

Summer 7-1-2008

Maine-Lines: A Newsletter for People who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Late-Deafened, Summer 2008

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Maine Division of Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Late Deafened

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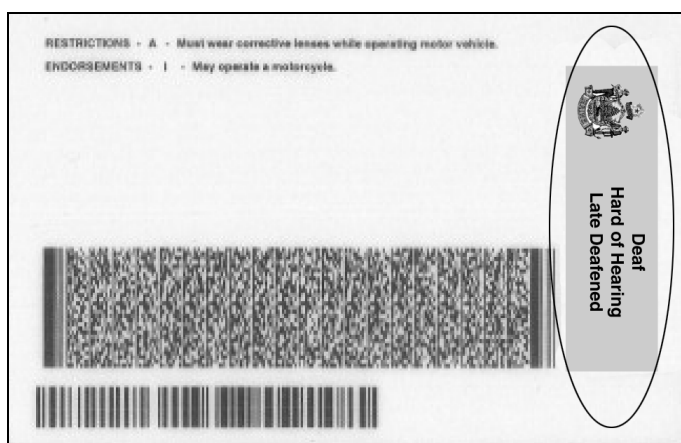
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DIVISION OF DEAFNESS

MAINE-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING OR LATE DEAFENED

Driver's License ID Stickers for People Who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Late Deafened



Picture of license with sticker

On May 1, 2008, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles started providing stickers to people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or late deafened to be placed on their driver's license. These stickers are provided on a voluntary basis in response to people's concern that police may not recognize someone who is Deaf or hard of hearing, who may need some communication accommodation.

People who want to obtain a sticker need to have the sticker application filled out and signed by a doctor, nurse or audiologist or provide a copy of enrollment or diploma from a school for the Deaf attached to the sticker application. Sticker applications are provided by the Division of Deafness, 207-623-7957 (V), 1-888-755-0023 (TTY), or can be accessed through the Division of Deafness web site at www.maine.gov/rehab/dod/index or local Bureau of Motor Vehicles offices. They can also be accessed through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles web site forms and applications section <http://mainegov-images.inform.org/sos/bmv/forms/deafcertification.pdf> <http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/forms/deafcertification.doc>

The application must be mailed to the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, 29 State House Station, Augusta, Maine, 04333-0029. The Bureau will send the sticker to the person with directions as to where the sticker should be placed on the license.

Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MECDHH)/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (GBSD) Statewide Educational Services

The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MECDHH) is a statewide educational organization with excellent resources for the educational needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Services are provided through the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (GBSD) at Mackworth Island and on a statewide basis through their outreach program. Among some of the services offered by MECDHH/GBSD are educational and psychological evaluations for referred children.



Lynn Schardel, Director Statewide Educational Services

The Division of Deafness (DoD) took a few minutes to ask Lynn Schardel, Interim Director of MECDHH/GBSD, a few questions about the center.

DoD: How long have you worked for Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MECDHH)/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (GBSD) and what positions have you held?

Lynn: I've been working at the school for over 26 years. I started as an elementary/middle school classroom teacher, I then moved on to be the Mainstream Coordinator for the school. I am now the Director for Statewide Educational Services and have been for 20 years and the Interim Director for MECDHH/GBSD while the search is on for a new superintendent for MECDHH/GBSD.

In my position as Director of Statewide Services, I oversee the Early Childhood and Family Services Program (ECFS), Public School Outreach Programs (PSO), Regional Program, and Parent Infant/Toddler Program (PIT). I am also responsible for the Preschool Program which includes the ASL Preschool and the Communication Garden. I supervise the coordinators of all the above programs.

As the Interim Director, I oversee all operations at MECDHH/GBSD.

DoD: I remember when Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MECDHH) was called Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (GBSD), when did it change and why?

Lynn: In September of 2005, the name was changed to better reflect the statewide mission of the services offered at MECDHH/GBSD.

DoD: I understand that MECDHH/GBSD is searching for a new superintendent, can you tell us how the search is progressing?

Lynn: The process has been started; however, it's too soon to report on any decision being made.

DoD: Who does MECDHH/GBSD serve and where are the services available?

