

**Eastern Athletic Association of the Deaf, INC**  
Delegates' Meeting  
**Zoom Session Part One**  
Sunday, March 5th, 2023  
**Meeting started at 6:40 pm EST**

**\*Note there is no Board of Directors Meeting prior to Delegates' Meeting.**

***Roll Call:***

- EAAD President, Danny Gabel
- EAAD Vice President, Sheldon Clarke
- EAAD Secretary/Treasurer, Alexandria Pucciarelli Miller
- EAAD Tournament Director, Yarlenny Torres
- EAAD Hall of Fame/Public Relations, Peter Badavas
- EAAD-Appointed Sergeant of Arms, Robert Jones
- Delegate at Large, Paul Mitchell
- New Jersey Sports INC- Chuck Wallace
- Parliamentarian Joshua Beckman
- District City 95ers, Mon Ching Ng
- Empire City, Carl Sorrentino
- Empire City (ALT), James Ginis
- Fanwood Alumni Association, Roxanna Aguilo
- Fanwood Alumni Association (ALT), Senoy King
- Frederick, Ben Coleman
- Lady Liberty, Lorraine Stoltz
- Nighthawks, Jose Moncada
- New York Skullz, Glenroy Benjamin
- Philly Hustlers, Philly Diamond
- DC Elite Hoyas, Arthur Everette
- DMV, Kris Saucedo
- Crooklyn Code, James Johnson
- Maryland Crossovers, Larry Cohen
- Rochester Venoms, Matthew Thomas
- SICD Magic, Carl Colon

***Do the delegates accept Joshua Beckman as a Parliamentarian for the meeting tonight?***

***Majority Voted YES***

***Approval of the previous minutes of the meeting (Summer 2020 Delegates Meeting/Fall 2022  
Emergency Delegates Meeting)***

***-Add time stamp for those who arrived to the meeting late (next to their name under roll call list,  
not in the middle of the report) (for both 2020 and 2022 minutes)***

-"COVID-19" should be used for the entire minutes

*Moment of Silence:*

Jesus Candido Patterson, former NJ Warriors/NJ Magic Player, 12/15/1980-2/1/2023

*Treasurer's Report (Alexandria Pucciarelli Miller)*

- Unaudited as of March 5th, 2023 \$8,299.55
- Auditors are not available to audit 2017-2020 due to tax season and will schedule a time in May to finalize the 3 years Audit Plan for EAAD (2017-2020).
- Will ask them to do 2021 and 2022 (COVID-19) years
- EAAD/MDCC will split profits from vendors, admissions, and sponsorships.

*President's Report (Danny Gabel)*

Danny Gabel's 2023 EAAD President Report

It's been 4 years since we had our EAAD Regional Tournament. It might sound like a long time but time sure flew by. A lot of things have happened over the years. I'm so thankful that our EAAD basketball community has stayed together over the years. We had our coaches chat room open daily and we always listened and opened to new ideas.

What I have learned about our community in the past few years as being EAAD President. We have followed everything that our bylaws/guidelines had to say. It's so easy to leave the paper away and do our things but we stayed true to it. That's what made our organization so strong and authentic. I know and I stand with you all that we still have some areas to work on. Life itself will always challenge us in many ways and it's up to us to keep up with it.

75 years is a very long time and imagine how many players, teams, and their time/passion to continue a great legacy of basketball tournaments we have in our history.

I want to thank you all for believing in our board to keep up with everything. We know what it's like at your end with bringing players and commitment back to this year but I'm proud to say that we have 12 men and 3 women teams for our 2023 tournament. One of the largest numbers we have in our history.

Let's have a wonderful weekend celebrating and appreciate the love we have created over 75 years of deaf basketball community.

one love

*Vice President's Report (Sheldon Clarke)*

Welcome to 2022 EAAD Delegates Meeting! I want to thank the delegates and the Boards for having faith and working throughout with us. I know that this year is a little bit difficult as we are finally resuming normal after the pandemic. Rest assured, we all will be better next season. My main role as a Vice President is to ensure that we all follow the bylaws and constitution.

