

TDHHCConnections

AUGUST 2016



Video Phone: 903-253-9655
Communication Coordinator:
903-617-6204

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Lonny Mckinzie, DC, President
Kelly Drumm, Vice President
Stephanie Deibert, Secretary
Wana Crouch
Chris Detkos

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Susie Grona, President
Elizabeth Crook
Daphne Smith

Sign Language
INTERPRETING SERVICE
903-617-6204
or email the
communication coordinator
coordinator@tdhhc.org

Visit our **WEBPAGE**
www.tdhhc.org

follow us on **FACEBOOK**
www.facebook.com/tdhhc.org

This newsletter is dedicated to uniting the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of East Texas and all supporters by providing information and reporting events that enhance our lives and our community

To receive a newsletter mail your name and address to TDHHC at PO Box 6134 Tyler, TX 75711-6134 or email: connections@tdhhc.org
Articles and photos are welcome

Office of the Governor Greg Abbott

The courts examine two important cases that may affect the rights of Texans who are deaf or hard of hearing

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to decide a case brought by would-be drivers seeking a sign-language interpreter for driver-education classes. On Tuesday June 28 the Court agreed to decide whether a Texas agency had to ensure the drivers education classes would provide sign language interpreters when necessary. A private company licensed by the state provided the classes. Read more details in *The Austin American-Statesman* and *Courthouse News Service*.

Texas requires driver's under the age of 25 supply a driver education certificate before they can obtain a drivers license. The would-be drivers sued the Texas Education Agency for alleged violations of two federal laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act. (*ABA Journal News Article*).

In another Texas case reported June 30, 2016, an Austin culinary school agrees to monitoring and penalties to resolve allegations of disability discrimination in a civil settlement with the United States. The Natural Epicurean Academy of Culinary Arts, a culinary school in Austin, Texas, has agreed to settle charges of disability discrimination brought by the United States Department of Justice, announced United States Attorney Richard L. Durbin, Jr. The settlement resolves

allegations that the school violated the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Under the ADA, businesses generally must provide aids such as sign-language interpreters when necessary to communicate with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing... www.justice.gov has more on the Austin Culinary School Settlement.

The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) has a statewide outreach program to provide specialized services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as assisting agencies and other service providers to serve these consumers. The services are available statewide. Each local specialists assist consumers in getting the services they need from state and local government, service

organizations, employers and private entities while advocating within the community to remove communication barriers and achieve greater access for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Teresa Dell is the Deafness Resource Specialist provider for the East TX region IV. Her contact email: deafnessrs4a@dars.state.tx.us; or phone: 903-858-4577 (v/vp).

Communication access requirements for state and local government agencies and private business can be found at www.ada.gov.



GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION: July 26th is often regarded as America's second Independence Day for the estimated 56 million Americans with disabilities. In Texas, we understand that everyone deserves the opportunity to pursue their American Dream. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush – a Texan – signed the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in many areas, including employment, public accommodations, transportation, housing and education. The ADA is critical to ensuring accessibility and full inclusion for men and women with disabilities. Through continued commitment to fairness and equality of opportunity, we can ensure a bright future for all residents of the Lone Star State.

Suzy's Zone



In my column I want to share issues within the educational, political, business, interpreting, and legislative organizations that may impact us. It is imperative that we empower ourselves and strive for solutions.

October 1, 2016 - Saturday

Save the date for Texas Association of the Deaf's Deaf Power Symposium. The symposium is a great opportunity for all deaf and hard of hearing Texans to preserve the past and to protect the future within the deaf and hard of hearing community.

I urge every one of you to log on TAD's website; www.txad.org and join as a new member for only a DOLLAR! What a bargain! Once you are a member, reserve your spot for the symposium that will be held at the Hill Country Cottage and RV Resort, 131 South Rueckle Road, New Braunfels, Texas. Registration fee is \$35.00 per person and includes admission to the resort, the general meeting, symposium meeting, children's program, lunch, dinner, refreshments, and meeting new and old friends. So, please hurry as the registration closes on September 1, 2016.

Texas Association of the Deaf, TAD has a rich, historical accomplishment that has spanned over 130 years. The association was formed as the Bluebonnet Association of the Deaf in 1886 in Blooming Grove, Texas, a small community between Corsicana and Hillsboro, Texas.

I find this website www.rootswest.ancestry.com/txnavarr/organization/tad.htm fascinating and educational, and I assure that you will find TAD is Texas Proud!

Attending the Symposium, you'll learn more about how you as a fellow Texan can contribute and support all the deaf and hard of hearing folks in this Lone Star state. My husband, Patrick and I attended the fifth symposium in 1988 and are proud to say that it was a memorable event that created the Texas Relay Services, long before Sorenson Video Relay Services was born.

