Louisiana Association of the Deaf
3112 Valley Creek Drive - Suite C
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

Minutes
of the
41st Biennial State Conference
Lafayette Hilton and Towers
Lafayette, Louisiana
June 3-5, 1999

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

The First Business Session was called to order by President Wendy Edwards at 1:29 p.m., Thursday June 3, 1999.

Welcome

Conference Host Committee Chairman Melvin Royer welcomed all the attendees to the conference. Mr. Rudy Bourque, representing the Mayor of Lafayette, also extended a hospitable welcome to all visitors to the city.

Host Committee Chairman Royer gave a brief overview of the scheduled activities for the conference. He invited all attendees to the L.A.A.D. clubhouse for an evening social including a jambalaya dinner, an investment presentation by Stephen Hlibok from Merrill Lynch, and entertainment provided by comedian C. J. Jones. He announced the Awards Luncheon to be held during the conference and reviewed the business session and workshop schedule.

Conference Host Committee member Curt Garden gave a brief overview of Friday evening's planned social event at the Cypress Bayou Casino in Baldwin, Louisiana.

President Wendy Edwards recognized Priscilla Burch of Sign Language Services, International as interpreter services coordinator for the Conference. Mrs. Burch introduced the interpreters as follows:

Melissa Chase	- Tactile	Laura Clark	-	Tactile
Mary Deshotel	- Tactile	Anna Duhon	-	Tactile
Cherri Duhon	- Tactile	Edward Duhon	-	Tactile
Melanie Fachan	- Tactile	Cindy Frederick	-	Tactile
Vanessa Magnon	- Tactile	Johathon LeJeune	-	Tactile
Casey Williams	- Tactile	Lynette Linker	-	Tactile
Rena Lemoine	- Tactile			

Janie Powell	- Interpreter	Ann Reed	-	Interpreter
Shirley Delahoussaye	- Interpreter	Chamelle Chenevert	-	Interpreter

President Wendy Edwards introduced Louisiana Association of the Deaf Executive Secretary Katherine Stewart and Andrew Ducote, Parliamentarian.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 40th Biennial Convention were approved.

Officers and Board Members' Reports

A. President Edwards and Past President Delvisco

President Edwards reported on the various workshops and conferences she had attended in the past two years:

- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Annual Convention

  Of primary interest in attending this convention was to learn more about R.I.D.'s Certification of Deaf Interpreters program. Some states, such as Pennsylvania, now require certified deaf interpreters for court proceedings. R.I.D. Certified Deaf Interpreter, Reginald Egnatovitch, provided valuable information during the convention, and later, at the Louisiana Deaf Symposium 2 in Baton Rouge.

- Deaf Studies IV

  Dr. Harland Lane, keynote speaker for Deaf Symposium I, gave several wonderful workshop presentations and offered comments from his recently published books *When the Mind Hears* and *Mask of Benevolence*.

  The conference also provided valuable information on how deaf culture is being destroyed by the promotion of cochlear implants. Following the conference, this information was especially useful in responding to a local newspaper's inquiries about L.A.D.'s position on cochlear implants. The newspaper article claimed that there have been eleven successful implants on area children. President Edwards was able provide overlooked information on the negative results of cochlear implants.

- Deaf Festival

  President Edwards and Treasurer Arabie attended the Deaf Festival in California. They were able to learn about the availability of service providers.

- N.A.D. Conference

  President Edwards reported on the abundance of information offered by the conference workshops but expressed disappointment in the limited educational opportunities to L.A.D. by sending only two representatives. She urged the L.A.D. to become more involved on the national level.

  Past President Delvisco added that while the expenses of sending two representatives to the N.A.D. conference were beneficial to the L.A.D., sending four to eight individuals, as some other states do, would allow more information to be acquired. He recommended that more representatives be sent to the next conference to be held in Virginia in 2000.

- R.I.D. Conference

  President Edwards stated that she was the only representative from Louisiana attending the conference in Arkansas and urged L.A.D. to send more representatives to the next conference.

Because both Edwards and Delvisco served the L.A.D. as president during the 1997-99 period, a joint report on the state of business affairs of L.A.D. was given:

- Enhancements to L.A.D. services

  President Edwards described how technological advances had expanded the communication avenues for L.A.D. Through the volunteer efforts of Gary Stewart, L.A.D. now has its own web page. E-mail services through the Internet allow for quicker dissemination of information. The office digital pagers allowed for immediate communication access when needed. The newly-established home office and staff are available to serve L.A.D. from 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday. The home office has obtained authority for non-profit postal rates for bulk mailings to the membership. The L.A.D. now has a corporate seal.

- Louisiana School for the Deaf

Past President Delvisco reported that, through the advocacy efforts of L.S.D. Superintendent Bill Pricket and L.A.D. member Mary Smith, L.A.D. has been able to offer continued assistance with funding to several of the school's programs. These include the Youth Leadership Camp, the Family Learning Vacation and the Annual Banquet for which funds for scholarships and other awards have been provided.

Additionally, the L.A.D. lobbied the State Legislature to support legislation for providing funds for education and maintenance of L.S.D. In 1999, the General Appropriation's Bill allotted $147,000 to L.S.D. and Senate Bill 224 provided for $250,000 from the Tobacco lawsuit awards to be allocated to L.S.D.

