



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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Summer 2015

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Farewell from the 2013-2015 President



This is my farewell article as ILDA president. It has been a real pleasure to serve you as your president for the past two years since July 2013. By the time you read this article, I will have already stepped down from my presidency and the

new president, John Mason, will have taken over to lead ILDA. May the Lord so richly bless him and the newly elected officers as they roll up their sleeves to do the Lord's work during 2015 - 2017!

As I said in my President letter in the 2015 ILDA program book, on behalf of the ILDA Executive Council and members, we want to show our great appreciation to the Madison host committee for bidding for the 2015 convention since they had only 1 year and 8 months to plan and prepare for the convention. The committee managed to book the beautiful Crowne Plaza hotel in such a short time. Let's show our hands in the air with gratitude to Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church and their hard work for making the convention a BIG SUCCESS!

Finally, I would like to encourage you all to support our newly elected ILDA officers and work with them in order to make ILDA stronger. In addition, I hope to see you all at the 24th Biennial ILDA convention in Fort Wayne, IN in 2017. The host congregation will be Peace Lutheran Church from Indianapolis, IN. May the Lord bless the 2017 ILDA planning committee in their preparation of the next convention!

May our Loving Lord Jesus so richly bless you all!
Carol Seeger



Hello from the new President John Mason



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

Hello, my name is John C. Mason, Jr. and I am from the state of Maryland. I am a member of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Silver Spring, Maryland.

I was president of the Eastern Region – International Lutheran Deaf Association (ER-ILDA) twice in 2004 – 2006 and since 2010 by default until I resigned in 2013 when I was elected as President-Elect for ILDA at the 2013 convention in Austin, Texas. Now I recently became President at the 2015 convention in Madison, Wisconsin on July 26, 2015.

In May 2015, I graduated from Gallaudet University with two Bachelor of Art degrees: Media Design and Photography. Now, you probably are wondering why I went to Gallaudet. Well I tell you, in 2009, I was laid off from a printing industrial company, Moore Wallace. I was just a few weeks shy of 30 years of service. No, I was not eligible to retire because I didn't meet one of two requirements. I passed on the number of years, minimum requirement is 20 years but I failed to meet the second requirement, you have to be 55 or older. I was 53 at that time. Bummer!

Anyway, where does Gallaudet University fit in? During my unemployment time, I applied to over 600 jobs and got called in for interviews. I knew I could get the job easily because of my experience but I was wrong. They are government jobs I was seeking. They didn't care about the experience I had but they all asked me the same question, "Do you have a college degree?" Nope, I don't. That's when I decided to go to Gallaudet University to get a BA degree in order to get a better chance of getting hired in the federal government. At the time I wrote this, I am in eligible status and that's good news. Before Gallaudet, I was not eligible and they keep my resume for a year. Now I am eligible, they are able to "share" my resume among the

government agencies. What that does mean? It means that any agency that has a job position related to my dual majors can contact me as soon as possible. While I was unemployed and a student at Gallaudet, I prayed many times for employment until I realized I needed a degree. I asked the Lord for the guidance and wisdom then I remember "A.S.K." ASK is an abbreviation of what Jesus said, A for Ask and it shall be given to you, S for Seek and you will find, and K for Knock and the door will be opened. (Matthew 7:7 and Luke 11:9).

I have Asksed for guidance for higher education, I have Sought and obtained a degree (but I got two) and now I am Knoocking on the door for opportunity. The Lord has plans for me and I just have to wait. He knows what's best for me. In the meantime, I continue to apply for the position I want to work and, of course, with help from the Lord.

