

2009 UAD Conference Minutes
Utah Association for the Deaf
2009 Biennial Conference
Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Taylorville, Utah
May 7-9, 2009

The 43rd Conference of the Utah Association for the Deaf opened with a 100th year Kick Off Ceremony Thursday, May 7, 2009. The Mr. Deaf Utah Pageant was held that evening also. The next morning, a continental breakfast was served before a series of workshops were given, as follows:

Ryan Commerson, Plenary Speaker
Jodi Kinner, "Deaf Heritage in Utah"
Sari Williams, "What's Love Got to Do with It?"
Eric Lynn, "Deaf Identity"
Ryan Commerson, "Media, Power & Ideology"
David Davenport, "Audism"
Byron Bosshardt, "How to Buy/Sell a Home in This Market"

After a luncheon sponsored by Sorenson Communications, the business session began at 1:15 pm pm with a rendition of the Pledge of Allegiance by Nancy O'Brien. 36 members present were present.

Rob Kerr appointed George Wilding to be the parliamentarian for this meeting.

Eli McCowan, conference chair, (brief overlook report on conference)

The 2007-2009 necrology followed:

Necrology
2007-2009

Linda Harrop ~ September 16, 2007
Kenneth Longmore ~ September 19, 2007
Ernest Wolfgramm ~ October 3, 2007
Dorothy Love ~ October 7, 2007
Lowell Starkey ~ October 16, 2007
Rollin Jones ~ December 17, 2007
Fred Dawson ~ December 20, 2007
Mary Youngs ~ January 7, 2008
Marilynn Broomhead ~ January 9, 2008
David McTee ~ January 19, 2008
James LeVoy Sorenson ~ January 20, 2008
Harry Clarkson ~ January 22, 2008
Dustin Aldous ~ January 23, 2008
Lena Lucero ~ January 23, 2008
Robert O'Brien ~ January 26, 2008
Vaughn Angell ~ February 3, 2008
Frank Smith ~ February 14, 2008
Frances Heiner ~ February 18, 2008
Harriett Mathewson ~ February 21, 2008
Nicole Funk ~ February 22, 2008
Rose Thompson ~ February 23, 2008
Carlos Seegmiller Jr ~ March 2, 2008
Heather Montoya ~ March 9, 2008

Florence Seymour ~ March 5, 2008
Yordis Wilding ~ March 16, 2008
Duane Fuller ~ March 19, 2008
Dixie Ann Brandenburg ~ March 31, 2008
Keith Weenig ~ April 8, 2008
Kay Wilding ~ April 28, 2008
Katherine Seegmiller ~ June 8, 2008
John Hall ~ June 8, 2008
Eric Bias ~ July 2, 2008
Robert Elfrink ~ July 24, 2008
LaVoy Newton ~ July 28, 2008
Clarence Burton ~ August 9, 2008
Iona Snarr ~ August 18, 2008
Donald Haws ~ September 7, 2008
Mary Sanderson ~ October 6, 2008
John Belcher ~ October 7, 2008
John Simonsen ~ October 11, 2008
Elizabeth Clark ~ October 13, 2008
Bert Voss ~ November 14, 2008
Gerald Schwab ~ November 30, 2008
Everett Anderson ~ December 3, 2008
Spencer Hind ~ December 17, 2008
Shelbi Elwell ~ December 30, 2008
Roy Howell ~ December 30, 2008
Marlene Crapo ~ December 31, 2008
Paul Baldrige ~ January 15, 2009
Richard Allison ~ January 20, 2009
Blaine Lee ~ January 24, 2009
Winona Walker ~ January 31, 2009
Carl Skinner ~ February 26, 2009
Jolene Keeley ~ March 10, 2009
Alice Stokes ~ March 19, 2009
Sylve Stromness ~ April 10, 2009
Bernice Tegeder ~ April 21, 2009
Donovan DeYarmon ~ April 24, 2009
Robert Welsh ~ May 6, 2009

A minute of silence followed the presentation to honor these people.

All reports were given in PowerPoint presentations.

Executive Board Reports:

Robert Kerr, President 2007-2009

I have written President Messages for the monthly UAD Bulletin and if I do not mention something in this report, it can be found in one of the issues.

UAD 2007 Conference

Linda Berness, 2007 UAD Conference chairperson, and her committee planned the event well, and many were satisfied with it. Over 250 people attended, and Tribute to ASL was interesting, to explain deaf culture; Keith Wann performed his humorous play about CODA; plus there were motivating workshops. You can read the article in the October 2007 issue of the UAD Bulletin on the UAD website for more information.

UAD Bulletin Scanning

The scanning of UAD Bulletin issues from 1956-2007 was completed last fall. It took me nearly two years to scan. Valerie Kinney has kept all volumes, more than 31 years worth – she began binding her UAD Bulletin copies in 1977. You will notice the 1956 issue looks different as

compared to 2009 issue. Some issues had poor printing and dull, dark pictures; a few issues had to be adjusted to make columns straight and correct images to look better. The UAD Bulletin gives you an idea how history of the deaf community in Utah came to be. We should be glad that Valerie Kinney preserved all UAD Bulletin volumes all these years. She was excited that I completed the scanning of all volumes and posted them on the UAD website. We are happy to have Cathy Holt as our webmaster. Now you may enjoy reading UAD Bulletin issue on the website.

Media Committee

Valerie Kinney, Ron Nelson, George Wilding, Matt Snarr, Jennifer Oleson who is our UAD editor and I had a special media meeting to discuss the future of the UAD Bulletin. We supported the concept of having the UAD Bulletin issue put on UAD website, to begin January 2009. For those who people do not have computer, they can continue their subscription to UAD Bulletin. In the meantime, we will examine to see if the media needs to improve or go to a better method after we hear input from people.

