

the Deaf Advocate

A Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens Publication

MADC



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MADC Reaches Out to Deaf Voters

By Trudy Suggs

The 2006 elections were an exciting time in Minnesota, and MADC made sure that deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind Minnesotans were included in this. With the encouragement of the Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People (MCDHH), MADC applied and received a \$10,000 grant from the Headwaters Foundation's Democracy Now! Fund.

MADC set out to present in six cities during the month of October, along with sponsoring two candidate forums and other activities. Vice President Trudy Suggs was chosen to coordinate the project, and began by giving away buttons and registering voters at the Sept. 16 Aware Fair in Brooklyn Park. The attractive and noticeable gold and maroon buttons said, "I AM DEAF AND I VOTE!" There were also buttons with "HARD OF HEARING" and "DEAFBLIND" available.

On Oct. 4, the grant helped cover the costs of interpreters for a Rochester candidate forum, with assistance provided by MCDHH. With a lot of planning and networking, MADC gave the first presentation in Faribault on Oct. 13. Giving away free pizza before a quick 20-minute PowerPoint presentation and a fun game devised by Minnesota Council of Nonprofits' Marcia Avner (also the mother of a deaf son), about 60 deaf people learned how powerful they are as voters.

With new members joining MADC and others registering to vote, the tour continued to Bemidji, Duluth, St. Cloud, and Rochester. MADC also traveled to Golden Valley on Oct. 21 to present to the Twin Cities Hearing Loss Association of America chapter. Free food was given away at most of these events, which helped attract people to the presentations. New members received a free MADC t-shirt, and later in the schedule, voters received a November 7 t-shirt donated by the Minnesota Participation Project.

MADC then co-sponsored, with Faribault's American



Deaf and hearing Faribault residents look on as candidates present their viewpoints at a candidate forum.

Association of University Women (AAUW) chapter, a candidate's forum in Faribault on Oct. 26. With CART and interpreters provided by MADC, forum-goers listened to candidates, including Dick Day, Patti Fritz, Jeremy Eller, Otto Luknic, and Richard Cook. Approximately 15 deaf people attended along with 30 hearing people. In all, the candidates were very responsive to questions in relation to the deaf community. In fact, five of the questions that evening were related to the deaf and hard of hearing community. This event was so successful that AAUW has already begun to make plans with MADC to co-sponsor another forum in 2008!

MADC also has been working with MCDHH in making polling places more accessible. MCDHH discovered that the videotape used to train election judges around the state was not captioned, and that many of the tips and information in the videotape were incorrect. MCDHH invited commission and MADC members, including Tim Jaech, Trudy Suggs and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division to revise a script used for training election judges. MADC will continue working

VOTERS, continued on page 11

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MADC



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Pork, Elections and Good Times

Did you go out and vote on November 7? I certainly hope you did! I followed the campaign closely and voted for who I felt would make the most impact. Emory Dively had an election party on the evening of Nov. 7, and I stopped in to wish him well and to see the results of the elections as the votes were being counted. This was an interesting experience!

During the countdown to the elections, MADC worked hard increasing its visibility and encouraging people to register to vote. MADC board members have been going to different events and meetings throughout the state. Funds from the Democracy Now! Fund (see front page) also allowed MADC to educate people about voting and to encourage people to register to vote. All this shows MADC is very much alive and kicking!

I am pleased to say MADC has been busy over the last few months. MADC had a successful board meeting in St. Cloud on Sept. 9 with 15 people in attendance. Vice President Trudy Suggs and I facilitated a workshop, "One Drop, One Lake," about leading a successful organization. Thanks must go to Jody Gertken-Teter, the St. Cloud Deaf Club and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services for arranging for our meeting and workshop.

On Sept. 16, MADC had a booth at the Aware Fair in Brooklyn Park. Board members and volunteers recruited members, sold t-shirts and, with the Democracy Now! Fund, gave away voting buttons.

