



Table of Contents

President’s MessagePage 2

Libraries Helped a Hearing Boy to Learn to “Speak” through American Sign LanguagePage 3

Alice Hagemeyer Deaf AwarenessPage 4

Danny Lucero, Deaf Mentor Program and MOCPage 5

Lenora Culpher | Black Native American DeafBlindPage 6

Lenora Culpher | Gravestone FundraiserPage 7

New Election ODFL Officers on December 14, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.....Page 8

Ohio Alliance Organization’s MOC UpdatePage 9

Deaffriendly | REVIEWPage 10

ODFL Retreat Meeting on August 12, 2023Page 11

Ohio Opportunities for Disabilities (OOD)Page 13

Telecommunication for the Deaf Conference at the University of MarylandPage 17

ODFL Leader Deaf Youths: Andrew Knox and Malia SchneckPage 18

Election Day! Issue #1 November 7thPage 19

LCWOSB Holiday MarketPage 20

Buckeye Chapter of Gallaudet University Alumni AssociationPage 21

Living Memorial Tree | Jack L. HawkPage 22

Jack Hawks’ LegacyPage 23

DWAVE Volleyball | Emergency Fund RaiserPage 24

American Red Cross Disaster | Home Alarms for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind PeoplePage 25

Ohio Association of the DeafBlind Christmas Gingerbread PartyPage 26

Technology for Independence with Chris CooleyPage 27

Sorenson will Provide VRS to DeafBlind Starting October 1stPage 27

Cedar Point HalloweekendsPage 28

CAAD 80th ReunionPage 29

Deaf Community Resource Deaf Festival 2023Page 30

Hearing & Speech Center Chili Cook OffPage 31

Job PositionsPage 32

Contact InformationPage 33

President's Message

Written by: Dawn Watts *Translated by:* Juanita Hall

President's Message YouTube Link: Thank you!  ODFL President's message

Hi! Wow, last summer we the Ohio Friends of the Library had our retreat where we had some good discussions about our organization's goals. One thing that we discussed is about Gallaudet University's Black Deaf Studies where they discovered the name Lenora Culpher. Her name is now in the National Deaf Museum. I personally know her! You can read more about her in our articles in this newsletter. I also went to the Ohio Historical Connections Archives where I did some more research on Lenora in their specially saved Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD) microfiche and book (1894 to 1960 ???) archives. Wow, it was incredible! I will go back again.

If you have any precious Deaf materials, I would suggest that you donate them to the archives because they have a conservatory room with a steady cool temperature to avoid acid on their materials so that their books, films, and photos won't get damaged. Also, they monitor the people who come in and the read books or microfilms to make sure they are kept in good care. For example, when I did some research at the archives, I was amazed to find more information about Lenora Culpher. I am sure there are many researchers who want to study and collect the facts of Deaf people.

My favorite Native American proverb says,

“Listen to the wind, it talks.

Listen to the silence, it speaks.

Listen to your heart, it knows.”

Did you know that November 1st is the Native American Heritage Month?

This is a time to count your many blessings.

Dawn K Watts

Dawn K Watts
ODFL President

www.ocdclibrary.org



Libraries Helped a Hearing Boy to Learn to “Speak” through American Sign Language

Written by: Mark Morrison

Learning ASL was an integral part of my son’s early years. He is hearing but breathes through a trach surgically implanted in his neck which inhibits the use of his vocal cords upon exhalation. Realizing this and anticipating the possible impact on his ability to express himself vocally, we started learning and using signs. As a result, he started singing before he started to talk; MILK was his first sign at about 6 months old. Especially in the midst of many medical interventions throughout his life, we are glad we signed with him giving him the option of ASL as a way to communicate. Having a dedicated compendium of reliable ASL resources at local libraries would have made such a difference to us in those early years. Not having any connection to the Deaf Community, we had no way of knowing if the signs we were using that first year were definitely used in the Deaf Community or not. When he was a year old, we moved to Maryland and became involved in a church with a good amount of Deaf members. We were given resources and were able to tweak the signs we were using accordingly. Libraries could help families both hearing and Deaf who are interested in learning and teaching their children sign language by providing reliable resources that get families plugged into the Deaf Community and larger signing community. Additionally, resources about DeafBlind people and how they communicate best through touch (ProTactile ASL) can also help to remove the fear of proximity or closeness that exists in our society and presents significant barriers to people who are DeafBlind.



Alice Hagemeyer Deaf Awareness

Written by: Alice Hagemeyer

Our Deaf leaders and the new generation today in Maryland never know the Deaf Awareness history that actually began for the first time in the US. First in Colorado in Nov 1972.

Actually, the World Federation of the Deaf [WFD) was the first Deaf organization globally with the same concept beginning 65 years ago on Sept 23, 1958.

Today we continue to use International Week of Deaf People in September with the support of WFD and its organizational members, including NAD of the United States with its many affiliates. National, state and local.

And one more. Since Sept 23, 2018 the International Day of Sign Languages,, annually proclaimed by the United Nations in cooperation with all countries.

And much more history with the NAD and American Library Association that new leaders today and generation deserve to know and not to repeat.

Incidentally, the NAD founded on August 25, 1880, in Cincinnati and American Library Association four years earlier on October 6, never met each other to discuss the needs of the Deaf or the Library service within their structure until 1976 47 years ago. My first time that I went through hearing cultural shock and still am today.

Who are our national Deaf celebrities? Deaf authors, writers, outspoken Deaf leaders today. Go figure. We need more trained Deaf librarians, Deaf workers, and library friends. Deaf Pioneers, we do not forget them for changing many lives since 1817.

You have to be Deaf to Understand. Like our famed Deaf poet, Willard Madsen * once reminded All Hearing People in the past 20th century.

Today I want to ask only Deaf adults, especially children of Deaf families, to accept for what I am today.

You have to be a DeafOrphan to understand. Like me

You have to be a Deaf Public Librarian to Understand. Like me

You have to be a Deaf Senior citizen with early bad library experience to Understand.

