

**Louisiana Association of the Deaf
3112 Valley Creek Drive – Suite E
Baton Rouge LA 70808**

**Minutes
of the
43rd Biennial State Conference
Alexandria, Louisiana Association of the Deaf
May 30-31, 2003**

The conference was called to order by President Pauline Wood at 9:53 a.m. President Wood led the assembly of twenty eight members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

SESSION ONE

Officers' Reports

President's Report

President Wood gave an update on the LAD officers and directors positions:

President: Pauline Wood

Vice President: vacant because of the recent resignation of Lonnette Crosby

Secretary: elected secretary Kuyrkendall resigned, Angela Arrington was appointed by President Wood.

Treasurer: Houston Moss

Members at Large: Tommie Patterson and Kenny Davis

Representatives:

BRAD – Arthur Patterson

AAD – Golden LeMaster

LAAD – Glennis Broussard

GNOAD – vacant

LRID – Shirley Delahoussaye

President Wood noted that the attendance was low and asked for input from the membership regarding the lack of interest. She also asked for feedback from the membership regarding the dwindling membership and urged those in attendance to contact others in the deaf community and encourage them to join LAD.

From feedback already shared, President Wood said that LAD was going to organize a membership drive during the LSD Homecoming, and was considering asking for a nominal fee for social events so that more could be planned. She noted that other nearby states are having the same problems.

Other past events that have been affected by the weather were mentioned: the 41st Biennial Conference in Baton Rouge occurred at the same time as a hurricane hit, and the Deaf Fest in New Orleans also suffered low attendance because of bad weather.

On the positive side, President Wood announced that the bingo operation was doing very well under the leadership of Huey Barbin, with a \$20,000 in revenues the past year. Because of the increase in revenues, the bingo workers were given a \$1.00 per hour raise. She said that she was considering the possibility of having a Super Bingo as part of the next conference.

In addition to bingo revenues, President Wood also reported that the annual Deaf Children's Golf Tournament produced \$5,600. She thanked Kenny Davis and the LAD golfing team for doing an outstanding job in representing LAD.

The Board of Directors voted to crown Neisha Washington, the runner-up of the last pageant, as Miss Deaf Louisiana, following the resignation of Heather Williams. President Wood invited the group to attend the coronation at a reception being held later that evening.

Educational scholarships were given out to: Randi Pippins, John Alleman, John Baris, and Jennifer Higgins.

President Wood talked about the need for legislation to improve closed captioning for TV, especially for the news. She recognized Chris Watson for his advocacy and continued efforts to encourage the news media to provide better communication. She also expressed appreciation from the Deaf community to Joanne Lambert and Dorothy Scott for their letter writing campaign in Florida promoting program captioning.

Vice President's Report

Because of Lonelle Crosby's recent resignation, there was no report given.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Houston Moss gave a brief accounting of the LAD financial statements, as printed in the conference program book. He highlighted the increase of bingo revenues, and reported that the money was being used to fund a pay increase for the bingo workers and the office secretary, and to open an investment account at A.G. Edwards.

In the investment account with Merrill Lynch, Moss noted the investment losses that have incurred since 9/11. He has been working closely with the investment broker, Stephen Hlibok, who expects that the decline has bottomed out and is starting to stabilize and should begin to recover.

He also pointed out that he has re-established the Youth Fund. He anticipates continued revenues from the Deaf Children's Gold Tournament and professional fundraising through United Deaf Services.

Moss informed the members that the financial statements for the past two years had been audited by a three member team on April 30, 2003. He thanked Richard Malcolm, Kenny Davis and Arthur Patterson for their volunteer services.

Members at Large Reports

Tommie Patterson

Tommie Patterson gave a report on the work she had done with the Deaf Symposium III. She was pleased that over 300 people had attended and that the symposium had been so successful. She enjoyed being able to offer her assistance and to benefit from her experiences.

Kenny Davis

Kenny Davis expressed his appreciation to the president and to the board for implementing changes that had resulted in noticeable improvements to the LAS operations.

Representative Chapter Reports

Alexandria Association of the Deaf - Golden LeMaster

Golden LeMaster reported on the need to get the youth involved with LAD and its chapters. He felt that mainstreaming was part of the problem and wanted to look into offering scholarships for mainstreamed kids to go to camp.