MADC also formally endorsed Emory's campaign



President
Tracy Bell Koster

and wished him well as he ran for Representative for District 64B.

In light of the protest at Gallaudet University, MADC sent an open letter urging university president I. King Jordan and the board of trustees come to a resolution to end the protest.

Finally, on Nov. 4, we had our board meeting along with our third annual pig roast at Thompson Hall in St. Paul. It was a beautiful day and over 100 people attended. I would like to express my thanks to Cheryl Blue for her hard work in arranging the pig roast and to our board for our hard teamwork, vol-

unteers and sponsors for making this a successful event (see pages 4-5 for photos and more details). Our next board meeting will be on Feb. 3 in Rochester! Come and join us!

Every November, Thanksgiving always reminds me to be thankful for what I have. The first thing that comes to my mind to be thankful for is my family. I know I wouldn't be able to do all the things I do in MADC if it wasn't for the tremendous support from them. They make sacrifices from my absences so I can continue my commitment to MADC. My thanks also go to the board for their dedication and commitment to MADC. I am also thankful for MADC. Without MADC, its board, members, or loyal volunteers, the deaf community wouldn't be where they are now. MADC has been fighting for the rights of deaf people for 121 years and counting.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

MADC Bank Statement as of Sept. 30, 2006

ASSETS:

Cash/Money Accounts:	\$ 16,253.62
Mutual Funds:	\$125,855.54
<hr/>	
Total Assets:	\$142,109.16

*Questions? Contact Treasurer Curt Slater
at treasurer@minndeaf.org.*

In memoriam of...



Lorna Rasmussen
David Wernett

*Submitted by Ralph Fuechtmann,
Necrology Committee*

Yes, Your Vote Did Count!

Although I've lived in Minnesota a total of six years, I've never really gotten to travel the state like I did during the month of October. I was thrilled to coordinate the Democracy Now! Fund, sponsored by the Headwaters Foundation (see front page), and travel the state presenting to different groups of people. I tell you, Minnesota is a great place to live – which is why I moved back here in 2003 after two years away!

I was moved by how many people really cared about voting issues facing deaf and hard of hearing people in the state of Minnesota. I also was touched by the stories I was told by people at the workshops and forums. But what inspired me the most was how people's faces would light up with understanding of the importance of voting, and realizing that their votes were not worthless.

I also learned that many of us (including me!) take our rights for granted. For instance, at one presentation, I mentioned that Minnesota is one of five states in the nation that does not require newborn screening for infants. Although the Minnesota Health Commissioner has agreed to mandate this, there is no funding available. One person insisted that this couldn't be true because Minnesota was such a leader in deaf rights. I e-mailed him some additional information, and he was stunned, saying that he had no idea about this. He became inspired and promised his support to this issue – proving my belief that one person does make a difference.

It is experiences like this that affirm the importance of the work MADC does for deaf and hard of hearing Minnesotans, regardless of whether they are MADC members or not.

While we're discussing elections, I must extend a hearty congratulations to Emory Dively for his



**Vice President
Trudy Suggs**

candidacy (see page 7). Everywhere I went in the state, people asked me about Emory's candidacy. In fact, when I traveled to Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Nebraska during November, people there also asked me about his candidacy!

I was also thrilled that our newly elected Secretary of State Mark Ritchie made an appearance at the Aware Fair last September, and at the MADC pig roast on Nov. 4. He was the major driving force behind the Get Out the Vote campaign in 2004, which I was fortunate enough to be involved with.

Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People (MCDHH) was able to register over 500 deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind voters as a result of this drive in 2006, and that's how MADC came to receive the \$10,000 grant this year - with the great help of MCDHH.

