

**OHIO ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF (O.A.D.) General Assembly Meeting  
Columbus Colony Housing II  
Westerville, Ohio  
September 25, 2004**

The OAD General Assembly Meeting held on September 25, 2004 was divided into three groups. Verne Taylor, Jr. was a facilitator for the meeting. He did an outstanding job!! He explained that this was the opportunity for members to make motions for issues for OAD to work on and focus on over the next two years. Some motions are being considered. Some issues may be referred to the OAD Board Members for their focus.

**Here are the highlights of what each of the three groups discussed:**

Group One discussed the following issues: (1) Improve Marketing and Public Relations (Tax Write Off), (2) Interpreters at the Doctor's Office (County Medical Society to FUND Interpreters - Rainbow Fund), (3) Child Rights Acts, (4) Education on Employment Discrimination, (5) CDL - DOT Policy, (6) Workshops on Living Wills, Trusts, Tax Mutual Funds, Insurance, and House Insurance, (7) OAD's own credit cards, (8) Bad Storm - Tornado Warning System, (9) TTY's (OHIO one of the few which does not provide), and (10) Captioned News "LIVE".

**Action: There will be process to have two debit cards for two officers only to handle.**

Group Two discussed the following issues: (1) Interpreter's place in the classroom (front or back, with the teacher or student?), (2) ORS 7-1-1 (too fast and TTY garbled message. It took too long to answer), (3) Education for Deaf Kids (K-12), (4) Members # (Need to get involved - How to make OAD more visible), (5) Qualified Interpreters for Drivers' Tests, (6) More cooperation between different deaf organizations as one voice - UNITY, (7) Mainstreamed Deaf Kids more involved in social and leadership - not dependent on interpreters, but on their own abilities (Deaf Leadership), (8) OAD, Jr. (it should be NAD, Jr.) needs to be established ALL around OHIO as it has been established for OSD, (9) Infants born Deaf to hearing parents - parents need more balanced information - give them more information - not depend on the doctor or audiologist who are too biased toward cochlear implants - more deaf role models or MENTORS ( Parenting) ( 1 SP + IEP later), (10) Speak up - Parenting Advocate, and (11) Interpreter skills - how to encourage Interpreters to keep improving (or get out of interpreting) - especially "Grandfather" interpreters (ODE to give INFO on classes for OAD to encourage this).

**Action:**

**(2) Danny Barrett, ORS Account Manager of Sprint, responded to the issue. Here is his summary explaining the problem.**

**7-1-1 Issue**

The 7-1-1 is being too fast and garbled. There are several causes of this and most of them can be traced to the TTY's themselves. However it would be better if people caught the agent number so they can report it. This way we can monitor the communication's agent's computer and telephone equipment to see if its getting faulty or not. The more feedback with specific communication agent (CA) identification numbers, the better we can keep our technology and service in good working condition to avoid causing problems during relay calls.

Some TTY's have turbo codes switched on. Or ASC II code switched on. This causes the speed of text to fly past faster. Older TTY's operate on Baudot Code alone and this has more chance to garbled messages because of phone line noise interference or the barking dog interference.

The customer should gather important information and report to the Customer Service Line by providing (1) CA # , (2) Time , (3) Date, and (4) explain the problem. Please call the number of the Customer Service (24 hrs, 7 days, 365 days a year) at 1-800-676-3777 TTY/ASCII/Voice/VCO/Speech-to-Speech or 1-800-676-4290 Spanish or fax at 1-877-877-3291.

(5) Please read additional information later with other motions related to Driver License.

(6) There will be a workshop on April 29, and 30, 2005 to invite various organizations and OAD to have a discussion with Steven A. Florio. He will be our presenter.

(8) Jr. NAD is still active in Ohio School for the Deaf. NAD encouraged OAD to check other high schools in OHIO if they are interested in forming Jr. NAD. Verne Taylor, Jr. has the package about Jr. NAD . Anyone can contact him directly if you happen to know any high school students in mainstreaming school who would want to have one.

(9) Robby Thoryk, OAD Representative and Darlene Zangara, Director of CSD of OHIO will work on this project. A report will be provided when it is available.

