

Ronald Byington
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

Objective

I would like to be appointed to the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging. I am 74 years old and I have some functional hearing when I use a hearing aid. I use Sign Language as a means of communication. I identify myself as a member of the deaf community. I feel I can be a good representative for the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing senior citizen communities in Milwaukee County.

Education

I am a graduate of the Wisconsin School for the Deaf in Delavan, Wisconsin. I attended Gallaudet University from 1961-1964.

I consider myself to be a life-long learner, taking classes throughout my life in subjects that have interested me.

Work Experience

I worked as a senior engineer at Ladish Company in Cudahy, Wisconsin for 32 years. We made large forged ring bearings for planes, ships and rockets. I did the engineering portion. I retired after 30 years at age 59.

I also taught Sign Language classes, part time at MATC for 25 years. I taught Sign Language classes full time for 3 years at UWM, and also as a part time Sign Language instructor for 15 years at UWM.

I have served as a deaf mentor to families with young deaf children for over 15 years. I am still working in that program which is state supported under Wisconsin Educational Services Program (WESP-DHH).

Organizations, Past and Present including Leadership Experiences

Member, Wisconsin School for the Deaf Foundation

Member, Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf

Trustee, president and secretary of the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf

Member, Wisconsin Association of Sign Language Teachers Association

Board member, Wisconsin Lions' International Club

President and board member, International Lutheran Deaf Association

Governor appointed board for the Telecommunications Relay Service for the state of Wisconsin

Awards and Honors

Distinguished Service Award, Wisconsin Association of the Deaf, 2015

Inductee, Service Hall of Fame, Wisconsin School for the Deaf, 2006

Distinguished Service Award, Wisconsin Lions' International Club, 1995
Service Award, International Lutheran Deaf Association
Honorary Lifetime Member, Greater Milwaukee Association of the Deaf

Strengths

I cooperate well with others when working on projects. I have good interpersonal skills.

I have a passion for the Deaf community I grew up in and live in and want to see that Deaf citizens have an equal footing in this community. In jobs, housing, social services, etc. I believe the Deaf community has much to offer and I want to see expanded opportunities for all of us.

I am a community volunteer and run a storytelling group at the Deaf Senior Citizen housing unit in Greenfield. I have also volunteered yearly, for 35 years, as Santa Claus at the Greater Milwaukee Association of the Deaf. I helped to write grants that were used to improve the building that the Greater Milwaukee Association of the Deaf owns.

Interests

I am interested in my children and grandchildren, some of whom have cystic fibrosis. I am also interested in biking, camping and traveling. Volunteering in the community is a great interest of mine.

References

Please feel free to contact me if you need references for my character and my skills.