

Saturday, August 5, 2023
Payne Room at New Mexico School for the Deaf

Board Members Present:

President Meena Mann, Vice President Ryan Means, Secretary Skye Dreumont,
Treasurer Dale Loper.

Members:????

Visitor: ???

President Meena Mann called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

Meena explained the last minute notice for the meeting and needed to first have to have a motion suspending a section of the bylaws to proceed this meeting.

Jojo Lopez moved to suspend Article III, Section 3, paragraph C;3 of the bylaws requesting for 30 days notice of board meetings.

Seconded by Dominic Harrison. Dominic moved to close the discussion. Aaron Martinez seconded.

Unanimous vote by the board. Carried.

President's Report:

- National Leadership Training Conference (NLTC)
 - Updates on NLTC, Sept 21-24,2023 in Albuquerque hosted by NAD.
 - Looking for volunteers to work at the registration booth and general event volunteering needs. We have created a Google Form and will distribute this via email. Volunteering allows you to attend the NLTC for free. Please sign up and we will work on the schedule of volunteering.
 - hosted by NAD at Old town albuquerque hotel.
 - They already have 175 people registered for the conference and they are expecting more. Registration deadline is at the end of this month
 - Volunteering sign up deadline is by August 13th. Volunteers will get shirts and NAD membership for 1 year. You have to volunteer 15+ hours to receive this benefit.
 - Dale asked what happens if we don't volunteer 15 hours. Meena replied that anyone will have to pay half of the registration fee for NLTC.

- Dominic clarified that if you volunteer for the registration booth, you will not be able to participate in workshops etc, if you volunteer for the general event then it will be less hours and ½ price for conference fee.
- Saturday night Event Discussion
 - Jojo explained that the purpose of this is to socialize with event attendees and we are discussing locations: Sawmill Market & Chaco.
 - Dale Loper felt Chaco may be ideal because we may be able to ask for 10-15% back from purchases, this will benefit NMAD.
 - Discussion about “NM DNO” should it be “NMAD DNO”? Jojo plans to use SF, LC, ABQ DNO hosts to help announce this event too. And will be sure the announcement says that NMAD is hosting this event.
 - Ketura Martin asked what the time limits are for Chaco, she knows Sawmill Market closes at 10pm. We are still researching and collecting information.

Vice-President’s Report:

- Bylaws Committee
 - Ryan sent out “application” for members to be on the bylaws committee. We have selected 4 members. They had their first meeting last week discussing the difference between board driven and member driven. Expanded ideas and discussions from previous meeting on bylaws. Looking into member’s roles for NMAD as well. They will meet again next week and review all proposed changes to keep, change, add to the bylaws. Bylaws will be ready for voting on at the next general meeting.
 - Question from Dale Loper: What is your vision for the timeline to finish the bylaws. He feels by the next 2 meetings with the committee, they should be halfway done then by October the latest, they should be done and ready to present the bylaws.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Financial Report
 - NMAD’s finances have been “quiet”. Our available Balance is \$3,354.39
 - Johnny R asked if our accounts have insurance rates that help money grow? Dale responded no.
- WSDC Event
 - (See attached WSDC Financial Report)

- Summary of WSDC event: Dale explained that this event was a lot of work, he feels we “put NM on the map” after this event. 230 people attended this event! This was a fundraising event. We were nominated and Dale represented NMAD to host this. It should have happened in 2021 but COVID, so it was postponed to 2023. This was more targeted at those who had RVs campers. There were some who rented cabins, tents, hotels etc and attended as well.
- In 2019, Dale collected people’s pre-registration but when the 2021 event was canceled, he had to refund some people’s money and some let him keep it for 2023. So in the income, the registration amount is a bit misleading due to later on having to give refunds.
- Prizes/Raffle tickets: some were donated, some grand prizes purchases such as YETI Cooler, Weber Camp grill, etc. We made some profit off this.
- Catering: the food was great and worth it! SFBC donated 15 cases of beer to this event, many thanks to Barbie Robertson! She is the marketing director at SFBC.
- We did have nightly events, games, and activities, they spent some money on that as well.
- Sponsors: SFBC, Sorenson, and NMSD.
- Had Thomas Silvas come and give a magic show, it was his first experience doing a live show, great overall!
- The event profited \$13,286.59
- Question from Dominic: our current assets have \$3k, now its \$16k with WSDC?
Question from Mark Lucero-Muniz: What is the reimbursement for 6 tables? (on excel) Dale: Deaf man delivered some tables and chairs for us, but when he returned from the drive, 6 tables were missing (fell off the truck), so we had to reimburse the cost for it.
- It was noticed that only Dale from NMAD board attended, few members attended but not many. Most on the committee for WSDC was from the DCC organization. With this, Dale wants to propose that we donate 15% of our \$13,286.59 profit to DCC to thank them for their help. This would bring it to a donation of \$1,992.99, rounded up to \$2,000. Ryan moves to make this a motion in new business so that we can vote on it. Dale seconds.
- Dale wants to add a motion in new business that the remaining profit from WSDC be put in a Certificate of Deposit account so that it can collect interest. Right now he’s looking at a 4.95% interest rate and 5% API from century bank.