By the way, I want to ask something of those who just went to Madison, Wisconsin for the convention. What do you like about the ILDA convention and what do we need to improve for the next ILDA convention at Fort Wayne, Indiana? Please let me know! Here's my email address:
presidentilda20152017@gmail.com

In case you don't have a computer, you can send your letter to:

John C. Mason, Jr.
6721 Deep Run Parkway
Elkridge, Maryland 21075-6557

We have two conventions lined up; Fort Wayne, Indiana 2017 and Topeka, Kansas 2019. Praise the Lord! Now I am praying and respectfully asking you to volunteer to host the 2021 convention as soon as possible and submit your bid before our Executive Council meeting next summer before or by June 1, 2016.

In the ILDA Constitution and By-Laws, we should have convention sites selected six (6) years in advance. In other words, at the recent 2015 convention, we should know 2017 and 2019 then bidding for 2021. By the time of the 2017 convention, we should know 2019 and 2021 then expect to bid for 2023.

I kindly request some of you to submit bids for 2021 as soon as possible. I want to see ILDA to be continued! Please discuss within your congregation and submit your official congregational letter to bid before June 1, 2016.

God Bless!!!
John Mason

From the Pastoral Advisor



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the International Lutheran Deaf Association discussion session on Sunday morning before worship, the pastors answered questions from the audience. The questions were geared mostly on homosexuality on the basis of Holy Bible, so for you, I am copying Romans 1:24-27 that teach that men must never have sex with other men and women must never have sex with other women. Homosexuality is not accepted in the Bible. Romans 1:24-27 states "So God let them go. He allowed them to do what their sinful hearts wanted to. He let them commit sexual sins. They polluted one another's bodies by what they did. They chose a lie instead of God's truth. They worshiped and served created things. They did not worship the Creator. But he must be praised forever. Amen. So God let them go. They were filled with shameful longings. Their women committed sexual acts that were shameful. In the same way, the men turned away from their natural love for women. They burned with sexual longing for each other. Men did shameful things with other men. They suffered in their bodies for all the twisted things they did.

I think Romans 1:24-27 is clear to all of you for sitting down and discussing with your beloved friends or relatives. You should pray with trust in Jesus as our Savior for the betterment of gays and lesbians. Just pray "Dear Father in heaven. Help other people I know who have trouble. Amen."

Keep the faith. Love in Christ.
Rev. Gregory Desrosiers
gdesrosiers1@shaw.ca

Thank you to all who shared photos of the 2015 ILDA Convention in Madison. It is greatly appreciated.

The Editors



Denise Pulfer leads youth from Wisconsin to a youth service project in Minnesota



In June 2015 a group of six young adults from Our Savior Deaf in Madison, WI went to Lutheran Island Camp in Henning, MN for a week long youth service project. They cleaned trails, brushed and fed the horses prior to the campers' arrival. They also met for Bible Study and acted out the story of Abraham and Isaac to the hearing staff at the camp. They wanted the staff to realize it doesn't matter if you are deaf or hearing, we can all share the gospel. It was a great time for the young adults to learn more about God through prayer, Bible Study, singing and devotions. If you would like to support their trip in 2016 you can send donations to Our Savior Deaf Church, 3110 Dairy Dr., Madison WI 53708. Put in the memo line "2016 youth service trip."

Rev. Mark Seeger leads youth service trip to San Francisco

In June 2015 Rev. Mark Seeger led six youth and three adults on a youth service trip to San Francisco, CA. They did a variety of service projects: working on a farm, soup kitchen, assisted living center, Habitat for Humanity store, beach clean up and worshipped at Memorial Lutheran Chapel in Fremont. If you would like to make a donation to support these youth service trips led by



Rev. Seeger you can send your donations to: Deaf Youth Ministry, PO Box 685132, Austin, TX 78768-5132.

Jennifer Ceyanes travels to China



Ceyanes traveled to Macau, China for four weeks this past spring. She was able to meet up with her former students from 15 years ago! This picture is taken at a workshop that she led.

