



USLCA CHAPTER CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

DATE: December 2, 2021

LEAD BY: Lisa Brock, USLCA Board Member and WALC member

ATTENDEES:

Leslie Bloomquist, CVLA

Dee Kassing and Teresa Donjon, LC of Metro St. Louis

Emily Burkybile and Jeanne Campbell, OKLCA

Kristi Schroeder, Kentuckiana Lactation Improvement Coalition

Heather Evans, Central AZ LCA

Ellen Haynes, Northeast Florida Lactation Coalition (NFLC)

Dawn Baltz, Florida Lactation Consultant Association

Judy Campbell, LC Association of Greater Washington

Sarah Gibson, Pro-LC

Julie Schveiger, IowaLCA

Jeanne Cygnus, Northern IL LCA

(With minutes taken by Judy Levy-Stutsky (MD))

Lisa introduced herself and welcomed all the chapters on the call. There are now 26 active chapters. She also thanked all the chapters that completed their quarterly reports. She encouraged all to review the Quarterly Chapter Call Guidelines at [Chapter-Call-Guidelines.pdf \(uslca.org\)](#). She also asked how everyone liked the hyperlinks included in the agenda and got a positive response.

Lisa reminded chapters of the Melanated Mammary Atlas at <https://uslca.org/the-melanated-mammary-atlas/#myaccount>, a new USLCA Enhanced Member benefit. Enhanced members can change their membership month to month. Chapter members are able to upgrade to the Enhanced level but the group discount won't apply. See also the Membership Benefits Wizard ([Which USLCA membership is right for you? \(wufoo.com\)](#)) and Membership Level Comparison Chart ([Membership Structure - USLCA](#)). Many individuals will need to be reminded to renew since doing on their own more often now.

Lisa reminded everyone the Every Parent Marketplace is up and running at [Every Parent Marketplace | USLCA](#) with finding an IBCLC as the first offering. The Amplify blog post at [Introducing Amplify! - USLCA](#) has been very active, with some even becoming Instagrams. They are quite energizing and all should read and consider signing up for posting one.

A demographic survey was sent out to the members as a USLCA in Action just before Thanksgiving. Lisa asked all the chapters remind their members to complete the survey by the end of the year. (Note: non-members that complete the survey will get a code to try one month of basic membership for free.)

There is an opening for a member-at-large board member, so if you or someone you know is interested, just apply.

Two IBCLC exam fee scholarships were awarded this fall thanks to a generous gift from NILCA. Lisa encouraged all to [donate](#) and shop at the USLCA website if possible, as they fund important support.

Clinical Lactation is our clinical journal published either in paper or digitally, whichever you prefer. Shera Jackson, the Editor-in-Chief, wants all voices to be heard, so please feel free to submit manuscripts.

A survey as part of a research study on marijuana is at:

https://collaborate.tuftsctsi.org/redcap/surveys/?s=AXAF3LJW84&fbclid=IwAR3259iyRcYP3if1fxHlycMkOC8uAHd-NmRL1dRMgKFxUreL_X7qrrmaFf8

The USLCA Marketplace has Clinical Tools you can use in practice. (Note: the 5th edition of Breastfeeding Management for the Clinician is about to be published, and with the USLCA code you can get it at a huge discount and free shipping!)

There are numerous USLCA Education programs coming up. The USLCA National Conference (https://uslca.org/new_horizons_norfolk/) is scheduled for September 22 to 24, 2022 in Norfolk, Virginia. Save the date! USLCA is accepting Conference Speaker/Presentation applications at https://uslca.org/new_horizons_norfolk_present/ with a deadline of January 17, 2022. The presentation does not need to be in its final form to apply!

There are upcoming live webinars in the new year, beginning on January 5th. See more here https://uslca.org/new_horizons_norfolk_present/ and there are also recorded webinars at <https://uslca.org/providers/events/virtual/recorded-webinars/> . The Route Tongue Tie workshop recording has now been added too; this was a well-received workshop.

Chapters should remember to use their recorded webinar before the end of the year.

Chapter Renewals are coming up since the chapter membership is on the calendar year (January 1 to December 31). The chapter benefits now include the 2021 DEI training and it is a requirement for chapters before June 22, 2022. Chapters will be able to host this presentation annually for their members. Remember to turn in evaluations after the workshop. More news to come. The requirements for Chapter renewal are: 1. Chapter President must be a USLCA member 2. Annual dues must be submitted 3. Annual Chapter Agreement must be submitted 4. At least 25% of chapter members must be USLCA members (USLCA will verify this through the roster submitted with your Annual Chapter Agreement).

