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President's Message

Written by: Danny Lucero

July 5, 2026

From the President's Desk

Dear Members of ODFL,

July is already here! I hope everyone is having a good summer, staying cool during the heatwave, and finding time to enjoy the summer.

I'm pleased to share updates as I continue to serve as President, and I will keep you informed about our ongoing work and upcoming initiatives.

Organizational Updates & Highlights

I have had a busy summer participating in Dayton Library storytelling events. One took place on June 13 and another on June 23, drawing a nice audience. Seeing attendees enjoy the arts and crafts activities was splendid.

The ASL Stories Guideline is at its final stage and will be a cornerstone and roadmap for ASL storytelling for the Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library (ODFL). Thanks to the hard work of committee members Dawn and Juanita.

Statewide Recognition

Dawn Watts and Danny Lucero will partake in the Disability Symposium at Dayton Main Library on July 11th from 11am-12pm

Preparation is underway for the event where Dawn Watts and I have been selected as guest speakers for the Library Council Convention & Expo, taking place October 21–23, 2026, in Sandusky, Ohio. This is a great opportunity to highlight ODFL's mission and expand our outreach.

Programs & Events

ASL Storytime Series – Dayton Metro Library

We are excited to announce a series of upcoming ASL Storytime programs, taking place at the Main Library, 215 E. 3rd St., Dayton, OH 45402, on the following dates:

- * June 13, 2026
- * June 27, 2026
- * July 25, 2026
- * August 8, 2026
- * August 22, 2026

Community Impact

ODFL would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to programming at the Fairfield District Library. Your efforts in storytelling, training, ASL education, and Deaf culture awareness are making a meaningful difference in our communities.

Upcoming Meeting

Our next Board Meeting will be held virtually on July 16, 2026.

We look forward to a productive discussion and continued growth, especially in expanding ASL storytelling opportunities across Ohio.

Looking Ahead

More exciting updates and events are planned for August 2026, so stay tuned!

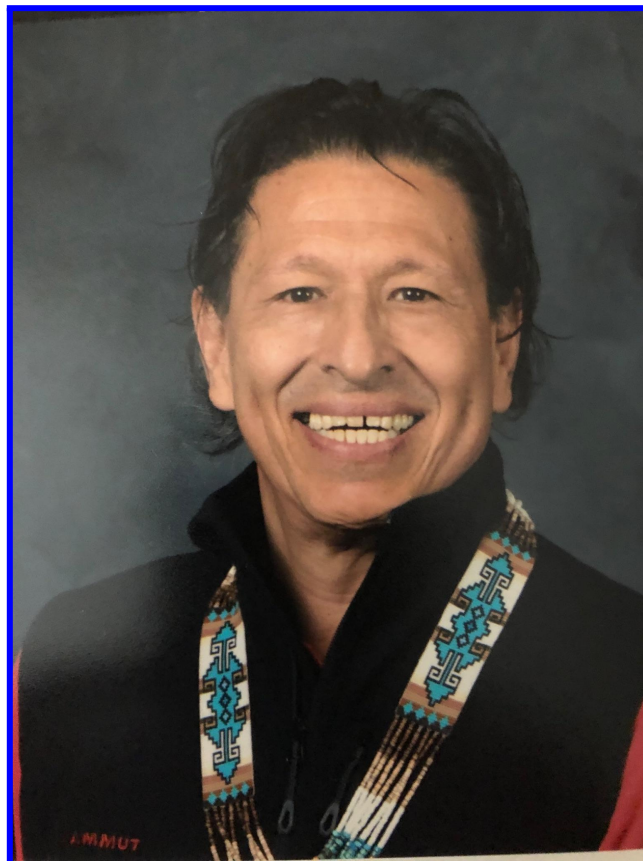
Please stay safe and take time to enjoy the summer with family and community before fall comes.

