

# MDAD NEWSLETTER



## Letter from Editor's desk

Greeting Deaf and Hard of Hearing Marylanders and Friends:

We are proud to launch this issue. We want to transform this organization into something more inclusive for our community, whether the information comes from our website, our social media platforms, or now this newsletter. We have many things to be proud of.

The mandates that were voted and passed in November 2021 during our Biennial State Conference, are being accomplished.

We have the latest updates for you on this issue.

On a sadder note, we have lost one of our most beloved members, Marie Ann Campbell who has been instrumental to our organization and our community as a whole. As of her passing, she was the MDAD Treasurer. We dedicate a couple of pages in this newsletter to her.

Gail Edwards

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Want to contribute to the next newsletter, or have suggestions, please email MDAD Newsletter team at [media@mdad.tv](mailto:media@mdad.tv).



## President's Letter

Greetings Members,

The Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) Board is very excited to bring back the MDAD newsletter. We hope that you will enjoy reading this edition! MDAD has been working hard to ensure that our community's rights are protected on issues such as accessibility, promoting and protecting the civil, human, and linguistic rights of all Maryland's deaf citizens.

The year 2022 was filled with a lot of activities. We had our 65th Anniversary Gala Celebration, we also hosted our Symposium, and we partnered with the Governor's Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the town halls around the community.

We have been working on meeting the mandates that members voted on in our November 2021 Conference. I am thrilled to see that the Maryland Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Bill (MDIL) was passed and signed by Governor Wes Moore. We will update on each mandate during the Biennial State Conference.

We would like to dedicate this first edition of MDAD's 2023 Newsletter to our Treasurer, Marie Ann Campbell who passed away in November 2022. We are so excited to announce that MDAD has established a scholarship in her honor – Marie Ann Campbell Youth Scholarship. You may make donations to the scholarship online.

We look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming Biennial State Conference where we will have amazing workshops and a business meeting which includes the election for the new 2023-2025 Board.

Thank you so much for your continued patronage of MDAD.

Regards,

Kirsten Poston  
President



# Marie Ann Campbell's Celebration of Life by MDAD and Beth Hortie December 2, 1956 - November 24, 2022

Marie Ann Campbell is survived by her father, Thomas Campbell of St. Marys, Ohio; Thomas P. Campbell of Brookville, Ohio; stepsister, Debra (Scott) Hamilton of St. Marys, Ohio; stepbrother, Richard Craft (Patty) of West Milton, Ohio and a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her mother, Patricia (Lindley) Campbell; stepmother, Imogene Campbell; brother, Mark Campbell; and stepbrother, Ronnie Joe Craft.

She graduated from Ohio School for the Deaf and then first attended the Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute for the Deaf then moved to Gallaudet College (now University) and graduated with a degree in Business Administration in 1985. She was a proud member of Phi Kappa Zeta sorority.

Marie served 42 years in government beginning with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio then worked at the Pentagon. She started her longest career with the Internal Revenue Service in DC.

By volunteering, she devoted a major portion of her time with Miss Deaf America within the National Association of the Deaf and Maryland Association of the Deaf's (MDAD) Miss Deaf Maryland Pageant. Marie provided a lot of advice and support to pageant contestants. She also served in several positions within Phi Kappa Zeta sorority, MDAD, Eastern Deaf Timberfest, and Eastern Deaf Bikers.

Her passions have been focused on Deaf Youth and single mothers for years. Marie will always be remembered for her outgoing personality and smile. Her favorite pastimes include bowling, traveling, and attending various Deaf Club functions. She had a huge collection of holiday decorations which she loved. She was an avid fan of Ohio State and Baltimore Ravens football teams.



Marie, one sweet soul, is like a butterfly that loves to socialize. She was an avid and loyal supporter for a number of organizations, especially for Eastern Deaf Timberfest (EDT).

After EDT 's first Timberfest in 1994, Marie immediately jumped on the bandwagon and worked hard volunteering her time. She was with us and EDT until her passing.

As the long time treasurer of EDT, she was a perfectionist, very precise and organized, detailed with her documentation, and extremely neat. She was always prepared and brought piles of binders to Timberfest and its meetings

It was so fitting that she was often seen carrying a briefcase at Timberfest!

