



The Deaf Texan

★ *Texas Association of the Deaf* ★

Fall/Winter 2007

TAD, TSD and NAD to Host National Leadership Training Conference

By Gertie Galloway

The National Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) will be held April 3-5, 2008 in Austin, sponsored by National Association of the Deaf, Texas Association of the Deaf and Texas School for the Deaf.

The theme of NLTC '08 is *Moving Forward Through Proactive Leadership*. More information on the exciting and forward-looking conference is posted at www.nad.org/NLTC.

The focus of the conference is to give support to young, up-and-coming leaders who are anxious to hone their leadership skills at local and state levels. Conference goals are geared to skills development in four key areas:

- Managing transition from traditional to inclusionary leadership.
- Mobilizing diverse communities through collaboration on core advocacy issues.
- Understanding trends and challenges in leading nonprofit organizations.
- Linking local/state advocacy efforts to national issues of relevance.

For more information, please contact Steve Baldwin at steve@deaftexas.org or Gertie Galloway at gertie@deaftexas.org.

NLTC '08
NAD Leadership Training Conference
April 3-5, 2008
Austin, Texas

▶▶▶ MOVING FORWARD THROUGH PROACTIVE LEADERSHIP

- ✓ Managing transition from traditional to inclusionary leadership
- ✓ Mobilizing diverse communities through collaboration on core advocacy issues
- ✓ Understanding trends and challenges in leading nonprofit organizations
- ✓ Linking local/state advocacy efforts to national issues of relevance

Give support to young, up-and-coming leaders—send them to this exciting and forward-looking conference!
Details to follow at: www.nad.org/NLTC

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Visit the
TAD website at
[www.deaftexas.org!](http://www.deaftexas.org)

Presidential Holiday Greetings to TAD Members, Friends and Supporters

By Steve C. Baldwin, President and
Deaf Texan Editor



Historically speaking, this is the 121st winter holiday that TAD has encountered. While holidays come and go, TAD needs to be ever vigilant. The legacy of TAD in its long existence is the fact that deafTexans can feel rest assured that their rights are being

watched, fought for and protected from scrupulous people who care not for our language, values, needs and culture.

There are other dangers lurking from within and without. While apathy among many organizations is common, complacency can do more harm than good. Yes, there are some state organizations, agencies, officers and corporations that we cannot take for granted. Fortunately, TAD now has one of the best executive boards in a long time. Our committees are getting better and better with the passage of time. The current TAD leadership has a substantial combination of youth, experience, diversity, education, wisdom, focus and ambition. But we alone cannot do all the work and will always need your membership, involvement and awareness. How? Read our newsletter, check out the TAD website and communicate with the current board members on a regular basis. Unity is a powerful tool for us anytime.

Of the many topics I wish to share with you, I want to just bring your attention to our old proactive endeavor called symposium conference. Now and then, current members or non-members try to enjoin TAD to bring back symposiums. The cold reality is that the money is just *not* there and such endeavors are costly. The last “sympo” in Austin (2002) had a questionable price tag of about \$20,000!

Gone are the symposium founders, leaders and troopers like late Fran Borre-Herrington, Ralph White and Jerry Hassell. Yes, credit goes to past symposiums that made many beneficial laws possible. At the same time, we cannot afford to jeopardize our status as a 501(c)(3) organization by delving into political strategies. However, there are other legitimate options to prepare for the next legislative session. The ultimate strategy is in the numbers nowadays and working with such advocacy groups like the Coalition of Texans With Disabilities. Nevertheless, the TAD board shall review the sympo issue next month in El Paso.

The year 2008 promises to bring us many worthy events and opportunities. TAD will be co-hosting the National Leadership Training Conference with NAD and TSD in April. Indeed, we are honored to be chosen for this important conference. TAD will then send three delegates to the NAD conference in New Orleans in July. Both conferences will definitely have an impact on the future of Deaf Texas. As always, we will keep you updated.

TAD and I wish you all a productive new year, full of good health, happiness and sanity, yet ever with your safety in mind.

