Storck, along with her husband, John; another ALDA member, Valerie Stafford-Mallis from Alternative Communication Services (ACS), who provided CART in English; and me, of course.

Why did I decide to make this trip? Many of you may recall ALDAcon 2011 in Indianapolis. Five of our Dutch friends joined us at their first ‘con: Gerard de Vijlder, Georgia van der Gen, Thea van der Wilt, Margot de Vreede, and Bianca Dol. They were looking for ideas for their first Congress. Since I was a planner for ALDAcon, I did my best to welcome these gregarious people and assist with their plans over the past three years. I told them in Indianapolis that since they had come to “my” conven- tion, I would be at theirs.

Georgia, Gerard, and Bianca were also at last year’s ‘con in Albuquerque, where they learned even more and subsequently helped put together an amazing Congress that attracted 150 registrants from seven countries. The event was held in a lovely and spacious hotel just one long block from the North Sea. Rooms for two ran about $100 (US), including breakfast and lunch. Both meals were provided buffet-style, with more variety of food than I have ever seen before. Some of the walls were glass, so we had a beautiful view of the tall grass areas and a bit of the sea.

The Friday night banquet was a real highlight, much the same as those at ALDAcons. Here, too, we were feted with an unbelievable buffet, with salads, fish, meats, cheeses, vegetables, and starches. Two bottles of wine sat on every dining
ALDA NEWS

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ALDA, Inc.
8038 MacIntosh Lane, Suite 2
Rockford, IL 61107

ALDA VOICE/TTY: 815.332.1515 or
866.402.ALDA (866.402.2532)
FAX: 877.907.1738
E-MAIL: info@alda.org
WEBSITE: www.alda.org

Editor-in-Chief:
Nancy Kingsley (Kingsnan@aol.com)
717.435.5514 (captioned telephone)

Managing Editor:

Editorial Review Board:
Mark Dessert (subvet633@verizon.net), Cheryl Heppner
(NVRCheryl@aol.com), Carolyn Piper (wicwas@wcvt.com), and Robin Titterington (furriesmom@comcast.net)

Technology Director:
Ken Arcia (technology@alda.org)

Chapter Happenings and GA to SK:
Ann Smith (fabsmith@att.net)

ALDAnonymous:
Bill Graham and Robin Titterington
(aldanonymous@gmail.com)

Advertising Director:
To place an ad:
Paul Wummer (newsadvertising@alda.org)

Ad Billing information:
Matt Ferrara (treasurer@alda.org)
V/TTY: 815.332.1515 or (toll-free) 866.402.2532

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Graphic Artist:
Ellen Perkins (eebail@verizon.net)

ALDA 2014 Board of Directors
aldaboard@alda.org

Dave Litman, President
director@alda.org

Mary Lou Mistretta, Past President
pastpresident@alda.org

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vicepresident@alda.org

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Eleanor Shafer, Region 1 Director
rd1@alda.org

Kathy Schlueter, Region 2 Director
rd2@alda.org

Region 3 Director
rd3@alda.org

Margreta von Pein, Region 4 Director
rd4@alda.org

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A Message from ALDA’s President

By David Litman

Dear ALDA membership,

ALDA is a family, and what is most important is the support, love, patience, and respect that we show for each other. As a family, we are there to share both the good times and the bad ones. It is at a very bad time that I am writing this message to you all.

Rachael (Ray of Sunshine) Morris just lost her battle with cancer. For those of you who did not know, Ray had severe complications from neurofibromatosis type 2 (NF2), which was also the cause of her deafness, and her last fight was a battle against radiation-induced cancer. She had been undergoing chemotherapy, but unfortunately the cancer spread. She passed away peacefully with her immediate family and pastor present, holding her beloved mother’s hand.

Ray was one of the strongest fighters I have ever known, and she made it so easy for everyone to love her. She served on the ALDA Board for the past five years as the Region 3 director, as well as serving as the ALDA News managing editor for the past year. Ray had many additional accomplishments as well. She successfully fought to finish her college degree, was co-planning chair for the 2012 ALDAcon in Columbia, South Carolina, and was the glue that held our ALDA Carolina flight group together. She was an active voice for other people with NF2 and encouraged and supported several to attend ALDAcon. I know how much ALDA meant to her and how much Ray meant to everyone in ALDA.

Personally, this is a tremendous loss. I have known and worked closely with Ray for six years. We first met when I was trying to start a North Carolina chapter. I was able to convince her to attend ALDAcon in Seattle in 2009, and from there she took off and ran with ALDA. I remember how inspired she was when she attended Sally Skyer’s workshop on being a strong, confident deaf woman. This theme became a driving force for Ray and motivated her to achieve all she could. She has inspired me with her words and actions. More than that, she has inspired me with her attitude and positive outlook on life.

The only peace I have right now is knowing that Ray no longer has to fight any more battles and can now spend eternity in peace. Our Ray of sunshine has passed from being with us in person to looking down on us from above. She touched my heart and my life as she did with everyone who was fortunate enough to know her. I will forever be grateful for the time I had with her, and I am a better and stronger person for having known her.

With a heavy heart,
David Litman
ALDA, Inc. President 2014
Your support is essential to help TDI maintain its advocacy work in our nation’s capital, Washington, D.C. Here are some of our goals!

- Current Bills in Congress on Internet Access (HR #3101 & S #3304)
- Mandate for Captioned Telephone Relay Service
- Relay for Deaf-Blind Users
- Universal TV Captioning at All Hours
- Captioning at Movies, Live Events and Online
- National Broadband Plan
- Modernized NG-911 Services
- And much more...  

Join TDI as a member and help us fulfill our mission for accessible telecommunications, media, and information technologies!

