Because of COVID-19 and the risks posed by large gatherings, we have cancelled our Annual conference in May. Instead, we are focused on finding innovative ways to stay connected. In order to provide continued educational opportunities to our members, we are developing our first Virtual Conference. We will provide you with more information on this exciting development in the coming months.

ALTA wants to make sure that all members have the support they need right now. While we are maintaining our standard training hours and requirements, we will provide time extensions to complete those requirements, as well as increase online training opportunities.

The ALTA Board of Directors is active and engaged. Although, we cannot meet in person, the Board will meet remotely on May 2nd to discuss ongoing business and ensure the organization continues to thrive even in this difficult time.

As we work through this crisis, it is crucial to stay connected with one another - even as we practice social distancing to reduce transmission and keep each other healthy and safe. Our team is here to provide uninterrupted support to you, so please feel free to office@altaread.org reach out with any issues or questions.

Best Regards,
ALTA Board of Directors
Saying Goodbye...

As I come to the end of my term as president, I want to thank the ALTA Board and committee volunteers for their support and dedication which has allowed us to make significant and necessary changes that will have a lasting positive impact on the organization.

In late 2018, a diverse group of ALTA Board members from across the United States, representing different levels of certification and lengths of time as ALTA members met to develop a strategic plan for ALTA’s future. We studied our mission, finances, marketing and internal structure and used that information to create an action plan.

Last August ALTA transferred our association management to Stansfeld in Austin. The Stansfeld ALTA staff is working closely with our Board to meet the needs of our growing organization. ALTA now has over 4,000 members and one of our goals is to assure quality member services. We are accomplishing this through the efforts of the talented ALTA staff and our dedicated ALTA Board and committee volunteers. The opportunity to work with so many wonderful colleagues has been a joy and I sincerely thank them.

Our next ALTA President, my great friend and esteemed colleague, Lynne Fitzhugh, will continue moving ALTA forward, maintaining our high standards and continuing to provide outstanding services for those struggling with dyslexia.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. The best is yet to come for ALTA!

Thank you!

Jean Colner CALT-ICALP  
ALTA President 2018-2020
Thank You Outgoing ALTA Board Members!

Kim Haughee has completed two terms on ALTA’s Board of Directors. Her primary contribution has been serving on the membership committee handling audits, updating policies and procedures, and providing input to the new web managers as ALTA evolves. Thank you, Kim, for your time, patience, and dedication to this process, and for continuing to be a part of this committee!

Also serving for two terms, Carin Illig has been involved with the nominating committee and providing help as needed at the national conferences.

Helen Mannion rolls off after one term from 2018-2020. Her time and efforts are appreciated.

Thank you Kim, Carin, and Helen for your service and leadership to help to make ALTA an exceptional organization for its members.

Affordable Professional Liability Insurance for ALTA members:

If you volunteer, are self-employed, or provide service outside of your normal job, you are expected to have your own professional liability insurance. There are two levels of coverage now available to ALTA members:

For the Certified Academic Language Therapist, therapy level Professional Liability insurance is provided by CM&F Group Inc., and a General Liability policy is available as well.

Visit www.CMFgroup.com and select: Professionals > Therapists > Certified Academic Language Therapist.

To get a quote by CM&F Group with policy coverage details, enter your state, and verify that you are an ALTA member by providing your ALTA membership number. Your ALTA membership number is listed in your membership profile at www.ALTAread.org.

For the Affiliate Trainee or CALP teachers and tutors, professional liability insurance is available from Forrest T Jones & Co.

Visit www.ftj.com, and on the far-left side of the page under ASSOCIATION MEMBERS enter:

(1) EDUCATION
(2) ALTA
(3) your zip code.

Then you will find answers to your questions regarding coverage and rates.

Due to the Corona Virus pandemic, ALTA ICALPs and QIs will accept video recorded practicum lesson hours between trainees and their students.

CEU renewal has been extended to APRIL 30
2020-2022 Slate of ALTA Board Member Candidates

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- **President**
  - Lynne Fitzhugh, CALT-QI
  - Colorado Springs, CO
- **Executive VP/President Elect**
  - Linda Gladden, CALT
  - Austin, TX
- **Secretary**
  - Paul Entzminger, CALT
  - Fort Worth, TX
- **Treasurer**
  - Rebecca Gould, CALT-QI
  - San Antonio
- **VP Programs**
  - Michelle Qazi, CALT-QI
  - Denver, CO
- **VP Website**
  - Lesha Stallons, CALT-QI
  - Firsco, TX
- **VP Public Relations**
  - Susan Louchen, CALT
  - Gainesville, VA
- **VP Long Range Planning**
  - Joyce Pickering, CALT-QI
  - Dallas, TX
- **VP Membership**
  - Christina Fry, CALT
  - Portland, TN

