



The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society

Fall 2016

St. Louis, MO

Vol. 105, No. 4

From the President



Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord Amen!

I previously stated the date of the 2017 ILDA Convention in the summer issue of *The Deaf Lutheran*. Please disregard as the revised date is now July 13 – 16,

2017. Why the change? The original date for the convention conflicted with a local event at the Indianapolis Speedway. The committee decided to bump back the convention a week to avoid the conflict and made agreements with the hotel much easier.

Recently, I went to two regional conferences, Great Lakes Region (GLRC), at Rochester, New York and Mid-West (MW-ILDA) at Solon, Iowa. I met old friends and made new friends. Both conferences have one thing in common, membership is declining and makes it difficult to obtain new officers. It was brought to my attention, which was hard on the Midwest Region due to their Constitution, By-Laws and/or handbook is similar to ILDA's. As the President of ILDA, I told the Midwest Region to go ahead and revise their handbook to allow unlimited terms for each officers.

Pastor Ron Friedrich and I worked together with ILDA's website to revise, update, correct and upload new information. Please check out the website:

<http://deafjesus.org/ilda/ILDHome.html>

We would appreciate it if you give us your feedback, comments and/or suggestions.

Here's our email address:

presidentilda20152017@gmail.com (John Mason)

pastorron@christdeaf.org (Pastor Ron Friedrich)

The convention for 2021 is still open to bid for a host. We have not received any formal letter. Please check with your congregation if you want to host the ILDA convention in 2021. Email me for the address to send your letter: presidentilda20152017@gmail.com. The 2019 ILDA convention will be held in Topeka, KS. As of now, the tentative date is July 18-21, 2019.

Remember the date! Go mark on your calendar! The 2017 ILDA Convention will be at Hilton Garden Inn, Indianapolis, IN on July 13-16, 2017! See you all there!

God Bless!!!

John Mason

From the Pastoral Advisor



As a teacher, I walked the high school hallway to look at the bulletin board reading "What is Thanksgiving?" the last week in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. With interest, students wrote down that they are thankful for friends, families, and wonderful courses they are taking, and so forth, but nobody has written such sacred words like God, church services and prayers. I am thinking that the students have understood Thanksgiving just for thanks, but I am wondering whether the students truly understand the sacred purpose of Thanksgiving. Sadly, as you know, I cannot preach the important of Thanksgiving to the students because the school law does not allow such prayers and religious services in public

Here I want to emphasize to you how valuable Thanksgiving in both Canada and the United States is to all of you. Historically, on this day, people give thanks with feasting and prayer for the blessings they may have received during the year. Originally, the first Thanksgiving Days were harvest festivals, or days for thanking God for plentiful crops. Truly, Thanksgiving is also a time for serious religion thinking, church services and prayer.

How complimentary the Chinese-Canadians invited our deaf church members to their delicious Thanksgiving dinner after we got together during the church service last Sunday (October 9th). Just to remind everyone that the Canadian Thanksgiving is proclaimed on the second Monday of October and the American Thanksgiving on the last Thursday of

November. So, you the fellow Americans, please teach the values of Thanksgiving to your next generation in November before our Lord Savior Jesus is born next month. Importantly, family comes first to get together for Thanksgiving celebration with prayers. Keep the faith. Have a Happy Thanksgiving to you!

Rev. Gregory Desrosiers

In Memoriam



Ernestine Harris (2/17/1948 – 7/18/2016) was from New York City, NY and was a member of St. Matthews Lutheran Church of the Deaf where she served as church treasurer.

Please support our LC-MS Missionaries

Rev. Ryan and Emily McDermott, Rev. Steven and Cynthia Schumacher serving in Ghana. Donations can be sent to: The LC-MS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. Put “McDermott-Ghana” or “Schumacher – Ghana” in the memo line of your check. Make the check payable to “The LC-MS.”

David and Barbara Bush will be serving the deaf in Macau, China. Donations can be sent to: The LC-MS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. Put “Bush-Macau” in the memo line of your check. Make the check payable to “The LC-MS.”

Right Hand Award Nominations

Congregations should have already received nomination forms for the Right Hand Award to be given at the next ILDA convention in 2017 in Indianapolis. The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2017. Please fill out the form and return it to Becky Jungklaus. Thanks!

ILDA Mission Project Funds Request

Any individuals, groups or organizations wishing to request funds from ILDA as mission projects must send a formal letter of request by May 1, 2017. Please send your letter to Dorene Sell, 531 First St., Story City, IA 50248-1129.

Higher Things 2017 Conferences

Higher Things is excited to announce that there will be two Deaf Friendly conferences for “Here I Stand 2017.” The first will be June 27-30 at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. The second will be July 25-28 at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN.

