I’m Not Deaf but I Can’t Hear Much Anymore: 
My Journey to Receiving a Cochlear Implant 

By Alice Crume

This past January, I read an advertisement for cochlear implants at my HLAA chapter meeting and wondered what it would take for me to qualify to receive one or more. In February, I visited my audiologist who had told me that I was not a candidate, as my hearing loss was “just average” in both ears. I questioned that assessment as hearing any conversation had become more and more stressful. I asked her to rerun the audio test two months later and she said the results were the same. Still not convinced that her test was giving a “real” picture of my hearing loss, I scheduled another test for the end of May. Also, in late April, I emailed the person listed on the CI advertisement.

After emailing back and forth several times, I decided to attend her talk before going to my scheduled audio test. At the talk, there was a screaming child with its parents. With each scream, I couldn’t hear but with great concentration I could read the remote CART captions.

Several days later, I received an email message from the speaker and I asked her several questions that ended with a request for surgeons qualified to perform cochlear implant surgeries. She sent a list of three surgeons and only one accepted my health care provider. I made an appointment in early May and received testing of both ears that shook me to the bone. These showed my left ear almost flat and the right ear at 40%.

The surgeon asked if I wanted a cochlear implant for my left ear to which I agreed and asked when. She said she could fit me into her surgery schedule for May 24th. During this time no there was no CART or other accommodation nor any during the MRI the following week at the hospital where the surgery was to be performed. I met my surgeon two days later for my final assessment. I was told my MRI and scan were good for surgery, so we agreed on the date. Continued on page 4
You’re receiving this summer issue of ALDA News a couple of weeks early to provide you with some new ALDAcon 2017 information in time for you register before the early bird deadline of July 31st. Check the appropriate pages towards the end of this newsletter.

The theme for this issue was to be “I’m not Deaf!” That doesn’t seem to have been a popular topic with our writers. We did, however, receive a few examples of how deafened folks deny their deafness.

Sam Turner and his wife, Phyllis, tell of their author’s group monthly meeting that had “Reserved for Hearing Disabled” signs placed in the first two tables closest to the speaker. With over a hundred members, they could have the best “rounds” in the room. Some refused to sit there because they didn’t want to be singled out. Instead, they sat in the rear of the room and complained that the PA system needed to be louder. Go figure! They live in Tucson, Ariz.

Carol Postulka, of Rockford, Ill., heard it last year from a man who in quiet could not understand a word she said. She invited him to an ALDA-Chicago meeting, or our convention in Milwaukee, and he walked backwards, and then ran saying, “I’m not deaf!”

And I know a woman who has one CI and no hearing in the other ear. She insists she isn’t deaf. Without her processor, she hears nothing, yet she doesn’t define herself as deaf.

I never wanted to be deaf, even though my hearing loss is inherited and an otolaryngologist told me 25 years ago that I’d one day need sign language. When my cousin, Dennis Gonterman, encouraged me to join ALDA, I’d respond with “but I’m not deaf.” In 2005, I underwent my first cochlear implant and regained 94% of my hearing in that ear. A few months later, I lost the remaining hearing in the other ear. In 2006, I attended my first ALDAcon. I was ready to call myself a deafened person.

Like me, too many people think of “deaf” as culturally Deaf, much the same as the general public does. What we need to explain to them is that there are many degrees of deafness and that only by identifying ourselves as deaf can we garner the support, rights and understanding needed. After all, people can’t look at us and see that we can’t hear well – or at all. We must stand proudly and be counted.

Here’s hoping you enjoy this issue with lots of news and stories.
After that, I read every article I could find on the internet about the surgery and was surprised that my surgeon hadn’t given me more information, especially very specific information on what to expect and what problems might occur. I still hadn’t connected my lack of hearing to my perceived lack of communication from my surgeon.

At the hospital, I was admitted into outpatient surgery on the agreed day and was implanted. Again, there was no accommodation. Before surgery, I asked each nurse who came into my “room” to speak clearly and face me as I was very hard of hearing and I had taken out both of my hearing aids. I couldn’t hear anything that the surgeon said that day and could only lip read the nurses who were not wearing masks and who were facing me. After surgery, I was not fully out of anesthesia before leaving the recovery room and the hospital so I have no memory of anyone talking to me other than the “Alice, wake up, Alice!” nurse.

My son took me to the hospital, stayed during the surgery, and spoke with the surgeon after surgery. He was also at the post-surgery appointment with the surgeon. Two days after the post-surgery appointment, I told him about my frustration of not being able to hear the surgeon or the audiologist. He said that they both had spoken to me clearly and louder than normal volume but, he added, that I hadn’t said I couldn’t hear.

The side of hearing loss that I never talked about to anyone was that when I am faced with a stressful person or situation or both, my mind stops listening. I have been in places where people are talking but I don’t hear them, don’t want to hear them and don’t tell them this is happening. Stress and stressful conditions have always affected my hearing. In a short time, the stress is lessened and my hearing returns.

I don’t know if others notice that I can’t hear them speaking. But at this surgeon’s office I hadn’t told anyone about this condition. However, a new layer of stress had been added and that is the new increased hearing loss from the surgery. So, the lack of sound was and continues to be an old but new experience. Tell someone? I spent 20 years not telling anyone about my progressive hearing loss or about what high stress was doing. For reasons of safety and pride, I hid both. But now the sound was all different from before surgery. The sound I could hear seemed to be one-sided and muffled more than ever before. Before surgery, sounds seemed to be like talking under water. I knew there was speech and if I concentrated very hard, I could guess at what was said. Now, I kept thinking that I would hear something like the underwater normal words of before but that wasn’t what was happening; it was worse than the under water words. I thought that people were talking around me because I could see lips moving but my mind couldn’t process the non-sound that reminded me of hearing loss from stress. Afterward when I reflected on all that was occurring, safety and pride now moved to the side and, as in the past, survival was in play. It’s the middle of June and I’m waiting for the second part of the CI, for the processor to be to be connected and activation of the CI, two weeks away. Right now, I exist in a quiet world where I am
sometimes shocked with “loud” voices or other sounds. One ear seems to be trying to be both ears and my hearing seems to be hypersensitive. The after effect of my cochlear implant surgery has been that I’m not the risk-taker I once was. I find that I need to know more about my world so that I can navigate expected sound and anticipate possible “talk” from others or situations that require me to interact verbally: the grocery store, the cleaners, the gardening store, retail stores, and movie theaters. The psychological impact is that I no longer automatically answer the phone, I decide to go shopping when there is more likely to be fewer people, and I talk with my son carefully with requests for him to repeat. The positive of all this is that I am learning to be more assertive about my needs in any situation which is quite different from the lessons of growing up quietly. I want to be able to function as highly and well as I possibly can. I believe that the CI will help me to a higher level of functionality. I am waiting for my CI processor in 2 weeks, filled with hope. ALDA

