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Celebrating Ten Years of LADders
Rachel Concitis, Columbus, Ohio, USA

LADders magazine is celebrating a milestone this month. This issue, number 40 marks ten years since LADders was first published in 2010. While some LAD representatives might remember the early issues of LADders, many of us do not. To help those of us who have joined the LAD in recent years learn about its history, I asked the original LADders Editorial Review Board members for their memories about the early days of the publication. Marie Beam (USA), Lesley Robinson (Canada), Lori Bryan (USA), and Toshi Jolliffe (Luxembourg) shared their memories of the early formation of LADders with me.

LADders was created to provide LAD representatives the information they needed to do their job—accredit aspiring La Leche League Leaders around the world. In 2010 members of the LAD Council saw the need to create a new LAD magazine and consulted with Karin Gausman, one of the outgoing LLLI LAD Directors (DLAD) at that time. After getting Karin’s support, five members joined the new team and actively contributed to the creation of what you are reading today. Lesley was the Layout Coordinator and reviewer. Marie was a reviewer. Toshi was the Contributing Editor for “LAD Promenade” as well as Article Coordinator. Nina Robertson, Great Britain (GB), was the Contributing Editor for “A Taste of LAD International.” Finally, Eleanor Becker, New Zealand, was the Contributing Editor for “How Would You Respond?” Alison Parkes, the other outgoing DLAD, also reviewed the articles. The idea of creating a new LAD magazine was first shared at the end of January 2010. The original members worked diligently, and the first issue was published in the middle of June. Toshi shares that, “the original LADders members were full of hope, energy, and inspiration. It was a wonderful shared feeling of creating something new together. I hope we shall pass this on to future generations.”

Currently, Karin Ali (USA), Lori Bryan (USA), Helen Lloyd (GB) and Linda Wieser (Canada) are Contributing Editors. Cindy Garrison (USA), Juanita Watt (USA) and Toshi are now reviewers and I serve as the Managing Editor. Every issue of LADders introduces us on the final page.

You’ll notice the masthead for the magazine says, “Its purpose is to help LAD representatives do their jobs with confidence and pleasure by offering a place to share information and experiences.” The magazine is a central vehicle to provide current LAD information, but also to share different ways of approaching situations and solving problems that might arise in your LAD work.

In the beginning the work was mostly done through a collaborative team effort. Slowly it evolved into defined roles and pieces of a puzzle that together made a complete issue. One of the first things to be decided upon was the name. While various names were discussed, LADders was eventually chosen. The name itself is a play on the English word “ladder.” This word play, a form of figurative language, brings to mind the idea of LAD representatives serving as ladders to accreditation, just like you climb a physical ladder to reach a goal. LAD representatives are also, in a sense, “stepping up” to help accredit new Leaders.

Once a name was selected, the first task facing the new team was to survey new Leaders around the world. The objective was to find out what the LAD was doing well in regards to accreditation as well as what could be improved. The results were published in LADders #1. LADders #2 followed up with an article on what the LAD could learn from the survey. The next task was a worldwide survey of LAD representatives, the results of which were published in LADders #5. This allowed the team to prioritize the development of articles and resources.

Members of the LADders team throughout the last decade also shared their favorite memories with me. Lesley Robinson’s favorite memory is the positive feedback the team received following the publication
of LADders #1. She is also proud of the publication of articles in multiple languages, which began in the first issue. This idea has since been adopted by other LLL publications. Lori Bryan, who coordinates the “Taste of LAD International” section, shared that it has been fun getting to know all of the LAD representatives from around the world and in many different languages. Her favorite memories are all of the pictures submitted for publication. Toshi Jolliffe shared that the LAD Council is glad to have LADders because it “serves as the strong ‘glue’ which connects LAD representatives worldwide.”

During the past ten years new members of the team have come on board to help steer the magazine into its second decade of publication, while still remaining true to its roots. New contributing editors, reviewers, and article writers are always welcome to join the team. The LADders team hopes that you have found valuable information contained within its pages that helps you in your LAD work.

I would like to express thanks to the current and former members of the LADders team who shared their stories with me as I wrote this article. It was certainly a pleasure to learn more about the history of this quarterly publication.

Editor’s note: Back issues of LADders are available at:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nvcsv1q0me5uq4b/AAB0O1rv3V_LPExExsz_1GbUa?dl=0
You can also receive a copy from your LAD support person.

