

2009 Reports

Executive Board Reports:

Robert Kerr, President 2007-2009

I have written President Messages for the monthly UAD Bulletin and if I do not mention something in this report, it can be found in one of the issues.

UAD 2007 Conference

Linda Berness, 2007 UAD Conference chairperson, and her committee planned the event well, and many were satisfied with it. Over 250 people attended, and Tribute to ASL was interesting, to explain deaf culture; Keith Wann performed his humorous play about CODA; plus there were motivating workshops. You can read the article in the October 2007 issue of the UAD Bulletin on the UAD website for more information.

UAD Bulletin Scanning

The scanning of UAD Bulletin issues from 1956-2007 was completed last fall. It took me nearly two years to scan. Valerie Kinney has kept all volumes, more than 31 years worth – she began binding her UAD Bulletin copies in 1977. You will notice the 1956 issue looks different as compared to 2009 issue. Some issues had poor printing and dull, dark pictures; a few issues had to be adjusted to make columns straight and correct images to look better. The UAD Bulletin gives you an idea how history of the deaf community in Utah came to be. We should be glad that Valerie Kinney preserved all UAD Bulletin volumes all these years. She was excited that I completed the scanning of all volumes and posted them on the UAD website. We are happy to have Cathy Holt as our webmaster. Now you may enjoy reading UAD Bulletin issue on the website.

Media Committee

Valerie Kinney, Ron Nelson, George Wilding, Matt Snarr, Jennifer Oleson who is our UAD editor and I had a special media meeting to discuss the future of the UAD Bulletin. We supported the concept of having the UAD Bulletin issue put on UAD website, to begin January 2009. For those who people do not have computer, they can continue their subscription to UAD Bulletin. In the meantime, we will examine to see if the media needs to improve or go to a better method after we hear input from people.

NAD Western Region IV 2007

Matt Snarr and Trenton Marsh, our representatives, were at the National Association of the Deaf Region IV meeting for two days in November 2007 at the Sanderson Community Center. Ten state representatives met to share their concerns and a lot of information. During the break, NAD officers and West Region representatives visited the Sanderson Community Center Bazaar, and shopped there. The Utah Association for the Deaf thanks Jenefer Reudter for her fantastic job of planning the NAD Region IV and making all attendees feel warmly welcomed to Utah.

NAD Conference 2008

Two representatives and an alternative; Trenton Marsh; Jeff Pollock and Matt Snarr were selected to attend National Association of the Deaf Conference at New Orleans, Louisiana in 2008. However, Jeff and Matt were unable to make it, so Trenton Marsh attended the conference by himself and attended as many meetings as he could..

New MDUAP Director

Eli McCowan and I invited our new Miss Deaf Utah Ambassadorship Program (MDUAP) director Andrea Anderson to a UAD board meeting to give board members information about her plans for the next Pageant (now called Program). Board members were pleased to see that she has great

plans for MDUAP for the next two years; she has some knowledge from past and set up her own committees. The UAD board applauds her and her committee and wishes them good luck. MDUAP is a name change from Miss Deaf Utah Pageant to follow Miss Deaf American Ambassadorship.

Save the Deaf Center Rally – January 14, 2009

UAD board members heard Marilyn Call, director of Sanderson Community Director, who made comments about budget cuts that SCCDHH faced. The board took up and hosted the “Save the Deaf Center Rally.” Some UAD board members and SCCDHH staff volunteers were in attendance. A buffet luncheon was served, thanks to donations from Hands On VRS, Jean Massieu School PTA, Sorenson Communications and InterWest Interpreting. Nearly 500 people signed letters for senators and representatives, asking them not to cut the Deaf Center budget. SCCDHH staff members sorted the letters and stuffed envelopes. Marilyn Call delivered them to the senators and representatives at the beginning of the 2009 Legislative Session. It was good news that budget was not severely cut.

New Bookkeeper

Dennis Platt resigned as UAD treasurer as of December 31, 2007. Since Valerie Kinney preferred to keep her position as assistant treasurer; that left the treasurer position open. Valerie Kinney indicated that a bookkeeper was needed, to continue the work on QuickBooks Pro. Jenefer Reudter, who has experience with QuickBooks Pro, accepted to become the bookkeeper, and to continue until the next election. Jenefer’s experience with Dennis Platt and other committees during the 2007 Winter Deaflympics was a plus.

