

To: International Stuttering Association Family
From: Michael Sugarman, MBA, Chair
Date: April 6th, 2011
Re: E newsflash April 2011

This E Newsflash contains

1. **A message for Chairs of all Member Associations**
2. **Administrative Pronouncements and Interpretations of the constitution by the ISA Board**
3. **The results of the Board vote on Motion #47**
4. **Candidates for the next ISA Board of Directors**
5. **Proposed constitution changes by Thomas Krall**
6. **Proposed motion by Thomas Krall regarding draft 5 of the ISA 10 Recommendations**
7. **The World Congress for people who stutter in 2013**
8. **The King's Speech**
9. **ISA website**
10. **ISA Outreach**
11. **Oxford Dysfluency Conference**
12. **Agenda for the membership meeting.**

1. A message for Chairs of all Member Associations

The first 7 items of this newsflash relate to the ISA Membership meeting next month in Buenos Aires, Argentina. They are important for you and ISA. Please read them very carefully.

If you are sending a representative please give them a letter or email to say they vote on behalf of your organization.

If you are not sending a representative to the membership meeting, I will vote on your behalf. Please email your proxy vote to msugarman1@sbcglobal.net

2. Administrative Pronouncements and Interpretations of the constitution by the ISA Board

For the last three weeks the board of directors and advisory board have discussed 11 interpretations of the constitution:-

1. 'payment of membership fees'
2. 'membership meetings and World Congress every 3 years'
3. 'terms of office'
4. 'proxy votes'
5. 'the length of time a person may serve on the ISA Board as a Director'
6. 'association's representation on the Board of Directors'
7. 'board members representing their own associations, not themselves'
8. 'director's responsibilities'
9. 'the ISA Advisory Board'
10. 'the agenda for the membership meeting'

11.'changes to the constitution'

The full content of these Interpretations can be found in Appendix A, at the end. Your thoughts and comments on these will be welcome and passed to the new ISA Board.

3. The results of the Board vote on Motion #47

I asked Board of Directors to vote to accept the 11 **Administrative Pronouncements and Interpretations of the constitution by the ISA Board**. The vote was 5 in favor and 2 abstained and no votes against the motion. Motion #47 was passed by a majority.

4. Candidates for the next ISA Board of Directors

Five members of the current Board of Directors (Joseph, Keith, Michael, Moussa and Suzana) are expected to stand for re-election. Masuhiko wishes to step down and Thomas has completed 10 years of service to the ISA.

We know of potential candidates from Japan, Australia and Germany. Please will all candidates email me at the above address with a short bio about yourself and your qualifications to be elected to the Board of Directors. There should also be an email from your National Association to say that they agree with your self nomination. If you are unable to attend the membership meeting, I will put your name forward. I propose to circulate the bios in the May newsflash.

5. Proposed constitution changes by Thomas Krall

The International Stuttering Association is an organization of associations from around the world. If one association monopolizes the membership proceedings---There is no fairness.

Motions to amend the constitution by Thomas Krall or the German Stuttering Association must follow the same protocols as identical motions from any member association in the World. A 3 hour time slot in the agenda was requested, to discuss 10 changes to the constitution.

Proposed changes to the ISA constitution are very important for all its members, so in accordance to paragraph 11 of the **Administrative Pronouncements and Interpretations (AP&I) of the constitution by the ISA board**, these proposed changes will be passed to the ISA Constitution committee. Paragraph 11 of **AP&I** will be followed to progress these proposed changes. So email discussions will start, probably after the membership meeting in May 2011, with the constitution committee, then with the ISA Board and Advisory Board and then with you, the membership. See Appendix B for the details of the 10 proposed changes.

6. Proposed motion by Thomas Krall regarding draft 5 of the ISA 10 Recommendations

The details of this motion can be found in Appendix C.

Members should look at <http://www.stutterisa.org/what-we-do/isa-10-recommendations>. All of draft 5 can be seen on our website. This motion is no longer applicable.

7. The World Congress for people who stutter in 2013

So far, one country has submitted a bid which will be discussed at the members meeting. The bid is from the Netherlands. For a preview of the venue you can take a look at <http://www.congrescentrum.com>. It is not yet translated into English.

Do you want to make a bid to host the next World Congress in 2013? If so, please contact me.