Group Three discussed the following issues: (1) Driving Test ( A. Southeast already has a driving program (revision) and B. OAD Representative should check other locations for driving programs to compare the differences), (2) D-Link and Sorenson, (3) Ordering food through Drive-through Restaurants, (4) Investigating Cinema theaters for CC movies - more choices of movies and a new system must be approved by the Deaf community, not the hearing community, (5) Certified Deaf Interpreters in Court, (6) How to recruit more members to OAD (Deaf Clubs, churches, and deaf organizations - recommend having a TASK FORCE), (7) Regional Representatives must attend CCD's DAC meetings and events, and (8) Improve OAD finances by using an investment system.

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**Action:**

**(2) Here is a comment from a person about DLINK and Sorenson.**

Here are some thoughts from a customer who has both Sorenson and Dlink equipment.

**Sunday, December 19, 2004**

**Oh yeah? Well, mine's better than yours!**

With the holiday season upon us, I've come to really appreciate a gadget that has had equal impact on the Deaf community as the two-way pager: videophones.

Videophones are such a blessing for people like me. I, like pretty much any other consumer, use my videophone almost daily to talk with clients, colleagues, and friends from around the country at nary a cost to me.

With the proliferation of videophones in the Deaf community, I've noticed an odd phenomenon: people are now actually debating with each other about whether D-Link or Sorenson is best. *(Disclaimer: I have both units, and can safely say I see very little difference, except for the fact that with D-Link, I'm able to call any relay service I choose to.)*

Recently, my mother had great trouble getting a videophone installed in her house. I helped fix the settings with some assistance from technical support. Afterwards, I chatted with my stepfather about the differences between the two services. He told me of how one of our friends became upset when my stepdad said he had a D-Link unit. This friend grew red-faced, telling my stepdad that D-Link's machines were of poor quality. I laughed, because this person had previously said the same thing to me. In fact, when I showed the friend that both units were pretty much the same machine, he was astonished.

I also mentioned that I had the choice of using any relay service - including Sorenson, and he was surprised to learn that. Yet he continued to try and convince my stepfather - why? Who cares, as long as we can connect and continue to receive good service? Shouldn't we be happy with what we have, especially if it's free to us and continues to be of good quality?

Some of my friends are installers for CSD or Sorenson. I've had a few installers give me looks of betrayal when I tell them I have both units. I've also had a Sorenson VRS interpreter get upset with me when I said I used a D-Link unit. She only calmed down after I told her I also had a Sorenson unit that I use as well. The interesting thing is I'm not alone in this; others are experiencing this dispute as well.

To me, all this ridiculous hoopla over which company has better videophone service becomes very insignificant when I see my boyfriend talk with his Deaf 87-year-old grandpa, who lives

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more than 300 miles away, in ASL. The smiles on their faces convince me further that it's not about which service you use. It's about being able to connect.

Happy Holidays.

posted by Trudy at 2:48 PM

**(8) John Bradley, Jr. , Finance and Auditing Chairperson will have a report ready for next meeting when he forms a committee.**

Members voted for the most important issues on the list. Groups brainstormed issues which were felt to be important. Here is the list of issues voted as most important: (1) Driving Test - 5 votes, (2) Relay Services - Active, (3) Education K - 12 - 6 votes, (4) Educational Interpreting - 8 votes, (5) Recruiting/Marketing/Public Relations - 11 votes, (6) Child Bill Rights - 8 votes, (7) Restaurant ordering - NONE , (8) Finances - 7 votes, (9) Regional Representatives - NONE , and (10) Workshop/Education - NONE.

The top three ISSUES are what OAD will focus on over the next two years. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please notify Verne Taylor, Jr., Robert Cooper or Charles Owen III. This will be brought up at our OAD Board meeting on January 29, 2005 in Brunswick, Ohio for discussion.

The top three Issues are (1) Education Committee, (2) OAD Growth, and (3) Bill of Rights for Children.

The highlights for Education Committee are: (1) Better qualified Interpreters (provide CEU's and enforce them), (2) Deaf Adult Role Models (MDOP visit), (3) Raise the Level of Expectations (better or more challenging classes for motivated kids), (4) Provide AIDs (to help slow learners - i.e. tutoring?), (5) Better ways to communicate (communication of more information/new ideas for different school systems and kids themselves (newsletter, Magazine, e-mail, or website ?), (6) Social activities (extra-curricular for hobbies, sports, and interests along with education), and (7) Help hearing and deaf children learn together.

