

**TAD 45th Biennial Conference 2009
General Meeting
June 13, 2009 – 1:30 p.m.
El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel
San Antonio, TX**

To be approved by membership at the 2011 TAD conference.

The 2009 Texas Association of the Deaf General Meeting convened at 1:45 p.m. with President Baldwin officiating.

The quorum was met.

President Baldwin informed the audience to please fill out the TAD conference evaluation forms before leaving the conference.

Baldwin selected Tom Becker and Billy Collins, Sr., to be the sergeant-at-arms.

Baldwin introduced Ms. Libby Pollard, Parliamentarian. Ms. Pollard explained to the audience her role during the conference. She informed that any conversation between the President and the parliamentarian is a private conversation. Pollard's role is to advise the president. If anyone in the audience has any questions for the parliamentarian then you need to ask directly to the President, not the parliamentarian.

The invocation was given by Brother Gregoire Youbara. Tandra Horn signed the pledge of allegiance.

Karen Kirby, TAD Conference chairperson, announced to the audience if they need any certificates to please go now to get them at the registration desk as the registration committee plans on closing soon. She also reminded the audience that tonight's banquet is a BBQ dinner.

President's Report (Baldwin):

*Steve Baldwin shared with the members the following:

Conference Focus: Theme is important to us. "Change, Challenge and Commitment: Moving Forward Together." You saw what the keynoters said and today I challenge you to change by committing your time for TAD and our Texas Deaf Community.

Sponsorships and exhibitors: In this very conference we are fortunate to have over ten sponsors. Please take the time to thank them for their generosity. We also have over 20 booths in the exhibit area and this conference has enough breaks for you to patronize their business. The conference committee and the TAD board worked very hard to make sure our conference is financially secured while the country suffers economically.

Board meetings: Met two to three times a year since 2006. Communicate regularly through emails. Have sent out a total of 100 presidential memos, which were like mini-meetings. A total of about 25 E-motions were made. Each board member has been very proactive the last two years. After this business meeting, we sincerely hope to see two new board members, secretary, president and vice president starting a new administration for the next two years.

Financial Stability: In spite of the economic turndown this year and the loss of some of our investments, we are on even keel. We have tightened the belt, reduced our activities, cancel our pageant, and watched our budget closely. I am pleased to say that we transferred our investments to Kramer Financial so we can diversify our stocks while adhering to our new Investment Statement Policy. We are hoping that the overt success of this conference will allow us to save for a rainy day by living off our dividends and profits.

Membership: 475 paying members and 375 online members (800 total). Achieved goal of networking with members electronically by posting and sending newsletter.

Publication & Publicity: Completed 12 newsletters since October 2006. Contracted with Trudy Suggs Writing Services to professionalize our publication. Update and upgrade TAD website regularly.

NAD, Region 3 and NLTC: We sent delegates to Region 3 meetings and the 49th biennial NAD conference last year. You read their comprehensive report in *The Deaf Texan*. Indeed, we are proud to host the 1st National Leadership Training Conference in 2008, which was substantially successful.

Miss Deaf Texas Pageant: In view of the poor economic atmosphere, we had to make a wise decision to cancel the pageant until 2011. Be sure to witness Miss Deaf Texas Katherine Murch's farewell speech at the banquet tonight. Meanwhile, Terri Levine has developed a long overdue guideline for the pageant and she is already working on 2011, so be sure to see her around today.

TAD Archival Room: We are fortunate to have a little room to store our archival materials on the 4th floor at TSD. Most of the materials are organized and safely stored. But we need someone to help us do an inventory and record the data on a computer. The film you saw was made possible because we preserved most of the documents, photos, films and other historical items.

Working with Deaf Ed programs: Lamar U. is one of the sponsors of this conference and has been supportive of TAD the last several years. By working with TAD, we are setting up an example of how we can work together. I challenge other Deaf Education programs, ASL and interpreter training programs to work with TAD. Because of the Texas Deaf community, these programs **exist** and our input is priceless.

Working with Disability groups: Twenty years ago working with disability organizations was unheard of. Since the passing of ADA, the Deaf Community is no longer by itself. In the last three years we have developed an effective connection with CTD, Advocacy, Inc., GCOPWD, Advocacy, Inc. and Texas Disability Consortium. With them our numbers are strong, impressive and effective. Of the 21 bills this legislative session, most of them are disability-related as a whole.

81st Legislative Session: 5 bills out of 5 with 16 other relevant bills. ListServ under Yahoo and monitored and chaired by David H. Pierce is our new weapon and online source. Please sign up, as it is free. Worked with Billy Collins, Jr., Mark Seeger, Advocacy, Inc. and others to keep teamwork and communication consistent.