Alice Crume, has a Ph.D. in Communication Studies and is a Volunteer Hearing Loss Trainer with N-Chatt HLAA

Call the Nurse

By Anne Marie Killilea

Hello ALDAns! Happy summer! Coming your way is a new column that will offer nursing advice in times of illness or when support is needed to make better health decisions. My name is Anne Marie Killilea. I’ve been a nurse for almost 40 years and currently work in nursing administration at UMass-Boston. I was born hearing and in 1999, took an antibiotic that deafened me overnight. Because nursing uses all five senses to care for patients, I had a very difficult time staying in the profession that I loved. By using bilateral cochlear implants, my nursing path directed me towards teaching.

At the time I became deaf, a dear friend connected me with Karen Keefe, a past ALDA president, who took me by hand to many different ALDA meetings. While attending the ALDA functions, I learned how to not to be afraid of my hearing loss, and to recognize the times when I was excluding myself from the very people and places I loved because I couldn’t hear. I learned how to teach others about my hearing loss and what I needed to communicate better and feel part of the group. Through ALDA, I met some very special people who became my friends and understood what I was feeling. It was a very extraordinary time for me.

A few years later, I became sick and needed to attend to my illness. I developed adenoid cystic carcinoma of the right submandibular salivary gland. It is a rare cancer that usually develops in the parotid glands (the salivary gland where mumps usually develop). I needed 33 days of radiation. I was placed in a plastic mesh head piece and strapped down to the radiation table. I was petrified as the external pieces of my cochlear implant were taken off, a tongue guard was put into place, my eyes were covered and I couldn’t move. I could not hear, speak, see, or move. I had to recover one
sense while undergoing radiation. Being late-deafened people, we have different needs from that of a person who can hear. Therefore, I took my concerns to the oncology physicians and nurses and asked them to cut holes into my head piece so that I could see if I wanted to. And they did! They also told me that I was the first person to request such an accommodation and that they never knew how late-deafened people felt going through neck radiation and not having any sensory input. I taught them how to help the late-deafened person!

Currently, I am in my doctoral program in education and we are strongly encouraged to make a difference in our world. I have never forgotten the impact I made on the oncology nurses and physicians and thought that I may someday be able to give back to ALDA and provide education to other late-deafened people to teach healthcare workers how to take care of them. It was through this incidence that I learned how to use my nursing knowledge to teach physicians and nurses how to care for late-deafened people. Looking back, I had been teaching healthcare staff over the years, but it was this event of having cancer and teaching oncology nurses and physicians what I needed that made a big difference to those I taught.

I recently contacted ALDA and proposed my idea of creating an informational that would help teach late-deafened people how to request help from healthcare professionals, and it was enthusiastically accepted. And, here we are!

The column is brand new but will focus on teaching you how to communicate to healthcare workers in times of illness or in need of services. We all know how being sick reduces our ability to hear, we just cannot work as hard as we usually do when we are sick and can miss things that are being told to us. While this column is not designed to replace or interfere with your medical care, it will help you find different ways to keep yourself healthy and improve communication in various nursing/medical areas. In keeping with the motto: “Whatever works!” please choose the information you need and write with ideas or thoughts on what to address in our upcoming newsletters.

Anne Marie Killilea, MSN, RN, EdDc lives in Boston, Mass.
Write her at ALDAeditor@gmail.com

PUBLISHING ALDA NEWS

ALDA wants to publish YOU!

We want your stories, news, jokes, cartoons, artwork, and letters to the editor and to our nurse columnist, Anne Killilea.

The deadline for the fall issue should be Sept. 1, but we’ll accept anything any time before that. With each item sent, please include your city and state, a head shot and permission to print those, and your email address if you want to grant it.

The themes for the next two issues will cover your happy experiences. For the fall issue, tell us what you do to enjoy the season despite your hearing loss. For winter, tell us the same thing for that season. You can write one sentence or dozens; one paragraph or a few. Just share with your fellow ALDAns.

Send your contribution TODAY!

ALDAeditor@gmail.com
One of Us
By Karen Krull, Curator

This issue spotlights Nancy Kingsley, our trusty editor-in-chief of the ALDA newsletter for the last decade and more. I didn’t have the opportunity to meet Nancy in person until the Colorado ALDACon, though I knew of her. A very sweet, shy person, Nancy was soft-spoken, with carefully chosen words that resonated. She has never been interviewed for One of Us before, so as her parting gift to our readers, I thought you might enjoy learning more about her. Read her interview responses, and you’ll understand why I think Nancy is definitely “One of Us”. Contact her at: kingsnan@aol.com.

Name: Nancy Kingsley

Where were you born? Manhattan

What is your current residence? Lancaster, Pennsylvania (Amish country!)

What is the cause of your deafness? Unknown

Age/year you became deafened? I lost my hearing gradually, starting in early childhood; it’s hard to pinpoint when the loss became profound

Marital status? Widowed

What is your present job? Professional hearing loss volunteer

What is the worst job you ever had? Clerking for a publishing company—it was my first job after college and very repetitive. I quit three days later, after which I got an actual editing job

Movies you want to see again? I rarely see a movie twice

Books you tell others to read? 1984 and Animal Farm by George Orwell and The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I stay home to watch: nothing, as I almost never watch TV

Favorite pig-out food: Cheesecake

Hobbies: Reading, sightseeing, browsing the Internet

If I had more free time, I’d: read the pile of books I’ve been collecting

The hardest thing about becoming deafened is: having to give up many previously enjoyed activities

I began accepting my deafness when: I met other people with a hearing loss through SHHH (now HLAA) and ALDA

The worst thing about deafness is: being unable to participate effectively in groups
The best thing about deafness is: I can have peace and quiet whenever I take off my CI

How did you learn about ALDA? I'm not really sure. When I started a hearing loss support group in 1989, I read something about ALDA and wrote to Bill Graham for advice (he was helpful – thanks, Bill!); I attended my first ALDAcon the following year and started ALDA-NJ in 1991

In what ways has ALDA enhanced your life? It connected me to people who shared the same experiences and gave me the opportunity to serve in several capacities, including ALDA chapter coordinator, regional director, leader of ALDA-NJ for 15 years (until I moved to Pennsylvania), a term as president of ALDA-Garden State, and the past 11 years as editor-in-chief of the ALDA News

When I am depressed: I distract myself by browsing online or shopping

My most irrational fear is: of being near the edge of anything high up (but this may not be entirely irrational, as my sense of balance isn’t great!)

