



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



March, 1975

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Volume 67, No. 3



## Easter Joy!

"OH DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING?" 1 Corinthians 15, 55.

Several years ago I visited a deaf lady in a rest home. Her health was failing. She had recently also become the victim of dread glaucoma and was rapidly becoming blind. She had no living relatives or family near except her husband, also deaf. He lived several hundred miles away. He was up in years and also a shut-in. They had not seen one another for several years. He did not write often because of his age and arthritis, but she had not received a letter or card from him for nearly a year. She knew he had in recent years frequently been seriously ill, and she said: "I know something must be wrong because I did not get a birthday card from him. He always writes on my birthday." Then she asked me to find out what had happened to him and I promised to do so. I thought to myself, "How will I tell this dear lady if her husband has died." In her delicate and painful condition, should I tell her at all. She seemed to sense my thoughts and said: "Don't be afraid to tell me if he has died because I know that he will be better off with Jesus in heaven, and I will soon meet him there." I later found that her husband had indeed died. That is why she had not received his birthday card.

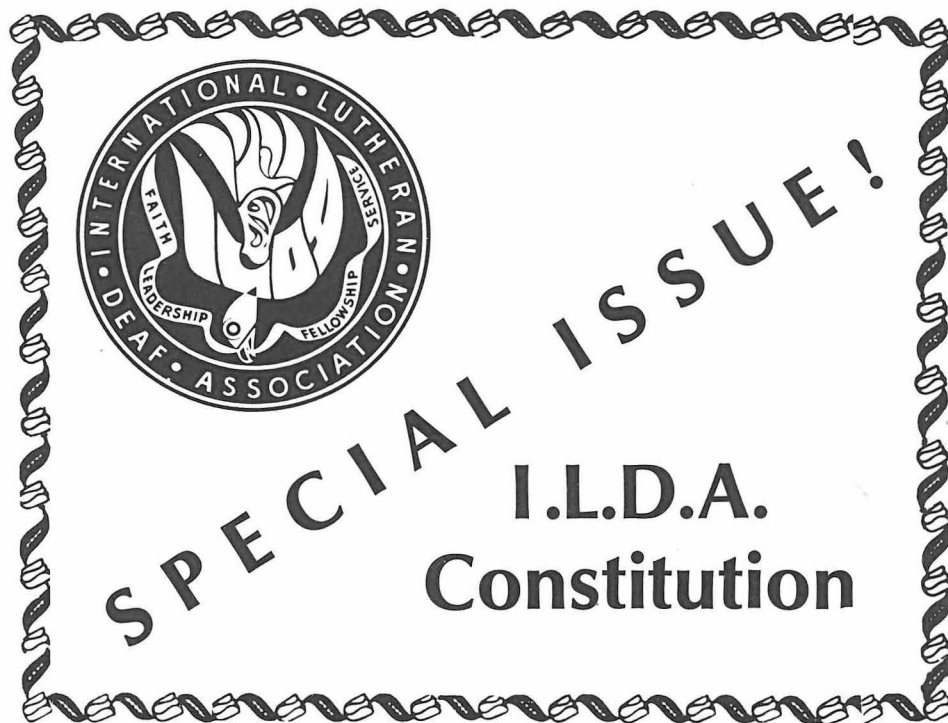
What made this aged woman so calm and un-fearful of death? The answer is the same answer Paul gives us to his question above "Oh death, where is thy sting?" Paul answers confidently "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" That is your and my strength, joy and confidence in Christ. That is what Easter means to all who rejoice in Christ's resurrection and trust in His power to give us a new life.

By His rising from the grave on Easter morning, Jesus takes away death's power to destroy us. Instead He now assures us "Because I live, you shall live too!"

The good news of Easter is that we now are beyond death. In Christ we are "passed from death to life," to life everlasting. Now no matter what sorrow, pain and sadness destroys our happiness in life, we look with Jesus to "the joy that was set before Him" when He endured the cross. He looked beyond the grave to His victory and life and could confidently promise a dying sinner who trusted in Him "Today you will be with Me in paradise."

The paradise-life which our first parents, Adam and Eve lost by falling into sin, Christ has regained for us by rising from the grave. And so we are "more than conquerors" through Christ who died for us and rose again. That is indeed our Easter joy!

H.W. Rohe  
2/15/75



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### CONSTITUTION

#### INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION

#### ARTICLE I

##### PREAMBLE

We desire to be faithful people of God, led by Him and our blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, and inspired by the Word of God as it is brought to us in the Doctrines, Teachings, and Confessions of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We are committed to our Lord Jesus Christ and dedicated to serving God, our Synod and deaf people all over the world in a fellowship of love, devotion, lay work, evangelism and worship. Our only common desire is to unite the efforts of Deaf Lutherans and others in carrying out the programs, projects and plans to achieve our purposes. We do not, and shall not engage in partisan controversies or politics. Our primary and broad goal is to enrich the lives of Deaf people through spiritual growth and develop Christian leadership among all the people with whom we associate.

#### ARTICLE II

##### NAME

This association shall be known as the ILDA, and wherever this abbreviation appears, it will apply specifically to the name of this association.

#### ARTICLE III

##### LOCATION

This association shall have as its primary address, 500 North Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri 63102, and such other places as the Board of Directors of the ILDA may designate.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### PURPOSE

The general and broad purposes of the ILDA shall be to coordinate and strengthen the religious activities and services in our congregations, helping promote their growth to the highest possible level in service to their Lord and Savior; and to promote the Christian faith and life of Lutheran deaf people, all deaf people, and others with whom we associate; and to carry on our ministry throughout the world.

1/1/75

This proposed constitution for ILDA has been painstakingly prepared by the Law Committee of ILDA, Acting Pres. Elmer Francisco, Regional Vice Presidents Clarence Schulz and Edward Trainor. They were assisted in this work by Rev. Herbert Rohe and Rev. Robert Muller. This constitution was reviewed, revised and approved by a general board of directors that met at Concordia College in St. Paul, Minn., July 12, 13 and 14, 1974. This constitution is being presented to the Convention that meets in Washington, D.C. this summer, July 31-Aug. 3 for ratification.

