



The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Christmas, 2005

St. Louis, MO

Volumes 97, No. 4

DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION



Rev. Mark Seeger,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor

Who will rescue me from the body that brings me to this death? Thank God — He does it through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Romans 7:24 & 25

In the Bible, one of my favorite books to read and teach is Romans. There are so many great teachings in there for us to read and to learn about God. There is one part of the book of Romans where I think Saint Paul was thinking about me when he wrote it. Of course, many people feel the same way when they read it. It is **Romans 7:14 through 8:1**. To condense it, it's like this:

*When I want to do right, it seems I do wrong.
When I don't want to do wrong, it seems I do it anyhow.*

I know God's Law is good, but there is another law within me, fighting it.

Who will save me from this mess?

THANK GOD — HE DOES IT THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

If we are in Christ, we can't be condemned.

It will soon be Thanksgiving and then Christmas. As Christians we have so much more to be thankful for than those people who don't know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They might have more earthly things than we have, but because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we have life eternal in the presence of God. What could be better than that? Of course, that same eternal life is offered to them through faith in Jesus Christ. We can tell others what we believe about Jesus Christ, and then perhaps we will have another thing to thank God for, that they also believe!

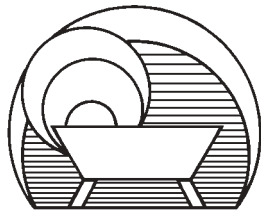
Christmas is coming soon, and that is when we celebrate the birth of our Savior. The whole world is aware of the birth of Jesus, so can you think of a better time to invite your friends to come to worship with you? Perhaps a Christmas Eve service, a Christmas Day service or a children's Christmas program.

Our friends and neighbors who don't know Jesus need to learn about Him! He died for them, too. Thanksgiving and Christmas is the perfect time to share your faith with them and invite them to go to worship with you. Don't put it off, but do it this year!

Blessings!
Pastor Mark Seeger,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor



"I bring you good news of a great joy..."
—Luke 2:10



"... you shall call his name Jesus ..."

—Matthew 1:21



Our Savior is Born



ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER IN FAITH
Colossians 2:4-7

Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf welcomes you to the **2007 ILDA Convention**
June 21-24, 2007
Bethesda, Maryland

Next ILDA ...

Visit ILDA's website for more information on the next convention... www.ChristDeaf.org/ilda2007

BWI Airport Marriott Hotel



The President's Report...



*Pam Kane, ILDA
2005-2007 President*

To the ILDA members and Deaf Lutheran Reader. Greeting in name of our Lord Jesus.

Wow how times have flew by and up coming holidays are near. But these are good holidays to celebrate. Thanksgiving is time to give thanks when the pilgrims came to American. But I truly believe Thanksgiving is to thank the Lord for what he has done. I give thanks for Home, Jobs, Food Clothing etc... But I truly give thanks for What God has done in your and our lives, Thank you Lord for, Healing me, Thank you Lord for your patience, kindness, mercy, for strong foundation, thank you for send Jesus, Most of all Thank you Jesus for forgiving our sins. What do you Thank God for? I personally Thank God for you all because of your

faithfulness in giving to the Mission Project Goals and standing strong in supporting ILDA.

Christmas is time to celebrate Jesus's Birthday. We also praise God for who he is, We praise God is our Prince of Peace, He is our strong rock, He is our awesome Daddy, He is our A to Z, He is our Faithfulness. What do you Praise him for? I encourage you all to give Thanks to God and to Praise Him for who he is in your daily prayers.

May you and your love ones have a very bless holidays,

*Pam Kane,
ILDA 2005-2007 President
PK1974BK@sbcglobal.net*



SPECIAL THANKS



Letter from Pat Monroe...

I wish to thank the ILDA and those who support missions for my recent DIT scholarship to assist me in my studies toward becoming a deaconess in Deaf Ministry. God's blessings to you all!

*Pat Monroe,
Iowa District West*

Business Manager...

We would appreciate help with support to our travel fund. This fund shall help us travel to future Regional Conferences that we dream to attend and to report on.

Please send any donations to:

**Larry D Ginter, D/L Business Manager,
4134 Sarasota Dr., Parma, OH 44134.**

Thank you.

Donated by: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Donated \$ _____ to Deaf Lutheran Travel Fund



Youth Service Project...

Next year we are planning to go to either Colorado or Minnesota for our service trip. The trip is open to all Deaf students between the ages of 14 and 20.

For more information, contact Pastor Mark Seeger at: MarkJLCD@AOL.com

2005-07 ILDA Mission Project Report...

Ending November 1, 2005, **\$3,232.46** has been donated toward ILDA 2005-2007 Mission Project goal.

The Board has adopted **\$27,300** as ILDA's 2005-2007 mission project goal and to this date it is about 12% of the goal.

Please write checks to: **ILDA 2005-07 Mission Project** and mail to: **Erika Sipchen, ILDA Mission Project, 11911 N. Centaurus Place, Oro Valley, AZ 85737-3456.**

Coming in Spring 2006 Issue:

- Youth Service Project Report
- Ghana pictures
- GLRC report from Larry Ginter



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Christmas, 2005

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Subscription Fee: \$10.00 per year. Please send all subscription fees and address changes to: Larry D. Ginter, Business Manager, 4134 Sarasota Dr., Parma, OH 44134-6242. FAX: 440-885-1020. VP: 440-885-5479. e-mail: LarryDGinter@aol.com

Please send articles, stories and pictures to: David G. Brown, 4134 Sarasota Dr, Parma, OH 44134-6242. FAX: 440-886-2906. e-mail: TheDeafLutheran@yahoo.com

2005 Uriel C. Jones Memorial “Right Hand” Award...

Russel Healey... God's Right Hand

When I heard the news about the Right Hand Award of 2005, I was surprised and felt honor about it. I should had been there at the convention to receive the plaque but unable to come. I wanted to thank the board members of Right Hand Award for selected me the award. I love to serve the Lord when I went to Holy Cross Lutheran for the Deaf at St. Louis where Rev. Nathanael Uhlig, Francis Gyle, George Kraus, William Reinking, Floyd Possehl, Martin Hewitt and Richard Moody as our pastors. I had wonderful experience serving for International Lutheran Deaf Association since 1974 and had good and fun times with all the past officers and pastors attending all meetings. I pray God that ILDA continue to grow strong with Lord's wisdom, loving and compassion.



Russel Healey shows off his award plaque.

Sincerely, Russel Healey



L-R: Rev. Richard Moody, Jack Chapman presented the plaque to Russel Healey, the “Right Hand” Award of 2005, and Geraldine Chapman.



Mr. and Mrs. Russel Healey, picture from Paula W.



Elemer Francisco, chairperson for 2005 Uriel C. Jones Memorial “Right Hand” award, shows the plaque for Mr. Healey at ILDA Canada.



His name shall be called... Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6



Letter from Rev. David Christudoss...



Dear members of ILDA executive Council.

Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

How wonderful it was to me to attend ILDA 2005 convention! I praise and thank God for the great blessing to meet you and so many brothers and sisters. This was the first time for me to attend ILDA convention.

It was so exciting and found Jesus love in you. I was so much impressed that you have a special place in your hearts for India Deaf ministry. I had the great desire to visit to see some of our deaf churches in Canada by staying few days after the convention. But it was not possible. I thank ILDA for its pryerful contributions to India Deaf work.

Nearly there are more than 1/6th of the world population live in India. There are more than, 25 million deaf people. There is a great challenge before us to bring Jesus to these millions of deaf people. There is a great challenge before us to bring Jesus to these millions of deaf people. I am planning to visit many new places in different parts of the country. The missionaries from LCMS came to India and established MELIM (Missouri Evangelical Lutheran India Mission) 110 years before. Then it was named as IELC. Now LCMS and IELC are partners in God's mission. As such, the deaf ministry whether in India, or America, Japan, or Canada... all are God's ministry. It is the ministry among the deaf. I am so much moved with your great love and concern towards me and the deaf in India as your brothers and sisters. Your contribution and offering helps much for my work, as I am struggling to execute so many programs. Yet the India deaf ministry needs your continued prayers and support.

