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LADders is a publication by LAD representatives for LAD representatives, designed to offer LAD representatives a place to share information and experiences.
Completing the Pre-Application Dialogue Through Zoom
Rachel Concitis, Ohio, USA

Before the pandemic, it was second nature for many Leaders to include information about becoming a Leader and the application steps during their Series Meetings. Leaders would often share information in the meeting introduction, or include information in side conversations with meeting attendees. When parents expressed interest in applying for Leadership, Leaders would often hold special workshops or meetings centered around those interested in applying for leadership, where they could talk more in depth about what was required of Leaders and how the application worked.

When the world shut down due to the pandemic, and meetings were moved online, many Leaders struggled with how to replicate this with their online meetings. It was harder to include those informal side conversations, and many Groups struggled with having consistent virtual attendance.

As one possible solution, I created a series of four virtual workshops centered around the pre-application dialogue Leaders have with interested parents. I divided the content into four overall topics: “LLLI Prerequisites to Applying for Leadership,” “LLLI Philosophy,” “Work of a Leader,” and “Application Work and Next Steps.” I used multiple LLLI and LAD documents to help create the content of my presentations, which I made with Google Slides (although PowerPoint or something similar would work just as well). The documents I used included Overview of Application Work for Leader Accreditation, LLL Policies and Standing Rules: Applying for Leadership, Pre-Application Guidelines for Leaders, and the LLL Purpose, Mission, and Philosophy. Information was shared about the upcoming sessions through multiple Facebook pages, my local Area’s quarterly newsletter, as well as the events page of my DCE’s website. The advertisement had my email address so those interested could email me and I could send them the Zoom link for the sessions.

Each session was designed to be 60-90 minutes in length, recognizing that attendees have families and busy schedules. Those interested in Leadership would need to attend all four sessions in order to complete the entire dialogue and access all of the content presented.

As a complement to the conversations we had as a group during each session, I also created and shared word-processing documents with some follow-up questions for attendees. These were intended for the participants to have a place to write down their thoughts about the information presented, as well as have a place for them to take notes ahead of filling out an application. Examples of prompts in the documents included writing down how they felt they met each of the prerequisites to applying for leadership, as well as their thoughts about the philosophy concepts and how they put them into practice in their own lives. I made it clear to participants that this was not a formal writing exercise, and their responses could take a variety of forms, from formal paragraphs, a few sentences, to a bullet-pointed list- all were fine. It was meant to help them gather their thoughts, and to help me get to know them better. I also promised to not put on my “Third Grade Teacher Hat” and grade their grammar or sentence structure!

During the four sessions the attendees and I had some wonderful conversations, very similar to those we would have had at an in-person “Interested in LLL Leadership” event. We got to know each other. Participants got to share their stories and talk about how LLL philosophy has
impacted their parenting journeys. Most of the participants had not attended LLL meetings before attending my virtual workshop. Most of them live in areas of their state where there is not an active Group. One benefit of the pandemic is the plethora of online meetings at all times of day and all days of the week. I was able to pass along meeting information for several different times and days of the month, so all were able to attend meetings and meet that prerequisite.

The combination of dialoguing with the participants and their shared writing allowed me to get to know them well enough to write their Leader Recommendation. I look forward to working with the Applicants and their LAD representatives as they complete their application work.

If you would like a copy of my presentations for use in your own Area, please send me an email at rachel726@mac.com. I would be more than happy to share for you to “LLLovely LLLift” (borrow) them and adopt or adapt them for your own use.

Rachel Concitis lives in Columbus, Ohio, in the United States, with her husband Bob, six-year-old Bradley, and two-year-old Bekah Lu. She is currently the Regional Administrator of Leader Accreditation (RALA) for the Great Lakes region of LLL Alliance and the Coordinator of Leader Accreditation (CLA) for LLL Ohio. She is in her seventeenth year teaching, and currently teaches third grade (eight- and nine-year-olds) in Columbus City Schools, the largest urban school district in her state. She teaches reading, writing, and history to her students, and is always looking for the next great picture book to spark discussions of diversity, inclusion, and kindness with her class.

