

## **DIRECTORS, 2022**

Lewis Golinker  
Lois Jean Brady

Beth Speaker-Christensen  
Betsy Caporale  
Tami Altschuler



## **OFFICERS, 2022**

Amy Goldman, President  
Tracy Rackensberger, President-Elect  
Yoo Sun Chung, Past President  
Sarah Blackstone, VP Finance  
Tina Moreno, VP People who use AAC and their families  
Alison Pentland, Secretary

December 2022

Dear Friends:

This will be my last President's Letter for 2022 and a chance for me to wish you all a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year!

### **Election results**

I am thrilled to announce the results of our recent election and our new board for 2023! Welcome to Amy Sonntag who will be Secretary 2023 – 2024, and Carole Zangari, incoming ISAAC liaison. Our sincere thanks to outgoing ISAAC liaison Tami Altschuler! Thanks to Alison Pentland for serving two terms as Secretary, and for continuing service on the Board of Directors in a new role as Director, Public Information. And of course, our gratitude to Directors returning for another two-year term, Elizabeth Speaker-Christensen (Membership) and Lewis Golinker (Advocacy). These volunteers, as well as our other officers and directors and the various committee chairs and committee members, help make USSAAC a thriving and growing organization!

### **Update on AAC Specialty Certification at ASHA**

There was not much new information presented at the session conducted at ASHA in November by the American Board for AAC (AB-AAC) and unfortunately their slides from ASHA are not posted on the website [AAC Certification | American Board for AAC | United States \(aacspecialist.org\)](https://www.aacspecialist.org). They do not have the data analyzed from the practice competencies survey you may have received and completed. The presenters were not able to advise on the cost of obtaining/maintaining the certification, although they still plan to roll out certifications in 2024. If you are attending ATIA you may want to attend the AB-AAC session on Friday, February 3, 2023, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM. USSAAC will provide additional updates as we learn them.

### **Membership Drive 2023 Now Open**

It's that time again! Rates are frozen again at 2019 levels! The ISAAC – USSAAC membership page [ISAAC – ISAAC-USSAAC \(isaac-online.org\)](https://isaac-online.org) is where you can find instructions to create or renew a membership to USSAAC (which of course includes your ISAAC membership!). You can also find a PDF version of the form [Membership Renewal Forms \(USSAAC\) \(isaac-online.org\)](https://isaac-online.org) that you can complete and submit with your payment. If you don't know your ISAAC member number, send an email to [carol@isaac-online.org](mailto:carol@isaac-online.org). She will be happy to look it up and provide that information.

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If you renew before January 15, 2023 you will be entered in a drawing for a free ATIA 2023 registration (onsite or virtual). Speaking of ATIA...Start your ATIA “dance card” by marking the time/date of our USSAAC “meet up” – Thursday, February 2, 6:00 PM-6:45.

### **Upcoming Webinars**

Betsy Caporale, Director, Professional Affairs and her Education Committee are busy setting webinars for 2023! So hold January 11, 2023 at 7:00 -8:00 PM eastern for a session on Dispelling AAC Myths with Rose Sevcik and MaryAnn Romski and February 22, 2023 at 7:00 -8:00 PM eastern for Richard Hurtig’s discussion of using PowerPoint to simulate SGDs, a tool for clinical training and evaluation. Details on these informative webinars will follow!

### **ISAAC Conference Cancún**

ISAAC Conference Cancún is (finally) happening July 24-27, 2023! 🌞🌴🏖️ If you submitted a paper you should be hearing soon as to acceptance. Watch <https://tinyurl.com/wyzm52ck> to be introduced to the sights and sounds of Mexico. Discounted registration is one of the great benefits of membership! Register today and learn more at <https://isaac-online.org/english/conference-cancun/>. Stay tuned for a special virtual session this winter with USSAAC co-chairs Miriam Bosch and Yoosun Chung, a chance to have all your questions answered!

### **New Member Benefit Coming in 2023!**

USSAAC will be launching its “Member Finder” feature in 2023, a way for people to access a service provider (from among *any* of the disciplines represented in USSAAC!), find a person who uses AAC who can mentor them or their family, and locate others in the AAC community. Only USSAAC members can be listed in the directory, which can be searched by anyone! One of the cool features is when you start your profile you can find out whether your membership is paid up, and your ISAAC member number! While <https://finder.ussaac.org> is currently in a “beta” version, we need you to create your profile so (1) we can identify and correct any “bugs” and (2) have a robust directory when we launch to the public. Thanks in advance!

### **Speaker Connection Continues to Grow!**

Have you visited USSAAC’s Speaker Connection recently (<https://speaker.ussaac.org>)? Learn more about the Speaker Connection and USSAAC’s “Amplifying AAC Voices” campaign at

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<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Amplifying-AAC-Voices-Fall-Newsletter.html?soid=1138853200472&aid=CkFVHzbMFh8>

### Year-End Donations Appreciated!

Much gratitude to those of you who, this past year, celebrated your birthday with a Facebook Fundraiser. And don't forget, as you finish your holiday shopping, select USSAAC as your charity at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-0406685> and Amazon donates to USSAAC while you shop. As we approach the end of 2022, we invite you to consider a donation to USSAAC's general operating fund, or to our Disaster Relief Fund. [Donate - USSAAC](#)

Happy and safe holidays to all – “see you” next year!

Amy S. Goldman, President

### Calendar Re-Cap

January 11, 2023, 7:00 – 8:00 PM Eastern: Webinar, AAC Myths  
January 15, 2023: Last entry for “early board” renewal drawing  
January 31 – February 4, 2023: Assistive Technology Industry Association  
February 2, 2023, 6:00 PM-6:45 Eastern: USSAAC meet-up at ATIA (location TBA)  
February 22, 2023, 7:00 – 8:00 PM Eastern: Webinar, Using PowerPoint to Simulate SGDs  
July 24-27, 2023: ISAAC Cancun

Stay up-to-date on USSAAC activities through social media - Follow, like, comment and share at <https://www.facebook.com/ussaac1>