Like me

*Willard Madsen Ohio residence.

Danny Lucero | Deaf Mentor Program and MOC

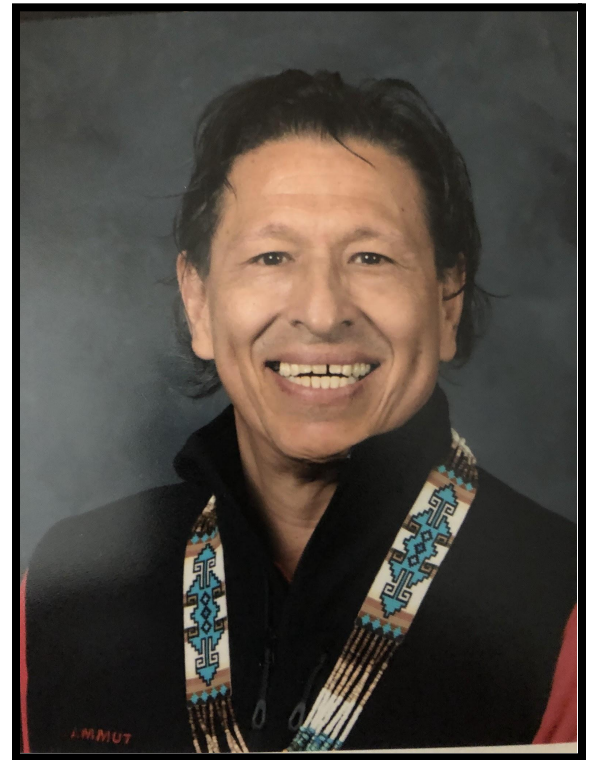
Written by: Danny Lucero *Edited by:* Juanita Hall

My name is Danny Lucero and I was born in Clovis, New Mexico in the comfort of my mother's home. Growing up, medical care was not affordable for a young lady who carries deafness in her DNA. Danny attended a New Mexico school for the Deaf (NMSD) along with my oldest brother and the youngest. Four members of my family had attended residential school for the Deaf in Santa Fe, New Mexico. And to this day, two of his siblings are still in attendance at the residential school.

Valuing my ancestors of Navajo/Apache/Chicano has guided me to be who I am to this day, as a dancer, actor, presenter a man of many gifts, and thanks to the Holy Spirits. After graduating from a mainstream school after attending many years at NMSD, the curiosity of P11942 has led me to explore the mainstream program after graduation. I headed to Southwest Collegiate Institution for the Deaf (SWCID) in Big Spring, Texas. After a year there I then joined a performing troupe known as "MUSIGN" WITH Rita Corey, Ed Chevy and Bob Hiltermann; all known now as the "Beethoven's Night Mare" a Deaf/hard of hearing band.

I then head out to Gallaudet University where I obtained my degree in Deaf Studies and was an active member of the community where the "Deaf Way" and "Deaf President Now" (DPN) protests took place that led me to be a leader within my own people. I then became vice-president of the Intertribal Deaf Council back in the 90's only to sadly see it melt away.

Now, I am happily married for 22 years to a beautiful lady from Slovakia and raising two bright kids. Our boy graduated from Purdue University in electric Engineering. Our daughter is a Junior at Gallaudet majoring in Psychology and honor deans. My wife has her own entrepreneur business known as "Kova Kandles". And being of servant to the Holy Ones, I am a Job Developer for the Deaf Community Resource Center (DCRC) in Dayton/Springfield, OH.



The most unique thing about me is that I am a powwow dancer, drummer, storyteller and actor. I am known by several ASL books, videos, and more. I am blessed for the gifts I am granted. My love for the Holy Spirit has led me to A LIFE of BEAUTY.

Lenora Culpher | Black Native American DeafBlind

Written by: Juanita Hall

Statistically, the DeafBlind are often forgotten by most people and seen as a hidden people. They are a minority that represents about “0.2% - 2% of the global population” (World Federation of the DeafBlind WFDB, 3). And even a much smaller percentage are the Black Native American DeafBlind. One special person comes to mind and this is Lenora Culpher,



a Black Native American DeafBlind woman. She is an Ohio School for the Deaf Alumni of 1919. After she graduated, she sent a letter in April 1919 to Gallaudet College’s President Hall with requests for a teacher and financial aid to be provided for her if she attended.



Sadly, President Hall suggested for her to attend a local college instead of Gallaudet. At that time, Gallaudet didn’t accept the blacks. Eventually, she attended along with two other DeafBlind individuals. Leslie F. Oren and John Porter Riley, who was also black (National Deaf Life Museum at Gallaudet University, 2023).

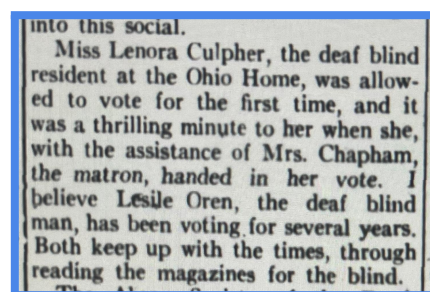
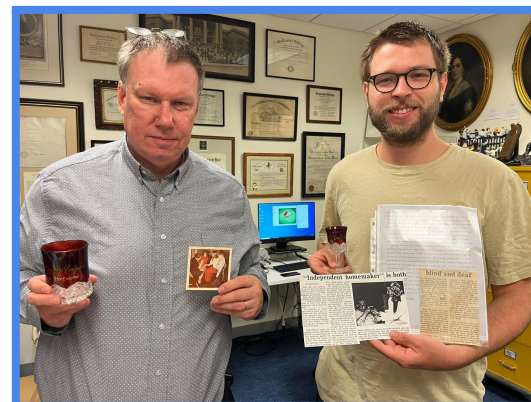


Photo: Brent Bostelman donated his pictures of his Godmother, Lenora Culpher to Gallaudet University Archives Library as shown here.



