



**International Lutheran Deaf Association**  
25<sup>th</sup> Biennial Business Meeting  
Capital Plaza Hotel, Topeka, Kansas  
Friday, July 19, 2019

**1. Welcome**

President Gregory Werth welcomed everyone to the 25th Biennial Convention of the International Lutheran Deaf Association (ILDA).

**2. Necrology (Diane Francisco – not present)**

Rev. Daryl and Janet Gehlbach prepared a power point presentation showing photos of those ILDA members who have passed away since the 2017 ILDA convention.

**3. Invocation**

Rev. Edwin Bergstresser gave the opening prayer.

**4. Call to Order**

The Business Meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by President Gregory Werth.

**5. Introductions**

Parliamentarian – John Mason  
Assistant to the Secretary - Carolyn Snyder-Mason  
Tellers – Tim Kearney, Paul Lucero, Jeff Padon

**6. Introduction of Interpreters – none**

**7. Resolutions Committee – none**

**8. Nominating Committee's Report (John Mason)**

a. Introduction of candidates for 2019-2021 -- no names received for candidates. John Mason explained that officers can serve two terms. John Mason volunteered to move to President and Gregory Werth volunteered to move to President-Elect but need the member's permission to do this.

b. Election of officers:

The following slate of officers for 2019-2021 with the exception of the Secretary were elected by acclamation. Passed.

President: John Mason

President-elect: Gregory Werth

Secretary: vacant - Janet Gehlbach was chosen by President John Mason to be Secretary pro tem

Treasurer: David G. Brown

Pastoral Advisor: Rev. Tyler Walworth

**9. Minutes of the Previous Convention**

John Mason (Pam Lang) moved to accept the minutes of the 2017 ILDA convention (July 15, 2017) as corrected. Passed The minutes were corrected to read "Nominating Committee's report (Carol Seeger) Gregory Werth started the nominating process as Carol Seeger ~~had not yet arrived.~~ was a little bit late to the Business meeting."

**10. Treasurer's Report (David G. Brown)**

a. David reported he received a lot of boxes from Karen Beiter. A lot of them were from Patrick Sell.

b. \$10,000 was deposited to open checking and savings accounts. As of June 30, 2019 checking account balance is \$16,878.81 and the savings account balance is \$150,009.21. The money received from St. Matthew's has not been touched. This money was divided into six areas: Mission Projects (\$40,000), DIT (\$10,000), Youth/Camp (\$10,000), ILDA expenses (\$10,000), Convention/fellowship (\$10,000), and Reserved funds (\$40,000).

c. Mission projects of 2017-2019 were paid out with the exception of India. Gregory Werth explained that the money for India needs to go through the proper channels at Synod to send the money to India.

d. Sent out renewal notices for ILDA memberships last summer. Some members did not have current addresses, died or moved. Some of the renewal papers were hard to read.

e. The auditors of the treasurer's report are Ron Grapatin and Rev. Edwin Bergstresser

Jeff Padon (Sara Hale) moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Passed.

### **11. President's Report (Gregory Werth)**

a. President Werth reported the Board has been planning goals and want to see ILDA continue for a long time.

b. Notice that deaf churches are decreased and more interpreted ministries are increasing. He feels the need to ask hearing churches to start helping the deaf churches.

c. Thanked Sara Hale and committee for hosting the 2019 ILDA convention.

d. Eastern Region closed and Christ Deaf, Silver Spring, MD asked to merge with the Great Lakes Region.

e. Re-assigning regions will be a long term process.

f. ILDA's brochure is old and new one needs to be created to send to hearing churches to recruit their deaf members.

g. The Executive Council worked well together and he thanked the officers for their service.

h. Lutheran Deaf Mission Society is starting to partner with World Lutheran Deaf Outreach.

### **12. Pastoral Advisor's Report (Rev. Tyler Walworth - not present.**

Rev. Walworth is gone to the Synod convention in Florida. No report available.

### **13. Synodical Representative's Report (LDMS) – Rev. Ron Friedrich – not present**

Rev. Friedrich is gone to the Synod convention. He prepared a video report which was shown by Rev. Edwin Bergstresser.

a. Rev. Friedrich apologized for not being able to attend the ILDA convention. The Synod convention in Florida conflicted with his ability to be here.

b. Fifty (50) years ago the National Office at Synod gave responsibility to the Districts to fund Deaf Ministries. Some districts were welcoming and whereas others were not.

c. Twelve (12) years ago Synod closed the office of the Secretary of Deaf Ministries. As a result the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS) was set up to coordinate and train deaf people to become pastors and deaconesses to serve deaf congregations in the US and Canada.

d. LDMS has a strong partnership with ILDA.