- Relay Services

Edwards and Delvisco joined together in urging all relay service users to attend the Relay Administration Board meetings and voice their opinions. President Edwards invited the assembly to join with her in applauding Hamilton Telecommunications for its contributions of $1000 each to the Louisiana Deaf Symposium II and to the 41st Biennial State Conference.

She recognized the efforts of those L.A.D. members who petitioned the Public Service Commission to require MCI to release the 800 number and the relay services logo to the Relay Administration Board. She also expressed appreciation to those L.A.D. members who shared their concerns about problems they experienced with the relay service. Their involvement and information sharing with L.R.S. resulted in improvements to relay services. She also expressed appreciation to Hamilton Telecommunications for their willingness to work to resolve the problems.

Past President Delvisco recognized Hamilton Telecommunications for its employment of deaf individuals in leadership positions, specifically naming Henry Brinkmann, Wendy Edwards and Amy Watson. He pointed out that another deaf individual, Medford Magill, sits on the Relay Administration Board, serving as a watchdog for Deaf interests.

- Louisiana Commission for the Deaf

Past President Delvisco reported that the Louisiana Legislature had appropriated an additional $31,459.00 to L.C.D. that should allow for an increase in services to the deaf community. L.C.D. has agreed to schedule its board meetings on Saturdays in order to accommodate those individuals who cannot attend meeting during the regular workweek; therefore, he urged the membership to attend and voice their opinions.

- Grants

Past President Delvisco gave a brief report on the MCI grant of office equipment and furniture, valued at $10,000. These items were disbursed to Baton Rouge Association of the Deaf, Lafayette Athletic Association of the Deaf, Alexandria Association of the Deaf, Louisiana Acadiana Deaf/Blind Citizens, and Assemblies of God Church for the Deaf.

- Louisiana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

Past President Delvisco reported on the status of the Task Force Committee with regard to interpreter licensing. An initial meeting had been held with L.R.I.D. representatives Ann Reed and Leslie Knowles and L.A.D. representatives Robert Bevill and Ron Delvisco. Joe Sarpy has agreed to participate as a representative of Black Deaf Advocates. Additional representatives are being recruited for the next meeting. Future information will be shared through the Bayou State Bulletin or through town meetings.

- National Association of the Deaf

Representatives from N.A.D. toured the State of Louisiana in 1998, reported Past President Delvisco. A future tour is in the planning stage. The national conference held in San Antonio provided wonderful educational opportunities and Delvisco urged the membership to send more representatives to reap the benefits provided by this valuable information. Recent changes to the Miss Deaf America pageant guidelines have allowed for positive improvements to the program that hopefully will extend to the state programs.

- Home Office

President Wendy Edwards expressed her disappointment that so few of the membership had visited the L.A.D. home office. Since purchasing the building in 1997, physical improvements to the office had been made through painting and decorating, as well as through the purchase of office equipment and professional furnishings. The office now has two phone lines and the problem of TTY accessibility limited to only one phone line is currently being addressed as the volume of calls continues to increase.

- Sign Language Services International

Special thanks was given to Sign Language Services, International for its continued support of the L.A.D. by providing interpreting services during the Symposium II and the Biennial Conference.

- Accessibility to the State Capitol

President Edwards described the advancements to accessibility since her visit to the State Capitol six years ago when she accompanied deaf friends to the Capitol to interpret for them. Resulting from a joint lawsuit against the Capitol filed by L.A.D. and The Advocacy Center, are such improvements as a dedicated 800 TTY telephone line, assistive listening devices for the hard of hearing, sign language interpreter availability and TTY pay phones at the Capitol. While there are still a few problems remaining to be resolved, she applauded The Advocacy Center for its involvement and continuing vigil in providing accessibility. Past President Delvisco added that he had participated in the 1999 legislative session on a daily basis and had been provided with quality interpreters. He commended Sign Language Services, International for the excellent interpreter services.

- Office Staff

President Wendy Edward gave a recap of staffing history during the 1997-99 term of office. As mandated by the 40th Biennial Convention, an executive secretary position was established and Kathy Stewart was employed on January 26, 1998, under the Presidency of Ron Delvisco. Ron resigned from the Presidency on November 1, 1998 but agreed to continue serving the L.A.D. as Acting Executive Director. Following a nationwide search for the best candidate to fill the position, the Board of Directors approved the hiring of Ron Delvisco as L.A.D.'s first full time Executive Director on May 8, 1999.

- Legislation

Past President Delvisco summarized legislative activities of the 1999 session. The L.A.D. monitored and/or lobbied for some 35 legislative bills. Successes included Senate Bill 224 (Tobacco Bill) that provides for funds for the Louisiana School for the Deaf, Senate Bill 436 that provides for screening for hearing impairments of infants, and Senate Bill 698 that impacted on the lobbying efforts of 501-C-3 non profit organizations. Additionally, he noted Senate Bill 488 that allowed for provisions for Deaf/Blind individuals regarding the making of a will. He thanked Della Mae Childress and Jeff Bergeron for supporting this legislation by testifying during legislative committee hearings. He also described several legislative bills that addressed gaming issues that would impact on the bingo operations of L.A.D., B.R.A.D., and L.A.A.D.

B. <u>Vice President Bevill</u>

Robert Bevill gave a report to the membership on those business arenas in which he served the L.A.D. during his tenure as Secretary and Vice President during the 1997-99 term of office:

- Home Office staff

  Robert Bevill told the members how busy he had been with office correspondence during his first six months but how he had been relieved of much of this burden through the hiring of an executive secretary. He expressed appreciation for the availability of the office staff secretary to record the minutes of those two board meetings he was unable to attend, with excused absence, because of the illness of his wife.