NAD Western Region IV 2007

Matt Snarr and Trenton Marsh, our representatives, were at the National Association of the Deaf Region IV meeting for two days in November 2007 at the Sanderson Community Center. Ten state representatives met to share their concerns and a lot of information. During the break, NAD officers and West Region representatives visited the Sanderson Community Center Bazaar, and shopped there. The Utah Association for the Deaf thanks Jenefer Reudter for her fantastic job of planning the NAD Region IV and making all attendees feel warmly welcomed to Utah.

NAD Conference 2008

Two representatives and an alternative; Trenton Marsh; Jeff Pollock and Matt Snarr were selected to attend National Association of the Deaf Conference at New Orleans, Louisiana in 2008. However, Jeff and Matt were unable to make it, so Trenton Marsh attended the conference by himself and attended as many meetings as he could..

New MDUAP Director

Eli McCowan and I invited our new Miss Deaf Utah Ambassadorship Program (MDUAP) director Andrea Anderson to a UAD board meeting to give board members information about her plans for the next Pageant (now called Program). Board members were pleased to see that she has great plans for MDUAP for the next two years; she has some knowledge from past and set up her own committees. The UAD board applauds her and her committee and wishes them good luck. MDUAP is a name change from Miss Deaf Utah Pageant to follow Miss Deaf American Ambassadorship.

Save the Deaf Center Rally – January 14, 2009

UAD board members heard Marilyn Call, director of Sanderson Community Director, who made comments about budget cuts that SCCDHH faced. The board took up and hosted the "Save the Deaf Center Rally." Some UAD board members and SCCDHH staff volunteers were in attendance. A buffet luncheon was served, thanks to donations from Hands On VRS, Jean Massieu School PTA, Sorenson Communications and InterWest Interpreting. Nearly 500 people signed letters for senators and representatives, asking them not to cut the Deaf Center budget. SCCDHH staff members sorted the letters and stuffed envelopes. Marilyn Call delivered them to the senators and representatives at the beginning of the 2009 Legislative Session. It was good news that budget was not severely cut.

New Bookkeeper

Dennis Platt resigned as UAD treasurer as of December 31, 2007. Since Valerie Kinney preferred to keep her position as assistant treasurer; that left the treasurer position open. Valerie Kinney indicated that a bookkeeper was needed, to continue the work on QuickBooks Pro. Jenefer Reudter, who has experience with QuickBooks Pro, accepted to become the bookkeeper, and to

continue until the next election. Jenefer's experience with Dennis Platt and other committees during the 2007 Winter Deaflympics was a plus.

Legal Interpreter Judiciary

Trenton Marsh asked for a UAD board member to represent UAD at the Legal Interpreter Judiciary meeting. I represented UAD at this meeting. Dale Boam, Jeff Born, and several others were invited to meet. We discussed issues of ethnicity, the Judicial Court list to get the right interpreter for deaf persons when they appear in court. They are working on workshops for interpreters to understand the court process. In order to keep the name on the list through Judiciary Court a recommendation from Utah Interpreter Program would be needed. In addition, the deaf community might need to know what a Judicial Court list means to them and understand the interpreter role in the court setting. The Legal Interpreter Judiciary Committee will update the deaf community on their work in the future.

UAD Friendship Day: Lagoon

April Trocki has already made reservations for July 25, 2009 – the Oak Terrace. She will notify you when tickets become available.

In conclusion, in the past two years UAD board members showed good, positive enthusiasm during meetings; a few meetings were cancelled due to snow. UAD board members agreed on a schedule of meetings for the next two years, usually on a Saturday once a month. Those with family responsibilities find it hard to attend meetings on Saturday but the quorum was met. UAD board members encourage young people to think about becoming a board member for the next two years and support UAD.

Trenton Marsh, Board Chairman

Wow! Time flies, and we are now at a major moment in the Utah deaf community's history - the 100th anniversary of UAD's founding. I am lucky to have been a part of this history.

I have learned a lot over the past two years as a member of the UAD board. I still have a lot more to learn, of course. I learned the role of Chair of the Board, and it was an exciting challenge for me to learn how to manage our monthly Board meetings. I am not the most organized person, so it was sometimes difficult for me to take care of the meeting Agendas, but I feel that my strength is more in face-to-face work. Near the end of my term, I felt much more comfortable running our meetings. Thank you, everyone, for helping me learn my role, and for giving me the opportunity to serve in this position.

Some highlights of my term on this board were: Participating in a Board retreat. It was a great opportunity for us all to get to know each other better and to challenge us to find creative ways to work together. I enjoyed that very much!

A "lowlight" during our term was when we had our annual General meeting and only a few people showed up. That let us know that we have some work to do to recognize the needs of our community.

And of course I cannot forget the biggest highlight: Attending the 2008 NAD Conference in New Orleans as a delegate representing both UAD and our Region IV. It was an amazing experience. It was my first time attending any NAD conference and I learned so much. I also met many people, some old friends and many new friends. It was very interesting being a part of the Council of Representatives and I felt it went very well. We were able to complete Old Business and Bylaw changes from both the 2006 AND the 2004 Conferences! NAD is now all caught up on its revisions and we are now looking to the future. Some of the major concerns that NAD will focus on are: Technology (VRS, FCC, Digital TV and CC issues), Interpreting and ASL/Deaf Education issues, among many others. Eleanor McCowan and I were honored to represent UAD

in receiving the State Association of the Year award from NAD! Again, I appreciate you all giving me the opportunity to attend the NAD Conference as your representative.

In 1909 we did not have many of the things we take for granted today: the ADA, the Deaf Center, the knowledge (and proof) that ASL is a true natural language, interpreters, and so forth. Technology is also available that Elizabeth DeLong, our first President, never even dreamed of! As a result, I think it is important that all of us- members of our community- get together and try to map out the path UAD needs to take to lead us through the next 100 years! Thank you.

