

# the Deaf Advocate

A Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens Publication

**MADC**



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## 59th Biennial MADC Conference

by Dann Trainer

Every conference it was the election which was part of the highlights that the members participated. At the 59th Biennial MADC Conference, the new administration of 10 positions were Dann Trainer, President; Kathleen Smith, Vice-President; Jeffery Beard, Treasurer; Adan Burke, Member at Large (2 years left from previous elected Member at Large), Rebecca Thomas, Member at Large (4 year term) and Andrew Oehrlein, Member at Large (4 year term) plus Doug Bahl, Member at Large (elected in 2009) and Kim Wassenaar, Member at Large (elected in 2009). Secretary position is vacant and hope to fill in during the first Board meeting in September 2011. The tenth position is new and was approved during the Business meeting at the Conference. It is called Ex-Officio Past President and what it means that the previous President have one year duty to be a mentor, advisor, and teacher with the newly elected President for one year with no voting rights. Due to the outcomes from the Restructuring Study Ad Hoc committee, this administration is different from the previous administrations because there is no Liaisons positions related to Deaf Minnesotans Charitable Fund aka DEAF-MADC and in MADC by-laws. With this new administration, we will begin the new positions which we will

call "Consultant" and we will use members to be part of the team to reach the new administration's goals and to meet the mission statement and values of MADC. One of the goals is to increase the members of MADC to join the committees and help out/volunteer during MADC's events. While the new administration will update the Board Handbook, necessary Guidelines/Best-Practices of some committees, and to get suggestions related to the Bylaws, Articles of Incorporated and few other important materials from the new Ad Hoc Committee, "Compliance".

Another goal is to make sure we are in a structured and effective system to make things go as expected and to make the organization stronger. It will be challenging to preserve the traditions at the same time to approach the necessary changes to make the organization moving into the 21st Century technology and 'politics'/economic' situations. We look forward to serve and work with variety of people in the deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing communities as well as the collaborations and/or affiliations of organizations and services around the wonderful state of Minnesota. God bless us all.



Pictured left to right: Doug Bahl, Dann Trainer, Kathleen Smith, Adan Burke, Andrew Oehrlein, and Becky Thomas. (Not Pictured: Jeff Beard)

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Be sure we have your most current email address — contact [membership@minndeaf.org](mailto:membership@minndeaf.org)!



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**Andrew Oehrlein**  
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## Contact Us

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# MADC President's Report

by Dann Trainer

Hello everyone! It was my pleasure to introduce the new administration for the next two years. I am humbled, but honored to be elected as president. I look forward to working with Kathleen Smith, Vice President; Jeffrey Beard, Treasurer; Adan Burke, Member at Large (2 years); Andrew Oehrlein, Member at Large (4 years); Rebecca Thomas, Member at Large; and continue working with Doug Bahl, Member at Large (2 years left) and Kim Wassenaar, Member at Large (2 years left). On the behalf of MADC and the deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing Minnesotans, we thank Alicia Lane-Outlaw, Pam Meinhardt, Maria Breitbach, Teika Pakalns, Linda Durand, Jane Harders, Cynthia Weitzel and Tom Anderson for their time and efforts during their board duties/term over the past two years. Special thanks to Heather Gilbert, Misty Schomberg, and Cynthia Dively for their consulting time with us. We hope to continue to use their skills in the new administration. We look forward to some changes while maintaining the tradition of serving the deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing Minnesotans.

In the past weeks since January 2011, I had the opportunity to be exposed to variety of deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing communities by attending board, advisory, and committee meetings as well in the community-gathering events. I had met with Hearing Loss Association of America-Twin Cities chapter (HLAA-TC), Minnesota Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (MRID), Minnesota DeafBlind Association (MDBA), Deaf Community Health Worker (DCHW), as well as attending the annual MASS meeting (Thompson Hall officers), the premiere of new film about Minnesota's Pink Deafies, "Signing On", the celebration of Jeff & Denise Anderson's 50th birthdays & their 25th wedding anniversary, and several more events that the list will be long.

With those outreaching duties, I learned new information or have rough ideas on how MADC can make things better related to our collaborations and/or affiliations with variety of organizations or services as well as to figure out ways that MADC can improve itself for Board and organization structure-system. It was the way that we can share, inform, help and/or work together to make our quality of life as deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing Minnesotan. Remember that these were part of MADC's values and mission statement. The reason why I am mentioning these is that the collaboration between MADC and organizations/services is an important approach for MADC to reach out to variety of deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing people of all ages. This also helps maintain the communication and visibility among all communities.

Speaking of Communities, I am proud to inform you that the Conference planning committee and Youth Programs planning committee were working hard to prepare for upcoming MADC 59th Biennial Conference to be held at St. Catherine University on June 24 and 25 including Miss Deaf Minnesota Ambassador Pageant, Youth ASL Live (new), several workshops, booths/exhibits, awards banquet, group-picture (bringing back the tradition of conference) and business meetings/election. In addition, our

Keynote speaker for the Awards Banquet on June 25th is Dennis Daugaard who is the current governor of South Dakota and is a CODA. The theme of the conference is "Unity Among Our Communities" and we hope to attract variety of people attending the conference. We hope to continue to encourage new members and long-time members plus supporters to join the committees of MADC. This will help MADC and other organizations/services to grow stronger and become effective serving all kinds of communities. Please feel free to contact any of the MADC board for more information about MADC's committees and/or upcoming events.