The Editor

For Change Of Address

Be sure to include your old address label stuck on the front of this issue, and send this clipping to:

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St. Louis, Missouri, 63110

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The DEAF LUTHERAN

March, 1975, Vol. 67, No. 3

Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, St.Louis, Mo., 63118. Subscription Price \$3.00 per year. Second-class postage paid at St. Louis, Missouri.

The Deaf Lutheran goes to press the 15th of the month, two weeks before issue. Send all news, pictures, stories, and articles as soon as ready, at least three weeks before issue, to the Editor.

The DEAF LUTHERAN  
Archie D. Marshall, Editor  
3743 Palm Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63107

Please

Study this Constitution and By-Laws prayerfully and carefully alone, with your congregation and at your Regional meetings. Bring this issue with you to the ILDA convention in Washington,D.C. this summer for ratification. ...thank you!

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ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

The ILDA shall be comprised of three classes of memberships: Active Members, Associate Members and Sustaining Members. All are voluntary memberships, but are subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Constitution and By-Laws. All members shall be dedicated towards carrying out the broad purposes of the ILDA.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

The Officers of the ILDA shall be known as: The President, the President-Elect, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The obligations, responsibilities, and duties of the Officers shall be set forth in the By-Laws of this Constitution. All Officers must be deaf lay people who are members in good standing of a Deaf Congregation and/or Field of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or one of its recognized affiliates, and elected to office at a biennial Convention of the ILDA under the terms and conditions set forth in the By-Laws of this Constitution.

ARTICLE VII

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council shall consist of the President, who shall be Chairman; the President-Elect; the Secretary, who shall be Secretary of the Executive Council; the Treasurer; the Program & Finance Director; the representative of the Board of Missions; and the Pastoral Advisor representative of the Ephphatha Conference. The Executive Council shall be responsible for the management and administration of business and affairs of this association as delegated by the ILDA Board of Directors, exercising all powers of the Board, within the policies of the Board and under the provisions set forth in the By-Laws of this Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The ILDA Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Council and the President of each regional branch of this association. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the management of all business and affairs of this association, the conduct of the membership and other things specifically related to and set forth in the By-Laws of this Constitution.

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ARTICLE IX

THE LAW COMMITTEE

The Law Committee shall consist of the President-Elect who shall be Chairman and two members of the Board of Directors appointed by him and shall be for the purpose of reviewing all resolutions and making recommendations for amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, who shall be Chairman; the Program & Finance Director and one other person appointed from the Board of Directors by the Treasurer of the ILDA. This committee shall be responsible for the general supervision of the association funds, planning ways and means of raising funds and presenting a projected budget for each fiscal year.

ARTICLE XI

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall consist of the immediate Past-President, who shall be Chairman and four other Active Members elected at the association Convention who shall serve as tellers at the election.

ARTICLE XII

REGIONAL BRANCHES

The ILDA shall set up and/or operate regional branches for the purpose of carrying out its programs, plans and projects; promoting its purpose; soliciting funds, and; coordinating the efforts of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Board for Missions, the Ministry of the Deaf, Regional Branches, Deaf Congregations, Clergymen and all the people of this association. Regional Branches shall be governed by the terms, provisions and conditions set forth in the By-Laws of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XIII

CONVENTIONS

The International and Regional Branches shall hold conventions every two years alternating. The International shall hold its convention on odd-numbered years and Regional Branches shall hold their conventions at least on even-numbered years. The conduct as well as all plans, conditions and provisions shall be set forth in the By-Laws of this Constitution.

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ARTICLE XIV

VOTING

When voting on any issues of all affairs of this association, regional or international, issues shall be decided by a simple majority vote of voting members present unless otherwise defined in this Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE XV

MEETINGS

All meetings of the ILDA, the Executive Council, the Board of Directors, the Law Committee, the Finance Committee, the Nominating Committee and special meetings as to their frequency, nature and purpose shall be defined in the By-Laws of this Constitution. All meetings shall be governed by the Robert's Rules, revised, unless otherwise specified in this Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE XVI

ILDA RULES AND REGULATIONS HANDBOOK

The ILDA shall have a Rules and Regulations Handbook to assist in carrying out the ministry of the ILDA. This Handbook shall be defined in the By-Laws of this Constitution. All members of the ILDA and its Regional Branches are expected to abide in good faith with the Rules and Regulations set forth in the Handbook.

ARTICLE XVII

REAL ESTATE - SALARIED WORKERS - EQUIPMENT

The ILDA by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting members at an International Convention may buy, purchase, acquire or sell real estate; hire salaried workers; or purchase equipment as long as such things are maintained and operated entirely on a non-profit basis and are essential for carrying out the purposes of this association.

ARTICLE XVIII

MISCELLANEOUS

The ILDA may, by a two-thirds affirmative vote of voting members at an International Convention, absorb, take over and operate other associations, publications or groups on either a temporary or permanent basis providing that complete responsibility and authority to control such associations, publications or groups be given to the ILDA Board of Directors. And, further providing that all administration, guidelines and operations of said associations, publications and groups be determined by the ILDA Board of Directors while under the ILDA's control.



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ARTICLE XIX

DISSOLUTION

This association may be dissolved upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds the Active Members present and voting at an official and legally called International Convention of the ILDA. All assets and property of this association upon dissolution shall revert to The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and/or its Board for Missions.

ARTICLE XX

AMENDMENTS

Resolutions of amendment, modification, alteration or repeal to the Articles of this Constitution and By-Laws may be made by Regional Branches, Congregations and/or Fields or the Law Committee. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Active Members present at a legally constituted meeting at the International Convention of the ILDA shall be required to amend, modify, alter or repeal the Articles of this Constitution. Procedures for amending the Constitution or its By-Laws shall be defined in the By-Laws.