2015 ILDA Convention Report by Janet Gehlbach, Co-Editor

The 2015 ILDA convention was held on July 23-26 at the Crowne Plaza in Madison, WI. Host congregation for the convention was Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church. The committee chose the theme "I will meditate all day and all night" from Psalm 77:12. Many thanks to Dawn and Gregory Werth (co-chairs) and all the committee members for their hard work in making the 2015 ILDA convention a huge success! Many thanks also to the excellent interpreters: Brenda Lerner, Misty Luedtke, Kim Bagley and Paula Willig.

Opening and evening devotions were led by the DIT deaconesses (Becky Catchpole, Linda Desrosiers, Pat Hycnar and Dawn Werth).

The convention opened on Thursday evening with the opening devotion, a skit by the host committee and introduction of the host committee members and ILDA officers. There was only one skit competition which was done by members of Peace Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN.



Attendees were encouraged to look at the banners made by several congregations. Social night consisted of cheese and crackers, fellowship and a photo booth where attendees could have their photo taken.

Friday morning started the business meeting which lasted until 4 p.m. Election of officers for 2015-2017 are (see photo):



I. to r.: Rev. Greg Desrosiers, Pastor Advisor (Canada); Karen Beiter, Treasurer (NY); Janet Gehlbach, Secretary (MN); Gregory Werth, President-Elect (WI) and John Mason, President (MD)

The Mission Projects for 2013-2015 met its goal on October 31, 2014. Yay!!! Thank you everyone who donated to the mission projects. Any additional funds were either saved for the 2015-2017 mission projects or were put into the ILDA General Fund. At the convention Mission Project Goals for 2015-2017 were voted on. Please see the back page of this newsletter for the list.



Friday afternoon and evening Rev. **Wayne Dobrantz** gave a presentation on "Spiritual Warfare." Dobrantz retired in 2009 having served LCMS congregations. He has worked as a consultant on the

occult for the South Wisconsin District and served on the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) Committee on Theology and Church Relations. Dobrantz shared ghost stories, showed

videos and explained how do a house cleansing to cast out demons and evil spirits.

The Saturday morning and afternoon presentations were led by **Bryan Osborne**. He is part of the group "Answers in Genesis" who set up the Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY. Osborne did an awesome job talking about creation vs evolution. God's word is true and the Bible is not a science textbook.



The banquet speaker on Saturday evening was **Dr. Bev Yahnke**, Executive Director for Christian Counsel Doxology. She gave a funny presentation on sports and meditation, focusing our attention on

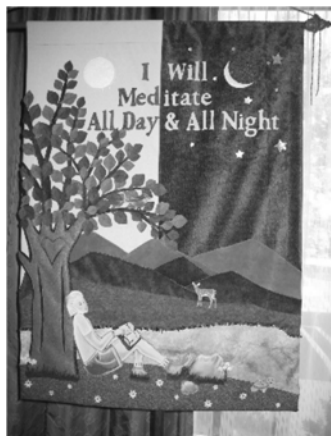
God, reflection Bible Study, worship and prayer. We need to focus on Jesus constantly and pray without ceasing.

The **Uriel C. Jones Right Hand Award** was presented by **Jennifer Bonura (I.)** to **Diane Francisco** from **Spokane Valley, WA.**



Congratulations Diane!

Historian Awards were presented by Diane Francisco to: Betty Jo and Russell Healy (founding members of ILDA), Rev. Rodney Rynearson (MI), Don and Mary Mowl (PA), Rev. Bill Ludwig (WA) and Lester Ahls (IN).



1st Place
New Hope Deaf LC
Wausau, WI



2nd Place
Our Savior Deaf LC
Madison, WI



3rd Place
Peace Deaf LC
Indianapolis, IN



4th Place
Concordia LC
Kirkwood, MO

The skit competition award was given to Peace Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN.

