

2025





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New Horizons is the official publication of Deaf Seniors of America®

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Presidential Perspectives

by Phil Aiello

Hello everyone. Ever since we hired Sherri Collins as our first DSA Executive Director, she has kept me very busy getting her up to par to what is going on with DSA, what DSA is doing, and future plans for DSA. Sherri Collins' name sign is SC on her chest. She is very energetic and motivated to make DSA look good and make our members proud.

Meetings in DC

Two weeks ago Sherri and I traveled to Washington, DC, to meet with two organizations. We met with the AARP DEIA team to introduce Sherri Collins as our new Executive Director. During the one-hour meeting we had a very productive discussion with AARP on ways to increase cooperation and collaboration. AARP expressed a strong desire to learn more about Deaf culture and how they can get involved and assist. This meeting was very positive, and additional meetings are being planned. The second meeting was with a staff member of U.S. Representative John Rutherford (R-FL). We learned that Congressman Rutherford wants to revive the Deaf Caucus to educate the members of the House of Representatives on Deaf culture. Sherri explained the purpose of our visit is to introduce DSA, its goals, mission, and issues Deaf seniors are currently facing. The staff found our discussion eye-opening and promised to reach out to DSA as they progress in reviving the Deaf Caucus. Look for Sherri's column in this magazine. The DSA Board as well as members are extremely happy to have Sherri on board as our first Executive Director.

Conference Matters

Pre-Conference tours have been announced, and many have sent in reservations. If you haven't made your reservations, please do so as space is limited. If you have not registered for the conference, please do. The conference is offering a good number of activities, with three plenary sessions on Monday,

Continued on page 6



View Phil's vlog (<https://www.deafseniors.us/post/presidential-perspectives-2>), also available in *Latest News* on the DSA website.

Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8 to 9 AM. On Monday, Sherri Collins and I will have a “fireside chat” with two officials from AARP. They will share the vision of AARP’s disability office and their desire to learn more about the needs of Deaf seniors. This session promises to be very interesting.

Other activities include Comedy and Sports luncheons. The Comedy luncheon will have comedians Daniel Cook and Angela Petrone Strait, who will guarantee you will laugh your heads off during the luncheon. The Sports luncheon will feature Heather Suhr, a Deaf athlete with multiple talents and strong work ethic. She was the first female golfer in the state of Wisconsin to win three consecutive Division-1 state high golf championships from 1996 to 1998. She also played soccer and basketball in high school. She will share her passion in becoming the first Deaf female triathlete.

Evening Activities

After the Farewell luncheon on Thursday, the evening entertainment will be a SignTasTic! trivia show presented by Daniel Cook. The audience will be included as part of the show. This evening will be enjoyable for all. Several evening activities are planned — trivia questions test how much we know about each other. Another game popular with many seniors is The Majority Rules. This game has no right or wrong answers; it will be set up in groups and each group will give their answers to the questions. If most give the same answer, that’s Majority Rules.

Kansas City

Kansas City has a lot to offer, especially after a major revitalization. The downtown area is within walking distance from our hotel. New attractions include restaurants, shops, the Power and Light entertainment district and the famous free Kansas City streetcar traveling back and forth from the City Market and its famous Union Station.

Nomination Matters

We are now accepting nominations for DSA President, Vice President, Secretary and two Board members. If you are interested, fill out the nomination form included in this issue and send it to Lance Fischer, Nominations Chair at lance.fischer@deafseniors.us. We are also accepting nominations for awards that will be given at a ceremony during the Farewell luncheon. Three awards will be given for the following: The DSA Distinguished Service award, DSA Organization Achievement award, and the DSA Ralph White Extra Mile award. If you know of anyone or an organization that deserve to receive these awards, please contact Elaine Navratil at secretary@deafseniors.us.

If you have concerns, questions, or ideas, feel free to contact us or Sherri Collins whose door is always open. Only four months to go! Be well, be safe, take care of yourselves, and see you in Kansas City!

Executive Pulse

by Sherri Collins

DSA Leadership Engages in Key Meetings

Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) continues its mission of advocating for deaf and hard of hearing older adults, ensuring accessibility and inclusion in all aspects of life. Recently, DSA President Phil Aiello and I traveled to Washington, DC, to meet with key leaders and policymakers. These meetings were a critical step in strengthening DSA's national partnerships, advancing accessibility discussions, and addressing pressing policy challenges for deaf seniors.

Collaboration with AARP's DEIA Leadership

While in Washington, Phil and I had the opportunity to meet with AARP's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) leadership team. Our conversation focused on AARP's latest updates regarding accessibility guidelines for their internal employees, ensuring that deaf and hard of hearing staff members have equal access to workplace communication and resources.

Beyond internal policies, we explored opportunities for collaboration between AARP and DSA. AARP has been a longtime advocate for older adults, and we see great potential in working together to improve accessibility in healthcare, senior services, and technology.

Additionally, we discussed AARP's sponsorship of DSA's upcoming national conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Their support is instrumental in expanding the reach and impact of our event, bringing critical conversations on deaf aging and accessibility to a broader audience.

Meeting with Representative John Rutherford's Office on the Deaf Caucus

While in Washington, we also met with a staff member from the office of U.S. Representative John Rutherford (R-FL), who

Continued on page 8



Sherri Collins, Executive Director of Deaf Seniors of America, previously led the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing (1998–2025).

Sherri can be reached at: execdir@deafseniors.us

<https://www.deafseniors.us/post/executive-pulse>

Executive Pulse, continued from page 7

represents Jacksonville, Florida. One of the most exciting updates from this meeting was news that the Deaf Caucus is being relaunched in Congress. This is a significant development, as the Deaf Caucus serves as a crucial platform for legislative advocacy on issues affecting the deaf community.

During our discussion, we emphasized the unique challenges faced by deaf older adults, particularly in healthcare and emergency preparedness. One of the most pressing concerns we highlighted was the lack of accessible medical alert devices for deaf seniors. Many current devices are designed with sound-based alerts, making them ineffective for those who rely on visual or vibration-based notifications. Ensuring that medical alert technology is inclusive of deaf users is a vital step toward improving safety and independence for deaf seniors.

Looking Ahead: Join Us at the DSA Conference in Kansas City!

These meetings underscored the importance of advocacy and collaboration in advancing the rights and accessibility needs of deaf seniors. DSA is committed to continuing these conversations and working with national partners to drive meaningful change.

I invite you to join us at the DSA Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, from August 2–8, 2025. This event will be an incredible opportunity to learn, connect, and advocate for a better future for deaf seniors. Let's keep the momentum going and ensure that our voices are heard!

For more updates and to register for the conference, visit www.deafseniors.us/2025-conference.

See you in Kansas City!

DSA New Horizons

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Advertising & Feature Article Deadlines

- 10 June 2025
for Summer
- 10 September 2025
for Fall
- 10 December 2025
for Winter 2026
- 10 March 2026
for Spring



Join | DSA

deafseniors.us/join

Silent Gas. Visible Danger.

by AnnMarie Killian, CEO, TDIforAccess, and Sherri Collins, Executive Director, DSA

National Campaign Launched to Protect Deaf and Hard of Hearing Seniors from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Deaf Seniors of America (DSA), in partnership with TDIforAccess (TDI), has launched “Silent Gas. Visible Danger.” This groundbreaking national campaign aims to save lives by raising awareness about the deadly risks of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and advocating for accessible safety solutions for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

The Hidden Threat: Why This Campaign Matters

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, and tasteless gas that kills over 400 people annually in the U.S. and sends more than 100,000 to emergency rooms, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2023). While hearing individuals rely on audible alarms for warnings, those who are deaf or hard of hearing are often left without critical alerts in life-threatening situations.

Traditional CO alarms are ineffective for individuals who cannot hear them. The “Silent Gas. Visible Danger.” campaign seeks to bridge this critical safety gap by ensuring CO dangers are made visible and tangible through education, advocacy, and the promotion of life-saving, accessible alarm technology.

“This is about equity in safety,” said Sherri Collins, Executive Director of Deaf Seniors

of America. “Carbon monoxide is a deadly, invisible threat. But no one—especially our Deaf seniors—should be left vulnerable because of inaccessible warning systems. The technology exists. We must ensure it’s widely available and used.”

How We Are Taking Action

Through collaboration, education, and advocacy, DSA and TDI are working to:

- **Educate & Empower:** Provide clear, accessible resources on CO poisoning risks and prevention strategies tailored for the Deaf and hard of hearing community.
- **Promote Life-Saving Technology:** Advocate for the use of CO alarms with visual, vibrating, and smart alert systems designed for accessibility.
- **Policy & Legislation Advocacy:** Push for state and federal policies that mandate accessible CO detectors in homes, apartments, and care facilities for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.
- **Partner with First Responders & Safety Organizations:** Strengthen emergency preparedness by ensuring CO warnings are delivered through accessible alert systems.

TDI reinforces the urgency of this issue through policy-driven action. “Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is a preventable tragedy, yet too many lives have been lost due to inaccessible warning systems. Safety technology must work for everyone, not just those who can hear an alarm. The lack of

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Silent Gas. Visible Danger, continued from page 9

accessible and affordable CO detectors is an unacceptable gap in public safety. We must push for policy changes and industry action to close it,” said AnnMarie Killian, CEO and President of TDIforAccess.

How You Can Take Action

Deaf Seniors of America and TDI are calling on:

- Community Members — Help us spread the word about CO dangers and accessible alarms.
- Homeowners & Renters — Install visual and vibrating CO detectors and share this message with friends and family.
- Lawmakers & Policymakers — Support stronger accessibility requirements for CO safety devices in homes and senior living communities.
- Businesses & Manufacturers — Invest in accessible CO alarm technology to protect lives.

Join Us in This Life-Saving Mission!

For more information, safety resources, or to support the “Silent Gas. Visible Danger.” campaign, contact execdir@deafseniors.us.

CARBON MONOXIDE



The Silent Killer



WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?



A colorless, odorless, tasteless gas

When you breathe in carbon monoxide (CO) it makes it harder for your body to use oxygen to keep you alive

It is produced whenever fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned without enough oxygen to produce carbon dioxide

SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Headache, nausea, dizziness

Shortness of breath



At high levels: vomiting, confusion, and loss of consciousness

PREVENTION



Never leave a vehicle running in an enclosed area



Have fuel burning equipment inspected annually



Install carbon monoxide detectors



Only use portable fuel burning equipment outside

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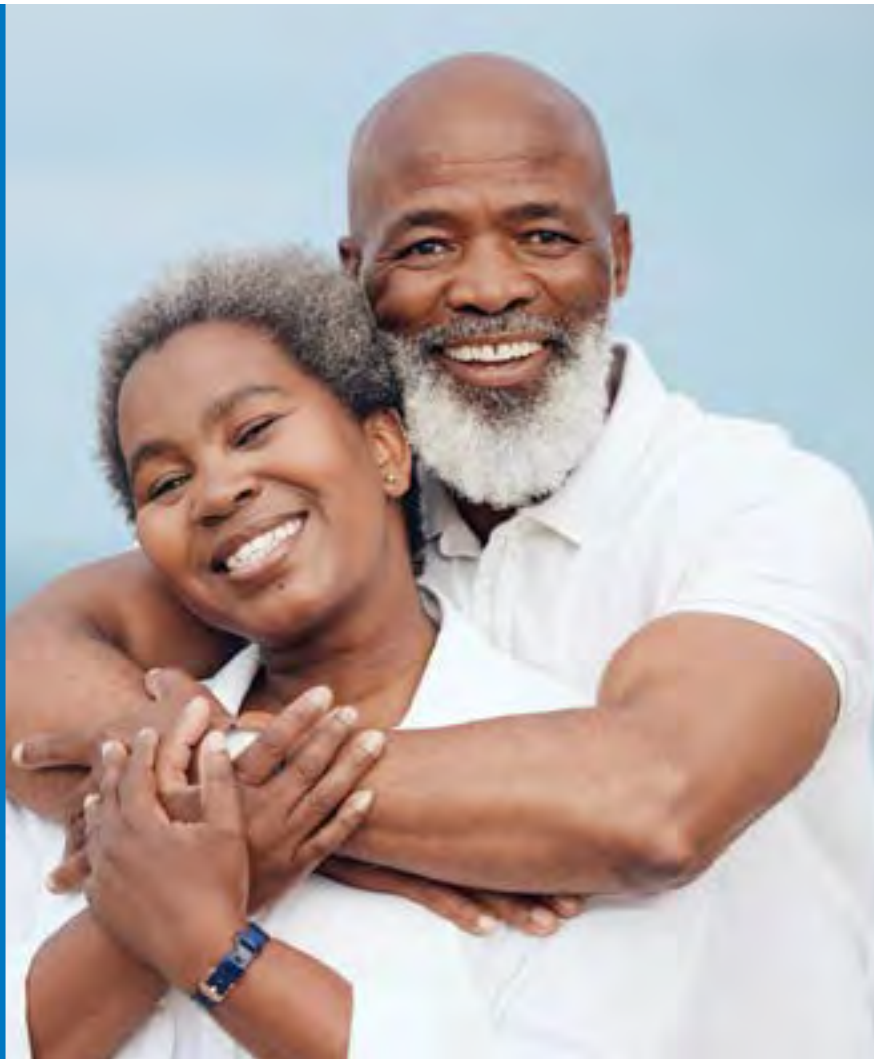
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Every Gift Matters: Recognizing Our Generous Donors

Welcome to the new quarterly donor recognition section of New Horizons! In this first installment, we are proud to highlight the generous donations made from January–March 2025. Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) is deeply grateful for the support that helps us continue our mission of advocating for and empowering Deaf seniors. Your generosity makes a meaningful impact in the following ways:

- **Where the Need is Greatest** – Direct your donation to support DSA’s most urgent needs.
- **Executive Director’s Fund** – Strengthen leadership and strategic initiatives.
- **In Honor of a Special Person** – Celebrate a loved one with a thoughtful gift.
- **In Memory of a Loved One** – Honor the life of someone dear with a meaningful donation.