Interpreting will be available for worship services, plenaries, breakout sessions and activities. There will also be breakout sessions taught in American Sign Language (ASL) by pastors active in Deaf Ministry. We encourage you to register and let your local Deaf Communities know. Here I Stand in ASL! The website is:

<http://higherthings.org/conferences/hereistand2017>

Do you know ILDA has a Facebook page?

Check it out! Search for “International Lutheran Deaf Association.” ILDA President John Mason has put up four vlogs so far on the page. There are a lot more pictures to look at from the regional conferences/conventions and gatherings.

ILDA Officers

International Officers (2015-2017)

President – John Mason
 Pres. Elect – Gregory Werth
 Secretary – Janet Gehlbach
 Treasurer – Karen Beiter
 Pastor Advisor – Rev. Gregory Desrosiers

Central Region (2016-2018)

President – Mike Ford
 V. President – Wayne Kester
 Secretary – Becky Catchpole
 Treasurer – Donna Madewell-Smith
 Pastor Advisor – Rev. Bud Palmer

Midwest Region (2016-2018)

President – Sara Hale
 V. President – Dorene Sell
 Secretary – Nola Gray
 Treasurer – Bill Zimmerman
 Pastor Advisor – Rev. Paul Tessaro

Northwest Region (2015-2017)

President – Richard Sharp
 President Elect – Patricia Jenkins
 Secretary – vacant
 Treasurer – Gary Wilson
 Pastor Advisor – Rev. David Nielsen

Great Lakes Region (2016-2018)

President – Larry D. Ginter
 President Elect – Nancy Bergstresser
 Secretary – Diane Francisco
 Treasurer – David G. Brown
 Pastor Advisor - Rev. Gary Lawson

Deaf Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya

Written by Rev. Tim Eckert

If in May, 2016, you asked how much Deaf Ministry was happening in the Lutheran Church in Kenya, the answer would be "None." But now there are two congregations learning how to serve the Deaf and that can easily grow to dozens or more.

In 2015, Bishop Joseph Omollo from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) visited the U.S. to raise money for the church's orphanage in Kisumu, Kenya. I met with him to discuss Deaf Ministry in Kenya and learned that the ELCK wasn't doing any work with the Deaf, but they were willing to learn.

In mid-June, 2016, I flew with my family and some members of their high school robotics team to Kenya. They stayed in Nairobi to teach robotics in local schools (that's a whole other story!) while I went to Kisumu for a week. What an experience! So many things were different – the buildings, food, roads, language, etc. But at the same time, it didn't feel very foreign. I think part of the reason was that Great Britain ruled Kenya for many years, so some of their culture is adopted from British culture and many of the people speak some English. Another reason is that many Kenyans say they are Christians and most of my time was spent with fellow Lutherans. Kenyans are also very welcoming and friendly. All those things helped to make my time there very enjoyable and pleasant.

Good mission work often takes some time to set up. A farmer cannot go into his field in May and pick ripe corn. He must prepare the soil, plant, cultivate, spray for weeds, and wait for the plants to grow and mature. Paul also talked about that in 1 Corinthians when he talked about different people planting and watering the Gospel. When I went to Kenya, I didn't know the church leaders, the Deaf, their sign language, how they are educated, where they live, etc. I went there to learn and see how the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society can help the ELCK teach and train the Deaf. I was hoping we could do more than that, but I wasn't expecting more.

God made the visit very productive! I learned a lot and we also made decisions to begin some work immediately. Only about 20% of the Deaf go to school. Most of the Deaf stay home and get no education. They have no language, only a few home signs, no Deaf community, no job, and no way to learn about Jesus. The most important thing they need right now is to learn a language. Then they can learn about Jesus, learn job skills, and talk to each other. But who will teach them? How about the 20% of the Deaf who do go to school? I visited three congregations and met about 150 people, 22 of them Deaf. There is a large number of Deaf people there! In each congregation, there was one person who had graduated from a Deaf school. You see how God provides? God put one Deaf person in each church who is ready to teach.

We made plans and two of the churches have begun the lessons. A pastor and deaconess in the ELCK are organizing everything. The Deaf and their families are

meeting every week to learn how to sign and also learning basic Bible stories. Eventually some of these Deaf will be trained as leaders. The long-term plans may also include a Lutheran Deaf School.

Praise God for the work that began there! Pray that the people do not become tired of meeting to study and learn. We began working in one little area of Kenya; there is much, much more work to do. Pray that Deaf Ministry will spread in the ELCK so more Deaf know Jesus as their Savior!



