The 48th Biennial Conference of the NeAD was celebrated in style at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln in June. We thank our many sponsors, speakers and committee members who helped make our conference a HUGE success. Over 200 attendants consisted NeAD members, Jr. NAD members, parents, teachers and Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. We voted to expand the number of Board members from four to eight. Many of us left the conference with a lifted spirit. We currently have a total of 143 members and we are expecting positive growth for the next two years. To sum it all up, we are off to a great start for 2015-17!

I was reading in the *Omaha World Herald* newspaper recently and an interesting column I found was about trust. Scott Anderson, CEO of Doubledare, an Omaha-based consulting firm, said, “Trust is ground zero. There are lots of different kinds of leaders who are effective—as different as night and day—but as long as they are able to establish trust, that is the primary thing.” I can’t agree more because many successful businesses and organizations are based on one simple concept: trust.

We continue to focus on our goal which is to ensure that all Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans and their families are provided the opportunity to lead a first-class citizenship life in America. However, our new primary goal for 2015-17 is to build trust among our members.

We would like to establish and maintain this trust by creating an environment with open communication between members and the board. When members know what’s going on, they will respect the organization’s values. This is called “transparency”. We also strive to increase members’ sense of belonging and have them to share a sense of ownership in the NeAD. We want them to feel significant and be part of our goals and mission.

We need to step up by working together and set challenging goals for our organization in 2015-2017 to make a positive difference in the lives of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nebraska residents!

**Circle the Dates!!!**
Board Meeting: January 9, 2015. Will have more information on location and time later

**Circle the Dates!!!**
Deaf Awareness Activities during Deaf History Month in 2016. More Information Later/ See Willman’s article on P. 5
2015 DSA Conference in North Carolina  
Dr. Frank & Marlene Turk

The 2015 Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) Conference, held the week of August 23-27 in Asheville, North Carolina and co-chaired by the husband-wife team of Lawson & Debi McNally, was a trophy-worthy success with 885 in attendance, including 14 with Nebraska ties, four of whom are pictured here with Marlene and Frank: [Photos courtesy of M. Turk]

Louise Bodnar, Marlene Turk, Janie Bowers

Ronald Sutcliffe, Ed Reitz, Frank Turk

As always, true to the DSA history, meeting old friends, school or college mates, and making new friends dominated the activities throughout the conference. Family-oriented programs such as Wrapping Wire Jewelry, Polymer Clay Jewelry and Weaving Baskets were offered alongside the standard programs like Red Hat Luncheon, Sports Luncheon, and Senior Academic Bowl. Conference-closing entertainment was provided by the nationally-famous John Maucere Show.

Slate of DSA officers for the 2015-2017 term are President, Nancy B. Rarus; Vice President, Al Sonnenstrahl; Secretary, Libby Pollard; Treasurer, Michael Lockhart. Board members are Raymond Kilthau, Renwick Dayton and Lance Fischer. Ernie Hahn continues as the editor of the New Horizons.


+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

2015 NeAD Conference  
Julie Dahlke, Chairperson

The 2015 NeAD Conference was held on June 4-7, 2015 at the well-known and historic Cornhuskers Hotel, located near the famous Haymarket Area and the Memorial Stadium. The Conference Committee members were highly motivated to make this the best ever conference. Based on feedback from those who attended, I can safely say that we succeeded.

This year, the committee members wanted to focus on quality education for Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Children. To do this, we had a workshop by Susan Elliott, a well-known Deaf presenter. She encouraged parents to become more involved in their Deaf and Hard of Hearing children's education for their immediate future. There were several parents who came to the workshop and got to meet many wonderful Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults.

Pete Seiler gave a workshop on the new Nebraska state law requiring sign language interpreters to be licensed if they want to get paid. Because of him, many questions about the new law were answered.

There was a panel of parents, Deaf adults, and youths. They shared their thoughts about education and what needed to be improved. This was definitely the highlight of the workshop schedule.

The Junior NAD members and other youths had a workshop of their own. Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins, former NAD President, conducted this workshop. Dr. Scoggins demonstrated how her parents and mentors shaped her life as a national leader of the Deaf.

It is safe to say that the youth participants were motivated to try new leadership skills. In fact, several of the Jr. NAD officers were allowed to assist NeAD officers in their duties during the Saturday Business Meeting. Rachel Hoyer took over as Acting President of NeAD because “President Scherling needed a break”. She did a fabulous job. Isabella Graves and Kate Lorenzo assisted Secretary Seiler in keeping the minutes. Others reviewed the duties of the Parliamentarian, Vice-President, and Treasurer.

The conference attendees were thrilled to have both Dr. Ben Soukup and Dr. Bobbi Scoggin, former National Association of the Deaf presidents, as registered attendees. They involved themselves in the conference activities and mingled with those who attended the conference. Their presence clearly helped make the conference a rousing success.

