



# AZ HANDWIND

September 2008

Official Newsletter of the Arizona Association of the Deaf, Inc.

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Jan 1, 2008–Dec 31, 2009

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## Dr. Nancy Amann New Principal of the Arizona School for the Deaf and the Blind at Tucson

On June 9, 2008, the Board of Directors of the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind approved the formal appointment of Dr. Nancy Hlibok Amann as Principal of the Arizona School for the Deaf and the Blind (preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and ages 2-22). Nancy was previously Middle School Supervising Teacher for 18 months. She is also involved in the professional development of Essential Elements of Instruction at the ASDB and the Phoenix Day School for the Deaf. She received a Ph.D. in Bi-literacy and Reading from the University of Arizona. Undoubtedly, Nancy's expertise in literacy and reading enabled her to land the position of K-12 ASL Specialist at the ASDB for three and half years. She was Literacy Specialist at the ASDB and the PDSB where she coordinated the Shared Reading Program for two years. She was American Sign Language Lecturer at Arizona State University for three years. Nancy resides in Tucson with her husband, Alan Amann and three children, Nathaniel, 13, Briana, 10, and Kelsey, 6. This editor believes Nancy's deaf parents, Albert and Peggy Hlibok of New York City, and two deaf brothers, Stephen Hlibok and Greg Hlibok of Maryland are very proud of her professional accomplishments. The AZAD wishes Nancy heart-felt congratulations and great success in many years to come!



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## President Oster's Message

### Just a reminder...you got next U.S. President to elect on November 4, 2008

I can't believe the summer of 2008 is almost over! Time is passing by so quickly, I'm starting to feel there's not enough time in the day, months in the year or years in the decade. Who wants to grow old? (Did I mention this before?) As I look back this year, there's a lot to be thankful for. Good health, good winter weather, good dry hot summer weather (better than 80 degrees with tropical humidity, no?) Good friends, I am also grateful to know that we have an organization affiliated with a national organization to look after our interests as a deaf society, locally and nationally. During the NAD Regional IV conference last November in Salt Lake City, Utah, President Bobbi Beth Scoggins reiterated our mission:

**"To promote, protect and preserve our rights as deaf and hard of hearing citizens of the United States."**

Thus, the AZAD has a similar mission: its fellow members' involvement. Lest we forget, let us be constantly reminded that all the rights we have fought for have never come easily. Yet, it is easier still to lose it all through indifference.

**Nothing should be taken for granted.** The presidential election is nearing! We have witnessed numerous close elections in the past where a few votes could have made a difference in presidential elections. Remember Ohio and Florida? Is there a lesson to be learned here? **An astounding yes!** Your registered *vote counts!*

**AZ HANDWIND IS PRINTED  
QUARTERLY DURING THE  
MONTHS OF MARCH, JUNE,  
SEPTEMBER AND  
DECEMBER.**

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**News of Interest:**

**THE CLARKE SCHOOL  
FOR THE DEAF**

(From *Deaf Digest Blue*,  
8/10/2008)

Leonard House, gone; Yale House, gone; Pratt Cottage, gone; and now this - Parsons House, to be gone. Old Clarke, no more; new Clarke is the future.

The Clarke School for the Deaf campus in Northampton, MA is shrinking a bit by bit, by selling off these old houses. But in return, the school is reinventing itself by establishing "campus branches" at selected locations in the United States.

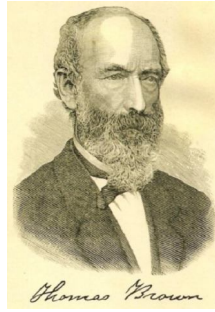
Recently, the proposed sale of the Parsons House hit the news.

**A DEAF TRUCK DRIVER  
FOR COCA-COLA**

(From *Deaf Digest Blue*,  
8/10/2008)

Adalberto Rodriquez, a deaf New York resident, is a truck driver for Coca-

**Modern Technology** has made our leaders more personal and much more accountable. Even our news reporters today are feeling the pressure of providing accurate and honest reporting. We, the People, have access to pretty much the same information through the Internet. Oftentimes, news we get in the morning and evening newspapers are old and outdated. More importantly though, we must realize that the first amendment of the United States Constitution is being constantly attacked and circumvented under the banner of national security and ideology. It is our responsibility to elect our leaders to defend our Constitution which protects us including the Deaf Community. Remember, you can not vote if you are not registered. You are not doing your duty if you do not vote. Make democracy work by voting!