Because of Mark Ritchie's keen interest in bringing accessibility to every deaf and hard of hearing voter, I asked him if he would be willing to work with me on a project for the next few years on making polling places accessible, along with videos on the Secretary of State and/or MADC website in American Sign Language. His response came within a few hours of my e-mail and said simply, "Let's get started!" That pleased me, because I know MADC's partnership with MCDHH and the Secretary of State office will be fruitful. I'm looking forward to working with him in 2007 and beyond.

I also hope you enjoy this expanded, 16-page issue. With the increase in advertisements, we're now able to have more pages. I hope to have more informative articles in upcoming issues. If you'd like to write an article, just let me know.

I'm one of the people hoping for a long, hard winter! Enjoy the holidays, and here's to 2007 being as productive as 2006!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FEBRUARY 3, 2007
Board Meeting
Rochester

JUNE 28-30, 2007
MADC Conference
Radisson Hotel
Minneapolis

JULY 14, 2007
Miss Deaf
Minnesota Pageant
Mystic Lake Casino-
Hotel, Prior Lake

For more information on any of the above events, please check www.minndeaf.org!

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MADC's Third Annual Pig Roast: Nov. 4



All photos by Nancy Crane & Tracy Koster

Celebrating 90 Years with a Pig Roast

By Nancy Crane & Cheryl Blue

MADC's third annual pig roast came and went on Nov. 4, which was the day before Thompson Hall's 90th anniversary. MADC had a good turnout of about 110 attendees, both members and non-members. Pork roast was among the scalloped potatoes, baked beans and honey barbecue chicken. A special thank you goes to Curt Slater for getting the pig, which weighed 140 pounds! He also got 40 extra pounds of pork. Getting a pig this big was no easy task! Not only did MADC serve a delicious dinner, but we also served a birthday cake, celebrating Thompson Hall's 90th, with bars made by Cheryl Blue and Nancy Crane.

Deaf Women of Minnesota had its members, including Denise Anderson, at hand helping out with our event. They had a booth with a display of a beautiful red, white and blue quilt made by Mary Dykstra. Raffle tickets were sold for a drawing for a lucky winner of the quilt. Profits went towards Deaf Women of Minnesota.

Mary Harnett from Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Secretary of State candidate Mark Ritchie, and House of Representatives candidate Emory Dively, joined us for dinner and they chatted with our guests. Both Ritchie and Dively gave brief presentations about their goals and encouraged us to vote for the candidate we thought would do the best job. Miss Deaf Minnesota Taiya Getman also spoke to the crowd. The speeches were interpreted by Darlene Snelson.

MADC also had a membership special good for the roast only.



Matt Teter (left) and Ric-Olin Lyles spent all day roasting the 140-pound pig on Nov. 4.

Those who attended the pig roast were able to buy an one-year membership for \$5, which was a resounding success. Thanks and appreciation goes to Jane Harders for her hard work in recruiting new members. She reports that we recruited 36 new members, and 19 members who renewed, from this day alone. Thanks to everyone who joined or renewed on this day!

A big thank you goes to Cheryl Blue for all her tireless work in making this annual pig roast a success, and to all the volunteers and people who helped make this a great success. See you at next year's pig roast!

A special thanks to our supporters!

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MADC board members

Charles Thompson Hall

Volunteers Jessalyn Frank, Mark Geiger, Jennifer Glyenn, Jane Harders, Richard Harders, Sarah Houge, John Koniar, Kierel Ludden-Moses, Ric-Olin Lyles, Sherri Rademacher, and Matt Teter

And to everyone who came to the pig roast!



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If you can't make it to our showroom, visit us online or request a copy of our 2007 catalog to see our full line of products for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

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Celebration of Deaf History and People

By Taiya Getman
Miss Deaf Minnesota 2005-2007

I can't believe November is already come! Are you ready to have a big feast on Thanksgiving Day? I sure am!

School has been going well for me. Over the past few months, I have been going to many Minnesota deaf events. One such event was the Aware Fair in Brooklyn Center on Sept. 16. It was so much fun to see people and encourage girls to sign up for the 2007 Miss Deaf Minnesota pageant!