*The TAD board wishes you
Happy Holidays!*

Three TSD Amigas Attend Jr. NAD Conference

(Editor's note: TAD was proud to sponsor three TSD students who attended the Jr. NAD Conference in Arizona.)

By Claira Oberrender, BeJo Goodridge and Jamie Ultzman

We attended the Jr. National Association of the Deaf (NAD) conference last October in Tucson, Ariz. The conference was a totally new experience for us, and we enjoyed it a lot! We went to workshops, had special projects after the last afternoon workshop then every night we tended to have another event. We were busy the whole time, and the week went by really fast. We'll talk about a few workshops that we felt had the most impact upon us.

In the multicultural workshop, we learned about having inner bias towards certain ethnic groups. We had an activity where large pieces of paper were on the walls, and another piece of paper hid a word. We partnered up and then looked under that piece of paper and wrote down the first words we associated with that word. The words included African Americans, immigrants, gays and lesbians, AIDS and Jehovah's Witnesses. We realized that sometimes whatever we put down were a lot more offensive than it seemed, and it made us look inwards about our attitudes towards any group. We must learn to love ourselves before we can love another, and if we spend all our time judging people, we have no time to love them.

In the parliamentary procedures workshop by Richard Layton, we learned about different types of motions that we can make, and most importantly how to "table" a motion. BeJo actually ended up using the table motion for unfinished business during the Jr. NAD general meeting! We learned about where they first came from, and what Roberts' Rules of Order were.

Miss Deaf America Chelsea Tobin's workshop was, "Time Management: Do-do?" She told us that really it's up to us to decide what our priorities are. She did a breakdown of the typical day, where we discovered that really we only have three hours left everyday of leisure—and these three hours are totally up to us to decide how we want to spend it. For school, for fun, or for ourselves?



TSD delegates to the Jr. NAD conference rubbed elbows with renowned Deaf leaders. (L-R): Claira Oberrender, Dr. Frank Turk, Gary Olsen, BeJo Goodridge, Merv Garretson and Jamie Ultzman

Gary Olsen's "Building Bridges to the NAD" was a lot of fun, and he explained what NAD was, and NAD's purpose, and then talked about Jr. NAD and its purpose and what we can do with it. He also mentioned the 1988 Deaf President Now protest. He said that everyone can be successful, regardless of who he or she is, or where he or she comes from; anyone can do what they want to do. No one should tell them differently.

Billy Seago had a workshop on team building, where we played several memory games. We had to remember everyone's sign name, for instance. We learned a lot about our team members through this way, like the little things they did during the game told a lot about themselves. We had another communication game where we were given a picture and we had to communicate what that picture was without showing it.

One day was spent on a rope course where we had to get across a thin cable wire without falling off, using each other for balance and then we had this tall wall that we had to get people across. There was also this spider web with a bell attached. We had to get the people through the spider web without setting off the bell. We also played games like Soft War, and Sprout Ball.

We had special projects like creating a mural, a newsletter, blog, and television/media. We went to the General Assembly Roundtable project, which determined what proposals Jr. NAD could make for the

Jr. NAD, continued on page 6

Region III Conference Delegate Roster Tulsa, OK – October 11-14,2007



Alabama: Jerry Smith & Liz Hill

Arkansas: Holly Ketchum

Florida: Jimmy Peterson & Melissa Watson

Georgia:Chris Merritt & Carrie Kalberg

Louisiana: Pauline Wood & John Davis

Mississippi: Ray Freeman & Allen Graham

North Carolina: Linda Nelson & Susanna Bourgeois

Oklahoma: Glenna Cooper, Davona Cox, Howard Gordineer, Jimmy Mitchell, John Reininger, Jr.
and Kristina Hakey

South Carolina: Alan Stricklin & Teresa Rogers

Tennessee: April Haggard & Belinda 'Kim' Dance

Texas: Marianne Sasseen, Larry Evans and John Mills

NAD: President Bobbie Beth Scoggins, Reg. III representatives Lynn Null and Lissette Molina,
CEO Nancy Bloch, and diversity trainer Darian Burwell.