I am very thrilled that we finally will have a regional tournament which it's on this Saturday. I really want to thank you to the hostesses of the last 4 tournaments for their hard work and a successful tournament. I also want to thank our EAAD board for their hard work to ensure the 2022 Regional tournament occurs.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation with us throughout this journey.

*Secretary's Report (Alexandria Pucciarelli Miller)*

-Every year, we always have the same issue when it comes to communication, you need to remember that Yarlenny is our Tournament Director and she needs to be included in all of the emails.

-When we email you, please try to respond back within a day or two instead of having us chase you down for days.

-Situation with USADB's teams who have bypassed their national tournament and I will leave it to you (delegates/coaches) to decide what you want to do.

-We want to continue using Facebook Messenger for any EAAD-related information so please do not abuse it and keep it EAAD-related only. For any OFFICIAL statements, we will always communicate through EMAILS, and if you do not receive it, it is your responsibility to let me know.

-It is also your responsibility to make sure that your players are aware of what is happening.

-We are tired of chasing you down to get \$\$ ready for the tournament and because of your lack of communication/payment-we were not able to set the bracket ready for the tournament. Please try to follow the deadlines.

-NEAAD is NOT affiliated with USADB or NDBO, they do not have any rights, I have been trying to reach out to them for years, and it is time for us to move forward. USADB and NDBO have our support, but you (delegates) have to pass this first.

-We do not support NSAD's QUAD format for the regions and we will keep our current regions as it is.

*Tournament Director's Report (Yarlenny Torres)*

- WOW! Welcome to post-covid 2023. It has been a long journey since two years of COVID and no invitational/regional tournaments.

-Welcome to new teams, D.C. Elite Lady Hoyas, Maryland Crossovers, Nighthawks, and Philadelphia Hustle.

-Had 4 invitational tournaments this year. We have released our standing 2022-23 and we thanked Peter/Danny for their beautiful work.

- We received many complaints about invitational tournaments, EAAD FB group and phone/text calls but received no grievances. Even though we still get complaints today, how can we help you if we get no grievance or reports if you continue to complain until now.
- Some of your teams get fine in certain areas. Please don't be surprised and get upset with us because we are complying with what's in our bylaws/guidelines. It has already been passed by all of you, not the board members.
- Thanks to our Vice President for representative as EAAD at the last invitational tournament at Lexington that I was not able to attend. Also, he took action with unregistered players in the team roster. The host shall be responsible to check every player after we gave them the team rosters.
- Noticed that many of you came to me with questions and concerns but then did not follow whatever the answer you seeked. In the conclusion, you decided to bypass other board members and it detected that you have zero confidence in me for not knowing bylaws/guidelines. I must remind you that I have been in my position for three terms and I am very disappointed that you do not have the confidence in me. Our book has already been released to you by our Vice President. It is very easy to read and follow what has been passed by you (delegates).
- Most of you actually gave us a hard time for not paying fees and submitting forms on time. We gave you too many chances. So, please follow what's the deadline for next year.
- Our program book, regional tournament bracket, regional tournament schedule, team rosters already updated by all of the EAAD board members. We have worked so hard on this after we all collected all team fees and appreciated your time to check errors in our ends. I would like to thank all of my team for making this smooth to get ready for our regional tournament this weekend.

### *Hall of Fame/Public Relations' Report (Peter Badavas)*

Greetings,

It's always good to see everyone once again. Just want to make it brief after you see the reports from 2020 and 2022 meeting minutes.

Felt like it was a huge stepback for everyone when the COVID hit us and it has been a long wait but it feels so good to be back here and know that the tournament is around the corner and about to begin again.

We are aware that it's a pretty much relearn process for most of us as officers, coaches, players, and others after a 3-plus year hiatus from the basketball competition. It's good to be back and getting things rolling again. Look forward to seeing all of you back in action soon and in full confidence that we will make it another successful one in the book.

The social media account has continued to be on the rise – very healthy numbers but a bit slow lately – despite not much basketball activity since our last regional tournament in Rochester, NY (March 2019). Look forward to seeing it thrive again after the regional tournament.

I want to recognize the entire board members for their countless support, encouragement, and a few notable people who helped with research and provided the information to fill-in the blank on the EAAD history to...