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**Valerie Kinney, Assistant Treasurer**

**Finances**

For the past four years, I have served as assistant treasurer under Dennis Platt, UAD treasurer. I took over the UAD books as of January 1, 2009 due to his resignation. He had served for nearly four years as treasurer, since the death of Peter Green. Jennifer Reudter, who has experience with QuickBooks Pro, has been keeping the "books" which is very much appreciated. Accounting is the key to keeping the treasury accurate and up to date.

The facts below are from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008 – two years:

**January 1, 2007**

Inventory = \$10,094.59  
CDs = \$85,300.36  
Checking Account = \$20,907.25

**December 31, 2008**

Inventory = \$10,783.83  
CDs = \$93,735.50  
Checking Account = \$9,528.46

**UAD Finance Committee**

The UAD Finance Committee acts on monetary requests referred by the UAD Board of Directors, and makes recommendations. It is up to the board to accept or reject the recommendations from this committee. The committee met four times between January 2007 and December 2008.

Finance committee members are Valerie Kinney, Keith Nelson, Nancy Taylor and George Wilding.

**UAD Announce**

This group email, which began June 6, 2001, has sent out 4,601 as of April 18, 2009. This is an average of 575 messages a year. It currently has over 1,010 subscribers. The subscription list covers a range of people: Deaf people, hard of hearing people, interpreters, parents of deaf children, ASL students, SCCDHH staff; JMS staff; USDB staff – and is not limited to Utah, as former Utahns across the country subscribe to keep up with news of their home state.

Messages sent out cover a variety of subjects: events, job and volunteer opportunities, obituaries, legislative news, results of sports events, and more.

Valerie Kinney is the lead moderator and Ron Nelson is the backup moderator.

**UAD Bulletin**

Due to rising cost of printing, paper and postage, a decision was made to post the monthly UAD Bulletin on the Utah Association for the Deaf website, starting January 1, 2009. Most subscriptions will expire June and July, after which there will be a small pool of subscribers who do not have access to the internet. Those with no internet access will be able to continue subscribing.

The editor is Jennifer Oleson, who began her duties September 2006. The UAD Bulletin committee is made up of Valerie Kinney, chair, with Ron Nelson and Kristi Mortensen as mentors.

### **Utah Telecom Book**

The biennial edition of Utah Telecom Book (formerly known as Utah TTY Directory) continues to be a very popular service by Utah Association for the Deaf. The print order is 1,000 and advertising pays for the printing costs.

The 2010-2011 edition work will begin this fall. You can help by contacting Dave Mortensen for advertising, and Valerie Kinney for listings.

Dave is editor while Val is co-editor. Ron Nelson, also co-editor, sees to the technical end.

### **Board Members-at-Large Reports:**

#### **Ron Nelson, Representative**

##### **Popcorn Coalition**

The Popcorn Coalition, which was founded on January 15, 2002, runs strong today. Five organizations are represented on the Coalition with two members of each organization. The organizations are Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA), Alexander Graham Bell Association (AGB), Cued Language Network of America and the Utah Association for the Deaf. Recent efforts have focused on lobbying the Public Service Commission to change the financial qualification level in the telecommunications distribution program. The Coalition also has an email listserv for captioned movies in Utah theaters.

#### **Ron Nelson, Chair**

##### **UAD Website ([www.uad.org](http://www.uad.org))**

The UAD website was started in 2000 and has had several webmasters. Cathy Holt became the webmaster in 2008 and did an outstanding job re-designing the look and simplifying the resources. She is clearly the most skilled webmaster UAD has ever had!

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George D. Wilding, Chair

Utah Museum for the Deaf

For the past 3 years, I have collected several bags or boxes for the museum to be displayed at the Sanderson Community Center. There is a glass display in the front lobby. I do need some more to show but due to lack of room or place. I have four more boxes in my home office.

I would like to have a room somewhere in the center for a museum near the bookstore. The reason is maybe we can see how many visit the museum and donate money in a jar, who knows. Also maybe some deaf people could bring something for the museum. I hope it is possible that the bookstore will have another door and make an entrance to the museum.

If you have any ideas about the museum, let us share and I will be glad to help.

Wall of Honor

My wife Ruthann and I went to McKay Dee Hospital in Ogden often (second home for us, ha) At the back of the lobby, there is a Wall of Honor with many names. People who have donated money or service can have their name on this wall.

I found out a while ago that the UAD cannot have a Wall of Honor in the Sanderson Community Center because of state law. Board members suggested having the Wall of Honor on the UAD website. I think it is good idea.

I would advise having five or more officers on this committee. This committee can meet one or two times a year, set up bylaws and vote for an annual celebration by UAD. This committee

can collect names. That honor must go to members of UAD. One more idea, it could be called UAD Hall of Fame.

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**Linda Berness Chair**

**Golden Hand Award Committee**

The Golden Hand Award goes to individuals or organizations that have served the deaf community in an outstanding way.

The committee goes over applications and picks one to receive this prestigious award.

The Golden Hand Award is given on the evening of the biennial conference dinner. An award will be given during the awards program of the Gala this weekend.

In 2007, Ron Burdett received the Golden Hand Award on behalf of Sorenson Communications.

Linda Berness is chairperson; committee member are Valerie Kinney, Matt Snarr, Trenton Marsh, and Dennis Platt

**Deaf Senior Citizens of Utah**

Deaf Senior Citizens of Utah meets every Wednesday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm to play games and cards, at the Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Doughnuts, soda pop and fruit are sold during the day. Everyone of any age is welcome.

Membership fee is \$5.00 for two years.

On the third Wednesday a meeting is held, with lunch following, and a game is played for prizes.

Sometimes a tour is provided, with our people riding the state van. At Christmastime a dinner is held for those who have attended more than six times.

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Eli McCowan, Representative

Emergency Preparedness

With the earthquakes hitting our blue planet more and more, you are encouraged to look up the website on how to prepare yourself and protect your loved ones at home. You might want to find the valuable information on various websites to protect your home prior to the earthquakes and afterwards.

