



NAD Public Policy Committee and Subcommittee Chairs

Howard A. Rosenblum (IL)	Public Policy Committee Chair
Alexis Ander Kashar (NY)	Civil Rights Subcommittee Chair
Harold Mowl (NY)	Education Subcommittee Chair
Joseph Murray (MD)	International Subcommittee Chair
John Gournaris (MN)	Mental Health Subcommittee Chair
Sheila Conlon Mentkowski (CA)	Technology Subcommittee Chair
Teresa Blankmeyer Burke (DC)	Bio-Ethics Subcommittee Chair
David "D.J." Kurs (CA)	Media Subcommittee Chair
Kirsten Poston	NAD Board Liaison
Sean Gerlis	NAD Board Liaison
Nancy Bloch	NAD Ex-Officio
Bobbie Beth Scoggins	NAD Ex-Officio
Rosaline Crawford, Debra Patkin	Current NAD Staff
Barbara Raimondo, Mike Stein	Former NAD Staff



Public Policy Committee Actions: Partnership with NFL and CBS regarding Super Bowl:

- Alexis Kashar and Howard Rosenblum worked with NFL and CBS to increase the captioning of commercials during the Super Bowl to unprecedented levels during the 2010 Super Bowl.
- This success was noticed by ESPN which wanted to find ways to make the World Cup accessible to the deaf and hard of hearing people. Shane Feldman, Alexis Kashar, and Howard Rosenblum discussed with ESPN staff to explore possible ways to increase access to the broadcasting of the World Cup.



Civil Rights Subcommittee – Alexis Ander Kashar

Members:

Sharon Caserta (FL)

Sheila Conlon Mentkowski (CA)

Jody Gill (NY)

Faye Kuo (TX)

Mike McGee (NY)

Karma Quick (CA)

Richard Ray (CA)

Emily Teplin (MN)



Accomplishments of Civil Rights Subcommittee:

- The subcommittee completed and submitted, with assistance of International subcommittee, a Response on Federal Recognition of ASL pursuant to a conference priority (2008-LA-PUB-002, rank 4). The Response addresses the lack of any precedent for the U.S. Government to recognize any language, not even English.
- The subcommittee completed and submitted a Memorandum on hearing aid coverage pursuant to a conference priority (2008-LA-PUB-006, rank 8), and the Memorandum compiles all the information on hearing aid coverage in various states including type and extent of coverage. The Memorandum is intended to be used by state associations to advocate for hearing aid coverage laws in each state.



Ongoing work of Civil Rights Subcommittee:

Pursuant to a conference priority, Immigration Access (2008-LA-PUB-008: Rank 17), subcommittee members located a settlement agreement entered into between deaf consumers and the Chicago office of the Immigration Naturalization Services, now called the Citizenship and Immigration Services (“CIS”) with the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”), and determined many common areas of complaints from deaf immigrants. Prior to any discussion with the DHS, existing problems need to be identified and brought to the attention of DHS. Recommendation to the NAD’s Law and Advocacy Center to collect CIS problems and complaints to bring to the attention of DHS to resolve such problems in a global manner rather than individually.



Ongoing work of Civil Rights Subcommittee:

Pursuant to a conference priority, Disclosure of CI Risks and Outcomes (2008-LA-PUB-009: Rank 18). The subcommittee has discussed the CI issue at length and reviewed possible strategies to resolve the lack of sufficient warnings given by doctors. It was learned that the FDA has limited authority over doctors' providing informed consent warnings, and the subcommittee continues to explore possible ways to address this issue with the FDA, AMA, and other relevant groups.

The subcommittee has completed a survey on Social Security problems experienced by deaf consumers with the SSA. The survey was conducted through the NAD survey system (survey monkey), and data has been collected. The data will be reviewed and recommendations will be made to the SSA based on this data.



Education Subcommittee – Harold Mowl

Members:

Denise Kavin (NY)

Angela McCaskill (DC)

Annette Reichman (DC)

David Reynolds (CA)

Lawrence Siegel (CA)

Jerry Wilding (ID)



Accomplishments of Education Subcommittee:

The subcommittee completed and submitted three position statements with respect to the four priorities from the conference. The fourth priority was combined with two of the other three so that only three position statements are required. These three include:

- NAD Position Statement on Schools for the Deaf (satisfying 2008-LA-PUB-001, rank 3, and 2008-LA-PUB-007, rank 9), which explains the NAD's position of support for schools for the deaf across the country.
- NAD Position Statement on Dual Language Development and Use in the Educational Environment (satisfying 2008-LA-PUB-004, rank 6), which explains the NAD's position of support for bilingual education (dual use of English and ASL) for the deaf children.
- NAD Position Statement on Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (satisfying 2008-LA-PUB-005, rank 7, and 2008-LA-PUB-007, rank 9), which explains the NAD's position on ensuring appropriate intervention with ASL for deaf babies upon detection.



International Subcommittee – Joseph Murray

Members:

Yerker Andersson (MD)

Dan Brubaker (WA)

Peggy Prosser (DC)

Accomplishments of International Subcommittee:

- Continued to discuss international issues and provide feedback to NAD Board and staff regarding those issues
- Monitored efforts to ratify and implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Assisted in the development of the Response on Federal Recognition of ASL (conference priority 2008-LA-PUB-004, rank 4) particularly with respect to the comparison to other countries' recognition of their respective native sign language.



Mental Health Subcommittee – John Gournaris (MN)

Members:

Robert Baldwin (CO); Sara Bianco (IL); Suzanne Dennis (KS); Michelle Niehaus (KY); Brad Trotter (NC); Roger Williams (NC)

Accomplishments:

Pursuant to a conference priority, National Agenda for Mental Health (2008-LA-PUB-003: Rank 5), the subcommittee determined that the optimal way to advance this important National Agenda was to develop a Mental Health Bill of Rights for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Like the Deaf Child Bill of Rights that have been passed in a few states, this Mental Health Bill of Rights would set standards in each state that adopts the bill to ensure that the National Agenda is adhered to in each state. The subcommittee worked to develop a sample Mental Health Bill of Rights for state associations to push for passage in their respective states, and a supporting statement that explains the purpose and background for the bill of rights.



Technology Subcommittee – Sheila Conlon Mentkowski (CA)

Members: over 70 members, not possible to list all here

Ongoing work

Pursuant to a resolution, Internet Charges by Major Cable Companies (2008-LA-RES-003), the Technology subcommittee has been working with NAD staff to monitor events and legislative changes, and watch Capitol Hill for signs of movement towards affordable availability of high speed internet services.

To improve the effectiveness of this huge subcommittee, a subgroup has been created to focus on drafting a policy statement on telephone communications functional equivalence. This project has been complex and requires additional time to develop.



Two Brand New Subcommittees, still in the process of formation:

Bio-Ethics Subcommittee – Teresa Blankmeyer Burke (DC)

Members are still being recruited; many issues are in need of discussion and position statements need to be developed

Media Subcommittee – David “DJ” Kurs (CA)

Members:

M.J. Bienvenu (MD); Linda Bove (CA); Ryan Commerson (CO); Monique Holt (NY)

Discussion began and continues on these following issues:

- Position statement on hiring of deaf and hard of hearing actors in all forms of arts such as but not limited to: movies, television, and theaters
- Monitoring of and objecting to use of actors who are not deaf or hard of hearing to take on roles that are portrayals of deaf and hard of hearing individual
- Addressing the use of negative words, phrases, imagery of deaf and hard of hearing people in the media including newspapers and the news