

**Louisiana Association of the Deaf
Board Meeting
Doubletree Hilton Hotel, Kenner
November 3, 2012
10am**

President Thelma Covello called the meeting to order at 10:25am.

Roll Calls:

Officers – President Thelma Covello, Vice President Hazel Pauline Wood, Secretary Michelli Hanks-LeFors, Treasurer David LeFors. Members at Large – Cindy Robillard
Chapter Representatives: Judith Perrodin, LADBC; Melvin Royer, LAAD; Larry Robillard, AAD; Floyd Perrodin, NODBA.

Absentees: Dawn Melendez, LRID and Daryl Argrave, MAL

Moment of silence was taken to remember our loved ones who have passed away.

Approval of Minutes – unofficial vote.

Officers Reports:

President's Report:

* Disability Awareness – President Covello went to Fort Polk to represent LAD at the Disability Awareness event. President Covello set up a booth using the LAD banner and provided information to people about our organization and deafness, encouraging them to join LAD.

* Jr. NAD – Mrs. Lisa Chase Potter and Mr. John Jarrett are Jr. NAD sponsors.

* Earl Wilson – President Thelma attended the Deaf Children's Golf Classic and had the opportunity to meet Earl Wilson. Mr. Wilson is very nice gentleman and has been the chairman of the Deaf Children's Tournament for many years. She had the opportunity to meet Mr. Joe Horn, retired #87 New Orleans Saints football player, as well. Mr. Horn mentioned that he donated \$2,500 to the Mississippi School for the Deaf and would like to be able to double the amount of the charitable donation to Louisiana School for the Deaf in the future. Louisiana School for the Deaf students enjoyed their day mingling with the golfers. President Covello volunteered to drive students around and gave a brief presentation. Mr. Wilson met briefly with President Covello and Treasurer LeFors to discuss his services as a lobbyist. Treasurer LeFors will share this information in his report.

* Conference – President Thelma submitted three names for consideration as speakers for the conference: Mr. Kelby Brick, Mr. Chris Wagner, and Mrs. Nancy Bloch. Mr. Andy Lange will be the parliamentarian and Twin Andersons will provide entertainment. The food will be discussed at the next board meeting.

* Doubletree Hotel – President Covello stated that she was pleased with the hotel facilities for this board meeting. The suites are comfortable and the hotel even provides warm cookies from the

front desk. As the Doubletree will also be the Conference 2013 hotel, she invited everyone to have a look around.

*LSD Students Graduation – President Covello would like LAD to contribute either a backpack or lunch bag with the LAD logo on it.

*NAD –The NAD has increased its affiliate membership fee \$100 to \$200. LAD has already paid its dues. Just for your information.

*COR –Copies of the NAD Conference minutes for 2012 are available. Please contact President Covello or Secretary Michelli LeFors to receive them by email from the COR.

*RID – RID organization fees is due for 2012. Treasurer LeFors will provide additional information in his report.

*Board Meeting – upcoming next board meeting will possibly be in February.

*Blinds and ceiling fans – Although the Board has approved the installation of ceiling fans and new blinds in the office, it is being delayed until next spring, when hopefully LAD's financial profile will be better.

*LAD Conference – Treasurer David LeFors and Mr. Richard Fraychineaud will be co-chairpersons for the LAD Conference 2013.

Vice President's Report:

*Necrology – January 1, 2012 – November 1, 2012. There have been twenty-four deaths in the local deaf community.

*Would like to have secretary to send out the minutes within 2 (two) weeks.

*By-Laws – The Bylaws committee – Mr. Melvin Royer, Ms. Shirley Delahoussaye, Mr. Houston Moss and Mrs. Cindy Robillard – were unable to hold a committee meeting because it was "stoned walled". These meeting should be able to occur without interference.

*Bingo- The Bingo Center owner, Richard Brown, lost his lease on the old building when it was purchased by the State. Our last bingo session was held August 31, 2012. The following day we moved all the bingo supplies to the LAD office for storage until the new hall is open. Mr. Brown is in the process of purchasing the old Sam's Club building. Unfortunately, there have been delays in closing the sale such as FEMA and Red Cross occupying the building following Hurricane Isaac, and with the New York attorneys for Sam's Club. The sale has just been finalized and renovations are underway. As soon as the building passes inspections, we will move in and begin hosting bingo sessions again. The checking account balance is \$6,000.

*Vice President – I am NOT Acting any longer as I am fully Vice President. Just want to clarify this with you all.

Secretary's Report:

*Fall Workshops – It was cancelled last October 6th because we did not have enough speakers. We agreed to postpone the workshop until November 16th and 17th It will be held on two days in order to accommodate those speakers (such as Social Security Administration workers) who are not allowed to give presentations on weekends.

*Kidz Halloween Party – Deaf Focus – Event Coordinator was Ms. Juliet Barbin. As requested,

Michelli Hanks-LeFors and Sophia (Wood) Bell volunteered to help with the Halloween party. Ms. Juliet Barbin asked LAD to sponsor the party for children under age of 16. The LAD Board agreed, through email correspondence, to provide a financial sponsorship of \$250 to Deaf Focus to host the party. We invited 25 children but ended up with 37 children attending. We had a variety of really fun Halloween party games. Unfortunately, time did not permit us to play all the games. We want to give our thanks to LAD for allowing the Kidz Halloween Party to happen.

*NOBDA – Received a letter from NOBDA asking LAD to accept Floyd Perrodin as Chapter Representative to the LAD Board. If anyone needs a copy of the letter, please let me know.