Your generous support makes a meaningful difference by strengthening DSA’s efforts toward improving the lives of Deaf seniors nationwide.

January–March 2025 Donations

Where the Need is Greatest

Steve Baldwin
Cynthia & Steven Burton
John Christiansen
Donna Drake
Diana & Michael Moore
Pauline Raiche

In Honor of Sherri Collins

Bonelle Amann
Cynthia Amerman
Nancy Bloch & Jerry Nelson
Randy Collins
David Curry
Abbie Fink
Lisa Furr
Alan & Vicki Hurwitz

Mary Keane
AnnMarie Killian
Poorna Kushalnagar
Brannon Lambert
Dustin McLaws
Rodney & Elaine Navratil
Chris Schneck
Fred William
Rip Wilson
Anonymous (6 donors)



Make a Difference Give Today!

In Memoriam

This listing is updated quarterly. Please send updates and corrections to Louis Schwarz at obits@deafseniors.us.

Joseph Michael Sorce Jr., 91
6/13/2023, Westfield, IN

Jack James O'Rourke, Jr., 82
12/24/2024, Toledo, OH

Patricia Anne Riley, 87
1/1/2025, Westland, MI

Laura Ann (Olson) Brasel, 79
1/3/2025, Rockwell, TX

Ralph Fernandez, 60
1/4/2025, Washington, DC

Kenneth W. Norton, 98
1/7/2025, Fremont, CA

**Deanne Sue (Dillon)
Lundstedt, 87**
1/9/2025, Ellis, KS

Linda (Roy) Hamilton, 77
1/13/2025, East Greenbush, NY

Dolores Goldman, 94
1/14/2025, Mountain View, CA

**Barbara Nell Montgomery
Grisham, 81**
1/16/2025, Wallis, TX

Lewis Thomas Keeter, 81
1/18/2025, Nakina, NC

Sydney Barry Levine, 65
1/29/2025, Chicago, IL

Philip James Scherzinger, Sr., 76
1/30/2025, Belvidere, NJ and
Staten Island, NY

Ronald R. Lamping, 90
2/1/2025, Helena, MD

Milos Marijan, 86
2/2/2025, Libertyville, IL

David Paul Phillips, 79
2/2/2025, Pensacola, FL

Nancy Snelbaker, 81
2/4/2025, Hebron, KY

Julia Sandlin Brasher, 80
2/4/2025, Pelham, AL

Elwyn Ralph Leatherman, 75
2/6/2025, Hickory, NC

William "Bill" J. Walker, 87
2/7/2025, Lincoln, IL and
Jacksonville, IL

Leslie A. "Les" Fairbanks, 62
2/7/2025, Mahanomen, MN

Kathy Ann (Wright) Conway, 61
2/8/2025, Potosi, MO

Irma Gallegos, 81
2/10/2025, Corpus Christi, TX

Lawrence Don Galbo, 85
2/12/2025, Roseville, MI

Roy Joseph Leahy, 68
2/17/2025, St. John, NB (CDN)

George F. Rogers, 60
2/18/2025, Somerville, MA

David D. Gross, 68
2/18/2025, Springfield, OH

Mark Jay Kubey, 78
2/19/2025, Chicago, IL

Maurice Abner Katz, 81
2/19/2025, Boynton Beach, FL

Willie James Forrest, 73
2/20/2025, Danville, IL

James Jay Wymore, 76
2/20/2025, Monrovia, CA

**Laurence "Larry" Lenny
Farovitch, 78**
2/21/2025, Vancouver, WA

Ann Marie Bruneel-Love, 61
2/22/2025, Rock Island, IL

Cheryl Ann (Stewart) Totino, 65
2/23/2025, Hartford, CT

Norma Jean (Goodman) Ball, 93
2/23/2025, Bruceville, IN

Jarrell Dee Davis, 84
2/25/2025, Conway, AR

**Michael "Mad Mike" Albert
Dunham, 73**
2/27/2025, Staunton, VA

David William Mattern, 75
3/1/2025, Jacksonville, IL

Dominick F. Constabieo, 65
3/3/2025, Gurnee, IL

Harry Rotstein, 79
3/4/2025, Delray Beach, FL

Richard Frank Smrz, 87
3/4/2025, Bowie, MD

**Sherwood "Woody" Simon
Boxer, 74**
3/7/2025, Germantown, MD

Willie Lee Woodson, Jr, 72
3/8/2025, Houston, TX

Continued on page 14

Life is a journey, not a destination.



— Ralph Waldo Emerson —



In Memoriam, cont

Harriet Ann Whittaker Ellis, 89
3/13/2025, Lawrenceville, IL

Andrew James Cherry, 85
3/13/2025, Pleasant Plains, IL

Frank Robert Turk, Sr., 95
3/14/2025, Omaha, NE and Sioux Falls, SD

Marlene L. (Wagner) Turk, 89
3/14/2025, Omaha, NE and Sioux Falls, SD

Joy Holtzman Antar, 66
3/10/2025, Boca Raton, FL and Pittsford, NY

Michael Richard Nelson, Sr., 67
3/10/2025, The Villages, FL and Reading, PA

Alan Robert Parnes, 78
3/11/2025, St. Paul, MN

Angelo Dimas Rivera, 82
3/17/2025m Lake Worth Beach, FL and Havertown, PA

George H. Balsley li, 75
3/17/2025, Hadley, MA

Karyn Ann Rosner, 74
3/17/2025, Delray Beach, FL

Royce Hutcheson Guerry, Jr., 80
3/19/2025, Fort Worth, TX

Dorothy Lydia Cohler, 83
3/24/2025, Forest Hills, NY

SENIOR CITIZEN...AND PROUD OF IT!

I'm the life of the party... even when it lasts until 8 p.m.
I'm very good at opening childproof caps with a hammer.
I'm usually interested in going home before I get to where I am going.
I'm the first one to find the bathroom wherever I go.
I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.
I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a word you're saying.
I'm very good at telling stories. Over and over and over and over.
I'm aware that other people's grandchildren are not as bright as mine.
I'm so cared for – long term care, eye care, private care, dental care, and more.
I'm sure everything I can't find is in a secure place.
I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg.
I'm realizing that aging is not for sissies.
I'm walking more (to the bathroom) and enjoying it less.
If you are what you eat, I'm Shredded Wheat and All Bran.
I'm in the initial stage of my golden years. SS, CD's, IRA'S, AARP.
I'm a walking storeroom of facts, I've just lost the key to the storeroom.
I'm at that age where my back goes out more than I do.

I'm a SENIOR CITIZEN, and I am having the time of my life!!!!

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The Exclusive Digital Magazine of DSA

Our quarterly publication is delivered directly to our engaged members, reaching over 1,500 readers, with a broader digital audience expanding to approximately 4,000 readers. *NEW HORIZONS* is an essential resource for connecting with the Deaf senior community, providing insightful articles, resources, and updates that resonate deeply with our readers.

Why advertise with us? By advertising in *NEW HORIZONS*, you gain access to a highly engaged and targeted audience of Deaf seniors and supporters, providing the perfect platform to showcase your message, product, or service.

Key Benefits

- **Targeted Audience:** Reach out directly to deaf seniors across the nation, an active group that seeks products, services, and resources tailored to their lifestyle. With extended exposure to a wider digital readership, your advertisement ensures visibility where it matters most.
- **Exclusive Engagement:** As a digital-only publication, *NEW HORIZONS* ensures your ad reaches a focused and engaged community who are invested in content that directly benefits their lives. The magazine is distributed exclusively to DSA members, and each issue is shared among them, creating a powerful network of exposure.
- **Extended Reach:** As issues are forwarded to friends, family, and colleagues, your ad enjoys organic, long-term visibility, reaching even more potential customers or supporters.
- **Interactive Features:** Digital ads allow for clickable links, giving readers direct access to your website, videos, emails, and contact forms. This makes it easier for deaf seniors to take action immediately, connecting with you directly.
- **Nonprofit Discount:** We are proud to offer a 10% discount on our advertising rates for nonprofit organizations. This ensures that nonprofits can also benefit from the exposure *NEW HORIZONS* provides, helping them to connect with deaf seniors effectively.

Exclusive Recognition

Advertisers who commit to four full-page insertions (one year) will have their logo featured on the DSA homepage, providing additional visibility across the nation's deaf senior community.

Ad Specifications

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- Four issues: \$1,750

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(3.65" W x 4.65" H)

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- Four issues: \$750

Ad pricing is flexible based on how often you choose to advertise. The more issues you commit to, the greater your reach and visibility within the community.

For more information or to place an ad, reach out to editor@deafseniors.us. Let *NEW HORIZONS* help you connect with the DSA community in a meaningful and impactful way!



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You don't get smarter as you get older. There is just less stupid stuff left that you haven't already done.



9 out of 10 times when I lose something... it's because I put it in a safe place.

Senior Humor



By the time you're 80 years old you've learned everything. You only have to remember it.

- George Burns

On getting old in six words:

Losing my eyesight, but gaining insight.

Nora Ephron

Do you remember the time when we couldn't wait to grow up?
Hmm..
What the hell were we thinking?!