Request For Photos of New Leaders

Amy Shaw and Ellen Mateer, LLLI Board Members, are planning a tribute to newly accredited Leaders for the closing session of the LLLI 65th Anniversary Conference. They are seeking photos of all Leaders accredited since October 2020. Please contact any new Leaders you have accredited within this anniversary year and ask them to submit a photo. Newly accredited Leaders can submit their photo along with the consent form from this link https://www.llli.org/share-your-photo/. A consent form is needed for all adults in the photo.
Updates from LAD Council

* The English original follows.

**LAD Español: Nueva página en español para los representantes de LAD**
(NEW Spanish page for LAD representatives: LAD Español)

Puede acceder a ella entrando en la página de inicio del Departamento de Acreditación Leader https://www.llli.org/leader-accreditation-department-lad/ y pulsando el botón "Español" o puede buscar LAD español.

Los siguientes documentos han sido subidos a las tres subpáginas:
- ¿Pensando en convertirte en Líder de la Liga de La Leche? (2021 Enero)
- Explicaciones de conceptos (2021 Abril)
- Resumen de tareas en el proceso de acreditación (2019 Octubre)
  La Liga de la Leche Visión, Misión, Objectivo, Filosofía (2021 Julio)
- Orientación para la conversación Pre-Solicitud (2020 Febrero)
- Solicitud para la Acreditación (2021 Mayo)
- Recomendación de la Lider (2021 Mayo)
- Listado de temas para discutir durante la formación para Monitora/Líder de LLL (2019 Julio)
- Lecturas y Bibliografía requerida
- Ejercicios B sobre Prejuicios: Sesgos conscientes e inconscientes Word (2021 Abril)
- Ejercicios B sobre Prejuicios: Sesgos conscientes e inconscientes PDF (2021 Abril)
- Declaración de compromiso de los líderes de LLLI (2020 Septiembre)
- Gráfico del LAD International Nov 2020 (LADI chart)

Se añadirán más documentos a medida que se revisen y traduzcan.

**NEW! Dialoguing about LLL Philosophy**

This is a resource for all LAD representatives, especially those of you who are in orientation. It is a revision of an older resource entitled *LLL Philosophy Notebook, Appendix 1, LADders*, which
some of you may be familiar with. It lists all ten concepts with possible responses and possible questions you can use or adapt when dialoguing with a Leader Applicant.

There are two versions:

- **Dialoguing about LLL Philosophy** (with a link to the Concept Explanation policy)
- **Dialoguing about LLL Philosophy** (with the concept explanation included directly after the concept)

Both versions are available on the LAD Representative Resources page: [https://www.llli.org/leader-accreditation-department-lad/lad-representative-resources/](https://www.llli.org/leader-accreditation-department-lad/lad-representative-resources/).

**NEW! Revision of Leader’s Handbook (September 2021)**

*Leader’s Handbook*, Chapter 7, Series Meeting Ideas, has recently been published and is available on the LLLI website at: [https://www.llli.org/leader-pages/leader-handbook/](https://www.llli.org/leader-pages/leader-handbook/). It has also been added to the pdf version of the *Leader’s Handbook*. You can find the pdf version on the LAD Application Resources page: [https://www.llli.org/leader-accreditation-department-lad/application-resources/](https://www.llli.org/leader-accreditation-department-lad/application-resources/). It is also available to Leader Applicants in the LLLI database on the Leader Applicant Resources page: [https://www.llli.org/leader-pages/leader-applicants/leader-applicants-resources/17924-2/](https://www.llli.org/leader-pages/leader-applicants/leader-applicants-resources/17924-2/). Please make sure all Applicants you are working with have access to this revised edition of the *Leader’s Handbook*.

**LAD Sessions at LLLI 65th Anniversary Conference**

The following sessions on Leader accreditation are being planned for this conference. Do consider attending and encourage the Applicants and Leaders you are working with to attend. All sessions will be recorded and available to conference participants until April 30, 2022.