Church worker recognition was present by Rev. Daryl Gehlbach (MN) to those who celebrated anniversaries in 2014: Revs. Louis Jasper, William Ludwig and Rodney Rynearson (55 years); Revs. Richard Moody and Mark Seeger (35 years); Revs. Edwin Bergstresser, Gary Lawson and William Palmer (30 years); Rev. John Reinke (25 years); Rev. William Knaack (20 years); Rev. David Nielsen (15 years) and Rev. Mark Winkelman (5 years). For 2015 those celebrating anniversaries were Rev. Gerhard Gehrs (55 years), Rev. Robert Leonhardt (50 years), Rev. David Carstens (45 years) and Rev. Roy Dahmann (40 years).



A plaque of appreciation was given to Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church for their outstanding efforts in hosting the 2015 ILDA convention. Committee members were: Richard Belling, Becky Catchpole, Lee Frazier, Shirley Frazier, Gayle Harner, Pat Hycnar, Janet Jordan, Betty Jo Lucero, Paul Lucero, Diane Opprieht, Johanna Palmer, Duane Peters, Jolene Peters, Joy Rader, Dacia Reinke, Rev. John Reinke, Lynette Skibinski, Victor Skibinski, Dawn and Greg Werth (co-chairs).

Sunday morning Bible Study was a "Question & Answer" where attendees could ask the pastors any questions and they gave their answers. A wide variety of questions were asked.



(l. to r.) Rev. Tim Eckert, Rev. Daryl Gehlbach and Rev. Greg Desrosiers answering questions in Bible Study.

Sunday morning worship with Holy Communion was led by Rev. John Reinke, Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church and assisted by David Buntin.



The choir of Our Savior also signed a couple songs. The new 2015-2017 ILDA officers were inducted and the passing of the ILDA banner was given to the next host congregation, Peace Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN.



See you all in July 2017 at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN!

In Memoriam



Rev. Marlin James Sampson died April 23, 2015. He graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1951. He served the Southern Dixie Deaf Mission Field (1953-56); the Texas-Oklahoma field (1956-60); and the San Francisco Peninsula Deaf Mission field (1968-78). He also served hearing churches in Nevada and California.

General News

Rev. John Reinke completed his dissertation for his doctorate degree. If you would like to read it you can go to www.LutheranDeafOutreach.org and click on the link which will allow you to read his dissertation.

The **LCMS Deaf Ministry Directory** was updated recently. If you would like to see the list of churches that have signed worship and hearing churches that have interpreted worship you can check out the website www.DeafJesus.org. Many thanks to Janet Gehlbach for her help in updating the directory and also to Rev. Tim Eckert and Rev. Ron Friedrich (webmaster) for their input and assistance in making the changes online.

ILDA Officers

International Officers (2015-2017)

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

Central Region (2014-2016)

President – Dawn Polzin
 V. President – Albert Moore
 Secretary – Betty Jo Lucero
 Treasurer – Paul Lucero
 Pastor Advisor – Rev. Tom Phillips

Midwest Region (2014-2016)

President – Ronald Nester
 V. President – Janet Gehlbach
 Secretary – Dorene Sell
 Treasurer – Bill Zimmerman
 Pastor Advisor – Rev. Daryl Gehlbach

Northwest Region (2014-2016)

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

Dixie Region

Not active but hope to start again

Great Lakes Region (2014-2016)

President – Deacon John Rushton
 President Elect – Stephen Rute
 Secretary – Karen Beiter
 Treasurer – JoAnna Rushton
 Pastor Advisor - Rev. Gary Lawson

Eastern Region

President – Carolyn Mason
 V. President – vacant
 Secretary – Lorrey Padon
 Treasurer – vacant
 Pastor Advisor - Rev. Ron Friedrich

Pacific Region

Not active

Please send any corrections or updates to the editors.

International Lutheran Deaf Association (ILDA) Executive Council Meeting minutes

Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf
 Madison, Wisconsin
 Friday, June 20, 2014 - Saturday, June 21, 2014

Carol Seeger: President
 John Mason: Elect-President
 Becky Jungklaus: Secretary
 Patrick Sell: Treasurer
 Rev. Eckert: Synodical Representative for Pastor Konkel
 Rev. Gehlbach: Pro tem Pastor Advisor for Pastor Greg Desrosiers

Meeting came to order at 9:15 am on Friday, June 20 with an opening prayer led by Becky Jungklaus. President: Carol Seeger welcomed and introduced to everyone at Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf.