James Ginis

Paul Mitchell

Alexandria 'Allie' Pucciarelli

Charles 'Chuck' Wallace

... and a few more names that I might have forgotten or didn't mention. If you happen to find any information or materials, please share it away with me and/or any of the board members. Again, it's for the EAAD and Deaf Sports community of the past, present and the future.

The tournament program book has been almost done with a lot of history being back in the book after a long hiatus or inconsistent document in the past years. Been in a consistent communication with the board members on the tournament location and surrounding areas to give them the better information and pictures to prepare the tournament better. We will make the best out of it.

Again, I want to recognize this wonderful first-class organization that's still going strong.

USADB break my heart

Again, I am very fortunate, and thankful to serve and work for this organization and most of all, you people.

Thank you for your time and support. Onwards to the hardwood to play ball and make the best out of this weekend. #EAAD PRIDE!

*Law of Committee (Board Report)*

1. Motion #7 Vice President moves to remove entirely "(VII)" under Section 5 Tournament Director in Article IV of Part 3. FAA seconded (REFERRED TO LAW COMMITTEE)
  - a. **Result: VETO**

2. Motion #16 Tournament Director moves to set a flat fee of \$500.00 for EAAD regional tournament registration for team and player's fees. Vice President Clarke seconded. (REFERRED TO LAW COMMITTEE)
  - a. **Result: VETO**
3. Motion #17 Tournament Director moves to fine a team who fails to pay team entry fee by \$25.00 per week after the deadline. 95ers seconded. (REFERRED TO LAW COMMITTEE)
  - a. **Result: PASSED**
4. Motion #18 Tournament Director moves to fine a team who fails to pay players registration fee by \$25.00 per week per the deadline. Paul Mitchell seconded. (REFERRED TO LAW COMMITTEE)
  - a. **Result: PASSED**

### *Appeal*

#### Appeal by Mr. Arthur Everette (DC Elite Hoyas)

- DC Elite Hoyas has filed an appeal regarding one of their players, Lawrence Watson
  - EAAD has requested Mr. Lawrence Watson to submit in his audiology results and we've followed up with USADB, they've stated that Mr. Watson does not meet the eligibility rules- "Based on what he shared with me, his better ear is 52 - the right ear. Per our rules, he is not eligible because it did not meet the 55db or greater in the **better** ear."
  - Article IV Section 3. Player Eligibility Rules (b) A Player shall have a hearing loss of 55 dB or greater in the better ear to be eligible.
  - Watson- 55 dB + 52 dB

**Result: Delegates voted to let Mr. Lawrence Watson play at the EAAD 2023 Regional Tournament.**

### *Old Business (NONE!)*

### *New Business*

1. FAA moves the EAAD Board to approve the invitational tournament flyer within 72 hours after receiving the flyer from the hosting team. Empire City seconded. **PASSED**

2. FAA moves to remove the following line: “banning CODA to play in EAAD from our bylaws” which will allow CODA to be played at the invitational tournaments and regional tournament. DC Elite Hoyas seconded. **FAILED**
3. FAA moves to give the host of the invitational tournament an opportunity to change the guidelines for the invitational tournament again. **OO-Guidelines already set in motion**
4. FAA moves Tournament Director will communicate with the coaches within 72 hours after receiving the team registration form electronically to confirm with the players from the EAAD secretary on the day after the deadline. Seconded by Maryland Crossovers **FAILED**
5. FAA moves for any EAAD sanctioned individual tournament after Jan 15th, players are required to bring their driver’s license and sign the form. Seconded by Paul Mitchell **PASSED**
6. FAA moves EAAD will suspend the teams for not paying the team entry fee for the EAAD regional tournament instead of giving them a \$25.00 dollars fine. Seconded by Empire City. **FAILED**
7. DC Elite Hoyas move to remove the \$25.00 fine for being unable to meet deadlines for any of the EAAD fees. **WITHDRAWN**
8. DC Elite Hoyas move to change the decibel levels from 55 dbs to 50 dbs. Seconded by Empire City. Crossover amended by removing db numbers to this: based on “case by case”- **REFERRED TO LAW COMMITTEE**
9. New Jersey Sports INC moved that the current President who is involved in his team activities during basketball tournaments shall not be allowed due to conflict of interest with regional and national business. Seconded by Paul Mitchell **OO-Personal**
10. New Jersey Sports INC moved EAAD to welcome back softball due to many players looking for Hall of Fame as EAAD promised to help to run softball tournaments annually to support softball events. FAA seconded. **PASSED**
11. New Jersey Sports INC moves a person who wishes to be EAAD President shall have previous board position experience other than president’s position to be eligible for the position. FAA seconded. **FAILED**
12. Empire City moves to participate in the regionals, teams are required to participate and physically complete at least one tournament with the minimum of five players. FAA seconded. **PASSED** *(Part of the motion was removed: Forfeits are no longer considered as participation, therefore they cannot qualify for regionals until they participate)*
13. Empire City moves in the event of forfeiting before or during the tournament, teams are required to pay \$200 team fee and players fee, minimum of 8 players, \$200 along with \$40.00 forfeiture fees totaling \$440.00 FAA seconded. **PASSED**
14. Empire City moves for the first EAAD sanctioned invitational, tournament hosts will be required to do a drawing for the seeding at this tournament. After the first EAAD

