



History of the Nebraska School for the Deaf Alumni Association

How did it all begin? In the summer of 1897, alumni from the Nebraska School for the Deaf (NSD) sought to create an organization, which was officially established in 1901.

The first reunion took place at the NSD campus from September 4 to 6, 1901, starting on the first day at 2:00 PM (Wednesday to Friday). Approximately 50 attendees were present at the meeting of the Nebraska Alumni Association of the Deaf (NAAD).

To become members, men paid a membership fee of 50 cents, while women paid 25 cents. For three days, the members drafted and established a new constitution and bylaws for NAAD.

During this meeting, they voted to elect the association's first officers:

- President: Miss Estella Forbes (1895)
- Vice President: Mr. Christian Jenson (1897)
- Secretary: Miss Ota Crawford (1891)
- Treasurer: Miss Ella Cornish Hurt (1891)

Imagine this: the very first minutes of the NAAD meeting were recorded in 17 handwritten pages!

Many years later, in 1944, NAAD transitioned to the Nebraska School for the Deaf Alumni Association (NSDAA). This occurred during the sixth meeting.

Next year, in the fall of 2026, the Nebraska School for the Deaf Alumni Association will celebrate its 125th anniversary.