The congress usually attracts approximately 300 to 350 participants. The congress takes three full days and one half day followed by a social event. Also, included in the schedule is a gala dinner.

Not only can we as people who stutter experience Buenos Aires and meet other who stutter, in 2013 we can meet again.

8 The King's Speech

You may want to check out teaching kits for high school students who stutter go to www.ymiclassroom.com and download material on stuttering--check out the website and material. The Weinstein Company, the NSA (www.nsastutter.org/) and the SFA (Stuttering Foundation of America www.stutteringhelp.org) support this material

9. ISA website

A soulful thank you to Bruce and Keith for their dedication in helping People who Stutter to obtain accessible information via the internet. The ISA's new website is available. It will be easier to keep up to date and maintain. Please check it out by going to www.stutterisa.org. Comments will be welcome. There is a translation feature now. You can easily perform a google translation into 42 languages.

If your association does not have a website, but wants to put information on the Internet for your countrymen, please talk to our web team. If we are able to help, we will make space available for you to use. If you have news of events, please contact the web team.

10. ISA Outreach

The ISA continues its reaching out by assisting people who stutter from around the world.

The other day we received an email from a PWS from Vietnam. Efforts are underway to assist him to develop a support network.

We have had information from Africa about the limited number of professional therapists. We are considering starting a 'Project Africa'.

We have had new contacts from Morocco, Rwanda, Burundi, Indonesia, Zambia, Bangladesh and Bosnia & Herzegovina.

11. 9th Oxford Dysfluency Conference 1st to 4th September 2011. The [9th Oxford Dysfluency Conference](#) (ODC) is taking place on the 1st- 4th September 2011 in St. Catherine's College, Oxford, UK. The ODC is one of the leading international conferences in the field of stuttering/stammering. The conference brings together

researchers, practitioners and clinicians across a range of disciplines most notably speech and language therapy, along with psychology and linguistics. Further information on the conference is available on the conference website www.dysfluencyconference.com

12. Agenda for the membership meeting

I look forward to meeting with you at the membership meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The meeting is from 10:00 AM to 4:15 PM. A sample agenda follows:

10 to 11:15 AM	Meeting call to order: Mind full exercise; Welcome and Introductions of ISA Board of Directors and Advisory Board Members. Welcome and Introductions by members of the ISA family. Motion to accept minutes from Croatia '07 membership meeting.
11:15 to 11:45	Discussion on "Self Help---What it means to People who Stutter".
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch
1:30 – 2:00	Discussion on ISA by Chair & Treasurer
2:15 – 3:00	Discussion and presentation by ISA member organizations who want to Host World Congress. Vote on who will host the next Congress in 2013.
3:15 – 4:00	Election of new ISA Board of Directors
4:00 – 4:15	Closing
5:15-	Meet for dinner

Kindly,
Michael Sugarman, MBA
Chair, ISA

Appendix A

1. Constitution paragraphs about 'payment of membership fees'.
 - 1.1. Every association will be invoiced every year.
 - 1.2. There are circumstances where a member association may ask to have regular fees, or a variable annual donation, waived.
 - 1.3. Associations that make payments will be allowed to nominate representatives to stand for election to the ISA Board of Directors.
 - 1.4. Associations that make no payments may not nominate representatives to stand for election to the next ISA Board.
 - 1.5. All other member rights will be available to all member associations.
2. Constitution paragraphs about 'membership meetings and World Congress every 3 years'
 - 2.1. There is a three yearly cycle of membership meetings and World Congress. This cycle has evolved over time and in part is based on other meetings of other organizations in the world of stuttering. (cycle, 2001, 2004, 2007,2010, 2013, 2016 etc.)
 - 2.2. If an Association has approval to hold the next World Congress, but is unable to do so, then other associations will be requested to step in.
 - 2.3. Due to timing, this may invalidate, for one year, the three yearly cycle.
 - 2.4. The following World Congress will return to the original stated three yearly cycle.
3. Constitution paragraphs about 'terms of office'
 - 3.1. A term of office on the Board of Directors is usually three years.
 - 3.2. In unusual circumstances there may be a different length of office, if the time between the next membership meeting and World Congress and the last membership meeting and World Congress is not three years. In which case, a term of office may be 4 years followed by 2 years. In either case, a director may be nominated for the next 3-year term provided the director does not exceed the 9 year limit (see number 5 below).
4. 4 Constitution paragraphs about 'Proxy votes'
 - 4.1. Any Member Association who cannot attend the membership meeting may ask anyother voting attendee to vote on their behalf.
 - 4.2. A copy of the request must be shown at the membership meeting.
 - 4.3. The request will make clear if the attendee can use the proxy as they wish for all votes, or if there are particular issues where a specific vote is required.
5. Constitution paragraphs about 'the length of time a person may serve on the ISA Board as a Director'.
 - 5.1. Any person may serve a maximum of 9 years in a decision making role for the ISA since 1995.