For more about the NAD conference, visit www.nad.org.

Delegates' Report on Region III Conference in Tulsa

By Marianne Sasseen

Approximately 30 delegates from 11 states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas, attended the Region III conference in Tulsa, Okla. The conference was enjoyable in the sense that it established a mindset of what to expect from the upcoming NAD conference next summer, as well as meeting and interacting with others from the region. TAD delegates included Larry Evans, John Mills and Marianne Sasseen.

The conference was beneficial, although I felt that much of what was shared could be shared via vlogs or e-mail. Even so, it was good to meet others from different states and to see that our concerns were similar. One thing we all agreed on were issues of VRS providers, video interpreters' skill levels, and diversity.

All delegates discussed efforts to recruit people of color to join their respective state associations, as well as NAD, too. Many had similar issues. For instance, Larry shared how TAD has attempted to recruit people of color to join TAD by attending the SW Black Deaf Advocates conference and having a booth there. TAD also presented an award there. TAD also participated in the Texas Latino Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing conference in Austin and had a booth and presented an award there. Additionally, a TAD board representative attended the regional Black Deaf Advocates conference in Dallas, where we also presented an award there.

An important note: from now on, motions are to be sent online via NAD's website, with the deadline being April 1. People who are NAD members can also individually send motions online.

NAD will have a steering committee to review, clean up, or ask for clarification on some of the motions, then send the motions to the conference's general meeting. The delegates will then select the top 30 motions, and then narrow it down to 20 motions. Region III came up with three issues that will be submitted as motions on:

- Concerns about mental health services (or the lack of) for children.
- Asking NAD to add more resources to their website, such as how to establish a deaf center or a state association office within the state.
- Diversity.



John Mills, Marianne Sasseen and Larry Evans take a break from the Region 3 Conference in Tulsa, Okla.

Another thing that NAD emphasized was that anytime state associations or members have questions or issues, they should contact their regional representatives - in this situation, Lynn Null or Lissette Molina. All inquiries received by the national office or board will automatically be redirected to Lynn and Lissette, as well.

NAD President and native Texan Bobbie Beth Scoggins, as usual, was fantastic with explaining things or sharing her vision with us. Darian Burwell, from Gallaudet University, did a great job touching upon diversity issues briefly, though not as deep as I would've liked. Even so, she mentioned afterwards that she does not have the needed counseling background to delve deeper into participant biases and other factors.

Delegates are expected to arrive in New Orleans no later than Saturday, July 5, and to remain until Saturday, July 12. However, NAD has built into the schedule a few days of no meetings so that delegates may attend workshops. The early bird registration deadline for the conference is Dec. 31, with a variety of combo packages available for you; the general rate is \$150 per person.

All in all, the conference mainly focused on past success of NAD, the motions made at the last NAD conference, and what hot issues we had within our states. Thanks for allowing me to attend this regional conference. I enjoyed interacting with others there; all of the participants were great. By the way, Larry Evans won \$37 for answering the most questions about Deaf history. Way to go, Larry!

John Mills and Larry Evans also contributed to this article, with photos by Alan Stricklin.

TAD Donates Calculators to TSD Middle Schoolers



(L-R): Amelia Hamilton, Kamilla Ford and Kyleence Etkie hold calculators donated by TAD. Behind them is math teacher Dr. Dawn Kidd.

TAD donated \$300 worth of new calculators to the Texas School for the Deaf Middle School Department as an early Christmas gift. Five math and science teachers did not have enough calculators to meet the educational needs of the students. Consequently, TAD board voted to purchase enough for the program. This year TAD has donated a total of \$2,300 for the educational needs of deaf students.

DAWCAS Closes Doors

The Deaf Abused Women and Children Advocacy Services (DAWCAS) has closed its doors after nine years of service. As advocates to the Deaf community around the issues of sexual abuse and domestic violence, DAWCAS provided victim services to people who were Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind, and Late Deafened since 1998.

