

# THE WISCONSIN Communicator

Volume 12, Issue 4

Winter 2014

**“What works for your child is what makes the choice right”**



## **BOARD MEMBERS**

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Jason Kunschke

Michelle Pandian

Elizabeth Seeliger



**You asked for it and we delivered!**

## **A Private Facebook Chat Room**

We now have a **private place on Facebook just for Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices members to go and chat in a safe and secure manner with other families.** This is a closed group so members must be invited (by the administrators or other members) and accepted as members by the administrators (our Board members Jodi Anderson and Jason Kunschke). Only members will be able to see the content in this group and be able to offer support to one another in a safe and trusted environment.

We have a few basic ground rules:

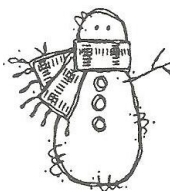
1. We ask that you stay on topic and respect other people's opinions, avoid profanity, and offensive statements.
2. Please understand that we reserve the right to delete comments for any reason we deem inappropriate.

This could include posts that are:

- Abusive, defamatory, obscene, or offensive
- Personal attacks on individuals
- Contain content that promotes discrimination of any kind
- Are sexual in content or contain links to sexual content
- Contain or encourage illegal or harmful activity

So, how do you access this group? First, log in or create an account on Facebook and search for **Wihands Voices** (that is our alias on Facebook) and send us a friend request. We have to become friends on Facebook first in order for you to become a member of this group. We will then send you an invitation to join the group. Accept the invitation and it is as easy as that!

We want to hear from you and encourage your comments, questions, and suggestions. Please let me know if you have any issues accessing this group or if we can be of any assistance to you and your family.



WI Families for  
Hands & Voices  
PO Box 9644  
Green Bay, WI 54308  
NEW Phone 920-819-2979  
[www.handsandvoiceswi.org](http://www.handsandvoiceswi.org)  
Email: [handsandvoiceswi@yahoo.com](mailto:handsandvoiceswi@yahoo.com)

## DHH OLYMPIC DAY 2015 – JOIN US FOR MAGIC AND MUSCLE!

BY MICHELLE PANDIAN

Every year for the past 5 years we have hosted the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Olympic Day at the YMCA-North branch in Onalaska, WI. It is a field trip full of fun, friendship, and meeting DHH students from across Wisconsin and several other states. It's also a time to meet Deaf or hard of hearing adults and role models students may not otherwise have the opportunity to meet.

This past May, over 75 DHH students had the chance to tumble or play basketball in the gym, use the pool and waterslide, play in the game room, and watch a professional magic show. Deaf magician, Magic Morgan, thrilled our audience with his amazingly realistic illusions. Students watched in wonder as he turned a picture of a bird drawn in a notebook into a real dove, popped real popcorn from imaginary kernels, and made someone's cell phone disappear! Magic Morgan recruited kids from the audience to come "help" him do magic of their own. Students walked away from the performance stating, "It was not a trick. It was REAL magic! I want to do real magic like him!" Magic Morgan's show was so impressive that we are inviting him to perform again at our next DHH Olympic Day event, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015.



Annual Statewide Professional and Family Conference  
October 22 - 23, 2015 (Professional)  
October 23 - 25, 2015 (Family)  
Olympia Resort & Conference Center in Oconomowoc, WI

In addition to an amazing magic show students will also have the unique opportunity to meet Deaf professional UFC wrestler Mr. Matt Hammill, from the 2012 movie, *The Hammer*. Mr. Hammill will be presenting live, in person, about his life growing up as a student with a hearing loss. If we are lucky he may even show us some of his moves! Students may even have an opportunity to get an autograph or win official merchandise.

Don't miss the opportunity for your child to meet two amazing Deaf adults, who have shown the world that Deaf people can do anything. Mark your calendar and join us for DHH Olympic Day, Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the YMCA-North branch in Onalaska, WI (just north of La Crosse). The event runs from 11am to 2pm, and registration begins at 10:40am. Olympic Day is FREE to all families who have children with hearing loss, as well as all DHH students, and their teachers and interpreters. All children who attend get a treat as well as a chance to win some amazing door prizes, such as Culver's gift cards. Donations are accepted to help cover the cost of the event. Bring your swim suit and gym shoes – hope to see you there!

A news clip video related to the 2014 event - <http://www.news8000.com/news/25885636>

Learn more about Mr. Matt Hammill at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matt\\_Hamill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matt_Hamill)

Learn more about Magic Morgan at <http://www.magicmorgan.com/>

## BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: JASON KUNSCHKE

I am married, and my wife is the district-wide specially designed physical education teacher for the Port Washington-Saukville School District. We have two wonderful daughters, age 7 and 10, who both have mild to moderate high frequency sensorineural hearing loss. As a family, we enjoy spending time together in various sports (soccer, softball, swimming) as well as camping and traveling. I am a labor and employment attorney, and have been practicing law since 1999. I am a black belt in Tae Kwan Do and (of course) cheer for the Packers and Brewers.



