



ILDA Executive Council Meeting Capital Plaza Hotel, Topeka, Kansas July 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m. by President Gregory Werth. Rev. Tyler Walworth gave the opening prayer.

Roll Call:

President – Gregory Werth	Treasurer – David G. Brown
President-Elect – John Mason	Pastor Advisor – Rev. Tyler Walworth
Secretary – Janet Gehlbach	LDMS Representative – Rev. Ron Friedrich

Minutes

1. John Mason moved to accept the minutes of the Executive Council meeting on July 20-21, 2018 in Topeka, KS, as read. Passed.

Right Hand Award Report (Dawn Werth)

1. Janet suggested that a line on the bottom of the application for nominations for the Right Hand Award have a signature line of the person making the nomination.
2. Dawn handed out two nomination papers. There was a third nomination but that person was ineligible because he is clergy. John Mason suggested making a vlog for the next convention to explain who is eligible to be nominated and who is not.
3. Janet Gehlbach moved to accept Barbara Zimmerman, Cedar Falls, Iowa, for the Right Hand Award. Passed.

President's Report (Gregory Werth)

1. As President, my term is coming near to an end. It has been real rough times after last year's meeting in Kansas. My beloved faithful mother passed away on October 4 to go home with Jesus due to complications from her last surgery and struggling with health issues. I got injured and was in pretty miserable condition then had to go down to Texas to get my things out of storage to my new storage in WI to be more economical. As I stated last time, I had been working on church remodel and repair work that had to be put on hold till this past spring to start it back up after a long grieving process I had to go thru for myself with my wife. Our church has been so busy with their events for fund raising for various things we needed monthly. We raised \$2,700 from Brat Fest to help pay for the church insurance with 23 volunteers from our church.
2. Let us focus on our current issues, comments and announcements that I would like to discuss in this Executive Council meeting with God's help and wisdom.
3. First of all, I would like to applaud KansaSeed for their hard work and getting things ready for this ILDA convention this year. The good news, I received a letter from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Spring Lake Park, MN to offer to host the 2021 ILDA convention after a long time trying to convince the Northern Illinois Deaf Worship but they respectfully turned it down. Therefore, we should accept Prince of Peace's offer with some helping them as well. John Mason and his wife Carolyn offered their help to them. I am with my wife will offer them help as well somewhere in certain area in the committee. Let's give them \$10,000 seed money for them to start.
4. Last meeting, we had discussed in revamping the regions of ILDA into smaller number of regions. We would need to continue working with this to get it finalized by the 2021 ILDA convention since our numbers have grown smaller and we need to keep the regions going. I have spoken with several people about this situation and they felt it was much needed to revamp it and merge some of the other regions. John and I will continue to work on this and make it a more viable solution. (ADDENDUM: Gregory and John will discuss more on the Midwest/Central Region merge when the Central Region has their Executive Council meeting this fall).
5. We still need to revise the ILDA brochure to more current standards and get them printed out to go to LDMS so they can go to various conventions and pass out the information about ILDA. I would like to establish this quickly as we can. We can NOT put it off anymore since it is so outdated because it specifically mentions about

deaf church only but want to include hearing churches with interpreted served as well. I would like to mail these brochures out to all hearing churches that have deaf members where it is interpreted or deaf mission groups.

(ADDENDUM: Gregory is going to Florida this winter and would like to hand out brochures because many deaf people he has met in Florida do not know about ILDA).

6. I am wonder is there a workshop for By-laws and Host Guidelines being set up at this convention? We need to ensure that it is put into the guidelines with the host convention from this point and on. Many officers are not aware of many rules in the By-Laws and for convention hosts as well. This would avoid problems down the road where as I had a couple people asking me if that was the proper procedure and etc. on various topics in the By-Laws. (ADDENDUM: The 2021 host congregation will add time to the schedule before the Business meeting to explain how the meeting should be run, i.e. how to nominate officers, how to make motions, etc.)

7. We need to set up our own physical permanent address with a private PO Box service somewhere in St. Louis where we can share the cost of the services with LDMS, and Deaf Lutheran. So that we don't have to rely on a person in St. Louis to check mail, etc. I have discussed in the LDMS meeting and they were interested to share if we agree. There was a mention about Deaf Lutheran physical address as well. We would need to separate them to avoid confusion of who you are mailing it to. (ADDENDUM: It was discussed about sharing a post office box with LDMS, ILDA, Deaf Lutheran, but no action was taken.)

