

Maryland Association of the Deaf
2020 Symposium
Saturday, July 25, 2020
Zoom

President Richard Jeffries called to order at 11:50 a.m. and the quorum is met with 53 people.

President Jeffries went through the protocols and questions/answers are through the Q&A feature on the zoom.

President's Report

President Jeffries welcomes everyone to the Symposium and explained that it is a historical moment that MDAD is more accessible to have it virtually. We all are learning as we go along with the technology.

The National Association of the Deaf has its Council of Representative Session in October virtually. Delegates will be meeting through zoom and Members can watch the Session through YouTube. For more information, go to www.nad.org

President Jeffries would like to recognize several people:

- MDAD Board for their support.
- Past Presidents: Lee Smith, Charm Smith, Toyin Faskin, and Meredith DeSomma and Interim President Tina Joyner for their service to MDAD.
- Committee Members for making the Symposium to happen.
- MDAD Members for their support to MDAD.

President Jeffries reviewed the MDAD Mission with the Members and explained the purpose of the symposium.

President Richard Jeffries gave updates on the mandates from the 2019 State Biennial Conference.

Mandate #1 – Text-to-911

Sent a letter to the Governor and Governor's Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing an invitation to give a presentation but they cannot come. President Jeffries hopes to provide updates in the near future.

Mandate #2 – CDI Legislation

It is on hold as MDAD is working on the Sign Language Interpreter Licensure.

Mandate #3 – Sign Language Interpreter Licensure

The Working Group is working on the bill and will partner with organizations to have a successful bill and submit in January.

Mandate #4 – Taskforce for the online Video Accessibility

No Progress

Mandate #5 – Scholarship Programs

MDAD is still working on this mandate and hopes to establish a committee shortly.

Mandate #6 – End Language Deprivation in the State of Maryland

The Working Group is working on this and will update the community shortly.

Mandate #7 – New Traffic Signals

MDAD is experiencing the challenge on this and Frederick is trying to have a pilot to see if it works.

Mandate #8 – Send the Governor a letter regarding the Telecommunications Access of Maryland

It is completed and has a new director who is deaf, David Bahar.

Mandate #9 – Equal Numbers of Hearing and Deaf and Hard of Hearing workers in the Office of Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs in the Maryland Department of Health

The author requested to hold it so MDAD has deprioritized the mandate.

Finance Report

As of June 30, 2020

Bank Account: \$69,386.72

Equipment: \$1,582.00

Investment Accounts: \$73,838.51

Total Balance: \$144,807.23

MDAD is working on to have an audit and the Treasurer is leading on it. The Treasurer will update the audit at the biennial conference. There were some questions about the audit and who serves on the committee. Jeff Leach, Matt Lockhart, and Mark Summers are on the Audit Committee.

NAD Priority Proposals from MDAD Members

Proposed Priority 2020-01

AUTHOR: Mickey Morales

TITLE: NAD work with ICD10

PRIORITY: Sign language as one of the viable treatment plans at the time of identification

RATIONALE: Right now, sign language is not even one of the treatment plans for loss of communication because of hearing loss. Medical professions are not aware. They still think sign language is a novelty, something cute to learn. Since the last conference, NAD said it is not priority. Per 2017, 98% babies were screened for hearing loss, 6,500 babies were identified with a hearing loss. Supposed if the numbers are the same in the two years since the conference, 13,000 babies were identified with a hearing loss and sign language is not one of the treatment plans because NAD said it is not a priority.

Proposed Priority 2020-02

AUTHOR: Mickey Morales

TITLE: NAD Office Hours, Front Desk PRIORITY: Improve accessibility

RATIONALE: During business hours, NAD does not always answer the phone even though they have more than one VP numbers. Secondly, when the front office staff answers the phone, try to look happy, try to look like you want to be there. Directory of email contacts for all the involved NAD personnel.

Proposed Priority 2020-03

AUTHOR: Mary Lynn Lally

TITLE: Deaf Seniors

PRIORITY: I would like to see that DSA and continue their work with the Aging issues among the deaf and senior population.

RATIONALE: The population of Deaf seniors is booming and their accessible rights at assisted living facilities, nursing home, long term care services and so on continue to be denied.

Proposed Priority 2020-04

AUTHOR: Mary Lynn Lally

TITLE: Language deprivation for children 0-6

PRIORITY: Children are not being exposed to a good language models at home so they attend kindergarten not meeting language benchmarks that are at par with hearing children at kindergarten level.

RATIONALE: Deaf children continue to lag behind their hearing counterparts so they don't graduate meeting HS requirements and are unemployable.

Proposed Priority 2020-05

AUTHOR: Steven Gagnon

TITLE: Affiliate Representation on NAD Board

PRIORITY: NAD/COR establishes a dedicated affiliates representation on its board.

RATIONALE: There is no direct affiliate representation on the board. This is important as a part to build long-term relationship and bridge between the affiliates and the NAD. Having a dedicated representation on board for them will ensure that their concerns and voices will be heard on the board level. Also affiliates pay dues, they should have some voting privilege in the board level.

Proposed Priority 2020-06

AUTHOR: Richard Jeffries

TITLE: Serving with Distinction

PRIORITY: Individuals serving on NAD Board shall NOT serve on any other state association boards or affiliates.

RATIONALE: Those serving on NAD Board should be able to serve NAD Board with full focus and commitment to address national-level issues that affect all stakeholders that NAD serves.

Proposed Priority 2020-07

AUTHOR: Richard Jeffries

TITLE: Accountability Task Force

PRIORITY: NAD shall establish a seven-member Accountability Task Force (five members from regions/ affiliates and two members from the NAD Board), with each member appointed by the given regions/affiliates to define process and success and to develop a way of measuring the progress and completion of the NAD priorities.

RATIONALE: We need a consistent system where we are able to keep track of the progress of each NAD Priority. We also need to define success - does it mean merely contacting people or creating legislative action? The Accountability Task Force, along with the NAD Headquarter, should determine the timeline of completion of the Priorities.

Delegates for the National Association of the Deaf Council of Representatives Session

President Jeffries requests that MDAD Members in attendance support the full Board to represent MDAD as delegates at the Council of Representatives Session.

NO OBJECTION

President Jeffries thanked MDAD Members for joining the Symposium and appreciate the supports from the panelists. He also thanked the Symposium Committee for their hard work to make this happen.

Interpreters and Captioner was recognized and appreciated for their support.

President Richard Jeffries adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jacob Leffler
Secretary