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BY-LAWS

INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

1.00

PURPOSE

Section A - Obligation

1. The ILDA shall communicate and convey to the deaf membership and young people the programs, plans and goals of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. 1.01
2. The ILDA shall build and support lay leadership among deaf Lutherans in all areas of faith and life. 1.02

Section B - Programs

- The ILDA shall on a national and international scale promote and develop programs of Christian Education, inspiration, information, worship, service, stewardship and evangelism for the spiritual strength and growth of the deaf members of all ages. 1.03

Section C - Solicitations

- The ILDA shall solicit and receive funds for the accomplishment of its purposes and shall be a self-financing non-profit association, and it shall conduct its activities without pecuniary profit to any individual. 1.04

Section D - Policies

1. The purposes, programs, and policies of the ILDA shall be in harmony with those of the Synod in its mission and ministry in North America and the world. 1.05
2. The ILDA shall cooperate with the Synod, report to it, and shall co-ordinate its mission and ministry with that of the Synod. 1.06
3. The ILDA shall encourage the Synod to assist and cooperate with the ILDA in the fulfillment of these mutual responsibilities and goals in the ministry to the deaf. 1.07

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ARTICLE II

2.00

MEMBERSHIP

Section A - Active Members

1. Active Members shall be DEAF, Lutheran lay-people who are Communicant Members in good standing in a Congregation and/or Field of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. 2.01
2. Only Active Members may hold office in either the International or its Regional Branches. 2.02
3. Only Active Members may propose and/or vote upon Constitutional changes of the ILDA. 2.03
4. In general, it shall be understood that the ILDA and its Regional Branches are governed entirely by Active Members. 2.04

Section B - Associate Members

1. Associate Members shall be hearing and deaf people who are Communicant Members in good standing of a Congregation of the Lutheran Churches and are active in deaf, Christian affairs. These are divided into three classes: 2.05
  - a. Lutheran Deaf lay-people who are not members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, 2.06
  - b. Lutheran Deaf clergymen of the Lutheran Churches, and 2.07
  - c. Hearing Lutheran lay-people and clergymen. 2.08
2. Associate Members shall not be permitted to hold office in the ILDA or its Regional Branches, propose and/or vote upon Constitutional changes or any matters in this Constitution and By-Laws that are limited to Active Members. 2.09
3. Associate Members may propose and/or vote on matters concerning candidates, programs, projects and mission work of this association. 2.10

Section C - Sustaining Members

1. Sustaining Members shall be all people active in Deaf, Christian affairs who wish to take part in and give support to the purpose and programs of the ILDA but do not qualify as Active or Associate Members. 2.11
2. Sustaining Members may make proposals on matters concerning programs, projects and mission work but are not permitted to vote or hold office in the ILDA or its branches. 2.12

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Section D - Requirements

- All members are subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws of the ILDA. 2.13

Section E - Regulations

1. Only members with valid membership cards shall be permitted to propose, vote or run for office at all ILDA affairs. 2.14
2. Memberships are on a voluntary basis and dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors of this association. 2.15

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS

Section A - The President

1. The President-Elect, upon completion of two (2) years of faithful service, shall become the President of the ILDA for the next two years, provided the President is not re-elected. 3.01
2. Should the President be elected to a second term of office, he shall serve an additional two (2) years and the President-Elect shall also remain in office an additional two (2) years before becoming the next President of the ILDA. 3.02
3. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. 3.03
4. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Council. 3.04
5. The President shall be responsible for making an annual report of all the association's business and progress to the Board of Directors and to the Convention of this association. 3.05
6. The President shall determine the necessity of and have authority to call meetings of the Board of Directors, Executive Council, Law Committee and the Finance Committee at any time. 3.06
7. The President may poll the Board of Directors or the Executive Council in writing and/or TTY at any time for directions essential to the operation of this association. 3.07
8. The President shall prepare agenda for all board meetings and Executive Council meetings early enough for Secretary to send it out prior to the meeting. 3.08

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<u>Section B - The President-Elect</u>	
1. The President-Elect shall be elected by a majority vote at a biennial International Convention from a slate of candidates prepared and submitted by the Nominating Committee.	3.09
2. The President-Elect's term of office shall be for a period of four (4) years.	3.10
a. The first two years his responsibilities shall be those of the President-Elect.	3.11
b. The last two years shall be served as the President of the ILDA, provided the President is not re-elected.	3.12
3. The President-Elect cannot be elected to a second term of office but if the President is elected to a second term, the President-Elect shall remain in that office for two (2) more years before becoming the President of the ILDA.	3.13
4. In the absence of the President, the President-Elect shall act as the President.	3.14
5. The President-Elect shall serve as Chairman of the Law Committee and act as its representative.	3.15
6. Should for any reason the office of the President become vacant, the President-Elect shall assume the responsibilities of the President.	3.16
a. He shall be called "Acting President" for the remainder of the term of the vacant office.	3.17
b. He shall become President of the ILDA when the term of the vacant office expires.	3.18
7. A member of the board designated by the President and/or the President-Elect shall act for the President in the absence of both, the President and the President-Elect.	3.19
8. Should for any reason the office of the President-Elect become vacant, the Board of Directors shall elect from within the Board a member to serve until the election at the next International Convention of the ILDA, at which both the President and a President-Elect shall be elected.	3.20
<u>Section C - The Treasurer</u>	
1. The Treasurer shall be custodian of the ILDA funds, and he and his assistant shall deposit these funds in the name of the association in a bank or depository that is recognized in the Federal Reserve System.	3.21
2. The Program & Finance Director shall be the only assistant treasurer.	3.22