Due to decreased funding over during the last years, DAWCAS determined that victim services would be greatly compromised because of the loss of this funding. Services included crisis intervention, referral and assistance for emergency shelter, legal and medical advocacy and community resource referrals for Deaf victims. In addition, DAWCAS provided ongoing training and technical assistance in various parts of Texas.

With this serious gap in services, DAWCAS calls upon the community to step forward in stopping domestic violence and sexual abuse and support those organizations that are working toward the same goals.

This is an abridged version of the actual press release distributed by DAWCAS.

Workshops, Meetings and Fun at Jr. NAD Conference



Standing in front of a saguaro cactus in Tucson are Jamie, Clairra and BeJo.

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general meeting. We all did fantastic there, since it was “our thing.”

After that, we had nightly events. The first night, we did community service at Ben’s Bells, an agency that aims to spread kindness. We made things out of clay for their bells. The second night we went to Nightfall, sort of like a Halloween fair with haunted houses, stores, and shows. It was really fun! The third night was Mr. and Miss Jr. NAD pageant.

During the general meeting on Saturday, New Mexico School for the Deaf won the bid for 2011’s conference, and we elected two new Jr. NAD delegates. Clairra and BeJo were both nominated; Colton Jannusch won the male delegate position, but for the girls there was a tie. After another presentation, Clairra ended up winning the position and will attend the NAD conference next July in New Orleans.

Moving on to the banquet night: awards were given out. Clairra’s art category submission won Best Visual Art, and BeJo won Most Outstanding Female Participant. Overall, Texas represented itself extremely well at the conference, and **we give TAD our sincere thanks for investing in us and paying for our tickets.**

Busy Year for Miss Deaf Texas: Katherine Murch

By Laura Loeb Hill, *State Pageant Director*

This has been a busy year for our Miss Deaf Texas, Katherine Murch. She has made several appearances since she won the title in June. Here are the following appearances that she has made in 2007:

- June: TAD Conference in Arlington
- July: Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser in Corpus Christi
- September: Texas School for the Deaf Homecoming in Austin
- October: Corpus Christi Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Fundraiser with Marlee Matlin
- November: Fundraiser, Dallas Association of the Deaf
- November: DAW Banquet in San Antonio

Katherine will be making more appearances as time comes along, including in El Paso in January for the TAD board meeting and social with the Deaf community.

The Miss Deaf Texas Pageant Committee is working hard to plan more fundraisers to help send Katherine, her chaperone, Kristy Betz, and state pageant director Laura Loeb Hill to the NAD conference in New Orleans. Katherine will be competing for the title of Miss Deaf America, and we are looking for Katherine to bring home the crown. Texas has never had a winner at the national pageant and we wish Katherine the best of luck.

If you are interested in having Katherine make a public appearance, please contact Laura Loeb Hill at laura@deaftexas.org. Event organizers are responsible for her transportation, lodging and all other expenses deemed necessary, and for providing a chaperone to escort Katherine throughout her appearance. An honorarium is also requested to help with expenses for the Miss Deaf Texas Pageant. If you are interested in donating money to the pageant, please make the check payable to Miss Deaf Texas Pageant and send it to Kathryn Becker, 614 Pecos Trail, Belton, TX 76513-1006.

Thanks again for your support of the pageant.

Editor's note: This is Laura's third NAD conference with four different representatives of Miss Deaf Texas. We thank Laura and her past committees for their hard work over the last six years.



TAD President Steve Baldwin poses with newly crowned Miss Deaf Texas Katherine Murch in Irving on June 8.

TAD Seeking New Pageant Director

TAD is seeking candidates for the volunteer position of the state pageant director. The new director will start after the NAD conference, and will work with Miss Deaf Texas Katherine Murch. The new director will need to work with her/his own pageant committee, as well as the conference committee for the 2009 conference.