Rachel Concitis lives in Columbus, Ohio, in the United States, with her husband Bob, five-year-old Bradley, and five-month-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 fifteenth year teaching, and currently teaches third grade (eight- and nine-year-olds) in Columbus City Schools, the largest urban school district in the 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.
Semi-Annual Report: Compilation  
October 2019  
LAD Council

The information from the previous SAR is indicated in parentheses. “Length of applications” shows the median length in months; subtotals and LLLI total are averages of the medians. “United States” refers to LLL Alliance and LAD West, which supports the LAD in five Area Networks: Garden State, Mosaic, Southern California/Nevada, Texas, US West.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LLL Canada, Ligue La Leche, Great Britain, New Zealand</th>
<th>Leaders</th>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>New Applications</th>
<th>Discontinued Applications</th>
<th>Accreditations</th>
<th>Length of Applications (Months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLL Canada</td>
<td>386 (442)</td>
<td>173 (161)</td>
<td>81 (97)</td>
<td>28 (27)</td>
<td>11 (7)</td>
<td>8 (19)</td>
<td>12.0 (14.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ligue La Leche</td>
<td>78 (71)</td>
<td>20 (20)</td>
<td>12 (15)</td>
<td>1 (1)</td>
<td>1 (4)</td>
<td>1 (1)</td>
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<td>Great Britain</td>
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<td>81 (84)</td>
<td>104 (101)</td>
<td>30 (28)</td>
<td>10 (16)</td>
<td>16 (7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>109 (112)</td>
<td>33 (33)</td>
<td>23 (26)</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
<td>2 (4)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>18.0 (NA)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotals</strong></td>
<td><strong>793 (850)</strong></td>
<td><strong>307 (298)</strong></td>
<td><strong>220 (237)</strong></td>
<td><strong>63 (58)</strong></td>
<td><strong>24 (31)</strong></td>
<td><strong>26 (27)</strong></td>
<td><strong>17.5 (13.2)</strong></td>
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<th>Groups</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>New Applications</th>
<th>Discontinued Applications</th>
<th>Accreditations</th>
<th>Length of Applications (Months)</th>
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<td>Europe</td>
<td>1,211 (1,255)</td>
<td>636 (652)</td>
<td>373 (385)</td>
<td>74 (85)</td>
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<td>153 (149)</td>
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<td>11 (13)</td>
<td>4 (7)</td>
<td>9 (18)</td>
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<td>Latin America</td>
<td>340 (353)</td>
<td>208 (212)</td>
<td>158 (154)</td>
<td>28 (30)</td>
<td>15 (4)</td>
<td>22 (23)</td>
<td>22.0 (18.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotals</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,879 (1,934)</strong></td>
<td><strong>997 (1,013)</strong></td>
<td><strong>594 (590)</strong></td>
<td><strong>113 (128)</strong></td>
<td><strong>49 (61)</strong></td>
<td><strong>65 (92)</strong></td>
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<th>Groups</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
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<th>Discontinued Applications</th>
<th>Accreditations</th>
<th>Length of Applications (Months)</th>
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<tr>
<td>LLL Alliance</td>
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<td>417 (413)</td>
<td>134 (145)</td>
<td>40 (57)</td>
<td>15 (16)</td>
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<td>LAD West</td>
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<td>508 (498)</td>
<td>158 (149)</td>
<td>86 (74)</td>
<td>25 (22)</td>
<td>43 (46)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotals</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,584 (2,659)</strong></td>
<td><strong>925 (911)</strong></td>
<td><strong>292 (294)</strong></td>
<td><strong>126 (131)</strong></td>
<td><strong>40 (38)</strong></td>
<td><strong>71 (76)</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.9 (10.3)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| LLLI Total                                             | 5,256 (5,443) | 2,229 (2,222) | 1,106 (1,121) | 302 (317) | 113 (130) | 162 (195) | 16.9 (13.5) |
Semi-Annual Report  
Oct 2019  
Comparison of Four Reporting Periods  
LAD Council  

Abbreviations used are: Canada English (LLLC), Ligue La Leche (LLLF) Great Britain (GB), New Zealand (NZ), Asia Africa and the Middle East (AAME). "United States" refers to LLL Alliance and LAD West, which supports the LAD in five Area Networks: Garden State, Mosaic, Southern California/Nevada, Texas, US West.  

