



## President's Column



Hi Everyone,

In order to spread awareness of NVAD and "The eNVADer", this newsletter will be sent to members and non-members alike from now on. The newsletter is now posted on the VAD website at <http://www.vad.org/nvad.html>, so there is no longer any reason to restrict it to members only. I do encourage you to become a member of NVAD. You can contact Joan Corley at [tigger531@aol.com](mailto:tigger531@aol.com) for the membership form.

Remember that the next general meeting of NVAD will be held next Saturday, November 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at NVRC. There will also be an election of officers for the 2020 term (see page 3). I will be running for a third term as your president. Hope to see you all there! I am again asking our members to chip in with refreshments for our meeting. This needs to be a joint effort by all our members, not just the board or the social committee. Send me an email at [mywilliams@verizon.net](mailto:mywilliams@verizon.net) to let me know what you will bring. Thank you! It looks like we MAY have childcare during the meeting. However, we need to know for sure that there will be children for the ASL high school students to take care of. It is VERY IMPORTANT that parents RSVP Jamie Berke at [NorthernVaDeaf@gmail.com](mailto:NorthernVaDeaf@gmail.com) and let her know if you are bringing your children.

The minutes from the September 14, 2019, meeting were sent out on October 24. Please take time to read the minutes before the meeting and send any suggestions for corrections or changes to Nancy Rarus at [nbrarus@gmail.com](mailto:nbrarus@gmail.com). If there are questions during the meeting, I will show that portion of the minutes, but not the whole thing. We want to have time for a real business meeting and real issues.

The Virginia Association of the Deaf (VAD) held its biannual conference on September 20-21, 2019, at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) in Staunton, VA. The new officers are as follows: President - MaryRose Gonzalez; Vice President - Rachel Bavister; Secretary - Jeanne Lavelle; and Treasurer - Jay Spraker. I was sworn in as NVAD's representative to the VAD Board along with the new officers. Thank you for electing me as your representative. I will give my first report as NVAD representative at the November 2 meeting.

Several VAD members expressed interest in "The eNVADer" and NVAD's family-friendly events during the conference. Apparently other chapters are interested in starting their own newsletters. They are also concerned about declining membership and lack of participation by young people.

I may sound like a broken record, but I want to remind all of you again to continue to respect the people who give reports and make motions during the meeting. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect even when others disagree with them. Please be considerate and polite when addressing concerns that you have with reports and motions. Thank you.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again!

Melanie Williams  
President, NVAD



# **Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf**

## ***NVAD GENERAL MEETING / ELECTION***

**Saturday - November 2, 2019**

***General Meeting: 9:30AM***

***Northern Virginia Resource Center (NVRC)  
3951 Pender Drive, Suite 130  
Fairfax, VA 22030***

If you need child care, please let Melanie Williams know ASAP at her email given below. Thank you.

Please bring breakfast items to share at the meeting, such as bagels and cream cheese, donuts, orange juice or other juice, and so on. Please let Melanie know what you will bring. Thank you!

For more information, contact NVAD President Melanie Williams  
[mywilliams@verizon.net](mailto:mywilliams@verizon.net)





# Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf

## *Call for Nominations*

You may nominate an NVAD member or yourself.

*A candidate must be a member of NVAD for one year.*

PRESIDENT; VICE-PRESIDENT; SECRETARY;  
TREASURER; BOARD-AT-LARGE (3)

*Nominations will be announced at the  
NVAD General Meeting / Election  
on Saturday, November 2, 2019.*



My Vote Counts



If any of you is interested in running for any of the offices listed above, please let Nominations Chairperson Paul Daniels know at [p7daniels@gmail.com](mailto:p7daniels@gmail.com).