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**Nancy O'Brien, Representative**

**DSDHH Advisory Council**

I have served on the Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Council since last fall. Meetings are held the third of each month the Sanderson Community Center.

The role of the Advisory Council is to provide input on the strategic plan, needs assessment, and evaluations. Members comment on effectiveness and consumer satisfaction with services, programs and functions of the deaf center.

A liaison from the Advisory Council is sent to the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council (SRC) and is asked to report back to the DSDHH Advisory Council.

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Jennifer Byrnes, Chair

Social Activity

September Board Retreat:

- Board Retreat:
- Planned team building events during the retreat
- Planned prizes for team events

After General Assembly Party:

- Planned refreshments
- Planned decorations
- Planned how to get more people to come to general assembly

Committee Reports:

Adele Sigoda, Manager

UAD Bookstore

I will have managed the bookstore for two years this month. I want to praise my six wonderful volunteers – Valerie Kinney, Rob Kerr, Ana Martinez, Linda Berness, EJ Royce and Mya Drexler. Kortney Lynch volunteered for brief time and she is moving back to her hometown in Indiana this month.

We opened a UAD Bookstore in St. George. After six months trial, it was closed due to lack of customers. I want to thank Faith Bassett for her willingness to be a manager during that time.

The most popular items sold at the bookstore are light signalers and alarm clocks.

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**Andrea Anderson, State Director**

**Miss Deaf Utah Ambassadorship Program**

Number of contestants now down to 7

- 1) Andrea Vigil
- 2) Brynn Gorham
- 3) Carolann Darger
- 4) Jenny Jaramillo
- 5) Natisha Luke
- 6) Janelle Milano
- 7) Melissa Mischo

Workshops & Events by MDUAP in 2009

- Fitness Workshop for Contestants in January taught by Andrea Anderson
- Beauty/Modeling/Platform for Contestants in February with Pamela Mower as contestants' coordinator, and Jen Byrnes as Platform coach, and Miss Utah Kayla Barclay as modeling coach.
- Platform and Talent Development Workshop in March with different coaches; Cherie Hudson, Yvonne Montaltee, and Mindy Lou Bell.
- Interview Skills Workshop in April for Contestants with "mock coaches;" Cherie Hudson, Patricia Lowdy, Gary Leavitt, and Adele Sigoda

- Mr. Utah during UAD 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Thursday night May 7 at 7 pm at Sanderson Deaf Center. *Flyer attached.*
- May 22 and 23, MDUAP retreat for contestants at Park City
- June 6, first dry run (practice) for MDUAP Pageant performance
- June 12, Pre-reception for contestants & judges plus VIP committee members
- June 13, MDUAP competition at South Hills Middle School in Riverton. Details: Starts at 6 pm and can buy tickets online. [www.mdup.uad.org](http://www.mdup.uad.org) Ticket Coordinator is Kimberly Thornsberry.

### **Proud Sponsors**

Utah Association for the Deaf, Novell, Key Bank, Utah Athletic Club for the Deaf, Association for Deaf Children, JMS, Sego Lily Abused Center for the Deaf, Sun First Bank, Sorenson Legacy

These are not all of the Sponsors – there are some more (ones that made small generous donations.) All will be listed in MDUAP 2009 Program Book at the competition in June.

### **Kristi Mortensen, Chair**

#### **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Child's Bill of Rights**

1. Fall 2007, Rob Kerr and I met with Christine Timothy to discuss the possibility of reviving DHHCBR (Deaf and Hard of Hearing Child's Bill of Rights). After more than two hours, we agreed that the work of Jodi Kinner on HB 296 and SB 201 needs to pass before we can move to the next level, to avoid having "too many eggs in one basket".
2. Spring 2008, Jodi Kinner and Kristi Mortensen, along with other representatives from USDB and Utah State Office of Education, attended the State Leader's Summit in Montana which focused on the National Deaf Agenda.
3. Fall 2008, Kristi contacted Representative Christine Johnson (she is Kristi and Ron's district representative) to meet and discuss reviving DHHCBR. She agreed but requested to wait after the 2009 Legislative Session.
4. Christine Timothy, USOE, Education Specialist (sensory and significant disabilities) in the Special Education Department sent Jodi and Kristi (plus those who attended the Summit last year and this year) a memo about meeting either in late May or early June 2009.
5. Kristi has not contacted Representative Christine Johnson but will soon and get the meeting set up and get the ball moving with DHHCBR.
6. FYI: Christine Timothy and Representative Christine Johnson both wholeheartedly agree that DHHCBR needs to be passed and implemented.

#### **MDUP Sorority**

1. It has been in a sleep mode due to Kristi's busy schedule with doctorate studies. Starting late spring 2009, Kristi will have more time due to a lighter load.
2. Kristi hosted a meeting with new MDUAP State Director and her executives at her home last summer, 2008.
3. The issue about MDUP Sorority was raised. Katrina Lee and Kristi will begin working on some goals and how the sorority can benefit MDUAP.
4. Right now at this point, nothing has been done, but Kristi will work on getting the sorority back up to full speed after MDUAP in June 2009.
5. Kristi will discuss with Katrina Lee and Andrea Anderson about changing the name of MDUP Sorority to MDUAP Sorority.

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Jodi Kinner, Institutional Council Member:

Summary of Eligibility

For many years, any deaf, blind and deaf-blind students served by USDB who achieved academically on grade-level, were automatically moved out of the USDB (including JMS) system and were placed in a mainstream setting at their local school district where they no longer qualified for special education.

Code 53A-25-104 added a barrier to promoting quality education at USDB/JMS because it emphasized special education instead of deaf education. With this law in the way, it was impossible to improve the quality of deaf education in regard to language and communication accessibility.