The 24th Biennial ILDA Convention

“Focus on Jesus”

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” Matthew 14:27

July 13 - 16, 2017

Hosted by:

Peace Deaf Lutheran Church
6404 East 46th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226

Convention Site:

Hilton Garden Inn
8910 Hatfield Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46241

Ark Encounter Tour

The host committee is planning an all-day bus trip to the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, KY on Friday, July 14 from 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. The Ark is the most authentic replica of Noah’s Ark in the world. It is 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high! There is a petting zoo for kids and adults as well as a zip line adventure and a two-story restaurant on the premises. The cost for this bus trip is \$80 per person. Lunch and Dinner are on your own. If you plan to go please add this amount in the total column on the registration form enclosed. Please note the Creation Museum is a separate building and is located near Cincinnati OH. The Ark Encounter is 40 miles south of Cincinnati in Williamstown, KY.

For those ILDA attendees not planning to go on the Ark Encounter Tour, there will be three workshops planned for Friday.

Any questions send email to:

deafpeace@att.net

BANNER/SKIT/CHOIR COMPETITIONS

Due to space limitations in this issue the form and rules for the banner, skit and choir competitions will be printed in the February 2017 issue. If you would like an advance copy send your email request to: deafpeace@att.net.

Combo ticket cancellations will be accepted but refunds are given in full with a Doctor’s note, 50% refund before May 31, 2017 and no cancellations and/or refunds will be given after June 1, 2017. There will be no refund given for any individual day tickets.



Combo Tickets include the following:

Thursday – Contests/Reception/Social
Night

Friday – Workshops, Tour (optional)

Saturday – Business meeting/Banquet

Sunday – Worship/Prizes/Installation of
new officers

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The Hilton Garden Inn is the convention site in Indianapolis. Enclosed on Page 6 of this issue is a hotel information sheet. Room cost is \$114 per night plus tax. This rate also includes breakfast in the morning. The group code is: **PEA**. The cut-off/release date for the room block is June 17, 2017. Should anyone need a reservation after that date and if they still have rooms available they will honor the \$114 rate. The room cancellation policy is 24 hours (1 day) prior to arrival date. Any questions on the hotel should be directed to: deafpeace@att.net.

Office use only: AMOUNT RECEIVED \$ _____ / _____ / _____ Date Received _____ / _____ / _____ No# _____



24th ILDA Biennial Convention
 International Lutheran Deaf Association
 Hilton Garden Inn - Indianapolis, IN
July 13-16, 2017



Check One: sample

Deaf

Hearing

Deaf & Blind

Visual Impaired

Wheelchair

Notes: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY FOR EACH PERSON THIS FORM AND FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

NAME: _____ Your Phone # _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ EMAIL: _____

STATE: _____ ZIPCODE: _____

CHURCH: _____

Please check the events you want to select. Enter the amount in the "Total" column; add your total at the bottom.

Event	Combo Ticket	Select	Total \$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registration Fee (Required)	Included	\$40.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Event	Included	\$40.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday/Saturday-Workshop/Meeting	Included	\$40.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday - Banquet	Included	\$50.00	
	Total	\$170.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Combo Package #1 Early Bird before 01/14/17		\$135.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Combo Package #2 postmarked before 03/31/17		\$150.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Combo Package #3 postmarked before 05/31/17		\$160.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> July at Door		\$170.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Noah's Ark/Bus Tour July 14, 2017	OPTIONAL	\$80.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch for God's 1000 Member	OPTIONAL	\$40.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Donations for ILDA Only	OPTIONAL		
ILDA Membership is expiring: Your dues are: \$30.00			
Non-ILDA Member (if you are not a member of ILDA) ADD \$45.00			
Enter the amount in the "Total" Column, Then Add Your Total Here>>			Grand Total

Check, Money Order, Cashier's Check

Payable to: 2017 ILDA Convention
 Mail this form w/payment to:
 Norman Wilson, Treasurer
 5334 N. Bosart Avenue
 Indianapolis, IN 46220

Website:
www.peacedeafutheran.org

Any Questions:
 Email: deafpeace@att.net

Deadline Registration
May 31, 2017

By signing, I have confirmed I have read the Registration, Payment and Convention information. I am aware of the Cancellation/Non-Refundable Policy.
 Signature: _____ Date: _____




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dos@indyairportthgi.com **Code: PEA**



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\$114 .00 plus tax per night for a guest room



**International Lutheran Deaf Association
24th Biennial Convention
Hilton Garden Inn, Indianapolis, IN
July 13-16, 2017**



Chairperson

*Mike Ford
1110 N Indiana Street
Mooresville, IN 46158
317-542-3260 VP*

Vice Chairman

Mitch Moore

Secretary

*Vernita Joe
2958 Hillside Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46218*