If I could hear again, the first thing I would do is: turn on the radio

The thing I like best about myself: I try to learn from my mistakes

Nobody knows: I won a poetry prize from my college

What I can't stand is: judgmentalness

Favorite memory: The day I met my husband (we both missed a college bus after a football game and walked back to campus together)

Favorite saying: Bloom where you are planted

The bottom line is: Never stop growing

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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 at least 130 years old; think what a bargain Lifetime Membership will be!

Ann Smith, Lifetime Member

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

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Contact ALDA treasurer: treasurer@alda.org or visit www.alda.org
The Difference Between Late-Deafened and Hard of Hearing

by Margreta von Pein

One can become deafened from disease, from an accident, from antibiotics, or progressing from hearing to deaf immediately or experiencing some loss of hearing first before the final blow of no sound. No sound means you can’t hear your footsteps as you walk, you can’t hear the air circulating around your body, you don’t hear your own voice or other people speaking and, of course, no bird song. It’s as if the environment that has accompanied you through life until now has just taken a giant step away from you. This is experienced as a loss of orientation in space, a lost awareness of being part of life. It can be crushing, and it has to be mourned.

If hard of hearing before becoming deaf, a person likely has pretended to have heard something when not really hearing. Hard of hearing people depend on bluffing so as not to irritate hearing people to the point of their rejecting all communication. Try faking it when there are no sound clues.

Relationships with people, loved ones and strangers, have to change in order for us to know what people are saying. Upon hearing one is deaf, hearing people tend to act as if the deafened person doesn’t exist anymore. Deafened people get written off as if they can’t speak up for themselves in much greater proportion to those who are just hard of hearing. Deafened people have to educate the hearing public more often than hard of hearing people because they get “caught” not hearing more easily. Being deafened can make one militant. “I’m deaf. Deal with me. I’m a deaf person!” Some hearing people don’t believe a person is deaf if s/he speaks well. Some of us are even accused of lying about our inability to hear because we sound “normal.”

Since moving closer to the speaker doesn’t bring any sound in louder or clearer, visual acuity becomes more precise. The deafened person has to see what’s going on in lieu of hearing what’s happening. Most people, deaf and hearing, naturally learn to read people’s lips to some degree. Becoming deaf can improve on this implicit skill. Thirty percent of English sounds can be seen on the lips, but it takes guessing at the context to allow a deafened person to understand what a person is saying.

Often, deafened people adapt by offering pencil and paper to the person they want to understand. Communication, in this case, relies on the patience of the person who is writing.

Another adaptive technique is learning sign language but, of course, that is only useful with other sign language users. Some profoundly deaf people can be fitted with cochlear implants, but not most people who become deafened from NF2. Communication with deafened people is necessarily totally visual. We learn to “read” body language more proficiently because without intonation we miss what a person means by what they say. In this way, being able to see the whole person is important. Many situations, such as traveling, being in a classroom or being in larger groups make visual understanding more difficult to decipher.

There are no warning sounds in the environment, such as sounds of traffic, wild animals, criminal activity or natural disasters. This makes living less safe, and can lead to fearfulness. Hard of hearing people can hear some of these sounds, and hearing people can more readily warn them because they respond to loud voices. Safety is a primary reason to distinguish between a hard of hearing person’s and a deaf person’s hearing abilities.
I Don’t Know How to be Deaf
by Donna Maderer

I didn’t get the manual. I think I was out sick that day.

Imagine this — you’re deep into middle age (46, thank you very much) when, all of a sudden, but not wholly unexpectedly, you lose all your hearing. Once I got past the first shock of it, how did I think of myself?

I knew that I was now deaf but I didn’t feel deaf. After all, songs would get stuck in my head. For days, I’d be groovin’ along to Eric Burdon singing Low Rider or Gil Scott-Heron doing Johannesburg. The funk was only playing inside my head, though; I’d forget. Sometimes, even 12 years into this quiet world, I still do.

I went to a local MeetUp for folks looking for ASL practice and conversation. There were just two people there when I arrived. The guy leading the group had always been deaf. Another had lost his hearing as a toddler. Both were ASL fluent. Me, I get by but I’m definitely bumbling along.

Then two women came – both hearing. Turns out, one woman was a singer – opera, WOW! Even when I had hearing, I didn’t meet many classical songbirds. This was so cool. I had a zillion questions.

What’s your range? Soprano.
What flavor – lyric, coloratura, dramatic or what?
Which composer(s) do you most like performing?

She told me she’d just been in a production of Così fan tutte where she’d sung the part of Dorabella. Oh, swoon! After a bit I realized that our music chat (all in ASL, mind you), was dominating the group. How rude am I to steer conversation to opera minutia in a meeting where two of the members have never heard (or have no memory of) music. Yes, pretty bloody rude. If there’s ever a repeat of this sort of situation, I’ll be sure to be less….mmm….tone deaf.

I do know that I’m deaf. Honest. There’s never been any getting around that. And still, seriously, I’d love a How To booklet. Maybe a Haynes Manual – Your New Deafness: an owners manual or maybe a Late Deafness for Dummies?

Possibly these already exist. I must Google this and find out!

“Loss is nothing else but change and change is Nature’s delight.”
-- Marcus Aurelius

Donna Maderer has NF2 and lives in Boston.
In Your Corner
By John Waldo

There are some things, like “please” and “thank you,” that you just can’t say too often. Here’s another one – creating a world accessible to those of us with hearing loss is a do-it-yourself project. Here is what I mean by that. State and federal laws benefitting and protecting those of us with hearing loss are indispensable tools, but that’s all they are. Just as hammers and saws can’t build a house by themselves, the legal tools to create accessibility aren’t self-activating. Whether we act through personal persuasion, by filing complaints with state or federal enforcement officials or even go to court ourselves, we’re the ones that have to use the tools in order to create the world we want and need.