Empowering Our Future



18TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE • KANSAS CITY, MO DEAF SENIORS OF AMERICA

deafseniors.us/2025-conference

August 1–7, 2025

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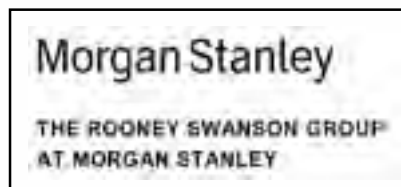
Emerald



Ruby



Gold



Silver



Bronze



Schedule

Updated April 2025, subject to change

**Not included in Combo registration*



Thursday, July 31, 2025

- Hotel Phillips Check-in: 4 PM onwards
- Conference Registration: 4 PM–8 PM

Friday, August 1, 2025

- *Pre-Conference Tours, all day**
- Conference Registration: 4 PM–8 PM

Saturday, August 2, 2025

- *Pre-Conference Tours, all day**
- Conference Registration: 8 AM–11 AM
- Exhibit Setup: 9 AM–6 PM

Sunday, August 3, 2025

- Conference Registration: 8 AM–6 PM
- Hotel Phillips Check-out: Before 11 AM
- Exhibits Open to All: 12 PM–5 PM
- Board Meeting Open to All: 1 PM–4 PM
- Marriott Hotel Check-in: 4 PM onwards
- Cocktail Hour: 6 PM–7 PM
- Opening/Welcome Reception: 7 PM–10 PM
(Emcee: Daniel Cook; Keynote Presenter: Dr. Robert Davila)

Monday, August 4, 2025

- Conference Registration: 8 AM–6 PM
- Plenary Session: 8 AM–9 AM
(Sherri Collins, Executive Director – “Together We Thrive: Shaping the Next Chapter for Deaf Seniors of America”)
- Workshops: 9:30 AM–11:30 AM
- Exhibits Open to All: 9 AM–5 PM
- Lunch on Your Own: 12 PM–1:30 PM
- Workshops: 1:30 PM–4:30 PM

- Alumni Reception: 5 PM–7 PM
(National Technical Institute for the Deaf/ Rochester Institute of Technology - NTID/ RIT)
- Dinner on Your Own: 5 PM onwards
- Social Activities: 7 PM–10 PM

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

- Conference Registration: 8 AM–6 PM
- Plenary Session: 8 AM–9 AM
(Dr. Alan Marcus – “Aging Powerfully Through Choice, Control and Collaboration”)
- Workshops: 9:30 AM–11:30 AM
- Exhibits Open to All: 9 AM–5 PM
- **Comedy Café Luncheon & Laughter: 11:30 AM–1:30 PM**
*(Performers: Daniel Cook and Angela Petrone Stratiy)**
- Workshops: 1:30 PM–4:30 PM
- Alumni Reception: 5 PM–7 PM
(Gallaudet University)
- Dinner on Your Own: 5 PM onwards
- Social Activities: 7 PM–10 PM

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

- Conference Registration: 8 AM–6 PM
- Plenary Session: 8–9 AM
(Dr. Jaime Wilson – “Bride of Time: Caregivers and Care Receivers with Hearing Loss in Alzheimer’s and Dementia”)
- Workshops: 9:30 AM–11:30 AM
- Exhibits Open to All: 9 AM–5 PM

Continued on the next page

- Sports Luncheon: 11:30 AM–1:30 PM
(Presenter: Heather Suhr)*
- Lunch on Your Own: 12 PM–1:30 PM
- Workshops: 1:30 PM–3:30 PM
- Forum Open to All: 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM
- Dinner on Your Own: 5 PM onwards
- DINGO-DSAGO: 7 PM–10 PM*
- Social Activities: 7 PM–10 PM

Thursday, August 7, 2025

- Conference Registration: 8 AM–6 PM
- General Meeting: 8 AM–12 PM
- Farewell BBQ Luncheon: 1 PM–4 PM
- Cocktail Hour: 6 PM–7 PM
- Sign Tas Tic Game Show: 7 PM–9:30 PM
(Performer: Daniel Cook)
- LGBTQ+ Social Gathering: 10 PM onwards

Friday, August 8, 2025

- Board Meeting Open to All: 10 AM–12 PM
- Marriott Hotel Check-out: Before 11 AM



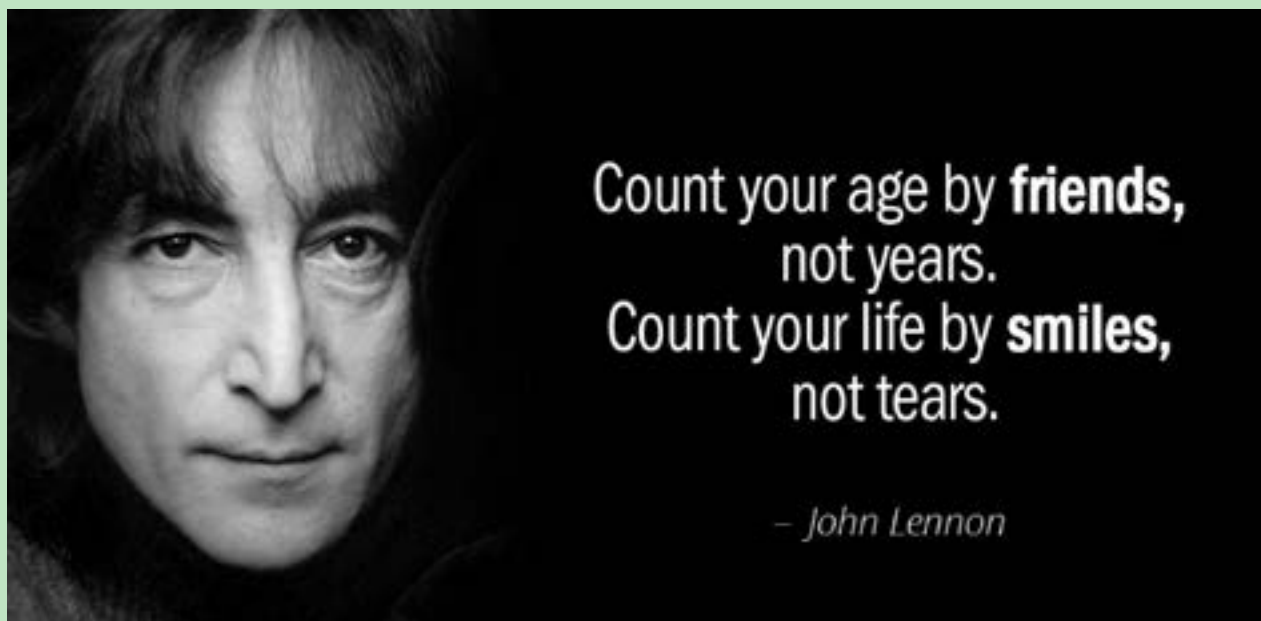
Side event by the National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

- Meet & Greet Open to All: 8 PM–10 PM

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

- Policy Summit Session Open to All: 8 AM–12 PM



Count your age by **friends**,
not years.
Count your life by **smiles**,
not tears.

– John Lennon

Keynote Presentations



To kick off workshops on August 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2025, we're excited to offer three dynamic plenary keynote presentations. These sessions will set the tone for the event, providing insightful perspectives and energizing discussions that will enhance your workshop experience. Join us to gain fresh insights, connect with peers, and get inspired by our presenters!



Together We Thrive: Shaping the Next Chapter for Deaf Seniors of America

Monday, August 4, 2025 • 8–9 AM

Sherri Collins, Executive Director, DSA

Aging Powerfully through Choice, Control, and Collaboration

Tuesday, August 5, 2025 • 8–9 AM

Dr. Alan Marcus



Bridge of Time: Caregivers & Care Receivers with Hearing Loss in Alzheimer's and Dementia

Wednesday, August 6, 2025 • 8–9 AM

Dr. Jamie Wilson



*Announcing A Special Kansas City
DSA 2025 Keynote!*

BRIDGE ← → **OF TIME**

**Caregivers & Care Receivers With Hearing
Loss in Alzheimer's & Dementia**



Dr. Jaime A.B. Wilson
Prescribing Medical Psychologist &
Board Certified Neuropsychologist

Hope To See You In KC In August 2025!

Workshops

(Updated April 14, 2025 • subject to change)



Below is a preliminary list of workshops that have been accepted for inclusion in the DSA 2025 Conference. Please note that this list is subject to final confirmation and scheduling by the Workshop Committee. Any changes or updates to the workshop lineup will be communicated once the committee has completed its review and finalized the event schedule.

Advocacy & Public Policy

- **Are Local and State Emergency Management Agencies Ready for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community?** — *Michael Baer, Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*
Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities truly protected during emergencies? Learn about the critical communication gaps in state and local government preparedness, response, and recovery. Discover how to advocate for inclusive emergency management and ensure community safety.
- **Empowering Deaf Seniors: Advocacy Strategies for Building a Stronger National Community** — *Sherri Collins, Deaf Seniors of America*
Learn practical advocacy strategies to empower Deaf seniors and build a stronger national community. This session covers elevating voices, influencing policy, and creating impact through grassroots organizing and coalition building. Leave with actionable tools, real—world examples, and inspiration to drive change locally and nationally, regardless of your experience level.
- **Working Together Towards System Change With Your State Agency of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing** — *Darlene Zangara and Robert Cooper, National Association of State Agencies Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing*
State representatives will address critical issues on communication access, equal opportunity, and quality of life. Learn about their community and policy collaborations, and gain resources for engagement. Discover national and state efforts to expand services and funding, especially for the growing aging Deaf population.

Financial Freedom & Security

- **An Introduction to Stocks and Bonds** — *James Rooney, Morgan Stanley*
Learn the basics of stocks and bonds: key investment concepts, market operations, and economic factors. Understand risks, returns, and portfolio diversification. Get practical tips for informed decisions and build financial confidence. Perfect for beginners.
- **Anticipating the Unexpected: Involving Family In Financial Planning and Decision Making** — *Stephen Hlibok, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management*

Continued on page 25

Simplify future planning for your family. This session provides a financial roadmap with key documents and decisions. Get practical checklists and handouts on wills, healthcare directives, and more. Learn to have open family discussions for financial security and peace of mind.

- **Be Smarter Than the Scammers: How to Keep Yourself from Becoming a Victim** — *Bonnie S. Kaplan, Deaf Victims of Crime Advocate*
Protect yourself from common financial scams targeting Deaf seniors. Learn how these scams work and how to spot them. This interactive session provides real-life examples and practical tools to safeguard your finances. Ask questions, share your experiences, and learn how to stay informed and safe.
- **Check the Health of Your Wealth: Are Your Finances In Top Shape?** — *Jeremiah Thompson, Kramer Wealth Managers*
Is your financial health in top shape? Explore key financial areas: cash reserves, taxes, investments, estate planning, and long-term care. This session will provide information on how to assess financial situations, understand risks, and prepare for the future. You'll gain practical tips to improve your overall financial well-being.
- **Estate Planning Basics: Seniors – Are You Prepared for the Next Chapter?** — *S. Kay Vincent*
Understand the importance of preparing key documents for end-of-life planning and begin organizing your estate. Reflect on your preferences. An in-workshop survey will guide our interactive discussion. Share experiences and gain practical knowledge on preparing for the next chapter in your financial and personal lives.
- **Financial Trivia: See How Much You Know!** — *Team Presentation, Kramer Wealth Managers*
Finance fun – join our Kahoot trivia game and test your knowledge on investing, retirement planning, estate strategies, and more. Learn new tips, compete, and whether you're a finance pro or just starting out, you'll leave the session feeling smarter and more confident about managing your financial future.
- **Market Outlook 2025** — *Stephen Hlibok, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management*
What's next for the stock market in 2025? Join our discussion on key trends and five reasons for optimism. Learn how to navigate the evolving financial landscape and position your investments for long-term growth.
- **Retirement: Making Your Money Last** — *Carah Berry, Edward Jones*
Create a retirement plan that lasts. This session focuses on managing income and expenses, and how to position your portfolio for both expected and unexpected events. Learn practical strategies for withdrawals and healthcare coverage. Bring your questions and receive answers to help you achieve your retirement goals.
- **Selling Your House Through a Realtor or a Flipper (Investing)** — *Leonard Hall, Hall Law Office, LLC*
Make informed decisions. Learn the differences between using a realtor and selling to an investor ("house flipper"). Understand the costs involved – commissions, repairs, and profit margins – and how investor offers compare to market value. Gain the insights you need to maximize your home sale.

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Workshops, continued from page 25

- **What To Do and Not To Do in Estate Planning Documents** — *Leonard Hall, Hall Law Office, LLC*
Understand the key dos and don'ts of estate planning to avoid future financial problems. Learn about crucial documents, and how specific wording can negatively impact Deaf seniors, especially concerning power of attorney and joint account setups. Real-life cases will be discussed, and attendees are encouraged to share their experiences.

