

DIRECTORS, 2023

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Tina Moreno, VP People who use AAC and their families
Amy Sonntag, Secretary

January 2023

Dear Friends:

Happy New Year!

Starting 2023 on a solemn note, USSAAC's Disaster Relief Committee is ready to assist individuals impacted by the California floods, or the unseasonal tornados recently striking the South. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/CAfloodsAAC>

Membership "Meet Up" at ATIA!

Will we see you at ATIA? Look for a USSAAC Director and ask for your yellow USSAAC badge ribbon. Mark your calendar for our USSAAC "meet up" of members and prospective members – Thursday, February 2, 6:00 PM-6:45 in Boca II. Light snacks will be available. Bring a friend!

USSAAC Research Study

Do you recommend, distribute, or provide AAC systems in the schools (any discipline)? USSAAC requests your assistance with a research project conducted through San Jose State University, "AAC Assessment Practices in the Schools" (this study has been approved by the IRB at SJSU). Please consider taking our 15-minute survey <https://bit.ly/3Saqr52>. All eligible individuals will be entered into a drawing for one of two \$25 Amazon gift cards!

Summer Intensives or "Camps" for People who Use AAC

Member benefit! Individual members who run/staff a camp or other summer experiences for people who use AAC can be listed on our website, and promoted through USSAAC social media! Speaking of camps, we are planning a Spring webinar on these experiences. Let president@ussaac.org know if you'd like to be involved in planning and/or be a panelist in that webinar. One of the camps that will be featured is the ISAAC camp that is taking place in Cancun, July 22-23, 2023. Questions about ISAAC Camp? Contact Gabriela at caticgaby@gmail.com

New member benefit!

Thanks to Plural Publishing for offering a discount *just* for USSAAC members! Use **USAAC2325** to receive 25% off the "retail" price (not including shipping). Browse their AAC titles at

<https://www.pluralpublishing.com/browse-by-subject/speech-language-pathology/augmentative-alternative-communication> - and note many of the authors are USSAAC members!

Upcoming Webinars

The second in our 2023 webinar series, "Using PowerPoint to Simulate a Speech Generating Device", will be held February 22, 2023 at 7:00 -8:00 PM eastern, in which Dr. Richard Hurtig will discuss PowerPoint as a tool for clinical training and evaluation. PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:


- 1) Demonstrate how the functionality of PowerPoint can be used to simulate SGD functions.
- 2) Demonstrate how the SGD simulation can be used in AAC clinical education program.
- 3) Discuss how the SGD simulation can be used in AAC evaluations and clinical trials.
- 4) Use PowerPoint to create an SGD simulation.
- 5) Demonstrate a multi-page communication tool.
- 6) Demonstrate a multi-page medical decision-making tool.
- 7) Demonstrate a bilingual multi-page communication tool.

Register at https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wXwIGwJSSX2FFTBGgpsZMw

Archived Webinars

Did you miss the excellent USSAAC webinar, "Myth Busters: Challenging False Beliefs about AAC Use with Children and Adults" by Maryann Ronski and Rose Sevcik? Great news - and member benefit! Members can find this and other archived webinars at <https://isaac-online.org/english/members-only/>

ISAAC Conference Cancún

ISAAC Conference Cancún is (finally) happening July 24-27, 2023!  Watch <https://tinyurl.com/wyzm52ck> and be introduced to the sights and sounds of Mexico. Discounted registration is one of the great benefits of membership. Did you know that paper acceptances will be coming out the end of February? Please join us for a special virtual session on Monday, February 20, 2023, 8:00 PM Eastern with USSAAC co-chairs Miriam Bosch and Yoosun Chung, along with ISAAC co-chair Gabriela Berlanga and Gloria Soto, for a chance to have all your questions answered! Agenda will include registration, logistics, and conference highlights.

Register for this webinar today at

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pGUMeggjTuGkuD6z6KqHtg

Member Finder is Live!

Member Finder (shortcut <https://finder.ussaac.org>) is 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 are 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! Please complete your profile TODAY so we have a robust directory for the public.

Speaker Connection Continues to Grow!

Have you visited USSAAC's Speaker Connection recently (<https://speaker.ussaac.org>)? Browse the roster of talented public speakers available for your class, conference, or other event. Know someone who SHOULD be listed? Invite them to create a profile (membership not required).

Resolve to Increase Your Involvement in 2023!

USSAAC invites members to join a committee! Consider participating in one of the following: Disaster Relief; Development, Advocacy; Public Information; Professional Affairs/Education; Membership. Email info@ussaac.org for contact information for committee chairs. "Volunteering: Doing more than you have to because you want to in a cause you consider good" (quote from Ivan Sheier, *Building Staff/Volunteer Relations*).

I hope to see you in Orlando!



Amy S. Goldman, President

Calendar Re-Cap

January 31 – February 4, 2023: Assistive Technology Industry Association

February 2, 2023, 6:00 PM-6:45 Eastern: USSAAC meet-up at ATIA, Boca II

February 20, 2023, 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM Eastern: Everything You Want to Know about ISAAC Cancun!

February 22, 2023, 7:00 PM – 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>

Follow ISAAC at <https://www.facebook.com/ISAACinternational>