ALDA has been willing to take a leading role in this kind of activism on behalf of its members. I thought that rather than report on general developments (which have been sparse over the past few months), I would use this column to report specifically on some of the things the organization is doing right now.

Live-Theater Accessibility.

Live theater remains a vibrant and creative art form, but it’s difficult for people with hearing loss to enjoy it because the dialogue and especially song lyrics can be really hard to understand. As with movies, access can be provided through captioning. And as I’ve noted in the past, we’re seeing the same sort of questions about live theater captioning that we saw about movie captioning – how to display the captions, and whether captioning should be available for all performances or only for some.

These issues are playing out in two situations that involve ALDA. The first situation is our ongoing case in St. Louis against the Fabulous Fox, a large theater that presents a number of Broadway-type shows. Fox refused a request for captioning from Tina Childress, an ALDA member, then ignored a follow-up letter I sent on behalf of Tina and the organization. We then filed a lawsuit, claiming that the requirement of “effective communication” in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) obligates the Fox to offer captioning.

Fox was agreeable, but only in part. Fox rejected the traditional approach of setting up a portable LED reader-board to one side of the stage and then blocking out seats arranged so that patrons can view the captions and see the stage in the same line of sight. Instead, it wanted to display the captions on individual tablet-type devices. We liked that approach, because it would make the captions available from any seat. But we also told Fox that it would need to find some way of
supporting the viewing devices, because it would not be reasonable to expect patrons to hold the devices for the entire performance.

Fox also wanted to offer captioning for only one performance of each production. We acknowledged that single-performance captioning is common at theaters using the portable LED-board approach, because it is difficult to block off appropriate seats for multiple performances. But we said that if Fox was going to use personal-viewing devices, there is no reason it cannot offer captioning for every performance. We also pointed out that every theater offering captioning from all seats also offers captioning for every performance.

As of this writing, we haven’t resolved either of those issues. We’ve suggested adjustable supporting devices for the viewing equipment that can enable us to create individually the desired line-of-sight positioning of the captions and the stage. Fox fears that such devices, which clamp onto the seat armrests, will damage their seats. And Fox is sticking with its offer to provide one and only one captioned performance. Because we haven’t nailed down the specifics, the case is going to go on a schedule that would lead to a trial date. I hope it doesn’t get that far, but on the other hand, there are not yet any actual legal decisions about live-theater captioning, so it might be helpful to get some court guidance on exactly what is required of the theaters.

The other ongoing live-theater issue involves the Broadway theaters in New York City. The Shubert Group, which owns 17 of the 41 theaters that make up the Broadway universe, is trying to develop a method of offering captions from every seat and for every performance. It is experimenting with a smart-phone app called GalaPro that displays captions prepared in advance on a smart phone. To get feedback from the user community, Shubert has put together an advisory panel that includes Tina Childress and me.

Tina and I tested the GalaPro system in April. It shows promise, but is a work in progress. The caption synching was done by tying the caption display to the lighting cues, and because the changes in stage lighting don’t completely correspond to the pace of the dialogue, the captions sometimes ran ahead of the performance and sometimes lagged. There were intermittent outages. Shubert told us that we could either use our own phones or use phones that the theater would furnish. Oddly, Shubert couldn’t make their phones work, so we had to use mine. And Shubert has not yet really addressed the issue of finding an appropriate supporting device.

Shubert hopes to roll out this service in all of its Broadway theaters sometime this year. We’ve also just been told that Shubert is working with the other Broadway owners on this issue. So while there is work to be done, we might someday soon be able to line up at the Times Square ticket windows and know that whatever ticket we can score, the performance will be accessible to us.

Involving the Broadway theaters is incredibly important, even for those of us that don’t live in or near New York City. In the first place, the Broadway theaters collectively have the resources and the incentive to develop a system that will work. Second, we think that once such a system does exist, the captions will become part of the touring productions, just like the sets and the costumes, so that every performance of those productions will be accessible in theaters across the country.
**Movie Captioning.**

Following a fair amount of court action – some of it by ALDA – the major movie theaters are now all offering caption-viewing devices at all of their theaters. But the problem we’re finding is that because of poor maintenance and lack of operational know-how on the part of the staff, the devices frequently don’t work.

It appears as though the worst offender is the AMC chain, which is now the largest theater chain in America, having acquired the Carmike and Sundance chains. Chicago-area ALDA members had planned movie outings, but the AMC theaters they attended didn’t have enough working devices to meet the demand. We’ve also had a number of failure reports at AMC theaters in Texas and Missouri.

AMC had similar issues with the audio-description devices it offers to patrons with visual challenges. A law firm in California brought a class-action lawsuit seeking to remedy those problems, and AMC agreed in a settlement to take specific steps aimed at ensuring that the devices were properly maintained and tested, and that staff members were appropriately trained.

I’m going to be teaming up with some of those same attorneys to address the problems that we are seeing with the captioning devices. We know from the performance of other theaters that when the devices are properly maintained, they are highly reliable, and that appropriately trained personnel can almost always remedy any problems. We need AMC to step up and make sure their systems work.

**Sports Venues.**

For the past two years, ALDA has been working in partnership with the National Association of the Deaf to improve accessibility at professional sports arenas and stadiums. Attendance at a professional sports event isn’t just about the game – the game itself is almost always available on television. Rather, personal attendance is about participating in a multi-media community experience. Deaf and hard of hearing fans are too often denied that experience, though, because we can’t understand the aural information – referee calls, pre- and post-game information, organized cheers, etc., that constitute the community experience.

Again, captioning is the key – putting that aural information into written form and making it available visually. A case brought by NAD some years ago established that we are entitled to access all of that aural information. Yet not all teams and stadiums are complying. A number of facilities that do comply make the captions available through a smart-phone app. We don’t view that approach as acceptable, because again, like with the live theaters, we shouldn’t have to dedicate a hand and our phone to following along. We want to have the captions displayed in a universally visible manner, preferably on the main replay board.

To further that objective, we’d like to see a decision from some court specifically declaring that we are entitled to some form of hands-free captioning accessibility. For a number of legal and practical reasons, we think the best place to get such a court order is likely California, where the case law is favorable, the judges generally sympathetic, and the teams all apparently trying to use the smart-phone app approach.
Our first approach was to the Golden State Warriors basketball team. They replied that they did not control their present arena in Oakland, and would honor our request there. But they assured us that when the Warriors move into their new arena in San Francisco in 2019, they would provide scoreboard captioning. While we didn’t buy their argument about the Oakland arena, we also realized that the Warriors will likely abandon that arena before we could get a final court decision. So we thanked them and will move on, likely to asking the San Francisco Giants to put the captions on the scoreboard.

