

LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF
29th Convention, June 11, 1982
Lafayette, Louisiana
North Holiday Inn Motel

FIRST SESSION

President Anthony Mowad called the 29th Louisiana Association of the Deaf Convention to order at 2:25 p.m. in Lafayette, La. with all officers and directors present.

President Mowad reported that the 30th Louisiana Association of the Deaf convention in 1983 will be shortened, with the usual 5 sessions being reduced to 3 sessions.

The President appointed Melvin Royer as Sargent-at-Arms.

Vice President Medford Magill reported:

- 1) The membership grew from 150 last year to 263 this year. A big thanks to Delvin Fontenot for his hard work on the membership drive.

Here are other reports as follow:

- 2) Many of you have moved and have not informed us of your new address. So you may have missed the last bulletin and the N.A.D. Broadcaster. Please send us your change of address.
- 3) As Vice President, I represented LAD at 2 Louisiana Commission of the Deaf meetings. Issues discussed were:
 - a) The Feasibility and Concept of 8 regional schools for the deaf.
 - b) Revising some unjust state laws, e.g., the deaf can't be witness to the signing of a will.
 - c) Interpreter qualification laws.
- 4) On May 19th, there was a nationwide demonstration against C.B.S. affiliates T.V. stations. Over 200 cities demonstrated against the affiliates for not having captioned T.V. programs. Three cities in Louisiana had demonstrations. They are Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and New Orleans. I want to thank Sam Houston for leading the demonstration in Lafayette. I and many others led the demonstration in Baton Rouge. I believe we showed C.B.S. that many deaf people demand captions and that we can't wait another 5 or 10 years.

Secretary Robert Sheffield added to the Vice President's report on the C.B.S. demonstrations. He announced that we received a letter from the N.A.D. saying the C.B.S. rating dropped to third place.

Vice President reported that the Chairlady of the Miss L.A.D. Pageant will be here on Saturday morning to give her report.

Joe Broussard (Melvin Royer) moved that the Secretary's report of the minutes of the last meeting be postponed to the second session (Saturday morning). Passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Max Ray stated that the report on 1982 L.A.D. Program pages 8-9 do not require an audit during the odd numbered years.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Secretary Robert Sheffield reported that some L.A.D. property is kept at Past Secretary John Henderson's house. Mrs. Henderson asked that the items be removed from their home.

The Treasurer reported on the Henry J. Soland Fund. He asked the members of L.A.D. to give him full authority to withdraw and to invest the funds so as to obtain a better return.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Chairman Delvin Fontenot asked all L.A.D. members to renew dues. He found 10 letters returned from those who moved. Also he reported that there are 253 members as of now.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman of the 1982 L.A.D. convention Delvin Fontenot made an unofficial report on the convention plans. President Mowad had re-scheduled a meeting of the L.A.D. Board on September 24 at the L.S.D. Homecoming.

David Meyers reported on the State Legislature. Senate Ron Landry, father of a little deaf girl, has participated in the interest of the deaf. Several bills have been introduced as follows:

- 1) Bill: New interpreting measures to add to the 1968 laws.
- 2) Bill: A measure giving the deaf the right to serve jury duty.
- 3) Bill: Change the laws to allow the deaf to witness a will.
- 4) Bill: A Hearing-Ear dog measure for the deaf.

He reported that he doesn't get enough local news for our newsletter, *The Bayou Bulletin*.

I. Annual Report of L.A.D.'s Program to Deaf-Visually Impaired Coordinator: Linda Annala
Highlights of the period between July, 1981 to March, 1982.

- A. Sent out newsletters on periodic basis.
- B. Village Du Lac opened end of August. The Coordinator helped residents know the place, sidewalks, independent living skills of deaf-blind residents.
- C. Has second workshop in October in Baton Rouge instead of Eunice, La. (Acadian Baptist Center).
 1. The new organization run by and for the deaf-blind was born on October 10, 1982 at 11:35 a.m. in Baton Rouge.
 2. The people who are deaf-blind and visually impaired went to Governor's Conference on Handicapped in the afternoon.
 3. Art Roehrig was the guest speaker for the whole weekend.
- D. Attended the Mental Health Seminar in New Orleans.
- E. Spoke on a panel at the National Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.
- F. Second Usher's meeting at the Louisiana State Department of Education head the LAD's report. The SDE was encouraged to think about continuing this program.
- G. Worked closely with various agencies and with people/Usher's Syndrome.
- H. Had workshops for Deaf-Blind.

