Your ALTA Board of Directors has been very busy this fall! In late September we gathered in Murfreesboro, Tennessee at Middle Tennessee State University, home of the MTSU Center for Dyslexia, directed by ALTA certified and former Board of Director’s member, Dr. Tim Odegard. We conducted a Board meeting, followed by an entire Strategic Planning day. We were led by our facilitator, Dr. Patrick McCarthy, J.D., of MTSU’s Center for Organizational Human Resource Effectiveness. COHRE is nationally recognized as a top-tier program of this kind in the nation.

As a result of our guided and structured strategic planning, the Board identified and reached consensus on our organization’s internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as external opportunities and threats. Four main topics emerged, Internal Structure, Public Relations/Marketing, Budget/Finance, and Mission Statement. Committees have been formed to research the topics and develop action plans; which will be presented to the Executive Board for review and input. Then the ALTA Board of Directors will deliberate and vote on the action plans. We will keep our membership informed as these action plans are established.

Our ALTA annual spring conference will be held in San Antonio at the Hilton Palacio on April 26 and 27, 2019. Our featured speakers are: Dr. Elsa Cardenas-Hagen, Dr. Jeffery Black, and Dr. David Kirkpatrick. We will also have a breakout session for Alta Chapters. Our conference will occur during San Antonio’s exciting Fiesta weekend, and we hope to see many of you there!

ALTA President, Jean Colner
LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Courtney Hoffman

Kudos to those ALTA members who put in many hours serving on the Texas Dyslexia Handbook Committees, Karen Avrit, Virginia Gonzalez, Jana Jones, Rebecca Jones, Melanie Royal and Mary Yarus, and to the tireless efforts of Gladys Kolenovsky, of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital and Tincy Miller, State Board of Education Commissioner on the passage of the 2018 update of the Texas Dyslexia Handbook.

Many thanks to the following ALTA members who traveled to Austin to testify: Karen Avrit, Sally Cain, Betzy Day, Donna Gilbreath, and Cherie Howell for their time and participation as witnesses, and great appreciation to Robin Cowsar, Libby Grafa and Mary Yarus who testified on multiple occasions before the State Board of Education. Through the dedicated work of the individuals above the Dyslexia Handbook now includes information on screening of K/1 students as well as qualifications of those who deliver services to students with dyslexia.

After serving for 32 years on the State Board of Education, Tincy Miller is stepping down for much deserved time with family. She has been Texas’ champion for dyslexia all those years. Thank you, Tincy!

The Texas Public School Finance Commission has met this past year to recommend to the Texas Legislature a new path for funding education in the state. One recommendation from that group is per pupil funding for Dyslexia services provided through 504. Texas ALTA is organizing its regions to reach out to legislators on this topic for the upcoming Legislative Session to begin January 8, 2019.
Geraldine Miller Resolution

WHEREAS Gov. Mark White could not have foreseen the far-reaching impact his 1984 decision to appoint a Dallas businesswoman and reading specialist to the State Board of Education would have on Texas public schools; and

WHEREAS that appointment began Geraldine “Tincy” Miller’s 32 years of dedicated service and leadership on this board; and

WHEREAS the citizens of District 12 showed their faith in her by electing her to this office in 1988, 1992, 1996, 2002, 2006, 2012 and 2014; and

WHEREAS during her tenure on the board, Mrs. Miller has chaired the Committee on Instruction and served as vice chair and chair of the board; and

WHEREAS Mrs. Miller’s focus has always been on doing what is best for Texas children; and

WHEREAS she became a champion for phonics-based education; and

WHEREAS Mrs. Miller helped shape every significant law or rule dealing with dyslexia and related disorders for three decades and has been the driving force behind the Dyslexia Handbook; and

WHEREAS this dedicated public servant has been involved in the development of every generation of the state’s curriculum standards, known as the Essential Elements and now the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills; and

WHEREAS she took seriously her duty to provide high-quality, error-free textbooks; and

WHEREAS Mrs. Miller has passionately protected the Permanent School Fund, which she reminds us is also known as the “Children’s Textbook Fund;” and

WHEREAS the Permanent School Fund has grown from $4.5 billion in 1984 to $34 billion today under her careful and prudent stewardship; and

WHEREAS she has just as carefully nurtured the State Board of Education itself, having personally underwritten the services of a professional parliamentarian for several years; and paid more than her fair share for cookies, coffee, and flowers for board members over the years; and

WHEREAS Geraldine Miller’s desire to remind the board to focus on what’s best for children served as the impetus for the creation of the bronze statue found in the Travis lobby that shows the world opening to children through books; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That though her nickname is Tincy, there is nothing tiny about her commitment to this state and its children; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this board expresses its gratitude and admiration to this good and faithful public servant for her three decades of service on the State Board of Education.

