



Communicator

Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community of Kentucky

Calendar

October

Protect Your Hearing Month

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October 14

Commission Board Meeting
Salato Wildlife Center, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

October 31

Halloween

November

Family Stories Month
Military Family Appreciation Month
National Gratitude Month

November 8

Presidential Election Day

November 11

Veterans Day

November 20-26

National Family Week

November 24

Thanksgiving

December

National Human Rights Month

December 9

E-Board Meeting, KCDHH Office
1 p.m.- 3 p.m.

December 25

Christmas Day

December 31

New Year's Eve

1996 – 2016

20-Year Impact – DeaFestival Kentucky



*Virginia L. Moore
Executive Director*

When asked “Why we created DeaFestival,” our answer in 1996 was the same as today—to educate individuals about the extraordinary talents of deaf and hard of hearing performing and visual artists. Throughout the twenty years since its inception, we have always strived to expand and enhance this theme so that the public can understand our community’s true value.

I have been involved in DeaFestival Kentucky since the beginning, in 1996, when Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins, then Executive Director of KCDHH, called me into a meeting and asked where I thought we might get a large tent for the first DeaFestival to be held in Danville on the Kentucky School for the Deaf campus. From that point on, I was hooked! DeaFestival was designed to be an educational experience for community members as well as parents, educators and everyone that works with deaf and hard of hearing individuals. DeaFestival proves how deaf and hard of hearing individuals CAN do anything. Since its beginning, it has been a powerful event that allows children to see role models and adults who have a sense of ownership because this festival is accessible to ALL with absolutely no barriers!

Throughout its 20 year evolution, DeaFestival has come to be known as a very powerful regional festival. From 3,000 attendees in 1996 to over 12,000 in 2012 when we partnered with the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) conference, we continue to draw attendees from all over the nation and other countries.

One young mainstream deaf individual attended DeaFestival when he was in middle school. He said “I was thrilled to see so many deaf people and seeing the talents they had gave me encouragement to know I could do anything!” This individual now works at KCDHH and coordinated DeaFestival 2016. We found we also influence those who know nothing of the deaf or hard of hearing community. One story from 2016 reflects on how a seven year old girl saw a performer on YouTube from California and “fell in love” with his dance moves. She found out he was coming to Kentucky to perform and begged her mother to bring her to see him. Mom, who didn’t know he was deaf till she read up on the performer, knew he had influenced her daughter, raising her self-esteem enough to join the dance group at school. As a single mother, things were tough but after working all day, she decided she needed to give her daughter this kind of positive influence and she came home and said “let’s go to Kentucky to see Shaheem!” They drove all night to make it to DeaFestival and the daughter was so thankful that she made a sign that was almost bigger than she was that said “My Mom drove 7 hours so I could see Shaheem.” That sign caught the eye of staff and soon introductions were made, pictures taken and interpreters used so the little

(Continued on page 6)

Commission Members:

Amy Hatzel, Chair

Kentucky Registry of Interpreters
for the Deaf Representative

Joy Kiser

Alexander Graham Bell Association
Representative

Kelly L. Daniel

Kentucky Speech-Language Hearing
Representative

George "Buzzy" Tunstall IV

Parent Representative

Vacant

AARP Representative

Jeannie Taylor

Hearing Loss Association of America
Representative

Edie Ryan

Member At-Large

Barbie Harris

Kentucky Association of the Deaf
Representative

Gerry Gordon-Brown

Kentucky Association of the Deaf
Representative

Sec. Hal Heiner

(Buddy Hoskinson, Designee)

Education and Workforce
Development Cabinet

Sec. Vickie Yates Brown Glisson

(Michelle Niehaus, Designee)

Cabinet for Health & Family Services

Holly O'Mary

Service Provider Representative

Nina Coyer

President
Kentucky Association of the Deaf

Vacant

Kentucky Association of the Deaf

One of Five Organizations

Commission Receives Governor's Awards in Arts for DeaFestival

The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is one of five organizations selected by Governor Matt Bevin as a recipient of the 2016 Governor's Awards in the Arts for contributions that have raised the level of quality and awareness of the arts in the state.

"Just as the wheels of commerce and industry are important to moving Kentucky forward, so too are the arts," said Gov. Bevin. "Each work of art tells a story and is a reflection of its maker's unique journey through life."