NAD and ALDA also are approaching the Baltimore Orioles, which presently don’t offer any form of captioning. That’s particularly puzzling because the NAD case on the need for captioning came from Maryland, and so would be binding on the Orioles. (There is also an arena-captioning case in Colorado, which doesn’t involve ALDA or NAD, but the attorney for the plaintiff is a giant in the disability-rights world, and will do a bang-up job).

We think captioning at sports venues is really important from a public-relations perspective. The captions are visible to everyone, and show that what meets our needs doesn’t detract from anyone else’s experience. After the University of Oregon started offering scoreboard captioning at its football stadium, one of the assistant athletic directors said, “My hearing is normal, but it gets so noisy in the stadium that I find myself looking at the captions.” And that’s our point. Captioning is not a “special-interest” concession. Rather, captioning is a step that enhances everyone’s experience and doesn’t hurt anyone. The more we can demonstrate that simple fact, the easier our job will become.

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TDI 2017 Biennial Conference
July 27-29, 2017  Bethesda, MD

The conference will include award presentations, exciting workshops, exhibits featuring state-of-the-art technology for everyone’s telecommunication needs, and unique networking opportunities.

Please consider joining us at the TDI 22nd Biennial Conference. Visit for more information:

https://tdiforaccess.org

Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.
2017 Motions Passed by the ALDA Board

January 2017 Motions
The 2017 budget passed unanimously.
The list of 2017 committee chairs was accepted unanimously.

February 2017 Motions
The board unanimously agreed to Sharaine signing on to a lawsuit, in ALDA’s name, to be filed by John Waldo against the Golden State Warriors in California for not providing captioning on their screens during the game at their arena.
   The board voted unanimously to pay dues and remain members of IFHOH (International Federation of the Hard of Hearing).
   Sharaine was approved unanimously to sign on to a letter from NAD (National Association for the Deaf) and other advocacy organizations in which they request that data and text messages be allowed for deaf and hard of hearing clients under the Air Carrier Access Act.

March 2017 Motions
A motion to transfer $10 from every full pay ALDAcon registration, providing the ALDAcon profit is at least $1,000, to the general scholarship fund failed with a vote of 5 opposed, 2 for and one absent.
A motion to establish a publications committee to review ALDAcon presentations to decide which workshops are appropriate for publication passed unanimously.
A motion to set a policy to allow members to pay national dues through their chapters at a $5.00 reduction from the regular membership rate to the vet/senior citizen rate passed by a vote of 6 to 2.
A motion that items to be published to ALDA members be reviewed by the president or his/her designee passed unanimously.
A motion to establish a policy that any awards named for a person contain only names of persons who are deafened passed 5-4.

April 2017 Motions
Terri Singer was approved as publications committee chair unanimously.
A motion that a per diem rate of $65 - $15 for breakfast, $20 for lunch and $30 for dinner – be approved for the March board meeting with meals that ALDA paid passed unanimously.
Another motion that mileage reimbursement be set at 54 cents per mile passed 8-0.

May 2017 Motions
No business motions were presented in May.

June 2017 Motions
A motion approving a letter in support of the Deaf Movie Goers of the DC-area efforts to obtain captioning passed unanimously.
A motion for ALDA to sign on to support TDI’s urging of the FCC to continue providing TTY’s to those who need them passed unanimously.
A motion to publish motions of business conducted by the board to the membership through eBlasts on a quarterly basis passed 5-0, with 3 abstaining and one absent.
Chapter Happenings

By Ann Smith, Curator

Kim Mettache reports that the NW Indiana group joined ALDA-Chicago on March 4th for a captioned movie. Kim says it was a captioned FAIL: there were not enough devices for the 5 of them, one device didn’t work, and the other 4 were being used. Their money back was returned and a coupon for another movie at another time was given. The group included Clark Rainey, Linda Belice, Kim Mettache, Kitty Berger, and Sarah Wegley.

Francine Steiglitz reports on ALDA-Boston events. On April 8, ALDA Boston celebrated its 28th birthday at the Christa McAuliffe library in Framingham, MA. Those elected to the ALDA Board were Karen Rockow, Linda Sakin, and Ann Tanona. The Board voted to keep the same positions that they had last year. We were so pleased that Region 1 Coordinator Eleanor McPherson Shafer was able to join us. The event featured a professional historical interpretation of “First Ladies from Martha Washington to Frances Clara Cleveland.” Pat Perry from Sneak Peek Productions told us more about the early First Ladies than we had ever learned in school. We hope to have Pat return in the fall for another type of performance.

ASL tours are continuing at the Museum of Fine Arts. In order to accommodate members who might not be able to attend on Saturdays, Sunday tours will alternate with Saturdays. On Friday, April 28, there were two tours of ART in BLOOM. This annual event pairs fine art and floral design. On Sunday, May 21, the tour focused on Henri Matisse. “Matisse in the Studio” is the first major international exhibition to examine the importance of Matisse’s personal collection of objects. The Saturday, June 17 tour will focus on Sandro Botticelli’s works. After a break in July, tours will resume in August.

Plans were made and carried out for the annual 4th of July picnic that was held on Saturday, July 8. The food was delicious and plentiful.

ALDA-Boston wishes everyone a wonderful summer.

ALDA-Chicago’s Linda Belice tells us their pool party was at Cleo Simmons’ home on June 24th. Cleo is one of our original members and has had the party each year since 1987. In early August, the chapter is gathering at Marsha Swetin’s home for a summer BBQ. Our group is also planning a Technology Conference on Sept. 23rd, complete with presentations and exhibits.

Jim Laffer reports from ALDA San Jose: We’ve continued to have 2 events a month for the most part - holidays allowing. Over the past several months we’ve attended several movie/meal
events, a local art fair, and our bi-annual winery picnic. We were able to have our first meeting in a year or so June 3rd. We had been struggling with our meeting space and with captions but managed to fix both those issues for now and hopefully will be able to continue having meetings as membership desires. We have never been the most prolific meeting group, normally only having 3-4 a year, but we hope to resume that schedule in the months to come. Our social events continue to be very popular and we are planning two events in the coming months that have become staples for the group - attending a minor league baseball game here in San Jose and an afternoon of bowling. For groups that are worried about noise issues we have found that bowling is not nearly as noisy as we thought it’d be. The trick is to go earlier in the day (we normally start around 10:00 AM and bowl for a few hours then have lunch).

