Board Meeting

Meeting Date: **November 5, 2025** **Location of Meeting:** **Zoom**
Officers Present: **Sherry Crosby, Jerrod Wingate, Cammy Gaspar, Ben Wimberly, Megan Montet, Jay Isch**
Absent: **Katrina Williams (excused), Rosalyn Watson (excused)**
Meeting called to the order: **6:32PM**

MINUTES

1. Reading & Approval of Minute(s)

1.1. **10/18/2025 Quarterly Meeting:** deferred to next meeting

2. President's Report

2.1. **President Crosby** I'm chair for LCD Interpreter advisory adhoc we will meet every few weeks interpreter standards will start in July 2026. Working on the policy for the Executive Director. Nov 12th SSD will have their board meeting.

3. Vice President's Report

3.1. **Vice President Wingate** 10th year LDBR- Louisiana DeafBlind Retreat- volunteered there. Met many from different states Oklahoma and Arkansas.

4. Secretary's Report

4.1. **Secretary Gaspar** 1 new Associate member. Due to the recent approval of 2 meeting minutes on 10/18/2025, I have uploaded those minutes to the website. Thank you to the LAD board for giving me the opportunity to attend DEAF COLLAB: 2025 Austin. I met fellow leaders from Iowa, Montana, Tenn, NC, TX and many more. I am looking forward to attending NAD Conference in San Francisco in July.

5. Treasurer's Report

As of today [11/02/2025]

Operating fund: $40,399.14

Savings Account: $16,516.83

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: $9.79

Investments: $262,403.10

TOTAL: $319,319.07 (-$7,563.93 since 09/17/2025)

5.1. Treasurer Wimberly reports.

5.1.1. Profit/Loss:

5.1.1.1. For the month of October 2025, Deaf Focus reported total income of $32,677.93. Major income sources was interpreting services ($22,640), consulting services ($6,809.84), and donations ($2,744.77). Total expenses amounted to $41,612.68, with costs in payroll ($12,109.75), workshop expenses ($5,793.33), interpreting services ($4,468.33), and mileage reimbursement ($3,355.38). The organization closed the month with a net loss of $9,062.13.

5.1.2. Statement of Activity by Month

5.1.2.1. From July through October 2025, Deaf Focus reported total income of $121,124.72 which was primarily sourced by program fee revenue ($90,122.45). Investment activity contributed $27,181.34, while donations added $3,820.93. Total expenses reached $151,553.18, with major costs in program functions ($73,423.97) and operations ($72,576.85). The organization posted a net loss of $80,179.79 for the period.

5.1.3. Balance Sheet

5.1.3.1. As of October 31, 2025, Deaf Focus reported total assets of $462,593.48. Liabilities were minimal at $3,115.64, including accounts payable and payroll liabilities. Equity stood at $459,477.84.

5.1.4. Investment

5.1.4.1. As of October 31, 2025, Deaf Focus's Merrill Lynch investment account held a net value of $262,403.10, up $14,824.20 from the previous month. This growth was driven by NVIDIA, Microsoft, and Amazon. The account earned $4.50 in dividends during October and incurred $23.80 in advisory fees. The account remains pledged as collateral for a loan and is fully allocated to equities.

5.1.5. Things to Note

5.1.5.1. CPA has communicated the following:

- This is a change in accounting year, not a change in accounting method. Instead, Form 1128 will be filed with a short-year tax return, and it is typically accepted automatically.
- The organization must provide a reasonable explanation for the change, which will be included in the filing.
- The filing timeline will be:
  - May 15, 2026: File the full calendar year 2025 Form 990 (covering 1/1/2025–12/31/2025).
  - June 30, 2026: File a short-year return (covering 1/1/2026–6/30/2026) along with Form 1128 to officially change the fiscal year end to June 30.
  - Next return: Will cover the full fiscal year from 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027.
  - Cost: This change will result in an additional $1,400 in filing fees over the next year.
  - To proceed, the accountant needs:
    1) Board approval of the change and acknowledgment of the $1,400 cost.

2) A copy of the board meeting minutes authorizing the change, which must include:
   The new fiscal year end: June 30
   The reason for the change
   The effective date of the short year: June 30, 2026

- Regarding conference expenses from June 2025: Need to verify actual dates of invoices and receipts. Confer with the bookkeeper to see if those can be moved to June 2025 rather than July 2025. Remember that we are still in the calendar year until FY27.