We were fortunate to have Jack and Rosalyn Gannon, a nationally known couple with us. We believed that attendees, friends and guests were happy to have them with us. Both Jack and Rosalyn were former teachers at the Nebraska School for the Deaf. Several people shared stories of how Jack and Rosalyn impacted their lives positively. Jack received the coveted President’s Award for Significant Contribution to Betterment of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People through his work as a teacher and as an author. Truly, it is always good to see them!

Congratulations to Lawrence Schultz and Marlene Turk who were selected NeAD's King and Queen! For the first time, there was also a Prince and Princess to make the Conference Royal Court. Marlene Kautzky (Iowa) was selected as the first NeAD Princess and Gordon Baynes (Minnesota) became the first NeAD Prince. Congratulations to both of them, too!
The entertainment Saturday night was outstanding. The famous Anderson Twin Brothers (one hearing and one deaf) gave an excellent performance. We had so much fun watching their humorous skits.

The silent auction was also a highlight with many people writing their names and amount every so often. Kim Davis and Julie Dahlke won the bids to ride Ben Soukup’s and Bobbie Beth Scoggins' motorcycles. Julie says “I cannot find the words to tell you how awesome our riding experiences were!”

Dr. Frank Turk headed up the fund-raising efforts for the conference. He along with a few others raised over $43,000!!!!. We are very grateful for his work and support.

I surely enjoyed working with the committee members for their wonderful coordinating the event. Without them, the conference would not happen! But the conference would not have been a success without you, the members.

---

**Open Letter to the Deaf Community**

Thomas Beyer, President, ne RID

In 2013, I attended the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) National Conference in Indianapolis, IN. One of the speakers challenged the membership to do whatever they could to improve their community and to come up with one, clear action they would take to create positive change.

I had a hard time coming up with an idea, and then I remembered George and Eleanor Propp. Other than my family, I can’t really think of two people that impacted my life or mean more to me than George and Elly. I was granted the honor of speaking at George’s funeral and I remember vowing to do what George and Elly had done for me – to be a friend. So, as I sat at that conference in 2013, I decided that I would do everything I could to support the community that George and Elly loved and were a part of – the Deaf Community.

Currently I am serving as the president of the Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (neRID). Please let me know what neRID or I can do for you. I am not the best interpreter in the state. I personally don’t have the legislative power or financial resources to create better laws or re-establish a Nebraska School for the Deaf (although I have wished that I could). The one thing I have to offer is friendship and support, and that is what I hope my time in office, my individual efforts and the efforts of neRID will demonstrate. Feel free to contact me at president@nebraskarid.org.

---
What Will Happen In Spring 2016?

Amy Willman

The NeAD is already making plans to recognize and celebrate the history of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. The National Deaf History will be a month-long celebration from March 13 to April 15. During that time, the plan is to celebrate deaf history and promotes awareness of American deaf culture.

Why do the dates have to be between March 13 and April 15? There were three key events that occurred during that time span.

1. March 13 - 1988 Deaf President Now movement helped to have the first Deaf president of Gallaudet
2. April 8, 1864 - Gallaudet University founded. President Lincoln signed the charter establishing a college for the deaf
3. April 15, 1817 - American School for the Deaf, the first public school for deaf. This school started the education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in America

I will be the chairperson of the month-long events. It will be few days or a week of Deaf Awareness. Right now, I am looking for people to be a part of my committee. If any of you NeAD member would like to be a part of my committee, please contact me, awillman2@unl.edu.

Interesting Fact: Deaf History Month started on March 13, 1997 when the D.C. Public Library had a Deaf History Month event with deaf authors and guest speakers.

2013-2015 Treasurer’s Report

Jessica Smolen

On P. 6 is the full report of the NeAD’s financial report for the years 2013-2015. It shows a balance of $18,131.51 as of June 30, 2015. We were fortunate that the 2013 Conference Committee was able to give to the Board a net profit of $8,602.43. Also, the previous board had kept their expenses below the income. Now we can begin the new term (2015-2017) in the black. Keep in mind that the 2015 Conference will be giving the Board a new net profit which will help us maintain our new efforts to educate the legislators and state agencies of the needs of the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing people in Nebraska.

New Officers

President: Jonathan Scherling
Vice-President: Heath Focken
Treasurer: Jessica Smolen
Secretary: Pete Seiler
Delegate: Vickie Hoyer
At Large Directors: Tyler Kerger, Amy Willman, Debie Seiler
# TREASURER’S REPORT (2013-2015)

Tuesday, June 30, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance Brought Forward (08-30-2015)</strong></td>
<td>26,418.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incomes:</strong></td>
<td>13,103.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses:</strong></td>
<td>12,788.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjustment- 2013 NeAD Conference Transfer in Fiscal Yr (2013/2015)</strong></td>
<td>8,602.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance on Hand (06/30/15)</strong></td>
<td>18,131.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Account Balance

