

Kansas Association of the Deaf

Board Meeting Minutes

Location: ZOOM

Date: January 25, 2026

I. Call to Order

President Katie Wise called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

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, 4 members and 1 non member

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Jennifer Hart (Mary Ellen Keck) moves to accept the October 25, 2025 Board Meeting minutes as read. 6 **PASSED**

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

KAD-BD-25-10: Taylor Wise (Lorrie Shank) moves that KAD send two delegates (President Katie Wise and Vice President Mary Ellen Keck) to the 2026 NAD Conference in San Francisco, CA using the budget line #3.

PASSED 6 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain 11/21/2025

Taylor Wise (Lorrie Shank) moves to ratify motions as stated above. 6 **PASSED**

V. Communications (*community correspondence*)

- A. The Board received an email from a previous board member expressing a concern about the Fall Newsletter. After reviewing the complaint, the Board responded that the Fall Newsletter has shown no error and it will not be corrected. We did receive a follow-up email with more complaints as well as another email from a second previous board member expressing the same complaints.
- B. KAI-RID Dissolution Funds - the President will have a meeting with the last President and Vice-President of the KAI-RID to discuss the dissolution of their funds.

VI. Reports of KAD Board Officers

A. President's Report

- 1. Mailed the apology letter to NAD on 11/5/2025.
- 2. Attended the Community Forum for CEASD at KSD on 11/9/2025.
- 3. Missed Region II Meeting on 11/9/2025 because I was driving home from KSD
 - a. Meeting was basically meeting the new NAD President
- 4. Attended the NAD Region II Meeting (Zoom) on 12/15/2025
 - 1. Will announce the new NAD Vice-President, Region II and III Representatives
 - 2. The search for a new CEO will begin later in 2026

5. Attended the NAD Region II Meeting (Zoom) on 1/11/2026
 1. Met the new Region II Representative
6. Drafted the Message from the President article for the Winter Newsletter (Jan. 2026)
7. Assisted the treasurer in mailing the LaRosh Scholarship funds to three recipients:
 - a. Taylor Wise in December 2025 - decided to put the fund into her Learning Quest account for later use
 - b. Mishalae Hayden in January 2026 – JCCC
 - c. Tyler McCallum in January 2026 - Gallaudet University
8. Assisted the treasurer in paying the annual NAD affiliate online and MDHAC annual membership
 - a. Currently working with NAD on the affiliate status - payment was for 2026, not 2025
9. Observed the KCDHH Commission Meeting on 1/9/2026.
10. Participated in the KAD Endowment (new scholarship and new sponsorship) Committee meetings on 12/2/2025, 12/22/2025, and 1/14/2026
 - a. The committee developed and prepared a new guideline for the KAD Endowment to have it ready for the next Board meeting.

B. Vice President's Report

1. Update for 2027 Conference
 - o Found conference spaces that are more reasonable and affordable than others
 - o Need to make motion to approve so can secure the spot
 - o Date? Either June 16-20 or June 23-27 (June 23-27 is better due to father day on 20 th and other group plan to share space on 16-20)
 - o Talk about CSD and sponsor information
 - o Manhattan Committee of Chamber has free service we can take advantage during planning of the conference. Don't need more people on the planning committee.
 - o Set up a date to discuss ideas of the workshop and night events.
2. Need 1 more person on the Bylaw committee.
 - o Have 2 people already
 - o Need to set in stone the date of the committee meeting to discuss the bylaws.

C. Secretary's Report

1. No report

D. Treasurer's Report

1. Two individuals audited KAD's financial transactions. Records can be found in the Official Audits under the Financial Section.
2. Developed and implemented online financial forms, including a purchase order authorization form, deposit tracking and reconciliation form, and travel reimbursement form. It can be found in the Treasury Forms.
3. Transitioned processes from paper-based to fully online systems to reduce paperwork and administrative workload, while maintaining paper backups if needed.

KAD Budget as of December 31, 2025	
Checking Account	\$13,202.10
Restricted Funds:	
- ZVRS Fund	\$389.77
- Deafblind Fund	\$947.93
- Accessibility Fund	\$4,000.00
KAD's General Fund	\$7,864.40
Merrill Lynch (LaRosh) #4038 (as of 12/31/2025)	\$141,914.37
Merrill Lynch (KAD) #4047 (as of 12/31/2025)	\$92,773.56
Total of M.L. Investment Accts (#4038 + #4047)	\$234,687.93
Checking Account	\$13,202.10
Total of Merrill Lynch Investments	\$234,687.93
Grand Total	\$247,890.03

