



Quarterly Board Meeting

Meeting Date: July 19, 2025 **Location of Meeting:** LAD Office, Baton Rouge

Officers Present: Sherry Crosby, Jerrod Wingate, Cammy Gaspar, Katrina Williams, Megan Montet, Rosalyn Watson, and Jay Isch

Absent: Ben Wimberly (excused)

Visitors: 5

Meeting called to the order: 10:07AM

MINUTES

1. Approval of Agenda

- 1.1. Jerrod Wingate(Katrina Williams) moves to approve the agenda. **The motion is PASSED.**

2. Good of the Order

- 2.1. NONE

3. Reading & Approval of Minute(s)

- 3.1 7/16/2025 Board Meeting: Jerrod Wingate(Rosalyn Watson) moves to accept the minutes. **The motion is PASSED.**

4. President's Report

- 4.1. **President** welcomes our new Interim Treasurer Ben Wimberly. Unfortunately he had prior plans today and was unable to attend the meeting. Board Retreat will be happening soon at the end of September given by DeafGain LLC. I just attended the LCD meeting a few weeks ago and they are still working on Interpreter Standard approvals. Our Interim ED for LCD can finally go and advocate now that the status for her position has been changed. Interpreting Mentorship has grown within the organization, we are so grateful for LCD for providing this opportunity. I was also elected as ViceChair for the LCD board. SSD- the Superintendent recently resigned. This Monday SSD board will appoint someone as interim or as soon as possible. Dr. Martin made an impressive impact within the SSD and he will be greatly missed. Please don't hesitate to contact us thru info@lad1908.org. SOON we will have workshops coming up and hope you all can attend!

5. Vice President's Report

- 5.1. **Vice President** reports Louisiana Roots. We need to continue to build our roots and advocate for the community. Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. Helen Keller. BYLAWS- we've made 2 changes during the LAD Conference and those will be shared soon. Diabetes workshop is coming soon, we are still finalizing details. As always we accept donations to continue our advocacy efforts and activities within the deaf community.

6. Interim Secretary's Report

- 6.1. **Secretary** reports during the LAD Conference there were several new Memberships and renewals. I have mailed out their letters and cards already. All meeting minutes have been uploaded to LAD's website. Secretary wishes to extend her appreciation and thanks to those that chose to recognize her as a "Rising Star". I am grateful for being involved with several amazing organizations, and am grateful for the support from my family and friends.

7. Treasurer's Report

As of today 07/19/2025

Operating fund: \$47,112.67

Savings Account: \$16,516.27

Youth Fund: \$5,615.11

H.J. Soland Jr. Scholarship Fund: \$2,023.61

Apparel Fund: \$1,082.02

Book Drive: \$1,706.38

Toy Drive: \$2,204.69

Emergency Disaster Fund: \$2,471.93

Professional Development Fund: \$1,403.02

Interest Gains: \$9.37

Investments: \$327,493.30

TOTAL: \$391,122.24

Treasurer ABSENT

8. Member at Large's Report

- 8.1. **Katrina Williams** reports NOBDA just completed a fundraiser to raise funds for their Mardi Gras Ball for January 31, 2025. Senior Citizen August 21, 2025 we are looking forward to that day!

- 8.2. Megan Montet** reports This is my 2nd Quarterly meeting! Cheers! Many thanks to Shreveport DAC for opening their arms and welcoming me there. I have many ideas and the current project I'm working on is DEAF CAN! This is a workshop I hope to have up and running to invite the Deaf community to attend and learn several things about others within the Deaf community. Any feedback, ideas, or would like to be involved in these projects, I'm all ears!
- 8.3. Rosalyn Watson** reports my art project is on hold. I promise to have that update as soon as possible.

