

Kansas Association of the Deaf
Board Meeting Minutes
Location: Emporia Public Library Meeting Room
Date: October 25, 2025

I. Call to Order

President Katie Wise called the meeting to order at 1:24pm.

II. Roll Call

President Katie Wise present
Vice President Mary Ellen Keck present
Secretary/Treasurer Raul Melgar present
Youth Program Coordinator Taylor Wise present
Appointed Board Member Lorrie Shank present
Appointed Board Member Michael Sullivan present
Appointed Board Member Jennifer Hart present

Plus, nine observers.

Kenneth Milner
Ann Cooper
Jack Cooper

Georgina Sullivan
Sharon McGlynn
Mike McGlynn

Ted Hart
Dennis Gabel
Sherry Gabel

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Lorrie Shank (Mary Ellen Keck) moves to accept the August 23, 2025 Board Meeting minutes as read. **PASSED**

IV. Ratification of Email / Video Conference Motions from Board Members

KAD-BD-25-07: Jennifer Hart (Mary Ellen Keck) moves that KAD set up a booth at KSD Homecoming on September 20, 2025, and purchases the booth fee of \$10 from line #12 of the budget.

PASSED 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain 8/30/2025

KAD-BD-25-08: Lorrie Shank (Jennifer Hart) moves that the KAD Board call for a Special Member Meeting on October 25th for the purpose of approving the 2025-2025 Budget Plan and LaRosh Guideline.

PASSED 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain 9/21/2025

KAD-BD-25-09: Mary Ellen Keck (Taylor Wise) moves that KAD pay up to \$1,000.00 from Line #2 of the budget to cover the lodging and car rental for the trip to NLTC.

PASSED 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain 10/8/2025

Taylor Wise (Jennifer Hart) moves to ratify motions as stated above. **PASSED**

V. Communications (*community correspondence*)

None

VI. Reports of KAD Board Officers

A. President's Report

1. Emailed NBDA on 8/23/25 to inform them that the 8 tickets are a donation.
2. Contacted NAD/NLTC to inform them that Mary Ellen Keck, Raul Melgar, and Taylor Wise are attending NLTC on 10/29/25-11/1/2025.
3. DeafBlind Community Group is now considered inactive (until we find a DeafBlind to lead).
4. Emailed Dan and Joyce Brubaker the LaRosh Apology Letter on 8/29/2025.
5. Attended to NAD Region II Meeting (Zoom) on 9/14/2025
 - Discussed the concerns on CEO and Region II Representation vacancies

6. Emailed and mailed LaRosh letters and awards on 9/19/2025 -
 2024: Mishalae Hayden 2025: Khaliah Frazier
 Kamryn Tuttle Tyler McCallum
7. Attended the Emergency Region II Meeting (Zoom) on 9/29/2025 -
 - Discussed the concerns of the NAD President Lisa Rose
 - All Region II State Associations agreed to do a video of an Open Letter
 requesting that the NAD President Lisa Rose resign.
8. Researched on LaRosh Scholarship unpaid recipients.
 Unpaid recipients: Taylor Wise
 Armando Alvarez
 Mykalah Little
9. Worked on the Introduction Letter and Fall 2025 Newsletter and had them ready by
 9/30/2025.
10. Typed a letter with video explaining the recent issues about NAD to KAD members on
 10/8/2025
11. Attended the KCDHH meeting on 10/10/2025.

B. Vice President's Report

1. Looking for three persons interested be on the law committee
2. Encourage to spread words on KS governor's conference on aging next year

C. Secretary's Report

1. No report

D. Treasurer's Report

KAD Budget as of September 30, 2025	
Checking Account	\$14,263.82
Restricted Funds:	
- ZVRS Fund	\$389.77
- Deafblind Fund	\$947.93
- Accessibility Fund	\$4,000.00
KAD's General Fund	\$8,926.12
Merrill Lynch (LaRosh) #4038 (as of 9/30/2025)	\$135,975.97
Merrill Lynch (KAD) #4047 (as of 9/30/2025)	\$89,562.74
Total of M.L. Investment Accts (#4038 + #4047)	\$225,538.71
Checking Account	\$14,263.82
Total of Merrill Lynch Investments	\$225,538.71
Grand Total	\$239,802.53

E. Youth Program Coordinator's Report- Taylor Wise

1. Researched JRNAD for possible youth collaboration.
2. Asked about KAD's connection with JRNAD and interest in starting a Kansas JrNAD chapter.
3. Will continue research based on board feedback.