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3. Subject to resolutions or regulations the Board of Directors may adopt, the Treasurer and his assistant shall make no disbursements without proper vouchers or receipts to substantiate and document the disbursement.	3.23
4. The Treasurer and his assistant shall render to the Board of Directors and the association an accurate account at least once a year of all their transactions and the financial condition of the association.	3.24
5. The Treasurer and his assistant shall each open a checking account in the name of the association and keep an accurate accounting of all deposits and withdrawals.	3.25
a. The Treasurer shall be the only person authorized to make deposits or sign checks in his account.	3.26
b. The Program & Finance Director shall be the only person authorized to make deposits or sign checks in his account.	3.27
c. At the end of each fiscal year, which shall begin the first day of September and end the last day of August, the Program & Finance Director shall transfer the funds of his account to that of the Treasurer's account with the exception of funds that shall remain which are essential to the operation of the P&FD and that amount shall be determined by the Board of Directors.	3.28
d. The President of the ILDA may at any time order transfers from and to either account for the welfare of the association.	3.29
e. Audits of both accounts shall be made annually by three auditors from within the Board and selected by the Board and these auditors shall report their findings to the Board of Directors and the association.	3.30
6. The Treasurer and the Program & Finance Director shall be bonded.	3.31
7. The Treasurer shall be elected to office from a slate of candidates presented by the Nominating Committee for a term of two (2) years by a majority vote at the biennial International Convention of the ILDA.	3.32
<u>Section D - The Secretary</u>	
1. The Secretary shall attend all the meetings of the Executive Council and the Board of Directors. He shall keep an accurate record of the minutes and shall have custody of the Minute Books of this association.	3.33
2. Should the Secretary be unable to attend a meeting of the Board or Executive Council, the President shall appoint an Acting Secretary to take his place.	3.34

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3. The Secretary may sign all instruments and documents in the name of the ILDA as authorized to do so by the Board of Directors.	3.35
4. The Secretary shall have supervision of the association's records and correspondence and shall report matters of concern and interest to the Board at each Meeting of the Board of Directors.	3.36
5. The Secretary shall give notice of all meetings of this association.	3.37
a. Notices shall be mailed at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting to all persons involved, unless otherwise stated in the Constitution and By-Laws.	3.38
b. Notices shall contain all information covering the meeting such as travel instruction, location, directions and the agenda and/or program.	3.39
6. The Secretary shall prepare copies of the minutes of all Board of Directors and Executive Council meetings and of all his correspondence of concern and interest and shall mail them to all members of the Board of Directors not later than three (3) weeks following a meeting.	3.40
7. The Secretary shall be elected to office for a period of two (2) years at a biennial International Convention of the ILDA from a slate of candidates prepared by the Nominating Committee.	3.41
<u>Section E - Removal From Office</u>	
1. All officers of the ILDA are subject to removal from office by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a Board of Directors meeting for any of the following:	3.42
a. Revocation of membership	3.43
b. Malfeasance of office	3.44
c. Neglect of duty	3.45
d. Misuse of association funds	3.46
2. To request an Officer be removed from office, formal charges must be signed by the person or party seeking the Officer's removal and presented to the Board of Directors in documented form.	3.47
a. The officer shall be given a fair chance to defend his actions before the Board.	3.48
b. The Officer may require his accusers be present and shall be privileged to cross-examine them.	3.49
c. The decision of the Board shall be final and binding and all Officers understand and accept this before accepting office.	3.50
3. Should the Board vote for removal of an Officer, it becomes effective immediately and the Board shall, at the same meeting, act to fill the office that has become vacant.	3.51

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<u>Section F - Filling Vacancies</u>	
Should the office of the Treasurer or the Secretary become vacant for any reason between terms, the Board of Directors shall elect an Acting Secretary or Treasurer from within or outside the Board for the remainder of the term of the vacant office.	3.52
<u>Section G - Installation of Officers</u>	
1. All newly elected Officers shall be installed at the Convention of the ILDA at which elected and in a special ceremony and time as designated in the program.	3.53
2. Before being accepted into office, they shall be required to agree to the following under oath as read to them by the Pastor leading the service:	3.54
"As faithful servants of our blessed Savior you are fully aware of all the things contained in the Constitution and By-Laws of the ILDA and upon accepting office, you agree to abide with and follow all of these things for the best interests of the ILDA and faithfully perform the duties of your office with God's help to the best of your ability. If so, then answer, 'I will, God help me!'" (Each officer shall so respond.)	
<u>ARTICLE IV</u>	
<u>BOARD FOR MISSIONS REPRESENTATIVE</u>	
<u>Section A - Representation</u>	
The Board for Missions of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod shall be represented on the Board of Directors of the ILDA by the Secretary for Ministry to the Deaf or another person whom the Board for Missions may designate as their representative.	4.01
<u>Section B - Responsibilities</u>	
1. This representative shall be responsible for efforts to coordinate the International Ministry of the Deaf of our Synod, its Districts, and the Board for Missions with the efforts of the ILDA in carrying out our mutual purpose and achieving our goals.	4.02
2. This representative shall work closely with the ILDA Board of Directors and keep himself fully informed of all programs, projects, affairs and plans of the ILDA.	4.03

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3. He shall make every attempt to attend the ILDA Board of Directors and the Executive Council meetings.	4.04
4. He shall plan to attend and speak at the International Convention and the conventions of Regional Branches.	4.05
5. He shall seek to develop a harmonious and peaceful relationship among Regional Advisors, the Clergy, Congregations, Fields and the ILDA through mutual understanding, agreement and cooperation.	4.06
<u>Section C - Special Privileges</u>	
The Representative from the Board for Missions shall enjoy the same privileges as the other members of the Board of Directors such as proposing and voting at Board Meetings; however, he shall not be permitted to serve as an officer in the ILDA.	4.07
<u>ARTICLE V</u>	
<u>PASTORAL ADVISOR OF ILDA</u>	
<u>EPHAPHATHA CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u>	
<u>Section A - Election and Provisions</u>	
1. At their alternate Convention, Regions shall elect a candidate from the Pastors serving the Ministry of the Deaf of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to serve as Pastoral Advisor on Board of ILDA and serve as representative.	5.01
a. The Pastor need not be from within the Region electing him.	5.02
b. He shall be elected by a majority vote from a list of candidates submitted by the Congregations and/or Fields of that Region.	5.03
2. Regions shall submit their candidate to the Nominating Committee of the ILDA.	5.04
a. The Nominating Committee shall obtain a photo and biography of those candidates agreeing to run and publish them in the May issue of <u>The Deaf Lutheran</u> in the year of the International Convention.	5.05
b. The Pastoral Advisor shall be elected at the International Convention by a majority vote from candidates agreeing to run and shall be elected to serve a term of two years consistent with the terms of the officers of the ILDA.	5.06

