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**The 2026 General Assembly Meeting Minutes will be approved
at the next conference in the year of 2028.**

2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Opening:

The General Assembly meeting of NCAD duly called and held on Saturday, February 20, 2026 at the NCAD-NCASLTA (NC American Sign Language Teachers Association) Conference, UNC-Greensboro, 1400 Spring Garden Street, Cones Ballroom in Greensboro, NC 27412 at 11:37 AM.

Present were:

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

Western Regional Representative – James Ledford
Central Regional Representative – Tina Hanford
Eastern Regional Representative – Linda Nelson
Social Media Coordinator – Theresa Moss

20+ NCAD members were in attendance.

With the approval of the NCAD board members present, former NCAD President, James Wilson, acted as Chairperson and the Parliamentarian of the general assembly meeting and Secretary Jaime Marshall recorded the minutes.

Meeting Minutes from the last board meeting (4/29/23) were reviewed and approved.

Motion by: Member Jimmy Autrey of Hickory

Seconded by: Representative Tina Hanford of Greensboro

Vote Count: All in favor

President's Report:

President Lupo of Wilmington announced the appointment of Craig Blevins of Yadkinville to represent the North Carolina Association of the Deaf (NCAD) on the North Carolina Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, pending approval by the Governor's Office.

David Rosenthal of Raleigh will conclude his term on June 30, and Mr. Blevins will assume the role upon appointment, with a proposed start date of June 30. Mr. Blevins has previously served in this capacity and has submitted his application for consideration, which is currently under review by the Governor's Office.

Additionally, NCAD has submitted a letter of support for the federal Communications Video and Technology Accessibility Act (CVTA), legislation intended to update and replace outdated federal law related to communication access. Both of North Carolina's U.S. Senators have expressed support for the bill. The legislation addresses accessibility in emergency services and related communication technologies. Letters of support have been sent to representatives from both Democratic and Republican parties.

President Lupo also shared that NCAD continues to support the proposed bill regarding licensure requirements for K-12 Sign Language Interpreters.

Vice President's Report:

Vice President Moss of Morganton expresses sincere gratitude to Conference Chair Theresa Moss for her exceptional planning and coordination of the joint conference for two major Deaf organizations in North Carolina. This partnership required ongoing communication, careful attention to detail, and thoughtful problem-solving. Theresa Moss dedicated herself tirelessly to this effort, managing daily emails, resolving conflicts, and ensuring the event ran smoothly - **an effort for which the entire room applauded!**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Moore Reed of Fuquay-Varina presented a summary of the organization's financial report. She noted that expenditures have remained limited, as the organization continues to prioritize careful stewardship of its funds and direct resources toward meaningful initiatives. Recent expenses included sponsoring the Language First Conference in Wilmington, supporting delegate attendance at NAD conferences, providing refreshments for community town halls and stakeholder meetings, and covering costs associated with quarterly Board meetings.

For 2024, NCAD began with \$13,929.79 in its checking account and recorded total expenditures of \$5,828.38, leaving a remaining balance of \$9,215.91, which was added to savings for a total of \$10,274.04. Entering 2025, the remaining funds were carried forward. Throughout 2025, additional revenue was generated through events, bringing the balance to \$15,881.89. Total expenditures for 2025 were \$2,239.37, resulting in a remaining balance of \$13,642.52. When combined with the savings account, NCAD's total funds at the end of 2025 amounted to \$14,833.19.

AGENDA TOPIC: Treasurer Report

Motion: We, the NCAD members, approve the Treasurer Report.

Motion By: Vice President Sam Moss of Morganton

Seconded By: Representative James Ledford of Nebo

Vote Count: All in favor

ELECTION

Secretary's Report

Secretary Marshall of Granite Falls reported continued service in the role and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve. A significant focus of the reporting period has been the revamping of the NCAD website. The Secretary worked extensively with Vice President Sam Moss, who volunteered his expertise as a website and graphic designer on a pro-bono basis to redesign and enhance the site. The updated website now includes information on bills supported by NCAD within the North Carolina legislature, along with updated contact information. A dedicated text number has been added to improve accessibility and communication, and messages are actively monitored and responded to.

Regional Representatives' Report:

The Regional Representatives for Western, Central and Eastern North Carolina provided updates on their service to NCAD. Representatives shared that they continue to attend quarterly Board meetings, submit activity reports, and actively engage with Deaf community members across their regions. Efforts include attending local Deaf events, building relationships with individuals and organizations, recruiting new members, gathering community feedback, and identifying regional needs. Representatives noted both the rewards and challenges of increasing community involvement and outreach, particularly among younger Deaf individuals. They expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve and for the collaborative teamwork of the Board.

(Representative Hanford of Greensboro, Representative Nelson of Raleigh and Representative Ledford of Nebo shares the same responsibilities.)

NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA TOPIC: Non-voting Secretary's Assistant Position

Motion: Moved by Representative Linda Nelson and seconded by Treasurer Moore-Reid to establish a **non-voting volunteer Secretary's Assistant position** to assist the Secretary with duties.

Discussion: The position will support the Secretary with paperwork, documentation, email monitoring, message distribution, and other administrative tasks.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA TOPIC: Authorization for Organizational Email Infrastructure

Motion: Moved by Treasurer Moore-Reid and seconded by Member Craig Blevins of Yadkinville to **authorize research and decision-making for the organization's email infrastructure**, including the creation of position-specific email addresses under the domain **ourNCAD.org**.

Amendment: Proposed by Secretary Marshall to **cap the monthly service fee at \$30**.

Discussion: The Board discussed options for free and low-cost services to accommodate multiple email addresses.

Vote: Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

AGENDA TOPIC: Re-establish NCAD Chapters

Motion: Moved by Representative Ledford and seconded by Representative Nelson to re-establish NCAD chapters statewide.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT

Motion: open nominations for President

Candidate: Mike Lupo of Wilmington

Vote Count: All in favor

ELECTION

VICE-PRESIDENT

Motion: open nominations for Vice-President

Candidate: Sion A. Moss (Sam) of Morganton

Vote Count: All in favor

ELECTION

TREASURER

Motion: open nominations for Treasurer

Candidate: Martina Moore-Reid of Fuquay-Varina

Vote Count: All in favor

ELECTION

SECRETARY

Motion: open nominations for Secretary

Candidate: Jaime Marshall of Granite Falls

Vote Count: All in favor

ELECTION

WESTERN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Motion: open nominations for Western Regional Representative

Candidate: Laura Herman of Marion

Vote Count: All in favor

ELECTION

CENTRAL REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Motion: open nominations for Central Regional Representative

Candidate: Tina Hanford of Greensboro

Vote Count: All in favor

ELECTION

EASTERN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Motion: open nominations for Eastern Regional Representative

Candidate: Vacant

Vote Count:

ELECTION

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Motion: open nominations for Social Media Coordinator

Candidate: Theresa Moss of Morganton

Vote Count: All in favor

Each elected officer recites: "I do solemnly swear that I shall faithfully service as a (position) of NCAD and will do the best of my abilities, serve as a living example of this organization's philosophy and beliefs and will uphold and enforce the constitution of this organization at all times. So, help me God.

Meeting Adjourned, 1:39 PM