In regards to the portion of eligibility, 28 letters from parents and the Deaf/Hearing community were sent to Dr. Patti Harrington, State Superintendent of Public Instruction in October 2007. Dan Mathis and Jeff Pollock spoke to the Utah State Board of Education. A large number supported amending the statute to lift the cap by allowing students who are at or above grade level to attend USDB, not just those who have an IEP. The correspondence had impact and it eventually caught legislators' attention.

On February 6, 2008, a group of concerned legislators sent a letter to the Utah State Board of Education regarding the eligibility of students to be served by Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. On February 28, 2008, the Institutional Council's voted unanimously to allow deaf, blind and deaf-blind students who achieve grade level standards to remain at USDB. Governor Huntsman signed the bill on March 25, 2009! With this new bill, USDB deaf, blind and deaf-blind students will be given options: Individualized Education Plan (establish academic/services goals) or Section 504 (those who are on-level need direct communication with teachers and peers in ASL).

House Bill 296: Entrance Policy

House Bill 296 requires that the Entrance Policy be established to determine who is eligible (i.e. hearing students, students with multi-disabilities, etc) for the USDB services. It is our goal to submit the policy to the Utah State Board of Education for approval sometime this summer before school starts in August 2009.

Institutional Council

Now that the HB 296 is passed, USDB Institutional Council will change to its name, Advisory Council on July 1, 2009.

While working on the Deaf Heritage in Utah book, it was discovered that the name of this council changed over the years. For instance, back in the 1950s, the council was named Advisory Council. In 1970s, it changed to the Governor's Advisory Council and that name remained until 1980s. It was changed to Institutional Council. Now it is back to the Advisory Council again.

A New Member of the Institutional Council

Scot Ferre is a new member of the Institutional Council representing the Deaf community. He replaced Dennis Platt.

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**Dave Mortensen, Chair**

**Hospital and Lawyer Committee**

Three years ago, Ron Nelson, UAD President at the time, asked Dave Mortensen to head the unexpected encounters in the area of interpreting services at several hospitals. Chet Loftis came to answer questions from the board. Mr. Mortensen met different people in the language department regarding the situations. Since then the awareness efforts worked due to doctors' cooperation with interpreting services for their clients which improved deaf patients' lives for equal accessibility. There were disagreements between oral and signing situations. Public relations were the essential tool in effecting the positive changes in the Utah Deaf-wide community.

Dave Mortensen, Ron Nelson, Dale Boam along with Jeff Born, interpreter, met with John Baldwin, Director of the Utah State Bar Association last fall. Dale Boam has an article which will be published in their May-June 2009 Utah Bar Association Journal. We are continuing to urge the Utah State Bar Association to press lawyers in providing interpreters for clients they are working with. This is an ongoing project that will not end until success is made in that area of accessibility.

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Carole Peck, Representative

CAT Public Relation Committee

I was first selected in 2005 to serve a two year term on CAT (Committee Accessible Transportation) within Utah Transit Authority. In 2007 I was asked to serve another two year term, which will end June 2009. I will have served four years and can no longer serve on the CAT.

Guides I follow to do general reports

- I explain the purpose of the CAT

- I review past accomplishments from CAT, and report new goals set. That information is reported each month at the big CAT meeting. CAT has a day long retreat each year and I have been there all four years.

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**Jeff Pollock, UIP Certification Board - Deaf Consumer**

**Utah Interpreter Program Certification Board**

The Certification Board consists of 11 individuals tasked to advise and make recommendations to be adopted by the Utah Interpreter Program. The State Board of Education makes the final decision on policy changes. The Board consists of four Deaf people, four interpreters, one representative from the State Board of Regents, one representative from the Utah State Office of Education, and one representative from the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Chairperson for 2009-2010 is Trenton Marsh.

Recent issues discussed by the Board:

1. Elimination of the Master Certification level
2. Elimination of the "Allowable Practices Guidelines"
3. Recognition of the RID Code of Professional Conduct
4. Extension of the Written Test valid period from three years to five years

5. Changing the Certification level names from Novice and Intermediate to Novice Certification and Professional Certification
6. Extension of the Novice Certification level to four years before requiring to pass the Professional Certification level
7. Changing the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) score requirement from 3.5 to 4.0
8. Extension of the EIPA 3.5 score to four years before requiring to pass the 4.0 score
9. New Policies and Procedures Manual to reflect the above changes
10. Public Service Commission provides financial support for interpreter training programs in Utah but does not permit the inclusion of Deaf individuals pursuing training to become Deaf Interpreters; UIP/DSDHH drafted a letter of concern to the PSC regarding this
11. Due to state budget constraints, certification testing fees will increase starting July 1, 2009

Certification Board meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday each month from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Robert G. Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The public is invited.

After a hot luncheon sponsored by Sorenson Communications, the business session began at 1:15 pm. Robert Kerr, president, conducted the meeting.

**Proposals were acted on:**

**Proposal #1**

**Submitted by Justin Anderson on October 12, 2008**

**Article V: Duties of the Officers**

**Section 5: Duties of the Treasurer**

**A.** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect all dues; to keep an accounts of all disbursements and receipts; to take care of monies belonging to the Association; to provide a quarterly financial statement to the Board of Directors and a biennial report to the conference; to deposit all funds in a banks in the name of the Association and under the countersignature of the President and/or other officers authorized by the Board of Directors; and expend money only by vouchers to satisfy obligations approved by the Board of Directors.

**E. The treasurer shall oversee the committee(s) banking account. The committee(s) may have its own banking account and control its own funds, provided that regular quarterly trustee-audited financial accounts (including bank statements) are sent to the Association's Treasurer. The funds will require the Association's Treasurer and one member of the Board of Directors to be authorized signers of that committee's separate banking account.**

The Law Committee does not support proposal #1

Rationale:

1. The UAD is responsible for all monies. If each UAD committee opened its own bank account, the UAD would be liable for any misuse of funds, in the eyes of IRS and the state of Utah (Department of Commerce).
2. This will make the UAD CPA's work more complicated and cost UAD a higher CPA fee
3. The proposal is too broad (not specific enough)
4. This will increase the UAD Treasurer's duties quite a bit.
5. The UAD does not have Trustees any more.