# President's Report at NVAD's Membership Meeting on September 14, 2019

- We need to finish by noon due to some members wanting to go to Deafopia at Gallaudet today.
- Minutes. Again, we will not show the minutes during the meeting since they were sent out to all members by email. We will only vote in favor or not of accepting.
- VAD Conference is next weekend, September 20-21, at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) in Staunton.
- Donna Graff-Viall's term as NVAD representative on the VAD Board expires at the end of the VAD Conference. We will elect a new representative today.
- There will be an election for 2020 officers and board at the November 2 NVAD general meeting. (Paul Daniels volunteered to be nominations chairperson. Please let him know at [p7daniels@yahoo.com](mailto:p7daniels@yahoo.com) if you are interested in running for any position.)
- The VAD Deaf Mother of the Year award lunch for Laurie Dowling will be held September 28. A sign-up sheet is on the table near the entrance.
- The DC Association of the Deaf (DCAD) held a roundtable discussion last Saturday, September 7. A great variety of topics were discussed. See my article in the September eNVADER for more details.
- Do we want Patricia Raswant to give her presentation on Audism, Part II, on October 19? (President's note: There will be additional information about this at the November 2 meeting.)
- The Maryland Horse Rescue farm tour in Mt. Airy, MD, is on November 9. Sign-up sheet and liability release form are available on the table near the entrance.
- We need to get moving on NVAD's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There is also a sign-up sheet for this on the table.



# Highlights of Reports at NVAD's Membership Meeting on Sep 14, 2019

1. Vice President: Jamie Berke reported on the numbers of likes and follows on the following Facebook pages: NVAD, Northern Virginia Deaf Community, Northern Virginia Open Captioned Movies, and Caption Action. The Hawaii open captioned law took effect July 1, 2019. After NVAD election in November, she will reach out to try to get a bill for open captioned movies in Virginia. One family friendly event this summer was a free open-captioned movies event at the University Mall theatres. Eleven children from five families came.
  
2. Treasurer: Robert Goodwin reported that the beginning balance is \$12,086.06. New accounts were created: Gmail - [nvadtreasurer1945@gmail.com](mailto:nvadtreasurer1945@gmail.com); Square – two card readers; allows Apple Pay and Google Pay; PayPal - <https://paypal.me/nvad1945>; Zelle is offered by most banks. We had our final audit back in June, which went well. One of the recommendations was to create a check ledger in Excel. Our yearly payment to the SCC (State Corporation Commission) is due in mid-November. He is waiting for answers to questions about the IRS Form 1023 (Recognition of Exemption under 501c3).
  
3. Stock Committee: Gary Viall reported two balances as follows:
 

Account #1	\$ 59,709.81	(2 accounts)
Account #2	\$ <u>77,164.56</u>	(21 accounts)
Total	\$136,874.37	(increase of \$ 3,714.90)
  
4. NVAD Representative: Donna Graff-Viall reported the following:
  - a. VAD Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, September 20-21, 2019 in Staunton, VA.
  - b. Last May, VAD hosted Town Hall Meeting in Abingdon, VA. Southwest Virginia people need our help. Lack of interpreter services and Deaf services. VAD established an ad hoc committee to study and report on Education and Services for the Deaf in SW Virginia. Rachel Bavister and Kat Brockway both volunteered for this committee.
  - c. Deafhood 101 and 102 has been postponed to next year due to lack of trainers and schedules.
  - d. NAD's National Leadership Training Conference will be held in Little Rock, AR, in October. Michelle Long was the only member to express an interest in attending. VAD is sponsoring Michele to the conference.
  - e. Licensure for Sign Language Interpreters. VAD had a representative, Rhonda Jennings-Arey, on the ad hoc committee under VDDHH advisory board. They submitted a petition to the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR). DPOR is doing a study. Send comments to this link: <https://townhall.virignia.gov/L/View>. VAD sent a letter to DPOR in strong support of ASL-English Licensure for Sign Language Interpreters in Commonwealth of Virginia.
  - f. At the request of Delegate Bob Thomas, patron of HB 2137, a letter was sent to State Senators that VAD supports this bill to replace the words "hearing impaired" in the Code of Virginia with "Deaf and Hard of Hearing". It passed both the House and the Senate unanimously and the Governor signed it.





