

# South Carolina News

March-April 2003

## CSD & SPRINT OFFER FIRST 24x7 VIDEO RELAY SERVICE

USA VRS, the nation's first Video Relay Service (VRS) for the deaf introduced last year by CSD and Sprint (NYSE: FON, PCS), today announced expansion of its services to become the only national VRS to provide full-time operations, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. In addition, USA VRS (www.usavrs.com) will be adding a ninth call center to its network, making it by far the largest



provider of VRS in the country. The expanded hours will begin Feb. 7th.

USA VRS offers the nation's 28 million deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals the ability to communicate with the hearing using American Sign Language (ASL) in a format comparable to standard videoconferencing. A deaf caller contacts a Video Interpreter via a Web cam through their computer. The interpreter then translates the caller's ASL into speech for hearing users, and speech into ASL for the deaf user. USA VRS is free to all users and requires only a personal computer, a Web camera and high-speed Internet connectivity such as DSL or a Cable modem. "Sprint continues to set the pace of the industry in assistive technologies," said Tony D'Agata, vice president and general manager for the Government Systems Division of Sprint. "Through our partnership with CSD, Sprint is empowering the hard of hearing and deaf communities with the ability to communicate anytime day or night, seven days a week." "USA VRS has had a remarkable effect on deaf and hard of hear-

ing communities across the country since its debut last year," said Benjamin Soukup, chief executive officer for CSD. "We were the very first to develop and offer web based VRS and with its growing popularity in the deaf community, we've had customers clamoring to have greater access 24 hours a day. With new call centers opening and expanded hours around-the-clock, we are delighted to provide callers with world-class services on a full-time schedule."

USA VRS provides a robust platform with a mix of amenities that callers can enjoy including: optional profiles, security passwords, personal directories, text chat options, speech-to-speech, voice carry over, hearing carry over, and many others. In addition, USA VRS is the only provider to currently offer a network of several centers across the country which helps in case one center should experience an outage due to technical problems or environmental disasters. Now call center traffic can instantly be re-routed to the next available video interpreter with no effect on the caller.

Users access the service at

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## President's Report from Anita Steichen

TEDP moved to the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind's Columbia DOS office effective February 15, 2003. If you have any equipment needs or problems, please contact the SCSDB TEDP at: 803-731-4945 (voice) or 803-798-4936 (TTY). SCAD wishes SCSDB the best of luck in operating this vital program for deaf and hard-of-hearing South Carolinians.

The SCAD Search Committee interviewed one of the candidates for Executive Director on January 18, 2003. The interview with this candidate was very impressive. The Search Committee gave a report to the Board with this candidate's interview and references; they are in now in the process of making an offer to the candidate. The other top candidate has already accepted another job offer. I will keep each Chapter representative up to date with new developments in the Search Committee.

SCAD hosted a booth at the Deaf World Wide in Atlanta, GA on February 1, 2003.

Eddie Hanna and George Heinen passed out a number of membership applications, SCAD information, SCAD Conference information and Interpreter Recruitment information. They sold \$279 in raffle tickets which covered the cost of the 13 inch TV/DVD raffle prize. Congratulations to Jeff and Missy McManus who were the winners of the 13 inch TV/DVD.

Please mark your calendars for the SCAD 2003 Conference in Greenville, SC on June 12-14, 2003. I encourage every one of you to go to the conference and be supportive of SCAD.

Not a  
member of  
SCAD?

Join today!

## VRS (Continued from page 1)

[www.usavrs.com](http://www.usavrs.com) with Microsoft Internet Explorer web browser and Microsoft NetMeeting video software. For specific instructions on how to use the VRS, go to [www.usavrs.com](http://www.usavrs.com) and click on "How to use VRS". Voice callers can call 866-410-5787 and give the Video Interpreter an IP address or a username on [ils.usavrs.com](http://ils.usavrs.com). Videophone products such as the MM225 can access VRS through ISDN lines (up to 384 Mbps) by calling 877-352-5300 or 866-660-7977.