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National Deaf Life Museum. (2023, June/July). The Deaf experience on

display. GU. <https://gallaudet.edu/museum/>

World Federation of the DeafBlind, WFDB. (2018. September). *At risk of exclusion from CRPD and*

SDGs implementation: Inequality and Persons with Deafblindness.

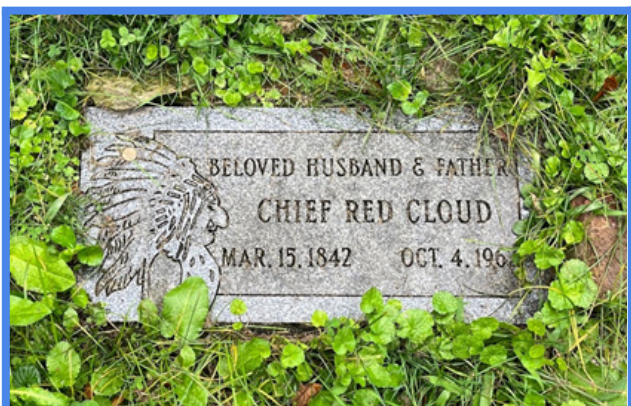
https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/wfdb_complete_initial_global_report_september_2018.pdf

Lenora Culpher | Gravestone Fundraiser

Written by: Juanita Hall Video by: Dawn Watts [▶ Lenora Culpher's NEW Gravestone for her birthday!](#)

On a beautiful Monday, September 18, 2023, ODFL President, Dawn Watts took a special trip to Union Cemetery, Steubenville, Ohio on the day of Lenora Culpher's birthday. Upon arrival to the gravesite, it was discovered that Lenora didn't have a gravestone or even a marker to designate her grave. The cemetery caretaker showed Dawn where she was buried, next to her parents. With compassion, Ms. Watts placed some twigs from a nearby tree around her grave along with some stones and beautiful flowers. When Dawn recognized Lenora and her birthday with a special blessing, she felt peace surround her. It was a sweet moment.

After her visit with Lenora's grave, she discovered to her delight Chief Red



Cloud's gravestone! As she stood there, the atmosphere shifted with a nice breeze as

the trees limbs waved in front of her. It was a special tribute to Chief Red Cloud.

In the spirit of our Black DeafBlind Native American ancestors, ODFL has a fundraiser to raise money to finally place a gravestone on Lenora Culpher's grave so she may finally rest in peace and love from

her fellow Deaf and DeafBlind people. The goal is to raise \$1,300 for this special gravestone to be placed on Ms. Culpher's grave for her birthday next year, September 18, 2024. Here is the link where you may donate on behalf of Lenora Culpher:

[Fundraiser for Lenora Culpher's Gravestone](#)



New Election ODFL Officers on December 14, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

Written by: Malia Schneck

Hello everyone!

My name is Malia Schneck (sign name). I'm a Youth Advisor for ODFL. ODFL chose me to be a nominee chairperson for new officers for January 2024 - 2026.

If you are interested in running as an officer for ODFL, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Five Regional Reps.

Please email me before Dec 1st. My email is maliaschneck@gmail.com. Please include your full name and the position you are interested in.

Voting day will be on Thursday, December 14th, it takes place at the Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.

If you are interested in more about by-laws, or more details, please check the ODFL website: ocdclibrary.org. Or reach out to Dawn Watts' email: ohiocdc2016@gmail.com.

Have a great day!

Thanks,

Malia

ODFL Youth Advisor

YouTube Video: https://youtu.be/viCWo_F6osk



Ohio Alliance Organization’s MOC Update

Memorandum of Compliance

Ohio Alliance Organizations

Rationale and Scope

Ohio’s Alliance with Organizations (OAO) will provide an important vehicle through which organizations and members organize and work together to improve our communities. When consistent with its mission and purpose, this activity should represent the interest of the people it serves through education and public policy advocacy, as well as by encouraging members, staff, volunteers, and constituents to participate in the public affairs of the community.

Its program should effectively and efficiently work toward achieving that mission.

Goals and Objectives

Advocacy in these four Strategic areas:

1. Ohio Deaf History Month from March 13 to April 15.
2. Discussion of and collaborative advocacy on Statewide issues: Education, Employment, Welfare, and Others related to the needs of services to all members of the deaf community.

Meeting

All meetings will be every 2 months. Meeting agendas and minutes will be provided by Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library. All communication transparency will take place through email to all organizations on our mailing data.

Communication, information sharing, and consultation processes

Ohio’s Alliance Organizations is to create and use common platforms, create and use programs, create and promote beneficial programs, and share knowledge, skills, and collective power to effect change. It provides a strong, collective voice to inform and influence public policy.

Every Organization should disclose Organizing Documents (OD) upon request, Organizing Documents are basically an Article of Incorporation, State Licensure, Federal EIN, Constitution and bylaws, Federal NPO Designation Certification, Federal Form 1023, Federal 990 Reports.

Partnering Organization: _____

Your title and name _____

Date _____

(Next OAO meeting will be on November 16, 2023)

DeaFriendly | REVIEW

Written by: Melissa “echo” Greenlee *Edited by:* Juanita Hall

Are you tired of the struggle of businesses not being Deaf-friendly? How often have you tried to use a business’s customer service, or resources only to discover that they were not Deaf-friendly? Now is your chance to use deaffriendly | REVIEW founded by Melissa “echo” Greenlee for the Deaf, DeafBlind, hard of hearing, and hearing allies to review and rate businesses based on your experience of their service on their deaf-friendliness.

Hello Dawn,

Thank you so much for reaching out and inquiring.

Yes, you are welcome to add our consumer review platform: deaffriendly.com to your website - it is for deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing and hearing allies to rate and review businesses based on their experience in a place of business. You are also welcome to add our other website www.deaffriendlyconsulting.com - which is geared towards businesses looking to improve their products or services to be more inclusive to deaf and hard of hearing customers. Another area we have is www.deaffriendlylearning.com - which offers digital courses for businesses!

We appreciate you reaching out and appreciate all the work you do in Ohio!

Thank you!

