

Greetings From the President!!

Autumn is quickly fading into Winter. Like many of you I am busily making preparations for the holidays and the ever-approaching end of 2015. The Convention in Virginia Beach is a distant memory and before you know it we will be gathering in Tucson for our 37th Annual Convention, March 10 - 12, 2016. First Vice-President Kent Zimmerman has a tremendous program planned that promises to be the best gathering we've had so make your plans to join us.

It has been a challenging year, as an organization there are a number of issues that we are dealing with. Entering our 37th year we are at a crossroads, one that requires considerable thought, reflection, and action by each of us. Among the many things that distinguish us as an organization are the work and passion of our members who are advancing the cause, discipline, and impact of listening to change lives.

As I write we are trying to digest the horrible things that occurred in France and Beirut this past weekend, it is a sad and devastating reminder that illustrates the need to listen and learn. Our hearts go out to the families of those who have died and to the people of France, Lebanon, and the world. I am reminded of Dr. Nichols' Keynote Address, *The Struggle to Be Human*, to the first International Listening Association Convention, they have never been more relevant. I ask us all to keep those who have been affected in our thoughts, hearts, and minds and to continue to advance the cause of listening.

Sarah Sladek wrote about the challenges of Associations in her book, *The End of Membership As We Know It*. When I first read her book the challenges that we face glaringly jumped out at me. One of these challenges deals with the life of the organization as evidenced by the willingness to serve in positions of leadership, this has been a continuing problem for many years, at least five in my own estimation and it really has not changed.

Now for those who feel that I am just shifting the blame and not taking responsibility let me take the full share of your criticism; I have not done the best job as your president, and that has nothing to do with anybody other than myself. With this in mind let's try to move forward. According to Section VI, Article 3 the Nominating Committee was to present a list of candidates for elected positions to the membership no later than October 1st, that has not happened; I take full responsibility for this and need to set this right. As you know elections are conducted using Electronic Voting and so we can continue. In consultation with the Executive Board I am calling on the Nominating Committee to begin the process and present a list of candidates in accordance with the provisions of the elections by December 30, this will allow us to move forward. The positions to be filled are First-Vice President (Elect.) Second Vice-President (Membership,) Member-At-Large (Special Projects,) Member-At-Large (Global,) Student Executive Board Member, and five member of the next Nominating Committee.

We can work through our challenges if we do so together, please look for the call from the Nominating Committee within a week.. The ILA is more than just a collection of individuals, it is an ideal to promote the reality that listening changes lives.

Thank you for listening,



ILA 2016 Convention

Kent Zimmerman

Plan to attend the 37th annual International Listening Convention in lovely Tucson from March 10-12, 2016 at the DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Tucson Airport.

Here are five reminders:

- a) Proposals have already been received! We are limiting the session times to fifty (50) minutes to accommodate as many presenters as possible. We have reserved one entire time slot for our student presentations. Submit your paper and panel proposals by December 1, 2015. Preference will be given to those proposals received by this deadline. Decision letters will be sent by January 15, 2016. Go [here](#) for more information on proposal submission.
- b) We have instituted some innovative registration rates this year. Take advantage of the discounted registration rates and pay by February 1, 2016. Please note these discounted rates are totally non-refundable. For more details on the savings, please go [here](#).
- c) After you register for the Convention, be sure to sign up for the [optional excursion](#) to the world famous Arizona-Sonoma Desert Museum. We will leave the Convention hotel at 7:00 a.m. by charter bus, allow you 3 ½ hours to roam the Museum grounds and then return to the hotel by 11:30 a.m. **We will receive a discounted group rate at the Museum plus a private group tour in the Desert Dwellers section. Total cost for the bus ride and the Museum admission . . . now only \$37.50.**
- d) Remember to book your room at the [Convention hotel](#). We secured a discounted rate of \$119 per night. That rate is good for three days before and three days after our Convention. The special room rate will be available until February 26th or until the group block is sold-out, whichever comes first.
- e) Join the [Membership Drive](#) that is underway! Invite a new member to join the Association and receive a promotional item. Be the ILA member who secures the most new members to join, and you will win a special prize.

Check out the ILA website for more details.

What's on the ILA website?

Nan Johnson-Curiskis

There are many hidden gems on the ILA website that may be under utilized. For example, on the Members Only tab you will find the following:

Members' only online directory, which members can use to search for other member email and postal addresses as well as interests

Members' only printable directories (2006-present)

Minutes of Board and business meetings (some as early as 1979-present)

Monthly Financial updates (2013-present)

Using the About Us tab, you will find contact information for the current Board, committee assignments, a list of Notable (Life) members, and award winners and qualifications for the coming year.

All 116 issues of the Listening Post (1980 to present) are available on the website along with copies of Listening Education, access to the International Journal of Listening, and archived copies of the Listening Professional.

Convention registration, updates and information including online hotel reservations are available on the website under the Events tab.

The ILA Discussion Forum is open to all members—it is one more option for, along with our ILA face book and Twitter pages, staying in contact with colleagues.

