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President's Message

Written by: Dawn Watts

ASL President's message

The Columbus Metropolitan downtown Library hosted the 2024 Columbus Book Festival which took place on Saturday July 13th and Sunday July 14th and what a fun filled event it was. The Columbus Book Festival which was free of admission hosted authors of many different genres. Tents were set up on the library grounds which housed many booths of authors selling their books to the delight of thousands of book lovers. In addition, other tents featured live author panel discussions. I asked the Columbus Library Festival to improve ASL interpreters for the deaf and deafblind people

The ODFL board members and I discussed planning our 3rd annual Retreat meeting at the Main Columbus Library on Saturday, August 3rd. We invited Ohio Hands and Voices and Advocates for Kids with the goal of improving ASL Storytelling all throughout the State of Ohio. We'd like to have deaf individuals who are fluent in sign/facial expression instead of having an interpreters and librarians doing the storytelling.

Thanks to Bunny Watts, 14 years old and 334 days, who was a longstanding member of Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library. She enjoyed traveling with me to meetings and visiting schools as she was a Hearing Service dog. The enclosed picture of Bunny attending the Cleveland Retreat meeting showed she enjoyed being with people. Unfortunately, she suddenly passed away. She was a great companion and will be sorely missed.

Warmly,

Dawn K Walls



Vol. 3 Columbus Library Festival

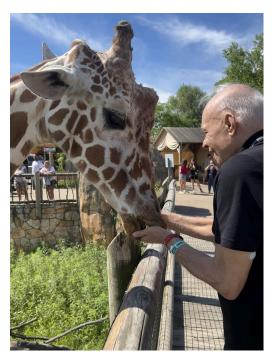
Written by: Dawn K Watts

The free two days, Columbus Library Festival at Topiary Park where the Old School for the deaf was. Last year there were over 34,000 attendees and this year should be more than. There were over 100 authors, one of the authors is Nancy Churnin, "The Williams Hoy's Story" Steve Sandy took her place and he sold some books. Thanks to the Columbus State Community College Interpreters. Marja Davis and Michelle Doyle and CSCC Practicum students, Nannah Thellian, Kaitey Chervenak, Gail White-Dixon. Thanks to ODFL Boards, Brad Race, Debbie Brown, and Christine Stepien for their volunteer work on the ODFL Booth.

Pictures: Marja Davis, Supervisor Interpreter, Christine Stepien, ODFL Board, Steve Sandy, Deaf Researcher, Kaitey Chervenak, CSCC Practicum I Interpreter.



Vol. 3 DeafBlind Zoo Fun Day



Written by: Julia Felts, Columbus Speech & Hearing Center: Program Manager

Columbus Zoo for the DeafBlind, Deaf, Blind, and the Columbus Speech & Hearing DeafBlind Zoo Fun Day were huge successes!

We had 34 DeafBlind individuals and 20 Deaf Individuals pre registered for this event, though many more individuals from the Blind, Deaf, and DeafBlind communities were in attendance. Also, Thanks to Sara Yurkovic from Columbus State Community College for organizing all the 75 ASL/CN Volunteers! There were many shifts to cover, roles to assign, and changes to change.

ASL volunteers included generous donations of professional interpreting services from Heritage Interpreting and Access2interpreters! Instructors and students from Columbus State Community College, Kent State University, and Sinclair Community College mightily represented ASL Interpreter Training Programs from around the state.

We collaborated to connect many organizations as activity stations for the event, including Helen Keller National Center, Ohio EnCompass (I Can Connect), Deaf Services Center, and Good Sign Coffee.

We did well over 150 DeafBlind and Blind simulation activities, increasing awareness in the general public of these lived experiences!

The day was a fantastic day of fun and awareness for the community. NBC 4, ABC 6, and News 10 were there to film. Here is a video of the NBC 4 interviews with one of our very own DeafBlind clients, Shirley Rybarski, and one of our very own CN employees, Danny Lucero!

https://www.nbc4i.com/news/local-news/columbus-zoo/columbus-zoo-holds-brand-new-inclusivity-event

Finally, we thank the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium for their collaboration, generosity, energy, brainpower, and skills. Their team of fabulous, caring staff and docents are accomplished, passionate, and eager to learn about the needs of these communities. They have a beautiful desire to increase accessibility and teach the Blind, Deaf, and DeafBlind communities about the wild world they love. They offered their expertise and many ideas and were incredibly flexible and willing to adapt to the recommendations from our CN/SSP Advisory Committee.