- N.A.D. Region 3 meeting

  Robert Bevill attended the N.A.D. Region 3 meeting in November, 1998 with President Ron Delvisco. They contributed four (4) bills to the regional meetings, and three (3) were accepted and forwarded to the national office for further consideration. At the N.A.D. Conference in San Antonio, Texas, two of these were selected as part of the top thirty (30) national bills to be acted on by the N.A.D. Office. Both bills required the "quality interpreting" and "certified interpreter" language to be more defined.

- State Association Representatives Conference

  Robert Bevill attended the State Association Representatives Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas in May of 1999, representing the L.A.D. The meeting consisted of information exchange. It was announced that this coming fall, the N.A.D. web site will have an additional link about "Caption Watch". This will allow individuals to file complaints about TV captioning problems directly to the N.A.D. through the e-mail system in order for the N.A.D. to file the complaint by direct contact with the TV station, cable company or satellite company.

  The N.A.D. office continues to experience budget problems, reported Robert Bevill. Another problem has arisen between the N.A.D. board and the conference representatives as to whether the conference is recognized as the State Association *Presidents* Conference or the State Association

Representatives Conference. After a heated debate on this issue, it was agreed that an ad hoc committee be formed to resolve this issue and make a recommendation to the N.A.D. board for its decision to adopt. Robert Bevill has been appointed to this ad hoc committee.

- L.A.D. Law Committee Chairman

In accordance with bylaw requirements, Robert Bevill served as chairman of the Law Committee. He reported that the committee's proposed revisions to the bylaws had been mailed to the membership for further consideration, discussion, recommendations and adoption.

- Future service to the L.A.D.

Robert Bevill stated that it had been a pleasure to serve in the past two years as secretary and as vice-president. He announced his intent to continue working for the L.A.D. in areas of: (1) raising money for the "burn the mortgage" campaign, (2) service on the L.A.D./L.R.I.D. task force on licensure for interpreters, and (3) service on the task force for the governing board proposal for L.S.D. Because these three functions would be enough to keep him busy for the next two years, Robert Bevill declared that he would not accept any nominations for any L.A.D. board office.

C. Secretary Henry Brinkmann

Acting Secretary Brinkmann gave a brief review of the past two years and emphasized the beneficial impact on the future of L.A.D. that the establishing of an Executive Director's position will provide. He stressed the importance of addressing the proposed changes to the bylaws. He pointed out that the L.A.D. was doing a good job focusing on the issues of deaf adults but urged the L.A.D. to put more emphasis on youth development. L.A.D. needs to support youth and educational funding programs as well as computer literacy training to ensure the best possible future for its young people. Secretary Brinkmann announced his plans to continue to serve L.A.D. through his work and travels as Relay Service Manager and expressed his pleasure in serving as a board member.

D. Treasurer Dan Arabie

Treasurer Dan Arabie disseminated the treasurer's report to the membership and used an overhead projector to discuss aspects of the report. As of June, 1999 the Louisiana Association of the Deaf balance sheet was as follows:

Bank One (Bingo Account)	$15,027.41	
Bank One (Gaming/Payroll)	-0-	
Bank One (Pageant Fund)	1,365.65	
Hibernia (Money Market Fund)	-0-	
Hibernia (Real Estate Account)	2,927.41	
Hibernia (Operating Account)	18,647.56	
Metropolitan National Bank (Heritage)	5,679.50	
Merrill Lynch (Investment)	579,281.00	
Hibernia (Savings)	-0-	
A.G. Edwards (Operating Fund)	50,347.85	
Deposit Guaranty (Children's Fund)	10,000.00	
Cash on Hand	1,500.00	
Total Cash Assets		**$684,776.38**

Max Ray asked for a breakdown of the $23,000 in the miscellaneous category of the Expense Summary. Treasurer Arabie provided a breakdown of the items in that category and handed out a detailed written report later that day

Max Ray stated that the President is to appoint and fund an independent audit every month and at least 30 days before the convention.

E. Senior Board Member Mary Smith

Mary Smith expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve the remaining three month tenure as Senior Board Member following Henry Brinkmann's call to serve as Acting Secretary. She was pleased with the Board's accomplishments during the past two years. She reminded the membership of their responsibility during the upcoming two days to provide guidance as to the direction L.A.D. would take for the future. She urged the members to consider the vision they had for L.A.D. and present it! She recommended a continued focus in public relations, education, improvements to the school systems, and on providing workshops.

F. Middle Board Member Lenora Heinen

Lenora Heinen stated that because of poor health, she had been unable to attend two of the past board meetings. She encouraged the board to place priority attention on cooperating with each other for the benefit of the L.A.D.

G. Junior Board Member Melvin Royer

Melvin Royer expressed disappointment that he had seldom been contacted by the members about their concerns. He urged the members to call him during the next two years as he continues to serve on the L.A.D. Board.

Chapter Representatives Reports

A. Baton Rouge Association of the Deaf

Representative Leo Burke expressed his pleasure with the wonderful successes during the past few years. He declared that his dreams for the Bingo program, the Executive Director position, and the Home Office were being realized.

B. Lafayette Athletic Association of the Deaf

Representative Clavin Royer announced the upcoming Open House Celebration on June 26 for L.A.A.D.'s new facility. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, there would be free food, including jambalaya. He invited all to attend.