Contact TDI:
Phone: 301-589-3786; Fax: 301-589-3797; Video: 301-563-9112; TTY: 301-589-3006
info@tdi-online.org; www.tdi-online.org

TDI - Shaping An Accessible World
Note from Nancy

By Nancy Kingsley, Editor-in-Chief

I am writing this message with great sadness. When Rachael Morris took up the reins as the ALDA News managing editor barely a year ago (for the Fall 2013 issue), I had expected that she would be serving in this role for a much longer period. Rachael brought her upbeat enthusiasm to each issue she worked on, as is evidenced from the name she selected for her column, "Rockin’ with Ray." When she told me about her cancer diagnosis in April, I knew she was in for a tough battle, but I didn’t expect her remaining time to be so short. It was only when she stopped responding to my emails that I began to fear that her health might be rapidly declining. Although Rachael lived for just 32 years and had to deal with many physical limitations resulting from neurofibromatosis type 2 (NF2), she made the most she could of every moment.

Rachael’s cover article for the Winter 2010 issue, written shortly after she joined ALDA and titled, "How NF2 Changed My Life," recounted the battle she had been engaged in since the age of 14. By the time she was 23, she needed hearing aids, and soon after that, she became deaf and developed severe balance problems, weakness in her legs, difficulty using her right hand (she was right-handed), and trouble speaking. Nevertheless, she managed to get her BS degree in 2009. She wrote, "I get bummed, bored, and throw a pity party from time to time, but I strongly believe in keeping my glass half full and staying optimistic. Life is a roller coaster, but still good! I do not like to be sad and would rather celebrate my abilities, everything I have overcome, and who I am NOW. Life is too short and you have to take it one day at a time. By sharing my story, I think I can make a great role model/mentor. Motivating others who may be struggling with something is what I am most passionate about." What incredible wisdom and maturity she already had at age 27!

Rachael will be deeply missed. I am sure, though, that she would want us to follow her own philosophy of living in the now and celebrating what we have. Thank you, Rachael, for all that you have given us, and may your example continue to inspire us.
Who Needs Clutter?

By Bob Elkins

Editor’s note: This article is condensed from the ALDA News, Summer 1996.

I’ve spoken of bluffing before, and no doubt I shall do so again. You see, I dislike bluffing. I dislike it in others and I dislike it in myself. My penchant for bluffing comes with the territory, the territory of hearing loss. And I bluff habitually.

I have excuses for bluffing. My first excuse is that I want to preserve my image. I want to disguise from you the fact that I am as bad off as I am sometimes. I say “sometimes” because my hearing fluctuates. On good days, I understand amazingly well for me. On bad days, I tend to bluff more readily to forestall downgrading your assessment of my hearing ability.

On bad days, I wait with anxiety for the good days to return. In the meantime, should I tape a sign on my forehead, “Bad Hearing Day, don’t bother trying to talk to me”? Or “Wait until my former hearing returns, if it returns”?

I worry about annoying you. Others do not make you repeat yourself over and over. Others do not force you to talk in a voice that strains your vocal cords. Others do not startle you by admitting that from the initial stages of our conversation, what we have been talking about has not been understood.

How do I explain that there are times when I pick up sufficient clues to reveal belatedly what we have been discussing? Just like Pavlov’s dog, I am hooked on chasing after that intermittent reward of understanding. If I hit the jackpot, I am relieved of confessing to you that my hearing aids are no final solution to my problem.

Often, of course, that sudden enlightenment does not occur: “I’m sorry, would you repeat that? I missed what you said.”

“I’ll be happy to repeat what you missed. What did I say that you missed?”

“I don’t know. If I knew, I would not have to ask you to repeat it.”

“How much should I repeat?”

“Would you mind starting over from the beginning?”

“From the beginning? You mean way back from the first sentence ten minutes ago?”

“Yes, that would be best. Thank you.”

“But why didn’t you stop me when you first did not hear me?”

“I didn’t know I was not going to be able to hear you. I kept hoping that sooner or later I would catch on.”

Then one of two things happens. Either those dreadful words are said, “Oh, never mind, it wasn’t important,” or you sigh deeply and begin again. Often it turns out that what you tried to tell me was not important, but I wanted to judge that for myself.

I work constantly at screening in what others have the good sense to screen out. I remember the time I avoided bluffing by asserting myself. I reminded the speaker to face me, to keep her hands away from her mouth, and to move over so that the light did not blind my vision. Thus, with full concentration, I heard, “We have one thing going for us. If we can agree on a point of departure, we can modify it at a later time.” It made me wonder: “Is this what I feel so badly about missing at times?”

I think of songs I have grown attached to despite being unable to understand songs. To my disappointment, the lyrics turned out to be mundane. I had given the unheard words more credit than they deserved.

Evidently there is often truth in the phrase, “Never mind, it’s not important.” I might be better off admitting to you that for me, hearing is difficult and tiresome. Perhaps I should announce, “Unless you have something worthwhile to say, don’t bother. Life is too short to listen to clutter.”

I’ll make a deal with you. If you don’t clutter our conversations with mundane comments, I won’t pretend that I heard what you said.

Bob is a retired university professor and lives in California with his wife Ling. He enjoys reading and writing and can be contacted at saywhatbob@gmail.com.
One of Us

By Karen Krull, Curator

I met Norma Ortiz at the Albuquerque joint conference with TDI. She was a very petite person with a big personality and a smile to match. I asked her to tell me a little bit about herself and loved what she sent, so I’m including it in its entirety. To touch base with her, just email Norma at riks_arbeiten@hotmail.com. Now meet Norma.

I’ve lived in Mexico City my whole life and have a sensorineural hearing loss due to neurofibromatosis type 2 (NF2). At the moment, I’m totally deaf on the right side and have a moderate hearing loss on the left side.

My native language is Spanish; I took my first English lesson when I was 10 years old. In the beginning, I learned English for no particular reason, but when I got to high school, my desire to study abroad pushed me to improve my English skills. My ability to communicate in English was the key factor in enabling me to get medical treatment in the US. In October 2011, I had a 13-hour surgery at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Washington, DC. That surgery saved my life! In the end, being dead or alive depended on being able (or not) to communicate in English. Don’t you think it is curious the way life develops from our hobbies?

I used to say I’m living a life between two worlds (something like having a double life or personality). In Mexico, I have hearing friends. My family and job are here, and my native language is spoken here. However, my follow-up in the hospital requires me to travel to Washington, DC every six months, and now, after three years of traveling there, I have a lot of American deaf friends, hard of hearing friends, friends with NF2, and friends who work as sign language interpreters. Besides, when I’m in DC I enjoy going to Barnes & Noble, drinking coffee in Panera Bread, and buying shoes at Payless. The first time I traveled to the US, I felt like a foreigner, but now, every time the plane reaches DC, I feel at home.