For the last year we've also been handing out free tickets to a local theater company where we successfully pressured them into captioning a few showings of every play they run. John Waldo handled the legal side of this and as part of the settlement we got tickets for all these showings and we've been handing them out to members on request. Sadly, our last pair of tickets were later in June, but the success of this initiative makes me think other groups/chapters could push for it too. I urge members to reach out to their professional theaters and request captions and if not contact John. He'll get it done for you. They pretty much have to comply. As a bonus if they offer discounted rates for handicapped seating they have to honor that rate for all disabilities, not just people in wheel chairs so going forward members will be able to continue purchasing tickets at 1/2 the standard rate.

Our group is still functioning, still having fun, and still doing our best to honor ALDA's commitment to advocacy, self-help and social outings.

Sara Thompson reports that ALDA-Peach in Atlanta met on April 8, 2017 for their bi-monthly meeting. The meeting agenda included a “show and tell” session on assistive technology that members use as accommodations for their hearing loss. The meeting was interpreted and captioned. Members demonstrated equipment that they find helpful and would recommend to others. Among these were the Krown transmitter, a Silent Call smoke alarm, Alertmaster, Ditto, doorbell alert, alarm clock vibrator, Desktop Speakerphone, and Videophone. The next ALDA-Peach meeting was in June, 2017.
GA-SK

The ALDA-Peach chapter is very sad to say goodbye to one of our long-term active members, Yael Shaner. Yael is relocating to Hinesville, Georgia, where she will be joining her granddaughter, who is stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Yael will be assisting her granddaughter in the care of her great-granddaughter, who is ten.

Yael has been an ALDA-Peach member since 2007. She attended a two-year Gallaudet Peer Mentoring Program, and has served as President, Vice-President, and Secretary of ALDA-Peach. Yael has been the editor of the monthly ALDA-Peach FUZZ newsletter since 2008. Thank you, Yael, for your wonderful contributions to our chapter! You will be sorely missed!

Marty Mattox of ALDA Midwest reports that she had her bilateral CI surgery in March and hooked up in April. Marty says “It has been more of a struggle after not hearing for 30 years in that ear. It started with all noises. Now I understand better. “ Marty, we hope those “noises” are soon meaningful sounds.

In Memoriam

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Nancy Kingsley, whose 17-year-old granddaughter, Aila Kingsley, died unexpectedly at home on May 19.

It’s with profound sadness that we share the news that long-time ALDA member and former ALDA-Boston board member Alfred Maurer passed away May 16th after a courageous fight against cancer. Several of us were fortunate enough to talk to Al at the ALDA meeting in April, and were all hoping for a better outcome.

Here is the link to his obituary from the Boston Globe: Alfred Maurer Obituary. Many thanks to Eleanor McPherson Shafer for keeping us informed, and for sending the picture below. Francine Steiglitz sends additional information: Al is survived by his large extended family and his partner Sherrie Wile. Remembrances and thoughts may be sent to ALDA member Karen Rockow: karen@Northcovecottages.com.
MAGIC GALORE!

TOP 10 TIPS FOR A TIGGERIFIC TRIP FOR ALDACON 2017 AT WALT DISNEY WORLD

As if an ALDAcon isn’t packed enough with workshops, luncheons, a banquet and a karaoke party, planning committee members have added more social events this year:

First, after the welcome reception from 5 to 7 on Wednesday evening, attendees can hop aboard a shuttle to Disney Springs for bowling at Splitsville Luxury Lanes. The charge is $15 and includes shoe rental. You would need to leave the reception in time to catch the hotel shuttle to Disney Springs at 7:00 and check into the bowling alley by 7:30. Six lanes are reserved for two hours, starting at 8. Up to eight people can share a lane. There is a bar, where food can be ordered. Reserve your place by going to the registration form and filling in the quantity for the trip. Don’t forget to check the GRAND TOTAL and make sure it only has $15 per reservation before submitting. Deadline to register is August 1st, and cost is non-refundable.

Cirque du Soleil LaNouba is the featured optional event for Thursday night, starting at 6:00PM. You’ll be delighted by aerial bamboo artists, break dancers and an international cast as they perform feats of strength and beauty. LaNouba translates from French as “Live It Up.” To do so, go to the registration form and reserve your ticket at a cost of $60. Transportation arrangements are in the works, although walking is an option for those who are able, as it’s located on the west side of Disney Springs.

1. JOIN MY DISNEY EXPERIENCE

Go to DisneyWorld.com and join My Disney Experience by clicking on the My Disney Experience link in the top right corner of your screen. Via My Disney Experience, you will be able to book Walt Disney World Resort dining reservations, reserve FastPass+ selections by linking your park tickets and Magic Bands (see number 3 below for more information on Magic Bands) to your account, as well as explore all the many offerings, events and attractions at all 4 Disney Theme Parks, 2 Water Parks, Disney Springs and all of Disney’s resort hotels and activities. It’s literally your key to the kingdom!

For smart phone users, the My Disney Experience app is available for download. The app will allow you to make changes to your FastPass+ selections and dining reservations on the go! You can also book new FastPass+ selections and dining reservations. You can see your whole itinerary, too, and look up information on the spot about attractions, park hours, transportation, you name it! You’ll definitely want to have the My Disney Experience app downloaded on your smart phone to enjoy the Walt Disney World Resort to the fullest.
2. BOOK DINING RESERVATIONS

Advance dining reservations have become a MUST at Walt Disney World. Most restaurants DO book up, especially the most popular ones. You can begin making dining reservations up to 6 months in advance and many people definitely take advantage of this benefit so book as soon as possible. Character dining tends to sell out quickly if you want to eat alongside some of your favorite Disney characters. Chef Mickey at Disney's Contemporary Resort and Cinderella's Royal Table at the Magic Kingdom are two of the most popular character dining restaurants.

Ohana at Disney's Polynesian Resort and California Grill at Disney's Contemporary Resort are also extremely popular. Although they do not offer character dining for dinner (Ohana offers breakfast only with Lilo & Stitch), they do have views of Happily Ever After, the brand new fireworks display over Cinderella Castle at the Magic Kingdom. Make your reservations between 7 and 8:30 PM if you would like to see the fireworks while you dine.