She was a strong believer in recognizing our volunteers at Timberfest and Family/Youth camp. Many of our volunteers received their recognition awards from Marie, with her cheerful personality, which is something all of us will forever remember. Marie was highly respected and had a huge heart for helping others. She would often be seen at a variety of other events in the DelMarVa area.

She was a valued friend to many and is sorely missed by all of us.

# MDAD Mandates

**Mandates #1 and #2 Legislation on CDI and Interpreter Licensure:** The mandate was introduced to ensure that all interpreters are qualified to work in the State of Maryland. They are placed together in one bill. MDAD has a team called “Maryland Interpreter Licensure” (MDIL) which is included MDAD and PCRID members. For the past few years, MDIL team has been working hard to push this bill. We are proud to announce that both House and Senate bills (HB 260 and SB 346) were passed by the House and Senate! Governor Moore signed on May 3, 2023! The law will be effective in October 2023.



**Mandate #3: Online Video Accessibility:** The mandate was introduced to ensure that all videos produced by the State Government and County Government are accessible to all. The Board currently is working on this mandate and plans to send a letter and guidelines to State Agencies and County Governments before the conference.

**Mandate #4: Scholarship Program:** The mandate was introduced to allow MDAD to establish the scholarship program. The Board established the scholarship in honor of Marie Ann Campbell’s name. This scholarship will give the youth either camp or academic at their choice.

**Mandate #5: Language Deprivation:** The mandate was introduced to ensure that children’s language milestones are met and ready for Kindergarten. Vice President Tina Joyner and Secretary Jacob Leffler take the lead of the committee. The Committee currently is divided into two groups: 1) Legislative and 2) Outreach. The Committee plans to share with the community and seek input. We are excited about this work!

**Mandate #6: Traffic Signals:** This mandate was introduced to ensure that the traffic signals have specific types of lights within the signals that will alert the drivers that the emergency vehicles with flashing lights are in the area where the drivers are. This will reduce the chance of being hit by emergency vehicles. Our Board Member Toyin Fasakin takes the lead on this one. It is now in the works.

**Mandate # 7: MD-EHDI:** This mandate was introduced to ensure that there are equal numbers of hearing and Deaf/HH workers in the Office of Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs (Maryland Department of Health). The Author of this mandate asked to withdraw so MDAD deprioritized this and the Board is not focusing on this during this administration.

**Mandate #8: Deaf Senior Citizen Issues:** The mandate was introduced because the community feels that MDAD needs to focus on Senior Citizen Issues and eliminate barriers. Our Board Member, Peter Un is working with the National Association of the Deaf, Deaf Seniors of America and Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens, Inc.

# Open Caption Movie Bill by Gabrielle Davis



In 2022, the Open Caption (OC) Committee members from the Baltimore City Association of the Deaf (BCAD), Howard County Association of the Deaf (HCAD), Metro South Asian Deaf Association (MSADA), and Prince George's County Association of the Deaf (PGCAD) worked very hard in gathering information to get the Open Captioning Movie Bill - HB 1238 passed but unfortunately, it did not go through.

The OC Committee researched issues such as open captioning adaptabilities and collected information by contacting all movie theaters in the State of Maryland. They also compared notes with other states' OC Bills and got the community to send letters to the legislative branch.

Currently, most movie theaters offer devices—such as captioning glasses and Captiview devices (which attach to your seat's cupholder and display the movie's closed captions in front of you)—to provide closed captioning for moviegoers with hearing loss.

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory of the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Additionally, studies have shown that hearing loss is much more common among older adults, and 91% of adults with hearing loss are aged 50 and older.

Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they can access the movie without using devices or other methods like other people who go to the cinema.

Due to the device problems i.e. battery failure, lack of connectivity, or sporadic connectivity that leads to dropped dialogue, the new Open Caption Movie House Bill (HB) #264 and Senate Bill (SB) #400 will require all movie theaters in the State of Maryland to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week per movie.