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3. Should for any reason this Representative resign or become unavailable to perform his duties, the ILDA Board of Directors shall elect a new Pastoral Advisor to serve out the remainder of the term.	5.07
4. The Pastoral Advisor shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms.	5.08
<u>Section B - Responsibilities</u>	
1. The Pastoral Advisor shall advise on all matters related to the Doctrines, Teachings and Confessions of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.	5.09
2. He shall review all the proposed programs, projects and plans of this association and advise on their consistency with the Doctrines of our Synod.	5.10
3. He shall seek to develop a harmonious and peaceful relationship between the Ephphatha Conference and the ILDA through mutual understanding, agreement and cooperation.	5.11
4. He shall seek to obtain time and representation for the ILDA on the agenda of the Ephphatha Conference.	5.12
5. He shall keep himself fully informed on the affairs of the ILDA and make every possible attempt to attend the Board of Directors and the Executive Council meetings of the ILDA.	5.13
<u>Section C - Privileges</u>	
The Ephphatha Conference Representative shall enjoy all of the privileges of the other Board of Directors members, such as proposing and voting at Board Meetings; however, he shall not be permitted to serve as an officer in the ILDA.	5.14

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<u>ARTICLE VI</u>	
<u>REGION PRESIDENTS</u>	
<u>Section A - Representation</u>	
The President of each Regional Branch of the ILDA shall represent his Region on the Board of Directors of the ILDA.	6.01
<u>Section B - Responsibilities</u>	
1. Regional Presidents shall attend all Board of Directors meetings of the ILDA at the expense of the International ILDA, and, in the event the Regional President cannot attend a Board meeting, he shall choose another officer in his Region to attend in his place and serve as his proxy.	6.02
2. Regional Presidents shall be responsible for introducing and carrying out the programs, projects and plans of the ILDA in their respective Regions.	6.03
3. The Region Presidents shall make every attempt possible to:	6.04
a. Inspire participation in the ILDA among the Congregations, Fields, deaf Lutherans, the Clergy and others in their Regions.	6.05
b. Present the ILDA's purposes, programs, projects, plans and goals and seek to obtain financial support for the ILDA.	6.06
c. Seek to convey the messages of the ILDA in every media of his Region that is available.	6.07
4. Region Presidents shall appoint an ILDA Representative in each Deaf Congregation and/or Field for the purpose of conveying the messages of the ILDA and inspiring support and participation.	6.08
a. Regional Presidents shall meet at least annually with the Regional Advisor and these Representatives at the expense of the Regional ILDA.	6.09
b. These meetings shall be for the purpose of coordinating the efforts of the International with those of the Region, implementing special programs and projects into their Regions to meet specific needs and study ways and means to raise funds for the International and the Region.	6.10
5. Regional Presidents shall conduct the administration and affairs of the ILDA in their Region in a dignified and sophisticated manner.	6.11

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6. They shall report to the Board of Directors on all ILDA affairs in their Region and report to the Convention of their Region the highlights of the International Convention.	6.12
7. Regional Presidents or their Representative shall attend the International Convention and represent their Regions.	6.13
8. In general, the Regional President shall introduce the programs, projects and plans of the ILDA into his Region and convey all the hopes, desires and grievances of his Region to the International.	6.14
<u>Section C - Election</u>	
1. ILDA suggests each congregation be encouraged to submit nominations for each officer, in writing, prior to Regional conference	6.15
2. ILDA suggests the Regional President shall be elected by a majority vote at the Regional Convention from a slate of candidates submitted by the Congregations and Fields of that Region.	6.16
3. ILDA suggests the term of office shall be for a period of two (2) years; however, to make their terms consistent with those of the Officers of the International, the Region Presidents shall not begin office until one year after election.	6.17
<u>ARTICLE VII</u>	
<u>REGIONAL PASTORAL ADVISORS</u>	
<u>Section A - Election</u>	
1. The Regional Pastoral Advisor shall be elected at a Regional Convention by a majority vote from a slate of candidates submitted to the Regional Convention by the Congregations and Fields of that Region and selected from the clergymen serving the deaf congregations and fields of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in that Region.	7.01
2. The term of office of the Regional Pastoral Advisor shall be for a period of two years.	7.02
3. Should the Regional Pastoral Advisor accept a call outside his Region or for any reason vacate his office, the candidate who received the next largest number of votes in the election shall fill out the remainder of the term of the Regional Pastoral Advisor. If there is no person remaining eligible on the nominating committee's list, the ILDA Board of Directors shall appoint a Regional Pastoral Advisor to fill out the remainder of the term.	7.03



