

# **Knoxville Center of the Deaf Members' Meeting Community Room December 11, 2010**

Approximate number in attendance: 60 voting members; 15 visitors  
President Barry Swafford began the meeting at 6:20 P.M.  
Minutes from the December 2009 meeting carried as is.

**Note: Procedure for checking in members at start of meeting needs to be straightened out; if dinner/social is prior to meeting, everyone can exit and then reenter after signing in. Also, membership book and visitors list needs to be updated and new sheets printed for each meeting.**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Changes/Reorganization due to economy is inevitable; but KCD has continued to do well nevertheless, thanks in part to support from several areas including ED.
- Tennessee Hillbilly Deaf (THD) - Special thanks to Billy Hendrickson and his group for fundraising efforts! \$285.01 for outside improvements (roof on amphitheater, etc.) and \$261 raised from 67 attendees for KCD meal today. Total of \$546.01 raised. Billy discussed possibly coordinating with other deaf organizations to fundraise in future (Tennessee Deaf Bikers with Jimmy Cromwell and his group? Others?)
- KCTAD donated \$100 to general fund. Lillian noted that KDSC donated \$300 to KCD's general fund, plus \$100 to needy family fund.
- KCDVRS – We brought in almost \$2,000 since Aug/Sept just from this!
- Roof Situation – volunteer team backed out of doing this for amphitheater
- Question by deaf member – can we have funeral gatherings (wakes) here at KCD? I have no problem with this, but up to members.  
April made a motion that we allow wakes here at KCD. Phil Beam seconded.  
Discussion: Betty – if body is brought to the premises, need to check about legal implications.  
Motion passed (all in favor except one opposed).
- Deaf Senior Citizens – I noticed last summer when I was helping that KDSC do a LOT for KCD. I commend them for their help and involvement with KCD.

Question from Member:

Anthony Anderton – How much was raised from rummage sale?

Terry Osborn – Rummage Sale alone raised \$905. KCD also had donations given for Needy Family Fund from the ASL Film “Black Sand”, KDSC, Deaf Golfers and others about \$2,000 in addition to what was raised by Rummage Sale.

## **TREASURER’S REPORT (Doug Woods):**

Our day-to-day balance remains in the black. In summary:

September balance: \$46,344.61 (deposits \$61,472; debits \$61,734)

October balance: \$44,392.94 (deposits \$60,626; debits \$62,530)

November balance: \$17,999.14 (deposits \$49,019; debits \$75,361)

Our investments with UBS as of December 10, 2010:

Woodson account: \$100,620.17

Main account: \$134,919.90

Smith Bishop account: \$64,937.92

Total of our UBS investments: \$301,838.43

Our CD values at \$32,462.80

Our building mortgage is \$63,139.34. We should have this paid off in about three more years.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

1. **COMMUNITY ROOM:** Thanks for taking good care of it! 95% of the time after events, I find everything cleaned up and things back in place. When it’s not, I take off my ED hat and put on my janitorial hat.
2. **YOUTH ROOM and GARAGE:** VRS, new furniture, grill  
Delta Zetas from UT gave us \$750 for youth room. Went out and bought furniture – two sofas and end tables and four chairs and nice table. Got 25% discount when owner found out what purchase was for – got all furniture for \$400. Old furniture has been moved to the garage area. We plan to purchase a good gas grill with money also. ZVRS also donated \$6,000 for the youth program.
3. **BUDGET:** interpreting income down by over \$100,000 in 2010, KCDVRS okay. It’s been a difficult year for KCD financially. As of October, we had a balanced budget, but don’t know what November/December’s balance is yet. Staff have worked very hard.
4. **FINANCES:** \$325,000+ in our investment accounts, estimated equity of

\$450,000 in the building and properties, annual income of approximately \$900,000. Doug discussed this already. UBS is our investment program. That money is for our future, for the next generation of Deaf. Our building is worth approximately \$500,000, plus recently purchased property next door added about \$40,000 to the value.

5. UPGRADES and PURCHASES: new heating and air system (\$45,000), new roof (\$35,000), purchased property next door (valued at \$40,000), made a one-time \$50,000 payment of mortgage. About 4 years ago we refinanced our mortgage with board approval.
6. RED CROSS: KCD is now a designated emergency shelter. We had an all-day workshop for emergency training. Health Department wants us to help in rural areas. If it happens they need our facility for emergency, they pay food, interpreters, bills, etc.
7. THD and the DEAF COMMUNITY: Thank you for “DOING”, for setting a good example, for being POSITIVE and being DOERS.
8. KCDVRS and VR JOBS PROGRAM: Terry Osborne will report on this – his “brainchild”. Terry is KCDs “Athlete”...he does it all: interprets, provides community service and develops new projects. TERRY: Average income - \$1,800/month for KCDVRS (from LifeLinks). If those of you who DON'T use KCDVRS, DID use KCDVRS, maybe our average would jump up to \$2500/month! If the use increases enough that we could be part of the relay program where KCD interpreters were providing the relay service, then our percentage of the income would increase from 15% to 50%. If you have any problems with KCDVRS, you must report them to Terry so they can be addressed. You can't be forced to use one service over another, but if you care to support KCD, please consider using KCDVRS.

