



International Stuttering Association

A World that Understands Stuttering

To: International Stuttering Community
From: Michael Sugarman, Chair
Regarding: July 2012 eNewsflash

Message from the Chair

First, what is the ISA?

Many people ask what is ISA? Keith Boss responded to one such inquiry. I wanted to share part of his response with you...

The ISA seeks to improve the conditions of all those whose lives are affected by stuttering in all countries by among other things:

- Sharing concepts and experiences in stuttering self-help and therapies.
- Helping to develop the self-help movement in countries around the world.
- Assisting in communication among people who stutter, parents of children who stutter, and therapists and researchers from all disciplines.
- Educating the general public about stuttering.
- Promoting co-operation between national and international organizations of people who stutter, such as the European League of Stuttering Associations (ELSA), and other international organizations, such as the International Fluency Association (IFA).
- Publishing a newsletter at least once a year and maintaining a website.

The ISA has developed a number of guiding principles including:

- The ISA recognizes that all national self-help organizations are independent, and are free to organize projects in their own countries.
- The ISA and national and international self-help organizations should work together and co-operate on all that is necessary.
- The ISA should encourage expression of varying points of view, on theoretical or debatable issues related to self-help, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of stuttering, rather than

strive for consensus among ISA members on such issues.

Second, the World Congress

On our website you can access some information from the last three congresses (<http://www.isastutter.org/what-we-do/world-congress>) and the next on in 2013, which leads you to <http://www.stuttering2013.com/>.

The role the ISA plays in the World Congress is varied.

It begins at the three yearly members (National Stuttering Associations from around the world) meeting at the World congress. In one agenda item at this meeting members offer bids to host the next 3 yearly congress. On 17th of May 2011, three delegates from the Netherlands Stuttering Association Demosthenes put out a bid in Buenos Aires (at the 9th World Congress) for hosting the 10th World congress in the Netherlands. The members voted to accept this bid.

Once the bid has been accepted the host Nation plans the whole of the Congress. The ISA has experienced 9 congresses so far and so can offer advice and guidance. It is an ISA congress run by the host Nation. ISA Board members will give advice from time to time during the planning process.

Third, miscellaneous

I wanted to share with you an article that is in the interest of people who stutter.

[The Paralysis of Stuttering - The New York Review of Books](#)

Apr 26, 2012 ... Several decades earlier, Albert, Duke of York, later King George VI of England, had stuttered painfully as a youth, an affliction beautifully...

Stay tuned to read the August e newflash...A number of ISA board members are attending the IFA conference this month in Tours, France. I have asked them to share their experiences with you.

Interesting things from Brazil

Support Groups in Brazil: guidelines

Eliane Regina Carrasco (SLP and ABRA GAGUEIRA's president)

In 2008, with the increasing expansion of support groups in our country we have created these rules to guide our moderators on how to create and lead a support group. Today, with 20 active groups across the country, we realized the need to develop a more complete material and we are still working on this.

Guidelines

Support groups are meetings for people who stutter. It is a place to exchange information about stuttering, not only scientific and straightforward information but also life experience sharing among attendees.

*** Goals ***

Support groups are meant to gather together people who stutter in order to:

- Get helpful information about daily life by means of discussions and life experience sharing;
- Provide a better understanding about techniques, therapies and theories by means of Science readings and videos and /or guest participations to discuss related subjects;
- Allow attendants integration and relationship upon applying welcoming rules.

General Guidelines:

1st) The group must mainly be formed by people who stutter.

Other people may participate in the group like the children's parents, husbands and wives or, under special circumstances, people who take care of the person who stutters.

2nd) The group must have a person in charge in order to lead and prepare the discussion environment. Such a person may be a person who stutters or a stuttering health professional specialist (speech therapist, psychologist or a teacher)

3th) The groups must meet periodically (in a fifteen-day or monthly basis). The dates must be scheduled in advance and announced (as an example: every last Saturday of the month).

4th) The meeting place must be previously defined. It can be a public place, but should never be placed in stuttering specialist's consulting rooms, clinics or offices.

5th) Each meeting must be set for a 2 hour minimal span.

6th) The attendees per group may range from 2 to 15 people.

7th) E-mail, telephone, letter, posters, banners, or press announcement are the means of spreading information about the meetings.

8th) All participants must fill in and sign a presence list which must contain name, e-mail or address and may contain telephone contact. This data is to be sent to the Abra Gagueira major coordinator by the email apoio@abragagueira.org.br

9th) The group leader in charge performs voluntary work and has the following responsibilities:

- a) Follow this guideline and the Abra Gagueira support groups general coordination guidelines;
- b) Should not advertise products, as well as not allowing other attendees to do so;
- c) Set out places and dates for the meetings, to all possible participants as well as the

Abra Gagueira support groups general coordinator;

- d) Share information with the community that the group exists and works;
- e) Prepare activities in advance of each meeting;
- f) Follow up exceptional cases related to the group attendees;
- g) Forward a short report on everything that happened in each meeting, including a copy of the presence list to the general coordination by email
- h) The meeting cannot be political, religious or commercially biased;
- i) The meeting should begin by introducing the rules to be followed, and then, lead the debates, resolve contentious issues, answer questions, welcome new participants and finish by announcing important information for the next meeting.
- j) Advertise ABRA GAGUEIRA activities and events.

Upon a positive outcome as the meetings proceed, a group leader shift may occur, as long as the last one helps the next. In order for this to work, we propose each group coordinator leader to do this job on 2 following meetings.

*** Suggested Agenda for the meetings ***

- 1st) Begin with welcoming the attendants and introducing the new;
- 2nd) The group leader introduces the topic of the day;
- 3rd) Start a debate on the topic with everyone taking part;
- 4th) A Science issue presentation by means of a text reading or a guest to talk about the related subject;
- 5th) Close the meeting;
- 6th) The group leader announces the next meeting's information, ABRA GAGUEIRA activities and related issues;

We suggest the following criteria should be observed:

- Allow a little time at the beginning for late arrivals;
- Avoid interrupting the meeting for arrivals after the meeting starts. Such people should adapt to the group's momentum;
- Always introduce the rules whenever new participants come.

We would like to receive suggestions for the development of this project.

We thank Roberto A. V. Moraes Filho by the translation of the material and Michael Sugarman and Keith Boss for the suggestions already sent.

One Voice 32

I would like to remind all readers that we welcome contributions to the One Voice magazine from all our readers. We need your articles for One Voice 32 by Monday 9th July 2012.

If you need inspiration, please see <http://www.isastutter.org/news/one-voice-newsletter>.

Can you write about what you are doing for the ISA;

What is going on in your own Associations / Countries

Self help groups / Chapters in your own Countries;

Anything of interest to our Global community;

any conferences / Open Days you held or were part of, in the last 6 months? Readers would really like to hear your experiences.

ISAD 2012 is coming up in October. What do you plan to do in your Country on October 22nd? Have any of you something to write about, to contribute to help others with ideas next year?

Have you thoughts on what you want the ISA to do over the next year until the next World Congress? Can you help us to achieve this in any way? Is this the basis of an article?

Photos with any article will be very useful. I look forward to hearing from you all,

Please send all contributions to Keith Boss (keithmaxkb@yahoo.com) by 9th July. He will proof read and if necessary he will correct English. We are happy to receive and publish articles in your native language.

Kindly,

Michael

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