Health & Wellness

- **Cancer Here, Cancer There, Cancer Everywhere!** — *Stephanie Wilcox, DEAF, Inc.*
Empower your health with cancer prevention knowledge. This session covers how cancer begins, preventive actions like SPF and checkups, and the support Pink Wings of Hope provides. Engage in quizzes and discussions to gain a deeper understanding and take proactive health steps.
- **Community Health Navigator: From Advocacy to Practice** — *Kathy Manlapas, Center for Deaf Health Equity*
Understand the crucial role of Community Health Navigators (CHNs) in enhancing the well-being of Deaf seniors. Learn practical steps to access their services and advocate for their expansion within your community. Explore three key support strategies through engaging roundtable discussion.
- **Count Me In! Celebrating the Vital Role of Deaf Seniors In America** — *Marina Fanshteyn and Marsellette Davis, United Hands Organization, Inc.*
Take action to bridge the gap in healthcare and services for Deaf seniors. Learn practical advocacy, communication, and collaboration skills. This workshop provides the tools you need to drive systemic change, empowering your community and improving access to care for all.
- **Double The Challenge, Twice The Strength: Managing Vision Loss in the Deaf Community** — *Jenee Alleman, Helen Keller National Center*
Manage dual sensory loss: vision and hearing, for independent living. Learn about common eye conditions, visual acuity, and effective assistive technologies. Gain practical strategies for daily challenges and insights into resources and advocacy tips for better access to services.
- **From Bingo Halls to Happy Hours: Highlighting Evolving Substance Use Trends in Older Persons** — *Keven Poore and Susan Demers—McLetchie, National Technical Institute for the Deaf / RIT Substance And Addiction Intervention Services for the Deaf*
Gain critical knowledge about substance use among older adults. This workshop covers alcohol, cannabis, and pain medication trends, with a focus on the Deaf community's unique challenges. Learn up-to-date prevalence statistics and engage in an interactive Kahoot activity.
- **Is There Life After Death?** — *Fr. Tom Coughlin, International Catholic Deaf Association—United States Section*
Explore life after death: secular, historical, and religious viewpoints. Discuss the nature of the afterlife, the significance of prayer, the concept of heaven, and the role of angels.

Continued on page 27

Address common curiosities, gain insights from a Catholic perspective, and reflect on humanity's enduring question.

- **Loss And Grieving: Types, Processes, Procedures, Timelines and Support Strategies**

— *Charlotte Parsley and Elaine Navratil, Deaf Seniors of America*

Learn how to help when someone's grieving. We'll talk about different kinds of loss, how people deal with it, and ways to offer support. You'll understand how grief is personal, how long it can take, and how to be there for others. We'll also learn how to create support systems that work for everyone, and give you tools to help your community.

- **Navigating Silence: Cultivating Wisdom as an Individual with Hearing Loss** — *Jaime A.B. Wilson, Wilson Clinic*

Hearing loss affects communication, social connections, and emotional well-being. Learn practical strategies to navigate these daily challenges, improving interactions and strengthening bonds. Discover how to build resilience. Share experiences and unlock personal growth, finding wisdom and connection in your journey.

- **Moving at Any Age: Physical Activity and Your Health** — *Kelly Matthews and Earl Allen, National Center for Deaf Health Research*

Physical activity plays a crucial role in promoting overall health, from preventing heart disease and diabetes to enhancing cardiovascular health. Learn how movement impacts insulin sensitivity, blood sugar, and overall well-being. Discover practical strategies and share resources for lifelong health.

- **Pre-Need Funeral Planning: What You Need To Know?** — *Lori and Thomas Kober, Kober Funeral Home*

Navigate pre-need funeral planning with clarity. Learn to choose between traditional burial or cremation, select a funeral home based on reputation, compassion, and costs, and understand necessary arrangements. Gain practical knowledge through discussion and activities to make informed decisions for yourself and loved ones.

- **Preparing Yourself for Transitioning Services** — *Devon Whitmore and Clark Corogenes, DEAF, Inc.*

Learn the critical steps to transition into the services you need, for yourself or as a caregiver. Gain the skills to confidently move between different support services (e.g., healthcare, housing, community programs). Discover advocacy tools to ensure smooth transitions and independently access needed support.

- **Road Map to Consumer Directed Services** — *April Mason-Donovan, Delta Center for Independent Living*

Explore affordable and empowering care options beyond traditional nursing homes. Develop a better understanding of how Consumer Directed Services (CDS) can provide increased control and flexibility, enabling you to confidently access the living environment and support you deserve.

- **Sex and the Aging Body** — *Alan Marcus, Psychologist.*

Rediscover intimacy and connection as you age. This workshop empowers individuals to manage the physical and emotional changes that can impact sexual health. Learn practical

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Workshops, continued from page 27

strategies to maintain a fulfilling sex life, fostering overall well-being and strengthening intimate relationships.

- **Sex Trivia: Fact or Fiction** — *Alan Marcus, Psychologist*
Uncover the truth about sex in a fun, interactive game of ‘Fact or Fiction’! Challenge your knowledge, debunk common myths, and win prizes. With so much misinformation online, this session provides a lighthearted and engaging way to learn the facts and clear up misconceptions.
- **The Four Essential Pillars: Community, Communication, Courage and Commitment** — *Laura Dilling, LB Services*
Empower your senior years and cultivate lasting well-being. Learn how the four pillars can enhance your mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Engage in self-assessments to gain insights and develop plans for positive changes in your life. Bonus: Optional 1:1 coaching sessions during the conference for personalized support.
- **The Role of Shared Decision-Making in Cancer Screenings** — *DT Bruno, Center for Deaf Health Equity*
Take control of your cancer screening decisions. Learn how shared decision-making (SDM) empowers you to collaborate with your healthcare provider, leading to better outcomes. Through real-life patient stories, you’ll gain practical insights and confidence to actively participate in your health and medical care.

History & Culture

- **Deaf History: What Was It Like Before Technology and Transportation** — *Al Sonnenstrahl*
We’re going to talk about what life was like for Deaf people back in the day. You’ll find out about their language and culture, and how they handled things without all our modern stuff. Gain insight into the resilience and resourcefulness of Deaf people throughout history, and get a cool look at how they made it through.
- **Introduction to Base Ball Hand Signals** — *Steve Sandy, DMY HOY, LLC*
Explore the historical evidence — how Deaf players revolutionized baseball communication with hand signals. This session details the origins of these gestures and their impact on player, coach, and umpire communication providing a factual account of Deaf innovation in America’s favorite pastime.
- **Deafhood and Deaf Gain: Honoring Our Legacy, Building Our Future** — *Chriz Dally, Museum of Deaf History, Arts and Culture*
Explore the concepts of Deafhood and Deaf Gain, celebrating Deaf people’s unique identity, history, and contributions. Emphasis will be placed on Deaf Seniors’ legacies and how their stories preserve Deaf culture. Learn how our museum aligns with these ideas and how their support strengthens initiatives for future generations.
- **Incorporating Culture In Visual Arts** — *Fred Beam, Sunshine 2.0, National Technical Institute of the Deaf/RIT*
Explore diverse art styles from Deaf perspectives and create a mask or image that reflects your identity and culture. Learn the presenter’s artistic journey, then use handshapes and

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Workshops, continued from page 28

acrylics on canvas to express yourself. Discover cultural, Deaf, and geometric art styles in a fun, collaborative group activity.

- **Legacy and Legends — Honor Your Past — Preserve Your Future** — *Mark Hoshi, Leadership Facilitator*

Discover the power of legacy and legend. This session invites you to reflect on your own personal legacy and the lasting impact of others. Through thought-provoking questions and interactive discussion, we'll explore how to honor the past and preserve its wisdom for future generations.

- **The Hidden Narratives of Lesbian, Gay, and Allied Deaf Individuals** — *Bob Rourke and Bridget Klein, Community Researchers*

Explore Lesbian and Gay Deaf experiences: their unique connections, language, and resistance to homophobia. Learn about elder experiences before 1965 and the fight against stigma. This session encourages audience involvement, reflection and the preservation of these crucial histories.

Technology and Connectivity

- **Connecting With The Federal Communications Commission** — *Suzy Rosen Singleton, FCC*

Participate in a community dialogue with FCC staff on accessible telecommunications, video programming, and emergency communications. Learn about recent developments and how to directly impact federal policy. Make your Deaf voice count: learn how to file comments and complaints effectively.

- **From Calls to Conversations: Navigating Everyday Communication** — *Matt Sherman, Nagish*

Join us for an interactive workshop where you'll learn to caption calls, voicemails, and in-person conversations effortlessly. We'll provide hands-on demos, step-by-step guidance, and app personalization tips. Explore key features in action and empower your communication for more inclusive and accessible interactions.

- **Harnessing the Power of Your Wireless Devices** — *Kevin J. Nolan Jr. and Keith L. Clark, T-Mobile*

Gain practical skills to enhance your digital experience and protect your devices. Learn how to maximize the top three apps with key accessibility settings, including fonts, dark mode, and speech-to-text. Discover how to create and manage strong passwords, ensuring device security. Customize your wireless devices for optimal accessibility and ease of use.

- **Maximizing Telecommunications Access: State Programs & Resources Available to You** — *Kevin Steffy and Becky Rosenthal, Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Association (TEDPA)*

Learn how state equipment distribution programs provide accessible telecommunications solutions for individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or have speech disabilities. Includes information about the types of assistive telecommunications devices available, best practices, challenges, and emerging technologies, with interactive discussion and real-world case studies.

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Workshops, continued from page 29

- **Understanding the Icons on Your Devices** — *Cady Macfee and Alana Beal, T—Mobile Accessibility*

In today's fast-paced world, new icons and information on your devices can be overwhelming. This workshop will help you learn the functions of the 10 most popular icons on Android and Apple devices, and how to customize your accessibility settings. Gain confidence in navigating your device and tailoring it to your specific needs.

Travel & Lifelong Exploration

- **Digital Tools for Smart Travelers** — *Darren Frazier and Melinda Jones, Hands On Travel*
Travel smarter, safer, and save money! Master essential apps and hacks for seamless journeys. Learn to plan better, travel wiser, and explore safer through digital tools. This session combines lecture, demonstration, and discussion, empowering you with the confidence to navigate your trips with greater efficiency and security.
- **T3: Trends, Tricks, and Tips** — *Marsellette Davis, Deaf Is Not Dirty Word*
Shop and travel smarter on a budget with the T3 approach—tips, tricks, and tools. Learn to use apps and websites for discounts, price comparisons, and exclusive deals. This interactive session provides practical skills for seniors to make informed purchasing decisions and stretch their budgets further.



KCDHH Supports DSA 2025 Conference



by Robert J. Cooper

The Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) is proud to be one of the sponsors of the upcoming Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) Conference in Kansas City. To help reduce costs for DSA, KCDHH will provide in-kind support by offering ASL interpreters from the local Kansas City metro area.

To further support accessibility, we are coordinating with a second interpreting agency (contracted by DSA) to provide most of the Deaf interpreting services for DeafBlind attendees, as well as those requiring close vision access. While the Kansas City metro area has a large community of ASL interpreters on both sides of the state line, Deaf interpreters remain scarce in this “four-state” Heartland region. KCDHH will also provide some CART captioning support as needed.

In addition to serving on the local committee, I have agreed to take on the role of DSA 2025 Access Coordinator for the conference. I have been working closely with the DSA Board to gather information from attendees who have requested accessibility accommodations and/or special dietary needs. For more information about access needs, please email DSA2025Access@deafseniors.us or contact us via VP at 785-246-5077.

The KCDHH team is collaborating with Missouri’s Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) and several local Deaf organizations to provide training for the conference hotel and surrounding venues. Our goal is to ensure they offer the best hospitality and full accommodations for DSA attendees.

If DSA attendees need resources before, during, or after the conference, they can reach out to KCDHH at www.kcdhh.ks.gov or MCDHH at www.mcdhh.mo.gov. Both organizations can also connect attendees with local resources as needed.

We welcome your ideas and feedback on how we can make this conference as accessible and inclusive as possible. If you have any input, please use the contact information above. We look forward to welcoming you to Kansas City!



Robert J. Cooper has served as the Executive Director of the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) since 2014, overseeing regulation and certification of interpreters in Kansas and border communities, and collaboration with other state agencies and political subdivisions. He is also the President of the National Association of State Agencies for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH).

To see this article in ASL, click on his photo at <https://www.deafseniors.us/post/kcdhh-supports-dsa-2025>.

Daniel D. Cook
SignTasTic Trivia Game Show
August 7th



**click
here for
video**



Angela Petrone Stratiy
Comedy Café Lunch & Laughter
August 5th, 11:30 am

**click
here for
video**

DSA 2025 Kansas City – Update from the Treasurer

by Cathy Edler

Hello, everyone! My name is Cathy Edler, and I am the Treasurer for DSA. I am excited to connect with all of you who have registered for the DSA 2025 Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. I want to share some important information with you.

Bring Confirmation Letter

Many of you have received a confirmation letter after I processed your payment and forms. However, I've heard that some of you may have misplaced it or thought it wasn't needed. This letter includes your ID number and a reminder at the bottom to bring it with you to the conference. We will resend your confirmation letters via email soon. If you don't receive it by March 31, please give me a call at 262-725-0142 VP, 262-374-1985 (Google Meet) as I don't have Facetime, or email me at treasurer@deafseniors.us.