Treasurer/Registration

*Norman Wilson
5334 N. Bosart Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46220*

Program Book

*Donna Madewell-Smith
438 Cool Evening Road
Cloverdale IN 46120*

Host

*Peace Deaf Lutheran
6404 East 46th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-202-1542 VP*

Thursday, July 13, 2017

8:30 AM – Executive Council Meeting/Board meeting (Decature room)
12 PM – Lunch (**on your own**)
3:00 – 8:00 – Registration (Lobby)
5:00 – Dinner (**on your own**)
6:00 – Opening Devotion by Mike Ford and Jackson (Earhart/Yeager room)
Welcome ILDA committee/ILDA officers
6:30 – Welcome – Rev. Dan May, President of Indiana District
7:00 – Banner/Skit/Solo Choir/Group Choir Competitions
8:00 – 10:00 – Reception/Social Night

Friday, July 14

7 AM – Breakfast
8:30 AM – 8 PM Ark Encounter Tour (**lunch and dinner on your own**)
10:00 – Workshop (Marion room)
Lunch (**on your own**)
1:00 – Workshop
3:00 – Workshop
Dinner (**on your own**)

Saturday, July 15

7:00 AM – Breakfast
8:15 – Opening Devotion (Lindberg/Yeager room)
9:00 – Business Meeting
10:30 – Break
11:00 – Business Meeting
12:00 PM – Lunch (**on your own**)
God's 1000 Luncheon (Lindberg room)
1:30 – Business Meeting
2:45 – Break
3:00 – Business Meeting
4:30 – Free time
6:00 – Devotion/Banquet/Announcements (Lindberg room)
9:00 – Fellowship Time

Sunday, July 16

7:00 AM – Breakfast
8:00 – Bible Study (Lindberg room)
9:00 – Fellowship
10:00 – Worship/Prizes/Installation of ILDA officers
12:00 PM – SEE YOU NEXT TIME!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

(Editor's note: This is a condensed version of the ILDA Executive Council Meeting minutes. A full version will be available to convention attendees at the Indianapolis conference in 2017).

**ILDA Executive Council Meeting
Don Hall's Guesthouse Hotel, Fort Wayne, IN
Friday, June 24, 2016**

Announcements:

1. Karen Beiter requests everyone to send our membership dues to her as soon as possible.
2. Gregory Werth says "see you next year".

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m. Closing prayer was led by Rev. Daryl Gehlbach.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by President John Mason. Rev. Gregory Desrosiers gave the opening prayer.

Roll Call:

President – John Mason
 President Elect – Gregory Werth
 Secretary – Janet Gehlbach
 Treasurer – Karen Beiter
 Pastor Advisor – Rev. Gregory Desrosiers
 LDMS Representative – Rev. Alan Rork (representing Rev. Tim Eckert)

Minutes

Secretary Janet Gehlbach informed the ILDA Executive Council that she will make some minor adjustments to the minutes from 2015. The ILDA logo will also be inserted.

1. Gregory Werth (Rev. Gregory Desrosiers) moved to accept the minutes of the Executive Council meeting on Wednesday, July 22, 2015 as read. Passed.
2. Rev. Gregory Desrosiers (Gregory Werth) moved to accept the minutes of the ILDA Board meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2015 as read. Passed.
3. The Executive Council recommended some changes to the minutes (name changes) of the Business Meeting on Friday, July 24, 2015. These minutes will be brought to the Business Meeting at the 2017 ILDA Convention for approval.

President's Report (John Mason)

1. Reported he went to the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS) meeting on May 2 as part of the Board. On Saturday, May 21 he observed the LDMS Affiliated Congregation Meeting in the morning. ILDA and LDMS has the same goals of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all deaf people.
2. He has concerns about the membership to ILDA. Because of what he observed at the Madison convention of people paying for their membership the same day and then voting without reading the Constitution or Handbook there needs to be regulations set up. He would prefer that people pay membership dues three months before a convention.
3. His goal is to expand ILDA and would like to send information about ILDA to interpreted church ministries.
4. He is concerned about member activity especially at the last convention in Madison, WI. Some people became members at the door and voted. He believes the law committee needs to review the membership issues.
5. He noticed attendance at ILDA conventions has varied. He has wondered what's wrong? Some people have said they prefer going to the Deaf Seniors of America conventions held the same year as ILDA.
6. He hopes to stay after the 2017 convention to attend Ephphatha Conference and hopes to inspire the pastors and church workers to reach out to the deaf who do not know Jesus Christ.
7. He worked on the nomination forms for the Right Hand Award and will be mailing them out to churches. Any nominations for the award should be sent to Becky Jungklaus by July 1, 2017.
8. Interpreted ministries will be encouraged to send their deaf members to the ILDA conventions.