Proposal #1 passed unanimously to accept the decision of the law committee.

**Proposal #2**  
**Submitted by Valerie Kinney on April 15, 2009**

**Article X: Amendments**

**Section 2: Proposals of Changes**

B: A copy of the proposals shall be sent to the Active and Life members of this Association fourteen (14) days prior to any conference, general meeting or special meeting of this Association. **Proposals shall be posted on the UAD website for members to review, and an email announcement will be posted on UAD Announce. A hard copy shall be mailed to members not having internet access.**

The Law Committee supports proposal #2

Rationale:

1. The UAD should keep up with technology and use it for the benefit of its members.
2. UAD will save money on copying and postage which have increased considerably.

Proposal #2 passed unanimously to accept the decision of the law committee.

**Proposal #3**  
**Submitted by Ron Nelson on April 18, 2009**

**Article III: Directors**

**Section 1: Governance by Directors**

**A.** The Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors, initially ~~eleven (11)~~ **nine (9)** in number. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be ~~seven (7)~~ **five (5)** of the Directors and as such shall be authorized to determine the policies of the Association and to transact the business of the Association. A simple majority vote of the Directors present and voting shall be sufficient to pass on all questions.

The Law Committee supports proposal #3

Rationale:

1. It will be easier to achieve a quorum and conduct UAD business.

Proposal #3 passed unanimously to accept the decision of the law committee.

**Proposal #4**  
**Submitted by Ron Nelson on April 18, 2009**

**Article XIV: Official Publication**

**Section 1: Authorization**

- A.** The Association shall maintain an official publication in which the Association shall provide a forum for its members, and in general, publish matters that are of interest and importance to its members.
- B. The Association shall maintain a public website along with vlogs and group email (UAD Announce) for the benefit of its members and the Deaf community of Utah.**

The Law Committee supports proposal #4

Rationale:

1. UAD needs to keep up with technology for the benefit of its members.

Proposal #4 passed unanimously to accept the decision of the law committee.

#### **Proposal #5**

**Submitted by Ron Nelson on April 18, 2009**

#### **Article XIV: Official Publication**

##### **Section 3: Subscriptions**

A subscription price sufficient to pay the costs of the official publication may be charged for the official publication. The subscription price shall be set by the Board of Directors after an adequate study to determine its operating costs.

Subscription payments are limited to 2 years. ~~(Note: the subscription prices were set as \$15/year/UAD member and \$25/year/non-UAD member by the members on January 27, 2001 to begin on February 26, 2001.)~~

**The regular annual subscription shall be \$30 with a senior citizen discount of \$15 (age 55+) to cover copying and mailing costs.**

The Law Committee supports proposal #5

Rationale:

1. Encourage people to read the free UAD Bulletin issue (PDF) on UAD website
2. Cut down on the use of paper (Go Green!)
3. Many paper subscribers have subscriptions which will expire this summer.

Proposal #5 passed unanimously to accept the decision of the law committee.

#### **Proposal #6**

**Submitted by Ron Nelson on April 18, 2009**

#### **Article XV: Chapters**

##### **Section 1: Locations**

~~Chapters may be formed by at least 9 of deaf and hard of hearing members residing in a region as determined by the Board of Directors.~~

##### **Section 2: Laws**

~~Such chapters shall be under the Association and subject to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The goals and purposes of the chapter shall be the same as those of the Association. However, the chapter may elect a director on an annual basis.~~

##### **Section 3: Members**

~~Members of the chapters shall be classed as Active, Life or Associate members of the Association, with the same rights, privileges and responsibilities.~~

##### **Section 4: Organization**

~~Each chapter may make its own rules governing its meetings, elect its own officers and trustees, and engage in charitable and educational activities which are not in conflict with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Association, the Code and applicable federal, state and local laws.~~

##### **Section 5: Funds**

~~Each chapter may have its own checking and savings accounts and control its own funds, provided that regular quarterly trustee audited financial accounts (including bank statements) are sent to the Board of Directors of the Association.~~

##### **Section 6: Contracts**

~~Contracts which may obligate the Association must have prior approval of the Board of Directors.~~

##### **Section 7: Membership fees**

~~The chapter shall keep 25% of membership dues for its own expenses and turn the balance of 75% to the Association treasurer.~~

##### **Section 8: Dissolution**

~~Upon dissolution, all chapter funds, equipment and all non-monetary assets, including the records of the chapter, shall be transferred to the control of the Board of Directors of the Association.~~

The Law Committee supports proposal #6

Rationale:

1. No chapters have been established nor was any interest ever shown in chapters.
2. This will simplify the structure of the Association (Go Yellow and Blue!)

Proposal #6 passed unanimously to accept the decision of the law committee.

### **Proposal #7, Submitted by Ron Nelson on April 18, 2009**

#### **Article III: Directors**

##### **Section 2: Death or Resignation of a Director**

**A.** In the event of a resignation of a Director, he or she shall submit their letter of resignation to the ~~Chairman~~ **President** of the Board of Directors.

**B.** In the event of death or resignation of a Director, the Board of Directors at a duly convened meeting thereof shall have the power to appoint an UAD member to fill the vacancy and such successor director shall serve until the next conference. The ~~Chairman~~ **President** of the Board shall contact such candidate(s) to inquire as to their availability and request answers in writing.

##### **Section 4: Election of the Board of Directors**

**E.** No two or more family members on the Board of Directors can hold more than one office: ~~Chairman~~, President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. For this purpose, family members shall include father, mother, spouse, brother, sister, son, daughter, brother in law, sister in law, father in law, mother in law, son in law and daughter in law.