I will send the message which I gave on last day of the convention via e-mail in a couple of days to brother Larry D. Ginter. The deaf students of our schools and deaf Christian members were very happy to see the photography of ILDA 2005 convention and the stories about the wonderful events.

My wife Grace Milka extends her sincere loving greeting to all of you. I hope ILDA new officers continue to develop the ministries in LCMS and in other countries. I enjoyed and learned many things in the conventions. Please continue to pray for India deaf ministry and its needs.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Ms. Pam Kane ILDA president; Ms. Linda, Greg Desrosiers; Tim Johnston ILDA Secretary; my friend Brain Grabler and all regional presidents; Mrs. Jeal and Rev. Neilsen.

God Bless. Yours Loving Brother in Christ

*Rev. D. S. Christudoss,
India Deaf Ministry
<dschristudoss@rediffmail.com>*

Ghana Deaf Mission Team update...

Rev. William (Bud) Palmer from South Wisconsin & Rev. Matthew Nix from South Dakota has left on October 12, 2005 to travel to Ghana to work with & teach the deaf leaders in the ELCG. They returned to the U.S on November 2nd.

This was the first trip that Bud has made without John — and is feeling just a bit apprehensive.

Pastor Reinke

News from around the Regions...



News about our People



...a little child shall lead them.

— Isaiah 11:6

Remember to send to the D/L editor your church's newsletters!

Northwest Region...

Faith, Spokane... **Mildred Marie Johnson** has joined Jesus on August 7th. She was the first Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf in the USA. 2006 officers election results: **Larry Gorton**, President; **Elmer Francisco**, Vice President; **Diane Francisco**, Secretary; **Gary Wilson**, Treasurer; **Karen Barr**, Financial Secretary; and **Joan Wilson**, Trustee.

Midwest Region...

Calvary, Des Moines... 2006 officers election results: **Roger Taylor**, President; **Adam Hirsch**, Vice President; **Craig Hanson**, Treasurer; and **Sherry Hirsch**, Secretary.

Central Region...

Our Savior, Madison... The Lord has called to **Iva Eklof**, 84 of Madison, WI went home with Jesus on September 29. Denise Pulfer's mother passed away last October 25 of massive heart attack. **Bette Manning** was from Vacaville, California. Pray for Denise's family during the time of the sorrow.

Denise and **Ted Pulfer** demonstrated their sample of what an African Worship in the Church for the deaf in Ghana was like, so different than our church. The Church was filled with a lot of plants and stuffed animals as if you were in Africa. Interestingly they showed us how to use handshake in their style and dance when an offering was accepted.

Osofu Kofi Bud Palmer and **Osofu Kofi Matthew Nix** has gone on Mission to Ghana, Africa to work with & teach the deaf leaders in the ELCG October 12 thru November 2, 2005. They has arrived home safe. (Osofu is Twi word for Pastor.)

Weekday devotions?

DeafDevotions@yahoo.com will get you on the email daily list.

Great Lakes Region...

Christ, Cleveland... the Lord has called home **Judith Joy Pyles** and **Roland Emerson**.

Trinity, Pittsburgh... Recent sale of the parsonage enable us to hire professionals to construct a **handicapped ramp** to the narthex.

Good Shepherd, Toledo... On October 14-16th, est. 45 people came to **GLRC** weekend. Theme was based on Psalm 100:1-5 *"The Lord is good! His love is forever. His loyalty continues forever and ever!"*

Holy Cross, Columbus... **Sarah E. (Weber) Riddlebaugh** has joined Jesus in Heaven September 2nd. She is wife of ILDA's former Right Hand, John Riddlebaugh.

In Memoriam...

Judith Joy Pyles has passed away on September 20th, 2005. How is she related to ILDA? She is director for one of ILDA's Mission Project recipient – Starfish Deaf Learning Center. She was founder and director of Starfish since 1993. Pam Kane and Lynn Ginter has worked under Judy for many years.

Also for ILDA members, she was remembered as Interpreter chairperson for ILDA's Cleveland 99 convention.

Judy began her career in 1983 as she was involved in housing programs in Cleveland areas, advocating and promoting awareness of handicapped and deafs. Also she was Coordinator for Services for Independent Living, Director of Social Ministry. Judy was affiliated with many organizations in the Cleveland areas well as the state of Ohio and has RID certified interpreter processing qualifications as a CSC interpreter.

Judy is survived by her husband, Charles, daughter, Shirley Samolis, and grandson, James Samolis Jr.



Judy Pyle, in wheelchair, is shown with her Starfish Deaf Learning Center teachers Carleen Lawson, Lynn Ginter and Pam Kane during GLRC weekend 1998.

Rev. Wayne Bottlinger...

A memorial service for Pastor Wayne Bottlinger was held at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Surrey, BC on Saturday, October 1st, 2005.

Pastor Bottlinger was the father of three. His wife, Bernice, is currently hospitalized at Surrey Memorial Hospital.

He served as pastor to the deaf for many years and also taught courses for the Deaf. Since his retirement he most recently served as a vacancy pastor at Saviour Lutheran Church, Delta. He served as a pastor for the deaf in Memphis, TN, a faculty member at Jericho School for the Deaf in Vancouver, BC, and was an administrator for the deaf and blind program at the Vancouver Community College.



ILDA Regional Conferences...

Northwest Region...

2006... August 25-27, 2006 at Trinity Lutheran College, north of Issaquah, Washington (east of Seattle). Host: Western Washington LC of the Deaf. Contact Northwest President Rolph Foster at rolpfoster@earthlink.net for more information. Theme: **"Know the Love of Christ"** Ephesians 3:19.

Pacific Region...

2006... Host:

Midwest Region ILDA

2006... Host:
June 2005 election result: Glenda Haefner, President; Barbara Zimmerman, President Elect; Sherri Johnson, Secretary; Ron Nester, Treasurer; Rev. Matthew Nix, Pastoral Advisor.



Central Region...

2006... May 18-21, 2006 at Holiday Inn in Crystal Lake, IL. Theme is "Blessed Is The King Who Is Coming." Contact Dee Mills at DMills1415@aol.com for more information.

Dixie Region...

October 2006... Host: Dallas.

Great Lakes Region...

2006... Host: Rochester, NY

Eastern Region...

2004 election result: John Mason, President; Wayne Borngesser, President Elect; Gerald Ahrens, Secretary; Tony Munoz, Treasurer; Rev. Mike McDonald, Pastoral Advisor.

2006... Host: North Carolina, Spring/Summer 2006.



We thank our heavenly Father for giving us this opportunity to worship in signs and pray that He will bless our ministry.

For many years our LCMS had a large ministry at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind here in St. Augustine. Suddenly, with changes in personnel there was nothing. Pastor Busby, who had retired, and discovered he was losing his hearing, petitioned the Board of Elders for their blessing on beginning a separate worship service for the deaf. This request was granted and has been continuous. By re affirmation of faith, Mr. Bement joined the group. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins are now enrolled in adult confirmation class.

Any one wanting more information may contact Pastor at: wbusby@bellsouth.net

Rev. W. Busby

New Orleans...

Rev. Bill Wrede was in New Orleans when the hurricane hit. He was attending a planning meeting for the LCMS youth gathering. The group was not able to evacuate, so they rode out the storm (without electricity and running water) in the hotel.

Dear All,

Just a quick note. I am still safe and mostly dry (walked through some of the water that came in so far). We lost power early this morning but the people here at the Sheraton have done incredible work to keep us fed, toilets available, and updated on what you probably know far better than we do here sans television. We have half the storm to go since we are more or less in the middle of the eye and hope to be through with all of this later on today. Our hotel lost a lot of the windows on Canal Street but they have kept us very safe and removed from all of that. Thank you for your prayers.