9. He reported he needs a local engraver to engrave the plaque of the name of the Right Hand Award winner.

10. Gregory Werth suggested 30 days before the convention that nomination forms be copied and sent to the other Executive Council members to look over prior to making a decision of the winner.

11. Three people asked John to continue another term (two years) as President. This discussion will be put into new business.

12. Wanted to set up a special Distinction Award for past Executive Council officers. Guidelines would need to be set up for this. He showed some designs and will add the ILDA logo. More discussion on this issue will be in new business. The award would be presented at the banquet.

13. Has not received any bids to host the 2021 convention. He prays that someone will bring a bid to the convention next year. He plans to make a vlog to put in Facebook encouraging churches to make a bid. 2021 will be the 50th anniversary of ILDA and he hopes to have a special 50th Anniversary book prepared.

14. He will be asking Rev. Ron Friedrich to update the ILDA website. It needs to be changed and made more easily accessible.

President-Elect Report (Gregory Werth)

1. Will do his best to uphold his duties as President-elect for ILDA. He has been very busy since the Madison convention.
2. Attended the CR-ILDA convention in Cantrell, IL (near Springfield). It was a good convention and he was asked to be Parliamentarian. He was able to help make the voting process smoother for election of new officers.
3. Feels the need to follow up with other regions to make sure they are following the by-laws and the order of meeting business guidelines. He hopes to meet with the presidents and the secretary's to make sure they understand the by-laws. The ILDA Handbook has some gray areas that need to be made clearer.
4. Would like to work on bids for the 2021 Convention by contacting churches or groups to see if they are willing to host. Did ILDA get a formal bid from the Topeka, KS group? He plans to contact them about it.
5. Diane Francisco gave him copies of the old ILDA Handbooks. He has been reading and researching them and hopes to make some changes to clear up some by-laws that will prevent problems down the road.
6. Regional realignment may be done depending on which deaf churches are still active and possibly adding interpreted ministries too.

Secretary's Report (Janet Gehlbach)

1. I helped Pastor Richard Moody update the State of Missouri Non Profit Corporation renewal for ILDA in January 2016. The bi-annual renewal was not done because Pastor Moody did not receive a renewal card so our non-profit status expired. Janet had to sign some papers as Secretary of ILDA and Pastor Moody sent them to the Missouri Secretary of State. They were approved. Pastor Moody recently renewed again (deadline August 2016) and he is now the registered agent for ILDA so no more signatures will be required of ILDA officers. This recent renewal will be for two years.
2. I received a three ring binder from Becky Jungklaus that had Secretary stuff inside (minutes and other papers) from 2001 to the present. I am shocked that there are no other minutes from the years prior to 2001. My time has been spent contacting different pastors and laypeople who might have copies of the minutes. I inserted copies of the minutes that I had in my files from previous conventions that I attended. I will continue to search for the missing minutes (1973, 1977, 1979, 1985, 1987 and 1991). Mary Mowl, Rev. William Ludwig and Jackie VanManen have been a valuable resource in providing me with some missing minutes and program books.
3. I made suggestions for revisions to the ILDA Constitution and ILDA Handbook.
4. I helped Rev. Tim Eckert with two projects since 2015. The first one was to update the LCMS Deaf Directory online and the second was to provide him a list of current interpreted worship churches and a list of churches that no longer provide interpreted services.
5. I have scanned all the ILDA minutes that I have so far into pdf files. Paper copies are being kept in the Secretary's binder.
6. I have scanned all the ILDA program books since 1971 into pdf files. John Mason was given a disk of the program books as well as a list of all the ILDA officers since 1971.
7. I would like to suggest the Executive Council have new photos taken during this meeting for the ILDA website.

8. I plan to keep a blank copy of the Right Hand Award nomination papers in the Secretary's binder for future reference for the next chairperson of the Right Hand Award.

Treasurer's Report (Karen Beiter)

1. In October 2016 Patrick Sell sent checks to deposit into new accounts that Karen opened.
2. \$ 4,875.13 is the total deposited for the Mission Projects since the last convention in Madison and \$50 deposited into the General Fund.
3. \$ 2,000 in expenses were paid to Concordia Seminary for the Zacharias Fund.
4. There is a total of \$ 45,450.09 for both bank accounts (checking and savings).
5. There was some discussion on what ILDA will pay for officer's expenses going to meetings. Karen asked to let her know if anyone wants reimbursement for their room/mileage expenses.
6. Discussed the thermometer to be put into *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter to show the progress in donations given for Mission Projects.