ODFL Retreat Meeting on August 12, 2023

Written by: Dawn Watts

Lunch was served to all ODFL members and guests. Thanks to Gail T., Debbie Brown, Jenny Jakse, and Christine for dessert and water bottles.

Alexia Kemerling, a guest speaker, explained to us how to approach Ohio Libraries with ADA and NAD's cover letter, too.

I suggest people print or email this resource to libraries if they receive any pushback on interpreter requests.

<https://www.nad.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Museums-Libraries-Galleries.pdf>

Christine Corner passed out the Westerville Public Library Program to us, they always provided events for the deaf community.

First Annual OCDC Retreat meeting:

1. Financial. Some need to reach goal
2. Collaboration between OCDC and Libraries.
3. Website/Technology/Brochure. Reached goal
4. Ohio Deaf History Month/International Deaf Awareness (September) Reached goal
5. Deaf Reader Newsletter Reached goal
6. Second Annual ODFL Retreat meeting:

Deaf Mentor Group

SKI-HI Certification for Deaf Mentors. Dawn, Marsha, and Danny have their certification.

Jodie Grace, Head of Deaf Mentor and Family Support.

<https://deaf-mentor.skihi.org/>

Increase training professional SKI-HI Certification

Resources: ODFL Website:

Add a link to find more information

Start with a small like five people, increase then expand to 10 or more in the future.

Resources provider with the program for families of deaf children/child

2. Libraries in Ohio

Need to meet with the State of Library staff about our ODFL increase to the local/branch libraries for the deaf community.

Need to set up a website about this organization to explain Ohio Deaf History Month.

Need to have a good leader who is motivated to be involved before we become an officer or committees. All team works together better.

Need to train new library staff or officers or members.

Provide ASL class in the library.

Try to get volunteer interpreters for ASL storyteller day. Age from 3 to up. If under 3 years old, can teach basic sign language to hearing parents and children in the library.



ODFL Board and friends are in the garage during the meeting

Christine Corner explaining to the ODFL Board members about the Westerville Public Library



Ohio Opportunities for Disabilities (OOD)

Council Meeting Testimony Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 10 am

Hello to the OOD Council members and all,

According to the 2019 US Census, there are 71,000 deaf Ohioans among us and I am one of them.

My name is Dawn Watts. Thank you for allowing me to be here with my colleague, Vicky Emerson. I would like to express my genuine appreciation for RSC services as well as share some of my personal testimony with you not only as an interpreter but as a deaf Ohioan.

My History with Rehab Services

I attended college in NW Toledo at BGSU (Bowling Green State University) at a time when there were not many qualified interpreters in that area, as there still aren't many even today. When I met with Dr. Harry Hoemann, my professor & academic advisor, I brought this concern of unqualified interpreters to him because I needed to take 12 credit hours of classes to receive RSC funding. I couldn't due to the lack of qualified interpreting services. He suggested Gallaudet University as an alternative since it was and is the only liberal arts college for the deaf in the world.

After I, wife and mother of two boys, 5 and 3 years old, left BGSU my world absolutely changed when I went to Washington, DC to attend Gallaudet University. I was there in 1988, during the Deaf President Now (DPN) civil rights movement. Throughout my experiences there I learned many

insights into the multifaceted world of advocacy and learned to be an interpreter.

I am grateful to Rehab Services for putting me on the path to the many successes I have experienced over the years, all of which have formed me into the community advocate I am today.

With the help of RSC, I have completed my degree from Gallaudet University which led to me becoming an author of a groundbreaking documentary titled, "Stop Audism Ohio" which is now housed in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

Audism is in some ways like ableism, which is when one values the standard abilities of someone over others. But, audism also adds another layer of oppression in that it values speaking and listening above other types of communication. I mention this because I was allowed to attend Gallaudet based on my ability to speak, just because I can use my voice to communicate. We now call this linguisticism, when one holds a language superior to another. This is my journey and my experience with VR services. Because of these experiences, I will always be an

advocate for the **entire** deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and DeafBlind community, regardless of their communication methods.

I say all of this to share with you the framework to which I make these next observations and requests of OOD.

DEI-A (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and **Accessibility**)

1. This may be a new phrase people use recently but we've been there before.
2. RSC used to partner with the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and DeafBlind community by not doing things FOR us but WITH us. Not just in words but proof in your actions.

3. I was one of the members of the 1984-1987, RSC established and convened the “Advisory Council for the Ohio Rehabilitation Commission on Deafness.” We need to bring this practice back by listening to the community's needs, directly from us.

Communication & Transparency

Communication used to be highly valued and the deaf had access to and transparency with RSC somehow that has changed.

1. **The deaf, hard-of-hearing, and DeafBlind community need to see Katie Scheetz communicating directly with them. This will help OOD to show transparency and a spirit of collaboration, not FOR us but WITH us.**
2. **Social Media is a very popular and effective method of getting information out to the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and DeafBlind communities.**
3. **OOD YouTube channel : “Ohio OOD” . Just a few short video updates could easily be posted by Katie Scheetz, as the state coordinator in ASL to inform the community of OOD information.**

1. **Emailing a subscription list and posting information** on the [OOD website](#) is less effective although also necessary, especially for our Braille readers.

Increase awareness for Ohioans who are DeafBlind

In the past, rehab services advocated for DeafBlind Ohioans. Dr. Jeff Bohrman was DeafBlind and a founding father of the Ohio Association of the DeafBlind (OADB). The state used to fund SSPs for our DeafBlind Ohioans. Since that time the budget has changed many times over however the needs of the D/HH/DB community have not diminished but only increased.

House Bill 33 - Funding for SSP for DeafBlind Ohioans

This past summer we celebrated a “red, white & blue” victory! Ohio Governor, Mike DeWine signed House Bill 33 (HB33) which earmarked 2024/2025 state funding for the new Ohio DeafBlind SSP program which provides funds explicitly for Support Service Providers (SSP) to the Columbus Speech & Hearing Center for the fiscal year 2024/2025.

Support Service Providers (SSPs) and Co-Navigators (CN) services provide transportation to banking, grocery shopping, and basic communication assistance (not interpreting services) that otherwise sighted citizens have access to in their daily lives.

