



New Board Members for Idaho Hands & Voices

We've gained three more great additions to the board this summer!

Michael-George Ames was diagnosed with congenial deafness in both ears at the age of 18 months. His parents decided oral education was the best choice for him. When Michael was about 3 years old, his mother took him to John Tracy Clinic in Los Angeles, California for 3 months. There his mother learned about deafness and oral training tools and he learned basic oral communication and facial (expression) reading. Eventually, he developed lip-reading skills. At the tender age of 6, he was enrolled in the Saint Joseph Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, Missouri for additional oral/lip-reading training and his elementary education. As an eighth grader, he was mainstreamed at West Junior High School and then Borah High School. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in business from Boise State University.

He is a cochlear implant recipient and is involved in three worlds: Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Hearing. Michael, a skilled oralist, is fluent in ASL and knows a little bit about cued speech.

He is happily married to a wonderful gal biker and is the father of 2 boisterous, healthy boys. His hobbies are motorcycling, reading, outdoor cooking, exercising and spending time with his gang doing recreational outdoor activities. He loves learning new things! Life is good.

Diana Collins (pronounced dee AH nah) is the mother of three bright and energetic children, ages 9, 6 and 3. Her youngest, Adelaide, was identified with a moderately severe hearing loss at three weeks, after failing the newborn hearing screening. Adelaide's hearing loss was progressive, and at 9 months, she had lost all hearing in her left ear, and had a profound loss in her right ear. Diana's family uses a little bit of everything to foster communication with Adelaide, using both oral speech and sign language. Diana has very much enjoyed meeting new families and individuals through Idaho Hands and Voices, comparing and sharing both the challenges and triumphs of raising a child with hearing loss.

Alyssa Frahm is the mother of 4 children living in North Idaho; her last child has no hearing on her left ear and moderate/profound hearing loss on her right ear. Her child was adopted and had no formal form of communication until the age of four when she started to learn SEE and now is using both SEE and ASL along with her voice. Professionally, Alyssa is a Registered Respiratory Therapist and is currently seeking work. We are strong believers in total communication and we encourage our child to use whatever form of communication works for her in the situation that she is in. Alyssa is excited to be on the board of Hands and Voices and to become part of a support system for the North Idaho families.



Remembering Summer

Idaho Hands & Voices enjoyed some fun family summer activities. Alyssa Frahm contributed this account of the July 30 event in North Idaho:

We had a fabulous time with all of the North Idaho families at Honeysuckle beach in Hayden, Idaho. With a turnout of over 40 people it was great to visit and make connections between families of deaf/hh children, members of the local Deaf Club and even professionals/teachers of the deaf/hh. This is what Hands &

Voices is all about - helping families make the connections with others going down a similar path, or those who have already gone down that path. And then, to have the support of the professionals and teachers, completes the circle. I have to say, for myself, it was so special to see a Deaf adult reunite with a former teacher. To witness the instant bond and care they have for each other is encouraging for a parent just starting the journey. Thank you Hands & Voices for providing this opportunity and thank you North Idaho for the great turnout and participation in the event!

The Magic Valley Hands & Voices group wound up the summer with a great picnic at Story Book Park in Burley, also attended by over 40 people! Having found the magic formula (Saturday before school starts, supply chicken) we will do our best to repeat it, and hope to see everyone there next year. We also had a smaller gathering at Nat Soo Pah on July 14, featuring swimming in the rain and a version of baseball you've never seen before.

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IESDB NEWS

by Paula Mason, Director of Outreach

A new school year has started. We are looking forward to another great year. We are seeing some changes this year; we hired a new Education Specialist (we are now Education Specialists and not Consultants, we are still consulting) in Region 1. Cortney Peters is our new Specialist; she is a Washington native and has recently moved to Coeur d'Alene. We are very excited to have her on our team. Region 2, Lewiston/Moscow, does not have an Education Specialist this year. The position is still open. If support is needed in Region 2 please contact Paula Mason, IESDB Director of Outreach at paula.mason@iesdb.org or (208) 731-8940. IESDB is providing monthly support to Region 2 until we can secure a teacher.

We are in the process of moving our office and preschool in Region 7, Idaho Falls. We are confident we have a location secured, once the lease is signed we will announce our new address and the date of our Open House that will celebrate our new home.