Pastor Advisor Report (Rev. Gregory Desrosiers)

1. Will try to keep his report K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple and Short).
2. He brought a box from Rev. William Ludwig, Seattle, WA to give to Janet and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach that has back issues of *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletters. He reported attendance is down at Rev. Ludwig's church and he will soon retire.
3. Suggested that the ILDA Regions be re-done as there are many regions no longer active.
4. Concerned that a small number of Regional Presidents show up at the ILDA convention. Feels it is time to change the regions and need to change the by-laws to reflect those changes.
5. Needs ILDA to be open to everyone, deaf and interpreted ministries with deaf members. It is time to be flexible and not be so strict like years ago. For example, welcoming gays and lesbians and teaching them the Bible.
6. Interpreters should be welcome to attend ILDA conventions.
7. We need to roll up our sleeves and help each other.

LDMS Representative (Rev. Alan Rork representing Rev. Tim Eckert)

1. LDMS had the annual meeting at Concordia Lutheran Church, Kirkwood, MO. Representatives were there from Holy Cross Deaf, St. Louis, MO; Prince of Peace Deaf, Spring Lake Park, MN; Resurrection, Sunset Hills, MO; Concordia-Kirkwood, St. Louis, MO and Peace Deaf, Indianapolis, IN. Canvary Deaf, Des Moines, IA and Word of God Deaf, Cedar Rapids, IA did not send representatives.
2. Project leaders have been found for the following:
 - DIT, Rev. Tim Eckert
 - DeafPah, <vacant> resulting in revision of the classes not happening at the present time
 - DeafLITES, Sara Hale
 - Interpreted Ministry Support, Carissa Huffman and Chris Hamilton
 - Ephphatha Conference, Rev. Daryl Gehlbach
 - World Missions, Rev. Alan Rork
 - Technology, Paula Willig
3. Andrew Petajan has applied to the DIT Program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. We have not heard yet if he has been accepted. Felitia Spencer's plans to enroll have been postponed to 2017 maybe. LDMS is thankful for ILDA's partnership in supporting DIT students. We want many more to enroll!
4. Rev. John Reinke and Rev. Tim Eckert have submitted a proposal to Concordia Seminary to run more of DIT ourselves. Pastors to the Deaf will do more of the teaching thus reducing the cost of tuition. We need to wait for the seminary to consider the proposal. Maybe Fall or Winter we might hear something.
5. Jennifer Ceyanes continues to work on the Sunday School lessons but progress is slow. Becky Jungklaus is making videos of teaching the lessons.
6. Rev. Eckert's report is being given by Rev. Rork because Rev. Eckert is in Kenya now with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) helping them do Deaf Ministry.

7. Funds for mission work in Ghana and Macau have been distributed. Rev. Ryan McDermott will be serving in Ghana and David and Barbara Bush will be serving in Macau.

8. Paula Willig has been active in posting things to the new Facebook page and creating a new website, www.JesusDeaf.org. This is a new website for sermons, Bible studies, classes, videos, any resources that LCMS churches or pastors want to share.

9. The LDMS Board is very glad to have John Mason on the Board. We are thankful for our working relationship with ILDA. LDMS will encourage interpreted ministries to become involved in ILDA and send their members to the conventions.

Committee Reports

1. The Deaf Lutheran newsletter report:

- a. Janet and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach continue to serve as co-editors for *The Deaf Lutheran* (DL). This is their 4th year as co-editors. Everything is going fine!
- b. Subscriptions are down to 44 paid, 5 complimentary and about 10 sent to Canada. In 2013 there were 154 total paid subscriptions. One reason for this is the DL being available on-line.
- c. Jeff Padon would like to step down as Business Manager at the end of 2017. He is willing to do the folding and mailing of the newsletters until then. Jeff has a long commute, 1 ½ hours in the morning and evening. The post office is closed when he gets home. Saturdays is the only day available for him to be able to go get stamps.
- d. Rev. Ron Friedrich, Jeff Padon, Janet and Rev. Gehlbach have discussed the matter of readership. Many readers have made the transition to viewing the DL on-line for free. Some readers still prefer the printed version. One suggestion is to make the on-line version free, but charge ten dollars per year for those who wish to have a printed copy. This will keep printing costs down, yet allow for increasing the number of readers. The goal is to get the news out for people to read. The ILDA Executive Council should discuss this at its meeting.
- e. The current issue of *The Deaf Lutheran* is available online, as well as issues going back to 1997. Rev. Gehlbach is in the process of scanning additional back issues for posting on the web. These can be found at www.deafjesus.org/ilda/DeafLutheran/DLhome.html.
- f. John Mason is planning to ask Rev. Friedrich to have a "counter" added to the ILDA website so we can see how many people read or download the *Deaf Lutheran* newsletter.
- g. John Mason suggested adding the *Deaf Lutheran* as a mission project.
- h. Rev. Daryl Gehlbach suggested having an email group called "ILDA Deaf News" for the purpose of receiving announcements, news, flyers, etc. relating to ILDA. Gregory Werth suggested using Mailchimp.com for the emails.

