

VISION

IBCLCs are valued recognized members of the health care team

MISSION

To build and sustain a national association that advocates for lactation professionals

We hope that your World Breastfeeding Week activities went well! Thank you for all you do every week to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding.

USLCA is off to an amazing start. We want to thank those of you that visited the USLCA booth at ILCA this year. We had seventy-eight USLCA members volunteer to participate on committees and 160 more people paid their 2006 dues. 200+ attendees completed member surveys. We also are thankful to Amy Spangler, Marsha Walker, Mary Ann Niefert, and Linda Smith who graciously donated prizes for a drawing after attendees had completed the survey. We were so excited to unanimously hear positive feedback about our new national affiliate.

For USLCA to be successful we need and value our members' input. Current committees with the BOD responsible for them are as follows:

Accreditation - Carol Chamblin, RN, APN, IBCLC

The goals of the Accreditation Committee are to review current education programs and explore the possibilities of recognized accreditation within the U.S. educational system for lactation programs.

Advocacy – Liz Flight, RN, IBCLC

The Advocacy Committee will work to promote wider recognition and acceptance of the IBCLC credential in the public arena, among policy makers and within the health care system

Communication - Karen Querna, RN, BSN, IBCLC

The goal of the Communication Committee will be to develop a communication tool for USLCA members. This may include and is not limited to a newsletter, surveys, journal, website, and Internet communication tools. The communication committee will also interface with the other USLCA committees as they develop materials.

Education – Laurie Beck, RN, MSN, IBCLC, Maureen Dann, CPNP, IBCLC

The Education Committee will identify and facilitate access to quality programs for both entry into practice and continuing education for IBCLCs

Licensure - Laurie Beck, RN, MSN, IBCLC, Maureen Dann, CPNP, IBCLC

Presently the committee is in the process of contacting individual states and reviewing what is being done in regards to licensure at the state level. Their primary goal is to obtain licensure for lactation consultants, a first step in making third party reimbursement achievable. The feasibility of putting together a licensure tool kit for IBCLC's to use in their individual states is being evaluated.

Marketing – Judy Harris, MPH, RD, IBCLC, Karen Querna, RN, BSN, IBCLC

The Marketing Committee will work to promote USCLA.

An **Affiliate Task Force** has also been formed to investigate how current ILCA Affiliates in the U.S. will work with USLCA to optimize our goals. Karen Querna, RN, BSN, IBCLC will work with the task force to facilitate that process.

If you were unable to attend the ILCA conference we want your input also! If any of these committees are of interest to you please email us at USLCA@ilca.org and let us know. Your correspondence will be forwarded to the appropriate Board Director.

Best Regards,

Glenda Dickerson, RN, MS, IBCLC
President USLCA