Lynn: MECDHH/GBSD serves deaf and hard-of-hearing children statewide.

DoD: MECDHH/GBSD has statewide services; how do you accomplish that?

Lynn: There is a Parent/Infant Toddler Program, a Preschool Program, an elementary and middle school at Governor Baxter School for the Deaf on Mackworth Island in Falmouth, and the high school program is located at Portland High School. There are dormitories on the campus grounds of Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

There are outreach and satellite offices in Bangor and Caribou. Services are available anywhere in the state for deaf and hard-of-hearing children that are referred to MECDHH/GBSD Statewide Educational Services.

DoD: Who would a person contact to receive services?

Lynn: The contact number for MECDHH/GBSD is 781-3165 (V/TTY). Our web site is www.mecdhh.org. The Early Childhood and Family Services Program contact person is Karen Hopkins, 781-6335. The Public School Outreach Program contact person is Angela Bruno, 781-6224. The Preschool Program at MECDHH/GBSD contact person is Sammy Hargis, 781-6221.

DoD: Can you describe some of the programs available at MECDHH/GBSD?

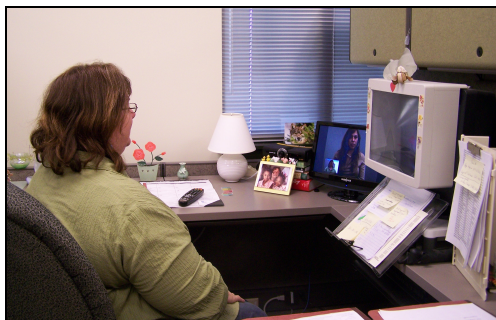
Lynn: Through the Statewide Educational Services division, MECDHH/GBSD operates statewide outreach with children age birth to 5 and their families, and technical assistance and support to public school educational programs that have children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

MECDHH/GBSD also conducts a number of training workshops and seminars that pertain to a variety of areas concerning deafness. Through its Statewide Resource Center, MECDHH/GBSD offers access to its collection of books and videotapes related to deafness through the Maine Library Network.

The Resource Center, through its distance learning program, also provides classes in American Sign Language (ASL) to participating high schools throughout the state that offer ASL for foreign language credit and evening classes for families.

Thank you, Lynn, for giving the Division of Deafness and our readers the opportunity to get to know you and the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Videophones for Deaf State Employees



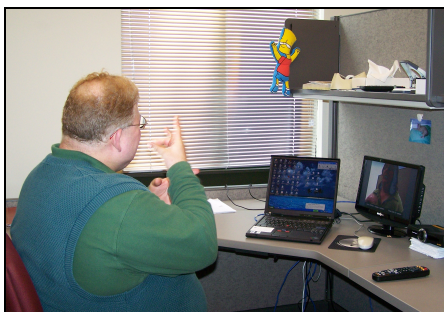
Ginny Pelletier, Bureau of Rehabilitation employee, using a videophone.

The State of Maine's Deaf state employees now have videophones. Because sign language is a visual language, the use of videophones has become very popular and is the preferred way to communicate within the Deaf community. With the assistance of Sorenson Video Relay Service, state government is entering a new era of technology. It took the collaboration of Deaf state employees, led by Department of Health & Human Services employee Mike Welch, state technology employees, the Division of Deafness (DoD), and Sorenson Video Relay Services to make it all happen.

Now people who use videophones in their home can call directly to Deaf state employees who have a videophone on their desk. The DoD is working with state technology employees and Sorenson Video Relay Service to have all American Sign Language state service providers equipped with a videophone by this fall. People who use videophones can also call state government offices that do not have videophones via video relay. This is possible because the video relay interpreter interprets the conversation for both parties. The toll-free number to access a Sorenson video interpreter is 1-866-327-8877. Have the name, videophone number or IP address ready for the interpreter.