- 5.2. The period of time may be consecutive or non consecutive years / terms of office.
 - 5.3. When their time is complete, or earlier if they do not want to serve a full 9 years, they may ask to serve on the Advisory Board (see below).
 - 5.4. If, because of unusual circumstances (see above) a person has served for 7 or 8 years, they may not stand for re-election if the next term of office will take them over the maximum of 9 years.
 - 5.5. If the current 'term of office' (see above) gets extended, they may remain on the Board until the next membership meeting and elections.
6. Constitution paragraphs about 'Associations representation on the Board of Directors'
- 6.1. Ideally there will be 9 different associations represented on the Board Directors.
 - 6.2. At the membership meeting at least 5 approved nominations, up to a maximum of 9, may be elected to serve on the Board.
 - 6.3. If possible (5 nominations must be elected) there will only be one representative per association.
 - 6.4. If there is a second approved nomination by one or more associations, these names will be held in reserve for possible use.
 - 6.5. If there are fewer than 5 associations with approved nominations then names in reserve may be used to make a minimum of 5.
 - 6.6. If necessary, during the first 3 months of office, the Directors will seek to bring their numbers up to 9, including the use of any unused reserved names.
 - 6.7. The Board of Directors will seek ways to maintain their numbers at 9. To do this, the Board might consider, but would not be limited to
 - 6.7.1. Asking specific Associations for a nomination,
 - 6.7.2. Asking an Advisory Board member (care needed on number of years service in office),
 - 6.7.3. Asking Special Friends,
 - 6.7.4. Asking Associations to advertise a vacancy in their magazines / websites.
7. Constitution paragraphs about 'board members representing their own associations, not themselves'
- 7.1. From time to time an association may remove its support from a Board Director
 - 7.2. If this happens, the Director may consider stepping down from the Board.
 - 7.3. However, a Director is elected for the term of the Board (usually 3 years). If the local association withdraws support, then that Director may remain as a Director to complete the term, subject to a Board vote, looking at what is best for the ISA.
 - 7.4. If the vote of the Board is to remove the Director, then the Chair will do so by excluding them from any ISA email discussion.

- 7.5. The Board of Directors will seek ways to maintain their numbers at 9.
(See also para a6.7 above)
8. Constitution paragraphs about 'Director's responsibilities'
 - 8.1. Every elected Director will be accountable to both his/her own Association and to the Board of Directors.
 - 8.2. When a Director is elected / appointed to Chair an ISA committee, that Director is responsible to and accountable to the ISA Board of Directors.
 - 8.3. When a Director writes anything on behalf of the ISA, then it must be approved, and can be amended, by the ISA Board before publication.
 - 8.4. When any Director wants to raise a motion for discussion and a vote, then there must be another Director who will second the motion.
9. The ISA Advisory Board.
 - 9.1. The ISA Advisory Board is a non voting Board set up to help and advise the main ISA Board of voting Directors.
 - 9.2. The Advisory Board is appointed, not elected, by the Chair and ISA Directors.
 - 9.3. Membership of this Board will include, but not be limited to,
 - 9.3.1. People (professionals or others) who, based on their experience, can help ISA Directors to carry out their objectives;
 - 9.3.2. Former ISA Directors who have served the ISA well and still wish to serve the ISA.
 - 9.4. Directors or members of the ISA family can nominate anyone to stand for membership of the Advisory Board.
 - 9.5. Nominations, which can also be self nominations, should go to the Chair of the ISA who will discuss the nomination with the Board.
 - 9.6. The main criteria for acceptance of the nominations will be a proven track record and an ability to join a team to help ISA Directors.
 - 9.7. The Chair of the ISA / Directors should review their use of the Advisory Board at least once every term of office.
10. Constitution paragraphs about 'the agenda for the membership meeting'.
 - 10.1. The Chair of the Board may seek advice from any one in the ISA regarding agenda items for the membership meeting.
 - 10.2. Associations may make suggestions themselves (Ideally 2 or 3 months prior to the membership meeting).
 - 10.3. The Chair of the Board, with the help of the Secretary, will circulate a draft agenda.
 - 10.4. The Chair will take into consideration the best interests of all the membership.
 - 10.5. The Chair is solely responsible for the final agenda.
 - 10.6. The agenda will state that people who represent an association at the members meeting will sign a form stating they have the approval of their association to vote.