Sprint and CSD have a history of developing innovative approaches to telecommunications relay services. The two organizations have been providing traditional telecommunications relay service (TRS) through a joint partnership since 1991, and in May 2002 CSD and Sprint teamed to offer the very first nationwide Video Relay Service (VRS), powered by the country's largest network of nine VRS centers. Using video applications on such a scale to provide greater

accessibility was a first for the call center industry as well as for the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities.

Sprint is the nation's leading provider of telecommunications relay services (TRS), which include video and internet relay, with over a decade of experience. The U.S. government, 27 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico currently rely on Sprint's 11 relay operations centers. Additional information is found at [www.sprint.com/relay](http://www.sprint.com/relay)

*SC Deaf -  
United We Stand!*

2003 SCAD Conference  
June 12-14, 2003  
Embassy Suites  
Greenville, SC

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the 2003 SCAD Conference!



## Three SCSDB Students Selected for National Studies Program

SPARTANBURG – Three students at the S.C. School for the Deaf and the Blind have been selected to attend a national studies program on the American government.

Victoria Jeter of Spartanburg, Jillian Price of Greer and Joseph Greene of Harleyville – all students in the School for the Deaf – will participate in the Close Up Government Studies Program in Washington, D.C., from April 6 to 12.

The program includes seminars, workshops, meetings with governmental officials and media representatives, as well as field trips to historical sites. The students also meet with representatives and senators from South Carolina.

The participants include hearing and deaf students from around the country. Criteria for selection are teacher recommendations, successful completion of the American Government class,

dependability, showing respect for staff and peers and attending special after-school Close Up classes.

Jeter, a junior, is the niece of Mr. and Mrs. James Jeter of Spartanburg. Price, a sophomore, is the daughter of Diane West and Joe Price of Greer. Greene, a junior, is the son of Michael and Vickie Greene of Harleyville.

## Three SCSDB Students Receive National Athletic Honors

SPARTANBURG -- The National Fraternal Society for the Deaf has honored three students at the S.C. School for the Deaf and the Blind for their athletic achievements.

Joseph Greene of Harleyville and Adam Wilson of Easley were named to the All-American Team for top high school football players who are deaf. Victoria Jeter of Spartanburg was named to the second All-American Team for top

high school volleyball players who are deaf.

The students recently were recognized for the honor in the national publication, *Silent News*, which serves the deaf community.

Greene, a junior, is an offensive lineman for the Hornets. This is the fourth year that Greene, 18, has received the honor from the national society. He is the son of Michael and Vickie Greene of Harleyville.

Wilson, a junior, is a defensive lineman for the varsity team, which had a 5-4 record in the 2002 season. Wilson, 18, is the son of Rosemary Wilson of Easley.

Jeter, an 18-year-old junior, has played on the SCSDB Varsity Volleyball Team for three years and served as the captain this year. She was named as SCSDB's 2002-03 Most Valuable Player. She is the niece of Mr. and Mrs. James Jeter of Spartanburg.

Hope you have your ticket to the LCC Rally!  
 March 22, 2003  
 5pm~until...  
 Always lots of fun!

## NEW VISION AND DIRECTION: SCSDB Division of Outreach Services

The SCSDB Division of Outreach Services has implemented a long-term study to determine a new statewide vision and direction for future outreach programs and services. Our goal is to design and implement Regional Outreach Center based programming that targets the needs of citizens with sensory disabilities, their families, and the professionals who serve them. Through the development of local/regional partnerships and comprehensive, innovative programs and services, we will ensure the Regional Outreach Centers are an integral and visible part of the community, thereby, furthering SCSDB's role and identity as a statewide resource in the area of sensory disability.

Filling critical vacancies, such as Center Director positions, assessing the potential for the Outreach

Centers, studying the best locations for the Centers and identifying statewide gaps in services we may be able to meet has been a deliberate and thoughtful process involving a lot of people. We are confident we have a good plan for taking services closer to those who need and use them.

