



RECAP: Deaf Ecosystem with Kelby Brick

Secretary Janet S. Weinstock

Thursday, September 15, 2022

A total of **94** people - members, visitors, tactile interpreters, caregiver, and volunteers - gathered at the Schweinhaut Senior Center once again. **President Leslie Zinza** got on the stage to welcome everybody to the 2nd MDSC event of the year and asked the new members to stand up to be recognized.

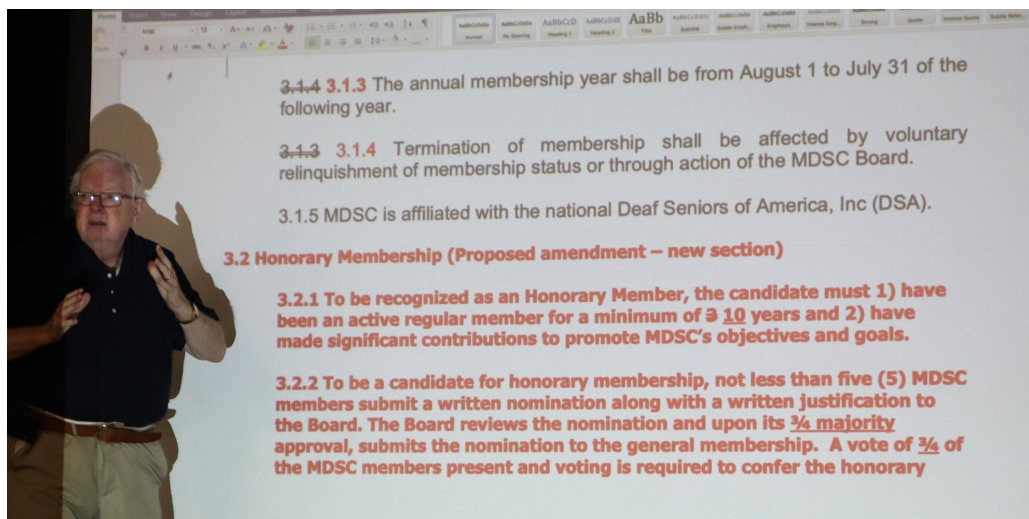
Vice President Mike Weinstock introduced our guest speaker, **Kelby N. Brick**, director of the Maryland Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Kelby was a student assistant to Mike who was the head coach of the MSSD girls basketball team. Mike gave Kelby the opportunity to grow and this is exactly what Deaf Ecosystem is all about! We learned that this "Deaf Ecosystem" is not new as we used to call it "DEAF-HELP-DEAF". According to Kelby, Deaf Ecosystem in Maryland is strong **YAY!** He points to Streetcar 82 (S82) Brewing Company started by a Marylander Mark Burke and two other Deaf individuals. S82 has been practicing Deaf Ecosystem by hiring Deaf staff, buying Deaf owned products, exchanging information with other Deaf individuals, supporting other Deaf business owners, selling dog treats out of recycled grains, and welcoming Deaf customers to gather at S82 and enjoy their products. Best of all, S82 thrived during the COVID19 pandemic! He also mentioned Sisters in Style in Frederick, Crepe Crazy in Baltimore, and a center of our own - Maryland Deaf Community Center (MDCC) with hopes that there'd be other MDCC in other parts of Maryland! Kelby did all he could to make our life better as ODHHS Director over the years: changing the law to give Deaf people access to mental health services and less restrictive medical implementing a statewide emergency 911 text, encouraging the use of a phone tree during the pandemic, increasing broadband so that the marginalized Deaf have access to WIFI, pushing for use of Deaf Interpreters during Maryland Governor and Mayor press conferences, giving us the opportunity to viewing Deaf Interpreters with ease on TV, using "Deaf Gain" instead of "hearing loss" to recognize that the deaf have sensory and cognitive strength, and so on...the ODHHS office is named after notable and successful Deaf leaders who live in Maryland - our very own Gertrude "Gertie" Galloway and Ernest "Ernie" Hairston! Kelby shares a dream that we all have - housing for Deaf Seniors with diverse economic needs. Let's work together to make our life better for ALL Deaf Seniors of Maryland!



For more, click:

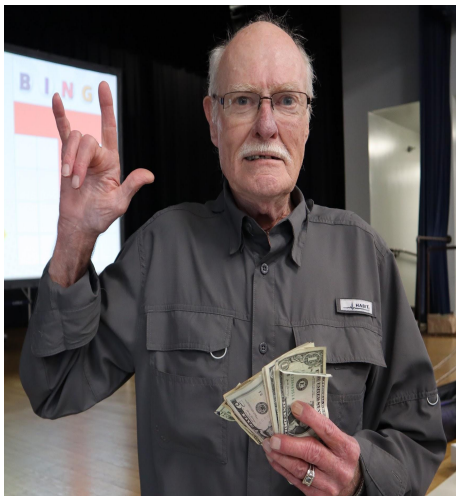
- <https://odhh.maryland.gov/>
- <https://www.streetcar82brewing.com>
- <https://shop.shopsistersinstyle.com>
- <https://www.crepecrazy.com>
- <https://www.deafmdcc.org>
- <https://odhh.maryland.gov/deaf-ecosystem/>

After we took our “Bring Our Own Lunch” break with cookies and water bottles provided by MDSC, **VP Mike** invited our **former Parliamentarian Mike Moore** who is currently on the Law Committee to get on the stage to explain the proposed amendment regarding Honorary Membership which passed with flying colors! We will post the updated bylaws on the MDSC website so be on the lookout for it soon...



VP Mike then facilitated the ever popular game of **B-I-N-G-O** which was projected on the screen! We played 4 BINGO games for \$1 per card and each winner took it all! Our very new member **Teddy Hackley** won a whopping \$99 followed by **Patti Huston-Hoover** the winner of the \$87 cash, **Sonny**

Moreland got himself \$75 richer, and **Sara Johnston** earned \$64! **WHOOT!**



BANK DAY: The winner of the September Bank Day was a no show which means the amount will double to \$50 in October. If the “un-lucky” winner is a no show, then it will double to \$75 in November and so on. So be sure to show up (or not) at all events this year so that you don’t lose out on the lucky draw! We learned from **Joe Rose** that Bank Day started in 1998. **HMM...**

SECOND CHANCE WINNERS (white tix): **Joe Rose**-\$15, **Tony Lee**-\$20, and **Billy Barber**-\$25.



50/50 RAFFLE (orange tix): This time it is the very lucky **Kay Rose** who won \$139! The other half of the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle sales will be donated to Deaf Seniors of America (DSA).



ANNOUNCEMENT: Andrea Panella announced that Deaf Chat at the Mall in Columbia is B-A-C-K! Meet at the food court every LAST Tuesday of the month from 11 am to 1:30 pm.



Photos and more photos by **Photographer Andriana Canning**:







MANY, MANY THANKS TO...

- Early birds **Patsy Epps** and **Rick Thompson** for setting up chairs and tables.
- Our **MDSC Volunteers Diana Moore, Mike Moore, and Rick Thompson** under direction of **Treasurer Cathy Thompson** for their warm welcome as we arrive to sign in and to give us our white Bank Day tickets.



- Our **Community Volunteers Avril Brandon, Aimee Burke, and Michael Mantooth** for their assistance throughout the day under the wing of our **Volunteer Chair Bev Boateng**.
- Our very own **Eve Mitton** for platform interpreting the questions from the audience.



- The Maryland Governor's Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) Team: Director **Kelby Brick**, Policy Manager **Kate Breen**, and Communications & Policy Manager **Payal Sharmacharya** for joining us for part of the day.
- Those of us who participated in MDSC's very first Swap Meet set up by **Treasurer Cathy**. There were around 10 jigsaw puzzles for us to swap at the end of the day. Bring your Halloween items to be swapped at our October event.
- Each one of you for joining MDSC. Now we are **154** members strong. As expected, most of us are Maryland residents with some from the District of Columbia, Indiana **OH YEAH!**, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas **OH YES!**, and Virginia.

**See you at the next MDSC event in Black Hill Regional Park
in Boyds, MD on Thursday, October 20th!!!**