TAD prefers someone who is very familiar with running a pageant, raising money and communicating with the TAD board. If you are interested, please contact TAD vice president Cathy Edler-Ashley before Jan. 7, 2008 at catromaine@verizon.net. Candidates will be interviewed via videophone by the current state pageant director and a screening committee. The final decision will be made during the TAD board meeting in El Paso on Jan. 12, 2008.

Early McVey of Humble Donates TAD Memorabilia



A rare 1961 photograph of Early McVey honoring seven-term TAD president Louis Orrill (center) as TAD president Rudy Gamblin looks on.



TAD President Steve Baldwin poses with Early McVey, holding TAD footage, at McVey's home in Humble.

Early McVey welcomed TAD President Steve Baldwin to his home in Humble last October for a visit. McVey presented Dr. Baldwin a videotape containing historical TAD footage and an original photo of McVey with renowned TAD Presidents Louis Orrill and Rudy Gamblin.

The photo was probably taken in 1961 when McVey served as the second vice president of TAD. In the photo, McVey and Gamblin honor Orrill for his seven-term presidency, from 1941 to 1956. An interesting note is that McVey is also a member of the legendary 1943 national football champions at Texas School for the Deaf.

Editor's note: TAD continues to seek original photos and films for TAD's developing documentary film project.

Jerry Hassell Tribute DVD For Sale



This close-up photo of Jerry Hassell was taken on Feb. 10, 2007, just prior to his passing, by David H. Pierce.

During the TAD conference in Arlington last June, the board honored Jerry Hassell, longtime TAD officer and *The Deaf Texan* editor, who passed away last May. A touching four-minute DVD was developed professionally by David Pierce of Seguin-based Davideo Productions. TAD co-produced the wonderful tribute with the assistance of Sharon Hassell, who loaned many photos and documents that summarized Jerry's volunteer work for the Texas Deaf Community. The DVD traces his life at TSD as a student, teacher and family man and shows his advocacy work as a leader, writer, editor and TAD officer.

The Hassell tribute DVD is offered to anyone who donates more than \$25; funds will support the TAD documentary film project, which Hassell was interviewed for on Feb. 10. Those who would like to purchase a DVD copy should e-mail TAD president Steve Baldwin, at steve@deaftexas.org. Please help TAD preserve its video and written histories.

What Has TAD Done Since the Last Conference in June?

In case you are wondering what TAD has done since the new administration's officers and directors took the oath of office last June at the TAD conference, we've been busy! Below is a list of activities for your interest:

- Board member Christopher Kearney attended the Dallas Black Deaf Advocates cookout in August.
- Printed and distributed *The Deaf Texan* in September.
- Set up three booths for TAD at TSD's homecoming on Sept. 15.
- Held a board meeting on Sept. 16 at TSD.
- Attended NAD Region III Conference on Oct. 13 in Tulsa, Okla.
- Donated \$1000 to TSD Jr. NAD for conference expenses.
- Donated \$300 to TSD middle school for calculators.
- Started to plan for National Leadership Training Conference with NAD and TSD.
- Sent representatives to San Antonio DAW and Corpus Christi DAW.
- Evans flew to El Paso to discuss issues there.
- Sponsored Cinema Showcase in Seguin on Nov. 9 & 10.
- Appeared on TCSD Access TV program on Nov. 28.
- Sponsored Deaf Act, Inc. production on Dec. 8 & 9.
- Printed and distributed *The Deaf Texan* in December.



The TAD Executive Board poses outside of the meeting room at TSD last September. (L-R): Chris Kearney, Larry Evans, Cathy Edler-Ashley, Steve Baldwin, Gertie Galloway, Marianne Sasseen and John Mills.

- Resumed editing on the TAD film project in December.
- Confirmed board meeting in El Paso for Jan. 12, 2008.

In the meantime, the TAD Executive Board kept in touch with each other on a weekly basis via e-mails, videophone calls and in person. Issues and problems presented to TAD board are quickly addressed in different ways. For example, when the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) sent out important policy decisions related to video relay services (VRS), we exchanged our feedback with each other. At any rate, we expect to be busier in 2008, due to several conferences and other events and activities.

