



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society

Winter 2016

St. Louis, MO

Vol. 105, No. 1

## From the President



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

Welcome to 2016. I want to wish you all a very happy new year. We all just celebrated CHRISTmas. I hope you all had a good time with your loved ones, friends, children, parents, siblings, relatives and

spouses. We all celebrated and accepted the greatest gift from God that He gave his only Son to save us from our sins. Believe in Him and we will not perish but have everlasting life! Jesus Christ is the main reason for the season? No, not just the season but at all times! He's with you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year; all of your life.

Sadly, many people don't feel or share that way. Most of them think they are celebrating Jesus' birthday on Christmas Day but they don't understand why He was here for that purpose. However, they are expecting to receive or exchange gifts. Children want gifts from their parents and/or grandparents and those are really expensive consumer products such as smartphone of any kind (Apple iPhone, Samsung Galaxy), video game consoles (Playstation, Xbox, Wii), action camera (Hero4), Hoverboard, and larger things like cars, trucks, dirt bikes and motorcycles. They Want, Wanna, Gotta have it, Gimme, Gimme, Gimme.....

It's all too much, too much for me! Christmas is becoming too commercialized and that has lured people away from religion.

The gift I (and you too) always cherish is not just on Christmas Day but everyday! I closed with two important verses from the Bible: John 3:16-17 New International Version (NIV) **16 For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have**

**eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.**

Amen!

I want to wish you all the best of luck in 2016 and beyond. Reminder: Don't forget to submit your request to host 2021 ILDA convention before or by June 1, 2016.

God Bless!!!  
John Mason

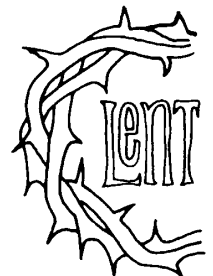
## From the Pastoral Advisor



The forty days of Lent is approaching. The purpose of the Lent is to observe by fasting, giving alms, forgiveness of sins, and abstaining from amusements in Christian churches. It begins on Ash Wednesday, 40 days before Easter, excluding Sundays, and ends on Easter Sunday. We have witnessed

our Lord's teaching and miracles. This spring originated as one of spiritual preparation for Easter in remembrance of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Last year we taught our congregation that this may have been done as a reminder of the 40 days that Jesus Christ fasted in the wilderness after His baptism in the Jordan River. It is extremely important to remind your home congregation of that Lent as we have seen His love for us by giving His perfect life as the sacrifice for our sin. We will rejoice again at His resurrection from the dead on Easter morning.

**Keep the faith. Love in Christ.**  
**Rev. Gregory Desrosiers**  
[gdesrosiers1@shaw.ca](mailto:gdesrosiers1@shaw.ca)



## Do you think church is boring?

Article submitted by Denise Pulfer, DCE at Our Savior Deaf, Madison, WI

NOT HERE!!

Our Savior Deaf in Madison WI has started testing a new model for Family Worship! No more sitting quietly while the Pastor tells you about God's love. Instead our families come to EXPERIENCE God's love through plays, activities, crafts, and fun! We do not have separate classes for parents and kids but have the families learn together. Our goal is to encourage parents to teach their children about God. We provide a fun and rewarding way to do it. God has provided an amazing outreach to families!!

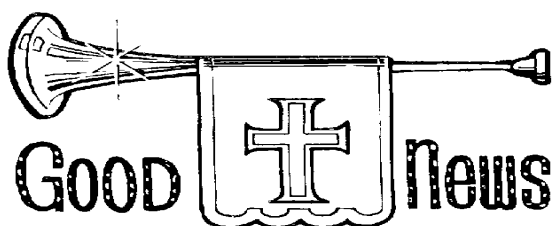
Ideas we have used so far...

