percent for the deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing.

Dawn raised a point about the word, Deaf or deaf, I learned from the Deafhood workshop, the researcher said that we do not use “D” anymore because it created division. Just saying “Deaf”.

Mike agreed. We need to use “authentic deaf representation”

Dawn if anyone is interested in becoming a Board member, apply. Contact Mike at board@dsc.org

OCRID New Board members by Moses McIntosh, OCRID President

Moses President of the ORCID, I worked in the northeast which is closer to Akron, area for 15 years. On July 1, OCRID had new board members and we have Dawn Watts, Susan Harvey, and Vicky Emerson here. OCRID Board members are motivated to improve. For example, we want to collaborate with young people/student interpreters. Also, increased collaboration with deaf organizations in the statewide of Ohio. Most of the officers are filled up except for one position financial director. We are now cleaning up the financial budget. Look forward to healing for the OCRID. There is one of the reasons, we are joining the OAO meeting to meet you all. We have several events coming. Comedy night on March 18 at OSDAA Outreach Center. (Attached)

Vicky Emerson, OCRID Secretary, we all are interpreters for deaf and deafblind people.

My expiration will be this coming summer. We need fin so badly for the past 8 months. This coming summer, in June we will have a conference and hope to have deaf and deafblind people who can come to the conference. SSP program that I am willing to help and support SSP.

Susan Harvey, Member at Large with people with Dawn Watts as Deaf Member at Large shares with people what OCRID’s planning is. Please feel email me if you have any questions. Her email address is memberatlarge@ocrid.org

Dawn OCRID Board members voted for ASL by OCRID YouTube for the deaf community. They will be able to enjoy watching ASL instead of English.

Skip Bergquist I am curious to know if OCRID requested OOD for their finances for training interpreters or conferences.

Vicky VR Services (Vocational Rehabilitation Services) are housed under the RSC (Rehabilitation Services Commission) for each state. RSC used to be broken up into regions throughout the USA (North West, North East, South West, and South East). Those RSC regions usually had 5-7 states in each area/region. Every 2 years, these RSC regions would each host a conference with workshop topics covering Deaf Education, DeafBlind services, & Vocational resources. At the conference each state in the region would creatively finance their state’s VR counselors who have Deaf and DeafBlind caseloads, some even created specific funding, or lines of accounting, to pay for their state’s participation. How each state funded their counselor’s attendance depended on how that state was allowed under their own state laws for RSC.

The RSC region that included Ohio has been disbanded several years ago. The only remaining RSC Region across the USA is the South Eastern Region. Their regional conference is every 2 years and is called, the South Eastern Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID). The next conference is coming up this summer. We, Ohio representatives, were invited to SERID and I was there at the conference about 4 years ago where I saw Dawn Watts. SERID will host their 7 state region’s RSC counselors and others working in Deafness to share their recent findings and experiences.

Sadly, although I’ve repeatedly made Ohio RSC aware of the SERID conference they seem uninterested in participating officially.

Moses I’d like to add to what Vicky Emerson was talking about. I agree we (OCRID) want to reach out and network more with other agencies. Our (OCRID’s) finances are ok. Not lacking financially but lacking people/volunteers to do the work. Financially we are doing okay., not wonderful but okay, average I’d say. We truly need people to be involved and that has been a challenge for a long time. RID is split into regions and each state in that region takes turns hosting the regional conference about every 6-7 years. It was OCRID’s turn to host the RID Region III conference, which we did this past summer. I personally was not on the (OCRID) planning of that conference at

that time. I'm not blaming anyone at all but we did lose a lot of money at that conference. We want to participate in our RID's regional conference and take our turn hosting but it's costly and can financially negatively affect our budget.

We want to invest in our connections with other entities and create connections but it comes down to relevance. We are all here, we are all doing something to create this connection and relate to not only interpreters in the interpreting field but also creating connections with the deaf community. We WANT to be there and to be supportive of each other but we struggle sometimes as an organization to do that. There is not one person to blame for those struggles but they are present. When less people are involved in any organization, it begins to die.

I am excited about this (OCRID) Board. Many are really motivated. We recently changed our bylaws to now include a Deaf Member-at-Large, Dawn Watts on the Board, which has been needed for some time. We have had no "deaf voice" represented to our board for a long time. We only had (hearing) interpreters. Only the President and "Vice President" position on our (OCRID's) board require RID/NAD Certification to hold an officer position. OCRID does not require RID/NAD Certification for membership or to run for other board positions. We truly want deaf involvement, if you are interested, we welcome you to participate.

