

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF
2nd Board Meeting - Champaign, IL
PACE Inc.
November 9, 2025

Call to Order

President Fara Harper called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Roll Call

Present	Absent (with regrets)	Visitors
Harper, Fara (President) Colón, Carlos I. (Vice President) Sutton, Leslie (Secretary) Vieira, Joseph (Treasurer) Bohnenstiehl-Taylor, Kim (Illini Rep) Higuete, Raymond (Jacksonville Rep) Modry, Jean (Appointed Member) Moore, Don (Media Specialist)		Lowery, Kerry Whipple, Tom Wayland, Jeremiah

Silent Prayer

Larry McGuire from Illini Chapter

Approval of November 9, 2025 Meeting Agenda

Motion to approve November 9, 2025 Meeting Agenda was made by Carlos Colon. Seconded by Kim Bohnenstiehl-Taylor. Motion Carried.

Approval of Standing Rules

Motion to approve the Standing Rules was made by Donald Moore. Seconded by Jean Modry. Motion carried.

Approval of June 29, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve June 29, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Jean Modry. Seconded by Carlos Colon. Motion carried.

Ratify E-mail Motions

Motion to approve both email motions to approve Donald Moore as our Media Specialist and Jean Modry as our appointed board member was made by Carlos Colon. Seconded by Joseph Vieira. Motion carried.

Officers' Reports

President Fara Harper

- Created the 2025 IAD Conference PPT
- Finalized the 2025 IAD Bylaws
- Participated in the monthly LEAD-K meetings
 - They are working on cleaning up the bill before submission in January of 2026
 - A lot of people and organizations involved
- Participated in the monthly NAD state association meetings
 - Involved in the action of requesting Lisa Rose's resignation
 - Update: Our new NAD President, Stephanie Hakulin, is the first Black Deaf president of NAD
- Updated/Created several "pages" in Zeffy
 - Membership
 - Store
 - Donation
- Attended DeafNation Expo on Nov. 1st with Carlos, Donald, and Kim.
 - We had 16 membership sign ups. We earned over \$165 that day.
 - Having that "Sign Up Special" was worth it because people wanted waterproof pouches and mugs.

Vice President Carlos Ivan Colon

- Was tasked by President Harper to secure a location to host our first board meeting of 2025-2027 term and was able to secure the location here at PACE, Inc. Thanks to Kerry Lowry, PACE's Deaf Services Coordinator, for securing it!
- I attended DeafNation Expo on November 1, 2025, which I think was successful!
- Worked with Secretary Sutton to collect reports and develop PPT slides for this meeting.
- Will also work with Secretary Sutton to transfer my former duties as Secretary from last term.
- Looking forward to working with the rest of the Board for the next two years!

Secretary Leslie Sutton

- Gained access to the secretary email
- Assumed full duties after working with Ivan
- Still waiting for the membership list
- Can start keeping track and directing them to Zeffy

Treasurer Joseph Vieira

- The organization's financial position is robust, with Total Assets reaching \$281,380.30 as of October 31, 2025, primarily sustained by strong long-term investment growth. The General Fund recorded a short-term Net Operating Loss of -\$6,032.65 this quarter. This loss is directly attributed to the necessary,

one-time expenditure of \$4,750.00 for the CPA Audit Service, a critical priority fulfillment. Conversely, the IAD Conference Fund continues to perform strongly, recording a Net Profit of \$1,010.20 year-to-date, confirming its role as the primary operational revenue engine for the IAD.

- 1. **High Operating Expense (Q4):** The General Fund's net loss of -\$6,032.65 is primarily non-operational and non-recurring. The expense ratio (Total Expenses / Total Revenue) is skewed high due to the \$4,750.00 CPA Audit expense, which was a necessary payment addressing a previous priority.
- 2. **Conference as Revenue Engine:** The IAD Conference generated a strong net profit of \$1,010.20 year-to-date, successfully covering its own costs and providing critical surplus funds for IAD operations.
- 3. **Financial Health:** Despite the short-term operating loss, the organization's long-term financial health is stable and growing. The Edward Jones Long-Term Investment account has increased from \$240,013.73 to \$248,585.11 over the three-month period.
- 4. **Liquidity Trend:** Operating cash (PNC Bank) has decreased due to the timing of the Audit payment, highlighting the need to maintain sufficient reserves for large, scheduled expenditures.

Media Director Donald Moore

- 2025 DeafNation Expo
 - Good turn out: new sign ups and renewals with questions
 - Needed to spot check for membership status
 - Posted thanks to our media channels
- IAD Regions Map
 - Working with President Fara to create 'Regions' map for IAD members
 - Exploring two different formats
 - May need to reassign members to a region
- Website Updates
 - Worked with Board to upgrade to additional server space on web host
 - Conducting site clean ups, tweaks and page updates
 - Exploring new template designs and features
 - Posting across our media channels: Website, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn
- What's Next
 - Terminate costly Neon-CRM and migrate to Zeffy for membership management
 - Addresses may be out of date – need to look into allowing members to update their info
 - Assign members to a Region • Considering monthly news blasts (a.k.a SWB) – open to content ideas
 - Encourage officers to submit vlog / blogs / short topics
 - Historical Project Scans: On hold to focus on website