II. Chairperson of Deaf-Blind Section Report:

- A. Had meeting with LADB-HI/VI every two months. The full name is Louisiana-Acadiana Deaf-Blind-Hearing Impaired/Visually Impaired.
- B. Membership is \$10.00 for two years from March, 1982 to April, 1984.
- C. The officers of LADB-HI/VI are:
President: Linda Annala, Baton Rouge
Vice President: Eno Broussard, Lafayette
Secretary: Nancy Perry, Morgan City
Treasurer: Patrick Frederick, Abbeville
Board of Trustees: Edward LeJeune, Westlake
James Lalande, Lafayette
Floyd Pitre, Baton Rouge

COMMUNICATIONS

The President reported that 1982 L.A.D. Scholarships were awarded to two L.S.D. students: Mr. Ralph Vice (\$200) and Miss Alyson Williams (\$50).

NEW BUSINESS

Max Ray (Medford Magill) moved that the L.A.D. members give him full authority to withdraw and invest the Henry J. Soland Fund for better return. Joe Broussard (Delvin Fontenot) amended that the treasurer choose 2 other members of L.A.D. to serve on a committee to invest this fund. The amendment and the main motion passed.

President Mowad asked Joe Broussard and Ann Reed to serve as Recording Secretaries for this convention. They accepted.

Max Ray (Charles Heinen) moved that Vice President Magill hand deliver to the N.A.D. 1982 Convention in St. Louis, Mo. a resolution from L.A.D. Convention supporting the establishment of an individual tax exemption for deaf taxpayers on the Federal tax return. Passed.

Linda Annala (Max Ray) moved a special study committee be established to study how to best serve Deaf-Blind persons in the area of publications in Braille-large print and other services. Passed.

The First Session was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. until Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
—Robert Sheffield, Secretary

SECOND SESSION
Saturday, June 12, 1982

President Mowad called the 2nd Business Section to order at 9:10 a.m. with 71 attending.

Secretary Robert Sheffield read the minutes from the First Session held on Friday, June 11th.

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

- 1) On the motion regarding the additional tax exemption add: hand deliver to the N.A.D.
- 2) Max Ray's motion re: Henry Soland Fund the word "Scholarship" be removed and the end of the motion should say "higher yield" instead of "better return."
- 3) CBS Demonstration report by Vice President Magill should show New Orleans participated in the demonstration.

Joe Broussard (M. Magill) moved to accept the minutes of the First Session as corrected. Seconded and carried.

President Mowad requested Max Ray to re-explain his motion made during the First Session regarding how the investment fund (Henry Soland, Jr.) will be handled.

President Mowad introduced the 1979 Miss L.A.D. Susan Cole and the 1981 Miss L.A.D. Erin O'Sullivan to those assembled.

Miss L.A.D. Erin O'Sullivan addressed the members regarding her plans for represented the LAD at the Miss Deaf Americ Pageant in St. Louis.

Mrs. J.U. Linder, Sr., Chairlady of the Necrology Committee, reported the following:

Miss Lillian Jones	Mr. Wesley Thom
Mr. Shirley Hennigan	Mr. Albert Leitz
Mr. Clark Miller	Mr. Billy Burris
Mrs. Norene Berzas	Mr. Desmond Weems

Mrs. J. U. Linder took the floor and offered a silent prayer in remembrance of those who have passed away during the year.

President Mowad asked Dr. Harvey Corson, Chairman of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf to give a report. Dr. Corson's report was as follows:

- 1) *Bayou State Bulletin* published the By-Laws of L.C.D.
- 2) Mr. LeDoux (parent of a student at L.S.D. from Denham Springs, La.) was elected as Vice-Chairperson of the L.C.C.
- 3) Mrs. Janie Powell (President of L.R.I.D.) was elected Secretary.
- 4) L.C.D. is active in updating old laws regarding interpreters. (Committee made up of L.A.D. and L.R.I.D.) A bill on these changes is presently pending in the Legislature.
- 5) L.C.D. is presently giving public notice regarding their meeting dates.

Dave Myers, Acting Executive Director of Louisiana commission of the Deaf gave some additional information about providing interpreter services.

President Mowad asked that Chairpersons of the L.A.D. committees be at the 1st Session of the 1983 Convention so all Committee Reports can be handled first.

Connie Greenlee, Chairlady of the 1983 Miss LAD Pageant gave her report. Her committee members are:

Connie Tullos—Stage and Productions
Elise Burke—Souvenir Chairlady
Melanie Bell—Public Relations

She is in need of a Business Manager. Further publicity will be made. Additional committee members will be members of L.A.D.

