

**Knoxville Center of the Deaf Members' Meeting**  
**Community Room**  
**December 5, 2009**

Approximate number in attendance: 42 voters; 12 visitors  
President Barry Swafford began the meeting at 7:45 P.M..  
Minutes from the December 2008 meeting were shared. D.C. Hughes motioned minutes accepted as is. Motion carried.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

K.C.D. members' meeting – this is your opportunity to be heard; share your ideas and opinions.

This past year:

- We have installed a new A.C. system upstairs.
- Sorenson meeting
- Land purchased next door
- Some individual problems, such as court interpreting, etc. These were worked out individually.

Remember: WE own this building. Many thanks to THD for their rummage sale.

Land next door – purchased at good price. What to do with it? Potential liability issues if public uses it (even though it's private KCD property).  
Possible uses: pavilion, basketball court, parking lot.

Possible homeless shelter built nearby, but that motion is “frozen” for now. (No hands were raised in support of this idea at tonight's meeting.)

Rittenhouse: word is sent out on issues three ways – KCD website, KCD Newsletter, and THD distribution list via email through Wendy.

Suggested: “BULLETIN” posted before message when it's urgent for your attention.

Suggested: ADD YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO THE KCD MEMBERS LIST.

People nowadays use that as a communication tool more than any other method.

Rittenhouse: Improved website; new features – “vlogs”, links to other deafness sites, investigating Facebook as a social network.

P. Robertson suggests investigating TWITTER as a communication network.

Ristvedt suggests linking Facebook announcements to KCD website somehow so people are aware of Starbucks coffee nights, etc.

D.C. Hughes suggests E.D. is responsible for information network, working it out.

D.C. Hughes moves to accept 2008 minutes as read with corrections. Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Doug Woods):** No Report.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

[www.KCDTN.org](http://www.KCDTN.org)

James Gregory did a test demonstration of the smoke detection alarm system.

**Budget Matters:** through October 2009, KCD is 3.8% above interpreting income (goal of \$600,000 for the year). KCD is \$25,000 ahead for the year. The 2010 budget will be approved at next Wednesday night's Board meeting. KCD continues to support Senior Citizens, Youth, and Deaf-Blind from operational monies. [Deaf – Blind people get vouchers valued up to \$90/month. They use these vouchers to hire SSP's.] This is funded from the annual golf tournament and from K.C.D.'s cash reserves.

Cash reserves are important for KCD to have ready. Helped not only with Deaf-Blind program, but also for \$35,000 for new roof; new AC/Heat – repairs; \$10,000 for purchase of property next door, etc. I am requesting a 4% raise for staff for 2010.

**Grant Matters:** Our State of Tennessee grant (\$170,000) is continuing (each of the 6 centers around the state gets the same amount of funds from the state regardless of performance); UT Hospital (\$35,000) and United Way (\$50,000) are continuing. I do not expect an Enrichment Grant (\$10,000) from Senator Woodson's office this year because of the state's dire economic picture (we got this the past two or three years). I am expecting a grant (\$5,000 to \$10,000) from Regal Entertainment to support the Youth Program in 2010 (and possibly 2011).

Question: Youth program, only one meeting in fall. Why?

Answer: scheduling conflicts; hope to have meetings twice monthly during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

Question: how much left on KCD building mortgage

Answer: about \$108,000

75% of KCD monies invested; earns money from stock market (or loses money)  
25% of KCD monies in interest-bearing account

Question: how much does the 4% raise translate to?

Answer: about \$17,000; last year got 2 ½% raise; we will be in the "black" this year thanks to income generated by interpreters

Question: what percentage of interpreters (KCD and freelancers) are certified?

Answer: about 75% to 80% ; all but one of KCD's interpreters are certified; that one is fresh out of college and will soon work on testing for certification; remember that ADA law doesn't require CERTIFIED interpreters; requires QUALIFIED interpreters.

Question: SSP's that stay overnight with deaf-blind in hospital don't get paid. Seems not fair.