IESDB will be holding free sign language classes this school year in each region. We are working out dates and locations at this time. As soon as we have locations, dates, and times confirmed each teacher will be sending out Flyers to all parents in their local regions to personally invite them to attend classes. Please stay tuned for this and the following events planned for the upcoming school year...

IESDB is partnering with Idaho Parents Unlimited, the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Idaho Hands and Voices to hold a Self Advocacy Workshop for parents, to learn about advocating for your child during an IEP or 504 meeting. We will hold our first workshop in October in Region 5, Twin Falls and then move this workshop to each region. Please look for the flyer we will be mailing out with more information.

There will be an IESDB Family Day Activity in each region. This will be an opportunity for families to have fun, network and learn about resources that can enhance the success of their child. Please look for more information in the mail and from your Education Specialist.

IESDB is coordinating a Cued Speech Training for families in Southeast Idaho this fall. We will be mailing out details as soon as they are confirmed.

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Do you have an older artist in your family? The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is sponsoring a contest to design the logo for their 2014 Self-Advocacy Conference, open to Idahoans with disabilities age 16 and older (deadline September 28.) For more details, visit their web page, www.icdd.idaho.gov.

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UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

(detailed information about many of these events can be found on the calendar on our webpage; also check the calendar for events that may not be publicized yet.)

Idaho Hands & Voices 2nd Annual Golf Scramble October 6 at the Boise Ranch Golf Course. Deadlines have been extended, and there is still time to sign up your team or donate a sponsorship or raffle item. We also welcome volunteers to help out the day of the scramble. For further details, see our web page. If you enjoyed one of our family activities this year, or used our web page, or appreciate the newsletters you receive, this is our one big fundraiser of the year.

North Idaho Deaf Club bowling/fundraiser Saturday, September 15 at the Sunset Bowling Center, 202 W Sunset Blvd, Coeur d'Alene. Lane assignments at 1:30 pm, and games start at 2:00 pm. Halloween and Christmas parties are being planned for later this year. Contact Darcy Sinsley (darcysinsley@yahoo.com) for more information and/or to get on the email list for notifications of upcoming events.

Fun Run Fundraiser: October 20th IESDB will partner with the Olive Osmond Perpetual Hearing Fund to hold a 5K/10K Fun Run in Meridian. The proceeds will go into a fund to help purchase hearing aids for those who need the extra support. The race will be held at Julius M. Kleiner Park; for more details and race sign up please go to www.Run4Hearing.com/Boise.

Idaho Parents Unlimited (IPUL) workshops and webinars: For more information and to register, go to www.ipulidaho.org or call (208)342-5884.

Wednesday Support Group, September 12, 6:00-8:00pm, 500 S 8th St, Boise, "Success with the IEP." This is also available as a webinar September 14, 10:00-11:30 am

A series of workshops is scheduled for Salmon September 27 and 28, at Human Dynamics & Diagnostics, 803 Monroe St. Suite 2.

A webinar covering the accessibility features of the iPad and its use in developing skills is scheduled for 9:30-10:30 am September 25, repeating at the same time October 1.

TASK Party planned by IPUL, Very Special Arts (VSA) and Idaho Art Education Association 5:00-9:00 pm, October 4, 500 S 8th St, Boise. A TASK party is an interactive arts event (learn more at www.taskparty.org); this one will be designed to be accessible and inclusive as well. Call (208)342-5884 for more information.

Magic Valley H&V traditional pumpkin-painting party, Saturday, October 27, 5:00 pm until we're done, pizza provided! Paint will be flung in the Irwins' garage at 76 West 100 North in Jerome, with food and adult conversation in the dining room. Please call ahead if you can (324-7544) for planning purposes, but come anyway if you suddenly find yourselves free that evening. Make sure the kids wear old clothes!!

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What's missing? A really great feature article. We shook all the usual trees and nothing fell out. You can contribute to "Wavelengths!" Send material to niwri2@msn.com, or call Lorna at 324-7544. We love stories, anecdotes, tips, book and product reviews, announcements of upcoming events, whatever you have to share. Don't like to write? We can interview you and write an article, subject to your approval.