Hmmm, what else? Thanks to my brother’s help, I’m learning how a translation agency works (he’s a translator himself). Last year I took a course on creative writing, and I love watching sunsets. Well, that’s me.

Name: Norma Ortíz

Age/year you became deafened? 23
Marital status? Single
What is your present job? Graphic designer
What is the worst job you ever had? One I had in an editorial design agency. Basically, I worked all the time. I had to be in the office Monday to Friday from 8 a.m to 9 p.m., and on Saturdays and Sundays, I worked half time. My family and friends never saw me, and my salary was also very low. It was a very bad experience.

Movies you want to see again? The Pianist, Untouchable (the shots from Paris are very enjoyable!), La Vita è Bella [Life Is Beautiful], The Pursuit of Happyness, Hotel Rwanda, and Trainspotting.

Books you tell others to read? Man’s Search for Meaning, Viktor E. Frankl (this is a must-read book); American Pastoral, Philip Roth; Leviathan, Paul Auster; Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro; The Cherry Orchard, Anton Chekhov; and House Taken Over, Julio Cortázar. (I’m not sure Americans have ever heard of Cortázar, but he is a well-known writer in the Hispanic world. He was born in Brussels of Argentine parents, grew up in Argentina, and died in Paris in 1984 at age 69. His short stories are really worth checking out.) There are many other books I’d also tell people to read, but these are a good selection to start with.

I stay home to watch: Sherlock Holmes and Grey’s Anatomy...actually, I love to be outside my home, so maybe I wouldn’t stay there to watch TV.

Favorite pig-out food: cookies
Hobbies: Traveling, reading, writing, going for a coffee, chatting
If I had more free time, I’d: learn Dutch and take painting lessons.

The hardest thing about becoming deafened is: to accept that you won’t ever hear again and to come to terms with the new you.

I began accepting my deafness: after my first NF2 surgery. When I opened my eyes after the operation, I couldn’t move from the neck down. That day I realized that there are condi-
tions more painful and disabling than a hearing loss.

The worst thing about deafness is: isolation.

The best thing about deafness is: YOU—my ALDA friends, my SWC friends, my NF2 friends, and all the deaf and hard of hearing people and sign language interpreters I’ve met.

How did you learn about ALDA? I’m sure this is not the most common answer you’ve received. When I was having a really bad day and feeling desperate and depressed, I went to Google and looked for an association, foundation, or group of late-deafened adults. That is how I learned about ALDA.

In what ways has ALDA enhanced your life? When I lost my hearing I realized I didn’t belong to the hearing world anymore. I took my first sign language class and learned that didn’t belong to the Deaf world, either—I was in a kind of limbo. In ALDA I met people like me: other late-deafened adults. I found my place in the world again, and I really like this new family that I belong to.

When I am depressed, I: eat chocolate (please don’t do it!).

My most irrational fear is: spiders.

If I could hear again, the first thing I would do is: sing “What a Wonderful World.”

The thing I like best about myself is: my strength and resourcefulness.

Nobody knows: Most of the time I can’t read men’s lips. I get really distracted by attractive men’s lips.

What I can’t stand is: the widespread idea of “deaf and dumb.”

Favorite memory: In December 2005, my brother and I traveled to Europe for the first time. One night we arrived in Brussels, checked in at the hotel, and went to the Grand Place (downtown). When we arrived, a light-and-sound Christmas show had begun. Suddenly, the song “What a Wonderful World” played. In that moment, my world was like the song’s title: wonderful. I was young, healthy, able to hear, in Europe, and it was Christmas time. Everything was just...perfect.

Favorite saying: Sometimes we cannot get the life we’ve dreamed of, but we can love our life the way it is.

The bottom line is: Every day counts; live it to its fullest.
Heed the Call of the Mermaids!

Don’t miss out on being inspired at ALDAcon 2014!

ALDA, Inc. will hold its 26th annual international convention at the gracious and grand Marriott Waterside Hotel, 235 East Main St., Norfolk, Va. 23510 on October 8-12. The hotel is located in the midst of downtown Norfolk, within walking distance of many restaurants, shopping and attractions, and only 20 minutes from Norfolk International Airport.

Norfolk is known as the business and cultural heart of the Virginia Waterfront. With a bustling downtown waterfront, it’s a fun and dynamic place to be. It’s the home of the majestic tall ships, and the battleship USS Wisconsin is docked there. There are a variety of museums; you can take a harbor tour, a sunset dinner cruise, a paddlewheel ferry ride, a Naval base tour, or have a simple day at the beach. Norfolk is noted for its mermaid statues, strategically placed all over the city, and they are calling to you, personally, to come to ALDAcon 2014. With the Naval base located there, we’re offering a special discounted rate for veterans.

We’re working hard to provide a great program for you. We’ll have two tracks, one for empowering effective communication through technology, and the other for enriching late-deafened lives through the human connection. Both tracks will offer a wealth of inspirational and motivational workshops. Our karaoke party on Saturday evening is always great fun, especially when Elvis shows up! Most of the major meals are included in full registration, so you don’t have to worry about food. Come to ALDAcon 2014 for the scenery, the knowledge, the inspiration, and most of all, the camaraderie. It’s the best place to make new friends and to renew your friendships with the old ones. Heed the call of the mermaids, and see you at ALDAcon!

The ALDA Board of Directors Is Seeking Nominations for the Following 2014 ALDA Awards

The I. King Jordan Award—awarded to only one person each year at the discretion of the ALDA Board of Directors, the I. King Jordan Award is the highest honor given by ALDA. It is presented to a late-deafened person who has had a successful and distinguished career in their chosen field of endeavor; made significant contributions to their community, profession and/or nation; provided an outstanding role model for late-deafened adults everywhere; and clearly demonstrated to the hearing community that a person’s competence, integrity, and human worth are not necessarily diminished by the fact they are deaf.

