

Hello, I am your new President-elect of SCAD. I will begin my term in January 2018. I am excited to serve as your President and I will do my best to serve YOU, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing people of SC.

There are several areas of concern faced by Deaf people. The biggest three appear to be communication access, education, and employment – the very same concerns brought up by DGM (Deaf Grassroots Movement) across the nation. SCAD remains committed to advocating for you and this continues to be part of our mission.

As your new President, I have several goals:

- 1) I plan to meet with the VR Commissioner, hopefully in January, to encourage them to hire a new Deaf/HH Specialist.
- 2) I plan to meet with both the SCSDB Outreach Program Coordinator and the Early Intervention Program Coordinator to see how SCAD can collaborate with SCSDB in various endeavors.
- 3) I plan to meet with the Deaf/Blind Service Specialist on how SCAD can collaborate with them to improve programs for deaf/blind people in SC.
- 4) I plan to work with SC Beginnings on how we can reach out to parents of Deaf/HH children to provide services they need.
- 5) I plan to meet with the current A G Bell President in Charleston to see if we can find some common meeting ground.
- 6) I plan to continue our work with training police and other emergency responders, collaborating with HLAA and other agencies.
- 7) I plan to continue SCAD's legislative efforts to get bills passed benefitting Deaf/HH people such as the interpreter bill, possible LEAD-K bill, and Deaf Child's Bill of Rights.
- 8) I plan to focus on Deaf youth in our state – find deaf kids in public schools, reach out to them, and set up workshops for them in different areas around the state.
- 9) I plan to meet with University of South Carolina personnel to encourage them to recognize ASL for foreign language credit so hearing students can take ASL for credit.

Lastly, I plan to work with the Board and Executive Director to improve the SCAD organization itself. This includes redefining our mission, setting up a strategic plan, improving our website, providing workshops to the community, having some webinars, having a road tour around the state, and in general, advocating for the Deaf/HH community.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your new President. I will do the job to the best of my ability.

*Sherry Williams*