As always, you can renew your membership online. Please be sure to periodically check and update your online profile. You can make address and phone number changes, add a photo to your profile, and edit your interests. It is crucial to keep email addresses current as we send email "blasts" often. The blasts contain ILA updates, information, renewal reminders, and news.

Check out the resources and archived materials available online for both members and the public. Please send any updates or possible suggestions for other resources to the web editor: Beth Montgomery (ilawebeditor@gmail.com) to the archives committee: Nan Johnson-Curiskis or Harvey Weiss (info@listen.org)

If you have questions or suggestions about the website (www.listen.org), Face Book (<https://www.facebook.com/listen.>), or Twitter (<https://twitter.com/IntListening>), please contact a board member, the web editor, or Nan Johnson-Curiskis, Executive Director.



Listening Matters: Are We in a Listening Crisis?

Sheila C. Bentley

I recently went out for dinner with friends and observed what seems to be becoming a more common occurrence. A couple at a nearby table both had their cell phones on the table and were seriously engaged with their phones, even when the meal came, for the entire time they were there. And I don't believe they exchanged more than a couple of comments during the entire evening. Yet they didn't appear to be upset with each other. But neither were they talking or listening to each other.

In addition, on a recent CNN special report, a 13-year-old girl who participated in a study on the use of cell phones and Social Media by 13-year-olds commented that she didn't like to talk to people directly when she was saying mean things because she didn't like to see people cry or get mad at her for what she was saying. She preferred to communicate these mean things via text, email, or Social Media.

These young people also reported looking at their phones up to 200 times a day—while in school and that they would rather be cut off from "real life" rather than have their cell phones taken away.

It seems that everywhere you go, people are looking at their cell phones, rather than being engaged with those around them. So, I am becoming concerned that we are in a "listening crisis"—that listening has become relatively rare and seemingly unimportant in today's world—at least in the U.S.

Would it be useful and beneficial for the ILA to take a stand on the importance of listening and provide some guidelines or recommendations, much as experts in other fields do (i.e., the American Medical Association)?

Some questions for us to consider:

1. Are we in a listening crisis? What would that look like, or what would be the evidence, and what would be the negative effects?
2. What recommendations might we--as an organization--make about the importance of listening and when, where, and with whom it is important to listen?
3. What beneficial effects does listening to a baby and to young children provide? What negative effects occur if children are not listened to?
4. How much time should children of different ages spend in live conversation with others, as opposed to conversation mitigated by some form of technology.
5. Is there a difference in relationships when exchanges are conducted via text or email, versus live phone conversations and face-to-face conversations?
6. What benefits are there to including more listening in both personal and business relationships?

I am sure that there are many more significant questions that could be posed, and I would like to propose that we gather these questions and begin the process of providing answers and recommendations to the general public. This could become a multi-part program at the next ILA Convention. With that in mind, if you would like to propose questions, or if you have answers, research, or thoughts on these questions, please send them to me, and I will submit a proposal for the 2016 ILA Convention. (bentleyse@aol.com)



From left to right: Catherine Lindsay, Harvey Weiss, and Milda Steinbrecher

Founding Members Reunite

Harvey Weiss

Three original founding members: Catherine Lindsay, Harvey Weiss, and Milda Steinbrecher reunited on Thursday, October 22nd 2015, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Manny Steil in attendance at the first organizational meeting called all three at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus on August 23-24, 1979.

Harvey was in town for the Land O' Lakes District Barbershop convention and competition.

It was an evening of wonderful memories and lots of New Glarus brewed spirits!



Founding Member Jerry Carstens

Do You Teach a Listening Course??

Molly Stoltz and Carl Cates

Do you teach a stand-alone Listening course at a public or private college or university in the United States? If so, we would like to ask you to take a moment to complete the following survey. www.vsucommarts.org/listening/. It should only take a couple minutes to complete. It does ask you to upload a course syllabus. We are conducting this survey to assess the current state of the stand-alone listening course across the U.S.

“New Friends”

Victoria Hill

Whenever you join a new organization, or attend an event alone it can be intimidating. Especially, when you don't know anyone going in. This was my experience going to the ILA conference in Virginia Beach. However, my worries were quickly put to rest when I began meeting some of the members of the association. Never in my life have I felt more welcomed by a group of people. Everyone was so friendly. Even though many of the members have known each other for years, they opened their arms to including me in their group.

Each day was better than the last. The convention was not only informative, but it was fun. Many of the panels were so engaging for traditional academics, business people, as well as students. Everyone had such energy, and it was cool seeing everyone's passions as they relate to listening. I even learned a lot of unexpected tips for researching, publishing, and presenting just by having conversations after each panel.

I find myself counting down the days until we all gather again in Tucson!”

Jerry Carstens, A True Loss to ILA

The members of ILA grieve the loss of one of its founding members, Jerry Carstens. He taught at the University of Wisconsin -River Falls for many years where he was a member of the 1874 Founders Society for lifetime giving. Jerry was true to ILA in that he developed UWRF's Listening Program prior to his early retirement.