Legal Interpreter Judiciary

Trenton Marsh asked for a UAD board member to represent UAD at the Legal Interpreter Judiciary meeting. I represented UAD at this meeting. Dale Boam, Jeff Born, and several others were invited to meet. We discussed issues of ethnicity, the Judicial Court list to get the right interpreter for deaf persons when they appear in court. They are working on workshops for interpreters to understand the court process. In order to keep the name on the list through Judiciary Court a recommendation from Utah Interpreter Program would be needed. In addition, the deaf community might need to know what a Judicial Court list means to them and understand the interpreter role in the court setting. The Legal Interpreter Judiciary Committee will update the deaf community on their work in the future.

UAD Friendship Day: Lagoon

April Trocki has already made reservations for July 25, 2009 – the Oak Terrace. She will notify you when tickets become available.

In conclusion, in the past two years UAD board members showed good, positive enthusiasm during meetings; a few meetings were cancelled due to snow. UAD board members agreed on a schedule of meetings for the next two years, usually on a Saturday once a month. Those with family responsibilities find it hard to attend meetings on Saturday but the quorum was met. UAD board members encourage young people to think about becoming a board member for the next two years and support UAD.

~~~~~

### **Valerie Kinney, Assistant Treasurer**

#### **Finances**

For the past four years, I have served as assistant treasurer under Dennis Platt, UAD treasurer. I took over the UAD books as of January 1, 2009 due to his resignation. He had served for nearly four years as treasurer, since the death of Peter Green. Jennifer Reudter, who has experience with QuickBooks Pro, has been keeping the “books” which is very much appreciated. Accounting is the key to keeping the treasury accurate and up to date.

The facts below are from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008 – two years:

**January 1, 2007**

Inventory = \$10,094.59  
CDs = \$85,300.36  
Checking Account = \$20,907.25

**December 31, 2008**

Inventory = \$10,783.83  
CDs = \$93,735.50  
Checking Account = \$9,528.46

**UAD Finance Committee**

The UAD Finance Committee acts on monetary requests referred by the UAD Board of Directors, and makes recommendations. It is up to the board to accept or reject the recommendations from this committee. The committee met four times between January 2007 and December 2008.

Finance committee members are Valerie Kinney, Keith Nelson, Nancy Taylor and George Wilding.

**UAD Announce**

This group email, which began June 6, 2001, has sent out 4,601 as of April 18, 2009. This is an average of 575 messages a year. It currently has over 1,010 subscribers. The subscription list covers a range of people: Deaf people, hard of hearing people, interpreters, parents of deaf children, ASL students, SCCDHH staff; JMS staff; USDB staff – and is not limited to Utah, as former Utahns across the country subscribe to keep up with news of their home state.

Messages sent out cover a variety of subjects: events, job and volunteer opportunities, obituaries, legislative news, results of sports events, and more.

Valerie Kinney is the lead moderator and Ron Nelson is the backup moderator.

**UAD Bulletin**

Due to rising cost of printing, paper and postage, a decision was made to post the monthly UAD Bulletin on the Utah Association for the Deaf website, starting January 1, 2009. Most subscriptions will expire June and July, after which there will be a small pool of subscribers who do not have access to the internet. Those with no internet access will be able to continue subscribing.

The editor is Jennifer Oleson, who began her duties September 2006. The UAD Bulletin committee is made up of Valerie Kinney, chair, with Ron Nelson and Kristi Mortensen as mentors.

**Utah Telecom Book**

The biennial edition of Utah Telecom Book (formerly known as Utah TTY Directory) continues to be a very popular service by Utah Association for the Deaf. The print order is 1,000 and advertising pays for the printing costs.

The 2010-2011 edition work will begin this fall. You can help by contacting Dave Mortensen for advertising, and Valerie Kinney for listings.

Dave is editor while Val is co-editor. Ron Nelson, also co-editor, sees to the technical end.

**Board Members-at-Large Reports:**

**Ron Nelson, Representative**

**Popcorn Coalition**

The Popcorn Coalition, which was founded on January 15, 2002, runs strong today. Five organizations are represented on the Coalition with two members of each organization. The organizations are Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA), Alexander Graham Bell Association (AGB), Cued Language Network of America and the Utah Association for the Deaf. Recent efforts have focused on lobbying the Public Service Commission to change the financial qualification level in the telecommunications distribution program. The Coalition also has an email listserv for captioned movies in Utah theaters.

## **Ron Nelson, Chair**

### **UAD Website ([www.uad.org](http://www.uad.org))**

The UAD website was started in 2000 and has had several webmasters. Cathy Holt became the webmaster in 2008 and did an outstanding job re-designing the look and simplifying the resources. She is clearly the most skilled webmaster UAD has ever had!

## **George D. Wilding, Chair**

### **Utah Museum for the Deaf**

For the past 3 years, I have collected several bags or boxes for the museum to be displayed at the Sanderson Community Center. There is a glass display in the front lobby. I do need some more to show but due to lack of room or place. I have four more boxes in my home office.

I would like to have a room somewhere in the center for a museum near the bookstore. The reason is maybe we can see how many visit the museum and donate money in a jar, who knows. Also maybe some deaf people could bring something for the museum. I hope it is possible that the bookstore will have another door and make an entrance to the museum.

If you have any ideas about the museum, let us share and I will be glad to help.

### **Wall of Honor**

My wife Ruthann and I went to McKay Dee Hospital in Ogden often (second home for us, ha) At the back of the lobby, there is a Wall of Honor with many names. People who have donated money or service can have their name on this wall.

I found out a while ago that the UAD cannot have a Wall of Honor in the Sanderson Community Center because of state law. Board members suggested having the Wall of Honor on the UAD website. I think it is good idea.

I would advise having five or more officers on this committee. This committee can meet one or two times a year, set up bylaws and vote for an annual celebration by UAD. This committee can collect names. That honor must go to members of UAD. One more idea, it could be called UAD Hall of Fame.