<div>17</div> <div>Section B - Responsibilities</div> <div> <div>1. He shall seek to develop a peaceful and harmonious relationship in his Region among the Ministry of the Deaf, the Board for Missions, Clergymen, Congregations, Fields and the ILDA by helping coordinate the efforts of all.</div> <div>2. The Regional Advisor shall serve as <u>Pastoral Advisor</u> to the ILDA Branch in his region.</div> <div> <div>a. He shall review all contemplated programs, plans and activities of the ILDA in his region that are separate from those of the International and <u>advise on their consistency with the Doctrines of the Synod.</u></div> <div>b. He shall keep himself informed on all ILDA affairs in his region and attend all ILDA meetings that are required of him at the ILDA Region expense.</div> <div>c. He shall respect the autonomy (self-rule) of the ILDA, Congregations and Fields and not interfere with their individual and separate activities.</div> </div> <div>3. He shall meet at least annually at ILDA Region expense with the ILDA Region President and the ILDA Representative from each Congregation and/or Field for the purpose of <u>coordinating efforts and planning ways and means of raising funds for the ILDA in his Region.</u></div> <div>4. He shall attend the <u>ILDA Region Convention</u> and report on the highlights of the Ministry to the Deaf in his Region.</div> <div>5. He shall meet <u>at least once a year with all the Pastors serving deaf Congregations and/or Fields in his Region and the Secretary for Ministry to the Deaf</u> for the purpose of coordinating all efforts.</div> <div>6. He shall assist ILDA in obtaining Deaf Advisory Committees in each District within his Region.</div> <div>Section C - Regulations</div> <div>The Regional Pastoral Advisor shall not serve more than two consecutive terms of office.</div> </div>	<div>18</div> <div> <div>8.00</div> <div>ARTICLE VIII</div> <div>ILDA PROGRAM &amp; FINANCE DIRECTOR (P&amp;FD)</div> <div>Section A - Election</div> <div> <div>1. The ILDA Program &amp; Finance Director shall be appointed by the Board of Directors from within the Board to serve a term of four (4) years.</div> <div>2. The Program &amp; Finance Director shall be appointed at the first Board meeting following an International Convention of the ILDA, and the term shall continue until the first Board meeting following an International Convention four (4) years later.</div> <div> <div>a. The P&amp;FD shall remain a member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Council for the duration of his term.</div> <div>b. If the P&amp;FD is appointed for another term by the Board, his duties and responsibilities shall remain status quo for the duration of his second term.</div> </div> <div>3. It shall be understood that the P&amp;FD is not an officer of this association and that the P&amp;FD's responsibilities shall be similar to those of a business manager.</div> <div>Section B - Responsibilities</div> <div> <div>1. The P&amp;FD shall be the Assistant Treasurer of the ILDA as described in Article III of these By-Laws.</div> <div>2. The P&amp;FD shall be responsible for all solicitations of funds necessary for the operation of the ILDA.</div> <div>3. He shall be a member of the Finance Committee and the Executive Council.</div> <div>4. The P&amp;FD shall be responsible for collecting all membership dues annually.</div> <div> <div>a. He shall maintain files of all people on the mailing list of <u>The Deaf Lutheran</u> and send letters soliciting dues to each person on the list the last week of February of each year.</div> <div>b. He shall keep an accurate accounting of all dues received and send membership cards to all people joining the ILDA.</div> </div> <div>5. The P&amp;FD shall set up and supervise the Convention Committees of the host city hosting the next International Convention of the ILDA.</div> <div>6. He shall report to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee at each meeting and keep them informed on all of his activities.</div> <div>7. He shall promote his activities and encourage support and participation in the ILDA from time to time via the pages of <u>The Deaf Lutheran</u>.</div> </div> </div> </div>
<div>19</div> <div>Section C - Regulations</div> <div> <div>1. The P&amp;FD shall be subject to removal from office and replacement the same as officers are as described in Article III of these By-Laws.</div> <div>2. Should for any reason the post of the P&amp;FD become vacant, the Board of Directors shall appoint a new P&amp;FD from within the Board to serve out the remainder of the term.</div> </div> <div> <div>9.00</div> <div>ARTICLE IX</div> <div>THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL</div> <div>Section A - Powers</div> <div> <div>1. The Executive Council shall not fill any vacancies on the Board of Directors or commit the association to any expenditures in excess of the approved budget.</div> <div>2. The Executive Council may poll the Board of Directors in writing between meetings of the association for the Board's directions.</div> <div>3. The Chairman of the Executive Council shall report all its business and actions to the Board of Directors of the ILDA and the Board for Missions.</div> </div> <div>Section B - Meetings</div> <div> <div>1. Meetings of the Executive Council shall be called by the President of the ILDA or may be called at the request of no less than three members of the Executive Council writing to the President.</div> <div>2. Notice of all Executive Council meetings shall be mailed to each member on the Council at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of the meeting by the Secretary of the ILDA.</div> <div>3. The President or the President-Elect and three (3) members of the Executive Council shall constitute a Quorum, and an affirmative vote of the majority of those present at the meeting shall be required for action by the Council.</div> </div> </div>	<div>20</div> <div> <div>10.00</div> <div>ARTICLE X</div> <div>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</div> <div>Section A - Powers</div> <div>The Board of Directors has the power to elect, replace or appoint officers or others; decide the budget of this association; the calling and conduct of convention; and the power to make decisions on all business and affairs of the ILDA for the purpose of the management of this association and other things explained elsewhere in this Constitution and By-Laws.</div> <div>Section B - Meetings</div> <div> <div>1. The Board of Directors shall meet at least twice annually as called by the President for the purpose of attending to the association business affairs.</div> <div>2. Two officers, at least five other members, shall constitute a quorum.</div> <div>3. On alternate years, the Board shall meet in connection with the Ephphatha Conference for the purpose of coordinating efforts and the Board shall also: <div> <div>a. Give attention to work on the annual budget,</div> <div>b. Give annual reports on all affairs and on-going operations of the ILDA,</div> <div>c. Plan programs and projects as defined in the Purpose, and</div> <div>d. Provide the Board with the plans for the association convention which shall include the site, the theme, the date, the program and the time schedule.</div> </div> </div> <div>4. If the Ephphatha Conference shall have general open sessions scheduled for the ILDA, those designated by the Board of Directors shall remain at association expense for the purpose of participating in these general open sessions.</div> <div>5. At the regular annual meetings of the Board, action shall include: <div> <div>a. Presentation of the annual budget and a report on the financial condition of the ILDA by the Finance Committee.</div> <div>b. Recommendations from the Law Committee for the purpose of reviewing and acting upon resolutions and Constitutional changes.</div> <div>c. Ways and means of raising funds for the association.</div> </div> </div> </div> </div>

