

**NMD United Board of Directors Meeting**  
**October 21, 2020**  
**7:00 PM - EST**  
**Minutes**



Location	Video/Internet Zoom Conferencing
Attendance	<p>Emily Wolinsky (E.W.), <i>President</i>  T.K. Small (T.K.S.), <i>Vice President &amp; Treasurer</i>  Kendra Scalia (K.S.), <i>Secretary</i>  Dan Darkow (D.D.), <i>Board Member</i>  Andraea LaVant (A.L.), <i>Board Member</i>  Brooklyn Marx (B.M.), <i>Board Member</i>  Ali Ramos (A.R.), <i>Board Member (Late)</i>  Maria Sotnikova (M.S.), <i>Board Member</i>  Michael Wasser (M.W.), <i>Board Member (Late)</i></p>
Call To Order	E.W. called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
Adopt Minutes	<p><b>T.K.S. moved to adopt December 18, 2019 minutes. D.D. seconded motion. Approved.</b> A.L. and M.S. abstained.</p> <p><b>B.M. moved to adopt February 19, 2020 minutes. M.S. seconded motion. Approved.</b> K.S., T.K. and D.D. abstained.</p> <p><b>D.D. moved to adopt June 6, 2020 minutes. B.M. seconded motion. Approved.</b> A.L. abstained.</p>
Announcements	<p>Happy belated birthday wishes given to B.M.  T.K.S. had a successful medical procedure in hospital.  M.S. wished everyone a Happy Halloween this month.  A.R. announced she will soon be starting a new job providing tech support for virtual classes with her alma mater.</p>
President's Report	<p>E.W. announced the 2019 Annual Report is available. Delay was due to COVID and other priorities.</p> <p>E.W. announced the NDY v. NYS lawsuit, of which NMD United is a plaintiff, to address complaints against NYS in regard to their patient ventilator guidelines. The documents will be made available in the News section on the website.</p>
Vice President/ Treasurer's Report	T.K.S. reported a healthy financial situation. E.W. shared Facebook donations were recently on the rise, including from international donors.
Secretary's Report	K.S. announced Minutes from May 2020, August 2020 and Special Meeting Minutes still need to be provided and approved.



	<p>K.S. sent out emails to 2019 Board candidates to gauge their interest. We will be having interviews for those available before our next meeting. We hope to fill vacancies at our December meeting.</p> <p>K.S. announced the Borealis Philanthropy Disability Inclusion Fund grant is open. We submitted a grant proposal to expand our <i>Stop EVV</i> work. The proposal involved data science technical writing white paper, educational courses for the community, work opportunities for disabled individuals, and more. Announcement of grant recipients will be made mid-December. E.W. encouraged all Board members to seek out and apply for grants in the areas of their interest where it aligns with the Organization's mission.</p>
Chapter Updates	<p>M.S. announced the Atlanta Chapter has not met recently. E.W. encouraged more virtual chapter meetings during COVID should be recommended to chapter leaders.</p>
Current Projects	<p>B.M. announced Twitter follows and RTs are increased. This is in part to our community advocates and the #EndTheTelethon movement.</p> <p>B.M. updated the visual experience of the website for ease of use. Content has not changed. If Board members want to update their picture, please send it to B.M. A.L. provided a correction to the spelling of her name.</p> <p><i>A.R. arrives. M.W. arrives.</i></p> <p>K.S. announced \$10,484 has been provided to 57 ALEF grant applicants to date. The Committee has made the decision that applicants who falsely affirm they are members of Living with M.D. as a means to establish eligibility for the grant will receive automatic denials moving forward. This is to assist in management of the numerous grant applications the Committee must review by focusing on eligible applicants. The ALEF database uConnect is working out well. It remains a learning curve for many members but nothing too problematic.</p> <p>M.W. provided an update on the Fundraising Committee. They have not formally met recently but individual fundraisers are happening.</p> <p>B.M. shared an essay written by Aubrie Lee on disability that will be part of Smith's Showcase. It was rejected by another organization and the author approached NMD United to see if we would publish the piece in whole. A.L. shared positive feedback about this individual's professional work. E.W. complimented the essay as empowering and well written.</p> <p>E.W. discussed a Town Hall under the Virtual University banner will be next Sunday. Our videos on hot topics are becoming outdated. We should revisit these topics for VU content.</p> <p>K.S. announced <i>Stop EVV</i> has been hosting training sessions on a weekly basis to disability-focused groups. NCIL Co-Chairs have been meeting with a national EVV coalition regarding next steps. Congress is not moving on the delay bill S.3740/HR.6951, and that goes for all legislation at this moment. CMS believes they no longer have authority to delay penalties or implementation. The Continuing Resolution will come up for reauthorization on December 11. The coalition is attempting to get a penalty delay put into the CR. California received notice from CMS that their web portal is out of compliance with EVV requirements. Discussion regarding EVV impact on the ability of consumers to move around the community ensued, including geofencing, accessibility, consumer review mechanisms and</p>



