

For your
info

Executive Board Meeting
Louisiana Association of the Deaf
LAD Home Office
May 23, 1991

President Medford Magill called the special meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

Board members present: Leo Burke, Jack Falcon, Houston Moss, Elvist Tabor and Charles Heinen. Absent: Randy Pippins, Scott Haun, Max Ray, and Robert Southwell.

The purpose of calling a full board meeting was at the request of a board member. At this moment, a quorum has not been met. One board member needs to endorse the minutes for the meeting to be official. President Magill felt it was inappropriate for him to run the meeting since he is chair of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf (LCD). Vice President Leo Burke chaired the meeting.

Houston spoke about the history of the LCD, its beginning, and that the LAD has always advocated for a deaf Executive Director. Dr. Corson, past chairman of the LCD, said it was okay to use the word interim and search for a deaf person to fill the Executive Director position. Houston expressed the goal of having a deaf Executive Director.

Leo, Scott Haun, and Medford were commended for going to the legislature and speaking out on issues/procedures which are occurring rapidly and often without input from the deaf community and its representatives. Houston

asked about civil services guidelines. Guidelines does not say must be deaf...it says preferably deaf. Federal laws prohibit discrimination and to say deaf is discriminating. The word to avoid using is "must."

The board discuss qualities the person chosen for the LCD Executive Director should possess. The board agreed unanimously that the LCD Executive Director must be versatile in all areas: sign language (includes sign language classes for employers/employees), deaf culture, rapport with the deaf community, interpreting, jobs/employment (includes job promotions), mental health issues, vocational training, deaf awareness seminars for employers, businesses, and government agencies), preserving the rights of deaf people, and most of all, an individual who possesses integrity and honesty.

The board further went on record that the LCD Executive Director must:

- 1) be a deaf/hard-of-hearing (moderate to profound hearing loss) person because a deaf person is looked up to as our leader and role model. This is called an "identification" crisis and is experienced by various minority groups.

- 2) be deaf people-oriented and make self visible among the deaf community.

- 3) have compassion for deaf fellowmen and knows how to be aggressive on their behalf and defend their rights.

- 4) state policies and guidelines for all activities/services provided by the LCD to member organizations clearly and in

writing.

5) disseminate information to all organizations of the deaf and other organizations which provide services to the deaf.

6) be able to utilize deaf volunteers in the LCD office.

7. be able to address more than one issue in a working day so that all areas of concerns/needs of the deaf community is covered.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Jack Falcon, Recording Secretary

JF:MS