~~~~~

Linda Berness Chair

Golden Hand Award Committee

The Golden Hand Award goes to individuals or organizations that have served the deaf community in an outstanding way.

The committee goes over applications and picks one to receive this prestigious award.

The Golden Hand Award is given on the evening of the biennial conference dinner. An award will be given during the awards program of the Gala this weekend.

In 2007, Ron Burdett received the Golden Hand Award on behalf of Sorenson Communications.

Linda Berness is chairperson; committee member are Valerie Kinney, Matt Snarr, Trenton Marsh, and Dennis Platt

Deaf Senior Citizens of Utah

Deaf Senior Citizens of Utah meets every Wednesday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm to play games and cards, at the Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Doughnuts, soda pop and fruit are sold during the day. Everyone of any age is welcome.

Membership fee is \$5.00 for two years.

On the third Wednesday a meeting is held, with lunch following, and a game is played for prizes.

Sometimes a tour is provided, with our people riding the state van. At Christmastime a dinner is held for those who have attended more than six times.

~~~~~

## **Eli McCowan, Representative**

### **Emergency Preparedness**

With the earthquakes hitting our blue planet more and more, you are encouraged to look up the website on how to prepare yourself and protect your loved ones at home. You might want to find the valuable information on various websites to protect your home prior to the earthquakes and afterwards.

~~~~~

Nancy O'Brien, Representative

DSDHH Advisory Council

I have served on the Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Council since last fall. Meetings are held the third of each month the Sanderson Community Center.

The role of the Advisory Council is to provide input on the strategic plan, needs assessment, and evaluations. Members comment on effectiveness and consumer satisfaction with services, programs and functions of the deaf center.

A liaison from the Advisory Council is sent to the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council (SRC) and is asked to report back to the DSDHH Advisory Council.

~~~~~

## **Jennifer Byrnes, Chair**

### **Social Activity**

#### **September Board Retreat:**

- Board Retreat:
- Planned team building events during the retreat
- Planned prizes for team events

#### **After General Assembly Party:**

- Planned refreshments
- Planned decorations
- Planned how to get more people to come to general assembly

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Adele Sigoda, Manager**

## **UAD Bookstore**

I will have managed the bookstore for two years this month. I want to praise my six wonderful volunteers – Valerie Kinney, Rob Kerr, Ana Martinez, Linda Berness, EJ Royce and Mya Drexler. Kortney Lynch volunteered for brief time and she is moving back to her hometown in Indiana this month.

We opened a UAD Bookstore in St. George. After six months trial, it was closed due to lack of customers. I want to thank Faith Bassett for her willingness to be a manager during that time.

The most popular items sold at the bookstore are light signalers and alarm clocks.