##### **Section 7: Makeup of the Executive Committee**

**A.** The ~~Chairman~~, the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Association. At all times, the Board of Directors shall have the power to approve, amend, rescind or revoke any action taken by the Executive Committee.

#### **Article IV: Notice of Meetings**

##### **Section 1: Call for Meetings**

The Board of Directors shall hold meetings upon call by the ~~Chairman~~ **President** or upon call by any two (2) Directors with at least seven (7) business days written notice to the members of the Board of Directors of such a meeting.

#### **Article V: Duties of Officers**

##### **Section 1: Duties of the Chairman**

~~The Chairman of the Board of Directors shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. He/She shall see to that the agenda of the Board of Directors meetings be prepared and sent out according to Article IV, Section 2 of Bylaws. The chair shall notify and request the presence of persons needed for committee and other reports at such board meetings.~~

**Section 2: Duties of the President**

**A.** It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Association ~~except the Board of Directors meetings~~; to be ready at all times to settle any question that may arise for his consideration.

~~**E. The President shall preside over the Board of Directors' meeting in the absence of the Chairman of the Board of Directors.**~~

**E. The President shall see that the agenda of the Board of Directors meetings be prepared and sent out according to Article IV, Section 2 of Bylaws. The president shall notify and request the presence of persons needed for committee and other reports at such board meetings.**

**Section 8: Duties of the Members of Board of Directors**

**A.** The Board of Directors shall elect the ~~Chairman~~, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer from among themselves. ~~The Chairman may hold the office of the Vice President at the same time but no other office.~~

The Law Committee supports proposal #7

Rationale:

1. Simplify the Executive Committee
2. The duties of the chairman are few and can be easily done by the President
3. The president should preside at all meetings of the Association

Proposal #7 passed unanimously to accept the decision of the law committee.

Jen Byrnes moved to close unfinished business. Seconded by Philippe Montalette. Passed.

**New business commenced:**

**2009CONF #1** – Proposed by Matt Snarr and seconded by Eli McCowan  
Move to allow UAD members to serve on the board of directors after 6 months membership, instead of 1 year as currently required by the UAD bylaws.

Referred to law committee.

**2009CONF #2** – Proposed by George Wilding and seconded by Ron Nelson  
Move that UAD set up an ad hoc committee to study the possibility of building a home for deaf senior citizens on the football/softball field by the Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing location.

Passed with no opposition.

**2009CONF #3** – Proposed by Trenton Marsh and seconded by Jeff Pollock  
Move that the treasurer shall oversee all committee banking accounts. Committees may approach the board with justification to have its own banking account and control of its own funds, up to \$2,000 at any time, provided that regular monthly financial reports (including bank statements) are sent to the UAD treasurer. The funds will require the UAD treasurer and one member of the board of directors to be authorized signers of that committee's separate banking account, as well as the committee treasurer.

Referred to law committee.

Discussion for point of information only.

**2009CONF # 4** – Proposed by Matt Snarr and seconded by Eli McCowan

Move to suspend the UAD Bylaw section requiring 12 months membership to run for the board of directors.

Matt Snarr withdrew his motion. Eli McCowan withdrew her second.

**2009CONF #5** – Moved by Duane Kinner and seconded by Trenton Marsh

Move to suspend the UAD bylaws section requiring 12 months of membership to run for the board of directors, and replace with a 6 month membership requirement for the 2009 Conference only.

Ruled out of order; cannot specify a new membership requirement.

**New business closed.**

Adjourned at 3:35 pm.

**Announcement:** Ashley Oakley and Michelle Newton presented a basket of plants to Eli McCowan. Ashley characterized Eli as the backbone of the conference planning committee, who gave her time and dedication week after week.

They introduced Paula Graves, a local artist, who drew a montage to mark the 100 years of advocacy and service. Several themes – friendship, advocacy, spirit, togetherness and unity, were interwoven into the piece of art. It was presented to the board of directors and will be hung in the UAD Bookstore.

An ice cream social followed, with a celebratory cake marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization. That evening, a Children’s Celebration was held at West High School, with deaf children as well as deaf adults in roles. The title of the play was “Timeless.”

**Friday, May 8, 2009**

After a continental breakfast sponsored by Great Harvest, the business session reconvened in the gym at 9:20 am to elect new directors for the board of directors.

Eli McCowan: chair of 2009 UAD conference made a few comments - she would like feedback from all those in attendance, so that improvements can be made for the next conference. Trenton Marsh was recognized for hosting two guest speakers and bringing them to the conference, Ryan Commerson and Kristen Weiner for their workshops, bringing important messages about Deafhood and representation of Deafness. Trenton was presented with a gift basket from Great Harvest. She also recognized Judy Saunders for her security committee work under difficult circumstances. Judy brought in a team of several people to watch and help with security during the conference. Judy introduced her team who covered each day of the conference. Cindy Plue was recognized for taking up the reins for registration of the conference, also working under difficult circumstances. Eli then called up her “super team” who stayed with her through thick and thin: Adele Sigoda, hospitality; Stephanie Mathis, workshops; Donna Melander, Eli’s “right hand”; Ashley Oakley and Michelle Newton, fundraising, sponsorships, and program book, and solicitation of many free products and food distributed for the conference. Conference attendees were encouraged to go and visit people and places which sponsored the conference. In addition, when Eli was sick during the planning, these people went the “extra mile”. Last recognition went to Cassie Ulasich for her talent in video production. Also to the UAD board of directors for their support to the Super Team.

Trenton Marsh, with assistance of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and Robert's Rules of Order, clarified several points about yesterday's proposals and new motions. UAD recognizes Robert's Rules of Order as parliamentary process. However, he emphasized that members, not policy, have the right to make a decision. He pointed out that bylaw decisions cannot conflict with the Articles of Incorporation. Bylaws can be made, amended or temporary suspended can, when NOT in conflict with Articles of Incorporation. Bylaw proposals must have a 2/3 vote from the members to pass at any conference, general meeting, or special meetings, and when passed, will be in effect after 30 days.. A quorum must be present. The reason for that is for the correct running of the association. There is no reference to referring a proposal or a new motion to a law committee.