Dr. Robert R. Davila ALDA Angel Award—presented to an individual or an agency providing ALDA with important services, funding, or other forms of support during the year.

ALDA Brainstorm Award—presented for a creative idea or initiative that has provided or will provide a significant long-term benefit to ALDA.

Bob Hawley Fearless Leader Award—presented to an individual for superior leadership in establishing, maintaining, or advancing an ALDA chapter or a group.

ABLE ALDAn Award—presented to a member of ALDA who has contributed time and hard work above and beyond the call of duty.

If you would like to nominate someone for one of the above awards, please send the nominee’s name and specify which award you are nominating the person for, along with a detailed explanation as to why the nominee is deserving of this distinguished award. Send to ALDA, Inc. Secretary Karen Krull at secretary@alda.org no later than August 1, 2014.
Scholarships Available for ALDAcon 2014

By Carolyn Piper

It was not that many years ago that hearing loss had me on my knees wondering how, or even if, I could go on. And then I found ALDA and learned that there is life, and a good life indeed, without hearing. Step by step, ALDA has led me back to life.

Along the way, a major joy was my discovery that ALDA is an all-volunteer organization. Gradually, as I gained confidence, I began to participate in a variety of ways after attending my first ‘con in 1997. And today, it is my privilege to be chair of the ALDAcon Scholarship Committee.

Each year, this committee works to enable members in need of financial help to attend ALDAcon. And each year I realize anew how wonderful my “job” as chair of this committee is as I meet newcomers to ALDA at the ‘con and see them reaping the clear benefits that ALDA has to offer us as late-deafened adults.

This year’s ALDAcon will be held in Norfolk, Virginia from October 8-12. For more information, visit the ALDA website at www.alda.org and click on the Conference icon at the top of the page. As usual, ALDAcon will feature numerous workshops and speakers, with all events being completely accessible by looping, sign language interpreting, and CART (realtime translation of the speaker’s words displayed on large screens).

The beautiful Marriott Norfolk Waterside Hotel is located in downtown Norfolk, one block from the waterfront and within walking distance of restaurants, bars, delis, and an indoor shopping mall. Additional attractions in Norfolk are performing art center venues; a naval museum; the decommissioned battleship U.S.S. Wisconsin; and the famed 130 mermaid statues strategically placed throughout the city, 25 of them in the downtown Norfolk area.

ALDA will be offering a limited number of scholarships to those who want to attend ALDAcon but need financial assistance to do so. Applicants must be members of ALDA, Inc., and be in actual need of financial assistance. Priority in awarding scholarships is given to first-time attendees.

Inquiries regarding scholarship applications may be sent to cynthiaamerman@gmail.com. While email is preferred, you may also write to Cynthia Amerman, 2400 N. Peter Seward Drive, Tucson, AZ 85745.

The deadline for scholarship application submissions is August 1, 2014.

The ongoing ability of ALDA to provide scholarship assistance depends on donations. All donations to the scholarship fund are tax-deductible and very much needed and appreciated. For information on making a donation, contact Cynthia at one of the addresses above.

Seeking an ALDAcon Roommate?

For many of us, attending ALDAcon is more financially feasible (and fun) when we share rooms with others in order to reduce the cost of the hotel stay. Those of you who would like to do so and need help locating a roommate can contact the ALDAcon Roommate Coordinator, Cynthia Amerman, at cynthiaamerman@gmail.com.
You have imagination and creativity
And we want to share in it

If you can draw a picture with words, a pen, or a camera - if you can write a poem, tell a joke or write about a part of your life, we hope that you’ll share it with your fellow ALDAns in the Reader!

Yes, it’s time once again to compile contributions for the Reader for ALDAcon 2014 to be held in Norfolk, Virginia in October. It’s the official publication for every Association of Late-Deafened Adults convention, and everyone looks forward to seeing it in their tote bags at registration.

We’re anxious to publish your stories, artwork, cartoons, jokes, captioning bloopers, poetry or photography. Life is an adventure and we want to “hear” about yours. Anything creative, original, or imagined that relates to hearing loss will be most welcome.

Send your masterpieces to Terri Singer at TLSEVIN@aol.com, or mail to her at 1336 Carousel Court, Evansville, IN 47715. You may also contact committee members Belinda Miller at belindamiller17@gmail.com or Heidi Adams at hadamscsh@gmail.com. The submission deadline is August 1. Please include a brief bio - such as where you live, number of years as an ALDAn, hearing loss status - whatever you want to include with your entry in the Reader. Please note that the committee reserves the right to edit all submissions as needed.

If you’re unable to attend ALDAcon 2014, we’ll mail a complimentary copy of the Reader to you. Be sure to include your mailing address with your submission.

Don’t wait! Get those creative juices flowing and the imagination soaring right away. The committee is eager to see what you have to share!
DONATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR THE ALDacon 2014 SILENT AUCTION!

ALDacon 2014 will be held at the Marriott Norfolk Waterside in Norfolk, VA on October 8-12, 2014. The convention will include the traditional ALDA Silent Auction to raise much-needed funds and we need your help! Want to help, but need some ideas? Consider the following:

- Something homemade
- Something yummy
- A game
- A book
- A scarf
- A poster
- A gift certificate
- Chapter/Group donations
- Buy from local stores with your friends

What you donate for the auction helps ALDA raise money to support its members!

Please contact Linda Drattell at lindra@comcast.net for more information.

We will soon provide you with information on where to send your Silent Auction donation.