WITNESS our signatures this sixteenth day of November, two thousand and eighteen, in Austin, Texas.
Dear ALTA Member,

As proud members, we all know the level of commitment and rigor it takes for one to earn and maintain ALTA certification. This certification reflects the highest level of professional training and standards. Some of you have asked if ALTA members need additional certification. While the decision is certainly an individual one, you have already earned credentials as CALTs and CALPs that reflect the highest standards in our field as established by our founding members 33 years ago.

ALTA membership grows each year, as do the number of state and regional ALTA Chapters. ALTA credentials are being recognized in more and more states across the country along with growing connections to state legislation, licensure, and university programs. We are proud of the growth of new ALTA chapters across the country as well as increased representation around the world.

ALTA respects the standards of our fellow organizations in the Alliance; however, certifications from organizations and businesses outside of the Alliance do not meet the rigor of ALTA standards. Use of the word “Certified” has created confusion for those seeking professional expertise. There are quick ways to earn some certifications, including enrollment in college courses, product training, conference attendance, or online trainings. ALTA members should be confident that their ALTA credentials reflect the Gold Standard for professionals in our field.

All certified ALTA CALPs and CALTs are required to have extensive supervised practicum hours by certified supervisors. This important application by practice learning takes place in the professional supervised practicum; which is not required in some other training programs.

The ALTA board encourages members to use a consistent format when listing credentials to increase name recognition and branding of ALTA as a professional organization. Please take a moment to check your credentials and revise as necessary: Name, Degree, LDP/LDT, CALP/CALT. If you are an instructor, please attach the instructor designation to the ALTA designation for which it applies: CALP-ICALP, CALT-ICALP, CALT-QI. [Note: Not all designations are applicable to all members.]

Examples:
- Mary Jones, Ed.D., LDT, CALT-QI
- Mary Jones, M.A., CALT-QI
- Mary Jones, CALT-ICALP
- Mary Jones, LDP, CALP-ICALP
- Mary Jones, M.Ed., LDT, CALT
- Mary Jones, LTD, CALT
- Mary Jones, Ph.D., CALP
- Mary Jones, CALP

We are proud of our membership and applaud your commitment to maintaining these ALTA credentials. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
ALTA Board of Directors
August 6, 2018 (Reprinted 12/2018)
News From the ALTA – Virginia Chapter

The ALTA – Virginia Chapter started its 3rd year in April 2018. To start the year, chapter members thanked the officers who have been serving the past two years: Susan Louchen (President), Christina Fox (President-Elect), Jeanne Greer (Vice-President), Carol Kinkoph (Secretary), and Kathy Jackson (Treasurer). New officers were elected and confirmed as well. The new officers are Christina Fox (President), Elizabeth Gordon (President-Elect), Susan Tinkam (Vice-President), Leda Spencer (Treasurer), and Maura Locke (Secretary).

At the meeting, chapter members Susan Louchen, Carol Kinkoph, and Maura Locke gave a presentation about the importance of early identification and remediation of language processing disorders. Members were introduced to and trained on the Predictive Early Assessment of Reading and Language (PEARL). The PEARL is a Pre-K screener used to identify weaknesses in different components of language development. In addition, Elizabeth Gordon spoke to members about the importance of client data collection and record keeping.

In July, Christina Fox and Susan Tinkam were invited to the Newton School by Deborah Spear, MS, CALT, QI, to observe and meet several students who are currently enrolled at the Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center (ASDEC). Susan and Christina were able to observe the ASDEC students working with children using the Sounds In Syllables (SIS) Program. The SIS program is a multisensory structured language therapy program created by ALTA member Sandra Dillon, CALT, QI.

Cathy Ruse, JD, CALT was the chapter’s presenter and facilitator at the ALTA – Virginia fall meeting in October. The topics of discussion were the National Chapter’s Bylaws and Ethics. The presentation included a discussion on the importance of maintaining professional relationships with colleagues, parents, and students. It also included discussions on upholding confidentiality and maintaining ethical behavior at all times. Thank you to Susan Tinkam for donating snacks and drinks at the fall meeting!

The chapter welcomed several new CALTs this year. Congratulations to Maura Locke, Samantha Bailes, Erin Cole, Natalie Paul, and Cy Simongaard for earning the distinguished title of CALT in 2018! The chapter also welcomed new affiliates Julie Forrest, Christine Carter, Jennifer Nowicki, Sharon Jemelty, Cathy Gould, and Reema Reems Dickens.

ALTA Foundation and BOON Philanthropy information

The nation-wide mission of Boon Philanthropy is to provide innovative funding and stewardship solutions that enable dedicated educators to have the knowledge and skills they need to help all learners become strong readers. Boon Philanthropy created the Orton National Teacher Scholarships with the goal of giving teachers free training in explicit, multisensory literacy instruction methods.

The ALTA Foundation is honored to be chosen to distribute Boon Philanthropy’s Orton National Scholarship Grants. Boon Philanthropy’s generosity has provided the ALTA Foundation with increased opportunities to continue to train teachers in explicit, multisensory literacy instruction.