On Nov. 4, I attended the third annual pig roast hosted by MADC at Thompson Hall. It was terrific meeting people; I also enjoyed talking with Emory Dively about his campaign for House representative, and with his committee.

I was honored be part of Thompson Hall's 90th Anniversary events. On Nov. 10, I attended the Deaf Vaudeville performance, which I enjoyed so much. I didn't know much about Charles and Margaret Thompson's backgrounds, so I was fascinated by Doug Bahl's narration of how Thompson Hall came to be. I am so appreciative of Margaret's vision for the Deaf community - without her, we wouldn't have such a historical and important place to congregate 90 years later.



Getman shares a few words at the MADC pig roast on Nov. 4.

At this event directed by pageant director Galinda Goss-Kuehn, the Miss Deaf Minnesota Pageant committee and I wore outfits from 1916 as we walked around the room selling popcorn and bottled soda.

The next day was a big day, since it was the 90th anniversary banquet. I wore a Korean hanbok outfit to honor my ancestry. I wanted to show people that my Korean ancestry is very important to me, and many of them did approach me asking about my background.

The dinner was wonderful, with Doug Bahl as emcee and former Minnesotan/MADC president Bob Cook as the guest speaker. It struck me when Bob said that he was kind of jealous that Thompson Hall had free attendance and no membership dues, because he lives in Arizona and Arizona's deaf club charges monthly membership dues, which surprised me! That once again made me appreciate what the Thompsons did for the Minnesotan Deaf community.

After dinner, I was introduced by Doug, with a brief background overview. I did my talent, a Korean dance, and was touched by the positive response from the audience.

On Jan. 6, Miss Deaf Minnesota Pageant will have a welcome party for new contestants and chaperones, along with former Miss Deaf Minnesotas who will share their experiences. Each contestant will also sign a contract that they must follow until the pageant on July 14.

It has been a wonderful three months, and I'm very excited about the upcoming holidays. I look forward to meeting more and more people from around the state.

I wish each and every one of you happy holidays!

*Some information contributed by
Galinda Goss-Kuehn*

A Word of Appreciation from Emory Dively

Emory Dively, former MADC president and current MADC board member, ran for the House of Representatives' District 64B (St. Paul) seat. Although he did not win, he wanted to share a few words.



Political candidate Emory Dively speaks at an election party held at Thompson Hall on Nov. 7.

The overwhelming support of MADC and the Deaf community in supporting my campaign means a great deal to me. Even though I lost the election, I won for Deaf Minnesotans historically. I would not trade my political experience for the world. On the evening of November 7, the night of the election, we had a good crowd of supporters at Thompson Hall to watch the election results. I hope this experience and my work will lead more Deaf people to consider running for public office.

I especially want to thank MADC for endorsing me, and for their financial donation, in addition to refreshments for the election results party.

Here's to a better Minnesota for all Deaf people!

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Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division News

By Bruce Hodek, Division Director

It was pleasing to see so many people at the Aware Fair 2006, held at the BrookDale shopping mall in Brooklyn Park on Saturday, Sept. 16. We had over 85 exhibitors partake in this year's exciting event, which attracted over 3,000 people.

During late September and early October, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS), in conjunction with Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People (MCDHH), held community forums in the following communities; Rochester, St. Cloud, Detroit Lakes, and Duluth. This community engagement is important because the feedback assists DHHS and MCDHH in shaping their work plans and future goals. If you wish to receive a summary of the issues/concerns shared at these forums, please contact your regional office for a hard/electronic copy; a list of regional offices is at www.dhhsd.org.

DHHS co-sponsored Fun Day 2006, which was held at Courage North on Friday, Sept. 29. Fall Fun Day is designed as an opportunity for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students, parents and support staff to come together to learn from each other and network. This interactive event was well attended, with over 80 people registered, including 57 students.