Speaking of Collaborations, it is good to see that variety of organizations/services work together with MADC on several events. Other than Conference, we are working on upcoming 3rd National Leadership Training Conference with NAD at Millennium Hotel-Minneapolis (September 15 to 17, 2011), Deaf Culture Salon (November 2011, Spring & Fall 2012), and brainstorming meeting focusing on Social Media Communications (May/June & summer 2011). There are other issues that we need to work-on such as health related, interpreting, employment, legal-related and finances & restructuring of MADC. I am proud to inform you that it was great to see many new faces as well as welcoming back long-time members in variety of committees and we still need more of you to join in the committees.

Lastly, with 8 ½ months as President of MADC, I see that it is necessary for MADC to analyze its structures internally and externally, necessary for changes to maintain the system of MADC, appropriate for the adjustments in terms of traditions or structure to be changed due to changes of technology, social media communications and variety of cultures in the deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing communities. I will continue to go out and meet the variety of people of all ages and I hope you will consider to involve/volunteer your time in our committees and events. Have a good summer!



# MADC Membership Coordinator

by Jane Harders

Currently, I am in my final weeks of service on the board and as membership coordinator. I have been membership coordinator for the last six years and on the board for the last four years. Before that, I was on the 2005 MADC Conference committee. In all I've been with MADC for the last eight years. I will not run for the board again and I will not continue as membership coordinator after the 2011 conference. It is quite a challenge to write my final reports on the newsletter.

Most recent MADC membership tally is 352. Some 38 persons had not renewed their membership for the first four months this year.

The break down is as follows:

H.S. Students—9  
Organizational—10  
Senior Citizens—135  
Regular Members—198

The 2009 MADC Conference, MADC hit 450 members which was the highest membership in the eight years that I have been the membership coordinator.

On a personnel note:

When I took over as membership coordinator in 2006, I had the vision to stay as membership coordinator for more than ten years. That changed in the summer of 2009 after the MADC Conference when I was diagnosed breast cancer. (FYI: I am doing well). I have managed to stay on for the last two years. I'm so thankful for the friendships, fun, and personal growth I've gained through the years. It is a ton of fun being able to meet all of the great people being Membership Coordinator. However, I must leave to focus on my health and my life. In addition, enjoy one day at a time.

Thank you for making the past years a great success!

## 2011 NAD Leadership Training Conference

Information taken from [www.minndeaf.org](http://www.minndeaf.org)

The NAD Leadership Training Conference is available again September 15-17, 2011 in beautiful Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Conference will foster the enhanced development of leadership within state associations, entities, and corporations.

This year's conference explores many of the leadership challenges and opportunities occurring in rapidly changing nonprofit, educational, governmental, and corporate environments. The compelling and timely topics covered during this conference are aimed at promoting and elevating skills and knowledge among employees and officers.

Corporations and agencies can expect their employees to acquire a better understanding of efficiency, effectiveness, and execution of performance duties as well as honing networking skills. State associations and other nonprofits can expect their officers to become familiar and comfortable with board governance, website and social media tools, financial management and reporting mandates, legislative and political advocacy, and membership recruitment. All participants will also benefit from essential diversity training crucial to every entity.

Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity! Come and gain the knowledge, expertise, and network to enable full productivity and success within your state associations, entities, and corporations! We look forward to having you participate in this exciting NLTC in beautiful downtown Minneapolis. Space is limited to the first 200 people to purchase tickets.

Registration is \$200 until August 26, 2011 and \$250 until September 10, 2011.

Hotel guest room rates have been negotiated at Millennium Hotel Minneapolis where all activities will take place: \$109/single and double, plus tax; \$119/triple, plus tax, and \$129/quad, plus tax. Hotel room rates are offered until August 17, 2011.

### NLTC Evening Highlights

**Thursday, September 15** Mingle with fellow community leaders from across the United States in the beautiful Millennium Dome with 360-degree views of the city of Minneapolis including the river and Target Field (where the Minnesota Twins of Major League Baseball play their games).

**Friday, September 16** The Minnesota Twins are hosting a "Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day" at Target Field. Tickets are for sale at \$25 at the "Our Family" area of the stadium. Tickets are limited, to be sure to rush and get your tickets today at <http://www.twinsbaseball.com/dhhd> (Password "DHH").

**Saturday, September 17** The Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens will host a happy hour on Saturday, September 17 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Details are forthcoming.

The entire conference will be conducted in American Sign Language (ASL). Interested persons who wish request to accommodations must do so before the August 26, 2011.

### *In Memoriam*



Louise Johnson	Joey Schumacher
Matthew Thompson	Sharon Cook
Angela Lorenz	Leta Rae Filek
James Jones	Cathleen Meyer
Constance Thurneou	Sandra Gallien

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**September 15-17**  
National Leadership  
Training Conference  
Millennium Hotel,  
Minneapolis

**September 25, 2011**  
MADC Board meeting

**November 5, 2011**  
Thompson Hall  
95th Anniversary

Deaf Culture Salon  
**TBD**

## Moved? Change of Email?

By Jane Harders

- Have you recently moved?
- Changed your email address?
- Not getting our eNews via email several times a month?
- Already a member but haven't been receiving our newsletter via email?