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d. Reports from all Region Presidents on ILDA business and affairs and on-going operations; and this shall include requests, recommendations, resolutions and grievances directed to the Board from their respective Regions, Congregations and/or Fields.	10.14	
5. The Board shall assemble and meet at association expense, two (2) days prior to the International Convention at the ILDA Convention site for the purpose of coordinating efforts with the Convention Committees and completing all unfinished business.	10.15	
<u>Section C - Expenses</u>		
All expenses incurred calling for and holding a Board of Directors meeting, including the costs of the Member's travel, lodging, meals, and ground transportation shall be paid by the association.	10.16	
ARTICLE XI		11.00
THE LAW COMMITTEE		
<u>Section A - Powers</u>		
The Law Committee shall have absolutely no power to effect changes in the Constitution, By-Laws or the Rules and Regulations of this association.	11.01	
<u>Section B - Purpose</u>		
The general purpose of the Law Committee is to evaluate situations and resolutions; study the Constitution, By-Laws and the Rules & Regulations Handbook and then make recommendations to the Board of Directors for changes that will facilitate the operations, business and affairs of the ILDA.	11.02	
<u>Section C - Procedure</u>		
1. All recommendations shall be mailed to each member of the Board of Directors in documented form by the Chairman of the Law Committee at least twenty (20) days prior to the next Board meeting.	11.03	
2. At that Board meeting, the Board shall review the recommendations and act upon them.	11.04	

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<u>Section D - Meetings</u>		
1. Providing the President of the ILDA feels there is sufficient reason to hold a Law Committee meeting, he shall call one at least forty-five (45) days prior to the next Board meeting at a site and place convenient to the members of the Law Committee.	11.01	
2. If the President does not feel there is sufficient reason to hold a Law Committee meeting and the Chairman of the Law Committee feels otherwise, the President shall:	11.06	
a. Poll the Board of Directors in writing at once for directions.	11.07	
b. If the majority of the Board favors a Law Committee meeting, the President shall call one at once.	11.08	
c. If the majority of the Board does not favor a Law Committee meeting, the President shall notify the Chairman of the Law Committee at once.	11.09	
3. Law Committee meetings shall be at the expense of this association and shall include travel, lodging, meals and ground transportation of the members.	11.10	
ARTICLE XII		12.00
THE FINANCE COMMITTEE		
<u>Section A - Powers</u>		
The Finance Committee shall have no authority, whatsoever, to collect, deposit or disburse funds of this association unless authorized to do so by the Board of Directors.	12.01	
<u>Section B - Responsibilities</u>		
1. The Finance Committee shall plan ways and means of raising funds that are consistent with the fiscal policies of the Board for Missions, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and its Districts, and these methods of raising funds shall not conflict with or be operated in a manner that competes with other funding or fund-raising efforts of the Board for Missions, the Synod, its Districts or its Auxiliary Bodies.	12.02	
2. The Finance Committee shall report regularly to the Executive Council, the Board of Directors and to the Association Convention.	12.03	
3. The Finance Committee shall present the Annual Budget and make an annual financial report that shall be transmitted by the Board of Directors to all members of the association via the pages of <u>The Deaf Lutheran</u> and/or mailings to each Congregation and/or Field and Pastor of the Ministry of the Deaf.	12.04	

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4. The Board of Directors shall regularly review the Finance Committee fiscal budgeting and funding policies, establish clear priorities for budget expenditure and shall define and refine its budget projections and planned spending programs in order to implement and enable the Finance Committee and the Treasurer to carry out their responsibilities.	12.05	
<u>Section C - Meetings</u>		
1. Meetings shall be held at least once a year and called by the President of the ILDA following the same procedures as when calling for a Law Committee meeting.	12.06	
2. All expenses for committee members including travel, lodging, meals and ground transportation while attending these meetings shall be paid by the association.	12.07	
ARTICLE XIII		13.00
THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE		
<u>Section A - Responsibilities</u>		
1. The Nominating Committee shall request nominations for candidates for all offices of this association from the Regional Branches.	13.01	
a. The requests for nominations shall be mailed to the Secretary of each Regional Branch by the Chairman of the Nominating Committee in time for Region to nominate candidates before this alternate convention.	13.02	
b. Candidates nominated need not be from within the region nominating them.	13.03	
c. Only one Candidate for each office may be nominated by a Region.	13.04	
d. Candidates shall be nominated in Regions at their alternate Conventions and chosen by a majority vote.	13.05	
e. Deadline for nominations shall be the last day of February in the year of the International Convention of the ILDA, and nominations shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee by the Secretary of each Regional Branch.	13.06	
f. Nominations received after the deadline shall be void.	13.07	
2. The Nominating Committee shall obtain a biography and a photo of all candidates who agree to run for office and shall publish them in the May issue of <u>The Deaf Lutheran</u> the year of the International Convention of the ILDA.	13.08	

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<u>Section B - Replacement</u>		
Should for any reason the immediate Past President not be available The Board of Directors shall elect an Active Member from outside the Board to replace him as Chairman of the Nominating Committee.	13.09	
Vacancies occurring on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Executive Committee and/or the Board of Directors.	13.10	
ARTICLE XIV		14.00
REGIONAL BRANCHES		
<u>Section A - Regions</u>		
1. Regions are areas of geographical divisions. The ILDA has seven (7) Regions in the United States called Regional Branches. They are known as:	14.01	
a. Central Region	14.02	
b. Dixie Region	14.03	
c. Eastern Region	14.04	
d. Great Lakes Region	14.05	
e. Midwest Region	14.06	
f. Northwest Region	14.07	
g. Pacific Region	14.08	
2. All Regional Branches shall coordinate their efforts with the International in carrying out the purpose, programs, projects and plans of the ILDA and assist the ILDA in achieving its goals.	14.09	
<u>Section B - Regional Branches, Congregations, Fields</u>		
1. The ILDA shall not interfere with the separate and individual activities and duties of Deaf Congregations and Fields, but shall seek a peaceful relationship that is harmonious to all through cooperation and coordination by mutual understanding and agreement.	14.10	