e. At the Indianapolis convention Rev. Tim Eckert, former Executive Director of LDMS, approached Rev. Friedrich to take over the reigns of LDMS. Rev. Eckert now leads the DIT program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

f. In the video Rev. Eckert asks if you are interested in becoming a pastor or deaconess please contact him. We need to spread God's Word and DIT is for you! It is open to any member of an LCMS congregation. It is a four year program and you don't need to move to St. Louis. Classes will mostly be online and you will have a pastor mentor. When you graduate you will work at your home church. Pray for God's will for you to become a church worker. Deaf Pah classes are required first and then apply to the DIT program. Classes are expensive but you will be helped in finding financial support. The DIT program at the seminary had a name change to EIIT – Ethic Immigrant Institute of Theology.

g. Some of the staff helping at LDMS are Carissa Huffman and Chris Hamilton (interpreter program) and Sara Hale (Deaf LITES). Rev. Daryl Gehlbach is responsible for planning Ephphatha Conference, the church workers conference. He also does research for the Lutheran deaf ministries. Paula Willig is responsible for technology and the deafjesus.org website. This website also include the ILDA website. She also puts up study lessons in the Deaf Pah area of the LDMS website. Recently there have been new Bible stories and videos posted online.

g. LDMS also supports deaf missions in other countries, i.e. recently sent \$3,000 to India for a building renovation.

h. Other support staff include John Mason (President), Rev. Edwin Bergstresser (Associate Director), Janet Gehlbach (Secretary) and Jeff Padon (Treasurer). Rev. Richard Moody also does a lot of work for LDMS.

i. A summary of what is happening with deaf churches—in the past there were 50 deaf churches and a few hearing interpreted ministries. Now today the balance has shifted – there are more interpreted ministries than there are deaf churches. Some pastors in large cities have preaching stations.

j. There are a lot of older pastors still serving their deaf churches but who will replace them? We need more deaf people to become pastors and deaconesses. The harvest is great.....send more workers!

--Rev. Bergstresser reminded us to work together and tell deaf people about Jesus. God's love is given to us so we can pass it on. Pray that we can forgive all people so then God can forgive us.

--Sara Hale explained that LDMS and WLDO are starting to partner. LDMS gave WLDO some money to start to expand the process and continue to reach out to deaf people.

--Rev. Dr. John Reinke gave a statement that he appreciates the partnership with LDMS and that they will sit down and work things out.

a. **Archivist report (Rev. Daryl Gehlbach)** He reported as archivist for LDMS he is researching deaf ministry and its pastors. In two years will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ILDA. He hopes to re-write parts of the history book, add stories and photos. If you know of anyone who was at the 1971 convention then please let Rev. Gehlbach know.

#### **14. Deaf Lutheran report (Janet Gehlbach)**

a. Janet and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach have served as co-editors since 2013. Rev. Gehlbach is no longer co-editor as he gave full responsibility to Janet last year. Switching to a new computer program, Publisher, has helped make it easier for her to prepare the Deaf Lutheran (DL).

b. You can read the DL online in the ILDA website. It is free but paper copies cost \$10.00 You can send subscriptions to Carolyn Snyder-Mason.

c. I have extra copies of the DL here with me. Help yourself if you would like a copy. Anything left will be brought home and recycled.

d. Please send me news, photos, articles by January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15.

e. The next issue in August will have a summary of the 2019 convention and will include photos.

f. Thank you to Carolyn Snyder-Mason, Business Manager and John Mason, Database Assistant for taking care of the LFCU bank accounts and sending me the DL labels.

g. Thank you to Rev. Ron Friedrich for putting on the website the DL issues and any ILDA minutes and reports from the conventions.

#### **14b. Deaf Lutheran Business Manager Report (Carolyn Snyder-Mason)**

a. Carolyn's business manager financial report shows a checking account balance of \$162.68 on June 30, 2019. The savings account balance as of June 30, 2019 is \$ 1,013.68. The total balance of all accounts is \$1,176.36.

b. Please look at the mailing label on your copy of the *Deaf Lutheran* for the renewal date.

c. Please put ILDA on your check. Do not put Carolyn's name on it.

d. A question was asked about sending the DL out in bulk mail. The answer is "no" because we do not have enough subscribers to do this. The minimum for bulk mail is 200.

**15. Finance Committee’s Report - None**

**16. Adoption of the New Budget - None**

**17. Law Committee’s Report (John Mason)**

- a. Plans are to restructure the regions. But it will be a slow process though.
- b. Gregory Werth will send a letter of approval to Christ Deaf, Silver Spring, MD, to join the Great Lakes Region.
- c. The regions are older than ILDA itself. Numbers of people attending the regional conferences are going down.
- d. Start saving your money now for the 2021 convention!

**18. Voting on any Proposed Changes – none**

**19. Mission Project Thank You’s**

Past recipients of mission project funding gave their thanks to the convention members:

--Rev. Mark Seeger (Deaf Youth Service Project) explained it is harder to find places to go to because he needs places that have showers for the kids. In 2018 his group went to Minnesota. This was the first time a deafblind girl went on the trip. They did a variety of projects while in Minnesota: painting, putting together bags for the homeless, went to Feed My Starting Children and put together meal bags to send to poor countries. The trip in 2019 will be to Rochester, NY. The group will do service projects again and have fun planting seeds to make new connections with the people there. So far about 150 kids have gone on service trips.

