

MEETING MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF – NORTH CAROLINA AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Opening:

The **joint** board meeting of **NCAD and NCASLTA** was duly called to order at 9:34 a.m. on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at UNC Greensboro, 1400 Spring Garden Street, Greensboro, NC 27412.

Present were:

NCAD President – Mike Lupo of Wilmington
Vice President – Sion (Sam) Moss of Morganton
Secretary – Jaime Marshall of Granite Falls
Treasurer – Martina Moore-Reid of Fuquay-Varina
Western Regional Representative – Laura Herman of Marion
Central Regional Representative – Tina E. Hanford of Greensboro
Eastern Regional Representative – Karin Desalu of Fuquay-Varina
Social Media Coordinator – Theresa Moss of Morganton

NCASLTA Vice-President – Linda Nelson of Cary
Secretary – Shenna Wisnasky of Kernersville
Treasurer – Vicci Stremel of Fuquay-Varina
Communication Director – Gideon Friant of Wilmington
Professional Development Coordinator – Tina E. Hanford of Greensboro
Member-at-large – Daisy Wooten of Wilmington

Guest: Emily Leonard Duncan of Mooresville, Educational Interpreter

Not present:

NCASLTA President – Craig Blevins of Yadkinville

AGENDA TOPIC: 2026 NCAD-NCASLTA Conference

Board members of NCAD and NCASLTA identified ways both organizations can contribute to the conference's success by reviewing the recent conference held on **February 19–21, 2026, at UNC Greensboro**. Several suggestions were made.

Conference Chair Moss discussed the need for full support from both organizations in planning, coordinating, and executing the many aspects of the conference.

President Mike suggested appointing an emcee to handle announcements between sessions and manage speakers.

Secretary Marshall suggested implementing an online conference registration policy in which registrations are nonrefundable and nontransferable due to the challenges of providing interpreters on short notice and meeting each registrant's communication access needs.

Secretary Marshall also recommended using a bidding clock during the auction.

Treasurer Moore-Reid reviewed attendance figures from the past two conferences, noting that attendance increased by **50% from 2024 to 2026**. It is anticipated that the 2028 conference will attract approximately **300 attendees**.

Treasurer Moore-Reid also shared that **NC Black Deaf Advocates (NCBDA)** is interested in collaborating on the 2028 conference. Confirmation is expected before the next quarterly board meeting.

AGENDA TOPIC: 2028 NCAD – NCASLTA – NCBDA Conference

Conference Chair Moss announced the conference dates: Thursday–Saturday, March 29–April 1. All board members from the three organizations should plan to arrive on Wednesday, March 28.

Adjourned: 11:02 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Opening:

The regular board meeting of NCAD was duly called to order at 11:20 a.m. on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at UNC Greensboro, 1400 Spring Garden Street, Greensboro, NC 27412.

Present were:

President – Mike Lupo
Vice President – Sion (Sam) Moss
Secretary – Jaime Marshall
Treasurer – Martina Moore-Reid

Western Regional Representative – Laura Herman
Central Regional Representative – Tina E. Hanford
Eastern Regional Representative – Karin Desalu
Social Media Coordinator – Theresa Moss

With the approval of the board members present, President Lupo facilitated the meeting and Secretary Marshall recorded the minutes. Meeting Minutes from the last board meeting (1/14/2026) were reviewed.

Motion by: Treasurer Moore-Reid

Seconded by: Vice President Moss

Vote Count: Majority

President's Report:

President Mike announced the appointment of Karin Desalu as the Eastern Regional Representative.

AGENDA TOPIC: Treasurer Report

Motion: We, the NCAD Board, approves Treasurer's Report

Motion by: Secretary Marshall

Seconded by: Social Media Coordinator Moss

Vote Count: Majority

Secretary's Report

On March 1, Secretary Marshall attended an all-day DeafBlind/Support Service Provider (SSP) Navigator Training presented by the DeafBlind Immersion Training Team of NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The training was held at the NC Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing office in Davidson County (SDHHC) in Lexington, NC, with a limited attendance of 40 participants.

Secretary Marshall shared a discussion with Dr. Steven (Jordan) Wright, Dean of Students at NCSD, regarding the possibility of creating two new seats on the council—one for each day/residential school, NCSD and ENCSD. Both schools currently fall under the direction of NC DPI and do not have their own boards of trustees.

Western Regional Representative Report

Representative Herman has been appointed to the UNC Blue Ridge Health Care Patient and Family Advisory Council Board. Having a board member who is also an advocate for UNC Health Blue Ridge is a valuable asset to our healthcare system.

Central Representative Report

Representative Hanford received an email from a parent liaison highlighting a statewide shortage of resources for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, noting that NC Beginnings is currently non-operational due to federal cuts. The board has expressed concern that NC Beginnings may have caused more harm than benefit.

The email was forwarded to Secretary Marshall, who responded by sharing information that the North Carolina School for the Deaf offers free weekly online American Sign Language classes for families via Zoom, as well as several weeks of summer camp opportunities.

AGENDA TOPIC: NC Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

President Lupo provided updates from the most recent quarterly meeting of the NC Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

During the discussion, members reiterated repeated requests to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for access to statewide data. Four Deaf council members specifically requested all raw data dating back to 2013, following the passage of HB 317-19.

AGENDA TOPIC: Scholarship Request

An RHA therapist is requesting a scholarship to pursue somatic training. The board agreed to reach out to RHA to gather additional information regarding why professional development opportunities are not provided upon request.

AGENDA TOPIC: Research paper: *A Needs-Based Assessment Identifying How Much North Carolina Education Districts Report Deaf and Hard of Hearing Data from the District Level to the State Level*

Emily Duncan shared data from her recent research with the board. The board will ask the co-chairs of the NC Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing whether Ms. Duncan may present her findings to the Educational Committee on June 11, 2026, and again before the NCCDHH on August 7.

AGENDA TOPIC: 2026 NCAD – NCASLTA Conference

Social Media Coordinator Moss served as Conference Chair for the North Carolina Association of the Deaf – North Carolina American Sign Language Teachers Conference, held February 19–21, 2026, at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The conference was a great success, reaching full capacity, with nearly 30 additional individuals requesting tickets after registration had closed.

AGENDA TOPIC: 2028 NCAD – NCASLTA – NCBDA Conference

Social Media Coordinator Theresa Moss will continue to serve as the Conference Chair for the upcoming NC Association of the Deaf – NC American Sign Language Teachers Association – NC Black Deaf Advocates scheduled for Thursday, Friday & Saturday, March 30 – April 1, at UNC Greensboro. The conference registration capacity will be expanded to **300 participants**.

Upcoming Announcements

2026 Board Meeting: August 22 at UNC-G

Meeting Adjourned: 12:58 PM