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who use AAC and their
families
Amy Sonntag, Secretary

November 2023

Dear Friends:

It was great to see so many of you who joined us for our virtual membership meeting November 1! We know not everyone can meet us in person at various conferences so this was a wonderful opportunity to “see” you! Congratulations to those who won prizes, and especially to Tami Altschuler who won the “grand prize” of a free virtual registration to ATIA 2024.

Membership Drive 2024 Is Open!

Don't procrastinate – renew your USSAAC membership today! After you sign in at [ISAAC – Members Only \(isaac-online.org\)](#) you can find the downloadable renewal form for printing as well as the link to the online renewal form in the left hand navigation bar. Having difficulty? Consult the FAQs at <https://isaac-online.freshdesk.com/a/solutions/articles/35000142525> Note: if you renewed for TWO years last year, you will not see that link at all! Don't remember if you renewed for two years or not? Check your profile on finder.ussaac.org - that will tell you when you are paid up through (and your ISAAC ID, that you will also need for renewing).

Know someone who isn't YET a member, but should be? Remind them they can join today and get a “bonus” month (the remainder of 2023) at no extra cost!

Member Benefits

USSAAC members receive the webinar registration links “early” (before they are advertised on social media). ASHA CEUs are offered for the LIVE USSAAC webinars at no additional cost to members (\$25 to non-members).

Archived USSAAC webinars (as well as ISAAC webinars from other chapters and sponsors) are available to members only at [ISAAC – Webinars \(isaac-online.org\)](#). We are happy to announce

this fall's webinars are now available: Re-Thinking the Role of Hand Gestures during Communication (November); SSI/SSDI Benefits and Employment for AAC Users (October) and 411 on Training 911 Responders (September).

Thanks to our collaboration with ATIA, USSAAC members get a 5% discount off the full registration fee for ATIA 2024. Enter the code USSAAC24 towards the end of your ATIA registration prior to checking out. (We also had a similar reduction negotiated with Closing the Gap 2023 for our members).

Vote!

While Election Day has just passed, USSAAC elections are open through November 30! Vote today!

Disaster Relief Committee

Members of USAAC's Disaster Relief Committee are thrilled to announce the publication in the *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology* of their article, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness for People who Use AAC: A Pilot Study Using a Supported Toolkit. https://pubs.asha.org/doi/10.1044/2023_AJSLP-23-00086 This OPEN ACCESS article means anyone with the link can read it and digest the important content. Conclusion: "This study highlights the need for preparedness activities that are person-centered and account for the communication support needs of individuals who use AAC if faced with an emergency/disaster. Outcomes suggest that these methods were feasible and supported positive change in perceived preparedness in the young adults who used AAC and their caregivers."

We also thank Sarah Blackstone and Liz Begley for their years of leadership of this important USSAAC committee, as they turn the "reins" over to Miriam Bosch and Krista Davidson.

Going to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Conference?

Attend the ASHA SIG 12 meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2022 11:30 – 1:00 room CC52A for a brief update. If you see Deirdre Galvin-McLaughlin, Amy Sonntag or Tracy Rackensberger, ask them for your USSAAC badge ribbon! (Don't know who they are? You can find their photos at finder.ussaac.org!) Please review the listing of presentations and posters by USSAAC members, as provided to me.

Best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving!



Amy S. Goldman, President

USSAAC Rocks ASHA!

Date	Time	Session #	Title	Presenter(s)
11/16	5:30	1250	Don't fall off the cliff: Planning executing transition to adulthood for AAC users	Suhr, M. & Sonntag, A.M.
11/17	9:00	8407L	Project Building Bridges: A framework to prepare SLPs to serve CLD student with AAC needs	Solomon-Rice, P., Robinson, N. & Arana, R.
11/17	1:00	8529L	Systemic inequities in communication access and services for persons with severe disabilities	Barton-Hulsey, A., Chen, Y., Erickson, K., Goldman, A.S., Mineo, B., Ogletree, B., Paul, D., Romski, M., Schoonover, J., & Sevcik, R.
11/17	3:00	8597L	Pragmatic challenges and communication strategies implemented by independent communicators who utilize AAC	Parisi, X. & Solomon-Rice, P.
11/17	3:00	8600L; 8529V	Barriers to communication access: A chart review of non-speaking autistic children without a communication system.	Evans, A., Bean, A., Harris, A., Sonntag, A.M., & Falade, C.
11/18	1:00	1927	AAC and adult life: New directions for AAC research, technology, and instruction	McNaughton, D., Rackensberger, T., & McLemore, L.
11/18	2:30	1986	Vocabulary selection for teens and young adults to support transition to non-school based environments	Sonntag, A.
Virtual	--	3903V	AAC assessment practices in the schools	Quach, W., Senner, J., Chung, Y., Patterson, B., Goldman, A.S., Blackstone, S., Post, K.

Calendar Re-Cap

November 16, 2023: ASHA SIG 12, 11:30 – 1:00 room CC52A

January 26, 2024: 6:00 – 6:45 PM. USSAAC Meet-up at ATIA, Miami Meeting Room

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