

Maryland Association of the Deaf
Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Zoom

Present: Tina Joyner (President), Jacob Leffler (Vice President), Allysa Dittmar (Treasurer), Vikki Porter (Board Member at Large), Blaise Delahoussaye (DeafBlind), and Thelma Schroeder (Senior Citizens)

Absent: Tiasha Bera (Secretary), Tori Reeves (Youth) and Jennifer Ajifowoke (General)

President Tina Joyner called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M

Previous Minutes

Jacob Leffler moved that MDAD approves the minutes from September 18, 2023, as read.
Seconded by Vikki Porter
CARRIED

Thelma Schroeder moved that MDAD approves the minutes from January 31, 2024, as read.
Seconded by Blaise Delahoussaye
CARRIED

President's Report

President Tina Joyner reported that she met with several people and received a lot of calls on various topics. President Joyner worked with Vice President Jacob Leffler on the legislative bills and attended to several hearings in Annapolis.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Jacob Leffler reported that he needs some board members to serve as the liaison for the committees. If the Board is interested in something, they can contact Vice President Leffler. He will seek from each Board Liaison if they need volunteers. Vice President Leffler worked with President Tina Joyner on the legislative bills and met with several legislators on various topics.

Secretary's Report

No Report.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Allysa Dittmar reported that Bobby Harris resigned from the position on the Finance Committee, so she is seeking for one more person volunteering to serve Bobby's term. Treasurer Dittmar also has been preparing forms for the Tax Returns.

As of February 29, 2024

Bank Account: \$52,945.57

Investment Accounts: \$106,938.27

Total Balance: \$159,892.84

Board Members' Report

Board Member at Large Vikki Porter reported that she really had nothing to report other than she has been supporting the Open Captioning Bill committee.

Appointed Board Member (Senior Citizens) Thelma Schroeder met with the Taskforce of Aging with the National Association of the Deaf and Deaf Seniors of America.

Appointed Board Member (DeafBlind) Blaise Delahoussaye reported that the Co-Navigation Bill Hearing went well and had a great turnaround with people showing up and supporting the bill. The Metro Washington Association of the DeafBlind is having their 40th anniversary in May 2024 and will share more information when they are available.

Committee Report:

Finance Committee – No Report

Hospital Committee – Board Liaison Tiasha Bera reported that she met with the John Hopkins Hospitals 3 weeks ago and discussed about the accessibility issues and they are tracking on the Maryland Sign Language Interpreters Licensure. She also plans to reach out to the Maryland Hospital Association to meet with more hospital representatives.

Legislative Committee – Board Liaisons Tina Joyner and Jacob Leffler reported that the cross-over week is over and we got two bills that went over to another side of the chamber. MDAD also has been sending several written testimonies on various bills.

- Open Captioning Movies Bill was passed with the amendment. It should go to the Governor for his signature.
- Commission on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing bill has been amended the whole thing into the workgroup. MDAD supports the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and they have been doing a great job however there are some gaps in the community and the legislature wants more information and data so, the workgroup will be studying that. The report is due to the legislature in June 2025.

- Co-Navigation Services for DeafBind bill has been dead due to the financial situation that the State has. The committee will look into it more.

MDAD Seats

EHDI - MDAD Representative Tommy Horejes thanked the Board for their support to send him to the EHDI Conference in Denver, Colorado. He wants to invite some people to MDAD events to learn more about MDAD. He plans to have a social hour after the Maryland EHDI Conference in May. President Joyner thanked Tommy for bringing information about the EHDI conference.

Social Work Licensure – MDAD Representative Judy Mouny explained to the Board what the workgroup has been working on and is working on the State Report that is due.

State Board Sign Language Interpreters – President Joyner reported that MDAD Representative Shane Feldman resigned from the Board so, MDAD needs to find a replacement. There is a Board Meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2024, and if they have any questions, email the Governor’s Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Board plans to have a town hall on April 10, 2024, at the Maryland School for the Deaf Columbia Campus. President Joyner encourages the Board to attend.

New Business:

Jacob Leffler moved that MDAD pays \$50 to the ASL Festival for a booth on May 11, 2024, and to have a 50/50 raffle.

Seconded by Thelma Schroeder
CARRIED

Thelma Schroeder moved that MDAD pays the expenses for the polo shirt.

Seconded by Vikki Porter
CARRIED

Thelma Schroeder moved to open discussion for the symposium event

Seconded by Vikki Porter

Allysa Dittmar moved that MDAD pays up to \$7,000 for the National Association of the Deaf Conference in July 2024 for four delegates.

Seconded by Blaise Delahoussaye
CARRIED

Jacob Leffler moved that MDAD participates in fundraiser at the Baltimore Ravens and Baltimore Orioles games.

Seconded by Allysa Dittmar
CARRIED

Vikki Porter moved that MDAD pays \$250 to Leilani Silba-Ewan to attend the Youth Leadership Camp and that she gives back the report to the Board.

Seconded by Blaise Delahoussaye.

Allysa Dittmar amended to insert to provide a booth to sell baked goods during the symposium.

Seconded by Vikki Porter

CARRIED

The motion: MDAD pays \$250 to Leilani Silba-Ewan to attend the Youth Leadership Camp and that she gives back the report to the Board and to provide a booth to sell baked goods during the symposium.

Thelma Schroeder moved to table the motion.

Seconded by Vikki Porter

CARRIED

President Tina Joyner adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Jacob Leffler

Vice President