



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attachment: Conference Book (in PDF)* ;KAD 1909 group picture; Photocopy of the two articles by the Wichita Eagle on July 3, 1909 and July 6, 1909; Conference Schedule.

* (contact Shane Dundas for Conference Book in PDF, it is NOT to be distributed to public and may not use images from book, it is for your information and research purpose only for news information)

Press Release is six pages long.

Wichita, Kansas. The Kansas Association of the Deaf 2009 Conference (KAD 2009) will take place in Wichita on June 4 – 6, 2009. It is the 40th Biennial Conference. It is a special conference because the Kansas Association of the Deaf (KAD) is celebrating 100th Anniversary. The conference is hosted by the Wichita Association of the Deaf (WAD). KAD Conference takes place every two years on odd years.

The KAD was established in 1909 in Wichita, Kansas. It is a statewide organization that promotes the civil, human and linguistic rights of the Deaf and hard of hearing Kansans. The KAD is affiliated with the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) since 1911.

The KAD Mission Statement: The specific purpose of the Association is for mutual assistance and encouragement of Deaf people and to secure moral, intellectual and social improvement of their education and vocational opportunities, to promote measures tending to better the condition and standing in society at large of Deaf persons; and for the strength and usefulness which union gives the Deaf persons of Kansas who have organized themselves into this Association to further the above purposes.

South Central Kansas and Oklahoma met every year since 1890 in Wichita, Kansas. It was the 1909 gathering on July 4, 1909 that made a move to establish Kansas Association of the Deaf. Oklahoma followed suit to establish Oklahoma Association of the Deaf. It was on July 5, 1909 the first KAD Meeting took place, with the Constitution and By-Laws written. It was also the election of first KAD Officers and enrollment of membership. Total of 42 people joined KAD that day (July 5, 1909).

Brief Timeline:

- South Central Kansas and Oklahoma Association of the Deaf established around 1890 and meets annually in Wichita, KS.
- On July 1909, CKAD (Central Kansas Association of the Deaf) was informally established; it was only used for social only. CKAD disbanded in 1927. (CKAD don't have by-laws, etc., not that we are aware of). The reason: Oklahoma side and Kansas side formed their own political organizations such as Kansas Association of the Deaf and Oklahoma Association of the Deaf. CKAD history remains very vague to this day and there were various conflicting information. So, for newsworthiness, CKAD is not relevant at this point.
- KAD (Kansas Association of the Deaf) was established on July 5, 1909 with Constitution and By-Laws written up. KAD still exist today.

KAD Officers in 1909:

J. J. Dold – President (Olathe, KS)
Iona Tate – Vice-president (Coldwater, KS)
Edward Paxton – Second Vice-president (Newton, KS)
Emmett Simpson – Secretary (McPherson, KS)
William Wait – Treasurer (Pratt, KS)

KAD's current headquarters is based in Olathe, Kansas. Today, KAD has over 400 members statewide (including hearing people).

Shane Dundas is both the Vice-president of KAD and the Chairman of the KAD 2009 Conference for WAD.

Shane Dundas made a motion at WAD Board Meeting on September of 2004 to have WAD host the KAD Conference. Dundas made a bid for KAD Conference at the KAD 2005 Conference which was held in Olathe, Kansas. WAD unanimously won the bid for the conference. Dundas was officially appointed as Chairman of the KAD 2009 Conference in September of 2005.

The KAD 2009 Committee has been working hard since the first motion in September 2004 to raise money for the conference. The KAD 2009 Committee is under WAD.

KAD 2009 Committee has four officers and nine sub-committees:

Shane Dundas – Chair
Katie Wise – Vice-chair
Rita Solis – Secretary
Maddy Starks – Treasurer

Sub-committees:

Publicity – Shane Dundas
Hospitality – Katie Wise
Conference Book – Katie Wise
Registration – Linda Dale
Fundraising – All Committee Members
President’s Reception / Open Ceremony – Jayne Otis and Donnie Otis
Program – Rebecca Rosenthal
Gala – Melanie McKay-Cody
Technology – Jason Gegen

Current KAD Board of Directors (2007 – 2009)

Ann Cooley Cooper – President (Gardner, KS)
Shane Dundas – Vice-president (Wichita, KS)
Pam Siebert – Secretary (Overland Park, KS)
Mike Muszynksi – Treasurer (Olathe, KS)
Rebecca Rosenthal – Youth Liaison (Lawrence, KS)
Glenda Haefner – Membership Coordinator (Blaine, KS)
Jack Lee Cooper – Member-At-Large (Gardner, KS)
Leonard Hall – President Emeritus (Olathe, KS)

The KAD Conference has many events (see link for schedule) from June 4 – 6, 2009 at Hotel At Old Town, in Old Town Wichita.