- E. Youth Program Coordinator's Report- Taylor Wise
- Set up a KAD TikTok account to expand outreach and youth engagement.
 - Hosted a "JrNAD Open House" at the Kansas School for the Deaf on January 16 during Jackrabbit Day.
 - The Jr.NAD Open House was successful, with positive engagement and interest from students.
- F. Appointed Board Member's Report - Lorrie Shank
1. Currently have 173 members
 2. Emailed KAD's Winter Version Newsletter to KAD Members (and mailed hard copies to 5 members)
 3. Continue keeping track of members' expiration dues
 4. Emailed Board about Kansas State Board of Education Meeting on Jan. 13, 2026 as we need to follow up if they decided that new KSD Supt is not required to be deaf.
 5. Helped develop the new KAD Endowment for John Jacob Dold Scholarship and Sunflower Fund.
- G. Appointed Board Member's Report - Michael Sullivan
1. Kansas State Board of Education and parent's suggestions
- H. Appointed Board Member's Report - Jennifer Hart
- I put together the Winter issue of the newsletter. We had more content to add in this issue compared to the Fall issue, which was good. We had plenty of news about our affiliates - KSD, WAD, KSCAD, and KCDHH. We also featured a deaf person from Kansas who was recognized by an organization for her nursing profession. The newsletter was completed on January 6, 2026.

I have been working on the KAD website, including adding a history section. I have started researching our former board officers and creating biographies for them. I have learned a lot of interesting things about these people, which I will add to the website. I hope to have photos of each board officer so people can put a face to each while reading about them. I have been using Ancestry.com and Newspapers.com for my research on these people.

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. The KAD Endowment Guideline
 - a. John Jacob Dold Scholarship
 - b. Sunflower Fund

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

None

IX. New Business

A. Motion(s):

KAD-BD-26-01: Taylor Wise (Mary Ellen Keck) moves the KAD Board to approve the KAD Endowment guideline and make it public.

PASSED 6 Aye 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

X. Announcement(s)

A. Mary Ellen Keck - Free Dental Services on January 30-31 in Manhattan, KS with interpreters provided by KCDHH. <https://www.ksdentalfoundation.org/patients/>

B. Peter Boklund - Night to Shine event in Andover, KS on Friday, February 13th from 5pm-9pm

Hope Community Church in Andover, KS

- Red Carpet Staggered Entries with "media" people taking pictures for each to have a night to shine
- Completely Free (including food)
- Taco Bar and Chocolate Fountain
- Room provided to de-stimulate if an individual is over-stimulated
- Dogs (therapy or support dogs??) onsite as a resource
- Pro Bono Interpreters provided by Boklund Interpreting, partnering with growing local interpreters for interpreter growth opportunities.
- Free Hair and Nail appointments the morning/afternoon of (2/13) at Sami Halaseh Institute in Andover for those who call in as attendees to the event.
- Required to be 14 years or older with no age cap.
- If volunteering to help, registration (with a background check) and a 30-minute training are required. Training is either on 2/8 from 12:30 pm - 1 pm or 2/13 from 3:30 pm - 4 pm.

Resource Links for the Event:

- <https://welcome2hope.com/nts-2026>

- (Facebook)

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Night-to-Shine-at-Hope-Community-Church-in-Andover-Kansas/61581280617705/#>

[Night to Shine Tri Fold.pdf](#)

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	poria Public Library
December 31, 2025	Winter Newsletter Due	
January 25, 2026	Board Meeting	om
March 31, 2026	Spring Newsletter Due	
April 11 , 2026	Board Meeting	nhattan, KS tel Conference ck up - Library
June 30, 2026	Summer Newsletter Due	
July ?, 2026	Board Meeting	A
September 30,2026	Fall Newsletter Due	
October ?, 2026	Board Meeting	A
December 31, 2026	Winter Newsletter Due	
January ?, 2027	Board Meeting	A
March 31, 2027	Spring Newsletter Due	
April ?, 2027	Board Meeting	A
June 30, 2027	Summer Newsletter Due	
June ?, 2027	State Association Meeting	TBA

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned sine die at 3:55pm.

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

Date approved: 4.11.2026



Kansas Association of the Deaf, Inc.

ENDOWMENT

There will be two separate funds:
JOHN JACOB DOLD SCHOLARSHIP and **SUNFLOWER FUND.**

JOHN JACOB DOLD SCHOLARSHIP

The JOHN JACOB DOLD SCHOLARSHIP provides funding for eligible Deaf High School graduates in the state of Kansas regardless of their gender. 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.

PURPOSE

The John Jacob Dold Scholarship is funded by Kansas Association of the Deaf (KAD). The KAD Board developed this scholarship to help High School graduates in the state of Kansas to apply for post secondary educational institutions. This applies to any Deaf and Hard of hearing graduates from any type of schools such as public or mainstream in the state of Kansas. The fund is available as long as it lasts.

