

IAD NEWS

Founded in 1877 | Official Publication of the Illinois Association of the Deaf

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150th Anniversary of IAD! 1877-2027

Save the date:

2027 IAD Conference - June 18-19, 2027

At Illinois School of the Deaf (Jacksonville, IL)

More details to come!



Save the Date 150th Anniversary of IAD!

IAD will be hosting its next biennial conference on **June 18-19, 2027** to celebrate its 150th Anniversary at Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville, IL where it all started 150 years ago in 1877!

More details will be provided throughout the year as we develop conference ideas, seek presenters, sponsors and volunteers.





What's In the Works

IAD is currently working on the following

- Sending two officers to the 2026 NAD Conference in San Francisco and will provide a report afterwards
- United Airlines Complaint and Resolution letter
- Lead-K Bill Advocacy and Sponsorship
- Addressing the Sign Language interpreter shortage within the State and IDHCC
- Planning for 150th Anniversary Conference of IAD in 2027
- Switching from NeonCRM to Zeffy for membership management
- Search for new IAD Treasurer: which is a Board position
- Seeking additional volunteers to help with committees
- Restarting IAD Newsletter
- On-going website updates and tweaks
- New [Meeting Minutes](#) page
- Online archives of old IAD conference program books and SWB newsletters

For any questions or concerns, please contact IAD at eb@iadeaf.org



YOUR VOICE MATTERS



★ **HB1783** ★

Support Bill: LEAD-K HB1783 for a better tomorrow

**BILL PASSED THE HOUSE! - NEXT IT WILL BE
REVIEWED ON THE SENATE FLOOR BEFORE
GOING TO THE GOVERNOR**

HEARING DATE | TBD - Witness Links to be provided
Stay posted!

**STAY INFORMED, MAKE
YOUR VOICE HEARD**

**BILL PASSED
WITH THE HOUSE!**



Seeking IAD Volunteers

VOLUNTEER
FOR
CHANGE



Join Us to Make a Difference in Our Community!

Help us create a lasting impact

The following roles are available:

- Treasurer (Board position)
- Region Reps: 1, 3, 4 **
- Legislative Chair
- Senior Citizen Chair
- Youth Chair
- Scholarship Chair
- Historian

** REGIONS MAP: [HTTPS://IADEAF.ORG/6059](https://iadeaf.org/6059)

**If interested – contact us at
eb@iadeaf.org**



WWW.IADEAF.ORG

IAD Treasurer Opening

Treasurer General Requirements

- ✓ Must be an Illinois Resident at least 21 years of age
- ✓ Must be an IAD member
- ✓ Be able to attend Board and ad hoc meetings (online and in person)
- ✓ Familiarity with online services
- ✓ Have a reliable laptop and Internet connection
- ✓ No conflict of interest if currently employed or serving on other Board(s)
- ✓ Will require vetting and approval by current Board

For more info and video describing the position
see website post: <https://iadeaf.org/6409>

Submission of Interest

Email IAD at eb@iadeaf.org

Include:

- Name
- City of residence (must be within Illinois)
- Summarize relevant experience with IAD and understanding principals of accounting/ financial reporting

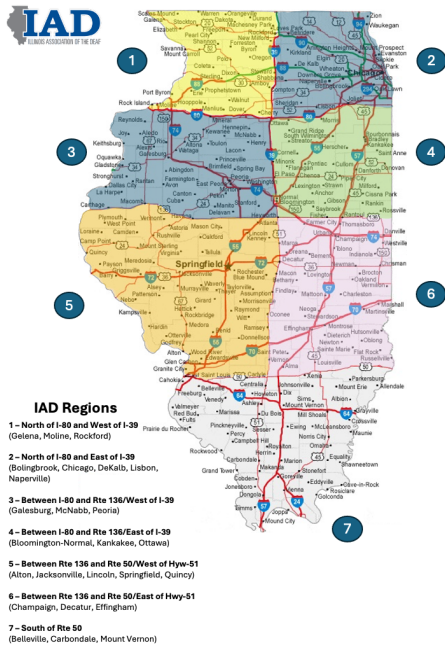


www.iadeaf.org

The Treasurer position is an important role within IAD. By serving in this role you will work with a great team, meet others inside out side of the organization, develop new financial, personal and online acumen skills.