TAD BOARD MEETING IN EL PASO

January 12, 2008

9:00–11:00 a.m. Meeting

11:30 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. Luncheon and Social

El Paso Community College, El Paso, Texas

Miss Deaf Texas Katherine Murch will be there!

For location and other details, please contact Alma Bebee at abebee@c-s-d.org.

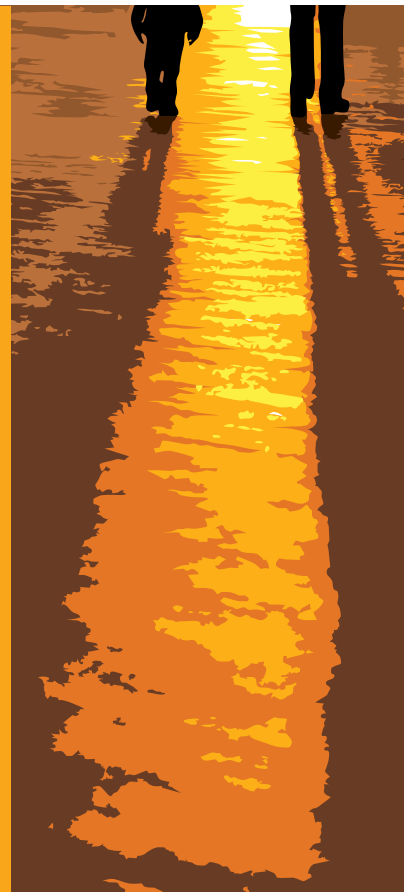
The public is welcome to observe the meeting!

NLTC '08

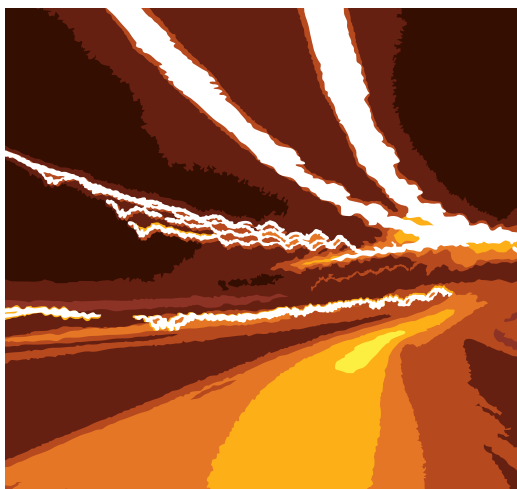
NAD Leadership Training Conference

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Details to follow at: www.nad.org/NLTC

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2007-2009**

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*Mission: Promote leadership, growth and equality
among Deaf and hard of hearing Texans.*

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*All photos in this issue are attributed to:
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The Deaf Texan is a quarterly newsletter for Texas Association of the Deaf members. Members receive issues in January, April, July and October of each year.

Contributions: We welcome letters, articles and advertisements. The editor reserves the right to edit all contributions. Contributions that are printed do not necessarily endorse the views of TAD. Anonymous contributions cannot be printed.

Reprints: Items originally printed in another publication may be reprinted in *The Deaf Texan*, given that appropriate credit is given to the publication and/or author.

Advertisements: Advertisements must be camera-ready; advertisers assume responsibility for advertisement contents. Rates are:

1/8 page	\$30.00	1/2 page	\$50.00
1/4 page	\$35.00	Full page	\$70.00

Deadlines are the 30th of December, March, June and September.

**Texas Association of the Deaf
Two-year Membership Application Form**

Check one:

- \$15.00 Active Member (*Texas resident, 18 years old or older*)
- \$10.00 Associate Member (*Non-Texas resident, 18 years old or older*)
- \$10.00 Retired or Disabled Member (*Texas resident, 55 years old or older, and/or permanently and occupationally disabled*).

Please print clearly (one person per form)

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