



Learning Disabilities Association
of Maryland

www.ldamd.org
ldamd@ldamd.org

JANUARY 2017

YOU'RE INVITED!
Details of LDA Conference 2017 in Baltimore

Benefits of Conference – an interview

Hello friends,

We invite you to attend the upcoming LDA National Conference in February; this year a short drive from our homes to the Baltimore Marriott Hotel.

Whether you come for one day or the entire conference or whether you come full-pay or as a volunteer (free entrance for as much time as you volunteer), the experience is well worth the travel.

Judy Lantz and I went to at least four conferences. I remember the conference in Reno, Nevada; one in Chicago, New York City and Jacksonville, Florida and long, long ago in Washington DC. Judy will remember more. We traveled and stayed together and often went to the same workshops so that we could compare notes and build upon each other's understanding. In the process, we met other affiliate members from around the state and ate and imbibed with them learning much about each of their experiences. What a value!

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I suggested to Judy that I do an interview and ask her what was most memorable about these experiences. So you are first to read the results of our sitting over lunch reminiscing.

**1. Judy, what is one significant thing you learned at the Conference?
(any of them)**

One thing I've learned is to understand the disability law (now Every Student Succeeds Act which will be new this year). There are multiple workshops to explain the details that apply to your student. I have then gone on to learn how it is implemented in Maryland by joining the Educational Advocacy Coalition for LDAMD. This helps to know my rights are as a parent at an IEP.

2. Did you learn anything that impacted your relationship with your son?

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Benefits of Conference – an interview, cont.

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By continuing to learn about his reading disability and mental health issues, I was, and still am, able to be supportive when my son struggles to understand himself. He has had trouble accepting that remediation is possible if he's willing to work at it. As an adult, he has learned to be successful as an electrician and, although he can read, not to depend on it for his livelihood.

3. Did you attend all varieties of workshops or only those pertaining to your situation?

I've mainly attended workshops pertaining to my own situation. My son needed to constantly adjust to the fact that the longer he spent at academics, the farther behind he got because of slow processing. Frustration was constantly with him. I learned what to do at the school level.

4. Who attends these conferences?

Many professionals come to update their credentials. I'd like to see more parents though. This year there is one day set aside for parents- a great idea. Sometimes I feel like one of the few parents there. That's a shame because I never run out of interesting sessions to attend. At least half of them are of interest to parents. There are many sessions to choose from at each time period during the conference.

5. Did you go to any of the special lunches or dinners – were they valuable?

Yes, they were valuable. The luncheon and/or dinner speakers most often give a positive view and speak of new discoveries in the field of LD/ADHD. Also, I attended to relax among people who struggle with the same issues. The questions they ask are always helpful.

6. What was your original reason for attending and did you come away feeling that the issue was addressed?

Originally I attended to educate myself about my son. Although he was diagnosed with LD in the third grade, I spent years working on my own without a lot of success. Later I learned I was missing a lot of information and felt supported when I attended the Conference.

7. Did you purchase books or tapes to read/listen to at a later date? Worthwhile?

Each year I bought tapes (now CDs!) of the sessions I was not able to attend. I also bought some sessions that I attended because I wanted to share them with other LDA members. I listened to them in the car. Usually I also purchased a book or two from the very interesting bookstore for later and more serious reading.

Thanks, Judy, for spending the time answering my questions – maybe it will give a better understanding of what a conference gives us.

Susan Healy

Susan is a longtime member of LDA, past president of LDAMC and current facilitator of the Hangout Hive, LDAMC's social group for young adults.

LDA National Conference 2017

Information Sheet and Registration Form

Baltimore, MD February 16-19

For entire program, go to www.lidaamerica.org

Deadline for volunteers is January 20, 2017

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at the LDA conference!

Volunteer Policy Information:

*Attendees who volunteer for a half day will get the other half of that day's registration at no cost. Attendees who volunteer for a full day will get another full day of conference attendance at no cost.

*Any additional days of conference attendance must be included in registration form.

*Members of LDA who volunteer may attend additional days of the conference for the discounted registration rate of \$100 in total. Non-members who volunteer will be able to register at the rate of \$240 per day.

*We gratefully welcome volunteers to also help as room monitors on additional days of the conference they attend.

*Volunteer placements at breakout sessions will be assigned to 1st or 2nd choices indicated on the registration form, if possible, based on order registration is received.

Volunteer Duties and Expectations:

*Volunteer will be assigned a schedule of duties which may include: monitoring breakout sessions (distributing and collecting feedback forms and monitoring continuing education attendance), assisting with silent auction, assisting at membership booth, collecting luncheon tickets, assisting in bookstore, and/or assisting at the information booth.

*Volunteers are expected to register for volunteer days and pay for any additional days of attendance by January 20, 2017.

*Volunteers are expected to be on-site at the conference, ready to begin volunteer assignments by 7:00am and are expected to remain on-site fulfilling volunteer duties until 5:45pm on volunteer days.

Questions? Please email us at programs@ldamc.org

LDA

2017 Conference Volunteer Registration Form

Please complete form and return via email to programs@ldamc.org . Once your form has been received, you will be contacted to discuss the availability of your choices and any registration costs for days you are not volunteering. Questions? Please email programs@ldamc.org

Registrant information

First name: _____ Last name: _____
Full street address: _____
Cell or work phone: _____ Home phone: _____
Email address (please print clearly): _____

I am a.... (please check all that apply):

- LDA member (member number: _____) non-member
 parent professional (type: _____) LD adult student

If you are not a member and would like to join now to get the discounted conference rate, please include completed membership form and payment

NOTE: Attendees who volunteer for a half day get the other half of that day's registration at no cost. Attendees who volunteer for a full day get another full day of conference attendance at no cost. Members of LDA may attend additional days of the conference for the discounted registration rate of \$100.