To better serve our members, we have set up an online form where you can update your contact information: <http://bit.ly/infoupdate>

## Thank You Sponsors:

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## MSA Board Member

This past June, I was appointed by Governor Dayton to the Board of Minnesota State Academies (MSA) in Faribault effective from June 30th, 2011 to January 5th, 2015 as a deaf community representative. MSA is one state agency comprised of two residential schools: Minnesota State Academy for the Blind (MSAB) and Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD). I want to thank the Board of MADC for the letter of recommendation to be appointed. I also want to thank Alex Caddy for his past service as the deaf community representative on the Board from 2007 to 2011.

I want to share two things about MSA. First, I feel its important for everyone to know of the 'powers' and 'duties' of the Board of MSA but because I do not have enough space in this article, I encourage you to go online and search for 'Minnesota Section 125A.62' and 'Minnesota Section 125A.64' through your preferred search engine. Second, the stakeholders of MSA are not limited to teachers, staff, parents, alumni, and so on. Every taxpayer in Minnesota has a stake in MSA because MSA is a state agency that is accountable to the Governor, the legislature, and ultimately - you. As an appointed deaf community representative, I aim to be open and considerate of being your voice on the Board. If you have any questions or ideas or whatsoever, please feel free to contact me via email below. I encourage you to check out [www.msa.state.mn.us](http://www.msa.state.mn.us)

Sincerely,  
 Sonny Wasilowski, [sonny.wasilowski@gmail.com](mailto:sonny.wasilowski@gmail.com)

## Thank You from the Co-Chairpersons

On June 24-25, the 59th MADC Biennial Conference: Unity Among Our Community, was held at St. Catherine University. We wanted to extend a warm thank you to the fifteen organizations, vendors' booths, and the sponsors advertised in the program book. And a special thank you to the MADC community for coming.

Also, Kim and I very much appreciate the MADC Board and Committee for their wonderful support and hard work making the Conference a success. We thank the wonderful presenters who lead the workshops, we could not manage without them! Again, thank you.

Last, we would like to thank, St. Catherine University for making our gathering a relaxing learning environment.

We, also, want to thank our special guests, Governor Denny Daugaard and First Lady Linda, for coming to the Luncheon. It was a pleasure and a privilege to work with you and MADC.

Sincerely yours,  
 Andrew J. Oehrlein and Kim Wassenaar

## Lifetime Memberships: Why No More?

*By Jane Harders, Membership Coordinator, originally published in the MADC Winter 2006 newsletter*

As membership coordinator, when I try to recruit members, I am asked over and over why MADC's lifetime membership category was removed. My husband, Richard, paid for a lifetime membership to MADC. I asked him if he knew why this category was removed, and he didn't, just like many other former lifetime members. I've also seen some people who were very angry about this removal, so I will try to explain why this category no longer exists.

Many years ago, MADC offered a "lifetime membership." Many people rushed to join, saying that it was a great value. All in all, MADC seemed like a good organization, worthy of support. Having lifetime memberships helped MADC recruit over 1,000 members. However, within a few years, MADC realized it was losing a lot of money with this category. Also, they learned, upon meeting with legislators, that legislators didn't like lifetime members. One MADC member recalls being asked by a legislator, "How many active members does MADC have?" This person responded, "We have 1,000 lifetime members." The legislator scratched his head and said, "So if someone moves to California, then that person is still a member of MADC?" The legislator then asked, "How many active members do you have?" There the problem was!

Based upon advice from many organizations and legislators, MADC removed the lifetime membership category. Sure, it came a BIG disappointment to many lifetime members, but MADC is very grateful for your BIG support!

Recently, when Vice President Trudy Suggs came to the Rochester Deaf Club to present a voting workshop funded by the Democracy

Now! Fund, she explained this same story about lifetime memberships. She also mentioned that every time she meets with legislators, they ask, "How many members?" Currently, our membership is at 350, even though there are 400,000 deaf and hard of hearing people in the state. To legislators, that is too small of a number, and they may consider our issues too insignificant. The legislators will be more interested in working with our rights if we have 500 active members. I saw a Rochester Deaf Club member, who is not a member of MADC, turn to the next person sitting by her and sign, "VERY INTERESTING!" Later after the workshop, I asked her to join MADC. She said she is thinking about it.

You see, giving an explanation of why we need more members and why the lifetime membership category was removed did help them understand better. We would like to invite every former member to come back to MADC, but we need your help!

When people ask you about the lifetime membership category, explain the reasons:

1. It made MADC lose too much money. Remember, MADC is a nonprofit organization.
2. Legislators want to see a large number of active members. We want to have at least 500 members in order to have more power with our legislators. That will lead to increased deaf rights.

**HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF 500 MEMBERS!**

Renew your membership today, give a membership (only \$10, or \$8 if you're a senior citizen) to a friend for the holidays, and spread the word about MADC! You are a very important part of MADC.

# Greetings from Miss Deaf MN Ambassador Program!

by Misty Schomberg

It's beautiful time of the year to see the ever-changing from bare trees into beautiful full of green leaves, brown/snow ground into beautiful green grasses, and flowers blossoming into full of life.

