

EMAIL TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF THE ISA

October 12, 2009

Dear ISA Member association:

This letter is to update you on recent events in the International Stuttering Association (ISA).

Position of ISA Chair:

As you may have heard, Benny Ravid recently resigned as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the ISA. I am honored and humbled that the Board has elected me to serve as Chair for the remainder of the current term.

Board Membership:

Keith Boss, who was elected to the ISA Board in Cavtat in 2007 representing the British Stammering Association (BSA) but who later resigned, has been invited back as a Board member and has accepted.

World Congress

As you probably know, it finally became clear that China was going to be unable to host the World Congress for PWS in 2010. There were a number of reasons, some organizational and some bureaucratic. When this subject was discussed in 2007 at the ISA Membership Meeting in Cavtat, Croatia, the runner-up association submitting a proposal was Argentina. Therefore, we asked the Argentine association if they would be willing and able to host the World Congress in 2010. After consideration, they replied that they could not be ready in 2010 but would like to host the event in 2011. The 9th World Congress for People Who Stutter will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 18-19-20-21, 2011.

ISA Membership Meeting

Closely related to the above is a decision that the ISA Board had to make as to when the next ISA Membership Meeting would be scheduled. The ISA Constitution (Paragraph 6.1) says that "ISA membership meetings should be held every 3 years at the World Congress of People Who Stutter". There was considerable discussion about this, since clearly it was not going to be possible to do both – have the meeting (and board elections) in 3 years (2010) and at the World Congress in Argentina in 2011. The ISA Board has voted to have board elections at a membership meeting held at the World Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2011. The effect of this is that Board terms will be approximately one year longer (about 4 years) than usual. While we are not asking the member associations to vote on this, as we feel that under the circumstances this was an appropriate decision by our Board, your comments are invited. My screen name is msugarman1@sbcglobal.net.

ISP-S:

I suggest that you read the article by Joseph Lukong, an ISA Board member from Cameroon, in the ISAD online conference materials about an SLP/SLT adventure in his country. Also, ISA Board member Moussa Dao of Burkina Faso has reported that a

number of French students majoring in SLP/SLT are in his country. It is my sincere hope that after the Argentina World Congress in 2011, every two years thereafter a South America conference on stuttering will occur.

India:

Also, it is now apparent that many people from India are now responding to the online conference. I hope that the ISA can enlist the help of PWS in India to develop a self-help support network. Hopefully, a World Congress can one day occur there!

Communications:

I look forward, in the months ahead, to communicating to the ISA member associations on a more regular basis, to keep you up to date on what is going on. I wish you success in the projects and activities in which your association is involved. Please remember International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD), October 22, and be sure to spend some time reviewing the articles in the ISAD Online Conference.

Kindly,

Michael Sugarman
Chair