Whova

For those who attended the DSA 2023 Conference in Hollywood, Florida, you may remember the Whova mobile app. We will be using Whova again for the DSA 2025 Conference, making it easy for us to stay connected. Conference attendees will have easy access to the schedule, workshop details, locations, and more — all on their phone.



Pre-Conference Tours Deadline

Time is flying by fast, so don't forget to review the Pre-Conference Tours, sign up, and send in your payment before the **June 1st** deadline.

I can't wait to see you all in just four months! We'll definitely have a wonderful time together. See you soon!



Cathy Edler is the treasurer for Deaf Seniors of America. Cathy can be reached via email at treasurer@deafseniors.us.

See the vlog at: <https://www.deafseniors.us/post/dsa-2025-update-from-the-treasurer>

Call for Proposed Bylaws Amendments

dsa
2025

Empowering Our Future

18TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE • KANSAS CITY, MO
DEAF SENIORS OF AMERICA

This is a friendly reminder for members to submit your proposed changes to the DSA Bylaws. As Chair of the DSA Bylaws Committee, I am pleased to announce that Charles Giansanti (AZ), Bob Lichtenberg (WA), Jerry Nelson (MN), and Pauline Wood (LA) are working with me on this important effort.

Current Bylaws Review

Before submitting changes, please review the current bylaws here: DSA Bylaws. At the bottom of the webpage, you'll find links to PDF and Word versions.

Submission Deadline

Please send in your proposed amendments as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, May 30, 2025.

How to Submit Your Amendments

Send in your proposals using this form: [Submit Amendments](#). Important: Each amendment must be submitted separately.



What Happens Next

The Bylaws Committee will review all submissions and prepare a final report containing proposed amendments. These will be shared with members via email alert and posted on the DSA website.

Members will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on the proposed amendments during the General Meeting at the DSA 2025 Conference.

If you haven't submitted your amendments yet, now is the time! We appreciate your participation and look forward to seeing you in Kansas City this August.

Sincerely,

Harvey

by Dr. Harvey Corson



Dr. Harvey Corson of Hartford, CT is a retired educational administrator who has long been involved with nonprofit organizations.

He can be reached via email at hjcorson@gmail.com.

Call for Nominations DSA Awards



The Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) Awards Committee is accepting nominations for three prestigious awards. Award selections will be announced at the DSA Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, August 3-7, 2023. Nominations should be submitted to the Awards Chair, Elaine Navratil no later than **May 30, 2025**. Contact information is provided at the bottom of this page.

Distinguished Service Award

The DSA Distinguished Service Award honors an individual who has demonstrated exceptional service to deaf seniors, either locally or nationally.

Nominee criteria:

- May or may not be a member of the DSA.
- Must have a longstanding history of involvement with a deaf senior organization.
- Must have served voluntarily (include details on the type and length of service).
- Can be either deaf or hearing.
- Can be living or deceased.

Organizational Achievement Award

The DSA Organizational Achievement Award recognizes a local or state organization that has made significant contributions in serving deaf seniors.

Nominee criteria: To be considered, the organization must provide evidence of

outstanding service to deaf seniors, which can include:

- Articles or content from newspapers, newsletters, or the organization's website showcasing their service.
- Letter of support from the organization's president.
- Two or more letters from members of the organization endorsing the nomination.

Ralph H. White Extra Mile Award

The DSA Ralph H. White Extra Mile Award honors individuals or a group of individuals who have made significant contributions to serving deaf seniors within their community.

Nominee criteria:

- Must be a member of DSA.
- Must have made significant contributions to deaf seniors.
- Must have served voluntarily (include details on the type and length of service).
- Can be living or deceased.

Submission Deadline: May 30, 2025

Nominations, along with rationale and any supporting materials, should be submitted to Elaine Navratil either via email at elaine.navratil@gmail.com or via mail to:

Elaine Navratil
DSA Awards Chair
15037 West Woodridge Drive
Surprise, AZ 85374

Call for DSA Board Nominations



Are you ready to take on a leadership role in Deaf Seniors of America (DSA)? Now is your chance. DSA is accepting nominations for the following positions on the Board of Directors:

- President (2-year term)
- Vice President (2-year term)
- Secretary (2-year term)
- Two Board Members (4-year term)

The terms for President, Vice President, Secretary, and two current Board Members will conclude at the DSA 2027 Baltimore Conference. The terms for the two Board Members will end at the DSA 2029 Conference.

The Treasurer position is not elected and will be appointed by the Board.

Nomination Process

Nominations will be accepted prior to and during the DSA General Meeting on August 7, 2025, at the Marriott Kansas City Downtown Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. Nominations must be submitted before the elections take place during the General Meeting.

There are two ways to submit a nomination:

- Self-nomination – Complete the nomination form and submit it to the DSA Nominations Chair before or during the General Meeting on August 7, 2025.

- Nomination by another member – A DSA member may nominate someone during the General Meeting.

Eligibility for Board Service

To qualify for a board position, nominees must:

- Be an active DSA member for at least two years with dues paid through August 2027.
- Have attended at least one DSA conference
- Have internet access and a videophone



Completed nomination forms should be sent to Lance Fischer at 9497 Via Grande W, Wellington, FL 33411, or emailed to lance.fischer@deafseniors.us.

Elections and Voting

The election will be conducted by secret ballot using paper ballots. Votes will be counted after the elections. To participate in the election, DSA members must be in good standing with dues paid through August 2027.

For questions, contact:

Lance Fischer
DSA Nominations Chair
lance.fischer@deafseniors.us

Deaf Seniors of America Board Nomination Form



Board position(s) you are interested in:

President (2 years) Vice President (2 years) Secretary (2 years)
 Board Member (4 years; 2 positions)

Nominee Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Videophone Number: _____

Text Number: _____

ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE: Please describe your involvement with organizations, programs, or events.

INTEREST IN SERVING: Why do you want to serve and what do you hope to achieve through this leadership position?

Are you a current DSA member in good standing for the last 2 years? Yes No

Have you ever attended a previous DSA conference? If so, what year? _____

Your Signature

Date

Please return via email to lance.fischer@deafseniors.us or mail this form to:
Lance Fischer, 9497 Via Grande W, Wellington, FL 33411. Thank you for your interest.

Call to Sponsor- Advertise-Exhibit



Join us for the 18th Biennial Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) Conference will be held August 1-7, 2025 at the Marriott Downtown Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri.

The conference theme, Empowering Our Future, is a unique opportunity to connect with a vibrant community of active and engaged Deaf and hard of hearing seniors who are shaping their tomorrows.

Showcase your commitment to their empowerment by presenting innovative solutions in communication, technology, and healthy living. Become a part of our journey towards a brighter future!.

Why Partner with DSA?

- **Reach a Targeted Audience:** Connect with over 1,500 engaged Deaf and hard of hearing senior citizens from across the nation, many of whom are leaders in their communities.
- **Enhance Brand Awareness:** Gain significant exposure by taking advantage of our sponsorship, advertising and exhibit package.

- **Support a Meaningful Cause:** Support DSA's mission of enriching the lives of Deaf seniors through advocacy, information sharing, and valuable programs.
- **Network with Key Decision-Makers:** Interact with like-minded individuals passionate about accessibility, advocacy, and empowerment.

Elevate Your Brand

- **Become a Sponsor:** Gain prominent recognition, premium placement, and exclusive networking events to take your brand to the next level, ensuring maximum exposure.
- **Showcase Your Expertise:** Demonstrate your products and services to a highly engaged audience in our dedicated exhibit hall.
- **Reach a Targeted Market:** Promote your brand through a variety of publications and promotional materials, leading up to and during the conference.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Diamond – \$25,000

- Recognition as an official sponsor on all event publicity
- Logo with live link on mobile conference app, digital program book, website, social media and e-blasts
- Opening Ceremony promo opportunity (approved 120 second/two minute video message)
- Advertisement in print/digital program book (two full pages vertical, centerfold placement)
- Premium exhibit (30' by 8' triple corner booth or variation thereof; electric/internet available for additional charge)
- Facebook promos (five posts – approved square graphic), also to be shared by DSA
- VIP sponsor reception with DSA board (eight representatives)
- Combo registration (eight representatives)

Continued on page 39

Sapphire – \$20,000

- Recognition as an official sponsor on all event publicity
- Logo with live link on mobile conference app, digital program book, website, social media and e-blasts
- Opening Ceremony promo opportunity (approved 90 second/video message)
- Advertisement in print/digital program book (two full pages vertical, premium placement)
- Premium exhibit (20' by 8' double corner booth; electric/internet available for additional charge)
- Facebook promos (four posts – square graphic), also to be shared by DSA
- VIP reception for sponsors (six representatives)
- Combo registration (six representatives)

Emerald – \$15,000

- Recognition as an official sponsor on all event publicity
- Logo with live link on mobile conference app, digital program book, website, social media and e-blasts
- Opening Ceremony promo opportunity (approved 60 second/one minute video message)

- Advertisement in print/digital program book (full page vertical, premium placement)
- Premium exhibit (20' by 8' double booth; electric/internet available for additional charge)
- Facebook promos (three posts – square graphic), also to be shared by DSA
- VIP sponsor reception with DSA board (four representatives)
- Combo registration (four representatives)

Ruby – \$10,000

- Recognition as an official sponsor on all event publicity
- Logo with live link on mobile conference app, digital program book, website, social media and e-blasts
- Opening Ceremony promo opportunity (approved 30 second video message)
- Advertisement in print/digital program book (full page vertical, standard placement)
- Premium exhibit (10' by 8' booth; electric/internet available for additional charge)
- Facebook promos (two posts – square graphic), also to be shared by DSA

- VIP sponsor reception with DSA board (two representatives)
- Combo registration (two representatives)

Gold – \$5,000

- Recognition as an official sponsor on all event publicity
- Logo with live link on mobile conference app, digital program book, website, social media and e-blasts
- Advertisement in print/digital program book (half page horizontal, standard placement)
- Standard exhibit (10' by 8' booth; electric/internet available for additional charge)
- Facebook promo (one post – square graphic), also to be shared by DSA
- VIP sponsor reception with DSA board (one representative)
- Combo registration (one representative)

Silver – \$2,500

- Recognition as an official sponsor on all event publicity
- Logo with live link on mobile conference app, digital program book, website, social media and e-blasts

Continued on page 40

- Advertisement in print/digital program book (quarter page vertical, standard placement)
- Exhibit full table (10' by 8' foyer space, electric/internet available for additional charge)

Bronze – \$1,000

- Recognition as an official sponsor on all event publicity
- Logo with live link on mobile conference app, digital program book, website, social media and e-blasts

Yes! I want to be a DSA 2025 Conference sponsor. Fill out the Confirmation Form via the QR Code/link at the end of this document.

Advertising Opportunities

Full Page

8.5" wide by 11" high, vertical format, standard placement.

- Corporations: \$800
- Nonprofit organizations/deaf-owned businesses: \$500

Half Page

8.5" wide by 5.5" high, horizontal format, standard placement.

- Corporations: \$600
- Nonprofit organizations/deaf-owned businesses: \$400

Quarter Page

4.25" wide by 5.5" high, horizontal format, standard placement.

- Corporations: \$400
- Nonprofit organizations/deaf-owned businesses: \$300

Yes! I want to be a DSA 2025 Conference sponsor. Fill out the Confirmation Form via the QR Code/link at the end of this document.

Exhibit Opportunities

Premium Booth

Secure exhibit hall. Premium placement in high traffic area. 10' by 8' booth with six foot table, 2 chairs and wastebasket (electric/internet available for additional charge).

- Corporations: \$1,100
- Nonprofit organizations/deaf-owned businesses: \$700

Standard Booth

Secure exhibit hall. 10' by 8' with six foot table, 2 chairs and wastebasket (electric/internet available for additional charge).

- Corporations: \$900
- Nonprofit organizations/deaf-owned businesses: \$500

Exhibit Full Table

Open non-secure foyer space by exhibit hall. Up to two freestanding vertical banners may be used; no backdrops allowed. Six foot table, 2 chairs and wastebasket (electric/internet available for additional charge).

