



# ALMA News

## Awesome ALMA Conference Planned for January 26-27 at Hilton St. Louis Airport!

### “ReforMission 2017: On His Mission!” theme emphasizes networking, best practices

- ▶ Proclaiming God’s truth in a changing culture and world
- ▶ Partnerships to strengthen our mission and ministry
- ▶ Making our short-term missions more strategic and impactful
- ▶ Effective ways to access grant funding
- ▶ What we need to know about Zika, Ebola, and other pathogens affecting our missions
- ▶ Avoiding violence and terrorism
- ▶ Ways to involve more Millennials and youth in missions
- ▶ Strategic collaborations with other mission agencies in our region, with our Districts, and with Synod
- ▶ ALMA’s plans for 2017-2018 to support our mission work
- ▶ Best methods to train short-term teams
- ▶ How a missions certification program could help our mission efforts
- ▶ Best Practices Award winners!

#### Keynote speakers:

- Rev. Michael Newman, LCMS Texas District Missions



- Susan Hewitt, Executive Director, UpWorks, St. Paul, MN



- Rev. Dr. Victor Belton, Peace Lutheran Church, Decatur, GA



#### IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN US!

For details and online registration: <http://almanetwork.org/conference-2017.htm>

**MORE INFO:** Call ALMA Director Lorraine Roach, 208-660-1818, or email: [lorraine@almanetwork.org](mailto:lorraine@almanetwork.org).

#### Thanks to our Sponsors!

- Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- Lutheran Legacy Foundation
- Lutheran Hour Ministries
- Family Shield Ministries
- Concordia Publishing House
- Global Health Insurance
- Three Avocados Coffee



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*Have feedback or a news item to share? Contact ALMA Director Lorraine Roach at 208-660-1818*

## Best Practices Awards

New this year: ALMA is inaugurating **Best Practices in Missions Awards**. The nomination form is simple (only 1 page, 5 brief questions), and can be completed online here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ALMAaward>

Deadline to submit a nomination is Tuesday, January 24, 11:00 pm CST. Winners will be announced at the ALMA Banquet on Thursday, January 26, and will receive a FREE Registration to the 2018 ALMA Conference! *(continued next page)*

## ALMA Annual Meeting

The ALMA Annual Meeting will be held Friday, January 27, at 8:00 a.m. during the ALMA Conference. All members and conference participants are welcome!

The Annual Meeting will include an overview of ALMA's draft Strategic Plan, Financial and Membership Reports for FY2016, and Nomination of Board Members and Officers. Nominations will be accepted at the conference, or contact Secretary Chris Ng to submit a nomination in advance: christopherng@gmail.com.

The current ALMA Board members are:

**Rev. Dr. Jim Tino, President**  
Global Lutheran Outreach

**Ms. Christy Weber, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**  
Shoes & Hope

**Rev. Bill Ney, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
Lutheran Assn. of Missionaries and Pilots

**Rev. Jeff Thormodson, Treasurer**  
Lutheran Society For Missiology

**Rev. Christopher Ng, Secretary**  
Chinese Lutherans In Mission Building

**Rev. Miguel Torneire, Ethnic Liaison**  
Central American Lutheran Mission Society

**Deac. Dorothy Krans, Synod Liaison**  
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

**ALMA Director:** Deac. Lorraine Roach  
Phone: 208-660-1818  
Email: lorraine@almanetwork.org



### 2016 ALMA Board of Directors

L-R: Miguel Torneire, Christy Weber, Jim Tino, Bill Ney, Chris Ng, and ALMA Director Lorraine Roach.  
Not pictured: Jeff Thormodson, Dorothy Krans.

### How can ALMA support your mission? What are your needs?

Contact us to ask for assistance, information, or to provide feedback about ALMA —we're here to serve you!

## From the Director

### 2016--What a Year!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the ALMA Conference this month.

The 2017 conference is *jam-packed* with terrific speakers, information, and extended opportunities for networking among mission agencies, exhibitors, sponsors, District and Synod representatives, and funding organizations!

The conference attendance is projected to be a record 100 participants representing nearly 60 organizations, including 40 scholarship recipients, 8 major sponsors, and 15 exhibitors!

ALMA is evaluating options for an association management software (AMS) package, including member database, bookkeeping, event management, web site content, e-newsletters, social media, etc. Examples are Member Clicks, Wild Apricot, AMO, Member365, etc. If you have recommendations, please share!

This has been a year of transition for my husband and I, as we relocated from central Idaho to western Montana, where he accepted a new job in Information Technology/Performance Management (ironically working for a firm based in New York City). It was a bit unexpected, and a scramble to make it all happen after our Idaho home sold in four days(!). But God is faithful, and has blessed us richly with a wonderful new church family, new home, new friends, (and temperatures of -20°F...but it's all good!).