Thanked the members of Our Savior Lutheran Church of the deaf for hosting 2015 ILDA convention. Dawn Polzin will give her report to the meeting tomorrow after we visit Crown Plaza Hotel.

Carol talked about Rev. Konkel's resignation from his post as LDMS Executive Director on June 30 because of Rev. Konkel's health problem. Rev. Greg Desrosiers can't make it to the meeting because of his financial problem due to a teacher strike that affected his job and he was unable to afford his airfare, etc. Rev. Gehlbach was a pro-tem. Also thanked to Rev. Gehlbach for being here for us. Any questions: Pastor Eckert asked Carol about Konkel's vote. Can he vote? The board officers replied yes.

Minutes from last year ILDA in Austin, Texas accepted as read. Passed

President's report: After everyone read President's report. Thanked the church for hosting 2015 ILDA convention. At first, we were going to use Concordia Lutheran College at Milwaukee but it was booked so Dawn looked for hotels and she found Crown Plaza. We will visit a hotel Crown Plaza tomorrow at 11 am. We will gather our reports and we need to discuss expenses for next year's convention. Carol discussed with Treasurer Sell about finances. We need to collect more funds for ILDA. In Austin, at ILDA convention Sell mentioned that there was no fundraising. If there is no fundraising, ILDA will collapse. We need to keep it up and Carol warned us about this situation. We are losing more deaf Lutheran churches and deaf members. It is possible that 2015 ILDA convention may be the last one.

Mission Fund Chairperson: Patrick Sell asked about Pam Kane. Pam has not left her church yet but she has visited other churches. There is a rumor that Pam Kane may leave Lutheran church. Someone must notify to Carol if Pam may leave. Recently Pam asked Carol about ILDA 2015 planning committee. There is no report

from her. There was some confusion about Pam Kane. Carol Seeger will clarify with her through videophone real soon.

Directory of Deaf Mission: Diane Francisco wanted an updated directory of deaf churches, interpreted services, and deaf Lutheran people. Pastor Eckert asked "Who is responsible to maintain the directory?" The copyright is from St. Louis. Pastor E has been working on this. Directory of Deaf Mission was started in 2002. We need to ask members if their home addresses and personnel information changes, and if so, please notify to Pastor E. Patrick Sell informed there is no communication between members. Lack of communication is the biggest issue. Regions gave reports. Becky Jungklaus discussed about Facebook ILDA. No one followed up the reports so far. Patrick Sell mentioned 40% deaf people are still using TTY. Pastor G posts deaf newsletter quarterly. Pastor E will work and update all members on their church survey. Pastor E asked "Who is responsible to maintain the survey?" John Mason wants to work with Pastor E. Pastor E will talk with Pastor Greg about sending copies of survey to all members. Pastor G suggests sending them out through emails.

Regional Conferences: Canada Trinity Deaf Lutheran Church has invited Carol twice to come to their NW ILDA regional conference. Carol wanted to go but unable to, because of the cost of flight. She refused to request for reimbursement from ILDA transportation funds and she had no passport. It was too expensive to fly to Canada.

Regional Officers: Carol explains that she had encouraged one of her friends to attend ILDA convention but her friend was always making excuses. John Mason mentioned that his people made their excuses for not going to ILDA. Carol asked Patrick and John to encourage their regional members to attend ILDA 2015 convention.

Dixie Regional: Jennifer Bonura wanted to start up Dixie ILDA Region again. Martha Malone was the last president of Dixie.

Only 5 ILDA regions are still active: Great Lakes, Northwest Regional, Eastern Regional, Central Regional and Midwest

Dixie and Pacific Regionals- no action.

