



AZ HANDWIND

Official Newsletter of the Arizona Association of the Deaf

June 2008

Volume XIII, Number 2

**AZAD Board of Directors
Jan 1, 2008 –
Dec 31, 2009**

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PHOENIX DAY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF NEEDS CHANGE AND IMPROVEMENT

According to the homepage of the Phoenix Day School for the Deaf (PDSB), the PDSB is a division of the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. Firstly, the purpose of the PDSB is to provide a comprehensive education program for deaf and hard of hearing students. Secondly, the school supports an educational philosophy that includes the acquisition and development of two languages: American Sign Language and English. The PDSB serves school aged deaf and hard of hearing students who live within the metropolitan Phoenix area where daily transportation is feasible. The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools fully accredit the Elementary and High School Departments of the PDSB.

On Sunday, May 18, 2008, a large number of parents, students, teachers, staff members, and community leaders participated in a forum at the Burton Barr Library from 3 PM to 6 PM. They reached a consensus that in general they were dissatisfied with the PDSB. When a question about the forum attendees' confidence in the school principal's ability to lead the PDSB came up, their response was pessimistic. The principal has deferred some significant management responsibilities to several coordinators of media technology, drama, art and physical education as well as the new building under construction on the campus. There is a serious concern related to the questionably legitimate authority of one coordinator from whom almost all activities on the campus require permission.



Parents, teachers, staff members, students, and deaf community leaders attended the forum to address concerns and issues about the PDSB on Sunday, May 18, 2008.

The Public School #47 for the Deaf in New York City went through the successful process of changing teaching methods from oral to bilingual about ten years ago. Politically speaking, the forum attendees actually have more influence on state
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- Editor: Larry Forestal
- For newsletter information, contact: LForestal@aol.com
- For further information on the AZAD, contact: President Jim Oster at JAOster@aol.com
- For membership information, contact: Treasurer Larry DeVenny at bluelali@aol.com

Utah Deaf Genealogical Association

5th Family History Conference
June 18-21, 2008
Radisson Hotel –Downtown Salt Lake City, Utah

Deaf lecturers present all workshops.

For information, contact W. David Samuelson dsam@sampubco.com

Registration fee for \$140.00 covers classes, educational materials and banquet.

Deadline is March 31, 2008.
Registration will cost \$160.00 from April 1 to June 1, 2008.

Please make check payable to:
Utah Deaf Genealogical Association
c/o Patty Kitchen
382 N. 580 W
American Fork, UT 84003-1467

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legislators than those in local public schools because they come from diverse legislative districts where they could have a greater number of state legislators represent their stakes. Legislative action needs will be determined in the very near future. Additionally, it is critically important for everyone to register to vote in home legislative districts.

There are repeated concerns and frustrations related to the PDSO evaluation department personnel. For example, many of the forum attendees felt frustrated because the current IEP team has substantially adhered to the practice of ignoring parent requests. [Note: IEP stands for the Individual Education Plan within the Federal law: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).] When many of the parents encountered resistance from the IEP team, they felt helpless. They definitely need a support system, which would protect their parent rights as the IDEA currently provides.

Parents should be able to contact the State Department of Education's Exceptional Student Services in order to make a complaint about IEPs. Undoubtedly, some of them certainly need legal assistance in making a complaint effectively. Disputes can be resolved through Kacey Gregson at (602) 542-3084 or Kacey.Gregson@azed.gov. Parents can fill out and mail the simple form at <http://www.ade.state.az.us/ess/dispute/complaints/StateComplaintForm.pdf>.

The State Department of Education takes all complaints seriously. The PDSO should quickly follow up whenever such complaints are filed. The more complaints that are filed, the more likely the State will take a closer look at the practices of the PDSO Evaluation/IEP team.

In the area of the PDSO Communication Policy, the administration claims that the current communication policy is not enforceable because "it lacks teeth." Parent representatives counterclaim that it is false because if the administrative personnel are expected to comply with the communication policy, there are still remedies available by utilizing clauses of the General Conduct Policy that include acts of unprofessional conduct, insubordination, and even "improper attitude" as grounds for disciplinary action for those who defy any policy. In 1997 and 2003, two different task forces formulated a revised and updated communication policy but both times, the school administration discarded and did not utilize it.

