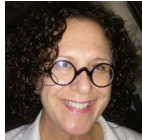




A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone!



Paula Hamp

I hope everyone had a restful summer. As the summer draws to an end, we gear up for a new school year. There are feelings of excitement for many, but for many, there may be a sense of stress and anxiety. LDA offers many resources to help students through their school year. LDA offers helpful hints of note taking, graphic organizers and test-taking skills.

As a member, encourage others to join LDA. Let them know that with the help of LDA-IA, the stress and anxiety of learning can be lessened. By joining LDA-IA today they will gain the support they are looking for and increase their knowledge base on new strategies that can be used at home and in the classroom. Membership gives you not only support but updates on affiliate news, national LDA news and feature articles, updates on events, and student scholarships.

I want to thank those of you who continue to give through financial donations and giving of your time and energy to the organization. This organization benefits greatly from donations and its volunteers which in turns benefits its members.

Keep your eyes on our website for upcoming [events](#) but do be aware that [October is LD Month](#). We'll be posting some new information on the website!

Paula Hamp
President of LDA-IA

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October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month!

Written by an LDA-IA Board Member



What is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month?

This is a time to share information and awareness about Learning Disabilities. For me, this is personal, and it has been my life's work since first volunteering in a special education classroom as a college freshman. Since that time, I embarked on a 40-year career as a special education teacher/special education consultant and have been a long time LDA Iowa member.

So what is a Learning Disability?

It is a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations. The term includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. The term does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities; of intellectual disability; of emotional disturbance; or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.

Why is this personal for me?

I remember studying about some of the pioneers in the field of learning disabilities, such as Samuel Kirk, a psychologist who first defined the term "learning disabilities" in 1963. I was most impressed, however, by the work of parents who fought so hard to gain basic civil rights for their child with disabilities. I read about court case after court case and was shocked to learn how our schools and society used to treat the disabled. Because of the hard fought civil rights battles by parents and advocates, we enjoy the benefits of landmark legislation including Public Law 94-142 in 1974 (now known as IDEA or Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), the ADA in 1990 (Americans with Disabilities Act) or Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act (1973). If those parents could give so much of their time, energy and resources to make a better future for those with disabilities, I felt personally responsible for continuing to do my best for the cause.

You can help!

We cannot let the hard work of those who came before us be for naught. The Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa is dedicated to identifying causes and promoting prevention of learning disabilities and to enhancing the quality of life for all individuals with learning disabilities and their families by:

- Encouraging effective identification and intervention,
- Fostering research, and
- Protecting the rights of individuals with learning disabilities under the law.

We need to move forward and continue to improve outcomes for individuals with Learning Disabilities. Please help me, help LDA Iowa and help others to be successful with our mission. Join, renew, or volunteer today!

[How Much Do You Know About Learning Disabilities?](#)

My Story

The following is an excerpt from a blog written by Crystal Underwood. Crystal, her mother, Vicki Goshon, and her sister, Joy Hauge, have been LDA members for multiple years and have also served on the LDA Iowa Board of Directors. We hope you enjoy reading this excerpt from Crystal's blog, and we hope that it inspires you as much as it does us. Get involved, volunteer, advocate, be part of a larger voice and join LDA Iowa today!



The Underwood Family

One of my favorite titles is "wife" to an amazing man and my rock, Tyson. We have been married for 16 years and "wow" has it been an incredible ride. My other favorite title is "mommy" to our four beautiful children. We have three gorgeous girls: Klaire is 15, Emmie is 11, and Charlie is 6 years old. Parker is our one and only boy, but oh he is something special. He is 7 years old and an absolute light to our family. Don't get me wrong, we love all of our children! When Parker was born on September 16, 2010, we knew right away that he was going to be special and thus inspiring this blog.

If you're not already aware, Parker was officially diagnosed with a rare form of Noonan Syndrome in July of 2011. After the diagnosis was handed down we, as a family, were able to take a breath and move forward with caring for our sweet little Parker. We have been through multiple surgeries, tests, therapy sessions, doctor visits, and talks about how Parker may or may not end up. On bad days we rely on our faith and our family...on good days we make every minute count. But every day we are shown how blessed we are to have been chosen to parent this beautiful child with special needs. He teaches us something new every single day and I am learning more by being his mommy than I could have ever imagined possible.

Parker is so fortunate to have so many people loving him along with us. And I invite you to hop on to take this ride with our family. I am more than excited to share Parker and hope that the lessons I am learning just might touch someone else, too.