The CN Advisory Committee are Skip Bergquist, Dr. Leah Subak, Lynn Jason, and Jason Judy.

Please feel free to contact Dawn Watts, Ohio State CN/SSP Coordinator, at <u>dwatts@columbusspeech.org</u> and Julia Felts, Program Manager, at <u>jfelts@columbusspeech.org</u>

Picture was taken in Columbus Zoo. Arthur Roehrig touched a special giraffe and he fed lettuces to the giraffe.



Skip Bergquist, DB Advisory Committee; John Filek, HKNC Regional Services Coordinator (North Central); and Dawn K Watts, CN/SSP Ohio Statewide Coordinator.

Julie Felts, CSH Program Manager. Dawn K Watts, Dr. Royce Carptener, CSCC, Sara Y, CSCC, Stephen. Reed, Interpreter





July 2024

Vol. 3 Hilliard Pride 2024

Written by: Katrina Callaghan

Hilliard Pride just celebrated our fourth year of officially celebrating Pride! Hilliard Pride was on Saturday, June 8th, 2024. The event has grown each year with more activities, vendors, non-profit organizations, and supporters!

We have also improved our accessibility by having a sensory tent and making sure that pathways are large enough for wheelchair access. We have been fortunate to have professional ASL interpreters as well as Columbus State practicum level ASL students interpreting at the event each year to provide accessibility to our Deaf community. Thank you to everyone for making this event successful!





Second Annual Nineteenth Celebration Day

Written by: Dawn Watts

Arlon Nash, Chairperson, planned for this event on June 22, 2024, at Timbers Clubhouse in Westerville, Ohio. The committee: Pam King, Marshall Harris, Anika Deas, Rosalinda Thaggard, Kimberly Salvage, Nichelle King, Marja Davis, Aileen Reusche, and Dawn Watts.

Over 50 Black Deaf people, and some people of other backgrounds attended to celebrate the Nineteenth Day.

The committee served soul food such as fried chicken, macaroni cheese, green... cornbread, many different desserts, and water bottles. Kimberly Savager gave Door Prizes to all.

A special guest speaker, D'Wayne Meridy, a Deaf Chef from Cincinnati, explained his experience growing with his cooking business.

Next year, the third annual Nineteenth Celebration Day will be held in Cincinnati. More information will be announced.

Thanks to the sponsors: Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library, Deaf of Interpreting (Dayton), Black Deaf Advocates, and Cleveland Deaf Service, Art Roehrig.

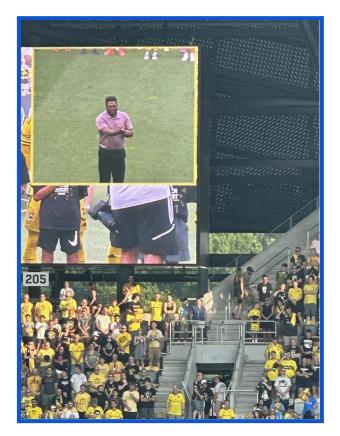


Black Deaf Signer: Marshall Harris

Written by: Dawn Watts

On June 22, 2024, Marshall Harris signed "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the Columbus Crew Columbus Soccer Team game. He felt so honored to have the opportunity to sign in ASL on the field.







Deaf Services Center

Writer by: Richard Bretz

The Deaf Services Center Board of Trustees is happy to announce that Jonathan Davis has been hired as CEO.

Jonathan is in the middle of relocating from Washington, DC, to Columbus, OH. Jonathan will lead DSC remotely in his 1st month of July, then he will be in Columbus, OH, full-time starting on August 1, 2024.

Jonathan brings abundant experience and knowledge to the position, and he is positioned to bring enthusiasm, determination, and an upbeat personality to the communities across Ohio.

The Board of Trustees went through resumes submitted for the open position of Executive Director, and the DSC Executive Team picked the best person for this CEO position.

Please watch Board Chairperson Cheryl Prusinski's video on our Deaf Services Center Facebook page for more information on him.