2. Business Manager report:

- a. Jeff Padon, Business Manager for *The Deaf Lutheran* reported a balance of \$ 1,794.00 on January 1, 2015. Since then, income was \$1,417.45 and expenses were \$ 1,795.01. The balance on May 31, 2016 was \$ 1,416.44.

Lunch break at 12:15 p.m. Rev. Alan Rork gave the prayer for the noon meal.

At 2 p.m. The Executive Council and three members of the 2017 host committee toured Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN as the site for the next convention.

The meeting resumed at 4:59 p.m. at the hotel. Those in attendance from the host committee were Donna Madewell-Smith, Mike Ford and Rev. Alan Rork. Mike Moore is the chairperson but he was unable to come.

The Executive Council made some suggestions for changes to the schedule for the convention.

Discussion was done about making sure who can vote during the Business Meeting. Those paying for ILDA memberships at the door should not be allowed to vote. Members should pay their dues at least three months before the convention and have read the ILDA Constitution and Handbook.

Break for dinner at 6 p.m. Rev. Daryl Gehlbach offered the prayer before the evening meal.

The meeting resumed on Saturday, June 25 at 9 a.m.

3. 2017 Convention discussion:

- The Executive Council feels that Concordia Theological Seminary is not an acceptable site for the 2017 convention and that the host committee should look for another site in Indianapolis. By having it in Indianapolis, the proposed trip to see the new Ark in Williamstown, KY will not be such a long trip compared to the trip from Fort Wayne.
- Having the convention at a hotel will draw more people to attend.
- Rev. Rork will contact Leeanna Rondot at the seminary to cancel the seminary site for 2017.

4. Law Committee:

- The Executive Council went through the list of proposed changes to the Constitution and the Handbook.
- Article XX in the Handbook should be re-written as there are too many gray areas.
- There is nothing in the Handbook that says where the profit of the convention money should go. John Mason commented the host committee can decide what to do with the profit.

5. 2015 Madison Convention Report (Dawn Werth and Gregory Werth, co-chairpersons):

- Wants to say a big "THANK YOU" for allowing the them to host the convention, to Carol Seeger and Jeff Padon for their persuasion to host, to the Lord for being on their side as they prepared, organized and hosted the convention, to Gregory for being so patient, hardworking and staying positive and fun throughout the whole planning process and taking caring of things with the hotel. Many thanks to the members of Our Savior Deaf (Madison), Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Milwaukee) and Holy Cross Deaf (Delavan) as they participated on the committee.
- Attendance: There were 134 attendees at the convention. This count beat the Rochester, NY convention total!
- Hotel/Site/Food: A big blessing to Crowne Plaza for their willingness to work with us and during the negotiations to get the right prices, selection of foods and rooms. There were few complaints but mostly about the sleeping rooms. Starbucks in the hotel lobby helped to draw people to buy their favorite drinks. We noticed deaf seniors prefer to stay in a hotel rather than a dorm or campground which brings up attendance numbers.
- Opening Night: It went well and everyone seemed to enjoy the "Taste of Wisconsin." Everyone cooperated in being on time for the convention schedule and for the door prize drawings.
- God's 1000 Luncheon: We wanted to bring this back to let members about God's 1000 Plan and hoping to have it again at future conventions.
- Workshops: Everyone enjoyed the workshops, especially the Creation Museum and the small bookstore that allowed people to buy merchandise.
- Banquet: The banquet was a huge success! The themed banquet was well received and it was unique and informal. Attendees enjoyed the food served throughout the convention.
- Banners: We had a good banner competition. Hearing judges were selected so there would be no bias in selecting the winner.
- Committee: The committee was awesome and they were treated to a dinner after the convention as a way of thanking them for their hard work.
- Financial Report: The financial report is not finished yet but the convention received \$32,103.61 as income from registration fees, donations and fundraising. Expenses were \$30,370.20 for conference room, rooms, food, supplies, printing, services, etc. Profit was \$1,733.41 which will be given to the ILDA Treasurer as soon as the financial report is completed and audited by two of their church members.

6. Mission Project report:

- Is Dorene Sell still doing the duties for the mission projects? She will be responsible for finding mission projects for ILDA to support. Janet Gehlbach will see her in August at the Midwest ILDA conference and will find out if Dorene is still willing to do it. If she does not want to do it then John Mason will find another person to be responsible for the mission projects.
- Those individuals or organizations receiving mission project funds in the past should be encouraged to come to the convention and present their

report on how the funds were spent. Dorene should ask those people to come.

