

MEETING MINUTES NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Opening:

The regular board meeting of NCAD duly called and held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 via ZOOM (online streaming) at 9:02 AM.

Present were:

President – Mike Lupo	Western Regional Representative – James Ledford
Vice President – Sion (Sam) Moss	Central Regional Representative – Tina E. Hanford
Secretary – Jaime Marshall	Social Media Coordinator – Theresa Moss

Not Present were: Treasurer – Martina Moore-Reid
Eastern Regional Representative - Linda Nelson

AGENDA TOPIC: Language First Conference

President Lupo discusses details regarding the upcoming conference that NCAD is co-hosting with: Language First's the Freeing the Butterfly conference which will be held at Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington, November 6, 7 & 8 (Wednesday – Friday).

Conference Emcees are Representative Tina Hanford from Kernersville and Hope Turpin Turner from Asheville.

Keynote Speaker is Rachel Zemach, the author of The Butterfly Cage. The conference has scheduled 13 different speakers.

Conference Speakers:

- 1) Rachel Zemach, Freeing the Butterfly: The What, Why, Who, and How of the Matter
- 2) Dr. Wyatt Hall, Is Language Deprivation a Social Epidemic?
- 3) Dr. Kimberly Ofori-Sanzo, Language Instruction Techniques for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students
- 4) Morgan Lee, Impact of Language Deprivation and Educational Approaches
- 5) Erin Rhoden, IDEA: Impact of the Law in Our Generation
- 6) Jennifer Francisco, Books and Texts, Where Do I Start?
- 7) Dr. Rebecca Darden-Perry, Expanding Communication Horizons: Engaging Modes, Collaborative Strategies, and Social Skills Development
- 8) Dr. Jordan Wright, Chrysalis to Flight: FAPE, EIPA Scoring, and Empowering Deaf Children to Soar
- 9) Dr. Robert Nutt, Autism and Language Deprivation: Differential Identification
- 10) Dr. Razi Zarchy, Language Access and Education for Deaf Children: Where We've Been, Where We Are, and Where We're Going

- 11) Dr. David Geeslin, Bilingual Deaf Education's Impact on Academic Performance
- 12) Dr. Diane Clark & Tabitha Venable, Someone Save My Life: Fly Away
- 13) Rose Fichera-Lening, Alingualism

Conference Exhibitors:

- ◆ The Interpreter Network, Inc.
- ◆ Children of the Eyes
- ◆ BEGINNINGS for Parents of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- ◆ ASL at Home
- ◆ Language First
- ◆ North Carolina Association of the Deaf
- ◆ North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services: Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- ◆ Relay North Carolina

Conference Sponsors:

- ◆ North Carolina Association of the Deaf
- ◆ North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services: Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- ◆ Relay North Carolina
- ◆ Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind's REAL: Regional Early Acquisition of Language
- ◆ Clerc Center at Gallaudet
- ◆ Hands Up Communication
- ◆ NC American Sign Language Teachers Association
- ◆ Equalize Sensory Services
- ◆ The Interpreter Network, Inc.
- ◆ Children of the Eyes
- ◆ About Love and Language
- ◆ Clarity Language Access, LLC

AGENDA TOPIC: Sponsorship

(An emergency meeting was held via zoom on September 13, 2024. This information is being included in this meeting minutes for recording purpose).

We, the NCAD Board, approves a \$1,000 sponsorship towards the 2024 Language First conference in Wilmington.

Motion by: Vice-President Moss

Seconded by: Representative Nelson

Vote Count: All in favor

AGENDA TOPIC: 2025 NCAD Conference

Secretary Marshall discusses the benefits of merging conference organizations as it creates a unified voice and reduces competition. Social Coordinator Moss who also chairs the NCAD conference discusses which organization(s) we could merge with. President Lupo inquires whether the board should consider merging the conference with a non-deaf organization versus with another Deaf organization.

Secretary Marshall suggests that a Parliamentary Procedures Training is offered during the conference, giving the attendees an opportunity to earn CEUs.

AGENDA TOPIC: NC DSDHH

According to the director of NC DSDHH, President Lupo relayed some concerns expressed by the community that NC Association of the Deaf did not immediately promote emergency information about hurricanes via social media (Facebook and monthly e-newsletters). President Lupo explains to Jan Withers, the director of NC DSDHH, that half of the board including the social media coordinator and the secretary was seriously impacted by Hurricane Helene – having no power, no water and no internet for over a week. The board agrees that there should be better “storm resiliency and response” to prevent catastrophic losses.

President Lupo explains that Jan Withers, Director of NC DSDHH, has asked the NCAD board to promote the FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency logo via social media.

Secretary Marshall inquires whether NC DSDHH could create a text alert system: an automated text message system that sends out mass texts to all Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened consumers in affected areas. The purpose would be to deliver important emergency information.

In the past, the NC DSDHH director would attend our quarterly board meetings. When unable, a representative from NC DSDHH would attend in her place. Marshall Secretary inquires whether we could ask them to re-continue as maintaining an organizational relationship would improve collaboration and strengthen communication.

It was announced that the director of NC DSDHH, Jan Withers, will retire on February 1, 2025.

Announcements:

Upcoming NCAD Board Meeting
Saturday, February 1, 2025 (10 am – 1 pm)
Communication Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CSDHH)
1175 Revolution Mill Drive, Suite #15, Greensboro, NC

Meeting Adjourned: 10:43 AM