11. Constitution paragraphs about 'changes to the constitution'.
 - 11.1. If any member of the ISA, or any Director, or any Advisory Board member, or any Special Friend wishes to make an amendment to the constitution then this should be submitted, with a second named ISA person who agrees, to the Chair of the ISA.
 - 11.2. The Chair will hold a discussion with the constitution committee, which has been set up to deal with these issues.
 - 11.3. The constitution committee will consider,
 - 11.3.1. the value of the change to all members;
 - 11.3.2. the wording of the change;
 - 11.3.3. the pros and cons of a constitution change vs. an interpretation amendment;
 - 11.3.4. any issues regarding the ISA's Charity status and USA legal requirements;
 - 11.3.5. any other pertinent issues at the time.
 - 11.4. The constitution committee will make a proposal to the ISA Board of Directors.
 - 11.5. The Board of Directors will discuss the proposals and hold a vote.
 - 11.6. If the vote is yes to make changes, the Chair will notify the membership of the agreed proposed changes to the constitution by email.
 - 11.7. If the vote is no, the proposer of the change will be advised.
 - 11.8. Boards of all associations will have time to discuss and vote on the change.
 - 11.9. If there is a membership meeting within 3 months, the Chair may consider making the membership vote as part of the agenda, otherwise there will be an email vote.

Appendix B

Proposed 11 Motions for ISA-Membership Meeting at May 17, 2011.

Motion 1 Relating Change of ISA Constitution

§ 3 should be completed by the additional, new section 9:

<9. ISA is an association of associations and not of single persons. ISA Board Members have to especially keep at ISA Constitution, international law, democratic principles and international accepted values and norms.>

Reasons:

The miss developments in the ISA between 2001-2010, in this period it became very clear, that single persons in the ISA Board often did not keep ISA Constitution, international law, democratic principles and international accepted values and norms, see Legal Opinion from Maria-Anna Grandys-Laßmann from June, 11. 2010.

Motion 2 Relating Change of ISA Constitution

§ 6 should be completed by the additional, new two sentences in section 1 as follows:

<Nevertheless an extraordinary membership meeting can be made at every time by ISA Member Associations if at minimum half of the ISA Member Associations apply for that in a written joint paper, in which also is proposed the place and date of the meeting. The date for an extraordinary membership meeting has to be earliest 6 weeks after the publication of the joint paper.>

After change §6 section 1 you can read section 1 as follows:

1. ISA membership meetings should be held every 3 years at the World Congress of People Who Stutter. **Nevertheless an extraordinary membership meeting can be made at every time by ISA Member Associations if at minimum half of the ISA Member Associations apply for that in a written joint paper, in which also is proposed the place and date of the meeting. The date for an extraordinary membership meeting has to be earliest 6 weeks after the publication of the joint paper.**

Reasons:

This change of ISA constitution will clearly raise the influence of the 54 ISA Member Associations and of the ISA Membership Meeting. ISA is an association of associations and not of single persons.

Motion 3 Relating Change of ISA Constitution

In § 8 should be changed section 2 as follows:

The words <no more than 3 consecutive terms> should be replaced by the words <as much terms as that person gets a majority at the ISA membership meeting>.

After change §8, section 2 you can read section 2 as follows:

2. Each board member will be eligible to serve **as much terms as that person gets a majority at the ISA membership meeting**, with each term of office being 3 years in length.

Reasons:

It is helpful for ISA Member Associations and ISA, if engaged, qualified persons are allowed to serve in ISA Board as long as ISA Member Associations and ISA Membership Meeting support these persons. Therefore the quality of ISA Board will be better.

