

MADC Board Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2017

Thompson Hall – St. Paul, MN

Board members present: Jessalyn Akerman-Frank, Emory Dively, Rebecca Thomas, John Fechter, David Nathanson, Shawn Vriezen, Sherri Rademacher

Board members present via Zoom Meeting online: Sunny Brysch and past President Adan Burke

Visitors: Shawn Whitting, Fardowsa Ali, Mark Zangara, Darlene Zangara, Alison Aubrecht, Alicia Lane-Outlaw, Mark Geiger, Gloria Nathanson, Ruby Vine, Hunta Williams, Alan Parnes, Steven Brunelle, Mary Rose Weber

Call to order and introductions:

President Jessalyn Akerman-Frank called the meeting to order at 9:002 am

Approval of Minutes:

Sherri Rademacher proposed we accept the minutes from May 20, 2017 (David Nathanson). Passed

President's Report:

President Akerman-Frank thanked the community for their input and support. She has been attending a multitude of meetings in the community and listening to their concerns. It is imperative that the community sees MADC representatives attending events, networking, and collaborating. A diversity meeting is planned for September 2017 and it will focus on Muslim, Black Deaf Advocates (BDA), and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) groups and how we can work together.

President Akerman-Frank will also work with past President Burke on developing a transition for our current website. She would prefer to have someone local work on the website.

Financial Report:

[Report](#)

Vice President's Report:

Vice President John Fetcher reported he is working on the bylaws committee to ensure changes to the bylaws are sent to members at least 4 weeks before the conference.

Secretary's Report:

No report

Other Reports:

2017 Conference – Shawn Whiting - [LINK](#)

Shawn Whiting shared with the board there are approximately 3 confirmed sponsors so far and \$4225.00 from sponsors. At the time, 10 people have paid for registration. CEUs and teacher clock hours will be offered for the workshops offered during the conference. Shawn thanked US Deaf History for donating the lanyards for the upcoming conference. The schedule will be posted on the website soon

[\(https://madconference.wordpress.com/\)](https://madconference.wordpress.com/). Shawn and Julie are working hard to get the word out and increase attendance for the conference.

Newsletter – Sherri Rademacher

August newsletter will focus on diversity and Shawn Vriezen will be the board member of the month. Sherri is hoping to add lots more about the upcoming conference and entice people to attend.

Membership – Becky Thomas

As of August 4, 2017, we currently have 183 active members. We will run a special and advertise it to our members for the month of August. 1 year membership will be \$5.00, 2-year membership will be \$10.00, and a 5-year membership will be \$20.00. Becky is hopeful more people will sign up for the long term and also sign up for the conference. The special expires September 1, 2017.

Public Comments:

- Steven Brunelle shared with the group about an upcoming Native American celebration. He will be in attendance for the MADC diversity event in September to discuss about his Native American heritage.
- Alison Aubrecht suggested MADC creates a new website using the free websites that are out there such as Weebly.
- Hunta Williams emphasized that diversity is imperative to our future. He would like to see the board change and have more people of color (POC) represent on the board. We, the board and members, need to keep in mind many POC are poor and do not have computer access. How is MADC reaching out to those members? We need to show our hearts and attend their meetings, get out and involve ourselves. Make POC feel welcomed at our meetings. Consider paying for someone's membership, email them, make paper flyers and post them, etc. These steps are a few ways we can show that we care about them and want to include them.
- Alicia Lane-Outlaw suggested MADC creates a Google Spreadsheet of different meetings or events occurring in the community and have our board members sign up to represent us. It would be best if the same people are not always representing us at events.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Mary Rose Weber introduced herself to the board and members. She is running for Youth Coordinator for MADC. She recently graduated from National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) in Rochester, New York and just moved back to Minnesota. She has attended the Youth Leadership Camp through National Association of the Deaf, ran the Junior National Association of the Deaf here in Minnesota when she attended school, and has been involved with a variety of youth groups. She would like to see a strong youth program in Minnesota and she has some great ideas on how to involve all youth, including mainstreamed students, with MADC.

Becky Thomas shared with members about the new MADC Sponsored Events Policy Book and the new anti-discriminatory policy. For any and all MADC sponsored events, vendors will have access to the policies and will be required to sign an agreement form acknowledging our policies. The anti-discriminatory policy allows

MADC to keep a safe environment for members and the community at any hosted event. Both policies will be placed on the website for the public to view.

Sunny Brysch made recommendations about future Deaf Awareness Day events. She is resigning from her co-chair position and would like to see the board appoint 2 co-chairs annually. She would also like to have the board appoint future locations where the event will be hosted.

David Nathanson mentioned he is proposing an early bird special to lure vendors to register sooner rather than later for Deaf Awareness Day (DAD). The cutoff date to pay will be one week before DAD so there are no last minute complications arising. The next DAD event will be April 21, 2018 at White Bear Lake High School.

President Akerman-Frank discussed that the National Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) will be occurring October 5-7, 2017 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. MADC has not sent a representative to NLTC and it would be best to send 2 representatives.

Motions:

- **M037** – I, John Fechter, move to have MADC accept Mary Rose Weber as our new Youth Coordinator. (Sherri Rademacher) (yea 7, nay 0) PASSED
- **M038** - I, Emory Dively, move to have MADC send 2 representatives, John Fechter and Mary Rose Weber, to the National Leadership Training Conference, October 5-7, 2017 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. (Sherri Rademacher) (yea 7, nay 0) PASSED
- **M039** - I, Sunny Brysch, move to have MADC appoint 2 co-chairs and decide on the location for future Deaf Awareness Day events. (John Fechter) (yea 2, nay 2, abstain 3) FAILED
- **M040** - I, Becky Thomas, move to have the MADC recording secretary keep accurate records of inventory for MADC annually beginning September 1st of each year and reports the results to the board at the following board meeting effective August 5, 2017. (John Fechter) (yea 7, nay 0) PASSED
- **M041** - I, Becky Thomas, move to have MADC's executive board conduct inventory of all MADC materials and complete a checklist for the recording secretary by October 1, 2017. (John Fechter) (yea 7, nay 0)
- **M042** - I, Becky Thomas, move to have MADC approve the new MADC Sponsored Events Policy book. (John Fechter) (yea 7, nay 0) PASSED *AMEND*: I, Sherri Rademacher, amend to have the policy book available to the public on social media. (John Fechter) (yea 7, nay 0) PASSED
- **M043** - I, Becky Thomas, move to have MADC establish clear and accurate descriptions and responsibilities in the bylaws for the corresponding secretary. (John Fechter) (yea 0, nay 0) David Nathanson (Sherri Rademacher) refer to bylaws committee. REFERRED
- **M044** - I, Becky Thomas, move to have MADC approve the new anti-discriminatory policy within MADC sponsored events and meetings. (John Fechter) (yea 7, nay 0) PASSED

- **M045** - I, David Nathanson, move to have MADC expand the board from 5 member-at-large to 6 member-at-large positions. (Shawn Vriezen) (yea 3, nay 3, abstain:1) PASSED REFERRED: to Ad Hoc committee to study the effects.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Rebecca Thomas, Secretary