Our program has gone through ever-changing into something truly beautiful and a stronger organization since taking onto the program early winter. How often do you find at least 4 former Miss Deaf State that are working together? Yes, that's right, we have 4 former Miss Deaf Minnesota and we will be adding Kaitlyn Mielke after she completes her reign as current Miss Deaf Minnesota, and that will make it total of 5 former Miss Deaf Minnesota working together!

- Misty Schomberg, State Director (2001-2002)
- Katy Kelley, Assistant Director (2007-2009)
- Amanda Rausch (1999-2001)
- Taiya Getman (2005-2007)

Also we have selected people from our walks in our life to be part of this organization- Marisa Nelson (Fundraising/Sponsor Manager), Rachel McBride (Secretary), Stevie Stowe (Chorographer and Fitness Instructor) and we also are managing list of volunteer people that are eager to be help out with our organization.

We just completed an amazing, productive and successful retreat weekend in Mendota Heights with our contestants. Come and see who will be our next Miss Deaf Minnesota will be on Saturday, June 25th, and bid farewell to our outgoing Miss Deaf Minnesota Kaitlyn Mielke. The admission cost has been reduced from \$20 to \$10 in hopes for a stronger turnout of attendances and supporter for our program! Please come and support our program!

Our Ambassador Program Competition theme is "Inspire!" in collaborative with MADC's Conference

theme- "Unity Among Our Communities." We have selected fantastic Master and Mistress of Ceremony for our Program: Albert Walla and Rania Johnson. It will be a wonderful event, and not a night to be forgotten!

Please be sure to check out our new facebook page, and like it, "Miss Deaf Minnesota Ambassador Program" under non-profit organization to be kept up to date with our program and appearances in the community.

Keep an eye on us, and we shall always shine and spread the sparkles in ladies lives that we touch along the way. We look forward to a productive ever-growing program!

**Watch for pictures of the 2011 Miss Deaf Minnesota Ambassador Program in the next MADC Newsletter!**

## Farewell from Miss Deaf Minnesota

by Kaitlyn Mielke

It is with high honors that I pen my last article as the reigning Miss Deaf Minnesota. Over the past two years wearing the crown and the sash, I have taken the steps on a journey that led me to a greater awareness of issues in the deaf community; meeting friends, both new and old; foraging the paths to projects anew; and experiencing the best life has to offer. As I bid farewell, I would like to share a quote that I found fitting: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." —Lao Tzu

Looking back, there are moments that stand out in my mind as poignant. One such moment occurred shortly after I was crowned in June 2009. Upon exiting the stage, a member of the audience approached me with a wonder written across his face. He had seen the musical WICKED with interpreters and enjoyed the show. Yet after seeing my performance of the showstopping song, he was floored. Seeing it interpreted was one thing, but to see the same song coming from the character as if one interpreted the green skin as a metaphor for deafness, it was a whole 'nother story. I learned an important lesson from this chance encounter. If one goes out in

the world to present their platforms, showcase their talents, or share their opinions to questions asked—if they can make an impact on one person, the ripple effect will spread that impact to every corner of the world.

In July 2010, I had the opportunity to represent Minnesota at the 2010 National Association of the Deaf/Miss Deaf America Ambassadorship Program in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I took my platform on arts advocacy and my artistic expression ("Defying Gravity" from the musical WICKED). The representatives from ten states and I made a lifelong friendship link over bonding from the two weeks spent together. During the opening performance, the ladies and I got to showcase our inner Gleeks in a stellar performance of "Dream On" from the hit TV show GLEE. The experience itself was very rewarding and the networks I made shall come in handy someday!

One of the highlights that occurred during my reign was the honor of appearing on the OPRAH WINFREY SHOW alongside the cast of THE SOUND OF MUSIC. I was able to drop a line in about arts advocacy during the taping as well as speaking

about the program backstage where I met an employee who was a former Miss Minnesota. Imagine that!

This summer I will pass the crown onto the next Miss Deaf Minnesota and bid farewell to the title. I may not wear the crown and sash anymore but it does not mean that my journey as an ambassador stops with the title. I will continue to advocate not only for access to the arts but for the various issues found within the Deaf community. In fact, I will be attending the 2011 RID (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) conference in Atlanta in hopes of starting the process to establish standards in the field of performing arts interpreting. Now, if only my book on memoirs of theatre access and musicals would only get published! Someday . . .someday . . .

I would like to take a moment to thank all the people that have supported me on this journey of a lifetime. Family—friends—teachers— allies—you all know who you are! Wishing the best of luck to all the young women running for Miss Deaf Minnesota 2011-2013 —be sure to make us all proud!



## MCDHH Update:

### Lobby Day and the Legislative Session

On March 2, 2011 over 500 deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing Minnesotan community members and supporters rallied to show their support for essential programs and services at the capitol on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Lobby Day, co-sponsored by MADC, Minnesota DeafBlind Association, Hearing Loss Association of America, Minnesota Hands and Voices and the Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing. The theme was "Communication: A Basic Need, A Civil Right". Many of you volunteered and made the day a great success.

A training session was held for first timers in the morning led by Dr. Teika Pakalns. Representative Tom Huntley, chief author of the first deafblind intervener bill and longtime supporter of the community, did a role play with participants. New advocates rehearsed so they could feel confident when they had their appointments later in the day. A special training given by MCDHH was held earlier in February by the Minnesota DeafBlind Association with over 30 deafblind members attending.