Carol strongly encouraged all regional presidents to attend the ILDA board meeting either on Wednesday, a day before ILDA convention or attend on Thursday morning before the convention begins at 1:00 pm.

Law Committee: no report

ILDA Historical Papers: Diane asked about the ILDA historical boxes. Recently she sold her house and she lives in an apartment. Pastor G gives two options, send to Concordia historical office for reviewing all the documents. Some documents may not be necessary to keep and LCMS has a permanent storage. ILDA could scan all the documents but who will be responsible for it.

Again Pastor Gehlbach suggested to send all the boxes to Concordia storage. Finally Pastor Gehlbach requested Diane to contact him through videophone.

Copies of Minutes and Treasurer's Reports: To be added to ILDA convention registration packet for 2015 so the members will have a chance to read the reports. It would be prior to next business meeting and it would save time at the business meeting. Becky Jungklaus and Patrick Sell will make copies of minutes and treasurer's reports to all members who are registered for the convention.

John Mason: he is still working with his Eastern region. He and his wife have contacted people in New York. They distributed minutes and fund report to all the members but they received no response. Patrick Sell said they don't need a regional conference. What is good to have a conference? Again, individual will give donations but in regional area members don't give donation. Regional members don't ask for reimbursement for their transportation expenses. Carol mentioned to add a motion to encourage all regional presidents to come to the ILDA board meeting Wednesday before ILDA convention 2015 to new business.

Bible Development Lessons Fund:

Secretary, Becky Jungklaus, contacted Jennifer Ceyanes and asked her "What is the status of this project?" Jennifer Ceyanes responded in email that in Bible lessons she has completed 5 lessons and will work more 5 lessons in the fall. No one has meeting minutes for 2005 and it may be lost. Carol suggested this project to be completed by summer 2015 before ILDA convention and left up the Board Officers to decide what to do about it. Pastor Gehlbach: 10 years on the project, we haven't seen the project or it could be fraud. Ten years has been a very long time and it is not worth it. We may need to tell her to show her work. Or be patient with her to complete her work. We have discussed how to forgive her. Pastors had asked her where the projects were because no one has seen her work since 2005. Pastor G: We need to be patience for Jennifer's work and we are hoping to see her works tomorrow.

Break: 12:00 pm Pastor Eckert prayed

President-Elect report:

John Mason shared his college education with us saying that he will graduate from Gallaudet University in May 2015. He resigned from Eastern Regional president. Carolyn Snyder-Mason was elected as Acting President. John reported many deaf churches have been dissolved, and only two deaf churches are still active, Charlotte NC and Washington DC. The regional conference was the last meeting in 2010 and there was no chance to have conference in future. John reported that he could not proceed without any written documentation to request for

supplement version to the constitution and bylaws. He has been waiting for Pam Kane for proposal of treasurer-elect. (Pastor Eckert recommended to add a statement for a new treasurer-elect to be training and interning with a mentor Article 9 Section D #11 and add Section E for a list of Treasurer's duty. John will work on the draft by-laws.)

(Pastor Eckert brought up about by-law #6, what would happen if president, president-elect and treasurer would be absent? Look at 6 Section E. #25)

New Business: Motion #1 (ILDA Business Convention 2013, Austin TX): Pam Kane moved that the position of treasurer-elect to be added to the ILDA constitution and handbook.

Pastor Gehlbach: #25 means that John Mason needs to do the work because he has authority and he doesn't need to contact Pam Kane. John Mason will work and try to complete in a month. Pastor Gehlbach: mentioned that Treasurer has two terms. We need to make some changes on the bylaws. Does it mean we need to add Treasurer-elect? Right now the law says treasurer has two terms.