### Leaders  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Oct 2018</th>
<th>Apr 2019</th>
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<td>LLC, LLLF, GB, NZ</td>
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<td>854</td>
<td>850</td>
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<td>Europe, Latin America, AAME</td>
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<td>1,725</td>
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<td>United States</td>
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<td>2,998</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,807</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,577</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,443</strong></td>
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### Groups  

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<td>316</td>
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<td>307</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe, Latin America, AAME</td>
<td>912</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>1,013</td>
<td>997</td>
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<td>United States</td>
<td>1,085</td>
<td>1,046</td>
<td>911</td>
<td>925</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,314</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,211</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,222</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,229</strong></td>
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### Applicants  

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<th>Oct 2018</th>
<th>Apr 2019</th>
<th>Oct 2019</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLC, LLLF, GB, NZ</td>
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<td>226</td>
<td>237</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe, Latin America, AAME</td>
<td>654</td>
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<td>590</td>
<td>594</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,229</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,102</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,121</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,106</strong></td>
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### New Applications  

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<th>Apr 2019</th>
<th>Oct 2019</th>
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<td>LLC, LLLF, GB, NZ</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe, Latin America, AAME</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>113</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>333</strong></td>
<td><strong>305</strong></td>
<td><strong>317</strong></td>
<td><strong>302</strong></td>
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### Discontinued Applications  

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<th>Oct 2018</th>
<th>Apr 2019</th>
<th>Oct 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe, Latin America, AAME</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>151</strong></td>
<td><strong>130</strong></td>
<td><strong>113</strong></td>
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### Accreditations  

<table>
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<th>Oct 2018</th>
<th>Apr 2019</th>
<th>Oct 2019</th>
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<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe, Latin America, AAME</td>
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<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>205</strong></td>
<td><strong>213</strong></td>
<td><strong>195</strong></td>
<td><strong>162</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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A Letter to the LAD from Zion Tankard, Executive Director of LLLI

Editor’s note: LLLI announced the appointment of Zion Tankard as the new Executive Director of LLLI in September 2019. The LADders Editorial Review Board invited her to introduce herself to LAD representatives around the world. The following is her letter to you.

It was in my first days of working with La Leche League that I began to see the uniqueness of this organization that I am still newly a part of. I was raised to believe that I could accomplish anything. Who would have ever thought that working in women’s advocacy for so many years would allow me to take a local focus into global change! That is one of the most significant things about La Leche League. I am sure the founders would say the same. They started out with a local endeavor that for six decades has changed the course of medical and social perspectives on breastfeeding all over the world. This is also why I remain encouraged by the work of LAD and the Leaders around the world who dedicate their time and attention to caring for the needs of others.

For over seven years I have worked in women’s advocacy to sustain women from some of the most harmful ills of the world like homelessness, hunger, domestic violence, human trafficking and more. It is my desire to bring this same passion to LLL through creating a strong strategic plan, financial sustainability and inclusion into the whole organization. You may only feel like a volunteer at a local establishment, but your work is much more than that! Your work is expanding the views of the next generation. You are helping sustain life for children. You are giving parents the boost that they need when they are almost at the brink of giving up.

I relate to so many of the stories I hear from LLL Groups. As I continue to learn and grow, I want to say thank you and encourage you to keep moving forward. We are better when we work together. With the help of the LLLI Board, LAD and the many entities represented all over the world, together we can bring viable solutions that will make LLL a lasting legacy for another six decades and more.

Zion Tankard

(left to right: Timothy, Perry II, Roman, Zion, Perry III, Dana)
Dear Leah LAD representative,

I just learned that Sally, my supporting Leader, has been accepted to a midwifery program. I am very pleased for her since I know this is her dream. Unfortunately, school and her family will take up most of her time until next summer. It looks like my application work will have to be on hold for a while.

I believe what I have left to complete includes: checklist, breastfeeding resource guide, and preview. I have already sent you my personal history, comments on The Womanly Art of Breastfeeding and childbirth requirement. I am eager to complete my application. What should I do?

Warmly,
Alex Applicant

---

Dear Alex Applicant,

I am glad that you contacted me and chose to share with me your concerns. It sounds like you received a great deal of support from your supporting Leader, and now you are also happy for her being accepted for the studies she so wanted and also afraid of how this will impact your further training.

I want to tell you I'm here for you. Glad to hear about how your application is progressing and the significant steps you have completed. Hence, we will continue together to find the best way
for you to complete the application work. Do you have someone in mind who would be appropriate to be your new supporting Leader? Do you want me to offer you someone whom I think will fit, if available?

I’d love to hear what you think.