MCHDD intern Andrew Palmberg, who is deaf and a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin, did an excellent job making appointments for over 200 people with 121 legislators, which was a new record! Andrew also provided training to senior citizens and to the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf, Metro Deaf School, St. Paul Public Schools, and VECTOR transition program for youth during the month of February.

An awards ceremony was held at noon with President of the Senate Michele Fischbach providing a warm welcome to the capitol. Michele Isham and Jason Valentine of MCDHH, MADC's Dann Trainer and Kathleen Bridgeford, Hearing Loss of Minnesota's Rich Diedrichsen and Minnesota DeafBlind Association's Lynette Boyer presented awards to twenty four organizations and individuals; all are listed on the MCDHH website ([www.mncdhh.org](http://www.mncdhh.org)). Highlights included Lifetime Achievement awards to recent retirees Alan Parnes (VR) and Marion Hausladen (St. Paul Public Schools) and an Advocacy through the Arts award to Anita Buel, Barbara Allen and Nancy Myers for their excellent film, "Signing On".

Our heartfelt thanks go to the volunteers that made this day possible! Special thanks go to the team leaders who assisted with legislator meetings all day long. They helped people get ready for their meetings, find legislators' offices in the Capitol and the State Office Building, and most importantly, give their messages to the legislators.

The day made a big difference. By the time the

session ended there were no cuts to programs for deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing grants for human service; increased and continued funds for implementation of accessible online government services including captioning of online legislative sessions; deaf and hard of hearing employment programs MEC and VECTOR, eliminated or severely reduced in the legislative budget, were restored the first year with a 5% and 15% cut in 2012 with the opportunity to compete for more funds in 2013. This was very hard work and a great success. Many other groups had severe cuts to their programs, or had them totally eliminated.

At the time of the publication of this newsletter, we do not know if the government will be shut down July 1 and if the final negotiations made by the Governor and legislators will change the relatively positive results that we described above when the session ended on May 23. The legislators believe that the \$5 billion deficit should be solved by cuts alone and the Governor believes that there should be cuts and additional revenue. We don't know how or when this will end.

We do know that if the state government shuts down July 1, that most of state government services will stop until the governor and legislature agree on a budget. This means that state employees from MCDHH, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division and Vocational Rehabilitation will be laid off. Nonprofits that receive grants from the state, including DeafBlind Services Minnesota, Minnesota Hands and Voices, CSD Minnesota, Minnesota DeafBlind Association will not receive state funds until a compromise is reached.

Contact the governor's office and legislators to let them know how a government shutdown would hurt you, your friends, or family. Ask them to come to an agreement soon. Thanks for your continued advocacy and for being such a great partner with MCDHH.

## Youth Corner

by Misty Schomberg

Where is our Deaf Youth today? Hiding somewhere in their comfort zone? Home? At Friend's? At School? We're looking for you—to join and broadcast your artistic expression, aka as Talent, during our Youth ASL Live!

We're all cheering on you, and want to see your appearance during the show, at the MADC Conference!

Are there rules—not really. You can be Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, CODA, KODA, Friend of Deaf Person, and an Interpreter between ages 14 to 28 years old. You may perform more than once—solo, in group, or with different partner/groups.

Free registration—no fee; and there will be a prize given away to the winner of the show! Yes, there are judges—to vote on the best artistic expression.

What should you perform on? Signing ASL story, ABC Story, Karate, Cheerleading, Dancing, Signing Song, Mimic, Clown, Magician, Skit, Educational, Spiritual. . . Just about anything—endless of possibilities, do not limit yourself!

Adults that are parents, friends, coach, teachers, and mentor of youth—empower them, guide them, provide support and ideas—they need you, to feel safe, to jump into the unknown and explore their identity, and learning who they are—this is a rich experience, and a good opportunity for youth to interact, and challenge themselves on a stage!

MADC Youth group created a Facebook page, specifically geared for the Deaf Youth program, activities, information sharing, and resources to reach out to more youth using our social media, search for "MADC Youth" and LIKE today!

More information email: [youth@minndeaf.org](mailto:youth@minndeaf.org)

# MADC Committees and related:

- MADC 2013 Conference planning
- Miss Deaf Minnesota Ambassadorship Program  
(Director: Misty Schomberg) youth@minndeaf.org
- History Committee  
(Chair: Doug Bahl) dougbahl@gmail.com
- Finance Committee  
(Chair: Barry Seibert)
- Membership Committee
- Necrology  
(Liaison: Barbara Schmidt and Denise Anderson)
- Youth Programs including Jr. NAD  
(Chair: Misty Schomberg) youth@minndeaf.org
- Newsletter Committee:  
(Chair: Kathleen Smith) vicepresident@minndeaf.org
- Website  
(www.minndeaf.org)
- Community Events (www.tcdeaf.com) committee:  
(Chair: Richard Taylor with support of MADC Board)
- Interpreting Liaison: Heather Ortiz-Gilbert  
heather.ortiz@gmail.com
- By-Laws Committee: (Contact: MADC Officers)
- Fundraising/Outreach Committee (Vacant)
- Deaf Culture Salon: (Contact: President Dann Trainer)
- Legal related  
(Liaison: Heather Ortiz) heather.ortiz@gmail.com
- Compliance Committee  
(Ad-Hoc) (Contact: MADC Officers)
- Employment/VR related  
(soon Task Force meeting; contact MADC Officers)
- Social Media Communications related  
(Contact MADC Officers)
- Parents/Deaf Children related  
(Contact Cindy Dively ) cindively@me.com