**Action: Verne Taylor, Jr. , Vice President is focusing on this project.**

The highlights of the update for the video Driving Test are: (1) Southeast already has a revised driving program, (2) OAD Regional Representatives should check other locations in their area, and (3) Write a letter to BMV regarding the test video.

**Action: A report is by Linda Mahmood, OAD President. Linda Mahmood received a few messages from various people informing Manager of Ohio State Highway Patrol to contact OAD for assistance. Last message I received was November 1, 2004 that they were already processed to have test video. It gave Linda Mahmood very limited time to**

contact anyone to work on this project, however she informed Marsha Nippert, OACCD Executive Director about the meeting on November 15, 2004. Linda Mahmood had been e-mailed the messages to Manager of Ohio State Highway Patrol several times to explain why Ohio Association of the Deaf should be part of the project (It is to preserve the history of the "Ohio Deaf Motorists Association") Linda Mahmood pointed out that O.A.D. feels that ALL cities need to be updated concerning Deaf and Hard of Hearing people taking the test - not just SOME cities. They agreed that they would be responsible to inform all cities of OHIO for any further information.

Finally they decided to agree with me and put the videotape pending because they were going to use a hearing person signing on videotape. We had a meeting with them on November 15, 2004 and Linda Mahmood had Mary Earley who had communicated with them in past about the test that the deaf/hard of hearing students took, was an interpreter for me. The meeting was very productive and we managed to convince them to accept that it should be a deaf person doing the videotape, not a hearing person with limited knowledge of signs. It is Verne Taylor as primary since they prefer to use someone from Columbus to process and the back up is John Bradley, Jr. Verne Taylor was not able to do this project for OAD , due to his health then Linda Mahmood asked Tom Aktins from Columbus and he accepted. Linda Mahmood gave information ready when they requested.

They checked the Southeast area, where the test is common as other locations. It is no special test we thought. Linda Mahmood explained the culturally sensitive if they can change from "A/B Test for Deaf" to " Driver Test for Deaf and Hard of hearing " The manager of Ohio State Highway Patrol agreed with me that it needs to be changed.

Also, Linda Mahmood suggested to have information about Driver Test on OAD website to inform everyone of the update. If anyone has a problem, he/she will send me a message and she will forward to the manager of Ohio State Highway Patrol. She accepted this idea. It will happen when the videotape is released.

Linda Mahmood questioned the manager of Ohio State Highway Patrol about providing an interpreter that OAD group at GA meeting discussed. The manager mentioned that she used an interpreter from an agency. If there is a problem, a deaf person taking the driver test, one should inform someone at the location immediately.

Verne Taylor, Jr., Vice President sent a message that you all may already saw that through Internet.

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**Here is an article for you to read.**

**NEW MACHINES IN ALABAMA OFFER DRIVER LICENSE TEST IN ASL**

Machines have been installed in 16 locations around Alabama that will let deaf people take their driver license test in American Sign Language. The machines, which cost \$200,000 to install, aren't just for deaf people, the Birmingham News reported Dec. 23. All driver license applicants will use them, and they offer the test in 12 languages and an audio version for people who can't read. Applicants respond to 30 multiple-choice questions called up randomly from a database of 800 questions. The new system is "really helpful in tearing down the barriers that we've been facing for years," said Judith Gilliam, president of the Alabama Association of the Deaf.

**Linda Mahmood, President, contacted the manager of Ohio State Highway Patrol about this article. The manager is investigated and will be back with me. It is still pending.**

The highlights for OAD Growth are: (1) have a committee improve on investment, (2) Pass out small cards for recruiting new/old members, (3) make appearances at various deaf organizations (including different races), (4) recognize member involvement in various organizations, (5) Include a history of OAD accomplishments in the marketing package, (6) be more Sociable, (7) Golf, Fishing, M/C Yacht Club, and (8) Public Awareness (TV exposure newspaper, magazine, etc.).

**Action:**

**OAD already have update on Brochure. We also work on OAD Display that will be completed in few weeks. There will be a discussion for more ideas/suggestions at OAD Board Meeting on May 1, 2005. If you have any idea or suggestions, please share yours to your regional representatives.**