THANK YOU!
# 26th Annual International ALDacon Registration

**Oct 8 - 12, 2014**

**Marriott Norfolk Waterside Hotel**

**Norfolk, Virginia**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This is my first ALDacon:</th>
<th>YES / NO</th>
<th>You MUST indicate &amp; dog must stay on leash.</th>
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<tr>
<th>Hearing / Service Dog:</th>
<th>YES / NO</th>
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**Full Registration prices include workshops, exhibits, entertainment, & speakers.**

Meals are included in registration fee for the following events:

- *Wednesday Welcome Reception*
- *Thursday Continental Breakfast*
- *Thursday President’s Luncheon*
- *Friday Appreciation Luncheon*
- *Friday I. King Jordan Award Banquet*
- *Saturday Awards Luncheon*
- *Saturday Karaoke Party*
- *Sunday Farewell Brunch*

### ALDA MEMBER REGISTRATION:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Early Bird</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>6/1/2014 - 8/31/2014</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tortoise</td>
<td>9/1/2014 - Onsite</td>
<td>$325</td>
<td>$</td>
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### NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3/1/2014 - 5/31/2014</th>
<th>$290</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>6/1/2014 - 8/31/2014</td>
<td>$330</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tortoise</td>
<td>9/1/2014 - Onsite</td>
<td>$355</td>
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### VETERAN REGISTRATION:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Early Bird 3/1/2014 - 8/31/2014</th>
<th>$240</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Tortoise 9/1/2014 - Onsite</td>
<td>$305</td>
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### SPOUSE / SO:
limited to one companion per Full Registration:

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<td></td>
<td>Regular 6/1/2014 - 8/31/2014</td>
<td>$280</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tortoise 9/1/2014 - Onsite</td>
<td>$305</td>
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### SINGLE DAYS:
Please Circle Days

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>One Day</th>
<th>Two Days Thurs/Fri or Fri/Sat</th>
<th>Three Days Thur,Fri, &amp; Sat</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thurs or Fri or Sat</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td>$125</td>
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### A LA CARTE Meals/Events:

Specify number of tickets for each additional meal or event

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Continental Breakfast / President's Luncheon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$40</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday Appreciation Luncheon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$40</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday I. King Jordan Award Banquet</td>
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<td>$60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Award Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>$40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Karaoke Party</td>
<td></td>
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<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Farewell Brunch</td>
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<td>$35</td>
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### Optional Items:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Oty:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. Oct. 9th at 6pm for 2 hour Sunset Sail</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$22</td>
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Minimum of 15; snack bar available for purchase of snacks and/or drinks.
More info at www.americanrover.com

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<tr>
<td>Sat. Oct. 11th at 2:30pm for Wine and Paint</td>
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<tr>
<td>$40</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 1/2 hour gathering includes assortment of wines, soft drinks, nibblers, 16x20 canvas and paint supplies for painting a mermaid</td>
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### Tax-Deductible Donation

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### Please sum complete order here

**Grand Total:** $

### Dietary needs are:

### Allergies:

ADA room kit needed: (Please circle) YES NO

Mobility accessible room needed: (Please circle) YES NO

Any other needs:
All workshops / events will feature sign language interpreters and CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation). Assistive listening devices are available at no cost, but to ensure enough systems are available you MUST reserve now. Also, to assure return of all assistive listening devices, the attendee will be asked to turn in his/her drivers license. This will be returned when the equipment is turned in.

I would like to use an FM system (please circle) YES / NO -
with (please circle) Neckloop Headphones Other No, I have my own

ROOMMATE MATCH: By circling YES below, I agree to allow the ALDAcon roommate coordinator to share my information via email with any ALDA attendee of the same gender. Also, I agree to coordinate with my potential roommate to determine if we are a match. We will discuss items such as service animals, allergies, smoking, etc. We will then notify the roommate coordinator by email of our decision after determining if we agree to room together & share expenses. NOTE: All room reservations are the responsibility of the agreed-upon roommates.

I would like help finding a Roommate (please circle) YES / NO
I am a (please circle) MALE / FEMALE

Refund Policy

Requests for refunds (minus $50.00 handling and processing fee) will be honored until September 1, 2014. NO refunds will be given after September 1, 2014. Contact ALDAcon 2014 co-planning chair Brenda Estes at bestes1314@yahoo.com for consideration of unique circumstances, such as illness or a death in the family and for registration transfer information.

EZ Pay Plan

If you wish to make payments toward your registration and/or hotel costs, please use the fields below. Total registration must be received by August 31st using this multiple payment plan.

Payment toward REGISTRATION $
Payment toward HOTEL $ Total this payment: $

Method of Payment:

Check enclosed: # dated for $  

CC# Expiration date:  

Print name on credit card: Security Code:

Print form and mail to:

ALDAcon 2014 Registration  
c/o Gloria Popp  
1025 N Canyon Drive  
Freeport, IL 61032-7222 USA

 Reserve Your Hotel Room TODAY!  
 Reserve your room at the Marriott Norfolk Waterside Hotel TODAY! Use the following group name: LDALDA. The ALDAcon room rate of $99.00 + taxes ends 9/30/14. Reservations may be made online at http://www.marriott.com/orfws Marriott Toll-free number is 800-880-1885. The direct number is 757-627-4200. For more information, go to www.alda.org
Chapter Happenings and GA to SK

By Ann Smith, Curator

Francine Stieglitz reports that the Boston chapter celebrated ALDA-Boston’s 25th birthday at the annual business meeting on Saturday, April 16. ALDA-Boston’s board for 2014-16 is President Francine Stieglitz, Co-Vice Presidents Lou and Linda Sakin, Treasurer Matt Ferrara, Members-at-Large Alfred Maurer II and Karen Rockow, and Webmaster Ellen Perkins. MCDHH Commissioner Heidi Reed is an honorary board member. Chapter members enjoyed Nancy Eaton’s talk entitled “CART: What’s Behind the Words?” Nancy distributed copies of the “CART Consumer Bill of Rights” written by the National Court Reporters Association.

On May 10, ALDA-Boston featured hard of hearing writer/actress Gael Hannan’s presentation of “Ear Rage.” Francine reports that “about 115 people attended the event, which had everyone enthralled. It was both funny and poignant, and the audience kept nodding agreement with almost everything Gael said.”

ALDA-Peach members enjoyed a March trip to the Atlanta History Center, where they enjoyed strolling through the Atlanta Olympics 1996 exhibit. In April, the Peaches welcomed guest speaker Linda Pogue, disABILITY LINK’s disability rights and independent living skills program director. May’s event was a cookout at Red Top Mountain State Park. Peach chefs Steve Tamas and Jim Stansell grilled delicious hamburgers and hot dogs, and other Peaches brought salads and side dishes. Mary Platt did a wonderful job of coordinating the food. The weather wasn’t too co-operative; a downpour that occurred just as Steve and Jim started cooking sent everyone scrambling to set up a tarp over the grill. The food may have been dampened, but the Peaches’ spirits weren’t—all had a great time.