*June 30, 2015*

**Checking Account & Money Market Account**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>5,736.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>Chimney Rock Association for the Deaf</td>
<td>835.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>JrNAD / Omaha</td>
<td>1,155.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1</td>
<td>Deafestival</td>
<td>1,213.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F1</td>
<td>Mr/s Deaf Nebraskan Ambassadorship Program</td>
<td>1,261.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G1</td>
<td>5% Building</td>
<td>806.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1</td>
<td>5% Deaf awareness</td>
<td>806.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J1</td>
<td>2017 NeAD Conference</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K1</td>
<td>Deaf Summer Camp</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>Scholarship by Star City Deaf Senior Citizen</td>
<td>408.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1</td>
<td>Deaf Directory</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>13,231.51</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Certificate of Deposit Account**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Cuscaden Endowment Fund</td>
<td>4,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4,900.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Balance on Hand** 18,131.51
National Association of the Deaf Leadership Training Conference (NLTC)

Pete Seiler

On September 24, 2015, Jonathan Scherling, President, and Pete Seiler, Secretary, flew to Birmingham, AL to attend the NLTC. This is a national level leadership training conference for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. The Alabama Association of the Deaf did a great job with the location and the preparations. While the NeAD only sent two people to the conference, Nebraska was well-represented with four more illustrious Nebraskans: Richard McCowin, NAD Region II representative, Dr. Frank Turk, Marlene Turk, and Kim Davis, representing the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

There were quite a few workshops offered that touched on certain themes: Education Advocacy, Legislative Advocacy, Professional Development, and Organizational Leadership. Dr. Turk was a presenter and spoke on the topic of multigenerational leadership. Pete Seiler serves as the Nebraska Education Advocate for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children so he attended presentations on education advocacy strategies. Jonathan attended mostly legislative advocacy but did attend other workshops also.

Ironically or perhaps because of it, Dr. Turk’s presentation reflects the membership of the NeAD Board (some members below age of 30 years, some between 30 and 45 years, some between 45 and 60 years, and one over 60 years).

Pete Seiler had the opportunity to meet Christine Moody, a member of the national Hands & Voices home office staff. Seiler and Moody discussed ideas for strengthening the NeAD partnership with the Nebraska H & V chapter.

The NAD LTC was a good opportunity for all of us to learn more about how to impact decision makers and present Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in a positive light. It is our hope that, for future NAD LTC, more young adults and more senior citizens will attend this wonderful conference.

Deaf Awareness Day at the Zoo

Heath Focken

On September 27th, NeAD and NCDHH collaborated together and hosted the first annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Zoo. It was very successful event with over 300 guests in attendance. Amanda McGill, Chief of Staff for Congressman Ashford gave a welcome speech to kick off the event. There were drawings for the guests and coloring contests for children. Deaf and Hard of Hearing children along with their siblings and parents (hearing, Deaf and Hard of Hearing) enjoyed watching Ms. McGill and an NCDHH staff read zoo-related stories to them. Exciting tours with 30 to 50 guests through Scott Aquarium, Desert Dome, and Lied Jungle were led by Jonathan Scherling and Heath Focken. A course on Animal signs was a blast for children and adults alike! The day would not have happened without the hard work of volunteers who provided sign language interpreting, directed people to points of interests, and/or assisted with the refreshments. Thank you to NCDHH for
working together the NeAD and the Hands & Voices to make this day happen and thank you to all for coming to the Zoo to celebrate Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Zoo!

[Photos by Vickie Hoyer]

Volunteer Greeters at the Zoo Entrance: the Quiet before the “storm”

H. Focken:NeAD, T. Beyer: NeRID, M. Propp:NCDHH Board: Nice to see such collaboration!

Scherling explaining a display

[Photos by Pete Seiler]

McCowin, NAD Board, Seiler, Secretary, NeAD, Rosenblum, Exec. Director, NAD, Turk, National Advocate for Youth, Scherling, President, NeAD

Tawny Holmes, NAD staff and Director, NAD Education Strategy, Pete Seiler, and Christine Moody, H & V representative

2015 NeAD Biennail Conference at the Cornhuskers Hotel (Lincoln, NE)

[Photos by Jerry Siders]

Prince: G. Baynes, King: Larry Schultz, Queen: M. Turk, Princess: M. Kautzky. Congratulations to them!

P. Seiler moderates the forum: S. Elliott, a conference presenter, Jennifer Racine, President, H & V, Rachel Hoyer, President, Jr. NAD, Jonathan Scherling, President, NeAD, & Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins, former President, NAD

L. Darnall, Jr., leading the Youth Workshop

Smiles before the business meeting (or did Jerry Siders tell another joke?)

Rosalyn & Jack Gannon, Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins With our future leaders!!!!!!
Peggy Scherling, Asst. Director and Julie Dahlke, Director of 2015 Biennial Conference with Gordon Baynes. The two ladies never stopped working and took on many duties. We are indebted to them.

President Jonathan Scherling with help from Pete Seiler presenting an award.

P. Scherling announcing King and Queen of the 2015 Biennial Conference. Looks like she can’t believe who won!??!