



Spring/Summer 2019

Upcoming Events

~ *Attention Educators* ~

Professional development workshops, with college credit options, happening all summer. See what's coming from [NOBIDA](#)

[Visit our website](#)

Service Spotlight

Adult Literacy Resources:

[United Way 211](#)

[The LD Edge Network](#)

[Seeds of Literacy](#)

[The Literacy Cooperative](#)

[Aspire](#)

Additional Resources

[Pro-literacy](#)

[Become an IDA Member](#)

[Donate Here!](#)



IDA National

Conference, Portland, OR

November 8-10, 2019

Save the Date

NOBIDA Symposium,

Cleveland, OH

February 27-28, 2020



Letter from the President

Dear Friends of IDA,

Throughout this year, we at IDA of Northern Ohio are making Adult Literacy a priority. The November 2016 edition of The Washington Post has an article entitled, "[Hiding in plain sight: The adult literacy crisis](#)". Did you know that approximately 32 million adults in the United States cannot read, according to the U.S. Department of Education and the National Institute of Literacy?

We begin each board meeting reading our branch mission:

"The Northern Ohio Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (NOBIDA) has a mission to offer hope, education, and the opportunity for personal success to people with dyslexia and those who interact with them in Northern Ohio."

One of our goals this year is to make connections and develop partnerships to help give you the supports you need.

This newsletter is our starting point. Dr. Cheryl Chase, a clinical psychologist in Cleveland, has written an article about adult resilience. Our 2017 Hopes and Aspirations recipient Jason Keeler will share his personal journey of dyslexia.

Check out our website for current links, programs and upcoming events. We would like to thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at our next event. Please do not hesitate to email us directly if you have any questions or need assistance.

Best,

Theresa Kaska

President, International Dyslexia Association Northern Ohio Branch

**"Smooth seas don't make for skillful sailors."
(Author unknown)**



One undeniable fact is that, in most cases, having dyslexia makes life more difficult. During the school-age years, students with dyslexia generally have to work harder to be successful, they struggle with self-esteem, and they tend to be seen by their teachers as less cooperative and less attentive than their classmates.

In adulthood, those with dyslexia often underachieve relative to their abilities and report feeling overwhelmed, anxious, and frustrated. It is no wonder that there is increasing interest in the social-emotional difficulties associated with dyslexia, since these related effects can, themselves, have strong negative impacts on the person and make a tough situation worse. But, many individuals with dyslexia cope effectively with their difficulties and go on to enjoy successful adult lives. How, you ask? Resilience.

[Read More](#)

**In his words... from our Hope and Aspirations Scholarship Recipient,
Jason Keeler**

I Have Dyslexia

My name is Jason Keeler. I have dyslexia.

I was home-schooled growing up. During my high school years, I was never diagnosed as being dyslexic, but I had a dramatic difference in my cognitive abilities to read and spell versus all other academics. Throughout those years, I went to tutoring for reading and spelling. The intent was to help me to read more so that my spelling would improve. While the tutoring did improve my reading, it did nothing for my spelling.



After high school, I served four and a half years in the military and two tours in Iraq. I could not escape my learning disability. It was again painfully obvious that I lacked spelling ability, and reading was painfully arduous for me.

After I got out of the army, I went to college on the GI Bill. I got an A in my first English class, mostly through frequent visits to the Writing Center. I did well in most of my classes with A's and B's. I had a particular class whereby the professor had written exams. As a result, I spoke with the professor who said he did not grade for spelling. I did receive an A on my first two tests, however, he said that my spelling was especially bad for a college-level student. Based on his recommendation, I got tested for dyslexia and the college provided accommodations for me. I also received tutoring. My tutors did their best, however, they were not experts in dyslexia.

After college, I became a police officer. I again struggled with spelling and report writing. I was able to get more specialized help with my dyslexia, and was able to greatly improve my report writing. I often use specialized tools such as Google Docs and Grammarly. I am a big fan of this kind of technology. I have been told that these instruments are just a crutch. However, I firmly believe that someone suffering from dyslexia should use these tools to enable them to be fully productive at their jobs.

I also would encourage parents that have kids who are struggling with reading or spelling to have their kids tested early for dyslexia. I definitely believe that it would have greatly helped and assisted me had I been diagnosed at a much younger age.

Can you help our IDA branch?



A great way to learn more about dyslexia, and its associated challenges, is to get involved.

NOBIDA is looking for volunteers to assist the branch at various times of need. A commitment can be very minimal. Please click on "LEARN MORE" for further details.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Summer Fun

For You and Your Child

I hope this newsletter finds you well and getting ready to enjoy a little summer fun! Summer reading assignments have been given, the book orders have been placed, and we understand how difficult reading is for all our students. But remember, "ear reading" is just as important as "eye reading."



Ear reading means listen and follow. Audio books can be extremely beneficial for those students who need help decoding words without sacrificing reading comprehension. Listening also has the added benefits of being less stressful to the student while enhancing their vocabulary and fluency.

Here are just a few fun activities to consider this summer with your child:

1. Reading along with your child and have your own book club meetings this summer
2. Join your local public library's reading program and become a *Reading Champion*
3. Create a special reading space for your child
4. Act out or draw a scene once a chapter is completed

We would love to hear your summer reading stories. Let us know what your child did to enjoy their book. They may be featured on our upcoming Fall newsletter, website, or Facebook!

Submit your stories to president.noh@dyslexiaida.org.

Deadline: August 15, 2019.

A Reply to 57 Reading Voices on the Issue of Dyslexia by Steven P. Dykstra, Ph.D., Psychology

In Defense of Truth

Important Update

****Please Read****

You may or may not be aware of a letter from 57 backers of balanced literacy sent to officials of the Public Broadcasting System, taking issue with the way [PBS covered the topic of dyslexia](#). The letter is now in wide distribution and is being promoted by Reading Recovery as well as the ILA and its state organizations. If it hasn't come to your state or been sent to your legislators, it will be.

The letter is a rehash of lies, but this time we're fighting back and exposing their dishonesty. Attached, you will find my point by point reply, including the letter

to PBS and other documents.

Please share this widely so you and your members are equipped to expose this dishonest letter for what it is, whenever they encounter it.

This letter has been reprinted with permission. The pdf of the original letter, including appendices, can be found here: [Dykstra Rebuttal Letter](#)

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Dr. Cheryl Chase
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