Baton Rouge Association of the Deaf – Arthur Patterson

Arthur Patterson reported that that BRAD was having some of the same problems with attendance that LAD was having. He said he planned to continue to work with people like Houston Moss to make needed improvements and would stay on as a board member.

Louisiana Athletic Association of the Deaf – Glennis Broussard

Glennis Broussard presented her report on behalf of Dan Arabie who could not attend the conference. He is concerned with wanting to improve Deaf/Blind services because of a recent experience where he was unable to get sufficient SSP assistance.

Continuing her report, Broussard expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with the LAD pageant and also to work with Houston Moss, learning more about the LAD financial investments.

Pageant Director Report – Connie Tullos

Connie Tullos announced that Neisha Washington, would be crowned Miss Deaf Louisiana at a reception later on in the evening and invited all to attend and meet Neisha.

She expressed appreciation to all her helpers for their support. She plans to continue as pageant director until 2005, when the first Miss Deaf Louisiana, Rhonda Fung, will assume the position. Connie also thanked Joanne Lambert and LRID for donating the refreshments for the reception.

President Wood called the meeting to recess at 11:35 p.m.

SESSION TWO – May 30, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by President Pauline Wood. Twenty-eight members were present.

Business Session I

A discussion was held regarding the needed quorum and it was confirmed that the by-laws provided for a quorum to be 25% of LAD members who were registered for the conference. Having a quorum, the meeting continued.

There was no unfinished business to consider.

Motion: Golden LeMaster made a motion that the minutes of the previous meeting were approved with one correction, a \$15 offset because of a bank charge to close an account.

Seconded: Houston Moss

Passed

President Wood introduced Neisha Washington to the attendees and invited all to attend the reception later that evening where she would be crowned Miss Deaf Louisiana.

New Business

Motion: Max Ray made a motion that the bylaws be updated and printed for the next conference in 2005.

Seconded: Richard Malcolm

Passed

Motion: Tommie Patterson made a motion that LAD would organize a membership rally at the LSD Homecoming.

Seconded: Arthur Patterson

Amended: Kenny Davis made a motion to amend to make this rally an annual event.

Seconded: Max Ray

Amended: Houston Moss made a motion to amend by getting an agreement from LSDAA first.

Seconded: Kenny Davis

Refer: Max Ray moved to refer the matter to the LAD Board of Directors

Motion: Kenny Davis made a motion that LAD encourage other Louisiana deaf organizations that meet or have events to not schedule these events in conflict with LAD events.

Seconded: Houston Moss

Amended: Houston Moss amended the motion to have the LAD board work with other chapters and set up a schedule to be printed in the Bayou State Bulletin.

Seconded: Boyd Arrington

Passed, as amended

PART TWO
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of the
42nd Biennial State Conference
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SESSION THREE – May 31, 2003

President Pauline Wood called the meeting to order at 9:25 a. m.

After thanking Joanne Lambert and LRID for donating refreshments for the meeting, she introduced the panel moderators: Janie Powell and Ed Wood. The moderators introduced the panel:

Bruce Dunn, studying to become a certified deaf interpreter
Angela Arrington, ASL tutor and teacher
Jerrye Ray, housewife
Joan Jackson, child of deaf parents
Cynthia Pace, representing DAC in Alexandria
and Neisha Washington, Miss Deaf Louisiana

Panel discussion began:

Janie Powell: We hear concerns about interpreters and how LAD/LRID work together.

Ed Wood: We would like to hear from the panelists positive ideas that will improve the working relationship between LRID and LAD.

Janie Powell: We want to encourage the Deaf community to attend the LRID meetings to discuss the issues, as their attendance has been low.

Issues presented by the panelist included:

- How CCUs work
- A workshop for inter-relations between LRID and LAD, including a round table discussion for Deaf/Blind issues
- Problems with the DAC
- Interpreters for legal situations
- Interpreters for emergency room situations
- Interpreters for education
- Dissatisfaction with uncertified interpreters
- Filing complaints with the Advocacy Center and the Department of Justice
- Deaf volunteers to teach new interpreters
- Teaching deaf children how to get good interpreters
- Reaching mainstreamed children
- Certified Deaf Interpreters

Following the panel discussion was a brief audience participation discussion on how LAD and LRID could work together to co-sponsor a workshop to address the interpreter needs in the community.