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<u>Section C - Constitution</u>	
1. All Regional Branches shall have their own Constitution and their Constitution must:	14.11
a. Incorporate the ILDA Preamble and Purpose,	14.12
b. Follow the Guidelines of the ILDA Rules & Regulations Handbook, and	14.13
c. Be in accord with the Constitution and By-Laws of the International.	14.14
2. Regions shall submit their Constitution to the ILDA Board of Directors; and obtain the Board's approval before they can become recognized Branches of the ILDA.	14.15
<u>Section D - Memberships</u>	
Membership in the International entitles members to membership in all Regional Branches of the ILDA.	14.16
<u>Section E - Conventions &amp; Meeting Time</u>	
If Regions decide to hold a convention in odd numbered years, it shall follow and not precede the International Convention (of ILDA).	14.17
<u>Section F - Disputes</u>	
1. In the event of a dispute on ILDA matters between a Regional Branch and another Regional Branch, the matter shall be resolved by the ILDA Board of Directors and/or the Board for Missions of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.	14.18
2. In the event of a dispute on ILDA matters between a Regional Branch and the International, the matter shall be resolved by the Board for Missions of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.	14.19

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<u>Section C - Policies</u>	
1. All Conventions of the ILDA shall be self-supporting.	15.14
2. All themes of ILDA Conventions shall be religious and the conduct shall conform with that of the Handbook of the Synod.	15.15
<u>ARTICLE XVI</u>	16.00
<u>RULES AND REGULATIONS HANDBOOK</u>	
<u>Section A - Description</u>	
1. The ILDA shall have a Rules & Regulations Handbook for the purpose of harmonizing the operations of the ILDA.	16.01
2. The Handbook shall contain articles on Administration, Operation, Coordination, Conventions, Regional Branches, Congregations and/or Fields, the Board for Missions, the Ministry of the Deaf, Public Relations and any other things that might serve the purpose.	16.02
3. This Handbook shall be primarily for the purpose of assisting the ILDA in conducting its operations, carrying out its ministry and in achieving the goals set forth in the purpose of the Constitution and By-Laws.	16.03
<u>Section B - Changes</u>	
1. The Board of Directors, by an affirmative vote of a 2/3 majority may add, delete, change, modify or alter any of the articles in the Handbook as they deem necessary without the prior approval of the membership.	16.04
2. Changes shall not be made more than one time in any calendar year and all changes shall be transmitted to the membership via the pages of The Deaf Lutheran.	16.05
3. Rules and Regulations may be repealed from this Handbook by a majority vote at the International Convention of the ILDA, and whatsoever Rules and Regulations are repealed by a Convention vote cannot be re-introduced by the Board of Directors, but must be passed at another International Convention before being restored.	16.06
<u>Section C - Membership Obligation</u>	
All members of the ILDA shall agree to abide with the articles in the Rules & Regulations Handbook in good faith through mutual understanding and agreement for the best interests of the ILDA.	16.07

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<u>ARTICLE XV</u>	15.00
<u>CONVENTIONS</u>	
<u>Section A - Sites</u>	
1. Convention sites shall be selected four (4) years in advance by a majority vote at the International Convention.	15.01
2. One (1) Convention site shall be chosen at each International Convention.	15.02
3. The ILDA International Convention shall move from Region to Region and cannot normally be held twice in any one Region for a period of fourteen (14) years.	15.03
4. Convention sites normally must be at least one thousand (1,000) miles away from the site of the last Convention.	15.04
<u>Section B - Planning</u>	
1. The Host City of the next International Convention shall elect a Chairman immediately after the preceding Convention concludes.	15.05
a. The Chairman shall be elected from a Deaf Congregation and/or Field by the members in the area.	15.06
b. The name and address of the Chairman shall be sent to the Program & Finance Director of the ILDA no later than one month after the International Convention concludes.	15.07
2. The P&FD shall assist the Chairman in setting up his Committees and beginning operations.	15.08
a. He shall send the Host City Chairman a complete set of plans, charts and guidelines adopted by the ILDA.	15.09
b. He shall correspond with the Host City Chairman regularly, supervising his activities, answering questions and advising him.	15.10
c. He shall have necessary funds forwarded from the ILDA Treasury to support the Host City Chairman's operations.	15.11
d. He shall visit the Host City, at Association expense, and shall attend meetings of his Committee if P&FD and President deem it necessary.	15.12
3. All things related to calling, planning and the conduct of Conventions shall be printed in the Rules & Regulations Handbook of the ILDA.	15.13

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<u>ARTICLE XVII</u>	17.00
<u>Section A - Resolutions</u>	
All resolutions of Amendment, Modification, Alteration, or Repeal must be transmitted to the membership either via the pages of The Deaf Lutheran or by written letter to all Congregations, Fields and Pastors of the Ministry of the Deaf of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at least ninety (90) days prior to the International Convention of the ILDA.	17.01
<u>Section B - Amendments</u>	
An affirmative vote by a majority of the active members present at a legally constituted meeting of the International Convention of the ILDA shall be required to amend, modify, alter or repeal the articles of these By-Laws.	17.02
<u>ARTICLE XVIII</u>	18.00
<u>MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS</u>	
<u>Section A - Officers and Terms of Office</u>	
1. The Officers of the ILDA may be elected to no more than one Office at a Convention.	18.01
2. Officers must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older.	18.02
3. No officer may hold the same office for more than two (2) consecutive terms.	18.03
4. Any Officer who has been removed from office under Article III, Section E, of these By-Laws shall not be permitted to run for or hold office in the ILDA or its Regional Branches for a period of five (5) years.	18.04
<u>Section B - Liability</u>	
The ILDA shall not be liable for any accidents, injuries, illnesses or deaths to any members participating in ILDA affairs or at its events and members do so entirely at their own risk.	18.05
<u>Section C - Parliamentarian</u>	
The Board of Directors at their first meeting following the International Convention shall elect a parliamentarian to advise on Constitutional consistency until the first Board meeting after the next International Convention.	18.06
<u>Section D - Definition of "DEAF"</u>	
It is understood the word "deaf" as used in our Constitution shall apply to all hearing impaired people.	18.07