

N.A.D. BULLETIN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Vol. 2

NOVEMBER, 1936

No. 4

Federal Plans on Behalf of the Deaf

Last June your President went to Washington to find out what the Federal Government intended to do for the deaf.

He first called at the offices of the National Security Board, thanks to the assistance of Dr. Percival Hall and Mrs. Gertrude Mathiot. There a pleasant *entete cordiale* was established insofar as the deaf are concerned. More anon.

Then came the long deferred conference with Deputy 1st Asst. Postmaster General Donaldson to secure admission of the deaf into the Government postal service. Those present, besides your President, were Father M. A. Purtell, S.J., of N. Y., and Brother P. A. Rosenacker, S.J., of Philadelphia, representing "The Catholic Deaf-Mute," Prof. Harley Drake, Chairman of the N.A.D. Civil Service Committee and Prof. Irving Fusfeld of Gallaudet College, as official interpreter. The crux of the matter is that since deaf appointees can only be assigned to those types of work requiring neither hearing or speech and since there is a postal law forbidding officials to give preference to any substitute either in number of hours or type of work—the deaf are thus barred from obtaining permanent employment. To quote the "Catholic Deaf-Mute":

"In view of the explanation made by Mr. Donaldson, the only possible solution evident at this time, is to have the existing postal law changed. Such a process will be a tremendous task and will require much labor. It demands the services of a paid legal representative to work in behalf of the deaf. The proper organization to assume this great task is the National Association of the Deaf, which not only represents the deaf of all faiths, but works industriously for them. If the deaf of the United States wish to have this law changed so as to secure an entry into the post-office service, they will have to doff their coats, roll up their sleeves and put their shoulders to the wheel. It will be a task for giants, but a task that can be accomplished. The deaf will have to give more than their moral support to the N.A.D. They will have to open their purses and give it some financial support as well."

In the meantime, your President has written to the three leading presidential candidates. The responses from Governor Landon and Mr. Norman Thomas are in accord, while the one from President Roosevelt, printed below, is of special interest, indicating that some progress is being made.

Hyde Park, N. Y. October 3, 1936

"My dear Mr. Kenner:

I have read with sympathetic interest your letter of September twenty-second, in behalf of the deaf, and note your suggestion for the Civil Service Commission.

Upon contacting the Commission, I was pleased to learn that the Commissioners have already undertaken a survey designed to extend the opportunities now available for the deaf in examinations for and appointments in the government service.

I am asking the Commission to advise you promptly as soon as its survey has been completed and a decision reached.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) "FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

Before leaving Washington, your President, in company with Bro. Rosenacker of Philadelphia, also called on the W.P.A. and was cordially received by the Assistant Administrator, Aubrey Williams.

Despite unwarranted criticism, the N.A.D. has been instrumental in clarifying several statutes and obtaining official enactment of a clause forbidding discrimination against the deaf. Now and then some misguided local official might exceed his powers. In such a case, the deaf are asked to report the actual facts to their N.A.D. State Representative and, upon their recommendation, we shall then submit the case to the Federal authorities for investigation. Several such cases are now pending; but, most of them have no justifiable grounds for complaint.

WE REPEAT: Dismissal of workers because of their handicap is a direct violation of President Roosevelt's Executive Order No. 7046, signed on May 20, 1935, which plainly states that physically handicapped persons may be employed in jobs they can fill and further adds: "(e) Except as specifically provided in this part, workers who are qualified by training and experience to be assigned to work projects shall not be discriminated against on any grounds whatsoever."

AN INVITATION

The Executive Board of the N.A.D. invites all State Representatives, else heads of State Associations, to attend a Special Meeting to discuss affiliation plans, etc. Date is tentatively set for Sunday evening, July 25th, 1937, preceding Chicago Convention at Hotel Sherman.

Please send your acceptance to Secretary

N. A. D. BULLETIN

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MARCUS L. KENNER.....*Editor*

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Price of Activity

Certain individuals are of the opinion that the present NADministration conducts too many drives for "funds." In keeping with our policy of clearing the air of mis-statements, we wish to explain our stand.

This NADministration, besides its other activities, conducted a drive for new members last year. At the same time, First Vice-President Orman was assigned the task of getting State Associations to affiliate with the N. A. D. His efforts merit commendation.