President Wood concluded the session by expressing appreciation for the volunteer services of Patti Moss, Tommie Patterson and Linda Williams at the reception desk and to Robert Southwell for picking up materials donated to the conference by Paragon Casino.

The meeting was recessed at 11:40 a.m.

SESSION FOUR

President Wood called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Motion: Richard Malcolm made a motion to strike lines 44, 45, and 46 from page 3 (section 8) of the bylaws.

Seconded: Max Ray

Referred: to the Bylaws Committee.

Motion: Richard Malcolm made a motion to revise Section 2 of page 2 of the bylaws.

Seconded: Max Ray

Referred: to the Bylaws Committee

President Wood announced the candidates for the LAD board:

President: Pauline Wood

Vice President: Houston Moss

Secretary: Angela Arrington

Treasurer: Kenny Davis

Motion: Ed Wood made a motion to accept the nominees for the four offices by acclamation.

Seconded: Jerrye Ray

Secretary Angela Arrington cast the ballot.

Passed, no opposition

President Wood announced the names of candidates for Member at Large for the LAD Board:

Boyd Arrington

Wanda Miller

Tommie Patterson

Dan Arabie*

*Dan Arabie's name was removed after a review of the bylaws showed there could be no absentee nomination.

Motion: Max Ray made a motion to close the nominations.

Seconded: Kenny Davis

Passed, no opposition

Oath of Officers

Max Ray administered the Oath of Office rites to the new board.

Necrology

President Pauline Wood read the necrology listing from the program book.

Mrs. Michael (Margaret Ann Menard) Baudoin

Mrs. Karl (Janice Savoy) Blanchard

Philip John Burns III

Mrs. Felix (Mary Warner) Cogvenich

Doris Crnkovic

Sigmund Epstein

Edward Joseph Falcon

Mrs. Theodore (Leulla Braud) Franklin

Asa French

Mrs. Charles (Lenora Trahan) Heinen

Mrs. Harry (Mable Deshotels) Huthnance

Champ Jones

Martha Ann Kraemer

Mrs. Lane (Tammy Poincon) Labat

Debbie Foy Lindsay

Martin Meier

John Melancon

Lavenia Trahan Menard

Dennis Moran

Mrs. Kenneth (Melanie Dufrene) O'Brien

Oscar Rome

Samuel Scott

Frederick St. Romain

Keith Tastet

Nolan Trahan

Gus White

Added to the necrology listing were:

Troy Dean

Lucille Edwards

Carl Rowell

Walter Welch

Joseph Zachary

Joanne Lambert led the group in prayer for the families of the deceased.

Forty-Fourth Biennial Conference

The next conference will be held in 2005 in Baton Rouge at the LSD.

Announcements

Richard Malcolm announced that the Louisiana Career Development Center will be celebrating National Helen Keller Awareness Week from June 22-28, 2003.

Joanne Lambert announced the 29th Annual AOG Deaf Camp for deaf children in Louisiana ages 10-18, would be held July 28-August 2, 2003 in Alexandria, La.

Cleve Cormier announced the 150th Year Anniversary Celebration of LSD would be held June 19-21 at LSD and hosted by the LSDAA.

President Pauline Wood announced that the date of the LSF Homecoming was October 25, 2003 – LSD vs. Oklahoma.

President Pauline Wood announced that the NAD 2006 Conference would be held in New Orleans at the Marriott Canal Street and that NAD was asking for manpower assistance from Louisiana residents.

President Pauline Wood reminded the assembly that LAD was established in 1908 and it was time to begin planning a 100 year celebration in 2008.

The conference was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Recorded by:
Angela Arrington, Secretary
Louisiana Association of the Deaf

Pauline Wood, President

Houston Moss, Vice President

Angela Arrington, Secretary

John Davis, Treasurer

Tommie Patterson, Member at Large

Wanda Miller, Member at Large

Boyd Arrington, Member at Large