DSC will host a meet-and-greet event on Saturday, September 27th, from 2 pm to 5 pm!

Website: <u>https://www.dsc.org/https://www.dsc.org/</u> New Board Trustee members are

> Cheryl Prusinski, Chairperson Dawn K Watts, Vice-Chairperson Richard Bretz, Treasurer Art Roehrig, Trustee Adam Bernholtz, Trustee Bill McGee, Trustee Priscilla Doudt, Trustee Vincent Sabino, Trustee

US Congressional DeafBlind Caucus

US Representative Matt Cartwright PA08 is making June 2024 a memorable DeafBlind Awareness Month!

Join the new Congressional Deafblind Caucus

Dear Colleague,

We invite you to join the newly founded Congressional Deafblind Caucus. This caucus brings together advocates, individuals who are deafblind, and lawmakers to expand representation and increase support for the deafblind community.

Individuals who are deafblind experience combined hearing and vision loss, which can pose communication challenges, limit information access, and hinder social and emotional well-being. In children, deafblindness may significantly impact development and educational attainment. For deafblind adults, it can be difficult to secure employment opportunities or live independently.

As there is no national mechanism for data collection, estimates of the total population of deafblind people in the United States differ radically, ranging from 40,000 to 100,000 individuals. While a lack of public awareness often prevents deafblind priorities from being heard, deafblind individuals deserve to have the full extent of their experiences accounted for in Congress.

The Congressional Deafblind Caucus is dedicated to

· Highlighting and amplifying the priorities of the deafblind community

Encouraging the creation of legislation that advances these priorities and supporting existing legislation that elevates the needs of this community, such as Rep. Cartwright's legislation:

o H.R. 5748/S.2945, the Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act; and

o the soon-to-be-introduced Deafblind DATA Act

• Connecting individuals who are deafblind with deafblind advocates, Congresspeople, and their staff via briefings and events

While advocates across the nation work tirelessly at a local level, more must be done at a federal level to uplift deafblind voices and advocate for their equitable inclusion in society.

This Caucus will be launched during the last week of June (6/24/24-6/30/24) in honor of Deafblind Awareness Week. If you would like to become a member of the Congressional Deafblind Caucus or would like additional information, please email Anna Mason at anna.mason@mail.house.gov.

New Updates about the Ohio Deaf Association

Written by: Dr. Marsha Moore ASL Updates ODA

Hello to all Ohioans who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind! I hope you are all having a good summer so far!

We are thrilled to share the strides ODA has made since obtaining our nonprofit status from the IRS in April. We' we hit the ground running, establishing a FB page and a website for regular updates. We encourage you to like us on FB and bookmark the website for easy access. Our bylaws and minutes are readily available, fostering transparency and open communication within the Deaf community.

Just recently, ODA became an affiliate of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), where Ohio will have a voice on many important issues facing the Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and Deaf-Blind communities. We plan to work with them in the next few months on issues of importance to the Deaf community, and we will send one or two delegates to the 2026 NAD Conference. We are excited to announce two significant events that we are already planning for you. Our first-ever Statewide Conference, scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., is a key opportunity for us to come together. Linsay Darnall, Recent NAD II Representative will deliver the keynote presentation, aligning with our theme – "New Direction – Where do we go from here?". We plan to host leadership workshops and conduct general elections for new officers. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are all open, so if you are interested, please let us know! ODA is for all of us! Please see the flyer for more details about the conference.

Also, ODA will host their first Deaf Youth Camp for youth ages 10-17. October 11-14, 2024, are the dates at Camp NuHop. Registration information will be coming soon, so watch our FB or website for details on registering your child(ren) for camp.

THE DEAF READER

That's it from ODA for now! If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please email us at

TheOhioDA@gmail.com.

Your current temporary officers are as follows:

Co-Presidents: Shannon Seger and Dr. Marsha Moore

Secretaries: Linda Adams and Teresa Handshoe

Treasurer: Kim Sutton

Advisor: Jim Beaton

Core Team Members: Shannon Seger, Linda Adams, Rose Larson; Dr. Marsha Moore

Ex Officio: Irene Tunanidas

Thank you for your support! Click below to get more information

ODA Events

Bylaws and Minutes meeting

ODA Website



Voting with a Disability Listening Session

Written by: Dawn Watts

Last winter, February 6, 2024, was a special Zoom meeting of United States Attorneys Kenneth L. Parker and Rebecca C Lutzko.