**WI Hands & Voices sponsored another Moms Brunch in the Madison area on Sunday, January 11, 2015 from 11 am - 2 pm. We had thirteen moms join us this time, some with newly diagnosed babies, and others with kids of various ages and stages. As the picture shows, smiles were had on all faces as we discussed our amazing kids, the impact of hearing loss on not only our kids, but our family / extended family / community as well. Resources / ideas were shared by all... priceless!**

**SAVE THE DATE! APRIL 19, 2015, 11 am - 2 pm, N6832 Donlin Drive, Pardeeville, WI for our next gathering!** BY LAURIE NELSON



## TRUE LIFE CONFESSIONS OF TEENS LIVING WITH HEARING LOSS (STUDENT PANEL)

Presented March 2014 at the WESP-DHH Professional & Family Conference:

Facilitated by Jelaine Olsen & Becky DeGrave  
WI Teachers of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

### **Panel Participants:**

Abby H., Bailie K., Crystal B., Florencia L., Hailey P., Justin N., Makayla K., Rachel V. & Tressa T.

### When We Were Younger

**When we were younger, we wish we knew.....**

....that we are who we are....

....that we should stand up for ourselves....

**If only we knew.....**

...to be proud of having a hearing loss....

....how important it was to meet other students who have a hearing loss....

**We wish we could have told ourselves....**

....that being "different" is not a bad thing....

....to do what is best for US; and not to follow the crowd....

**But now we know.....**

....not to hide...and...to NEVER GIVE UP!!!

### Things We Wish Were Against the Law

**It should be against the law to.....**

\*say "never mind" when we ask you "what did you say?"

\*show videos that are not captioned (or poorly captioned)

\*assume that I have learning difficulties just because I have a hearing loss....

**It should be against the law to.....**

\*get frustrated and say, "You heard me!"

\*assume I know sign language just because I wear hearing aids

\*have teachers who refuse to wear the FM...oh wait....that IS against the law!

**It SHOULD be against the law to....**

\*look at the interpreter instead of me

\*look at the interpreter and say, "will you tell her...."

\*only ask me about sign language when you want to know the dirty words

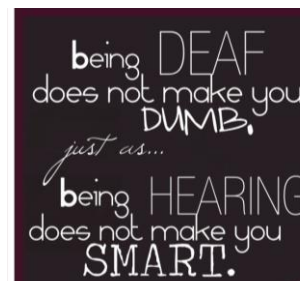
**It should be against the LAW to.....**

Ask us, "DO YOU KNOW HOW TO READ LIPS??"

## Deaf vs. Hearing

- |   |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can discuss money</li> <li>• Can discuss bodily functions</li> <li>• Information is shared</li> <li>• Personal question = okay</li> <li>• Introductions = who you know</li> <li>• If late, explain the reasons</li> <li>• Be clear if you have criticism</li> <li>• Personal remarks show a caring attitude</li> </ul> | vs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Money = a private subject</li> <li>• Bodily functions = taboo topic</li> <li>• Gossip is rude</li> <li>• Personal questions = nosy</li> <li>• Introductions = what you do</li> <li>• If late, don't attract attention</li> <li>• Use "sandwich approach" for feedback</li> <li>• If you don't have something nice to say....</li> </ul> |
|---|-----|--|

Retrieved December 13, 2014 from <http://beautifulittlepiece.blogspot.com/2013/04/why-are-you-so-blunt.html>



Renew Your Membership or become a member today!

### Hands & Voices WI Membership

Please circle one of the following

Parent of a deaf/HH child	\$25.00
Deaf /HH Adult	\$25.00
Student	\$25.00
Professional	\$40.00
Organization/agency	\$75.00
Additional Donation	\$_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment

Check \_\_\_\_ Scholarship \_\_\_\_

**Become a Member/Renew Online!**

Credit Card Payment NOW Accepted!

Please Visit:  
<http://www.handsandvoiceswi.org/>

**Or clip and mail to:**

**WI Families for Hands & Voices**  
PO Box 9644  
Green Bay, WI 54308

## Myths about Deaf Culture

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf people are isolated from larger society</li> <li>• All deaf people can read lips</li> <li>• All deaf people can hear using hearing aids and cochlear implants</li> <li>• Deaf people/families will always have deaf children</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All deaf people know and support ASL</li> <li>• Deaf people cannot read and write because they sign</li> <li>• Deaf people lead different lives from other people</li> <li>• Deaf people are not allowed to drive</li> </ul> |
|---|---|



Retrieved December 13, 2014 from <http://www.slideshare.net/twelch07/week-1-deaf-culture-online-ppt-5>

### Our Mission:

Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families statewide who have children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind without bias around communication modes or methodology. We are a parent-driven organization providing families with the resources, networking and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration and advocacy efforts are focused on enabling Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind children to reach their highest potential.

May your choices reflect  
your hopes, not your fears  
~ Nelson Mandela