Marty Baker of ALDA-Midwest has a new “family member,” a rescued cat named Bandit. Marty’s old furry friend Boots died a few months ago, so she’s happy to have a new companion.

In Memoriam

Robin Titterington reports that Nick Hutto recently died. He was one of the first ALDAns with NF2, and he attended numerous ALDAcons when he was able. Nick lived in Seattle and signed every email with DTU (double thumbs up).

Carolyn Piper’s husband Don died during the night of May 29. We send our love and sympathy to Carolyn and her sons.

Send personal news (for “GA to SK”) and news about your chapter (for “Chapter Happenings”) to Ann at fab-smith@att.net by August 24. She especially needs more personal news about important happening in your lives!

SKSK

Life is a roller coaster, but still good!

—Rachael Morris
We had a Board meeting this past March in Norfolk, Virginia, the site of this year’s ALDAcon. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Board members to see the hotel and get a feel for how ALDAcon will operate there. We also spent a full day going through a list of topics and got a lot of work accomplished. Some of the tasks are related to the possibility of having our election for 2014 handled through electronic balloting. We are also looking at updating and printing new brochures and hope to have those ready by the end of the summer. It has been exciting for me to take part in the work of the DHHCAN (Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network). Cheryl Heppner has long been a member of this group, but as president, I have the opportunity to review filings that DHHCAN makes in regard to communication access for people with hearing loss. It is with ALDA pride that I send emails that say “ALDA signs on” and know that ALDA is recognized in Washington, DC as a leader for people who are late-deafened.

We had our first “Chat with the President” on April 27, and the second one was scheduled for June 22. You can find future chats on the ALDA website, www.alda.org, and sign in as a member. If you are not sure how to sign in, please contact me at aldaprez2014@gmail.com.

One of the best jobs the Board has in relation to ALDAcon is the process of honoring people for different awards. Marta Watson is taking the lead with accepting nominations and has helped spread the word. If you have questions about the nominations process or would like to nominate someone, please contact Marta at martacitaw@yahoo.com.

Remember, ALDAcon is October 8-12, and I hope to see many of you there. ALDA is my second family, and I cannot wait to spend time with you singing (badly for me), laughing, learning and sharing together.
One of my responsibilities this year is heading up the Nominations Committee, and I have great members on this committee to help pick potential people to run for various Board positions for next year. Make sure you all vote in December this year when you get your ballots.

There have been many changes to the ALDA website, so please check it out. The ALDA Board would like to chat with you online, so watch for an eBlast announcing time and date and be there on your computer.

As vice president, I oversaw the activities of regional directors and ALDA info email (info@alda.org) and ALDA, Inc. phone messages, and distributed requests and correspondence to regional directors and the ALDA Board and committees. This included responding to inquiries about chapters in other states or regions and questions about financial assistance for hearing aids. Special thanks to Rachael Morris for her input that helped me with a very inclusive list of funding assistance options.

I represented ALDA, Inc. and ALDA-Suncoast at HLAA hearing expos in Bradenton and Lakeland, Florida. I have also been assisting in responses to Region 3 and 4 email inquiries due to Rachael Morris’ and Margreta von Pein’s limited availability.

I sent email replies to several people in early stages of sudden onset hearing loss – this is the best part of handling ALDA info. I have connected some new people to ALDA and made some new Facebook friends.

I posted information about ALDAcon on my personal and ALDA-Suncoast Facebook pages and continue to recruit newcomers to attend. I also participated in the online ALDA Board meeting on May 27 and the ALDA Board meeting in Norfolk in March.

Last year TDI did all the financial work for the Joint Conference. Now I am back to work as the ’con business manager. As of May 27, 2014, the cash in the ALDA bank accounts totaled $77,893. Below is the balance sheet for these accounts:

- ALDA operating expenses - $33,969
- ALDA 2014 account - $13723
- ALDA-Carolina Flight chapter - $1000
- Scholarship funds: $29,201

All Federal and state (Illinois) forms that were required for 2014 to date have been filed. I want to thank Gloria Popp (Finance Committee member) for her help with these.

All outstanding bills have been paid. We are on or near budget with our expenses.

*This includes the $20,000 bequest from the Mary Clark estate.

**ALDA Carolina Flight donated most of the ALDAcon 2012 profits to ALDA, Inc.

The committee is investigating the best ways to use the Mary Clark bequest money and is also looking into different fundraising campaigns.

As a reminder, ALDA, Inc. is a non-profit corporation, and donations may be tax deductible. Also, some employers have matching donations plans. If you have any questions regarding donations, please contact me at treasurer@alda.org.
ALDA Advertising Director Report
By Matt Ferrara

For the ALDA News I have the following continuing ads:
- Harris Communications – ¼ Page (Paid – All Issues)
- TDI – ½ Page – (Barter Ad – All Issues)

Website ads:
- The rotating banner is active.
- The ACLS Certification Class link to their website is for $120 for the first three months plus a $75 signup fee. This ad is up and running.

A letter was sent to our long-time ALDAcon sponsors offering free ALDA News and/or website advertising.

Because of the website redesign, I have not actively solicited website ads.

Website Content Report
By Karen Krull

I started my training on editing the website in April, and it’s moving along nicely. The website is running smoothly and I have fixed a lot of typos that were transferred from the old site. We are doing our best to ensure that all the links work and that the site is clear and concise and up to date. It’s a work in progress. If you have comments or feedback on the material on the site, contact me via email at secretary@alda.org.

Secretary’s Report
By Karen Krull

We passed an annual budget for both ALDA Inc. and ALDAcon 2014, determined the cost of registration for this year’s convention, and renewed our membership in IFHOH (International Federation of Hard of Hearing People). We eliminated the little-used toll-free number as a cost-saving measure and formed a subcommittee under Finance to research the best possible usage of a bequest of $20,000 from Mary Clark. We are investigating the cost of new brochures. We agreed to send a representative from ALDA, Inc. to the HLAA convention and turned down partnership with the NY Disability Vote Network. We are still working on the best way to make electronic voting a reality this year.