Next message:

Dear All,

After I sent an e-mail last night [Monday], I found out that airlines were not even booking flights until this time next week. It became obvious that getting out of town was going to be difficult. Our group of 14 met this morning [Tuesday] to discuss options. One of our planners found out two relatives literally across the street at the Marriott had space for some of us. Add to that his mother's car and plans were put in place to get out of the city if we could. By mid morning we had small bags packed with valuables and the rest of our luggage left in one room to be (hopefully) shipped to us at some later (much later) date. By about noon, as the flood waters literally came onto our block, were crammed into cars for a ride to Baton Rouge. We arrived here at Trinity where we have been reunited with some old friends and tremendous hospitality. We've had hot showers, hot food, and know that within the next few hours vans from Saint Louis will arrive to bring us to Saint Louis. I have a flight confirmed tomorrow afternoon back to New York. God delivered us in most incredible ways.

We are absolutely blown away by the television coverage we have not seen until arriving here. As we drove through the city and drove here, we saw so much incredible damage that it was completely incomprehensible. I hope, again, that this will be my last e-mail until I arrive home late tomorrow night.

Peace,
Pastor Bill Wrede

Editor's note: It seems that Bill Wrede is everywhere when things happened... he was at the World Trade Center when September 11th, 2001 attack happened and now he was in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina attacked. Wow!

Florida...

News about our Lutheran Worship for the deaf in St. Augustine, Florida.

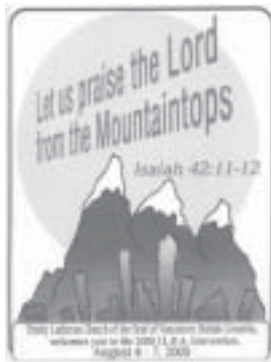
Those planning on a vacation trip to Florida, do not neglect St. Augustine. Here you may see many historical sights of our country.

If you are here on a Sunday, do not fail to join us for worship. Lutheran worship for the deaf is at Christ Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church on Sunday afternoon at 3 pm. Services are conducted by retired Pastor Walter L. Busby for a group of around 7 adults and their hearing children.

Among those who attend regularly are Carl and Glenna Schneck, Janet and Allen Walker, Merlin E. "Terry" Bement, and Jay and Colleen Jenkins.



International Lutheran Deaf Association Convention Vancouver, British Columbia Thursday, August 4, 2005



ILDA President Pam Kane made a warm welcome to our 18th Biennial ILDA Convention and opened the convention in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. She introduced our President-elect Greg Desrosiers, Secretary Tim Johnston, Treasurer Erika Sipchen who was representing Jim Sipchen, Pastoral Advisor Rev. Mark Seeger and Deaf Ministry Task Force Chairperson, Rev. Bud Palmer. She introduced several interpreters along with some volunteer interpreters from certain colleges for the entire convention.

Pam called Diane Francisco, our Necrology Chairperson, to the floor. She greeted us in the name of Lord and made a request to please pass along the names of deceased members of our Lutheran Church. Pastor Seeger came to the floor with a clarification that first of all we did not pray for those who were already died but instead prayed for their families and friends who grieve over the passing of their beloved ones. Then he made a prayer asking for the spiritual guidance to help us do what He really wanted us to do for the world. Also, he prayed for the families and friends of the deceased people who were members of ILDA and Deaf Lutheran churches in the America.

Opening devotion's bible reading was signed by Greg Desrosiers and the reading was from Acts 1:1-11. Rev. David Neilson continued the devotion about the opportunity to grow in Lord and share Lord's beautiful Word among our beloved family members and friends in Christ as well as others even across the borders with a longstanding hope to join all together in one Heavenly home. Then He signed the closing prayer asking for our eyes to be fixed on the heavenly promise and the opportunity and wisdom to share with others who would not know Him.

President Kane thanked Pastor Neilson for his wonderful devotion. She began the business meeting at 1:30pm.

She also introduced Charles Kotal. She introduced four tellers, Brian Grabler, Jennifer Bonura, Martha Malone, and Craig Majewski. She then introduced committee chairpersons, Elmer Francisco, Right-hand Award, Lester Ahls, Nominating, Erika Sipchen, Missions Projects and Charles Kotal, Scholarship.

The convention minutes from 2003 ILDA Convention was accepted as recorded.

President asked Lester Ahls, Resolutions Chairperson come to the floor and share with us of his comments. Lester Ahls came and shared that he accepted the responsibility to serve on the Resolutions committee and that he had selected two assistants to work with him. Also, Lester is also Nominating Chairperson, too which would have been James Swalley but he was unable to come to the convention. He already asked four qualified people to consider running for the position but they declined. He mentioned about a new motion which would allow the President to have another term. He mentioned about Secretary Tim Johnston to try considering in running for another – fourth term if no one would be found to run for that position. There will be more to be nominated until Saturday afternoon. He mentioned that there were couple ones expressing the interest in President-elect and Treasurer positions, as well.

1. **Treasurer's Report:** Erika Sipchen, who was a representative for Jim Sipchen, came to the floor and gave her report. The total actual income was \$23,625.34 and the total actual expense was \$23,057.91. \$567.43 was the total net income after the expenses. The expected budget for the year of 2005-2007 was shown on the overhead. The expected income would \$15,000 just like it was in the two years before 2005. This was determined based on the past activities and accounts that Jim Sipchen believed that the next expected budget to be the same but more realistic. The expected expenses would be the same as \$15,000.

2. **President's Report:** Pam Kane warmly commented that it had been a wonderful experience in serving our ILDA members and appreciated the opportunity for fine Christian fellowship of brothers and sisters who love and serve our Lord. She requested that we need to continue doing that in serving our Lord by sharing Lord's words with others and support each other in Christ. She mentioned that ILDA finances may be declining but not seriously bad so she requested that we continue to remember and contribute our monies generously to support ILDA as well as doing certain fund raising activities to help support ILDA.

3. **Treasurer's Audit Report:** It was with an apology that this audit report was overlooked so Erika Sipchen came up and showed the audited report on the overhead showing the net total of \$701.83 for 2004-2005 as audited last Nov 11, 2004. Charles Kotal moved to accept the treasurer reports as shared. It was seconded by Lee Ann Kotal. The voting took place. **Passed.**

4. **The Deaf Lutheran Editor's Report:** Dave Brown came and gave his report saying that he was happy to be back in the reins as the editor after Melissa Eichler came and helped with three issues before resigning due to her personal and family reasons. She did a wonderful job for one year. He

informed us that Fall 2005 issue will be somewhat bit late coming out because of needing to include the information after the Convention in August plus he would have eye surgeries in late August. He shared that DL had been self-supporting ever since with no serious financial difficulties although the subscription had declined from 800 down to 600 newsletters. Pam Kane came and shared words of heartfelt appreciation for David's hard efforts on the newsletters.

5. **The Deaf Lutheran Business Manager's Report:** Larry Ginter greeted us very warmly. He commented that he continued to enjoy the long and hard work as the business manager for 8 years. He commented that Melissa Eichler served as the editor very well after learning the ropes from David Brown but it was with regret that she had to step down due to personal and family time reasons. Larry was happy that David Brown accepted to return and help. He shared that subscription numbers had declined mostly from LCMS by the number of 100 and some churches as result of financial cutbacks. He shared that he was happy to have small opportunity to make couple travels to help promote DL publication. He informed us if his idea to help fundraise the monies for the DL by selling pens for \$1 each.
6. **By-laws Committee Chairperson's Report:** Greg Desrosiers reported that there was one motion requesting for an additional second term for the President position. The second motion was asking for triennial convention instead of biennial convention. Greg asked Lester Ahls who wrote the first motion to come and explain about the motion.