--Rev. Steven Schumacher – no report given

--David Bush – a copy of his recent newsletter was shown to the convention with photos of Macau.

--Rev. Tim Eckert gave a report on Kenya. There is a need for education and church workers there to work with the deaf in Kenya. One man would need a degree and training to work with the deaf. The money sent to Kenya will pay for this. Rev. Eckert traveled to Kenya before and planned to go again last year but had to cancel the trip.

--Rev. Ryan McDermott (Togo) gave a video of his work in Africa. He thanked everyone for their support.

--Rev. Dr. John Reinke (World Lutheran Deaf Outreach) thanked everyone. He already went to Liberia and will be going again hopefully in November with Becky Catchpole going with him. He also hopes to go to Brazil next spring. Recently he met some pastors who work with the deaf in Finland. They have no resources for the deaf and Rev. Reinke plans to go there too in the future. The need right now is for volunteers to go with Rev. Reinke on his outreach trips.

The Business meeting recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

**19a. Mission Project Chairperson’s Report (Becky Jungklaus)**

Becky reported she sent letters for mission project funding to all the deaf churches. She received two in the mail whereas the others were sent by email or hand delivered. The Executive Council ranked the mission project requests in the order they were received. They will be paid out in the same order.

1. Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry	\$ 1,000
2. LCMS Int’l Missions ELCG Ghana	\$ 2,000
3. Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas	\$ 10,000
4. David and Barbara Bush – LCMS (Macau)	\$ 2,000
5. Ryan McDermott – LCMS (Togo)	\$ 2,000
6. John Reinke - World Lutheran Deaf Outreach	\$ 10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 27,000</b>

**b. Voting on Mission Projects**

Carol Seeger (Dawn Werth) moved to approve the 2019-2021 mission projects as proposed. Passed.

**20. Previous Convention Committee Chairman Report – Rev. Alan Rork**

a. Rev. Alan Rork reported there were 92 people in attendance at the 2017 ILDA convention in Indianapolis, IN. The financial report showed income of \$21,566.00 and expenses paid out of \$18,546.38. Net profit was \$3,019.62 and was paid to ILDA. The financial report was submitted by Norman L. Wilson and audited by Michael Fork, Rev. Alan Rork and Alvin Daugherty.

b. Rev. Tim Eckert, former LDMS Executive Director, established the new IMC (Interpreter Ministry Conference) in 2017. IMC was held for the first time at the ILDA conference in Indianapolis, IN in July 2017. Attendance record was 74 ILDA registrants and 17 IMC registrants for a total of 92 attendees.

**21. The ILDA convention bids presented by future host congregations**

Janet Gehlbach and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach, on behalf of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Spring Lake Park, MN, announced their bid for the 2021 convention was accepted by the Executive Council and will be held in Chicago, Illinois. They prepared a power point presentation showing highlights of the Holiday Inn in Elk Grove Village (convention headquarters) and announced sleeping room rates of \$92 per night plus tax. The exact dates of the convention will be announced in the November 2019 issue of the *Deaf Lutheran*.

**22. Introduction of pastors and church workers in attendance**

Pastors: Edwin Bergstresser, Tim Eckert, Daryl Gehlbach, Mark Larson, William Ludwig, Robert Muller, David Nielsen, Matthew Nix, John Reinke, Alan Rork, and Paul Tessaro. Absent from the photo are: Gerald Bolling, Ron Friedrich, Mark Seeger, Tyler Walworth and Bill Wrede

Deaconesses: Becky Catchpole, Pat Hycnar and Dawn Werth

**23. Resolution Committee's Report - none****24. Unfinished Business - none****25. New Business**

Motion # 1: Paul Lucero moved that deaf members become interpreters at their hearing churches. Howard Snyder (Rev. Alan Rork) moved to table this motion and refer to the Law Committee. Passed.

Nancy Bergstresser moved to close new business. Passed.

**26. Voting on Resolutions - none****27. Announcements**

1. John Mason announced he will be making vlogs on the ILDA Facebook page and thanked everyone for coming to the convention.

2. Janet Gehlbach announced changes to the Facebook ILDA page. She is the administrator and will be adding Rev. Tyler Walworth as a second administrator for doctrine content approval. She stated that the ILDA page is only for ILDA members and Deaf Lutheran subscribers. All others will be removed as soon as she gets the updated ILDA membership list from David Brown. She apologized if names get accidentally deleted. You can join again if you answer three questions: 1. Are you a members of a deaf or hearing LCMS congregation? 2. Are you a members of ILDA? 3. Have you attended ILDA conventions in the past?

**28. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m. with a closing prayer by Rev. Edwin Bergstresser.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Gehlbach  
ILDA Secretary 2017-2019