Interested in LLL Leadership?
Convíértete en Líder/Monitora de LLL
Devenir une animatrice de LLL
Connecting Using Active Listening
Conectar utilizando la escucha activa
Practicing the *Preview*
Sesión de práctica o evaluación
Escribir sobre la filosofía del LLL
Making the *Checklist* Practical
Trabajando con la *Checklist*
Individualizing and Organizing Application Work
Keeping Applicants and Supporting Leaders Motivated
Finding Potential Applicants and the Pre-Application Discussion
El diálogo previo a la solicitud (The Pre-Application Dialogue)
Formación: Hagamos que sea divertida, ya sea en persona o virtual (Application work: Let’s make it fun, whether in person or virtual)
Working with Applicants Virtually or via Social Media Groups-
Communication Skills in Application Work
Trabajo en equipo: Aspirante, Lider Madrina y representante LAD (Teamwork: Applicant, supporting Leader and LAD representative)

Leader Applicant Workshop

How Would You Respond?

Dear Courtney CLA,

I have responded to Amy Applicant’s personal history writing on all ten concepts. She shared my emails with her supporting Leader Lori. Now Lori is asking that she and Amy work through my questions together, rather than Amy writing back to me.

I am uncomfortable with this. It is my understanding that discussing the concepts, an Applicant’s experiences and LLL philosophy is part of my role as LAD representative. I don't feel that I can confidently accredit an Applicant if I'm out of the loop.

Yours,
Angela, ACLA
Estimada Courtney CLA,

He respondido al escrito de historia personal de Amy Applicant sobre los diez conceptos. Ella compartió mis correos electrónicos con su líder de apoyo, Lori. Ahora Lori pide que ella y Amy trabajen juntas mis preguntas, en lugar de que Amy me responda a mí.

Me siento incómodo con esto. Tengo entendido que debatir los conceptos, las experiencias de los solicitantes y la filosofía de LLL es parte de mi papel como representante de LAD. No creo que pueda acreditar con confianza a un aspirante si no estoy al corriente.

Suyo,
Angela, ACLA

Estimada Angela,

Efectivamente la conversación sobre los conceptos de la filosofía LLL es la parte del proceso de acreditación que se hace entre la/el Aspirante y la/el representante del LAD. Sin embargo es algo de lo que Amy y Lori ya hablaron durante el periodo de diálogo pre aplicación.

Posiblemente Amy se sienta mas en confianza con Lori para abordar algunos puntos o esclarecer algunas dudas, por la relación que tienen al ser Líder de apoyo y Aspirante y conocerse desde ya hace un tiempo.

El trabajo del proceso de acreditación es algo que se realiza en equipo, del mismo modo que la/el Líder de apoyo mantiene contacto con el LAD sobre el avance del trabajo con la/el Aspirante, la/el Líder de apoyo también esta el tanto del trabajo entre la/el Aspirante y el LAD. Podrias proponerle a Amy y Lori que hagan un encuentro virtual (si esto te conviene) para discutir más abiertamente sobre la filosofía y los conceptos y así establecer una relación más cercana con Amy.

Durante ese encuentro pueden abordar la percepción de Amy sobre los conceptos a través de su historia personal y su comprensión y vivencia de cada uno de ellos. Sería una buena oportunidad también para aclarar las dudas de Amy y sobre todo de mostrarme el trabajo en equipo que realizan.
los tres protagonistas del proceso de acreditacion. Es importante recordar la necesidad de documentar por escrito o electrónicamente cualquier discusión virtual.

Si de todas maneras Amy prefiere discutir con Lori lo que trabaja contigo, es importante aclarar que eso esta perfecto pero que el requerimiento es que la/el Aspirante discuta la filosofia con la representante del LAD quién esta ahí para contestar sus preguntas, guiarla en su comprension de la filosofia y escuchar/leer sin juicios su experiencia de vivencia de la filosia a traves de su historia personal.

Entiendo que se te dificulte el acreditar a una/un Aspirante con quién no cubriste toda la discusion sobre la filosofia, ya que una parte del trabajo estaria incompleto y te faltaría una parte importante para tener la vision completa del proceso de formacion.

Quizas puedas escribirles a Amy y a Lori explicandoles que aunque pueden discutir sobre la filosofia y aunque Lori esté ahí también para acompanar a Amy en esta parte, es importante cumplir con los requerimientos para la acreditacion.