# Pictures from NVAD's Membership Meeting on September 14, 2019



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# Pictures from NVAD's Membership Meeting on September 14, 2019

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Melanie Williams  
President



Jamie Berke  
Vice-President



Nancy Rarus, Secretary  
Steve Williams, Bylaws



Robert Goodwin  
Treasurer



Gary Viall  
Stocks Committee



Jeanne Lavelle and Donna Graff-Viall  
Licensure for Sign Language Interpreters



Donna Graff-Viall  
VAD Representative



Election of a new  
representative to VAD



Danielle Thompson-Ochoa  
with her mother



# Pictures from VAD Biannual Conference on September 21, 2019



Steve Williams, Jill Moebus, MaryRose Gonzalez,  
Donna Graff-Viall, Gary Viall, and Tim Lavelle  
[Not pictured: Tom Dowling, Kathy Ferris, and Neil Ferris]

On September 21, 2019, the Virginia Association of the Deaf (VAD) presented the Golden Hand Award to the ASL T-Shirt Committee for their arduous work and their impact on the Deaf Community in Virginia. The NAD/VAD 2000 planning committee created the “Top Ten Reasons for Learning Sign Language” in 1997 and had them printed on T-shirts to raise funds for the NAD Conference which VAD hosted in Norfolk, VA. VAD received a U.S. copyright for these words in 2000. The ASL T-Shirt Committee sold these shirts at booths in 21 states and in Washington, DC, for over 20 years.

These ASL t-shirts have had a great impact on everyone—deaf and hearing customers, interpreters, sign language students and teachers, emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, and families. These shirts with the “Top Ten Reasons for Learning Sign Language” are widely accepted and hugely popular.

During the first Deaf Way International Conference and Festival in Washington, DC, in 1989, the committee sold French and Spanish ASL T-shirts. It later gave a framed ASL T-shirt to the NAD national home office.

The purpose of selling these ASL T-shirts is twofold: (1) to raise funds for the Virginia Leadership Training Fund for future Virginia deaf leaders and (2) to bring deaf awareness and education to not only deaf but also hearing customers.

Also at the VAD Conference, these officers were elected and sworn in for the 2019-2021 term: MaryRose Gonzalez, president; Rachel Bavister, vice president; Jeanne Lavelle, secretary; Jay Spraker, treasurer; and Melanie Williams, NVAD representative.

*(Editor’s Note: The information about the Golden Hand Award was taken from slides shown by Daphne Cox during the presentation of the award.)*







## 2019 Deaf Mother of the Year



Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf hosted an award ceremony lunch for Laurie Dowling at Ozzie's Good Eats in Fairfax, VA on September 28, 2019.



Melanie Williams (NVAD president),  
Donna Graff-Viall (Chairperson of  
Mother of the Year Committee),  
Laurie Dowling (recipient of the  
Mother of the Year 2019 Award), and  
MaryRose Gonzalez (VAD president)



Laurie Dowling  
with daughters Ashley and Kara  
and husband Tom



Nancy Rarus, Mistress of Ceremony, asked the  
daughters questions about their mother.







# 2019 Deaf Mother of the Year





# Progress Report on the NVAD Grant

## Deaf Seniors Stay Connected Program:

- Debbie Jones, Bruce Greenfield, and Eileen McMartin met twice with the steering committee. Robert Loftur-Thun also met with the steering and Happy Hands groups.
- Debbie and Bruce developed and implemented a survey asking for interested candidates. Research about how to outreach begun.
- Team developed a job description, created an email address for inquiries, sent out the announcement and thus far have two applicants. Those resumes were shared with steering committee.
- Costs thus far for DSSC:
  - Costs thus far staff time ~ \$1584
- Future costs now through June 30, 2019:
  - Salary for DSSC coordinator, mileage, continued NVRC staff time ~ \$7000
- Thus Far and Projected Total: \$8,584 (end June 30, 2020)