There is an issue that Pam and Jeff each had two terms of ILDA president. No one could recall why Pam had 2 terms and, Jeff accepted 2nd term as a president because there was no President-elect available to take over because the President-elect had resigned unexpectedly earlier during Jeff's 1st term. Carol will contact Pam for clarification via videophone before she decides to dismiss her from her position of Mission Project Chairperson. Carol needs to report to Patrick Sell as soon as possible only if Pam resigns as a Mission Project Chairperson. Or, if Pam wishes to remain a chairperson and stays a Lutheran, Carol will ask her to contact Patrick directly. John Mason discussed about number of Lutheran churches in the various regions being declining, more and more hearing people leaving the church. (see attached report).

Treasurer's Report:

Patrick Sell mentioned about some checks he received using his name instead of ILDA. He asked us for our advice on what to do. Patrick Sell mentioned that individual has more power than regional members. It is useless. He said that the regional officers don't do anything to donate money to ILDA but the individual members would most likely donate by themselves. Pastor Eckert asked, "Do all the regionals donate and are they informed about the money?" Patrick Sell said never and no one mentioned about funds. Therefore no one reported to each other. Again Patrick Sell mentioned that he believed that we need to change. Checks were sent by individuals, not by groups i.e. churches, organizations, etc. Patrick received a check from Pilgrim Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Los Angeles, CA for \$10,000. He asked the church what to do with this check. After he waited for a month, but to no available, he decided to give it to a mission fund project. Patrick explained about ILDA expenses. He reported

the balance of \$2,762.25 (See attached). Patrick explained that many members don't give money and many members have not renewed their membership since the cost of membership has increased from \$25 to \$30. The shipping fees for newsletter are not cheap. No funds have been received from 2013 ILDA Convention in Austin, Texas. Attachments of ILDA accounts and a note from Pilgrim Lutheran Church of the Deaf with a check of \$10,000 (see attached report).

Synodical Representative Report:

Pastor Eckert explained about LCMS closing the deaf missions and other missions. It caused many deaf churches closed because there are no funds available. Pastor Gehlbach mentioned that many hearing Lutheran churches have their own missions. Pastor Konkel will resign and it was a surprise. His health is not good and he has cancer. He was going to retire next year but he decided to retire on June 30. Pastor Konkel did not ask Pastor Eckert to take over his position permanently, only temporarily. Pastor Eckert explained and analyzed on Rev. Konkel's position in Lutheran Deaf Mission Society. What do we need for a new Executive Director in place of Rev. Konkel? How do we help and make a better church? How do we spread God's words to others? How does it make so interesting? How do we update our Deaf Missions directory? It would make it easier to contact with others. One student, Becky King, is her third year of seminary and she will graduate soon. There are 7 interested persons - that will increase the cost for educational "DIT" expenses. DIT and Deaf PAH will help those who are trained to be able to do the mission work.

The Deaf Lutheran Publication Report:

Pastor Gehlbach and his wife, Janet, are the editors. There were some disadvantages of technology and need volunteers. Tried to email to members instead of mailing newsletters to them. Encouraged regional members to share the information for newsletters. Deadline for next newsletter is Aug 15, 2014. Discussed newsletter's shipping cost. For example, thickness of the paper, shiny and how to fold the newsletter. Janet will check the cost for shipping and quality of papers at Post office.

Meeting was dismissed for the day at 5:00 pm with a prayer by John Mason.

Saturday, 9:45 am.

Bible Lesson Development Project:

One Bible story with 5 different levels in age groups was shown via PowerPoint. Our goal is to have Jennifer to complete the project by 2015 ILDA Convention. Carol suggested to have a group of teachers or other people to assist Jennifer. Pastor Gehlbach suggested to share and help and give her more opportunity to finish her lessons.

Setting up booths for convention:

By Law: setting up booth requires 6 months prior to 2015 ILDA Convention. ILDA board members need to approve tables, or vendors. Mill Neck LWML, LDML, DIT etc. Patrick Sell will work on cost for the booth. It is not for selling things. Booth information and need to be booked will go to Host Committee.

