

Maryland Association of the Deaf
Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 28, 2023
Zoom

Present: Kirsten Poston (President), Tina Joyner (Vice President), Jacob Leffler (Secretary), Vikki Porter (Board Member at Large), Toyin Fasakin (Board Member at Large), Tiasha Bera (General), Blaise Delahoussaye (DeafBlind), Angela Rogers (Youth), and Peter Un (Senior Citizens)

Absent: None

President Kirsten Poston called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Previous Minutes

Jacob Leffler moved that MDAD approves the minutes for January 28, 2023, as amended.
Seconded by Peter Un
CARRIED

President's Report

President Poston reported that she met with the LT Governor Miller's Office regarding the accessibility issues during the Governor's Press Briefings. She learned that the plan to advertise for the position of the Director for the Governor's Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be out soon. There is a plan to meet with LT Governor's Office monthly to discuss various topics.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Tina Joyner reported that the Life of Celebration for our former Treasurer, Marie Campbell was successful and was attended by around 125 people. Live Streaming is on the MDAD Facebook Page. She is working on the Mystery Dinner Fundraiser.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Jacob Leffler reported that he and Vice President Joyner drafted several written testimony on various bills during the Legislative Session. Secretary Leffler continues to work with the Media Team on the website/newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

No Report due to not having access to all accounts.

Board Member at Large's Report:

Board Member at Large Vikki Porter reported that she has been working with the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on joint townhalls across the State. Next one is in the Western Maryland. They are figuring out where is the best location in the Southern Maryland for the town hall.

Board Member at Large Toyin Fasakin reported that he met with the LT Governor's Office and discussed the traffic lights and plans to work with the Maryland Department of Transportation on this issue.

Appointed Board Member's Report

Appointed Board Member (General) Tiasha Bera reported that she has been working on the hospital project and will meet with the Frederick Health Hospital next month. She has contacted other hospitals in the State of Maryland. She wants to have a forum for audience to ask questions.

Appointed Board Member (Deafblind) Blaise Delahoussaye reported that he has been working with Vice President Joyner, Secretary Leffler, Eddie Martinez on the Co-Navigator Bill and how the bill would be a good bill and where in the State would operate the Co-Navigator Program.

Appointed Board Member (Youth) Angela Rogers reported that she has been working on the flyer for the recruitment for youth joining the organization and flyer on the Marie Campbell Youth Scholarship.

Committee Reports:

Conference – Board Liaison Tina Joyner reported that the Conference Committee released the Save the Date Flyer and it is on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at the Frederick Community College.

DCDL – The Advisory Board is working on getting large textbooks for the DeafBlind Community. They also are developing cheat sheet for library regarding interpreters.

EHDI – MDAD Representative Thomas Horejes explained to the Board about his experience at the EHDI Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio and thanked the Board for their support.

Legislative – Board Liaisons Tina Joyner and Jacob Leffler reported that there are around 20 bills that MDAD is tracking/monitoring. MDAD has asked for amendments on a few bills and provided the written testimony and in person testimony.

Media – Board Liaison Jacob Leffler reported that the Media Team continues to work on the newsletter and we hope to release the newsletter soon.

Mandates Updates:

Maryland Sign Language Interpreter Licensure – Board Liaison Jacob Leffler reported that the bill was passed in the Senate and House. It is currently in the Cross-Over and will be signed by the Governor in the near future.

Scholarship – Board Liaison Tina Joyner reported that the scholarship, Marie Ann Campbell Youth Scholarship was established and currently is working on the criteria.

End the Language Deprivation – Board Liaisons Tina Joyner and Jacob Leffler reported that LEAD-K Core Team now have two sub-groups: Legislative and Outreach. The team plan to introduce the bill in January 2024.

President Poston opened the floor to the audience to express their thoughts and opinions. Several Members and Non-Members were on the floor to discuss various topics such as the need of the Parent Engagement in the Education, and Baltimore’s Horsey and Waters Deaf Community Center.

New Business:

Tina Joyner moved that MDAD closes the PayPal account.

Seconded by Angela Rogers

CARRIED

Tiasha Bera moved that MDAD goes into recess.

Seconded by Peter Un

CARRIED

The Board went into recess at 9:31 p.m.

The Board resumed from the recess on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 7:36 p.m.

Jacob Leffler moved that MDAD moved that MDAD has a booth during the ASL Festival on Saturday, May 13, 2023.

Seconded by Angela Rogers

CARRIED

Vikki Porter moved that MDAD sends up to two people to the NAD Leadership Training Conference on September 21-23, 2023.

Seconded by Tiasha Bera

Vice President Tina Joyner adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Jacob Leffler

Secretary