So, come on over to New Braunfels and be a part of a historical event.

Cheers!

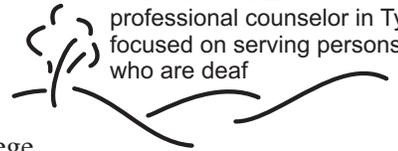
Susie Grona

Community Committee President

HEALTHWATCH



Rhonda McKinzie is a licensed professional counselor in Tyler focused on serving persons who are deaf



Be Positive on Purpose

Can you believe it's Aug already? Not only is it hot outside, but those with kids in school are counting the days before school starts. College students, too. There is so much to do before school starts which can be stressful. Not only that, lately we have seen a lot of terrible things happening all over the world – terrorism. The point of terrorism is to scare people. Not knowing what will happen next – where or when can add more stress to our daily lives. As if this is not enough, we are in the middle of choosing the next president of the US. Inequalities are still evident, protests, riots, violence increase. This does not include each person's individual stress: jobs or job searching, family issues, health crisis, lack of accessibility for people who are deaf and much more. So, what do we do? How do we handle it all? Here are some tips:

1. Keep aware of what's happening in the world without watching/reading too much news. Too much will overload your emotions. Not being aware at all is like hiding from reality. Strike a balance.
2. Do what you can to be safe and in control of your situation. Be aware of your surroundings. Know where the exits are, etc. Stop texting/talking and pay attention. Take a self defense class or take a class about what to do in a violent or dangerous situation. If you notice something not right or suspicious, report it. Better to be safe than sorry. Again – balance caution with living your life. Being prepared can make you feel better and less stressed – more “in control”.
3. Don't respond with hate and violence. Be part of the solution and not the problem. Put yourself in other people's shoes and try to understand other perspectives.
4. When you are not provided equal access, follow the right paths to resolve issues. Be calm and respectful. If you only complain and give up, it's not helping. If every person responds by respectfully and assertively looking for solutions, even if it means filing a lawsuit, more progress will be made. Contact Teresa Dell, Deafness Resource Specialist for information. Don't give up!
5. We cannot “control” other people but we can control our response. Take a deep breath, be assertive but respectful. Be willing to allow other people to give their opinion, too. Sometimes when we find out the “rest of the story” it helps give us a better way to respond.

There are many more tips... Contact me for more information that will help you in your specific situation: rmckinzielpc@gmail.com

TDHHC AND TMAD Welcome You - Come On Board!

Join the Team Working Together for a better life

Attend a gathering - Meet new Friends

Share Your Ideas



Coffee Chat

1st Saturdays 7pm

STARBUCKS
1817 E. SE. Loop 323
Tyler

and
3rd Fridays 7pm

WHATABURGER
311 S Main Street, Lindale
(Hwy 69 near Brookshire's)

BACK TO SCHOOL

TJC
FALL SEMESTER
MONDAY, AUGUST 22

TYLER ISD
WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 24
Tyler ISD



FREE WORKSHOP - FORT WORTH DEAF COMMUNITY LEGAL RIGHTS AUGUST 20 2 - 5PM

Goodrich Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing
2500 Lipscomb St. Fort Worth, TX 76110

Meet Amber Farrelly, Attorney at Law

Come learn and know your Rights
What to do when interacting with police, jail, the courts
and legal counsels

RSVP by August 15th to 682-990-3601 or
sheila.grady@dactexas.org

Funded by Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
Sponsored by Deaf Action Center

DATES PLACES

Seniors Outting

First Thursday, August 4



11:30AM LUNCH
The Catch
2551 S. Main
Lindale, TX

TDHHC and TMAD

Meet Saturday, August 6

1:15PM

Spring Creek Barbeque
5810 S Broadway
Tyler

Ladies Gathering

Saturday, Aug 13

1 - 5pm

Craft Ideas for
KissFist Christmas

Hostess Mica Baker & Susie Grona
Funtier Park community building
corner of Funtier Lane & Rustic Lane
Hideaway, TX

bring your favorite snacks and drinks to share
contact suzygrona@gmail.com
Let her know you are coming

SAVE THE DATE

October 21-23

New Beginnings Deaf Fellowship
5 year Anniversary Revival
Fri- Sunday, October 21-23, 2016
Calvary Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas.
For more information contact Kathy:
kathy@westberry.org or www.tdhhc.org



We APPRECIATE our Supporters and Sponsors
Thank You!



Thank You!



Thank You!



Thank You!

**Thanks
to Our
Volunteers!**

To receive a FREE paper copy of the TDHHC newsletter in your home mailbox
Send your request with your name and full address to
TDHHC at PO Box 6134
Tyler, TX 75711-6134
or email Newsletter@
connections@tdhhc.org

For more information about entering your articles or photos
email Newsletter @
connections@tdhhc.org