There is a great need for a new organization for the PDSO parents, teachers, staff members and students in order to legitimize their concerns and legislative strategies. They will make organizational name proposals, draft goals and plans, and set a summer meeting date. In addition, they will draft a formal position statement. They are also concerned about the excessive dominance of a few audists at the PDSO. The Arizona Association of the Deaf (AZAD), the Arizona Bilingual Coalition (ABC), the Valley of the Sun GUAA Chapter, and the CAZAD expressed support for changes and improvements at the PDSO.

Two parent representatives, Beca Bailey and Rob Voreck proposed a meeting with the PDSO administration on May 14 and May 20. It was not successful due to the administrators' scheduling conflicts. ASDB's Assistant Superintendent Hill suggested May 27 as an alternative meeting date. Responses from the school administration have been disappointing and discouraging.

The PDSO has become a national issue. Unfortunately, the PDSO is not a "deaf friendly" environment.



EDITORIAL

OPEN CAPTIONING IN PUBLIC CINEMAS AND MOVIE THEATERS

In 1929 a postmaster, Homer C. Ludden moved to this wide-open territory from Surprise, Nebraska, and founded Surprise, Arizona along US Route 60/State Highway 93. He was the one who recommended that the new town be named Surprise. In 1960, Surprise became incorporated. Surprise is one of the fastest growing towns in the nation

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Get Acquainted with the
AZAD Board of Directors

**Saturday, May 31, 2008
Tucson Deaf Community
Center (TDCC)
10:00 AM to Noon**

**Everyone is welcome to
the AZAD Board of
Directors meeting. The
AZAD will provide pizza
and cold drinks at 12:00-
3:00 PM.**

Directions from Phoenix:

1. Start out going WEST on E WASHINGTON ST toward N CENTRAL AVE. (1 mile)
2. Turn LEFT onto S 1ST AVE. (4 miles)
3. Turn LEFT onto W LINCOLN ST. (6 miles)
4. Turn RIGHT onto S 7TH ST. (1 mile)
5. Turn LEFT onto E MARICOPA FWY.
6. Merge onto I-17 S/US-60 E via the ramp on the LEFT toward TUCSON. (1.2 miles)
7. Merge onto I-10 E via the exit on the LEFT toward GLOBE/TUCSON. (105.2 miles)
8. Take the PRINCE RD exit, EXIT 254. (4 miles)
9. Stay STRAIGHT to go onto N FREEWAY RD. (1.9 miles)
10. Turn LEFT onto W GRANT RD.
11. Turn RIGHT onto N ORACLE RD/I-10 BL E.
12. Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto W DRACHMAN ST.
13. Turn LEFT onto N 11TH AVE.
14. End at 1435 N 11th Ave Tucson, AZ 85705-6521

**Carol Harter, AZAD Board
Member for Tucson
cahart27@msn.com**

**Bill Baim, AZAD Board
Member at Large
CalFan5617@aol.com**

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about 25 minutes northwest of downtown Phoenix. Since the late 1990s, approximately 120,000 people have moved to the town of unique beauty where about 200 deaf and hard of hearing people have chosen to settle down.

Like many senior citizens seeking a comfortable climate and good life, a deaf couple. Norbert and Barbara Enos decided to move to Surprise from San Jose, California few years ago. They are among thirty deaf residents of Sun City Grand, which Del Webb built in 1997. For the past several years, Norbert has taken an active role of leadership on behalf of a newly established organization known as The Deaf Community of Surprise. Norbert has worked closely with Nanette Bowles who is the Advocate for the Disabled in the Town of Surprise.

Norbert wrote a letter to the newly built UltraStar Cinemas in Surprise urging them to have the technology of open captioning in place to assure deaf and hard of hearing residents that they could appreciate viewing movies like those who always do in public. Additionally, they met with people who will be managing the Surprise UltraStar Cinema on May 21, 2008. To this editor's understanding, the UltraStar Cinema is very receptive to the open captioning needs of deaf and hard of hearing citizens. The cinema managers had the similar experience with deaf and hard of hearing residents of Riverside, California.

Deaf and hard of hearing Americans have the right to equal access to public information for example, viewing movies with open captions in public cinemas or movie theaters. What some movie theater companies still do not understand is that in general, deaf people do not want the cumbersome handholding method of viewing movies. For example, AMC, Harkins, United Artists and West Wind encourage deaf and hard of hearing people to use this "closed captioning" method of viewing movies.

