

# **SDAD Board meeting**

Held at Peace Lutheran Church, Shalom Room

April 5, 2025

The SDAD Board meeting came to order at 10:10 AM with the following Board members:

President Tanya Miller (via Zoom), Vice-president Jeff Panek, Secretary David Dahle, Treasurer Kevin Barber; At-large members: Tim Jackson, Mark Koterwski, Bruce Kucker, and Patty Kuglitsch. Callista Anderson was excused.

Approximately 17 SDAD members and guests were present in person and 9 via Zoom.

A moment of silence was observed for recently departed members and friends:

Frank and Marlene Turk, John Schlichenmayer, Paul Graves, William Gerriets, and Vicki (Beegle) Svenningsen Fitzpatrick.

## **Agenda:**

Patty Kuglitsch (Bruce Kucker) moved to approve the agenda as revised. Carried.

## **Minutes of January 11, 2025 meeting / ratification of Email votes January / February 2025:**

Patty Kuglitsch (Bruce Kucker) moved to approve January 11th minutes as read. Carried.

Patty Kuglitsch (Bruce Kucker) moved to ratify the Email votes from January and February. Carried.

## **Treasurer's audited statements:**

The reports for January and February 2025 were distributed for review, and a summary of the February report was shared to the audience.

Patty Kuglitsch (Bruce Kucker) moved to approve the reports. Carried.

## **Public Input:**

Patty Kuglitsch:

Patty mentioned that SDAD will be 125 years old this coming summer, so there should be some kind of commemoration at the upcoming Conference.

Brian Reno (during SDAD PR Committee reports):

Brian mentioned that he had been missing the occasional SDAD Email, while his wife was receiving all the Emails with no problem.

## **Officer and Board reports:**

### **President:**

Gave a summary of the Accessibility Committee / ad hoc Mental Health Committee reports on behalf of Angela Ellman (chair)

The SDAD Conference will be held on June 27th and 28th; unfortunately, the President has other commitments that weekend (that she had made plans for over a year ago), so Vice President Jeff Panek will handle the business meeting.

Electronic payments have been established – a link through Zeffy has been added to the SDAD website so members can register and pay for the conference online.

The 2023-2025 SDAD mandates were reviewed (5):

- Location for SDAD activities** – Kevin Barber is currently working on it

- Invest in deaf youth in SD** – still an ongoing effort

- Reevaluate membership fees / electronic payment options**

  - Electronic payments have been set up for SDAD Conference

- Accessibility** – focusing on emergency preparedness

  - Ongoing, led by the Accessibility committee

- Reevaluate SDAD News production**

  - SDAD News has been discontinued

  - Outreach continues via Email / social media

Two donation requests for the Board to consider:

- A senior at the Iowa School for the Deaf; seeks a donation to help defray costs to participate in the Capital Connection program (Close-Up)

- Deaf Bikers of America will be having an event this coming August 6th at Spearfish  
Requesting sponsorship of the event (varying levels between \$750 and \$5000)

### **Vice-President:**

Only one event has been held since the SDAD Holiday Party – the Super Bowl Party.

Approximately 20 people showed up with about \$200 in profit

The next event will be the upcoming SDAD Conference.

**Secretary:**

Finally had something to share – he recently picked up several boxes of old Secretary material that was uncovered during the recent Museum clean out, and has begun scanning the information for reference. Most of the information being scanned is from the mid-1970s to the early 2000s.

**Treasurer:**

190 members as of March 29th (19 new)

The IRS 990 form has been completed, and NAD quota dues (\$200) have been paid as well.

Thanks to Jeff Panek and committee for hosting the Super Bowl party; 23 people attended. SDAD had a pool and a 75/25 raffle during the party, and net profit was \$240

So far, 8 members registered for the conference (7 at SC rate, 1 regular)

Two Bylaws amendments have been submitted to Governance for consideration:

Changing auditor's terms from 3-2-1 to 6-4-2 years

Allowing Board members to serve as committee chairs

SDAD Budget policy and procedures have been updated.

With the completion of CSD's 'buyout' of the SDAD agreement, the revenue source allocation has been changed from CSD to the SDAD Foundation

The provision of 75% allocation from SDAD to the SDAD Foundation has also been removed

A procedure has been established to request funds from the SDAD Foundation

Renewed SDAD's property and liability insurance with The Hartford, but the Board Liability policy renewal is not due until November

Developed a poll for SDAD members living in SD for how often to rent space for events. Still need to finish signed and written message to distribute with the survey. Need to set a timeline and deadline for the survey

**Board member reports: none**

**Committee reports:**

**Accessibility (Angela Ellman):** Shared during the SDAD President's report

SDAD Conference will be held in an accessible facility for those who have mobility issues

Text-to-911 has been established, but sharing resources on this feature is needed

A new resource page will be added to the SDAD website, which will include mental health resources (including providers who use ASL), on-demand interpreting, local provider contacts, and availability of smoke / carbon monoxide detectors.