Announcements

Host Committee spokesperson Cindy Frederick invited everyone to the festivities being held at the L.A.A.D. clubhouse that evening. The agenda included a presentation by Stephen Hlibok from Merrill Lynch and entertainment provide by Deaf comedian C.J. Jones. Jambalaya dinners would be sold to support the fundraising efforts of the L.A.A.D.

Recess

President Wendy Edwards called the meeting to recess until 8:30 a.m. the following morning.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

The Second Business Session was called to order by President Wendy Edwards at 8:35 a.m., Friday June 4, 1999.

Officers and Board Members' Reports

D. Treasurer's Report (continued)

Treasurer Dan Arabie concluded his report from the previous session (as recorded in the First Business Session section of this report).

Recess

President Wendy Edwards called the meeting to recess for a scheduled workshop at 9:30 a.m.

Helen Keller National Center Workshop

Sister Bernadette Wynne gave a slide show presentation on the daily issues confronting the Deaf/Blind. She provided a practical demonstration with the assistance of deaf volunteers from the audience. Each volunteer was provided with eyewear that simulated the limited visual area of the Deaf/Blind individual. The volunteers were all astounded as to what the Deaf/Blind experience as they made adjustments to allow for better reception of visual information.

Resumption of Meeting

The Second Business Session resumed at 10:40 a.m.

Committee Reports

A. Pageant Committee Report

Acting Pageant Director Bambi Delvisco reported the account balances to date:

Bank One	$1543.71
L.A.D. General Fund	756.00
Total	$2295.71

Acting Pageant Director Bambi Delvisco thanked Richard Fraychineaud for his work and labor cost-cutting measures since last fall. She also recognized the contributions to the Pageant from Iris, Richie and Ryan Fraychineaud. Acting Director Delvisco made a recommendation that the Pageant Business Manager be enabled to attend the national pageant. She also cited Pageant Business Manager Fraychineaud for his contributions in reconciling the pageant accounts.

Bambi Delvisco reported that the cancellation of the Pageant just prior to the conference was necessitated by the withdrawal of one of the three contestants due to a death in the family. Miss Deaf America guidelines require a minimum of three contestants. She also cited lack of interest among young women as a direct result of poor information sharing in the Deaf community as cause for the cancellation of the Pageant. She felt that this was everyone's fault for not promoting the Pageant. She stated that flyers were mailed and posted in November, January and March with scant response. The announcement was also published through the L.A.D. web page and the Bayou State Bulletin.

B. Bingo Committee Report

Bingo Committee Chairman Bambi Delvisco reported the balance of the Bingo account to date to be $11,276.

Chairman Bambi Delvisco provided information about House Bill 1365 of the 1999 Legislative Session. This new state law does not allow for direct payment of bingo workers from other organizations or direct contributions to groups such as F.R.A.T., B.R.A.D. and L.A.A.D. Paid employees must be members of L.A.D. in order to work and be paid. However, this new regulation does not prevent the L.A.D. from making contributions for requested support, she added.

Because of the many requests, Chairman Delvisco announced plans for a Super Bingo night to be held October 31, 1999. L.A.D. bingo workers will mask up for the Halloween Super Bingo by wearing costumes.

Chairman Bambi Delvisco told the members about the Bingo Appreciation Night that was held in November, 1998 to honor the many dedicated workers. She specifically thanked the following members for their dedication and work with the Bingo program:

Delores Thomas, Hortense Rodriquez, Linda and Norbert Broussard, Medford Magill, Mary and Bertin Smith, Cecilia St. Romain, Robert and Gloria Sheppard, and Ethel Blueford.

In closing, she thanked the following people as members she could always depend on: *Medford Magill, Bertin and Mary Smith, and Ron Delvisco.*

C. Necrology Committee

Necrology Chairperson Anna Gremillion paid tribute to the memory of those who had passed away since the 40th Biennial Convention in 1997:

Lois Creel Mertins	*Howard L. Ivey*
Frances Fanguy Ferraro	*Deloy Miller*
Fernest Braquet	*Arlie Gray*
Frankie Blackmon O'Brien	*Juanita Duhon Hankel*

Leon Paul Carlin
Eunice Ezell
Cena Ponder Dry
George Mock, Jr.
Sam Acuri
Angus Edwards
Edward LeJeune
Reginald Milton
Irma Lee Garland Liebold
Donald Baughman
Norfleet Lee Thibodaux
Robert Turner
Sammy J. Palazzo
Elwood Young
Linda Lee Zeringue
Bobby Burnside
Maxon Simon
Keith Hagan
Edward Rodman
David Falgout
Charles Dodson
Daniel J. Stein, Jr.
Cunny Desselles
Larry H. Holloway, Jr.
Ullie Mae Parker
Mary Prickett
Mable Arabie Breaux
Brenda Cormier
David Watkins

Anna Gremillion extended a heartfelt desire for peace and comfort to all through her message that "The ones we love are never gone. They live within our hearts." Robert Bevill lead the assembly in prayer.

D. Membership Coordinator's Report

Due to a conflict with assignments, Membership Coordinator Molly Fachan was unavailable to give her report. Bambi Delvisco gave the report and announced that, as of this date, there were 356 active enrolled members of the L.A.D.

Recess

President Wendy Edwards called the meeting to recess at 11:35 a.m. for the Awards Luncheon.

