



DHHCAN Meeting

January 8, 2020

Gallaudet University Peikoff Alumni House Conference Room

(Thanks to Alumni Relations/GUAA for allowing DHHCAN to use the Conference Room)

ROLL CALL

Voting Members	Organizational Partners	Others
Zainab Alkebsi, NAD	Eric Raff, NASADHH	Kriston Lee Pumphrey, CSD Community Engagement Manager
Eric Kaika, TDI	Neal Tucker, RID	Rick Brown, ALDA President
Marcia Zisman, GUAA	Barbara Raimondo, CEASD	Wendy Ting, ALDA
Art Roehrig, AADB	Eileen McCartin, NVRC	Ron Sutcliffe, CSD
Lise Hamlin, HLA	Tyrone Giordano, CSD	Kelby Brick, NASADHH
Barbara Martin, ALDA		Natalie Ennis, CART Captioner
		Pat Richey, Interpreter
		Jayne Turgeon, Interpreter
		Jan Nishimura, Interpreter

Communication protocols were shared.

Introductions were made.

Meeting called to order: 12:23p.

Quorum: Met

Chair's Report

- DHHCAN is off to a good start for 2020 with a full house including guests.

Vice-Chair's Report

No report

Secretary's Report

- We need to approve the November 6, 2019 minutes. Zainab (sec) moved to accept the November 6th minutes as amended. PASSED.
- Quorum was not met at the December meeting, so the minutes are unofficial and do not require approval.

Treasurer's Report

- Unable to attend meeting but provided report electronically. Marcia reported the ending balance as of December 31, 2019 was \$29,567.55.
- All members are paid up. According to the treasurer's spreadsheet, there are now a total of 12 voting members and organizational partners.
- The officers will need to follow up with the treasurer to double check the list and then adjust the number required for meeting quorum accordingly. We will also need to update the listing on DHHCAN's webpage. (To Do Item for Officers).
- Rick Brown asked that the minutes include a listing of all voting members and organizational partners.

POLICY REPORTS

CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

- The list of disability platforms released by the 2020 presidential and congressional candidates has been updated. Senator Warren has released her disability platform which is now added to the list of other candidates that have disability platforms.
- This will be discussed in more detail for the 2020 election and our efforts later in the meeting during Kriston's presentation.

EDUCATION

- Work continues on the upcoming Education Advocacy Summit which some DHHCAN members have registered for. She sent out the information and invitations out again this morning. The deadline to register is January 17th which probably can be extended if more time is needed.
- The summit is 2 days - first day will focus on curriculum and the second day will be Capitol Hill activities including meeting congressional representatives. Feel free to contact Barbara if you have any questions.

EMPLOYMENT

- The Chair is happy to announce that Tyrone Giordano volunteered to be chair for the employment policy committee. If anyone is interested in becoming co-chair with Tyrone, please let him know.

HEALTH CARE

- We continue waiting for the FDA to write regulations for the law that passed in 2017 for over-the-counter hearing aids. It has to be finished by August 2020 which includes collecting comments.
- HR-3, a bill primarily to provide relief on drug pricing and help with Medicare drug coverage so that they can negotiate with drug companies and reduce cost has resulted in expanding Medicare under HR-3 which would allow for hearing aid coverage under Medicare for the first time. While the bill was promoted by Nancy Pelosi, it is now on the desk of Mitch McConnell, so there are low expectations of anything happening this year. This is the first time that Medicare coverage of hearing aids has made it this far. It will be reintroduced in 2021, and depending on the outcome of the 2020 elections could move forward in the next Congress.

HOUSING (absent)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SERVICES, AND VIDEO PROGRAMMING

- CPADO, NAD, and NTID filed an ex-parte, stating we met with the FCC — as requested by Mark Hill of CPADO, to express grave concerns about the lack of movement on the provision of deaf interpreters in video relay service. Also addressed was similar stalling of the skills-based routing program.
- TDI, AADB, CPADO, NAD, submitted comments in response to Sorenson's request for clarification on enterprise and public video phones are not subject to the rule requiring removal of user information from the TRS-URD if the user has not placed or received a VRS or point-to-point call in a one year period. Sorenson also sought clarification that point-to-point calls are not subject to the All-Call Query (ACQ). Additionally Sorenson asked for guidance regarding how to offer consumers a choice between direct video call (DVC) or VRS call to a unified number and how to transfer calls from DVC providers to a VR provider. Consumer groups agreed that enterprise and public video phones should be excluded from the removal rule, and that point-to-point calls excluded from the ACQ requirement. CGs also encourages FCC to provide guidance from choosing between a DVC and VRS call and transferring thereof.
- TDI, ALDA, CPADO, NAD, submitted comments in response to Sorenson's petition for a stay of RUE (Relay User Equipment) profile and VATRP (VRS Accessibility Technology Reference Platform) compliance. CGs support a *limited* stay of the April 29, 2020 compliance deadline for VRS providers to ensure their platforms are interoperable with the VATRP App. Nonetheless CGs want the FCC to press forward and complete the VATRP App and RUE Profile.