ICanConnect DeafBlind Equipment Fund

(CVTA - Communications Video Technology Accessibility Act) is the Federal Legislation introduced by Senator Markey

(Massachusetts) this week (33rd Anniversary of ADA) here in DC that, if passed, will pay for CFs - Communication Facilitators - for consumers who are DeafBlind when accessing technology of all kinds. It also doubles the size of the ICanConnect DeafBlind Equipment Fund from \$ 10 million to \$ 20 million.

This will be the second amendment to Title IV of the ADA (Telecom Access) if passed. This is the second introduction (didn't go anywhere last session of Congress), and it's likely to take several sessions of Congress to make it through to finally becoming law.

Keep DeafBlind informed and gather their insights

Host a DeafBlind town hall meeting like we used to do. This elite group is made up of highly invested Ohioans who want to be not only seen but heard. They know best how OOD can help them, they just need you to be there in the audience.

OOD as a resource for the deaf community and families

Other states or disability services have a deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and DeafBlind resource directly linked to their website for individuals or hearing parents to utilize. The present link only brings the user to the Deaf Services page.

Lack of Deaf models for students of transitional ages

Traditionally deaf, hard-of-hearing, and DeafBlind students attended the Ohio School for the Deaf and therefore had daily access to deaf role models. Now, our transition-age students are typically mainstreamed at their local schools. Their sole

exposure to sign language is typically from an educational interpreter and usually NOT a native language user. The interpreter, in effect, becomes their sole source of adult language modeling whilst they are still emerging in their own native language. Deaf students have NO native language users as role models.

My concern stems from personal experience.

I, Educator Interpreter for Outreach Service, Interpreting Sign Language Resource (ISLR), was called to assist a K-12 student in a mainstream school system. Upon arrival, I found that the student was severely language-deprived due to their home environment in which the parents were lacking simple resources to learn to communicate with their child.

Most students & parents still do not have access to resources for disability services that will aid them in transitioning to employment. I suggest OOD work collaboratively with other deaf community organizations available to alleviate these concerns.

President of the Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library

I'd like to say something also as the President of Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library, the board has recently discussed developing a community-based project that will provide students with deaf mentorship. This will provide a much-needed service in the community not only for students but also for parents to be able to have the support they also need. We have over 1, 200 subscribers, to The Deaf Reader Newsletter.

Resource List for Collaboration

Ohio RSC intentionally created a community to bond genuine connections with the deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and DeafBlind Communities. Our collaborative history goes back all the way

back to **1984**.

Skip Bergquist, who used to be the State Coordinator for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Commission, was very transparent and collaborative as an RSC representative and a highly valued figure in the deaf community. The opportunity of inclusion provides an opportunity for OOD to gain insider information.

Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library Resource Collaboration

I would like to offer the resource list that Deaf Friends of the Library has been working to improve as opportunities make themselves available. For example, two youths and an adult will work on the Deaf, HH, and DeafBlind people's Bio on the ODFL website. Jack Hawk, a well-known CODA, CCD in Canton, Ohio, Deaf Parents. Also, I have over 20 organizations who were in the Ohio Alliance Organizations for Zoom meetings.

Interpreters support across Ohio

OCRID (The Ohio Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) is also an available resource for collaboration regarding the state of interpreting services across Ohio. I am the OCRID Deaf Member-at-Large and here with me is Vicky Emerson who has been an interpreter in Ohio since 2005 and the OCRID Director of Meetings.

In Closing

I am happy to work with the advisory council to resolve these ongoing issues. I'd rather work in tandem as partners than work in opposition to each other. After all, we are all here to improve the lives of deaf, hard-of-hearing, and DeafBlind lives together.

I am a product of the services that OOD can and does provide when they believe in the possibilities.

I am deeply grateful for all that Rehab Services has provided for me to make me the advocate standing in front of you. I am here to advocate for the betterment of all deaf/HH/DB in Ohio.

Samantha J. in her article, [“The Deaf Community in Ohio” October 11, 2022](#), says, “As Americans, we must continue to support deaf and hard-of-hearing people in their efforts to reach their full potential.” I would only add DeafBlind to her list of people to include.

Thank you for all you have done for me and the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and DeafBlind community. I look forward to hopefully working more with you all in the future.

Dawn K Watts



Telecommunication for the Deaf Conference at the University of Maryland

Written by: Arthur Roehrig

US Congress: Senates Bill 2994 and House of Representatives Bill 4858



📺 Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVTA)

Last week, at the Telecommunication for the Deaf Conference at the University of Maryland, I was on one of the panels that gave my experience struggling with Digital Inclusion for the DeafBlind people.

I live alone in my apartment and I struggled with some digital iPhones and laptops due to a lack of training techniques who couldn't communicate with me in tactile sign language. I often was helpless about how to use it if the electricity went down. I need someone who can help me to connect with my laptop because my braille could not able to read due to the different designs of formats between the laptop and braille. In addition, I do not have any access using 911 to the iPhone. I strongly need to have Communication Facilitators who can help me.

I am not eligible for the ICanConnect DeafBlind Equipment Fund because my income is high. I often found myself helpless. I want to see ICanConnect's policy to remove "limited income".