With appreciation,

Danny Lucero

President, ODFL

“Hózhóogo naasháa doo” — Walk in Beauty



Reflections from the 2026 NAD Conference

Written by: Andrew Knox

From June 30 to July 4, 2026, I had the opportunity to attend the [National Association of the Deaf \(NAD\) Conference](#) in San Francisco, California. As I recently concluded my previous job, I saw this as an opportunity to invest in my professional growth, strengthen my leadership, and continue advocating for the Deaf community.

Although I was not attending as an official delegate of the Ohio Deaf Association (ODA), I attended as an individual volunteer and community member to help ensure Ohio still had a presence and voice throughout the conference. ODA chose not to send delegates this year while focusing on internal priorities, with plans to return for the 2028 NAD Conference. As a result, Ohio did not have an official delegation participating in the discussions and votes that shaped the future direction of NAD, which was a very important part.

I would also like to sincerely thank the individual who generously sponsored my trip. Your belief in me and your investment in my leadership made this opportunity possible. I truly appreciate your support and for making this experience possible.

Throughout the week, I attended a variety of workshops covering leadership, advocacy, public policy, accessibility, education, civil rights, employment, technology, and the future of the Deaf community. Each session offered new perspectives and reinforced that meaningful change happens when Deaf leaders collaborate across states and organizations.

I also had the opportunity to connect with delegates, state association leaders, advocates, and professionals from across the country. Our conversations about governance, public policy, and advocacy gave me a greater appreciation for the different perspectives within our community and the importance of working together to strengthen NAD.

Several delegates also consulted with me about the participation process and sought my perspective on how certain bylaw proposals and resolutions could impact NAD at the national level. I appreciated the opportunity to contribute to these conversations. It reminded me that advocacy is built on partnerships, mutual respect, and collaboration. By listening to different viewpoints and working together as a team, we can make stronger decisions that benefit the Deaf community nationwide.

One of the most valuable experiences was observing the Council of Representatives (COR). I watched delegates debate proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions before voting on the future direction of the organization. While there were differing opinions throughout the discussions, I appreciated seeing the democratic process in action and how delegates represented the interests of their state associations and affiliates.

The conference reinforced that, while the Deaf community has made tremendous progress over the years, there is still important work ahead. Accessibility, education, employment, language equity, healthcare, leadership development, and civic engagement all continue to require strong advocacy. I returned home with new knowledge, meaningful connections, and renewed motivation to continue serving the Deaf community in Ohio and beyond.

Leadership Updates

One of the most significant announcements during the conference was the appointment of **Nicholas Kiego** as the next Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of the Deaf. He will officially begin serving on August 1, 2026, succeeding Interim Executive Director Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins and former CEO Howard A. Rosenblum.

Delegates also elected the **2026–2028 NAD Board of Directors**, effective July 4, 2026.

2026–2028 NAD Board of Directors

- **President:** Stephanie Hakulin
- **Vice President:** Jenny Buechner
 - **Secretary:** Jacob Leffler
 - **Treasurer:** Octavio Maldonado
 - **Region I Board Members:** Thomas Minch and Nicholas Lalanne
 - **Region II Board Members:** Katy Haymeyer and one vacant position
 - **Region III Board Members:** Ari Latino and DeAnna Swope
 - **Region IV Board Members:** Jack Ludwig and Joseph “Jojo” Lopez
 - **Affiliate Board Member:** Dawnmarie Caggiano

Council of Representatives Highlights

The Council of Representatives considered numerous bylaw amendments and resolutions that will help guide the future work of NAD.

Bylaw Amendments

Passed

- **Motion 26-04:** Expanded NAD membership eligibility to individuals, state associations, organizations, collegiate student organizations, and Junior NAD Chapters that support the NAD mission. Annual dues will continue to be determined by the NAD Board of Directors. (*Passed 90–1.*)
- **Motions 26-13, 26-17, and 26-18** were adopted together as one package.
- Delegates approved the remaining bylaw amendment package after removing Proposals **26-20, 26-23, and 26-24** for separate consideration.
- Delegates later approved the withdrawal of **Proposal 26-24** at the request of its sponsor, Jack Ludwig.