There will be workshops, symposium, President’s Reception/Open Ceremony, Miss Deaf Kansas Pageant, Gala Banquet.

One of the most important workshop is on Audism. Workshop title is “Audism Unveiled”. Audism means discrimination against people based on hearing/deafness. (like Racism is for color of skin, so is Audism for ability to

hear or not hear). Audism is an international problem. The World Federation of the Deaf (which consists of over 120 country memberships, USA is one of the members), is currently promoting human rights to sign language. World Federation of the Deaf website: www.wfdeaf.org.

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) is currently promoting human rights to sign language. In fact, the NAD was established mainly in outrage response to the Milan Conference (Milan, Italy) discussing an international/national ban on sign language. The NAD preserves the dignity and rights to sign language. The NAD was established in 1880. Website: www.nad.org. The NAD is fully aware of Audism, a major national problem for the Deaf and hard of hearing Americans including Canada.

The KAD is on the same mission as NAD, but on a State level. Audism is a major problem in Kansas, especially in Wichita and Western Kansas.

There are other workshops such as History of ASL and Linguicism, Financial Planning, Real Estate Planning, and there is a workshop on De'Via (Deaf Visual Arts) presented by an internationally well known Deaf Artist, Chuck Baird. He is based in Austin, Texas, however, he is a Kansas native.

Symposium is a means to get KAD members to present vision, ideas and comments about the KAD and what KAD should be doing and what can KAD do in the future for Deaf and hard of hearing Kansans.

President's Reception/Open Ceremony will take place at the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum in Wichita, KS. There will be special guests such as Lavonta Williams the Wichita City Council District I to present a Mayoral Proclamation and Janet Miller the Wichita City Council District VI to present a Wichita Welcome.

Also the special guests at the President's Reception/Open Ceremony are the living past presidents and widows of past presidents.

Another special guest is the Marra Museum/Deaf Cultural Center (DCC) (based in Olathe, Kansas) which will bring the "traveling exhibition" containing historical artifacts to the Wichita-Sedgwick County Museum for display for several weeks. It contains rich history of Deaf Kansans, most especially on the Kansas School for the Deaf which will soon celebrate Sesquicentennial Anniversary (150 Years). The traveling exhibition is the newest project by the DCC and Wichita is the first stop. Sandy Kelly is the Executive Director of DCC. Website: www.kefdcc.org. Marra Museum/DCC is the only museum of its kind in America and one of two in the world.

On Friday evening, there will be Miss Deaf Kansas Pageant (MDKP) to take place at the Hotel At Old Town. There will be three contestants. The winning Miss Deaf Kansas title will go to the Miss Deaf America competition during the National Association of the Deaf Conference in Philadelphia, PA on July of 2010.

Saturday evening, there will be 100th Anniversary Gala, also at the Hotel At Old Town. The Keynote Speaker is Christopher Wagner, Vice-president of the National Association of the Deaf (he is from Clearwater, Florida).

There will be skits reflecting on various eras since 1909 and how times have drastically changed since. There will be a selected people to share their stories and experiences being a KAD member. Some of these people intimately knew the folks who established the KAD in 1909.

There will be many informational exhibit booths at the Exhibition Booth Hall at the Hotel At Old Town. Many are from the Video Relay Service companies which provides video relay services to the Deaf and hard of hearing Americans. It has cutting edge technology which many Deaf people use way ahead of time before the general population.

The KAD 2009 Conference has eight sponsors:

Wichita Association of the Deaf (WAD)
Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH)
US Logo
ZVRS
Kansas Relay Service, Inc. (KRSI)
Kansas Relay Center/Hamilton Relay
GO Wichita Convention and Visitor's Center
Envision

(view KAD website for sponsor information in the conference section)

If there are any questions about the Conference or about Kansas Association of the Deaf, please contact Shane Dundas at kad1909@gmail.com. Dundas recommends that the Media to interview the Deaf people, not the hearing people (EXCEPT Jan Binter the Manager of Hotel At Old Town and Eric Cole the Executive Director of Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum and all the Sponsors), since it's a time of celebration of being Deaf and hard of hearing, a time to celebrate Kansas Association of the Deaf. There will be interpreters at hand at the conference. Please ask Shane Dundas and he will guide you to the right people for interviews with more newsworthy information and resources.

Also it is recommended to look at www.deafkansas.org under the conference section for more conference information and rich history information.

Let Shane Dundas know if you need help contacting Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins, the President of the National Association of the Deaf.

***Please NOTE that if any media wants to come, to please inform Shane Dundas before hand so he'd know who to expect. And what time the media representative plan to come so Shane Dundas can meet with him/her. And NOTE that Shane Dundas recommends the media representatives to wear their own press badge. Also NOTE that Saturday, all day, is not a good day to interview since there is KAD General Meeting going on for all KAD members with important KAD business to discuss. Best time to interview is after workshops and before/after evening events.

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