

Progress is not easy, but together it can be *easier*

“United we stand, divided we fall.”

This quote was used by Patrick Henry in his last public speech, given in March 1799, in which he denounced the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions. This later became the Kentucky state motto, which appears on the state flag and in the state seal.

This motto, “United we stand, divided we fall” has resonated with me during the last several months. Our community is sensing a paradigm shift in how we view our culture, language, education and leadership.

“Divided we fall.” We must ask ourselves what divides us, what causes division and how do we react to that division? Division can be as simple as a misunderstanding or as complicated as a philosophical difference. An example of this is education and how 0-3 Early Identification and Intervention works. Within our

Written by
*Virginia L.
Moore*
KCDHH
Executive
Director

community we can find many differences from the national to the local level regarding this issue. I am not writing this article to choose sides or to say we have an answer. I am simply asking that we all remember this simple quote: “United we stand, divided we fall.”

The KCDHH Board is an example of how we can stand “United.” The board’s purpose is to bring together several organizations and individuals that represent the community in all of its different facets, including all the philosophical differences within the community and attempt to compromise on an approach to our goals. The board speaks with one voice to better the lives of the nearly 650,000 deaf and hard of hearing individuals across the state. This one voice is not always easy to accomplish; however, in order to move our community forward it becomes necessary to understand and believe the Kentucky state motto: “United we stand, divided we fall.”

The deaf and hard of hearing community is changing and we have to be “United” in how we approach each issue of concern. We may not totally agree with the different opinions we have regarding communication, but we must look to the greater good when making hard decisions if we are to move forward as a united body and accomplish our goals.

I want to make sure it is understood in this article that we should not compromise for “less” when it comes to improving our children’s educational possibilities, or ensuring equality for us all. A *signer* in a classroom is not a suitable substitute when there is no *certified interpreter*. We must continue to fight for what is best and what is right, all while keeping the goals of the whole community in mind.

Because there are so many different backgrounds and philosophies represented in our community, we must compromise at times if we are to move forward for the greater good. But we must be careful and not compromise to satisfy one person, or one group represented in the community. This may seem to you as a contradiction, but I see it as the only way to strive to be “United.” As we look forward to our future goals, I challenge you to bring your



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TAP update: AT&T changes

KCDHH started distribution of wireless devices within the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) in November of 2010. Since that time, more than 900 consumers have received free equipment and service assistance. Kentucky is the first and only state in the nation to offer a program of this kind through its equipment distribution program.



The pilot portion of the project has now ended and we are beginning a new phase. The company currently providing service, AT&T, is unable to continue providing service under the original plan rate and changes had to be made, through no fault of KCDHH.

Recipients of equipment **MUST** closely watch the bills and any letters that are sent from AT&T and be ready to transfer responsibility of service to their name. Consumers will receive a text message from AT&T when it is time to transfer. Some paperwork, a credit check and possible deposit will be required at this time. Go to www.kcdhh.org and watch the vlog in American Sign Language with captions for more details on this process and links to the resources you need to complete the transactions.

All recipients of equipment from KCDHH's TAP must meet these requirements once the initial service plan expires. Remember, if you received a text message from AT&T, it is **NOW** time for you to transfer service to your own account and assume responsibility for monthly payments. If you have questions not answered on the vlog, please call the KCDHH office at 800-372-2907 for assistance.

Together we can continue the success of the program and provide accessibility to all deaf and hard of hearing consumers across the state, so each of us can feel safe and in control of our own communication needs.

United we can move forward

Continued from front

opinions to the table, but I also ask that you understand we must strive to be united with our approach to meeting those goals if we are to improve the community as a whole.

The word compromise by its very definition indicates one must give up something for the greater good. We must all learn to compromise and look past our individual approaches to a solution if we are to move forward with the needs and goals of this community. I pledge to open my mind to all options and discuss them with you at any time, but you in return must know that the community functions as a whole and the greater good is the goal, not the personal accomplishment of one facet of this community. Let us set aside our differences and strive to make Kentucky's deaf and hard of hearing community "United" rather than "Divided," lest we risk failure of the whole.

Remembering Chuck

Chuck Baird's artwork graces nearly every wall of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing office in Frankfort. Although his brush was stilled Feb. 10, Chuck's presence continues to be felt.

Chuck was a participant in DeaFestival-Kentucky from its inception in 1996 through 2010, and a friend and mentor to artists in the deaf and hard of hearing community.

In 2003 agency staff member Anita Dowd wrote a poem about our friend, following his visit to the KCDHH office to work on the original DeaFestival horse.



A Knight in Paint Splattered Pants

His story resounds from the East to the West.
 He's quite good at his trade, in fact, one of the best.
 From "Detour" to "Colors," he's proven his skill.
 If we ask for his help, do you think that he will?
 Well, like any good knight, he answered our cry.
 Left his home in the sun, on a bird in the sky.
 No Armour, no lance, no shield does he need,
 With a brush and some color, he'll conquer that steed.
 His strong mighty hands worked that brush like a lance,
 And he wiped off the mess on the leg of his pants.
 As he battled the steed, he left maidens a flutter,
 A mere touch of his hands turned their knees into butter.
 Now the horse is defeated, the battles been won,
 We've shared lots of laughs and had lots of fun.
 And like any good tale, it has a great end,
 Tho he arrived here an idol, he's leaving as a friend.