Many Board Officers have cross industry skills that they apply to IAD and / or their careers.





IAD Regions and New Membership System

IAD is changing to use Regions instead of Chapters (see map), as well as switching from NeonCRM to Zeffy for management of membership registration information.

Check out the links to the two vlogs below explain the upcoming changes.

From Chapters to Regions, President Fara Harper
<https://iadeaf.org/6224>

Switch from NeonCRM to Zeffy, Secretary Leslie Sutton
<https://iadeaf.org/6236>

Region Representatives 😊

Region 1: To be filled

Region 2: Sarah Spoerl

Region 3: To be filled

Region 4: To be filled

Region 5: JIAD

Region 6: Illini

Region 7: Katie Moore

If you would like to serve as a Region Representative, please contact us at eb@iadeaf.org for more information.

IAD Meeting Minutes Now On-Line

Moving forward, IAD will post approved previous Board meeting minutes on our website. Meeting minutes can be found on our website under:

About Us > [Meeting Minutes](#)

Work Continues on Website

As we continue to update our website, some pages may be incomplete or under construction. If you experience any issues, have questions or concerns regarding our website or other social media channels, please contact us at media@iadeaf.org



Newsletter Content Submission Guidelines

This newsletter is for the Illinois deaf community. If you would like to contribute content for consideration. Follow the submission requirements below:

- Submissions must be relevant to our audience and align with the newsletter's theme and IAD's mission.
- Content should educate, inform, inspire, or provide actionable insight.
- Submissions must be original and not previously published elsewhere (unless clearly disclosed and approved).
- By submitting, you confirm you own the rights to the content and *grant permission for it to be edited and published.*
- Preferred length: **300-800 words** (unless otherwise specified).
- Include the author's name, title, and a short bio (1-2 sentences).
- Optional: one relevant link (website or social profile).
- Images must be high quality and royalty-free or owned by the submitter.
- Include image credits where required.
- Content submissions may be sent to media@iadeaf.org



Kick Off of New IAD Newsletter

Previously, IAD had the SWB (State Wide Bulletin) newsletter. We are resurrecting the newsletter idea online. While news and content are posted throughout our various social media channels, it can make it hard to follow the updates. Not everyone utilizes all of the various social media outlets. (See page 6 on how to connect and follow us online).

The newsletter provides a condensed way for interested or new members to catch up on IAD's efforts and events. What's more the newsletter is in color with links! Bear with us as we undertake this new endeavor.

If you would like to contribute to future editions of the newsletter, review the **Newsletter Content Submission Guidelines** within the left margin.

Suggested topics to consider

- ✦ Chapter / Region news
- ✦ Officer reports/announcements (not meeting minutes)
- ✦ Websites and articles of interest
- ✦ Advocacy news
- ✦ Events/Fundraising
- ✦ Recognition of members or Chapters / Region
- ✦ Bills and Rights

Feedback welcomed on the format and topics of interest you would like to see covered.

Donald Moore, IAD's Media rep is the point person on this effort. He draws on past experience curating IT related newsletters and technical writing at work. For feedback or suggestions, he can be reached at media@iadeaf.org



Choose a IAD stainless steel mug, magnet, coaster, water proof pouch or all of the above!

Proceeds go towards IAD Operations

Link to [IAD Store](#)

IAD Social Media Channels



www.iadeaf.org



[IAD Membership Sign Up](#)
(Online via Zeffy)



[Printable IAD Membership Form](#) to mail
in with check



<https://www.facebook.com/IADeaf/>



<https://www.instagram.com/iadeaf/>



[LinkedIn](#)



<https://www.youtube.com/iadeafOrg1877>



Often our postings may link to one or more social platform. Such as an web posting linking to a video within our YouTube channel.

All of the above online resources are free, and may require a personal profile to connect/receive content.

Our website automatically sends out an email to subscribers when a new blog entry is posted.

If you do not utilize any of the above social media channels, or do not currently subscribe to website updates, but would like to receive the newsletter via email - contact us at media@iadeaf.org to be added to the distribution list.

