

**National Association of the Deaf
Board of Directors Meeting
Talladega and Birmingham, Alabama
September 24-27, 2015**

September 24, 2015 at AIDB (Helen Keller School) in Talladega Alabama

Board Members Present: President Chris Wagner (2014-2016); Vice President Melissa Draganac-Hawk (2014-2016); Secretary Joshua Beckman (2014-2016); Treasurer Philippe Montalette (2014-2016); Region I Representatives: Steve Lovi (2012-2016) and Michelle Cline (2014-2018); Region II Representatives: Jenny Buechner (2013-2016) and Richard McCowin (2014-2018); Region III Representatives: Gerald “Jerry” Nelson (2014-2018) and Holly Ketchum (2015-2016); Appointed Board Members: Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke (2014-2016) and Alicia Lane-Outlaw (2014-2016); and Ex Officio Member: Howard Rosenblum, Chief Executive Officer.

Excused: Region IV Representatives: David Reynolds (2012-2016) and Sherri Collins (2014-2018)

Staff Present: Lizzie Sorkin, Director of Communications; Allie Rice, Director of Youth Programs; and Tawny Holmes, Education Policy Counsel

Visitors: Ben Hollingsworth, Judith M. Gillam, Bethany Miller, Nancy Hayes, Rann Gordon, and Melvin Walker.

Board Meeting started at 12:55pm

President Wagner thanked ASDB and AIDB for the wonderful tour, led by students, Joshua and Isaac. President Wagner also recognized Melvin Walker, RID Vice President, Ben Hollingsworth, President of AAD, and Judith Gillman as past Region III board member of NAD and currently involved with NAD RID Credential committee.

President Wagner administered the NAD oath to Holly Ketchum as the new Region III board member.

Board members went through Region reports and answered questions.

Outreach committee update on survey report will be shared with the board at a later time.

Board members discussed the FCC issue regarding Social Security Numbers that deaf consumers are being required to provide their last four digits’ for VRS services. Discussion included what NAD HQ has done to try to address this situation with the FCC and ongoing efforts.

Treasurer Montalette reported that the Finance committee reviewed the budget and NAD is doing well with the current budget. Montalette also informed the Board that t the 6 months’ updated budget revision would be shared with them by October 2015.

The Board began discussions about the basic NAD 2016 conference schedule.

President Wagner called for a recess at 2:00pm.

The meeting resumed at 2:10pm.

Board continued discussions about the NAD 2016 conference schedule with further discussion to continue on Sunday.

President Wagner informed the Board that an Executive Session will take place at 9:15pm tonight

Lizzie Sorkin reported to the Board on the plans for the 2015 NLTC Opening Ceremony that will take place tonight.

President Wagner reviewed with the Board the full NLTC schedule for this weekend.

Steve Lovi discussed with the Board the plans for the Regional Caucuses for Friday and Saturday, and asked the Board to determine which format to use during these Regional Caucuses. A format was determined by the Board.

President Wagner announced that we have over 200 people attending the NLTC this weekend.

President Wagner discussed with the Board ongoing issues and the NAD response to community concerns on several matters.

Steve Lovi moved to approve the April 2015 Board minutes. Michelle Cline seconded. Motion passed.

Jerry Nelson moved to ratify the NAD audit. Melissa Draganac-Hawk seconded. Motion passed.

President Chris Wagner recognized and thanked AIDB for their being gracious hosts for our board meeting and the tour of AIDB.

President Wagner called for recess of the Board meeting at 3:30pm.

September 27, 2015 at Sheraton Birmingham in Birmingham, Alabama

Board Members Present: President Chris Wagner (2014-2016); Secretary Joshua Beckman (2014-2016); Treasurer Philippe Montalette (2014-2016); Region I Representatives: Steve Lovi (2012-2016) and Michelle Cline (2014-2018); Region II Representatives: Jenny Buechner (2013-2016) and Richard McCowin (2014-2018); Region III Representatives: Gerald “Jerry” Nelson (2014-2018) and Holly Ketchum (2015-2016); Appointed Board Members: Pamela Lloyd Ogoke (2014-2016) and Alicia Lane-Outlaw (2014-2016); and Ex Officio Member: Howard Rosenblum, Chief Executive Officer.

Excused: Vice President Melissa Draganac-Hawk (2014-2016); Region IV Representatives: David Reynolds (2012-2016) and Sherri Collins (2014-2018).

Visitors: Martin Price, Glenna Ashton, Ben Hollingsworth.

Meeting resumed on Sunday, September 27, 2015 at 8:42 am at Sheraton Birmingham, Alabama.

5 Priorities Report:

1) Youth:

Martin Price gave a report to the Board on updates in the planning for National Deaf Youth Day. Michelle Cline moved to recognize National Deaf Youth Day on March 6. Alicia Lane-Outlaw seconded. Motion carried.

The Board asked that all plans for the National Deaf Youth Day be finalized by October.

2) FEMA:

Howard Rosenblum provided an update on the Public Policy - Emergency Planning Expert Group, chaired by Neil McDevitt. The update covered McDevitt’s work with the expert group to develop a position statement that would outline what state and local emergency planning groups should be doing to be more accessible to deaf and hard of hearing people. Rosenblum also explained that Wisconsin developed a wonderful emergency planning information package that Neil and his team really like and could serve as a model for all states and local entities to use for emergency preparation purposes.

3) PARS:

Rosenblum reported that this priority was completed last year with a position statement. However, there are ongoing issues with the FCC and the quality of VRS. Some of these issues include as the need to freeze rates, forcing consumers to provide SSN number, and interoperability challenges. The NAD has been lobbying Congress to look into making sure quality is always considered and not just keeping costs down.

The Board asked Rosenblum to share this information with state association and affiliates.

4) EST:

There is great progress with EST including all the specific parts mandated in the priority. Cogswell/ Macy Act update: Congress is now considering reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The Cogswell-Macy Act will not be seriously considered until ESEA is passed and then Congress considers reauthorizing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The goal of promoting the Cogswell-Macy Act is to increase awareness in Congress.

5) Mental Health:

Rosenblum reported that the Public Policy Mental Health Expert Group led by Steve Hamerdinger is working on how to improve the health care system including the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) to be more accessible and provide better services to deaf and hard of hearing people who need mental health services. The goal is to preserve the progress we have made and increase the number of mental health professionals who are ASL fluent.

Jerry Nelson moved to break at 10:00 am.

Meeting resumed at 10:07 am

The Board resumed the discussion on NAD 2016 conference planning/schedule. We board approved the schedule for the NAD 2016 conference.

Steve Lovi provided a Governance Committee update on COR house rules and tasks.

Rosenblum reported on the upcoming 2015 NAD Gala in November. The Board is encouraged to attend the Gala and their participation would count towards NAD board fund raising. The Board discussed inviting more people to the Gala and addressing community concerns.

Deaf Child Bill of Rights update. Rosenblum reported on the changes made by Kim Bianco Majeri and Tawny Holmes, as well as the EST, to the Deaf Child Bill of Rights, which was previously approved by the Board and shared with the community. The Board agreed to update the Deaf Child Bill of Rights.

The Board brainstormed about monthly regional meetings and how to better engage with state association and affiliate leaders.

President Wagner expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Alabama Association of the Deaf, Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind and Alabama Vocational Rehabilitation for being great hosts for the Birmingham Board meeting and the 2015 NLTC.

Meeting adjourned at 11:27am

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Beckman, NAD Secretary