

1 **GREATER LOS ANGELES AGENCY ON DEAFNESS, INC.**
2 **Executive Agency Board of Directors**
3 **Wednesday, February 27, 2013**
4 **MINUTES**
5

6 **President Sidansky called the meeting to order at 7p.m. A quorum was present.**
7

8 **I. ROLL CALL**
9

10 Board Members Present:

11 Robert Sidansky -President, Mark Jones-Vice President, Robert Sutton –Treasurer, Fred Lovitch-Secretary,
12 Matthew McGill, Maria T. Ramirez, Modela Kurzet, Barbie Gomez, Karen Bowman, Elaine Aikins
13

14 Absent:

15 Jonathan Weiss
16

17 Visitors:

18 Michael Moses
19

20 Staff Present:

21 Dr. Patricia Hughes
22

23 Interpreters:

24 Norman Galapin and Barbara Mathis
25

26 Recording Secretary:

27 Jainah Ranger
28

29 **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of November 7, 2012**

30 Page 1, line 12, move “Modela Kurzet” to line 15 under “Absent”

31 Page 1, line 47, move “Today” to second page

32 Page 2, line 48, change “for” to “against”

33 Page 3, line 4, change “common” to possible

34 Lovitch moves to accept the minutes with corrections. Sutton seconds. **MSC.**
35

36 **III. OFFICER’S REPORTS**

37 President’s Report:

38 Sidansky stated that the board is very important because we serve the deaf and hard of hearing community.

39 The board is responsible for the community it represents. Most people do not realize how important it is to
40 have an organization like GLAD. Board members should know what is happening in their community and

41 the things that are happening in the world that affect the deaf community. Sidansky encouraged the board
42 to follow news on the internet and read the newspaper and if they find a topic that could affect the deaf

43 community to bring it up at the board meeting. We need to look for more board members that can actively
44 contribute to the GLAD. Things are changing and becoming more specialized in the work place. The

45 work place is requiring that people have the skills to work as a team. Prospective employers tend to be
46 concerned about hiring a deaf person because they have to pay for an interpreter which can be costly.

47 Another concern that affects the deaf community is the captioning glasses that movie theaters provide.

48 Hughes stated that she had a positive experience. Lovitch mentioned that he does not like the captioning
49 glasses.

50 Sidansky informed the board that he will email the board with a list with proposed dates for board

1 meetings.

2

3 Vice President's Report:

4 No Report

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6 Treasurer's Report:

7 Sutton referred to the handouts. Sidansky informed the board that more members for the finance
8 committee are needed.

9

10 Secretary's Report:

11 Lovitch informed the new board members that if they are interested in joining the nomination committee
12 let him know.

13

14 **IV. CEO'S REPORT**

15 Hughes reported that she has board resolution forms for Sidansky and Lovitch to sign which state that the
16 board authorizes the CEO to solicit funds and grants for GLAD. We have about five proposals that we are
17 working on. One proposal is for the Eisner Foundation requesting funds for capital improvement.

18 We are also applying for two \$10,000 grants to purchase a new oven, refrigerator and other equipment for
19 the kitchen. The gas company assured Hughes that the gas stove is safe; however, when the gas stove is
20 turned on, the building gets a strong odor of gas which led staff and residents to become anxious
21 wondering if gas is leaking. We had to get the gas company over recently and Hughes decided to turn it
22 off. Hughes would like to replace the stove.

23 Hughes stated that she is thrilled about the new business cards that now have a QR code. Hughes
24 explained that if the QR code is scanned with a smart phone the GLAD website comes up. Hughes passed
25 out the new business cards to the board. The GLAD website can be translated into 6 different languages.

26 *LifeSigns*

27 LifeSigns (LS) is growing at a fast pace due to new contracts. LS needs to add more staff.

28 LS created a new position called Account Manager to work with a certain contract due to a very high
29 volume of requests. The contract stipulates that LS needs to be open following their schedules including
30 holidays. LS is currently open 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Friday. On some holidays, LS will be open
31 to accommodate the stipulations.

32 LS fell behind in sending invoices to vendors due to the growing pains. Some LS staff worked overtime
33 on a Saturday to catch up with this task.

34 LS is going through small changes. For instance, Riverside and Los Angeles dispatchers are now one team
35 instead of operating separately.

36 LifeSigns had a workshop at OCDEAF on interpreter ethics. Interpreters were able to earn CEU.

37 LS will start experimenting VRI with one or two large vendors. We will use a third party company for
38 software and another company for VRI services but they both will be branded LS.

39 *DSS Proposal*

40 GLAD submitted four proposals for the Department of Social Services (DSS) and I am pleased to
41 announce that our four centers have been awarded to continue our DSS services. At this point, it is
42 tentative till both parties' complete negotiations and produce four fully executed contracts which will be in
43 late spring.

44 *GLAD Lawsuits*

45 GLAD filed a lawsuit against CNN.com for not providing captions on their online content, news and any
46 other live programs thus CNN.com is denying the communication access to deaf and hard of hearing
47 individuals. The main reason for the lawsuit is to ensure that we deaf and hard of hearing individuals have
48 functional equivalency to communication access provided by CNN.com. CNN.com filed an appeal which
49 will be heard in court on March 11th.