F. Appointed Board Member's Report - Lorrie Shank

1. Emailed KAD's 1st Fall Version Newsletter to KAD Members (and mailed hard copies to 5 members)
2. Keep track of members' expiration dues
3. Monitored the KAD's booth at KSD's Homecoming and got many comments from the students who know Raul and Taylor!
4. Attended KSDE Task Force at KSD on Oct 23rd where the Language Assessment Program was explained by two LAP staff to the audience. One parent of a KSD student was asking a lot of questions about the budget for LAP as he seems not to know the full history of LEAD-K and LAP. He also kept comparing KSD's LAP with other deaf schools (Iowa and Oklahoma) where KSD Supt Luanne explained that their programs are not the same as ours and they do not have LAP (only Outreach Dept). I'll keep an eye on this to see if KAD needs to step in to help keep LAP running and might need to meet with legislation to refresh their knowledge about the importance of LAP.
5. Currently 170 members

G. Appointed Board Member's Report - Michael Sullivan

1. Kansas Governor's Conference on Aging was held at the Kansas State University Alumni Center in Manhattan, KS on October 17, 2025. Over 200 attendees showed up in sessions all day. Five deaf attendees and several interpreters attended breakout sessions. In-person gatherings brought together health professionals, policymakers, educators and community leaders to share ideas, strengthen partnerships and elevate aging-related work across Kansas. Through dynamic plenaries and interactive sessions, we explored the strategies, frameworks, and collaborations needed to support older adults, care partners and every Kansan in aging with health, dignity and purpose. For an example. sessions were pretty overwhelming to learn about elders staying legally prepared, combating ageism through education and inter generational connection, and combating elder financial exploitation in Kansas.

H. Appointed Board Member's Report - Jennifer Hart

KAD Display Board

Our display board was outdated and had the previous board members on it. We decided to go back to the beginning and change the entire concept of the display board. We wanted to recruit more members and make our display more interesting to people who knew nothing about our organization. We tried to make our board less political and more social. On the left panel, we listed KAD's purpose, mission statement, and a QR code to sign up for membership. On the middle panel, we added the 2025-2027 Board of Directors. The right panel has KAD history, board/general business meetings, the National Association of the Deaf, and the LaRosh Scholarship.

The best option was to create three 24x36 posters - one for each display board panel. I designed the posters in Canva and printed and laminated them at Office Depot. Our display board is covered with felt. I purchased Velcro and put the sharp side on the back of the posters so the posters would be able to stick to the felt. I bought black tape to tape the edges of the posters because I had to trim the posters to fit on the display board panels. The tape will prevent the edges of the posters from fraying. I completed the display board two days before our first booth at the KSD Homecoming event on Saturday, September 20.

KAD Newsletter

I designed the KAD Newsletter in Canva. Since we are a new board, we decided to start from scratch. We introduced each member of the Board of Directors and listed their responsibilities. We listed the current KAD affiliates and a QR code/membership link. We listed the four

winners of the LaRosh scholarship. I finished the newsletter on Tuesday, September 30, and sent it to Lorrie Shank so she could email the newsletter to the KAD members.

KAD Website

Our website lacks content and makes our organization look boring. I have been doing some online research and visiting each state association's website. Some associations have been shut down, and some don't even have a website and use Facebook only. I have found a few wonderful websites with a lot of content that make me want to become a member. I am still researching. After the holidays, I should have more time to work on our website.

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Budget Plan Proposal
- B. LaRosh Guideline

VIII. Important Business to Discuss *(may lead to motions)*

- A. NLTC 2025 Cancellation:
 - a. Registration - refund, apply to NAD 2026, or donate?
 - b. Deaf Collab 2025
- B. NAD 2026 Conference on June 30-July 5, 2026 (discuss via email or next board meeting)
- C. KAD 2027 Conference
- D. Deaf Up Scholarship (at later time)

IX. New Business

- A. Motion(s):

KAD-BD-25-10: Taylor Wise (Jennifer Hart) moves KAD Board to approve the Budget Plan Proposal 2025-2027.

PASSED 6 Aye 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

KAD-BD-25-11: Lorrie Shank (Taylor Wise) moves the KAD board to approve the new LaRosh Scholarship Guideline (with at least 5 semesters).