Awards Luncheon

Master of Ceremonies C. J. Jones presided over the Awards Luncheon. Awards were presented as follows:

President's Award
Ron Delvisco

Meritorious Service Award
Jan Faulkner
Louisiana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
Louisiana School for the Deaf
Louisiana Department of Education

New Orleans Resources for Independent Living
Louisiana Career Development Center

Community Service Award
Henry Brinkmann

Quality Service Award
Sign Language Services, International

Advocacy Award
Advocacy Center (capitol access campaign)

Resumption of Meeting

The Third Business Session was called to order by President Wendy Edwards at 1:00 a.m., Friday June 4, 1999.

E. Auditing Committee Report

Auditing Committee members Cleve Cormier and Mike Baudoin reported that they have been doing a monthly audit for the past two years and that the funds were always balanced. Both auditors expressed satisfaction in working with Treasurer Dan Arabie.

F. Nominations Committee Report

Chairman Max Ray announced that he would be seeking out members who had an interest in running for office on the L.A.D. Board and would announce the names on Saturday of those being nominated for consideration.

G. Publications Committee Report

Robert Bevill informed everyone that a new brochure describing the L.A.D. organization was forthcoming.

H. Law Committee Report

Law Committee Chairman Robert Bevill presented the committee recommendations for revisions to the current bylaws. He stated that the committee felt some aspects of the bylaws needed clarification. Some bylaw provisions were confusing or in conflict with other provisions. Chairman Bevill stated that the bylaws would stand as is if the membership rejected the proposed revisions. He recommended that the membership either accept all the bylaw revisions as recommended or reject the revision proposal in its entirety.

The Parliamentarian informed the membership of the parliamentary procedure for addressing revisions to the bylaws of an organization:

- The proposed revisions would be either accepted or rejected as an entire package by a vote of the membership.

- Members could make amendments from the floor to be either accepted or rejected as an entire package by a vote of the membership.

Additionally, the Parliamentarian pointed out the need for precision and consistency in wording in the Treasurer's Report.

Chairman Bevill named the members of the committee: Ron Delvisco, Medford Magill, Max Ray, Henry Brinkmann, Leo Burke, and Robert Bevill, Chairman. Chairman Bevill then announced that he was ill and could not participate in the procedures any longer at that time and asked that Max Ray chair the proceedings.

Mary Smith (Leo Burke) moved to debate the recommendations of the Law Committee, proceeding section by section. (Attachment A) **(passed)**

Article 1 – Membership

Section 1

Kathy Corbett (Houston Moss) moved to amend by inserting "*and the right to hold office.*" **(failed)**

Bill Prickett (Tim Kuyrkendall) moved to insert *"age 18 or above."* **(passed)**

Ed Wood (Bill Prickett) moved to reconsider Section 1. **(passed)**

Ed Wood (Connie Tullos) moved to delete "*age 18 or above.*" **(failed)**

Section 2

Henry Brinkmann (Houston Moss) moved to insert *"age 18 or above."* **(failed)**

Section 3

No changes

Section 4

Ed Wood (Kathy Corbett) moved to insert "*They shall have all rights and privileges with the exception of holding office.*" **(passed)**

Section 5

Kathy Corbett (Ed Wood) moved to rename Professional Members "*Professional Organizations*". **(passed)**

Section 6

No changes

Section 7

Ed Wood (Kathy Corbett) moved to add "*Full*". **(failed)**

Robert Bevill (Leo Burke) moved (second amendment) to insert "*Full or Associate*". **(passed)**

Henry Brinkmann (Connie Tullos) moved to insert "*and cannot hold office.*" **(failed)**

Lonnelle Crosby (Leo Burke) moved to insert "*with respect to sections 1 and 2.*" **(passed)**

Section 8

Ed Wood (Kathy Corbett) moved to add "*18 years or older*". **(passed)**

Article II - Officers

Section 1

Ed Wood (Tim Kuyrkendall) moved to remove "*and attend two sessions of the preceding convention and all sessions of the convention during which he/she is making application for office.*" **(passed)**

Section 2

Ed Wood (Kathy Corbett) moved to remove "*deaf/hard of hearing*". **(passed)**

Section 3

Tim Kuyrkendall (Kathy Corbett) moved to delete *"person"* and add *"board officer or director"*. **(passed)**

Section 4

No changes

Section 5

Tim Kuyrkendall (Connie Tullos) moved to delete *"two-third vote of the board"* and insert *"two-third vote of the full board"*. **(passed)**

Section 6

Elise Burke (Connie Tullos) moved to amend sentence with *"and work with respective counterpart from day one following convention."* **(withdrawn)**

Houston Moss (Mary Richard) moved to delete *"Secretary and"* **(passed)**

Dan Arabie (Bill Prickett) moved to reconsider previous motion. **(withdrawn)**

Recess

President Wendy Edwards called the meeting to recess until 8 a.m. the following morning.

FINAL BUSINESS SESSION

The Final Business Session was called to order by President Wendy Edwards at 9:15 a.m., Saturday June 5, 1999.