Chapters' Reports

Illini Chapter of the IAD

- 27 active members
- Checking Account Balance: \$6,157.69
- Meetings and Events since the last meeting
 - Annual Picnic (August 9)
 - Chapter meeting (September 11)
 - Scavenger Hunt (September 20 - not successful)
 - Yoder's Kitchen Social (October 18)
 - Chapter meeting (November 13)

Jacksonville IAD

- Bank Balances
 - General Fund: \$4,269.45
 - Youth Fund: \$1,406.47
 - Total Fund: \$5,675.92
- Had a meeting on November 8, 2025
- Election results:
 - President- Joseph Vieira (temporary)
 - Vice President-vacant
 - Secretary- Fara Harper
 - Treasurer- Leslie Sutton
 - Chapter Representative: Raymond Higuete

Appointed Members' Reports - Jean Modry

- Represented IAD on the following committees: Alliance, IDHCC SAG, IL. Dept of Aging
- Alliance – Oct. 9, 2025
 - Covered 4 topics –

1. IDHS: Division of Behavioral Health & Recovery – Julia Speakman

IDoA is developing its 3 year strategic plan - Update

2. IDHCC SAG (Stakeholder Advisory Group) Update – Benro Olives
 3. Deaf Blind Access Issues
 4. Townhall
- IDoA – 3 year strategic plan
 - Breakout group provided input (recommendations):
 - Conduct a statewide needs assessment for this population
 - Contracted Service Agreements include clear interpreter provision protocols, monitoring and sanctions compliance.
 - Appoint D/DB/HH representatives to IDoA advisory bodies and provide accommodations.
 - Tailored Resources appropriate for D/DB/HH populations.

Public Input during Review: At least 1 dedicated accessible hearing/focus group for D/HH/DB/late-deafened seniors. Include measurable goals.

- Ombudsman Discussion:
 - Role clarified (patient-focused advocate in nursing homes; distinct from social workers).
 - Community suggestion: explore a D/HH/DB-aware ombudsman approach and dialogue with existing ombudsmen
 - Broader need for a 24/7 emergency communication access mechanism (outside ombudsman scope).

2. SAG Interpreter Shortage Committee & Recommendations – Benro Olives

Overview:

Licensure began 2009 – no meaningful growth in 15 years

2024 – 1,000 active licenses (350 out of state; 650 in-state)

ITP decline: From 11 programs to 5. Columbia College closing by 2028.

Shortage spans K-12, medical, community, and language pair interpreters (Spanish/Polish/Russian, etc.

SAG Output: 20 recommendations grouped as 7 immediate, 4 short-term, 9 long-term. Actions constrained by agency size (7 staff) and funding. See Handout.

3. DeafBlind Access Issues – Bryen Yunasko

Outlined access gaps:

- Exclusion from grassroots/community events (block parties, neighborhood groups)
- Social media info is often inaccessible; DB residents lack timely neighborhood updates (e.g., ICE activity).
- Proposals/Resources:
 - CAF – Communication Access Fund: Single, surcharge-funded pool consumers can draw from to request interpreters/CNs directly (avoids agency-by-agency barriers).
 - MOPD Support (Rachel Arfa): 4 staff interpreters; can coordinate for city-hosted events/programs, help navigate departments, arrange captioning and other accommodations; contact access@cityofchicago.org. Political events excluded.
 - Training & Policy: CPD policy on D/HH/DB finalized after 12 years; next step is training ~10,000 officers. Consider reviving community tactile-sign training via IAD.

4. Town Hall — Agenda, Survey, Preparations

- Purpose: Gather statewide community input, validate/adjust priorities
- Partners/Hosts (interest expressed): CHS, MOPD, IAD, IDHHC, BDHR, COD;
- Timing & Format:

- Target Spring launch; multiple locations statewide.
- Full access: ASL, CDI/DB support (tactile), captioning, CNs.
- Consider video versions of survey questions (plain language) to support low-literacy and DB access.

Affiliated Organizations' Highlights

Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation

No report filed.

Standing Committees' Reports

Education Strategy Team

No report filed.

Finance

See Treasurer's Report.

Family Program

No report filed.

Senior Citizens

No report filed.

Election

No report filed.

Archives & History

No report filed.

Deaf Youth

No report filed.

Legislative

No report filed.

Bylaws

No report filed.

Fundraising

No report filed.

Special Committees' Reports

None

Motion to have a 10-min break was made by Carlos Colon. Seconded by Joseph Viera. Motion carried.

President Fara Harper recessed the meeting at 2:59 PM.

President Fara Harper called the meeting to order at 3:09 PM.

Discussions/Forums

- NAD affiliation and 2026 NAD Conference
- Monetary Support requests
- Filling in vacant positions (appointed board members and regional representatives)
- Planning for 2027 IAD Conference
- Standing Committees
- 2025-2027 Budget
- 2025-2027 IAD Priorities
- Lifetime membership guidelines

Unfinished Business

All motions from the previous meeting had passed. Therefore, there is no unfinished business.

New Business

A motion to write a letter of support to preserve funding for IDEA Part D was made by Jean Modry. Seconded by Kim Bohnenstiehl-Taylor. Motion Carried.

Motion to close the new business was made by Carlos Colon. Seconded by Donald Moore. Motion carried.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Carlos Colon. Seconded by Joseph Viera. Motion Carried.

President Fara Harper adjourned the meeting at 4:26 PM.

Announcement