Chapters Making a Difference is published monthly in the USLCA in Action! Lisa enjoys these as she can read and knows the people since she sees them on the Zoom Chapter call. Chapters should continue to submit quarterly Chapter Reports. They are very important to share information for USLCA to use to provide support for the Chapters and members.

The USLCA has a Commitment to Inclusivity post on the website, please see <https://uslca.org/amplify/inclusive-language/>. Also take a look at the USLCA Speaker Database, the IBCLC Mentorship Directory, and the USLCA job board. And the USLCA has social media postings. On Facebook there are numerous (USLCA, USLCA's Chapters, USLCA's Webinars and Professional Development, New Horizons in Clinical Lactation and Breastfeeding Talk with USLCA – which has parents coming which brings out a lot of energy), as well as now Shirley in Marketing is doing Instagrams.

And Chapters should remember when recruiting to point out the leadership role can get them Volunteer CERPs. Per IBLCE: for IBCLCs recertifying by CERPs, effective January 1, 2020, IBLCE will award two (2) L-CERPs for each full year of volunteer service (within the five-year recertification cycle) on the board of a nongovernmental organization that promotes and/or supports breastfeeding. A maximum of 10 L-CERPs can be earned in this manner during a five-year recertification cycle. Such leadership experience is important and will be recognized with CERPs.

CHAPTERS:

Central Arizona Lactation Consultant Association – Heather Evans said their Zoom meetings will continue, as they have been well received. Otherwise, it's status quo, they feel Zoom is encouraging attendance.

Central Valley Lactation Association – Leslie Bloomquist said they have 8 members, are status quo, and run a Baby Café every Wednesday for an hour and a half. They also have a website Baby Café Bakersfield. They have a "connect" form to have an LC contact them. They changed their virtual listing to a "Q and A" so moms didn't think they needed to breastfeed on Zoom. It's mom to mom as well, with good support. Leslie said that when she was on early speaking with Lisa it was "we complain about the same thing" as how to get more moms to reach out; how to get ObGyns to encourage and educate; how to get Peds to help support. They don't live in a "super crunchy" area, so many think it isn't that big a deal. They are trying to get the information out that it DOES make a difference. They were thinking face-to-face was coming back until Omicron.

Florida Lactation Consultant Association - Dawn Baltz said they have always done a hybrid, with both virtual and in-person. They recently put on a workshop on Tethered Oral Tissues and have a conference in April coming up on The 4th Trimester. She wondered how they could meet the DEI requirement since their educational offerings had already been planned. Lisa said she'll take it back to the board for discussion. Dawn also said they are about to give out a scholarship for the IBLCE exam.

Northeast Florida Lactation Coalition - Ellen Haynes said they have 25 to 35 attend, including WIC, hospital, and private practice lactation professionals. They also have their speakers already lined up, so are concerned about how to do the DEI requirement. They are using Zoom, but were such a social group and relied on each other, so it's not as supportive. Their area has 4 Baby Friendly hospitals and 2 beginning the journey. They are about to use their first chapter webinar for their speaker.

She questioned the new test and CERP requirements coming out of IBLCE and the logic behind it. Dee asked what test, and Jeanne stepped in to explain that IBLCE is having everyone do a self-assessment test the year before they are due to either exam or submit CERPS. If they choose to renew by CERPs, a certain percentage must be focused on what area they are weakest in. Dee had missed the email because of major personal issues, and Leslie said it certainly isn't fair to only have a year to get the CERPs when we've been attending educational events for 4 years already to get what's needed. Lisa says we'll all flex when we find out the details, but it's IBLCE that is doing this, not USLCA. She suggested separate letters from individuals may be a good idea.

Northern Illinois Lactation Consultant Association - Jeanne Cygnus (NILCA) said they are doing virtual and it's great. When they met in-person they would get 10 to 12, but virtually they are getting 35 to 50! Some want to go back to in-person, but their poll showed most want to stay

virtual and are happy with it. They had elections, and she is stepping down. Dr. Nina Hall will become President in January. She is an amazing powerhouse and it should be great.