DHHS is working with Rehabilitation Services and the Minnesota Employment Center on the Deaf2Work project, which capitalizes on Home Depot expanding job opportunities in the State for

people who are deaf or hard of hearing to work at 10 stores in the Twin Cities area. If you wish to receive more information about this project, please contact Diane Acord at diane.acord@state.mn.us or Rubin Latz from Rehabilitation Services at rubin.latz@state.mn.us. May you have a safe and wonderful winter.

The DHHS website is at www.dhhsd.org.

MCDHH Announces 2006-2009 Board

The Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People recently announced its 2006-2009 board. New and returning members include: Jack Bender, Toni Fairbanks, Adrienne Haugen, Monique Hammond, Elise Knopf, David Kyler, Liz McDevitt, Cuong Nguyen, Peter Rezmerski, Beth Schultz, Trudy Suggs, Patti Morelli Teachout, and Kim Wasseenaar.

For more information, visit www.mncdhh.org.

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Trudy Suggs talks about the Democracy Now! Fund and the importance of voting at an October presentation.



Deaf and hard of hearing voters watch intently as they learn about different issues facing deaf and hard of hearing Minnesotans.

Focus On Deaf Voters

VOTERS, continued from front page

closely with MCDHH and the newly elected Secretary of State Mark Ritchie in making upcoming elections more accessible.

Evaluation results from the workshops and forums showed a greater understanding of the importance of voting. People have already asked for more training around the state, wanting more workshops that explain the voting process overall.

The grant project had the goal of reaching 250 people and educate them on why the voting process was so important. MADC reached

more than 250 people, not including people at the AWARE Fair. In all, this was a very important and successful project.

MADC is grateful to a number of people for making this possible, including: Mary Hartnett, Sandra Budin, Emory Dively, Merilee Knoll, Diane Leonard, Kathy Judkins, Jane Harders, Cheryl Blue, Pauline Schreiber, Jim Potter, and every individual who attended the workshops or forums.

For more information about the project or MADC's upcoming work for the next election cycle, e-mail vicepresident@minndeaf.org.

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2007 Conference Update

By Jessalyn Frank
2007 Conference Chair

The conference committee is roaring with energy! We are excited to announce that the 2007 conference will be held on June 28-30, 2007, at the Radisson Hotel in St. Paul, in the University of Minnesota area! This hotel is in the middle of Dinkytown, with shops and various restaurants all within walking distance.

There will be a website that will allow you to reserve your room online and access additional information. There will also be printed registration forms available.

Our fundraising ideas are up and running. Some ideas include Santa helper drop-offs, so that parents can shop for the holidays while kids play and hang out, heart-o-grams in February, an ASL storytelling contest between schools with a traveling trophy, and many more! With so many ideas on the table, we predict a really unique conference this year, including opportunities for MADC youth to be involved, a Taste of Diversity exhibit showcasing deaf and hard of hearing participants from other cultures, their foods, clothing and art and crafts. We have a Friday night banquet and social, and a Saturday night full of events like never before. We also have a great line-up of presenters planned.

With a hard working and dedicated committee behind this conference, I think each and every one of you will be pleased. For more information, please e-mail me at conference@minndeaf.org. Also please stay tuned for upcoming events, more information at www.minndeaf.org.



St. Cloud Deaf Club Christmas Party



When: December 2nd, 2006 (Saturday)

Time: 5pm - Social
6pm - Dinner

Buffet - Chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetables, breads, pop, hot tea, coffee & milk.
Refills will be only pop, tea and coffee

Alcoholic Beverages not included in Buffet Price.
May purchase separately

Where: Ground Round Restaurant
2621 Division St.
St. Cloud, MN 56301

For: To Celebrate CHRISTMAS!

