



December Board of Directors Meeting

December 21, 2024 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Call to Order

The Alaska Deaf Council (ADC) December Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 3:47 PM on December 21st, 2024 at 420 W International Airport Rd in Anchorage, Alaska.

Roll Call

Present

Byron Jensen, President
Ryan Di Giovanni, Vice President, Parliamentarian
Evelyn Ooten, Secretary
Elise Veatch, Treasurer
Kristeena Brinkley, Member at Large
Tyler Veatch, Member at Large
Sean Gordon, Member at Large
Sharon Miranda, Member
Michael Merritt, Member
Duane Mayes, Committee Chair – Public Policy & Legislative
Clara Baldwin, Committee Chair – Education & Outreach

[Z] ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

* OBSERVERS ARE NON-VOTING AND DO NOT HAVE VOICE OR VOTING PRIVILEGES

Absent

Shawn Schramski, Member at Large
Markus Porch, Member at Large

Review Meeting Minutes

President Jensen shared that we had the November 22, 2024, Board Meeting minutes to review and then the Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

Reports

Bylaws

Vice President Di Giovanni discussed the Confidentiality Agreement for the Board to review. There were no objections to the non-disclosure agreement (NDA) from members of the Board. Vice President Di Giovanni then stated that this would be sent to the entire Board and that this would be due to Secretary Ooten by Monday, December 23rd.





Budget & Finance

N/A

Education & Outreach

Committee Chair Baldwin shared some information about the impact of funding from the State of Alaska taxes and encouraged the Board to research information on upcoming legislative season.

Nominating

N/A

Public Policy & Legislative

Committee Chair Duane Mayes shared information about the Deaf Navigator Program (DNP) and encouraged ADC to create a position paper to increase funding by \$100,000 annually to benefit those recipients that needs support from Hope Community Resources' Deaf Supports programs.

Youth Membership

N/A

Recreation & Sports*

N/A

Unfinished Business

- **Officers & Directors Insurance – *Tabled to Next Meeting***
President Jensen mentioned that Vice President Di Giovanni and Member at Large Sean Gordon would follow up with the Board with additional information before the meeting in December.
- **Board Expectations – *Referred to ad hoc Committee***
Vice President Di Giovanni motioned for the ADC to adopt a Board Policy Manual that would include Meeting Etiquette, Governance, and how to administer the Zero Tolerance Policy. Member at Large Gordon seconded the motion and upon discussion it was determined that the motion needed to be referred to an ad hoc Committee compromising the entire Board for the next 30 days to draft the manual before the next Board meeting in December. The motion to refer to an ad hoc committee was passed unanimously.
- **Setting The Budget for 2025 – *Referred to the Budget & Finance Committee***
President Jensen suggested that the Board of Directors go ahead and set the Budget for 2025 to cover Interpreting Grants, Scuba Diving Workshops, Events, and Etc.





Vice President Di Giovanni motioned to refer this to the Budget & Finance Committee as it is their responsibility to draft a Budget for the Board to approve and Member at Large Schramski seconded this motion. The Board voted unanimously to refer this to the Budget & Finance Committee for review.

▪ **Sponsorship Letters for AANO & ADC – *Tabled to Next Meeting***

President Jensen shared that someone should make a motion for the ADC to have templates for Sponsorship letters. Vice President Di Giovanni mentioned that a motion wasn't necessary at the time and that we could table this topic to the next meeting to give the Board an opportunity to review the template. Member at Large Gordon seconded this, and the motion was tabled unanimously.

New Business

▪ **What to do with Donations from Geraldine Klapak – *PASSED***

Member at Large Brinkley motioned for ADC to fundraise all proceeds from Geraldine Klapak's donation by selling the items so that we may benefit from additional funds in our Budget. This was seconded by Treasurer Veatch and then carried unanimously by the Board.

▪ **Position Paper by the ADC on the Deaf Navigator Program – *PASSED***

Vice President Di Giovanni motioned that the Alaska Deaf Council create a position paper to increase funding for the Deaf Navigator Program by \$100,000 annually. Secretary Ooten seconded this motion and then Chairperson Mayes stressed the importance of securing additional funding to support Hope Community Resources since funding has been stagnant in recent years despite rising inflation costs in the state of Alaska. This motion was carried unanimously by the Board and Chairperson Mayes will work on creating the position paper for ADC to submit.

▪ **Open the Floor for Member at Large Appointment – *PASSED***

Member at Large Brinkley motioned for ADC to open the floor for nominations for an additional Member at Large. Vice President Di Giovanni seconded the motion and reminded the Board that there are some vacancies to fill. Member at Large Brinkley then nominated Kathryn Widner of Fairbanks. After some deliberation the Board voted to accept Kathryn Widner as a Member at Large for 2024 to 2026.

▪ **Swearing in new Members at Large**

President Jensen swore in Kathryn Widener as a Member at Large.





Announcements

- **AEIC (Alaska Educational Interpreter Conference)**
February 28-March 2 Encourage ADC to have a booth at the AEIC conference and offer Members the opportunity to interact with AEIC participants.
- **East High School ASL Honor Society**
The Teacher at East High School reached out to the ADC to see if their students can volunteer with the ADC to earn credit for involvement with the Deaf community.
- **Signing Santa Event Fundraiser**
The ADC raised \$110 through fundraising at the event that was successful.

Adjournment

The Board of Directors Meeting was adjourned at 5:14 PM.

Gregory "Byron" Jensen
President

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