- Corporations: \$700
- Nonprofit organizations/deaf-owned businesses: \$400

Yes! I want to be a DSA 2025 Conference exhibitor. Fill out the Confirmation Form via the QR Code/link below.

Deadline

The deadline for all sponsorships, advertisements, and exhibits is **May 15, 2025**.

Confirmation Form Code/Link



Click this link:
<https://bit.ly/4frVGEK>

Questions?

If you have questions or seek additional information, contact me via email:

Adam Novsam, Chair
DSA 2025 Sponsor-Advertise-Exhibit Package
dsa2025sae@deafseniors.us



18th Biennial DSA Conference

August 1–7, 2025 | Kansas City, Missouri

Empowering Our Future

Click HERE to fill out ONLINE

COMBO REGISTRATION FORM

One Form Per Person – Please Print Clearly

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Read the information below carefully before you sign this registration form.

CONFIRMATION

Once payment is received, you will receive a confirmation letter with assigned ID number via email (or postal mail). Please use this ID number when you contact the registration coordinator. When you arrive for registration at the conference, be prepared to present your driver's license or personal identification card with photo (required).

RETURNED (BOUNCED) CHECKS

A service fee of \$50 will be applied to all checks returned by the bank due to non-sufficient funds. Registrations will not be processed until after payment has been satisfied.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

A fee of \$130 will be charged for each canceled registration prior to June 30, 2025. Registration fees are non-refundable on and after July 1, 2025. Phone cancellations are not accepted. Documentation is required after July 1, 2025 for refunds due to hospitalization (medical records) or death (obituary notice or death certificate). DSA membership dues are not refundable, except for death.

NON-TRANSFERABLE

Completed registrations are not transferable to other persons. DSA will not honor those that are sold or exchanged by unauthorized parties before or during the conference.

LOST BADGES

A processing fee of \$50 will be applied lost registration badges. This fee is not refundable if the lost badge is found later.

MAILING & CONTACT INFO

Please notify the registration chair ASAP if there are changes to your mailing address or contact information.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have accessibility needs, please contact dsa2025access@deafseniors.us for more information.

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS

Cathy Edler, DSA Treasurer
treasurer@deafseniors.us

FULL NAME: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
EMAIL: _____
VIDEOPHONE: _____ CELL/TEXT: _____

I give DSA permission to list my name on its website: YES: NO:
I have accessibility and/or dietary needs; contact me: YES: NO:

COMBO REGISTRATION

January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025\$425.00
July 1, 2025 – August 2, 2025\$450.00
August 3–7, 2025 (at door/conference).....\$500.00

Includes:

- >> DSA 2025-2027 membership dues (\$30 non-refundable).
- >> DSA 2025 conference registration fee, program book, exhibits, workshops, meetings, entertainment, opening/welcome reception, and farewell/gala luncheon.

PAYMENT METHODS & REGISTRATION SUBMISSION - Please Print Clearly

- >> CashApp, payable to: **\$DSA2025FUND**
- >> Zelle, payable to: treasurer@deafseniors.us
- >> Credit card (Visa or MasterCard): add \$15.00 to cover processing fees

Name on card: _____
16-digit card number: _____
Expiration date: _____ CCV (3 digit): _____

Note: Complete and *email* registration form to Cathy Edler, DSA Treasurer, treasurer@deafseniors.us (or send via *mail* to the postal address below)

- >> Check/money order, payable to: **DSA 2025 Kansas City Conference**

Note: Complete and *mail* registration form with check/money order to:
Cathy Edler, DSA Treasurer
9314 Forest Hill Blvd. #506
Wellington, FL 33411

AGREEMENT

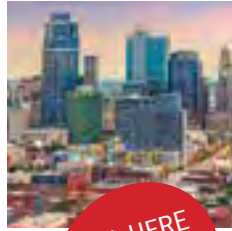
I agree to abide by conference rules/regulations. I understand DSA is not responsible for damage to or loss of my personal property. I have read and understand the terms and conditions outlined on this registration form.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Visit www.deafseniors.us for up-to-date Conference information

OFFICE USE ONLY

Registration ID: _____ Date Received: _____
Payment Method: _____ Amount Received: _____
Deposit Date: _____



18th Biennial DSA Conference

August 1–7, 2025 | Kansas City, Missouri

Empowering Our Future

Click **HERE**
to fill out
ONLINE

NON-COMBO REGISTRATION FORM

One Form Per Person – Please Print Clearly

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LOST BADGES

A processing fee of \$50 will be applied lost registration badges. This fee is not refundable if the lost badge is found later.

MAILING & CONTACT INFO

Please notify the registration chair ASAP if there are changes to your mailing address or contact information.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have accessibility needs, please contact dsa2025access@deafseniors.us for more information.

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS

Cathy Edler, DSA Treasurer
treasurer@deafseniors.us

FULL NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

VIDEOPHONE: _____ CELL/TEXT: _____

I give DSA permission to list my name on its website: YES: NO:

I have accessibility and/or dietary needs; contact me: YES: NO:

NON-COMBO REGISTRATION

\$ _____ One Day Pass \$75 (select day): 8/3 8/4 8/5 8/6 8/7

\$ _____ Unlimited Daily Pass \$150 (8/3–8/7)

Both passes include: DSA 2025-2027 membership dues (\$30 non-refundable), DSA 2025 conference registration fee, program book, exhibits, workshops, meetings and late evening social activities (optional events are *not* included).

OPTIONAL EVENTS – REQUIRES NON-COMBO REGISTRATION

\$ _____ 8/3 Opening Reception \$100

\$ _____ 8/6 DSAGO/Dingo \$20

\$ _____ 8/4 Comedy Luncheon \$85

\$ _____ 8/7 Farewell BBQ Luncheon \$125

\$ _____ 8/6 Sports Luncheon \$85

\$ _____ 8/7 SignTasTic Show \$95

\$ _____ Total Non-Combo Registration & Optional Events

PAYMENT METHODS & REGISTRATION SUBMISSION - Please Print Clearly

>> CashApp, payable to: **SDSA2025FUND**

>> Zelle, payable to: treasurer@deafseniors.us

>> Credit card (Visa or MasterCard): add \$15.00 to cover processing fees

Name on card: _____

16-digit card number: _____

Expiration date: _____ CCV (3 digit): _____

Note: Complete and *email* registration form to Cathy Edler, DSA Treasurer, treasurer@deafseniors.us (or send via *mail* to the postal address below)

>> Check/money order, payable to: **DSA 2025 Kansas City Conference**

Note: Complete and *mail* registration form with check/money order to: Cathy Edler, DSA Treasurer 9314 Forest Hill Blvd. #506, Wellington, FL 33411

AGREEMENT

I agree to abide by conference rules/regulations. I understand DSA is not responsible for damage to or loss of my personal property. I have read and understand the terms and conditions outlined on this registration form.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Visit www.deafseniors.us for up-to-date conference information

OFFICE USE ONLY

Registration ID: _____ Date Received: _____

Payment Method: _____ Amount Received: _____

Deposit Date: _____

Need a Roommate?

dsa
2025

Empowering Our Future

18TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE • KANSAS CITY, MO
DEAF SENIORS OF AMERICA

During Pre-Tour at Hotel Phillips
KC and/or during Conference at
Marriott Downtown KC Hotel
Between August 1 to 8, 2025

Roommate ...★... WANTED



Opportunity to make new friends.

Questions? Please contact: info@deafseniors.us

[Back to Contents](#)

KC MOBILITY SCOOTER RENTALS

WHERE CONVENIENCE MEETS MOBILITY

KC Mobility Scooter Rentals is a veteran owned and family operated business located in Leavenworth, Kansas. We provide mobility scooter, wheelchair, knee scooter, rollator, and transport chair rentals in Kansas City and surrounding communities.

KC Mobility Scooters is thankful for the opportunity to assist the Deaf Seniors of America 2025 Conference. We are freezing our 2024 prices for all customers who reserve through the link below. The prices below reflect a seven-day rental price from 02 August 2025–08 August 2025.

Mobility equipment will be delivered and picked up at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown Hotel where the DSA 2025 Conference will be held.

Reservation link: <https://kcmobilityscooterrentals.com/dsa2025>



\$200



\$210



\$225



\$50



\$50



\$50



\$50

Conference Lodging



Hotel Phillips Kansas City

July 31–August 3, 2025

The DSA 2025 hotel guest room block at Hotel Phillips Kansas City (Curio Collection by Hilton), 106 West 12th St, Kansas City, MO 64105, is now open at the special rate of \$194/night plus tax.

July 31, 2025 – Check-in
August 3, 2025 – Check-out

DSA group reservation link:
(bit.ly/3NR7ofu).

Rooms at our discounted rate are filling up fast—book your stay early to secure your spot!

Group reservation links for both hotels are also available at the 2025 Conference tab on the DSA website.

BOOK EARLY!

Kansas City Marriott Downtown Hotel

August 2–8, 2025

The DSA 2025 hotel guest room block at Kansas City Marriott Downtown Hotel, 200 West 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64105, is available at the special rate of \$194/night plus tax.

August 2, 2025 — Check-in
August 8, 2025 — Check-out

DSA group reservation link:
(<https://book.passkey.com/e/50756312>).



At-a-Glance

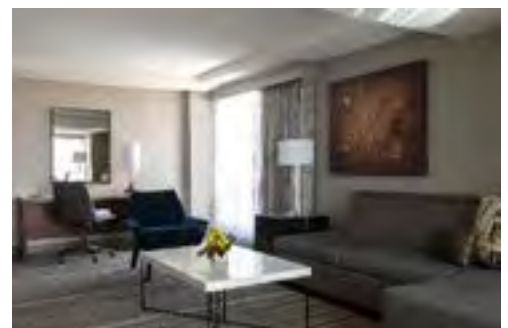
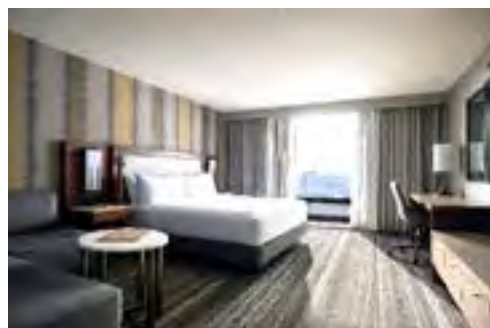
HOTEL DESCRIPTION

The [Kansas City Marriott Downtown](#) is the perfect blend of historic elegance and modern style – welcoming you to Missouri with excellent service and a fantastic downtown location. The two-tower complex features a striking lobby space designed for today’s business, convention or leisure traveler and are linked via a second-floor pedestrian walkway. As the city’s largest hotel, we are neighboring and conveniently located one block away from the Kansas City Convention Center. The hotel is also a short walk from the exciting Kansas City Power & Light Entertainment District, the new Kansas City Streetcar, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, and so much more!



GUEST ROOMS

- 970 newly renovated guest rooms and suites designed with tasteful, elegant, modern look and amenities
 - All rooms are non-smoking, each with a 55-inch flat-screen TV and the latest in guest room entertainment television options (like Netflix), plus luxurious Revive™ bedding
- 39 suites: (5) Premier Suites, (31) Junior Suites, (3) Hospitality Suites
- 501 Queen/Queen (5 ADA), 430 King (20 ADA)



FUNCTION SPACE

- 93,374 total square feet of function space: 42 meeting rooms including 34 breakout rooms
- Neighboring and conveniently located one block from the [Kansas City Convention Center](#)
- In-House Audio-Visual Department (Encore)



BALLROOMS

- East Tower Imperial/Colonial Ballroom - 17,400 square feet - Maximum Banquet Seating 1,400
- West Tower Count Basie Ballroom - 15,080 square feet - Maximum Banquet Seating 1,140
- East Tower Historical Muehlebach Hotel Lobby, restored to its early 20th Century elegance - Maximum Banquet Seating 180



EXHIBIT SPACE

- Royal Hall - 12,000 square foot multi-function, carpeted exhibit hall - Maximum 75 Exhibits



AMENITIES

- Business Center, Sundry Shop, Valet Laundry Services, A la Carte (room service), Guest Services Desk for Special Requests and Additional Assistance
- MLounge (executive/concierge lounge) – Lobby Level, West Tower
- Valet Parking (currently \$42/day) and Self-Parking (currently \$32/day) available



HEALTH CLUB

- 22,000 sq ft Fitness Center
 - Locker rooms, Nautilus and Hammer Strength Equipment, Life Fitness, Bikes, Stair Masters, Treadmills, Ellipticals, Rowing Machine & Free Weights
 - Indoor Lap Swimming Pool featuring spectacular top-floor panoramic views!