[Parker's Story](#)

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Want to Share Your Talents? TREASURER and BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

Election of the [2019 LDA-IA Board of Directors](#) took place at the Annual Meeting in September. Welcome to new board members Linda Steele and Michele Lively! And thank you to retiring board members Joy Hauge and Crystal Underwood for their service and dedication the past several years!

We still have two vacancies on our 2019 Board, including the position of Treasurer.

In addition to fulfilling board member requirements, the treasurer is responsible for:

- Ensuring that all incoming funds are deposited in accredited financial institutions,
- Keeping an accurate account of all funds received and disbursed,
- Submitting written reports to the meetings of the board, and
- Serving as chairman of the Finance Committee.

This position is volunteer-based. This work is done in collaboration with the State Coordinator.

We are a nonprofit foundation of grass roots volunteers who are dedicated to providing information and advocacy for children and adults with learning disabilities. If you would like to find out more information about the Iowa Learning Disabilities Association and how to join our board, please visit our [website](#), call our office at (515) 280-8558, or send a message to info@ldaiaowa.org.

Use the "forward this email" link at the end of this newsletter to share with others!

2019 LDA-IA Officers and Directors

President: Paula Hamp, *Sioux City*
2nd Vice-President: Gayle Slattery, *Dakota Dunes*
Treasurer: VACANT

1st Vice-President: Patty Beyer, *Holstein*
Secretary: Theresa Stensland, *Cedar Falls*
Past President: Vicki Goshon, *Cedar Falls*

Helen Beneke, *Pocahontas*
Amy Eaton, *Hinton*
Michele Lively, *Des Moines*
Verlee Owens, *Sioux City*
Linda Steele, *McCook Lake*
Karen Vander Horst, *Pella*

Betty Bollard, *Pella*
Patricia Gaherty, *North English*
Kim Miller, *Cedar Falls*
Donna Schletzbaum, *Indianola*
Bill Stockton, *Preston*

Dr. Christina Curran, *Cedar Falls*
David Hoyer, *Everly*
Dr. Richard Owens, *Sioux City*
Shirley Sinnott, *Waterloo*
Barb Van Sickle, *Indianola*

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What Have We Been Doing?

LDA Iowa has been working for YOU!

Our mission is to create opportunities for success for all individuals affected by learning disabilities and to reduce the incidence of learning disabilities in future generations.

LDA-IOWA BOARD MEETINGS:

Our meetings are held four times per year (January, April, July and October). Additionally, committee members meet via Zoom, Skype or face-to-face. A typical board meeting includes introductory procedures such as approval of the agenda and minutes of last meeting, reports from the treasurer, executive committee and coordinator, announcements & correspondence, national report and other. Committee chairpersons then provide reports/updates on their committee activities. The following are examples of some of our committee activities.



ADVOCACY: Our LDA members include professionals, parents, educators, and others who have been impacted by learning and attention issues. We encourage you to reach out to us with your questions or concerns. We are available to contact you by phone, messenger, email or face to face. Our member volunteers have worked with parents who have had concerns about finding providers for outside evaluations, adult employment issues, college accommodations, concerns about a child's progress on IEP goals, concerns that IEPs are not being followed, and other general questions related to special education rights. We are here to help, and we encourage others to join us so together we can help even more people impacted by learning and attention issues. [Back to Top](#)

AWARDS: At the 2017 Conference, LDA Iowa recognized the following:

- **Organization Award: Sanford Center, Fitzgerald Grant, Executive Director**
 - This award is given to the organization that has accomplished an outstanding job in promoting the general welfare of individuals with learning disabilities. The Sanford Center serves the Sioux City community through several programs and services in support of its mission to build character in youth. Services include summer and after-school programs, outreach prevention programs, ACT prep, and more.
- **President's Award: Dr. Michael McTaggart**
 - The president of LDA Iowa grants this award to a person who has provided outstanding service to individuals with LD. Dr. McTaggart is a retired educator and administrator from the Sioux City School District. At the time of his retirement, he was serving as the district's director of family and student support services.
- **Helping Hands Award: Joy Hauge**
 - The recipient will have made an outstanding contribution directly or indirectly to children, youth, and/or adults with learning disabilities. Joy has been a valuable asset to LDA Iowa, volunteering of her time and talent as treasurer.
- **Outstanding Educator Award: Dr. Alan Heisterkamp**
 - The award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of education to children, youth, and/or adults with learning disabilities. Dr. Alan Heisterkamp serves as director of the Center for Violence Prevention at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. [Back to Top](#)



Mr. Grant, Dr. McTaggart, Ms. Hauge, Dr. Heisterkamp

COMMUNICATION/PUBLICITY: If you haven't already done so, please check out our website at www.LDAIowa.org. We are also only a click away through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Be sure to check out our regular Facebook posts and join in conversations by posting comments. You can also send a private comment through Facebook Messenger, and we will respond in a timely manner. Of course, you can always contact our office/leave a message at (515) 280-8558.