Rob Kerr opened the floor for rebuttal.

Ron Nelson agrees with everything Trenton said. The referral to law committee comes from years and years of custom. Bylaws are what keep us strong. We must be careful about anything that changes bylaws. There is not enough time to discuss during general meetings to discuss anything that has to do with bylaw changes. We need to refer to law committee and decide on the wording and make sure it is correct before presenting to the members at meeting.

George Wilding said this is a "very interesting case". He supports what Ron Nelson says. If a bylaw is changed, the motion must be referred to the law committee. It is the law committee's responsibility to keep the bylaws straight and pure. Yesterday was a waste of time spent over amendments when we could simply refer to the law committee.

Trenton Marsh emphasized that what he talked about was for the members' general benefit and general discussion. What was proposed was that this particular amendment, the law committee had some concerns about the proposal. If the law committee wanted to change this particular one, members have to wait for new business. He waited for new business to discuss this amendment. His biggest concern was that the law committee did make a recommendation. He did not want to refer to the law committee for another two years before the members could vote on it. All of this was based on an OLD motion. Another point he had about this situation as that instead of immediately referring to law committee, the members should have the opportunity to discuss before referring to law committee. He wanted to make sure that the majority of the members are HEARD, and that they still have a VOICE.

Lorin Melander explained that Valerie Kinney had been assistant treasurer for several years under Dennis Platt. The CPA we have that we use for our IRS filings was concerned about having a committee getting a bank account under UAD. We are responsible for our 503c3 number. If a committee under us with a separate bank account were to get in trouble, we could be held responsible by the IRS. That was explained in the #1 proposal. Valerie is against committees having their own bank account. MDUAP and Valerie have decided to put off the issue until after the pageant and have time to explore different options to how can resolve this issue. Proposal is on the internet.

Rob Kerr reopened new business, and asked for motions.

Lorin Melander moved to recall Motion #3, withdraw the decision of the membership to refer to law committee and open for discussion. Duly seconded.

**"2009CONF #3** – Proposed by Trenton Marsh and seconded by Jeff Pollock  
Move that the treasurer shall oversee all committee banking accounts. Committees may approach the board with justification to have its own banking account and control of its own funds, up to \$2,000 at any time, provided that regular monthly financial reports (including bank statements) are sent to the UAD treasurer. The funds will require the UAD treasurer and one member of the board of directors to be authorized signers of that committee's separate banking account, as well as the committee treasurer.

Referred to law committee.”

34 members present. 30 voted to recall **2009CONF #3**, withdraw the decision of the membership to refer to law committee and open for discussion. Passed.

**AMENDMENT:** Ron Nelson, seconded by Trenton Marsh, moved to identify the treasurer in the first line to indicate UAD treasurer.

Amendment passed.

Main motion as amended passed with 31 votes.

New business was closed by vote of the membership.

John Peebler then took over the floor as nominations chair.

Names nominated:

Valerie Kinney  
Jennifer Byrnes  
Robert Kerr  
Lorin Melander  
Abel Martinez  
Ana Martinez  
Ron Nelson  
Mistie Owens  
Stephen Ehrlich  
Donna Melander

Nominations process closed.

New board members, in order of ballots counted:

43 Robert Kerr  
41 Donna Melander  
41 Lorin Melander  
41 Ron Nelson  
41 Mistie Owens  
40 Stephen Ehrlich  
39 Jennifer Byrnes  
39 Valerie Kinney  
31 Abel Martinez

Nominations and elections were closed.

Announcements:

Lorin Melander announced that Beehive Chapter of BCGUAA would have a meeting on June 18 at 7 pm. Bonneville Senior Citizens of the Deaf will have a camping weekend on the weekend of July 3-5, 2009 at Haven Campground near Logan. Breakfast will be served at \$6.00 and a combo sold for \$12.00.

Kristi Mortensen made known that UAD has won the bid to host the Western Academic Bowl which will be held February 2009, after President's Day. There will be 16 teams; the winner will go to the National Academic Bowl at Gallaudet in Washington DC.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

For the noon repast, box lunches were provided by Sorenson Communications for those in attendance.

Afternoon workshops followed.

“Deaf Music: A New Deaf Art Form” given by Minnie Mae Wilding-Diaz;  
“Sign Language for Hearing Toddlers Speech” presented by Dr. Freeman King; and  
“World Deaf History” explained by Gary Leavitt.

The afternoon was wrapped up with a plenary speaker, Kristen Weiner, who presented “Deafhood Yoga.’

That evening, the Gala took place at the University Park Marriott. After the social hour, over 150 attendees streamed in for a delicious dinner. After that, Dr. Robert Sanderson presented the new UAD board, and gave the oath to the new directors.

New board members are Ron Nelson, president; Lorin Melander, vice president; Jennifer Byrnes, secretary; Valerie Kinney, treasurer; and board members at large – Stephen Ehrlich, Robert Kerr, Abel Martinez, Donna Melander, and Mistie Owens.

President’s Award was given to Jodi Kinner, for her extraordinary work on updating eligibility of deaf and hard of hearing to access services from USDB.

The Golden Hand Award was presented to Joe and Debbie Zeidner, founders of Association of Deaf Children, for their advocacy in providing opportunities to deaf children.

Eli McCowan took the stage to recognize past presidents – Dr. Robert Sanderson, Dave Mortensen, Ron Nelson and Rob Kerr. Unable to attend were Leon Curtis and Dennis Platt.

A top-notch entertainer, Max the Mime, came on and gave a wonderful 45 minutes of laughter, at times involving attendees.

The evening came to a close around midnight while attendees mingled and chatted with old and new friends.