Joe Benedetto, Chairman of the Resolution Committee, appointed Oliver Childress and Dave Myers to serve on his committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Max Ray (Robert Sheffield) moved that all L.A.D. property be stored in a rented mini-storage facility. Linda Annala (Delvin Fontenot) amended that a committee of three to study the feasibility of renting a storage facility be appointed by the President. Vote on amendment. Carried. Vote on motion as amended. Carried.

President Mowad appointed the committee to study the feasibility of renting a storage facility as Max Ray, Medford Magill, and Robert Sheffield.

Linda Annala (Dave Myers) moved that L.A.D. accept responsibility to pay for Braille and large print printing of its own publications for the Deaf-Blind members of L.A.D. Joe Broussard (Joe Benedetto) moved that this be referred to the Ways & Means Committee for proper study. Motion carried and referred to Ways & Means Committee to report back at the next session.

President Mowad gave the floor to Dan Burch, Crescent City Organization Serving the Deaf to give a presentation on Section 504 and P.L. 94-142.

The 2nd Session was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next session was scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

THIRD SESSION

President Mowad called the 3rd session to order at 1:45 p.m.

President Mowad announced that Larry Barnett was unable to attend the convention due to illness.

President Mowad announced that he received a telegram from the Baton Rouge Association of the Deaf wishing L.A.D. a successful convention. It was signed by Eugene Pippins, President of BRAD.

Joe Benedetto, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee gave his report. The Committee is made up of Joe Benedetto, Max Ray, Medford Magill, and Joe Broussard.

The Ways and Means Committee moved that the L.A.D. Bayou State Bulletin, minutes, proceedings and other printed information that may be relative to the needs of the visually impaired be produced in Braille and large print for the Deaf-Blind and Visually Impaired members of the LAD. The expenses are to be paid by the Special Projects Fund of the L.A.D. and the responsibility of these services are to be performed by the Chairperson of the Deaf-Blind in L.A.D. at the discretion of the L.A.D. Edward Gardner (Dave Myers) moved to follow through with the Ways and Means Committee report.

Medford Magill gave a report for Larry Barnett on the concept of L.A.D.-Affiliate relationship. (See Attached Report A)

Joe Benedetto gave Resolution Committee Report.

((See attached papers B)

Delvin Fontenot (Ann Myers) moved that the L.A.D. contribute \$250.00 toward the L.S.D. Scholarship Fund. Passed.

Joe Broussard (Ann Reed) moved that L.A.D. sponsor a state-wide workshop and invite a representative from each organization in the state to participate at the expense from Special Projects Fund for the purpose to devise a working structure on affiliates/chapters for L.A.A. Max Ray (Ann Reed) amended that the workshop be held in Alexandria. Vote on amendment. Carried. Joe Broussard (Robert Sheffield) moved for a reconsideration on the amendment. Vote on Reconsideration. Carried. Max Ray (Ann Reed) withdrew the amendment. Vote on motion. Carried.

(Ann Myers) moved to add to the Resolutions Committee Report that a Resolution be made thanking Ann Reed and Joe Broussard for their help as recorders and interpreters during this Convention. Carried.

Anthony Barlotta (Delvin Fontenot) moved that a \$200.00 honorarium be given to Max Ray for his diligent work in maintaining the L.A.D. various financial records. Carried.

Linda Annala announced that during L.R.I.D. Convention, October 8-9, 1982 in Shreveport there will be a workshop on Consumer Education.

Dr. Corson announced that L.S.D. Homecoming will be September 25th against Georgia School for the Deaf. L.S.D. will play against Texas School for the Deaf on September 18th in Texas.

Dave Myers reported on a meeting with South Central Bell on TTYS.

Linda Annala gave a demonstration on the use of the Helen Keller signalling device.

Joe Benedetto (Delvin Fontenot) added a Resolution to thank the Department of Education for finding the money to keep the program for Deaf/Blind. The Resolution is to be sent to Superintendent Kelly Nix and to Dr. Cooper, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Special Education. Carried.

Adjourned Sine Die at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
—Robert Sheffield, Secretary

REPORT ON AFFILIATIONS

(Report thru phone from Larry Barnett)

It is recommended that Chapter affiliates *do not* having voting powers; however, it is recommended that L.A.D. form an umbrella known as Louisiana Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf (L.C.O.S.D.). This L.C.O.S.D. would effectively serve as a clearing house for a calendar of events which affect lives of the deaf community. This is to be entered into on a voluntary basis but each organization representative would only have one vote including L.A.D.