## MADC Officers:

- Dann Trainer-President, president@minndeaf.org
- Kathleen Smith-Vice President,  
vicepresident@minndeaf.org
- Secretary (vacant), secretary@minndeaf.org
- Jeff Beard-Treasurer, treasurer@minndeaf.org

# DHHS

by Bruce Hodek

The Mental Health Program staff has provided several presentations this spring. Topics include: "Mental Health Issues of the Deaf Community," which covers mental health concerns with focus on Deaf community norms with the goal of supporting providers in becoming more sensitive and culturally competent; "Mental Health and Interpreters," which covers ethics and ideal practices for working with interpreters in situations involving Mental Health issues; and "Hearing Loss and Stress Management," which focuses on some of the social and environmental stressors that may occur when a person experiences hearing loss, particularly later in life. Contact your Regional Office if you are interested in obtaining a copy of these presentation.

\*\* Staff from DHHS Central office is currently developing an online accessible training project that introduces long-term care workers and direct service providers to the broad spectrum of issues that impact individuals with combined hearing and vision loss and results in improved identification and delivery of specialized services to this community throughout Minnesota. Lee Clark, Deafblind Specialist with the DHHS, is leading this project which is anticipated to be completed in the Fall of 2011. In a grant partnership with ZenMation, modules are being developed that will educate long-term and direct service workers about how to assess the needs of people with hearing and vision loss to appropriately provide accessible and successful supports. The training will include instructional materials that include audio, video, web-based interactivities, train-the-trainer materials and pre- and post-assessments. DHHS is excited to be on the cutting edge of training technology in order to have impact on a far-reaching audience and provide the best information available on working with persons with Deafblindness.

\*\* Over the past 2 years, DHHS staff has been working collaboratively with CSD-Minnesota on the \*Vidyo\* project, which utilizes a laptop computer to access on-line interpreting services. Each of the Regional Offices will soon be receiving a laptop computer purchased through DHS Pathways to Employment funds to demonstrate to employers how to use this equipment. Utilizing CSD's "On-Demand Interpreting Online" in which a hearing person and a Deaf person connect with an interpreter, this tool will demonstrate to employers a best practice on-line option for accessing sign language interpreters quickly, especially in remote areas where it is difficult to locate an interpreter. Please contact your regional office to arrange for a demonstration.

\*\* Have you been in a situation at a hospital or urgent care and experienced barriers to communication? Have

you ever been pulled over by a police officer or been brought to jail and needed someone to help explain your communication needs? Have you ever wanted to file a complaint against a medical or legal facility for not meeting your communication needs and not known where to go for help? CSD's Emergency Interpreter Advocacy and Education Project provides 24/7 advocacy assistance for people with hearing loss experiencing barriers to communication in emergency situations. An advocate can call or intervene on your behalf for any present, immediate, legal or medical emergency.

The focus of the grant project (which is funded by DHHS) is to assist persons with hearing loss in advocating for their communication needs in legal and medical emergencies or when following up with the facility about a complaint. A legal emergency may include communication interactions with police, jail deputies, or court staff. A medical emergency may include any interaction with hospital emergency departments, urgent care facilities, or evening/weekend immediate medical communication needs.

The project provides a myriad of services for the individual with hearing loss and the facility needing improvement with their communication. It can provide information and referral about the ADA and other legal rights to communication access. It also provides presentations to Minnesotans with hearing loss about their rights to communication access and resources for finding qualified and immediate interpreting or CART services and can provide presentations to medical and legal facilities on how to provide effective communication for Deaf and hard of hearing patients/consumers.

There is no cost for these services as the grant covers these fees. Contact Heather Gilbert, CSD Legal Advocacy Consultant, at hgilbert@c-s-d.org or at (612) 991-0489(voice) for more information. As always, in non-emergency situations hard of hearing and deaf individuals can continue to contact their local DHHS office for advocacy and assistance.

Finally, please visit our [www.dhhsd.org](http://www.dhhsd.org) website for information about our programs. We are interested in your feedback and how we can improve our site to meet your needs.

# MADC Board meeting Highlights

**May 7, 2011**

MADC Board Members Present: Dann Trainer (President), Kathleen Smith (Vice-President), Teika Pakalns (Secretary), Jane Harders, Kim Wassenaar

DEAF-MADC Board Members Present: None

Visitors: Richard Harders, Diane Leonard, Diane Kayser

Time: Started at 10:22 am and adjourned at 3:10 pm

Location: Holiday Inn & Suites, 70 S. 37th St., St. Cloud

February 5, 2011 minutes with corrections; motion passed.

## President's Report (MADC/DEAF-MADC)

### Financial Committee:

Discussion related to expenditures over \$500 will require board approval (this is due to recent situation that we pay \$600.00 for rental of St. Paul College for America Deaf Idol event, but knowing this will be covered by sponsorship payment), this information is needed to be placed in the Board's revised-handbook as well as the development of budget-plans procedure. This will help the structure of the Board meetings and its related meetings in the future.

