



## ILDA Board Meeting Hilton Garden Inn, Indianapolis, IN July 13, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by President John Mason. Gregory Werth gave the opening prayer.

### Roll Call:

President – John Mason	Central Region President – Mike Ford
President-Elect – Gregory Werth	Midwest Region President – Sara Hale
Secretary – Janet Gehlbach	Great Lakes Region President – Larry Ginter
Treasurer – Karen Beiter (absent)	Northwest Region representative – Linda Desrosiers
Pastor Advisor – Rev. Gregory Desrosiers	Mission Projects – Dorene Sell
LDMS Representative – Rev. Tim Eckert	Necrology/Historian – Diane Francisco
Deaf Lutheran editors – Janet Gehlbach and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach	Nominations – Carol Seeger
Deaf Lutheran Business Manager – Carolyn Snyder-Mason	

### Minutes

1. The minutes from the July 23, 2016 Board meeting (Madison, WI) were approved as read. Passed.

### President's Report (John Mason)

1. President Mason welcomed everyone to Indianapolis and the 24<sup>th</sup> Biennial ILDA convention and thanked everyone for coming this morning.

1. Regions now are: Central, Great Lakes, Midwest and Northwest. President Mason thanked the regional presidents for continuing their regional conferences. He participated and visited the Midwest Region in Iowa and the Great Lakes Region in Rochester, NY and plans to visit the regions again as long as he is available.

3. President Mason asked everyone in attendance when they go back home to check with their congregations and regional conferences and ask them to consider hosting the 2021 convention. Let President Mason know.

### Deaf Lutheran Report (Janet Gehlbach)

1. Janet reported she has been doing the Deaf Lutheran newsletter since 2013 with Rev. Daryl Gehlbach.

2. Janet thanked these people, Rev. William Ludwig, Jackie Van Manen, Don/Mary Mowl for sending copies of the Deaf Lutheran newsletters from years ago.

3. A paper copy of the Deaf Lutheran sent in the mail costs \$10.00 a year. Send subscriptions to Carolyn Snyder-Mason.

4. Extra copies of the Deaf Lutheran will be available for free on the table near the registration check-in.

5. She thanked Jeff Padon for his service as Business Manager and the new Business Manager is now Carolyn Snyder-Mason.

6. Rev. Daryl Gehlbach reported he has been researching the Deaf Lutheran newsletter and has almost all of the copies since 1909 and are ready to put up online on the ILDA website. He would like permission to post all the previous issues. Concordia Historical Institute did not have the 1909 issue but the AG Bell Association, Washington, DC did have a copy of it. It was loaned to Rev. Gehlbach, scanned and returned back to AG Bell.

4. President John Mason gave permission to put up the issues from 1909-1958 online.

3. Rev. Gehlbach discussed the history book for the 2021 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary convention. Don Mowl did the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book. Rev. Gehlbach would like to have lay people do the next one. Rev. Gehlbach is willing to help and suggested a committee be set up to do it.

### **Deaf Lutheran Business Manager (Carolyn Snyder-Mason)**

1. Carolyn volunteered and took over as Deaf Lutheran Business Manager as of January 1, 2017. She thanked Jeff Padon for his contribution and time as business manager.
2. New checking and savings accounts for the Deaf Lutheran funds were set up at Lutheran Federal Credit Union (LFCU). It is much easier to make deposits at any local credit union (shared branch) approved by LFCU. There is no need to run to the credit union to make deposits because John, Carolyn's husband, found out deposits can be made by using a mobile device (cell phone). The app was downloaded, the account selected and a snapshot taken of the check, front and rear to be deposited. Bless John for doing this work!
3. Janet Gehlbach volunteered to contribute some money to set up the checking and saving accounts. Jeff Padon closed out the Capital One account and gave Carolyn a cashier's check for \$1496.12 which was deposited into the new LFCU checking account. Carolyn later reimbursed Janet the money she initially deposited back to her.
3. Eight subscribers renewed and one church in Canada renewed the bundle of 10 subscriptions.
4. LFCU credited \$1.00 for added account. LFCU credited the savings account \$.26 dividend interest. Carolyn decided to transfer \$750 from the checking to the savings account to earn more dividend interest.
5. The balance in the checking account is \$273.73 and the savings account balance is \$1011.26. Total balance of both is \$1286.99. Auditors were Jeff Padon and Andy Petajan.
3. Labels are being done by Rev. Ron Friedrich and expiration dates are being put on them to remind people when to renew their subscription.
4. Someone from the Board mentioned a member was not getting their copy of the Deaf Lutheran. Who should they contact? Answer: Carolyn Snyder-Mason.
5. Some people might prefer receiving email copies of the Deaf Lutheran.
6. It was suggested to put a reminder on Facebook to inform people that the most recent issue is on the website.

