

NLTC receives raves for its success

Shortly after the first NAD Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) took place from April 3 to 5 at Texas School for the Deaf, the consensus from the participants, presenters and general public was more than a positive one. Over 100 participants noted that the conference was one of the best training endeavors in the last several years. For two days the pace from one breakout session to another or from one panel session to another practically became stopwatch intensive, deep, on going and productive. If the purpose of the conference was to promote inclusionary training to address advocacy issues, then the goal was materialized on a broader scale.

There were 16 topics ranging from effective leadership characteristics to nonprofit strategies to diversity matters. One of the most interesting panels was the gathering



(L-R): Bobbie Beth Scoggins, Gertie Galloway, and Nancy Bloch watch as Baldwin reviews conference details at the NLTC welcoming and community reception, held at the TSD cafeteria.

of four former NAD presidents with current NAD President Bobbie Beth Scoggins serving as the moderator. Former NAD presidents Gertie Galloway, Alan Hurwitz, Libby Pollard, and Kent Kennedy provided worthy stories about their leadership experience and philosophy. Dr. Glenn Anderson was a busy presenter with three sessions and presentations

to his credit. Every presenter, including TAD President Baldwin and TAD members Betty Bounds and Stella Egbert gave outstanding breakout sessions.

TAD board director Gertie Galloway worked for months with Superintendent Claire Bugen, NAD executive director Nancy Bloch and NAD's own Anita Farb to make the conference a resounding success. Appreciative hand waves go to those four hard working amigas.

TAD Sponsors First Berg/Seeger Classic



USADTF Director Thomas Withrow (center) accepts a check for \$400 from TAD board members Steve Baldwin (left) and John Mills.

More than 200 tracksters from 14 school programs across the country and Texas participated at the First Berg/Seeger Track and Field Classic at Gamblin Field at Texas School for the Deaf (TSD). Several coaches and organizers needed financial assistance with 16 individual and team awards since the number of participants exceeded the fixed budget. TAD

was able to come to the rescue by sponsoring all 16 awards with a check for \$400. This investment relates to the fact the host team TSD duly recognized and appreciated the presence of TAD.

TSD track teams eventually won the overall track and field crown and future members of TAD should remember the support and generosity of TAD.

President's Report: First Half of 2008

TAD had a very busy first half of 2008 as a major sponsor for local and national events. To begin with, TAD, along with Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) and National Association of the Deaf, sponsored for the NAD Leadership Training Conference April 3-5. Over 100 participants benefited from panel discussions, breakout sessions and keynote speeches. Betty Bounds, Stella Egbert, Gertie Galloway and I were among the speakers. There were about 20 TAD members who volunteered their respective time and services during the successful conference. At the end, Sorenson donated \$3000 to TAD to help support the significant leadership training and the community reception.

During the same weekend, the First Berg/Seeger Track and Field Championship took place at TSD. Fourteen deaf school programs and 200 athletes took part, which was won overall by TSD tracksters. TAD gave United States Deaf Track and Field \$400 for all 14 individual and team awards. Ruth Seeger is a life-long member of TAD and Tom Berg is a former member who moved with his wife to the Austin area recently (see photo above).



(L-R): Ruth Seeger, Steve Baldwin and Tom Berg.

The third April event was the Ranger Triathlon fundraiser on April 27 in Austin, coordinated by TAD member and successful ironman Nick Bannon. TAD donated \$300 to the event, and TAD membership forms were placed in 250 bags given to participants.

During the early part of the year, TAD Board held their meeting in El Paso. Please visit www.deaftexas.org to read the meeting minutes. In early spring, we hosted a membership drive booth at DeafNation Expo in north Austin, where 25 people joined TAD. We introduced all the board members on stage and showed a PowerPoint presentation about TAD.

Please join us for our next board meeting on July 26 in San Antonio and Oct. 5 at TSD. We will announce the meeting places via press releases and the Internet in late June.

Have a safe summer.

Steve C. Baldwin

2007-2009 TAD Board

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

The Deaf Texan Editor

Steve Baldwin

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.

Newsletter Services

T.S. Writing Services
www.tswriting.com

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.

TSD Printer
 Heather Goff

To contact the editor, e-mail steve@deaftexas.org or write to Texas Association of the Deaf, P.O. Box 1982, Manchaca, TX 78652

Seeking Funds for Colombo Marker and Street Name

By Donald Mize

A Texas Historical Marker to honor Texas School for the Deaf alumni and outstanding swimmer Leroy Colombo was approved and paid for by donations from TSD Foundation, Galveston Historical Commission and individuals.



