



Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures

Ohio Friends of Library Deaf Action

OHIO CITIZENS FOR DEAF CULTURES

The Deaf Reader

Black Lives Matter: Honoring Charles Williams

Written by Patricia Williams

Charles Williams was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio to Irene and the former Judge Theodore M. Williams into a family of three hearing sisters and one older Deaf brother. As a young Deaf child, he attended public and Catholic schools and later the Ohio School for the Deaf in Columbus, Ohio.

For thirty-five years, Dr. Williams worked for The Cuyahoga County Engineer's Department. Although he could not follow his father's footsteps pursuing a legal career, Mr. Williams has dedicated himself to enhancing the lives of his fellow Deaf citizens. He served on a national committee which developed the first manual of Legal Terminology for Deaf persons. After serving 13 years as a member of the Board of Trustees for Gallaudet University, he was awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters in 2008.

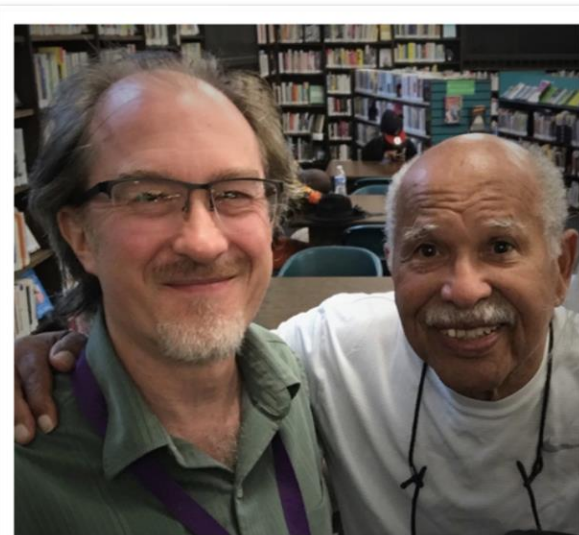
Coming out of retirement, Dr. Williams taught American Sign Language (ASL) as an Adjunct Professor at Baldwin Wallace University for twenty-four years and is still teaching ASL at Cleveland State University. He was featured in the book authored by Ernest Hairston and Linwood Smith, *Black and Deaf in America: Are We Really That Different?* He received numerous accolades including the distinguished National Black Deaf

Edited by Juanita Hall

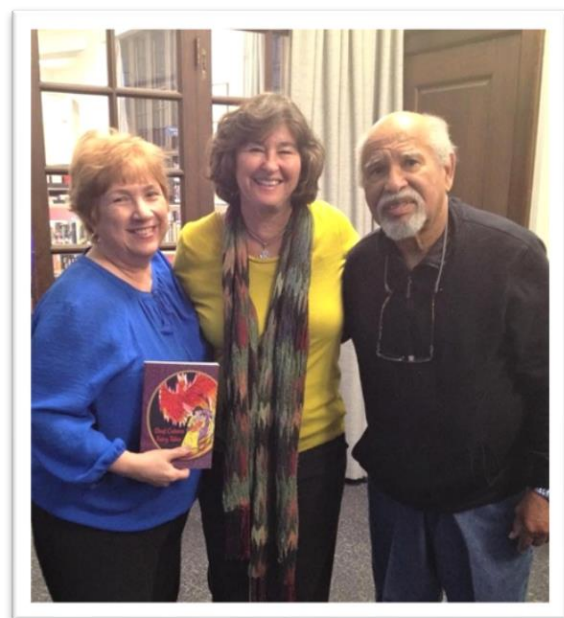
Advocate (NBDA) Linwood Smith Humanitarian award, the Bronze Hand Award, and the Absalom Jones Recognition from the Episcopal Dioceses of Ohio. Thanks to his childhood friend, former Congressman Louis Stokes, he enjoyed a one-week senior citizen internship sponsored by the Close-Up Foundation. Dr. Williams also appeared on Bill Cosby's television series, *You Bet Your Life*.