They listened to several disabled people who struggled with voting access. Several organizations, such as Ability Center of Greater Toledo, Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library, University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Development Disabilities, Ohio Association of the DeafBlind, Disability Rights Ohio, The Arce of Ohio, and The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio were invited.

For the past 10 years, Dawn has worked as Judge Machine by Franklin County BOE at Outreach Columbus Colony in Westerville, Ohio. Because of no tracking, deaf-blind residents can't independently walk to the Outreach Columbus Colony building, about 250 yards away from their apartments. Sometimes, people do not want to help out or do not know how to help.

Greer Aeschbury of Cinninici invited Dawn Watts and Terry Blosser, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing, to the Election Protection Summit on Saturday, July 13, which is for all our volunteers and advocates who work in various roles to support our elections. (Picture of group)

This coming fall, November 5th, will be Election Day for the US President. You can sign up for the voter registration. You need to fill out the form (roll down page 17). Your name, home address, city, birthdate, phone number, ID number, or last 4 SSN and signature. Deadline October 7, 2024 for General Election.



Vol. 3July 2024Buckeye Chapter of Gallaudet University Association Alumni

The Buckeye Chapter of GUAA will have a picnic **on Saturday, September 21** at Blendon Woods Metro Park "Dogwood Shelter" 4265 E Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43081

11:00 am to 12:00 pm General Meeting

12:00 pm to 3 pm Picnic

Buckeye Chapter will provide hamburgers/hot dogs with buns plus bottled water.

IF your last name begins with the following letters, please bring covered dishes:

A-E-G-L-Q-V Any kind of salad

C-F-I-N-P-S-X Casseroles

B-J-K-M-R-W Side/Desserts

D-H-O-U-T-Y-Z Fruits/Vegetables

Welcome non-members of the Buckeye Chapter for \$5.00 for a meal.

For more information or to RSVP, send an email to Julie Levine @ laurelburch21@icloud.com

Gallaudet Homecoming weekend will be on October 17,18 and 19.

https://gallaudet.edu/homecoming/



Lenora Culpher Gravestone

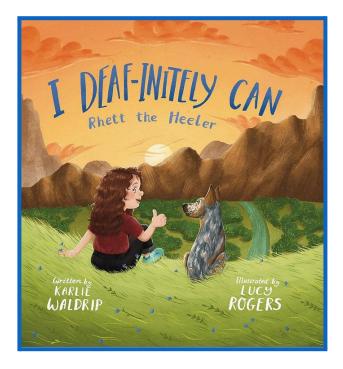
Lenora Culpher finally got her new gravestone at her rest home in Union Cemetery, Steubenville, Ohio. In 1919, she was the first Black, Native American, and DeafBlind person to graduate from Ohio School for the Deaf.