- Comment: Ketura Martin wants to thank Dale for the idea of donating to DCC and hopes that DCC will continue to work with us. She hopes both NMAD and DCC can work together for the future of NM deaf community.

Old Business:

- Skye Dreumont moved that the Special meeting minutes from 2/19/23 be approved. Dominic seconded.. Unanimous vote. Carried.
- Skye Dreumont moved that the Special Meeting Minutes from 6/3/23 be approved. Dominic seconded. Unanimous vote. Carried.
- Question: Dale Loper: Is there any update on results from the June 3rd meeting? Who is the new company for SSPs?
 - Response: Mark Lucero-Muniz: Vancro company is owned by people who are dedicated to working in the deaf community, it is also deaf-centered. NMCDHH just agreed with them on July 6th or so that Vancro is the new company taking over SSP services for our community.
 - Question: Dale Loper: Vancro- same concept at COPD or newer approach etc?
 - Mark Lucero-Muniz : It is deaf-centered, COPD wasn't. For example: We are trying to find more hours and more opportunities for deaf people, requiring terps in offices, more places. Have Deaf Blind, Deaf Sighted people working there as well. Ryan fills in Dale on information we were given from our last special meeting. Ryan feels it's still early to decide whether Vancro is a "better company", have to give them time and see how things go. It's important that they meet the requirements set.
 - Johnny Robertson: Thanks to Ryan and Mark for explaining clearly about the SSP situation, it's important that we keep SSP workers and they are relieved that everyone still has their jobs. He likes working with Vancro because they offer more services and will hire more SSPs and that is good for the community.

New Business:

- **Dominic Harrison moved that NMAD sets up a fundraising committee led by the Members at Large. Jojo Lopez seconded.**
 - Discussion: Aaron Martinez: How many members do you expect? Dominic: expects it to be led by the 3 MALs with some members depending on which event.

- Ryan Means: What do you envision the committee to look like? And if we agree to vote and pass and you will develop expectations, how it will look etc, right? Dominic: yes.
- Aaron moved to close discussion. Ryan seconded..
- Meena moved to vote, any objections? None.
- Unanimous vote. Carried.
- **Ryan Means moved that NMAD suspends Article IV, Section 1 of the bylaws to allow the biennial conference to be postponed.**
 - Dominic seconded.
 - Discussion: We will still have a general meeting but would like to postpone the conference. Dale clarified more and agreed to postpone, but for the future, he would like our state conference to be alternated with NAD conference. NMAD, NAD, NMAD, NAD and so on.
 - Rachel Blake: So our conference should be this fall? What was last September, it was a conference?
 - Jojo: Last september was a “townhall” not an official conference. It was one day. In the morning, there was a general meeting, discussion among members about what the future of NMAD would be. In the afternoon it was the general election for new board members. A lot of people think it was a conference but it really wasn’t. There weren’t any workshops etc.
 - Unanimous vote. Carried.
- **Dominic Harrison moved to establish annual membership dues at \$20 per person.**
 - Our bylaws doesn't have an exact amount and we would like to set this so NMAD can have some revenue.
 - Dale: He agreed that we need clear annual dues. He moved to amend that the membership dues be \$10. Ryan seconded. Discussion opens. Dale said last year at the “conference” they had a good outcome because the membership due was \$5. Money talks, people like their dues to be cheap and they will be more willing to pay so he suggests \$10.
 - Ryan Means: we need to attract more members, expand, have more voices, he agrees that it should be \$10.
 - Dominic Harrison disagreed. NMAD needs money to operate for our future. \$20 is a reasonable amount.
 - Ketura Martin suggested that maybe there is a “deal” for 2 years membership like \$15 for 2 years, \$10 for one.