Failed

- A motion to refer all remaining bylaw amendments to the Bylaws Committee for additional review failed by a narrow vote of **41–42**.
- A motion to suspend the two-year NAD membership requirement to allow additional candidates to run for Board positions during this conference failed by a vote of **10–79**.

Resolutions Passed

Community-Driven Commitments

One of the most significant resolutions adopted by the Council of Representatives was the creation of the **Community-Driven Commitments**, which replace NAD’s previous **Top Five Priorities**. These commitments establish the organization’s five long-term focus areas:

- Healthcare
- Accessibility
- Technology

- Education
- Employment

To lead this initiative, NAD will establish a **Steering Committee** to oversee each of these focus areas. Unlike the previous model, this work will not be limited to the NAD Board of Directors. Instead, members from state associations and affiliates who are interested in these topics will have the opportunity to serve on task forces and actively contribute their knowledge, experience, and leadership to national initiatives.

The Steering Committee will provide **monthly progress reports** to state associations and affiliates, creating greater transparency, accountability, and collaboration. This new approach gives more Deaf leaders and community members across the country the opportunity to participate directly in shaping NAD's priorities and future work.

Ombuds and Zero Tolerance Policy

Delegates approved the establishment of an ombuds mediation process and biennial reporting on Zero Tolerance Policy violations to improve accountability, transparency, and conflict resolution within the organization.

Recognition Resolutions

Delegates also approved resolutions recognizing:

- The City of San Francisco for hosting the 2026 NAD Conference.
- The service of the 2024–2026 NAD Board of Directors.
- Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins for her outstanding service as Interim Executive Director.

Closing Thoughts

Attending the 2026 NAD Conference was an invaluable experience. I am grateful to everyone who supported this journey, especially the individual who sponsored my attendance. I returned home inspired by the conversations, new connections, and shared commitment to strengthening the Deaf community. I look forward to applying what I learned, becoming involved in future national initiatives, and continuing to advocate for positive change in Ohio and across the country.

Andrew Knox



Image Source: National Association of the Deaf (NAD), 58th Biennial NAD Conference (NAD 2026), San Francisco, California

AAPD Disability Voting Rights Week 2026

Written by: The REV UP Team in a personal email to Dawn Watts used with her permission



Be an Accessible Democracy Defender

Everyone has a role in helping make elections accessible. During **Disability Voting Rights Week (DVRW), September 14–18, 2026**, the theme encourages members of the disability community and their allies to **"Be an Accessible Democracy Defender."**

One added benefit of being an Accessible Democracy Defender? Free swag!

If you [submit your DVRW community event plans](#) by **July 15, 2026**, you may be eligible to receive a box of REV UP swag to support your event!

What does it mean to be an Accessible Democracy Defender?

Across the country, REV UP advocates work every day to promote accessible voting by:

- Fighting voter suppression and supporting accessible elections
- Helping people register to vote and create a voting plan
- Sharing information about accessible voting options
- Reporting barriers at polling places
- Making sure events and resources are accessible to everyone

How can you get involved?

Join AAPD during Disability Voting Rights Week by becoming a DVRW partner and hosting an event in your community. The [2026 DVRW Toolkit](#) can help make your event accessible and successful.

The toolkit includes:

- Messaging and social media resources
- Event ideas and planning guidance
- Accessibility tips and best practices
- Voter education and outreach resources

You can also [submit your event](#) to be featured as part of Disability Voting Rights Week. Community events may include voter registration drives, community conversations, training sessions, or celebrations. Events may be held in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format.

[Submit your event](#) by **July 15, 2026**, for a chance to receive a REV UP swag box.

Together, let's make this year's Disability Voting Rights Week powerful, visible, and impactful.

For more information or questions, contact revup@aapd.com.

Source: American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). AAPD is a national cross-disability rights organization dedicated to increasing the political and economic power of people with disabilities through advocacy, civic engagement, and equal opportunity. Learn more at www.aapd.com.

Image Source: American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) REV UP Campaign.

Stark Library and TRIAD Deaf Services ASL Storytime

Written by: TRIAD Deaf Services

Join Stark Library and TRIAD Deaf Services for ASL Storytimes. Each program features stories shared through both spoken language and American Sign Language (ASL).