*Membership expiration date – Want to have membership expiration date printed on the address label as a reminder of dues status when we have mailings to the members.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Assets

*July 2012 - \$341,747.46

*August \$345,102.56 \$3,355 Audited signed

*September \$326,881.04 - \$ 18,221 Audited signed

*The unofficial estimate for October is approximately \$315,000.00 Revenues are down because of not having bingo sessions for 2 months! We need to think carefully about what we would do if we didn't have bingo anymore. I need the Board's opinions so we can make the right decisions.

*Some of you wondering how money declines so quickly. Although LAD does now own the building, there are monthly maintenance expenses such as insurance, utilities, association fees, internet and TAXES. Our regular payment to IRS is approximately \$45k to 50k a year based on bingo revenues for the previous year. IRS requires we pay 4 installments per year. We are paying approximately \$11k every quarter. I am sure we will get refund next year as we didn't have any bingo for 2 months now.

*Took \$20k from Wells Fargo to Checking Account on Sept 21 with approval by the Board

*Donated \$250.00 to Deaf Focus for Kids Halloween Party

*Donated \$150.00 to LRID

*The Deaf Children's Golf Tournament on October 18 at Beau Chene Country Club in Mandeville was a success. Twenty-three teams showed up, an increase from last year with 16 teams. It was good to see President Covello and LSD Director Nancy Benham in attendance. LCD Director Naomi Duval and LAD Executive Secretary Kathy Stewart were there as well. Five LSD Students and their sponsors, Lisa Potter and John Jarrett, were also in attendance. Val Patterson, the interpreter from Covington volunteered her time for the day. It was so beautiful sunny day with temperatures around 75 degrees. LAD had two golf teams: David LeFors, Larry LeFors, Bertin Smith, Nick Imme, and Dave Imme, Kenny Davis, Timothy Martin, and Dale Brazzle. They didn't place in the top three but they did have lots of fun representing LAD. Special guest of the day was former New Orleans Saints wide receiver Joe Horn. He

was there to promote his new BBQ sauce, which will be available at Wal-Mart. The samples of foods provided with lunch were delicious.

*I got memo from Earl Wilson via Kathy Stewart few days ago. See attachment

*RID—See attachment \$165 dollars for Organizational Member

Members at Large Reports:

Cindy Robillard – No report.

John Kenny Davis – We need to approach with legislature and encourage the people to take action to make a letter to them to aware about budget cuts. (Need correct via email by John Kenny Davis)

Chapter Representatives Reports:

LADBC, Judith Perrodin – No report.

LAAD, Melvin Royer – No report.

AAD, Larry Robillard – No report.

NOBDA, Floyd Perrodin – Want to express the NOBDA's appreciation to LAD for allowing them to use the office for a meeting. Presented the rent check to cover the fee for the use of the office.

Committee Reports:

Ways & Means: Met on October 5, 2012 at the LAD Office. At the Board's request, Kenny Davis and Larry LeFors from Investment Committee were also in attendance.

LAD is presently without any income because of the temporary cancellation of bingo sessions as we transition to the new hall. This is not the time to have the meeting with Charles Sterling; the budget should be a priority. We already have a budget plan for January to December 2012, but we did not take in the anticipated revenues because of the bingo situation. We will have another meeting December 1, 2012 to prepare the 2013 budget.

Last year our Ways & Means Committee (Andy Veith, Louis Cannon, Larry Robillard, and Daryl Argrave) projected \$130k a year estimate for spending so we set up a budget with 130k a year. I think we will have to cut that much next year.

I have been treasurer for more than year now and I realize I still have to lots of work to do on the financial reports. I am still not satisfied and will make some changes. I will have new format in January 2013.

Auditors: I received a letter from Dustin Cutrer resigning as auditor. Our alternate, Daryl Argrave, will be the new auditor, along with Nick Imme.

Charitable:

Old Business:

Conference: Cindy Robillard asked to go back to old business to continue discussing the registration and combo fees.

New Business:

Committees for Conference:

Treasurer David LeFors stated that Mr. Richard Fraychineaud is Co-chairperson and will work with all committees.

Budget Report – Daryl Argrave and Kathy Stewart.

Programs and Marketing – Paul Winfree and Kathy Stewart.

Workshop event and Banquet – Thelma Covello and Michelli LeFors.

Registration – Cindy Robillard and Pauline Wood.

Admission – Iris Fraychineaud and Richard Fraychineaud.

Usher – Arthur Porter, Elizabeth Heurtin and her husband, Clyde Heurtin.

All above are member of LAD. Mrs. Iris Fraychineaud expressed her gratitude for allow her and her husband to be part of the conference.

Theme: Swamp Logo in background with LAD: "Yours, Mine and Ours." **CARRIED**

Registration Cost: Melvin Royer (Pauline Wood) to put this on table to discussion about registration cost till next board meeting. **PENDING MOTION**

Hotel Room cost: Treasurer David LeFors already reserved 60 rooms for \$109 flat – locked rate. Normally the room cost \$179 per night.

Rent LAD Office – Pauline Wood (Melvin Royer) rescinded to remove the minute "Rent LAD Office" from last year. (No longer accept any one to rent LAD office.) **PASSED**

Next Board Meeting will be announcement via email/website – February.

Adjourned at 1:25pm.

Announcements:

Krewe Of Dauphine in New Orleans will be held in Hilton Sheraton Hotel on January 12th.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelli Hanks-LeFors, Secretary of LAD: 2011-2013

Revised and approved: June 3, 2013