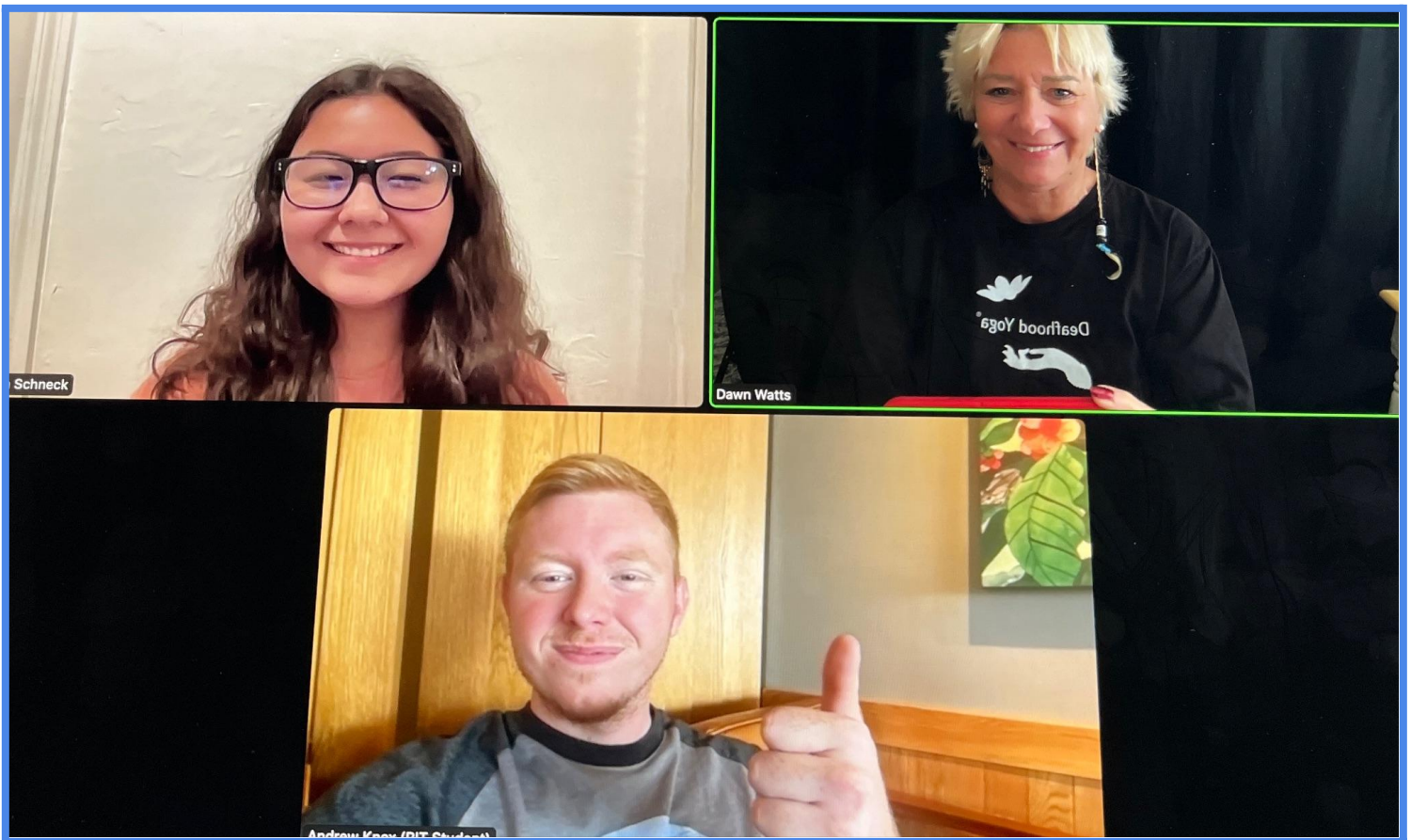
Please vote in favor of Senate Bill S.2494 [CVTAaccess.org](https://www.cvtaccess.org).

(July 29, 2023)

ODFL Leader Deaf Youths: Andrew Knox and Malia Schneck

Written by: Dawn Watts

We met and discussed various ideas for the ODFL in the future. Malia expressed to me how much she learned a lot from the ODFL meetings because the meetings run very smoothly. She understood how important it is to have a Parliamentary as Robert's Rules of Order. She would like to have more Deaf students in the ODFL meetings for them to have the opportunity to learn how to handle the meetings. Therefore, they can become good leaders for the Deaf community. Andrew has ideas for improvement on ODFL's website: Ohio Deaf History. Hopefully, we will have Deaf students who can do research and write a report on various Ohioan Deaf leaders who have contributed to the Deaf Community. For example, Louise Hume and Robert Patterson, etc.



▶ November 7, 2023 Vote Registration before October 10th

VOTER REGISTRATION
DEADLINE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

O-H-I-O
Friends & Family!

ELECTION DAY ★ NOVEMBER 7!

NO VOTE MEANS

**YOU ARE AGAINST THE
RIGHT TO "MAKE AND
CARRY OUT ONE'S OWN
REPRODUCTIVE
DECISIONS"**

YES VOTE MEANS

**YOU AGREE WITH THE
RIGHT TO "MAKE AND
CARRY OUT ONE'S
OWN REPRODUCTIVE
DECISIONS"**

ISSUE 1
"ONE'S OWN
REPRODUCTIVE
DECISIONS" INCLUDES

- CONTRACEPTION
- FERTILITY TREATMENT
- MISCARRIAGE CARE
- CONTINUING PREGNANCY CARE
- ABORTION
- IT ALLOWS THE STATE TO RESTRICT ABORTION EXCEPT WHEN "NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE PREGNANT PATIENT'S LIFE OR HEALTH"

Register to Vote
by October 10!



Learn more about Issue 1



LCWOSB Holiday Market

Marina DiMario will be hosting her lovely LCWOSB Holiday Market on October 28th from 11 am - 4 pm. It is a great opportunity to buy arts, crafts, and music. It is located on the Hartford Fairground in Croton, Ohio. Check it out!



LCWOSB Holiday Market
Hartford Fairgrounds
14028 Fairgrounds Road
Croton, Ohio 43013

Buckeye Chapter of Gallaudet University Alumni Association

Written by: Dawn Watts

On Saturday, September 23rd, the Buckeye Chapter of Gallaudet University Alumni Association (BCGUAA) hosted a Picnic at Start Park Dogwood Shelter in Westerville, Ohio. The first thing we did was have our General meeting with 18 members and 3 visitors in attendance. After the meeting, the board served hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch.