Puedes preguntarle a Amy de que manera se sentiria ella mas comoda para discutir esos puntos contigo. No todas las/os Aspirantes tienen una conexion inmediata con la/el representante del LAD y algunas veces puede ser dificil la conversacion de la filosofia o el contar sus historia personal, precisamente por que se trata de algo muy intimo o algo que saca a flote emociones y vivencias intimas.

Algunas veces tambien puede ser que a la/el Aspirante le cueste entender la manera de discutir la filosofia de una forma mas "oficial" a diferencia de como lo hizo durante el dialogo de pre solicitud con su Lider de apoyo.

De la misma manera que las/os Aspirantes pueden encontrar algunos retos o dificultades eso tambien puede pasarnos en el LAD, me alegro que compartas conmigo esta situacion. Espero que mis sugerencias te ayuden en algo.

Por favor mantenme al tanto de como avanzan las cosas par Amy, Lori y para ti.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para decirte que espero que tu y tu familia se encuentren bien. Y para agradecerte por el trabajo que haces en LAD.

Cordialmente,
Courtney

Anne Lisse Taboada de Noel
Antony, France
Cher Courtney CLA,

J'ai répondu à l'écriture de l'histoire personnelle d'Amy Applicant sur les dix concepts. Elle a partagé ses courriels avec sa responsable de soutien, Lori. Maintenant, Lori demande qu'Amy et elle travaillent ensemble sur mes questions, au lieu qu'Amy me réponde.

Cela me met mal à l'aise. Je crois savoir que la discussion des concepts, des expériences d'une candidate et de la philosophie de LLL fait partie de mon rôle de représentante de LAD. Je ne pense pas pouvoir accréditer un candidat en toute confiance si je ne suis pas au courant.

Bien à vous,
Angela, ACLA

Chère Angela,

En effet, la conversation sur les concept de la philosophie LLL est une partie du processus d'accréditation qui se fait entre la/le Stagiaire et la/le représentant(e) du LAD. Cependant, c'est un point dont Amy et Lori ont déjà discuté pendant la période de dialogue préalable à la demande.

Il est possible qu'Amy se sente plus à l'aise avec Lori pour aborder certains points ou clarifier certains doutes, en raison de la relation qu'elles entretiennent en tant que Animatrice de soutien et Stagiaire et qu'elles se connaissent depuis un certain temps.

Le travail de la procédure d'accréditation est un travail d'équipe, de la même manière que la/le animatrice/animateur reste en contact avec le LAD au sujet de l'avancement du travail avec la/le stagiaire, la/le animatrice/animateur est également au courant du travail entre la/le stagiaire t et le LAD.

Tu pourrais proposer à Amy et Lori d'organiser une réunion virtuelle (si cela te convient) pour discuter plus ouvertement de la philosophie et des concepts et établir une relation plus étroite avec Amy.

Au cours de cette réunion, vous pouvez aborder la perception qu'a Amy des concepts à travers son histoire personnelle et sa compréhension et son expérience de chacun d'eux. Ce serait également une bonne occasion de clarifier les doutes d'Amy et surtout de lui montrer le travail d'équipe des trois protagonistes du processus d'accréditation. Il est importante de ne pas oublier le besoin d'avoir une trace écrite ou électronique de toute discussion virtuelle.

Si Amy préfère discuter avec Lori de ce sur quoi elle travaille avec toi, il est important de préciser que c'est très bien, mais que l'exigence est que la/le stagiaire discute de la philosophie avec la/le représentant(e) du LAD qui est là pour répondre à ses questions, la guider dans sa compréhension de la philosophie et écouter/lire sans jugement son expérience de la philosophie à travers son histoire personnelle.
I have responded to Amy Applicant's personal history writing on all ten concepts. She shared my emails with her supporting Leader Lori. Now Lori is asking that she and Amy work through my questions together, rather than Amy writing back to me.

I am uncomfortable with this. It is my understanding that discussing the concepts, an Applicant's experiences and LLL philosophy is part of my role as LAD representative. I don't feel that I can confidently accredit an Applicant if I'm out of the loop.

Yours,
Angela, ACLA
Dear Angela,

It is true that the conversation about the concepts of the LLL philosophy is part of the accreditation process (application work) that takes place between the Leader Applicant and the representative of the LAD. However, it is something that Amy and Lori already talked about during the pre-application dialogue.