RESTAURANTS & LOUNGES

- Coffee Central: Featuring a variety of specialty coffees and snacks (Open 6am-3pm, Daily)
- MetropolitanKC: Contemporary restaurant featuring delicious breakfast options (Open 6am-11am, Daily)
- Bar Central: Featuring 5-10-20 minute menus, cocktails and a variety of local and imported beers (Open 11am-12am, Sun-Thu & 11am-1am, Fri/Sat)
- A La Carte Dining: modern take on Room Service, Delivery or Pick-Up (6am-12am, Daily)
- Voo Lounge: Cocktail lounge featuring curated cocktails and light bites (4pm-10pm, Wed/Thu, 6pm-1am Fri/Sat)



LOCATION

Our Hotel is conveniently located in the heart of the convention business, government and theater districts. Just steps away from:

- Kauffman Center for Performing Arts (<https://www.kauffmancenter.org/>)
- Kansas City Live! Power & Light Entertainment District (<http://www.powerandlightdistrict.com>)
- T-Mobile Center (<https://www.t-mobilecenter.com/>)
- Kansas City Convention Center (<https://kcconvention.com/>)

Just a short drive from many area attractions such as:

- (1.6) miles from first multi-level sports complex Hy-Vee Arena (<http://www.hyveearena.com/>)
- (1.6) miles from National WWI Museum and Memorial (<https://www.theworldwar.org/>)
- (8) miles from Kauffman Stadium for Kansas City Royals (<https://www.mlb.com/royals>)
- (8) miles from Arrowhead Stadium for Kansas City Chiefs (<https://www.chiefs.com/>)
- (13.8) miles from Children's Mercy Park for Sporting KC (<https://www.sportingkc.com/>)
- (13.8) miles from NASCAR Kansas Speedway (<http://www.kansasspeedway.com/>)
- (19) miles/20 minutes from Kansas City International Airport (MCI) (<https://www.flykci.com/>)



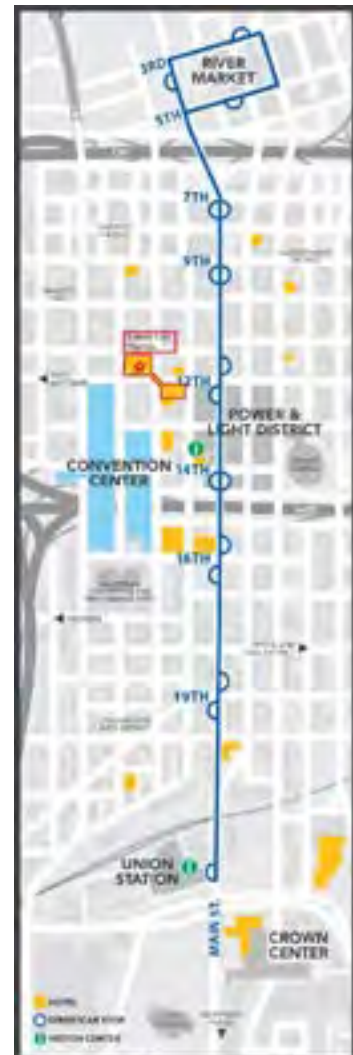
TRANSPORTATION

- Kansas City Streetcar complimentary, modern and convenient, connecting 2 miles of downtown’s most sought-after attractions
- KCI Shuttle (thru SuperShuttle) provides service to and from the airport, \$18 one-way
- Taxi Service is available 24-hours daily from our front drive/valet
- Airport Taxi Service, approximately \$50 one-way, per car
- Uber & Lyft available throughout the city, airport Uber Service is approximately \$35 one-way, per car

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/MAPS



KANSAS CITY STREETCAR ROUTE



Pre-Conference Tours — Kansas City



Tour 1 Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum -and- Pioneers Trail Covered Wagon Adventure

Motorcoach tours with ASL guides from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Includes lunch: Pulled pork, BBQ brisket, baked beans, potato casserole, buns, cookies and bottled water. Per person: \$145.00.



The **Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum** in Independence, Missouri, preserves and provides access to President Truman's historical archives. Through engaging exhibits and programs, the Library aspires to reach a broad audience in a continuous effort to keep President Truman's life and legacy alive, emphasizing his ideals of citizenship, learning, and service.



Hop on the **Pioneers Trail Covered Wagon Adventure** in Independence, MO. See the Bingham Waggoner estate, learn the history of Quantrill's Raiders, Independence Civil War battles, and Frank and Jesse James! Highlighted by the historic home of Bess Truman's birthplace as well as a retrace of the exact path of the Sante Fe trail! Click to watch: <https://youtu.be/oDyHQ4ddIZA>

Tour 2 Negro Leagues Baseball Museum -and- National World War I Museum and Memorial

Motorcoach tours with ASL guides from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Includes lunch; menu to be provided in advance to participants. Per person: \$115.00.



The **Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM)** is the world's only museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history of African-American baseball and its impact on the social advancement of America. Experience a timeline of American and Latin baseball history, see detailed baseball histories of several countries and learn about significant baseball players.



The **National World War I Museum and Memorial** is the only American museum solely dedicated to preserving the objects, history and personal experiences of a war whose impact still echoes in the world today. The Museum holds the most diverse collection of war objects and documents in the world and is the second-oldest public museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history and personal experiences of the war.

Six DSA 2025 Pre-Conference Tours are available on both Friday, August 1 and Saturday, August 2, 2025 with pickup at the Hotel Phillips Kansas City.

Be sure to sign up for your preferred tour on page 4 of this special tour packet.



Tour 3 Kansas School for the Deaf Museum -and- Museum of Deaf History, Arts and Culture

Motorcoach tours with ASL guides from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Includes lunch; menu to be provided in advance to participants. Per person: \$95.00.



The **Kansas School for the Deaf Museum** in Olathe, offers a fascinating glimpse into the rich legacy of the school. Housed in two former classrooms, the museum features an extensive collection of historical artifacts, including vintage photographs, furniture, class pictures, then and now exhibits, and more.



The **Museum of Deaf History, Arts and Culture (MDHAC)** is a museum dedicated to the unique culture of the Deaf community in the United States. The Museum opened in 2001 in Olathe, Kansas, across the street from the Kansas School for the Deaf. Learn more about the legacies of Paul Hubbard, Luther “Dummy” Taylor and Charles Baird, and more!

Tour 4 The Wizard of Oz Museum -and- Wamego Historical Society and Museum

Motorcoach tour with ASL guides from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Includes lunch; menu to be provided in advance to participants. Per person: \$110.00.



The **Wizard of Oz Museum** started with a dream to preserve the magic of Oz for future generations. A small group, inspired by L. Frank Baum’s 1900 book, came together to build a museum that now houses over 2,000 Oz artifacts, spanning from the book’s release to today. It’s more than just a museum—visitors can dive into an interactive Yellow Brick Road experience, bringing the world of Oz to life in an immersive way.



The **Wamego Historical Society and Museum** brings history to life with authentic 1800s buildings and stories that trace the evolution of Wamego and Pottawatomie County. Discover the area’s Native American roots, its role in the Underground Railroad, and artifacts from the 1893 Columbian Exposition. A standout is the Dutch Mill, built in 1879 by a Dutch immigrant who revolutionized local farming with a new milling process. It’s a unique and immersive journey through time.

Six DSA 2025 Pre-Conference Tours are available on both Friday, August 1 and Saturday, August 2, 2025 with pickup at the Hotel Phillips Kansas City.

Be sure to sign up for your preferred tour on page 4 of this special tour packet.



Tour 5 Arabia Steamboat Museum -and- Crown Center: Hallmark • Sea Life • Union Station

Motorcoach tours with ASL guides from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Includes lunch; menu to be provided in advance to participants. Per person: \$98.00.



The **Arabia Steamboat Museum** provides a time capsule of life on the American frontier in the mid-19th century. Visitors have a one-of-a-kind opportunity to experience everyday objects that made life possible for pioneers in the 1800s. Voted “Favorite Kansas City Hidden Gem” by Visit KC, the museum is one of Kansas City’s most popular attractions.



Explore the **Crown Center** area with a variety of must-see attractions! Visit **SEA LIFE Kansas City Aquarium** for an up-close look at thousands of marine creatures, then head to the **Hallmark Visitors Center** to discover the creative history behind the famous greeting cards and ornaments. Don’t miss **Union Station**, a stunning historic landmark with museums, shopping, dining, and more.

Tour 6 Kansas City Gangster Tour -and- Brewery, Winery, and Distillery Tour

Motorcoach tours with ASL guides from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Includes lunch; menu to be provided in advance to participants. Per person: \$160.00.



In the 1920s and 30s Kansas City had it all and we tell you the full story on the **Kansas City Gangster Tour!** Johnny Holiday and his friends will guide you on an inter-active bus tour of Kansas City showing you sites of speakeasies, brothels, murders, and more! Kansas City was known as a wide-open town and we have all the dirty details.



No ordinary tasting tour! Dive into Kansas City’s vibrant craft scene with VIP access to hidden gems for a **Brewery, Winery and Distillery Tour** experience. Taste hand-crafted spirits, uncover local stories, and let our fun guide lead the way. Safe, delicious, and unforgettable? Cheers to that!

Pre-Conference Tours — Sign Up Form



Friday, August 1, 2025

- Tour 1: Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum -and- Pioneers Trail Covered Wagon Adventure**
Timeframe: 9:30 AM-4:30 PM; \$145 per person X _____ (number of persons) = Subtotal: \$ _____
- Tour 2: Negro Leagues Baseball Museum -and- National World War I Museum and Memorial**
Timeframe: 9:30 AM-4:30 PM; \$115 per person X _____ (number of persons) = Subtotal: \$ _____
- Tour 3: Kansas School for the Deaf Museum -and- Museum of Deaf History, Arts and Culture**
Timeframe: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM; \$95 per person X _____ (number of persons) = Subtotal: \$ _____
- Tour 4: Wizard of Oz Museum -and- Wamego Historical Society and Museum**
Timeframe: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM; \$110 per person X _____ (number of persons) = Subtotal: \$ _____
- Tour 5: Arabia Steamboat Museum -and- Crown Center: Hallmark • Sea Life • Union Station**
Timeframe: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM; \$98 per person X _____ (number of persons) = Subtotal: \$ _____
- Tour 6: Kansas City Gangster Tour -and- Brewery, Winery, and Distillery Tour**
Timeframe: 9:30 AM-5:00 PM; \$160 per person X _____ (number of persons) = Subtotal: \$ _____

Saturday, August 2, 2025

- Tour 1: Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum -and- Pioneers Trail Covered Wagon Adventure**
Timeframe: 9:30 AM-4:30 PM; \$145 per person X _____ (number of persons) = Subtotal: \$ _____
- Tour 2: Negro Leagues Baseball Museum -and- National World War I Museum and Memorial**
Timeframe: 9:30 AM-4:30 PM; \$115 per person X _____ (number of persons) = Subtotal: \$ _____
- Tour 3: Kansas School for the Deaf Museum -and- Museum of Deaf History, Arts and Culture**
Timeframe: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM; \$95 per person X _____ (number of persons) = Subtotal: \$ _____
- Tour 4: Wizard of Oz Museum -and- Wamego Historical Society and Museum**
Timeframe: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM \$110 per person X _____ (number of persons) = Subtotal: \$ _____
- Tour 5: Arabia Steamboat Museum -and- Crown Center: Hallmark • Sea Life • Union Station**
Timeframe: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM; \$98 per person X _____ (number of persons) = Subtotal: \$ _____
- Tour 6: Kansas City Gangster Tour -and- Brewery, Winery, and Distillery Tour**
Timeframe: 9:30 AM-5:00 PM; \$160 per person X _____ (number of persons) = Subtotal: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Contact Information

Primary Participant Full Name: _____ ID Number: _____

VP Number: _____ Mobile Number: _____

Payment Information

- Check payable to: DSA2025 Kansas City; mail to: DSA, 9314 Forest Hill Blvd #506, Wellington, FL 33411.
- Zelle to treasurer@deafseniors.us -or- CashApp to DSA2025Fund (Memo required to process payment).