Some favorite picks for lesser known restaurants around the Walt Disney World Resort are the Yachtsman Steakhouse at Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts for some of the finest steak you'll ever have, La Hacienda de San Angel for truly well-presented flavorful Mexican fare at Epcot's Mexico Pavilion, Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater at Hollywood Studios for a one-of-a-kind themed dining experience and Tiffin's at Animal Kingdom for a taste bud awakening adventure and quiet meal away from the hustle and bustle. See number 7 below for a couple more dining recommendations with a wild surprise!

3. PURCHASE YOUR WALT DISNEY WORLD THEME PARK TICKETS AND RESERVE YOUR FAST PASSES

If you plan to visit one or all of the Walt Disney World Resort theme parks, it's to your benefit to purchase your admission tickets in advance. Not only will you be able to take advantage of special discount convention pricing (not available once you arrive at ALDACon), but you will be able to link your tickets to your My Disney Experience account. And then subsequently, you can link your tickets to your Magic Band, if you choose to purchase one. Magic Bands are available on the Shop Disney Parks App, at DisneyStore.com and select Walt Disney World shops, or from other online retailers you can find via a Google search. Magic Bands allow you wear your park tickets and FastPass+ selections right on your wrist, but they are also interchangeable with the free credit card style theme park tickets you will receive upon purchase of park admission. The free cards do the same thing as Magic Bands, which includes storing your FastPass+ selections. True, you do not really NEED a Magic Band, but they sure to make things more fun! You can use your park tickets and FastPass+ selections simply by touching your Magic Band or ticket card to the special Mickey Mouse scanners at the entrance to every theme park, water park or attraction where you have reserved a FastPass+ selection. And trust me, there are some extremely popular attractions where you will definitely want to snag a Fast Pass!

Frozen Ever After at Epcot's Norway Pavilion is one such attraction. Seriously, if you want to go on this ride, either get a Fast Pass or be the first person at the gate when Epcot opens and RUN, do not walk, to Norway! Toy Story Mania! at Hollywood Studios is another must for a FastPass+ selection, and the Tower of Terror is a close second. At the Magic Kingdom, you'll want grab a FastPass+ selection for Seven Dwarfs' Mine Train, Space Mountain, Splash Mountain, Tomorrowland Speedway, Buzz Lightyear Space Ranger Spin and Meet Mickey Mouse at Town Square Theater if you would like a photo with your favorite mouse! Fast Pass+ Selections are categorized into 2 groups... the most popular attractions, and then... the rest. You can choose up to 3 Fast Pass+ selections per day, but you can only choose 1 of those 3 Fast Pass+ selections from the popular category. You will have to pick and choose. Read about the attractions at each park and decide which Fast Pass+ experiences you want. They can be booked 30 days in advance. A word to the wise... Animal Kingdom has a new land, Pandora—The World of Avatar. The 2 main attractions there are Avatar Flight of Passage and Na’avi River Journey. It is probably a smart idea to grab a Fast Pass for them. They are both in the popular category, though, so you'll have to choose! Kilimanjaro Safaris is also not to be missed at Animal Kingdom for an up-close look at live animals on an African savanna.
For rollercoaster lovers, here’s a little tip… There’s usually no line at the Single Rider entrance for Expedition Everest at Animal Kingdom and Rockin’ Roller Coaster at Hollywood Studios, the two wildest coasters in all of Walt Disney World.

4. VISIT THE RESORTS

Each Walt Disney World Resort is an attraction in and of itself. If you are not planning to buy entry into the theme parks, spend some time visiting them. They are well worth a look, especially if you’ve never seen them before.

If you head over to the Magic Kingdom by bus from the B Resort, you can easily transfer to the monorail or one of several boats to access 4 of Disney’s most beautiful resorts – Disney’s Contemporary, Polynesian, Grand Floridian (Disney’s flagship resort) and Wilderness Lodge Resorts. The monorail itself, a Walt Disney World hallmark, is a singular experience not to be missed. And a view of the Magic Kingdom by boat is a sight to be seen at least once in a lifetime!

If you head over to Hollywood Studios by bus from the B Resort, you can hop on a boat headed for Disney’s Yacht & Beach Club Resorts and Disney’s Boardwalk Resort. You’ll also see the impressive Swan and Dolphin Resorts on your way. There’s lots of fun to be had for all, especially at Disney’s Boardwalk where there are street performers, bars and restaurants. In fact, all the resorts have wonderful dining. You won’t be hard pressed to find a place to eat if you do not have theme park tickets.

For a handy tool to getting around the Walt Disney World Resort, check out this very cool metro style map: [Walt Disney World Map](#). Remember, you generally cannot take a bus between resorts unless they are right near each other and on the same bus line. For instance, the bus for the Yacht Club also stops at the Beach Club, Swan and Dolphin Resorts, but it will not take you from the Yacht Club to the Grand Floridian and you cannot take a bus from the B Resort directly to any of the Walt Disney World Resorts. You typically must go to a theme park, water park or Disney Springs first and then transfer to the resort of your choice.

5. CATCH SOME FIREWORKS

There’s a fantastic fireworks viewing from the Contemporary, Polynesian and Grand Floridian Resorts. Book a dining reservation at one of these hotels and then watch the sky light up over Cinderella Castle. Or just sit out on the beach and grab some fast food at one of the budget friendly resort restaurants. Every resort has at least one quick service or casual dining option. Trader Sam’s Grog Grotto at the Disney’s Polynesian Resort is a new tiki bar and it looks really fun! As an added surprise, look for Disney’s historic Water Pageant as it glides across Seven Seas Lagoon in the shadow of the Magic Kingdom.

6. EXPLORE DISNEY SPRINGS

The new Disney Springs complex is a shopping and dining playground with surprises around every bend. You could literally spend hours there and probably fail to see and do everything. It’s a great way to spend some free time at ALDacon and it’s in walking distance of the B Resort. It’s also a fantastic place to pick up some souvenirs for friends and family back home, or maybe a piece of the mouse for yourself. Shh, we won’t tell!

7. SEE IN THE DARK

After the sun sets, a little known experience awakens at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge. Free night vision goggles are available for viewing the animals on the savanna… in the dark! This fun, no cost experience is usually available most nights from 9 – 11 PM. (Be sure to double check before you go by calling the Animal Kingdom Lodge directly.) It can be prefaced by a wonderful dinner at Sanaa, a little known restaurant at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Villas—Kidani Village, just a short walk or quick bus ride away from Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge. Sanaa has some of the best tasting food and amazing views of the African animals in all of Walt Disney World.