Answer: not true. KCD does pay SSP's; one deaf-blind person in hospital right now. Chose to send SSP instead of interpreters to give deaf opportunity for earnings.

**Centers Around the State:** Chattanooga, Johnson City and Nashville  
Johnson City – each interpreter there is basically working on her/his own; rates have dropped to \$25/hour. KCD charges \$55/hour. Chattanooga is ready to close their center.

Nashville – name change issue (Hearing Bridges); director is fine person; Bob and Terry Osborne attended meeting after TCDHH meeting last month regarding name change; they were asked to share hearing perspective on the name change; last week meeting in Nashville said that name change issue will come up at Jan. 25 Board meeting.

If all of KCD staff left, center still exists because YOU (Deaf) run/own it. If all of the Deaf moved to Alabama, KCD staff are left with nothing. That's proof that KCD is YOURS.

**Campus Issues:** no smoking area outside (front of the building); new property and building (David Booker).

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

All changes accepted except section on members, whether an addition should be noted about where they should reside.

By-Laws will be eventually posted on the website if you want to print them for yourself.

### **TREASURER – Doug Woods**

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

Uses for property recently purchased next door; informal survey shows greatest interest in pavilion and picnic area; possibly build pavilion and then seats into the inclined hill to make a natural "auditorium".

TAD museum room originally slated for the office formerly used by P. Robertson, moved to the corner room formerly used for janitorial supplies. Reason is because if space is leased out, renters generally prefer rooms with windows.

Comment by Swafford: whether we do something with next door property or not, it's still worth the purchase cost because it greatly increased the value of the overall KCD property by \$40,000 (double check).

May need to add 18 to 24 inches to door ramp to make it wheelchair accessible (downstairs) and rail for deaf-blind.

Possible rental of offices to ETTAC and VR in future; need to leave other door available to those renters.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Susan Whittaker – Motion: KCD staff not interpret during Board meetings.

Reason – conflict of interest

Ruled out of order (OO) because of amended by-laws.

Whittaker – Motion: Hire short-term technology teacher.

No second.

Motion carried to close New Business.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

P. Robertson:

Phil Bravin (Dr. Z) will come to Knoxville December 18<sup>th</sup> to talk about Z ???

April Haggard:

The Living Christmas Tree performed at Thompson Boling Arena; FREE TICKETS; performances on December 19 (3 and 7 P.M.), December 20 (3 and 7 P.M.), December 21 (7 P.M.); interpreters provided

Billy Britt:

December 15 at 6 P.M., Mike Lozynsky will provide Sorenson workshop here at KCD; FOODDDDD provided!

D.C. Hughes:

TCDHH finally set up 4 standing committees on communication, welfare, education, \_\_\_\_\_. Problems brought to TCDHH will be delegated to sub-committees to work on a plan to solve. Town Hall meetings will be opened to public to hear your concerns about things like mental health concerns, hospital problems, etc.

Other project TCDHH set up is Deaf Awareness on the Hill – to help increase awareness with legislators about deafness issues.

Anthony Anderton:  
I'm a representative of HOVRS. Business cards available.

Barry Swafford:  
Next weekend is TSD's Viking Classic Tournament.

Billy Henderson:  
Donations for KCD --- suggest people help make donations to help KCD support needy families.

### **NOMINATIONS (April Haggard)**

Five Board members departing (terms expired):

April Haggard  
Paul Torbett  
Dana Hughes  
Julie Rice (hearing)  
Gary McCormick (hearing)

Need to replace with AT LEAST 3 deaf.

Nominees are:

Paul Robertson, Jr.  
Anthony Anderton  
Betty McBroom  
Christine Arnold  
April Haggard  
James Gregory  
Albert Owen  
Janie Neal (deaf-blind)  
Jimmy Smith

Julie Rice (hearing)  
Gary McCormick (hearing)  
Art Klar (hearing)  
Michelle Swaney (hearing)

**Meeting adjourned at 11:34 P.M.**