Possibly Amy feels more confident with Lori to address some points or clarify some doubts, because of the relationship they have as Applicant and supporting Leader and have known each other for some time.

The work of the accreditation process is something that is done as a team, in the same way that the supporting Leader maintains contact with the LAD about the progress of the work with the Applicant, the supporting Leader is also aware of the work between the Applicant and the LAD.

You could propose to Amy and Lori to have a virtual meeting (if this suits you) to discuss the philosophy and concepts more openly and thus establish a closer relationship with Amy. During this meeting you can address Amy's perception of the concepts through her personal history and her understanding and experience of each one of them. It would also be a good opportunity to clarify Amy's doubts and especially to see the teamwork carried out by the three members of the application triad. You will also need to document in writing or electronically any virtual discussion.

If, however, Amy prefers to discuss with Lori her work with you, it is important to clarify that this is fine but that the requirement is that the Applicant discuss the philosophy with the LAD representative who is there to answer her questions, dialogue about her understanding of philosophy and listen / read without judgment her experience of living LLL philosophy through her personal breastfeeding journey.

I understand that it is difficult for you to accredit an Applicant with whom you did not cover the entire discussion about the philosophy, since a part of the work would be incomplete and you would be missing an important part of the complete picture of the application work. Maybe you can write to Amy and Lori explaining that although they can discuss the philosophy and although Lori is also there to accompany Amy in this part, it is important to meet the requirements for accreditation.

You can ask Amy how she would feel most comfortable discussing these points with you. Not all Applicants have an immediate connection with the LAD representative and sometimes it can make it difficult for them to talk about philosophy or tell their personal story, precisely because it is something very intimate or something that brings out emotions and intimate experiences. Sometimes it may also be difficult for Applicants to understand how to discuss the philosophy in a more "official" way than they did during the pre-application dialogue with their supporting Leader.
In the same way that Applicants can find some challenges or difficulties that can also happen to us in the LAD. I am glad that you shared this situation with me. I hope my suggestions will be helpful to you.

Please keep me posted on how things are progressing for Amy, Lori, and you.

I take the opportunity to tell you that I hope you and your family are well. And to thank you for the work you do at LAD.

WarmLlLy,
Courtney

Anne Lisse Taboada de Noel
Antony, France

Dear Angela ACLA,

This sounds like a Leader who is taking her role as the supporting Leader very seriously. She may feel she can best support the Applicant by having the Applicant share what you have written and provide what support she feels would be helpful. It makes the LAD's job easier when the Leader is involved and doesn't just recommend someone and then wait for the LAD to do the work.

Perhaps it would help to send the Leader a message each time you write to the Applicant, sharing a brief overview of what you are discussing- the topic, the specific concepts, how to use empathetic listening, etc. That way the Leader will feel included. She can be a resource for both you and the Applicant. You can even ask her to share a summary of their discussions as you are sharing your summary of your communications with the Applicant. She can provide insights that the Applicant may not think to include in her responses.

I like the example of a three-legged stool- it doesn't wobble. This open communication approach can help build a strong team between the LAD, the Leader and the Applicant. Let me know if this approach is helpful to you.

Warmly,
Courtney CLA

Cindy Garrison
Pennsylvania, USA

Dear Angela,

Thank you for bringing me this interesting and important question.
I wonder what reason Lori gave you for not wanting Amy to write to you directly. As she already wrote about the concepts, it is difficult to see what the reasoning might be.

It is entirely appropriate for an Applicant to share and discuss our letters with the supporting Leader and I often suggest that they do exactly that. The responses are often richer in detail when the Applicant has had a chance to explore any questions with an experienced Leader who can add observations and perspectives from another point of view—how she understands your questions in the context of leadership and what she has seen of Amy's qualities as a mother and a future Leader. It is a useful part of the Applicant-Leader-LAD triad.

At the same time, this is Amy's application and the content of the file needs to be hers and needs also to include all the required elements described in application documents, including dialogue with the LAD representative. The role of the Leader is as supporter and role model. Unless there are special circumstances, it is not the role of the Leader to communicate with LAD in the place of the Applicant or to replace the LAD representative in dialogue with the Applicant.

