

**National Association of the Deaf
NAD Board of Directors Meeting
Hartford, CT
April 13-15, 2017**

April 13, 2017 at the Willie Ross School for the Deaf in Longmeadow, MA.

Board Members Present: President Melissa Draganac-Hawk (2016-2018), Vice President Joshua Beckman (2016-2018), Secretary Jenny Buechner (2016-2018), Region I Representatives: Michelle Cline (2014-2018) and Steve Lovi (2016-2020), Region II Representatives: Richard McCowin (2014-2018) and Linsay Darnall, Jr. (2016-2020), Region III Representatives: Jerry Nelson (2014-2018) and Holly Ketchum (2016-2020), Region IV Representatives: Lisa Furr (2014-2018) and Martin Price (2016-2020), Appointed Board Member Alicia Lane-Outlaw (2016-2018), Appointed Board Member Meena Mann (2016-2018), and Ex Officio Member: Howard Rosenblum, Chief Executive Officer.

Absent: Treasurer Philippe Montalette (2016-2018).

Staff Present: Lizzie Sorkin (Communications Director), Tawny Holmes (Education Policy Counsel), and Angela Ellman (Conference Planner).

Visitors:

Andy Veith
George Balsley
Claire Sanders
Ruth Moore
Winchell Moore
Stephen Brathwaite
Betsy Grenier
Heather Robinson
Kathe Campbell
Rita Bryden
Julie Brenes
Katie Ramos
Brittainy Basinski
BJ Wood
Lewana Clark
Kellynetta Gomez

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk called the Board meeting to order at 1:00 pm, after a Board visit to the premises of the Willie Ross School for the Deaf.

Andrea Wohl and Ivy Velez presented about the services provided by Walden Community Services from The Learning Center for the Deaf.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk called for a recess at 2:10 pm.

The meeting resumed at 2:30 pm.

Jerry Nelson provided a report from the Governance Committee with recommendations. The board discussed the recommendations for consideration. It was agreed that further discussion was needed and would be done at a later time during this board meeting.

In response to Proposed Priority GOV-002, the Governance Committee made recommendations for the Council of Representatives, and the format for the General Forum. The board has decided to hold the discussion until a later time during this board meeting.

In response to Proposed Priority GOV-007, the Governance Committee developed a draft for a section in the Board Policy Manual in regards to Sections. A few items included in the draft are as follows:

- Process for selection of the Section Chair to occur immediately after the NAD Biennial Conference.
- Outline of roles and expectations for Section Chair and Section Members.
- Processes for any financial approvals.
- Reporting expectations of the Section.
- Process for resignation of Section Chair.

The board had some feedback for the draft guidelines. It was agreed that Jerry would review and incorporate feedback collected from the board.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk called for a recess at 2:50 pm.

The meeting resumed at 3:05 pm.

Several community members joined us at the meeting, and we proceeded with introductions of everyone in the room.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk provided a brief President report. Melissa shared that she met with Melvin Walker, and was asked to be the Keynote Speaker at the upcoming RID convention. It was agreed that the NAD would cordially decline their request.

Vice President Joshua Beckman shared that he will talk about committee updates at a later time during the Board meeting.

Secretary Jenny Buechner shared an update on working with Steve Gagnon who represents NAD Affiliates and the issue regarding maintaining updates of affiliate memberships in the NAD Google Group listserv.

Jenny also shared the report from the Election Reform Committee with their recommendation to make the Election Committee independent from the NAD Board of Directors to minimize any potential conflicts of interest. The Board agreed that the committee should explore this path and provide a draft of guidelines for review and approval.

Michelle Cline and Steve Lovi, Region I Board Members, shared that several state associations are doing their biennial conference in the spring or in the fall. They have been requested to provide a lot of technical assistance for membership and Bylaws to the state associations.

Linsay Darnall, Jr. and Richard McCowin, Region II Board Members, did not have any additional reports beyond their submitted written report to the Board.

Holly Ketchum and Jerry Nelson, Region III Board Members, shared that the state associations in Region III would like to have additional communication options, including access to Google Drive. However, there is a need for training on how to use Google Drive.

Martin Price and Lisa Furr, Region IV Board Members, did not have any additional reports beyond their submitted written report to the Board.

Meena Mann, Appointed Board Member did not have any additional reports beyond her submitted written report.

Alicia Lane-Outlaw, Appointed Board Member, requested that the board review the Outreach Report in advance of discussion to be held later this weekend.

Howard Rosenblum, Chief Executive Officer went through the CEO report with the board to discuss and clarify any questions.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk called the meeting to recess at 5:02 pm.

April 14, 2017 at the Marriott in Hartford, CT.