Membership Report
By Karen Krull

With a new database linked to our website, we are looking at ways to automate renewal reminders. The member login on the website makes it easier than ever to renew your membership, change your password, check your personal information, and advise us if it needs to be changed. A membership drive will be enacted before the end of the year, so be on the lookout for it, and save money if you renew for two years.

Board Liaison Report
By Karen Krull

As of April 30, we received 12 ALDAcon registrations (three are EZ Pay), one of which is from a newcomer. ALDA-Chicago and ALDA-Puget Sound chapters are sponsoring people to attend. With the Early Bird (EB) deadline set at May 31 and chapter scholarship deadlines after that date, it needs to be decided what scholarship registration procedure chapters should follow, such as using EZ Pay to reserve the scholarships, with the names to be filled in later. (ALDA, Inc. scholarships are always allowed to use the EB registration fee no matter when the ALDA scholarship committee finishes granting scholarships.)

We received an agreement to support from NTID estimated at $20,720 of in-kind services and $2,600 of expected expenses. Hamilton Relay is interested in sponsoring the newcomer program, and the North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing will exhibit.

Matt Ferrara reported that we have received $7526 total income to date for ALDAcon.

We have a wine basket donation from the Norfolk Convention & Visitors Bureau (Norfolk CVB) for the silent auction. Linda Drattell contacted a list of businesses in the Norfolk area that are possible donors.

Ken Arcia sent out eNews blasts as needed and set up the Google ALDAcon group.

The program committee has made most of its selections of workshops and has to narrow down some choices, since we have 15 slots and 17 approved workshops. Dr. Gerard Buckley is the plenary speaker, and we are still searching for two luncheon speakers.
**Region 1 Director’s Report**  
*By Eleanor Shafer*

I have been learning the ropes of being on the ALDA Board and how to respond to requests. I answered several requests for information regarding hearing aids and support.

**Region 2 Director’s Report**  
*By Kathy Schlueter*

I received two requests from the Michigan area in regard to support and one about financial assistance. I made referrals to the ALDA Midwest egroup as the closest online support. The request related to financial assistance was for written materials, and at this time we do not have such materials nor any policy to cover this expense, so the request is on hold.

I have received two links from the ALDA president that provide information about state programs and a general link from the Gallaudet University on hearing loss issues.

I hope to establish a chat room for our region once a month. I would also like to follow this up with an email blast at least every two months with updates of what has been happening in ALDA.

**Region 3 Director’s Report**  
*By Rachael Morris*

A few members contacted me for ALDacon information, which I provided. I also sent this information to all the members in my region.

A member contacted me because he has not been receiving eBlasts or anything else electronic from ALDA. I contacted Ken Arcia and Gloria Popp, and we were able to resolve the problem.

A CART provider at the University of Memphis contacted me. She started providing CART services for the church she attends in Munford, Tennessee and wanted to pass on to me the times and church information to my contacts. I did so to our handful of Tennessee ALDAns and the Nashville Public Library.

An ALDA member in Texas asked me if there was an ALDA group near him, but Texas doesn’t have any. I contacted all Texan ALDAns, asking if there were groups I was unaware of and if there was any interest in getting something going. I heard back from one person who was interested. I connected these two Texans, and the three of us have been chatting. In the meantime, while trying to get others involved, I suggested that they both look into joining LDA Chat.

I sent funding information to a lady in Florida who works with low-income elders who cannot always afford hearing aids. I suggested that she first check with the person’s insurance provider, Vocational Rehabilitation, Health and Human Services, and similar state programs. I also mentioned several national organizations that have supported people with hearing aids.

**Region 4 Director’s Report**  
*By Margreta von Pein*

I wrote ten letters answering questions from new and veteran members, sent out five notices from the FCC and state deaf and hard of hearing centers, and welcomed two new members.
**Scholarship Report**

**By Cynthia Amerman, Chair pro tempore for Carolyn Piper**

The scholarship committee manages two funds: The Edna Shipley-Conner Fund for Newcomers and the ALDA, Inc. Fund, which gives priority to newcomers but does allow awards to those who have previously attended a ‘con.

Deadline for submitting applications is August 1, 2014.

So far, this year’s list of applicants is comprised of 10 from the US and two from other countries, which is typical. One person did not complete the application process due to the cost of air travel to the ‘con site. We do not provide help with transportation.

**Scholarships Awarded in 2013**

All of last year’s scholarship applications came from foreign countries, a very unusual occurrence. Three recipients were newcomers and four had previously attended a ‘con.

Five scholarships were awarded for both registration fee and hotel (shared room); one of these was subsequently canceled by the committee at the last minute due to visa and travel problems. Two scholarships were awarded for registration only.

In addition, the scholarship committee worked with Marylyn Howe in assisting her to find candidates for the Candis Shannon Scholarship Award, and one very late applicant was awarded registration by Marylyn from her fund. This brought the total number of awards in 2013 to seven.

**Comparison with Previous Years**

In 2012, eight scholarships were awarded. In 2011, there were five awards, with one person declining the award and not attending the ‘con.

**PR Process for Scholarship Availability**

Information regarding scholarship availability is posted as soon as possible in conjunction with the beginning of PR efforts and website creation for any given ALDAcon. Notification is sent out via:

A. ALDA News spring issue, LD Chat
B. Board members
C. Chapter and group leaders with requests that this information be included in their newsletters
D. ALDAcon website
E. International Committee
F. EBlast, Facebook

Many thanks to Matt Ferrara for managing the scholarship funds, as well as to Karen Krull for working with the figures.

Donations are needed for all scholarship funds.

**International Committee Report**

**By Victor Odandi**

In 2013, we had a good share of members from the international community attending the joint TDI/ALDA convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It was a joy seeing members from Norway, the Netherlands, Kenya, and of course the USA attending. ALDA can indeed change the lives of deafened members around the world. For example, Prof. Michael Ndurumo of Kenya was very grateful to ALDA for awarding him a scholarship to attend the convention. He learned a lot from it and is already implementing some of the lessons.