PASSED 6 Aye 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

Recessed at 2:48pm

Resumed at 2:59pm

KAD-BD-25-12: Lorrie Shank (Michael Sullivan) moves the KAD not to send anyone to NLTC (cancelled) and requests for refund on 3 registrations.

PASSED 6 Aye 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

KAD-BD-25-13: Raul Melgar (Taylor Wise) moves the KAD Board to pick Mary Ellen Keck as the chairperson for KAD 2027 Conference.

PASSED 6 Aye 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

KAD-BD-25-14: Lorrie Shank (Jennifer Hart) moves that KAD draft a letter to NAD to apologize for the actions of one of our former board members and assure the NAD that the KAD would very much like to develop a positive collaboration to further the rights of the Deaf in Kansas and the USA.

PASSED 6 Aye 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

KAD-BD-25-15: Lorrie Shank (Mary Ellen Keck) moves KAD to work with KSD to improve communication to the Kansas community (including KSD alumni) regarding KSD events.

PASSED 6 Aye 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

KAD-BD-25-16: Lorrie Shank (Michael Sullivan) moves KAD to work toward being more transparent to the Kansas Deaf community regarding KAD mission and goals, using different approaches such as email and stamped mail.

PASSED 6 Aye 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

KAD-BD-25-17: Lorrie Shank (Raul Melgar) move that KAD hosts workshops on Aging (including scams, will, etc)

PASSED 6 Aye 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

X. Announcement(s)

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
August 23, 2025	Board Meeting/Retreat	Newton Library
September 30, 2025	Fall Newsletter Due	
October 25, 2025	Special Member meeting/ Board Meeting	Emporia Public Library
December 31, 2025	Winter Newsletter Due	
January ?, 2026	Board Meeting	Zoom
March 31, 2026	Spring Newsletter Due	
April ?, 2026	Board Meeting	TBA
June 30, 2026	Summer Newsletter Due	
July ?, 2026	Board Meeting	TBA
September 30,2026	Fall Newsletter Due	
October ?, 2026	Board Meeting	TBA
December 31, 2026	Winter Newsletter Due	
January ?, 2027	Board Meeting	TBA
March 31, 2027	Spring Newsletter Due	
April ?, 2027	Board Meeting	TBA
June 30, 2027	Summer Newsletter Due	
June ?, 2027	State Association Meeting	TBA

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned sine die at 4:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Raul Melgar, Secretary
Kansas Association of the Deaf

Date approved: 1.25.2026

Kansas Association of the Deaf

2025-2027 Budget Plan

	2025-2027 Projected
REVENUE	
1. MEMBERSHIP	\$1,000.00
2. AFFILIATE DUES	\$100.00
3. DONATIONS	\$4,000.00
4. FUNDRAISING AFFAIRS	\$6,000.00
5. CONFERENCE	\$11,100.00
TOTAL REVENUE PROJECTED →	\$22,200.00
EXPENSES	
1. BOARD EXPENSES - TRANSPORTATION/LODGING STATEWIDE TRAVEL - OFFICE/OPERATIONAL & OTHER EXPENSES	\$900.00
2. DELEGATES NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONF October 29 - November 1, 2025 in Austin, TX	\$2,000.00
3. DELEGATES/ALTERNATES NATIONAL ASSOC OF THE DEAF CONF June 30 - July 5, 2026 in San Fransico, CA	\$5,500.00
4. DELEGATES TO DEAF CONFERENCE(S)	\$2,500.00
5. DUES/TAXES - NAD MEMBERSHIP DUES (\$200 YEARLY) - STATE INFORMATION REPORT FEE (\$80 BIENNIAL)	\$500.00
6. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS	\$100.00
7. LEADERSHIP AFFAIRS (FOR BOARD) - NEW BOARD RETREAT/PARLIAMENTARY TRAININGS - DEAFHOOD INSTITUTE WORKSHOPS - CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS - LEADERSHIP SKILL BUILDING TRAININGS	\$1,500.00