This editor recently sent a motion online to the National Association of the Deaf that the NAD aggressively push the technically practical concept of having current and future movies open-captioned in all public cinemas or movie theaters across America. The rationale is that there has been awfully a disparity of perspectives among a variety of movie companies about the reality that deaf and hard of hearing movie viewers have the right to appreciate viewing movies just like the public do. The AZAD believes that we deaf and hard of hearing citizens have equal and human rights in the State of Arizona and the nation.

In fact, deaf and hard of hearing Americans prefer and want open captioning which allow them to view movies with visible English captions on the screen. All movie companies should realize that the ADA allows and encourages reasonable accommodations. Thus, the open captioning of movies, old and new alike, in public cinemas or movie theaters is technically possible and practical.

NAD...Together, we move forward!

Trudy Suggs, NAD Board Secretary recently advised AZAD Secretary Larry Forestal that the NAD received the following motions regarding American Sign Language that will be addressed to the upcoming NAD Conference at New Orleans on July 7-11, 2008.

Title of Motion - NAD Position Paper on American Sign Language

Be it resolved that the Council of Representatives highly commend the NAD's position statement on American Sign Language as a legitimate and natural language of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Americans and be it further resolved that the NAD continue to carefully monitor the nationwide acceptance of American Sign Language in all public and private sectors in the United States.

Rationale for this Motion

The NAD has long known conflicting perspectives of American Sign Language, for example, the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf's objections to the Pepsi advertisements, TV programs and movies that encourage the high profile and beauty of

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Category Title LINKS:

**Arizona Association
of the Deaf (AZAD)**
www.azadinc.org

**Phoenix Association
of the Deaf**
www.padinc.org

**Arizona Deaf Senior
Citizens Coalition**
New webpage TBA

**Arizona Commission for
the Deaf and
Hard of Hearing**
www.acdhh.gov

**National Association of
the Deaf**
www.nad.org

**Biennial NAD Conference
New Orleans
July 7-11, 2008**
www.nad.org/conference

**American Sign Language
Teachers Association
2009 Conference**
Arizona Biltmore
Resort & SPA
Phoenix
Oct 29-Nov 1, 2009
www.aslta.org
For information, contact
gfrancini11@aol.com

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American Sign Language. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Americans use American Sign Language for everyday communication. In addition, sign language interpreters have proven that they could effectively bridge communication between deaf people and hearing people via VRS as well as in all fields serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in the United States.

Title of Motion - Federal Legislation of American Sign Language

Be it resolved that the Council of Representatives encourage and support the NAD's long range plan and pursuit for Federal legislation of American Sign Language as a natural and legitimate language of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Americans. Be it further resolved that the NAD investigate all legal precedents and legislative possibilities, and keep records of background and historical reviews of other nations, which have succeeded in the similar Federal legislation of their sign languages.

Rationale for this Motion

The NAD has proclaimed American Sign Language as a legitimate and natural language, historically dated back to 1880. The NAD emerged to protect and preserve the sign language rights of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Americans. It came up again during the times of NAD President George Veditz in the 1910s as well as those of preceding and following NAD Presidents. Based on Dr. William Stokoe's early linguistic research and current linguistics, American Sign Language has become one of the most popular courses in the American educational institutions.

Fiscal Impact

It would be worth every cent of the American currency. The allocation of \$20,000 should make a good start for the NAD. American Sign Language is one of the NAD's top priorities. Realistically, American Sign Language meets and will meet the equal access need of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Americans.

**BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF at Tucson
MINUTES OF GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING - Sunday, September 30, 2007**

Note: The membership approved the minutes as read during the general meeting at the Phoenix Deaf Community Center on Saturday, January 26, 2008.

President Jim Oster called a general business meeting to order at 9:10 AM. Twenty-nine members and four visitors were present.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President's Report - President Oster spoke of his first term printed in the August 2007 issue of **AZ HANDWIND**. He presented his vision of what the future of AZAD would be like in several years to come. He stated that the AZAD should be more creative, proactive and vocal on all fronts across the state of Arizona. Top priorities are the financial growth of AZAD and better working relations with various state organizations that share common interests. President Oster mentioned that the NAD Conference took place at Palm Spring, California where he represented the AZAD. He presented his thinking that the NAD business proceedings could have been better in the light of his comparisons with previous NAD conferences. He had been hesitant about running for another term but he had decided to go for it in the best interests of the AZAD.