The contact numbers for the Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are as follows:

Joe Roquebecil.....624-5111 (VP)
Rod MacInnes.....822-0410 (VP)
Ginny Pelletier.....624-5109 (VP)



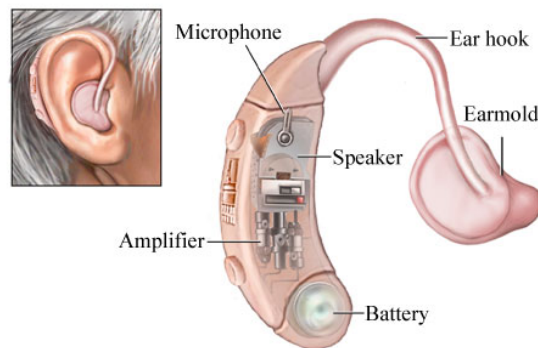
Joe Roquebecil, Bureau of Rehabilitation employee, using a videophone.

To all videophone relay & relay users remember:
Do not use relay in the event of an emergency.
Use your TTY and dial 911 directly.

ALDA-Maine (Association of Late-Deafened Adults-Maine)

ALDA-Maine is an all volunteer group for the empowerment of over 100,000 people in Maine and more in neighboring states who are deafened, hard of hearing, or have a hearing loss of any kind. New members and visitors to all events are welcome. Come talk with us. Read the new "*Hearing Loss Herald*" publication and join us soon for timely on-line information and discussions, whether you have a hearing loss, are hearing, or interested in equal rights for all people with disabilities. See www.alda-maine.mysite.com.

WANTED, USED HEARING AIDS



Do you have a pair of hearing aids in a drawer?

Want to put them to good use? Mail them to the Warren Center.

We will fix them, and pass them along to an individual in need.

Warren Center
175 Union Street
Bangor, Maine 04401
941-2850 (V)
Web site: www.warrencenter.org/

**Maine's North Star Alliance
Boat Building, Marine Trades, & the Composites Industry
Is Looking for Interested People in the Deaf Community to
Participate In These 2 Courses:**

Orientation to Composite Manufacturing

In this 4-hour session, you will learn about:

- ❖ The types of products made with composites
- ❖ What a composite manufacturing company is like
- ❖ Companies in Maine that make composite products
- ❖ The type of training needed to become a composite technician
- ❖ The ways you can get this training
- ❖ The types of jobs available
- ❖ Information on the average wages, benefit levels and upward mobility a composite technician can expect

The session will consist of:

- ❖ A video showing a variety of composite products.
- ❖ A power point presentation on the types of careers in composite manufacturing.
- ❖ A chance to identify if your occupational interests and preferences are a good fit for this type of industry.
- ❖ A chance to visit a composite company and view workers making composite products.

Time and date to be decided.

Basic Composites Course

In this 3-day introductory class, you will learn the basics of composite fabrication.

Days start at 7:45 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. Students must bring their own lunch and snacks.

About the class:

Cars, boats, decking, skateboards, and bicycles are just a few things made from composites. Composite materials are lighter and more durable than traditional materials.

You will learn about:

- ❖ How resins are placed on fiberglass and other fabrics to form products
- ❖ The properties of resins such as polyester, vinylester and epoxy
- ❖ Laminating techniques
- ❖ Cored composites
- ❖ Materials that make up the core of cored composites
- ❖ Plugs and molds that are used to form products
- ❖ Composite fabrication

The class will be half lecture and half hands-on practice. All materials are provided. Time and date to be decided.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Joe Roquebecil, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, 73 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04330. 624-5111 (VP), 1-800-633-0770 (Toll-Free TTY) or E-mail: joseph.roquebecil@maine.gov.

CAMP SIGN-A-WATHA

<http://campsignawatha.googlepages.com>

Summer 2008

THE MAGIC IS BACK !!!