- At the next convention those individuals or organizations asking for money should explain to the attendees what the money will be used for before the voting begins. If there are no mission projects requests then it is possible to get recommendations from the floor on where to give mission project money to.

7. Right Hand Award:

- John Mason has prepared the nomination forms and envelopes for mailing for the Right Hand Award. All nomination forms will be sent back to Becky Jungklaus. John Mason will ask her to scan the nomination forms received and they will be sent to the Executive Council before the next meeting in July 2017.
- An engraver is needed to put the winner's name on the plaque.
- John Mason will ask Rev. Friedrich to put the nomination forms on the ILDA website so it is available for the next person responsible for the Right Hand Award.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates:

- Janet Gehlbach has scanned all the Secretary's minutes she has so far from 1971 to the present time. There are six conventions of which minutes are missing (1973, 1977, 1979, 1985, 1987 and 1991).
- Financial reports have not been scanned.
- Training for new officers was not done during the 2015 Madison Convention. The Executive Council suggested that one-on-one training might be best for the next convention. Each out-going and in-coming officer should get together and share information of what their duties are.
- Mission project funds given out to recipients are required to give a report at the next convention of how they used the funds they received.

NEW BUSINESS

Some discussion was spent about possibly having a workshop on region realignment during the next convention and discussing the voting procedures that new members should go through orientation first before they are able to vote.

Motion #1: Rev. Gregory Desrosiers (Gregory Werth) moved to give out a Distinguished Service Award to a past officer of ILDA at any convention at the President's discretion with the Executive Council's approval. Passed.

Break at 10:48 a.m. for check out. Be back at 12:30 p.m.

Motion #2: Gregory Werth (Karen Beiter) moved to accept the attached Constitution revisions and send the revisions for review to ILDA members ninety (90) days prior to the 2017 convention. Passed. (These revisions will be printed in the 2017 February issue of the *Deaf Lutheran*).

Motion #3: Gregory Werth (Rev. Gregory Desrosiers) moved that new changes in the ILDA Handbook along with later changes to Article XX be voted on at the next Executive Council meeting. Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Gehlbach, ILDA Secretary, 2015-2017

WANTED

2021 ILDA Convention Host

Please contact the ILDA President,
John Mason, if your congregation is
willing to host this convention.

<p style="text-align: center;">The Deaf Lutheran Subscription (Print Edition) One-Year Subscription – \$10.00</p> <p>Please Select: <input type="checkbox"/> Renew <input type="checkbox"/> New</p> <p>=====</p> <p>Jeff Padon is the Business Manager for <i>The Deaf Lutheran</i>. All subscriptions should be sent to him at the address below. Make your check or money order payable to “<i>The Deaf Lutheran</i>.” Thanks!</p>	<p>Attach mailing label or fill in:</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ Zip Code _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Phone/VP/Fax _____</p>
<p>Mail to: Jeff Padon, Business Manager, 7910 Severn Tree Blvd, Severn, MD 21144</p> <p>(cut on the dotted line)</p>	

Can you help?

--Does anyone have copies of ILDA minutes from 1973, 1977, 1979, 1985, 1987 and 1991? Please contact Janet Gehlbach, ILDA Secretary, and let her know! Thanks! jgehlbach@aol.com

ILDA Membership Dues

Please send \$30 for your ILDA membership dues to:

Karen Beiter, ILDA Treasurer
PO Box 218
West Henrietta, NY 14586.

Make your check payable to “ILDA” and in the memo line put “membership dues.”

If you would like to receive free copies of *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter you can go to www.deafjesus.org and read the issues there. If you want a paper copy of the newsletter then please fill in the subscription form above and send it with your \$10 to Jeff Padon. Thanks!

Deadline for the next issue:

Winter issue – January 15, 2017

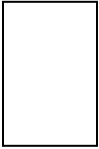
Please send photos, articles and items of interest for future issues of *The Deaf Lutheran* to:

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The DEAF LUTHERAN



7910 Severn Tree Blvd.
Severn, MD 21144

In this Issue:
Kenya Report
ILDA Convention News
Executive Council Minutes



Mission Projects for 2015-2017

Deaf Youth Service Project.....\$ 5,000
Fiji Special Education Center.....\$ 5,000
DIT students\$ 7,000

Amended for each new DIT student...\$ 16,000

Donations for the ILDA 2015-2017 Mission Projects can be sent to ILDA Treasurer Karen Beiter, PO Box 218, West Henrietta, NY 14586. Put "Mission Projects" in the memo line. Your prayers and donations help ILDA to continue our work in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the U.S. and foreign countries.