- Nerf War to teach about the armor of God
- Thank God for vegetables! Teaching the story of Daniel with thank you boxes
- Family books to teach that we are all children of God
- Drawing the body of Christ. This encouraged parents to tell their children how unique and wonderful they are.
- Christmas song fest

### Family Christmas Party!

Once again Our Savior Deaf in Madison WI had their Family Christmas Party. This has become an annual outreach event that keeps GROWING! This year we had 16 families with 73 people total come to the event, 36 were children. We had face painting, games, signing Santa who gave gifts, Christmas story, and songs. The best part was families working together to build snowmen inside the church!

No doubt that God is busy in our church. Please continue to pray for the families and the children so that they can know God's awesome love!!



Families worked together to build snowmen during the Family Christmas Party



Denise Pulfer and Pastor Reinke explaining the Armor of God



Families going through the obstacle course with their shields of faith during the Nerf



Signing Santa at the Family Christmas Party



Young adults getting the prayer boxes ready for the Family Worship

## **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 Werth  
 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 – Sara Hale  
 Secretary – Dorene Sell  
 Treasurer – Bill Zimmerman  
 Pastor Advisor – Rev. Daryl Gehlbach

### **Northwest Region (2014-2016)**

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

### **Dixie Region – Not active**

### **Great Lakes Region (2014-2016)**

President – Deacon John Rushton  
 President Elect – Stephen Rute  
 Secretary –  
 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.***

## ***In Memoriam***



Ruth Peterson (b. 5-14-1926) passed away on January 7, 2016. Ruth was a very active member of Christ Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD and was known for her artwork printed in *The Mustard Seed* newsletter. God bless her memory.

## ***General News***

Bids for the 2021 ILDA Convention should be sent by June 1, 2016. Potential host(s) must have a letter written on official congregational stationery proving that their congregation has officially voted to invite the convention to their city. Please send your letter to President John Mason.

Becky Catchpole was installed and commissioned as Deaconess at Our Savior Deaf in Madison, WI on Nov. 22, 2015. Congratulations and God's blessings Becky!



Lutheran Deaf Outreach from Wisconsin has set up a TEA Time with God (ASL) on youtube.org and Facebook. TEA Time is a plan for reading the Bible in two years. The project began on January 1, 2016 and will finish on December 31, 2017. Two to three chapters daily will be read Monday through Saturday. Why "TEA" Time? TEA has a double meaning. First, tea time is connected with relaxing, reading,



meditating, talking – quiet time. This is a time to relax with God in His Word. Second, TEA is used as a way to guide the readings. TEA stands for: Theme (helps to see what connects the readings for the week), Encouragement (helps focus on what God is doing in the lives of His people) and Application (helps to see how these verses apply to our lives).

Each week videos will be put on the website [www.LutheranDeafOutreach.org](http://www.LutheranDeafOutreach.org) and on the YouTube Channel "TEAtimeASL" and on the Facebook page for Lutheran Deaf Outreach. If you have questions about TEA Time please contact the website above for more information. So far Deaconess Becky Catchpole and Pastor John Reinke have been signing. They are in the process of adding more people and hope to have a wide variety of videos.

**International Lutheran Deaf Association**

Business Meeting Minutes

Crown Plaza Hotel, Madison WI

Friday, July 24, 2015

Welcome:

Carol Seeger welcomed everyone to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Convention of International Lutheran Deaf Association (ILDA). She introduced two hosts from Our Savior Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Dawn and Greg Werth. They did a good job.

Necrology:

Diane Francisco, the chairman for Necrology shared an obituary report of Lee Ann Kotal who recently passed away and Lee Ann received her Right Hand Award from the ILDA convention in Austin, Texas in 2013. Pastor Mark Seeger led a prayer for those who passed away.

Invocation:

Pastor Greg Desrosiers led the opening prayer.