Lester Ahls and made the honor to the executive council members and brothers and sisters in Christ. He explained that it was time to make a change to the Presidential term to allow for an additional two years. He mentioned that this motion was already written at least 90 days prior to the convention. But it was attempted two years ago but it missed one certain step which was to appear in the Deaf Lutheran newsletter at least 90 days in advance. He read in signs of the written motion to the convention attendees. He asked for the full support to allow the ILDA Constitution to be changed to allow second term of two years for the president. He explained the rationale for having that be changed.

Greg explained the house rule for having up to 3 pros and 3 cons to be discussed and shared. The vote to pass the motion would require a majority of 2/3 votes. Carol Ann Picknell made a motion to close the discussion. It was seconded by Williams Adkins. Pastor Seeger wanted to make the point so he came to the floor cautioning us to take the moment to ponder the new motion without hastening to close and vote upon the motion. He recommended the need to discuss and explain the reasons for the support or disagreement. He felt that it was very important to have a good amount of discussion. Some came and pressed good points in favor of this motion.

One question came up about the motion to be effective for the long duration. Yes, it would become effective from now and on. Couple ones also came and shared points against the motion. There were some more discussions about that motion as the result of raised concerns and points. President shared her view of that motion while reciting the history and the reason that led to that consideration of making that motion which was due to the realization that not many were qualified or expressed the interest to run for the President-elect position at least 90 days before the convention. That would be only during the unique circumstances.

Charles Kotal moved to close the discussion which was seconded by Carol Seeger. The voting took place to support the closing of the discussion. The vote to support the motion for second President term took place by the secret ballot method.

Linda Desrosiers came to the floor and greeted us as brothers and sisters in Christ to explain few things before the break. She explained about the requests in what banners for the competition needed to be done. Also, she explained about the refreshments during the break times today, tomorrow and Saturday. Today the refreshments would be for free. The refreshments for tomorrow and Saturday will be charged for \$5 except for those who already pre-paid for them.

Some came up to the floor sharing some cute jokes and stories.

The result of the secret ballot came. There was 2/3 majority of vote that the motion was **passed** by 69 to 24.

Delicious refreshment break time took place bit after 3pm.

The meeting was resumed at 3:45pm.

Greg Desrosiers informed that there was a second motion made by Donna Wright of Elmshurst, NY. She wanted to make a motion to have ILDA Convention be held every three years starting in the year of 2012 and thereafter. The reason for that motion was to help the costs be better manageable as the result of rising costs. It could be open to a certain number such as every 3 or 5 years. Donna regretted being unable to attend to discuss this motion so she recommended Marion Woods and Pastor Bill Wrede to come and explain more about it. This motion was seconded by Marion Woods.

Then Marion and Pastor Wrede came and explained three reasons: 1. be

able to manage rising costs with extra time to save more money for next convention; 2. be able to attend other organization's convention or event without having to overspend or miss; 3. be able to afford more financial contributions towards the ILDA Missions Projects' funds. There were several discussions raised by some conventioners as well as questions being asked to be clarified. Then Greg emphasized the house rules in having 3 pros and 3 cons to be discussed on the floor. Some came and presented their supporting or opposing arguments.

Voting by secret ballots took place. Jokes were shared. The result of the vote came and the motion for triennial convention was **failed** by 22 to 68.

7. **Missions Projects Chairperson's report:** Erika Sipchen gave the report that the missions project goal was successfully reached by 83% as we collected \$21,741.42 while the target goal was \$26,000. She shared that the board of directors met and discussed about the proposed mission projects funds. The proposed mission project listing was shown as follows:

Proposed 2005-2007 Missions Projects

1. Ghanda – Lutheran Deaf School	\$7,000
2. Starfish Deaf Learning Center	\$4,800
3. India Outreach Training	\$2,000
4. Rev. Leber Deaf Lutheran Youth Camp	\$1,500
5. Youth Service Project	\$5,000
6. VBS, Sunday School, After School Education	\$7,000
Total	\$27,300

Carol Seeger, TX, moved to accept the proposed 2005-2007 Missions Projects as listed. It was seconded by Delores Erlandson, WI. **Passed.**

8. **Resolutions:** Pam Kane mentioned that Lester Ahls who would be chairing the Resolutions Committee. He chose two assistants who were Rev. Ron Friedrich and Deacon Charles Kotal.
9. **2003 Convention Host's Report:** John Krause came to the floor on behalf of Mark Johnson who was unable to attend. He mentioned that the convention was a wonderful success and that so many enjoyed it. The number of registrants was 321 and everything was planned, recorded and audited very well. He thanked for the wonderful attendance and support of their convention.

President Kane informed us that the meeting would be put on hold till Saturday morning at 8:30 am as the meeting would be shorter and nearly done. There will be election of new officers as well. She requested that those who would be interested to run for the officer position to please inform Lester Ahls of the interest.

The meeting was put on hold at 4:40pm.

Saturday, August 6, 2005

The business meeting was resumed at 8:40 am.

President Kane greeted with good morning message in Christ. She called the Nominating chairperson to come to the floor. She also hoped that the business meeting could be done in the morning so no need to continue the meeting in the afternoon.

10. **Nominating Report:** Lester Ahls came to the floor. It was not expected that he would be handling this duty but he was willing to continue what was attempted by past President James Swallow as he attempted to get to his full good health. He shared about the thought of making the motion to give another second term for the President position which he felt to be a very good one. He shared the brief history on how that motion was being attempted. There was some discussions and clarifications being made to show how this procedure would work in allowing the President continue the second term by vote.

President: John Mason, MD nominated (seconded by Ruth Foster, Montana) Pam Kane to be re-elected as President for the second term. Pam Kane accepted. (Lester Ahls repeated in explaining how important that this matter be taken into sincere consideration on account of the need in having a well-qualified person to be the President.) Pam Kane came to the floor sharing her goals of why she would like to continue her term so that way she could complete more of the ILDA agenda and goals. She answered the question of what was the unfinished goal(s). She wanted to stay on top of seeing some unfinished business matters relating to Missions Project items and financial contributions that were given to ILDA so these generous contributions could wisely be put in good use towards the mission of spreading God's Words. Couple questions were asked and Pam Kane gave her answers about the ILDA position and issues. It was called to re-focus on nomination matter. Secret ballot voting took place. The vote came in the favor to have Pam Kane be remained as our ILDA President for another two more years.

President-elect: No need to nominate anyone because Greg Desrosiers will remain being the President-elect since Pam Kane was re-elected as ILDA President.

Secretary: Greg Desrosiers nominated to have Tim Johnston for the position for fourth term. Tim responded with uncertainty but wanted to give others the opportunity to be nominated first. It was indicated that Tim would consider being re-elected for the position if no one showed the interest. Martha Malone, TX nominated Jennifer Bonura, TX. Jennifer Bonura accepted. Few others were nominated but they declined. One proposed to accept Jennifer Bonura as the Secretary by acclamation. No one opposed. Tim was asked by Lester Ahls to cast Jennifer Bonura. Tim came to the floor and casted Jennifer Bonura as the next Secretary for ILDA 2005-07.

Treasurer: Both John Krause and Erika Sipchen were nominated. Each came to the floor and explained their experiences and goals. Secret ballot vote took place. John Krause won the election to be the next Treasurer.

Pastoral Advisor: Pastors Mark Seeger, David Neilson and Matt Nix were nominated and they accepted. Some other pastors were nominated but they declined. Delores Erlandson, WI, proposed to close the nomination and it was seconded by Barry Dischinger, NY. All three pastors were called to the floor to share their comments and goals. The vote came in but it was necessary to re-cast for either Pastor Seeger or Pastor Neilson as both came in a close tie. The final vote result will be announced at 4:30pm.

The business meeting was put on hold at 10:15 am until 4:30pm.

The meeting was resumed at 4:44pm.

The announcement of our next Pastoral Advisor for 2005-07 was Pastor Mark Seeger. It was also another close vote.