Motion 4 Relating Change of ISA Constitution

§ 8 should be completed and changed in section 8 point h) as follows:

a) In sentence one should be added the word <real> before the words <meeting of the board of directors>, and the words <and in fact not in the Internet> behind the words <meeting of the board of directors>.

The changed first sentence you can read as follows:

There shall be at least one **real** meeting of the board of directors every year, **and in fact not in the Internet**.

b) In sentence two should be added the words <with pleasure in addition> before the word <through>; and the word <telecommunications> should be replaced by the word <Internet>.

The changed second sentence you can read as follows:

Such meetings may be held **with pleasure in addition** through the use of **Internet**.

c) At the end of point h) should be added the following additional new sentence:

<A discussion of a motion about two weeks in the Internet and a voting about it is not a meeting of the board of directors.>

Reasons:

The ISA constitution is inexact in that point. Such meetings of the board of directors are laid down in the constitution and are urgently desired already since 1995, the founding of the ISA. The face to face personal contact helps to mediate quarrel and to understand that persons of another opinion much better. Michael Sugarman, in the last 14 months of his term of office, had not called for a real nor a virtual meeting of the board of directors in the Internet. This is again a violation of ISA constitution from Michael Sugarman and other board members.

Motion 5 Relating Change of ISA Constitution

§ 8 should be completed in section 8 by the additional, new point i) as follows:

<i) ISA member associations has to be integrated and asked as quick as possible about important developments and ideas! It is not the business of the ISA board of directors to decide, change or to hold back from member associations: Proposals about international recommendations which were developed by international working groups. Making decisions about international recommendations is the business of the ISA membership meeting in cooperation with ISA member associations.>

Reasons:

The miss developments in the ISA between 2001-2010, in this period it became very clear, that single persons in the ISA Board often did not keep ISA Constitution, international law, democratic principles and international accepted values and norms, as described in the Legal Opinion from Maria-Anna Grandys-Laßmann from June, 11. 2010.

Motion 6 Relating Change of ISA Constitution

§ 8 should be completed in section 8 by this additional, new point j) as follows:

<j) Every ISA board member is invited to publish personal articles in the ISA newsletter *One Voice*. Other board members are not allowed to prevent, censor, change or shorten such articles. The length of such an article should be at most 2 pages.>

Reasons:

Keith Boss, ISA board member from 2007 to 2011, responsible for ISA newsletter *One Voice* had taken away this right from Thomas Krall, coordinator of ISA board and chair of the 10 recommendations committee in 2010. See Legal Opinion from Maria-Anna Grandys-Laßmann from June 11, 2010, page 5, in the following chapter: <Further offences against ISA constitution, democratic principles, violation of duty of information of ISA, freedom of the press and the freedom of opinion.>

Motion 7 Relating Change of ISA Constitution

§ 8 should be completed by this additional, new section 9 as follows:

<9. Only people who stutter are allowed to be elected in ISA board. >

Reasons:

In the past also speech therapists who were not persons who stutter were welcome in ISA board. This should not be possible any longer in future, because ISA should be the voice of people who stutter and not from speech therapists.

Motion 8 Relating Change of ISA Constitution

In § 9 section 2 should be changed two parts as follows:

1. The word <without> should be replaced by the word <with>.
2. The words <board members> should be replaced by the words <membership meeting>.

The changed §9, section 2 you can read as follows:

2. The delegates will elect board members **with** regard to specific officer status, and the **membership meeting** will elect the various officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and others as may be required.)

Reasons:

This change of ISA constitution will clearly raise the influence of the 54 ISA Member Associations and of the ISA Membership Meeting. ISA is an association of associations and not of single persons.

Motion 9 Relating Change of ISA Constitution

§ 9 should be completed by the additional, new section 3 including a) - c) as follows:

<3. Resignation, removal, recall or suspending from office, of ISA board members between the ISA membership meetings:

- a) If an ISA board member has not the trust of his national association any longer, the chair of ISA has the duty to suspend this ISA board member, without making a board decision.
- b) If an ISA board member has not the trust of the ISA member associations in general any longer, ISA member associations can directly recall this person, if at minimum half of the ISA member associations apply for that in a written joint paper.
- c) In cooperation with ISA member associations the ISA board has to decide, who will hold the new positions. In such cases new persons can be appointed by proposal of the ISA member associations and a decision of the ISA board.>

Reasons:

This change of ISA constitution will clearly raise the influence of the 54 ISA Member Associations and allows a clever and quick acting between ISA membership meetings. ISA is an association of associations and not of single persons.