Call to Order:

8:40 a.m. on Friday, July 24, 2015

Introductions:

Parliamentarian- John Mason; Assistant to the Secretary- Janet Gehlbach; Tellers- Duane Peters, Victor Skibinski, Donna Madewell-Smith and Betty Jo Lucero; Other Committees: None; Right Hand: Jennifer Bonura; Mission Project Chairperson: Dorene Sell; Scholarship: None; Deaf Lutheran Newsletter: Janet Gehlbach and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach; Business Manager: Jeff Padon; LDMS Executive Director: Rev. Tim Eckert

Introduction of Interpreters: Brenda Lerner, Paula Willig, Misty Luedtke

Resolutions Committee: None

Nominating Committee's Report: Jeff Padon reported to nominate.

Introduction of candidates for officers

President: John Mason; President-elect: Greg Werth; Secretary: Becky Jungklaus and Janet Gehlbach; Treasurer: Karen Beiter; Pastoral advisor: Greg Desrosier

Election of new officers and pastoral advisor

President: John Mason; President-elect: Greg Werth; Secretary: Janet Gehlbach; Treasurer: Karen Beiter; Pastoral Advisor: Greg Desrosier

Minutes of the Previous Convention:

David Brown moved to accept the minutes as corrected from the 2013 ILDA Convention business meeting. Seconded by Larry Ginter. **Passed**

Treasurer's Report: (Please see attached)

Diane Munoz moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Jeff Padon. **Passed**

Auditors:

Jon Holland (Ames Iowa) and Richard Lee (Des Moines, Iowa) Positive comments were received from the auditors.

President's Report:

- Carol Seeger welcomed everyone.
- Thanked the chairpersons, Dawn Polzin Werth and Greg Werth and the planning committee of Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf for hosting the 2015 ILDA convention and for their hard work in planning the convention. They only had 1 year and 8 months to plan this convention. Carol thanked Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Fort Wayne, Indiana for accepting the 2017 24<sup>th</sup> Biennial ILDA convention. For 2019 the ILDA convention will be in Topeka, KS but the Board needs a formal letter of a bid from them.
- Carol apologized for not attending any ILDA regional conferences in the past two years. It was due to two reasons. There was her illness with abscessed pneumonia and the soaring cost of airline fares. She admits she was really disappointed as she was eagerly looking forward to it.
- Mission project chairperson- Carol regretfully informed the ILDA attendees that Pam Kane had to resign from her position as Mission Project chairperson due to her husband's health issues earlier this year, so Carol asked Dorene Sell to take over this responsibility and Dorene accepted.
- As some of you may notice that there is no Scholarship Fund chairperson at this time. Carol admitted that she did forget to appoint someone for this position. Carol apologized. There is a shrinking number of Deaf churches in USA (about only 12 deaf churches left) and LDMS (Lutheran Deaf Mission Society) is responsible for earning funds for DIT (Deaf Institute Theology). Carol suggested that ILDA members discuss this issue of the scholarship position and decide whether or not to keep or eliminate it from the bylaw book during new business.
- Even though the overall total of all funds for Mission Projects has met the goal for 2013-2015, Patrick Sell (Pro-Tem) treasurer continues to collect extra funds and put them in the ILDA treasury to go toward Mission Projects for 2015-2017.
- Upon Carol's meeting with Pastor Eckert, he explained briefly what LDMS did with the remaining funds, on foreign countries such as India and Ghana. The project is on hold for now since there are pending government issues.
- ILDA-\$1,580.71 funds from the Deaf Lutheran newsletter have been transferred from ILDA to Deaf Lutheran manager, Jeff Padon.
- There was a \$2,130.18 overage from the convention fund from 2013 ILDA convention in Austin. It went to the ILDA general fund, instead of the next ILDA convention and it is according to the bylaws book. Carol would like to add that



all of the executive officers are strongly encouraged to get familiar with the bylaws book. (see Article XX convention, Section E- Financing ILDA conventions b. Convention Registration Acct. #2)

- Several of us are concerned about the future of ILDA due to the shrinking number of deaf churches and ILDA regions. Carol mentioned that if regional leaders support and donate to ILDA then ILDA will be stronger. We want to keep ILDA active and alive.
- After receiving and using Mission Project funds, each recipient should give a report to ILDA.