11. **Scholarship Chairperson's Report:** Charles Kotal greeted us and informed us that he had been chairing the committee for ten years. He felt blessed to have served us. He had two two people who would receive the scholarship. Mark Larsen of St. Louis would be one of recipients of the \$1,000 scholarships. He had been involved very much involved with Deaf Ministry. He was starting to lose some hearing every since. Another recipient was Pat Munroe who was studying to become a deaconess and was recently involved with the missionary team to Ghana, Africa.
12. **2009 ILDA Host Report:** Pam announced that Rochester, NY will be the host site for our next 2009 ILDA Convention. Everything was going very well. The approval was already in the place for Alpha Deaf Lutheran Church in Rochester, NY to host the convention.
13. **Resolutions Report:** It was announced that resolutions for 2005 ILDA Convention were continuing to be in the works. Please see the attached sheet on the Resolutions. There were 5 resolutions and all of them were approved. **Passed.**
14. **Old Business:** There was no old business items.
15. **New Business:**

Pastor Mark Seeger came to the floor to explain about the need to have someone come to the floor to make a motion to get \$8,000 be deducted from Scholarship Fund which had \$36,000 so that \$8,000 can be added to \$12,000 which was already donated to ILDA in the memory of Mina Stringer. Then with the combined \$20,000, we could ask Mill Neck Foundation to make a match of \$20,000 so we could have a total of \$40,000 to help us develop and create various kinds of Biblical/Lutheran teachings and materials for our deaf youth of all levels from toddler to high school age.

Motion #1: Carol Ann Picknell, IL (seconded by Craig Majewski, OH) made a motion to have \$8,000 be deducted from Scholarship fund. There were several clarifications, concerns and points being made from several. **Passed.**

Greg Desrosiers proposed to close the new business section. It was seconded by William Adkins, IL. President Pam Kane closed the business meeting in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.

**Respectfully submitted in Christ with love,
Tim Johnston, ILDA Secretary**

Note: It was with appreciation and gratitude for your love, support and belief that enabled me to serve ILDA and our great Lord as your ILDA Secretary for the last 3 terms from 1999 to 2005. Thank you once again for your support and prayer! — Tim Johnston

www.DeafJesus.org

**ILDA's web site:
www.lcmsdeaf.org/ilda/ILDAhome.html**



International Lutheran Deaf Association Executive Council Meeting Vancouver, British Columbia Tuesday, August 2, 2005



Present: Pam Kane, President, Greg Desrosiers, President-elect, Tim Johnston, Secretary, Erika/Jim Sipchen, Treasurer, Dave Brown, Deaf Lutheran (DL) Editor, Larry Ginter, DL Business Manager, Rev. Mark Seeger, Pastoral Advisor, Rev. Bud Palmer, Special Task Chair.

The meeting began at 1:10pm.

1. **Opening Prayer:** Pastor Seeger made an opening prayer thanking for the safe arrival of officer members and asking for wisdom and guidance on our business meeting so that we can glorify His Name. Also, prayed for the safe travel of ILDA attendees to the convention.
2. **Devotion:** Pastor also continued sharing the devotion about the stones and how the stones/rocks were used during the biblical times and stories. In the end, we are to be proclaiming God's works and Words not to sit like the rocks so it's the hope that ILDA members would be like that.
3. **Executive Council April 16-17, 2004 Minutes of Cleveland:** President-elect Desrosiers moved to accept the minutes as read the last time. Passed.
4. **President Report:** Pam Kane shared that it was a blessed two year term as President with no struggle or difficulties for that she was thankful. It was her prayer that ILDA will continue to grow. She thanked for the wonderful cooperation among the council members and knew that with God things can be very successful with His Holy Spirit.
5. **President-elect Report:** Greg Desrosiers handed out the copies of his report to be read. He was very thankful for the success of ILDA Host planning committee and looked forward to the continuing success. He shared that there were two motions with first one about the expansion of President term to be up to a series of two terms and the second one about having ILDA Convention be held every three years. These will be brought to the business session of the meeting on either Thursday or Saturday. There was a discussion of thoughts about these two motions. They agreed to hold off the discussion till the new business section of the meeting. He already gave a minimal basic survival course to the Hilton staff with ASL in order to facilitate with the convention attendees.
6. **Secretary Report:** Tim Johnston shared that it was with an honor and privilege to once again continue the secretary position for the third term. He was grateful that things continued smoothly. He shared a brief update and knowledge about the first motion but was not aware about the second motion. He mentioned about being contacted by Lester Ahls wanting to know if he would be interested to continue the position for the fourth term but he would pray and consider about it as he would like to give others an opportunity to serve this position. He shared the update about his having a new full time job and new laptop which would help his secretary position much better rather than relying others to loan him a laptop for the business meetings.
7. **Treasurer Report:** Erika greeted on behalf of Jim Sipchen who was unable to be with us due to his work commitments. He finished the full treasury reports but he hadn't had a chance to finish up with the IRS audits, yet although they were already audited by approved ILDA members last November. Erika commented that she is interested to run for the Treasurer position as it would be more convenient to continue the similar finances procedure that Jim began and continued.
8. **Pastoral Advisor Report:** Pastor Seeger regretted to inform that Convocation 2005 was cancelled because of only 3 registered so he sent back some donated money back to Mill Neck Foundation while he kept the other \$10,000 money since that 1997 Convocation. The purpose of Convocation was to evaluate the previous goals and set up next new goals.
9. **Deaf Ministry Task Force Chairperson Report:** Pastor Palmer shared the updates of Deaf Ministry Task Force planning. One was the new name: ILDMS – International Lutheran Deaf Mission Society so that would include all the deaf ministries planting and expansion all over the world like Arizona, Kansas, Africa, India and possibly Vietnam. They were trying to meet the challenges: Care for Deaf people and their families and DIT: Deaf Institute of Theology. He also clarified that there are two different DIT programs happening now with the first one as easier one for the lay leaders and is open for anyone while the second one as an advanced one for men only in becoming a pastor. There are four DIT students: Pat Munroe, Alan Rork, Duane Pederson and Ted Pulfar. The last two men were holding off until their personal health issue and circumstances improve, respectively. Our Deaf would need to take up more leadership and we would need to continue training all of our Members to be able to serve in the church and do the ministry.
10. **The Deaf Lutheran Editor's Report:** Dave Brown shared that he was happy to be back in the reins as the DL Editor although he announced his resignation two years ago and he seemed not able to be staying back that long as he continued to assist and work with Melissa Eichler who was the editor for the short time. Pam Kane shared about one time financial emergency surfaced in the fall of 2003 as the printing and postage costs went higher than the revenues from the \$7.50 subscription so the council agreed to allow the increase to \$10 per year for the subscription.
11. **The Deaf Lutheran Business Manager's Report:** Larry Ginter shared the blessing and reminder of Lord's word as mentioned in *1 Peters 5:6-7* that he continued to enjoy the privilege as the business manager for 8 years with everything going well as expected with the usual revenues, subscription signing up, renewals and so on. The account balance as of July 30th, 2005 was \$3,078.12. DL already lost about 150 subscriptions (those 100 were from LCMS organization and members). Larry informed us about his efforts to raise some funds for the DL's travels. One of the ideas was to sell pens for \$1.
12. **2005 ILDA Convention Report:** Linda Desrosiers shared that everything was going so well as the committee worked so hard so it was in her hope that everyone enjoyed their convention experience. There was 178 registrants and about 5 registered youths (about 2 less than 5 year old.) 232 room nights were booked. They will still have to pay \$4,000 for the meeting and banquet rooms even though they came for free if a certain quota of hotel rooms were booked up as done in practice in America but it was not the case in Canada. 5 professional interpreters were from Vancouver region while one from Hawaii and there were about 10 interpreter volunteers. There was a discussion in how they came up with the agreement in paying their interpreters.
13. **Missions Project Chairperson Report:** Erika Sipchen gave her report that the account balance was \$21,741.42 and only 83 percent of project goal was met.
14. **Old Business:** Pam Kane mentioned that there was a delay in how the approved motion on By-laws revisions would be carried out because that motion failed to be printed in the Deaf Lutheran newsletter at least 90 days prior to the convention in Minneapolis. So the question was in how that approved motion could be carried out. After much discussions, it was agreed that we would go ahead and submit the approved by-law revisions to the printing for about 50 copies with a chosen colored cover. Also, Pastor Seeger suggested that we could collect \$1-2 donations at the convention towards the printing costs.
15. **New Business:** Greg Desrosiers shared that there were only two motions being made which would be in our best interests be brought up and discussed during the Convention floor so that would save our time.
 - a. **Additional term for ILDA President motion:** Lester Ahls made the written motion to repeal the existing requirement that ILDA President may serve only **one** term of 2 years so that the President can continue serving another term up to 2 terms if the majority was voted on the additional term. There was a discussion about handling that motion so it was agreed to bring that up during the Board of Directors' meeting for the recommendation to be brought up to the convention floor.
 - b. **Triennial Convention instead of Biennial Convention:** The motion was made by Donna Wrights of Eastern region to have ILDA Convention be held every three years instead of 2 years. There was some interesting discussions since that would conflict with existing regional conferences' traditional scheduling, another revisions to the by-laws, etc. Greg Desrosiers suggested in holding that discussion until we hear any reasons/comments from Donna Wrights who made the motion on the convention floor.