8. YOUTH PROGRAMS - YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP OR DEAF CAMP - WORKSHOPS FOR YOUTH	\$1,000.00
9. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - WORKSHOPS/TOWN HALLS/PRESENTERS/MATERIALS/ACCESS	\$700.00
10. INSURANCE FIDELITY BOND (\$136 YEARLY)	\$300.00
11. POSTAGE	\$100.00
12. PUBLIC RELATIONS - PRINTER INK/PAPERS/ENVELOPES - NEWSLETTERS/FLYERS/POSTCARDS - BROCHURES/BOOTH MATERIALS/BOOTH REGISTRATION - MDHAC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (\$500 yearly)	\$1,600.00
13. STATE CONFERENCE/STATE ASSOCIATION MEETING (SAM) - BOARDS REGISTRATION/LODGINGS/MEALS/MILEAGE - FACILITY RENTAL/CATERING FOR CONFERENCE/SAM - EQUIPMENT/MATERIAL/SUPPLIES FOR SAM	\$1,500.00
14. SOCIAL JUSTICE	\$1,500.00
15. SPONSORSHIP	\$2,000.00
16. WEBHOSTING - - ZOOM PLATFORM, WIX WEBSITE	\$500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES PROJECTED →	\$22,200.00
Restricted Funds:	
ZVRS FUND	\$389.77
Drei McIntosh's DEAFBLIND FUND	\$947.83
ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL	\$4,000.00

The Frank W. LaRosh Scholarship

The **FRANK W. LaROSH SCHOLARSHIP** provides funding for eligible graduates of the Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD), regardless of genders. Recipients have up to four (4) years after graduation to enroll in and use the scholarship at any post secondary educational institution of their choice.

AWARD AMOUNT: \$2,000 per senior, up to two seniors annually

SCHOLARSHIP PURPOSE

The Frank W. LaRosh Scholarship funded by the designated LaRosh Scholarship Fund. Frank W. LaRosh was a student at Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD), graduated in 1935, and an alumnus. He was also a donor and a longtime member of Kansas Association of the Deaf (KAD). KAD Board members have authority to take care of the fund in KAD's financial area while KSD staffs make the selections according to eligibility criteria, below. The scholarship is used to provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships for deserving KSD senior(s) to continue their post-secondary education institution. The fund is available as long as it lasts.

HISTORY

On September 24, 1980, a letter sent to Kansas Association of the Deaf (KAD) Board Members from Frank W. LaRosh's sister, Vera (LaRosh) Brubaker, also a KSD graduate in 1930 and an alumnus, concerning "The Estates of Frank W. LaRosh". She was a long time member of KAD.

The letter shows the points:

In the circumstance of the last will and testament of the late Frank W. LaRosh, it does not indicate - specific definition of what the KAD will do with his generous gift. It is the largest gift in history bequeathed to the non-profit organization.

The family of the late Frank W. LaRosh was requested by KAD President, Mr. Fred Murphy (10 years, 1979-1989), what they wished to do with the enormous gift. The family expressed their wishes that the money be established as a scholarship fund, also known as **The Frank W. LaRosh Scholarship Fund**.

Frank W. LaRosh bequeathed the sum of \$7,197.72 to KAD to be used to provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships for deserving graduate of KSD, with understanding that KSD seniors must be bona fide students at KSD.

The Frank W. LaRosh Scholarship Fund is a restricted memorial fund whose interest income is used to award monetary aids to deaf students at KSD in higher education. The Fund started in 1981 with Vera (LaRosh) Brubaker giving a scholarship to a KSD graduate in the amount of \$500, divided by \$50 for 10 months.

Therefore, following the spirit of Fred R. Murphy and Richard Brubaker's vision in memory of Frank LaRosh's generous bequest, the Frank W. LaRosh Scholarship continues. Richard Brubaker, a former KAD Treasurer for 6 years, 1983-1989 and a longtime member, was also a KSD graduate in 1953 and an alumnus; and a son of Vera (LaRosh) Brubaker.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- To qualify, an individual must be a bona fide senior enrolled at the Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD) at time of application.
- Individuals must have been enrolled at KSD for at least five semesters in high school.
- Individuals must demonstrate strong academic performance and achieve success in their coursework at KSD.

SELECTION

The principal and selected staff at the Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD) oversee each senior's academic performance, achievements, motivation, perseverance, and willingness to succeed. Seniors must submit an application to be considered for the scholarship. The principal and selected staff review the applications, make the scholarship selection, and notify the KAD President. A member of the KAD Board will present the scholarship(s) to the selected senior(s) during KSD's annual awards ceremony in May.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The fund shall be mailed by a written check from KAD's Merrill Lynch (LaRosh) to the post secondary education institution's financial office where the senior(s) plan to attend. It is good for up to four (4) years to use up the scholarship fund.

If you have any questions, email to president@deafkansas.org

Revised as of 10/25/2025