#### Pastoral Advisor's Report (Pastor Gregory Desrosiers)

- During his two year term it was his privilege to serve God and Deaf Lutherans.
- Fortunately, the 2013-2015 officers did a good job at corresponding with each other via email.
- For the next term (2015-2017) let's implement with video phone (ooVoo) or other new program to have an online conference rather than flying to faraway hosts due to rising costs of airfare. (Last year, I could not make it to the Executive Board meeting due to the teacher's strike.)
- For the Deaf Lutheran newsletter, I found writing article a challenge because my thinking process took time to write down. He thanked Janet Gehlbach to remind him for deadlines for publishing the newsletter article.
- Pastor Greg thanked his faithful wife, Linda, to support him through the thick and thin air for years.

#### Synodical Representative's Report (Pastor Tim Eckert)

- Pastor Eckert reported that he was installed as the new director of LDMS in November 2014 since Pastor Konkel retired on June 30, 2014.
- In 2014, the ILDA Board said the Deaf ministry directory needed to be updated. Pastor Eckert and Janet Gehlbach did a lot of work on it. The updating of the congregations is done and is on [www.deafjesus.org](http://www.deafjesus.org). All the information still needs to be formatted for printing.
- LDMS is beginning to do more work in encouraging interpreted ministries. Pastor Eckert will continue to encourage deaf congregations and provide resources for them. Districts have cut support for deaf congregations. Debbie Larson is our new project leader for Interpreted Ministry Support.
- LDMS continues to work on revising Deaf Pah. Work is slow since some pastors are not finishing their assigned classes and Reverend Jerry Munz resigned as project leader of Deaf Pah.
- Pastor Eckert is excited about expanding program for deaf children for deaf churches and hearing churches. He discussed about mission projects. (FIJI, David Bush, Macau etc.)
- DIT student Becky Catchpole will graduate next spring and she has received her call. It will be here in Madison, Wisconsin.

- A new deaconess student from St. Louis will start her classes in the fall of 2015 and more new students will start.
- Wisconsin has been a good supporter of DIT with four students.
- A St. Louis congregation wants to be active in deaf ministry. Next year one student will start and then several more will start later.
- Thanked ILDA for its partnership with LDMS.
- To take Deaf Pah classes a student needs to work with a mentor (Pastor).
- In addition Pastor Eckert wanted to say about DIT to please continuing supporting the students. If no students graduate what would happen in the future? NO Deaf Ministry in future!
- Deaf Pah there are 6 deaf people taking classes right now. Donna Madewell-Smith is the coordinator. There are four classes per year and it is required to attend at St. Louis for a workshop once a year.

#### The Deaf Lutheran Publication Report:

Pastor Daryl Gehlbach and Janet Gehlbach reported about *The Deaf Lutheran* Newsletter. The newsletter is folded in half way for a cheaper postage cost. It prints 4 times per year. It is available free on-line. A thermometer was put into the newsletter to show the growth of donations of ILDA Mission Projects. Most likely convention minutes will be printed in the November issue. If you want to subscribe to *The Deaf Lutheran* the cost is \$10 per year. There is an ad in the back of the 2015 ILDA program book and it has Jeff Padon's address in there to mail the subscription.