Warmly,
Leah LAD representative

Coral Weissbord, Kamon, Israel

Dear Alex,

It’s good to hear from you. How exciting that Sally will be starting a midwifery program this fall. With Sally being busy with school and family, I understand your concerns. However, I’m sure we can figure out a way for you to continue your application work. There is much you can do alone, and I can work with you when Sally is not available. I don’t think you’ll have to put your application on hold.

Here’s what’s left to complete and my suggestions for completing each item. Let me know what you think of this plan. I copied Sally so she knows what I am suggesting.

1. **Checklist of Topics to Discuss in Preparation for LLL Leadership** - This is what you are working on with Sally as you discuss each chapter of the *Leader’s Handbook*. I suggest that you continue reading the *Leader’s Handbook* and make notes of any questions you may have. Then when you cover the topics on the *Checklist*, it will be a review. When you finish reading the *Leader’s Handbook*, send me your comments about it: what you found helpful and how you see yourself using it as a Leader. Reading the *Handbook* and completing the *Checklist* are two separate requirements although they complement each other.

2. **Breastfeeding Resources Guide** (BRG) - This you can do on your own, so you may want to start working on it. Again, I’d suggest that you make notes if you have questions about anything. Send your questions to me.

3. Many Applicants find it helpful to practice the following optional exercises:

   - Listening Exercise
   - Bias Exercise
   - Mixing Causes Exercise
4. **Preview of Helping Questions and Group Management.** This needs to be done with a Leader. I can do this with you if Sally is not available.

There are several things you can do on your own. I suggest you start there. If all those are completed and Sally is still not available to meet with you, then I will complete the other requirements with you—*Checklist* and *Preview*. We can do them via Skype or FaceTime video calls.

Would this plan work for you?

Warmly,
Leah

Linda Wieser, Nova Scotia, Canada

* English translation follows.

**Querida Alex,**

Muchas gracias por tener tantas ganas de ser Monitora de la Leche League! Estoy muy contenta de que tengas tantas ganas de ser monitorea de la Liga de la Leche. Parece que Sally tendrá dificultades para seguir con tu formación como madrina (supporting leader). Habéis hablado de cómo puedes seguir en tu formación durante el tiempo en que esté más ausente? Quizá podríais hablar si hay alguna otra monitorea que pudiera ayudaros durante este proceso, para completar toda tu formación. Estoy convencida de que podrás tener ayuda para completarlo. De todas formas, ten en cuenta que ser monitorea de la Liga de la Leche es una tarea a largo plazo, en la que las prisas no son buenas consejeras, y que mientras estés como aspirante también puedes trabajar dando apoyo al grupo.

Si necesitas mi apoyo para hablar con Sally cuenta con ello.

Saludos,
Leah

**Dear Alex,**

Thank you very much for a strong desire to be a La Leche League Leader! I am very happy that you are eager to be accredited. It seems that Sally will have difficulties to continue working with you as a supporting Leader. Have you talked about how you can continue your application work during the time when Sally is unable to meet with you? Maybe you could ask if there are any other Leaders who could help you to complete all remaining tasks. I am
convinced that you can find help to finish the application. In any case, keep in mind that becoming an LLL Leader is a long-term task, in which speed is not necessarily helpful, and that while you are an Applicant, you can also work on supporting the Group.

If you need my support to talk to Sally, count on it.

Regards,
Leah

Eva Donat
Barcelona, Spain

---

Dear Alex Applicant,

Thank you for your most recent email. It must have been disheartening to imagine not being able to compete your application at this time? It certainly is great for your supporting Leader, Sally, to have been accepted to a midwifery program—what a great asset she will be to the mothers she will be interacting with once she completes her training.

I am delighted to hear of your eagerness to complete your application. So, now to look for a solution for your dilemma. Do you have another Leader in your LLL Group who would be willing to support you, so you could continue with her instead of Sally? Do you have an LLL Group nearby that you can attend?

One suggestion may be as follows: As you have completed significant portions of the LARK already, you can complete the rest on your own or with me. You could complete the remaining parts for the Checklist by reading the Leader’s Handbook. As you finish reviewing sections of the Checklist, we could discuss them via email. The Breastfeeding Resource Guide (BRG) is a self-study exercise that you can do on your own or I could email you a selection of questions from “Study Questions” for you to consider and email me responses. When the time comes for the Preview, we could look at possible Skype sessions between us or another willing Leader, or Sally may be able to assist you for that.