The ALMA "headquarters" office moved with us, so I appreciate your patience with the address change and limited communication for a few months.

Please contact me for assistance, provide feedback, and send me your agency updates and newsletters. I hope to see you in St. Louis!

In Christ,

*Lorraine*



*The World Café will be a featured networking event at this year's ALMA Conference: "Shaping Our Futures Through Conversations that Matter"—a highly interactive "speed-dating" session of intentional conversations!*

## ALMA Receives Scholarship Grants from LCMS-OIM and Lutheran Legacy Foundation!

Thanks to the LCMS Office of International Mission and the Lutheran Legacy Foundation (through efforts of ALMA Board member Bill Ney), ALMA received grants for 2017 conference scholarships and speaker costs in order to keep the conference affordable for mission agencies and RSOs. We will hear more from OIM and LLF about their current activities and grant programs in support of missions during conference lunch and Funders' Panel sessions.

## Best Practices Awards Nominations *(from p. 1)*

Nominations do not need to fit any specific category, but here are some ideas for nomination topics:

- ▶ Collaborations between ALMA member agencies
- ▶ Innovation in funding of missions
- ▶ Examples of cross-cultural ministry or bridging
- ▶ Connecting non- or new believers to the Gospel and churches
- ▶ Innovative engagement of volunteers
- ▶ Effective public-private partnerships
- ▶ Successful connections with Millennials and/or Matures
- ▶ Effective use of social media

# ALMA 2017 Strategic Plan Overview

In April 2016, the ALMA Board held a strategic planning retreat and developed the draft Strategic Plan Overview below, including a Vision Statement, Mission, Brand Attributes, Value Proposition, 5 Goals, 18 Objectives, and 26 Strategies for 2016 to 2018. The 2017 ALMA Conference will include a report on progress to date, and discussion of a more detailed Implementation Action Plan.

ALMA VISION & MISSION		OUR BRAND ATTRIBUTES	
<p><b>OUR VISION:</b> “To provide leadership, networking, and a collective voice for the global community of Lutheran mission agencies, congregations, and affiliated businesses and organizations.” <i>[DRAFT]</i></p> <p><b>OUR MISSION:</b> “ALMA is dedicated to connecting and equipping Lutherans for God’s Mission.”</p>		<p>We are the only association of Lutheran agencies and affiliated organizations focused exclusively on missions. We seek to create the following brand experience: Networking, Connection, Passion, Faithfulness, Resources, Relevance, and Best Practices.</p>	
OUR VALUE PROPOSITION			
<p>In ways that are collaborative and complementary to the work of the Missouri Synod, we bring unique value to Lutheran missions by providing the following for mission agencies, districts, congregations, businesses, and affiliated organizations: An association for Lutheran missions, networking, best practices, Lutheran theology of missions, access to resources, fraternal and spiritual support, learning and professional growth, spirit of trust and teamwork, and rejuvenation.</p>			

2016-2018 ALMA GOALS				
INCREASE MEMBERSHIP VALUE	GROW & DIVERSIFY OUR MEMBERSHIP	STRENGTHEN THE ALMA BRAND	ELEVATE THE VALUE OF OUR CONFERENCE	ENSURE SOUND FISCAL & ORG’N GROWTH
2016-2018 OBJECTIVES				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance member satisfaction</li> <li>Increase member retention</li> <li>Improve member engagement</li> <li>Evaluate &amp; enhance member benefits</li> <li>Increase networking among members</li> <li>Offer professional development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase membership among mission agencies, districts, and congregations</li> <li>Promote Associate Membership benefits to related businesses, organizations, and individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase awareness of ALMA among Lutheran mission agencies, districts, and congregations</li> <li>Increase awareness among regional missions staff worldwide</li> <li>Strengthen the reputation of ALMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase conference attendance</li> <li>Enhance the content and networking opportunities at the conference</li> <li>Highlight best practices networking stories in missions</li> <li>Offer Missions Certification track</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate new revenue streams</li> <li>Increase total revenue to facilitate more investment in programming</li> <li>Improve administrative efficiencies</li> <li>Augment financial reporting to membership</li> </ul>
2016-2018 STRATEGIES				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue regular outreach to members re. needs, feedback, satisfaction</li> <li>Provide resources based on needs</li> <li>Evaluate committee structure, involve more members</li> <li>Implement topical / regional teleconferences / gatherings</li> <li>Create missions certification program</li> <li>Be a clearinghouse for mission project or agency requests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a membership recruitment and communications plan</li> <li>Develop and promote the ALMA Associate Member program</li> <li>Collaborate with Synod, Districts, congregations to reach potential members</li> <li>Explore the concept of regional networks or chapters of ALMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance ALMA public/media relations, social media</li> <li>Implement annual Best Practices in Missions Awards</li> <li>Enhance ALMA web site, marketing, and database integration</li> <li>Encourage use of ALMA logo by members/associates</li> <li>Survey congregations re. mission work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance networking and best practices programming</li> <li>Solicit best practices awards submissions and speakers</li> <li>Offer free/discounted registration to winners</li> <li>Promote regional caucuses</li> <li>Promote conference more broadly (to all LCMS congregations &amp; partner churches)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine Associate Member benefits/dues</li> <li>Increase conference sponsors / exhibitors</li> <li>Review Board and Director roles and responsibilities to maximize effectiveness</li> <li>Provide financial summary in ALMA newsletter 2x/year</li> <li>Obtain AMS software</li> <li>Offer fee-for-service webinars, consulting</li> <li>Seek grants</li> </ul>
RESPONSIBILITY				
Board, Communications Committee, Director	Communications Cmte, Director, Synod, Districts	Communications Cmte, Director, Webmaster	Conference Cmte, Synod, Members, Sponsors, Director	Board, Conference Cmte, Director, Partners