If you are enrolled at Gallaudet University, you can join the BCGUAA for \$5.00. Recently, the members agreed to have any of the “Friends of Gallaudet” who would like to join in any of our future events. Some of the items we are working on that we agree to support are to pay for Lenora Culpher’s new gravestone and to have a scholarship for a candidate 2nd year Gallaudet University student who is 2nd year. Lastly, we agreed to invite a special guest speaker from Gallaudet University Representative to Columbus, Ohio in the near future. The board members will meet soon to have a meeting on updating the BCGUAA guidelines.

The BCGUAA Board members are Martin T, President, Steve Sandy, Vice President, Dawn Watts, Secretary/Treasurer & Past President: Bob Donaldson-Pirc.



Living Memorial Tree | Jack L. Hawk

Written by: Dawn Watts YouTube Video by: Dawn Watts

[Jack Hawk Mass of Christian Burial \(Dec 31, 1945-August 10, 2023\)](#)

The ODFL Board and Representatives donated for the Living Memorial Tree in honor of Jack Hawk. Jak was one of the ODFL’s auditors and the tax advisor.



Left to right: Jim Hawk, Steve Hawk, and Mella Castner (sister)



Jack Hawks' Legacy

Written by: Irene Tunanidas

Ohio's Deaf Community is mourning over the passing of Jack Hawk, 77, who left the Earth unexpectedly on August 10, 2023, after a brief illness. His last employment was with TRIAD Deaf Services where he served as director since 2012. During the monthly meetings held by the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), Jack will be best remembered for his advocacy for Deaf Leadership in managerial positions in mainstream community employment.

As the oldest of four children of Alvin and Minnie Hawk, his deaf parents, Jack made time for deaf-sponsored events and helped his parents with daily issues such as phone calls, emails, and their official positions with the Ohio Association of the Deaf.

Jack, a licensed architect, was an upstanding member of Canton's civic community. He received accolades for his exemplary leadership in Architecture and made significant contributions to the architectural community. He and his partner Robert Wilson formed the Wilson Architectural Group in Canton. They were responsible for the design of the Belden Village in Canton, Ohio. Jack served as an architectural consultant for the Ohio School for the Deaf Alumni Association (OSDAA) which owns Columbus Colony in Westerville, Ohio.

In 2012 TRILLIUM Family Services Center was about to defund Deaf Services and send deaf consumers to another agency. Jack was contacted to save the agency from phasing out for good. During one summer day in 2012, a meeting was formed to discuss funding to save the Deaf Services Center at TRILLIUM. Jack received help from Nancy O'Hara, an advocate for the Deaf under TRILLIUM. Their efforts to save deaf services had failed. Jack sought help from Canton's GOODWILL Center and was given a space to assist deaf consumers with their needs.

Jack was appointed Director of TRIAD Deaf Services. Nancy O'Hara came up with the idea of a new name for the deaf agency. With proactive planning and commitment, TRIAD Deaf Services spurted growth under Jack's leadership. Several deaf persons were hired to various job positions at TRIAD and interpreters were placed to assist deaf persons in community functions and in the public schools. Jack and his employees held successful fundraisers and entertained deaf children at Halloween and Christmas events.

Jack made time for the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) monthly meetings and advocated for deaf empowerment in employment as he believed that deaf applicants should gain access to the workforce to earn a living.

Jack served as auditor for the Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures and attended its Ohio Alliance of Organizations's quarterly meetings on Zoom and encouraged deaf participants to make contacts with organizations in the mainstream community.

In November of 2019, Jack was appointed Chair of the Financial Committee under the management of the Ohio Association of the Deaf (OAD). Even though he was a maverick when it came to making decisions, OAD officers learned what it takes to be an effective leader.

There are no words to make our pain go away after Jack's untimely passing. We take comfort that he is at peace; his legacy will live on in the hearts of those who knew him well and loved him.

DWAVE Volleyball | Emergency Fund Raiser

DWAVE Volleyball on September 24, 2023

To raise money for Emergency Fund for Deaf people who need to stay in the hotel or gas transportation.



American Red Cross Disaster | Home Alarms for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind People

Does someone in your household need assistive fire safety equipment? Are you interested in learning more about how to prepare your home and family against a home fire?

Sign up for a home fire safety visit from your local Red Cross for FREE!

Contact to lauren.froehlich@redcross.org

If you live in Cleveland or east of Cleveland, Angie Potosky will be more than happy to help you. You may contact her at potosky2rep@gmail.com.



<https://americanredcross.wufoo.com/forms/assistive-equipment-request-form/>



**Ohio Association of the DeafBlind
Christmas Gingerbread Party**

**When: December 2, 2023
Time: 11:00am to 3:00pm**

**Where: Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant
343 N Front St
Columbus, OH 43215**

**Cost: \$30 DeafBlind
\$15 SSP
\$35 Non-Member**

RSVP by November 22nd

Contact: Chairperson Nicole Bucher at bellanicola@gmail.com

**Included Lunch meal, Cash Raffles, and Surprise Gift Cards.
Also win Gingerbread contest (Anything relate gingerbread like Costume or crafts)
for 1st and 2nd place**

**Note: Please brings the Parking ticket across from the restaurant and the
Parking ticket will be validate from the restaurant**

Technology for Independence with Chris Cooley, Regional Rep. Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library

Dawn K. Watts, President of the Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library speaks through an interpreter about the different programs available to the blind and deaf in Ohio.

[Technology for Independence Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library](#)

26:09 Minutes September 11, 2023

<https://youtu.be/gvRDJWLULLY>

Sorenson will Provide VRS to DeafBlind starting October 1st

Read the FCC announcement below.

On September 29, 2023, the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (Bureau) released an Order granting four temporary, conditional waivers to Sorenson Communications, LLC (Sorenson) to ensure continuous availability of Video Relay Service (VRS) to individuals who are deafblind. ASL Services Holdings, LLC dba GlobalVRS (GlobalVRS), the sole provider of a special form of VRS for deafblind consumers, is terminating its participation in the VRS program, ending its specialized service to deafblind VRS users and transferring its remaining VRS users to Sorenson. These waivers enable Sorenson to quickly establish a fully functioning, robust VRS service for consumers who are deafblind.