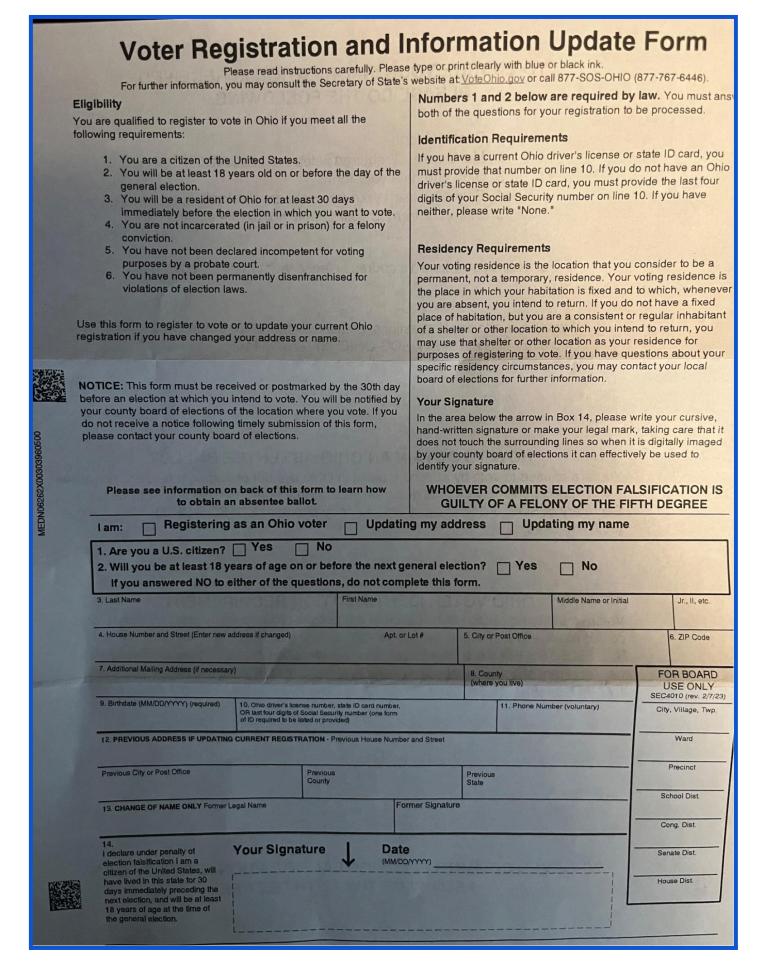
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Book: I DEAF-INITELY CAN

Karlie Waldrip wrote a book about her hearing aids and the transition to cochlear implants. She also wrote about her dog who is deaf. You may purchase it for \$18.99. Here is her website: <u>https://www.rhetttheheeler.com</u>





THE DEAF READER



Sign Language Interpretation at the 2024 Ohio State Fair

The 2024 Ohio State Fair, which takes place <u>from July 24 through August 4, 2024</u>, is continuing its commitment to accessibility and ensuring that Ohioans of all abilities can fully enjoy the vibrant atmosphere, thrilling attractions, and cherished traditions.

For fairgoers whose preferred method of communication is American Sign Language (ASL), interpretation will be offered at the following events, with no reservations required:

- Opening ceremony
- Sale of Champions Livestock Auction
- Natural Resources Park Great Lakes Timber (lumberjack) shows
- Marvelous Mutts shows at The Dog House
- All paid ticketed concerts in the WCOL Celeste Center.

The Fair's daily schedule will feature additional events available in ASL. For Ohioans who are Deaf or hard of hearing and use ASL, please watch a video about the Ohio State Fair ASL interpretation.

The Ohio State Fair offers a range of accessibility options to ensure an inclusive experience for all visitors. Visit the <u>Ohio State Fair accessibility webpage</u> for detailed information on amenities and plan your trip. Stay tuned to learn more about all the accessibility features planned for the 2024 Ohio State Fair.

FOR THE DEAFBLIND people, you can bring your SSP for free admission; contact me for a Columbus Speech Hearing Center letter by emailing me at <u>dwatts@columbusspeech.org</u>

More information will be announced on FB: Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library.

July 2024

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown's Letter to the Baseball Hall of Fame

Website of US Senator Brown's letter

"U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown wrote a letter to support William Ellsworth "Dummy" Hoy for Baseball Hall of Fame. He is a proud son of Ohio and remains an inspiration to deaf and hard-of-hearing athletes across the county. Including him on the December 2024 ballot would provide a long-overdue opportunity to consider his achievements and legacy. <u>Website of US Senator Brown's letter</u>

Historical Overview Committee National Baseball Hall of Fame 25 Main Street Cooperstown, NY 13326

Dear Members of the Baseball Hall of Fame Historical Overview Committee:

As members of Ohio's Congressional Delegation, we urge you to consider William Ellsworth "Dummy" Hoy for inclusion into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Hoy is a proud son of Ohio and remains an inspiration to deaf and hard-of-hearing athletes across the country. Including him on the December 2024 ballot would provide a long-overdue opportunity to consider his achievements and legacy.

William Ellsworth Hoy was born in Houcktown, Ohio in 1862 and became deaf three years later. He graduated as class valedictorian from the Ohio State School for the Deaf and went on to have the most decorated career of any deaf player in baseball history.