IowaLCA - Julie Schweiger is now post-covid a year and is now feeling better. They are doing everything on Zoom. They work with a separate breastfeeding coalition and are hoping to be in person in May. There is a new breastfeeding initiative "Coffective" and she was hoping someone else would know about it. She believes they are an umbrella organization and will help with funding and organization. It also includes childcare providers. She thinks it sounds promising. Lisa said that she was familiar with it, Cathy Carruthers presented on it 3 years ago in Wisconsin. It seems to combine the community and the hospital. There was some concern about a general Lactation Consultant term, and breastfeeding helpers. Lisa said it was more community and WIC based, and Julie thought it was public health and WIC. Julie said the breastfeeding coalition had gotten large, so they broke off and formed a Chapter of USLCA for the IBCLCs. There are some common goals, but also some different. Lisa said that would bring great energy to the group.

Kentuckiana Lactation Improvement Coalition – Kristi Schroeder said she is Vice President, but she was able to make the call. They have been virtual, using Zoom and Webex. They partnered with the breastfeeding coalitions in Kentucky for a virtual conference normally. In 2020 there was no conference, but in 2021 they did one. They plan to stay virtual. Because they are such a social group, when they went virtual, their membership went down a little.

Lactation Consultants of Metro St. Louis - Dee Kassing and Teresa Donjon said they are hybrid, both in-person and on Zoom. They are enjoying using their recorded webinars, as it keeps people on topic. They are worried about their membership, but doing well and still meeting.

Oklahoma Lactation Consultants Association - Jeanne Campbell said they finally got their 501c3! They used a company called BryteBridge and they were fabulous although costly. Emily Burkybile said they were able to get tribal money. They are meeting mostly on Zoom. She said there is an intertribal WIC and local hospital. There are 9 tribes and 9 chiefs. Jeanne helped with writing it up with facts and details, and Emily presented it. They were happy to pay for a good cause, as they do have money. Having WIC and hospital relationships is important. Lisa suggested they write it up (with Jeanne's help if needed), to let others know.

Pro-LC - Sarah Gibson said they are doing virtual. They were wondering about in-person, but hadn't started yet. They have a DEI committee that meets every month and have added speaker guidelines to be more aware of wording and inclusive. Alison Hazelbaker presented on faux Tongue Tie, the first presentation while adhering to these guidelines. They got a grant from a doula company to cover Pro-LC training 5 CLCs to become IBCLCs. They are working on social media, Instagram, etc. They signed up to use the webinar "PCOS and insulin resistance." They also have a new logo, so are working to get materials with it on. Lisa asked her to email the speaker guidelines and asked if she would also send it to Cheryl. Some of the participants requested it as well.

Western Pennsylvania Lactation Consultant Association - Lisa shared WPLCA information from Dr Jessica Devido:

“For updates, we do have an upcoming education session that is being offered in collaboration with Magee-Womens Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA, on December 4th. The title is: ***May the 4th (trimester) be with you!: One Woman at a Time, Centering Pregnancy and Lactation.*** Our speakers are Rowena D. Pingul-Ravano "Dr. Row", MD; Maggie Judge, RN, CLC; Asmau Misawa, MD, and Jem Cabrerros. They will be sharing their experience providing and participating in Centering Pregnancy maternity care and the impact of Centering Care on breastfeeding rates. Registrants will not only learn about this innovative model of care but also about research outcomes associated with the program.

This conference can be attended either virtually or in person. <https://wplca.net/events.html>”

Wisconsin Association of Lactation Consultants - Lisa shared WALC information for Angela Hamilton:

They have 162 members. They co-hosted on November 4 and 5 with LLL of Wisconsin a fall event with Lisa Marasco, Anna Brauch and the Hmong Breastfeeding Coalition of MN. WALC held their quarterly meetings and board meetings virtually. They have found they reach the rural community much better. They have a January offering with the Mother Milk Bank of Western Great Lakes to discuss Human Milk Banking, and Jill Rabin, IBCLC, will speak on “Facilitating Breastfeeding in Babies with Feeding Challenges.”

Minnesota Prospective Chapter – Lisa also shared information from Kim Welvaert, USLCA BOD and developing USLCA chapter for three states (Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota). Kim shared that she is in contact with passionate people in all three states and will report further at next quarterly chapter call.

Lactation Consultant Association of Greater Washington – Judy Campbell wanted to thank everyone for their comradery. Chapter interest has increased, and she’s hoping for a great 2022.

Lastly, Dawn brought up that they (FLCA) paid for a CLC to join the state organization to them get started. She encourages members to sponsor others to help the next generation. She said Lisa gave her a little push and it really helped.

The next quarterly chapter call is Thursday, February 17, 2022 at the same time.