Delegate Harry Bhandari has been our biggest supporter for the past few years. In one of his articles, he mentioned that “open captioning is a smart business move that will increase profit by appealing to more customers and making Maryland a national leader in accessibility.” We are also pleased to have another huge advocate of this important Open Captioning Movie Bill, Senator Benjamin Brooks.

Unfortunately, the bill did not get voted on this year, we will try again in 2024 and work closely with Delegate Bhandari and Senator Brooks. We appreciate your continued support!



# Maryland Deaf Community Center (MDCC)

## By MaryLynn Lally



Maryland Deaf Community Center (MDCC) bought a property at 720 N. East Street, Frederick on September 2, 2022. Things are now on a roll to complete floor plans, submit them to Frederick City and Frederick County for code approval and get the remaining unsuitable buildings on the property razed. If you drive up East Street, you will see a large sign “Maryland Deaf Community Center.”

This is something that we all in the deaf community in the state of Maryland should be proud of, calling it our own. We owe much gratitude to the now-retired Senator Ron Young for the startup grant money from the State of Maryland to help purchase land for the Center.

This big dream of all deaf and hard-of-hearing Marylanders is costly so there have been a lot of fundraising events. We thank Capital Crave Restaurant (5901 Old National Pike, Frederick) for letting us host Bingo on the first Thursday of each month. We are now offering ASL classes to those interested in basic ASL signs at Dublin Roaster (17800 N. Market St., Frederick) on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30. They were very kind, letting us use the place after hours.

There will be a groundbreaking ceremony in the near future. To make sure you don't miss the event and other updates, be sure to check the MDCC website, [www.deafmdcc.org](http://www.deafmdcc.org), our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/deafmdcc](https://www.facebook.com/deafmdcc), our Instagram page, [www.instagram.com/deafmdcc](https://www.instagram.com/deafmdcc), or better yet, subscribe to our eBlast mailing list through the website.

# Gala 2022

## by Gabrielle Davis and Jacob Leffler



**What a success** — over 200 diverse people joined us on April 2, 2022, for this unique and fun event to celebrate MDAD 65h and the Governor’s Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GODHH)’s 20th Anniversaries at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront. MDAD is growing strong, and so is GODHH!

Attendees sampled signature dishes from local establishments, bid on exciting items at our silent auction, watched Gallaudet Dance Company and McBee ASL shows, and more. A slideshow showing history of GODHH and MDAD. We also watched recorded remarks from many past MDAD Presidents, a former congressman who congratulated MDAD Award recipients. Lastly, we danced the night away to music played by our famous Deaf DJ Kazeem Babatunde.



While we celebrated the successful Gala, we must also give thanks to the committee members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. It is those days and many hours that we must recognize the true heart of the Deaf people who are making MDAD and GODHH as they are every single day.

# National Association of the Deaf Conference 2022

## by Vikki Porter, Tina Joyner, Lori Leal, and Bobby Harris

### Day One: Many of Firsts

On the first day of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) conference, the famous (or infamous, depending on your view) Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) delegates—Tina Joyner, Vikki Porter, Lori Leal, and Bobby Harris—had an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and create new friends after the long pandemic break. Under the tutelage of three-times seasoned delegate Bobby, they learned the ropes during the first in-person Council of Representatives (COR) sessions. This conference was also the first time that there were more Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) delegates in attendance than the previous CORs. Another first was the establishment of three safe space lounges for the following groups: BIPOC, LGBTIQ2S+, and DeafBlind. The lounge concepts were based on feedback from the NAD conference in Hartford, Connecticut, giving these groups a chance to relax and regroup. These safe spaces also afforded opportunities for members of these groups to discuss and address their experiences with microaggressions caused by others.

Later that evening, NAD hosted an event entitled “Unity.” This was a first of its kind, allowing space for discussion of the “Don’t Say Gay” and “Critical Race Theory” laws that were recently passed in Florida.

At the end of the day, we barely had the time to eat. After walking approximately 4.5 miles around the conference and hotel areas all day long (true biz—the Apple watch notified us that), we were knocked out in bed before we could even say “good night”.



