



Welcome to Deaf Services Commission of Iowa



"Equal Communication, Education, and Access"

SIGN of the TIMES

November 2006

COMMISSIONER'S

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Karen Potter-Maxwell

My first job right out of high school was as a houseparent at Iowa School for the Deaf. At that time I was hired knowing the fingerspelled alphabet. Little did I know I would be working in the same field 32 years later. (Now you have guessed my age!)

I've since received an Associates Degree from Iowa Western Community College in Interpreting and a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from Buena Vista University. I have a private practice interpreting business and love going to work because I do something different everyday!

What an exciting time to serve as a commissioner for Deaf Services Commission of Iowa! So many positive changes have taken place regarding interpreting services and to be involved with those changes has been challenging as well as thought provoking. Although I am serving my second term as I write this, I continue to learn from the talented staff at DSCI and my fellow Commissioners at every meeting. I enjoy the perspectives we each bring to the table.

In the coming year there are a few things on my wish list for the Commission to accomplish. I would love to see a record number students become involved with the Junior Commission Program. I've seen students flourish from their involvement in this project but for some reason there hasn't been a great response the last few times we have offered the program. Maybe we'll find the answer for that on November 14th when youth agencies gather to discuss avenues to reach our deaf and hard of hearing youth.

Another group put on the back burner for far too long is the "Friends of DSCI". I would like to hear from people interested in becoming more involved with DSCI by working together with us to provide the best quality services for our deaf population throughout the state of Iowa.

Aside from work, and most importantly, I am a wife and mother of one son who keeps us busy attending his sporting events. My hobbies include photography, scrap booking, stamping, painting, beading, and learning new ways to exercise my creative side.

Did you apply for Medicare Part D? Did you do it on a computer? If so, CHECK YOUR BANK STATEMENTS / SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS to see if the payments have been taken out each month. If not, contact your insurance company immediately! Medicare's computer system malfunctioned or didn't work with the computer forms and many people did not get signed up with their insurance companies. You can sign up or change insurances anytime from Nov. 15—Dec. 31. If you need help, contact DSCI.

VISUAL SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM

Visual Smoke Alarm Financial Assistance

Information, Contact:

The Foundation for Safer Housing, Inc.

7910 Belgaro Rd.
Laurel, MD 20723

PHONE: (301) 356-5082

FAX: (443) 583-0254

Email: info@saferhousing.org

Website: <http://www.saferhousing.org/visual.htm>

Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program

(LiHEAP) Did you know...LiHEAP assisted approximately 89,638 households with their utility bills in 2006. This is a 5% increase over 2005. For more information about LiHEAP, visit

www.dcaa.iowa.gov/bureau_EA/index.html

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

11/7: Mercy Educational Series at Mercy Medical Center's Tower in Des Moines

11/20: Meeting of Iowa Board of Interpreter Examiners in Des Moines

Visit the DSCI website: <http://www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/ds/index.html>

Questions or Comments?

Email us at dhr.dsci@iowa.gov or call 515-281-3164 V/TTY or Toll-Free: 1-888-221-3724 V/TTY