Along with his many achievements, Dr. Williams has also been a staunch advocate for the Black Deaf community. He is especially proud of his role as a co-founder of NBDA and has remained active on all levels in this organization throughout the years. He is also extremely fond of young deaf person and always promotes the values of education, community involvement, and volunteerism.

In Dr. Williams' spare time apart from his active altruistic roles, he often meets his Deaf friends at a local mall to reminisce their childhood days and discuss current events. When he is not drinking his daily tea at *Starbucks*, he enjoys photography, sports, and exercising at his community recreation center. Married for almost thirty-nine years to his beloved wife Patricia, they are proud parents to two hearing daughters, Carla and Jessa, and their first granddaughter, Marcello Victor Paulino.



©Photo by Dawn Watts
(Ben Guys and Chuck Williams)



©Photo by Dawn Watts
(Pat Williams, Dr. Roz Deaf author,
and Chuck Williams)

Charles Williams' and Stacy Woods' Presentations

Written by Aileen Reusche and Juanita Hall

Dr. Charles "Chuck" Williams was warmly invited to share his experiences of his life journey as a Black Deaf Ohioan with the organizations attending the Ohio Alliance of Organizations Zoom meeting hosted by Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures (OCDC) on June 13th, 2020. This is a summary of his presentation during the meeting.

Chuck attended other schools and then came to Ohio School of the Deaf (OSD) for the last two years of his high school due to the gradual loss of his hearing. He mentioned that his daughters experienced a different lifestyle than he did growing up. They were able to attend integrated schools and mingle with white people. At OSD, he was able to be good friends with a white man whose parents taught him to not trust black people. Chuck mentioned that his parents were friendly and invite others to their home even if he was not invited to his white friend's house. During that time, the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) did not allow Black Deaf to become members until later when they welcomed Black Deaf to become members in 1972. He was good friends with Dr. Andrew Foster, who graduated from Gallaudet College and established over thirty Deaf schools in Africa.

Andrew would often bring him to Gallaudet to visit on Sundays. Chuck was not accepted at Gallaudet because he was Black. Gallaudet University did not accept Black Deaf students

until 1950. Chuck Williams was able to serve on the board of trustees for Gallaudet University for 13 years, earning an honorary doctorate degree of humane letters in 2008.

Chuck shared that he worked for Cuyahoga County Engineer Department for 35 years until retirement. He had a white boss and they got along well enough. However, there was a discrimination lawsuit bought upon his boss by seven Black employees including him and his brother. The white boss was fired with a \$10,000 fine and elected out. Chuck has much more stories to share but could not share all of them today

Chuck's central message that he left with everyone is that he wants everyone to work together to overcome racism. It is difficult for Black Deaf who have encountered incidents with the police. They cannot talk, they cannot breathe, and they cannot sign in American Sign Language due to the police often handcuffing their hands behind their back. We need to have more organizations to come together to raise awareness on Black Deaf's needs for them to receive fair treatment and services.

Stacy Woods was also warmly encouraged to share her experience with establishing Columbus' Buckeye Black Deaf Advocates (BBDA) during this ODCD meeting on June 13th, 2020. Stacy Woods came to the meeting in place of BBDA's president where she serves as its current Vice President. This organization has been up and running for about 7 years. It was first established around 1998 – 1999. Stacy never heard of BBDA at that time until

Chuck Williams invited her and four of their friends to the national BBDA conference at Nashville, Tennessee for three days. During this conference's workshops, she met people and learned what BBDA represents. More importantly, through her, they were able to set up the first BBDA organization in her city, Columbus, Ohio. Columbus did not have one at the time whereas Cleveland did for several years.

After her meeting at this national conference, she went back home and set up a meeting in Columbus to establish a local BBDA organization there. At this first meeting that lasted for two days, approximately fifty people showed up. Chuck Williams, two Gallaudet presenters, and two presenters from other Deaf prominent organizations came as well. During this first meeting, Stacy was able to meet with other people there who helped her set up a BBDA organization along with its by-laws in Columbus, Ohio. At that time in 1998, she was just a member and was not its Vice President yet. They were able to obtain approximately thirty to forty members when it was first established.