Hoy was one of the very best players of his era. He played fourteen seasons of Major League Baseball, including five with the Cincinnati Reds. He played in nearly 1,800 games and amassed more than 2,000 hits. He hit .300 three times and scored more than 100 runs in nine different seasons. He had league-leading seasons in games, plate appearances, at bats, stolen bases, walks, times hit by a pitch, and sacrifice bunts. When he retired, he held the all-time records for both games played in center field and career putouts.

After his baseball career, he operated a dairy farm in southwest Ohio and continued to receive honors from those in and out of the baseball community. In 1951, he was the first athlete inducted into the United States of America Deaf Sports Federation Hall of Fame. He threw out the ceremonial first pitch before Game 3 of the 1961 World Series in Cincinnati and was inducted into the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame in 2003. Hoy has been the subject of several children's books, documentaries, and movies and is the namesake for Gallaudet University's baseball field and a biannual baseball game held in New York during Deaf Awareness Week.

On the merits of his distinguished career and legacy on and off the field, the National Baseball Hall of Fame should consider "Dummy" Hoy for inclusion.



Ohio Service Dog Awareness Week Walk on July 27, 2024

Written by Christopher Cooley at chriscooley40@gmail.com

Join us as we walk to raise awareness about the service dogs and folks who they assist.

Bill 121, effective May 2016, states that the last week of July is designated as Service Dog Awareness Week in recognition of the important role service dogs play in enhancing the lives of citizens with disabilities. Ohio was the first state in the nation to have an awareness week approved by is state legislature and signed into law.

The long journey from idea to law began a couple years earlier when Columbus resident Christopher Cooley approached his then-State Representative Michael Stinziano, who agreed with Cooley that service dog recognition throughout the state would help bring awareness to the access rights people with disabilities have when handling their service dogs and guide dogs.

The legislation was signed into law in 2016 by Ohio Governor John Kasich, and in July, Cooley organized the first annual Ohio Service Dog Awareness Week Walk. About 25 people, many with service dogs, participated. Along the walk, they also handed out information about service dogs. Cooley and his Guide Dog/Service Dog Night Out group plan the annual walk and public awareness projects each year.

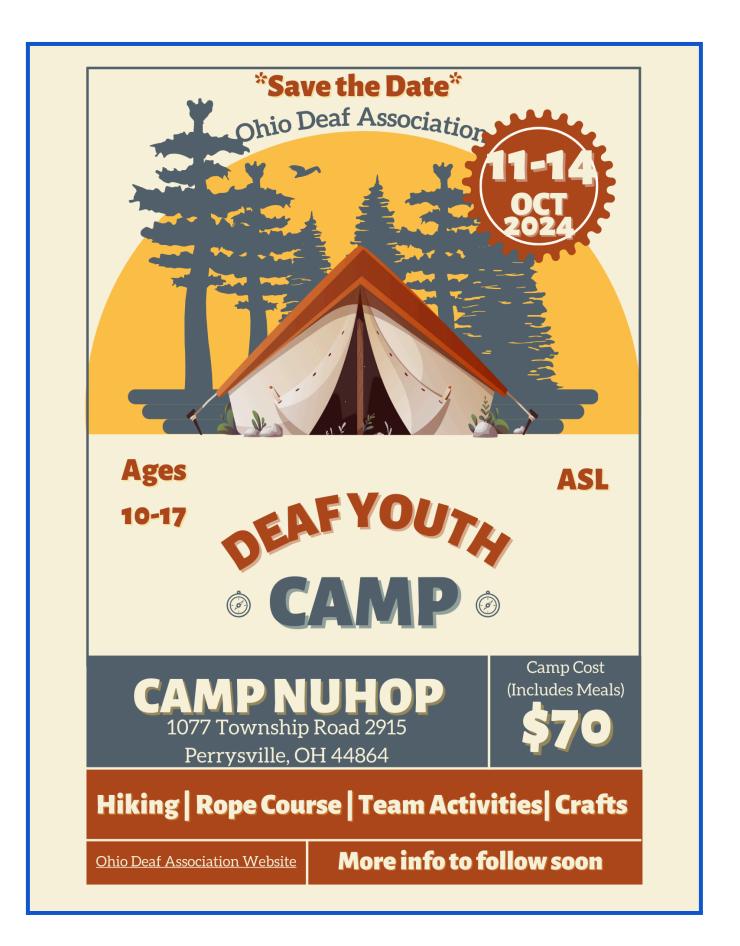


Contact to Chris Cooley: FB Ohio's Service Dog Awareness Week

Vol. 3 34th Anniversary ADA on July 26th









WINGO SOCIAL

Saturday, September 7th 2024 at Columbus Colony House II's Multipurpose Room begins at 7:00 PM Door prizes and refreshments Admission \$10 Proceeds to the Development Fund