Board Members Present: President Melissa Draganac-Hawk (2016-2018), Vice President Joshua Beckman (2016-2018), Secretary Jenny Buechner (2016-2018), Region I Representatives: Michelle Cline (2014-2018) and Steve Lovi (2016-2020), Region II Representatives: Richard McCowin (2014-2018) and Linsay Darnall, Jr. (2016-2020), Region III Representatives: Jerry Nelson (2014-2018) and Holly Ketchum (2016-2020), Region IV Representatives: Lisa Furr (2014-2018) and Martin Price (2016-2020), Appointed Board Member Alicia Lane-Outlaw (2016-2018), Appointed Board Member Meena Mann (2016-2018), and Ex Officio Member: Howard Rosenblum, Chief Executive Officer.

Absent: Treasurer Philippe Montalette (2016-2018).

Staff Present: Lizzie Sorkin (Communications Director), Tawny Holmes (Education Policy Counsel), and Angela Ellman (Conference Planner).

Visitors: Sandy Izinga, Barbara, Sandra, Elena, and Andy Veith.

The meeting resumed at 10:45 am, after a Board visit to the premises of the Marriott and the Hartford Convention Center.

The Board discussed with Connecticut Association of the Deaf representatives Sandy, Barbara, Sandra and Elena regarding the layout of the Marriott and the Hartford Convention Center for the 2018 Biennial Convention.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk called for a lunch recess at 12:00 pm.

The board meeting resumed at 1:14 pm.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk called for an Executive Session at 1:14 pm.

The Executive session concluded at 2:24 pm, and President Melissa Draganac-Hawk called for a recess.

The Board meeting resumed at 2:40 pm, and staff and visitors were welcomed back.

Staff Present: Lizzie Sorkin (Communications Director), Tawny Holmes (Education Policy Counsel), and Angela Ellman (Conference Planner).

Visitors: Andy Veith.

The board discussed committee reports.

Election Reform Committee: No additional report beyond information shared yesterday from Board Liaison, Jenny Buechner.

Conference Committee: Conference Chair, Steve Lovi reported that he is working with the Connecticut Association of the Deaf (CAD) in discussions with the City of Hartford to convince them to have fireworks on the 4th of July in 2018. CAD will conduct a road trip in the region to recruit volunteers for the 2018 Biennial Conference.

Outreach Committee: Board Liaison, Alicia Lane-Outlaw shared that they are assisting in gathering content for the website in relation to two of the Priorities. The Outreach Committee is also doing a pilot of partnership with committees and community experts in assisting them with their work.

Governance Committee: Governance Chair, Jerry Nelson shared that the State Association and Affiliate Committee is back in action. The committee would like to work with NAD Headquarters in assisting with training modules for State Associations.

Public Policy: No additional report from Staff Liaison, Howard Rosenblum, beyond the submitted written report from Public Policy Chair Alexis Kashar.

Diversity Strategy Team: Vice President Joshua Beckman shared that he met with Chair Shilpa Hanumantha Lacy and they are working on several projects for DST including developing a directory of training videos and people, creating short video clips for distribution on social media, and preparing to provide a 4-hour training on diversity prior to NLTC.

Youth Strategy Team: Board Liaison Linsay Darnall, Jr. shared that all of the committee members are within ages 18-30, except for one. Jeremiah Thompson, chair of the Outreach Committee is also on the Youth Strategy Team. They are working on a survey and will work in collaboration with the Outreach Committee for feedback.

Deaf Culture and History Section: Vice President Joshua Beckman shared that Jerry Nelson will lead efforts in assisting DCHS in selecting their new Chair, and Linsay Darnall, Jr. will then resume as the Board Liaison for DCHS.

LGBT Section: Board Liaison Lisa Furr shared that they are working on selecting a new chair for the section.

Deaf Business Advocacy Section: No report from the section or Board Liaison Philippe Montalette.

Interpreter Section: Board Liaison Richard McCowin shared that they are working on selecting a new chair for the section.

CDI Task Force: Board Liaison Richard McCowin shared that the CDI Task Force submitted a presentation proposal on CDI Clients and their rights for the Deaf Interpreters Conference in Philadelphia.

Interpreter Referral Agency Certification Committee: No report from Board Liaison Lisa Furr.

Public Safety Task Force: Board Liaison Michelle Cline shared that Kim Davis is the Chair of the committee, and they hope to schedule their first meeting shortly after this board meeting.

VRI Task Force: Board Liaison Holly Ketchum shared that VRI is still a hot issue with hospitals and employment. Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) and the NAD are working on scheduling a meeting with the Joint Commission to discuss concerns.

Affiliates: No report from Board Liaison Jenny Buechner.

Organization Committee: Meena Mann, Chair of the Organization Committee, shared that they have completed the SMART assessment of the 2016-2018 Priorities and will share with the board.

Education Strategy Team: Tawny Holmes, Chair of the Education Strategy Team (EST), shared their progress on the Priority regarding Language Deprivation (2016-AZ-PUB-015 - Campaign to End Language and Cultural Deprivation). The SMART assessment has been helpful in understanding what needs to be done. The EST will conduct parts of the priority, and then NAD HQ will conduct the rest.