Questions

- About the above tours? Email dsa2025tours@deafseniors.us
- About accessibility? Email dsa2025access@deafseniors.us

Deadline: June 1, 2025

Explore — Kansas City

dsa
2025

Empowering Our Future



18TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE • KANSAS CITY, MO
DEAF SENIORS OF AMERICA



Welcome to the Kansas City Interactive Map! This dynamic tool is designed to help you explore the vibrant attractions, neighborhoods, and hidden gems of Kansas City.

Whether you're a local or a visitor, the interactive map offers a user-friendly way to discover breweries,

restaurants, attractions, shopping, and entertainment options.

Click the map image below (<https://www.visitkc.com/interactive-map>) to go online and use the filters to tailor your experience based on your interests.

Dive in and start your adventure today!



In addition to the map, the VisitKC website – <https://visitkc.com> – is packed with information about the many exciting opportunities in the Heartland of America.

Whether you're planning your visit or looking for something new to explore, VisitKC has everything you need to make the most of your time in Kansas City!

Dining Options In Downtown KC



Kansas City's dining scene showcases a wide array of tastes and cultural influences. Find barbecue, tried-and-true favorites and notable newcomers, all within blocks of the Kansas City Convention Center and Downtown hotels.

NEAR THE CONVENTION CENTER

The Kansas City Marriott Downtown hotel is in a convenient location that puts guests within steps of the KC Streetcar and the Power & Light District. The hotel's all-day restaurant, **MetropolitanKC**, offers service for every meal in a casual setting.



The blocks surrounding the KC Convention Center and Municipal Auditorium offer quick options as you get started in the morning, between meetings or when the day is done. Grab a coffee at **PT's Coffee Power & Light**, enjoy an all-day menu at the **Made in KC Cafe** or pair your meal with a little competition of your own at **Blade & Timber**.

Up the street, **Mildred's** and **Banksia** have your breakfast and brunch needs covered, while **Milwaukee Deli** offers pizza slices and

sandwiches for lunch and dinner. Head a few blocks west of the Convention Center for a visit to **Spokes**, a hybrid bike shop and café popular for its breakfast burritos, salads and sandwiches.

For an upscale experience to end your day, **The Town Company** at Hotel Kansas City delivers one of the city's best new menus in an undeniably cool, modern and mellow dining room. Head downstairs afterward for another round along with live DJs and performers at **Nighthawk**, or make your way up the street for another subterranean stakeout at **P.S.**

Speakeasy inside Hotel Phillips.

At all hours, the options you'll find for dining and drinks inside the Loews Kansas City Hotel offer to enhance your week. Enjoy upscale American dishes at **The Stilwell**, cocktails with some of the best views in the city at **Bar Stilwell**, and local coffee at **Red Wheat Baking Co.**

Distance from KC Convention Center:
Within a few blocks

POWER & LIGHT DISTRICT

In the heart of all the action, Kansas City's Power & Light District provides a popular nightlife destination — plus so much more. The centrally located Kansas City Live! Block boasts favorites for all, including Kansas City's beloved barbecue flavors on a laid-back patio at **County Road Ice House**, the chance to catch Major League Soccer matchups at

Dining Options, continued from page 55

the Sporting Kansas City-inspired **No Other Pub**, and a classic neighborhood bar menu at **Johnny's Tavern**. For a menu of intriguing and over-the-top takes on bar food, **Guy Fieri's Dive & Taco Joint** offers a delightfully irreverent approach to dining along with one of the block's premier outdoor seating areas. Discerning diners enjoy **Bristol Steak + Seafood + Social** or **801 Chophouse**, two Kansas City institutions celebrated for their seafood and steak. The district's latest arrival is **Blue Sushi Sake Grill**, a dazzling two-story space that offers stunning city views along with its extensive menu. Need a quick bite? Turn to **Meshuggah Bagels** for a New York-style breakfast or **PROTEINHOUSE** for a fresh and filling smoothie.

*Distance from KC Convention Center:
0.5 miles/10 minute walk*



RIVER MARKET

Foodies who head north to the River Market won't have to walk far to uncover a plethora of palate-pleasing dishes in the historic district. **The Farmhouse** sets the bar high with its farm-to-table, tip-to-tail comfort food done right. Make plans for happy hour at **Harry's Country Club** and enjoy classic fare plus a cocktail, try authentic Brazilian fare at **Taste of Brazil** or keep it fresh with a selection of bowls and wraps at the **Hungry Hatch**.

Fresh and creative burgers, sandwiches and more are always a hit at **Pigwich**. Right next door, enjoy one of KC's favorite pizzas at **Minsky's**. Looking for a flavorful outing to wrap up the day? Stop by **Betty Rae's** for a scoop of ice cream and take your pick of the shop's surprising and inventive flavors, or slip into **Thou Mayest**, where you'll find a rustic charm that'll keep you lingering a little longer.

*Distance from KC Convention Center:
0.8 miles/20 minute walk*

CROSSROADS ARTS DISTRICT

Restaurant choices in the Crossroads make up an eclectic gallery all their own. History is served at delightfully reimagined venues like **Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbecue** and **Lazia** at the Crossroads Hotel. Or take your taste buds on a world tour at **Lidia's Kansas City** (authentic Italian cuisine), **Affäre** (modern German plates) or **Grünauer** (Austrian-German cooking).

Sample inventive plates at the award-winning **Corvino**, hit up **Town Topic**, a classic American diner that's been open 24/7 since 1937, or grab a bite and a margarita at **Manny's Mexican Restaurant**. For a pick-me-up, **Messenger Coffee Co.**, **Mildred's** and **Café Corazón** are ready to keep you caffeinated.

If you're looking for a drink of a different kind, make your way to the East Crossroads — starting at 18th & Oak Sts. is an easy way to access the neighborhood — for blocks full of breweries like **Casual Animal Brewing Co.**, **Brewery Emperial**, **Double Shift Brewing Co.** and more. (Plus, keep tabs on your tastes and access savings along the way with the KC Tap Tour.) Prefer wine or distilled spirits over beer? Turn to **KC Wineworks**, **Mean Mule** or **Lifted Spirits** for a pour.

*Distance from KC Convention Center:
1 mile/20 minute walk*

COMEDY CAFÉ LUNCH & LAUGHTER

click
here for
video

Shaping Our Future

18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE • KANSAS CITY, MO
DEAF SENIORS OF AMERICA
Due by July 7, 2025

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Doors open at 11:30 am

\$85 per person

(non-refundable)

Angela's comedy performance is truly inspiring, demonstrating excellence with great examples. Her ability to highlight the differences between Deaf and hearing cultures makes us laugh so hard.

Angela's performance was hilarious from start to finish!

I watched Angela's performance a couple of times and each time she had me in stitches. They were almost real and actually were real when describing our experience as Deaf people and with class. Everyone will enjoy it, without a doubt.



Angela Petrone Stratiy

If laughter is the universal language, then Angela Petrone Stratiy is a master linguist!

When Angela first threw a box of Kleenex to the aisle, many of us thought, "UGH?" True enough we emptied the box of Kleenex from laughing and crying. She's hilarious!

Angela Stratiy gave an amazing comedy show about Deaf culture. I laughed the entire time because I could relate to her.

Italian Luncheon Buffet

Caesar Salad-Crisp Romaine, Parmesan, House-Made Garlic Crouton, Chef Crafted Caesar Dressing (Pre dressed); Antipasto Salad - Marinated Olives, Red Onion, Salami, Mozzarella, Artichokes, Fresh Basil, Chicken Piccata with Lemon Caper Sauce, Cheese Tortellini with Vodka Sauce, Sundried Tomato, Fresh Basil and Shredded Parmesan, Medley of Italian Vegetables, Housemade Meatballs, Marinara Sauce, Freshly Grated Parmesan Focaccia and Soft Bread Sticks. Dessert: Cannoli Ricotta and Tiramisu Cake

COMEDY CAFÉ LUNCH & LAUGHTER * August 5, 2025

Name _____ ID# _____

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SPORTS LUNCHEON

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Empowering Our Future



18TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE • KANSAS CITY, MO

DEAF SENIORS OF AMERICA

Due by July 7, 2025

Heather Suhr



Heather Suhr is a Deaf athlete with multiple talents and strong work ethics. She was the first female golfer in the

state of Wisconsin to win three consecutive Division-1 state high golf championships from 1996 to 1998. She also played soccer and basketball in high school.

In college, Heather played golf on a scholarship, competing with the top-rank golfers in the nation. Currently, her passion has shifted to triathlon. She qualified for the World Championships in Kona, Hawaii, for October 2025. Her goal is to be the first Deaf female triathlete to win her Age Group. Heather currently resides in Surprise, Arizona, with her parents and three fur babies.

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Doors open at 11:30 am

\$85 per person

(non-refundable)

Marriott Downtown KC Hotel

Menu includes: Mixed Green Salad with Ranch and Lemon Oregano Vinaigrette, House-Made Chips, and Tomato Basil Mozzarella Pasta Salad with Fresh Tomato Vinaigrette.

Express Deli Buffet: Pick one

- A. Roast Beef Baguette: Roast Beef, Havarti Cheese, Pickled Red Onion, Chimichurri Aioli, Mixed Greens, Crusty Baguette
- B. Turkey Club Ciabatta: Smoked Turkey, Ham, Cheddar, Bacon, Sundried Tomato Aioli, Mixed Greens, Ciabatta
- C. Vegan Ciabatta: Roasted Marinated Veggie, Curry Vegan Aioli, Greens
- D. Smoked Chicken Salad on Wheatberry Bread: Applewood Smoked Chicken Breast, Sweet Peppers, Celery, Dried Cranberries, Mayo, Arugula

Dessert: Chocolate Chip Cheesecake and Roman Fruit Tartlets

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SPORTS LUNCHEON * August 6, 2025

Name _____ ID# _____ Circle one: A B C D

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DINGO - DSAGO

dsa
2025

Empowering Our Future

18TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE • KANSAS CITY, MO
DEAF SENIORS OF AMERICA

Marriott Downtown KC Hotel

200 W 12th St

Kansas City, MO 64105

LIMITED TO 500 PLAYERS

WIN CASH PRIZES



Open to the Public

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Doors open at 8pm

Games begin at 9pm

\$20 per person

(non-refundable)

DEADLINE: JUNE 6, 2025

Cathy Edler and Preston Ashley—DINGO/DSAGO Co-Chairs

Questions? Contact Cathy Edler at treasurer@deafseniors.us

DINGO DSAGO * August 6, 2025

Name _____ ID# _____

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video**



SignTastic!

An Exciting Trivia Game Show



Presented by

Daniel D. Cook

DSA 2025 Conference
Kansas City, MO

Included in Combo Registration
August 7, 2025

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Farewell Luncheon

dsa
2025

Empowering Our Future

18TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE + KANSAS CITY, MO
DEAF SENIORS OF AMERICA

Thursday, August 7, 2025

1:30 pm — 4:30 pm

Luncheon Menu

Marriott Downtown KC Hotel

Due by July 7, 2025

Taste of Kansas City's

Barbecue Buffet

Spring Greens Salad with Assorted Veggies, House

Made Ranch and Italian Dressings

Seasonal Fresh Cubed Fruit

- BBQ Smoked Salmon

- Hickory Smoked Pork Ribs with House Made BBQ

- Barbecued Brisket of Beef with House Made BBQ

Creamy Maple Dijon Cole Slaw

Burnt End Baked Beans

Fresh Green Beans with Sweet Onion and Bacon

Roasted Sweet Potato

Cornbread Muffins and Buttermilk Biscuits with Honey Butter

Strawberry Mousse and Chocolate Layer Cake

See Farewell Luncheon Reservation Table sheet to complete your request.

Any dietary restriction and/or allergies? Email to vicepres@deafseniors.us

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Table Reservation



Empowering Our Future



Thursday, August 7, 2025

1:30 pm — 4:30 pm

Table Reservation Form

Marriott Downtown KC Hotel

Due by July 7, 2025



DSA Farewell Luncheon Table Reservations

\$3.00 per person to a table of 6 or a table of 8

Captain's Name _____ ID# _____

Email Address _____ VP/Text # _____

*Write names and ID#
CLEARLY, please!*

Name

ID#

1. Captain _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Send check or money order payable to DSA2025 Kansas City

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