Suggest that when new mandates are decided on the Conference going forward, specifics be shared to make it easier for the committees to do their work.

Right now, there are no CDI (Certified Deaf Interpreter) in South Dakota to help during emergencies, as the previous CDI has moved out of state. One deaf person has moved to SD from out of state and has begun the process to attain certification as a CDI.

A survey regarding to accessibility and emergency preparedness is being developed and will be released around April 15th, with results to be shared at the SDAD Conference.

Mental Health ad hoc committee:

One possible solution going forward – there is something called the Counseling Compact, which many states, including South Dakota have now joined.

This compact allows providers licensed in other states to provide services in South Dakota, and which could be a valuable way to improve access to appropriate resources needed by the deaf community. One suggestion would be to reach out to these counselors in other states and inform them of the compact and see if they would be willing to work with clients here in South Dakota.

### **Deaf Cultural Heritage Center (Scott Miller):**

Three binders of slides have been sent out for digitizing, and he hopes to have a response soon on the progress of having them available to share soon.

Scott has been working on creating an interactive 3D rendering of the SDSU campus to show the campus changes over the decades. He has also learned many fascinating details which he hopes to share with others in the near future.

Scott also spent a day reorganizing the Museum office to make better use of the available space and also sorted through boxes of material that the late Mark Johnson had, and the space is now much more functional.

Scott has also reached out to the Gallaudet University Archives to see if they would be interested in acquiring video material that SDAD has (most of which was used by CSDTV) in hopes of making it available to others for research and education.

Scott had one action item for the Board – he has an old copy machine that has been broken for years and was determined to be unfeasible to repair; and wants to dispose of it.

He has also invited Jeff Panek and Tim Jackson to join the committee.

Patty Kuglitsch (David Dahle) moved to dispose of the old copy machine. Carried.

The Board would like Scott to clarify who is currently on the committee before we move forward with approving new members.

Patty Kuglitsch also wanted to commend Scott Miller for his hard work as Deaf Cultural Heritage chair to date.

#### **Education Committee (Lance Sigdestad):**

The committee is still working on a survey to be sent out to gather on deaf and hard of hearing children currently in the state. The chair also attended the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention conference at Pittsburg in March, and it was a rewarding experience. The chair will also be involved with a camp for high school students in the Black Hills this coming July 6th to 10th.

#### **Finance Committee (Sonny Rasmussen): No report**

No report.

#### **Governance (Larry Puthoff):**

No report, but will meet before the Conference to review any bylaws proposals.

#### **Hall of Fame (Scott Miller):**

Scott appreciated Sonny Rasmussen's willingness to join the committee on short notice so the committee could meet and consider several nominations. The committee reviewed the nominations and submitted several names for the Board to consider, and the Board approved the following individuals:

Nick Huntimer (Sports)

Greg Gunderson, Rick Norris, and Lance Sigdestad (Community Service)

Scott will order plaques and coordinate the luncheon with the Conference Committee.

### **Legislative (Ben Soukup):**

There were no bills directly impacting the deaf during the recently concluded Legislative session, but the State of South Dakota recently became involved in a lawsuit where the State of Texas was asking to have Section 504 and updated HHS regulations thrown out as unconstitutional after the Biden administration added language pertaining to gender ideology.

This was alarming to the disability community in general as Section 504 contains many important protections that were not covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

After following up with the South Dakota Attorney General's office, we received reassurance that they would not seek to have the entire section removed, only the language pertaining to gender ideology.

### **Public Relations (Scott Miller):**

An update was given on ongoing PR efforts via Email, Facebook, SDAD website  
Scott attended a course at Southeast Tech – 'Introduction to Web Development'  
While it was different than what he anticipated, he still gained some insight that he could use to improve SDAD's digital projects and appreciated the SDAD Board giving him the opportunity to participate in that workshop

Scott will be out of the country for part of May and would like to have someone manage SDAD's Constant Contact account and any needed access to the SDAD website

The SDAD Board discussed this request and prefer that Scott's substitute come from within the PR committee.

### **2025 SDAD Conference (Deborah Brozik and Aubrey Byrnes):**

Registration materials have been sent out – June 27 evening and all day June 28  
Looking for raffle prizes and trinkets to put in the registration bags  
Booths are available if anyone wants to sell their products - \$10 per

Patty wanted the committee to be reminded of SDAD's 125th anniversary so some kind of commemoration can be worked into the conference.

**Unfinished business (none):**

**New Business:**

1. The Board discussed the sponsorship request from the Iowa School for the Deaf student, and it was felt that it would be more appropriate for him to reach out to the SDSD Foundation and the SDAD Foundation. (No formal proposal made)
2. Patty Kuglitsch (Kevin Barber) moved to open the floor for discussion on whether to rent or purchase a place for the deaf community to use. Carried.
3. Jeff Panek (Bruce Kucker) moved to close New Business. Carried.

Announcement: Jeff Panek reminded members that the next Deaf Seniors of SD meeting would be on April 12th at 2PM at Peace Lutheran.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Dahle