The board discussed to better understand the role and function of EST and the Education Committee under Public Policy. The EST is focused on getting the word out on what is being done in regards to education for deaf children.

The Language Deprivation Task Force is focused on developing a legislative strategy in regards to language deprivation for deaf children.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk called for a recess at 3:53 pm.

The meeting resumed at 3:58 pm.

The board discussed about the upcoming NLTC and the Mini-Conferences to support state associations and affiliates. The following topics were discussed:

- Topics and presenters for workshops at NLTC.
- Topics for Mini-Conferences.
- Strategies for training on 2018 Biennial Conference, specifically the Council of Representatives, and proposed priorities, including SMART assessments.
- Schedule for Board travel, board meeting and pre-conference diversity training.

Lizzie Sorkin shared with the board her idea for Region Updates for the NADMag and video reports from Region Board members.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk called the meeting to recess at 4:58 pm.

April 15, 2017 at the Marriott in Hartford, CT.

Board Members Present: President Melissa Draganac-Hawk (2016-2018), Vice President Joshua Beckman (2016-2018), Secretary Jenny Buechner (2016-2018), Region I Representatives: Michelle Cline (2014-2018) and Steve Lovi (2016-2020), Region II Representatives: Richard McCowin (2014-2018) and Linsay Darnall, Jr. (2016-2020), Region III Representatives: Jerry Nelson (2014-2018) and Holly Ketchum (2016-2020), Region IV

Representatives: Lisa Furr (2014-2018) and Martin Price (2016-2020), Appointed Board Member Alicia Lane-Outlaw (2016-2018), Appointed Board Member Meena Mann (2016-2018), and Ex Officio Member: Howard Rosenblum, Chief Executive Officer.

Absent: Treasurer Philippe Montalette (2016-2018).

Staff Present: Lizzie Sorkin (Communications Director), Tawny Holmes (Education Policy Counsel), and Angela Ellman (Conference Planner).

Visitors: Andy Veith

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk called the meeting to resume at 8:15 am.

The Board took a moment to recognize the 200th anniversary of the American School for the Deaf.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk shared the agenda for the day which included the following:

- Work sessions
- Business meeting
- Fundraising workshop
- Lunch
- Travel to ASD for the ASL Competition event.

The Board discussed some topics prior to breaking out for work sessions.

Lisa Furr shared that Washington School for the Deaf has a Deaf Teen Leadership Camp and they would like to have NAD involved with their program. Lisa Furr will work with NAD Youth Coordinator Allie Rice.

The Board recognized that there is a need to develop a list of camps available for Deaf people.

The Board discussed the information posted on the NAD website stating that the NAD serves 48 million deaf and hard of hearing individuals, this data is from research conducted by Johns Hopkins University.

Richard McCowin shared that the Postal Office is neglecting deaf employees and letting them go. Richard will go to Washington, DC on May 2nd for the National American Postal Workers Union Deaf and Hard of Hearing Taskforce Conference. He invited Howard to attend on behalf of the NAD.

Jerry Nelson shared that at the end of the President Obama term, there was an increase of disabled people working in the federal government, however the Office of Personnel Management shows a decrease in deaf employees in the federal government.

The board conducted breakout work sessions at 8:42 am.

The meeting resumed at 9:53 am.

MOTION: Richard McCowin moved to ratify the January board meeting minutes. Seconded by Linsay Darnall, Jr. **CARRIED.**

Jerry Nelson shared the updates made to the Sections Guidelines, which were reviewed and discussed by the board of directors.

MOTION: Joshua Beckman moved to approve the addition of section guidelines, specifically Section III - Committee Structure and Operations in the Board Policy Manual. Seconded by Steve Lovi. **CARRIED.**

Jerry discussed the proposed priorities that were referred to the board from 2016 NAD Conference.

MOTION: Martin Price moved to approve the recommendations from the Governance Committee on the following Proposed Priorities: GOV-002, GOV-003, GOV-004, GOV-006, GOV-007, and PUB-012. Seconded by Lisa Furr. **CARRIED.**

Treasurer Philippe Montalette joined us via Facetime and provided his Treasurer Report. Philippe shared that we are doing well, on Month 11 of 12 for the fiscal year. We need a month before we can close out the fiscal year that ended on March 31st. The Interpreter Section has increased by 400%. Philippe added that he would like to see the board become active in raising funds for the NAD.

The Board will need to approve the final budget in an upcoming video conference meeting after the close of fiscal year 2016-2017.

Alicia Lane-Outlaw provided a workshop on fundraising for the Board.

MOTION: Jerry Nelson moved to accept the Governance Committee recommendation to change the General Forum format as recommended. Seconded by Martin Price. **CARRIED.**

Lizzie Sorkin shared a video with the NAD Conference Theme, and the board provided its feedback.

President Melissa Draganac-Hawk adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Buechner
Secretary