Secretary's Report - Secretary Larry Forestal stated that President Oster appointed him to the office of Secretary several months prior to the conference. He explained the updated format of the AZAD newsletter: **AZ HANDWIND**. He believed that a better public image of this newsletter could help attract members, old and new alike. It is online as well as on the AZAD website.

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**Arizona Association
of the Deaf
Established in 1936**

The mission of the Arizona Association of the Deaf is to promote, protect and preserve the rights and quality of life of deaf and hard of hearing individuals who are current citizens of the state of Arizona. Since the National Association of the Deaf is a federation of approximately 50 State Associations of the Deaf through affiliation, the AZAD is affiliated with the NAD.

WHY NOT JOIN THE AZAD NOW

ALTERNATIVELY, RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AS SOON AS YOU CAN

Regular \$24.00 biennial membership dues or Senior \$20.00 biennial membership dues

Please note that the AZAD will prorate your membership dues from one biennial conference to next conference.

Please make your check or money order payable to: AZAD and mail to:

**AZAD Treasurer
2388 N. Central Ave.
PMB #277
Phoenix, AZ 85004
BIG THANKS!**

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Treasurer's Report - The current balance is \$7,614.18 but the Treasurer will have it audited by January 2008.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The membership approved Treasurer's report made at the general meeting during the 2005 AZAD conference at Black Canyon Center in Phoenix.
2. Deb Stone (Joyce Goodson) moved that the membership approve the 2005 Policy & Procedure Manual (PPM) as corrected. Passed

NEW BUSINESS

1. Deb Stone (Judith Belkoski) moved to approve the bylaws proposal made by Larry Forestal as a whole with the understanding that change recommendations be included at next business general meeting in January 2008. Tom Buell (Penny Posedly) amended that the printed material be available to the membership for final approval at that meeting. Passed
 2. Deb Stone (Judith Belkoski) moved that the newsletter, **AZ HANDWIND** be limited to the current AZAD members. Failed
 3. Judith Belkoski (Astrid Goodstein) moved that hearing members of the AZAD not be eligible for running for officers of the AZAD. Passed but we should keep in mind that Goodson's suggestion that the Board of Directors review the member status of hearing persons was referred to the Law Committee. The current bylaws revision proposal includes a revised clause.
 4. Larry Forestal (Tom Buell) moved that biennial AZAD membership dues be half down to \$12.00 per member and \$10.00 per senior member. Harvey Goodstein (William Baim) moved to refer it to the Board of Directors for further review. Passed
 5. Astrid Goodstein (Judith Belkoski) moved that AZAD develop a membership drive committee. Harvey Goodstein (Deb Stone) moved to amend that AZAD President appoint this committee. Both the motion and amendment passed.
 6. Mark King suggested that the AZAD videotape future biennial conferences and utilize larger screens.
 7. Astrid Goodstein (Judith Belkoski) moved that AZAD make the celebration of ASL as a legitimate language an annual event in Arizona. Passed
 8. Deb Stone (Jeff Stone) moved that the AZAD host a Deaf Festival during the Deaf Awareness Week annually. Eric Hamlow amended that it takes place in conjunction with the biennial AZAD Conference. Passed
- New business closed by general consent.

ELECTION OF AZAD OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

1. The membership approved President Jim Oster by acclamation. The membership nominated Tom Buell and Angel Ramos for Vice-President, and they reelected Tom Buell by a majority vote. The membership approved Secretary Larry Forestal by acclamation. The membership accepted Larry DeVenny as new Treasurer by acclamation. The membership approved Pamela Maneri of Prescott as the Area Code 928E Representative. The membership nominated Mark King and Walter Werra for the Area Code 623 Representative, and elected Mark King by a majority vote. The membership nominated Tom Posedly and Kelly Twidt for the Area Code 602 Representative, and elected Tom Posedly by a majority vote. Rebecca Himes is the Area Code 480 Representative in the eastern part of Phoenix with two years of her term remaining. The membership approved Carol Harter as the Area Code 520 Representative in Tucson and southern Arizona for a 4-year term by acclamation. The membership nominated Deb Stone and Kelly Twidt for the Arizona as a Whole Representative, and elected Deb Stone for a 2-year term by a majority vote.
2. The general business meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Forestal, AZAD Secretary