9. Executive Director's Report

9.1 Executive Director reports that I am happy to be back! I had a recent health scare and am happy to be ALIVE! We had a wonderful Interpreters' Appreciation Soiree on May 7th. Former State Rep. Patricia Haynes Smith was also in attendance and she reminisced about her days in the Legislature with the Interpreters. On May 16th LSD Graduation, we presented the graduates with a free LAD membership and scholarships. May 17th I attended a workshop on Testing with RID and BEI. Throughout June there were no major updates except our LAD Conference at the end of that month. During the Conference we had a stellar performance by Peter Cook and high-quality speakers lined up. Marvin Miller as usual WOWed us with his presentation with his insights into Deafhood. July 13th I attended LAAD's emergency board meeting. And presented an idea for LAD to take over the building to relieve their expenses. LAAD will continue to use the building for their purposes. This will also expand LAD's assets on paper as well. I am also happy to announce that LAD has a new partnership contract with Disability Access Solutions. President Crosby and I have selected Brandy Bordelon for this role as she has already invested 3 years of her time with this purpose. Brandy says she is thrilled to join Deaf Focus providing awareness for the Deaf community. Lastly, I am thrilled to announce that we will be hosting Dr. Thomas K Holcomb for a 10-contact-hour Interpreters' Workshop on Oct 3-4, 2025. Dr. Holcomb is well known for his Books on Deaf Culture and will have much to offer in this upcoming workshop. To also repeat yes we will be attending a Board Retreat with Chris Haulmark on Sept 26-28. I'm sorry I must add I have many thanks and gratitude to Seth Gore and Shannah Arcenau for keeping Deaf Focus afloat during my absence.

10. Committee's Report

- 10.1. **Auditing:** Will be sourcing a 3rd party company to do our auditing soon. (07/16/2025)
- 10.2. **Governance:** New bylaws will be updated soon (7/16/2025)
- 10.3. **Office Renovations:** No updates (07/19/2025)
- 10.4. **Finance:** We will have a meeting next week. (7/16/2025)
- 10.5. **Youth:** No update (7/19/2025)
- 10.6. **Senior Citizen:** Live your Life and forget your Age. Recently we had a meeting and we found a presenter with expertise in Medicare/Medicaid for the Senior Citizen Event on August 21st. (07/19/2025)
- 10.7. **Investments:** We just met with our investor and we have finally seen and improvement (7/16/2025)
- 10.8. **Community Spotlight:** Chairperson is still waiting for the final edits of the interview with the recent candidate to be completed for release. The committee will have a meeting in September. (7/19/2025)
- 10.9. **2025 Biennial Conference:** Conference was a success with nearly 105 attending the Banquet. We had the Fmr. Gov John Bel Edwards in attendance, accepting an award, along with other beautiful people. Jay should have the conference report finalized by this Saturday's Quarterly Board Meeting. (7/16/2025)
- 10.10. **Annual Book Drive:** We have released our new Book Drive flyer! Will do research on costs for Kindles. (7/19/2025)
- 10.11. **Annual Holiday Cards:** Rosalyn will take over and find students in October 2025, she will also reach out with LSD Outreach Dept. (07/16/2025)
- 10.12. **Annual Christmas Toy Drive:** Will start collecting items in October. (7/19/2025)

11. Old Business

11.1 ED Life Insurance

Executive Director reports that he met with a Financial Advisor, Lesley Harleaux, from Elite Financial Group and discussed the options. Deferred to the next meeting. (07/16/2025)

11.2 Property for Group Home

Deferred to the next meeting. (07/16/2025)

11.3 LSD Athletic Donation

Deferred to the next meeting. (07/16/2025)

12. New Business

11.1 LSD Mini Museum: Jerrod Wingate (Megan Montet) moves to donate \$434.82 to LSD's Mini Museum. **The motion is PASSED.**

11.2 Board Retreat: Jerrod Wingate (Rosalyn Watson) moves to have a \$5,000 budget for the Board Retreat in September 2025. **The motion is PASSED.**

13. Announcements

Brandy Bordelon- Aug 2nd on Saturday first Disability Emergency Training.

Cammy Gaspar- LSD Homecoming Oct 4th, LSDAA will host an event afterwards.

LA Deaf Fest June 13, 2026 in Mandeville.

Katrina Williams- NOBDA MG Ball 01/31/2026 in Harahan

Jerrod Wingate- LAAD will have officer elections in September.

Meeting is adjourned at 11:30am

The next meeting will be on August 6, 2025 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cammy Gaspar

Interim Secretary