# LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF CONVENTION
## Prince Murat Motor Inn
## Baton Rouge, Louisiana
## AUGUST 1 - 2, 1980

The Convention was called to order at 2:45 p.m. by Dave Myers, Acting President, in behalf of President Mowad, who was unable to be present due to the illness of his father. Vice-President Magill was out-of-state for a speaking engagement. The chair asked Hazel Wood to serve as Acting Secretary.

Hazel Wood (E. Wood) moved to postpone the start of the meeting until the next day. Carried.

At 3:05 p.m. the meeting recessed until 9:00 a.m. on August 2nd.

At 3:30 p.m. President Mowad arrived and he called the meeting to order, asking Hazel Wood to reconsider and remove her motion to postpone the meeting until the next day. She agreed. Ed Wood who had seconded the motion agreed. Put to a vote, the Convention supported the desire of President Mowad to resume the meeting.

The President appointed Joe Broussard, Leo Burke, and Joe Benedetto to the Resolutions Committee.

The President asked Bob Sheffield to serve as acting Chairman of the Law Committee.

The President gave his report. He listed the major projects of the LAD as being the Commission for the Deaf Bill which passed the Legislative and which was signed into law by the Governor, and the efforst to get lower phone rates and other concessions for TTY users from the phone companies through the Public Service Commission.

The Treasurer's report was deferred until the next day due to the absence of the Treasurer.

Bobbie LeFors, Convention Co-Chairperson, took the floor to welcome everyone to the Convention.

Dave Myers took the floor for the reading of the minutes of Board meetings of the past year. Burke (Sheffield) moved to postpone the reading of the minutes until the next day. Carried.

Sheffield, in behalf of Vice-President Magill, gave the NAD delegates report. He explained that Magill was excused by the President to attent the FRAT banquet in Atlanta. The report touched on the major events of the Convention. Burke moved to accept the NAD Convention report. Carried.

Ada Chevallier, Miss LAD Committee Chairperson, took the floor. She explained about having attended the NAD Convention participated in a workshop for persons interested in directing state association beauty pageants. She got many ideas and recommends that a Miss LAD Pageant Planning Committee be set-up and that the pageant become a permanent affair.

Sheffield, in behalf of Magill, gave the Jr. LAD report. The Jr. LAD is expected to start at LSD this fall. By Laws have been prepared. Mary Wood is serving as co-sponsor with Magill.

Sheffield, Acting Law Committee Chairman, reported that the Law Committee recommends that the proceeds from the Heritage contract be shared with the local convention host organizations until the present contract expires.

Mowad for Marvin Perkins reported on the 1981 Alexandria Convention plans. The Sheraton Hotel will be the Convention Headquarters. This is a good location with many restaurants nearby. They expect to have the Miss LAD Pageant.

Dave Myers took the floor to report for the TTY Rate Committee. He explained that the Louisiana Center for Public Interest, which is a group of attorneys, is helping to petition the Public Service Commission for a 80% reduction in intrastate phones rates for TTY users, and also is trying to get the phone companies to make TTY's available to deaf people at no cost or at a reasonable cost.

Huey Babin reported on correspondence received by Mrs. Gus White regarding convention facilities.

Bob Sheffield reported on the Rainbows End TV Program.

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.



## SECOND SESSION

The Second Session was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by President Mowad.

Lieutenant Governor Bobby Freeman was introduced. He took the floor to address the Convention. He commented on the passage of the Commission for the Deaf Bill. He noted that the Interim Emergency Board had denied a request for funding for the Commission and that he was impressed by the positive attitude demonstrated by the LAD in being patient and confident that the Commission will be implemented. He feels that now is a good time to approach the Public Service Commission regarding our needs from the phone companies. He stated that he will be happy to help ;us with this matter. He is in the process of opening six offices around the state and will have one handicapped CETA Worker in each office. He emphasized that we need to demand our rights from our government, and those who demand the most get the most. We need to get involved with our legislative and government.

A roll call resulted in 63 persons being counted present.

The Secretary read the minutes of the First Session. Burke (Moss) moved to accept the minutes of the First Session as corrected.