Let me know your thoughts about these suggestions.
Thank you for voicing your concerns to me and thank you for all the work you have completed thus far on your journey to accreditation. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

LLLLove,
Leah

Sue Sutton
Bombay, New Zealand

Dear Alex,

How exciting for Sally! I can understand how her good fortune might be causing mixed feelings for you. The beginning of her journey may lead to slowing of yours, and that's disappointing. You do have options, however, and I'm sure we can work together to find a way for your application to progress. Have you spoken with Sally about what her new schedule might look like? It's possible that she may have an hour or so each week or two to work with you. Many Leader Applicants and their supporting Leaders can finish the Checklist in a few hours. If getting together in person is difficult, you might ask Sally if she can have a few phone conversations with you.

While I know you have a good relationship with Sally and would prefer to work with her, we may be able to find another Leader to work with you if it turns out that Sally doesn’t have time to meet with you. There are some Leaders in your Area who I know enjoy working with Leader Applicants and currently have Leader Applicants in the Groups where they lead. I imagine they would be happy to have you join them, either in person or electronically, when they meet. Do you think that’s something you might be comfortable with? I would be happy to reach out and ask if you would like.

In the meantime, you can be working on the Breastfeeding Resource Guide (BRG) on your own. That part of the application can be completed without the guidance of a Leader. If you find you have questions as you complete that part of the application, and Sally is not available to answer them, I will be happy to help!

We can worry about the Preview when we reach that part of the application. Many supporting Leaders find that to be an especially fun part of the application, and Sally might make a special effort to fit that into her schedule, even if she’s too busy to help you much before then. But even if she’s not, we should be able to find a Leader to complete that part with you too.
I understand your concern but am confident that we can find a solution and finish your application. It’s wonderful that you’re so eager to finish; there's no reason we shouldn’t be able to make that happen!

WarmLLLly,
Leah

Cynthia Massey, New York, USA

Dear Carlotta CLA,

I am working with an isolated Applicant whose first language is not English. She is not comfortable writing her personal history in English and there is no LAD representative who speaks or writes her native language. I have agreed to let her respond orally. We will be meeting next week via Skype.

I know I need to document our conversation. I am wondering how much to include. Do I write everything she and I say? Do I dialogue with her and ask questions?

I’d appreciate some guidance from you.

WarmLLLly,
Ariana ACLA

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.
Sarah Hudson, CLA LLL New Zealand

Kia Ora! My name is Sarah and I am from Hamilton, New Zealand. I have been a La Leche League Leader since 2013 and recently became an IBCLC. I am a new CLA and am currently working with my second Leader Applicant. I have a passion for supporting new parents with their parenting and feeding goals.

I am a single mother to a nearly 13-year-old daughter who was diagnosed with autism in 2017. The parenting skills I observed and learned through La Leche League have definitely helped me through the journey to getting her diagnosed.

Outside of supporting parents, I have been enjoying seeing my fitness increase as I resumed tap dancing at the end of 2018 which I used to do as a child. I am also studying part-time at University, doing a BA in psychology, aiming to further my knowledge in mental health so that I can further support new parents.

Sarah and her daughter Charlotte
Cynthia Massey, ALA LLL Alliance

My first experience with La Leche League occurred in the locker room of the local YMCA, a local community center that has a recreation area for members to use. Swimming with my 14-month-old son and six months pregnant, I attracted the attention of two other mothers, both LLL Leaders. We chatted and they invited me to a meeting. Living in a town where "even the horses bottle-fed their babies" I was thrilled to find mothers who parented as I did and a lifelong love affair with LLL was launched!

I became a Leader 28 years ago after the birth of my third child. I've led meetings in two states and have been leading meetings alone for the past few years. Now my husband is the one that acts as my sounding board after a particularly difficult call. Maybe he misses my co-Leaders as much as I do! I joined the LAD about six years ago and have been RALA for the Northeast Region of LLL Alliance for the past two and a half years. I'm excited to now hold the position of ALA. I love working with the wonderful women who want to carry on the work of helping families breastfeed and look forward to supporting the administrators and other LAD representatives who also do this important work.

My husband John and I raised five children. Our only daughter, and middle child, Becca was married to Alex this past September. Her older brothers Steven (with wife Shivani) and Alex (with wife Liz) have given us the gift of grandchildren. Jay and Katie bring us more joy than we ever thought possible! Katie will be a big sister in April. Youngest brother David will graduate from college in May, leaving us a truly empty nest. Ben rounds out the family. We're always thrilled to include the current significant others of our younger boys in family events. We'll let them grow a bit before they settle down!