Buy Tickets:
LIMITED 30 TICKETS

\$15.00 per person
16 years old - up

If you are interested in buying tickets, please contact Ellen Gaff at hazelblue16@tmail.com
Deadline to purchase tickets is before or on Nov. 27

Gift Exchanges: A gift per person to exchange. Gifts worth \$10.00, to exchange. There will be a separate group for men and women.

Game Activities!!

PRIZES!!



SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 28-30, 2007!

Mark your calendars
now for June 28-30, 2007!

MADC's conference will be held June 28-30 at the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis near the U of M! For more information, e-mail:
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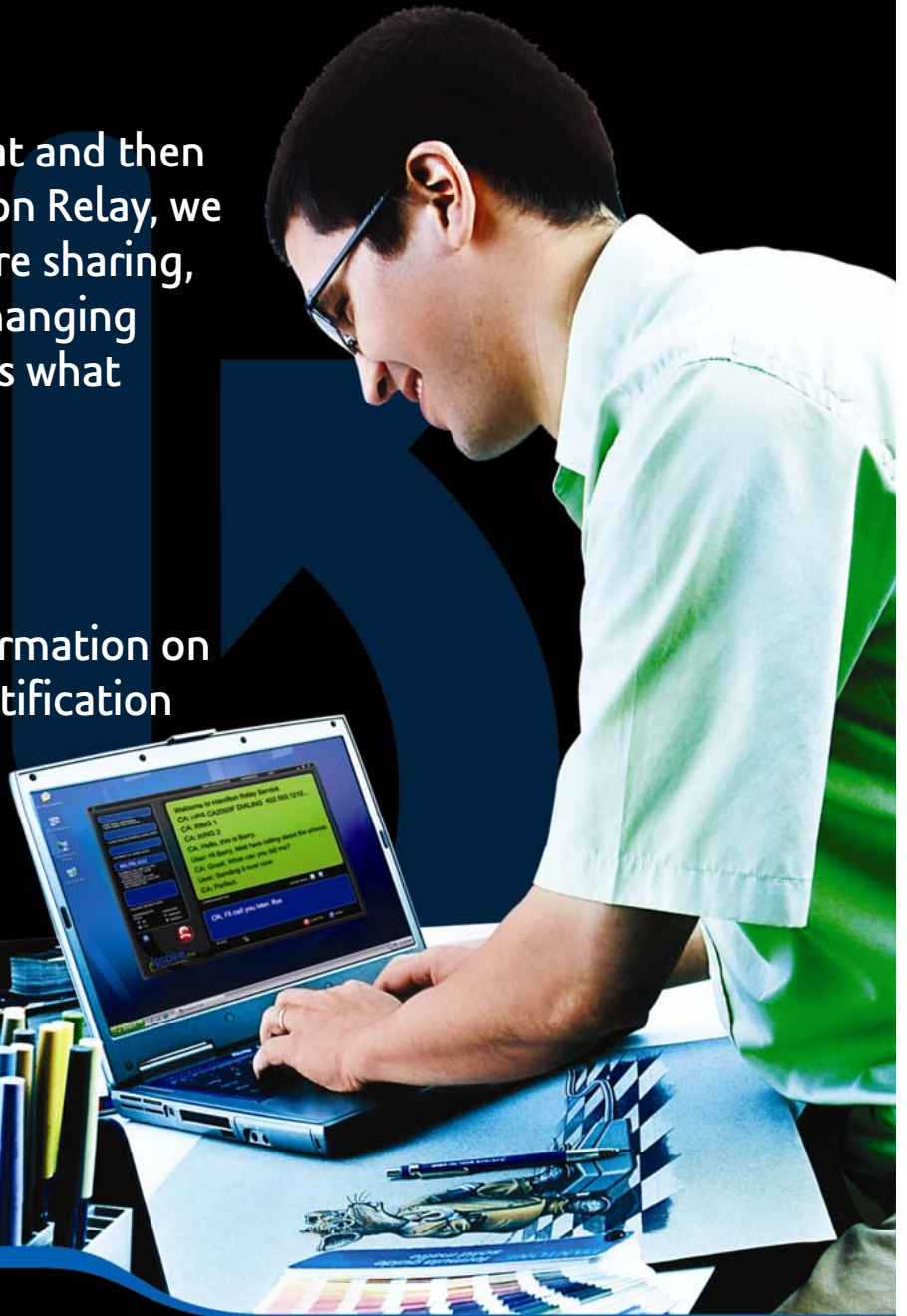
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MADC Board Meeting Highlights: Sept. 9, 2006