### Restructuring Study Committee:

At the most recent meeting, it was found that the current bylaws need to be revised because they were not updated by the previous By-Laws committees. This is important to update to prepare for upcoming Business meetings during the MADC Conference next month. Dann reported that DEAF-MADC will go under MADC as the organization itself, but need to keep the motions and finances separated according to the procedures.

Dann also reported that our lawyer Harry Haynsworth said that the bylaws are weak (even though they were written by another lawyer) and need strengthening. DEAF-MADC representatives are not supposed to vote as part of MADC as it was not mentioned in the bylaws, and their relationships and responsibilities need clarification in the bylaws. Harry also said that MADC needs a registered place of office, and the board should include both officers (4), board members (5), representatives (3), and ex officio members to help the board. The bylaws also have typos. The restructuring committee will continue to work with Harry on the improvements to be made.

2005 and 2007 biennial conference minutes and motions are needed to be investigated for clarification to see if they need to be incorporated into the restructuring of MADC/DEAF-MADC. We will ask the previous officers about this as well. Motion passed.

### 2011 biennial conference:

Dann was pleased to announce that Governor Dennis Daugaard of South Dakota (a CODA) has agreed to be the keynote speaker at the conference. We need to send out a weekly e-news update with a continuous

announcement about the Governor's appearance and include updates from Kim on the tentative conference schedule, etc. Maybe we can also post a vlog on the website. The board gave Dann a round of applause for his persistence in making contact with the governor.

### Social media Communication:

Dann announced that Adan Burke, Brein McNamara, Sonny Wasilowski, Misty Schomberg, Richard Taylor and others have agreed to have an informal meeting soon to discuss how to improve communication with the community, especially through electronic and social media methods. We need guidelines regarding confidentiality especially contacting general members individually at the same time collaborating with organizations/services/sponsors.

### Community collaboration:

Dann reported that when he attended the Thompson Hall Mass meeting in January 2011, some organizations said that they would like to get together more often and check in with each other. Dann suggested that the new board consider having at least 2 "summits" a year for this purpose if necessary. Dann has been visiting a lot of organizations to re-introduce MADC and discuss possible collaborations.

Region II NAD report about MADC from January to April 2011 was submitted to the Region II NAD representative.

### 125th Anniversary:

Dann reported that he has given all the financial information that he has been able to get so far to Barry Siebert and Ric-Olin Lyles to sort through. We still need to answer a few questions about sponsorship – some details have been clarified, but other information is still missing.

### Employment/Alan Parnes:

Dann reported that Alan is currently on the board of MCDHH, and wants to lead a task force to explore employment issues. Alan is requesting help from MADC. We can send out a request for feedback from the general members through e-news or other necessary communication.

### Vice-President's Report (MADC)

Kathleen had nothing new to report.

### Secretary's Report (MADC)

Teika reminded everybody to read all the minutes for both board and officer meetings, and check the action lists to see what everybody needs to do.

### 2011 Biennial Conference Committee Report

Kim reported that the committee has been meeting with St. Catherine's University to figure out all the details. The policy for reimbursing both the board's and committee's expenses is not clear and needs clarification (in addition, the committee and the board were willing to work

on finalizing the Guidelines for Conference planning committee since it has not been done since 2007). Jane said that typically the board members who live in the Twin Cities won't get reimbursed, but those who live elsewhere will get reimbursed. For the committee members, they should agree on what expenses they want reimbursed and then ask the board for approval. Kim reported that the deadline for registration is May 20th and June 8th (last early bird combo) so that she can do a headcount for the lunch, but people will typically register at the last minute. Jane said that Kim should send us a report about the fundraising efforts to date. Kathleen reported that she has 3-5 possibilities for workshops, and Misty is taking care of the youth-related events. Kim is getting donations for the silent auction, but she would like more. We can also sell the leftover 125th anniversary T-shirts and pottery – we need to advertise those through e-news, the newsletter, etc. Dann reported that we plan to get CART services for the business meetings through the University of Minnesota. Jane suggested that in the advertising we emphasize that the schedule is tentative and that the only meal included is lunch on Saturday – all other meals are on your own. Kim is currently developing a list of hotels and motels to include in the advertising.

### Nominations Committee Report (MADC)

Jane reported that there are no nominations to date for the board positions.

### Membership Committee Report (MADC)

Jane reported that there are 353 members now (the number is going down), and she will focus on this work for the next two months and ensure a smooth transition to the next membership coordinator, (maybe Penny Beard). Jane is reminding people about renewals more than once, but maybe MADC can do a survey to find out why people don't renew and see what issues there are to fix. Jane will also help check conference registrations to see who's a member or not. We will also offer registrants the chance to join.

Financial Committee & Treasurer's Report Dann reported that he is depositing and writing checks as needed and sending all the information to Barry and Ric. The financial files are disorganized, so they are working to reorganize everything. The committee will make suggestions for nominations for the treasurer's position because this person should have some experience in this area. Barry and Ric will work on submitting a financial report before the conference, and perhaps we can have a special board meeting in early June to review the report with Barry and Ric.

### Youth Programs Committee Report (DEAF-MADC)

Dann reported for Misty that we won 2nd place for the

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highest "Black Sand" film attendance. 1st place went to California. The prize from ASL Films is \$750, and will go to our Youth programs.

