



Quarterly Board Meeting

Meeting Date: **November 5, 2022** ~ Location of Meeting: **Jones Creek Library, Baton Rouge**

Call to Order: **10:02 am**

Invocation: .

Pledge of Allegiance: **Monhere Ransom**

Roll Call: **Jimmy Gore, Norma Zeringue, Katrina Williams, Thelma Covello, Nigel Burkhalter.**

Absent: **Sherry Crosby and Floyd Perrodin (both excused)**

Visitor: **Jay Isch, Director of Deaf Focus**

MINUTES

1. Good of the Order

2. Approval of Agenda

- 2.1. **Nigel Burkhalter (Katrina Williams)** moves to approve the agenda. **The motion is carried.**

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. **7/23/2022 Quarterly Meeting**

Nigel Burkhalter (Katrina Williams) moves to accept the quarterly board meeting minutes without revisions. **The motion is carried.**

3.2. **10/26/2022 Board Meeting**

Nigel Burkhalter (Thelma Covello) moves to accept the board meeting minutes without revisions. **The motion is carried.**

4. Officers' Report

- 4.1. President Gore reports that many people are very disappointed with the outcome of LSD; our priority is Deaf Children's futures. Also stated that Stephen Hlibok worked in the investment area for over 35 years, this is his 7th time to see investments being unstable but assured us that it's very normal and will be back to normalcy eventually. And that LAD investments is in good shape.

- 4.2. Vice President Gore reports for Vice President Crosby that the annual Christmas Toy Drive will happen. It's your opportunity to donate toys and/or money. The Bylaws are almost complete with an ASL version, which will be sent to members via emails. It's the first time in history that we will do the ASL version.

- 4.3. Secretary Zeringue has no report.

- 4.4. Treasurer Williams reports with graphics of how LAD has been doing financially.

Finances as of 11/4/2022

Operating Fund: \$49,837.93

Savings Acct: \$25,431.73

Youth Fund: \$4,703.80

Apparel Fund: \$95.00

Book Drive: \$469.42

Toy Drive: \$1,039.40

Office Renovations Fund: \$10,185.00

Emergency Disaster Fund: \$434.67

2023 Conference budget: \$8,500.00

Interest Gains: \$4.44

Bingo Acct: \$50,991.56

Business Acct: \$32,358.36

Investments: \$217,822.57

TOTAL: \$376,442.15(-\$27,662.34 since 7/23/2022)

4.5. Member at Large Covello reports that she is working on the Senior Citizens committee. She graduated from LSD 60 years ago and is devastated where SSD is right now.

4.6. Member at Large Perrodin has no report.

4.7. Member at Large Burkhalter reports about the Youth Committee, which is not really active. He works at LSD and reports that he often abstained from voting on motions regarding SSD due to conflict of interest. Nonetheless, he received an email from NAD about YLC for LSD students.

5. Deaf Focus' Report

5.1. Director Isch reports that it has been nearly one year since he has taken on the role of Director. He strives to expand the program and be more effective. He adds about the ongoing advocacy efforts for competent leadership at LSD and providing support for the LAD Board to ensure we are being effective with our mission. Additionally, he has been training an employee to take on more responsibilities with the coordination of Interpreting services. He attended LRID Conference yesterday in Covington where he learned a few things and networked with other Interpreters, and he will be attending a conference next week near Hartford, Connecticut for Deaf Executives of Organizations, hosted by Innivee Strategies, where he hopes to learn how to be a better model of a Deaf leader and network with other Deaf professionals. Lastly, he reports that he has applied for two separate grants for LAD, and we should know something at the end of the year. Also, Deaf Focus has sold 2 old computers, which have been swiped clean of

any business-related and HIPAA-protected information to ensure it has been completely removed, and purchased 2 new computers for office operations. The business operations have been steady.