H. Law Report (continues)

Max Ray (Houston Moss) moved to suspend the rules and allow for the return to the earlier revisions for further consideration. **by 2/3 vote (passed)**

Article III – Duties of Officers and Directors

Section 1

Houston Moss (Arthur Patterson) moved to insert " *and L.R.I.D. and chapter representatives as elected by their organizations*". **(passed)**

Section 2

A: President

Ed Wood (Leo Burke) moved to delete *"except in case of a tie vote"*. **(passed)**

Max Ray (Houston Moss) moved to insert *"except"* back in the language of the previous motion. **(passed)**

Tim Kuyrkendall (Arthur Patterson) moved to delete the *"Executive Director"* (for qualification as an appointee of President). **(failed)**

B. Vice President

No changes

C. Secretary

Mary Smith (Ed Wood) moved to delete *"ten"* and insert *"14"* days. (to amend the number of days of meeting notification) **(passed)**

D. Treasurer

Ed Wood (Robert Southwell) moved to insert "*one month prior to the convention*" (to submit final audit to the membership). **(passed)**

E. Board of Directors

No changes

Section 3

A. LRID Representative

Lonnelle Crosby (Mary Richard) moved to delete *"Financial expenses of the L.R.I.D. Board shall be paid for by the L.R.I.D."* **(passed)**

Lynne Loupe (Tim Kuyrkendall) moved to delete *"and must be state certified by the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf as a sign language interpreter at either Level 4 or Level 5".* **(passed)**

B. Chapter Representatives

Henry Brinkmann (Arthur Patterson) moved to delete *"approve"* and insert *"acknowledge".* **(passed)**

Ed Wood (Robert Southwell) moved to delete *"next"* and insert *"last".* **(passed)**

C. Terms and Alternate Representatives

Lonnelle Crosby (Elise Burke) moved to delete *"no".* (alternate representatives) **(passed)**

D. Chapter Representatives Expenses

Max Ray (Arthur Patterson) moved to insert *"L.R.I.D. representative".* (chapter representatives) **(passed)**

Lonnelle Crosby (Max Ray) moved to strike last sentence: *"The respective chapters shall pay financial expenses of the chapter representatives."* **(passed)**

Section 4

No changes

Section 5

No changes

Section 6

Ed Wood (Lonnelle Crosby) moved to change *"Executive Director"* to *"Executive Board"*. **(passed)**

Section 7

No changes

Article IV - Board of Directors

Section 1

Ed Wood (Tim Kuyrkendall) moved to delete *"the"* (regular board of directors meetings). **(passed)**

Tim Kuyrkendall (Kathy Corbett) moved to delete *"business affairs"* and insert *"basis"*. **(passed)**

Section 2

No changes

Section 3

No changes

Section 4

No changes

Section 5

No changes

Section 6

No changes

Section 7

No changes

Article V - Chapters of LAD

Section 1

Ed Wood (Dan Arabie) moved to strike *"any"* and insert *"affiliate"* (chapter) **(passed)**

Section 2

No changes

Article VI - Standing Committees & Gaming Bodies

Section 1 (Law Committee)

No changes

Section 2 (Ways and Means Committee)

No changes

Mary Smith (Robert Bevill) moved to eliminate the Ways and Means Committee. **(failed)**

Section 3 (Public Relations Committee)

No changes

Section 4 (Charitable Gaming Committee)

Medford Magill (Ed Hugger) moved to change Section 4 to read: "The L.A.D. Executive Director, or designee, shall serve as the L.A.D. Charitable Gaming representative. *The President, with the board's approval, shall appoint a chairman to oversee the operation of the L.A.D. Charitable Bingo program and ensure compliance with state Gaming Enforcement regulations. The Bingo chairman shall serve as an advisor and participate in the L.A.D. budget preparation".* **(passed)**

Section 5 (Bayou State Bulletin Publication)

No changes

Section 6 (Membership Drive Committee)

No changes

Section 7 (Conference Program Committee)

No changes

Section 8 (Auditing Committee)

No changes

Section 9 (Awards Committee)

No changes

Section 10 (Youth Development and Leadership Committee)

Tim Kuyrkendall (Houston Moss) moved to strike *"The financial manager of the Miss Deaf Louisiana Pageant may attend the Miss Deaf America Pageant at the N.A.D. conference, to be paid by the Pageant Fund, subject to the Board's approval".* **(passed)**

Tim Kuyrkendall (Houston Moss) moved to delete the Youth Development and Leadership Committee section in its entirety. **(passed)**

Mary Smith (Houston Moss) moved to refer the Youth Development and Leadership Committee Section issue back to the Law Committee for review. **(passed)**

Mary Smith (Kathy Corbett) moved to refer the Youth Development and Leadership Committee Section issue to New Business. **(passed)**

Tim Kuyrkendall (Houston Moss) moved to retain that part of the Youth Development and Leadership Committee Section with regard to the Pageant section and remove the remaining language. **(passed)**

Section 11 (Special Standing Committees)

No changes

Section 12 (Committee Regulations)

No changes

Section 13 (Committee Officers)

No changes

Section 14 (Future Committees)

No changes

Section 15 (Properties/Funds received by members of committees)

No changes

Section 16 (bonded committee members)

No changes

Recess

President Wendy Edwards called the meeting to recess at 12:05 p.m.

Resumption of Meeting

The Final Business Session resumed at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 5, 1999.

H. Law Report (continues)

Article VII – Amendments to bylaws

No changes

Article VIII– Finances

Section 1

No changes

Section 2

No changes

Section 3

No changes

Section 4

Max Ray (Connie Tullos) moved to insert *"may be selected or appointed"*. (additional delegates) **(passed)**

Section 5

No changes

Section 6

No changes

Section 7

No changes

Section 8

No changes

Section 9

No changes

Article IX – Dates of Conference

No changes

Article X – Conference Site

No changes

Article XI – Henry J. Soland Fund

Deleted in its entirety by Law Committee recommended revisions.