LinktotheOrder: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/10929539329647>

For general information about VRS, visit www.fcc.gov/vrs.

Please contact Joshua Mendelsohn, Disability Rights Office, Consumer and Governmental Bureau, at 202-559-7304 (voice or videophone), or Joshua.Mendelsohn@fcc.gov.

-end-

Cedar Point HALLOWEEN WEEKENDS

Ohio Association of the Deaf FAMILY FUN DAY October 7, 2023

Tickets Must Be Purchased in Advance with a Credit Card Online at:

WWW.CEDARPOINT.COM/AFFILIATES
USERNAME: CPOAD
PASSWORD: oadtix

For more information, please contact Irene Tunanidas at
President@oad-deaf.org or VP at 216-200-7222



For park information, including hours, please visit www.cedarpoint.com.

Cedar Point is now cashless.



Cedar Fair Entertainment Company® ©2021 Cedar Fair, L.P. CP21-760



CAAD

<https://www.caadsports.net/>



Tournaments (BB and VB)
 When? March 22 – 24, 2024
Ballroom
 When? March 23, 2024

2024 Central Athletic Association of the Deaf
Welcome you to the 80th Reunion!
 And
Basketball and Volleyball Tournaments

Basketball / Volleyball tournaments
 Where:
 Westwood Fieldhouse
 3932 Brown Park Drive
 Hilliard, Ohio 43026



Hotel and Ballrooms
 Where: Use room block: CAAD_Ballroom
 Courtyard Columbus West Hilliard
 2350 Westbelt Drive
 Columbus, Ohio 43228



Special Event of 80th Reunion by Chairperson Willis Cook. Need more info. Email CAADreunion@gmail.com

Included Ballroom and Dinner ** You shall not be entitled to a refund for any purchase under any circumstances.

Admission	Super Early Bird	Early Bird	Pre-at Door	At Door
Date due:	Now to October 31, 2023	November 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024	February 1 – March 22, 2024	March 23, 2024 (Saturday)
Fans	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$80.00
Senior Citizen	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$60.00
BB and VB Players	(NOT included Player fee)	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$50.00

PLEASE NOTE: (Ballroom)
 FUN - Semi-formal Clothes / DJ Music / Buffet Food / Fun Chatting / Reunion Gathering
 (No Jeans, t-shirts, baseball caps, warm-up clothes!)
 Please send your form **with your old face and current face, please.** →



Zelle to caadsecytreasurer@gmail.com Note: Ballroom / name of person(s)
 or Money orders (Payable to CAAD Ballroom Party, no checks accepted)
 to: CAAD, Attn. Ballroom Party, 320 McKinney Drive, Moon Township, PA. 15108
 To order extra forms, visit the website: <https://www.caadsports.net/>

Pictures for AD, Managers, Coach, Players ONLY ↑

Full name (required) _____ Full Guest Name #2 (optional) _____

Street address (required) _____ Full Guest Name #3 (optional) _____

City, State, Zip Code: (required) _____ Full Guest Name #4 (optional) _____

Email address: (required) _____


Ballroom only:

How many person(s): _____

Total Amount \$ _____


Date Sent: _____

Note: Athletic Director/Manager/ Coach –
 Men's and Women's Basketball Teams/player fee and Men/Women Volleyball Team/player Fee will be announced soon.



DEAF COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER





DEAF FESTIVAL 2023

OCTOBER 14, 2023
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Admission **FREE**


Activities

- ✓ Exhibit booths
- ✓ Deaf-related resources
- ✓ Family Friendly Activities
- ✓ Entertainments
- ✓ And many more!!!

Wright State University
Student Union - Apollo Rooms
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy
Dayton, Ohio 45435

Booth And/Or Sponsor:
www.dcrcoho.org

SCAN ME!



Deaf Community Resource Center (DCRC) is a 501(c)(3) organization supported through fee for service programs, grants and contacts from the Springfield Foundation, Community Health, Adv4Kids, and generous donors like you. Check out our website at: www.dcrcoho.org Like and follow us on Facebook



Enter Your Chili!



HEARING
SPEECH + DEAF
CENTER

PRESENTS OUR

3RD ANNUAL CHILI

COOK

OFF

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 4TH
11AM-3PM

ST. RITA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

1720 GLENDALE MILFORD ROAD
CINCINNATI, OH 45215

\$10 OR **4** CANS
OF FOOD
PER PERSON
AGE 10 AND UNDER- FREE

• COME AND TASTE CHILI SAMPLES
• FROM ALL CONTESTANTS
• TO VOTE!

RAFFLE • 50/50 • AND MORE!

**\$20 TO ENTER CONTEST!
PRIZES FOR TOP VOTED CHILIS!
SCAN QR CODE ABOVE TO ENTER BY NOV. 1
QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT MSCHREFFLER@HEARINGSPEECHDEAF.ORG**



Job Positions & News

Columbus Colony Housings in Columbus, Ohio has several positions available:

- Service Coordinator
- CCH 1 and 2 Manager for CCH 1 and 2
- Overnight Manager

Here is the link for the openings: [Careers with a Calling - CCH](#)

ODFL Board meeting on October 12, 2023, by Zoom.

Minutes meeting on the website: www.OCDC.library.org

**Next *The Deaf Reader*
Newsletter Vol. 1
January 2024**

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

Contact Information

The Deaf Reader

Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library
(ODFL) website:

<https://www.ocdclibrary.org/>

ODFL email:

thedeafreader@gmail.com

ODFL mailing address:

P.O. Box 917
Worthington, Ohio 43085-0917

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

The Deaf Reader Newsletter

Dawn Watts, Megan Anderson Christian, and Juanita Hall

Legislative Advisor

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

Northwest 1 Representatives Lori Luk and Ann Bodette

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

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

Central 4 Representatives Tim McNutt

Coshocton, Delaware, Licking, Fayette, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Marion, Madison, Morrow, Muskingum, Perry, Pickaway, Union

Southeast 5 Representative Chris Cooley

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

Director: Dawn K. Watts Editor: Juanita Hall

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