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October 2023

Dear Friends:

October is AAC Awareness Month! This year's theme from ISAAC International is "Say What?" Learn more about the 2023 celebration at [ISAAC – AAC Awareness \(isaac-online.org\)](https://isaac-online.org) How are you celebrating?

Membership Drive 2024 Is Open!

It's that time again! You may have already received your first reminders to (re) join for calendar year 2024 (unless you selected the two-year membership option last year). Inflation-busting news! Rates are frozen again at 2019 levels, except for an increase in the subscription for the *AAC Journal*. Go to <https://isaac-online.org/english/about-isaac/members/membership/isaac-ussaac/>. Have questions? Go to <https://isaac-online.freshdesk.com/support/home> and click on the "Membership" category for some answers. Know someone who isn't YET a member, but should be? Remind them they can join today and get a "bonus" of two and a half months (the remainder of 2023) at no extra cost!

Development Committee

Mini grants (up to \$1000) to amplify the voices of AAC users are offered through USSAAC's Development Committee. Congratulations to Karen Baca, who will be promoting AAC throughout the Berkeley (CA) Unified School District during AAC Awareness Month. As required, her project was designed in consultation with Christian Rosas, an AAC user. To request a copy of the USSAAC "Amplifying AAC Voices" application form, contact president@ussaac.org.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) Committee

The first meeting of the DEIA committee, under the leadership of Tracy Rackensberger and Yoosun Chung, will be held at 3:00 Eastern on Monday, October 23, 2023. Proposed activities include:

- Research: Develop and implement at least one new research initiative addressing the needs of a marginalized community of users of AAC and their families.

- Outreach: Use findings of past USSAAC research studies to develop concrete strategies for improving service delivery.
- Dissemination: Create and distribute a product explaining concrete strategies for improving service delivery.

Email deia@ussaac.org to join the committee, or for the link to participate in Monday's meeting.

Education Committee

On November 8, 2023 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM eastern Dr. Mili Mathew reminds us that AAC includes “unaided” strategies and will speak about “Re-thinking the Role of Hand Gestures During Communication”. Register at

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_x7AwJ9D7RYOGW42BA6aMpQ#/registration

USSAAC members receive the webinar registration links “early” (before they are advertised on social media) so sign up today as seats are limited. ASHA CEUs are offered for USSAAC webinars at no additional cost to members (\$25 to non-members). And of course, USSAAC members can access archived USSAAC (and ISAAC) webinars in the “members only” section of the ISAAC website.

Public Information/Speak Up!

Pride yourself on your English skills? Consider joining SpeakUp! as an editor. Contact Editor-in-Chief Deirdre Galvin-McLaughlin at speakup@ussaac.org

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

Send me (president@ussaac.org) your presentation information (name, title, session #, location) by November 1 and I will compile and send in my November President's letter. I hope to see you at the ASHA SIG 12 meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:30 – 1:00 room CC52A. Come and get your USSAAC badge ribbon!

Keeping in Touch

Save the date! We are hosting a virtual opportunity for USSAAC members to gather and chat on November 1, 2023 at 8:00 pm eastern (5:00 pm pacific). Attendees will have a chance to win a FREE registration to ATIA's **VIRTUAL 2024** conference, and some other prizes. Register today at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqcO-urDsvGNxmXH-Vab8lhcVnI5wApTYF>

Member Benefit Alert!

Speaking of ATIA – did you know 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.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy S. Goldman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy S. Goldman, President

Calendar Re-Cap

October 2023: AAC Awareness Month

November 1, 2023: 8:00 Eastern. USSAAC Virtual Membership Meeting,
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqcO-urDsvGNxmXH-Vab8lhcVnl5wApTYF>

November 8, 2023: 7:00 Eastern. USSAAC Webinar,
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_x7AwJ9D7RYOGW42BA6aMpQ#/registration

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

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>