MEETING MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Opening:

The regular board meeting of NCAD duly called and held on Saturday, September 26, 2020 via ZOOM (online streaming) at 9:02 AM.

Present were:

President – Craig Blevins
Vice President – Meredith De Naples
Treasurer – Martina Moore-Reid
Secretary – Jaime Marshall
Western Regional Representative – Dayamarali Espinosa
Central Regional Representative – Linda Nelson
Eastern Regional Representative – Mike Lupo
Social Media Coordinator – Theresa Moss

Guests:

Laura Herman, NCAD Conf. Chairperson

With the approval of the board members present, President Blevins acted as Chairman of the meeting and Secretary Jaime Marshall recorded the minutes.

Meeting Minutes from the last board meeting (8/29/20) was reviewed.

Motion by: Rep. L. Nelson

Seconded by: Rep. D. Espinsosa

No reports from the Officers. President Blevins begins the meeting by covering three items listed on the agenda right away, starting with NCAD Conference.

Laura Herman, NCAD 2021 Conference Chairperson, brings the board up to date regarding:

- Location: Meadowbrook Inn, Blowing Rock
- Scheduling: Thursday-Sunday, April 15-18, 2021
- Banquet space descriptions, up to 150 participants
- Room accommodation, expecting approximately 50 rooms reserved
- Food and beverage (cash only bar, bartender will be paid by the hour)
- Technology and equipment
- Accommodation services for Deaf-Blind (requests will be put in)
- RID-approved workshops for CEUs (pending)

The Board invites Laura Herman to return to the next meeting (October 31, 2020) for more details.

Rep. M. Lupo and Secretary Marshall discuss how NC Department of Public Instruction celebrates *Deaf Awareness Month* in September. This is the first time NC DPI is giving out awards, celebrating *Deaf Awareness Month*. The first award recipient was an audiologist who was publicly recognized via social media on September 15, 2020.

Immediately, several concerns were expressed: Are the people on the nominating committee all Deaf / Hard of Hearing? What's the criteria for Award Recipients? Why would an audiologist be nominated? How did this audiologist contribute to the Deaf Community? The Board felt that anything to do with speech and hearing should not be part of *Deaf Awareness Month* due to the oppressive history in our community.

President Blevins spoke to Antwan Campbell with NC DPI on September 15, 2020. His response was: "D/HH professionals nominated her". President Blevins pointed out: D/HH professionals are not Deaf or Hard of Hearing. They are hearing professionals serving deaf/hard of hearing clients."

September 16, 2020: NC DPI announces a second award recipient: a Deaf-Blind member.

September 21, 2020: NC DPI announces a third award recipient: a culturally Deaf member.

Secretary Marshall points out that there are two other months that would be appropriate: *Hearing Month* in October and Better Hearing and Speech Month in May to recognize audiologists. It is a cultural misappropriation for NC DPI to use *Deaf Awareness Month* in September as culturally Deaf people are to be recognized, not speech and hearing related professionals. Adding the other two last-minute award recipients was their way of "saving face".

Rep. M. Lupo adds that the purpose of *Deaf Awareness Month* is to celebrate our language and our heritage and not promoting speech and hearing. A concern is expressed: "They should not be the sole entity and authority of *Deaf Awareness Month* and that the Deaf Community should have been very much involved in the nomination process."

Secretary Marshall throws in an analogy with an apology in advance: "I sincerely do not want to offend anyone but to make my point here - that would be like white people nominating Hispanic people for Hispanic Awareness Month except that the nominees promote white people and white culture. It is just wrong on so many levels."

The Board decides that it would be best that President Blevins opens a dialogue with the NC DPI.

NCAD Board discusses Fundraising avenues:

1) Sponsorship for 2021 NCAD Conference (depending on the contributions that they make, organizations and agencies' logo will be promoted for two years on website and/or e-newsletters and/or during NCAD conference)
2) Each board member personalizes a theme basket for silent auction during conference
3) Customized masks and t-shirts with NCAD logo for sale during conference

NCAD Board recognizes a need to send out monthly (perhaps weekly) announcements on workshops, seminars and lectures that are provided in American Sign Language. Secretary Marshall and Social Media Coordinator, T. Moss, will begin a monthly announcement via constant contact website service which will be shared with NC DPI. It is the Board's hope that the NC DPI will forward our "announcements" to individuals on their listservs.

Approximately 90% of NC DPI's announcements (on workshops, seminars, and lectures state-wide) are geared toward the aural-oral approach. There is not enough resource provided for professionals who want to expand their teaching skills in American Sign Language and to develop a better understanding about Language Deprivation.

AGENDA TOPIC: 2021 NCAD Conference

Motion: We, the NCAD Board, approves the plan for 2021 NCAD Conference.

Motion By: Treasurer Moore-Reid

Seconded By: Vice President De Naples **Vote Count:** Majority

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Meeting Adjourned: 10:03 AM