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Dear USSAAC Colleagues,

I hope you and your family are remaining healthy and safe in the pandemic.

The World AAC Awareness Month (October) is around the corner and I would like to let you know that our signature webinar will be held on October 14th to celebrate it. In this webinar, *Stephanie Faso* will discuss the various cultural attitudes toward people with AAC needs, and how clinicians, especially AAC specialists, can help individuals establish and express their autonomy, independence, and sense of self. Ms. Faso's lived experiences will address how ableism shapes and reshapes the cultural perception of those with AAC needs. Details and registration link are available at <https://ussaac.org/news-events/webinars/>. ASHA CEUs, as always are available at no charge for members.

Speaking of members, I would like to encourage you to renew your membership. Also, would you please consider including a slide in any presentations you make? We want to encourage people to join USSAAC and build our membership. Attached is a Powerpoint slide you can use.

Also, I would like to congratulate Kevin Williams, USSAAC's Chief Technology Officer, for his excellent Talking with Tech AAC Podcast on July 15, 2020. The topic was "Black AAC User Perspective on Race and Disability". You can hear this at <https://talkingwithtech.podbean.com/>.

With regard to USSAAC's SpeakUp Blog (<https://ussaac.org/speakup/>), we've included stories from individuals who use AAC, information from professionals who work in the field and other current topics of interest. Please consider writing a SpeakUp Blog article and/or invite your colleagues. How about an article about AAC experiences and/or strategies, as well as lessons learned during the pandemic or one of the natural disasters people are facing? Feel free to contact us for more information.

Shopping from home? Please consider using Amazon Smile and selecting USSAAC as your charity at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-0406685> and Amazon donates to USSAAC while you shop. It is simple and a painless way for you to contribute to USSAAC.

Stay calm, stay home, stay safe.

Help us support the AAC community during these challenging times.

Best,

Yoosun Chung, President