Ohio School for the Deaf Alumni Association Community Center, Exhibit Hall and Picnic Shelter 1055 Colony Drive, Westerville Ohio 43081 For more info contact Bobby Blessing or Kim Sutton VP 614-556-4700 or email rblessing22@gmail.com kasuttono3@gmail.com

Come one come all!

CORNHOLE

Saturday, September 7th, 2024 10AM-4PM Fee: \$20 at OSDAA community center Food and drinks will be sold

Meet old and new friends!

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday, September 7th, 2024 at Columbus Colony House II's Multipurpose Room begins at 5:00 PM Door prizes and refreshments Admission \$10



DEAF PILOT COMMUNITY DAY



DPA Swag For Sale Shirts, Hats, Cups

When: Saturday, July 20, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

> Food Available - Donations Accepted ASL Interpreters will be present.





NORTHCENTRAL REGION

Counties Served Ashland, Richland, Seneca, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Crawford, Knox and Wyandot

Community Services Specialist

Jessica Fry 419-572-0793 text 567-772-4524 VP Jessica@dsc.org *contact above for an appointment*

Interpreting/Captioning Department

interpreting@dsc.org 614-841-1991 voice 614-515-4484 VP

requests should be made at least 2 weeks in advanced

THE DEAF READER

Deaf Services Cente dsc.org

American Sign Language Instructors Network (ASLIN)

New the ASLIN Board of Directors Network are:

Lori Woods, Executive Director Alex Paulay-Simmons, Director of Program Gerald Eichler, Director of Finance Bob Donaldson-Pric, Executive Secretary Annie welch, Director of Communication Juanita Hall, Professional Development Director Arlon Nash, Director of Academic Networks Kristin Wickham-Saxon, ASL TeachingProficiency Coordinator Dr. Marsha Moore, Event Coordinator

ASLIN Conference will be on October 5, 2024 "Connecting Through ASL Teaching"

ASLIN Trivia Wine & Cheese Party TBA



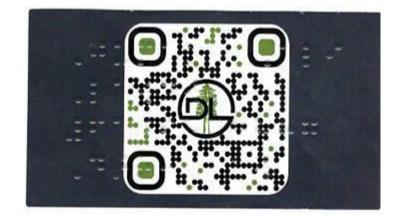
If you need someone who can fix your PC/Apple computer.

Justin Watters, a Deaf computer technician can help and support. Best to contact him at <u>jwwatters3@gmail.com</u> He will charge you for the service.



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

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



If you have any issues regarding this newsletter, please contact the Director, Editor, or Co-Editors at <u>Thedeafreader@gmail.com</u>

Next The Deaf Reader

Newsletter Vol. 4

October 2024

July 2024

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

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

Standing Committees Library Advisor Nancy Levin Librarian for Deaf Ben Gulyas Coventry Village - Heights Public Library Ben Gulyas Deaf Mentor Program Danny Lucero Specialist DeafBlind Bryan Grubb Webmaster Mike Homko Bylaws Angie Potosky **Bylaws** Parliamentarian Bob Donaldson-Pirc President Dawn Watts Vice President Angie Potosky Secretary Christine Stepien Treasurer Debbie Brown

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Northeast 2 Representatives Liliana Arsean-Pokorny, Regis Gilchrist, Jenny Jaske and Chuck Williams Ashland, Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Harrison, Holmes, Huron, Jefferson, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Richland, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Wayne

Southwest 3 Representative Juanita Hall, Scott Van Nice, and Melissa Kelly Adams, Brown, Butler, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Champaign, Darke, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby, Union, Warren

Central 4 Representatives Brad Race and Danny Lucero 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 Co-Editor: Brad Race, Vicky Emerson, and Juanita Hall

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