

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

October 2022

Dear Friends:

Thanks to all of you who attended our Virtual Membership Meeting last month. We hope you found it informative – and fun!

Happy International AAC Awareness Month! How will you celebrate? Here's a few ideas:

- Watch Mateo's message at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DOIkr2xMDU&t=25s>
- Join ISAAC International on October 26, 2022 for their Show Your Voice Discussion Series. This day of lively and engaging panel discussions about AAC, led by community experts in a relaxed environment, will include topics important to AAC communities around the world. They'll be held in key global time zones, they'll be free, and they'll take place on Zoom. Watch the ISAAC website for more information over the coming weeks - <https://isaac-online.org/english/aacawareness/aac-awareness-month-2022/>
- Attend USSAAC's webinar October 12, 2022 at 7:00 eastern, "Employees First: Employment for People who happen to Use AAC." AAC users Thanh Diep, Tracy Rackensberger, Patrick Regan and Tyson Renze will share their unique experiences with conducting job searches, the interview process, securing supports in the work environment, relationships with coworkers and, yes, communication. Throughout this session, they will highlight the importance of harnessing relationships at the outset with the job search while securing needed supports to ensure optimal work performance and building important partnerships with coworkers, supervisors and customers. Register today at https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Kwoih-VsT9GJOmBLzdOKZA
- Meet up with other USSAAC members at Closing the Gap! Join our Director of Membership, Beth Speaker-Christensen, on Tuesday, October 18, 7:30 – 8:30 pm in the Duluth Room (on the 3rd floor of the conference hotel, near registration and the exhibit hall). Be sure to ask Beth for a USSAAC badge ribbon!

USSAAC's Disaster Relief Committee (DRC):

USSAAC supported the "open source" publication in the recent ASHA Perspectives of an important article, "Augmentative and Alternative Communication Disaster Preparedness: Roles, Responsibilities, and Opportunities for Speech-Language Pathologists and Other Professionals," Congratulations to DRC

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authors Miriam Boesch, Liz Begley, and Sarah Blackstone and Tina Caswell! You can find the article at https://pubs.asha.org/doi/10.1044/2022_PERSP-21-00274

As you know, it has literally been disastrous fall. The DRC has been working with our member Mara Hernandez who is “on the ground” in Puerto Rico, providing materials for making “low tech” communication systems for Hurricane Fiona survivors who remain without electricity. We stand ready to support our Florida members and people who use AAC in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, once their basic needs for food and shelter are resolved. Learn more about how USSAAC can help in disasters at [Hurricane Ian \(smore.com\)](#)

USSAAC’s Disaster Relief Committee is pleased to announce the awarding of three grants to DRC members Sharon Mankey and Mariesa Rang, and USSAAC member Krista Davidson and Sarah Schemmel. Interested in submitting a proposal for a Disaster Relief Committee grant? Contact disasterrelief@ussaac.org for application requirements or more information.

USSAAC Members Rock!

Are you presenting at ASHA on an AAC topic? Please send the title, session number, presenter(s) name, and date/time to president@ussaac.org by November 7, 2022. These will be compiled and shared in the November President’s letter.

Call for Nominations for the USSAAC Board of Directors:

Participation on the USSAAC Board is an opportunity to contribute actively to the only organization in the United States that represents ALL stakeholder groups who support people with complex communication needs. A strong USSAAC is needed to increase the volume of voices too often unheard AND/OR unheeded. Please consider taking a more active, leadership role! Members can self-nominate or may nominate another person. Please read [Board Member Descriptions](#) before you nominate. Candidates must agree, in writing, to run prior to nominations being accepted. Send nominations to info@ussaac.org; direct any questions to pastpresident@ussaac.org

The following positions are open for two-year terms beginning January 1, 2023:

- Secretary
- Director of Membership
- ISAAC Liaison
- Director of Advocacy

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Have a great month!

Amy S. Goldman, President

Calendar Re-Cap

October 1 – 31, 2022: International AAC Awareness Month

October 11-12, 2022: Amazon Prime Days! Log on through smile.amazon.com, selecting USSAAC as your designated charity!

October 12, 2022 7 pm eastern: USSAAC webinar

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Kwoih-VsT9GJOmBLzdOKZA!

October 14, 2022: Extended deadline for ISAAC Cancun Call for Papers <https://isaac-online.org/english/conference-cancun/call-for-papers/>

October 15, 2022: Deadline for nominations for the 2023 Prentke Distinguished Lecture Award

October 26, 2022: ISAAC “Show Your Voice” discussion series

October 18, 2022 @7:30 -8:30 pm: USSAAC Meet Up at Closing the Gap,

October 21, 2022 @12:30 -1:30 pm: Mankey/Rang presentation “Striving to Close the Gap between First Responders and Individuals Who Use AAC”

October 28, 2022: Nominations close for USSAAC board positions

November 1, 2022: Membership drive begins!

November 4, 2022: Voting opens for USSAAC board positions

November 17-19, 2022: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention

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>