~~~~~  
Andrea Anderson, State Director

Miss Deaf Utah Ambassadorship Program

Number of contestants now down to 7

- 1) Andrea Vigil
- 2) Brynn Gorham
- 3) Carolann Darger
- 4) Jenny Jaramillo
- 5) Natisha Luke
- 6) Janelle Milano
- 7) Melissa Mischo

Workshops & Events by MDUAP in 2009

- Fitness Workshop for Contestants in January taught by Andrea Anderson
- Beauty/Modeling/Platform for Contestants in February with Pamela Mower as contestants' coordinator, and Jen Byrnes as Platform coach, and Miss Utah Kayla Barclay as modeling coach.
- Platform and Talent Development Workshop in March with different coaches; Cherie Hudson, Yvonne Montaltee, and Mindy Lou Bell.
- Interview Skills Workshop in April for Contestants with "mock coaches;" Cherie Hudson, Patricia Lowdy, Gary Leavitt, and Adele Sigoda
- Mr. Utah during UAD 100th Anniversary on Thursday night May 7 at 7 pm at Sanderson Deaf Center. *Flyer attached.*
- May 22 and 23, MDUAP retreat for contestants at Park City
- June 6, first dry run (practice) for MDUAP Pageant performance
- June 12, Pre-reception for contestants & judges plus VIP committee members
- June 13, MDUAP competition at South Hills Middle School in Riverton. Details: Starts at 6 pm and can buy tickets online. www.mdup.uad.org Ticket Coordinator is Kimberly Thornsberry.

Proud Sponsors

Utah Association for the Deaf, Novell, Key Bank, Utah Athletic Club for the Deaf, Association for Deaf Children, JMS, Sego Lily Abused Center for the Deaf, Sun First Bank, Sorenson Legacy

These are not all of the Sponsors – there are some more (ones that made small generous donations.) All will be listed in MDUAP 2009 Program Book at the competition in June.

~~~~~

## **Kristi Mortensen, Chair**

### **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Child's Bill of Rights**

1. Fall 2007, Rob Kerr and I met with Christine Timothy to discuss the possibility of reviving DHHCBR (Deaf and Hard of Hearing Child's Bill of Rights). After more than two hours, we agreed that the work of Jodi Kinner on HB 296 and SB 201 needs to pass before we can move to the next level, to avoid having "too many eggs in one basket".
2. Spring 2008, Jodi Kinner and Kristi Mortensen, along with other representatives from USDB and Utah State Office of Education, attended the State Leader's Summit in Montana which focused on the National Deaf Agenda.
3. Fall 2008, Kristi contacted Representative Christine Johnson (she is Kristi and Ron's district representative) to meet and discuss reviving DHHCBR. She agreed but requested to wait after the 2009 Legislative Session.
4. Christine Timothy, USOE, Education Specialist (sensory and significant disabilities) in the Special Education Department sent Jodi and Kristi (plus those who attended the Summit last year and this year) a memo about meeting either in late May or early June 2009.
5. Kristi has not contacted Representative Christine Johnson but will soon and get the meeting set up and get the ball moving with DHHCBR.
6. FYI: Christine Timothy and Representative Christine Johnson both wholeheartedly agree that DHHCBR needs to be passed and implemented.

### **MDUP Sorority**

1. It has been in a sleep mode due to Kristi's busy schedule with doctorate studies. Starting late spring 2009, Kristi will have more time due to a lighter load.
2. Kristi hosted a meeting with new MDUAP State Director and her executives at her home last summer, 2008.
3. The issue about MDUP Sorority was raised. Katrina Lee and Kristi will begin working on some goals and how the sorority can benefit MDUAP.
4. Right now at this point, nothing has been done, but Kristi will work on getting the sorority back up to full speed after MDUAP in June 2009.
5. Kristi will discuss with Katrina Lee and Andrea Anderson about changing the name of MDUP Sorority to MDUAP Sorority.

~~~~~

Jodi Kinner, Institutional Council Member:

Summary of Eligibility

For many years, any deaf, blind and deaf-blind students served by USDB who achieved academically on grade-level, were automatically moved out of the USDB (including JMS) system and were placed in a mainstream setting at their local school district where they no longer qualified for special education.

Code 53A-25-104 added a barrier to promoting quality education at USDB/JMS because it emphasized special education instead of deaf education. With this law in the way, it was impossible to improve the quality of deaf education in regard to language and communication accessibility.

In regards to the portion of eligibility, 28 letters from parents and the Deaf/Hearing community were sent to Dr. Patti Harrington, State Superintendent of Public Instruction in October 2007. Dan Mathis and Jeff Pollock spoke to the Utah State Board of Education. A large number supported amending the statute to lift the cap by allowing students who are at or above grade level to attend USDB, not just those who have an IEP. The correspondence had impact and it eventually caught legislators' attention.