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- **Kara Lee, CALT-ICALP**
- **Mary Lou Johnson, CALT-QI**
- **Julie Bohannon, CALP**
- **Tammy Tillotson, CALP-ICALP**
- **Cherie Howell, CALT**
- **Delores Devore, CALT**
- **Jennifer Rowland, CALT-QI**
- **Jackie Valadez, CALT-QI**
- **Jo Ann Handy, CALT-QI**
- **Kayla Reggio, CALT-QI**
- **Patricia Elkins, CALT**
- **Kate Sistrunk, CALT**
  - Philadelphia, PA
  - Indianapolis, IN
  - Eau Claire, WI
  - Frisco, TX
  - San Antonio, TX
  - Colorado Springs, CO
  - Boerne, TX
  - Alamo, TX
  - Baton Rouge, LA
  - Little Rock, AK
  - Madison, MS

**You are KEY to our GROWTH**

Thanks for planting seeds everywhere you go with everyone you talk with.

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**Vote On Masters Degree - CORRECTION**

The ALTA Long Range Planning Committee voted and recommended to the ALTA Board of Directors that requirements to become a Certified Academic Language Therapist be changed to require an individual to hold a Master’s degree. Individuals would be able to begin training without holding a Master’s, but it would be necessary to earn a Master’s degree before sitting for the ALTA Competency Exam and earning the credentials of Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT).

All current CALTs who do not hold a Master’s degree, as well as those currently in training, would be grandfathered should this vote pass.

The Board debated the pros and cons of this decision and voted to take this decision to the general membership. Please note that this recommendation originated with the ALTA Long Range Planning Committee and is not a recommendation for or against from the Board.
## CHAPTER CONTACTS

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<th>CHAPTER</th>
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ALTA GREAT LAKES
CHAPTER NEWS

ALTA Great Lakes
Welcomes new chapter board members Yvonne Kinney, Robin Rovick, and Laura Johnson!
Additional applications are currently being reviewed.

ALTA-GL hosted a webinar with presenter Chris Fry regarding Zoom Online Instruction which you can purchase for CEU credit here.

We’re continuing to work with Dr. Eric Tridas to reschedule his presentation that had been planned originally to be held in South Bend, IN. Watch for future details.

Excited to serve IN, MN, MI, & WI!

It was standing room only at the ALTA Ohio Chapter’s 8th Annual Membership Meeting and Conference!

CHAPTER NEWS

ALTA - OHIO

The ALTA Ohio Chapter held its 8th Annual Conference “What’s Happening with OG in OH?” on February 29, 2020, in Columbus, Ohio. Over 80 members attended and earned 5 CEU contact hours.

CALPs in the Classroom: Representatives from two Ohio school districts led a discussion about how they are getting teachers high-quality MSLE training, often resulting in CALP certification.

Interpreting Standardized Assessments: Tab Walls, School Psychologist and ALTA member, skillfully made the topic of interpreting standardized assessments memorable and enjoyable!

What’s Happening with OG in OH?: Mike McGovern, President of IDA Central Ohio, gave an update regarding the status of dyslexia legislation in Ohio.

Research Update: Twenty years after the National Reading Panel report, Andrea Rowson, CALT-ICALP, provided a thorough research update on the 5 Big Ideas.

altaohiochapter@gmail.com
ALTA Texas hosted its annual summit “On the Road to Success” January 18, 2020. Texas Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas generously opened their doors for 200 participants to gather and learn from local experts in the field of dyslexia. Speakers included: Dr. Anna Middleton, Dr. Joyce Pickering, Shannon and Mike Meroney, Dr. Melanie Royal, Amy Kelton and Krista Norwood. Texas ALTA thanks the sponsors and exhibitors that made the summit possible.

Save the date for the Texas ALTA “On the Road to Success” Summit - January 16, 2021. The June Shelton School has generously offered to host the summit in the new school. The space will be unlimited and able to hold everyone who wants to attend the summit.

Texas ALTA has a new web site www.alta-texas.weebly.com Be sure to check the web site and the Texas ALTA CALT Connection Facebook page for updates and information pertaining to CALTs and CALPs as well as parents of dyslexic students. During this time of school closures there is discussion and ideas for continuing service to dyslexic students on the Texas ALTA CALT Connection Facebook page.
ALTA has a NEW Legislative Committee!

