

Vermont Association of the Deaf (VTAD)
(Regular Board Meeting 9/9/2024 7:02 PM)

1. Board Members

PRESENT:

Rebecca Lalanne, President (RL)
John Pirone, Vice President (JP)
Valerie Hughes, Secretary (VH)
Allen Winfree, Treasurer (AW)
Jacob Veeder, MAL (JV)
David Krueger, Past-President (DK)

Unable to attend:

Quorum present? Yes

2. Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at (7:02 pm) by President Rebecca Lalanne.
- Approved of the Minutes: August meeting minutes are accepted as read. **Motion 092024:1** - JP moved to accept the August meeting minutes as read, seconded by JV. All in favor, PASSED.
- **President's Report (RL):**
 1. **State Legislation:** I spoke with Rep. Nader Hasham about the upcoming bills and he inquired if there is any bill we want to advance. Two potential bills are the Bill of Rights of Deaf Children and CVTA. *The Board brainstormed different effective strategies for advocacy such as providing visual mapping showing what/how each federal law does and does not do.*
 2. **NAD:** NAD has asked each state to find and encourage youth people to participate in JRNAD. *After the board discussion, RL will reach out to Michelle Rheault for potential students.*
 3. **Town Hall:** We need to develop a flyer for the upcoming town hall meeting on October 19th from 10a to 3p. The potential agenda for the event is to introduce ourselves, feel the pulse of the community, and ask

for feedback. Also, we will have a special guest who is a representative from the UVM Medical Center and he wants to collect feedback from the community about accessibility and health services.

4. **Community Events:** The Brattleboro Deaf Club has an event on November 23rd and they need some volunteers. The Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services will host its annual event, Soup Festival, on December 14th.

- **Vice President's Reports (JP)**

1. **Website:** The transfer of ownership is all set now. I recommend that we set up an ad hoc committee to review the VTAD website.
2. **TV Accessibility:** I spoke with the director of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind services (DAIL) about issues with press conferences and TV outlets not showing ASL interpreters. It appears that there is no advocacy action within the state government and we need to reach out to TV outlets and the Governor's office expressing our concerns about limited accessibility. *The board discussed and brainstormed ideas. One agreed suggestion is that we, VTAD, create a standard template that the community can use to share their concerns with TV outlets.*

- **Treasurer's Report (AW)**

1. **Lawson's Event:** Jacob and I will make an ASL video to advertise the event. The brewery plans to share a press release tomorrow or 12th. There may be some news coverage by WCAX. *The board discussed the logistics such as what time to show up, who the interpreters are, and videos to explain YHCF.*

- **Secretary's Report (VH) -**

1. **VTAD E-mail:** We have received emails asking about ASL classes and we need to do something about that. *RL suggested that VTAD develop a list of all places offering ASL courses and, also, a list of apps. These lists can then be shared with those who ask for information.*

- **Member At Large (JV) - none**

3. **Unfinished Business - None**

4. **New Business**

1. Website

Motion 9.2024:2 - JP moved to set up ad hoc committee to review the website and the committee consists of 2 VTAD board members and 1 community member. It's seconded by JV and all in favor, PASSED.

Upcoming BOARD MEETING:

October 8th at 7 p.m.

RL moved to close the meeting, JP seconded. All in favor, PASSED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:05 P.M.