	<p>bluetooth beacons.. K.S. described some problems around some EVV solutions that meet technical guidelines but create unintentional fraud on paper in regard to location inaccuracies.</p>
Old Business	<p>K.S. provided an update on anti-racist training sessions. There is interest to use a particular trainer due to their perspective and experience. They will not be available until spring 2021 or later. In the interim, we will have independent study among ourselves. K.S. will offer book choices and set aside time at the February Board meeting to discuss. A.L. stated that this trainer brings a deeper understanding of the disability community. Waiting for their schedule to be available will be worth the wait.</p> <p>K.S. provided two revisions to the Bylaws, as discussed by the Board at previous meetings. The first change is to bring the Bylaws inline with the regularly scheduled Board meeting calendar. <b>M.S. moved to modify Article IV Section 4.5(a) of the Bylaws to select the Executive Committee in December. T.K.S. modified the motion to state “before the end of the calendar year” rather than December. Approved.</b> The second change will permit Directors to receive reasonable compensation for their work. This change will ensure grant recipients and other recipients of our services can serve the Board without losing access to essential services we provide. <b>T.K.S. moved to modify Article IV Section 4.15 to provide compensation to Board Directors by vote. Approved.</b></p>
New Business	<p>E.W. discussed an issue with the Social Media Policy that currently requires the Board to meet to discuss “trolls” and how to rectify comments on Organizational social media pages. <b>E.W. moved to empower the Social Media Director through modification of the Social Media Policy to use independent judgement to address these types of issues. A.R. seconded. Approved.</b></p> <p>E.W. discussed articles and interviews she has given regarding the MDA Telethon reboot, including with DVP, The Nation, Huffington Post, Yahoo News and others. A.L. and K.S. have also given interviews. K.S. created a tribute video to former Board member Greg Smith that will be used in an upcoming anti-telethon event hosted by former Board member Dominick Evans. E.W. reviewed conversations she’s had with Board Member Emeritus Jason Tweed. Discussions regarding how to leverage the current environment occurred.</p> <p>M.S. announced a grant opportunity on employment and youth outcomes. The deadline has passed but we should submit a proposal next summer 2021.</p> <p>M.W. discussed a virtual Halloween benefit party this upcoming weekend hosted by Kareen Z., an ALEF Committee member, called No Fangs For The Memories. There will be a photo scavenger hunt, pumpkin carving event, a car decoration parade, costume contest, and BINGO games. This is the second year of this event.</p> <p>E.W. announced there was a Twitter action through #EndTheTelethon. Our Town Hall on the subject with Steve Way and Shannon DeVido will happen next week. A.L. and D.D. will follow up with resources for accommodation request needs. K.S. requested an accommodation fund be built into our annual budgets.</p> <p>K.S. asked what activities have been planned for Giving Tuesday on December 1, 2020. M.W. said the Fundraising Committee has not met regarding Giving Tuesday. He will coordinate with other members to meet. E.W. recommended using a COVID angle in our messaging.</p>
Adjournment	<p><b>K.S. moved to adjourn meeting. M.S. seconded. Approved.</b></p>



	Meeting Adjourned at 9:02 pm
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Respectfully submitted by,

Kendra Scalia, *Secretary*  
NMD United Inc.

Adopted by the Board:

12/16/2020  
(Date)