ALDA was also instrumental in helping to ensure that the March 27-29 conference by the late-deafened organization in the Netherlands was a resounding success. ALDA was ably represented by some members from the USA and Finland, and one of our eminent ALDAns, Dr. I. King Jordan, was a keynote speaker. The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) also held the Biennial General Meeting (BGM) in Jerusalem, Israel from April 7-9 (along with the Annual General Meeting—AGM—of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People—EFHOH). An issue that ALDA has been campaigning to be looked into, that of forming a deafened commission, was to be deliberated upon. However, the president of IFHOH had circulated a memorandum to executive committee members for discussion to form a deafened committee first, which will eventually lead to the formation of the deafened commission. IFHOH is very open to including ALDA in its affairs, which is why IFHOH has welcomed having ALDA provide assistance in organizing the IFHOH world convention in Washington, DC in 2016.
What Is ALDA?

The mission of the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) is to support the empowerment of late-deafened people.

Late-deafened adults are people who have lost their hearing in any degree after having acquired spoken language. ALDA members may or may not use hearing aids, may or may not use assistive listening devices, may or may not use cochlear implants, may or may not use speechreading/lipreading, and may or may not use sign language. What ALDA members DO is “whatever works.” This is the philosophy that keeps the doors to ALDA wide open to anyone who is interested.

ALDA is committed to providing a support network and a sense of belonging to late-deafened people, sharing our unique experiences, challenges, and coping strategies; helping one another find practical solutions and psychological relief; and working together with other organizations and service providers for our common good.

ALDA provides networking through local chapters and groups as well as our annual convention (ALDAcon). We offer social activities, advocacy, peer support, up-to-date information on new technology, and guidance for late-deafened adults, their families, and their friends on ways to deal effectively with the difficulties arising from losing our hearing. ALDA is inclusive, never exclusive. Members find themselves part of a family, with emotional and social support, and, above all, acceptance.

Membership in ALDA provides support for outreach: newsletters, brochures, mass mailings, public presentations, and participation in local and national events to spread the word about ALDA to the more than 31 million Americans, and other late-deafened people worldwide, who would benefit from our organization. ALDA also assists chapter leaders and regional directors to expand ALDA through more chapters and groups and increased membership.

You can join ALDA via the form in this issue, or go to www.alda.org or contact ALDA, Inc. at 8038 MacIntosh Lane, Suite 2, Rockford, IL 61107, 815-332-1515 V/TTY. Membership entitles you to receive the quarterly ALDA News, which spotlights personal experiences of late-deafened people, and to attend ALDAcon at the lower member rate.

If you are interested in learning about ALDA in your area or seeing ALDA become active there, please contact your regional director (contact information is at “Contact Us” on the ALDA website).
JOIN THE FAMILY.....JOIN ALDA!

Your membership in the Association of Late-Deafened Adults connects you with ALDAns throughout the world. Don’t miss our informative quarterly newsletter, ALDA News. Check our chapter directory at www.alda.org to find a chapter near you. Our fully accessible annual convention is a must for newcomers and old-timers alike.

To join or renew using credit cards on our secure site, go to www.alda.org. To mail your membership, please complete this form and send with check payable to:

ALDA, Inc., 8038 MacIntosh Lane, Suite 2, Rockford, IL 61107-5336

I’d like to: □ Join ALDA □ Give a Gift Membership to:
Name __________________________________________________________
Organization: ___________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________
City _____________________________________________________________
State: ___________ Postal Code: ___________ Country: ___________

Home Phone: __________________ TTY □ Voice □ Cap Tel □ VP □
Work Phone: _________________ TTY □ Voice □ Cap Tel □ VP □
Fax ___________________________________________________________

E-mail __________________________________________________________

URL/Website Address: ___________________________________________
ALDA Chapter (Name/None): ______________________________________

Gender: Male □ Female □

Hearing Loss:
Late-Deafened □  Hard of Hearing □  Deaf □  Hearing □

Newsletter preferred format (select one):
□ Electronic (Email) □ Paper (U.S. Mail)

□ General Member, Age 61 or under.....$30.00
□ Senior Member, Age 62 or over...........$25.00
□ Veterans Membership $25.00...............$25.00
□ Business Membership.....................$50.00
□ Tax-Deductible Donation..............$ _______
□ New □ Renewal

If paying by check or money order, payment must be in U.S. funds and drawn on a U.S. bank. If paying by credit card, complete the section below or Renew online by going to:


For Credit Card Payment by Mail:
□ MasterCard □ Visa

Amount _________________________________
Account # ______________________________
Expiration Date _________________________
Signature ______________________________
(For Credit Authorization)

If paying by check, please mail this form to:

ALDA, Inc.
8038 MacIntosh Lane, Suite 2
Rockford, IL 61107

ALDA’s Mission Statement:
To Support the Empowerment of Deafened People.

Education  Advocacy  Role Models  Support

ALDA provides networking opportunities through local chapters and groups as well as at the annual ALDA conference (ALDAcon).
Be sure to check your address label. It shows the date your dues will expire. Don't let your membership lapse!

Visit us on the web at: www.alda.org

Make a Difference! Become a Lifetime Member!

**Why a Lifetime Member?**

A. ALDA and the work it does to support the empowerment of deafened people means a lot to me; I want to support ALDA financially

B. I don’t have to worry about forgetting to renew my dues

C. I plan to live to be at least 130 years old; think what a bargain Lifetime Membership will be!

*Ann Smith, Lifetime Member*

**Lifetime Membership Tier**

- **Bronze** $500 - $1,499: receive a personal letter from the President, bronze plaque

- **Silver** $1,500 - $2,999: receive a personal letter from the President, silver plaque and priority seating at future ALDAcons

- **Gold** $3,000+: receive a personal letter from the President, gold plaque, priority seating at future ALDAcons and complimentary registration to a future ALDAcon.

Lifetime Memberships may be tax deductible and can be paid in three annual installments by check or credit card.

Contact ALDA treasurer: treasurer@alda.org or visit www.alda.org