Program Dates

- Wed, July 15, 10:00 am-10:30 am at Main Library
- Thurs, July 23, 10:00 am-10:30 am at Plain Community Branch

Register or learn more at StarkLibrary.org/ASLStorytimes



Image Source: Stark Library and TRIAD Deaf Services.

ODFL Presents at Dayton Metro Library's Disability Pride Symposium

Written by: Danny Lucero

Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library (ODFL) was honored to participate as guest speakers at the **Dayton Metro Library Disability Pride Symposium**. ODFL Founder and Vice President **Dawn Watts** and President **Danny Lucero** presented an engaging session on **Deaf Culture and Community**, highlighting the richness of Deaf history, language, and identity.

The presentation explored American Sign Language (ASL), Deaf cultural values and traditions, behavioral norms, and key milestones in Deaf history, including the contributions of Alice Cogswell, Thomas Gallaudet, Laurent Clerc, William Stokoe, the impact of Alexander Graham Bell, Audism, the Deaf President Now movement, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the LEAD-K movement. The session also emphasized the important role public libraries play in creating accessible, inclusive spaces for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

ODFL also shared information about **Ohio Deaf History Month** and its ongoing **ASL Storytelling** initiative, which promotes literacy, Deaf culture, and community engagement through partnerships with libraries across Ohio. We sincerely thank the Dayton Metro Library for the opportunity to celebrate Disability Pride and to help foster greater awareness, understanding, and inclusion within our communities.

Here is a news announcement about this exciting Disability Pride Symposium:

<https://www.wdtn.com/news/dayton-metro-library-hosts-disability-pride-symposium-in-july/>



Image Source: Dayton Metro Library

New Officers: Buckeye Chapter of GUAA

The Buckeye Chapter of Gallaudet University Alumni Association had a meeting on Saturday, June 27. The new officers are:

President: Jessica Nini Fry
Vice President: Art Roehrig
Secretary: Bob Donaldson-Pirc
Treasurer: Gail Teltser
Event Coordinator: Julie Levine
Webmaster: Gerald Eicher

If you are interested to become a member, it will cost \$10.00 per a year, March 13, 2026 to March 13, 2027. Please contact Gail Teltser at gailwt142@hotmail.com

FB: Buckeye Chapter of Gallaudet University Alumni

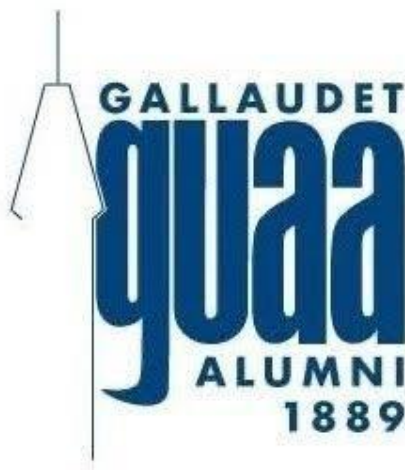


Image Source: Gallaudet GUAA

Ohio Service Dog Awareness Week

Written by: Christopher Cooley

This week, individuals with disabilities showed what is possible when we use our abilities to be active in our communities. We came together to have fun, make new friends, support one another, and create positive experiences.

By being visible in our communities, we help others learn about accessibility, inclusion, and equal access for everyone. Every conversation, every smile, and every connection helps build a stronger and more welcoming community.

Our abilities, determination, and positive attitudes continue to break down barriers and show that everyone deserves the opportunity to participate, belong, and thrive.