I would like to volunteer for (please check all that apply): 1 half day 1 full day

Days of the conference I plan to attend (please check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, Feb. 16 as a volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, Feb. 16 as an attendee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday, Feb. 17 as a volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday, Feb. 17 as an attendee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, Feb. 18 as a volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, Feb. 18 as an attendee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Feb. 19 as a volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Feb. 19 as an attendee |

NOTE: We will match volunteer placements at breakout sessions if possible, based on order of registration

Please indicate your 1st and 2nd choices of breakout sessions below (please indicate session number and title) for each day of the conference you plan to attend:

Thursday, February 16

Session start time	Session number from program booklet	Title
10:15	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
11:30	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
1:30 *note: some sessions beginning at 1:30 end at 2:45, others end at 4:00	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
3:00	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
4:15	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	

Questions? Please email programs@ldamc.org

Please indicate your 1st and 2nd choices of breakout sessions below (please indicate session number and title) for each day of the conference you plan to attend:

Friday, February 17

Session start time	Session number from program booklet	Title
10:15 *note: some sessions beginning at 10:15 end at 11:15, others end at 12:30	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
11:30	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
1:45	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
3:00 *note: some sessions beginning at 3:00 end at 4:00, others end at 6:00	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
4:15	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	

Questions? Please email programs@ldamc.org

Please indicate your 1st and 2nd choices of breakout sessions below (please indicate session number and title) for each day of the conference you plan to attend:

Saturday, February 18

Session start time	Session number from program booklet	Title
10:15 *note: some sessions beginning at 10:15 end at 11:15, others end at 12:30	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
11:30	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
1:30 *note: some sessions beginning at 1:30 end at 2:45, others end at 5:15	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
3:00	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
4:15	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	

Questions? Please email programs@ldamc.org

Please indicate your 1st and 2nd choices of breakout sessions below (please indicate session number and title) for each day of the conference you plan to attend:

Sunday, February 19

Session start time	Session number from program booklet	Title
8:00	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
9:15	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	
10:30	1 st choice	
	2 nd choice	

Questions? Please email programs@ldamc.org

A member of the LDA 2017 Conference Committee will contact you to confirm volunteer registration, your breakout choices, and the total cost for conference attendance as indicated, and to discuss payment information for any registration fees.

SATURDAY IS PARENTS DAY!

LDA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE February 16-19, 2017 | Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel | Baltimore



LD identification | Executive Function | College Planning | Behavior and Life Skills Advocacy | How to Work with School Systems and More!



10:15-11:15 am

- S6** -- Planning for Private, Home Schooled, and Public School Students
- S10** -- Choosing the Right Postsecondary Option: Insights from Inside



11:30-12:30 am

- S12** -- Oral Language Problems in Early Childhood Years
- S13** -- Improving Success by Third Grade for Students with Learning Disabilities
- S15** -- Opening Hearts, Minds, and Doors: Advocacy in the Faith Setting
- S19** -- It's a Two-Way Mirror: Strategies for Parent-Teacher Collaboration
- S21** -- LD Issues in Special Education for LD Students



1:30-2:45pm

- S24** --Self-Medicating: The Monster Lurking, Mental Health Workshop
- S25** -- Managing Behavior and Developing Life Skills: Techniques and Strategies designed to Support Youth with LD and ADHD
- S29** -- College: Finding the Right Fit for Students Who Learn Differently
- S32** -- Why Will No One Play with Me? Teaching Parents to Become their Child's Social Skills Coach
- S33** -- Promoting Family-Professional Partnerships: Strategies for School and Home



3:00-4:00pm

- S34** -- Covering Your Bases: Avoiding Common Mistakes Advocating with School Systems
- S35** -- Preventing Due Process Hearings for Students with Learning Disabilities



4:15-5:15pm

- S41** -- RTI and LD Identification: Information Schools Should Provide to Parents
- S42** -- I Have a Kid Who...



For more information about each session topic, please refer to the session topic number in the conference brochure

“Continue the Conversation...”

Saturday, 5:30-7:00pm

The James Joyce Pub

<http://www.thejamesjoycepub.com/>
Munchies/Snacks provided | Cash Bar



Parents and caregivers please join us on Saturday for a happy hour! Come mingle with other parents and meet your State Affiliate representatives, LDA Board members and Professional Advisory Board members.



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LDAMD Board & Executive Committee/Positions

President – Judy Lantz
Vice President – Chris Casey
Treasurer – Donna Bowling
Secretary – Kathy Ryan

LDAMC co-presidents – Sarah Summerlin & Candace Sahn
Southern MD President – Peggy Densford
Montgomery Co. Representative to Board - Open
Southern MD Representative to Board – Missy Alexander
Facebook facilitator – Lisa Powell

Members-at-Large – Ruth Brodsky & Jamie Brown

LDAMD has served the community since 1965 as the state affiliate of the Learning Disabilities Association of America. We are a 501-c-3 non-profit registered in Maryland. LDAMD is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes, more specifically to promote awareness and provide support to maximize the quality of life for individuals and families affected by learning disabilities.

Elected officers and Board of Directors, under the guidance of the national organization, determine the state policies and procedures.

The LDA of Maryland newsletter is published quarterly: Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring. Items for consideration are appreciated and can be emailed to: ldamd@ldamd.org