OADB "SSP with Legislative Day" by Donna Schultz, OADB President

Donna Schultz, President OADB for the past 6 years. In the past, we had Outreach Service for the DeafBlind but it closed. We do not have any service for the past 10 years. We need to work with Jason Judy, Terry Bloomer, Art Roehrig, and Bryan Grubb. Last month, Art Roehrig and I attended the Legislative Disability, and we noticed there are most people are in wheelchairs. We met and explained to the four House of Reps about deafblind people. Today most hearing-blind people depend on audio instead of braille.

We, DeafBlind people, are struggling, with no training in mobile, reading, and transportation. We need to have an SSP program in statewide Ohio. So, we have the core team, Art Roehrig, John Finek, and Terry Blossom will meet and discuss planning. Terry has skills in writing and a government degree. I need your support. Dawn said please let me know then we can share with the public about a bill SSP Program. Donna will do.

Another comment: Skip Bergquist

Skip Bergquist's Comments on the Importance of Ohio Alliance Organization (OAO) being a part of the Ohio Association of the Deaf (OAD).

Now, we need to be focusing on rebuilding OAD together by getting more members back into the organization. We need to make OAD a respectable and recognized organization again.

For example, the OAD had a rich history with OOD (RSC) for the financial support and I used to work with RSC but today we do not have any. I remembered there were so many conferences, training, workshops, programming, and awareness to the public. Maybe the OAO can advocate and work with OAD to make it happen again. The goal is to have one strong group that can lead to public awareness, provisions for deaf services, and financial support.

Knowing of the difficult issues that OAD has gone through, OAO needs to be with OAD as members to voice their concerns and needs statewide in Ohio. OAD in the past and still today is known to be the primary source of Deaf advocacy and a reach out organization on Deafness. OAD has been and still is the primary organization the public can come to for partnering, having conferences, training, workshops, programming, service provisions, and awareness. All of the OAD members can be and should be a part of OAD as the primary information source. OAD has had a phenomenal involvement of establishing relationships with the public promoting our needs and getting services developed. OAO can advocate being with OAD. Ohio Alliance Organization's title has no reference to the public being an organization on Deafness.

Dawn: To clarify with the OAO* and we invited all organizations, including OAD. Why OAD is no longer being represented in OAO, asking what should OAO be doing.

*Note: In 2016 Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures (ODCD) Memo of Understanding (MOU) agreements were collected with 32 organizations. <https://ocdclibrary.org/professional-organization>

Skip emphasized that OAO needs to discuss emerging with OAD and be fully supportive of OAD's initial purpose and goal.

Susan spoke out mentioning Ohio Chapter Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (OCRID) has been involved with OAD over the years and continues to do so. She strongly indicated OCRID will move further in working together.

Vicki complimented Susan thanking her for her involvement with OCRID and encouraging OCRID and all of OAO to grow and be together with OAD. Vicki strongly mentioned the need to support the Self Support Providers (SSP) for the DeafBling. Vicki complimented Dawn and Skip for trying to get OAO involved with OAD.

Dawn mentioned that a letter was sent out by the President of OAD thanking members of their 2023 membership renewal, indicating OAD's incentive to bring in new ideas and energy to OAD giving current members a reward for recruiting new members.

Skip We need to come together as an organization to be stronger in publicizing our advocacy and participation in society.

Announcement:

1. Students' Art Drawing Contest. (Attached)
2. 5th Anniversary Ohio Deaf History Month Displaying in the Ohio Statehouse on March 13 to April 15. Look up in the FB: Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library
3. Black Deaf Guest speaker in Columbus and Cleveland on March 11th (attached)
4. Comedy Night on March 18th at 6 pm (attached)
5. Hands and Voices Family/Children (attached)

6. St. Rita School for the Deaf, on March 5th:

The organization Deaf Streetlight will have an event called "Deaf Family Connect" on March 4th, 2023 at St. Rita School for the Deaf. Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library will also have a booth there. Hope to see you! This event was previously called "All About Deaf Kids Fair" by the Deaf Institute at Cincinnati State Community College. Deaf Streetlight will offer free exhibitions for organizations and companies. St. Rita School for the Deaf is very close to I-75. For more information, contact pam.blair@deafstreetlight.com or (513) 471-2990

7. OADB Speaker, Art Roehrig on March 25th (attached)
8. ASL Storytelling Performance on March 25 University of Cincinnati/Clermont (attached)

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, April 27th at 6 pm**. (OAO meeting will meet every two months).

Adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Dawn K Watts

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn K Watts
OAO Recorder

Ohio Alliance Organizations Zoom Meeting
AGENDA April 27, 2023
6 pm to 7:30 pm
Roll names

Minutes Meeting: Feb 16, 2023

1. Ohio Association of the Deaf by Irene Tunanidas
2. American Red Cross: Free Sound the Alarm by Mike Comber
3. Ohio School for the Deaf Foundation by John Listina, Jr.
4. Dayton Community Center for the Deaf by Steven Bright
5. Cincinnati Community Services for the Deaf by Elizabeth
6. Black Deaf Nineteenth Soul Event on June 17, 2023, in Cleveland by Aileen Reusche “Cookout” not using the word “picnic”
7. Update for the Ohio Alliance Organizations (Memo of Understanding) committee.
8. Update DSC by Cheryl Prusinski
9. Next meeting will be in May or September?

Any comments?

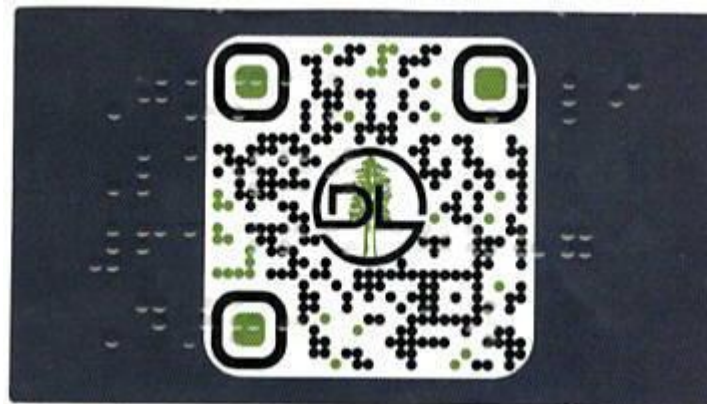
Announcement:

I am so Amazing movie in Cleveland on Wed, April 12 at 6:30 pm (attachment)

Columbus Deaf Theatre (attachment)

If you need an attorney for a lawsuit pertaining to American Sign Language Access, Use this QR code below.

Darr Law: Jumana M. Ali
Attorney
JMA@Darr.law
www.Darr.law
614-653-7887



Upcoming Events

www.museumofdeaf.org

- MDHAC E-NEWS
- Deafhood 101 Class (Virtual)
- April 22 - April 30, 2023 (weekends only)
- Class Facilitator: Dr. Jenny Gough
- 5th Biennial Boots & BBQ Un-Gala Benefit
- Save the Date: November 4, 2023
- More details coming soon!
- Johnson County Kansas Heritage Foundation
- A Night at the Hop (1957 Murder Mystery)
- Thursday, April 27, 2023

Next *The Deaf Reader*
Newsletter Vol. 3
July 2023

If you have any issues regarding this newsletter, please contact the Director, Editor, or Co-Editors at TheDeafReader@gmail.com

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The Deaf Reader

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Standing Committees

Ohio Deaf History Month (March 13 to April 15th)

Debbie Brown (Chairperson)

Ohio Deaf Culture Digital Library Task Force

Ohio Alliance Organizations (Professional)

Library Advisor

Allison Ratcliff

Librarian for Deaf

Ben Gulyas

Coventry Village – Heights Public Library

Ben Gulyas

Deaf Mentor Program

Marsha Moore (Chairperson)

Specialist DeafBlind

Donna Schultz

Bylaws

Kimberly Savage

The Deaf Reader Newsletter

Dawn Watts, Deborah Ozanich, Megan Anderson Christian,
and Juanita Hall

Legislative Advisor

Andrew Knox

WE STRIVE FOR ALL
LIBRARIES TO BE
MADE ACCESSIBLE
TO ALL THE DEAF
COMMUNITIES IN
THE STATE OF OHIO

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Allen, Auglaize, Crawford, Defiance, Eric, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wyandot, Wood

Northeast 2 Representatives Chuck Williams, Angie Potosky, and Regis Gilchrist

Ashland, Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Harrison, Holmes, Huron, Jefferson, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Richland, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Wayne

Southwest 3 Representative Paul Wearing

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The Deaf Reader newsletter editors reserve the right to review and make any necessary edits in the enclosed articles.