Miss LAD, Susan Cole, was introduced. She commented about her experiences at the Miss Deaf America Pageant. It was a most enjoyable and memorable experience.

Sheffield, Acting Law Committee Chairman, took the floor. He hopes to print additional copies of the LAD Constitution and By Laws at LSD. He reported on motions previously referred to the Law Committee at the 1979 Convention.

ITEM I. For a $25 per year affiliate organization fee. Mowad (Sarpy) moved to accept the Law Committee report to change the fee to $25 per year. Burke (E. Thomas) amended the motion, that letters be sent to all affiliate organizations to get their approval to change the affiliate fee. The amendment carried. The main motion carried as amended.

Max Ray took the floor for the Treasurer's report. He made reference to the printed report in the program book. Yvonne Henderson (Burke) moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Carried.

Sheffield took the floor to present the NAD Convention delegate expense report for Magill. His expenses, verified by receipts, were $620 and $570 was paid to him by the LAD. Burke (Moss) moved to accept the delegates report. Carried.

The Law Committee Acting Chairman Sheffield took the floor to continue with items referred to the Committee at the 1979 Convention and thereafter.

ITEM II. That the LRID be given a voting seat on the LAD Board. The Committee recommends acceptance. Ray (Austin) moved to accept the Law Committee report to give LRID voting representation on the LAD Board. Carried by a vote by 40-2.

ITEM III. The matter of distribution of funds from the Heritage contract was referred to New Business.

**Necrology Report:**

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|---|---|
| Ray Allen Hagan | Velma McLaughlin |
| Phillip Thibodeaux | Ollie Carney Castaing |
| Leon Castaing | Oline Prudhomme |
| Mildred Klein | Albin St. Germain |
| Rufus Marasola | Alex Calico |
| Moore Jones | Mr. Inman |
| John Hicks | Aymand Tillman |
| Evelyn Hair | Charles B. Polit, Jr. |
| Ivy Kratzer | Sybil Elster |

Larry Barnett took the floor to offer prayer in remembrance of those who have passed away.

Joe Broussard, Newsletter Editor, took the floor to comment on problems in getting the newsletter printed. August 7this deadline for the September issue. The 7th of even number months is the deadline for news. Magill is responsible for all changes of address. He requested that material for the newsletter be sent to his home address. The newsletter name contest is still open. The winner will get $50.

son of the Louisiana Center for Public Interest
: been working with the LAD TTY Rate Com-
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who are TTY users, (2) to get the phone com-
people at a reasonable cost; (3) to get an 80%
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to ask the Public Service Commission for the
ry and this is a good time to be asking for our
eed to write letters to Public Service Commis-
proposed requests.
ch at 12:15 p.m.

## IRD SESSION

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services to deaf and related organizations. All
Carried.
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contract between Heritage and the LAD which
be equally divided between the club that was
D. Carried.
it the LAD donate $100 to the Gallaudet Coll-
Carried.
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Board and member of the LAD Board Serve on

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Annala (Brewton) moved that the LAD work with the LRID in setting up a workshop for those who are interested in getting training for RSC certification and interpreting for the deaf-visually impaired. Carried.

Moss (Garcille) moved that the treasurer send a financial report on grants to LAD members once each year. Failed to carry.

Huey Barbin took the floor to explain about the program for the evening.

Burke (M. Thomas) moved to close new business. Carried.

Harvey Gremillion took the floor to suggest that the LAD make an effort to publicize its activities in the news media and through other sources.

M. Thomas (Ray) moved to adjourn. Carried.

Barbin (E. Thomas) moved to reconsider the motion to adjourn. Carried.

Leo Burke, Resolutions Committee gave the Committee's report. The resolutions are attached.

The Committee recommends acceptance of the resolutions read.

Barbin (Guidry) moved to accept the report of the Resolutions Committee. Carried.

The Chair declared the Convention adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

DWN/dn
Attachments

*WHEREAS* the Louisiana Association of the Deaf selected Miss Susan Cole as our Miss L.A.D. at the 26th Annual Convention in New Orleans, and,

*WHEREAS* Miss Susan Cole has represented the Louisiana Association of the Deaf in a fitting manner, most becoming of the fine young lady she is, and,

*WHEREAS* Susan Cole did a very good job of representing the Louisiana Association of the Deaf in the Miss Deaf America Pageant at the National Association of the Deaf Convention in Cincinnati,

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Louisiana Association of the Deaf goes on record thanking Susan Cole for representing us as Miss L.A.D.