**MDMAP Committee Report (DEAF-MADC)**

We know that so far 5 people are interested in competing, and the deadline for registering will be changed to bring in more contestants. A retreat is planned prior to the pageant. The MDMAP website will go into the MADC website, and Richard Taylor will do what he can to help with this process.

**Minnesota Deaf History Committee Report**

Teika reported that MCDHH is working with the Thompson Hall Board of Trustees to have a nomination application professionally prepared for the National Register of Historical Places. The funding comes from Minnesota's Legacy Grant program through the Minnesota Historical Society.

**Necrology Committee Report (MADC)**

Barb Schmidt emailed an updated list today. We need to develop a policy/procedure for sending cards of condolence.

**Website & Social Media Communication team Report (MADC/DEAF-MADC)**

Dann reported that the committee hopes to meet in 2 weeks to start the discussion.

**Liaisons' Reports (MADC/DEAF-MADC)**

The general members need to decide whether the liaisons should all be deaf but we can have one position to allow a hearing person to work on interpreting issues, and also what their voting rights should be. This issue need to be a By-Law proposal during the next conference.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

**Donations by MADC**

Jane reported that various donation amounts have been

donated by MADC, but we should establish a policy of standard donation amounts (for example, \$25-50 per request) so that the board will know what to give when asked. This will also prevent possible favoritism. The general members should decide this policy.

**Deaf Culture Salon**

Dann moved that we approve ASLIS as a co-sponsor for the Deaf Culture Salon fall 2011 event and that MADC split the expenses evenly with ASLIS. This event has paid attendance, and the theme is "Shifts in Deaf Culture" between the generations – both ways. Motion passed.

**Conference proceeding report for 2009**

We need to verify whether this report was sent out in January 2010 as required. The general members should have it before the next conference in June 2011.

**MADC representatives**

The next board will be responsible for selecting MADC representatives for the Thompson Hall 100th Anniversary (in 2016) planning committee and the DCHW (Deaf Community Health Worker) Advisory Council and the HEAL Advisory Council which oversees DCHW.

**Board/Committee 2011 Conference expenses**

We need to agree on how to cover the 2011 conference expenses for the current board members who live outside the Twin Cities. The conference committee members will figure out their expenses and make a proposal to the committee and its budget for approval.

Dann moved that the board pay Jane Harders and Cynthia Weitzel for their conference attendance expenses as board members by reimbursing their reasonable expenses for dorm/hotel accommodations for 3 nights (Thursday through Saturday night) during the 2011 biennial conference.. Passed.

Dann moved that the board pay all the board officers and board members for their conference attendance expenses as board officers and board members by

paying half of their registration admission costs. Jane proposed an amendment that the board receives free registration. Amendment passed. Motion passed.

**Deaf Women Minnesota**

Kim reported that they decided to close down, and she had discussed this decision with them. They felt that MADC did not support them, and they didn't like being excluded by the planning co-chairs from the 125th Anniversary events – especially the Red Hat event. Kim asked them who they had communicated with at MADC in the past – they said Alicia Lane-Outlaw, and that she never showed up at their meetings. They have turned over all their papers (including bylaws, etc.) over to MADC for safekeeping. They have already distributed their remaining funds to various organizations.

**Minnesota Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf**

Dann reported that they might be closed down or downsizing the organization. Possible plan is that we could post a list of links on MADC's website to show people the different community organizations here in Minnesota and what their interests are.

**Minnesota KODA**

They are asking for contributions to help them start a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and provide support for various activities such as outreach work, hosting workshops, and providing scholarships for KODA camps.

Dann moved that the board donate \$75 as a one-time donation to Minnesota KODA. Passed.

**Cynthia Weitzel**

Jane moved that the board remove Cynthia Weitzel as a board member effective as of today, May 7, 2011. The board recognizes that Cynthia has done many good things for MADC in the past, and that she is now currently absent from the board due to health problems. Motion passed.

**Next Board Meeting**

September 25th, at 1-4pm, possibly at Thompson Hall.

**While supplies last!** Order 125th Anniversary Celebration items!

**T-shirts** (each \$15.00)

**Medium**  
**Large**  
**XL**  
**XXL**



**Pottery** (each \$20.00)

shipping charge:

**Grand Total:**

QUANTITY	TOTAL
	\$5.00

Make check payable to: **MADC**

Mail this form and check to:

**MADC c/o Dann Trainer, 1824 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul, MN**

Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens

604 7th Ave. NE  
Stewartville, MN 55976-1531  
[www.minndeaf.org](http://www.minndeaf.org)

TIME-SENSITIVE MAIL

## Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens

**MADC**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Fees

Regular – **\$10/year**

Senior Citizens (55+) – **\$8/year**

H.S. Students – **\$5/year**

Organizations – **\$25/year**

One year

One year

One year

One year

Two Years

Two Years

Two Years

Two Years

\_\_\_\_\_ years

\_\_\_\_\_ years

\_\_\_\_\_ years

\_\_\_\_\_ years

Make checks payable to MADDC, and mail to:

MADC Membership

Jane Harders

604 7th Ave. NE

Stewartville, MN 55976-1531

Memberships: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**JOIN TODAY!**