Celebrate! ★ ★ OHIO SERVICE DOG AWARENESS WEEK

★ ★ JULY ★ ★

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ANNIVERSARY
Columbus, Ohio

Each step forward we become a team

EACH STEP FORWARD WE BECAME A TEAM
JULY 8 @ 5:30PM
Land-Grant Brewing Company
424 West Town Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

INDEPENDENCE STARTS HERE
JULY 9 @ 5:30PM
Old North Arcade Bar
2591 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43202

VOICES BEYOND SOUND
JULY 10 @ 5:30PM
Tabletop Game Cafe
4316 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43214

MANY ABILITIES, ONE WORLD
JULY 11 @ 10AM
AWARENESS WALK
Meet corner Broad and High
Columbus, Ohio

SEE THE ABILITY THROUGH ART
JULY 11 AFTER THE WALK @ 12:30PM
Chocolate Cafe
1855 Northwest BLVD
Columbus, Ohio 43212

We will have raffles!



Image Source: Christopher Cooley

Next photo may show a group of people with their heads down and eyes closed while participating in a game, but it also tells a much bigger story.

This week, individuals with disabilities chose to show up, be part of the community, and have fun together. We supported people who may have been nervous or afraid to get out, meet new people, and try something new.

Every event, activity, and conversation sends a powerful message: it's okay to be yourself, it's okay to participate, and it's okay to be seen. We do not have to hide. We belong in our communities, and our voices, talents, and abilities matter.

By coming together, we build confidence, friendships, inclusion, and a stronger community for everyone.



Image Source: Christopher Cooley

Deaf Services Center Tecumseh ASL Performance

Written by: Deaf Services Center

ASL Accessible Performance

When: Saturday, July 25th at 8 pm

Tickets: Seating is strictly limited, so you need to act fast!

Costs: 100% FREE admission for limited seats, RSVP today.

Don't miss out on this incredible accessible theater experience. Gather your friends and family and secure your spot today!

RSVP ASAP: Email us at rsvp@dsc.org to claim your seats before they're gone!

Address: Outdoor stages of the Sugarloaf Mountain Amphitheatre

5968 Marietta Road, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

The center of the flyer prominently features the title "Tecumseh" in large white script.

Near the bottom, a brown banner encourages attendees to RSVP today because tickets are limited, with the email RSVP@DSC.ORG displayed in large white text.

At the bottom of the flyer, smaller text notes that the event is sponsored by Advocate for Kids.



Image Source: Deaf Services Center Inc.

The AADB 2026 Board of Directors

Written By: Juanita Hall, Co-Editor

The American Association of the DeafBlind (AADB) is “a national consumer organization of, by, and for deaf-blind Americans and their supporters” (American Association of the DeafBlind, 2018, para. 1). They provide activities to ensure that all DeafBlind persons “achieve their maximum potential through increased independence, productivity, and integration into the community” (American Association of the DeafBlind, 2018, para. 3). They recently elected new Board Directors. Here is a listing of the AADB 2026 Board of Directors.

American Association of the DeafBlind (AADB) 2026 Board of Directors:

- Anne McQuade, President
- Lori Siedman, First Vice President
- Mark Gasaway, Second Vice President
- Lara (Rose) Wall, Secretary
- Deborah (Debi) Dee, Treasurer
- Tracie Inman, Board Member-at-Large
- Victoria (Vicky) Magliocchino, Board Member-at-Large
- Lydia Olmstead, Board Member-at-Large
- Tonilyn Todd, Board Member-at-Large
- Brett Wilhelm, Board Member-at-Large

Interested in Learning More?

The DeafBlind American is AADB's quarterly member publication. To receive future issues and stay informed about DeafBlind advocacy, resources, and events, consider becoming a member of the American Association of the DeafBlind at www.aadb.org.

Reference

American Association of the DeafBlind. (2018). *About AADB*. https://www.aadb.org/aadb/about_aadb.html



Image Source: American Association of the DeafBlind



OHIO DEAF ASSOCIATION

Ohio Deaf Association President's Message

Written By: ODA President, Dr. Marsha Moore

Hope you are all having a great summer, spending time with family and friends, and enjoying the lazy days of summer!

ODA Deaf/KODA Summer Camp – Our Best Year – Camp Highlights!

The Ohio Deaf Association just wrapped its 2nd annual **ODA Deaf/KODA Summer Camp** for youth ages 7-15. This year was a record-breaking success, with 42 campers joining us for an unforgettable weekend of fun, learning and friendship. Our campers enjoyed different activities including high rope, ziplining, nature hikes and of course swimming while building wonderful and lifelong friendships!