Dowd '03

Chuck Baird
1947-2012



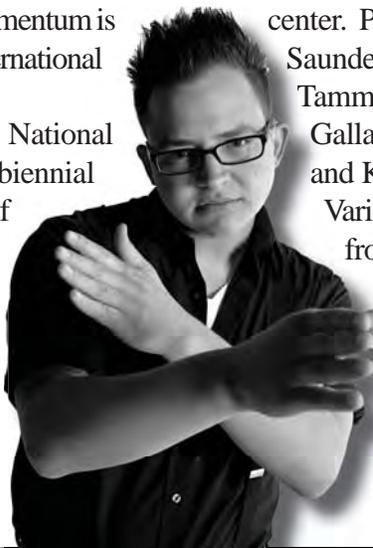
Performance lineup is taking shape for 2012 DeaFestival

This year's DeaFestival-Kentucky, our 10th production of this free event, is coming together and momentum is building to the July 7 event at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville.

DeaFestival is also partnering with the National Association of the Deaf, which is holding its biennial conference July 3-7, also in Louisville. If you want to participate in the NAD conference, please visit www.nad.org, for information and to register and pay for the conference. During the NAD conference, access to the DeaFestival art exhibit hall is free.

The kids' program, which carries the theme of "Children's Fables," will run

Sean Forbes



10-11 a.m. and noon-3 p.m. outside the convention center. Performers will include Peter Cook, Crom Saunders, The Anderson Twins-Clay and Levi, Tammy Ellis, Mindy Moore, Theron Parker and Gallaudet University students Travis Zornoza and Kelly Martin.

Variety peppers the SpotLights Main Stage from noon-4:30 p.m. See storytelling, dance, comedy, ventriloquism, music (pop, rap, rock 'n' roll), magic, and ASL Slam. On the roster for SpotLights are headliner Sean Forbes, Pinky Aiello, The Anderson Twins, Tammy Ellis, Warren "Wa Wa" Snipe,

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Fun for all ages at DeaFestival, NAD conference

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Matthew “Magic” Morgan, Liliana Morgan, Peter Cook, Crom Sanders, Bob Hilterman and Ed Chevy.

Sean Forbes returns later that night to the Jam Tent on Fourth Street, which also will feature Mindy Moore,

Warren “Wa Wa” Snipe and rock sensation Beethoven’s Nightmare (Steve Longo, Bob Hilterman, Ed Chevy and backup singers).

For more information, visit: www.deafestival.org.



Call to nominees for Margie Bridges Award

The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is seeking nominees for the 2012 Margie Bridges Pay It Forward Award.



Margie Bridges

This special honor was created in 2008 to be awarded every two years at DeaFestival-Kentucky in

recognition of a who works above and beyond their normal obligations to help the state’s deaf and hard of hearing community.

The award is named for Margie Bridges, who was a volunteer with KCDHH from 2000 until late 2007. Bridges was named the inaugural winner of the award at DeaFestival-Kentucky 2008. In 2010 the award went to George Payne.

Anyone is welcome to submit a nominee for this recognition. No-

minees must be Kentucky residents and deaf or hard of hearing.

You must write down a brief explanation of why you think the person deserves to be recognized as the 2012 Margie Bridges Pay It Forward Award recipient.

Nominations can be sent to katie.huber@ky.gov or mailed to KCDHH’s agency office, 632 Versailles Road, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.

Nomination deadline is June 1.

Settlement reached with hospital over access to interpreter

In a Jan. 19 press release the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights said Louisville-based Jewish Hospital settled a complaint by University of Louisville professor and deaf and hard of hearing advocate Timothy Owens that the hospital had failed to provide an American Sign Language Interpreter on visits when he was being treated with medicines and receiving other medical care.

Before the commission could complete its investigation of Owens’ claim, he and the hospital agreed to a resolution in which Jewish Hospital compensated Owens \$1,500 and underwent civil rights compliance training for its employees that meet the public every day.

The hospital also agreed to a three-year compliance monitoring period by the commission.



In March Jewish Hospital announced it had hired Casey Tinsley-White as its ASL medical interpreter. Tinsley-White will be available Monday through Friday during first shift. She also will facilitate use of a video remote interpreter service and other resources to meet patient needs.



New face at KCDHH office

Tom Musgrave joined KCDHH Jan. 17 as the agency’s Information Office Supervisor. As part of his duties he will help steer the agency’s public relations, promotional and outreach efforts.

Prior to joining the Commission staff, he was a reporter for almost 15 years, working as a writer and editor at newspapers in Mt. Sterling and Georgetown and at a Lexington-based thoroughbred racing and breeding news magazine.

He and his wife, Julia, live in Georgetown with their two dogs and seven cats.

Just Betty...

Today Betty Timon is a staunch advocate for the deaf and hard of hearing, particularly for seniors who experience hearing loss. But she was forthcoming about the fact that it took her a little longer to latch onto being her own advocate soon after her own hearing loss diagnosis.

