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ODHH Bulletin

2015 -
Volume 2

Greetings from Director:

It's March and we are coming to the end of winter! Because of the weather, we had to postpone Legislative Awareness Day but we have been able to reschedule it for March 23rd and hopefully all of you will be able to attend.

In addition, we have been working diligently with the Governor's Press Office and the Maryland Emergency Managements Agency (MEMA) to ensure that information is available and accessible during the bad weather.

Also, as every semester, including the winter one, we are excited to introduce our new interns. Our office could not accomplish what it does without the support and enthusiasm of our interns and volunteers.

Thanks for staying connected to us and enjoy this bulletin!

~Lisa

This Month:

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Rescheduled Legislative Awareness Day

March is Women's History Month

Deaf Women United declares March as an annual worldwide recognized month that highlights the contributions of Deaf Women to events in history and contemporary society.

DWU will spotlight 31 Deaf Women that have made significant contributions either as an advocate, artist, athlete, educator, entrepreneur and/or trailblazer.

To learn more:
[Deaf Women United](#)

March 25 is Maryland Day!

Maryland Day commemorates March 25, 1634. On that day, settlers disembarked from two small sailing ships the Ark and the Dove on to Maryland

ODHH previously announced our Legislative Awareness Day (LAD) on February 16. However, we unfortunately had to cancel the event due to inclement weather. We are now thrilled to announce that even with that obstacle, we were still able to reschedule this important event!

The rescheduled LAD will be taking place on Monday, March 23 from 1 pm to 5 pm. It is a shorter event but is still something you should not miss!

There will be an advocacy panel and an awards ceremony with keynote remarks from Lt. Governor Rutherford. You will also have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with your legislators. Don't let the snow stop you from being an active citizen! You must [RSVP](#) by Friday, March 13. We believe the weather will be on our side this time! We hope to see you there!

Maryland Prepares

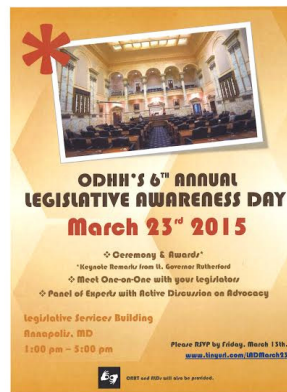
We would like to give a shout-out to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency ([MEMA](#)) for its coordination with the Governor's Press Office and ODHH to ensure that the Governor's announcements during the recent storm were accessible to Marylanders who were deaf or hard of hearing. ODHH wants to recognize and show appreciation for this positive collaboration. The interpreters were: Carrie Quigley and Certified Deaf Interpreter, Kelby Brick.



Winter is almost over and spring is on its way! For the past month, we have been dealing with below freezing temperatures as well as school closures and delays. Even the State of Maryland was closed too! We have been keeping ourselves warm and hope you all are too. We want to remind everyone and share a couple of things on how to always be prepared in emergency weather.

Check out the information on the [ODHH](#) website about being prepared for emergencies. Another important resource that can help you is [Real Time Alert](#).

Stay on top of the news and know what is happening in your area, especially if you plan to leave the house at the forecasted time of National Weather Service (NWS) alerts.



soil. At St. Clement's Island, they landed in what is now St. Mary's County, Maryland.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Quick Links

[ODHH Website](#)



[Contact Us](#)

[Maryland.gov](#)

Person of the Month

See 4th Article for ODHH's interview with Philip Chucky Smith.

This contains a chart of different areas of Maryland that you can easily track and it has different boxes for specific information, such as if you are looking for traffic report, flood report, shelter information, and more. On the mobile app, you can receive emergency alerts, prepare emergency kits and family communication plans, and access current news. Check it out.

Go ahead and download the [Maryland Prepares Mobile App](#) on your phone so that you have access to information on how to be prepared for all types of disasters here in Maryland.

Spring 2015 Interns

ODHH is excited to introduce our new interns for the Spring 2015 semester. Our office could not accomplish what it does without the support and enthusiasm of our interns and volunteers.

Julie Mazzone:

Hi! My name is Julie and I am studying Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Deaf Studies at Towson University. I am so happy to be interning at ODHH and look forward to learning more about the deaf and hard of hearing community!



Kitty Martin:

Hi, my name is Kitty. I was born and raised in Silver Spring, MD. I have been riding horses since I was eight-years-old. I am a Deaf Studies Major at Towson University. I recently started my internship at ODHH and I am excited to learn more about the deaf community in my state.

Person of the Month

Your name: Philip "Chucky" Smith

Your position, with what company? Table Dealer, Baltimore Horseshoe Casino

What do you do? Deals: Blackjack, Carnival Poker (3 card, 4 card, Mississippi, etc) and Baccarat

What do you enjoy the most about your job? Being social; I get to interact with a lot of fun people.

What is your primary Language: ASL, but while working, I communicate with my boss, co-workers and players by lipreading/spoken English, and written notes.



Philosophy on Life: Ponder on the three top things that makes you happy; apply that to your career.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Good question. As of right now, most importantly, my focus is on stabilizing my daily life. One day, I hope I will be able to raise a child.

What's your journey is like before obtaining this job, your barriers were?

Prior to obtaining this job, I found several common barriers. The most common, of course, was the assumption my most employers that my deafness would make it impossible to do the job. I recall one instance where the interviewer kept pointing to the section of a minimum job functions list for a position that specified 'ability to communicate'. I was talking to him at the time, of course, which kinda indicated that I obviously COULD communicate. I merely replied "I can do that, no problem!" I think most companies are not so much worried about deafness, as they are about the extra time and/or expense that may be involved with things like initial training. It can be very frustrating.

Were you able to break through? How?

Mostly through persistence and being positive. I tried to emphasize what my skills were, and how I would be a benefit to the company. I found that not every company or interviewer was unwilling to consider a deaf person for a job. Recruiters doing the interview want to hire someone after all. I tried to remember that part of my goal in the interview was to put them at ease and get past the fact that I am deaf and move to the actual interview questions. The top thing on their minds, spoken or unspoken, is "how will he be able to communicate with my customers and supervisors?" That is what needs to be addressed in order to move on.

How did ODHH help?

ODHH was helpful in many ways. First and foremost by listening to my concerns, and helping me to clarify in my mind what the situation was and how best to proceed. In some cases, they not only advised me, but

researched current law for purposes of clarification. They also were able and willing to contact some of the principals involved. They kept in regular contact with me, and helped me stay focused. It was nice to feel that there was someone in my corner.

What advice do you have for others?

My best advice is to stay positive. It is very easy to let your frustration get the better of you. This can come across with a potential employer

and make you look combative or like a potential problem. Sometimes I felt like giving up. But that solves nothing. Do reach out to friends for advice, or just to vent. They can not only help you make sure your resume and interview skill are sharp, but will help you stay positive. And don't be afraid to reach out to organizations like ODHH. They have a lot of experience and are very adept at helping you to navigate hurdles as they appear.

If there is a topic you would like to see ODHH cover in our upcoming bulletins and vlogs, please email us and we will consider your request.

Questions? Comments? Contact:

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