## ALMA FY2016 Financial Report

Financially, ALMA had a better year in 2016 than 2015. General operating revenue was \$6,536, with expenses of \$5,387, for an operating net of \$+1,148.

The 2016 Conference, however, had income of \$11,388 against expenses of \$14,096, for a net of (\$2,708) in FY16 (the deficit was covered from savings).

Our goals for the 2017 Conference are to increase attendance (so far, we're up 28%), to obtain scholarship grants for small mission agencies and RSOs to attend (40 people received scholarships this year), and to increase sponsor and exhibitor revenue (in 2017, we've doubled the number of sponsors and exhibitors from 8 to 16!). So we anticipate a sustainable year financially. For a copy of FY16 financial reports, please contact ALMA.

## Conference Session will Discuss Possible Missions Certification

Organizations like the national Society for Nonprofits offer professional development courses for directors and staff of nonprofits. Additionally, a number of ALMA members offer formal training programs and materials for short-term missions, while newer/smaller mission agencies seek resources for training and management. Missions is a unique type of nonprofit. Therefore, ALMA seeks to facilitate a conversation among its members about "who is doing what" in professional development and training for missions, and to explore the possibility of a collaborative missions certification (professional development) program for mission agency directors, staff, board members, and volunteers.

The conversation will take place during an optional conference session on **Friday, January 27, from 3:45 to 4:45**. Contact Director Lorraine Roach for info.

## ALMA Pursues RSO Designation

In September 2016, ballots were mailed to Voting Member mission agency/RSO contacts requesting a vote to approve Bylaw changes necessary for RSO designation. Other Bylaw changes included the addition of Associate and Individual Member categories, clarification of Board and Committee roles, use of technology for future voting, etc. The vote was nearly unanimous in favor, so in October the Board voted to obtain District President support and submit an RSO application. That process currently is in progress.

## ALMA Membership: New Associate and Individual Categories

**Not a current member of ALMA? Join now!** In 2016, ALMA created new membership categories for Associate Members and Individual Members, in addition to mission agencies/RSOs.

Join through the ALMA web site and pay online with a credit card, or download, print, and mail the Membership Form and return it with your payment: [www.ALMAnetwork.org](http://www.ALMAnetwork.org).

### ALMA Membership Fees

**Mission Agencies/RSOs** (Voting Members):  
 \$ 75 Agency budget <\$100,000  
 \$100 Agency budget \$100,000-\$249,999  
 \$150 Agency budget \$250,000+

**Associate Members** (Businesses, Related Organizations, Districts, Synod subdivisions, or Congregations): \$100 per year

**Individual Members:** \$100 per year

### ALMA Office – NEW ADDRESS!

418 Foxtail Lane  
 Stevensville, MT 59870  
 Cell: 208-660-1818  
 Land: 406-777-9858  
[lorraine@almanetwork.org](mailto:lorraine@almanetwork.org)

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Christian Friends of New Americans

Next door or across town, Christian Friends of New Americans links you with opportunities to connect with immigrants and refugees living in the St. Louis region. CFNA partners with local Lutheran congregations, schools, and individuals, NGOs and various grant-giving foundations to offer a range of programs and services for New Americans, such as new citizen support, skill/job training, health and care support, scholarships, spiritual development, etc. Our intentional focus on linking CFNA with cross-cultural church workers is important to our ongoing work with immigrants and refugees.

CFNA folk dancers will perform during this year's ALMA Banquet!



### Lutheran Church Charities

Lutheran Church Charities was founded in 1947 to help support Christian human care ministries of the Church. LCC works throughout the United States and internationally in bringing the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those suffering and in need.

The LCC Human Care Ministry works with such programs as K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry, Disaster Response/Congregational Preparedness, the Kare-9 Military Ministry, and "Word" Bible Studies and Speakers Bureau, as well as a web-based ministry and church worker support.