Our sole drive for funds has been in conjunction with this BULLETIN. At present we have sent out letters to State Associations asking them to help us add to this Fund. Exactly \$120 is needed to continue publication up to Chicago convention. Because this BULLETIN is for the benefit of all the deaf, we think we are justified in asking them to contribute for its continuance.

Our sole income comes from membership dues. Despite increases, that is hardly enough for all our activity. Activity costs money. To date we have received no "kick" from bonafide members. They realize we are doing everything within our power to further the aims of the deaf. Stupid insinuations to the contrary, made by outsiders, not a single penny of the Association has been wasted. Our books are audited quarterly and are open to inspection by our members.

This Association is run for the benefit of the deaf. If our members believe we should pursue a "do nothing" policy in order to conserve our funds; and avoid the "stigma" of asking for help, then the present NADministration, the servants of the deaf who elected them, will forthwith abandon all activity. Remember: **ACTIVITY COSTS MONEY.**

Acknowledgment and Appeal

Appreciation is expressed of the additional contributions to our BULLETIN FUND, listed below:

Penn. Society for the Adv. of Deaf	10.00
Members of the Heb. Assn. of Deaf	6.80
Harry S. Lewis	5.00
Mrs. R. L. Whitney	5.00
Deaf ladies of Hispanic Museum.	4.00
Theatre Guild of the Deaf	2.50
Fed. Exec. Australian Ass'n.	2.00
Queensland Branch, A.A.A.D.	2.00
Charles L. Clark	2.00
R. A. Bass	2.00
Oliver McInturff	1.00
Miss M. Helmle	1.00
B. F. Round	1.00

WON'T YOU HELP ?

Change of Convention Date

Because the international convention of "Lions" is scheduled to meet in Chicago during the week originally selected by the N.A.D. for its 18th Triennial Convention, the Executive Board deemed it wise to move our convention ahead one week, to JULY 26 to 31, 1937. The Lions convention will attract at least 50,000 delegates; a huge parade is scheduled and most hotel rooms have been engaged. Consequently we'd find ourselves crowded.

Incidentally, much progress is being made by the Local Committee on Arrangements. Everything is moving smoothly. An Exhibition of work by the deaf will be staged at the Sherman Hotel. No admission charge will be made and hearing people will be invited to attend. Our Business Program Committee, headed by Mr. T. Y. Northern of Denver, Colo., also reports steady progress. All in all the week of July 26-31, 1937 promises to be the most outstanding convention ever held. Much is expected from a business view-point which will place the cause of the deaf prominently before the public eye.

Our New Affiliates

The question of affiliation with the N.A.D. has been discussed by several State Associations and independent organizations last summer. Some voted to table the matter to a future date,—to see if the present policy of N.A.D. activities is to continue. Others turned us down when the fear was voiced that affiliation with us means that the N.A.D. would interfere in State matters. Groundless fear, indeed!

The recent article by 1st Vice-President, Mr. James Orman, "The Choice Before Us", printed in the *Deaf-Mutes' Journal*, merits the thoughtful consideration of all State Associations which are still outside the N.A.D. fold.

In the meantime, we welcome our latest affiliates—The Indiana Association of the Deaf, Louisiana Association of the Deaf and Empire State Association of the Deaf. We have also granted a charter to Binghamton, N. Y., where an active Branch is now in existence. Altogether the total now stands at 11 State Associations and 5 active Branches who have affiliated under the new plans, submitted over a year ago. While this number is not so impressive, we realize that it takes time to line up all the State Associations behind us. Heaven speed the day when we shall be able to assert that ours is a real confederation of ALL the deaf.

OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE EIGHTEENTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

(L. P. F. please copy)

In accordance with action taken by the Executive Board, call is hereby issued for the 18th Triennial Convention of the National Association of the Deaf, to meet in the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, from July 26th to 31st, 1937, Monday to Saturday, inclusive.

ALTOR L. SEDLOW,
Secretary-Treasurer

MARCUS L. KENNER,
President.

Proposed Revision of Laws

This issue of the BULLETIN is mailed out together with the New York City Convention Proceedings, not only to save postage, but to give our members a chance to study the following proposed changes to our Laws, which will come up for discussion at our Chicago convention, next July 26-31. Please turn to back pages of Proceedings and check up on changes hereunder outlined. Changes have been submitted by the N.A.D. Law Committee and are open to discussion in these columns and in the "L.P.F."