I suggest you reply to Lori along these lines. I'd be happy to review your letter before you send it to her if you wish. It will be important to appreciate the work she has done and is doing with Amy as well as clarifying the distinct roles.

Lori seems very committed to and involved with this application. I wonder if she might be interested in LAD work herself. Do you have a sense for that?

Best wishes
Courtney

Eileen Harrison,
Alsace, France
Dear Andrea ALA,

This is my first time orienting a new LAD representative. She asked how much personal information she should share with an Applicant. Are there specific guidelines for this that I can share with her?

Yours,
Caroline CLA

Cher Andrea ALA,

C'est la première fois que j'oriente une nouvelle représentante ALA. Elle m'a demandé quelle quantité d'informations personnelles elle devait partager avec un candidat. Existe-t-il des directives spécifiques à ce sujet que je peux partager avec elle?

Cordialement,
Caroline CLA

Liebe Andrea ALA,

es ist das erste Mal, dass ich eine neue LAD-Vertreterin einarbeite. Sie wollte wissen, wie viele persönliche Informationen sie mit einem Bewerber teilen sollte. Gibt es dafür bestimmte Richtlinien, die ich ihr mitteilen kann?

Mit freundlichen Grüssen,
Caroline CLA

Querida Andrea ALA,

Es la primera vez que oriento a un nuevo representante de LAD. Me ha preguntado cuánta información personal debe compartir con un candidato. ¿Existen directrices específicas para esto que pueda compartir con ella?
Suyo,
Caroline CLA

How would you respond? Send your ideas for a reply or an extract you would like to share with other LAD representatives to Linda Wieser at wieser.linda@gmail.com.

Wanted: Contributing Editor for the How Would You Respond (HWYR) Column

All LADders Contributing Editors are a member of the LADders Editorial Review Board (LADERB).

Quarterly the Contributing Editor seeks responses to the HWYR question posted in the last issue of LADders, reviews these responses and decides on a new question for the next issue. Every effort should be made to recruit responses from a variety of entities in La Leche League. Ideally there will be 2-4 responses in the LAD representative’s preferred language. Responses may be recruited by:
• directly asking a few LAD representatives to send responses,
• asking members of the LAD Council to encourage LAD representatives in their entities to send responses, and/or
• posting a request on LADialogue (llladialogue@googlegroups.com).

Term of Office
The position has a two-year term of office, which may be extended once for one year after discussion with the Managing Editor.

Interested? Please email Linda Wieser at wieser.linda@gmail.com.
Hi! I'm Sandrine. I've been a LLL Leader for a few years in Longmont, Colorado, USA and I just started as a CLA for my Area Colorado/Wyoming. I'm also an administrator for the LLLI Facebook group "La Liga de la Leche". We bring online breastfeeding support to Spanish speaking mothers worldwide.

I'm originally from a small and beautiful city in the South of France called Pau. I was raised in an immigrant Spanish family. When I was 20, I decided my hometown was too small, so I left for Spain where I finished my studies in Early Modern History in Sevilla (certainly the most beautiful city in the world!). Then I moved to Italy, then Germany and I finally arrived in the US in 2013. I totally fell in love with the beautiful weather in Colorado as well as the kind and friendly people living in this state. This is also where I met my husband, who's from Berlin, and with who I have two beautiful children: Alex, 5 and Julia, 3. I used to work as a translator/interpreter before my kids were born. Now I'm taking care of them full time, enjoying being a LLL Leader and trying to fit a little bit of reading and long walks in between.

¡Hola! Me llamo Sandrina. Soy monitora/líder de LLL en Longmont, en el estado de Colorado, en los Estados Unidos. Apenas acabo de empezar mi labor de CLA en mi Area Colorado/Wyoming. También soy administradora del grupo Facebook de LLLI "La Liga de la Leche" donde brindamos apoyo a madres lactantes de todos los países hispanohablantes.

