

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

September 2022

Dear Friends:

Hopefully the dog days of summer are behind us, and a colorful, cooler fall approaches. It promises to be a busy season, as programs and conferences are back in full swing.

USSAAC Virtual Membership Meeting: We hope to see you on **Thursday, September 29, 2022 at 7 pm eastern!** Learn about what USSAAC is up to, and how you can be involved. Feel free to invite friends and colleagues who are not (yet) members. Come prepared to share how you are celebrating International AAC Awareness Month, October 2022! Register for the membership meeting today: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsdu-ggD0tHde4dOkjAqrqoWjS4SyGAY3k>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

SpeakUp News: Our SpeakUp editorial team headed by Deirdre Galvin-McLaughlin has been busy preparing blogs for your perusal. If you want to know about the founding of USSAAC, check out the interview featuring Sarah Blackstone and Sheela Stuart in which they share their memories at <https://ussaac.org/speakup/articles/ussaac-aac-legends-series-the-founding-of-ussaac/USSAAC>. Dr. Betts Peters authored an article highlighting the diverse experiences of individuals living with ALS and related changes in communication needs and strategies, concluding there is room for improvement in the delivery of services to people with ALS. <https://ussaac.org/speakup/articles/aac-amyotrophic-lateral-sclerosis-als/>. Are you interested in writing for SpeakUp? Contact speakup@ussaac.org.

ATIA 2023: Registration is now open for ATIA 2023! www.atia.org/registernow. The in-person conference, held January 31 - February 4 in Orlando, will feature more than 250 educational sessions across all topics in AT, pre-conference seminars for intensive learning options, and an exhibit hall filled with companies and organizations waiting to share solutions and special offers. As usual, USSAAC will also have an in-person meet-up! The ATIA 2023 Virtual Event will include access to more than 100 sessions, including more than 40 live-streamed. All virtual sessions will be recorded and available for on-demand learning through April 30, 2023. The program promises some powerful presentations on AAC! **Member benefit!** USSAAC is an alliance partner with ATIA, which offers our members a 5% discount on Early Bird registration

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

(full in-person attendee rate only). Use code USSAACMBR. Note ATIA has a scholarship program for people with disabilities and family members in need; apply at [ATIA 2023 Conference Scholarship Program - Assistive Technology Industry Association](#)

Webinar on Employment: USSAAC's celebration of International AAC Awareness Month will include a fabulous webinar October 12, 2022 at 7:00 pm eastern on this important topic. AAC users Thanh Diep, Tracy Rackensberger, Patrick Regan and Tyson Renze will share their own 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!

Mini-Grants Available! USSAAC's Development Committee is still accepting applications to its mini-grant program (up to \$2000) to fund projects designed to expand/broaden/amplify AAC voices in new ways, so they can be "heard and understood" across the United States. Projects need to be submitted by USSAAC members and include people who use AAC. Priority will be given to activities designed to increase the use of USSAAC's Speaker Connection (speaker.ussaac.org). For grant requirements or for more information email aacvoices@ussaac.org.

Nominations sought for the Prentke Distinguished Lecture: ATIA is seeking nominations for this prestigious award, presented at the 2023 ATIA conference in Orlando. Candidates must be a person who uses AAC, has public speaking experience and the ability to engage in on-the-spot Q&A, has made a unique contribution to the field of AAC or has a unique experience as a person who uses AAC. The winner receives \$2000, registration to ATIA, and up to a \$3000 travel allowance. For more information and to apply go to [ATIA 2023 Prentke AAC Distinguished Lecture Call for Nominations - Assistive Technology Industry Association](#)

ISAAC 2023: As you know by now, the new dates for ISAAC Cancun are July 24- 27, 2023! Registration is now open at <https://isaac-online.org/english/conference-cancun/conference-registration/> Share your expertise - submit a paper today <https://isaac-online.org/english/conference-cancun/call-for-papers/>

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

Congratulations! USSAAC's Disaster Relief Committee is pleased to announce the awarding of two grants to members Sharon Mankey and Mariesa Rang. Sharon will be presenting a poster session at ASHA, and Sharon and Mariesa will be providing a presentation at Closing the Gap. If you are participating in either conference, be sure to check out their sessions on training first responders. Interested in submitting a proposal for a Disaster Relief Committee grant? Contact disasterrelief@ussaac.org for application requirements or more information.

ImpAACT Voices Live! USSAAC is pleased to announce our sponsorship of ImpAACT Voices inaugural live AAC hang-out and celebration, October 7-8, 2022 in Arlington, VA (right outside of Washington, DC). Explore [IV Live 2022 | Impaactvoices](#) to learn more about the program, focused on employment for people who use AAC. Scholarships are available; contact jess.ingle@gmail.com or chris.klein34@gmail.com to learn more. Register today!

Best wishes for a fulfilling fall!

Amy S. Goldman, President

PS: Attending an in-person event? Look for USSAAC representatives distributing USSAAC badge ribbons identifying you as a USSAAC member, or request one by emailing president@ussaac.org with your US Mail address.

Calendar Re-Cap

September 29, 2022: ISAAC Cancun Call for Papers closes
September 29, 2022: ATIA Early Bird Registration closes
September 29, 2022 7 pm eastern: USSAAC General Membership Meeting
October 1 – 31, 2022: International AAC Awareness Month
October 7-8, 2022: ImpAACT Voices Live!
October 19-21, 2022: Closing the Gap
October 12, 2022 7 pm eastern: USSAAC webinar

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

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>