This committee is in motion with representatives from around the country, with the goal to unify our messaging to heighten awareness of dyslexia among our state legislators, and to highlight the importance of ALTA’s standards in teacher preparation. We’ve had the chance to get acquainted on an initial conference call, and we look forward to another call in April. If you are interested in becoming involved or would like to learn more about our efforts, please reach out to Co-Chairs Linda Gladden at lsgladden@aol.com, or Janie Harvey at jharvey@literacynow.org.

Members of our committee are:

Alabama Rhonda Smith  
Illinois Terri Sendelbach  
Louisiana Kayla Reggio  
Mississippi Leah Ferretti  
N Carolina Rachel Ward  
Ohio Andrea Rowson  
RMC-CO Carolyn Storz  
Texas Libby Grafa  
Virginia Jennifer Appleton  
Arkansas Holly Stokes  
Kansas Tammy Kofford  
Michigan Lauren Sheeley  
Missouri Noel Leif  
New York Elizabeth Hendrix  
Oklahoma Dawn Vaughn  
RMC -CO Heather Hussey  
RMC-Utah Kathy Tenney  
Wisconsin Tammy Tillotson

Prometric Testing Update:

If your test has been cancelled or rescheduled due to our COVID-19 preventative measures, Prometric will send you an email as soon as possible with further instructions regarding your exam—including a new test date based on when we expect to resume normal testing and steps on how to make changes to this appointment utilizing our website’s self-service function. For additional information please visit www.prometric.com

Conference Update:

Due to the uncertainty of how COVID-19 will affect travel, school schedules, and teachers we feel it is best to alleviate some of the burdens regarding travel for those who were contemplating attendance. After much thought and discussion, ALTA has decided to cancel the in person conference in Colorado Springs. Any registrations already received will have the option to request a full refund by contacting office@altaread.org.

We realize many of you rely on the annual conference for CEUs as well as expanding your knowledge in the area of dyslexia. We are exploring additional options to bring this conference to you virtually. More information and updates regarding this change will be shared soon.

Future Conferences: April 2021, Arkansas and April 2022, Colorado Springs.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this unprecedented time.
A Message From Membership

With membership renewals now behind us, we would like to remind everyone that our responsibility as members continues all year, as does the work of the membership committee volunteers. Next year, our membership renewal will begin in January as we transition to a calendar membership year.

With that said, 10 CEU hours earned between January and December 2020 will be applied to the January 2021 renewal (as long as you did not use that event for this year’s renewal, as there is some overlap this year). If you see a CEU opportunity, please ask the sponsor to apply for approval with ALTA! A more detailed explanation will be posted soon in our next CEU Policy update.

We would like to continue to encourage you to read the CEU and membership Policy and Procedures, as well as FAQs, as these are periodically update and can be found on our website by visiting https://alta37.wildapricot.org/continuing-education.asp.

We wanted to make you aware of some important information regarding audits. As you may know, all ICALPs and QIs are audited yearly and 5% of the CALP and CALT population will be randomly selected for audit as well. Members selected for these audits will be notified regarding their results once completed. Should their audit be found non-compliant, they will be given a one-month grace period to comply with ALTA requirements before resulting in a lapsed membership.

For more information on lapsed member policies and procedures please refer to the membership Policy and Procedures page on our website under the membership tab https://alta37.wildapricot.org/Membership.asp.

We value each and every ALTA member, and therefore have many volunteers working hard to ensure our processes become more efficient as our membership continues to grow. Thank you for all of the many positive notes of encouragement and patience as we continue in this endeavor to uphold ALTA’s professional standards.

Chris Fry, M.Ed, LDT CALT
VP Membership

A Message From the CEU Committee

The CEU Committee wishes to extend its sincere thanks to all ALTA Members for their patience and flexibility in obtaining individual and group approvals, submitting book/video Reflection Forms, and registering CEUs during the 2019-2020 renewal period. Our committee has experienced unexpected challenges as we’ve switched website platforms; notwithstanding the corona virus pandemic. Your understanding and support have helped our volunteers do the work needed to make certain that each of you has had what you needed in order to renew your ALTA Membership.

Many events this month have been either canceled or converted to virtual media. In order to aid our members at this precarious time, the grace period for membership renewal will be extended through the end of April without penalty. Members will maintain their credentials during this time. All events that have been changed from face-to-face format to a virtual format due to the pandemic, will be considered Contact hours (in-person).

Please reach out to us if you need assistance. We are here to support you!

Regards,
Cathy Youngblood  M.Ed.,SLDS, LDT, CALT-QI
ALTA CEU Co-Chair

Have an article you would like to submit for a future Newsletter?

Email: office@altraread.org