*Leroy Colombo
in the 1950s*



Leroy Colombo Swim Center at TSD

The Galveston City Council, on May 22, voted to add to 57th St. the name “Leroy Colombo’s View,” from Seawall Blvd. to Maco St. Other projects include a grave marker for Colombo’s currently unmarked resting place, and traveling exhibits.

Contributions may be sent to: Galveston Lifeguarding Association, Inc., c/o Peter Davis, 2504 Church St., Galveston, TX 77550. Checks should be made payable to Galveston Lifeguarding Association.

Let the Good Times Roll!

Time is running out for you to register for the National Association of the Deaf’s 49th Biennial Conference, to be held in New Orleans July 7-11.

With an outstanding line-up of keynote presenters, workshop presenters, activities and events, the conference promises to be a highly dynamic one.

Did you know that you can also see who’s going to the conference by visiting the website? The list reads like a Who’s Who of Deaf America; get your name on the list today.

Why not throw your hat in the ring for a NAD board position? The deadlines for 2008 NAD Conference proposed motions and candidacy filings for Board of Directors consideration have been postponed to June 16. For more information on any of the events, activities or workshops, check www.nad.org/2008Conf.

Let the good times roll, indeed!

Rare Deaf Olympians Reunion



More than 30 former deaf Olympians met at the Austin Hyatt on April 5 to honor legendary coaches Ruth Seeger and Tom Berg (center of second row) after the successful Berg/Seeger Classic. The IGD/WGD/Deaflympics athletes and coaches in the above photo represent teams from 1957 to the late 1980s.

Corpus Christi Deaf Center Features Marlee Matlin

By Marcus Myers

At Corpus Christi Country Club on Thursday, Oct. 11, guests at the Heroes for Hearing banquet were in for a treat with a celebrity speaker, Marlee Matlin. This third annual celebration banquet benefited the Corpus Christi Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center, one of the councils under the auspices of the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services, Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.

A crowd of more than 300 people was on hand as event chairperson Lesa Thomas and her daughter, Miss Deaf Texas Katherine Murch, escorted Matlin inside the country club. There was a silent auction-taking place as the Academy Award-winning actress made her grand entrance. Almost 100 guests elbowed their ways to first dibs on photo opportunities and autographs from Matlin.



Miss Deaf Texas Katherine Murch (left) with Academy Award winner Marlee Matlin at an Oct. 11 Corpus Christi Country Club fundraiser.

As keynote speaker for the annual fundraising banquet, Matlin recounted her experience as a deaf child growing up in Illinois. Winning an Oscar in 1987 and performing in many television and movie roles during her career were narrated in signs, with Matlin's interpreter voicing her words. Matlin closed along the lines of leading by example to inspire other deaf and hard of hearing people in their own lives.

Said Benna Timperlake, executive director of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center, "[Matlin is] a role model to the deaf community, someone

who can achieve their dreams through hard work and wonderful talent. She's a delightful person." The dinner raised approximately \$75,000. Proceeds benefit services at the center, including adult literacy classes, employment programs, summer recreation programs and language education.

TSD Wins Overall Track Crown



After winning the overall Berg/Seeger Classic early, the boys' team went on to win the district crown. The girls placed third a few weeks later. Coaches standing in the middle of the last row in the photograph above are Jesse J. Bailey, Laura Hane and Larry Smith.

First Berg/Seeger Classic Results

Women

- 1) Model School for the Deaf 98
- 2) Texas School for the Deaf 68
- 3) Maryland School for the Deaf 66
- 4) Louisiana School for the Deaf 47
- 5) California - Riverside 46
- 6) Kansas School for the Deaf 39
- 7) California - Fremont 31
- 8) Alabama School for the Deaf 29
- 9) McNeil High School 18
- 10) University High School 16
- 10) Mississippi School for the Deaf 16

Men

- 1) Texas School for the Deaf 140
 - 2) Alabama School for the Deaf 106
 - 3) California - Fremont 57
 - 4) Maryland School for the Deaf 56
 - 5) California - Riverside 29
 - 6) Louisiana School for the Deaf 24
 - 7) Kansas School for the Deaf 18
 - 8) Model School for the Deaf 15
 - 9) Mississippi School for the Deaf 4
- (Courtesy of United States of America Deaf Track and Field)*

First Miss Deaf Texas Meets New MDTP Director



Kathy Weldon (left) won the first Miss Deaf Texas crown in 1976. She and Terry Levine, the new Miss Deaf Texas Pageant director, met at the DeafNation Expo in Austin on Feb. 24.

During the DeafNation Expo in Austin on Feb. 24, the new Miss Deaf Texas Pageant director Terri Levine met the first Miss Deaf Texas winner Kathy (Smith) Weldon who won the crown in Fort Worth in 1976. Both had a chance to talk about the history of the pageant and past winners.

Levine has already established a strong team of individuals, including a webmaster. She is planning many activities, including a fundraiser on Oct. 3, at 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at El Gallo Restaurant in Austin. Be sure to mark this event on your calendar! The TSD Homecoming game takes place the next day.

The 2009 Miss Deaf Texas Pageant will take place June 12–13 at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, in conjunction with the 45th Biennial TAD Conference. For more information, visit www.deaftexas.org.

MDTP Fundraiser on Feb. 15



TAD members helped out with a Miss Deaf Texas fundraiser on Feb. 15. L-R: Marcus Myers, Steve Baldwin, Lesa Thomas (Murch's mother), Larry Evans, Benna Timperlake and an unidentified supporter. In front is Katherine Murch.

Four TAD members attended a fundraiser during a regular Rayz hockey game on Feb. 15 in Corpus Christi. This fundraiser was to help raise funds for Miss Deaf Texas Katherine Murch's participation in the Miss Deaf America pageant, held this July in New Orleans at the National Association of the Deaf conference. Murch lives in Corpus Christi and attends college there.

TAD also set up a booth to recruit more members, to advertise the accomplishments of TAD and to answer questions from the general public.

Another Fundraiser Planned for Oct. 3



El Gallo is site for the Miss Deaf Texas Pageant fundraiser on October 3 from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM. MDTP director Terri Levine and her committee will announce the details on their newly developed website sometime late summer.

El Gallo is one of those most popular Tex-Mex restaurants and is located on South Congress, a mere two miles south of TSD and just across St. Edward's University. This is the restaurant that TAD used for the wine and cheese party honoring Bernard Bragg last year, which was packed with 75 people.

TAD Board Meets in El Paso on Jan. 10-11



TAD board members met in El Paso on Jan. 10-11. (L-R): Chris Kearney, Gertie Galloway, Larry Evans, Alma Bebee, Cathy Edler-Ashley, Mary Mooney, Steve Baldwin and Marianne Sasseen.

The TAD board flew to El Paso for its regular meeting on Jan. 10-11. Alma Bebee arranged for the board to meet the El Paso Deaf community at a popular restaurant and set up a meeting facility at El Paso Junior College. Unfortunately, the meeting was

held during the college's winter break, so not many attended the meeting. However, there were over 25 people, including Alma, Mary Mooney and David Myers.

The Deaf El Pasoans were very eloquent in their views of the closing of the El Paso Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ELCCDHH). They were also critical of the ELCCDHH board and asked TAD to write a letter asking DARS to bring back the center and services.

After the board meeting, Alma Bebee received the Gonzales Barrientos Award as an outstanding deaf Hispanic in Texas. The award was endorsed by the Texas Latino Council of Deaf and Hard of Hearing via its President Rogelio Fernandez. Mary Mooney was given a special TAD pin for her contributions to the El Paso Deaf community and her work at the El Paso Community College, which amounted to 32 years!

After the board meeting, Bebee presented a hands-on team-building program for everyone, and TAD sponsored the luncheon for participants.

Sign Up Fund Pays for Sign Language Interpreters

By Faye Kuo, Advocacy, Inc.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing and need a sign language interpreter, CART services, or other services in order to communicate with a lawyer, your lawyer can use money from the Sign Up Fund to pay for communication access. These funds will be available until Fall 2008, or when the money runs out. Advocacy, Inc., hopes to make this Sign Up Fund permanent in due time. However, this is not a fund to pay legal fees.

For more information and inquiries, contact Faye Kuo at fkuo@advocacyinc.org. Your lawyer can also contact Texas Lawyers Care at tlcmail@texasbar.com. To read the guidelines, visit www.advocacyinc.org/PDF/Sign-UpFundBasicGuidelines.PDF or to apply for the funds, visit www.advocacyinc.org/PDF/Sign-UpFundRequestForm.pdf.

Who Has Been a TAD Member the Longest?



Anita Dalla

Anita Dalla is well known in the Texas Deaf Community. She graduated from TSD in 1939 and attended a few TAD conferences with her deaf parents prior to her graduation. In fact, she was able to easily recognize family and personal friends from the 1931 to 1939 TAD Conference group photos! Anita is a fifth-generation deaf family member. Accordingly, she has been a TAD member for nearly 68 years. Are there any others who have been members longer than Anita?

Deaf Woman Awarded \$75,000 in Suit

By Mitzie Stelte

A new policy to assist the deaf during emergency situations is in the works by the City of New Braunfels because of a lawsuit settlement Tuesday.

Maria Salinas, a deaf woman who uses American Sign Language to communicate and isn't fluent in written or spoken English, was awarded \$75,000 in damages after she sued the city for allegedly not providing an interpreter in a timely manner during a 911 emergency.

The 911 call was made Sept. 23, 2004, after Salinas came home from work and found her fiancé, Ed Spencer, lying motionless on her couch and wasn't able to wake him. Salinas had a neighbor call 911 to request assistance and ask police for the services of a qualified ASL interpreter.

According to Salinas, the police knew from the 911 call that she was deaf and needed interpreter

services, but they didn't attempt to locate an interpreter and failed to assign this task to another city employee.

Lucy Wood, Salinas' attorney, said the woman suffered emotional distress because she didn't know what functions the police were performing and remained unsure about her fiancé's prognosis because of the language barrier.

"We're just really grateful to set up a new policy that will govern how police interact with the deaf and hope it will serve as a boilerplate for other communities," said Wood, who works for Advocacy Incorporated, a nonprofit organization that assists individuals with disabilities in civil lawsuits.

Motions made by the city to dismiss the case were denied in February 2006 by the federal court in San Antonio handling the case.

According to Charles Frigerio, the attorney representing the

city, the New Braunfels Police Department's list of interpreters will be updated, which he said was the problem in this case.

Frigerio said Wednesday that settling before trial means the city avoids having to pay for claims and legal fees, which could have amounted to \$300,000.

The money for the settlement comes out of the Texas Municipal League, which acts as a sort of insurance company for various cities in the state, he said.

"Overall, the city is happy that this case is finally been decided and new regulations will be in place," Frigerio said.

Source: Herald-Zeitung, April 3, 2008, (New Braunfels-Comal County)

Editor's Note: Advocacy, Inc. of Austin has been active with this case. TAD attended the news conference last year in full support of the case.

Galloways Donate Baird Painting to TSD



Thanks to former Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) Superintendent Vic Galloway and his wife Marilyn, TSD received an original painting by Austinite and internationally known deaf artist Chuck Baird. The Galloways commissioned Baird to paint an original work related to deaf culture. As part of his series on the hands of deaf people, Baird came up with a beautiful deaf art opus (see photograph at left). The signs in Baird's painting translate to "Work hard and earn an income to live comfortably."

The presentation was made on May 16 at the TSD Governing Board meeting in the Kleberg Building. TSD superintendent Claire Bugen accepted the gift on behalf of TSD and the Governing Board. TAD president Steve Baldwin was in the audience for the presentation.

What Has the TAD Board Done Since June 2007?

What has TAD done since the new administration took the oath of office in June 2007? Here is a list of accomplishments.

- Attended the Dallas Black Deaf Advocates cookout in August.
- Printed and distributed *The Deaf Texan* in September and December.
- Set up three booths for TAD at TSD's homecoming on Sept. 15.
- Held a board meeting on Sept. 16 at TSD and on Jan. 12 in El Paso.
- 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.
- Sponsored and coordinated the NAD 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.
- Resumed editing on the TAD film project in December.
- Set up booth at Deaf Nation Expo Feb. 24. Gave talk
- Participated in the Vaughn House Golf Benefit
- Sponsored all awards for Berg/Seeger Classic
- Sponsored the Triathlon at TSD



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.

- Sponsored the 50th Southwest Deaf Golf Association event.
- Assigned delegates to the NAD conference.

The TAD executive board keeps in touch with each other on a weekly basis via e-mails, videophone and in person. Issues and problems are presented that the board quickly addresses in different ways. For example: When the Federal Communications Commission sent out important policy decisions related to VRS, we exchanged feedback. Some of us also attended DARS meeting, and so forth.

The board continues to justify TAD's mission and goals as stated in our newsletter and website. The board also invites you to the upcoming board meetings: July 26 at El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio and Oct. 5 at TSD. Details will be at www.deaftexas.org.

TAD Delegates to NAD Conference in New Orleans



Evans



Mills

Larry Evans and John Mills will attend the National Association of the Deaf's 49th Biennial Conference July 7-11 in New Orleans. Both attended the Region III Conference last fall in Tulsa, Okla., in order to prepare for the NAD conference. Larry has been a TAD officer and board member for more than 30 years. John has been a member a long time, but this is his first time as an officer and his first trip to the NAD conference. Both are looking forward to the conference and will report to the board on July 26 in San Antonio.

A Story About the Oldest Commission for Deaf

By Larry D. Evans

There has been a name change at the state agency formerly known as Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TCDHH). TCDHH, the oldest commission for deaf Americans was established over 38 years ago. It now is named the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services (DARS). It will take time for Texans to get used to the finger-tripping meaning.

History Behind the Change

In 2002, the Texas legislature was considering a bill to consolidate all human service agencies. The deaf and hard of hearing community expressed a number of concerns, worries, and doubts, such as the inevitable loss of identity at the state level, loss of vital programs, loss of quality certified interpreters and so forth. But the bill passed, much to everyone's shock.

In January 2002, human service officials made a concerted effort to address all the concerns by giving consumers a chance to speak their minds at public hearings in different parts of Texas. They heard from deaf and hard of hearing advocates, as well as individuals with disabilities, parents, and others. Most consumers worried that services would be reduced or even eliminated, and that their programs would be lost in a huge bureaucracy and buried under mountains of paperwork.

Even so, some supporters feel that the merge may be helpful in allowing for a "one-stop shopping" concept for various services. On the other hand, consumers and advocates also state that their input was not solicited when the legislators mandated the historic merger.

Terry Murphy, the newly appointed commissioner of DARS and formerly the executive director of the Texas Commission for the Blind, has made an effort to assure Texans that services and programs will not be interrupted. He has also explained how three other state agencies will merge with TCDHH, including Texas Rehabilitation Commission, Texas Commission for the Blind, and Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention, all rolled under one little umbrella.

Community Response

At a public hearing in Austin, there were about 75

observers and about 20 who voiced their concerns. "We don't want to lose our identity," said Peter Bailey, division director of Communication Services for the Deaf in Texas. He added, "...before the reorganization bill was passed...people knew exactly who to reach." Debbie Drummond of Travis County Services for the Deaf commented on the need for consumer advisory committees for services and continued certification of interpreters.

How did all this happen? As mentioned earlier, the Texas legislature, in its economic wisdom, decided to consolidate 12 health and human service agencies into five mega-departments, such as DARS. The purpose is to save money, increase efficiency and allow for "one-stop shopping," essentially meaning less bureaucracy. The Health and Human Services commission will continue to be the umbrella agency over all health and human services. For the time being, TCDHH programs will remain the same and present staff stays intact, becoming the Division for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services under DARS.

The four state agencies, including TCDHH, ceased to exist on March 1, 2004. DARS begins to serve a huge population with specific needs, including and families of babies and toddlers who have disabilities or are slow to develop social and language skill.

TCDHH had its final governing board meeting in the early 2000s. The mood was sad and somber. David Myers, long-time TCDHH executive director, gave his final report to the board, trying to keep things on an upbeat note.

Where Were the Deaf People?

One major Texas newspaper craved further explanation from a Deaf perspective. What happened to the lack of outcry from the Deaf community? For many years, Deaf Texans captured legislators' attention via marches, letters, visits, phone calls and rallies at the Capitol and testimonies at hearings, almost always resulting in political victories. Each time the agency was threatened, it was saved by the Deaf community –continuing to serve consumers and be a valuable resource. This time, though, the turnout of Deaf leaders was small, unlike the glory days of the Deaf

Commission

From page 9

community.

What happened? Did apathy replace proactive actions? Where was the usual rally call? What made it different this time?

The Answer

In the long history of the commission, legislative efforts were made from time to time to abolish or merge TCDHH programs into Texas Rehabilitation Commission. The fact that TCDHH was singled out as the only agency to be recommended for merge or abolishment galvanized the Texas Deaf community. Texas Association of the Deaf always played a vital and important role in saving TCDHH. The legislative body and Governor's office were bombarded to save the Commission and each collective effort succeeded.

In 2003 it turned out that ALL of the 12 Health and Human services agencies were to be merged, from the huge Department of Health, Mental Health

Commission, Human Resource Commission, all the way down to the smaller agencies. TCDHH was not singled out like before. Like David Myers said....“Looks good on paper, such as expanding service delivery in more areas via existing statewide field offices of TRC and TCB as an example.” Only time will tell the long-term outcomes.

In truth, folks everywhere are curious and a bit apprehensive as to what this major merge will lead to in the long run. Will other states get the idea and initiate their own consolidations, affecting over 20 commissions for the deaf across America? Will services and programs become better as a result? We will find out in the next several months or at the most, two years down the road. In the meantime, we will bring you up to date on new developments.

Editor's note: Larry D. Evans was a teacher, college administrator, executive director of TCDHH, regional director for the Texas Education Agency before retiring in Austin where he lives with his wife Betty, a well-known educator who recently retired. Larry served as a TAD officer and board member for nearly 30 years.

The Kirbys Take Charge of 2009 Conference



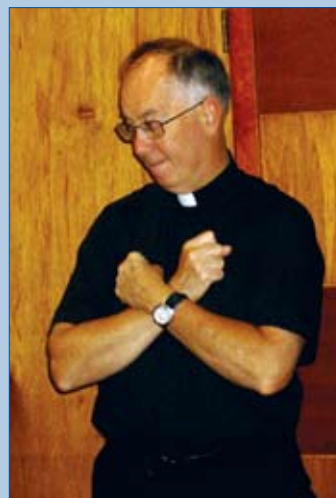
Karen Kirby is our chairperson for the 2009 TAD Biennial Conference on June 11-13, 2009. Karen has extensive conference planning experience and is very excited about

the conference. Assisting her is her husband Tony, who assisted with the Oklahoma Association of the Deaf conferences. Both reside in northern San Antonio with their young son. During the school year, Karen works as a counselor and Tony, who recently received a master's degree from Lamar University, will teach American Sign Language at San Antonio Community College.

The Kirbys will meet with the TAD board on July 26 to present the conference budget. The conference flyer is on page 14.

A Texas Association of the Deaf Publication

First Deaf Priest Now in Texas



Last year Father Tom Coughlin, the first deaf priest in America, moved to San Antonio from California. He has been a member of the Saint Dominic Order for more than 32 years. This year, he has said mass, provided confession, retreats and meetings in San Antonio, Austin, Corpus Christi and elsewhere. Indeed,

Catholic deaf people are delighted to have him in the Lone Star state.

By the way, when he is not attending to his spiritual obligation, Fr. Tom is a registered nurse.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I wanted to discuss about the upcoming changes in certification of Interpreters. In 2008 the national certification, Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) is going to require that candidates for certification have an Associate's degree. In 2010 RID is going to require candidates to have a Bachelor's degree. In 2010 the state certification, Bureau of Examiners of Interpreters (BEI) is going to require that candidates for certification have an Associate's degree by January 1, 2012. DARS has not taken position on a Bachelor's Degree so BEI has not yet set a date by which it will require a bachelor's degree.

There are currently no 4-year interpreting programs in Texas. We need to start being proactive though because either the state will match the national requirements or employers will require RID certification instead of state certification. Either way we are expecting that Interpreters are going to need a bachelor's degree in the next 2-5 years.

Due to the nature of the training, it does not work for students to get all their ASL and Interpreting classes in the first two years, and complete primarily

General Education classes in the second two years. Consequently, our first choice would be to offer them 4 years college in Texas.

According to the GIPWE and the ACGM community colleges are not offering 4-year degrees in Texas. Universities are not offering Deaf Studies/ Interpreting degrees because DARS and the State of Texas have not taken any position on this. We are waiting for Mr. Meyers of DARS, to please take a position on this so we can start pushing for more four-year universities or college to start offering programs related to Deaf Studies/interpreting. We cannot get the four-year college push a start until DARS make some kind of statement.

Thanks,

Dr. Byron Bridges

Editor's Note: Although TAD has no official position on the matter presented by Dr. Byron Bridges, he does bring up an issue that has been controversial for the last several years. Since there is always another side of the issue, The Deaf Texan invites DARS to respond to Dr. Bridges' concerns in the next newsletter.