Article XI – Voting

No changes

Article XII – Pledges

No changes

Article XIII – Order of Business

No changes

Article XIV – Rules of Order

No changes

Article XV – Revision Updating/Printing

No changes

President Wendy Edwards announced that, in accordance with the passage of Max Ray's earlier motion to suspend the rules, further consideration would begin on previously considered bylaws.

Article III – Duties of Officers and Directors

Section 5

Houston Moss (Kathy Corbett) moved insert *"no nepotism"*. (chairmanship appointments by President) **(failed)**

Article V – Chapter of L.A.D.

Section 1

Houston Moss (Connie Tullos) moved to delete *"(4): Twenty-five percent (25%) of the members of this organization must be members of the Louisiana Association of the Deaf. Annual organizational membership roster to be submitted to the L.A.D. is mandatory."*
(passed)

Article VI - Standing Committees & Gaming Bodies

Section 8

Ed Wood (Robert Southwell) moved to insert *"from different towns"*.
(passed)

Tim Kuyrkendall (Ed Huggar) moved to insert *"from different organizations"*. **(passed)**

Section 10

Houston Moss (Connie Tullos) moved to delete *"The Director shall appoint an official chaperone with approval of the L.A.D. Board of Directors"* and insert *"Miss Deaf Louisiana has the right to select her own chaperone."* **(passed)**

Richard Malcolm (Nicole Alleman) moved to retain all of the language with regard to youth development proposed by the Law Committee. **(passed)**

Robert Bevill (Tim Kuyrkendall) moved to only retain a part of the language with regard to youth development proposed by the Law Committee: *"The L.A.D. has a mission to foster developmental, educational, and leadership opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing adolescents in Louisiana. Scholarships, leadership, and developmental opportunities will be sponsored each year under different categories: youth development, educational scholarships, and leadership training.*

The L.A.D. will sponsor scholarships and other awards to deaf and hard of hearing students each spring. This program is known as the L.A.D. Academic Scholarship and Community/Leadership Award program.

These scholarships, awards, and leadership training opportunities will be given to deserving college students who are deaf or hard of hearing in Louisiana. Any young deaf or hard of hearing adult who meets the criteria may apply for a scholarship or award. These are specific scholarships and awards designed to attract students who desire to excel in academic endeavors, contribute to the development of community resources or to develop leadership skills. Students in need of developmental activities to maximize their social, intellectual, and academic success shall be considered for programs that are approved by the L.A.D. Committee on a year-to-year basis. **(passed)**

Article XI - Voting

Section 1

Lonnelle Crosby (Ed Wood) moved to insert *"Associate"*. **(passed)**

Houston Moss (Max Ray) moved that all changes to the bylaws be accepted. **(passed)**

I. <u>Resolutions Committee Report</u>

Resolution Chairman Mary Smith presented the following resolutions:

Resolution No. 1

Whereas, the Lafayette Athletic Association of the Deaf, under the general chairmanship of Melvin Royer, has done a superb job in making the 41st Biennial Convention of the Louisiana Association of the Deaf possible;

Whereas, Mr. Royer and his team have put together an excellent agenda, workshops, and recreational activities;

Be It Resolved, the Louisiana Association of the Deaf and its membership recognize the dedication to the convention program of Mr. Royer, and his twenty-two years of service to the Lafayette Athletic Association of the Deaf;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, the membership goes on record commending Melvin Royer and the members of the Lafayette Athletic Association of the Deaf for their leadership in making the 41st Convention a resounding success! **(passed)**

Resolution No. 2

Whereas, the leadership of past Officers and Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen formed the foundation for the present home office, programs and goals;

Whereas, the membership of the Louisiana Association of the Deaf, through meetings, motion, and support, paved the way for the establishment of these programs;

Whereas, the 1997-99 L.A.D. Officers and Board of Directors continued the work with Deaf Symposium and outreach programs;

Whereas, an Executive Director and an Executive Secretary were employed to oversee the implementation of these programs and goals;

Be It Resolved, the membership of the L.A.D. gives itself a pat on the back;

And Be It Further Resolved, that ever officer and board member from 1988 to 1999 be applauded for his/her role in building a stronger "Louisiana Association of the Deaf." **(passed)**

Resolution No. 3

Whereas, emergency closed captioning is a topic very important to every deaf citizen in Louisiana;

Whereas, local television stations broadcast emergencies within the community;

Be It Resolved, the Louisiana Association of the Deaf goes on record commending any and all television stations that close caption emergencies within their respective community;

And Be It Further Resolved, the membership of the Louisiana Association of the Deaf expresses appreciation to its Executive Director, to WBRZ (Channel 2), to the Superintendent of the Louisiana School for the Deaf, and to the Executive Director of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf, for their teamwork in making emergency broadcasting accessible to the Baton Rouge Deaf Community. **(passed)**

Resolution No. 4

Whereas, the membership of the Louisiana Association of the Deaf is composed of a diverse membership;

Whereas, the Louisiana Association of the Deaf Board of Officers and Directors recognizes this diversity of membership;

Whereas, accessibility is the buzz word of the decade;

Whereas, Sign Language Services, International and its employees have done an excellent job providing comprehensive interpreting services for the convention;

Be It Resolved, Board of Officers and Directors are to be commended for ensuring full accessibility at the 41st Biennial Convention of the Louisiana Association of the Deaf;

And Be It Further Resolved, future conventions shall be fully accessible! **(passed)**

Resolution No. 5

Whereas, the Louisiana State Capitol has been inaccessible to deaf citizens for years;

Whereas, the Louisiana House of Representatives and Senate 1999 Legislative Session was the most accessible session in history;

Be It Resolved, the members of the Louisiana Association of the Deaf commend the 1999 House of Representatives and Senate for providing interpreting services during the legislative session;

And Be It Further Resolved, sincere appreciation is extended to Gabriell Kuhlow, A.D.A. Coordinator, for coordinating interpreter service during the legislative session. **(passed)**

Resolution Committee Chairman Mary Smith recognized committee members Golden LeMaster and Elise Burke for their contributions.

