

ODFL Board Meeting
August 12, 2025
6pm to 7:30 pm
Retreat Zoom Meeting

Roll Names: Debbie B., Brad R., Danny L., Regis G., Irene T., Chris C. Dawn W., Christine S.

Excused: Jenny J., Juanita Hall, Angie P., Mike H

Absentee: Chuck Williams, Liliana P., Nancy L.

President started to call at 6:03 PM. The quorum met.

The minutes of Meeting April 17, 2025: Danny L (Debbie Brown) that we approved as read.
PASSED

President's Report: Dawn Watts

President emailed an attachment of the ODA and ODFL MOU agreement to the Board members. Also, she attended Columbus Museum of Art for 35th anniversary of the ADA event. Met several legislators about the ODFL Children Art Contest. I asked Christine Stepien to take my place for Westerville Public Library as ASL Storyteller to the pre-school kids. It went very successful with Christine Corner, volunteering ASL interpreter. They send me a check of 40.00. Deposited it. Tomorrow night, I will meet with Prayer Educational for Hearing parents of deaf children in the zoom. It will be my first time meeting with them.

Vice-President's Report: Angie Potosky

No Report

Secretary's Report: Christine Stepien

ASL Storyteller- I was a substitute ASL Storyteller replaced Dawn Watts. I was honored to tell the story 'Fry Bread'~A Native American Family Story and then Hello Song was 'You Are My Sunshine' to the group of children at Westerville Public Library at 9:15 AM-10 AM on July 16, 2025. A storytelling was a SUCCESS!! Thanks to Christine Corner, Volunteer, ASL interpreter. I send a check, 40.00 to Dawn.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie Brown

Treasurer's 2nd Quarter Report from April 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025 for the Ohio Deaf Friends of the Library. It were approved by Margy Wright and Gail Teltser, Auditors on August 12, 2025.

The current balance for today in the bank is \$3,263.57.

Motion #2025-8: Brad Race (Danny L) made a motion to accept Treasurer's report. PASSED

Region Representatives:

Chris Cooley:

He had a special event at the Statehouse for Dog pilot during on the ADA day. After the event, they went to Upper Arlington for lunch at the Chocolate Cafe. All dogs were invited in the restaurant. The owner of the restaurant inspired having all deaf blind people and their guide dogs, too. Dawn asked him to send more details to the Deaf Reader Newsletter.

Brad Race:

No report, no words from the first lady of Ohio Statehouse.

Regis Gilchrist:

Erie, Pa had their special event, Beach but the Eric Deaf Club is interested to learn about our non profit ODFL for the History.

ODFL Webmaster: Mike Homko has been doing well with website lately. Updated on time.

The Deaf Reader Newsletter: Dawn Watts will work on the newsletter that will be due on November 7, 2025. Irene T, Brad Race, and Juanita Hall as editors are still working on it.

ASL Storyteller Chairperson: Danny L said that Nancy Levin, Kaela Sweeney, Michael and Margo, Abby White have been working together for ASL Storyteller. Kaela Sweeney and Nancy confirmed us that we will get 4,999.00 by LSTA Grant Deaf Storytelling in Ohio Libraries. Danny and Dawn will meet with ASL Storyteller committee (Margo Reis, Mike Reis, Nancy Levin, and M. Sweeney) tomorrow, we are expected to get more money from the Advocate for the Kids to match our grant money.

Irene T: I would like to know if the ODFL can work with Cleveland Heights Library for inviting Deaf Author to one of the libraries for a special event during in the Ohio Deaf History Month. Dawn Watts will follow up with Irene's suggestion for 2026. Discussing about the new books' coming out in August. "We Hear Different. We Care the Same" by Autumn Pelfrey, Sometimes I talk, Sometimes by Dr. Anne McIntosh, Deaf Smith by Stephen C Baldwin, Pictures in the Air by National Theatre of the Deaf, Deafhood and Empowerment by Geo Rinker.

Dawn always donated new books to the State Library of Ohio because anyone in the state of Ohio can borrow books from State Library of Ohio for free delivery service.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Announcement:

Columbus Zoo: Blind, Deaf, and DeafBlind on September 7, 2025 at 9 AM to 5 PM.

Adjoined at 6:55 PM

ODFL RETREAT MEETING: 7:00 pm

GOALS:

1. Danny L wants to see Improving for ODFL Funding for ASL Storytelling program. Search for someone who can focus on this goal. Danny knows one person but he lives out of the states. Dawn can discuss and see if the members accept. Dawn will follow up and will share with you next meeting.
2. Election for new officers (2026-2028) on November 16, 2025.

Dawn suggested to find deaf youth who can be ODFL Nominate Chairperson for the election. Bob Donaldson-Pirc can support Deaf Youth person how to do. Agreed. Dawn Watts will not run for President due to the ODFL Bylaws, two term years. I am willing to run another office positions.

3. Children of Art Contest (March 2026), Cleveland and Cincinnati

Increase having Children of Art Contest in Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Dayton. Ohio Legislators really like our notes because they never know how children's talent in ASL. For example, Starbucks in ASL. Dawn will contact Cleveland and Cincinnati Art Museum.

4. ACTION for a guest DEAF Author to the library for presentation during in Ohio Deaf History Month 2026. Irene T suggested. DL wanted to give to the public, not only Deaf people. For example, Nyle Deaf President Now(2025) True Biz by Sara C (2022), Thomas Holcomb, Deaf Culture. Ohio Deaf History Month will be 10th anniversary in the Spring 2026.

Closed the meeting at 7:25 PM

Submitted Yours,

Christine Stepien

Christine Stepien
ODFL Secretary