8. We do definitely need to finalize the EIN issue with the IRS as it is still an ongoing issue as I spoke about it at the last meeting. I can go sometime this week with David Brown and Rev. Ron Friedrich that I found out there is an IRS office locally here in Topeka, KS. We should also still continue to look for a good bank with good investment opportunity to make better interest and better relationship with the bank so that any new officers can easily change the names instead of having to go through changing banks, etc.

9. The website and google services for ILDA has been put off due to EIN issues. We must get this EIN issue resolved so that I can move forward and get it properly set up. But I would like to discuss some domain naming options as well which I need to check with Rev. Friedrich. I am offering and volunteering to be the technical person for ILDA for a while to get it all set up correctly and efficiently since I have 35 years of experience with these technical aspects.

10. Many blessings to ya'll.

The Executive Council recessed for a break and then reconvened.

President-Elect Report (John Mason)

1. On June 1, 2019 we had another "cook-out picnic" to raise funds for Deaf Prison and Community Re-Entry Ministries. It was successful again! This is for purchasing paperback bound Holy Bibles for as many as we can.

2. Newly elected president for congregation voters' meeting at Christ/Deaf, Silver Spring, MD.

3. For ILDA I recommend we need to set up the voting procedure:

a. President can be elected again for a second term according to the revised by-laws, Incumbent President cannot nominate him/herself. Outstanding ILDA members can nominate Incumbent President during the business meeting. The nomination chairperson will conduct the procedure.

b. Current President-Elect can either become President by voice or by default if Incumbent President does not wish to run for a second term.

c. If Incumbent President wins the re-election, President-Elect can remain for another term or he/she can finish the current term. If he/she decides not to remain, the election of President-Elect will be required. (By the way, as of now, I am currently in my second term until Sunday, July 21, 2019).

d. There are no changes in voting procedures for the position of Secretary, Treasurer and Pastor Advisor according to the By-Laws.

Secretary's Report (Janet Gehlbach)

1. Since the Indianapolis convention I signed papers for the State of Missouri renewal of ILDA's non-profit status. Rev. Richard Moody from St. Louis handles the paperwork and all he needs from me as Secretary is my signature and then he sends the completed paperwork back to the State of Missouri.

2. All ILDA convention books from 1971-2017 were given to Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) in St. Louis in October 2018. (ADDENDUM: A copy of the 2019 ILDA convention book was given to CHI after the Kansas convention).
3. All minutes and reports from 1971 to 2018 are now online on the ILDA website.
4. I am still missing five years of convention minutes: 1973 (Kansas City), 1977 (Spokane), 1979 (Memphis), 1985 (Milwaukee), 1987 (Cedar Rapids) and 1991 (Toledo). I am not really concerned about it because there are summaries of those five conventions printed into the Deaf Lutheran issues.
5. The LCMS Foundation in St. Louis contacted me asking for ILDA's EIN #. Someone is putting ILDA into their estate plan so they needed our EIN to complete the paperwork.
6. We need to have a discussion about Facebook administrator guidelines and who and who cannot join as a member of the ILDA Facebook page. (ADDENDUM: The Executive Council agreed to add Rev. Tyler Walworth's name as an ILDA Facebook administrator to review doctrine content. The ILDA Facebook page will be for ILDA members only and Deaf Lutheran subscribers. All others will be removed. If their name is accidentally removed, then they can ask to be added back but then they must answer three questions to get added back to the list: 1. Are you a member of a deaf or hearing LCMS congregation? 2. Are you an ILDA member? 3. Have you attended ILDA conventions in the past?)

Treasurer's Report (David Brown)