The following are highlights. For the complete minutes, please contact secretary@minndeaf.org.

Sept. 9, 2006, Newman Center, St. Cloud

President Tracy Koster called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

Present: Cheryl Blue, Nancy Crane, Emory Dively, Linda Durand, Ralph Fuechtmann, Jody Gertken-Teter, Tracy Koster, Curt Slater, and Trudy Suggs.

Visitors: Debbie Anderson, Steve Brunelle, Sandy Budin, Susan Femling, Kathy Fischer, Mark Geiger, Jane Harders, Richard Harders, Sarah Houge, Alicia Lane, Diane Leonard, Kevin Leonard, and Matt Teter.

The May 6, 2006 minutes were approved as read.

Before starting the meeting, MADC thanked Jody Gertken-Teter and Matt Teter, the president of St. Cloud Deaf Club, for reserving the Newman Center in St. Cloud. Cold Spring Bakery provided doughnuts and Cash Wise sponsored with a cash gift towards food (pizza) and pop. Vikings provided coca-cola. Coburns also contributed. A big thanks to all!

Treasurer's Report – Curt Slater

The current balance as of June 30, 2006 is \$17,093.39 (cash) and \$121,848.61 (stocks), bringing the total to \$138,942.60.

President's Report – Tracy Koster

- Tracy thanked the deaf community from St. Cloud and from out of town for coming to the meeting today.
- Tracy showed appreciation for the hard work from the board members over the summer months.
- The fourth pig roast is planned for November 4 at Thompson Hall. Cheryl Blue is the chairperson.
- Trudy Suggs and Tracy Koster represented MADC at the National Association for the Deaf Conference June 29 to July 3. Miss Deaf Minnesota Taiya Getman participated in the Miss Deaf America Pageant at the NAD

conference.

- The MADC-MRID picnic, organized by Ric-Olin Lyles and Dianne Lyles, brought over 75 people.
- Each board member is asked to recruit two members by the next board meeting on Nov. 4, 2006. Each board member is also asked to represent MADC at one event or organization meeting before the November 4 meeting to make MADC more visible.
- The Aware Fair will be held Saturday, September 16, 2006. Ralph Fuechtmann will bring the display and set it up. Board members were asked to volunteer their time to man the booth.

Vice President's Report – Trudy Suggs

- Cuong Nguyen, who designed the newsletter and the MADC logo, was in a bicycle accident in mid-August.
- She reported that there has been a high number (700) of hits a month for the MADC website.
- The new MADC t-shirts have arrived! We need to decide how much to sell the leftover t-shirts for.
- MADC got a \$10,000 grant from the Democracy Now! Fund, part of the Headwaters Organization.
- She has six boxes of MADC things, cleaned up from 30 boxes. Curt Slater also has things stored in his home. A possible location is at Thompson Hall, where MADC used to have office space.

Committee reports followed.

Legislative Report – Hector Brual

(Report submitted via e-mail)

The legislative committee has four plans for the next legislative session. They include:

1. Create a non-legislative committee to focus on non-legislative issues, such as service providers, state agencies, public providers and customers.
2. Create a planning committee for receptions, promotional materials, and charities.
3. Establish a training program for advocates who can work directly with legislators, state directors, business executives and clients

or customers on legislative matters.