HISTORY

John Jacob Dold was the first President of Kansas Association of the Deaf (KAD) in 1909-1911. He was called "JJ Dold" and a long time member of KAD. He was born in Muscatine, Iowa; and attended Iowa School for the Deaf. He moved to Olathe, Kansas. He was an educator and a teacher at Kansas School for the Deaf for 49 years from 1893 to 1942 before retiring. One year later he passed away at the age of 78.

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

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicant(s) must be Deaf (include people who may identify as Deaf, DeafBlind, Deaf+, Hard of Hearing, or Late-Deafened). Must submit an audiogram signed by a licensed audiologist, otolaryngologist, physician, or certified technician.
- Applicant(s) must be a senior in any type of high school. This scholarship is not open to the students of Kansas School for the Deaf as they have the opportunity with the LaRosh Scholarship.
- Applicant(s) must be a Kansas Resident. KAD will use the applicant's State Issued ID or Driver's License as proof.
- Applicant(s) must demonstrate strong academic performance and achieve success in their coursework. A letter of recommendation is highly encouraged.
- Applicant(s) must submit GPA of 2.5 or above and/or ACT scores with a minimum of 14.

APPLICATION PERIOD: Applications are due by April 1st of the year.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD NOTICE

Scholarship Award Criteria: Awarding of scholarships is contingent upon the strength of the application, fund availability, the proposed individuals' endeavor merit, and the volume of applications received. Receipt of a scholarship is not guaranteed.

Confidentiality Assurance: Personal details such as age, address, and driver's license number are treated with utmost confidentiality and will not be disclosed. Information pertaining to the awarded endeavor may be shared publicly.

Selection Process: The KAD Board of Directors convenes as requests come in, to evaluate and vote by majority to approve the request.

Announcement of Winners: The KAD President will send a letter(s) with an award(s) to the selected recipient(s) with the instructions of contacting the Treasurer with information such as the student ID number and the address of the post secondary educational institutes where the check will be mailed to. Then the scholarship recipient(s) will be announced on KAD's website, social media, and newsletter.

[Application Form: [DOLD SCHOLARSHIP](#)]

SUNFLOWER FUND

In alignment with the Kansas Association of the Deaf's mission, which is to **PRESERVE, PROTECT, and PROMOTE** the civil, human, linguistic, and rights of Deaf* Kansans. The Sunflower Fund is for any Kansas Deaf individuals (any age) pursuing their education or personal skill building their skills in their specific fields of interests, advocacy, and activism. As a result, Deaf leaders are created to ***contribute and influence the elevation and growth of Deaf Leaders and the Deaf Community.***

YEAR AWARD AMOUNT: up to \$1,000 per individual (The maximum amount from the fund for total awards annually is \$2,000)

Can be awarded for personal skill building and educational endeavors such as but not limited to the following categories:

- Deaf Leadership Camps
- Deaf Summer Camps (other than NAD Youth Leadership Camp)
- Any Deaf Centered Conferences
- Workshops/Seminars/Trainings
 - Skill-Specific
 - Advocacy & Social Justice
 - Parliamentary
 - Deaf Interpreters
 - Deaf Studies, Intersectionality and Deaf Communities Courses
 - Legislation, Policy Making, Politics, and Campaign
- Certificates or Degrees from Post Secondary Educational Institutes.
- and many more that ***influence and elevate the growth of Deaf Leaders and the Deaf Community.***

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicant(s) must be Deaf (include people who may identify as Deaf, DeafBlind, Deaf+, Hard of Hearing, or Late-Deafened). Must submit an audiogram signed by a licensed audiologist, otolaryngologist, physician, or certified technician.
- Applicant(s) must be a Kansas Resident. KAD will use the applicant's State Issued ID or Driver's License as proof. (For below age 18, if not have a State Issued ID, use parent/guardian's).

APPLICATION PERIOD: Applications are accepted at any time during the year.

SUNFLOWER FUND AWARD NOTICE

Fund Award Criteria: Awarding of the fund is contingent upon the strength of the application, fund availability, the proposed individuals' endeavor merit, and the volume of applications received. Receipt of a fund is not guaranteed. Applicants can win an award once and will be disqualified if they apply again.

Confidentiality Assurance: Personal details such as age, address, and driver's license number are treated with utmost confidentiality and will not be disclosed. Information pertaining to the awarded endeavor may be shared publicly.

Selection Process: The KAD Board of Directors convenes as requests come in, to evaluate and vote by majority to approve the request.

Announcement of Winners: The KAD Board of Directors will contact the selected winners before announcing fund recipient(s) on KAD's website, social media, and newsletter.

Procedures: The winner needs to submit a proof of acceptance or invoice for the KAD Treasurer to pay directly to (will not give money to the winner).

