



International Lutheran Deaf Association

24th Biennial Business Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn, Indianapolis, IN

Saturday, July 15, 2017

Welcome

President John Mason welcomed everyone to the 24th Biennial Convention of the International Lutheran Deaf Association (ILDA).

Necrology (Diane Francisco)

Diane Francisco, Necrology Chairperson, gave a power point presentation showing photos of those ILDA members who have passed away since the 2015 ILDA convention. Thanks to Janet Gehlbach and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach for preparing the power point slides. Diane led a prayer for those who passed away.

Invocation

Rev. Alan Rork gave the opening prayer.

Call to Order

The Business Meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by President John Mason.

Introductions

Parliamentarian - Gregory Werth

Assistant to the Secretary - Carolyn Snyder-Mason

Tellers – Mike Ford, Donna Madewell-Smith and Norman Wilson.

Other Committees: None

Right Hand Award – Carolyn Snyder-Mason

Mission Project Chairperson: Dorene Sell

Introduction of Interpreters

Rev. Ron Friedrich will voice for hearing attendees

Resolutions Committee

President John Mason said there will be one resolution to be voted on later in the business meeting.

Nominating Committee's Report (Carol Seeger) Gregory Werth started the nominating process as Carol Seeger had not yet arrived.

Introduction of candidates for 2017-2019 officers:

President: Gregory Werth

President-elect: John Mason

Secretary: Janet Gehlbach

Treasurer: David G. Brown

Pastoral Advisor: Rev. Tyler Walworth

Janet Gehlbach moved to suspend the Constitution to allow current President Mason to have a second term. (Failed)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following slate of officers for 2017-2019 were elected by acclamation. Passed.

President: Gregory Werth
President-elect: John Mason
Secretary: Janet Gehlbach
Treasurer: David G. Brown
Pastoral Advisor: Rev. Tyler Walworth

Minutes of the Previous Convention

Linda Desrosiers moved to accept the minutes of the 2015 ILDA convention (July 24, 2015) as read. Passed

Treasurer's Report (Karen Beiter)

1. Karen Beiter thanked everyone for the opportunity to be ILDA Treasurer for 2015-2017. She apologized for not sending thank you letters for those individuals and churches for sending donations for mission projects. She has been very busy every day. She thanked David G. Brown for taking over as ILDA Treasurer for 2017-2019.
2. Karen struggled with figuring out the ILDA financial situation.
3. There are two accounts: Mission Project Fund with an opening balance of \$35,988.66 and a General Fund with an opening balance of \$6,482.30 (11/15/2015). On July 11, 2017 final balance of the Mission Project Fund is \$168,439.49 and the General Fund final balance is \$7,906.33 for a grand total of \$176,345.82. Savings account balance on 7/2/17 is \$174,879.02 and Checking account balance on July 2, 2017 is \$1,466.80 for a grand total of \$176,345.82 which matches the bank account totals and Mission Projects and General Fund totals. Final Mission Projects balance is \$48,439.49.
4. Expenses show that not all of the ILDA officers asked for reimbursement from the Executive Council meeting in Fort Wayne, IN in 2016.
5. Karen thanked those who donated to the Mission Projects fund. Many churches have made donations.
6. Karen expressed frustration in setting up a new bank account in the Rochester, NY, area.
7. Karen received a call from a member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Woodside, NY, saying they are making a donation to ILDA. She quickly called President Mason and informed him about the donation.
8. Karen read the letter from the congregation saying they had closed five years ago due to declining membership, sold their church building, joined a hearing church for interpreted worship and were donating some of those funds from the sale of the building to various Deaf ministries, charities and organizations serving Deaf and hard of hearing people. They donated \$120,000 to ILDA to be used for fellowship, leadership training, mission projects, ILDA expenses and Deaf Youth Camps.
6. The ILDA members showed their appreciation for this large donation with waving hands and applause! What a surprise!

Mark Thompson moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Passed.

Auditors

Deacon John Rushton and Joanna Rushton

President's Report (John Mason)

1. President Mason thanked all for coming to the 24th Biennial convention. It was a great pleasure to see old faces and new faces, rekindle old friendships and make new friendships. Since becoming president two years ago in Madison, WI, he asked himself "What do I need to do? How? Why? Did I make a mistake in accepting this as president?" NO!
2. President Mason was motivated to get involved in the regional conferences, attending two last year: Great Lakes Region and Midwest Region. Volunteering his time and his own expenses he was welcomed with open arms. He saw difficulties and struggles of the two regions dealing with a low number of attendees. President Mason made a vlog on Facebook about temporarily suspending the term limits of officers until their enrollments go up.

3. President Mason was motivated to get involved using ILDA's webpage, Facebook and YouTube. Did you see his vlogs? He did try his best to keep ILDA members informed. Some of you do not know this but President Mason recently graduated from Gallaudet University in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts degree major in Art and Media Designs. It was the right time for him to put his talents to work!
4. President Mason was also motivated to see everyone safe and sound at this convention. Some of the attendees bravely struggle to overcome physical disabilities. He was responsible for relocating the 2017 convention from Fort Wayne to Indianapolis. The simple reason being that the Executive Council did not want us to encounter unforeseen barriers and wanted us to be safe. This is why the convention is here at the Hilton Garden Inn in Indianapolis. President Mason thanked Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf for the alternative plan. It was not easy to do but they succeeded!
5. President Mason was motivated to get the recent Martin Luther movie sponsored by Thrivent Financial to be closed captioned. He personally called the people who made the movie and asked them if the movie was captioned. At first they said "no". But he reminded them about the American with Disabilities Act for equal access and told them to check with their legal department. He was disappointed with them but he didn't give up because he prayed from time to time until ILDA Secretary, Janet Gehlbach, told him the person was trying to get ahold of him. The Lord has answered his prayers! Why? The person said they closed captioned the movie and it was ready to ship. That made his day! He says when you do pray, God will answer when it's right. This was President Mason's best achievement he ever made. He prayed and prayed so the ILDA attendees could get to see the movie.
6. President Mason was motivated to see ILDA members and the interpreters to share together. It was his goal to help all interpreters attending to understand what ILDA is all about so they may go home and tell their deaf church members about ILDA. He is hoping to attract their deaf members to future ILDA conventions. The purpose of this is to maintain and increase the number of enrollments. We are here for four simple reasons: Faith, Leadership, Fellowship and Service. It's on the ILDA banner. With all the motivation you gave him, he heartily and kindly thanks you all.
7. During new business there will be constitution changes and your vote is needed to approve those changes. After the changes have been made, the updated Constitution and Handbook will be sent to the regional presidents and it will be posted on the ILDA website to download the pdf file. Officers will get an updated version.
8. In closing, President Mason thanked Gregory Werth, Janet Gehlbach, Karen Beiter and Rev. Gregory Desrosiers. It was a privilege to work with all in the name of Jesus Christ for all we are doing for Him. He thanked Rev. Eckert for being the LDMS representative and it is a privilege to have him on the ILDA Board. President Mason feels honored to be the ILDA representative to the LDMS Board. He thanked the pastors for being the shepherds in everything they do and leading us to the Lord, thanked the church workers, deacons and deaconesses and the ILDA members for being here. He thanked Dr. Martin Luther for the birth of the reformation for without him, we would not be here today. Thank you to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastoral Advisor's Report (Rev. Gregory Desrosiers)

1. This is his last term on the Executive Council. His observations on the officers was awesome and our hearts were together and he will cherish the officer's service to the Lord.
2. Rev. Desrosiers made comments that the Handbook is designed to fit the old times. Now it is a newer time and there are now only three active regions.
3. Many LCMS deaf churches are getting smaller but in other denominations they too are getting smaller. How do we change this? Pray about it and grow and challenge us in our efforts to increase membership.
4. What's important is your heart and trusting in God's word and keeping the faith. When you go home spread God's Word.

The Deaf Lutheran Business Manager Report (Carolyn Snyder-Mason)

1. Carolyn has taken over as Business Manager for the Deaf Lutheran in January 2017. New bank accounts (checking and savings) were opened with Lutheran Federal Credit Union (LFCU). The reason being to save money. The old bank account Jeff Padon used had monthly fees. LFCU is a good program and has shared branches, mostly credit unions, all over the USA.
2. It is easy to make deposits by using a mobile app, taking a picture of a check on your cellphone and depositing the amount into the account.
3. Janet Gehlbach volunteered to open the accounts with her money and she was later reimbursed.
4. Jeff Padon closed the Capitol One bank account and gave Carolyn a check for \$1496.12.
5. Eight subscribers renewed and one church in Canada renewed their bundle of 10 subscriptions. LFCU credited \$1.00 for opening the checking account and credit the savings account with \$.26 dividend interest. Carolyn transferred funds of \$750 from the checking to the savings account to earn more interest.
6. The balances in the checking account is \$275.73 and the savings account balance is \$1011.26 for a total balance of \$1286.99. The financial report was audited by Jeff Padon and Andy Petajan.

The Deaf Lutheran Publication Report (Janet Gehlbach)

1. Janet reported that she and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach have been doing the Deaf Lutheran newsletter since 2013. So far it's been going good and the response to the newsletter has been good.
2. Janet thanked the following people: Rev. William Ludwig, Jackie Van Manen and Don/Mary Mowl for sending copies of past Deaf Lutheran newsletters to them. It was greatly appreciated.
3. You can get a free copy of the Deaf Lutheran newsletter in color online. It is in the ILDA website. If you prefer a paper copy you can pay \$10 to Carolyn Snyder-Mason for a subscription.
4. On the table in the back hallway are copies of the Deaf Lutheran to take home if you want. Any leftovers will be recycled.
5. Deadlines for articles, photos for the Deaf Lutheran are January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15. The newsletter is printed 4 times a year. Janet has taken over the printing of the newsletter in Minnesota because it is cheaper to do it there than in Maryland.
6. The next issue to be mailed in August will have the 2017 convention report, photos and other news.
7. Thanked Jeff Padon for being Business Manager and thanked Carolyn Snyder-Mason for taking over now as Business Manager. Thanked Rev. Ron Friedrich for providing the mailing labels.
8. Rev. Daryl Gehlbach reported on his Digital Deaf Lutheran Project. His goal is to convert all the issues of the Deaf Lutheran since 1909 and have them be put on the website. So far he has successfully scanned all copies from 1909-1958. He explained that he received a copy of the 1909 issues from the AG Bell Society in Washington, DC.

Synodical Representative's Report (Rev. Tim Eckert)

1. Rev. Eckert reported it is good to be here! LDMS is here to serve you if you have any ideas what LDMS can do in your ministry let Rev. Eckert know.
2. The projects LDMS is working on now are: DIT (led by Rev. Eckert), DeafPah (vacant), DeafLITES (led by Sara Hale), Interpreted Ministry Support (led by Carissa Huffman and Christ Hamilton), Ephphatha Conference (led by Rev. Daryl Gehlbach), World Missions (led by Rev. Alan Rork), and Technology (led by Paula Willig). Rev. Eckert expressed thankfulness to these above named project leaders because without them nothing would happen.
3. Andy Petajan is almost done with his first year in the DIT program at Concordia Seminary. Becky Jungklaus will be a new student in the fall. The seminary is changing the DIT curriculum and no one knows what it will look like for the DIT program.
4. Jennifer Ceyanes has caught up with a lot of work on the Sunday school lessons but it is a slow process. Rev. Eckert is pleased to see results and is looking forward to seeing more results.

5. Rev. Eckert traveled to Kenya last year. The deaf there have no language and no school. He is trying to help the people who have gone to school to help teach the deaf there. He plans to make another trip to Kenya in 2018.
6. Rev. Ryan McDermott used to be in Ghana but is now in Togo, which is east of Ghana. McDermott is now a deaf ministry consultant in that area and will work with the deaf there.
7. Rev. Steven Schumacher is in Ghana but Rev. Eckert does not know how much work Rev. Schumacher does with the deaf there.
8. David Bush and his wife, Barbara, are waiting for their visa before going to Macau.
9. India is building a school and doing well. They are asking for \$38,814 to build classrooms, offices, dormitories. There was some concerns about donating money but Rev. Eckert found out if funds are donated through LDMS then they will follow the right process to make sure the funds arrive at the school.
10. Interpreted Ministry Conference (IMC) has been meeting across the hall and Rev. Eckert has been meeting with them. The goal is for the interpreters to go back home and encourage their deaf members to come to ILDA conferences. There are 15 interpreters attending the workshops today.
11. Rev. Eckert thanked Janet Gehlbach and Nancy Simmons for updating the Deaf Ministry Directory online by contacting churches and updating the listings. If there are any congregations with interpreted ministries that are not in the directory then please contact him.
12. Rev. Eckert thanked John Mason for being on the LDMS Board.
13. Mark Thompson said the Wisconsin Synod is learning a lot from ILDA and the LCMS. Rev. Eckert said he is willing to sit down and talk more about how they can get more people to know Jesus.

The Finance Committee's Report - None

The Adoption of the New Budget - None

The meeting recessed for lunch. Everyone was asked to come back at 1:30 p.m.

Law Committee's Report (Gregory Werth)

1. Gregory Werth explained the yellow paper that has the ILDA proposed Constitution changes to be voted on for approval. The changes were put up on power point for all to see.

Voting on any Proposed Changes

Norman Wilson moved to accept the proposed changes to the ILDA constitution. Passed by a 46 yes/3 no vote. (ADDENDUM: The proposed changes will be made to the Constitution and will be put up on the ILDA website after the convention. A copy of the changes will be added to the Secretary's minute's book).

Mission Projects review

1. Rev. Mark Seeger showed a power point slide presentation of the Deaf Youth Service trips since 2015.
 - a. The Youth group traveled to Seattle, WA, in the summer of 2016. They worked on a farm where crops are grown (to be donated to food banks and soup kitchens), did a painting and lock changing project at a high school and had Bible studies as well as other activities (including removing invasive plants from natural areas).
 - b. The Youth group traveled to Washington, DC, in the summer of 2017. This time the work was all indoor projects: working at thrift store sorting clothes, separating good items from trash, prepped lunch bags (for the kids attending "First Saturday Bible Camp" at Redeemer Lutheran Church), worked with little kids, went to a pregnancy center and emptied baby bottles that were used for a fundraiser and separated out the paper money from the coins, went to an Orphan Grain Train and again separated clothing and unloading a truck full of school desks that will be sent to overseas missions.
 - c. Rev. Seeger asked for suggestions for 2018 where to go on the next trip.

2. Rev. Dr. John Reinke shared with the convention attendees about his work with World Lutheran Deaf Outreach. Leaders are Rev. Reinke and Rev. Bud Palmer. They lead the Jesus Signs workshops (teaching religious signs, giving practice time, teaching deaf culture and enabling fellowship time). Rev. Reinke has been traveling all over the US and International countries. He has already traveled to Australia and has a trip planned to Latvia. Rev. Reinke is asking for prayers for the WLDO outreach.

3. Diana Rice reported on her work in Michigan as a deaconness intern. A Lutheran school for the deaf is being established near the Detroit area and her job is to reach out to parents. A tutor program also helps the deaf children there.

Mission Project Chairperson's Report (Dorene Sell)

1. The following mission projects were proposed:

Deaf Youth Service project	\$8,000
Missionary support:	
Rev. Ryan McDermott	\$2,000
Rev. Steven Schumacher	\$2,000
David Bush	\$2,000
India	\$8,000
Kenya	\$8,000
TOTAL	\$30,000

2. Dorene reported she received a letter and photos from Patty Woodworth thanking ILDA for the \$5,000 sent for the Fiji mission project.

3. Dorene announced that she is resigning as mission project chairperson.

Voting on Mission Projects

Larry Ginter moved to approve the mission projects as listed above. Passed.

Previous Convention Committee Chairman Report:

1. Dawn Werth (2015 ILDA convention, Madison, WI) thanked everyone for allowing Madison, WI, to host the 2015 ILDA convention on less than one year's planning. It was a big experience as chairperson for her and it was overwhelming too for her husband, Gregory, as it was his first ILDA convention. Dawn thanked the Lord for being on their side for the whole time as they prepared, organized and hosted the 2015 convention.

2. Dawn thanked her husband for being patient, hardworking and staying positive and fun to work with. He had many hats: taking care of program booklets and printing, coordinating with the hotel and taking care of all financial aspects.

3. Dawn thanked Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church, Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Holy Cross Lutheran Church and all its members for participating on the committee and giving of their effort, time, preparation and organizing everything.

4. Dawn reported attendance at the 2015 convention was 150 registrants and 16 no-shows for a variety of reasons. Final count was 134 registrants.

5. Crowne Plaza was a great place to host the convention being so close to restaurants nearby. The staff was patient and forthcoming to work with the host committee.

6. Everyone enjoyed the "Taste of Wisconsin" which was held on opening night. The door prizes helped everyone be on time by following the schedule.

7. God's 1000 Club luncheon was brought back as there was some extra money in the budget to do so.

8. Workshops were given positive reviews and everyone learned a lot about the Creation Museum. Many enjoyed the little Creation Museum bookstore that was set up to purchase items.

9. The banquet was a huge success as it was a sports themed banquet and everyone liked the idea. Even though there were a few hiccups during the serving of the food, in time all went smoothly.

10. The banner competition went well as outside judges were used to reduce favoritism.

11. There were 16 people on the committee who worked hard in their teamwork with a lot of energy, patience, time and devotion and they were rewarded to a dinner to thank them for all that they did before, during and after the convention.

12. The 2015 convention financial report is as follows: Income \$32,103.61 and expenses of \$30,370.20 with a profit of \$1733.41. No decision has been made yet where to give the 2015 convention profits.

The ILDA convention bids presented by future host congregations

Paul Lucero reported that the Northern Illinois Deaf Worship group might be interested in hosting the 2021 convention near Chicago. He is not sure yet and needs permission from his local congregation which is new and set up three years ago. He was reminded that a formal letter must be submitted to the ILDA President to host the 2021 convention.

Introduction of pastors and church workers in attendance

Pastors:

Gregory Desrosiers, Tim Eckert, Ron Friedrich, Daryl Gehlbach, William Ludwig, Matthew Nix, Bud Palmer, Tom Phillips, John Reinke, Alan Rork, Mark Seeger and Tyler Walworth

Deacons:

Patrick Sell

Deaconesses:

Becky Catchpole, Linda Desrosiers, Pat Hycnar, Diana Rice (intern) and Dawn Werth

Resolution Committee's Report

RESOLUTION OF THANKSGIVING FOR REV. ROBERT AND ELLIE BAUER FOR SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THEIR LORD

Whereas, the Lord Jesus Christ has promised to raise up workers for the harvest field; and

Whereas, in 1956, the Lord of the Church called Rev. Robert Bauer to serve Him as missionary to the Deaf; and

Whereas, Pastor Bauer has faithfully served His Lord and ministered to the Deaf for 60 years; and

Whereas, his beloved bride and precious jewel, Eleanor (Ellie) Bauer, has served alongside him all these years as a faithful wife and coworker in service to God; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the International Lutheran Deaf Association, meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, remember Pastor and Ellie Bauer before our God and Father, giving thanks to Him for His love and faithful support; and be it finally

Resolved, that we express our heartfelt appreciation to Pastor and Ellie Bauer for their “work of faith, and labor of love, and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3).

Unfinished Business - none

New Business

Motion # 1: Donna Madewell-Smith moved that ILDA and the host church divide profits 50/50 from the convention profits from now on. (Withdrawn)

Motion # 2: Dawn Werth moved to have any tours to be pre or post-convention. (Withdrawn)

Motion # 3: Dawn Werth moved that ILDA add \$4,000 to World Lutheran Deaf Outreach in Mission Projects. (Adopted) Mission Project Total is now \$34,000.00.

Motion # 4: Jennifer Ceyanes moved to amend the mission projects and give Ryan McDermott, Steven Schumacher and David Bush each \$7,000. (Failed)

Donna Madewell-Smith moved to close new business. Passed.

Voting on Resolutions

Patrick Sell moved to accept the Bauer resolution. Passed.

Announcements

1. Donna Madewell-Smith asked that the members quickly leave the room so that the hotel crew can set up for the banquet.
2. Patrick Sell announced the Calvary Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA, will be celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the congregation on October 22, 2017. Rev. Gregory Desrosiers will be the keynote speaker.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Alan Rork gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Gehlbach
ILDA Secretary, 2017-2019

ADDENDUM: Full content of the written reports given to the ILDA Secretary during the Business Meeting have been inserted into the binder with the Secretary's minutes.