Regional Outreach Centers are established in the Low Country Region (Charleston), Coastal Region (Conway), Midlands Region (Columbia, with a satellite office in Rock Hill) and the Piedmont Region (Spartanburg).

Regional Outreach Center Directors will develop and implement a marketing and strategic plan for the Centers, conduct research, assess needs of the Centers, seek new community partnerships, tell the SCSDB story of services, develop training initiatives and

workshops and seek local grant opportunities to fund new programs. Additionally, Regional Outreach Center Directors will manage the facility, oversee the budget and develop ways for measuring the success of initiatives, partnerships and programs.

SCSDB President, Dr. Sheila Breitweiser, and the school's Board of Commissioners continue to strongly support this new plan and vision. There is tremendous excitement and high expectations for continued and expanded work to be done in the statewide SCSDB Regional Outreach Centers.

Please feel free to contact Judi Finleyson at 864-577-7502 with any questions or ideas!

## News from MAD

On February 15, Midlands Association of the Deaf hosted a Valentine party at the Midlands Deaf Church. 38 people came to eat a delicious spaghetti dinner. It was so good, yum !!!!! There were also six great door prizes and six lucky winners... We also all played a game called Win, Lose or Draw. Of course there was lots of chatting. Everyone seemed to really enjoy it.

The next MAD meeting will be on March 1st at the SCAD HOME OFFICE.

Upcoming MAD events:

MAD picnic TBA

MAD BBQ with St. Martin in the Field Church: Flyers and ticket information to be sent out soon-If you don't get yours, contact Clint Sallings

From George Heinen

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SCSDB ATHLETICS  
2002-2003**

**DEAF SCHOOL**

**Football All-American 8  
Man Team by The National  
Fraternal Society of the  
Deaf**

Joseph Green – Offense

Adam Wilson – Defense

**Volleyball All-American 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Team by The National Fra-  
ternal of the Deaf**

Victoria Jeter

**MASON-DIXON BASKET-  
BALL TOURNAMENT**

**Girl's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Mason-  
Dixon Basketball Tourna-  
ment at Staunton, Va.**

Victoria Jeter – All Tournament  
1<sup>st</sup> Team

**Boy's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Mason-  
Dixon Basketball Tourna-  
ment at Baton Rouge, La.**  
4<sup>th</sup> place finish

**All Tournament Team -  
Rico Washington**

Xavier Williams

**Free Throw Contest Cham-  
pion - Jamal Shaw**

**MULTI-HANDICAPPED  
SCHOOL – SPECIAL  
OLYMPICS**

**Boys Basketball – Champi-  
ons at Limestone College**

Volleyball – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place at Wof-  
ford College

**MULTI-HANDICAPPED  
JUMP ROPE TEAM – JUMP  
FOR HEART**

**Blind – Eric Johnson**

Dominique Williams

**Deaf - Antonio Nixon**

Elba Orozco

Chris Fowler

Neal Ellis

Kenneth Johnson

Group performed at Buffalo and  
Monarch Elementary Schools

before 800 students. The team  
was one of 3 chosen from  
South Carolina to perform in  
Greenville and Charleston.

**BLIND SCHOOL VIP  
SPORTS**

**Goal Ball – EAAB Girls  
Champions at Philadelphia,  
Pa.**

Amanda Asmond – All Star  
Team

**Goal Ball – USABA Girl's  
National Youth Champions  
at St. Augustine, Fl.**

Amanda Asmond – All Star  
Team

**Cheerleading – EAAB  
Champions at Raleigh, NC**

Latiesha Baskin – Outstanding  
Cheerleader Award

***Next Newsletter  
Scheduled to  
arrive early May!  
Deadline for  
submissions is  
April 14!***

**There were only two dates  
submitted for the SC News  
Calendar-LCC Rally on March 22  
and SCAD Conference from June  
12-14.**

**Send all information to the SCAD  
Home Office so everyone across  
the state is informed!**

*SC Deaf: United We Stand!*

**South Carolina Association of the Deaf  
42nd Biennial Conference  
Greenville, SC on June 12-14, 2003**

COMBO Registration Includes:

- Registration
- SCAD General Meetings
- Exhibits
- Workshops/Open Forum
- Award Banquet/Entertainment
- New Officers Elections

COMBO Ticket Package

- Early Bird II \$75.00  
(Deadline: May 15, 2003)
- At Door \$95.00  
(After May 16, 2003)

*These prices are for regular SCAD members. Senior Citizens pay \$5.00 less. Non-members pay \$20.00 more*

**SCAD 2003 Conference Ticket Prices**

Events	Early Bird II (by May 15, 2003)	At Door		
<i>Registration (Required)</i>	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Award Banquet</i>	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Entertainment</i>	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>SCAD Member (purchased individually)</i>	\$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$95.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Senior Citizen</i>	\$70.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$90.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Non-SCAD Member (purchased individually)</i>	\$95.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$115.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Senior Citizen</i>	\$90.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$110.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Student Member Combo (ID required)</i>	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$55.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Student Non-Member Combo</i>	\$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$65.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Program Book</i>			\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<b>Total:</b>	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

Please send this form and payment to:

JK Lathem, Treasurer, 2003 SCAD Conference,  
1026 Jim Hunt Road, Easley, SC 29640

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: H \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_  
 FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Personal checks payable to:  
 2003 SCAD Conference  
 are accepted until May 15, 2003. After May 15,  
 2003, payment must be by cash, money order or  
 cashier's check*

**Refund Policy: 50% until June 1, 2003. 0% after June 1, 2003. NO EXCEPTIONS**

## SCAD Officers:

**President:** Anita Steichen  
(843) 554-2024  
Anitasc@comast.net

**Vice-President:** Cathi Holst  
Cacholst@aol.com

**Secretary:** Andrea Johnson  
amj1984@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Harold Jessie  
Mjj5u@mindspring.com

### SC News Editor:

Cara Senterfeit  
Cdsenterfeit@yahoo.com

**2003 Conference Chairperson:**  
Debbie West, DAWEST4@aol.com

## Board Members:

### Members at Large

**6 Year:** Tressy Bateson, trez258@juno.com

**4-Year:** Donna Jones, Donnanov64@aol.com

**2-Year:** Jorge Aristizabal,  
jorge\_h\_a@hotmail.com

**Past President:** Steven Rhodes  
deafhusker@charter.net



## Board Members:

### Chapter Representatives

#### Low Country Chapter:

Carolyn Williamson, cawkitty1@aol.com

#### Midlands Assn. Of the Deaf:

Mike Senterfeit, Jr., senterfeitjr@yahoo.com

#### Spartanburg Assn. of the Deaf:

Theresa Rogers, tuscsd80@charter.net

#### Western Piedmont Assn. of the Deaf:

Pamela Jordan, prjordan119@mindspring.com

### Organizational Representatives/Other

#### SC Black Deaf Advocates:

Jubby Rabiou

(864) 585-1830, jrabiou@scsdb.k12.sc.us

#### SC Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf:

Steve Fitzmaurice, canucks@bellsouth.net

#### Miss Deaf South Carolina Pageant:

Ann Riddle

#### SC Deaf-Blind Association:

Cheryl Rhodes, (864)576-6394

Clrhodes@charter.net

### Membership Information

#### Annual Dues

Individual	\$15.00
Married Couple	\$ 20.00
Senior Citizen Single	\$10.00
Senior Citizen Couple	\$12.00
Student	\$10.00
Corporate	\$ 50.00

Membership includes  
all publications for  
**ONE FULL YEAR**  
Contact SCAD for a  
Membership form!

### Advertising Rates:

#### (Suggested Contribution)

**Full Page -- \$50**

**1/2 Page -- \$35**

**1/4 Page -- \$20**

**1/8 Page -- \$15**

**Business Card -- \$10**

**Flyer Inserts-- Call for pricing**

**Deadline for submission is the  
14<sup>th</sup> of even numbered months.**

**Please include payment with ad.**

<http://www.scadservices.org/>

## **South Carolina Association of the Deaf, Inc.**

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