"I'm excited about the recipients of this year's Governor's Awards in the Arts. They exemplify the best of Kentucky's creative spirit and foster a love for the arts in our communities," Bevin added. "These accomplished artists come from every corner of the Commonwealth and we look forward to hosting them for the awards ceremony."

The KCDHH produces the biennial DeaFestival-Kentucky, a daylong celebration of deaf culture, language and art. The festival began in 1996 with the first DeaFestival-Kentucky in Danville on the campus of the Kentucky School for the Deaf with about 3,000 in attendance. In the 20 years since that inaugural festival, DeaFestival-Kentucky has grown to an event that has hosted as many as 13,000 people, and is known nationally for the spotlight it puts on visual and performing artists who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The Governor's Awards in the Arts ceremony, which is coordinated by the Kentucky Arts Council in cooperation with the Governor's Office, will be in October in the State Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort. The arts council will announce the date in the near future.

***Stay up-to-date with the Commission- follow us at
<https://www.facebook.com/KCDHH/>***

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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Emily Kimbell, Information Coordinator for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing
Natasha May, Interpreter I
Rachel Morgan, Executive Staff Interpreter
Blake Noland, Information Coordinator for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing
Jayna Oakley, Information Office Supervisor
Jim Rivard, Network Analyst II
Rachel Rodgers, Interpreter Referral Specialist
Wilma Wright, Administrative Specialist II
Cole Zulauf, Program Coordinator

Send KCDHH Your Deaf Awareness Stories

What did you do to create or highlight Deaf Awareness Week/Month in your community or home?

Did you have an opportunity to increase public awareness of deaf issues, people, and culture? Did you participate in activities or events that encouraged individuals to come together as a community for both educational events and celebrations for the deaf?

Maybe these topics will give you an idea of how you celebrated Deaf Awareness Week:

- Celebrated the culture, heritage and language unique to deaf people of the world.
 - Promoted the rights of Deaf people throughout the world, including education for Deaf people, access to information and services, the use of sign languages, and human rights for Deaf people in developing countries.
 - Recognized achievements of deaf people, including famous deaf individuals.
 - Educated on the misconceptions of being deaf and the challenges the deaf population face during everyday life.
 - Learned about types, degrees, and causes of hearing loss.
 - Was exposed to sign language and other ways deaf and hard of hearing people communicate.
 - Learned about the types of educational programs, support services and resources that are available to the deaf and hard of hearing community, including children.
 - Gained a better understanding of deaf culture.
 - Understood that deaf and hard of hearing individuals are just as capable, able, and intelligent as hearing individuals.
- Share your story with KCDHH!

Top Tips On “How to Be Deaf Aware”

The following tips will allow a person with hearing to effectively communicate with individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. All of these tips are easy to do, but may require a conscious effort at first.

- Avoid standing in front of a light source when speaking.*
- Make sure you have the person’s attention before speaking.*
- Stand a normal distance from the person.*
- Do not cover your mouth or have anything in your mouth when you are speaking.*
- Look directly at the person you are speaking to and maintain eye contact.*
- Speak clearly, at a normal pace.*
- Repeat the statement, then re–phrase if the person is unable to hear the words spoken.*
- Use shorter, simpler sentences if necessary.*
- Do not shout.*
- Use gesture, facial expression and body language to assist with communication.*
- Be patient and take time to communicate.*
- Try writing down a couple words or a phrase to clarify if communication is difficult.*
- Remember that just because a person can hear your voice, does not mean they can understand your words.*
- When writing back and forth, keep your word choices simple and sentences short. If the person understands you well and uses more complex sentence and vocabulary, you may do the same. Take your cue from the deaf person.*
- When using an interpreter, speak directly to the deaf person. When the interpreter voices what the deaf person signs, look at the deaf person, not the interpreter. Avoid saying... ”Tell him... ”.*



How has KCDHH been able to help you? If you’re interested in sharing your story, please contact Jayna Oakley, Information Office Supervisor, jayna.oakley@ky.gov or call 502-573-2604.





Be Prepared for Presidential Election

With the 2016 Presidential Election only a few weeks away, deaf and hard of hearing voters want to make sure they have access to the same information provided to other voters. In most cases, this means information should be presented visually as well as verbally.

Under the Help American Vote Act of 2002, states and units of local government are required to not only make polling places accessible to persons with disabilities, but to train election officials, poll workers and election volunteers on how best to promote access and participation of individuals with disabilities in elections for Federal office.

