

**Maryland Association of the Deaf
Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 19, 2024
Zoom**

Present: Tina Joyner (President), Jacob Leffler (Vice President), Allysa Dittmar (Treasurer), Tiasha Bera (Secretary) Vikki Porter (Board Member at Large), Thelma Schroeder (Senior Citizens)

Absent: Blaise Delahoussaye (Board Member at Large representing Deaf Blind) & Tori Reeves (Youth)

President Tina Joyner called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

Previous Minutes

Tiasha Bera moved that MDAD approves the minutes from March 27, 2024 as read.

Alyssa Dittmar Seconded

CARRIED

President's Report

President Tina Joyner reported that she continues to meet people on various topics, and is currently working on planning things related to the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) conference. She and Delegates will do an e-blast email to update the community about the NAD conference regarding candidates for the NAD Board and priorities

President Joyner shared that Jennifer Ajifowoke resigned from the board as the Appointed Board Member.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Jacob Leffler reported that the Maryland Legislative Session started on January 10th and concluded on April 8th. Vice President Leffler was pleased to inform the Open Captioning Bill has successfully passed. The Workgroup for the Commission on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing also was passed. Vice President Leffler also sent an email for people to express interests to serve as volunteers for MDAD.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Tiasha Bera had nothing to report for the time being.

Treasurer's Report

Allysa reported MDAD's financial snapshot as of April 30, 2024 is:

Cash and Bank Accounts : \$57,267.13

Investment Accounts: \$104,820.00

Total: \$162,087.13

Board Members' Report

Appointed Board Member (Senior Citizens) Thelma Schroeder's report

Met with the NAD's Senior Task Force group on April 18th to discuss various issues related to aging.

Met with Tiffany Wilson representing Wilson Inclusive Solutions (WINS), an independent agency hired by the Maryland State Department of Aging, along with Usherla DeBerry, Director of the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GODHH), and David Bahar, Director of Telecommunications Access of Maryland (TAM), on May 7th. Currently, the Senior Call Check Program is not accessible for people who rely on Video Relay Service (VRS) due to third-party limitations, and text messaging is also unavailable. We discussed strategies for encouraging the deaf, deafblind, and hard-of-hearing communities to participate in a survey to demonstrate to the Department of Aging the need for accessibility in the Senior Call Check Program.

Committee Report:

Finance Committee:

Looking for two more volunteers, so they can get more support. Allysa mentioned she would like to look into a savings account that will allow to create more growth in the assets.

Legislative Committee

Jacob Leffler and Tina Joyner as Board Liaisons reported that the Open Captioning bill was passed, however there is a strong desire to amend the bill in other areas such as the Eastern Shore. The Bill is effective on October 1, 2024.

Workgroup for the Commission for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Bill was passed and the bill is effective on July 1, 2024.

Co-Navigation Bill died due to the state funding. The Committee plans to have a meeting to discuss the next steps.

Mental Health

Jacob Leffler as the Board Liaison reported that the Committee is working on a bill that will allow all trained professionals be able to deal with Deaf/Deafblind patients with appropriate resources.

Scholarship Committee

Board Liaisons Thelma Schoreder and Blaise Delahoussaye have been working together regarding the scholarship criteria.

Met with Blaise on May 30th to discuss the criteria for the Marie Campbell Scholarship Fund. We noted that the information on the MDAD website requires updating, and the scholarship application form needs refinement. Special thanks to Vikki Porter and Tiasha Bera for drafting the scholarship documents. Blaise and I agreed to meet with Vice President Jacob after the summer.

Bylaws Committee

Board Liaison Thelma Schroeder received a copy of the bylaws and the committee plans to meet to discuss and review the current bylaws.

Language Deprivation

Tina Joyner, Jacob Leffler, and Tiasha Bera attended the Maryland Early Hearing Detection and Intervention happy hour, and had a great discussion about current events related to early intervention. MDAD would like to thank Tommy Horjeres for his work and plan this amazing event.

Deaf Culture Digital Library Committee

Tiasha Bera, MDAD Representative, said there would be a meeting on June 21, 2024 and would get some updates on how DCDL is doing. She suggested for the community to look at their new website and if they had any feedback, to contact Tiasha so the DCDL staff can look into it and make necessary modifications.

New Business:

Jacob Leffler moved that MDAD to pay up to \$1000 dollars for Jacob Salem NAD's State Legislation Manager to provide a legislative workshop in the fall.

Seconded by Thelma Schroeder

CARRIED

Jacob Leffler moved that MDAD selects Ritchie Bryant to represent MDAD on the State Board on Sign Language Interpreters.

Seconded by Thelma Schroeder

CARRIED

President Tina Joyner adjourned the meeting at 7:54 P.M

Respectfully Submitted by

Tiasha Bera

Secretary