Jerry recently presented at the 2000 ILA Convention in Virginia Beach, VA on the “Studies of Listening in Elderly Populations.”

Our membership will miss Jerry greatly and hope that his family accepts our condolences and prayers. Please send stories and photos about this wonderful man so we can publish them in the spring 2016 edition of the Listening Post.

Communication and Culture in a Sustainable World

Melissa Beall

World Communication Association North America invites you to attend an extraordinary summer conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, August 2-6, 2016. This interdisciplinary conference allows people from a variety of disciplines to explore the many facets of communication, culture, and sustainability. So far we have speakers from a variety of interests: environmentalists, health and leisure, marketing, consulting, listening, law, ethics, communication, and aboriginal issues. There will be special opportunities for students: poster sessions, mentor sessions, and new research ideas where we will try to match student interests with content and methodology experts to pursue potential research projects. Canada's first and only Aboriginal Supreme Court Justice, an elder in the Ojibway Nation, calls Winnipeg home and he has offered to speak.

2016 WCA NORTH AMERICA Conference

THEME: COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE IN A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

DATES: AUGUST 2-6, 2016

LOCATION: WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA, is at the geographical center of North America and sits at the confluence of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers and has been a meeting place for over 6,000 years. Winnipeg is recognized as the cultural cradle of Canada with everything from the renowned Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra to Canada's oldest public art gallery, the Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG) home of the world's largest public collection of contemporary Inuit art. You can also visit the Manitoba Museum, home to one of Canada's most important historical collections: The Hudson's Bay Company Museum Collection. Winnipeg is also home to Canada's longest-running French language theatre, La Cercle Moliere and the world's only theatre in a shopping mall, Prairie Theatre Exchange. If you prefer sports, Winnipeg is home to the Winnipeg Jets hockey team and the Canadian Football League's Winnipeg Blue Bombers. During August you can attend Folklorama a two-week extravaganza of food, art, dance, and other information scores of different cultures who call Winnipeg home. In fact, more than 100 different languages are spoken in the many culturally diverse neighborhoods in Winnipeg, from St. Boniface, a large French culture, to the domed Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in the large Ukrainian neighborhoods to the Aboriginal neighborhoods and Chinatown and beyond. Winnipeg is a vitally diverse city.

It is home to Canada's Human Rights Museum, a must-see venue steps away from The Forks, an international marketplace with arts, crafts, products and foods from all over the globe. It is also a short walk to The Exchange, a trendy boutique area in the old financial district, and a short distance from a thriving downtown and hundreds of ethnic centers. Winnipeg has North America's second largest urban forest, and is a beautiful, active city with something for everyone. The Winnipeg Zoo in Assiniboine Park is home of the Journey to Churchill exhibit where rescued Polar Bears live in conditions similar to their native environment, and you can watch them swim overhead. If you're interested, you can plan a post-conference tour to the real Churchill in the Arctic, stay in a rustic lodge with all the amenities, see the Beluga Whales (65% of the world's Beluga Whale population are found in the waters around Churchill, Manitoba), and, you might even see some Polar Bears, even in August!

The downtown area recently underwent a \$13.5 billion (CD) renovation project with new and renovated hotels with a wide range of amenities and prices. There are many five-star hotels, but equally as many with fewer stars but with nice rooms and services. Winnipeg is usually a bit cooler in the summer than some other places in North America, but in case it gets hot, most buildings in the downtown are connected by enclosed walkways. Additional benefits are Manitoba's legislative building

with its own hermetic code (think of the DaVinci Code) complete with tours to learn more about the secrets). A unique feature of Winnipeg's summers are the food carts found between the downtown area and the legislature building where you can find delicious lunches from scores of cultural and ethnic offerings.

Winnipeg's award-winning international airport has more than 170 daily flights in and out of the airport; many are non-stop, others are one-stop. Numerous airlines serve Winnipeg, and some of the better fares are found on Air Canada flights. The airport is a 15-minute taxi ride from the downtown and cab rates are reasonable.

Special conference features:

International interdisciplinary conference working to bring together both academics and all sectors of the economy to promote intercultural communication;

Strong representation of both women and aboriginal speakers;

Opportunities for student research in progress and not yet started: Student poster sessions; Student mentoring sessions, allowing students to interact with both content and methodology experts;

Keynote speakers, and keynote panels;

Cultural day tour;

Spousal/partner tours for your family members;

Receptions;

Social Activities;

Post-study tour

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For more information contact the two ILA members and co-chairs of this conference: Dwight Harfield at info@listeningolutions.net or Melissa Beall at Melissa.Beall@uni.edu. We'd especially love to have listening and intercultural listening papers and panels at the conference! The Call for Papers and Panels will be available and publicized after November 21. Submissions are due by March 15 with notification of status by April 15. Hotel information will soon be available. Let us know if you have questions.