Greg Desrosiers moved to close the new business session and adjoint the meeting as it would be resumed at 7pm tonight. Passed and the meeting was adjointed at 4:55pm.

Both pastors signed the closing prayers thanking for lending His hand on our hands and minds as we went through our business matters and discussions and for his continued guidance for our current convention and Ephaphatha Conference.

International Lutheran Deaf Association Board of Directors Meeting Vancouver, British Columbia Tuesday, August 2, 2005

Present: Pam Kane, President; Greg Desrosiers, President-elect; Tim Johnston, Secretary; Erika/Jim Sipchen, Treasurer; Rev. Mark Seeger, Pastoral Advisor; Deaf Ministry Task Force Chairperson, Rev. Bud Palmer; Dave Brown, Deaf Lutheran (DL) Editor; Larry Ginter, DL Business Manager; Janice Mancill, Central President; Jennifer Bonura, Dixie President; David Mason, Eastern President; Ronald Nester (rep for Glenda Haefner), Midwest President; Lee Ann Kotal, Pacific President.

Some chairpersons were present: Elmer and Diane Francisco, Right-Hand and Necrology; Lester Ahls, Nominating; Charles Kotal, Scholarship; Erika Sipchen, Missions Project.

Absent: Rolph Foster, Northwest President.

The meeting began at 7:00pm.

President Pam Kane began the meeting in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Pastor Seeger led the opening prayer asking for the continued blessing on our business meeting to help us to His work 100% of time. The regional presidents stood up and introduced themselves. The Committee chairpersons stood up and introduced themselves as well.

Pastor Seeger also gave an evening devotion. He shared about how God used donkeys to show His glory, to teach us His lessons and to encourage us to have Faith.

President Kane asked us about any comments about previous Board of Directors' meeting minutes. There was a correction needed to be made as suggested by Charles Kotal. The correction was to be made on item 2B on the second board meeting minute pages. It should be **"He completed his study with Pacific Southwest District Lay Leadership Training Program. He was now commissioned as Deacon (ordained.)"**

Greg Desrosiers moved to accept the minutes as corrected (seconded by Lee Ann Kotal.) Passed.

Reports by President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Pastoral Advisor, Deaf Ministry Task Force Chairperson, The Deaf Lutheran Editor and Business Manager were shared just the same as recorded previously in the Executive Council meeting as seen above.

President Kane emphasized that there will be no open new business motions to be made on the convention floor as they must be made at least 90 days prior to the convention and be printed in the Deaf Lutheran newsletter. There will be only two business motions. She also shared the announcement that Alpha Lutheran church in Rochester, NY received the approval in hosting 2009 ILDA Convention. There was no known 2011 Convention Host bid, yet. She informed that complaints were received about why no missions project would be in the America rather than in other countries. It was because they in America would need to write a letter requesting for financial/funding support from ILDA. So any new idea or proposal would need to be put into writing and submitted to Missions Project chairperson. She asked for the continued prayers to continue spreading God's Words, provide His continued strength and guidance on ILDA Host Committee.

President-elect Desrosiers greeted and welcomed us to Vancouver, a beautiful city surrounded by God's wonderful creations. He commented that Canadian folks consider British Columbia to be God's beautiful country. He hoped that there will be a good clean break on both expected revenues and expenses from the convention although the revenues would bring up to \$65,000.

Secretary Tim Johnston came up and gave his short report the same as was shared previously in the above. He also clarified in how the new business motions could be handled since there would be no new business motions could be made on the convention floor. He also shared that he would continue to pray and consider about continuing the fourth term if it became necessary. However it would be good if another one would be interested.

Treasurer report was given by Erika Sipchen as Jim couldn't make it in person. The total income summary for 2003-05 was \$23,625.34. The total expenses summary was \$23,057.91 leaving the net income balance at \$567.43. Erika went through each item and detail for clarifications. There were some discussions, clarifications and concerns being brought up. Erika showed both overheads on the planned and expected incomes and expenses and they came out to be close with no serious difference. The Proposed ILDA 2005-07 Budget would call for about \$15,000 in the total expected income and expenses, respectively. The financial reports were already audited by approved ILDA members but had not been audited by IRS, yet. Larry Ginter moved to accept

the financial report (seconded by Brian Grabler.) Passed.

Deaf Ministry Task Force Chairperson shared some additional information that wasn't shared previously. The Task force committee members were Pastor Palmer, Pastor John Reinke, Jennifer Ceyannes, Denise Pulfer, Pam Kane, Alan Rork and Dennis Konkell. He repeated the emphasis that more deaf need to take up leadership roles. He noticed that the deaf in Ghana was very hungry for spiritual Words as opposed to those deaf folks in the United States. He repeated the importance in serving for the Lord rather than for the needed earnings. It would be very challenging for deaf to undertake. He explained about two parts of DIT program. Pastor Palmer invited Pastor Seeger to share about his church's involvement with Deaf Teen Christians activities which began with Christian Community project in NYC, then Calif, then Wisconsin and now planned to San Francisco. Also, his church started having deaf kids programs which grew up to a total of about 325 in 5 years. The kids were continually being kept busy doing various artwork projects. Somehow some kids had brought few new young deaf adults members as a result of hearing stories from the kids to Texas School for the Deaf staffers. Praises were given to the Lord.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30am by President Kane. The meeting would be resumed next morning at 9am.

Wednesday, August 3, 2005

Present: Pam Kane, President; Greg Desrosiers, President-elect; Tim Johnston, Secretary; Erika for Jim Sipchen, Treasurer; Rev. Mark Seeger, Pastoral Advisor; Rev. Bud Palmer, Deaf Ministry Task Force Chairperson; Dave Brown, Deaf Lutheran (DL) Editor; Larry Ginter, DL Business Manager; Janice Mancill, Central President; Jennifer Bonura, Dixie President; John Mason, Eastern President; Ron Nester for Glenda Haefner, Midwest President; Lee Ann Kotal, Pacific President; Rolph Foster, Northwest President; Lester Ahls, Nominating Chairperson; Elmer Francisco, Right-hand chairperson; Diane Francisco, Necrology Chairperson; Charles Kotal, Scholarship Chairperson; There were several visitors.

The meeting began at 9:10 am.

President Kane began the meeting in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pastor Seeger gave us the opening prayer thanking for another day to get together and work for His Kingdom.