CONFERENCE:



Vicki Goshon

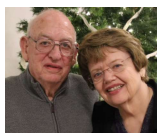


Kim Miller

LDA Iowa's 46th Annual Conference-"KEEP CALM:

Mindfulness, Mental Health and More" -was held on October 22-23, 2017, in Sioux City. Connie Parr, LDA America Past President, was our keynote speaker, and she presented "Mental Health in the Classroom: What to Know, What to Do, and What Not to Do!" Jenn Osen-Foss from [Understood](#) was a featured speaker presenting "Self-Esteem For Kids With Learning and Attention Issues." Joey I.L.O provided our evening entertainment and showed us that

"Laughter is the Best Medicine." A special thanks goes out to our conference co-chairs, Vicki Goshon and Kim Miller!



Dick & Verlee Owens
Board Members

After the sessions, we had the opportunity to walk up the street to the Martin Luther King Transportation Center to view the bronze bust of one of our own long-time LDA member and leader in the field of learning and attention issues. Dr. Richard Owens was among thirteen Sioux City advocates who have dedicated their lives to advocating for the marginalized. Dr. Owens was recognized for his work with individuals with disabilities. We are so proud of you, Dr. Owens!



EDUCATION: Every year, the Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa awards scholarships to Iowa seniors enrolling in a post-secondary (college, vocational, or fifth-year) educational program. We are pleased to announce the scholarship winners for 2018-2019!

Andrew Barnard - *Clarke High School*; Indian Hills Community College
Colton Whalen - *Burlington High School*; Southeastern Community College

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FINANCE/BUDGET: The committee is responsible for proposing a budget and reviewing the annual financial report, the completed 990 form and any other financial information that is needed to complete the audit review. The most recent audit was completed and reported to the board in the fall of 2017.

FUNDRAISING: LDA Iowa is a non-profit organization, so we rely on fundraising activities, projects,



and donations. Thank you to the many generous donors who have supported us through the years! And did you know that our board members show their commitment to our cause through personal annual giving to LDA Iowa?

[DONATE NOW](#)

GOVERNANCE: The governance committee is responsible for the creation, maintenance and review of the governance documents (bylaws, operating policy and procedure documents) of LDA Iowa. We are currently working on a revision to the Governance documents. [Back to Top](#)

LEGISLATIVE: The legislative committee supports LDA (national) at the state and local level by advocating for laws and policies that create opportunities for people with learning disabilities and related disorders, as well as working to protect and strengthen the policies affecting legislation on issues that concern these individuals. Specifically, the legislative committee focuses on the following areas related to individuals with learning disabilities and related disorders: education, adult services, civil rights, health, mental health and juvenile justice and corrections.

The *Every Child Succeeds Act* (ESSA) replaces the *No Child Left Behind Education Act* of 2015. Iowa submitted their ESSA plan to the Federal government and it was approved in May of 2018. Here are some links for more information about this plan:

[Approved State Plan for ESSA](#) [Two-page Snapshot of Iowa's Plan](#) [Summary Overview of Iowa's Plan](#)

MEMBERSHIP: Did you know that by joining LDA of Iowa, you will also be joining LDA of America? You will receive all the benefits of being a member of a national organization.

WHY LDA?

- LDA is a voice for individuals with learning disabilities of all ages and their families.
- LDA is the leading advocate for laws and policies that create opportunities for individuals with learning disabilities.
- LDA is the only national organization to promote opportunities to meet others in the same situation through state affiliate membership.
- LDA is a leading source for information on learning disabilities, practical solutions, and a comprehensive network of resources at the national, state and local level.
- LDA is a support to individuals with learning disabilities, their families, educators and other professionals who serve the learning disability community.



WHY IS MEMBERSHIP IMPORTANT?