[Application Form: [Sunflower Fund](#)]

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

For Internal Purposes Only

DOLD SCHOLARSHIP

1. Process for Approval of the Scholarship.

The eligibility of incoming **Dold Scholarship** requests shall be reviewed by the KAD Youth Program Coordinator. If all eligibility criteria are met, KAD Youth Program Coordinator will propose it to the KAD Board of Directors for a review and a motion to approve by a majority vote.

2. Process for Disbursement of the Dold Scholarship

It is imperative that the KAD Youth Program Coordinator or President meet with the recipient to ensure the recipient signs and acknowledges receipt by completing the **Agreement of the DOLD SCHOLARSHIP by Recipient** form, found on page 6 of this document before the Treasurer (or President) issues the check to the institution of recipient's choice shown on the application.

Within four (4) years following the announcement of the Dold scholarship recipient(s), it's the recipient's responsible to inform the Treasurer (or President) with student's ID# and name of payee with mailing address to the post secondary educational institution and Treasurer (or President) will issue a check from Merrill Lynch's account #4047. It can be several transactions until the amount of \$2,000 runs out.

If the recipient changes institutions to continue education within four (4) years from the date on the agreement form, it's the responsibility of the recipient to notify the President and Treasurer.

3) Announcement of scholarship recipient(s)

The KAD Board of Directors will announce the scholarship recipient(s) on its website and may also utilize other available media/communication sources for announcements.



**Agreement of
THE DOLD SCHOLARSHIP TERMS
by Recipient**

I, _____, agree by accepting this Dold Scholarship and release the Kansas Association of the Deaf (KAD), and its officers, directors, and members from any liability, loss, damage, cost, or claim that arises from my participation in the Dold Scholarship program. KAD reserves the right to withhold funds in any given year, and to modify or terminate any fund at its sole discretion, with or without notice.

By accepting this scholarship, I give the Kansas Association of the Deaf (KAD) permission to publicly announce my name, image, award amount, and endeavor in any of its public relations materials.

Recipient Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Email Address _____

Date _____

Payee _____

Amount Awarded _____

For Internal Purposes:

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____ Date: _____

Audited by: _____ Date: _____

SUNFLOWER FUND

1. Process for Approval of the Sunflower Fund.

Applications are accepted at any time during the award year. (Board members can not apply for the Sunflower Fund.)

The eligibility of incoming **Sunflower Fund** requests shall be reviewed by the KAD Youth Program Coordinator. If all eligibility criteria are met, KAD Youth Program Coordinator will propose it to the KAD Board of Directors for a review and a motion to approve by a majority vote.

The individual's endeavor to be awarded shall achieve the following two objectives:

- To **purposely** align with the Kansas Association of the Deaf's mission: to PRESERVE, PROTECT, and PROMOTE the civil, human, linguistic, and rights of Deaf Kansans/Americans,
- To **purposely** contribute, influence, and elevate the *growth of Deaf Leaders and the Deaf Community*.

It is possible for just one or multiple individuals to receive awards, provided the total awarded amount(s) does not surpass the maximum of \$2,000 available for the specific award year.

2. Process for Disbursement of the Sunflower Fund

It is imperative that the Youth Program Coordinator or President meet with the recipient to ensure the recipient signs and acknowledges receipt by completing the **Agreement of the Sunflower Fund by Recipient** form, found on page 8 of this document before the Treasurer (or President) issues the check to the payee of recipient's choice shown on the application.

Within 30 days following the announcement of the Sunflower Fund recipient(s), the Treasurer (or President) will issue a check(s) to the payee(s) as specified on the Sunflower Fund's application form.

3) Announcement of Sunflower Fund recipient(s)

The KAD Board of Directors will announce the scholarship recipient(s) on its website and may also utilize other available media/communication sources for announcements.



Agreement of THE SUNFLOWER FUND TERMS by Recipient

I, _____, agree to share my experience by doing one of the following within three (3) months after completing my endeavor. I will work with the KAD Youth Program Coordinator on this.

- 1) Write an article for the KAD Newsletter
- 2) Create a vlog for the KAD Newsletter
- 3) Give a presentation at a KAD Board Meeting or event

By accepting this Sunflower Fund award, I agree to release the Kansas Association of the Deaf (KAD), and its officers, directors, and members from any liability, loss, damage, cost, or claim that arises from my participation in the Sunflower Fund program. KAD reserves the right to withhold funds in any given year, and to modify or terminate any fund at its sole discretion, with or without notice.

By accepting this fund award, I give the Kansas Association of the Deaf (KAD) permission to publicly announce my name, image, award amount, and endeavor in any of its public relations materials.

Recipient Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Email Address _____

Date _____

Payee _____

Amount Awarded _____

For Internal Purposes:

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____ Date: _____ Audited

by: _____ Date: _____