#### The Deaf Lutheran Business Manager Report

Jeff Padon said Rev. Ron Friedrich and Mark Friedrich take care of the labels for *The Deaf Lutheran*. When Janet emails him the file for the issue to print he emails it to the printer. Small world the printer is a member of an LCMS church. If Jeff cannot pick up the copies from the printer then it is mailed to his home. Funds for *The Deaf Lutheran* were sent from Patrick Sell to Jeff Padon. The balance is \$1,927.94 as of June 30, 2015. A full page ad for *The Deaf Lutheran* was put into the 2015 ILDA convention program book. Bulk mail cannot be used for sending *The Deaf Lutheran* because it requires a minimum of 200 addresses. Right now it is around 100 addresses being sent first class mail. When a subscription is expired a "last issue" label is put on the back page of the newsletter. Some older people do not have computers and they prefer a paper copy of *The Deaf Lutheran*. A question was asked if *The Deaf Lutheran* can be sent via email. The answer is yes but it is too risky to do it that way. Due to time constraints ILDA attendees were asked to talk to Jeff Padon after the business meeting for any questions related to *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter.

The Finance Committee's Report: None

The Adoption of the New Budget: None

11:55 a.m. Pastor Palmer led the prayer before lunch. The meeting resumed 1:05 p.m.

The Law Committee's Report:

John Mason reported there was none.

Voting on any Proposed Changes: None

Mission Projects:

- A. Rev. Tim Eckert thanked ILDA for helping raise funds for DIT.
- B. Rev. Mark Seeger reported on the Deaf Youth Service Trip to San Francisco, CA on June 23 to 30, 2015. Six deaf teens and three adults went on the mission trip. Mark did a power point presentation showing pictures and explain what they did (helped on church farm, worked at a soup kitchen, helped at assistant living center, Habitat for Humanity store, and beach clean). Mark thanked ILDA for their support in the youth service trips.
- C. Denise Pulfer thanked ILDA for support for the Madison VBS project.
- D. Becky Jungklaus thanked ILDA for support for St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wallis TX VBS project.

Mission Project Chairperson's Report: Dorene Sell

1. Dorene received a request from Pastor Mark Seeger for \$5,000 for Deaf Teen Service Trip.
2. Pastor Eckert reports about two new seminary student funds and may request for two more new students in the future. \$7,000
3. Dorene received a request from Patty Woodworth for Sigatoka Special Education School (special needs/deaf students) in Fiji. \$5,000
4. Pastor Desrosiers requested to amend each new DIT student \$16,000.

David Brown moved to accept all three mission projects and the amendment. Seconded by Albert Moore. **Passed.**

Break began at 2:30 pm / Break ended at 3:00 pm

Honorary guests:

President Carol Seeger introduced honored guests Betty Jo and Russel Healey.

Other Committee's Report:

- A. Previous Convention committee chair: Jennifer Ceyanes explained about 2013 ILDA Convention at Concordia Texas University. It went well. 84 people attended the convention. There were a variety of workshops and everyone had a great time. The convention had \$2,261.45 that was sent to Patrick Sell for the ILDA General Fund.
- B. Special committee reports: None

The ILDA convention bids presented by future host congregations:

Alan Rork reported that Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Indianapolis submitted a bid for the next 24th Biennial ILDA

convention in 2017. The bid was accepted and the convention will be at Fort Wayne, Indiana at Concordia Theological Seminary July 20-23, 2017. Attendees have a choice of staying at a local hotel or staying at the seminary dorm.

Introduction or pastors and church workers in attendance:

Pastors: Greg Desrosiers, Tim Eckert, Ron Friedrich, Daryl Gehlbach, George Hesse, Bud Palmer, John Reinke, Alan Rork, Mark Seeger and Tyler Walworth; Deacons: Ted Pulfer and Patrick Sell; Deaconesses: Becky Catchpole, Linda Desrosiers, Pat Hycnar and Dawn Werth; Director of Christian Education: Denise Pulfer

In addition Pastor Eckert wanted to thank two wonderful pastors (Bud Palmer and John Reinke) who worked very hard in setting up the LDMS and for all the work they did.

