



New Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.

An Advocacy and Service Organization

28th Biennial State Conference

Presenter's Bio



Mark Apocada - NAD Parliamentarian

He is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) and the American Institute of Parliamentarians (AIP), and the first deaf parliamentarian to receive the Professional Registered Parliamentarian (PRP) credential in NAP's 93-year history. He is also the first deaf parliamentarian to run for Treasurer of NAP's board of directors. Mark has served on more than 25 national, state and local nonprofit organization board of directors since 1983. He was the first Hispanic to serve as an officer of the board of directors of the National Association of the Deaf when he served as Treasurer from 1996 to 2002 then Vice

President from 2004 to 2006. Mark is also one of the founding members of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs which currently has over 25,000 members. He currently serves on six organizational boards including as Chairperson of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf board of directors. In addition to providing parliamentarian services, he provides board governance training and has worked with several organizations on their bylaws and policies and procedures. He also serves as a consultant to board presidents. Besides his work as a parliamentarian, Mark is the Director of Finance and Chief Procurement Officer of the New Mexico School for the Deaf, now in his 18th year. He has been in the accounting/finance profession for more than 45 years and perhaps the first deaf finance professional to work in four sectors, corporate (Hughes Aircraft Company and Global Technical Communications), nonprofit organizations (Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness and Communication Service for the Deaf) and government (NMSD). He also taught financial accounting at UCLA (higher education). Mark received his Associate in Arts degree from Golden West College, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and MBA from Pepperdine University, graduate certificate in Accounting, and Professional Designation in Government Contract Management from UCLA. He also took a number of courses in Finance, and Nonprofit Organization Management from UCLA and studied Government Accounting and Auditing from Texas Tech University. Mark and his wife, Marla, reside in Santa Fe, New Mexico and have three children and seven grandchildren.



New Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.

An Advocacy and Service Organization



Robert Robinson, Esquire

He is the Senior Staff Attorney with Disability Rights for New Jersey whom he has worked with since 2002. He concentrates his practice in the areas of special education, disability discrimination, and Medicaid services. He has represented clients with disabilities in administrative, state, and federal courts. He is a frequent lecturer for professional and advocacy organizations on rights afforded under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act, and New Jersey Law Against

Discrimination. Mr. Robinson is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and before the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. He received his B.S. from Gallaudet University. He received his J.D. from Temple University Law School where he served as an editor for the Temple Political and Civil Rights Law Review.



Jaclyne Pallies

She is a NJ DDHH Deaf Specialist. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania. She has over 10 years of experience in the mental health field. In the past, she has worked in non-profit and community mental health settings. Jaclyne enjoys working within the Deaf community to better understand their rights and obtain proper services. Jaclyne joins New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing as their Deaf Specialist in 2017. Jaclyne became supervisor for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing specialist team in 2022. Born and raised in Northeastern, Pennsylvania. Currently, Jaclyne resides in South Jersey with her 2 cats.