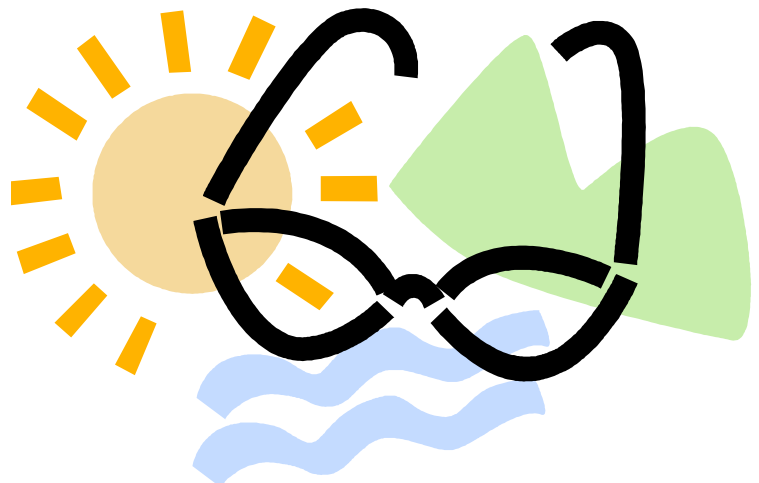
**For the most fun you can have this summer, come
to Camp Sign-A-Watha!!**

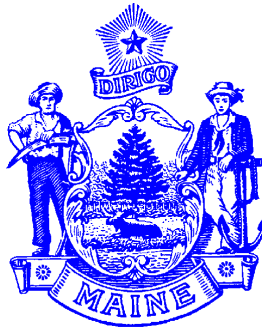
When? August 25 – 29, 2008

Where? Camp Sign-A-Watha will be held at Camp Cobbossee it is located in Monmouth, Maine, 15 miles west of Augusta, and approximately one hour north of Portland.

How Much? \$600 per Camper accompanied with a staff person. Fee includes food, lodging, crafts supplies, LOTS of activities, and camp Sign-A-Watha T-Shirts.

More Info For more information,
please contact
Willie Tarr, Camp Director
VP 207/591-6714
VP 207/797-3935
TTY 591-4139
Voice 797-3935
willietarr@aol.com





THE DEAF COMMUNITY OF THE STATE OF
MAINE

INVITES YOU TO THE GOVERNOR'S TEA
IN CELEBRATION OF DEAF CULTURE WEEK
ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008
FROM 2:00 TO 4:00 IN THE AFTERNOON
AT THE STATE HOUSE HALL OF FLAGS
(NEW LOCATION ACROSS THE STREET
FROM THE BLAINE HOUSE)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ELISSA MORAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MAINE CENTER ON DEAFNESS

RSVP

ALICE CRANDALL JOHNSON
MELANSON
ALICE.C.JOHNSON@MAINE.GOV
NANCY.A.MELANSON@MAINE.GOV
(207) 623-7964 (V)

NANCY A.

(888) 755-0023 (TTY)

PLEASE RESPOND BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

**Governor's Deaf Culture Tea Awards
Nomination Form**

I nominate: _____

For the Promoting ASL, Deaf Culture and Deaf People Award

This award is given to a person who worked to improve Maine's Deaf community through leadership by promoting ASL, Deaf Culture or Deaf People.

Because:

I nominate: _____

For the Outstanding Role Model for the Deaf Community Award

This award is given to a person who is an outstanding role model in the Deaf community.

Because:

I nominate: _____

For the Outstanding Advocate for the Needs of the Deaf Community Award

This award is given to a person or organization that advocates for the needs of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons in Maine.

Because:

I nominate: _____

For a Special Commendation

This award is given to an individual or agency whose activities in and with the deaf community deserves recognition.

Because:

Please Return to: Alice Johnson
 Division of Deafness

E-mail: Alice.C.Johnson@maine.gov
FAX: 287-5292

By August 15, 2008

Name (optional) _____

Date: _____

Maine Department of Labor
Division of Deafness
150 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0150

Return Service Requested

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Jill Duson, Director

Division of Deafness

The Division of Deafness provides a program of services to Deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened people in Maine, which includes information and referral, advocacy, and accessibility promotion.

John Shattuck, Director

Tel: 623-7957 (V)

1-888-755-0023 (TTY)

E-mail: John.G.Shattuck@maine.gov

Alice Crandall Johnson

Rehabilitation Consultant

Tel: 623-7964 (V)

1-888-755-0023 (TTY)

E-mail: Alice.C.Johnson@maine.gov

Nancy Melanson, Assistant to the Director

Tel: 623-7998 (TTY), 623-7958 (V)

1-888-755-0023 (TTY)

287-5292 (FAX)

E-mail: Nancy.A.Melanson@maine.gov

*The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*