

COSD BOARD MEETS IN ST. LOUIS

Thirty-four members were present at the fifth general meeting of the Board of Directors of the Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf. The Gateway Hotel, St. Louis was the scene of the split session meeting held on October 11-12, 1968.

Presiding at the meeting was Edward C. Carney, who welcomed the Canadian Association of the Deaf as a new member of the Council; announced Rev. Daniel H. Pokorny had been appointed chairman of the law committee, with the president and executive director the other two members; observed that membership dues are payable as of January 1, and noted that the terms of some representatives will be expiring on December 31. The president also commented that the September 28 "Mannix" TV show featured a deaf actress, Audree Norton, and urged Board members to write to the producer, Bruce Geller, since this marks the first time a major TV producer has used deaf talent in shows of this type.

Mervin D. Garretson, COSD executive director, reported:

1) In a little over a year the Council has grown into 15 active member organizations and two associate memberships. The office staff presently consists of five full-time workers and a temporary clerk-typist.

2) During the late summer, the COSD contacted state departments of special education in each of the 50 states about the existence of completed or ongoing studies into the needs and problems of the deaf. Inquiry was made as to whether the laws of each state required that interpreters be available for deaf people brought into court. On the basis of replies received from 32 states, 23 responded that they were unaware of any body of information relating to the deaf of their state, or of any legal provisions for courtroom interpreters; five states reported that it was customary to provide interpreters, although no bona-fide law existed in the books; replies from four states (Maryland, North Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia) noted such legislation was in effect, and finally, the only states reporting comprehensive activity in the area of

deafness were Illinois, Michigan, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin. The West Virginia respondent noted that a state-wide comprehensive planning project had been completed but was not yet published.

3) The roster of influential persons arising from the Legal Rights Section has now reached 600 names, which are filed both by state and by professional category. Divisions include legal (attorneys and judges), law enforcement officers, communications (newspaper, radio and TV), educators, state and community legislative people, rehabilitation experts and influential businessmen.

4) Judge Joseph Pernick of Michigan is compiling a special list of attorneys and judges with connections to deaf people or interested in the problem.

5) The proceedings of the first Annual COSD Forum are now being published and should be distributed before year's end.

6 Recruitment folders aimed at interesting young people in a career in the field have been mailed to placement officers in 200 major colleges and universities.

7 Copy is ready for the publication of a booklet describing the functions and objectives of each of the 17 member organizations of the Council.

8 The COSD had been represented at numerous meetings, workshops, and conferences since the June Board meeting. In addition, the executive director delivered a paper on the social adjustment of young deaf adults at the International Congress on Audiology in London and attended the Paris meeting of the Board of Directors of the World Federation of the Deaf in September.

The Board of Directors approved on a continuing project basis a survey of existing services to the deaf on a state by state basis, which would lead to a compendium of all 50 states. Such a compilation will involve follow-up letters to departments of special education and a series of question-

naires variously devised to gather information from four different categories of people in each state. Questions would seek to learn of the availability and suitability of such existing services at the state level as

- a. Insurance (automobile, fire, and life)
- b. Driver licensing and laws
- c. Employment discrimination, unions
- d. Rehabilitation services
- e. Interpreting (in religious programs, in city, state and federal agencies, in legal settings)
- f. Community awareness to problems of deafness
- g. Educational facilities at various levels
- h. Entertainment and recreational opportunities
- i. Parent information
- j. Clubs and associations

In the absence of Chairman Judge Sherman G. Finesilver, Dr. Ray L. Jones presented the report from the Legal Rights Section. In addition to items mentioned previously, the following was reported:

1) A survey of laws relating to interpreting for the deaf in all 50 states has been completed by Judge Joseph Pernick.

2) Both the Christiansen adoption case and the Beamish case of Australia have been briefed by Judge Finesilver and will be published in legal journals.

3) A draft of a uniform interpreters law has been prepared under the direction of Judge Finesilver and will be made available to state groups for presentation to their state legislature.

4) Under the direction of Attorney Ivan Lawrence and Dr. Ray L. Jones a questionnaire relating to court and agency situations in which the legal rights of deaf appear to have been denied is being circulated among members of the Professional Rehabilitation Workers with the Adult Deaf.

5) An outline for an adult education course, "The Law and You" is being prepared by Judge Finesilver and should be ready for a pilot run in two or three cities this fall.

6) With financial support from Captioned Films for the Deaf, a course, "Interpreting in the Legal Setting," was offered at San Fernando Valley State College last spring. An outline for a course of study and related resource materials are being prepared under the direction of Dr. Lloyd Johns of SVSC.

7) A leadership training workshop is being planned by the National Association of the Deaf which includes among its aims the mobilization of political support for improved community services for deaf persons.

Dr. Jones further informed the Board that at least one state association for the deaf (Michigan) employs a full-time executive secretary with funds from the Community Chest; that in Detroit the conviction of a deaf person was recently reversed when it was established that he had not been provided the services of an interpreter during the trial, and that both Judge Finesilver and Judge Kenneth Pacetti had addressed legal groups on court problems unique to deafness.

Chairman David Denton of the 1969 Forum Committee reported at length on plans for the February 19-21 Forum at Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans. The theme, "The Deaf Man and the World" will be broken down into four aspects of everyday living—work, play, love, and pray. An outline of the Forum program was presented to the Board and will be released as soon as acceptances are received from all speakers.

President Carney announced the appointment of Clyde Mott as chairman of the 1970 Forum, observing that the theme will be centered around legal rights of the deaf. It is anticipated that the 1970 Forum will be held in Seattle, Washington.

In his report from the Law Committee, Rev. Pokorny advised the Board it was their feeling that the COSD laws were in good shape, and that only one recommendation for change

in wording was being proposed—that the Finance Committee receive approval for financial commitments from the Executive Committee rather than the full Board. This resolution and three minor clarifying paragraphs were approved by the directors.

Rev. Herbert W. Rohe, Council Treasurer and chairman of the Finance Committee, reported on the progress of the fund-raising campaign, during which interval the Board carried on a question-and-answer discussion. It was noted that it will be necessary for the Council to raise \$9,775 in matching funds this fiscal year as required in the grant award from the Social and Rehabilitation Service. Plans were firmed as to the operation and structure of the COSD Development Fund and the Gold Emblem Club, the latter for donors of \$1,000 and more. Dr. David Peikoff of the Finance Committee spoke briefly to the Board, expressing the hope that by next February the Development Fund would have pledges of between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

Rev. Rohe noted that the COSD books were presently being audited by a Washington firm of certified public accountants and that the complete report would be made available to the Board.

Dr. Boyce Williams presented a progress report from the committee on guidelines for section activity, covering proposed requirements for section formation, selection and nature of section topics, composition and operation of sections. A full report will be presented to the Board for approval at its February meeting.

This condensed version of the Board meeting is released in accordance with a motion approved at St. Louis that abbreviated versions of all future deliberations of the COSD Board of Directors be made available to all publications of member organizations.