2025-2027 IAD Executive Board

President

Fara Harper

president@iadeaf.org



Vice-President

Ivan Colon

vicepresident@iadeaf.org



Treasurer

Joe Vieira

treasurer@iadeaf.org



Secretary

Leslie Sutton

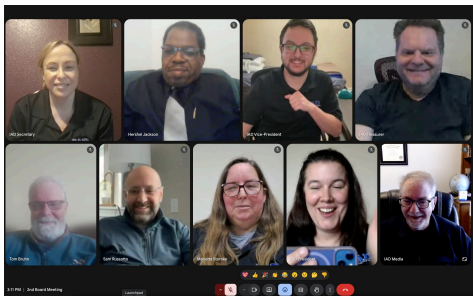
secretary@iadeaf.org



Media

Donald Moore

media@iadeaf.org



We want to hear from you!

Provide ideas, suggestions, and bringing your concerns to our attention on how IAD can better serve the state of Illinois.

Email or write to us anytime.

Contact Us

Illinois Association of the Deaf

P.O. Box #565

Jacksonville, IL 62650

eb@iadeaf.org



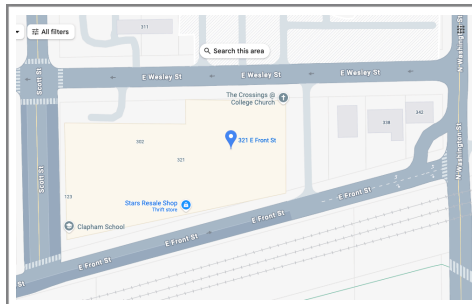
Empower | Advocate | Accessibility

Illinois Association of the Deaf (IAD) is Illinois' leading civil rights organization of, by, and for deaf and hard of hearing Illinoisans.

Established in 1877, IAD is committed to addressing numerous advocacy causes, including early intervention, education, employment, healthcare, technology, telecommunications, youth leadership and more.

College Church - Wheaton The Crossings Conference Room

321 E. Front St
Wheaton, IL



Signs of Love Deaf Ministries

College Church in Wheaton has a Deaf awareness ministry called Signs of Love.

We meet in the Crossings Building closest to the train tracks twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 3:00-4:30pm typically.

We typically have a special event once a month and a sign class once a month. Free to the public, the event is open to hearing people with a heart for the deaf and DHH people. Our goal is to bridge people together in relationships.

[Signs of Love Deaf Ministry - College Church | Church in Wheaton IL](#) - Check the website for Summer schedules.

Our next event will be on **Sunday, May 17, 2026.**

The next upcoming event that is noteworthy is Brenda Schmidt, author and retired Deaf Educator/Supervisor, is coming to sign/read her first book, "She Heard Her Footsteps" and do a Q and A afterwards. Books will be available for sale and autographs/pictures to follow.

[I Heard My Footsteps — Hearing Health Foundation](#)

People can contact [Alta Johnson](#)



St. Charles



Dekalb



Wheaton

DEAF COFFEE CHAT LOCATIONS CHICAGOLAND

LOCATION	DAY	TIME FRAME
Frankfort Starbucks	2nd Friday of month	5:30-9pm
Yorkville Starbucks 1246 N Bridge St.	1st Friday of month	5:30-8:30pm
Dekalb Starbucks 2555 Sycamore Rd.	3rd Friday of month	6-8pm
St. Charles Starbucks 835 Randall Rd.	4th Friday of the month	5:30-8pm
Wheaton Starbucks 171 Danada Square	2nd Friday of the month	6-9pm
Wheaton (College Church) 321 Front St., closest building to train tracks.	1st and 3rd Sundays of the month	3:30-5pm
Skokie - Panera Bread, 9611 Skokie Blvd.	1st Friday of the month	5-8pm
Rockford/Loves Park- Starbucks 7290 E.Riverside Blvd	2nd Saturday of the month	5:30-9pm
Bolingbrook Starbucks - 115 W Boughton Road.	3rd Saturday of the month	5-9pm

Ms. Sarah is usually present and helps teach here!

These socials are great places to socialize and brush up on your signing skills. We ask that you consider purchasing food and/or drinks to support the local businesses.

Help Us Keep this List up to Date

Please email us at media@iadeaf.org for any changes, updates or missing information so we can keep this list up to date.