### **Necrology Report (Diane Francisco)**

Diane reported that she is working on ILDA History. A power point presentation designed by Janet Gehlbach and Rev. Gehlbach was shown to the Board. This will be shown again at the Business Meeting and at the banquet.

### **Regional Presidents/representative reports**

#### **1. Central Region (President Mike Ford)**

Sad news that there is no regional conference planned. He does not have much news on who will host in 2018. He would like to meet with Rev. Bud Palmer while at ILDA to discuss plans for 2018.

#### **2. Great Lakes (President Larry Ginter)**

This is his first time back on the Board since his Business Manager days of the Deaf Lutheran.

a. Cleveland, OH average attendance is 35. The church was sold and they are worshipping at a hearing church. Rev. Chip Lawson is serving part-time. Bible Study class before worship service has about 20 attending.

b. Rochester, NY hosted the 2016 conference, voted on a few things and had good attendance. ILDA President John Mason was there and all had a wonderful time. This is Larry Ginter's first time as President.

c. Eastern Region is not active but Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD, asked to join with the Great Lakes region. John Mason explained that Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt made a motion to invite the Eastern Region to join the GRLC. So far no vote has been taken to accept the invitation.

d. Columbus, OH, is doing ok and Rev. Edwin Bergstresser is a part-time pastor. Average Sunday morning attendance is 25 people. Sunday morning Bible Study before worship averages 7 people. Bible

Studies continue at the nursing home and people are happy for Pastor Ed to come. The church bus continues to pick up members from CCH for Sunday Bible Studies and worship.

d. There are four active churches in GRIC – Rochester, NY; Columbus, OH; Cleveland, OH; and Toledo, OH.

e. John Ruston, Rochester, NY has been a deacon for 16 years.

f. Diane Francisco announced her son might become a pastor.

### 3. **Midwest Region** (President Sara Hale)

a. Midwest conference was held in Solon, IA, in 2016 at a Lutheran camp. The main part of the meeting was to discuss changing the by-laws to work with our dwindling members and how younger families can be brought in.

b. Two long time members passed away recently: William Zimmerman (IA) and Marlys Aspnes (MN).

c. Colorado has no active ministry right now. Several deaf have moved out of state.

d. Only Iowa (Des Moines and Cedar Rapids), Kansas (Topeka plus a few others) and Minnesota (Spring Lake Park) are active.

e. Rev. Paul Tessaro is Midwest Region Pastor Advisor.

f. KansaSEED will host the 2019 ILDA convention in Topeka, KS.

g. Fort Dodge, IA, deaf are being served monthly by Rev. Tom Schlund, son of Rev. Steve and Becky Schlund, Great Falls, MT.

### 4. **Northwest Region** (Linda Desrosiers representative)

a.1. Linda brought greetings from the Northwest Region. She is reporting as representative for this Board meeting as the Northwest Region President could not attend.

b. The last NW ILDA conference was held in Langley, British Columbia, Canada in 2014 hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf. The next one is on hold. Richard Sharp is still President of NW ILDA Region; Patti Jenkins as Vice President; and Rev. David Nielsen as Pastor Advisor. Two positions of secretary and treasurer are vacant.

c. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada is being served by Rev. Bob Bauer who preaches once a month. His assistant, Rev. Dr. L. Eckert, is preaching the rest of the month while Eleanor Bauer is interpreting for him at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf. Rev. Bauer was recently in the hospital but is back home.

d. Calgary, Alberta, Canada is still being served by Mr. Zimmer.

