

From the Desk of the Acting President

Hello, I'm Lisa Bothwell, the DHHBA vice-president and now acting president while Zainab Albeski is on maternity leave. I work in healthcare policy for federal government in the D.C. area. I attended Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, and I am licensed in Texas. I want to express our gratitude for the incredible work of our board members and volunteers.



October 24, 2023 marked our DHHBA Membership Meeting. First and foremost, Lisa extended our heartfelt thanks to the board members who left the Board this past summer. Their contributions have been instrumental in shaping the success of our organization. You can find their footprints in modernizing our financials, bylaws, and event planning processes. Taye Akinola has resigned from his Treasurer position to start a new graduate school program, and Azeema Akram resigned to shift focus at her job. We are excited for both. At the same time, we were delighted to welcome a new board member, Alison Ecker.

We're excited to announce the upcoming DHHBA Conference on July 1 -2, 2024 in Chicago, Illinois. Our website for the conference is now live, too. You can find it on the deafbar.org website. Right now, we have our fabulous new logo, a save the date, location, and request for sponsors. The theme is: Reconnect, Advocacy, Community. We will continue to add more information over the next eight months.

Please help spread the word with your employers or other potential sponsors. We are currently planning one day of CLEs with add-on networking events. The more sponsors we can get, the more add-on networking opportunities we can provide. We would so appreciate your help. If you want to serve on the DHHBACon committee, please email us at admin@deafbar.org.

This year we instituted a rapid response team to monitor the Listserv discussion and offer faster responses from the Board, where needed. We also started a quarterly update, like this one, to keep membership informed of what we're doing. We brought back Member Spotlights, and are thankful for Judge Brown and Taye Akinola's inspiring stories. We began publishing our Board of Directors meeting minutes on the website. Previously these were only available upon request. We also updated and circulated the Listserv/Facebook Posting Rules, as well as amendments to the Bylaws, which are also available on the website. We converted our bank accounts to a new institution that is more accessible to a national non-profit, and as of the Membership Meeting, our checking account balance is: \$11, 372.68.

This year we also recently provided written testimony on the D.C. Open Movie Captioning Requirement Act of 2023. The Board decided that providing support of captioning in this medium can strengthen our argument for captioning for many deaf people including those in the professional world. Additionally, we hosted a successful webinar on September 12 for solo practitioners. Thank you so much to our panelists and attendees.

In addition to our plans for the summer conference, we also have plans to develop a social media strategy for DHHBA, explore listerv "threads" or resource groups, and pursue a new Member management platform. We have a vacancy for our Treasurer role, which we promoted via email, and we are evaluating our insurance options for DHHBA too. We continue to explore our options for hosting future U.S. Supreme Court bar admissions, post-pandemic.

We especially want to thank everyone who attended the Membership meeting. We thoroughly enjoyed the face time with you. The DHHBA Board of Directors is grateful for your advocacy, and especially the honor to serve and support you in 2023. As we enter November, we also extend a warm welcome back to President Zainab Albeski.

Zainab Albeski
President

Lisa Bothwell
Vice President

Jessica Kennedy
Interim Treasurer & Recorder

Alison Ecker
Member at Large

Julie Kegley
Member at Large

Caitlin Parton
Member at Large