New Business

Bill 99-01:

Kathy Corbett (Houston Moss) moved that the L.A.D. donate some seed money to L.S.D. under the supervision of the Special Assistant to the Superintendent, Kenny David, to help with expenses needed for L.S.D.'s 150th Anniversary to be held in 2002. The money will be used for various purposes such as displays and printing of heritage books. **(adopted)**

Bill 99-02:

Kathy Corbett (Houston Moss) moved that the L.A.D. follow up on the motions that were approved in 1991 regarding deaf heritage presentations. The motions are 91-2, 91-4, and 91-8. **(adopted)**

Bill 99-03

Connie Tullos (Kathy Corbett) moved to select two students as Jr. L.A.D. pages for the next conference. **(adopted)**

Bill 99-04

Kathy Corbett (Richard Malcolm) moved that future convention minutes, bylaws and resolutions be drafted with numbered lines. **(adopted)**

Bill 99-05

Houston Moss (Leo Burke) moved to establish a plan for Louisiana Deaf Symposium III to be held at the Lafayette Hilton in September, 2000.

Houston Moss never moved this motion
Leo Burke never seconded this motion 12/4/99 **(adopted)**

Good of the Order

Houston Moss declared that violations of the new bylaws would automatically render them null and void and that an organization cannot stand if its bylaws are not kept.

Remarks from the audience:

Pauline Wood declared that struggles for power and control are hurting the L.A.D. and its members need to learn to work together. She used the story of the Titantic as an analogy of the condition of L.A.D., comparing the L.A.D. to the crew of the ship that sunk. She remarked that the members are guiding the L.A.D. into an iceberg, and they alone will be responsible for all the controversy if the L.A.D. sinks. She hoped the new leadership will stop the struggle for power and work together for the L.A.D.

Lonnelle Crosby analyzed the problem as too much focus on the past and told the members to put the past behind them.

Ed Wood complained that there were no negatives in the officers, directors or committee reports.

Patti Moss stated that she was very angry at the board because she did not like the way they responded to her complaints about how the Pageant was directed.

Ed Huggar pointed out that the people are the organization.

Election of Officers

Nominations Committee Chairman Max Ray announced the names of the candidates for board positions:

- President

  Leo Burke
  Medford Magill

- Vice President

  Tim Kuyrkendall

- Secretary

  Sharon Marquez

- Treasurer

  Richard Fraychineaud
  Darrell Richard

- Junior Board Member

  Dan Arabie
  Lonnelle Crosby
  Chris Watson

Houston Moss (Elise Burke) moved to suspend the bylaws to allow new members to run for office. **(passed)**

President Wendy Edwards announced the names of the vote counters who had been selected:

- Nicole Alleman
- Earl David
- Bruce Dunn

Connie Tullos (membership) moved to accept by acclamation candidate Tim Kuyrkendall for the Vice Presidency and candidate Sharon Marquez for the Secretariat. Secretary Henry Brinkmann cast the ballot. **(passed)**

President Wendy Edwards announced the names of the nominates who were elected and their respective board positions and presented to the membership the 1999-2001 Louisiana Association of the Deaf Board of Officers and Directors:

• President	Medford Magill
• Vice President	Tim Kuyrkendall
• Secretary	Sharon Marquez
• Treasurer	Richard Fraychineaud
• Sr. Board Member	Lenora Heinen
• Middle Board Member	Melvin Royer
• Jr. Board Member	Lonnelle Crosby

Oath of Office

President Wendy Edwards administered the Oath of Office rites to the new board.

Announcements

Robert Southwell made an announcement regarding the Deaf Picnic at Chicot State park near Ville Platte on August 21, 1999.

Pauline Wood announced that October 16, 1999 would be homecoming at Louisiana School for the Deaf.

Dan Arabie made an announcement about the grand opening of the L.A.A.D. Center on June 27, 1999 with ribbon cutting and refreshments.

Daniel Burch declared that, as President of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, he had attended many meetings and that he was impressed with the professional mannerism displayed by President Wendy Edwards as she presided over the meetings of the past three days.

Ron Delvisco expressed disappointment that the lengthy conference business sessions overlapped with the workshop presentations and hoped for future opportunities to again offer these workshops.

Adjournment Sine Die

Former Louisiana Association of the Deaf President Wendy Edwards adjourned the 41st Biennial Conference at 5:00 p.m.

Recorded by:

Henry Brinkmann, Secretary
Louisiana Association of the Deaf

Wendy Edwards, President

Robert Bevill, Vice President

Henry Brinkmann, Secretary

Dan Arabie, Treasurer

Mary Smith, Senior Board Member

Lenora Heinen ,Middle Board Member

Melvin Royer, Junior Board Member

Signed and Sealed 10-01-99
Date