



November's (2022) KCDHH Spotlight Q&A is with Edie Ryan, who serves on the KCDHH Commission Board. Ryan is from Chicago, IL but calls Paducah her home. She graduated from East Leyden High School in Franklyn Park, IL. She is a licensed certified interpreter by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and worked as an educational interpreter for the past 30-plus years. She also does private practice interpreting the western Kentucky area and is active in the deaf community. Ryan is mom to Josh and Danyell and has three grandchildren, Joshua, Julia, and Kylie.

Why did you want to serve as a KCDHH board member? Many of my life lessons came from deaf people. I see many needs in Kentucky for deaf individuals. I want to be part of the solution.

What does your work at KCDHH mean to you? This is my life work! It fuels me to do this work. "Do what you love and you will always love what you do.:"

How previous experience have you had (personal or professional) that has aided in your position at KCDHH? Raised in a family with deaf parents, aunts, uncles, their friends have obviously influenced me culturally.

What do you think is the current issue facing DHH individuals? Equal access, jobs, technology affordability (hearing aids, internet, etc.), interpreters with doctors and hepatitis.

What do you want KCDHH to accomplish in the next year? For us to continue on our forward trajectory. Everything takes so much time to make happen. Those of us on this Board have the best interest of all Kentucky deaf and hard of hearing as we work.

How has your life experiences made you the leader you are today? I wanted to give back to those that taught me so much. I use the insight I was given through deaf culture.

What's your favorite inspirational quote? "Do what you love, love what you do."

What's on your bucket list? Alaskan Cruise

What leader do you most admire and why? Any leader who encourages the "leader" in others to come out.