- The Deaf Lutheran Editor Report:** David Brown passed out his DL report. He shared that ever since he resigned the editor position after Minneapolis ILDA Convention, he still hadn't really left the newsletter project. During Melissa Eichler's term as editor, three issues were able to be published. The next newsletter for Fall 2005 would come out bit late due to the current convention being held in August and his going to have eye surgeries in late August so he would do his best to get everything together to get the Fall issue out to the publication. The DL continued to be self-supporting with about 600 newsletters per issue (it used to be 800 per issue.) The annual subscription rate continue to be the same at \$10/year so it would be with the hope that it could be increased to \$12/15 due to rising printing and postage costs.
- The Deaf Lutheran Business Manager Report:** Larry Ginter passed out his report. He mentioned that it had been the long time that he had been with DL but he intended to continue doing so with his continued good health! He shared about how he handled various business matters with DL subscription, printing, folding, mailing and so on. He enjoyed the opportunity to work with Melissa Eichler who came aboard for few issues but she had to resign due to her family time needs. The number of subscribers had declined that it was about 600 newsletters per issue. There were discussion and clarification on how the DL salaries and subscription costs were handled. (See more of his report which was already shared during Executive Council meeting in the above.)
- 2003 ILDA Convention Host Report:** Janet Gehlbach gave her report on behalf of Mark Johnston, chairperson as well as John Krause, Treasurer, both of whom were unable to attend. Several reports were passed out. The 2003 convention was a success. The resulting net profit was \$11,001.37.
- 2005 ILDA Convention Host Report:** Linda Desrosiers gave her report with great appreciation that her committee had worked very hard together the last two years that she looked forward to the rewarding success of 18th Biennial Convention to begin tomorrow although it was very overwhelming and challenging at times. It was further exciting that it was the first time ever to have a convention in Canada! There will be a keynote speaker, Rev. David Christudoss from India to share the updates about his missionary work in India. He had repeatedly sent emails thanking for ILDA's generous support of his missionary work and the invitation to have him come over and present to us. He would be presenting on Friday at the convention. Linda shared that she was delighted to have 8 workshops so it was her

Executive Council minutes continued from last page.

hope that these workshops will enrich our motivation even more for our Lord. There were 178 registered people along with 6 professional interpreters and ten student volunteer interpreters. She regretted to inform us that there would be no real-time captioning service due to high costs. She shared her thought in having a separate convention for ILDA adults and Jr ILDA youths so that better focus and energy could be handled better. About 60 would be going to Tour #1 Calpino suspension bridge while about 55 would be going on the Tour #2 Boat Cruise.

The meeting was held off for a 15 minute break time at 10:15 am.

5. **2007 ILDA Host Report:** Jeff Padon's flight was delayed so his report would be shared tonight or at the convention.
6. **Central Region President's Report:** Janice Mancill gave her report. 2004 CR-ILDA Conference was held in Madison, WI by Our Savior Lutheran Church, Madison, WI. Janice Mancill continued the President position for another term. Pastor Mark Anderson wasn't able to preach at three churches in Cary, Rockford and Wooddale due to his family problem so prayers are greatly appreciated. Both pastors Palmer and Reinke went to Ghana last Oct. Next CR-ILDA conference will be in Cary, IL next May, 2006.
7. **Dixie Region President's Report:** Jennifer Bonura gave her report that DDLG (Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference) was held in Morrilton, Arkansas (the Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean Mountain near Little Rock, AR.) Jennifer Bonura accepted to be the new President. Next conference will be held at Camp Lone Star in La Grange sometime in October. She shared the updates about eight deaf congregations in Dixie Region but some didn't send any report so she didn't have any further update. She shared the report from Pastor Seeger on the happenings in Austin, Texas that Youth Ministry Program is growing from 1 to over 325. Pastor said it would not be possible without large number of wonderful volunteers. They had another ministry project which was Youth Service Trip and it had been successful, too.
8. **Eastern Region President's Report:** John Mason passed out his report. He greeted us with a message in Christ. He shared that Wayne Borgnesser was now president-elect and he would become president again after John's president term. Christ Deaf Lutheran church in Silver Spring, MD gained 9 new members from confirmations and transfer plus lost some due to relocations of members. Pastor Friedrich teach New Testament Greek class every year in the Spring. There were no Lutheran college students participating in the campus bible studies. John shared the reports on other deaf congregations but he received no further information on some others in the Eastern region. He was pleased to report that his church continued to work very hard in preparing next 19th biennial convention hosting. ER-ILDA conference was held in Ocean City, MD and it went very well. The next upcoming ER-ILDA conference would be held in North Carolina sometime next year. There were 5 functioning deaf congregation in the Eastern Region.
9. **Great Lakes Region President's Report:** Brian Grabler shared his short report on GLRC which was held in Columbus, Ohio last year. The next GLRC will be held in Toledo, Ohio. He received a word from Pastor Dunseth of Detroit that they no longer wanted to be part of GLRC but there was no official letter. He reported that President-elect Robert Gore passed away recently. Deaf Pittsburgh church continued to be standing but without a pastor as Pastor Mark Ruppert went to hearing church.
10. **Midwest Region President's Report:** Ron Nester came as a representative in the place for President Glenda Haefner who regretted being unable to attend. 2004 Midwest Conference in Lincoln, NE was cancelled due to low number of registrations (soaring gas prices at that time.) 2005 Midwest Conference was successfully held in Olathe, Kansas. Officers were re-elected for another year as no one else were interested so the entire officers were willing to continue the service for another year for the Lord. He shared the updates on pastors for the deaf in other states. Pastor Leighty decided to resign from Word of God Lutheran Church, IA and would be relocating to Fort Wayne, IN to be near his daughter's family. this coming September.
11. **Northwest Region President's Report:** Rolph Foster gave his report about his NW Region. NW Region Conference was held at Shoshone Base Camp in Idaho last July, 2004. Faith Lutheran Church in Spokane, WA was the host. 49 attended. Pastor Seeger held 3 workshops. Next NW Conference will be hosted by Western Washington Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Seattle, WA in August, 2006. Pastor Hank Drummond accepted the call to be pastor in Miami, FL. Deaf Lutheran Bible Camp will be held during August 11-14 in Big Fork, Montana.
12. **Pacific Region President's Report:** Lee Ann Kotal gave her report. She shared that Pilgrim Lutheran Church of the Deaf had some ups and downs. Deacon Charles Kotal continued his service as deacon for third year despite his health problems and would eagerly continue to serve for another year or two. There were financial struggles as well. There were other ASL interpreted church services in Anahiem, Carpenteria, San Diego and Burbank. Pastor Roy Dahmann continued his preaching at Memorial

Lutheran Church in Fremont, CA as well as other church in Sacramento. Pastor Rowland was no longer a pastor in the area. Pacific Region of ILDA conference was held last October. There was a new effort to establish the contact with deaf Lutherans in Arizona. Deaf Youth Camp (founded by Pastor Leber) will be held on Aug 14-19.