For a truly unique experience, splurge on the Wanyama Safari at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge before participating in the free night vision experience. After a pre-safari reception with the chefs at Jiko—The
Cooking Place, you will embark on a highly personalized safari on the savanna at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge where you will have up-close encounters with African wildlife. Return to Jiko-The Cooking Place after the safari for an inspired family-style meal where the authentic flavors of Africa come alive. Dietary restrictions are carefully and skillfully accommodated, so don’t let a bland palate hold you back from experiencing the wonders of this tour. The tour is limited to only 12 guests and the intimate atmosphere lends itself well to interpreters that can be requested in advance. Wanyama Safari is on the expensive side, but worth it if you really want to treat yourself to a magical adventure while you’re visiting Walt Disney World. Call (407) WDW-TOUR to book and take some time to ask about the many other tours and special experiences available all over the Walt Disney World Resort.

8. GOLF ANYONE?
If you love to get out on the turf, Walt Disney World is home to some of the best golf courses around. Reserve a tee time and have some fun or head over to one of 2 themed miniature golf courses, Disney’s Fantasia Gardens near the Swan Resort or Disney’s Winter Summerland at Blizzard Beach. You can book a tee time online at one of four courses by going to WDWGOLF.COM or calling (407) WDW-GOLF.

9. COME ON IN, THE WATER’S FINE
Spending some time at the pool is a given on a vacation in Florida and the B Resort has a lovely pool complex, but you might also consider visiting one of Disney’s water parks. Admission to them is less than the 4 theme parks and they offer tons of opportunities to make a splash. There are sometimes closures in October for refurbishment, so be sure to double check before you plan to go. Also note that the weather can be chilly in mid-October. Plan accordingly. And did you know you could take surfing lessons at Typhoon Lagoon? At Disney World, anything is possible. Call (407) 939-7529 to book.

10. WATERSPORTS, HORSEBACK RIDING, BICYCLING, DINNER AND A SHOW!
The Walt Disney Resort has a host of sporting activities that you can participate in for a nominal fee. Sea Raycers, small motorized boats for 2 passengers, can be rented on Seven Seas Lagoon at each of the marinas at Disney’s Contemporary, Polynesian, Grand Floridian, Wilderness Lodge and Fort Wilderness Resorts. They can also be rented at Disney’s Yacht & Beach Club Resorts, but there’s not as much to see there without the Magic Kingdom as a backdrop. Several of the resorts also rent bicycles, including the Wilderness Lodge and Fort Wilderness. At the Boardwalk Resort, you can even rent a surrey for as many as 6 people.

Fort Wilderness also has opportunities for horseback riding and in the evenings, they sometimes host a free campfire with Disney characters and toasted marshmallows. (Call Fort Wilderness ahead as schedules change.)

For a rootin’ tootin’ time, plan an afternoon of horseback riding or biking at the Fort Wilderness Resort followed by dinner at Hoop-Dee-Doo Musical Revue, a good ol’ hoedown with great grub to match. Interpreters for the show can be requested in advance.

Disney’s Polynesian Resort also has a dinner show in the form of a Luau call Spirit of Aloha. It’s a very visual show with a lot of fun audience participation. Of course, interpreters can also be requested and scripts are usually available upon request at all Disney dining events and theme park attractions.

Request a guide for guests with disabilities upon entering any of the 4 theme parks or at any Guest Services location for more information about available communication access options and devices, including handheld captioning for select attractions available on a first come, first served basis with a refundable security deposit.

If you’re interested in ALDA Magic; you can save $35.00 by registering for ALDAcon 2017 by the end of the day on July 31, 2017. CLICK HERE to register online.
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 Maclntosh 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).
(RENEW/JOIN) ALDA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Section 1.* (Please check one)  [ ] Personal Membership  [ ] Gift Membership  [ ] Business Membership
Your First Name: ____________________________ Your Last Name: ____________________________
Your Address: _______________________________________________________________________
Your City: ____________________________ Your State: ____________________________
Your Zip / Postal Code: ____________________________ Your Country: ____________________________
Your Phone: _______________________________________________________________________
Check Here If Phone Is “Text Only” [ ]
Your E-mail Address: __________________________________________________________________

Section 2.* Type of Membership (Please check one)
[ ] Regular Membership (61 and under) $30  [ ] Senior Membership (62 or over) $25  [ ] Veterans Membership $25
[ ] Business Membership $50  Lifetime Membership: [ ] Gold $3000  [ ] Silver $1500  [ ] Bronze $500
[ ] Donation Only (No Membership Selected)

Section 3. (Complete this section only if this is a GIFT MEMBERSHIP)
Recipient’s First Name: ____________________________ Recipient’s Last Name: ____________________________
Recipient’s Address: _______________________________________________________________________
Recipient’s City: ____________________________ Recipient’s State: ____________________________
Recipient’s Zip / Postal Code: ____________________________ Recipient’s Country: ____________________________
Recipient’s Phone: _______________________________________________________________________
Check Here If Phone Is “Text Only” [ ]
Recipient’s E-mail Address: __________________________________________________________________

Section 4. (Complete this section only if this is a BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP)
Business/Company Name: ___________________________________________________________________
Business/Company Website (If Any) Address (URL): ___________________________________________________________________

Section 5.* Payment Due
Membership Fee: ____________________________
Tax Deductible Donation: ____________________________
Total Payment Due: ____________________________

Print this form, include a check or money order, and mail to:
ALDA, Inc 8038 Macintosh Lane, Suite 2
Rockford, Illinois 61107-5336

Note #1: You must complete a separate form for each person who is renewing their membership or joining ALDA. You cannot submit multiple memberships on one form.

Note #2: If you wish to use a credit card for membership payment, you must do so by visiting www.alda.org and clicking on the “RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN ALDA” button.

Note #3: If you are a member of a local ALDA chapter, there is a discount for a “Regular Membership” if your membership fee is paid by the treasurer of your local ALDA chapter (discounted fee = $25). So, if you are a member of a local ALDA chapter, please provide the name of that chapter below, give your chapter treasurer this completed form, and ask him/her to handle your payment.

Local ALDA Chapter Name: ____________________________

* Required Section

Revised 04/12/2017