Voting Instructions

Before voters vote, the poll worker may ask voters to confirm their address, sign their name, etc. Common statements and questions should be preprinted and conspicuously placed at appropriate poll locations. Statements and questions may include Show your driver's license or other photo identification, Is your address correct?, Sign the registration list/card(s), Take the voting card to the person standing near the voting machines, Directions for how to use the voting machine are in the voting booth, Do you have any questions?

Announcements

Poll workers sometimes make announcements, such as directing voters to stand in a particular line, announcing the time the polls will be closing, or providing other logistical information. Every time verbal announcements are made, the poll worker should provide the same information visually by writing the information in large letters on easels placed in appropriate locations.

Service Animals

Some deaf or hard of hearing

individuals are accompanied by and use a service animal (sometimes called a "hearing dog"). Under federal anti-discrimination laws, polling places must permit these service animals to accompany the deaf or hard of hearing person.

Deaf /HOH Poll Workers

Polling places located in areas with a large deaf population should recruit and train deaf and hard of hearing poll workers and let the deaf and hard of hearing community know they will be present to assist.

Sign Language Interpreters

Polling places located in areas with

2016

Presidential Election Deadlines

November 1:

Absentee Ballot Request
(By Mail)

November 8:

Absentee Ballot Return
(By Mail)

a large deaf population should make qualified sign language interpreters available and share this information with the deaf and hard of hearing community. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, qualified interpreters are those who are "able to interpret effectively, accurately and impartially both receptively and expressively.

Training for Poll Workers

Poll workers should also be trained to help communicate effectively with deaf and hard of hearing individuals by making eye contact, waiting til the person can see you before speaking, looking at the person while speaking, speaking clearly at a normal rate, making sure your face and mouth are visible, using good lighting, using gestures, repeating or rephrasing your

question or statement, having available use of paper and pen and being patient.

For more information, go to National Disability Rights Network's Protection and Advocacy for Voting at <http://www.ndrn.org/issues/voting>.

20-Year DeaFestival

(From page 1)

girl could speak with her hero and role model. Both she and her mother were hearing. We all walked away from that story with fond memories and a better understanding of how we can always influence and educate one another if we just take time to communicate and understand one another's culture and language. This ripple effect impacts all of us that work to produce DeaFestival and everyone who comes to see the unique performers and visual artists that participate in DeaFestival.

DeaFestival 2016 is in the history books now. As we look toward 2018, we continue to strive to provide educational opportunities for the community as a whole but mainly for parents, educators and administrators that work with children with a hearing loss and are unsure of what their potential might be. We strive to provide economic and networking opportunities for the role models we host and we work to make every day like DeaFestival day, where any individual can succeed at anything they want to accomplish if only the path is clear.

For all these reasons, we are very proud to announce that DeaFestival won the Governor's Award in the Arts Community award for 2016 and will be recognized in late October by Governor Bevin for the positive impact DeaFestival has had and continues to have on the community as a whole, as well as its personification of the value of ART!



I am an Oral Deaf Person

Communication Card for Law Enforcement Officers

This card will help you communicate. Please point to the pictures on the other side of this card.

When communicating with me:

- ⇒ Get my attention first.
- ⇒ Look at me when you speak.
- ⇒ For simple communication writing notes *MAY* help, but not always.
- ⇒ I cannot lip-read everything you say.
- ⇒ A hearing aid does not allow me to hear everything you say.
- ⇒ Avoid shining a flashlight in my face as this will hamper my ability to communicate.
- ⇒ Though I may speak for myself this does not mean I can hear and understand what you say.

If I am arrested or asked to come in for questioning I will need:

- ⇒ A Kentucky licensed interpreter.
- ⇒ To make a phone call (using high-speed internet connection and a computer, a Captel Telephone, TTY and/or my wireless device).
- ⇒ A Stenographer/Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART) for captioning conversations.
- ⇒ Other accommodations

To locate an CART in Kentucky
call 502-564-3296
<http://www.reallegal.com/leaders.asp#KENTUCKY>



This voluntary informational program was developed by the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing with the endorsement from Kentucky State Police.

www.kcdhh.kv.gov



I am a Deaf Person

Communication Card for Law Enforcement Officers

This card will help you communicate. Please point to the pictures on the other side that best describes the situation.