Resolution Committee's Report: None

Unfinished Business

- o **Motion #3** (from previous 22th Biennial ILDA business meeting) Sara Hale moved to have all ILDA historical papers be scanned and put on a flash drive. Seconded by Doreen Sell. Discussion: We should scan all these papers so we don't have to bring boxes of stuff for the next officers and they can be put in the archives. Discussion closed. Seconded by Barry Dischinger. Voting took place with a show of hands. None opposed. **Passed.**
- o **Action:** Diane Francisco is willing to scan all the old business meeting notes and financial reports. She will be in contact with Tim Johnston. Karen Beiter will assist Diane Francisco.
- o Two years ago John Mason suggested about training by-laws and he received no reports. Therefore it is dead.

New Business:

Jeff Padon moved to close new business. Seconded by Ron Nester. **Passed.**

Voting on Resolutions: None

Announcements:

Several individual shared words of greetings from people who were not able to attend the convention.

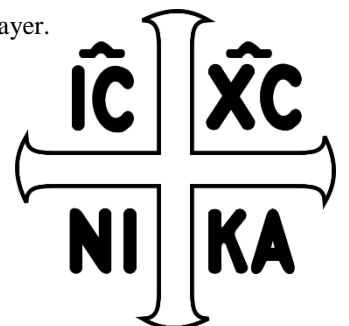
Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm

Closing Prayer:

Pastor Reinke led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Jungklaus  
ILDA Secretary, 2013-2015



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Deaf Lutheran Subscription (Print Edition)</b> One-Year Subscription – \$10.00</p> <p>Please Select:    <input type="checkbox"/> Renew                               <input type="checkbox"/> New</p> <p>=====</p> <p>Jeff Padon is the Business Manager for <i>The Deaf Lutheran</i>. All subscriptions should be sent to him at the address below. Make your check or money order payable to “<i>The Deaf Lutheran</i>.” Thanks!</p>	<p>Attach mailing label or fill in:</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ Zip Code _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Phone/VP/Fax _____</p>
<p>Mail to: <b>Jeff Padon, Business Manager, 7910 Severn Tree Blvd, Severn, MD 21144</b></p> <p>(cut on the dotted line)</p>	

**Konkel and Rork travel to India**

Rev. Dennis Konkel and Rev. Alan Rork accompanied by two interpreters, Susan Whitt of Council Bluffs, IA and Nancy St. Clair of Indianapolis, IN traveled to India January 16 - 24, 2016 to do mission work with Rev. David Christudoss. Hopefully more information and pictures will be available in the next issue of *The Deaf Lutheran*.



**Can you help?**

- Does anyone have any copies of *The Deaf Lutheran* from 1920 – 1950? Please contact Rev. Daryl Gehlbach and let him know! Thanks! dgehlbach@aol.com
- Does anyone have copies of ILDA minutes from the 1970's to the early 1990's? Please contact Janet Gehlbach, ILDA Secretary, and let her know! Thanks! jgehlbach@aol.com
- Does anyone have any extra copies of the ILDA Handbook that were printed: red, orange or buff colored front cover? Please contact Janet Gehlbach, ILDA Secretary, and let her know! Thanks! jgehlbach@aol.com

**Deadline for the next issue**  
**Spring 2016 – April 15, 2016**

**Please send photos, articles and items of interest for future issues of The Deaf Lutheran to:**  
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 305 Liberty St. NE  
 Fridley MN 55432  
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# The DEAF LUTHERAN



7910 Severn Tree Blvd.  
Severn, MD 21144

**In this Issue:**  
ILDA Business Meeting  
Minutes



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### Mission Projects for 2015-2017

Deaf Youth Service Project.....\$ 5,000  
Fiji Special Education Center.....\$ 5,000  
DIT students .....\$ 7,000

Amended for each new DIT student...\$ 16,000

Donations for the ILDA 2015-2017 Mission Projects can be sent to ILDA Treasurer Karen Beiter, PO Box 218, West Henrietta, NY 14586. Put "Mission Projects" in the memo line. Your prayers and donations help ILDA to continue our work in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the U.S. and foreign countries.

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