Columbus's BBDA ran effectively for two years where they had monthly meetings. However, after two years, things became complicated and disorganized which led to its shut down for several years. Later, Stacy, Chuck, and Kimberly Savage got the group back together by meeting monthly once again to encourage them to reestablish the Columbus BBDA organization. Since Stacy has a good repertoire with the Black locals, they were able with her help to resume the local BBDA organization in 2015. It has been running effectively ever since for the past five years. During this time, she was asked to be its Vice President due to the previous one being on a trip to Gallaudet University. She has been Columbus BBDA's Vice President for the past five years. However, recently, there has been a decrease in membership due to leadership struggles and lack of training.

Dr. William's Accomplishments:

- Sprint Consumer Advisory Board former chairman (presently serving)
- First Deaf Black juror in Ohio and served as Jury Foreman
- Board of Trustees member for Gallaudet University
- Doctorate of Humane Letters awarded by Gallaudet University in 2008
- Class Action Lawsuit filed against Democratic and Republican parties for televised national conventions sign language interpreters (1980: filed with FCC)
- Ohio Department of Health Study Committee former member for Mental Health Services and Minority Concerns Committee
- Cuyahoga County Mental Health Board Advisory Committee for Deaf persons: chaired and spearheaded its development
- National Captioning Institute Consumer Advisory Board former member
- NBC affiliated closed-captioning local news: spearheaded this committee
- National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Project 504 and trained local 504 projects
- Ohio delegate to White House Conference on handicapped individuals (1977)
- Governor's Office on Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities: Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission: Served both state and locally
- Project Deaths Avoided with Naloxone (DAWN) attendance at California State University at Northridge
- National committee member for the manual and dictionary of legal terminology for interpreting and deafness
- Chairman for the development of *Mock Trial and Legal Rights of Hard-of-Hearing and Deaf Persons* seminars
- Chairman for grant-writing committee which led to the Cleveland State University Interpreting Training Program establishment

Marla Berkowitz Bobblehead

By Aileen Reusche

Are you a big fan of Marla Berkowitz, Ohio's only Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI)? You may have seen her several times on television where she has been front and center interpreting for Governor DeWine and the former Director of Health Amy Action while he delivers daily coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) updates. The good news is you may now purchase your own 7 inches Marla Berkowitz bobblehead for \$25.00. For every bobblehead sold, \$5 will be donated to the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum. "The National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum will be donating \$5 from every Marla Berkowitz Bobblehead sold to Columbus Colony Elderly Care to purchase special masks with clear visibility surrounding the lips for Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, and Hard of Hearing patients" (Marla Berkowitz Bobblehead, 2020, para. 2).

Reference

Marla Berkowitz Bobblehead. (2020). National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2ASkG9P>



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Deaf Mentoring Program

By Marsha Moore

While we are waiting for the Ohio Department of Health to start online training for the statewide Deaf Mentor Program, another brand-new program is coming this summer.

Historically, Advocates for Kids has always hosted a weeklong camp, a.k.a. OYO Camp, for kids ages 7-19. However, due to COVID-19, for the first time ever, Advocates for Kids is starting a summer virtual Deaf Mentor Program (DMP) for Ohio's Deaf/Hard of Hearing kids.

The program will begin on Monday, June 8th, and ends on Friday, August 7th. The DMP will meet twice a week to do fun

virtual activities, socialization, and communication with their peers. Kids 7-19 will be placed in small groups of similar ages. Interpreters will be provided as needed for virtual activities. This program is free for all participants.

We are currently looking for Mentors and Participants to make this program a success. Mentors must have a clean FBI/BCI background check and are fluent in ASL. Please refer to the flyer for more info and if you are interested in being a Mentor or a Participant, please contact Marsha Moore, marsha@adv4kids.org.