e. Vancouver, BC, Canada is being served by Rev. David Nielsen as full-time pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf. He is preaching two or three times at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Surry, BC every month and twice a month at Killarney Community Lutheran Church in Vancouver. His assistant pastor, Rev. Gregory Desrosiers is preaching once a month at a new station at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Aldergrove, BC. Deaconess Linda Desrosiers is on-going setting up and teaching Bible Studies with a few groups and some individuals on a regular basis. Trinity LWMLC of the Deaf is still active especially for fundraising and participating in regional retreats and conferences. Fraser Valley LWMLC grant was approved for paying interpreters for 3 years (2016-2019) for meetings, renewals and retreats.

f. Seattle, WA, is being served by Rev. William Ludwig, Western Washington Lutheran Church of the Deaf, and is still preaching on Sundays.

g. Great Falls, Montana is being served part-time by Rev. Steven Schlund of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf. Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf is still hosting deaf camp every two years at Luther Camp in Bigfork, MT.

### **Nominations (Carol Seeger)**

1. Carol apologized for being late.

2. Carol put two articles in the Deaf Lutheran newsletter requesting nominations for officers and received no responses.

3. During the Business Meeting tomorrow there will be a white board to use for writing down names for the election.

4. The Pastoral Advisor position is open as Rev. Desrosiers has completed two terms.

### **Mission Projects (Dorene Sell)**

1. Doreen reported she received a mission project request from Rev. Mark Seeger for the Youth Service Project. (\$8,000)
2. Rev. Tim Eckert requested funds for the following:  
Missionary Support for Rev. Ryan McDermott (\$2,000), Rev. Steven Schumacher (\$2,000) and David Bush (\$2,000), India (\$8,000) and Kenya (\$8,000). TOTAL Mission Project funds = \$30,000

### **New Business**

Carol Seeger moved to accept the above mission projects (\$30,000) as listed. Passed.

### **Announcements:**

1. Carol Seeger announced that she and her husband, Rev. Mark Seeger, will be joining Rev. Dr. John Reinke to help teach at the Jesus Signs workshops in Kansas, Texas and possibly Australia.
2. Patrick Sell announced that Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Des Moines, IA, will be celebrating 70 years of Deaf Ministry on October 22, 2017. Rev. Gregory Desrosiers will be the guest preacher.
3. Rev. Gregory Desrosiers asked for prayers for people living in Southwest Canada as wildfires have spread due to hot, dry and windy conditions that have resulted in forced evacuations.
4. Sara Hale announced the 2019 ILDA convention will be July 18-21, 2019 in Topeka, KS, at the Capital Plaza Hotel downtown next to the Expo Center. The theme is "God Above Gold" (Psalm 119:127). Hotel nightly room rate is \$97 for a single/double room. The contract has been signed with the hotel. A possible speaker could be Rev. Bill Wrede. Vans will be available for airport pick-up from Kansas City.
5. Diane Francisco announced she is now living in Rochester, NY. The Eastern District has proposed that Deacon John Rushton become ordained as a pastor. They don't know yet when that will happen.
6. Mike Ford announced that Donna Madewell-Smith will be moving to Alabama and will finish her term as treasurer for the Central Region.
7. John Mason announced that his church newsletter had a two-part article on Martin Luther in the January/February newsletter. A movie on Martin Luther will be shown at the Thursday night opening service for ILDA. He explained how he was able to get the company to caption the movie so deaf people can watch it.
8. Mike Ford explained that there is no skit or banner competition and only one group in the sign choir. The host committee decided the group from Our Savior, Madison, WI, will open the convention Thursday night with their song and then there will be a movie shown and later refreshments will be served. On Sunday morning during worship the same group will sign their song again.

Everyone, except the Executive Council and the regional presidents, was asked to leave the room at this time.

It was explained that changes to the Constitution will be approved by the voting members at the Business Meeting on Saturday. A copy of the Constitution changes will be inserted into the Secretary's minute's book if accepted. The changes to the Handbook as suggested during the meeting in Fort Wayne in June 2016 were shown to the Executive Council and regional presidents for approval.

Gregory Werth moved to accept the changes to the Handbook as listed. Passed. (ADDENDUM: These changes to the Handbook will be printed in a future issue of the Deaf Lutheran newsletter and a copy will be inserted into the Secretary's minute's book)

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Gehlbach, ILDA Secretary, 2015-2017