Motion 10 Relating Change of ISA Constitution

§ 9 should be completed by the additional, new section 4 including a) - b) as follows:

<4. Candidates for the ISA board has to show a document of support of their national association of people who stutter at the day of the board election during the ISA membership meeting.

- a) If such a document of support cannot be presented at ISA membership meeting, the elected board member has to show such document to the ISA chair within 24 hours after his election, so that in the other case the ISA membership meeting can be called again by the ISA chair during the World Congress of People Who Stutter to elect another board member.
- b) Such a document can be send by email or fax to the ISA chair.>

Reasons:

There was the situation in the past, that an ISA board member did not have the support of his national association. This was a very difficult situation for ISA, because this board member had to be suspended in 2008. Because ISA is an association of associations the wish of the national associations should be completely respected.

Appendix C

Motion 11 (No ! Change of ISA Constitution)

<All parts a) to j) of the 5th draft of the ISA 10 Recommendations> should be sent officially by ISA board, directly to all ISA member associations, after the Argentina World Congress. The time for further discussion and answering to the questionnaire by each member association should be at minimum: 6 months. The ISA member associations should send back their ideas, critic, questions and proposals in the proposed questionnaire until December 31, 2011 for further development by the since 2007 existing international working group ISA 10 Recommendations Committee, which consists of **Thomas Krall, Dr. Moussa Dao, Shinji Ito, Masuhiko Kawasaki and Benny Ravid**. For reference you can see all parts a) to j) of the 5th draft as follows:

<All Parts a) to j) of Draft 5 of the ISA 10 Recommendations>:

- a) The <main headline vision> at page 1 (5 lines),
- b) The <executive summary>, the motivation for ISA member associations to help (half page),
- c) The old <bill of rights and responsibilities of people who stutter> from 2001 (1 page),
- d) The <preamble>, the heart of the ISA 10 Recommendations (1 page, letter size 8),
- e) The <10 Recommendations> (3 pages, letter size 8),
- f) The <references>, a first suggestion and selection for the development phase (1 page, letter size 6),
- g) The <list of distribution>, including: UN, WHO, UNICEF, governments, etc. ISA wants to cooperate with these organizations for the benefit of people who stutter (10 lines),
- h) The <questionnaire> for 54 ISA member associations, for the further development by the ISA 10 Recommendations Committee (3 pages, 17 questions, letter size 11),
- i) The <further information package> for 54 ISA member associations, including two tables of contents, probably only for the development phase (13 pages, letter size 10),
- j) The <time part> for cooperation and best development. Much time for the ISA Member Associations to study, prove, understand, discuss and criticize: <At minimum 6 months time.>

Reasons:

The Legal Opinion from Maria-Anna Grandys-Laßmann from June 11, 2010, initiated by Benny Ravid (Israel) and Thomas Krall (Germany) describes very clearly the many violations of the ISA board, of ISA constitution, international law, democratic principles and international accepted values and norms, relating the further development of draft 5 of the international working group 10 Recommendations Committee. The Legal Opinion recommends and supports exactly the <at once> sending of draft 5 to all ISA member associations. If the ISA board is not able to act as explained in the Legal

Opinion until today, to send the draft 5 directly to ISA member associations in June 2010, in this case the ISA membership meeting in Argentina, at May 17, 2011 is probably the right ISA authority to decide about the further development of draft 5 in deep cooperation with ISA member associations. The intensive delay in the development of international recommendations since February 2010 is very unpleasant for ISA and the international working group 10 Recommendations Committee, because the chance was missed to help very quickly at the following duty of ISA, after the ISA membership meeting in Argentina in May 2011: <to give children who stutter worldwide better life chances at kindergarten and schools, in cooperation with UN, WHO, UNICEF and 200 governments, IFA, and many other international associations.> This possible help is delaying very clearly now, maybe about many years. The high rate of suicides among pupils who stutter around the world ISA unfortunately temporarily cannot reduce. Maybe this will be successful in the board period 2011 to 2014?