6. **Standing Committees' Report**

- 6.1. **Charitable Gaming Committee** - Board is currently debating LAD's Charitable Gaming operations' future.
- 6.2. **Ways & Means Committee** - No report.
- 6.3. **Investments Committee** - LAD's Stock Portfolio has taken a significant hit this year. However, our Broker, Stephen Hlibok from Merrill Lynch, assures us that we hold high quality stocks and holding will appreciate.
- 6.4. **Auditing Committee** - Treasurer reports that they have not finalized the audit due to delays from our Bookkeeper suffering an illness. We will get it done ASAP. Thelma and Nigel both serve as Auditors and they concur.
- 6.5. **Bylaw Committee** - .ASL translations of the draft Bylaws were produced last week, they are being edited and finalized as we speak, and then they will be sent to our membership for the Amendment Proposal period and uploaded to our website. We couldn't be more proud of this process, and I think we are the only one taking the accessibility standard up a level by providing ASL translation of the Bylaws. Bylaws Committee has put a lot of work into drafting the Bylaws and the Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM) and we look forward to the finished product.
- 6.6. **2023 LAD Conference Committee** - Conference Chair, Jay reports that the hotel has been reserved, the deposit paid, and the room reservation information has been posted on the LAD website. A committee has been established, and a schedule has been developed. A guest celebrity has been secured and we are currently working on creating a flyer/registration form and a platform to pay online.
- 6.7. **Youth Committee** - No report.
- 6.8. **Website Committee** - Jay reports that the website has been operating smoothly after the upgrade. We are going to be working on incorporating the ASL version of our draft of the Bylaws into the website for the Amendment Proposal period.
- 6.9. **Community Spotlight Committee** - none to report
- 6.10. **Senior Citizens Committee** - see Member at Large's statement

7. **Unfinished Business**

- 7.1. **Internal Audit** - Sherry Crosby (Floyd Perrodin) moves to defer this discussion until after our legal situation comes to a close. Board Approves. **(Approved 1/8/2020)**
- 7.2. **Office Renovations** - Construction papers are almost complete. **(9/14/2022)**
- 7.3. **LAD Biennial Conference** - Jay reports that the contract with the hotel is finalized and the deposit will be sent by the end of the week. Also, he is currently working

on a letter to request sponsorships. And working on the LAD conference's draft scheduling. (9/28/2022)

- 7.4. **Bingo Account** We will need to train new employees before we start up
- 7.5. operations. Bingo isn't as dependable or lucrative as it has been for decades. Bingo Suppliers are struggling as well. We also have nearly \$8,000 worth of uncashed checks due to Bingo workers refusing to cash them and collecting unemployment checks while working for LAD. Further discussion is needed for re-entry. (8/3/2022)

8. New Business

- 8.1. **Board approval for previous written consent with the 11/2/2022 Public Statement by the Board.**
Thelma Covello (Norma Zeringue) moved to ratify. **The motion is carried.**
- 8.2. **Board approval for previous written consent to hire CDI to translate LAD's 11/2/22 Public Statement into ASL.**
Thelma Covello (Nigel Burkhalter) moved to ratify the motion. **The motion is carried.**

9. Announcements

- 9.1. Next Quarterly Board Meeting will be in Alexandria on January 21 next year.
- 9.2. Jay encourages members of the community to send concerns about the leadership at the SSD to disability.affairs@la.gov. You may ask Jay for a template letter by emailing him at jay@deaffocus.org.
- 9.3. Jay shares about LAD Deaf Focus's ASL Meet & Greet at Starbucks right by LSU Tiger Stadium held on the last Thursday of every month. This is to promote a signing environment where parents, interpreting students, and whoever is learning ASL have the opportunity for immersion to stimulate their skills, and meet new people.
- 9.4. Thelma Covello announces that we'll have Thanksgiving party on Nov 12 and Christmas party on Dec. 3rd at Alexandria Association of the Deaf
- 9.5. Norma Zeringue announces that St Gerard will have a Masquerade by Krewe of Dauphine on March 18th, 2023 at Alexander and Terrance Room in Metairie, LA. Also that COSD will host Deaf Festival in early 2024 - no date has been officially set yet.
- 9.6. Nigel announces that there will be 4 SSD meetings for 2023 - not yet confirmed.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 11:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norma Zeringue', with a stylized, flowing script.

Norma Zeringue, LAD secretary