

DIRECTORS, 2022

Lewis Golinker
Lois Jean Brady

Beth Speaker-Christensen
Betsy Caporale
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**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

November 2022

Dear Friends:

Vote!

You should have received an email with the slate and the link to the ballot to elect certain officers/directors for terms beginning January 1, 2023. Please contact past-president@ussaac.org if you did not! Voting ends December 2, 2022 – but don't delay, vote today!

Website Redo!

USSAAC has released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a company to revamp its website, to assure an accessible, user-friendly experience for all visitors to the site. Do you know of a company (or individual) who may be interested? Please send info@ussaac.org the contact information, or have the company contact president-elect@ussaac.org for a copy of the proposal.

Save the Date!

November 9, 2022 7:00-8:00 PM EDT. You're Hired: Employers and Agencies Share Their Perspectives on Employment for Individuals Who Use AAC. , participants will hear from four unique presenters as they share their own experiences with the recruitment, hiring and successful employment of individuals who use AAC as their primary form of communication. Recognizing that some employers have a little apprehension in giving diverse candidates an opportunity, this session will help webinar participants learn how to ease those concerns and educate employers about the advantages of hiring individuals with disabilities. Panelists will discuss practical solutions for ensuring an employee is successful on the job and provide ample evidence that individuals who use AAC can and DO thrive in community-based positions. https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-k4i15pERLeQT7mfX8WNQ#/registration

Going to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Conference? USSAAC Members Rock!

Attached is a list of USSAAC members who submitted their sessions to me – although I am sure there are MANY more excellent sessions being presented by our members at ASHA 2022. USSAAC's Disaster Relief Committee (DRC) is pleased to report on the multiple sessions related to Emergency Preparedness presented or supported by USSAAC DRC members (indicated by * on the session listing, attached). Also of interest is a tribute to USSAAC co-founder David Beukelman that will be held Thursday, November 17 at 5:30 PM.

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I hope to see you at the SIG 12 meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2022 11:30 – 1:00. Come and get your USSAAC badge ribbon!

Update on AAC Specialty Certification

There was a brief discussion at our September virtual USSAAC membership meeting about ASHA-funded efforts to create a professional specialty certification for eligible speech-language pathologists. USSAAC has had long-standing concerns about this initiative (see [USSAAC Opposition Statement – Stop AAC Specialty Certification \(stopaac.org\)](https://www.usaac.org/stopaacstatement)) but it appears this program will become a reality with certifications issued beginning in 2024. You can learn more at [AAC Certification | American Board for AAC | United States \(aacspecialist.org\)](https://www.aac-certification.org). If you are attending ASHA, you may want to make a point of going to “AB-AAC: The Future of Specialty Certification in AAC!” session #1348L on Friday, November 18 at 9:30 AM. USSAAC will provide additional updates as we learn them.

Membership Drive 2023 Opening Soon!

It's that time again! You'll soon be receiving your reminders to (re) join for calendar year 2023 (unless you selected the two year membership option last year). Inflation-busting news! Rates are frozen again at 2019 levels. If you renew before December 31, 2022 you will be entered in a drawing for a free ATIA 2023 registration (onsite or virtual).

New Member Benefit Coming in 2023!

USSAAC will be launching its “Member Finder” feature, 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 will be listed in the directory, which can be searched by anyone! Stay tuned.

Can you help?

We are looking for assistance with a USSAAC Membership surveycan you help? We want to conduct a (short) survey to assess members' satisfaction with USSAAC/ISAAC communications, educational offerings, and more. Contact me at president@ussaac.org if you (or a student!) can help.

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Tag your devices and promote USSAAC

Did you know...one of the easy steps in disaster preparedness assistive technology users can take is to LABEL your devices! USSAAC can help! Just ask for one of these luggage tags at your next in-person conference!

**Giving Tuesday**

As is tradition, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving is "Giving Tuesday". While we encourage you to donate anytime (and Facebook birthday fundraisers are always welcome!), November 29, 2022 is an opportunity to make your 2022 donation to USSAAC [Donate - USSAAC](#)

I wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving!



Amy S. Goldman, President

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Calendar Re-Cap

November 1, 2022: Membership drive begins!

November 4, 2022: Voting opens for USSAAC board positions

November 9, 2022: USSAAC webinar, "You're Hired: Employers and Agencies Share Their Perspectives on Employment for Individuals Who Use AAC". Register at

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-k4i15pERLeQJT7mfX8WNQ#/registration

November 17-19, 2022: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention (see list)

December 2, 2022: Voting ends.

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

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>