Church Host for 2015 ILDA convention:

Dawn Polzin reported the dates for Executive Board meeting prior to 2015 convention. Denise Pulfer, Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf member, volunteered to work on workshops for convention. Handouts of draft registration form package were distributed. Crown Plaza Hotel in Madison Wisconsin is selected for 2015 ILDA convention. Dawn will continue to negotiate with the hotel director on the hotel's expenses (rooms, foods, banquet meeting room, tours, performance/events, program book, etc.).

New Business:

Motion #1: Patrick Sell received a check from the Pilgrim Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Los Angeles, California. It was moved and seconded that \$10,000 be put in Mission Fund Project. Passed

Motion #2: It was moved and seconded that all ILDA historical papers (9 boxes) be transported to Concordia Institute in St. Louis, for reviewing all the papers. Passed (Discussion: Some papers may not be necessary to be kept. These papers may be deleted while other papers would be kept in the permanent boxes. These papers should be stored permanently in Concordia Institute Storage. Pastor Gehlbach will find out the cost).

Motion #3: It was moved and seconded that our deaf newspaper be put into LDMS. Passed

Motion #4: it was moved and seconded that President contact Pam Kane, as a Mission Fund Chairperson. Passed

Motion #5: it was moved and seconded that Regional officer or member as a representative for the region should attend to ILDA Board meeting on Thursday morning before ILDA convention begins at 1:00 p.m. Passed

Motion #6: Discussed newsletter's shipping cost. For example, the estimated costs are the thickness of the paper, shiny and how to fold the newsletter. Janet Gehlbach will check the shipping and quality of paper costs with post office. No motion was made.

Motion #7: Bible Development Lessons Project: (Discussion: Praised Jennifer Ceyanes for her work starting 2005. The officers made some comments about this project. The officers showed some concerns that Jennifer apparently didn't get any feedbacks from the members or pastors. Pastor Gehlbach will send the projects to the churches for feedbacks and advices. The other concern is that Jennifer may have been working alone with no support or help. Does she need support and help?). It was moved and seconded that Jennifer

Ceyanes is to complete the project prior to 2015 convention. Passed

Motion #8: It was moved and seconded that Crown Plaza Hotel be selected for the 2015 ILDA Convention with the host of Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf. Passed

Motion #9: It was moved and seconded that Patrick Sell work on a booth for ILDA before the 2015 ILDA Convention. The booth is to travel to host congregations for local expos. The cost will include the display and booth table. Six months before the 2015 ILDA Convention, a church must return the display to the convention. The booth is not for selling products. It is to spread God's word to others, such as show Deaf youth ministry, DIT, DeafPah, LCMS, LWML, mission projects, etc. Passed

Motion #10: It was moved and seconded to close this new business. Passed

Meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer led by Pastor Gehlbach 4:15 pm.

LC-MS Missionaries**Rev. Ryan and Emily**

McDermott will be serving the deaf in Accra, Ghana.

Donations can be sent to: The LC-MS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. Put "McDermott-Ghana" in the memo line of your check. Make the check payable to "The LC-MS."

**Rev. David and Barbara Bush**

will be serving the deaf in Macau, China. Rev. Bush will also be the Director of the Concordia English Center.

Donations can be sent to: The LC-MS, PO Box 790089, St. Louis, MO 63179-0089. Put "Bush" in the memo line of your check. Make the check payable to "The LC-MS."

**Rev. Steven and Cynthia**

Schumacher are serving the deaf in Accra, Ghana and

training Ghanaian pastors on how to do deaf ministry in their congregations. Donations can be sent to: "The LC-MS, PO Box 790089, St. Louis MO 63179-0089. Put "Schumacher-Ghana" in the memo line of your check. Make the check payable to "The LC-MS."



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Fall 2015 – Oct. 15, 2015

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**Ahhhhhhhhhhhh! Relief!
(Dawn and Gregory, co-chairs)**

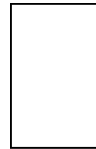
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Deaf Youth Service Project.....\$ 5,000
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