

**New Mexico Association of the Deaf (NMAD) Special Meeting
February 19, 2023**

Meeting was called at 1:34 PM.

President's Report:

There will be two major events coming up this year: Western State Deaf Campers and National Leadership Training Conference. We will share more information later. Board met in Las Cruces all day to review NMAD's bylaws. The purpose of the special meeting is to review September 2022 minutes and discuss bylaws.

Vice President's Report:

Presented a brief overview of what took place at the last general meeting in which members voted to move forward with NMAD as a board-driven organization. Clarify what was voted on and what causes concern with the current bylaws intended to be driven by members. A NMAD meeting was held in Las Cruces to review the NMAD bylaws to make them more board-driven. This will be a slow process with several revisions. The goal is to present final bylaws changes for vote at the next general meeting later this fall. We will discuss the proposed changes and edits to the bylaws during the new business items section of the agenda.

Secretary's Report:

We have a new Instagram and Facebook account set up, and will explain more later in the meeting. Also have a new email if anyone needs to contact the Board-
NMADSecretary1970@gmail.com.

Financial Report:

We currently have \$2,844.39 in our general fund account. In 2022, we had \$1384 in revenues with \$880 from the NMAD Conference revenues along with \$404 in donations from Amazon Smiles. Generated \$100 from membership outside of the conference. Spend \$1300 for NAD Conf Delegate expenses, and \$1203.30 in NMAD Conf expenses for use of facilities and lunch. Just renewed NAD state association fee for 2023 of \$200 annual fee for total of \$2768.30 expense spent in 2022. We're looking forward to our upcoming fundraising event of WSDC this coming early June.

Community Input and Discussion:

Ron Stern mentioned a concern from Amy Gomme about NMAD being board driven. If board driven, we will become an affiliate of NMAD meaning we will only be allowed to send one delegate to the NAD conference. Also concerned about losing voice for New Mexico.

Ron encouraged us to discuss and decide in what ways NMAD is board driven and member driven.

We will need to check state laws regarding non-profit organizations and rules on bylaws.

Dale Loper moved to approve September conference meeting minutes. Richard Pearson seconded.

Secretary will need to post September meeting minutes for members to see through NMAD's outlets.

Majority voted to approve revised meeting minutes from September.

NMAD Bylaws, 5 minute break to review

- Mission & Vision: Amy Gomme suggested we add DDAHLLD. Cassandra Perez suggested we include People of Color as well as some kind of land acknowledgement. Amy suggested that the land acknowledgement have its own section in the bylaws.
- Article II- Membership: Amy Gomme suggested adding "Deaf" to "Disabled". Most voted on #2 suggestions.
- Article II, Section 1, C: Cassandra suggested finding a way to include homeschooled children, not just those enrolled in a public school system.

Ron Stern proposed that we need to decide in what ways NMAD serve as board or member driven before we move onto the bylaws. Amy Gomme and Carla Weaks suggested we hold the bylaws and agree what our vision is.

Ron added that maybe the board can add some members to join in our meeting and help us decide where we stand on whether it is board and member driven.

Cassandra Perez proposed setting a meeting just solely for the bylaws until we are ready. This way, we focus on it instead of using time for several things at once.

Eldora Garcia proposed that we discuss the member and board driven now then proceed. Majority of members agreed to hold bylaws until we are clear on our vision and due to time

Ron Stern moved to close business, Carla Weaks seconded. Majority voted to close business.

Meena and Jojo discussed the future meeting plans and assured the community that we would let them know when these meetings will happen.

Cassandra Perez mentioned that it would be nice if we could set a routine for meeting dates (example: every 3rd saturday). Carla Weaks reminded us that Zia DeafBlind has already reserved every 3rd saturday.

We would send out an interest form to the community to see who is interested in participating in our meetings for bylaws and board/member driven.

Skye explained about NMAD's facebook account, we had to create a new one due to lack of access to the old one. We were unable to gain access. Also explained how the community can reach the board through our outlets. (Email, Instagram, and Facebook). If anyone has announcements for their organization, NMAD would love to help promote it. Please share with us and we will distribute it to the community.

Announcement:

Chad LeBlanc announced that anytime March to August, PAH Apartments will start "Lease up" meaning they are trying to fill up apartments and encouraging anyone who is interested to apply. They will start contacting those who already signed up.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:36pm