On February 6, 2008, a group of concerned legislators sent a letter to the Utah State Board of Education regarding the eligibility of students to be served by Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. On February 28, 2008, the Institutional Council's voted unanimously to allow deaf, blind and deaf-blind students who achieve grade level standards to remain at USDB. Governor Huntsman signed the bill on March 25, 2009! With this new bill, USDB deaf, blind and deaf-blind students will be given options: Individualized Education Plan (establish academic/services goals) or Section 504 (those who are on-level need direct communication with teachers and peers in ASL).

House Bill 296: Entrance Policy

House Bill 296 requires that the Entrance Policy be established to determine who is eligible (i.e. hearing students, students with multi-disabilities, etc) for the USDB services. It is our goal to submit the policy to the Utah State Board of Education for approval sometime this summer before school starts in August 2009.

Institutional Council

Now that the HB 296 is passed, USDB Institutional Council will change to its name, Advisory Council on July 1, 2009.

While working on the Deaf Heritage in Utah book, it was discovered that the name of this council changed over the years. For instance, back in the 1950s, the council was named Advisory Council. In 1970s, it changed to the Governor's Advisory Council and that name remained until 1980s. It was changed to Institutional Council. Now it is back to the Advisory Council again.

A New Member of the Institutional Council

Scot Ferre is a new member of the Institutional Council representing the Deaf community. He replaced Dennis Platt.

~~~~~

### **Dave Mortensen, Chair**

### **Hospital and Lawyer Committee**

Three years ago, Ron Nelson, UAD President at the time, asked Dave Mortensen to head the unexpected encounters in the area of interpreting services at several hospitals. Chet Loftis came to answer questions from the board. Mr. Mortensen met different people in the language department regarding the situations. Since then the awareness efforts worked due to doctors' cooperation with interpreting services for their clients which improved deaf patients' lives for equal accessibility. There were disagreements between oral and signing situations. Public relations were the essential tool in effecting the positive changes in the Utah Deaf-wide community.

Dave Mortensen, Ron Nelson, Dale Boam along with Jeff Born, interpreter, met with John Baldwin, Director of the Utah State Bar Association last fall. Dale Boam has an article which will be published in their May-June 2009 Utah Bar Association Journal. We are continuing to urge the Utah State Bar Association to press lawyers in providing interpreters for clients they are working with. This is an ongoing project that will not end until success is made in that area of accessibility.

~~~~~

Carole Peck, Representative

CAT Public Relation Committee

I was first selected in 2005 to serve a two year term on CAT (Committee Accessible Transportation) within Utah Transit Authority. In 2007 I was asked to serve another two year term, which will end June 2009. I will have served four years and can no longer serve on the CAT.

Guides I follow to do general reports

- I explain the purpose of the CAT

- I review past accomplishments from CAT, and report new goals set. That information is reported each month at the big CAT meeting. CAT has a day long retreat each year and I have been there all four years.

~~~~~

## **Jeff Pollock, UIP Certification Board - Deaf Consumer**

### **Utah Interpreter Program Certification Board**

The Certification Board consists of 11 individuals tasked to advise and make recommendations to be adopted by the Utah Interpreter Program. The State Board of Education makes the final decision on policy changes. The Board consists of four Deaf people, four interpreters, one representative from the State Board of Regents, one representative from the Utah State Office of Education, and one representative from the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Chairperson for 2009-2010 is Trenton Marsh.

Recent issues discussed by the Board:

1. Elimination of the Master Certification level
2. Elimination of the "Allowable Practices Guidelines"
3. Recognition of the RID Code of Professional Conduct
4. Extension of the Written Test valid period from three years to five years
5. Changing the Certification level names from Novice and Intermediate to Novice Certification and Professional Certification
6. Extension of the Novice Certification level to four years before requiring to pass the Professional Certification level
7. Changing the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) score requirement from 3.5 to 4.0
8. Extension of the EIPA 3.5 score to four years before requiring to pass the 4.0 score
9. New Policies and Procedures Manual to reflect the above changes
10. Public Service Commission provides financial support for interpreter training programs in Utah but does not permit the inclusion of Deaf individuals pursuing training to become Deaf Interpreters; UIP/DSDHH drafted a letter of concern to the PSC regarding this

11. Due to state budget constraints, certification testing fees will increase starting July 1, 2009

Certification Board meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday each month from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Robert G. Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The public is invited.