**Who was the possibly first deaf leader in the United States?  
Larry Forestal**

**THOMAS BROWN, "Deaf Cincinnatus of America"**

Current historical research shows that Thomas Brown was possibly the first American Deaf leader. He was born in Henniker, New Hampshire in 1804. He attended the American School for the Deaf at the age of 18. Laurent Clerc, Thomas H. Gallaudet, and Isaac Peet taught him for 5 years. Subsequently, Brown became an eloquent orator and a skilled networker. He and other deaf New England representatives founded the New England Gallaudet Association of the Deaf in 1854. During the second NAD Convention in New York City in 1883, at the age of 79 years, Brown presented his argument that deaf persons had difficulty in finding employment due to a lack of proper vocational training. His gravestone reads: *"The deaf ear shall be unstopped and the tongue of the dumb shall sing."*

**Parent's Wishes for the Deaf Child Not Necessarily  
in the Best Interest of the Child's Needs**

**Jim Oster**

As a former deaf child who was raised by hearing parents who frowned on sign language and made sure I was raised orally, I have become a living testimony to the fallacy that the oral method of teaching creates opportunities of total acceptance among my hearing counterparts. This was emulated in Alexander G. Bell's passion for teaching oral skills. It was his lifetime denial that it was okay to be deaf and to rely on sign language as an intelligent entity coexisting with hearing counterparts. He saw that the Deaf in general were very much content with themselves, culture and language. This was too much for him to bear as he saw the painful anxiety among hearing parents of deaf children. It was his life's work to provide hope to parents of "unfortunate" deaf children who were being self enticed to sign language and becoming clannish with their own as they got older. In other words, parents' worst nightmare was to lose their grown up deaf children to the Deaf-World. All too often, that was the case.

Here's the truth...how is it justified to expect deaf children with imperfect hearing, (even with hearing aids and/or cochlear implants) to develop normal speech? And at the same time **have hearing parents not learned sign communications with their normal hands?** Where is the justification to encourage hearing infants to use signs but deny deaf babies sign language? It does not make sense. There isn't any and there never will be! So what is this all about?

It is about **not** allowing us to be different and hopeful, and unique and successful. There are no quick fixes with deafness. Cochlear implants (CI) can only do so much for us, but at night we are still deaf. Sign language is a survival visual tool. If parents want to implant their deaf infants with cochlear implants, they should have Plan B because sooner or later these audio instruments will deteriorate or break. (Or most probably, insurance money will run out in the midst of a much needed upgrade or

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Cola. He has been logging over 50,000 miles a year for nearly ten years.

How did he get to become a truck driver despite his deafness. This former student of St Joseph's School for the Deaf has been driving trucks for different employers over the years prior to taking the Coca-Cola trucking job.

He stays in touch with the dispatchers via TTY relay instead of truckers' radio system.

Yes, laws discriminate against deaf individuals wanting to become truck drivers, but there are still always a few deaf truck drivers here and there.

## LINKS:

**Arizona Association of the Deaf (AZAD)**  
[www.azadinc.org](http://www.azadinc.org)

**National Association of the Deaf**  
[www.nad.org](http://www.nad.org)

**Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**  
[www.acdhh.gov](http://www.acdhh.gov)

**Phoenix Association of the Deaf**  
1545 W. Osborn Rd  
Phoenix, AZ 85006  
[www.pad.org](http://www.pad.org)

**Arizona Deaf Senior Citizens Coalition (ADSCC)**  
1545 W. Osborn Rd  
Phoenix, AZ 85006  
VP: 602-978-4977

replacement leaving the deaf child in earthly purgatory, not the parents.) It is wise for parents to do their homework (serious research, especially in risks involved with invasive surgery) by interviewing deaf adults who have experienced CI's, communicating with successful deaf adults who would not give second thoughts for an implant and of course, those deaf people who have had great success with implants but are even more grateful that they have their language to fall back on.