sanctioned invitational tournament, tournaments follow the previous tournament results without drawing for those teams who have participated, and any new teams will be drawn for this tournament. **WITHDRAWN**

15. Empire City moves teams cannot borrow players after registering the EAAD form deadline date. If a team continues to borrow players afterwards, they are to be forfeited from the tournament and pay a \$50.00 fine to EAAD. FAA seconded. **PASSED**
16. Empire City moves that EAAD forms are due on the third of Sunday in the month of January. FAA seconded. **PASSED**
17. Empire City moves that NEAAD teams are allowed to participate in EAAD invitationals and regionals and are counted towards the EAAD standings. FAA seconded. **PASSED**
18. Empire City moves one of the EAAD Board will be the person to do drawings for all of the EAAD sanctioned invitational tournaments. FAA seconded. **PASSED**
19. SICD Magic moves in order to add a player on the roster list AFTER the deadline, the fee will be \$30.00 for those teams who have less than 7 players after the deadline. FAA seconded. **PASSED**
20. SICD Magic moves to remove "45" and insert "30" Team Franchise desiring to sponsor a sanctioned invitational tournament shall present their plans and objectives along with a sanction fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to the Secretary-Treasurer at least thirty (30) days prior to the said tournament in order that this Association may satisfy itself that it is worth of being sanctioned. Empire City seconded. **PASSED**

#### *Bidding for the 2024 EAAD Regional Tournament*

SICD won the bidding and CONGRATS! EAAD will work with you closely to make sure that the requirements for the regional tournament are in effect for EAAD 2024!

President Gabel adjourned the meeting at 11:42 pm EST!

*Respectfully Submitted by:*

Alexandria Pucciarelli, Recording Secretary

**Eastern Athletic Association of the Deaf, INC**  
Delegates' Meeting  
**Zoom Session Part Two**  
Thursday, March 9th, 2023  
**Meeting started at 8:05 pm EST**

**\*Note there is no Board of Directors Meeting prior to Delegates' Meeting.**

***Roll Call:***

- EAAD President, Danny Gabel
- EAAD Vice President, Sheldon Clarke
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- EAAD Hall of Fame/Public Relations, Peter Badavas
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- Empire City, Carl Sorrentino
- Empire City (ALT), James Ginis
- Fanwood Alumni Association, Roxanna Aguilo
- Fanwood Alumni Association (ALT), Senoy King
- Lady Liberty, Lorraine Stoltz
- Philly Hustlers, Damiere Philips
- DC Elite Hoyas, Arthur Everette
- Maryland Crossovers, Stacy Nowak
- Rochester Venoms, Matthew Thomas
- SICD Magic, Carl Colon

*Elections for EAAD Officer- 2023-2025*

- **President**
  - Sheldon "Wesley" Clarke
- **Tournament Director**
  - Yarlenny Torres-ACL
- **Hall of Fame/Public Relations**
  - Peter Badavas-ACL

*Announcements*

Empire City- LET'S GO EAAD! LET'S BALL at Frederick and see everyone there!

President Gabel adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm EST.

*Respectfully Submitted by:*

Alexandria Pucciarelli, Recording Secretary