Ohio Teacher
of the Year

Nominee Christopher Kuhns,

Deaf Studies Deaf teacher at Ohio
School for the Deaf

Organizations' Alliance

in the state of Ohio

Darrell Doudt, Facilitator

Congratulations!

©Artwork by Juanita Hall

Buckeye Black Deaf Advocates

By Juanita Hall

There is an exciting event being planned for Columbus's Buckeye Black Deaf Advocates – Chapter #20, which was first established in 1988 in Columbus, Ohio (About Buckeye Black Deaf Advocates, n.d.). Due to COVID-19, tours at the underground railroad house, The Margaret Alger House in Columbus is on hold until further notice. In supporting Black Lives Matter (BLM), instead of the tour, Stacy Woods, the Vice President of Buckeye Black Deaf Advocates (BBDA) will have two special Deaf guest speakers on July 18th. The two presenters are Fred Beam, an artist from Rochester, New York and Antines Davis, a leader. They will present on BBDA membership and demonstrate paintings through OCDCLibrary Zoom for an hour. The participants will have the opportunity to learn from Fred in how to paint on canvas their personal expressions on Black Deaf experience. All painted canvas will be on display at the Ohio Statehouse next year for Ohio Deaf History Month. For more information and to RSVP for this event, contact ohiocdc2016@gmail.com before July 17th. Stay tuned by going to their website, <https://buckeyebda20.weebly.com/>.

Reference

About Buckeye Black Deaf Advocates. (n.d.). *Buckeye Black Deaf Advocates Chapter #20*. Retrieved from

<https://buckeyebda20.weebly.com/about-bbda.html>

Join us on
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Check out our website!
www.OCDCLibrary.org

Window Masks in High Demand

By Juanita Hall



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A virus called coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) started last December of 2019 has its origins in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China (Frequently Asked Questions COVID-19, 2020). This respiratory disease virus has since then spread all over the world and currently affects over 9.4 million individuals with 482,800 recorded deaths. The United States takes the lead with 2,336,615 reported cases and 121,117 deaths (Coronavirus Map: Tracking the Global Outbreak, 2020; Cases in the U.S., 2020). Therefore, to help prevent the spread this virus, people are encouraged to wear face coverings or masks (Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19, 2020).

However, the use of traditional face masks that covers a person's nose and mouth creates communication barriers for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing individuals or anyone that relies on lipreading and facial expressions.

Many of the Deaf people in America communicate through American Sign Language (ASL) which relies heavily on its grammatical usage of facial expressions. The lack of the ability to lip-read and read people's facial expressions has caused stress and communication difficulties among this group of individuals.

Therefore, one of the many organizations that have come up with a solution is in the Greater Cincinnati Hearing Speech + Deaf Center. They are currently sewing window masks that allow people to not only help prevent the spread of COVID-19 but also see their mouth movements and facial expressions while wearing these masks. Currently, they are accepting donations for these free window masks. They are also seeking for people with sewing skills who have their own sewing machine to help create these window masks that are in high demand (Hearing Speech + Deaf Center, 2020). For more information, contact

swesselkamper@hearingspeechdeaf.org.

References

Cases in the U.S. (2020). Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>

Coronavirus Map: Tracking the Global Outbreak. (2020). The Coronavirus Outbreak. The New York Times. Retrieved from

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/world/coronavirus-maps.html>

Frequently Asked Questions COVID-19. (2020). Coronavirus (COVID-19). Ohio Department of Health. Retrieved from

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/frequently-asked-questions/Novel-Coronavirus-FAQs>

Hearing Speech + Deaf Center. (2020). #Window Masks. Retrieved from <https://hearingspeechdeaf.org/>

Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19. (2020). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Donna Schultz's Recognition by Ohio Association of the Deafblind

Written by Juanita Hall

Ohio Association of the DeafBlind (OADB) is a non-profit organization that consists of primarily DeafBlind who provide services in improving DeafBlind's quality of life (National Arts and Disability Center, 2020). Ohio Citizen's for Deaf Culture's (OCDC) representative Donna Schultz has been a huge source of assistance in spreading awareness on the difficulties and needs of DeafBlind during this coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Vice President of OADB wrote a letter recognizing Donna's hard work during this pandemic for the DeafBlind. It is a great honor for OCDC to have Donna as our representative. Donna Schultz gave her permission to share this letter:

“ I want to express to all DeafBlind Ohioans my gratitude to Donna Schultz...