*WHEREAS* the Louisiana Association of the Deaf has implemented two projects, the Census and Job Survey of the Deaf and Deaf-Visually Impaired, and the Counseling and Service Coordination Program for the Deaf-Visually Impaired, and

*WHEREAS* The Louisiana School for the Deaf and its staff, headed by Dr. Harvey Corson, Superintendent, has provided office space and has been very helpful in many ways in implementing these projects,

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Louisiana Association of the Deaf wishes to express its sincere thanks to Dr. Corson and his staff.

*WHEREAS,* the Program for the 27th Annual Convention of the Louisiana Association was printed by the Baton Rouge Association of the Deaf Convention Committee at the Louisiana School for the Deaf, and,

*WHEREAS* without the facilities of the Louisiana School for the Deaf, our 27th Annual Convention Program would not have been possible,

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,* that the Louisiana Association of the Deaf goes on record thanking the Louisiana School for the Deaf for their cooperation and support.

*WHEREAS* the deaf citizens of Louisiana should have equal access to public utilities, especially the telephone, just as all other citizens do, and

*WHEREAS* deaf citizens can use the telephone only by means of a special telecommunications device (TDD) and can only communicate with other parties who have the same equipment, and

*WHEREAS* TDD's must be purchased and are very costly being beyond the financial means of most deaf citizens, and

*WHEREAS* TDD's require typed messages which require approximately five times longer to transmit than spoken messages, thus making long distance calls five times more costly than voice calls, and

*WHEREAS* deaf citizens, because of their communication handicap, have to pay a much higher cost to get only limited benefit of the telephone, and

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Louisiana Public Service Commission be requested to require the telephone companies to either make TDD's available to deaf citizens at no cost above the monthly charge for the telephone, or to

Nancy Theissen and Ron Wilson of the Louisiana Center for Public Interest were introduced. They have been working with the LAD TTY Rate Committee. They are attempting to (1) get the phone company to identify persons listed in the phone directory who are TTY users, (2) to get the phone company to provide TTY's to deaf people at a reasonable cost; (3) to get an 80% reduction in the intrastate long distance phone rate for TTY users. The phone company is preparing to ask the Public Service Commission for the largest rate increase in history and this is a good time to be asking for our concessions. Deaf people need to write letters to Public Service Commission members supporting the proposed requests.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

## THIRD SESSION

President Mowad called the Third Session to order at 1:45 p.m.

The Secretary read the minutes of the Second Session. Garcille (Brewton) moved to accept the minutes of the Second Session as read. Carried.

Bobbie Le Fors took the floor to explain the activities for the remainder of the day. She reported that the Convention had produced 46 new members of the LAD, bringing total membership to 323.

Barbin (Benedetto) moved that any non-member of the LAD or LRID can buy a copy of the Heritage Statewide Service Directory for $10 per copy. Exception is for the agencies who provide services to deaf and related organizations. All proceeds go to the LAD treasury. Carried.

Broussard (Ray) moved that all financial proceeds from Heritage Publishing Company as payment on the contract between Heritage and the LAD which will expire in June 1982, shall be equally divided between the club that was host of the convention and the LAD. Carried.

Gremillion (Imme) moved that the LAD donate $100 to the Gallaudet College Ole Jim restoration project. Carried.

Broussard (Burke) moved to accept the minutes of the 4th session of the 1979 New Orleans Convention. Carried.

Ray (Latino) moved to accept the minutes of all Board meetings of the past year. Carried.

Moss (Benedetto) moved that a representative of the Baton Rouge Association of the Deaf serve on the LAD Board and member of the LAD Board Serve on the BRAD Board.

Broussard (Burke) amended that the LAD affiliates have a voting member on the LAD Board.

Ray took the Chair for Mowad.

Mowad (Venable) moved to refer the motion to the Law Committee. Carried.

Mowad returned to the Chair.