Soy de una pequeña y bellísima ciudad en el sur de Francia llamada Pau. Crecí en una familia de inmigrantes españoles. A los 20 años, decidí que mi ciudad era demasiado pequeña y me fui para Sevilla en el sur de España para acabar mis estudios de Historia Moderna (¡Sin duda la ciudad más bella del mundo!). Luego me mude a Italia, después a Alemania y por fin a los Estados Unidos en el 2013. Me enamoré del bonito clima de este estado, así como de su gente. Aquí fue donde conocí a mi marido. Él es de Berlín. Tenemos dos hijos maravillosos: Alejandro de 5 años y Julia de 3. Antes de que nacieran mis hijos trabajaba de traductora/interprete, ahora me dedico a ellos. Disfruto mucho de mi trabajo como monitora/líder de La Liga, pero también me gusta leer un poco y echarme largos paseos cuando me da tiempo.


One of our favorite tradition in the US, the pumpkin patch! From right to left: me, Julia, Alex, Mr. Pumpkin. El campo de calabaza, una de nuestras tradiciones norteamericanas favoritas. De derecha a izquierda: Yo, Julia, Alejandro, el Señor Calabaza. le champ de citrouilles, une de nos traditions américaines favorites. De droite à gauche: moi, Julia, Alex et Monsieur Citrouille.
Hello! My name is Cori Werner. I am the CLA for New York (NY) State in the United States. I lead meetings in the Hudson Valley which is a little more than an hour away from New York City, where I first became a Leader five years ago. Along with my Leader role I am a Registered Nurse and an IBCLC. I have focused on lactation care for the past 10 years of my career.

I joined the LAD as an ACLA about a year after becoming accredited as a Leader. Cynthia Massey, my ACLA at the time, provided such steady and empowering belief in me and I wanted to give that same support to others. The LAD feels like the perfect fit for me and I feel invigorated anytime I can make the path to leadership a little smoother by providing encouragement and information to Leader Applicants.

Together my husband Aaron and I have three children, Ilana (9), Jonah (6), and Adia (2). My two-year-old calls breastfeeding “moy”, which started out meaning “more”, always more! Her name for breastfeeding really touches my heart since we overcame a lot of early challenges to be still breastfeeding today. We were immensely supported by a very special La Leche League Leader.

These days my family and I enjoy hiking and going to nearby crafts fairs, festivals, and farms. If I’m not on a hiking trail you might find me out on our deck with a warm drink, intermittently helping my two-year-old to blow bubbles. I’ve recently started painting with acrylics and look forward to the day when I can attend concerts and Broadway shows again. I really love live music.

Some very special La Leche League moments are personal ones for me: a Leader assuring me “there’s every reason to believe”, my co-Leader inviting me to attend our Group meeting as “just a mom” when I was on a family first hiatus from LLL due to breastfeeding difficulties. Unquestioning support within LLL for said hiatus. A Leader Applicant I was working with inviting me to their local meeting around the same time. These may seem like small moments, but I believe they are the type of moments people remember for years to come, as I do. In so few words these exchanges seem to say “I see you. We have support and community for you. You are welcome here free from judgment.” This solidarity is what I love about La Leche League and our shared mission is what I think helps us overcome obstacles as an organization.

I became the CLA for NY in January of 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic hit our area very hard just two months later. Having a new relationship with our wonderful LLL Alliance
RALA, Brittany Casey, the Area Team, as well as continuing connections with my co-Leader and local Group have been sources of strength and light even in these devastating times. I feel so proud to be the CLA of New York and everything we’ve accomplished as an Area despite Covid-19. I’m so very grateful to be a LLL Leader.

WarmLLLly,

Cori

Cori with her husband and children. From left: Ilana, Cori (holding Adia), Jonah, and Aaron.
Congratulations on your appointment!

Sandrine Druon - CLA, Colorado/Wyoming
Sarah Denniston – ACLA, Great Britain
Francesca Elver-Fiddimore - ACLA, Great Britain
Erin Hajre-Chapman - CLA Northern California/Hawaii
The October reporting period ends October 15. Please make sure you are using the 2021 revised Semi-Annual Report (SAR) form. We are no longer collecting the number of Leaders or number of Groups in each Area.

**SAR Deadlines**

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How Would You Respond?         Linda Wieser (interim)
LAD Promenade                   Helen Lloyd
A Taste of LAD International   Lori Bryan
Semi-Annual Reports            Karin Ali

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