More NLTC Photos



Top left: NAD President Bobbie Beth Scoggins with NAD headquarters staff Anita Farb (left) and Nancy Bloch.
Top right (L-R): Larry Evans, Steve Baldwin, Gertie Galloway, John Mills (behind Galloway), Nancy Bloch and Bobbie Beth Scoggins.



Bottom: NLTC participants at a breakout session.

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Clark HS Auditorium
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For more information contact:

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Texas Latino Council of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

2008 Conference

Working together for a better tomorrow

McAllen, TX

October 9 - 11, 2008

Marriott Renaissance Casa de Palmas
McAllen Hotel
101 N. Main Street
McAllen, Texas 78501



For full conference details & registration forms, go to www.tlcdhh.org

Also sponsoring
Youth Latino Deaf Leadership Conference
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TLCDHH is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

Spring/Summer 2008

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF
TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
CONGRADULATE SWDGA ON ITS
50th TOURNAMENT!**



MAY EVERY PLAYER SCORE A BIRDIE!



**Log on www.deaftexas.org
www.tsd.state.tx.us**



TAD Conference

San Antonio, Texas
Holiday Inn—El Tropicano Riverwalk
June 11-13, 2009



About the Hotel

Everything is new again at the *El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel!* The first lodging along the famed river walk in the 60s, today *El Tropicano Hotel* is alive again with a lush amalgam of Latin culture and North American pizzazz.

This full-service property is a tropical paradise amid San Antonio's landmarks - airy decor, vibrant vistas, and attentive staff nurture mind, body and soul. Nestled within the resort lies a state-of-the-art fitness center. Not to mention, a plush bar, and bistro with optional dining from the veranda or a nourishing quick bite from the cafe. Top off the day with a dip in the tempting swimming pool sporting drive-in movies.

Afterwards, visit the Tropicano's resident toucans Lucy & Ricky and tell them all about your entertaining stay. Feel welcome, relaxed, and most of all, special, at the one-of-a-kind retreat – Come to the *El Tropicano Hotel*, where retro intermingles with contemporary for a memorable experience!

Hotel Rate
\$85/night

Hotel Website
www.eltropicanohotel.com
(Reservations under
"Texas Association of the Deaf")

*Change...Challenge...Commitment...
"Moving Forward Together!"*

45th Biennial Conference

Viva San Antonio!

I am excited to be your conference chair for the 45th biennial conference to be held in San Antonio, the home of the famed River Walk and 4-time NBA Champion Spurs! As Conference Chair, I want to present a comfortable, open-minded setting for all to attend and leave feeling confident with the tools we will gain from the many wonderful speakers.

Look for more information on TAD Website in the next few months.

Karen Kirby (karenk@deafatexas.org)



EXPLORE SAN ANTONIO!!

San Antonio has just about anything that you could want, from historical sights and authentic culture to pro sports and modern theme parks. Not only home to the Alamo and the NBA-Champion Spurs, San Antonio is infused with the history and traditions of the past. The River Walk, also known as the Paseo del Rio, provides relaxing entertainment as it meanders through a truly cosmopolitan city. Take a stroll along the river that winds through the center of downtown, and stop in shops and restaurants along the way.

There are too many San Antonio attractions to list, but here are some of the major attractions:

The Alamo
River Walk
SeaWorld San Antonio
Six Flags Fiesta Texas
Tower of the Americas
Witte Museum
San Antonio Zoo
Institute of Texan Cultures
San Antonio Children's Museum
San Antonio Missions National Historic Park

To learn more about these attractions, visit:
San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.visitsanantonio.com



Spring/Summer 2008

**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)

First name _____ Last name _____

Organization (not required) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

E-mail _____ Phone Nbr. _____

Please make check or money order payable to Texas Association of the Deaf, P.O. Box 1982, Manchaca, TX 78652. A fee of \$20 will be added if a check is returned. For questions about membership, please visit www.deaftexas.org. TAD is a 501(c)(3) organization; all contributions are tax-deductible.

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|-----------------------------|
| Office use only |
| Date received _____ |
| \$ _____ Pymt. Method _____ |
| Member # _____ |
| Effective Date _____ |



Texas Association of the Deaf
P.O. Box 1982
Manchaca, Texas 78652