Ada Chevallier (E. Thomas) moved that the biannual Miss Deaf Louisiana Pageant be sponsored by the LAD and to make it official.

Burke (Ray) amended that local affiliates be encouraged to have local pageants with the winner advancing to the LAD pageant.

Chavallier (Burns) amended that local organizations can select their representative without having a pageant.

Ray (Sheffield) moved to refer the motion to the Board with Ada Chevallier involved in any action. Carried.

Greenlee (Burke) moved that the first biennial Miss LAD Pageant be held with 1981 LAD Convention. Carried.

J. Bankston (Gibbs) moved to establish a Deaf-Blind Section under the LAD. The Chair referred the motion to the Law Committee.

Gibbs (Burke) moved that the LAD sponsor a political process workshop in May, 1981.

Myers (Sheppard) amended that the workshop be held in the spring of 1981 and that the LAD allow up to $1,000 for expenses. The amendment carried. The main motion carried as amemded.



Annala (Brewton) moved that the LAD work with the LRID in setting up a workshop for those who are interested in getting training for RSC certification and interpreting for the deaf-visually impaired. Carried.

Moss (Garcille) moved that the treasurer send a financial report on grants to LAD members once each year. Failed to carry.

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*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Louisiana Public Service Commission be requested to require the telephone companies to either make TDD's available to deaf citizens at no cost above the monthly charge for the telephone, or to allow them to purchase TDD's at the manufacturers cost with payments spread over a reasonable period of time, and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the Louisiana Public Service Commission require telephone companies to effect an 80% reduction in intrastate long distance toll rates for TDD users.

*WHEREAS* the 27th Annual Convention of the Louisiana Association of the Deaf was sponsored by the Baton Rouge Association of the Deaf at the Baton Rouge Prince Muarat Motor Inn on August 1-2, 1980, and

*WHEREAS* the Baton Rouge Association of the Deaf did and outstanding job in organizing such a fine Convention,

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Louisiana Association of the Deaf goes on record thanking and complimenting the Baton Rouge Association of the Deaf on their fine support and organization of this 27th Annual Convention.

*WHEREAS* a legislative act to establish a Commission for the Deaf was successfully enacted, and

*WHEREAS* funding for the Phase II building program at the Louisiana School for the Deaf is about to become a reality, and

*WHEREAS* Mrs. Laura Deville has voluntarily devoted much of her time and energy to bringing about these legislative actions,

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Louisiana Association of the Deaf recognizes the good work of Mrs. Deville and owes her a vote of thanks.

*WHEREAS,* the 27th Annual Convention of the Louisiana Association of the Deaf was sponsored by the Baton Rouge Association of the Deaf at the Baton Rouge Prince Murat Motor Inn on August 1-2, 1980, and,

*WHEREAS the Baton Rouge Prince Murat Motor Inn did and outstanding job in making the 27th Annual Convention successful, and*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Louisiana Association of the Deaf goes on record thanking and complimenting the Prince Murat Motor Inn on their fine support of this 27th Annual Convention.

## LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF
## Board Meeting
## October 9, 1980
## Prince Murat Motor Inn

Nancy Theissen, Attorney, and Ron Wilson, CPA, from the Louisiana Center for Public Interest, New Orleans, were present to discuss the pending request to the Public Service Commission for lower TTY long distance rates and lower TTY rental rates. The request goes before the PSC at their meeting December 8-10, 1980, in Baton Rouge. Support is needed from the deaf community to insure that we get a favorable decision from the PSC. Ms. Theissen wants the cooperation of the LAD to send a questionnaire to deaf people, and help in paying the expenses for the questionnaire and staff travel.

The meeting was called to order by President Mowad at 7:40 p.m. Present were Mowad, Magill, Myers, Ray, Sheffield, Benedetto. Absent were Austin and Broussard. Dr. Corson, NAD Board Member was present.

Magill (Sheffield) moved to allow up to $800 for the expenses of preparing for our TTY petition before the Public Service Commission. Carried.

**1980 CONVENTION REPORT**

Bobbie Lefors gave an unofficial report. The final report is due November 8th. The report must be audited by a Committee of three to be chosen by Bobbie Lefors.