- Dominic: Dominic felt the \$5 worked because it included lunch. We aren't in a rush to attract members now, we just want to see NMAD grow.
 - Aaron: NMAD's financial report is quiet so some revenue will be helpful.
 - Dale: \$10 per person, gives motivation for the fundraising committee to host more events.
 - Ryan: if we charge \$20, plus fundraising events more \$ etc, will members want that?
 - Jojo: We will have admission costs for events, but another idea is that members could go to NMAD events for free or at a discounted rate, non-members would have to pay more.
 - Rachel: Is this something we need to decide today? Could we ask the community? Make a poll on social media etc? See how many people respond and go with that? Get members input.
 - Ryan: We have some members who want to participate but can't because they haven't paid dues and the board has not decided, so it is kind of time-sensitive.
 - Rachel: Between now and the next meeting, send a poll?
 - Johnny: I am one of the first founders/board. This has been an old, ongoing issue. Members have to pay travel expenses to attend meetings, then now also have to pay more? NMAD does need money during its operating years, not just getting revenue from conferences.
 - Ryan reads the bylaws: Article II, Section 2: membership dues states that the board may decide and it should be approved by members at the general meeting, so this amendment and motion is out of order and will have to wait until the general meeting.
- **Dale Loper moved that NMAD donate \$2,000 from WSDC event profit to Deaf Culture Center to thank them for collaborating with NMAD.**
 - Ryan Means Seconded.
 - Discussion: Dale: It is a 15% donation, rounded up to \$2,000. Feels this is appropriate because on the WSDC committee, some were DCC members as well. It's not much but it's a gesture that we really appreciate them supporting us and the community.
 - Rachel: Curious, did DCC ask for a percentage to be donated? Dale: No, they did not.
 - Johnny: I think this is a great gesture towards DCC, their organization has contributed a lot to NM in general, and he appreciates and supports this motion. It shows our unity among organizations. We need strong unity and collaboration. Even the State legislature would like to see that organizations are united and not fighting against each other.

- Meena wonders if we should reduce it to 10%? 15% is a lot, maybe? She wonders if we could give to different organizations too, not just DCC?
- Rache”: The point is that DCC helped with this event, other organizations did not, so she feels it’s right to donate to DCC.
- Dale: The committee’s strong motivated participants are DCC members.
- Johnny: 15% of what? Dale: WSDC event profits.
- Dominic: Moved to close discussion, Ryan seconded
- Voted to approve motion: motion passed 4-2, neutral: 1. Carried.

- Dale Loper moved that NMAD put \$10,000 from WSDC event profit into a CD account to collect interest. Jojo seconds.

- Discussion: Dale: in today’s economy, the interest rate has been ok-ok. Now it has increased and NMAD could benefit from it. Money out into this account would help money grow. The rate he is looking at is 4.95% rate. This means the funds cant be touched for at least 7 months to allow it to collect interest. It would collect about \$500. He feels this is a reasonable amount of time.

- Ryan: Admittedly, not fully aware of 501c3, have permission to put money into that? Also, we have been short on money, and feel on the fence because what if we need some funds.

- Rachel: Is your plan at the end of 7 months to take money out or?

- Dominic: I move to amend that we replace” remaining profits” to “\$2,000”.

Rachel Blake seconds.

- Rachel: if we put \$10,000 we get more interest back. If we put \$2,000, we get less interest back.

- Dale wants the money to have a chance to grow while we prepare future events. NMAD can decide at the end of 7 months (Around March 2024) to use that money, or put some into another CD account to let the funds grow. 501c3 organizations are allowed to do this, yes.

- Skye: Can we all agree that \$10,000 goes into this CD account. The remaining \$1,000 something can go into NMAD’s general fund.

- Dominic thinks the less amount invested brings less risk. More, brings more

risk.

- Skye moves to close discussion, rachel seconds

- Vote on Dominic’s amendment: amendment fails 5-1

- Continue discussion on Dale’s motion. Dale: CD is one of safest investments, no risk. It’s next in line for bonds on a federal level. There’s no concern about risk here.
- Rachel: CD guarantees that our \$10,000 investment will not decrease, it will only increase.

- Ryan moved to amend that we put \$7,500 into a CD account and the remaining \$3,000 something into the general fund.
- Dominic moved to close discussion, Jojo seconded.
- Not in favor 4, in favor 3. amendment failed.

- VOTE on original motion: PASSED 5-1. Carried.

- **Dominic Harrison moved to open discussion and vote on the future of NMAD's website.**
 - Ryan: In 2005 or so, NMAD did have a website, but a situation happened in around 2013 that led to closing the website. We do still have the website but it costs money to get that domain back running. The risk is that we don't "own" the site. Anyone can pay more and take the site from us.
 - Skye: Can we not have a website and use social media? In today's era, social media is THE platform to use.
 - Dale: A regular normal domain name cost should be \$50ish. But the problem is that when we did not renew our membership, someone bought our domain and now is selling it at a higher cost. So it's more expensive. Dale agrees to let it go. We did look into a new domain name. He feels a website is important to have as a default platform.
 - Rachel Blake suggests that we don't add the year into our website name, on the site sure, but not as a domain name.
 - General agreement: Having a website looks better for NMAD, our resources can be all in one place. It's good for people who don't have social media.

 - Skye proposed that we table this motion to allow the board to do more research to decide and discuss which platform we can use. Dominic seconded. Unanimous vote. Carried.

Announcements:

- Meena explained that Lisa McNiven (overseer of PAH) wants to establish partnership with NMAD. Ryan wanted clarification on affiliation first. Board can discuss further.
- Related to Meena's announcement on partnership between PAH and NMAD, Dale commented that he hopes DCC/PAH would allow us to have some agreement or access to their facilities.

President Meena Mann adjourned the meeting at 3:54pm