## Expand the NVRC Communication Access:

- Costs thus far \$600

## Technology Support and Media Center:

- Spent thus far:
  - Best Buy TV - \$379.98
  - Apple Mac Mini Hardware - \$1499
  - Quote Frame Picture - \$179.13
  - White board, eraser, markers - \$297.63
  - Wirecast Pro Software - \$696.50
  - Provatange Purchases (Port usb, HDMI, Video Conference Cam) - \$989.39
  - Research, staff time: \$4,517
- Costs thus far: \$9,395.064



# **Progress Report on the NVAD Grant**

**(continued from page 11)**

Bob spent a lot of time on this contacting businesses and joining chambers of commerce associations. He also worked hard on trying to develop partnerships with DARS to develop a program for DHH job seekers but this did not come to fruition for various reasons.

NVRC will continue to work with our community to develop ways we can develop technology and media support including producing additional webinars and researching tech developments specifically for DHH persons. We've done two webinars with embedded captions and interpreters. Staff is learning the software for doing new things which takes time. We look forward to this challenge of learning about improving technology and applications to the lives of persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Eileen McCartin  
NVRC Executive Director



## **Deaf Seniors Stay Connected! Program Committee**

Melanie Williams (NVAD), Pat Beech (Happy Hands), Bruce Greenfield (NVRC),  
Robert Loftur-Thun (NVRC), Nancy Rarus (DSA), and Don Ames (Happy Hands)





# Request for Contributions to the Newsletter

NVAD's e-newsletter, "The eNVADER," has now been in circulation for a year. The first issue was published in October 2018. It has varied in length from 4 to 17 pages, depending on the content that was submitted. Pat Beech has done simply a wonderful job as editor. I could not have gotten this newsletter off the ground without her expertise and her gracious offer to help.

Pat and I truly hope that you all have been enjoying the eNVADER and have benefitted from the information that has been presented in its pages. I hope to be able to keep this newsletter going for as long as possible.

However, I must add that for the most part, Pat and I have created most of the issues by ourselves. That is, Pat has done all the work of putting each issue together. She has taken nearly all the photographs that have appeared, with a few from me. I have written most of the articles, with a few submitted by a couple of other people. Both of us have put in a few items that we got from other sources. In addition, nearly all the flyers that have been included in the newsletter have been designed by Joan Corley, with a few by Pat.

We have asked you to let us know what you think of the newsletter. Only a few people have commented. We have asked for contributions of articles, news, announcements, photographs, anything that you think is newsworthy. Very few have been forthcoming. It feels almost as if the newsletter is now being taken for granted. It takes time and effort to produce the eNVADER.

As much as Pat and I enjoy putting this newsletter together, we cannot continue to do it alone. We need to know that the newsletter is appreciated, and we need help with ideas for what to include in future issues.

Thank you for listening. Feel free to email Pat at [pgbeech@aol.com](mailto:pgbeech@aol.com) and/or me at [mywilliams@verizon.net](mailto:mywilliams@verizon.net).

Melanie Williams  
President, NVAD





## President's Column

My Thoughts As Your President  
By Melodie Williams, President, NVAD



I have been president of the Northern Virginia Association of the Deaf (NVAD) for 16 months, starting in January 2018. I am honored that you all elected me as your president two years in a row. I hope I have performed my duties as president to your satisfaction. I have tried my best to be open, honest, and approachable in my role as president. I want to share some thoughts with you all, the members.

My first year as president has been a learning, and a very challenging, experience. The purpose of this article is to reply to some comments that have been made. I want you all to know that I understand completely that NVAD belongs to the members. Nevertheless, I believe that, as president, I have some leeway to make a decision now and then. Following are the comments and my replies to them:

- "You should have asked the members about whether they want to have a meeting next month." — This was said after the March meeting where I announced that the next general meeting would be May 4, 2019. We had a meeting in January, a Super Bowl party in February, and a meeting after our first Christmas Festival in March. NVAD doesn't have a fixed schedule. Another thing to consider is that other events occurred in March and April that people could attend. There were the Silver Diners hosted by the ASL Diner located at West Springfield High School and Woodford High School and the fundraising dinner for the Woodford High School Deaf Academic Bowl Team. Both were well attended. NVAD will have Celebrate Communication on April 22.
- "The same speaker can't be invited again. It's not fair to other speakers." — There is nothing in the Bylaws saying that we can't have the same speaker more than once. I asked a specific person if she wanted to give a second presentation because she was not able to attend everything at her first presentation last year. She was the one who mentioned this comment. This person's first talk was well attended, and I believe her topic is equally as relevant this year. I am working with her right now to set up a date.
- "You can't let your friendships influence your decisions as president." — Some friends have a lot of expertise in meeting procedures and are very knowledgeable about various software. They offer perspectives I might otherwise miss, which helps me to make my own decisions.



## President's Column

My Thoughts as Your President



Our next meeting is this Saturday, June 1, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Our annual Watershed Festival will start immediately after the meeting. I stated last night (May 28) that another group has scheduled an event for 5:00 p.m. this Saturday. Some of their members will arrive at 11:30 p.m. to set up for the event. This may cause some confusion, so I ask that you please request their event to set up and give them space to do so. We especially need to make the meeting shorter this time so that we have time for the Watershed Festival before the next event.

We are going to try something new, starting with this Saturday's meeting. I am no longer going to share the minutes on the screen at the meeting. If there is an objection to the minutes not being shown, I will ask the members to vote on whether to show the minutes or not. We have been spending far too much time bogging over details of the minutes during meetings. The minutes are sent to you for review and corrections before each meeting. Please take time to RE-AD the minutes. Print it out and bring your copy if you have any questions. If you have a question, I am willing to share that portion of the minutes, but not the whole thing. Another point I want to make is that many of you saw the previous reports given at the last meeting. Do we really need to see them again, plus the new reports that will be given at the current meeting?

We want to be able to do a real business meeting. Going through the minutes and reports takes so much time that it does not allow for people to discuss new motions in depth, or to discuss new ideas and issues. There were only three motions at the last meeting, but we had to rush through these motions. No time was left to discuss other things that might be on the minds of the members.

Our next thing I want to bring up is behavior at the meetings. It really disturbs me to see the way some members become angry and belittle other members. This is especially evident during reports and during new business when motions are made. These reports and motions are made because they are important to the people who make them. All members deserve to be treated with respect even when others disagree with them. Please be courteous and polite when addressing concerns that you have with reports and motions. Thank you.

Melodie Williams  
President, NVAD



## President's Column



Our next meeting is this Saturday, September 14, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We are starting later this fall because of the Deaf Veterans of America (DVA) Conference that was held this past week in Seattle, Washington. Several of our members attended. I look forward to hearing about their experiences at the conference.

I am asking our members to chip in with breakfast items for our meetings. Neither the board nor the social committee should have sole responsibility for providing refreshments during the meetings. This should be a joint effort. Please help out. Send me an email at mywilliams@nvad.org or let me know what you will bring. Thank you!

Remember that I am no longer going to show the minutes of the past meeting on the screen. We have spent far too much time bogging over details of the minutes during meetings. The minutes are sent to you for review and corrections before each meeting. Please take time to RE-AD the minutes. If there are questions, I will show that portion of the minutes, but not the whole thing. Another point I want to make is that many of you saw the reports given at the last meeting. We really do not need to see them again in addition to the new reports given at the current meeting. We want to do a real business meeting and discuss real issues.

The Virginia Association of the Deaf (VAD) is holding its annual conference on September 20-21, 2019, at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSB) in Staunton, VA. Donna Grubb-Vial is NVAD's representative on the VAD Board. It is up to the end of the conference. We will hold an election this Saturday to choose a new representative. I am planning to run for this position because I believe that as president of NVAD, I need to be more involved in VAD.

I want to remind all of you to respect the people who give reports and make motions during the meeting. All members deserve to be treated with respect even when others disagree with them. Please be courteous and polite when addressing concerns that you have with reports and motions. Thank you.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again!

Melodie Williams  
President, NVAD