We urge our members to study the changes carefully. Should they disagree with any suggestion, they can either write us or to the chairman of the Law Committee, Mr. J. W. Howson, 2915 Regent Street, Berkeley, California. We hope to reprint these changes for consideration of our members at the Chicago convention. Any other suggestions will be carefully considered and added thereto.

The Law Committee recommends the following changes in the By-Laws of the Association:

ARTICLE III—*Officers, Sec. 2. Add:* No person shall be eligible to hold office, who has not been for one year, immediately previous to this election, a member in good standing of the Association.

Sec. 4 *Add:* or in lieu of the President by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE V—*National Executive Board. Sec. 2. Add:* within sixty days after the final report of the Local Convention Committee, following any regular triennial meeting of the Association, the Executive Board shall, by a *two-thirds* vote, have the power to demand the resignation of or seek the expulsion of any officer of the Association, elective or appointive, whom it may deem negligent in the performance of the duties of his office.

ARTICLE VIII—*Rewrite: State Representatives. Sec. 1. State Associations Affiliated with the National Association,* the President of the National Association, the Executive Board, or a majority thereof concurring, shall have the power to create State Representatives of the National Association, and authorize them to collect in such manner as may seem advisable, necessary funds for the Endowment Fund. In the absence of such selection the President of the Association may appoint the State Representatives. Such Representatives shall receive as compensation for their services a commission not in excess of 20 per cent of all moneys collected. None but authorized agents shall be permitted to make such collections within their respective States, provided however that this rule shall not apply to collections made by the Local Committee for the reception and entertainment of the members of the Association in convention assembled, nor to any collections made by the branches of the Association for the purpose of sending delegates to the next national convention.

Sec. 2. State Representatives shall constitute a Membership Committee of which the President of the Association shall be ex-officio chairman. They shall in the absence of other provisions be considered in the light of liaison officers for the transaction of business between the state associations and the National Association.

ARTICLE IX—*Expenditures Limited. Add: Sec. 2.* At the end of each current fiscal year all funds not needed for actual expenses shall be set aside and added to the Endowment Fund.

ARTICLE X—*Fees and Dues. Sec. 4.* Omit as conflicting with provisions for affiliated State Associations, as provided in new section under Article XIII.

ARTICLE XI—*The Local Committee. Add: Sec. 3.* The Local Committee shall within one month following the adjournment of the Convention, for which it was appointed, terminate its activities with a final report to the Executive Chairman, accompanied by a financial settlement with the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association.

ARTICLE XIII—*Branches. Add: Sec. 5.* Affiliated State Associations, through their treasurers, shall remit to the Secretary-Treasurer of the National Association each year, ten cents dues per member, Regular National Association Members and Life Members excepted.

Sec. 6. The per capita tax thus collected shall entitle State Association members each to one-tenth of one vote at all elections of the National Association. Regular National Association members and Life Members will retain their individual voting franchises.

For Sec. 5, read Sec. 7. Likewise advance present Sec. 6 to Sec. 8, and rewrite the latter: A branch or affiliated association may discontinue its membership in the National Association of the Deaf by giving written notice to the President, ninety days in advance. A branch may be dropped if half its members are in arrears or for other sufficient cause, by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XV—*Official Organ. Add: Sec. 2.* The annual subscription to the official organ shall be 60 cents, 50 cents per year to members of affiliated associations, and free to Regular and Life Members.

ARTICLE XVIII—*Interpretation of the By-Laws of this Association shall vest in the Executive Board, which may call upon the Law Committee for advice and information.*

Signed:

JAMES W. HOWSON
LOUIS J. BACHEBERLE
ARCHIE RANGLES

DISSENTING OPINIONS:

ARTICLE III—*The present administration believes that eligibility for office in the N.A.D. should be limited to Life Members or those who have been members in good standing for THREE years, instead of one, or between conventions. The reason is obvious: only those who have been members long enough and have a "stake" in the organization can be depended upon to take their work seriously and do their best for the members who elected them. Incidentally, such is the policy of truly strong national organizations.*

ARTICLE VIII—*Mr. Randles questions the advisability of the 20 per cent commission allotted to State Representatives who may be collecting moneys*

National Association of the Deaf

An Organization for the Welfare of All the Deaf

ORGANIZED, 1880 : : INCORPORATED, 1900

OFFICERS

MARCUS L. KENNER.....*President*
19 West 21st Street, New York, N. Y.