6. Member at Large's Report

6.1. Member-At-Large Willliams ABSENT

6.2. Member-At-Large Montet NONE

6.3. Member-At-Large Watson ABSENT

7. Executive's Report

7.1. Executive Director Isch reports that the last month has been the CRAZIEST BUSIEST month so far in 2025 in terms of advocating on behalf of LAD and representing LAD's interests. I've logged nearly 5,000 miles since late September to multiple meetings, workshops, and a variety of community events including a series of unexpected business-related situations. In addition, there were a total of three events in Northern LA including promoting deaf employment with the local politicians at the Buc-ee's ground-breaking ceremony in Ruston where the Governor was also present. I had the pleasure of meeting Arch Aplin III, the CEO of Buc-ee's. In terms of expenses, it will show that it is up this month due to the fact I bought some items online for LAD's current needs and for in the future. I should note that every single item I purchased for LAD were on sale, such as; multiple lights, and two ceiling fans for the office (to replace both of the old and mismatched fans), portable black backdrop for staging as we do not have one, two mouses, security cameras, a video doorbell, along with two canopy tents with walls/"windows" (10x10 and 10x20) for outdoor events, replacing a few of computer chairs, an electronic adjustable standing desk, and miscellaneous supplies. I've decided to wait on purchasing the computer until the holidays (Black Friday/Cyber Week) when we can get them at a lower cost.
I'd like to revamp the President's office for business use. (added to new business)
Furthermore, I should inform the Board that despite the fact that we got the meeting room at the Library at no cost, the 2nd Special Meeting regarding N.B.'s suspension on October 11th collectively cost LAD just over $2,000.00 for all related expenses.
Additionally, I'd like to share an update with the Board that I have not heard back from LDH/BFH/LCD in regards to our grievance letter about the situation with the RFP for the SSP Program.
However, I am pleased to report that we have drafted a total of THREE proposals to respond to all of LCD's 3 RFI's for the 1. Regional Support Center (RSC), 2. Communication Access Services, and 3. The position of the Statewide Interpreter Mentoring Program Coordinator. They were submitted to LCD on Friday, October 31st while I was in Austin for the Deaf Collab.

Cammy and I went to Austin for “Deaf Collab 2025 Austin”, a title replacing the NLTC event previously scheduled and canceled with extremely short notice by NAD. The NAD Board still came and held their meetings where we learned that Lisa Rose, the President of NAD Board resigned, and this led to a historic event where the Vice President, Stephanie Hakulin, a Black Deaf Woman from Massachusetts, became NAD’s first-ever Black President, and witnessing this event was inspiring. Overall, the Deaf Collab event put together in the last minute was great, authentic and organic. There were a couple of presenters whose presentations I’ve watched in the past, but all in all, the speakers were great; they brought good information, shared insights and encouraged dialogue among the attendees to discuss. The community did a great job coming together and making this happen for everyone. I should recognize Kelby Brick from Maryland who led these efforts. Lastly, I am attending the LRID Conference this weekend, a LAD-sponsored conference, with Jerrod Wingate and our logistics coordinator, Seth Gore.

8. Committee’s Reports

8.1 Auditing: External auditor based on the advice to have an audit every year it will be extremely costly. We already have bookkeeper and CPA overseeing our finances. **(10/18/2025)**

8.2 Governance: waiting for access to website, to upload the current Bylaws **(10/18/2025)**

8.3 Finance: See Treasurer’s report **(11/05/2025)**

8.4 Senior Citizen: This event was a success. Looking forward to doing it again on August 21, 2026 see you there next year! **(10/18/2025)**

8.5 Youth: No update **(10/18/2025)**

8.6 Investments: See Treasurer’s report **(11/05/2025)**

8.7 Community Spotlight: Dan’s interview has been posted on social media. The committee has selected the next candidate and Cammy will be in touch with them soon. The interview will probably take place after the holidays. **(11/05/2025)**

8.8 2027 Biennial Conference: Looking for people to join the committee to help us host the conference. July 29-31, 2027 **(10/18/2025)**

8.9 Annual Christmas Toy Drive: Now is a good time to start donating toys until Dec 15th, not only for LSD students for all Deaf, DB, HoH students statewide. **(10/18/2025)**

8.10 Holiday Cards: Developing a Christmas Card Contest flyer, which will be featured on the LAD website and shared with all Deaf students statewide in Louisiana, including those at LSD. **(10/18/2025)**

8.11 Annual Book Drive: this has been postponed to the summer before school starts **(10/18/2025)**

9. Unfinished Business

9.1. NONE

10. New Business

10.1. Board approval for Finance Committee recommendations on the following actions;

10.1.1. Changing the accounting year, from Calendar Year (Jan-Dec) to Fiscal Year (July-June), to align with the State Fiscal Year for operational purposes. This whole process will set LAD back $1,400.00
Jerrod Wingate (Cammy Gaspar) moves to approve this action.
The motion is PASSED.

10.1.2. Transferring funds from Savings accounts to ETFs to generate dividend revenue.
Jerrod Wingate (Ben Wimberly) moves to approve this action.
The motion is PASSED

10.2. Ratification of $250 LAD Donation to Deaf Collab 2025 Austin
Jerrod Wingate (Cammy Gaspar) moves to approve the donation.
The motion is PASSED

10.3. Ratify Per Diem for Jerrod Wingate for LRID Conference
Cammy Gaspar (Ben Wimberly) moves to approve this action.
The motion is PASSED

10.4. Amendment to Budget
Ben Wimberly (Cammy Gaspar) moves to transfer $1,700 from **Speakers' Fund** to the **Building Maintenance Fund** because we have an existing fund for workshops which covers speakers.
The motion is PASSED

10.5. President's office repurposed for business operations
Cammy Gaspar (Jerrod Wingate) moves to renovate the President's office with a $1,000 budget.
The motion is PASSED

The meeting is adjourned at 8:41PM.
The next board meeting will be on November 19, 2025 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cammy Gaspar
Secretary