VR Job Placement program – important! Many complaints: “They can't find me a job!” Remember, VR and our program HELPS!! It's the client's responsibility to find the job, we HELP. We do have a challenge to deal with: we have skilled potential workers who need more training in job readiness training. At this time, one person has completed the 90<sup>th</sup> day on the job – hurray! Steve Harrison is doing a good job – he's a hard worker; he's developing a passion for this work. We are developing into a great team. We have benefit of collaboration with Sharon B....? in Chattanooga who is advising

us about job placement efforts because she herself has a lot of success with this. Workshops are being developed for creating resumes, etc.

There's a THIRD program: VRI ---- video remote interpreting. It's another choice out there. Main point: deaf people should have a CHOICE of what type of service they want to use.

Use DLAC – Disability Law and Advocacy Center for legal help with interpreting issues.

Question from Member:

April Haggard - TAD paid back money but office is still locked. WHY...?

David Booker – Payment took a ridiculously long time; need to be in timely manner. Penalty is to wait 10 months before you gain access again.

(Background information: KCD loaned money to TAD for installation of museum downstairs and TAD paid KCD back)

Bob Rittenhouse – This will be worked out between TAD and KCD and building director soon.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **REGULATORY (BY-LAWS COMMITTEE) – Steve Farmer**

No report.

Comment by April: Need to make sure last year's changes are made final on website. There are still blue markings from last year's edits.

### **BUILDING COMMITTEE – DAVID BOOKER**

No report. Already included in Bob's ED report.

MOTION by Mary Carver: Motioned that ramp leading out the downstairs door be widened and sloped on all three sides. Seconded.

Discussion:

Mary: Awkward when leaving the door because of sudden drop.

Lillian: Need to add railing, too, for deaf blind people.

Mary: Change motion to include railing.

David Booker: possibly turn slope 90 degrees so it's along side of building.

Others: will help people with walkers, wheelchairs, SSP's with deaf-blind persons.

Motion made to UPDATE the ramp.

Motion carried.

Question: Can outdoor lighting be improved outside community room? (Jim Gregory will work on this.)

## **RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE**

Doug Woods: Retirement Community – we are still investigating, though there has been a lot of silence on this topic since trying to work things out with Hillcrest. Three other possible options we are investigating:

- 1 - Adult Care – cheaper than nursing home.
- 2 - Two people went to Aging Group in Jefferson County to check it out.
- 3 - using part of TSD campus as a retirement village (since Tennessee Governor's Academy is moving out); we want to sit down with Superintendent Alan Mealka about this.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

MOTION by Sandy McMillan: I move that we move the outdoor smoking area from near the coded lock door to the back area.

Discussion: People with asthma and who need oxygen tanks have issues with where smoking is happening now near the entrance.

Motion seconded and carried.

MOTION by Judy Brown: Make a motion we add a snack machine next to the coke machine. Seconded.

Motion passed 23 to 13.

MOTION by Mary Carver: I make a motion that we develop a building committee.

Discussion: KCD belongs to each of us, each organization. David is building chairperson. My thought is not related to what happened with him and TAD. Each organization could have a representative to help make ideas and suggestions relating to the facility. Make it a team instead of one person.

Patty Henley – leave as is due to time constraints; faster to make decisions as is.

Bob Furman – agree with Mary's idea; each organization has different needs; can be shared as a committee more efficiently. Not for emergency needs, but for ideas, improvement over time....with chairperson reporting to ED and Board.

Betty McBroom – “each organization” – new organizations form, include them? KCD is the one who pays the rent, utilities...should be a KCD thing.

Jimmy Smith – who selects the building chairperson? Board? (Barry – yes) Jimmy – then we can voice our concerns to board? (Barry – I bring it to the board as representative of members)

DC Hughes – I agree with Mary's idea, Furman's points. Problem is no guidelines. Need things in black and white.

Monroe Wynn – I agree with concept; include people on committee who have related skills and choose one to report to Board.

Bob Rittenhouse – Want to make clear that David Booker works hard; his personality, “NO!” then he works out reason to defend his case. Committee is a good idea for “big” things.