When communicating with me:

- ⇒ Get my attention first
- ⇒ Look at me when you speak
- ⇒ With simple communication writing notes *MAY* be helpful, but not always
- ⇒ I cannot lip-read everything you say
- ⇒ A hearing aid does not allow me to hear everything
- ⇒ Avoid shining a flashlight in my face as this will hamper my ability to communicate

If I am arrested or asked to come in for questioning I will need:

- ⇒ A Kentucky licensed sign language interpreter
- ⇒ To make a phone call (high-speed internet connection and a computer, TTY and/or my wireless device)
- ⇒ Other accommodations

To locate an interpreter in Kentucky
Call 800-372-2907
Website -- <http://finance.ky.gov/ourcabinet/caboff/OAS/op/interpret/>



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www.kcdhh.kv.gov
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I am a Hard of Hearing Person

Communication Card for Law Enforcement Officers

This card will help you communicate with me. Please point to the pictures on the other side of this card.

When communicating with me:

- ⇒ Get my attention first.
- ⇒ Look at me when you speak.
- ⇒ For simple communication writing notes *MAY* help, but not always.
- ⇒ I cannot lip-read everything you say.
- ⇒ A hearing aid does not make me hear everything you say.
- ⇒ Avoid shining a flashlight in my face as this will hamper my ability to communicate.
- ⇒ Though I may speak for myself this does not mean I can hear and understand what you say.

If I am arrested or asked to come in for questioning I will need:

- ⇒ A Kentucky licensed interpreter.
- ⇒ To make a phone call (using high-speed internet services and a computer, a Captel Telephone, and/or my wireless device).
- ⇒ A Stenographer/Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART) for captioning conversations.
- ⇒ Other accommodations.

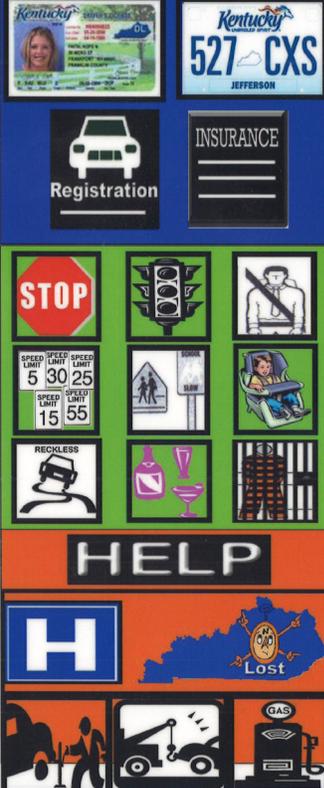
To locate an interpreter in Kentucky
call 800-372-2907
<http://finance.ky.gov/bidhh/>



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VIOLATIONS



HELP

Please point to the pictures that helps me understand what you want.

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Available Since 2008

Visor Cards Still Assisting D & HOH Motorists

Miscommunication between deaf and hard of hearing motorists and police officers in tense moments such as traffic stops, has and continues to produce potentially dire consequences nationwide.

In an effort to prevent such situations in the Commonwealth, the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) partnered with the Kentucky State Police (KSP) in 2008 and continues to provide Visor Communication Cards to citizens who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The lightweight, double-sided, laminate cards contain pictures to represent basic requests, violations and roadside assistance questions used

by police officers in routine traffic stops. The back of the card contains instructions on how to effectively communicate with motorists who are deaf, oral deaf or hard of hearing.

“Communication is a facet of everyday life that we take for granted. For deaf and hard of hearing people, it’s a challenge,” said Virginia Moore, executive director of KCDHH. “For police officers, it is a challenge. So when these two groups come together, communication needs to be quick and effective. This card is not the answer to everything but it gets communication started to help with something people encounter every day.”

KCDHH offers the Visor

Communication Cards through both the agency’s Web site and by paper applications. The cards are designed to fit under the vehicle’s sun visor and should be stored there at all times. In order to prevent miscommunication with law enforcement officials. Never store the card in the glove compartment or center console of the vehicle.

Consumers may apply for a card by filling out an online application through the agency’s Web site (www.kcdhh.ky.gov) or by contacting KCDHH directly and requesting a hard copy application to complete and return. Cards are limited to one per applicant and the program is open to Kentucky residents only.



KCDHH

**632 Versailles Road
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601**

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An agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

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Veterans Day
honors and thanks all
military personnel
who served the United
States in all wars,
particularly living veterans.
Make sure
you thank
a veteran on
November 11, 2016