

**Maryland Association of the Deaf
Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 31, 2024
Zoom**

Present: Tina Joyner (President), Jacob Leffler (Vice President), Allysa Dittmar (Treasurer), Tiasha Bera (Secretary) Vikki Porter (Board Member at Large), Jennifer Ajifowoke (General), Blaise Delahoussaye (DeafBlind) Tori Reeves (Youth), Thelma Schroeder (Senior Citizens)

President Tina Joyner called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M

President's Report

President Tina Joyner reported that the LEAD-K bill will not be submitted this year because we need to work with the Maryland State Department of Education and Department of Health more on the language of the bill.

There will be a confidential and conflict of interest forms for the board members to sign, along with a conflict of interest form as well. There will be a legislative training (collaborated with NAD to arrange for Jacob Salem (State Legislative Affairs Manager)) on February 3rd 2024 at CCBC open to the public. She also mentioned there is a work in progress regarding establishing the commission for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing to focus on the community's needs and advocacy instead of going through the legislative process every time.

President Joyner announced that Toyin Fasakin, Board Member at Large resigned from the position and it is now vacant. If anybody knows someone who is interested in serving the remaining term to let her know.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Jacob Leffler reported that there was a recent Board retreat where they focused on discussing the board liaison and who will be serving on the committees, also their role when it comes to serving MDAD. The Maryland Legislative Session started on January 10th, and MDAD has been providing input and suggested languages on several bills. He also mentioned about the Co-Navigation Bill hearing, it took place on January 30, 2024. . Jacob then reported that there will be Open Captioning Bill hearing on February 6 and 9, 2024., The Baltimore City Association of the Deaf, Howard County Association of the Deaf, and Prince George's County Association of the Deaf, and Metro South Asian Deaf Association all are working together and push the Open Captioning Bill. MDAD is providing support.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Tiasha Bera reported that regarding the Hospital project, she is currently a liaison between the Deaf community and Johns Hopkins University Hospital, the next meeting will be taking place on February 21, 2024.

Treasurer's Report

Allysa reported that there is no current report, however she is exploring the possibility of using QuickBook.

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 Alfred "Sonny" Sonnenstrahl in January 2024 and he was waiting to hear from Secretary Carmel Roques of the Department of Aging for a meeting.

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.

Appointed Board Member (Youth) Tori Reeves will be volunteering her time for the Symposium.

Committee Report:

EHDI - MDAD Representative, Tommy Horejes - He reported that he serves on the Maryland Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Council Vice Chair. Currently there are only two Deaf members, the rest are hearing. Tommy also mentioned about the State EHDI Conference that will be held in May 2024. MDAD will provide a happy hour or social event after the conference.

New Business:

Jacob Leffler moved that MDAD approves the budget up to \$2000 for Tommy Horejes to attend the EHDI National Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Seconded by Tiasha Bera
CARRIED

Tiasha Bera moved that MDAD to pay up to \$800 dollars for Jacob Salem NAD's State Legislation manager to provide a workshop..

Seconded by Vikki Porter
CARRIED

Thelma Schroeder moved to open discussion for the symposium event.
Seconded by Vikki Porter

Open Discussion: Allysa Dittmar stated that she has canvassed around for a venue, and has discovered that most college campuses are very busy during April, so most places are not available.

Vikki mentioned that Silver Spring Downtown has some spaces but it is very small. However HASA may have a space? Tiasha brought up concerns about the parking space for HASA, Allysa stated that the space is very nice and spacious for parking.

Closed Discussion

Allysa Dittmar moved that MDAD pay for the symposium up to \$5000.

Seconded by Thelma Schroeder

CARRIED

Blaise Delahoussaye moved that MDAD change from one year membership to two years membership for board members serving next term (2025-2027).

Seconded by Thelma Schroeder

AYE-1 NAY-6

FAILED

President Tina Joyner adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Tiasha Bera

Secretary