- TDI, HLAA, NAD, ALDA, CPADO, AADB, DHH-RERC, IT-RERC, DHHCAN, and NTID responded to the reply comments of the NCTA —The Internet & Television Association, NAB, and Radio Television digital news Association (RTDNA) regarding the CGs Petition for declaratory ruling on live closed caption quality metrics and the use of ASR. The CGs response is to clarify a misunderstanding about the two request in the Live Captioning Quality Petition — a) how ASR meets human and ENT best practices, b) improve caption quality by replacing best practices with metrics — that the two requests are *separate and distinct*.
- FCC meetings are live streamed at [FCC.gov/live](https://www.fcc.gov/live).

TRANSPORTATION

- Report focused on NAD's petition to the DOT to repeal the hearing test requirement for commercial driver's licenses (CDL). History: Before 2013, deaf and hard of hearing (Deaf/hh) people could not obtain their CDL due to a hearing test being a part of the physical exam requirement. The 5-foot whisper test required the person to be able to understand what the doctor was whispering with or without hearing aids. If the applicant did not pass the test, he/she could not get a license. In 2013, NAD submitted an official petition to remove the hearing test requirement. Due to so-called concerns about safety, as a compromise, DOT established a waiver program where Deaf/hh applicants still had to take the hearing test and if they failed, they would get a waiver and could go through the rest of the process to get their CDL. At that time 40 deaf/hh drivers finally got their CDLs. Fast forward to 2018, the NAD thought that the waiver program had gone on long enough and that there was ample evidence to provide that deaf/hh drivers are capable. So a new petition was submitted to the DOT asking to reconsider removing the hearing test requirement. Safety numbers from the first 40 drivers and up to nearly 600 waivers (this includes renewals, so about 450 actual drivers) were provided. DOT had yet to respond, a meeting was requested in March 2019 when the new petition was submitted.
- In December 2019, the DOT finally released their Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in which they stated the request and added a proposed alternative which would remove the waiver program and return to the way it was pre-2013.
- Coincidentally, there is currently an EEOC lawsuit that was filed by a deaf driver against a huge transportation company. The former general counsel for the company who was working on this particular lawsuit now works at the DOT and is the person who released the NPRM. This has raised suspicions and concern. It is now very important for all organizations to file letters to DOT supporting the NAD's position. The deadline is February 14th. Zainab will provide the link and asks that all advocacy organizations, affiliates, deaf/hh truckers to file letters in support of the petition. Zainab will circulate a joint letter for sign-ons but also will do her best to share a template for individual organizations.
- Kelby suggested that we can also reach out to the deaf employees at DOT to see what, if anything, they can do behind the scenes.

OLD BUSINESS:

DHHCAN election of officers. Zainab accepted the nomination of chair, Marcia for secretary, and Al for treasurer. Vice-chair Eric was previously elected to fill a vacancy. Since he is not part of today's election, he will run it.

Chair: 5 in favor of Zainab, 0 disagreed, 1 abstained

Secretary: 5 in favor of Marcia, 0 disagreed, 1 abstained

Treasurer: 6 in favor of Al, 0 disagreed, 0 abstained.

Neal raised the possibility of amending the DHHCAN bylaws which could allow for elections by acclamation. Zainab has been thinking about the need to update the bylaws, not only for the election process but other areas. A committee would need to review to see what needs to be updated/changed/amended. Zainab will follow up on this offline with interested parties and make an official proposal during a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kriston Lee Pumphrey made a presentation on CSD's SignVote campaign for the 2020 U.S. Presidential election and how DHHCAN can be involved.

CSD's SignVote campaign for the 2016 election encouraged people to register and vote.

The goal for the SignVote campaign for 2020 is to create momentum within the deaf community by being a centralized provider of election information that is accessible through ASL. One way is to establish a SignVote coalition of different organizations using a non-partisan approach to create focus on the election. CSD needs to ASLize election content so that the community can understand what the issues are and become better informed voters.

CSD would like to see DHHCAN join the coalition. How can we mobilize our community to support DHHCAN and its efforts?

DHHCAN's seven policy issues need to be translated into ASL so that it is more accessible to the community. CSD proposes the creation of a series of 5-12 minute videos for each of the seven policy issues. There would be an introductory video on what DHHCAN is, its history, and what it does. He needs buy-in from DHHCAN for this effort.

The videos will be owned by CSD/NAD/DPAN TV. They would reside on the DPAN platform. A link to the videos could be added to the DHHCAN website. DHHCAN would not be expected to fund this project, just in-kind participation. As DHHCAN chair, Zainab will work along with CSD on the project and would solicit input from each of the policy chairs to ensure the script reflects the issues appropriately.

The videos will be done in ASL and be open-captioned along with a transcript, visual description and Spanish translation. Voice over is an expensive option that will need to be discussed.

Kriston hopes to begin ironing out details next week. Production could begin in May or June. The schedule will need to be aggressive so that the videos are available to the community by the beginning/end of June.

Some time in March there will be an on-line SignVote forum with 3 invited panelists moderated by Melissa Yingst (Melmira) and Alex Abenchuchan (Daily Moth).

Eric likes the concept of DHHCAN's involvement and would like to see an official document/proposal once details are in place that will show us the specific angle that will be used and what will be covered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two bills have been introduced in the 2020 session of the General Assembly of Virginia on open captioned movies at movie theaters in Virginia: HB 747 and SB 274. Virginia residents are encouraged to contact their state delegate and Senator (<https://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov>) letting them know of your support.

There will be no meeting in February. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 4th.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.