50 DRLC (Disability Rights Legal Center) filed a lawsuit against the Archlight Theaters for refusing to

1 caption their movies. GLAD is supporting DRLC's lawsuit.
2 The number of inmates contacted GLAD about lack of access in prisons and jails. Several lawyers have
3 been contacted about these cases and are waiting to hear back.

4 *Interview*

5 Hughes was filmed for an interview by a USC student about the artificial ear that scientists recently
6 developed. The ear is intended to replace the outer ear but won't have any impacts on how inner ear
7 functions. The student wanted to know how this will affect the deaf community. Hughes explained to the
8 student about the idea of a miracle pill that would make a deaf person become hearing instantly and how
9 some deaf would prefer not to hear because of many years of not hearing anything. The metaphor gave the
10 student a better picture. Once the editing is done the student will email Hughes the link to the interview
11 which will be posted on the USC website.

12
13 **V. SUBSIDIARY REPORTS**

14 LIFESIGNS Chair Report:

15 Bowman reported that LifeSigns had been meeting 3 times a year but the board decided to change it to 2
16 times a year. There are two new board members which are Bowman and Herbst. Herbst is a teacher at
17 Pierce College. Annarino is working on setting up a medical interpreting workshop. The board would also
18 like to have a mental health workshop. LifeSigns will be looking into becoming a test site for NIC since
19 there are none in California.

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21 DAHC Chair Report:

22 No Report

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24 CODIE Report:

25 Hughes reported that there are not enough people on the board yet to send a representative to the GLAD
26 board meetings and that the board is having informal meetings.

27
28 TRI COUNTY Report:

29 Aikins reported that Tri had a fundraiser at Johnny Rockets on February 8th. 15% of the proceeds went
30 towards Tri. Tri received \$250. February 21st there was a 911 workshop that was held at Tri. A lot of
31 deaf and hard of hearing attended. There was a Community Education Workshop for hearing parents with
32 deaf children and deaf parents with hearing children to get together to express their concerns and make
33 sure that parents and children understand each other. The Strawberry Festival will be on May 18th and
34 19th. Aikins encouraged the board to attend.

35
36 OC-DEAF Report:

37 Jones reported that the board did not have a meeting in December or January but did meet on February
38 13th. The next board meeting will be on March 20th. Every Wednesday there is donuts and coffee at
39 OCDEAF. On February 28th there will be pizza night at Shakey's. March 13th ASL classes will start for
40 \$60. March 20th there will be a tax workshop. April 25th there will be a job training workshop all day.
41 The board is still discussing a date for Deaf Awareness Day at Knott's Berry Farm.

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43 **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

44 Finance Committee Report:

45 No Report

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47 Governance Committee:

48 No Report

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50 Nominations Committee:

1 Sidansky stated that he would like to move forward with electing Aikins and Bowman to the board but first
2 would like Bowman and Aikins to introduce themselves to the board. Bowman stated she went to CSUN,
3 used to work for SAID then worked for GLAD as a CCA and Advocate Specialist, then went to work for
4 the courts for 6 1/2 and now Bowman works for the for Los Angeles County Department of Children and
5 Family Services as a supervisor for the deaf unit. Aikins stated she has been involved with the deaf
6 community since 1958. She has worked for the Hebrew Association of the Deaf since 1993, joined the Tri
7 Board in October 2008, started volunteering in 2009 for the Strawberry Festival, is an officer for TBS and
8 has been involved with TBS for 52 years, and is involved with the Sisterhood for 21 years. Aikins has
9 retired from the post office and is currently involved with mental health outreach. Aikins enjoys working
10 with the deaf community. Sutton moves to accept Bowman and Aikins to the board as members. Lovitch
11 seconded. **MSC.**

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13 Personnel Committee:

14 No Report

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16 **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

17 House of Blues (HOB) - Sutton moves to un-table the motion made by Jones to have HOB on June 9th with
18 June 23rd as an alternate date if June 9th was not available and had been seconded by Sutton. Kurzet
19 seconded. Discussion. Jones informed the board that Disney will not have the Sign'n' in the Streets event
20 for 2013. Discussion closed. Aikins moves to amend Jones' motion to have brunch instead of a night
21 fundraiser. Kurzet seconded. **MSC.** Hughes asked for the board's assistance in promoting HOB and for
22 looking for stars to attend.

23 **Adhoc Committees**

- 24 A. GLAD Building - Gomez would like to have a meeting with Jones and Sutton about the GLAD
25 building and then report to the board next month.
26 B. Five Year Plan - Hughes stated that board needs to develop a new five year plan. Sutton would like
27 to table the Five Year Plan till the summer time. Hughes agreed.

28

29 **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

30 Bowman asked if GLAD has a domestic violence (DV)/batterers 52 week program. Hughes explained that
31 GLAD has a smaller program for DV and we are working to set up ten weeks of classes for batterers. That
32 will be through courts' orders. It is in works. We have two staff here at GLAD and CODIE that are
33 trained for DV program. We are looking for grants to assist with GLAD's DV programs. Lovitch stated
34 that he will be hosting a fundraiser here at GLAD and the proceeds are going towards GLAD's DV
35 program.

36

37 **IX. PUBLIC INPUT**

38 None

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40 **X. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

41 Sutton stated that Islam is having an ASL event on March 9th.

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43 **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

44 Meeting adjourned 9:32 pm. The next Board Meeting will be held at 7pm on April 24, 2013.

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47 _____
Fred Lovitch

48 Board Secretary

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