### Day Two: Some Things New and Knew Some Things

It was the first time at the NAD conference that we had a forum that focused on the bylaws amendments, along with the priority proposal forums. During the bylaws amendment forum, there was a discussion on few issues regarding to the bylaws. Not only that, but we had 14 bylaws amendment proposals. During priority proposal forums, we had 17 proposals and the NAD members voted on 8 out of 17. Those 8 proposals will be reduced to 5 by the delegates in the next COR session on day 3. During the open ceremony in the NAD@Night series, we had a lot of fun playing an online pop quiz about all things Florida created by emcee Kumar Singh via the Kahoot app. We also enjoyed the Sunshine 2.0 show, which had plenty of positive affirmation messages sprinkled throughout. Near the end, Singh performed a visual vernacular about the various -isms shown by different characters.



## Day Three: Elections

Early this morning in the Sunshine State, the delegates continued voting on the bylaws amendments. That work is not yet done, as it was suspended at 10:30 am EST, so the delegates could participate in the elections for the 2022- 2024 NAD Board.

### The Election Results

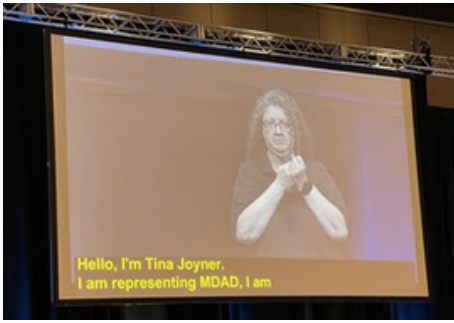
**President:** Jenny Buechner

**Vice President:** Stephanie Hakulin

**Secretary:** Milmaglyn Morales

**Treasurer:** Michelle Cline

**Region 1 Board:** Vacant



## Day Four: Finale

During COR, we finally wrapped up the Bylaws Amendment Proposals – WHEW! Then we turned our attention to the Priority Proposals. Why it took us so long to finish the bylaws proposals is just because of .... WORDSMITHING (Thanks to Harvey Corson from CT who identified the problem). Oh, by the way, we finally removed the OGG part from the bylaws. A couple of months ago, MDAD sent three proposals – 1) Super Bowl & Networks, 2) Deaf Senior Issues, and 3) VRI Guidelines. Two of the three were chosen by the members and both went to COR for final decision. One of two made to be in the top five. This priority is Deaf Seniors Issues. One of our delegates, Lori Leal went to the stage to explain about Deaf Senior Issues. She had butterflies in her stomach when she approached the stage. Once she began to say something, the butterflies flew away. Tina Joyner also explained the priority regarding VRI Guidelines on the stage.

The result of the five Proposed Priorities is:

- 1) Addressing the Well-Being Crisis Among Deaf Youth
- 2) Achieving Equity in Deaf Education
- 3) ASL Resources for Deaf Babies
- 4) Deaf Senior Issues
- 5) Dismantling Racism in the Deaf Community

At the conclusion of the final COR session, Past President Bobbie Beth Scoggins administered the oath of office to the new NAD administration. Congratulations to all!

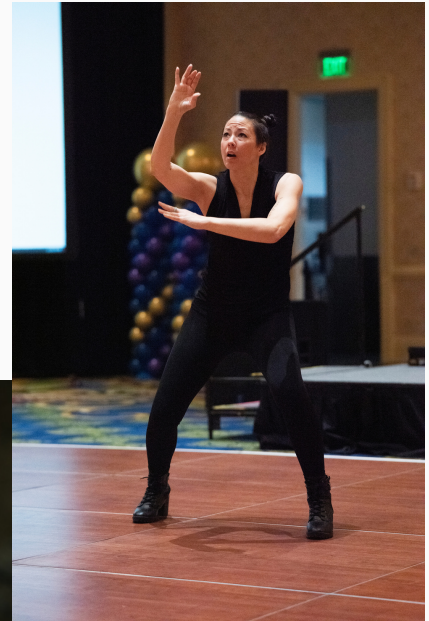
# Legislative Awareness Day



# MDAD and GODHH Town Hall 2022-2023



# Gala 2022





# MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF