



## ILDA Executive Council Meeting Hilton Garden Inn, Indianapolis, IN July 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President John Mason. Rev. Gregory Desrosiers gave the opening prayer.

### **Roll Call:**

President – John Mason  
President-Elect – Gregory Werth  
Secretary – Janet Gehlbach  
Treasurer – Karen Beiter (absent)  
Pastor Advisor – Rev. Gregory Desrosiers  
LDMS Representative – Rev. Tim Eckert (late arrival)

### **Minutes**

1. Rev. Gregory Desrosiers moved to accept the minutes of the Executive Council meeting on June 24-25, 2016 in Fort Wayne, IN, as read. Passed.

### **President's Report (John Mason)**

1. President John Mason offered greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! Here we are in Indianapolis and preparations are underway for the 24<sup>th</sup> Biennial convention. Plus we have the meeting with the board tomorrow morning. Last time the Executive Council met was in Fort Wayne so it's been over a year.
2. President Mason visited the GLRC-ILDA and MW-ILDA regions. He reported both of their conferences were good and enjoyed meeting old and new friends. There are some similarities between those two regions of ILDA. During the time to elect new officers, many showed their motivation and GLRC was able to fill all the positions while Midwest Region did not. There were concerned about the term limits. He told Sara Hale to follow exactly what the constitution and handbook says except for the term limits. He gave his executive order to allow them to have unlimited terms due to small number of participants.
2. Northwest Region report will be given by Linda Desrosiers tomorrow. She will share her contact with Northwest Region President Patricia Jenkins. It seems the Northwest Region is on hold and no conferences are set up for the future.
3. President Mason reported he will visit regional conferences next year as long as he is available. GLRC will be in Toledo, OH, and Midwest will be in Austin, MN. More info is needed on the CR-ILDA conference and he says he will try to visit all if he can but at least one or two.
4. Last fall, Becky Jungklaus resigned as Right Hand Award chairperson so he appointed Carolyn Snyder-Mason to take over which is the reason she is at this meeting so the Executive Council can select one nominee. If there is a tie, another vote will be taken. The winner will be announced at the banquet.
5. In May, President Mason went to Davenport, IA, for the LDMS Board meeting since he is on the board representing ILDA. There were only four board members there as the others were not able to come. He reported the president resigned due to health reasons. Rev. Tim Eckert and President Mason brainstormed some pastor's names for the position of Assistant to the Executive Director and he left this for Pastor Tim and his report. The LDMS Board reviewed and evaluated Kenya's request for funds. The LDMS Board prefers to give small amounts out at a time rather than larger amounts (donations) to countries.
6. Don Peterson, editor for the Christ Lutheran Church newsletter, The Mustard Seed, passed away in February. As a result President Mason took over as newsletter editor since January. The newsletters publish six times a year. Ask President Mason if you are interested in receiving a copy. He said you are more than welcome to subscribe for free.

7. President Mason hopes the rest of us will remain for a second term except for Pastoral Advisor, Rev. Gregory Desrosiers, who will finish his term this Sunday. President Mason thanked him for his service with us and in Christ.
8. He reported that regardless of the election results this Saturday, we should keep our calendar open for next year's Executive Council meeting on July 20, Friday and July 21, Saturday. It will be held at Topeka, KS. Check in will be in the evening of July 19<sup>th</sup> and check out on the 21<sup>st</sup>. So mark your calendars. Secretary Gehlbach and President Mason will keep in touch with Sara Hale, Chairperson of the 2019 ILDA Convention, 25<sup>th</sup> Biennial and will keep you all posted.
9. As for the 2021 convention, no letter (bid) has been submitted however he is still praying for some congregation out there willing to host the 2021 convention so he guesses he will have to pray a bit harder.
10. President Mason thanked us all for coming so now let's get rolling! God bless!

### **President-elect Report (Gregory Werth)**

- 1, Gregory is working on Article XX of the Handbook to make changes.
2. He has talked to different people regarding having the 2021 convention (50 years Anniversary) in the Chicago area which might be a good place to have it.
3. The Northern Illinois group helped the Madison host committee in 2015 so perhaps Madison could return the favor by helping the Northern Illinois group if they decide to host the 2021 convention. He will talk more with the Northern Illinois group and Rev. Mark Winkelmann about hosting the 2021 convention.
4. Need to update the interpreted ministries and add them to the LCMS Deaf Directory online.
5. The biggest number of deaf attending is in the Wisconsin churches. He tried to encourage the Wausau WI group to join ILDA.

### **Secretary's Report (Janet Gehlbach)**

1. Janet has experienced frustrations in locating missing ILDA minutes for the years 1973 (Kansas City), 1977 (Spokane), 1979 (Memphis), 1985 (Milwaukee), 1987 (Cedar Rapids) and 1991 (Toledo).
2. Janet thanked Rev. William Ludwig, Jackie Van Manen and Don/Mary Mowl for providing copies of ILDA program books and ILDA minutes from years ago.
3. Janet now has copies of all of the ILDA convention program books since 1971. Those copies have been scanned onto a disk for safekeeping.

### **Treasurer's Report (Karen Beiter) – absent**

### **Pastoral Advisor Report (Rev. Gregory Desrosiers)**

1. Rev. Desrosiers offered good morning greetings to all.
1. He has enjoyed serving ILDA and is thankful to God for his last term. Any pastors who are interested in that position of pastoral advisor are strongly encouraged to participate and advise.
2. This present Executive Council has been great in terms of communication, service and humility.
3. He is praying that this convention will be blessed with God's wisdom and guidance. In the future these conventions will be passed to the next one with success and positive outlook. He wanted to encourage us and challenge us to grow ILDA from now on.

### **LDMS Director Report (Rev. Tim Eckert)**

1. LDMS had the annual meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa. Representatives were there from Prince of Peace Deaf, Spring Lake Park, MN; Peace Deaf, Indianapolis, IN; Calvary Deaf, Des Moines, IA; and Word of God Deaf, Cedar Rapids, IA. Holy Cross Deaf, St. Louis, MO; Resurrection, Sunset Hills, MO; and Concordia, Kirkwood, MO, did not send any representatives.
2. These are the projects and project leaders. These leaders make up the Executive Committee:
  - DIT, Rev. Tim Eckert
  - DeafPah, vacant
  - DeafLITES, Sara Hale

Interpreted Ministry Support, Carissa Huffman and Chris Hamilton  
 Ephphatha Conference, Rev. Daryl Gehlbach  
 World Missions, Rev. Alan Rork  
 Technology, Paula Willig

3. Rev. Eckert thanked the project leaders who are working on providing classes and materials online, finding foreign mission places to work, giving support for workers in Deaf Ministry, finding ways to begin and support interpreted ministries, and training future pastors and deaconesses.
4. Andy Petejan is almost done with his first year in the DIT program at Concordia Seminary. Rev. Ron Friedrich is his mentor. Becky Jungklaus is interested in beginning the program this fall. The seminary is changing what it will look like, but Rev. Eckert hopes to get more information soon.
5. Jennifer Ceyanes continues to work on the Sunday school lessons. Progress is still very slow. She says she will have more lessons done and ready to show Rev. Eckert here at ILDA. There was a decision in 2015 that her church president should send the remaining funds of \$1,558.23 to ILDA to duplicate and distribute the lessons. Did that ever happen? (ADDENDUM: Yes, the funds were deposited during Patrick Sell's term as treasurer pro tem).
6. Missions:
  - a. Rev. Eckert went to Kenya in June 2016 to see what the need was and the possibilities of working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. Many deaf have no education and no language. He is working with the church there to teach sign language to the deaf and their families and teaching some of the deaf to be teachers.
  - b. Rev. Ryan McDermott and family moved from Ghana to Togo. He is responsible for teaching the church how to do deaf ministry and also teaching some seminary courses. He asked LDMS for financial support for his work.
  - c. Rev. Steven Schumacher is still in Ghana, but he doesn't do much work with the deaf anymore.
  - d. David and Barbara Bush are still traveling around the U.S. raising money to go to Macau.
  - e. The India Evangelical Lutheran Church sent a proposal to the LCMS asking for \$38,814 to build new classrooms, a new office, and dormitories for their school. They want to be able to serve more students and are certain they can get more students. Rev. Eckert talked to Darin Storkson at the LCMS about raising the money and said ILDA can probably raise some of it, but not all of it. Rev. Eckert says it sounds like there isn't anyone else in LCMS Missions to raise the money.
7. LDMS still has a fair amount of money in designated accounts. The challenge of using this money is finding the right people to spend it. For example, there is no work and no people going to Brazil or Madagascar. There are no pastors working on revising the DeafPah classes and there are not a lot of new DIT students. If LDMS did all those things the money would be spent quickly.
8. LDMS is spending money this year on the Interpreted Ministry Conference on July 15. The goal is to include more interpreted ministries in ILDA. The deaf members could come to ILDA and the hearing members could attend ILDA and the Interpreted Ministry Conference. There was not a large response, but there is enough people to still hold the conference. Lessons will be learned from this year's conference to make the next one better (for example, cut down the number of presenters).
9. With help from Janet Gehlbach and Nancy Simmons, the Deaf Ministry directory on [www.deafjesus.org](http://www.deafjesus.org) has been kept up to date fairly well.
10. The LDMS Board is very glad to have John Mason on the board and thankful for the working relationship with ILDA. LDMS will encourage interpreted ministries to become involved in ILDA and send their members to the conventions.

### **Old Business**

1. The Executive Council discussed who of the pastors have served as Pastoral Advisor and who has not.
2. The Executive Council discussed training for regional presidents (required).
3. President Mason asked Secretary Gehlbach to remind the Executive Council of the dates to attend the Executive Council meeting in Topeka, KS, in 2018. It will be held July 20-21, 2018 with check-in at the Capital Plaza Hotel in the evening of July 19.

### **50 years ILDA anniversary book**

1. Pastor Gehlbach was asked to step into the meeting to discuss his ideas for the 50 years ILDA anniversary book to be printed for the 2021 convention. Pastor Gehlbach suggests a lay deaf person should do it. Interviews could be conducted with Revs. Ludwig and Rynearson to gather more information and share stories and history of ILDA.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:38 a.m. The meeting resumed at 2:05 p.m.

John Mason asked President Elect Gregory Werth to take his place as President so he (Mason) could make a motion.

### **New Business**

**Motion #1:** John Mason (Rev. Gregory Desrosiers) moved that the Treasurer's bank accounts be transferred to LFCU (Lutheran Federal Credit Union) by 2019. Passed. (Janet suggested that President Mason contact the LFCU and ask more questions about opening another account under ILDA).

### **General Discussion:**

1. The Executive Council discussed the ILDA exhibit banner. It was used once in Chicago at a Deaf Expo and another time President John and Carolyn Mason manned a booth for the Mid Atlantic Deaf Seniors group. We discussed who is responsible for taking care of the exhibit banner. Discussed participating in some events to be able to use the exhibit banner.
2. Discussed the idea of making videotapes like the Deaf Mission, Council Bluffs, IA, does.
3. Gregory Werth recommends the ILDA website be updated.
4. Discussed where the deaf can get the best exposure or advertising on LCMS Deaf Ministry.
5. Discussed the interpreter issue. Some interpreters are using language that is "over our heads" and not clear. How can the deaf best be served in hearing churches?

### **Right Hand Award**

1. Carolyn Snyder-Mason, chairperson, gave the Executive Council three choices of names for the Right Hand Award. The Executive Council voted to approve one person. (ADDENDUM: The Right Hand Award was presented posthumously to William Zimmerman, Monticello, IA, and accepted by Rev. Tim Eckert at the banquet on Saturday evening).

### **Announcements:**

1. President Mason announced that ILDA received a check for \$120,000 from St. Matthew's Deaf Lutheran Church in Queens, NY. He read a letter from Dorothy Cohler which specified where they preferred the funds go. There were 5 categories: fellowship, leadership training, mission projects, ILDA expenses and Deaf Youth Camps.
2. The Executive Council ranked in priority the 5 categories:
  1. Mission Projects, 2. Training (DIT), 3. Youth, 4. ILDA expenses and 5. Fellowship (conventions)
3. The Executive Council decided \$80,000 to be divided between the five categories and \$40,000 to be held in reserve.
4. The Executive Council decided to move the \$120,000 to the reserve fund for now with a decision to be made by the July 2018 meeting in Topeka, KS.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Gehlbach, Secretary, 2015-2017