When I'm not helping parents breastfeed, or supporting others who do so, I love to read, knit, and do lots exercise with Zumba, although watching Jay two days a week has cut into my time for those pursuits. Not that I'm complaining!

From left to right:
David, Kate, Jay, Steven, Shivani, John, Cynthia, Becca, Alex, Liz, Katie, Alex, Stacy, Ben at Becca and Alex's wedding in September.
Congratulations on your appointment!

Victoria Brown, ACLA, North Carolina, LLL Alliance

Brittany Casey, RALA, LLL Alliance

Louise Frings, CLA, LLL Great Britain

Holly Lathbury-Wilson, CLA, LLL Great Britain

Katie Lewis, ACLA, New York, LLL Alliance

Sara Segall, RALA, LLL Alliance

Cori Werner, CLA, New York, LLL Alliance
Imagine you're hosting a party for LAD representatives from all over the world! Send a photo of an item of food or drink that you would prepare.

I'm in my kitchen with a Rhubarb Cranberry Crisp. It's one of my favourite desserts. I would love to share it with LAD colleagues because it's so tasty and uses two local fruits: rhubarb which I grow and cranberries which I pick from nearby cranberry bogs.

Linda Wieser, CLA, Atlantic Canada, LLL Canada
Nova Scotia, Canada
I would serve fruit muffins because my 11-year-old loves making them and always does a fabulous job. They are (sort of) healthy and yummy and really easy to adapt to almost all dietary needs. These ones are vegan banana, coconut and dried fruit.

Clare Davidson, ALA, LLL Great Britain
If I was hosting a party for LAD representatives from all over the world I would definitely make this dish- it's a form of garlic bread and it also very delicious with other herbs and also in its sweet version.

This dish is special to me since I love baking. I have never considered myself a good baker but then when I married my husband I took his surname which means "white bread" in German, so then I thought to myself, I should try to honour our family lore, and started to experiment. This is an easy dish for me to make and always looks and smells good, I love to involve my children in the baking process and this is a nice dish for small hands to make and eat. I would like to share it with my LAD colleagues and make it with an olive oil made from olive trees that grows near my home in Galilee, Israel.
Coral Weissbrod CLA, LLL Israel
Almal maak gewone triffle rondom Kersfees, ek het n geheim...I haat jellie...soos in *verpes*! So, een jaar toe wonder ek...hoekom moet en ingee en almal volg? So toe verander ek dit... myne is miskien meer 'n "verrassing" nagereg, maar die basis is dieselfde... rolkoek/sponskoek (sonder sjerrie), vla en dan raak dinge interessant... sit 'n paar flake sjokolades in, gekapte pecan en vrygewige hompe caramel en jy het 'n sukses op hande! Ek herhaal die lae en eindig met room bo-op met seisoenale vrugte.

You get your normal trifle at Christmas time, that *everyone loves and makes*... my secret confession...I hate jelly...as in really detest! So, one year I thought...why should I conform? So I changed it... mine is perhaps more a "surprise" pudding, but the basis is the same... sponge cake (without cherries), custard and then things get interesting... add some flake, chopped pecan nuts and generous dollops of caramel and you have a sure thing for success! This I do in layers and top it off with cream and some seasonal fruit.

Gerrie McKaig
Associate Coordinator of Leader Accreditation, LLL South Africa
Soup. Either cream of pumpkin or cream of zucchini, both are dairy free the way I make them. If I were hosting this gathering now and it is cold, I would definitely offer these foods up. If it were summer I would reconsider the soup. I would bring these food items because I have grown them in my garden and I have ample amounts of them to share. Plus, they are my favourite food items presently. Furthermore, for anyone who is breastfeeding and postpartum, they are very warming and nourishing foods. Soup is particularly beneficial in the immediate postpartum period and the pumpkin soup has several warming spices as well. It just so happens that you have convinced me of what to make for supper today so I took photos. Thanks for the dinner inspiration!

Colleen Stadlwieser, CLA, LLL Alberta, Canada

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Recently Updated LAD Resources

The LADders document *LLL Philosophy Notebook: Sample Explanations to Applicants*, also known as *Appendix 1*, was recently revised and updated to reflect the changes in concept statement wording. Please make sure you have the most up-to-date document in your files to use when corresponding with Applicants. It has a copyright date of February 2020. If you have not yet received this updated document please contact your LAD support person.
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