1. Former treasurer Karen Beiter met me on September 23, 2017 in Erie, PA and provided me her last audited accounting spreadsheet and all the treasurer boxes and documents. A lot of them were handed over from Patrick Sell. I had a car trunk full of boxes to bring back home! Karen made out a \$10,000 start-up check so that I could open checking and savings accounts near my home. On October 4, 2017 I opened new ILDA checking and savings accounts at US Bank.
2. On January 2, 2018, Karen's bank wire transfer was done with the rest of the ILDA funds (\$158,960.18) to US Bank. My actual treasurer duties began on January 2, 2018.
3. After last summer's Executive Council meeting, I began the ILDA 2018-2020 membership dues drive. I have mailed out letters to current and past members reminding them of membership dues renewal. Eighty two (82) people have renewed. (82 out of 239 names on file).
4. Early July 2019 my accounting report (7/1/18 – 6/30/19) was audited by ILDA member Ronald Grapatin and Rev. Edwin Bergstresser. The October 2017 – June 30, 2018 report was audited in early July 2018 by Ronald and Edwin.
5. On October 4, 2017 the US Bank checking account was opened with a \$10,000 check from Karen. The checking account of June 30, 2019 shows a balance of \$16,878.81.
6. On October 4, 2017 the US bank savings account was opened with a deposit of \$2,000 transferred from the checking account. The savings account on June 30, 2019 shows a balance of \$150,009.21. (The St. Matthew's donation of \$120,000 is still unspent and saved in savings.)
7. The Mission Project goal (2017-2019) as passed at the last convention in Indianapolis was \$34,000. As of July 1, 2019 we have collected \$26,934.06. We are short by \$7,065.94. Therefore we have not paid India the \$8,000 yet.
8. (ADDENDUM: We did not meet the mission project goal for 2017-2019. The slate will be wiped clean for 2019-2021 mission project goals.)
9. Becky Jungklaus is asking for money for her seminary classes.

Pastoral Advisor Report (Rev. Tyler Walworth)

1. Nothing new to report. He has sent quarterly articles for the *Deaf Lutheran* newsletter and has enjoyed working with the Executive Council and ILDA.

LDMS Director Report (Rev. Ron Friedrich)

1. LDMS has a new address: PO Box 434038, St. Louis MO 63143
2. Our new local support team is Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf in St. Louis
3. Foreign missions:
 - a. LDMS sent a \$3,000 grant to the India Deaf Mission for building renovation.

- b. LDMS is making preparations to deliver ILDA's \$8,000 mission project grant to the Kenya (Africa) Deaf ministry.
- 4. Clergy updates:
 - a. Rev. Gary Gehrs in Southern California passed away, leaving a big gap in our ministry there.
 - b. Rev. Dr. John Reinke received a Call as a self-supporting Missionary-at-Large, serving the Texas District and beyond.
 - c. Deacon John Rushton is on track for ordination as a Special Ministry Pastor (SMP). He will be ordained on August 11, 2019 in Rochester, New York.
 - d. Patrick Sell has retired from his service as deacon of Calvary Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Des Moines, Iowa.
- 5. DIT:
 - a. Deaf Vicar Andy Petajan is on schedule to graduate in May 2020. He will serve Christ Lutheran Deaf in Silver, Spring, Maryland, after my retirement.
 - b. Becky Jungklaus (Houston TX) has been accepted into the St. Louis seminary's EIT Deaconess program and will begin studies this fall.
- 6. Media:
 - a. The LDMS YouTube channel has a new batch of high quality ASL Bible story videos.
 - b. The LDMS Board has approved funding for production of an updated LCMS Deaf Ministry PR video, with specific information to assist hearing churches that want to do Deaf ministry.
- 7. 2019 ILDA Convention:
 - a. LDMS is collaborating with the ILDA 2019 convention host committee in offering workshops for church interpreters during the convention. Certified interpreters will be able to earn required continuing credit for RID.
- 8. I will not be able to attend this year's convention as I will represent LDMS and ILDA at the LCMS convention in Florida. Associate Director Rev. Edwin Bergstresser will present my video report to the ILDA business meeting.

The Executive Council recessed for lunch and reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

Old Business

- 1. The ad hoc committee to restructure the ILDA regions is still in progress.
- 2. The domain website and establishment of Google accounts solely for ILDA is still in progress

New Business

Motion # 1: David Brown (Rev. Friedrich) moved that ILDA support some of Becky Jungklaus' financial help toward her Concordia Seminary courses costs. Amended to give \$3,000 (second by John Mason). Amended to give \$4,500 (second by Rev. Walworth). The original motion as amended twice was passed.

Gregory Werth asked John Mason to take the floor.

Motion # 2: Gregory Werth (Rev. Tyler Walworth) moved to propose seed money of \$5,000 to the 2021 26th Biennial convention (50 years) host committee (Prince of Peace, MN). Passed.

John Mason gave the floor back to Gregory Werth.

Motion #3: David Brown (John Mason) moved to pay \$250 to KansaSeed for the ILDA Board's dinners. Passed.

New Business was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Gehlbach, Secretary, 2017-2019