



ALDA Boston – P.O. Box 600622 – Newtonville, MA 02460

Website: www.aldaboston.org

ALDAgram – August 2020

**ALDA Boston Board Elections
2020- 2022**

It is time for ALDA Boston members to vote for new representation on the ALDA Boston Board. We will elect four candidates for a two-year term. All nominees are members of ALDA Boston as well as members of ALDA Inc.

Those returning to the Board are Betty Saltzman and Linda Sakin.

Attached are the statements of the new candidates: Matt Ferrara, Dianna Landers, Linda Marple, and Louis Sakin.

Once the new Board members have been chosen, the Board gets together to decide which office they want to occupy.

ALDA members who have paid their dues in 2019 and/or 2020 are eligible to vote.

To vote:

1. First, **hit reply** to ElectALDA@gmail.com
2. Then, **mark your ballot** with an X
3. Then, hit **send**

_____ Matt Ferrara

_____ Dianna Landers

_____ Linda Marple

_____ Louis Sakin

_____ (write-in) _____

_____ (write-in) _____

If you have difficulty, just send a message to ElectALDA@gmail.com and state who you are voting for. **Voting will end on September 9.**

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Matt Ferrara (incumbent):

I am currently the Treasurer of ALDA-Boston. Over the past 28 years, I have been on the ALDA-Boston Board, at various times, where I served as Member-at-Large, Treasurer and Vice-President.

I am also the Treasurer for ALDA, Inc. Over the past two and a half decades, I have been the Treasurer for 19 years as well as the Regional Director for the Northeast Region (1).

I am the Business Manager/Treasurer for ALDACon 2020 (now 2021). I have been Business Manager of fourteen previous ALDACons (From 2001 to 2007, 2012, 2014-2019), including Newport and Burlington which were sponsored by ALDA-Boston

I am also the Treasurer of Home Owners Association where I live.

I graduated from Brooklyn College in 1961. I am retired from Partners Healthcare Systems (Massachusetts General Hospital) where I was the Manager of IBM Financial Systems. I am hard of hearing and depend on my two hearing aids. I am been married to my wife Helen for twenty-four years now. Between us we have five children and nine grandchildren and two great-grand children.

Dianna Landers:

My name is Dianna Landers. I received my first hearing aid when I was four years old and my second hearing aid at the age of twelve. I graduated from Lesley College with a Bachelor of Science in Human Services. I worked at Perkins School for the Blind, found it to be very rewarding and made long lasting friendships.

In 2016, at the age of 47, I was told I was a candidate for a cochlear implant. My life would forever be changed. Since my CI Surgery, I have met wonderful friends who also have hearing

loss. I have co-created a meetup, “Our Hearing Loss Journey” with Linda Marple. We meet every other Thursday and remain committed to connecting with others.

In October 2019, I attended the ALDA Conference in Kansas and have never felt more connected with a group of people in my life. Both Linda Marple and I received the Brainstorm award from ALDA in recognition of our meetup. I would like to join the board to listen and represent others, to help grow ALDA Boston, and to be a part of this wonderful community – ALDA

Linda Marple:

My name is Linda Marple. I have been hard of hearing since the age of five and three years ago I received a cochlear implant. I grew up attending mainstream schools. I have never thought of my deafness as anything more than an inconvenience while growing up in a hearing world. When I decided I wanted to learn sign language and Deaf Culture 15 years ago, It was then that I fully realized I was deaf. That was a real eye opener moment for me. I then received a degree in both Deaf Studies and Human Services. I worked at EDCO, a deaf and hard of hearing program for the last 10 years and continued to learn more about the deaf community and got more involved. Recently, a friend and I started a MeetUp for those who are DHH and we meet bi-weekly to share our hearing loss stories. This past Fall I attended my first ALDA conference. I met many new friends and received a BrainStorming award. I feel strongly that I found my second home through this group. I would like to be more involved and advocate for others who walk the same journey as me. These are reasons why I hope you will consider my nomination to be a part of the Board of ALDA.

Louis Sakin (incumbent):

Louis, as the spouse of a hard of hearing person, has become extremely familiar with the issues faced by a family with hearing loss. He is a co-advocate along with his wife, Linda, for people with hearing loss. We have been a team for over five decades. Linda and Louis attended the “Living with Hearing Loss Seminar” presented by Dr. Samuel Trychin in Brattleboro, Vermont. Louis attended part of ALDA CON in Virginia. As an ALDA Boston board member he has been extremely involved in outreach and informational and educational programs having served as a vice-president. Having enjoyed ALDA Boston for many years while attending various events, Louis wishes to continue to be more involved.

 <http://aldaboston.>

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