JAMES N. ORMAN.....*1st Vice-President*
Jacksonville, Illinois

ROY J. STEWART.....*2nd Vice-President*
Washington, D. C.

ALTOR L. SEDLOW.....*Secretary-Treasurer*
3633 E. Tremont Avenue, New York, N. Y.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

DR. THOMAS F. FOX, Caldwell, N. J.

FREDERICK A. MOORE, Columbus, Ohio

DR. EDWIN W. NIES, New York, N. Y.

for the Endowment Fund. He would also specify that State Association secretaries be, wherever possible, designated as State Representatives. He notes that we have state agents, representatives, and state treasurers in branches and asks why pay state agents or the others when state treasurers are required to send in the money.

ARTICLE XIII—Sec. 6. Mr. Randles prefers a wide-open mail vote reaching all corners of the country.

ARTICLE XV—Sec. 2. Mr. Bacheberle would like the \$10.00 Life Members to contribute to the support of the official organ and suggests a subscription of 25 cents.

The Revived E. S. A. D.

New York State has the largest deaf population in the country. Besides seven schools, there are something like several hundred organizations catering to the needs of the deaf. Under the circumstances it has been very confusing trying to determine which agency properly represented the deaf in sufficient numbers to be officially recognized as their spokesman. The net result was that during the past few years very little has been accomplished. Several carping critics have blamed the N.A.D. for the deplorable conditions, insisting it was our duty to meddle in the State, tho these same misguided individuals had previously shrieked to high heaven that the present NADministration wanted to interfere in purely State matters.

The revival of the Empire State Association of the Deaf took place in Binghamton, N. Y., on August 21-23, with an estimated attendance of 200. Many worthwhile subjects were discussed, among them being plans for creation of a State Labor Bureau of the Deaf; organizing Branches in various cities of the State; cooperation with schools for the deaf in improving educational methods and industrial training, affiliation with the N.A.D. and the abolition of multiple dues-paying through the simple process of extending membership in Local, State and National organization upon payment of single dues. Other State organizations should emulate this dues-paying plan.

Items of Interest

The Public Administration Clearing House has a new "Directory of Organizations in the Field of Public Administration", among which the N.A.D. is now listed. This contact will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience necessary in our activities.

Requests for various information and assistance in establishment of schools have come from the County Supervisor, Adult School of Education, Arkansas City, Arkansas; the Association de Sordo Mudos de Madrid of Spain which also sends its greetings; and the deaf of Shanghai, China.

We acknowledge receipt of a "Survey of Text Books" used in American Schools for the Deaf, tabulated by the Louisiana State School for the Deaf. Its contents should prove highly helpful, thanks to Supt. L. R. Divine and his able assistants, Principal R. L. Parks and Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Crammate.

At the meeting of the National Council for the Physically Handicapped held at Atlantic City, N. J., on May 28th, President Kenner was one of the speakers; his subject being "Social and Industrial Legislation as it Affects the Deaf." Supts. V. O. Skyberg and C. D. O'Connor spoke on Vocational Training of Deaf Children.

The total recorded value of securities, reported by the Trustees, Messrs. H. D. Drake and A. L. Roberts, as of July 10th, 1936, amounted to \$13,850.00. Every possible precaution is being taken to safeguard our interests.

We are informed from a reliable source that a bill will again be introduced by the Florida State Legislature to prohibit the deaf from driving cars. The N.A.D. has been asked to help and is furnishing all possible "ammunition."

Kansas has come forth with a vengeance! 29 new regular and 3 life members have just been added to the N.A.D. Congrats to State Representative Mr. Laughlin.

Albert Davis, class '26, Rochester (N. Y.) School for the Deaf, successfully passed his law examinations and was admitted to the Bar of the State of New York.

The N.A.D. has been invited to attend the conference of the National Rehabilitation Association to be held at San Antonio, Texas, November 15-18. The inclusion of "vocational rehabilitation" in the Social Security Act, recently passed by Congress, necessitates closer cooperation with this group.

The Preliminary Education Legislation Committee, through Chairman Fives, reports progress. This time, the State of New York has finally adopted the recommendation sponsored by the N.A.D. and enacted the necessary legislation last July. Hereafter, every child under 6 years of age who is totally deaf or whose hearing is impaired, must be reported to the State Commissioner of Health under the provisions of Chapter 856, Laws of 1936, effective immediately. Other State Associations will do well to seek like enactment of this progressive law.