13. **Necrology Chairperson's Report:** Diane Francisco greeted us in Christ with a report on necrology. She wasn't able to get much updates but she tried her best in collecting and checking more. She passed out copies of necrology report which contained list of deceased ILDA members, photos and obituaries.
14. **Nominating Chairperson's Report:** Lester Ahls greeted us in Christ. Lester commented that he had served and been with ILDA for many years that he felt like he was coming back home to see and be with us all as one wonderful loving family in Christ. He was grateful to be able to attend this convention in such beautiful country. He was asked to replace Past President James Swallory who had to resign on account of his and his wife's health problems. It was very difficult to find well-qualified members who were willing to be considered to run for certain positions. He mentioned about the standing motion to allow president to continue another term while president-elect continue another term, which he thought to be a very good motion due to good reasons. John Mason expressed the interest to run for president-elect and Erika Sipchen expressed similar interest to run for treasurer position.
15. **Missions Project Chairperson's Report:** 2004-2005 Missions Projects Report was shown on the overhead as follows:

2004-2005 Missions Projects

1. DIT/Zacharus Fund - \$7,000
2. ILDA Public Relations/Video Project - \$5,000
3. Starfish Learning Center - \$3,000
4. Ghana Outreach Training - \$2,000
5. India Outreach Training - \$2,000
6. www.Deaffesus.org - \$3,000
7. Brazil Outreach Training - \$1,500
8. World Mission - Deaf Mission Society - \$1,500
(Under Deaf Ministry Task Force)
9. Pax Natrua Ranch (Canada) - \$1,000
- Total - \$26,000

\$21,741.42 was earned so far as of August 2, 2005. About 83% of the goal had been reached. There would be a new proposal for two more new mission projects so the tentative list would be as follows:

Tentative 2005-2007 Missions Project

1. Ghanda - Lutheran Deaf School \$7,000
2. Deaf Lutheran Ministry (ILDMS) \$5,000
3. Starfish Deaf Learning Center \$4,800
4. India Outreach Training \$2,000
5. Rev. Leber Deaf Lutheran Youth Camp \$1,500
6. Youth Service Project \$5,000
7. VBS, Sunday School, After School Education \$7,000
- Total \$27,300

There was a discussion on the uncertainty in maintaining ILDMS fund and how more projects can be added, rearrange the projects and requested funding amounts and so on. One wanted more information about Starfish Deaf Learning Center. Pastor Seeger proposed two additional funding ideas on Youth Service Project (Christian Youth Community trip projects) and VBS, Sunday School and After School Education - a developing project wish by Jennifer Knaack Ceyanes to help with curriculum development.

The meeting was put on hold at 12:35pm for lunch break. Pastor Seeger did the prayer for both meeting and lunch.

The voting was taking place on each proposed mission project item. Pastor Seeger came up and signed a prayer to give us the wisdom as we do the voting wisely with the help from Holy Spirit.

Proposed Items #1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 were passed except for #2. The total missions project would be \$27,300. Lee Ann Kotal (seconded by Diane Francisco) moved to accept the proposed Mission Projects listing as seen in the above with item #2 removed. **Passed.**

16. **ILDA History/Video Project Chairperson's report:** Tim Johnston shared a message from Alice Hagemeyer who wished that her report which was received in the email today to be forwarded to the Board of Directors. It was
17. **Scholarship Chairperson's Report:** Charles Kotal gave the report informing that he had served on the committee for ten years but during the last three years there were so many changes in our Deaf Ministry such as some cuts by the districts on the deaf ministry and the like. He had not received any application from the seminary students in St. Louis or Fort Wayne. However the DIT program continued to provide theological education program. We had few students who were now in the pastoral level and had completed missionary work in Ghana, Africa. We would need

to focus on DIT students to become church workers for the deaf. In the scholarship fund, we had \$36,000 which couldn't be kept too long as it would need to be spent and provided as financial assistance to our DIT students. Charles would like to contact Sandy Green and Rev. Roger Altenberger to get the list of student names who would be in the upper pastoral level that would be qualified to receive any financial assistance from our scholarship funds. Mark S. Larson, Arlington, Kansas, who was currently in Master of Divinity Program at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis had asked for financial support. He had an interesting information of his continued involvement and interest in serving with Deaf ministry. Pat Munroe, who was currently studying to become Deaconess, would be interested to receive some assistance but Charles would like to interview her for more information. Brian Grabler moved (seconded by David Brown) to give \$1,000 to each Mark Larson and Pat Munroe. **Passed.**

18. **Right Hand Award Chairperson's Report:** Elmer Francisco reported that there were four nominated and three were of similar service and other one was a new person. The vote on one person was already taken but will be announced at the convention.
19. **Old Business:** Greg Desrosiers shared with us that few of 2003 ILDA Convention motions were referred to the Law Committee but there was no action on any of them. Pam Kane shared that there was one motion relating to giving a second term for the president position but that motion had to be held off because of missing one important step by appearing in the Deaf Lutheran newsletter at least 90 days prior to the convention. That motion was carried over and was already printed in the Deaf Lutheran issue several months earlier. One motion called for changed ILDA Convention format to have less business meetings but more workshops. Past President Swalley referred the motion to 2005 ILDA Convention Host committee which already took the action on it that we now have 8 workshops. Greg shared that host committee's financial support request to Mill Neck Foundation came back with smaller financial support than in the past since they were interested to see more improvements in our convention. He also shared that ICDA (Catholics) had larger number of workshops than ours like 40 so it would be the time to make more changes and improvements.
20. **New Business:**
 - a. **Second term for ILDA President Motion:** Lester Ahls came to the floor and recited his motion that ILDA President's single term should be expanded to 2 terms. He shared his rationale that the president may appreciate an additional term to continue his/her goals and ideas into second term and that in the event of not finding any qualified candidates for the president-elect position so the president could continue another term. He requested that this motion would receive the full support. Rolph Foster seconded the motion. The vote to accept

this motion on the convention floor was **passed.**

- b. **Triennial Convention Motion:** The motion was made by Donna Wright of Eastern Region to suggest that ILDA Convention be held every three years so those who want to attend can afford after saving some money over the time. Greg Desrosiers made a point that this motion needed to be brought over to the convention floor because a representative wasn't here to support that motion. Pam Kane wanted to share her concern about the motion as that would create an impact on ILDA Constitution, By-laws and so on as the changes would be needed to be made, president term be of three years instead of two, regional conferences be held every 3 years and the chaos might happen. There were additional points being made that this motion might not be in good favor.
- c. **ILDA History Book Sale Price Motion:** Diane Francisco made the motion to accept the sale price of \$5 on the bounded books of ILDA History which would be collected towards Ghana Mission Project. The motion was seconded by Larry Ginter. **Passed.**
- d. **Donation of ILDA History book Motion:** Lester Ahls moved to donate a free copy of ILDA History book to Archie Marshall since he drew our first ILDA logo. Seconded by Brian Grabler. **Passed.**
- e. **The Deaf Lutheran Newsletter Subscription Rate Motion:** Rolph Foster made the motion to increase the subscription rate to \$12 per year for The Deaf Lutheran newsletter. Seconded by John Mason. There was quite a number of discussions. The voting took place. **Failed.**
- f. **JrILDA Registration Motion:** Jennifer Bonura passed out a copy of letter written by Ron Taylor of Houston, Tx who has deaf daughter about the registration cost issue for ILDA Convention. Pastor Seeger shared an additional information about the issue in trying to make Youth Service Trip happen but failed due to some difficulties. Few others shared their thoughts and suggestions. Pam Kane move to table that motion to next ILDA Convention in 2007.
- g. **ILDA Debit Card Motion:** Erika Sipchen made a motion that ILDA Treasurer establish a new debit card. Pam explained the good rationale for needing a debit card so that it could be used in the circumstances where personal ILDA checks weren't accepted. Seconded by Janice Mancill. **Passed.**

Greg Desrosiers moved to close the new business. It was adjourned at 3:00 pm. Pastor Seeger signed the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Tim Johnston
ILDA Secretary



ILDA Booklet...

Diane Francisco, ILDA History and Necrology, has recently published a beautiful 8-1/2 x 11" x 1/4" thick book on past ILDA people, officers and memories.

Contact Diane at:
Sweetmummie@aol.com
for information and price/shipping costs.



The DEAF LUTHERAN

Advertising Rates...

The following rates has been established for advertising in *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter. Ads must be in good taste, related to Christianity, and of interest to deaf Lutheran readers. Typewritten or email text are preferred. Photos and camera ready arts can be submitted by mail or sent by email in "jpeg" file format. Contact Deaf Lutheran's Editor at TheDeafLutheran@yahoo.com for more information on how to submit ads.

The rates are as: \$100 for full page; \$60 for half page, \$40 for quarter page; and \$25 for one-eighth page size advertisement per issue.

Advertising help provide some income to *The Deaf Lutheran* staff for travels to different regions.



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