So what is sign language all about? In a word or two, it's about **visual accessibility 24/7**. Not having normal hearing creates a natural need for sign language. As nature would have it, we have created sign communication so sophisticated that there is absolutely no English words, sentences, poetry or songs that cannot be expressed in sign language. Hearing parents have missed out so much and have passed up valuable language development opportunities by either not knowing or appreciating the advantages of sign communication or refusing to learn it in favor of developing speech for their deaf child. Sign language is a very efficient tool to promote education as it constantly exposes the intricacies of verbal words and sentences while the development of mechanical speech takes precedent before true education can be implemented. Applying oralism is a rather futile effort for most deaf children. But please don't take my word for it; ask your deaf adult children who went through the oral system. Or better yet ask for honest opinions from hearing parents of deaf adults who been there. This is a hard truth to acknowledge but once we can get past that, we can feel relieved and grateful that sign language will continue to exist as long as there are deaf people on earth (NAD President George Veditz's famous saying in 1913).

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## Phoenix will host next American Sign Language Teachers Association Conference for National Professional Development on October 29- November 1, 2009

Larry Forestal, Secretary, 2009 ASLTA Conference at Phoenix

Phoenix will host the ASLTA conference which is officially the fifth National Professional Development Conference at Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix on October 29 - November 1, 2009. Gerry Francini is conference chair with Judie Cronlund, assistant chair, Larry Forestal, conference secretary, and Judy Mohan, registration coordinator.

Approximately 400 conference participants are anticipated from across the nation and some foreign nations. There will be a keynote speaker, a diversity of presenters of professional growth workshops, booth exhibits, and Western style dance-social event.

The 2009 ASLTA Conference at Phoenix is encouraging the active participation among members and friends in the upcoming exciting and stimulating conference at Phoenix. For those who are interested in participating in the conference should check [www.aslta.org](http://www.aslta.org) for the Early Bird registration form and then mail it to Judy Mohan, registration coordinator as soon as possible.

The ASLTA is dedicated to the professional growth of teaching ASL and Deaf Studies. It is an individual membership organization comprised of ASL and Deaf Studies teachers and program directors, linguists and researchers ranging from elementary education to higher education as well as public/private service agencies in the United States.

Feel free to check [www.aslta.org](http://www.aslta.org).

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## 49th Biennial NAD Conference a Historical Success!

Jim Oster, Delegate to the NAD Conference in New Orleans

From July 7th thru July 12th, the NAD called to service its delegates, affiliates and members to the 49th Biennial Conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The theme, "Let the Good Times Roll" was superbly enacted with a plethora of forums, workshops, entertainment, banquets, Miss Deaf America Pageant, the College Bowl, and (get this!): two whopping days of legislative respite with leisure and fun. All this



**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  
5025 N. Central Ave.  
PMB #277  
Phoenix, AZ 85012

**BIG THANKS!**

was made possible through the wonderful leadership of President Bobbi Beth Scoggins and the Bloch administration along with the Louisiana State Association and its Cajun style leadership. See [www.nad.org](http://www.nad.org) for additional information.

So what makes it historical? The Council of Representatives and various other conference participants took care of business! Old Business that had been tabled as far back as 2004 and 2006 were officially classified, satisfied and ratified, so that current bylaws proposals and the issues of 2008 were presented for the newly elected NAD Board to officially prioritize implementation by 2010. Now if that isn't efficiency, then I don't know what is!

New challenges for the future from the past! With the recent formulation of the Deaf Bilingual Coalition (DBC), NAD has been energized to step up its mission to preserve, protect, and promote American Sign Language (ASL), its culture and rich history that comes within the Deaf Community. With the relatively recent and ongoing mandates that Gallaudet University given, which the NAD has fervently supported throughout the 2006 Gallaudet student protests, the Council of Representatives has redefined its identity and mission by addressing our Deaf Children's right to learning and using ASL; Alexander Graham Bell's subtle derogatory attitude towards ASL and the employment of Deaf professionals; the 1880 Milan Congress on the Education of the Deaf and its devastating influence on employment of talented Deaf Teachers and the education for the Deaf, and the need to enlighten our hearing counterparts that ASL and the NAD are very much alive and well today and far into the future!

The NAD has made it clear that the task on hand is no easy undertaking...never was and never will be...but in unity and with collective pride, we can exclaim..."to be continued...towards progress and social justice for our Deaf community!"



**Celebrate Our Deaf Heritage**

**Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 9 AM to 5 PM**  
**Encanto Park, 2605 N. 15th Ave, Phoenix, Arizona**  
**Deaf Artists, Children's Programs, Poetry and Stories,**  
**Booth Exhibits, and Sponsors**

For further information, contact Chairman Tom Buell, [vicepresident@azadinc.org](mailto:vicepresident@azadinc.org) or check [www.azadinc.org](http://www.azadinc.org)

