

October 19-21, 2011

NATIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE (NCC) ANNUAL MEETING: ROCHESTER, NY

October 18, 2011, members from the National Community Committee (NCC) flew in from all over the country to attend the NCC Annual Meeting, this year held in Rochester, NY. With a busy few days ahead of them, a few members attended the leadership team meetings, and then prepared for the following days' agenda.

Wednesday evening, October 19, 2011, the rest of the NCC members arrived and everyone gathered at the National

Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at RIT for an opening reception. Dr. Thomas Pearson said a few words welcoming everyone. John T. Reid, the previous chair of the Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC),



addressed the group about NCDHR's community committee, the DHCC.

Other speakers included Jim DeCaro, Dean Emeritus of NTID, and Gerald Buckley, the current President of NTID. After the opening remarks, John Haynes and Terri Harrison took on the roles of Frederick Douglas and Susan B. Anthony and



performed what it would be like if Frederick Douglas and Susan B. Anthony were Deaf. After their performance, NCC members enjoyed an excellent meal and spent the remainder of the evening meeting a few of the DHCC members, and catching up with old friends.

The following two days were full of meetings and business affairs. Thursday morning, NCC members arrived at the Saunders Research Building and participated in a mini Deaf Strong Hospital (DSH) event, followed by a debriefing. NCC members shared their DSH





my learning and an opportunity to share that with others,” stated a representative from West Virginia University PRC. Another member from the John Hopkins University PRC commented, “You know I have been reflecting on Rochester since I returned. I learned a great deal and I am made so much more grateful to be part of the NCC and of service to

experiences as “eye-opening” and “enlightening”. From there, the business endeavors began. A few members from NCDHR’s recently formed Hard of Hearing Health Task Force joined part of the day’s events.

That evening, at the Saunders Research Building, another dinner reception was held, with members of the Community Advisory Council (CAC) in attendance. Dr. Thomas Pearson introduced the members of the CAC, and shared a few stories of success from NCDHR. Scott Smith also gave a brief presentation about NCDHR’s core project, Deaf Weight Wise.

Friday morning, business continued at the Strathallen Hotel. Dr. JMatt Searls, a professor from NTID, gave a thought-provoking presentation about how Deaf people experienced decades of social inequity and exclusion. Many questions were asked and some members shared some of their own stories regarding their local Deaf communities.

Full of information and motivation for the work in the year to come, the NCC members packed their bags and went their separate ways late Friday afternoon. “I left with a better understanding of the deaf community/culture, a challenge to continue

those in need.”

NCDHR thanks the DHCC for all their efforts in hosting this event, as well as the NCC members who attended. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet so many interesting and inspiring people from around the country, as well as learn a little about their communities and their hardships being faced in the current economy. Overall, the NCC Annual Meeting was a successful and productive event. The NCC members greatly enjoyed their experiences here in Rochester, NY and were sad to say goodbye to their old friends, and the friends they had just made from DHCC and NCDHR.