Hello friends,

I want to express to all DeafBlind Ohioans my gratitude to Donna Schultz for all her continual hard work in spreading awareness and educating the Ohio Department of Health on important information in meeting DeafBlind Ohioans' needs with hospitals, clinics, and health care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You probably have heard the difficulties some DeafBlind are having in accessing hospitals, clinics, and health care without SSP and interpreters. Donna weekly contacted Ohio Department of Health with these issues. She even wrote an opening letter to Ohio Governor DeWine regarding all the Ohio hospitals preventing DeafBlind in using their rights in having access to hospitals, clinics, and health care departments to take care of their needs.

Donna finally received great news from Ohio Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff, Michael Murray. He shared our requests to all the hospitals in Ohio to be made aware of DeafBlind's needs.

Bryan Grubb

Vice President of Ohio Association of the DeafBlind

2020
NEED
YOUR
VOTE!

Presidential Election Voting!

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Your Vote Counts!

Need voting registration?

Sign up online at: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/register/>

If you are unable to vote in person?

Sign up for **absentee ballot** to be mailed to your home at:

<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>

Annual Deaf and Library Events

Deaf History Month Library Exhibit

By Donna Williams

Deaf History month is a special event that celebrates decades of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals' achievements. It is commemorated yearly from March 13th to April 15th (INSIGHT Staff, 2020). This event's first occurrence was on March 13, 1996, when two Deaf employees taught American Sign Language (ASL) at Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D.C. that led to a month of Deaf awareness (Berke, 2020). Furthermore, Deaf History month is yearly endorsed and encouraged by "Alice Hagemeyer, founder of Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action (FOLDA)" (Berke, 2020, para. 5).

Athens County Public Library is an example of one library in Ohio that promoted a belated Ohio Deaf History Month (ODHM) during June. Earlier this past March, Donna M. Williams, Regional 5 Representative, met with Barbara Earth, who lives in Athens, to share information about Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures (OCDC) and ODHM. Barbara, who frequently goes to the Athens County Library, volunteered to bring some of her books on Deaf History, Deaf Culture, and American Sign Language to the library and asked them to set up an exhibit for ODHM.

Edited by Juanita Hall

However, due to Coronavirus (COVID-19), all libraries in Ohio were shut down. Therefore, the ODHM exhibits were delayed until the Ohio libraries reopened in June instead of March 13th to April 15th. Since the Athens Library did not have any new artwork from local artists for the glass locked display cabinets, they decided to exhibit Barbara's books in these cabinets to keep them safe. Some of her books included *Through Deaf Eyes* by Bayton, Gannon, etc., *A Place of Their Own: Creating Deaf Community in America* by Van Cleve, Crouch, etc. plus two special paintings she painted from pictures designed by Nancy Rourke and Patti Durr. Additionally, they had a small table with some of their catalog books on display. Some of the library's books exhibited were four *Sign Language for Kids* books by Kathryn Clay, *My Heart Glow* by Emily Arnold McCully, and a brand-new book *Haben—The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law, A Memoir* by Haben Girma.

Special thanks go to Meredith Jensen, a library associate and to Amy Drayer, the branch manager for setting up the ODHM exhibits.