As an advocacy organization, membership is what keeps LDA thriving and allows our voices and those of the children, adults, and families we serve to be heard. Help us by joining and adding your voice to advocating for those with learning and attention related disabilities. Renew or join LDA Today!

[Download the Membership Application](#)

OTHER PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

Understood Common Messages Project:

Mary-Clare Reynolds, Executive Director of LDA America contacted all state LDA affiliates regarding Understood's *Common Message Project*. LDA and all other founding affiliates of Understood were invited to participate in using common language to share common messages about learning and attention difficulties. Organizations were encouraged to find creative ways to share this information. LDA-IA participated in the 2nd, 3rd and now the 4th quarters of this year.

[Read more](#)

[The Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa Wants You to Know the FACTS About Kids With Learning and Attention Issues](#)

LDA America Marketing Grant: For the second year, LDA America offered marketing grants to state affiliates to submit a marketing plan designed to raise awareness of LDA and expand membership. Awards were announced in February 2018, at the International LDA Conference in Atlanta. Iowa was among four states who received the \$500 award for this project.

I-Ready Reading Program: Beginning last year, LDA-IA sponsored a pilot reading project at a Sioux City area school. Approximately 25 students were identified for the project. They received 25 minutes of instruction two to three times per week during their intervention time. The project will continue. Thanks to the donors who made this project possible!

Exhibits at Other Conferences: LDA-IA is pleased to have exhibited at the ASK Resource Center's *Together We Can* conference in Des Moines. This is a wonderful conference for families, caregivers and others. Thank you to our LDA-IA Coordinator, Kathy Specketer, for facilitating and organizing this!

Healthy Children Project: LDA Iowa board members Vicki Goshon and Shirley Sinnott participated in LDA's Healthy Children Project during "Mind the Store Week." Through coordinated in-person and online actions across the country, LDA worked to get the message out about the need for a comprehensive safer chemicals policy for products sold in stores across the country. Vicki and Shirley visited a store in Clinton and shared important information with the store manager about chemicals in their products and the impact they have on humans. Be sure to check out LDA's [Healthy Children Project website](#) and [Facebook page](#).



Shirley Sinnott



Vicki Goshon

Graduate Credit: LDA-IA is an approved partner of both the [University of Sioux Falls](#) and [Morningside College](#). LDA-IA offers online graduate level courses that are designed for educators who already have their teaching license. All coursework offered through LDA-IA carries credit that can be used for professional development, license renewal, or salary advancement. More information is available on our [graduate credit website](#).

LDA Iowa Summer Academy: During the summers of 2016 and 2017, LDA-IA held a "Summer Academy" or summer school program in Cedar Falls for students in grades K-6. The instruction focused on Literacy (Reading/Writing) Research-based literacy interventions, including those recommended by the National Reading Panel and numbers and operations in math.

Pre/Post and ongoing assessment of learning identified the individual instructional needs of the students, individual student patterns of academic strengths and weaknesses, and effective

strategies for addressing academic needs.

At this time, LDA Iowa's Ad-Hoc Summer Academy committee is looking at potential sites/dates for a 2019 Summer Academy. [Back to Top](#)

IN THE NEWS

In the News



Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District:

1.32 Million Dollars Reimbursement for Private School Tuition and Legal Costs Awarded in Landmark FAPE Case

This landmark FAPE case (Free Appropriate Public Education) began in 2011 when Endrew's parents filed a lawsuit against the suburban Denver, Colorado school district. In March of 2017, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Endrew F. stating that "to meet its substantive obligation under the IDEA, a school must offer an IEP [individualized education program] that is reasonably calculated to enable a child to make appropriate progress in light of the child's circumstances." The Court additionally emphasized the requirement that "every child should have the chance to meet challenging objectives." Read more about this case in ["Questions and Answers \(Q&A\) on U.S. Supreme Court Case Decision Endrew F.v.Douglas County School District Re-1."](#)

Did you know that LDA America was involved in supporting this case? LDA joined with the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) and 42 other national organizations to file an amicus ("friend of the court") in the Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District. You can [read more](#) about it on the LDA America website.

LDA is one of *Understood's* affiliate partners, and we want to share some great resources regarding this case on their website. Check out the [Endrew F. Advocacy Toolkit](#) that includes talking points about the case and a worksheet for improving your child's IEP. [Back to Top](#)

Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa | 515-280-8558 | info@ldaiaowa.org | LDAIowa.org



Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa, 5665 Greendale Rd., Ste. D, Johnston, IA 50131

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