

**National Association of the Deaf  
Post-Conference NAD Board of Directors Meeting  
Phoenix, Arizona  
July 9, 2016**

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk called the post-conference board meeting to order at 3:07 pm, with new, continuing, and outgoing board members present.

**Board Members Present:** President Melissa Draganac-Hawk (2016-2018), Vice President Joshua Beckman (2016-2018), Secretary Jenny Buechner (2016-2018), Treasurer Philippe Montalette (2016-2018), Region I Representatives: Michelle Cline (2014-2018) and Steve Lovi (2016-2020), Region II Representatives: Richard McCowin (2014-2018) and Lindsay Darnall, Jr. (2016-2020), Region III Representatives: Jerry Nelson (2014-2018) and Holly Ketchum (2016-2020), Region IV Representatives: Sherri Collins (2014-2018) and Martin Price (2016-2020), Immediate Past President, Chris Wagner (2014-2016), Past Region 4 Representative David Reynolds (2012-2016), Past Appointed Board Member Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke (2014-2016), Past Appointed Board Member Alicia Lane-Outlaw (2014-2016), and Ex Officio Member: Howard Rosenblum, Chief Executive Officer.

**Visitors Present:** Bill Riha, Chuck Borchers, Aurora Solomon, Glenna Ashton, Cam Tulloch, Michael Stein, Elvia Guillermo, Michael Fiorino, Al Sonnenstrahl, Samuel E Jins, Gary Etkie, Nina Biondo, Paul Blicharz , Shawn Tulloch, Joe Toledo, Ben Hollingsworth, Corey Axelrod, Richard McLaughlin, Elias Papazis, Cynthia Sandoval.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk shared the agenda for today's meeting which includes:

- Discuss feedback on the Council of Representatives
- Discuss feedback on the Conference
- Discuss the Board Schedule for the next 2 years
- Discuss the vision for the next 2 years

Members of the board discussed feedback on the Council of Representative including the following items:

- People didn't understand what was being explained, or are not aware of the processes involved. Perhaps more education and training needs to take place?
- There is a need for additional seating for members to observe the Council of Representatives.
- It didn't seem like there was an opportunity for delegates and attendees to talk about real issues among each other.

- The board will have to work on ensuring we monitor and keep track of the items referred to Governance.
- The duration of the Council of Representatives was discussed, as well as when the Council of Representatives should take place, if prior to or during the conference.
- Some participants felt there could have been improvements in preparing delegates in advance through reading material, training, and ensuring they're up to speed with items being discussed.
- Look into collaborating seasoned delegates with new delegates to improve efficiency of the process.
- There were difficulties in finding the proposed priorities being discussed, along with the amendments that were made, perhaps there is a better way for delegates to locate proposed priorities, and get updated versions in real-time.
- Evaluate options for electronic voting.
- Some members would like to see Forums brought back to help make the process for streamlining proposed priorities more efficient.

A survey will be distributed to all attendees after the conference, to collect feedback from all attendees, along with additional surveys for specific groups, including exhibitors, sponsors, delegates and more.

Conference Chair, Sherri Collins shared that there were positive comments about how well trained the conference center and hotels have been. ACDHH and DeafFriendly worked together to train people at the conference sites, and ACDHH trained the airport due to existing relationship.

Members of the board discussed feedback on the Conference including the following items:

- Recommend that the NAD look into the possibility of working with DeafFriendly for future conferences.
- Concerns with NAD@Night events
- Visibility of Volunteers was wonderful, love the aprons, however, need better ways to recognize Board members
- Would like to see recognition for different types of members including long-time members, and first-timers
- Location of various activities including exhibit hall, workshops, Council of Representatives, etc
- Need to ensure access to the event for award recipients, as well as ensure recipients are prepared to receive their award
- Need to add a Safe Place for NAD attendees for support to talk with people about issues
- A more thorough checklist to ensure convention sites are appropriate not only for accessibility, but elders, etc

Board members commended on many aspects of the conference, including the partnership with National Deaf Education Conference, Deaf in Government, and RID Region IV.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk shared that the NAD will plan on hosting a Gala in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, October 19, 2016. The Board should plan on having our next board meeting in Silver Spring, MD on October 20th through 22nd.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk would like for the board to consider goals for 2016-2018, and how we can accomplish these goals. Each board member should also consider and evaluate which committees they would like to work with, as liaisons.

There was a discussion on what the next board meeting would look like, whether we want to have a training or retreat.

Michelle Cline led discussion in regards to the five priorities for 2016-2018.

- National employment Resource Center
- Enhance NAD information clearinghouse and communications strategy
- Campaign to end language and cultural deprivation
- Creation of mental health training program and a communication hub on health related information
- Child protection services and best practices with respect to language and culture

Michelle Cline also shared that there are several proposed priorities that were referred to various committees for evaluation and possible implementation. Six (6) referrals to the Governance committee, one (1) referral to the Finance committee, one (1) referral to the Youth committee, one (1) to the Outreach committee, three (3) to the Education Strategy Team, one (1) to the newly created CDI taskforce, and one (1) to the Employment Taskforce.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk shared that she would like for the NAD Board to work in partnership with National Black Deaf Advocates, Council de Manos, and other organizations on issues that we can work together on.

There was a discussion about the need to think about who we should appoint for board members.

Past President Chris Wagner led discussion on transition period for incoming and outgoing board members. New Region Board members should introduce themselves to the State Associations within their region.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk was appreciative for the opportunity to serve as the NAD Vice President for 4 years, and looks forward to serving as President with the new board. She also expressed gratitude to outgoing board members for their service.

David Reynolds thanked the board for the opportunity to meet and work with us. He emphasized on his desire to see that the election guidelines and procedures are reviewed and

updated to address concerns that had arisen throughout the course of the conference. He also wanted to ensure that the complaint on the CEO is followed-through by the new board.

Vice President Joshua Beckman asked that we start contemplating a theme for the 2018 conference in Hartford, Connecticut.

The board meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Buechner, Secretary