Mary Carver – want to make sure that my motion is not because Booker is doing lousy job – NO. Just want to make sure KCD involves all of us – our organization.

Patty Henley – when/if developing guidelines, make sure it's clear who has financial responsibility for building improvement suggestions.

Motion carried.

MOTION by Jimmy Smith: I'm making a motion that we install a projector in community room ceiling. Seconded.

Discussion: as KCTAD president it's frustrating to have to continually ask friends for loan of a projector. It would be nice to have one available for all organizations to use any time.

Bob Rittenhouse – We do have a portable projector available at no cost.

David Booker – I remember J. Gregory, R. Dawes and I discussed this project but didn't move on it. We need to follow up on this.

Lester Arnold – need to add a pull down screen also.

Betty McBroom – placement of screen on center of wall or on the side? Want to make sure it doesn't distract.

April Haggard – don't care where; important we just have it available!

Vote on amendment (pull down screen) – passed.

Vote on main motion (ceiling projector) – passed.

MOTION by Susan Whittaker: I make a motion that KCD host ASL Films "Forget Me Not" in the Spring for fundraiser.

Discussion: can show without cost; if show to charge viewing fee, must pay ASL Films their part. Could show film for free and charge for food/snacks for fundraiser.

Motion failed.

MOTION by Lillian Wynn: I make a motion that we have a members' meeting twice a year.

Barry Swafford – By-laws say we have a meeting at least once/year, so we don't need motion to have additional meetings.

MOTION by Christine Arnold – I make a motion that Bob Rittenhouse stay on full or part time past June 2011. Seconded.

Discussion: Furman – need to ask in person if he's willing and for how long.

Bob Rittenhouse – depends on negotiations and what's offered in the contract.

Paul Robertson – best to leave it up to the Board to decide.

Lillian Wynn – would like to keep him longer; not ready to let him go.

Christine – drop motion.

MOTION by Mary Carver – I make a motion that interpreters be required to provide 40 volunteer hours/year.

Discussion: Deaf people with small businesses or community involvements have a really tough time finding interpreters who are willing to do this voluntarily – don't have money to pay in these situations.

April – need to be specific; do you mean KCD staff interpreters or all interpreters?

Steve Farmer – I think this would not be legal – Fair Labor Act – can't require person to work for free.

Terry Osborn – KCD actually does already provide a lot of free community interpreting services (cited examples). Also made point, is it fair to require hearing business to follow ADA law and pay for interpreting services, but not require deaf businesses to do the same?

Mary Carver/Patty Henley – sometimes no “business” involved; Habitat for Humanity, Cancer Wellness meetings, etc.

Barry Swafford – Question for ED: is it possible to put aside funds for paying interpreters in certain situations like these?

Bob Rittenhouse – suggested a brainstorming meeting between Mary, Michel, Nina, others? and a couple of the KCD staff interpreters to figure out how to possibly address this issue.

Kim Dance – volunteer interpreters....would they follow Code of Ethics?

Motion failed.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Bob Furman: don't want to “force” Rittenhouse to stay on, but want to say thank you for all of his great work with KCD. Many centers around the country are closing. Recently the Arizona center closed down. KCD is standing tall, strong and growing. Thank you Bob.

David Booker – with Rittenhouse retired, he can practice more golf so he can beat me!  
Pat Rittenhouse – wants Bob to retire and enjoy other things while health is still good; also looking forward to leaving him a daily “honey do” list each morning

Bob Rittenhouse – thank you for your kind words and your applause! Sounds like Pat has more work cut out for me at home than I do here.

Patty Henley – want to thank all the organizations for their support, and Delta Zetas of UT also.

## **NOMINATIONS**

Board members departing (terms expired):

Patty Henley

Douglas Woods – not interested in running again

Karin Robertson – not interested in running again

Steve Farmer – not interested in running again

Dan Brewer (hearing) – not interested in running again

Need to replace with AT LEAST **4** deaf.

New Board Members serving for 3 years (2011-2014) are:

DEAF:

Jimmy Smith

Mary Carver

Patty Henley  
James Gregory

**HEARING:**

Karen Horton (teacher of the deaf at WHS; also interpreter)  
Michelle Swaney (replacement if hearing Board member resigns)

**Meeting adjourned at 9:34 P.M.**

**Acronyms used in report:**

THD - Tennessee Hillbilly Deaf

TDB – Tennessee Deaf Bikers

TAD – Tennessee Association of the Deaf

KCTAD – Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Association of the Deaf

KDSC – Knoxville Deaf Senior Citizens

KCDVRS – Knoxville Center of the Deaf Video Relay Service

VRI – Video Remote Interpreting