Board Meeting

Meeting Date: **September 17, 2025** **Location of Meeting:** **Zoom**

Officers Present: **Sherry Crosby, Jerrod Wingate, Cammy Gaspar, Ben Wimberly, Megan Montet, Rosalyn Watson, and Jay Isch**

Absent: **Katrina Williams (excused)**

Meeting called to the order: **6:32PM**

MINUTES

1. Approval of Agenda

1.1. Cammy Gaspar (Megan Montet) moves to accept. **The motion is PASSED**

2. Reading & Approval of Minute(s)

2.1. **08/27/2025 Board Meeting:** Jerrod Wingate (Rosalyn Watson) moves to approve the minutes without corrections. **The motion is PASSED.**

3. President's Report

3.1. **President Crosby** thank you Jerrod for volunteering with Lafayette Sheriff's office to provide ASL video for the Miranda rights. Congrats on your LD2 graduation Jerrod. Thank you Katrina and Cammy for attending the New Orleans Mayoral Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities. Ben, thank you for meeting with the lawyer about the finance issues. Need to make some amendments to our Executive Director's contract in regard to time off. I want to develop a process for requesting time off with documentation. Mileage documentation has become confusing for the bookkeeper. We need to make changes to how we document mileage for easier understanding for the bookkeeper. Need to develop a policy for the Executive Director's expenses. Board retreat is coming up soon! Deaf Awareness Month I want the board to make a video for Deaf Awareness month. LCD looking for people to join their Interpreting Advisory committee.

4. Vice President's Report

4.1. **Vice President Wingate** I am appreciative of the opportunity with LD2 to improve my leadership skills. I enjoyed filming the Miranda Rights video in ASL. I hope they will provide better access for the Deaf community. It was great to walk around the capital and Senate floor. I have the menu ready for the Board Retreat, breakfasts, lunch, and dinners. LAAD will have their elections and I plan to run for the President role.

5. Secretary's Report

5.1. **Secretary Gaspar** wants to first and foremost apologize to the board for the careless mistake made when she sent the recent Special Members Meeting via email. She has written down the notes on the process to ensure the mistake is not made again. Thank you for being understanding and patient as she continues to learn the MANY steps and duties of being Secretary for this organization. Today Katrina and I attended the New Orleans Mayoral's Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities (MAC) . We discussed various topics and emphasized the importance of access to language at an early age, Deaf Senior Citizens in group homes, and various accessibility barriers we face on a daily basis. There was good feedback and questions asked and answered and Katrina taught 3 signs to the Council- good morning, thank you, & friend. We hope to be included on more advisory boards in the future!

6. Treasurer's Report

As of today 09/17/2025

Operating fund: $68,631.05

Savings Account: $16,516.55

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:

Investments: $241,735.40

TOTAL: $326,883.00 (-$7,298.37 since 08/27/2025)

6.1. **Treasurer Wimberly** reports the following:

6.2. **Statement of Activity (July–August 2025)**

6.2.1. Deaf Focus earned $95,516.94, consisting of interpreting ($21,121.74), consulting ($5,389.26), and investments ($19,886.38). Donations totaled $821.16, with $44,882.40 still uncategorized (sale of stocks). Expenses totals $125,728.91, led by 50,959.75 in investment fees and $39,018.07 in program costs. Operational support added $34,163.61. Net loss for the period was $30,143.87. July saw a deficit due to investment fees; August showed stronger service income. Income categorization and investment timing may need review due to calendar year versus fiscal year accounting methods.

6.3. **Balance Sheet (as of August 31, 2025)**

6.3.1. Total assets were $511,208.65, with $387,457.04 in current assets (bank funds and Merrill Lynch). Fixed assets totals $23,751.61, and there's a $100,000 long-term investment in Deaf Focus. Liabilities were minimal at $3,344.89. Equity stood at $507,863.76, reflecting a $41,607.70 net loss. Financial position remains stable, but the recent loss warrants attention and may be changed upon determination of accounting method (calendar vs fiscal).

6.4. **Profit & Loss (July–August 2025)**

6.4.1. Income matched the Statement of Activity at $95,516.94. Expenses totaled $125,728.91, with investment fees and program costs as key drivers. Net loss was $30,143.87.

6.5. **Conclusion:**

6.5.1. With support from the Finance Committee, I believe the proposed shift from a calendar year to a fiscal year accounting method will better align expense timing with our approved FY2026 budget, correcting current discrepancies.

6.5.2. After consulting with the Finance Committee, legal counsel, and our CPA, we've agreed that hiring an external auditor would be costly and offer no meaningful benefit to the organization.

7. Member at Large's Report

7.1. Member-At-Large Willliams Absent

7.2. Member-At-Large Montet None

7.3. Member-At-Large Watson None

8. Executive's Report

9.1 Executive Director Isch reports that business is steady. He has ordered new pamphlets, which were LONG OVERDUE, in preparation for the Deaf Resources Fair in Shreveport on September 24th, as well as a reorder of business cards for myself and for Brandy Bordelon. 2021 was the last time they were ordered. Sept 30th he plans to attend Shreveport's Deaf Community meeting. Oct 3-4 Workshop with Thomas Holcomb, and on Oct 23rd for the "Many Cultures, One Community" Festival in BR.

9. Committee's Reports

10.1 Auditing: Treasurer is waiting for outside auditing agencies to respond to LAD's Request. **(08/27/2025)**

10.2 Governance: Bylaws are currently being uploaded to fit the software of the website. **(8/27/2025)**

10.3 Finance: Will meet on September 3rd having some issues with the categorization of some of the entries in QB and will meet with the bookkeeping team on September 9th **(8/27/2025)**

10.4 Senior Citizen: Refer to 7.1 **(08/27/2025)**

10.5 Youth: No update **(7/19/2025)**

10.6 Investments: Refer to Treasurer's report **(8/27/2025)**

10.7 Community Spotlight: Chair is awaiting committee's response to set a meeting date in September or October **(08/27/2025)**

10.8 2027 Biennial Conference: Start discussing location for 2027 Conference. **(8/6/2025)**

10.9 Annual Christmas Toy Drive: Will start collecting items in October. **(7/19/2025)**

10.10 Holiday Cards: Rosalyn will take over and find students in October 2025, she will also reach out with LSD Outreach Dept. **(07/16/2025)**

10.11 Annual Book Drive: We have released our new Book Drive flyer! **(8/27/2025)**

10. Old Business

10.1. Property for Group Home: Deferred to the next meeting. **(9/17/2025)**

11. New Business

11.1. Mileage Reimbursement
Jerrod Wingate (Cammy Gaspar) Millage Reimbursement for travel to Shreveport.
The motion is PASSED.

11.2. Board Approval for new computer/monitor purchase and the transfer of the existing hardware to the residence for continued use from home.
Cammy Gaspar (Ben Wimberly) moves to approve.
The motion is PASSED.

11.3. 08/15/2025 Special Meeting Minutes
Cammy Gaspar (Ben Wimberly) moves to ratify the previous written consent via text.
The motion is PASSED.

11.4. Board approval for revisions to the June 4th Board Meeting Minutes
Cammy Gasper (Sherry Crosby) moves to approve.
The motion is PASSED

11.5. Board approval for change of Fiscal Year to align with the state
Jerrod Wingate (Cammy Gaspar) moves to ratify the change.
The motion is PASSED.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:19PM
The next meeting will be on October 8, 2025 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cammy Gaspar
Interim Secretary