2018 marked the first year of distribution for the Orton National Teacher Scholarships. The ALTA Foundation randomly distributes the scholarship grants to IMSLEC® accredited and ALTA® associated training courses. The following training courses received scholarships to be awarded to a currently enrolled trainee: Children’s Dyslexia Centers MSLE Training Program, Colorado Literacy and Learning Center, Delaware Valley Friends School, Dyslexia Center of Austin, Multisensory Reading Centers of Puerto Rico, Neuhaus Education Center, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital Dyslexia Therapist Training Program, Scottish Rite Learning Center of South Texas, Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas, and Slingerland Institute for Literacy.

The ALTA Foundation appreciatively looks forward to a continued partnership with Boon Philanthropy and its commitment to provide opportunities for teachers to receive training in explicit, multisensory literacy instruction methods which have evolved from Samuel and June Orton’s research and best practices.

Reprinted: ALTA Foundation Board of Directors, 8/6/2018
altaread.org is your place to learn about earning CEU hours. Under the CEU drop down tab: Continuing Education (CEUs)-you will find the Frequently Asked Questions page and answers to most questions you may have. The 2nd link in the drop-down menu is CEU Policies and Procedures. The Approved Resources page contains a wealth of information.

- ALTA members are responsible for documenting 10 contact hours of CEUs each year.
- There are many ways to obtain CEU hours: books, journals, videos, podcasts, conferences, workshops, meetings, classes, webinars.
- Events held on a specific date with the potential for human interaction count as “in-person” hours (such as conferences, workshops, meetings, classes) and require approval AT LEAST 2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE IF not sponsored by ALTA, IDA, or IMSLEC – accredited courses. All forms can be filled out directly online.
- Sources of CEU hours that require a report submitted after the fact are books, videos, journals, webinars, and some podcasts. Preapproved lists for videos and books are also found under the CEU tab. If not then please submit a suggestion form.
- You can earn double the hours by giving a PREAPPROVED presentation.
### Event Information

**Event Title:** On the Road to Success

**Location:** Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Dallas, TX 75219

**Date:** Jan 26, 2019

**Organizer:** Texas Chapter Academic Language Therapy Association

### Agenda

#### Saturday, Jan 26, 2019

**Registration**
- 7:30 am – 8:00 am
- Location: ALTA National Office

**Conference**
- 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

### Saturday Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Welcome Welcome: Libby Glenn, President, Texas ALTA</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:10 am</td>
<td>Understanding Developmental Dyslexia</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Breakout Session: Understanding Developmental Dyslexia</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 am</td>
<td>Breakout Session: Early Identification and Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch and Exhibits</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Breakout Session: Dyslexia Coordinators:</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>Breakout Session: Dyslexia Coordinators:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Breakout Session: Dyslexia Coordinators:</td>
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#### Special Notices

- **6.5 CEUs available for ALTA members**

### Contact Information

- **Website:** [altaread.org/registration.asp](http://altaread.org/registration.asp)

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**Registration Information**

**Early Registration** (by Jan 18th): $145.00
- Non-members: $165.00
- Support members: $145.00

**Late Registration** (after Jan 18th): $165.00
- Non-members: $185.00
- Support members: $165.00

**Mail Registration to:**
- ALTA National Office
- 14070 Preston Rd.
- Ste 100, LB 9
- Dallas, TX 75244

**Register Online at:**
- [altaread.org/registration.asp](http://altaread.org/registration.asp)

**Mail in Registration:**
- Address: [mail in registration](mailto:altaread.org/registration.asp)

**Late Fee:**
- $15.00

**Payment Information:**
- Payment is accepted by check or credit card.
- Late fee must be included.
- Registration fee includes lunch and refreshments.
- If you require special accommodations, please contact ALTA at 972.333.9007.

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**Late Registration Deadline:** January 18, 2019

**Registration Fee:**
- Early Registration: $145.00
- Late Registration: $165.00

**Credit Card Information:**
- Card Type: MC, VS, AMEX
- Card Number: [enter card number]
- Security Code: [enter security code]
- Expiration Date: [enter date]
ABOUT ALTA...

The Academic Language Therapy Association® (ALTA) is a non-profit national professional organization incorporated in 1986 for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, and promoting standards of education, practice and professional conduct for Certified Academic Language Therapists. Academic Language Therapy is an educational, structured, comprehensive, phonetic, multisensory approach for the remediation of dyslexia and/or written-language disorders.

The name, Academic Language Therapy Association, represents and identifies the profession and the professionals who are its members. "Academic Language" denotes that services offered to clients are educational and emphasize reading, spelling, handwriting, and written expression. "Therapy" indicates that those services are intensive and therapeutic rather than tutorial. At the present time there are almost 2,600 ALTA members in 43 states and Colombia, Hong Kong, India, and Singapore.