This camp would not have been possible without our incredible team of counselors, interpreters, nurses, a chef, and dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly to create a safe, welcoming, and memorable experience for every camper.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our sponsors and donors. Your generosity and support helped make this camp a tremendous success, and we sincerely appreciate your investment in our Deaf and KODA youth.

Save the Date! - Our 2027 ODA Deaf/KODA Summer Camp will be held July 8–11, 2027. Camp registration will open on January 15, 2027. Be sure to follow ODA on Facebook and Instagram for registration details, camp updates, and important announcements.

ODA General Meeting & Elections

Please mark your calendars for the **Ohio Deaf Association Annual General Meeting and Elections**, scheduled for **Saturday, October 24, 2026**, tentatively from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the **Ohio School for the Deaf Conference Room**.

We are planning an informative workshop in the morning, followed by our General Meeting and Board Elections in the afternoon. Additional details, including the agenda and registration information, will be shared soon.

ODA/OSDF Masquerade Gala

Our next major event will be the **Ohio Deaf Association (ODA) and Ohio School for the Deaf Foundation (OSDF) Masquerade Gala** on **Saturday, October 24, 2026**.

The evening will feature both a **Live Auction** and **Silent Auction** to help raise funds that support the missions of both ODA and OSDF. We are currently seeking donations of auction items and experiences.

Please see the [GALA Flyer](#) for event details and complete the [Donation Form](#) if you would like to contribute an item. Every donation makes a difference, and together we can help raise funds for both ODA and OSDF Deaf youth community.

Let's make it a memorable night for everyone! Please continue to visit our website and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest news, events, and announcements. As always, if you have any questions, please email Marsha Moore, ODA President, at theohioda@gmail.com or Linda Adams, ODA secretary at odasecry@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support of the Ohio Deaf Association. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Marsha Moore
ODA President
theohioda@gmail.com



Masquerade Gala

UNMASK THE NIGHT, EMBRACE THE MYSTERY
Elegant evening attire with a masquerade mask required

October 24 | 7:00 PM

OSDAA Community Center
1055 Colony Drive
Westerville, OH 43081

\$60 PER PERSON



If paying by check, please email odaeventscommittee@gmail.com
to request the mailing address to mail the check.

Hosted by:
Ohio School for the Deaf Foundation
and Ohio Deaf Association

Questions: TheOhioDA@gmail.com

Bill H.R. 2947 DeafBlind Data Act

Here is a link to a movie by Bill H. R. 2947. DeafBlind Data Act

https://youtu.be/tIwG5_MMUH8

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/2947>

Join the Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DGMOhio>



Image Source: www.facebook.com

Statewide of Ohio SSP/CN Pilot Program

Written By: Terry Blosser

As most of you know, the Ohio SSP/CN program shut down on Friday, February 13th, 2026 due to the sudden closing of the Columbus Speech and Hearing Center (CSH). A task force was put together, to assist in finding a solution to bringing back the SSP/CN program. Members of this task force include Jason Judy, Janae Miller, Deborah Kendrick, Donna Foster-Sillanpaa, and Terrence Blosser with the support of Julia Felts and Dawn Watts,

Members of the task force met with various nonprofits and others, who expressed an interest in learning more about managing the SSP/CN program. We were appreciative of all who want to see the SSP/CN program find a new home and be re-launched.

The task force learned through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) that the existing language in House Bill 96 (Ohio Biannual Budget bill) only allowed CSH to receive the SSP/CN funds. Being that CSH was no longer in operation, we needed to ask the state legislators to update the language, to allow for the funds to be re-directed to OOD, for the purpose of issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to find a new home for the SSP/CN program. We worked with Kevin Miller, Berna King, and Katie Scheetz on this. With the help of OOD's legislative liaison and House Speaker Matt Huffman's office, the language was updated to reflect this and it was included in HB730 and signed by the governor this past Spring.