Film Project: How many of you have seen the film Thursday night? It took two years and more than \$15,000 to produce. Thanks to Travis County Council of the Deaf for the \$10,000 grant that I applied for. But the film is only the first part of the plan. In one year we hope to have funds for producing DVD copies and eventually a guide for the RDSPD and TSD students. This film, "Journey Through Deaf Texas," has set the standard for developing a video history of a state association. We are very lucky to have a nationally known filmmaker named David H. Pierce who has been a TAD member for nearly 20 years since he arrived from Hollywood.

Revisions of TAD Bylaws: This endeavor can be one of the legacies for this administration. VP Kearney worked hard and long on the new bylaws with the board assisting. The revisions were very well thought out, debated and comprised. In other words, we did a lot of homework for you, so that our constitution will evolve into a better document for the future. We even contracted Libby Pollard to scrutinize our old bylaws and make serious recommendations. We gave the membership more than five months to review the bylaws. We placed the revisions on our website, sent you hard and electronic copies twice and placed them in your registration packet, way ahead of the constitutional requirement of 30 days. In other words, you were well informed and I trust that the approval will be fast and fair.

Volunteerism: From the TAD history film we recognized how important all those dedicated volunteers were the last 123 years. The filmmaker himself David H.

Pierce was given the TAD Volunteer Award Thursday night. If we could have ten more clones of Pierce, TAD will be in good shape. Without a doubt, volunteers are practically the heart and soul of TAD.

Vice-President's Report (Kearney)

*Christopher Kearney shared the revised bylaws were shown to the audience.

Mark Myers moved (seconded) that under Article II the word "Mission" be selected. Passed.

Gertie Galloway moved (seconded) that the revised bylaws and amendment be accepted as a whole. Passed

Secretary's Report (Sasseen)

*Marianne Sasseen reported that along with being the Secretary for past two years she also was the liaison between the MDTP director and the TAD board as well as between TAD conference committee and the board.

Treasurer's Report (Mills)

John Mills reported that currently in the TAD account we have \$ 60,189.63 as of May 31, 2009, which was audited by Bill Eckstein, Paul Stropko and Mike Hummel as well as CPA Claudia Boles.

Membership Report (Newberry)

*Fred Newberry gave the membership report. Announced that since the last TAD conference in 2007 to now TAD had a total of 462 members. Now, starting with the 2009 conference we have 130 members.

Board Director Reports (Galloway & Evans)

Gertie Galloway shared with the members that she represented TAD during the TSID conference and would like to see a motion made later to have the 2011 TAD conference held same time and same place as the 2011 TSID conference. Galloway's term as a Board Director has ended.

*Larry Evans shared with members he has two more years left as a Board Director.

Investments (Mills)

*John Mills explained to the members about Investment Statement Policy (ISP) and why TAD board decided to transfer from Merrill-Lynch to Kramer Financial. Members of the committee are Paul Rutowski, Larry Smith and Dana Stoddard. Our total investments are now at \$64,000.

Legislative (Evans)

*Larry Evans is following up on four Legislative bills with both Steve Baldwin and Billy Collins, Jr. One bill was regarding requiring all apartment buildings to install fire alarm lights in each apartment. One was regarding requiring specialized interpreters in the medical field. One was regarding not to have police departments obtain services via Deaf Link whenever a Deaf person requests an interpreter. Last one was regarding police departments videotaping Deaf persons after they've been arrested and booked.

Baldwin shared with audience that the Miss Deaf Texas Pageant was not hosted this year due to economy. But is confident that in two years will have a good pageant.

Baldwin also shared that there will be awards given out tonight during the banquet. He thanked Grant Laird, Jr., for a wonderful job done with the TAD webpage.

Fred Newberry read the Necrology list. Keith Sibley asked for a moment of silence.

Unfinished Business

The Transportation Department of TX informed Baldwin that we can write, with a Sharpie pen, on back of our drivers licenses that we require an interpreter. However the board has instructed Baldwin to make sure this is legal, that we can write on driver's licenses. Baldwin will follow up to this.

New Business

*Galloway moved (seconded) that the 2011 TAD conference be merged with the 2011 TSID conference in Corpus Christi. Passed.

*John Mills moved (seconded) that the membership dues be increased to \$5 for each category. Passed.

*Paul Rutowski moved (seconded) to add affiliations to the membership. Passed.

*Galloway moved (seconded) to refer this motion to the bylaw committee.
Passed.

*Kent Kennedy moved (seconded) that TAD establish a task force to study the
DHHS services. Passed.

Members moved to close new business.

Elections were held and the following persons were elected:

Paul Rutowski, President
Christopher Kearney, Vice-President
Betty Bounds, Secretary
John Mills, Treasurer
Larry Evans, Board Director (two years)
Steve Baldwin, Board Director (four years)
Katie Murch, Board Director (six years)

The new TAD board took the oath of office led by Libby Pollard.

Brother Andrew Sanchez gave the closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,
Marianne Sasseen
Secretary