

Empire State Association of the Deaf, Inc.

Minutes of General Meeting

October 3, 2009

Albany, New York

Holiday Express Inn

President Steve Lovi opened meeting at 1:00 pm

Roll Call:

President- Steve Lovi

Vice-President- Joshua Finkle

Secretary-Treasurer- Dean DeRusso

Branch Directors:

Buffalo Civic Association of the Deaf Michael Cross

Southwestern Association of the Deaf (Olean, NY) Susan Snyder

Utica Civic Association of the Deaf, Inc Deborah Pardi

Finance Manager – Anthony Di Giovanni, ex officio (via video phone)

ESAD News - Colleen Kazragis, ex officio (excused)

NYS Pageant Chair - Linda Mosca-Ginis (excused)

Chair of Ways & Means Committee - Roman Kazragis

ESAD Conference Chairperson – David Staehle

Guests:

General Members present.

Steve called the General Membership Meeting at 1:24 pm

Steve apologized for the delay in starting the meeting. He is excited to have at the conference today. In addition, Anthony will join us by video phone as he could not make it.

Vernon Bonse volunteered to do the pledge of alligiance.

Michael Cross volunteered to count the number of members present. 35 members were present which met the required 2/3 quota for an official meeting. This count did not include Anthony who was on video phone.

Finance Manager Report: (via video phone)

Anthony apologized for not being present at the conference as he was not feeling well. He stated that ESAD has a total of \$163,502 in investments. His duties started on August 1, 2009. Since then, ESAD has earned more than \$13,000. ESAD's expenses was just over \$664. Most of the expenses were from the Board of Directors meetings. The Pageant spent over \$4,000 and went over their own expenses. Anthony has also

increased ESAD's insurance from \$700 to \$1,400 to cover costs of Board of Directors and any liability that may be incurred.

ESAD lost some funds since 2005 since stock market went down. In 2005 ESAD earned \$175,019 compared to 2009 which was \$163,500. Anthony added that there will be two different reports because ESAD's finance budget is from August 1 to July 31. The organization's budget is from October 1 to Sept 30. Anthony suggested that ESAD change to a 26 month budget so that the organization's budget will meet the accounting budget at the same time. Anthony added that ESAD does not owe anything. Everything is paid in full.

Steve thanked Anthony for his report. Members had the opportunity to ask questions about what was presented.

Frank Kimmes asked if the Gallaudet Home Fund was audited. Al Hilbok added that ESAD does not have any kind of audit because they have a CPA that audits all things. Al also added that the State Charity office also review ESAD's budget. The CPA has been taking care of this for 15 years.

Steve added that Gallaudet Home Fund has a committee and they are separate from ESAD since GHF has its' own separate account. ESAD has no control of that at all.

Carolyn Cross asked for the name of the CPA. Steve said the company name was Sardine and Robinson CPA firm in Rochester.

Al Hilbok made a motion to have ESAD change its' budget date from August 1 to July 31 to a new report based Oct. 1 to Sept 31 and make it effective today. Mike Cross seconded (Passed)

Steve thanked Anthony for his hard work.

Ways and Means Report:

Roman reviewed the new budget plan that is attached. He said that due to economy today, he asked the members to be careful and accept some new changes.

The main change to the report is that ESAD will support one or two people to attend the New York State Interagency Collaborating Council of Services to Persons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing. The cost of liability insurance has been increased. The costs of conference were reduced a bit as Region 1 and NAD conferences will be closer to New York in 2010 and 2011. ESAD newsletters were reduced a bit as ESAD would like to move this to the website. Roman said that the revenue of ESAD is weak and recommends that ESAD starts looking for new revenue such as car wash, selling books and etc.

Frank Kimmes made a motion to increase the membership dues. Alice second. Passed.

Discussion: Frank noticed the membership has not increased and been \$5 too long as the economy is bad. He felt it would be a good time to increase to \$10 per year. Joshua Finkle amended to have the membership \$10 for year two years making a \$20 membership for two years. Jonathan seconded. Passed

New Business:

Dean DeRusso amended to remove the two years and keep the membership at \$10 per year. Nancy Magliocchino seconded. Passed

Joe Kolash requested to refer this to Ways and Means committee. Susan Snyder seconded (Declined by Steve)

Robert Tawney moved to close discussion. Tom Kelly seconded.

Susan Snyder made a motion to start new membership rate of \$10 per year on January 1, 2011. Vernon Bonse seconded.

Discussion: Susan felt that the reason for this to start in 2011 in order to give time for changes. Carolyn Cross moved to close discussion, seconded by Robert Tawney. Motion failed.

Dean made a motion for a five minute break. Paul Shreeman seconded. Accepted.

Meeting resumed.

Steve made a request for a Nominations Chair. Robert Tawney accepted the position.

Alice Guinane made a motion to suspend the by-laws in order to create a Regional Representative plan. Marybeth Mothersell seconded.

Dean explained that due to the Law Committee chairperson, Al Hlibok who very recently resigned, there was no time to get this motion reviewed by the Law Committee prior to 30 days of the conference. Carolyn Cross made a motion to close the discussion. Joe Kolash seconded. Passed

Dean made a motion for the creation of the Regional Representatives. Robert Tawney seconded. Dean read the proposed motion as stated.

Joshua added that this was discussed in the past because branch chapters used to have over 12 branches and now most were either disbanded or closed. For the last four years, the board has struggled and this plan would be a good way get more people on the board.

David Staehle made a motion to close discussion. Gary Meyers seconded. Passed.

Mike Cross made a motion that ESAD By-Laws to change the Executive Secretary name to Finance Manager. Al Hlibok seconded.

Susan Snyder motioned to close discussion. Gary Meyers seconded. Passed

Frank Kimmes made a motion that GHF-ESAD assist the Advocates for Housing for Deaf Seniors, Inc. to pay off the lawyer for completing his job to get non-profit status in NYS for the remaining balance of \$5,000.00. Robert Tawney seconded.

Alice made a motion to refer to GHF. Jonathan Dollhopf seconded.

Carolyn Cross made a motion to close discussion. Robert seconded. Passed

Jody Kulchinsky made a motion to have pre-proposals the day before new business. Robert Tawney seconded. Passed.

Peggy Hlibok made a motion that ESAD support bill HR 3101 and write letter on ESAD's letterhead. Sean Gerlis seconded. Passed.

Susan made a motion to close business. Joshua seconded. Passed.

Nominations Chair Robert Tawney chose Frank Kimmes, Carolyn Cross, and Cliff Andrews to assist him during the elections process.

The President candidates were Steve Lovi, David Staehle, and Joe Kolash.

The Vice President candidates were Steve Lovi, Vernon Bonse, Dean DeRusso, and Joe Kolash.

The Secretary candidates were Steve Lovi, Vernon Bonse, Dean DeRusso, Joe Kolash and Beth Hazelwood.

Votes were cast by members and counted by Nomination committee.

David Staehle was elected as president for 2010-12. Steve Lovi was the elected as Vice President for 2010-12. Dean DeRusso won the election as Secretary for 2010-12.

Buffalo won the bid for next conference in 2011.

Susan Snyder made a motion to close General Meeting II. Debra Pardi seconded.

Adjourned at 4:22 pm.