For about 35 years, Timon had full use of her hearing. But about 40 years ago at a routine examination following a tonsillectomy, she asked her doctor a question that would end up changing her life.

"I told him my ear was starting to hurt all the time when I'm on the telephone," Timon said. "The only thing I can think of is that I'm pressing too hard. So I want to know."

The doctor told Timon she had nerve deafness, or sensorineural deafness, which is hearing loss that occurs from damage to the inner ear, the nerve that runs from the ear to the brain (auditory nerve), or the brain.

"He said it could stay like it is or it can get progressively worse," she said.

Nerve deafness can develop in children or adults, according to the National Institutes of Health. Symptoms include certain sounds



Betty Timon places a call on a captioning telephone, one of the many technologies available to help her communicate with friends and family.

seeming too loud, difficulty following conversations when two or more people are talking, difficulty hearing in noisy areas, an easier time hearing men's voices than women's voices, difficulty distinguishing high-pitched sounds (like "s" or "th") from one another, other peoples' voices sounding mumbled or slurred or problems hearing when there is background noise.

It was about five years, though, between the time Timon was diagnosed with hearing loss to when she decided to get hearing aids. And even then, she said she shunned using them.

"The first set, I think, lasted six months before they ended up in the drawer," she said. "Vanity took over, and I didn't want anybody to know I was wearing hearing aids."

She soon realized, though, that she was denying herself a chance to experience life. She said the experience is something that any adult diagnosed with a hearing loss should grab with both hands.

"It's just up to you to better your life, because you've got a bigger understanding of something being taken away, and so it makes you appreciate life a little bit more," Timon said.

Timon said the time to start advocating for yourself is the day you find out you are suffering a hearing loss.

"That's the best time in the world to get whatever hearing aid or functional thing you can use to be able to hear better," she said.

Timon, citing her own experience, said it takes time to grow accustomed to the amplified sound a hearing aid provides, especially if a person has been living with the silence for so long. The brain has to be trained to "listen in a different way," she said.

"You've gotta find the limitations with it," she said. "But the sooner you start, the better you'll start hearing and the more you start lipreading and putting the whole bag together, you'll end up with a whole bag of candy."

Scoreboard captioning ready for UK kickoff this fall

The scoreboard at Commonwealth Stadium will carry captions of everything from "My Old Kentucky Home" to the play-by-play announcements this fall.

Charles Mitchell, a deaf UK football season ticket holder, and the university settled a lawsuit over closed-captioning at the stadium, according to a Feb. 15 story from The Associated Press in Louisville.

Mitchell sued the university in May to force the school to

put captions for all game announcements on scoreboards in accordance with the ADA. Similar cases have been brought against Ohio State University and the NFL's Washington Redskins.

UK started doing some captioning late last year, according to the AP report. Mitchell's attorney, Laren Knoll of Columbus, Ohio, said the practice should be fully implemented in time for UK's Sept. 8 kick-off against Kent State.



KCDHH

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SUMMER EVENTS

LAD DERBY PARTY

May 5, noon-11 p.m.

Post 220
2107 Crums Lane, Louisville
Cost: \$5 members and non-members
Information: Mary Kaiser, (502) 416-0113

PIKEVILLE DEAF CLUB HILLBILLY PICNIC

June 8-9

Jenny Wiley State Park, Prestonsburg

FAMILY LEARNING VACATION

June 9-10

Kentucky School for the Deaf, Danville
Information: Linda Cannon, (859) 239-7017, (859) 936-6722 or
Linda.cannon@ksd.kyschools.us

AGRICULTURAL EXPLORATION CAMP

*June 10-22, with optional camping trip
June 15-17*

Kentucky School for the Deaf, Danville
Information: Sandy Smock, (859) 239-7017

KSD SUMMER SCHOOL

June 10-22

Kentucky School for the Deaf, Danville
Cost: \$50
Information: Barb Snapp, (859) 936-6816
V/TTY or barb.snapp@ksd.kyschools.us

KENTUCKY LIONS YOUTH CAMP FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN

July 2-6

Lions Camp Crescendo, Lebanon Junction
Information: Will Mayer, w.mayer@lions-
campcrescendo.org or Christina Turpen,
c.turpen@lions-campcrescendo.org

NAD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

July 3-7

Hyatt Regency Louisville and Kentucky
International Convention Center, Louisville
Information: www.nad.org/louisville

DEAFESTIVAL-KENTUCKY

July 7

Kentucky International Convention Center,
Louisville
Information: www.deafestival.org

BLUEGRASS BIKERS TOUR POKER RUN ALONG THE KENTUCKY BOURBON TRAIL

July 8-10

Information: Dick Moore, RideKYCSD@
aol.com

DEAF YOUTH SPORTS FESTIVAL

July 22-28

University of Louisville
Information: TeamMDO@aol.com

MILDRED MIDDLETON'S DEAF PICNIC 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Aug. 12, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Kentucky Dam Village State Park Lake
Pavilion, Gilbertsville

For more information on these
and other events, please visit the
KCDHH Web Bulletin Board at
[http://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/home/
bulletin.html](http://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/home/bulletin.html)