The task force worked with OOD to identify requirements and criteria which should be considered while reviewing the various bid submissions. The RFP was posted in June, 2026 and will close on July 20th, 2026. All bids (proposals) must be submitted by this date. OOD and its Procurement office will review all of the submissions and has assured the task force that they will consider our requirements and criteria. Here is a link:

1. Go to this website:
https://ohiobuys.ohio.gov/page.aspx/en/bpm/process_manage_extranet/54055
2. Scroll or navigate down to "Solicitation Documents."
3. The first available document is titled, "Statewide Support Service Provider / Co Navigator (SSP/CN) Program RFP." There is a pdf in this line that has the bulk of the information related to the RFP.
4. You will also see other documents related to the solicitation here.

Now, we are hopeful that the new SSP/CN program will find a wonderful home and be started up very soon. The task force and OOD are fully aware of the urgency of this program being back up and fully operational very soon. We will do everything we can, to assist in that effort.

I'm grateful to all of the members of the task force as well as all of the members of the OOD staff who worked hard to get this done. We will update you once we learn who the new agency is, that is selected to manage and coordinate the SSP/CN services.

Terrence "Terry" Blosser, Chair of SSP/CN Task Force

Deaf Seniors of America (DSA)

Written By: Deaf Seniors of America

Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) will host their 19th Biennial Conference in **Baltimore, Maryland**, from **August 20–27, 2027**. Held at the **Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel** (401 W Pratt St), the event's theme is *"Retired, Rewired, and Crabby—With Purpose!"*

Activities kick off with pre-conference tours on August 20–21, followed by the official opening ceremony on Sunday, August 22, 2027. Attendees can look forward to keynotes, workshops, tech training, and community exhibitions.

Secure your spot and find hotel accommodations through the [DSA 2027 Conference Page](#). For ticketing and registration details, you can also view the [Zeffy DSA Conference Registration](#)



Image Source: Deaf Seniors of America, <https://www.deafseniors.us/2027-conference>

The Deaf Creator Collective Digital Library

Written by: Juanita Hall

Here is some exciting new from the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library (MDCL)! They have [The Deaf Creator Collective](#) website which is “A public catalog to find Deaf creators for program, collaborations, and connections to Deaf culture” (Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library, 2023, para. 1). This growing searchable digital catalog contains resources on Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, Hard of Hearing, late-deafened, and Child of Deaf Adult (CODA) creators who represents the Deaf culture. This digital catalog is a great resource on Deaf artists, storytellers, and experts for educators, libraries, organizations, event planners, community members, and ASL learners. Furthermore, it is more than just a great resource, it also gives you the opportunity to connect and collaborate with creators for your projects. You may also add yourself or someone you know as a [Deaf content creator](#) (Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library, 2023).

Here are some really cool tools you can use through this MDCL:

- Accessibility
- Business and Finance
- Creative and Media
- Education
- Entertainment
- Food & Hospitality
- Lifestyle
- Mental Health
- Personal Development
- Social Impact
- Stem
- Technology
- Travel

Some examples of creators in this MDCDL are the following:

- Atomic Hands
- Chrissy Marshall
- Deaf Counseling Center
- DeAnna Swope
- Garret Bose
- Justin Loncar
- Justin Perez
- Rosa Lee Tim
- Sara Novic
- Signs of Good Food
- Trix Bruce and others

Reference

Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library. (2023). The Deaf Creator Collective.

https://www.marylanddcdl.org/deaf-content-creators?utm_medium=email&utm_source=ctct

ViaQuest, Inc. Behavioral & Mental Health Services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Individuals with Disabilities

Behavioral & Mental Health Services

ViaQuest offers specialized mental and behavioral health care tailored to a wide variety of populations, including those in nursing facilities; individuals with intellectual, developmental, or dual sensory disabilities (e.g., deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, CODA); as well as families, couples, and the senior community (ViaQuest, Inc., n.d.a)

Counseling Services

- **Licensed Signing and Deaf Counselors**

ViaQuest's team includes licensed counselors and social workers who are fluent in sign language. They support individuals dealing with trauma, anxiety, depression, abuse, and other mental health concerns through evidence-based talk therapy.

- **Flexible Service Delivery**

Clients can receive support individually or attend group sessions. These take place in a variety of settings—whether at a ViaQuest office, in community spaces, or within nursing facilities—so that care is both accessible and tailored.

- **Root Cause & Goal-Oriented Approach**

Therapy focuses on uncovering the underlying drivers of behaviors and thought patterns. Together with clients, counselors set clear, actionable goals and replace harmful thoughts with healthier alternatives.

- **Personalized Assessment and Planning**

ViaQuest conducts thorough assessments to evaluate each individual's unique needs. From these evaluations, customized treatment plans are created, ensuring that each person has a targeted roadmap to success (ViaQuest, Inc., n.d.b).

Behavioral & Mental Health for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Individuals with Disabilities



Image Source: Microsoft Chat | M365 Copilot

Website: viaquestinc.com/contact-us/

References

ViaQuest, Inc. (n.d.a). *Behavioral & Mental Health*. Retrieved from

<https://viaquestinc.com/core-services/behavioral-mental-health/>

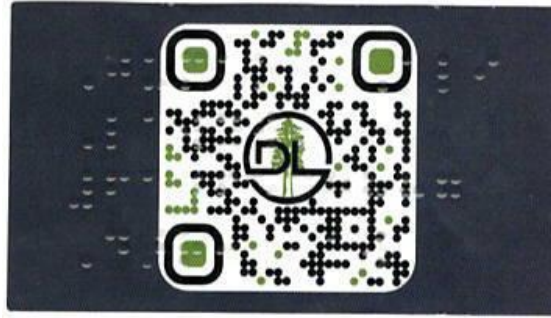
ViaQuest, Inc. (n.d.b). *Facility Services – Behavioral & Mental Health Services*. Retrieved from

<https://viaquestinc.com/core-services/behavioral-mental-health/facility-services/>

Upcoming Events

If you need an attorney for an American Sign Language Access lawsuit, use this QR code below.

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



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

The Next Deaf Reader Newsletter: October 2026

COMPUTER

If you need someone to fix your PC or Apple computer, Justin Watters, a Deaf Computer technician, can help and support you. You can contact him at jwwatters3@gmail.com. He will charge you for the service.

DINGO

- 1) **Senior Citizens for the Deaf at the Columbus Colony Housing II**, Multi-Purpose Room 1105 Colony Drive, Westerville, Ohio, on the first and third weeks every month on Thursday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- 2) **Columbus Deaf Club at the Columbus Colony Housing II**, Multi-Purpose Room, 1105 Colony Drive, Westerville, Ohio, on the third week of the month on Saturday, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Deaf Photography Business: Etta Photography

100% ASL user photographer

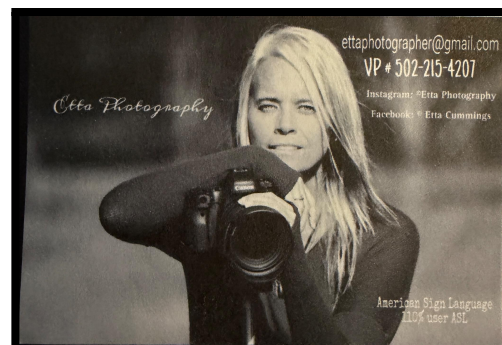
Contact Information:

Email: ettaphotography@gmail.com

VP #502-215-4207

Instagram: @Etta Photography

Facebook: @Etta Cummings



Contact Information

Standing Committees

Library Advisor:

Coventry Village - Heights Public Library: Ben Gulyas

Webmaster: Mike Homko

Bylaws: Dawn K Watts

Bylaws Parliamentarian: Bob Donaldson-Pirc

President: Danny Lucero

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Secretary: Christine Stepien

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North Representatives: Angie Potosky, Regis Gilchrist, and Alma Sepulveda

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South Representatives: Christopher Cooley, Britney Garstka, & Juanita Hall

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The Deaf Reader

Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library (ODFL) website: <https://ocdclibrary.org/about-us>

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