4. Set up a networking database related to legislative matters.

Community Activities – Vacant

Ric-Olin Lyles has resigned for personal reasons. We hope to find a replacement soon.

Conference – Jessalyn Frank

(Report submitted via e-mail)

Jessalyn Frank reported the need to seek an assistant to help with the planning of the conference, and has selected Hector Brual. We have decided to go ahead and host our own conference due to various reasons, such as the date of the conference. There are four hotels to choose from and negotiations are ongoing at this point.

Steve Brunelle asked for clarification about the MADC conference and our plans. He added that there will be a SignFest at the Mystic Lake Casino-Hotel in July 2007.

Necrology – Ralph Fuechtmann

Ralph reported that there were two additions to the list. Ruth Claseman's sister, Joanne Claseman, sent a \$400 donation in memory of Ruth Claseman.

Membership – Jane Harders

Jane Harders announced that we now have 278 members. There have been very few renewals. She talked about some proposed changes and wanted our feedback. After some discussion, the board agreed that membership cards would be printed in black and white, and not be laminated. When sending a membership card, a receipt will be sent, too.

She discussed the need for a database and the need for statistics to increase the membership base. Discussion will be continued via e-mail regarding membership categories and fees.

Pig Roast – Cheryl Blue

Cheryl Blue will plan for about 250 people to attend on Nov. 4 at Thompson Hall. There may be an event after the pig roast to raise money for the conference, such as an ASL story-telling contest.

MINUTES, continued on page 15

Lifetime Memberships: Why No More?

By Jane Harders
Membership Coordinator

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.

Meeting Highlights

MINUTES, continued from page 14

OLD BUSINESS

Leo Latz Library

Curt Slater moved to table this until the next meeting November 4, 2006. PASSED.

NEW BUSINESS

ME42 (May 6, 2006): Trudy Suggs moved that Jane Harders, 2005 Conference chairperson, be reimbursed 40.5 cents per mile on the day she voluntarily met with the 2007 Conference chairperson, Jessalyn Frank. PASSED.

ME43 (June 21, 2006): Curt Slater moved that Tracy Koster and Trudy Suggs be reimbursed at \$75 per day while they attended the NAD conference in California. PASSED.

ME44 (July 23, 2006): Linda Durand moved that Emory Dively be endorsed to

be a representative for the deaf citizens, being the first Deaf State Legislator of MN. PASSED.

ME45 (July 31, 2006): Trudy Suggs moved that the dates of the 2007 MADC Conference be on June 22-23, 2007.

M46: Trudy Suggs moved that the short sleeved T-Shirts be sold at \$10 and long sleeved T-Shirts at \$15. PASSED.

M47: Trudy Suggs moved that Bryce Chapman, who designed the website for MADC, be appointed to maintain the website as needed with pay. PASSED.

M48: Trudy Suggs moved that Tracy Koster be reimbursed for having a P.O. Box for MADC during her term as President. PASSED.

At this point, Tracy Koster stepped down as President; Trudy Suggs took over as President.

M49: Tracy Koster moved to set the next meeting date be in Rochester on February 3, 2007 (backup date - February 10, 2007). PASSED.

M50: Tracy Koster moved that the second-next meeting be in St. Paul on May 5, 2007. PASSED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ralph Fuechtmann announced the MinnePaul Association of the Deaf 75th Anniversary Celebration Banquet at the Ramada Inn in Bloomington, MN.

Emory Dively thanked the members of MADC for endorsing him as possibly the first deaf state legislator in MN.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM by President Tracy Koster.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Durand

Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens

P.O. Box 5305
Mankato, MN 56002

www.minndeaf.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUEST

TIME SENSITIVE MAIL

Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens

MADC



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Membership Fees

Regular – **\$10**/year
Senior Citizens – **\$8**/year
H.S. Students – **\$5**/year
Organizations – **\$25**/year

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 One year
 One year
 One year

Two Years
 Two Years
 Two Years
 Two Years

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