References

Berke, J. (2020). Celebrating Deaf History Month. Verywell Health. Retrieved from <https://www.verywellhealth.com/deaf-history-month-1046528>

INSIGHT Staff. (2020). National Deaf History Month. Insight Into Diversity. Retrieved from <https://www.insightintodiversity.com/national-deaf-history-month/>



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More Annual Deaf and Library Events

National Helen Keller DeafBlind Awareness Week:

- Observe on June 21 – June 27, 2020
- Established since 1984 – A U.S. Presidential proclamation
- Visit www.hknc.org

International Week of the Deaf:

- Observe on September 24 – September 30, 2020
- Celebrated annually during the last week of September
- Established since 1958
- Founded by the World Federation of the Deaf
- Used to be called “Deaf Awareness”
- Visit www.wfdeaf.org

Next *The Deaf Reader*

Newsletter Vol. 4

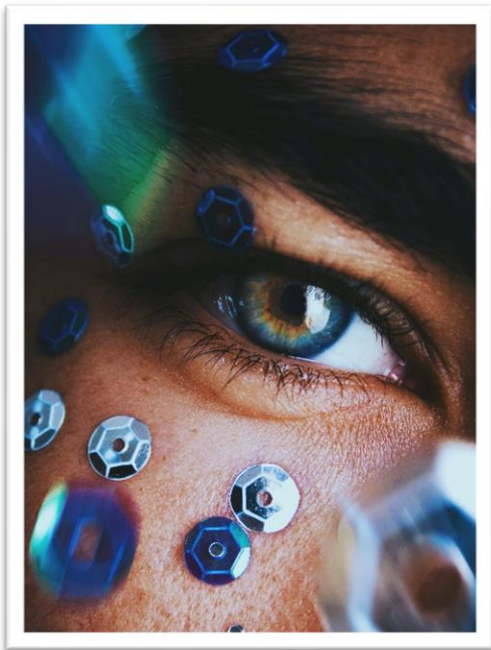
October 1, 2020

Next OCDC Meeting

September 12th

(Tentative date)

Upcoming Events



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Buckeye Black Deaf Advocates Deaf Presenters:

- July 18, 2020 through Zoom
- Fred Beam, an artist from Rochester, New York
- Antines Davis, a Deaf leader.
- Contact and RSVP: ohiocdc2016@gmail.com
- More information: <https://buckeyebda20.weebly.com/>

Deaf Author Kevin Nolan, Sr.:

- September 17 – September 19, 2020
- *From Obstacles to Political Victory*
- Location: TBA

Deaf Author Jennylee Rose Bruno:

- September 17, 2020 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- *The Silent Psychopathy*
- Location: TBA

OCDC Board Meeting:

- September 12, 2020 at 10:00 am
- Location: TBA

Ohio Alliance of Organizations (OAO):

- September 12, 2020 at 1:00 pm
- Location: TBA

Presidential Election Voting:

- November 3, 2020
- Online registration:
<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/register/>
- Absentee ballot:
<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/>



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The Deaf Reader

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

Standing Committees

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

Kim Savage and Debbie Brown

Ohio Deaf Culture Digital Library Task Force

Ohio Alliance Organizations (Professional)

Trustees/Auditors

Rose Larson, Darrell Doudt, Debbie Brown, Jack Hawks

5-years Strategic Planning

Beverly Cain

Deaf Mentor Program

Marsha Moore

Specialist DeafBlind

Donna Schultz

Bylaws

Rick Burke, William Kerek, Darrell Doudt

The Deaf Reader Newsletter

Juanita Hall and Aileen Reusche

HR Resolution 224 National Deaf History Month Chairperson

Andrew Knox

Northwest 1 Representative Lori Luk

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, and Angie Potosky

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

Southwest 3 Representatives Phyllis Adams and Paul Wearing

Adams, Brown, Butler, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Champaign, Darke, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby, Union, Warren

Central 4 Representatives Tim McNutt and Kimberly Savage

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Southeast 5 Representative Donna Williams and Juanita L Hall

Athens, Belmont, Gallia, Guernsey, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton, Washington

Editor: Juanita Hall Co-Editor: Aileen Reusche

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