

ILDA General Business Meeting

26 September 2024, Double Tree by Hilton Wrocław City Centre, Wrocław, Poland

Nominal start time: 10:00 am local

**Welcome & opening of meeting**

Members viewing via Zoom were told that this is a “read only” trial experiment. The viewers could watch but not talk or otherwise interact at the meeting. (During the Zoom there were approximately 7 people maximum at any one time, dwindling to one person by the end of the meeting 3 ½ hours later.)

Members in the room introduced themselves. Companies listed are the ones under which they registered for the Conference.

Patrick Murphy, ILDA Executive Director

Brian Gonzalez, ILDA President, Xtaega

Theo Petrides, ILDA Board member, Individual Member

Horacio Pugliese, ILDA Board member, LaserNet

Roberta McHatton, ILDA Board member, ER Productions

Dr. Alexander Timofeev, Orion-Art Multimedia

Ward Davis, Audio Visual Imagineering

Joanne Young, Audio Visual Imagineering

Greg Makhov, LSDI

Bill Hardiman, Wave Lasers LLC

Tim Walsh, Laser Spectacles

Johan Lindell, Laserimage AB

Thomas Avisse, Lightdiction

Pieterjan (Peter) Ruysch, Laserimage AB

Nicolas Squire, LaserTech Canada

Derek Garbos, LaserTech Canada

Colin Whitmore, Bitches N Lasers

Kimarius Abrahamsen, Diode AS

Jan Martin Vågen, Diode AS

Anders Edström, Laserimage AB

Newlin Parker, Individual Member

Dirk Apitz, Beamwalk / DexLogic

Helmut Gruber, VisuTek e.U.

Markus Voggenberger, VisuTek e.U.

Derek Mackey, Audio Visual Imagineering

Mikael Israelson, Stockholm Lasers – Tecnica Humana

Peter Benkovic, KVANT

Steve McHatton, ER Productions

Mateusz Wyszynski, Copernicus Science Centre

Boleslaw Wolski, Copernicus Science Centre

Arnaud DeWolf, Expanded Scenography

Maciej Lukaszewski, Visual Sensation Laser Shows & Technologies

Jaroslaw Nadolny, Visual Sensation Laser Shows & Technologies

Dr. Matthias Frank, Institute of Computer Science 4, University of Bonn

Nisha Ramnath, Individual Member

**Recognition of Host:** Visual Sensation Laser Shows & Technologies (Jaroslaw Nadolny & team)

**Recognition of Assisting Companies:** LaserTech Canada (Derek Garbos), Laser Production Network (LaserNet), DexLogic (Dirk Apitz), University of Bonn (Matthias Frank)

**Recognition of Safety Software Sponsor:** Laser Safety Services (Roberta McHatton)

**Recognition of ILDA Accredited Professional Members attending:** LaserNet, Laser Spectacles Inc.

**Recognition of past CAA recipients attending:** Patrick Murphy 2004, Greg Makhov 2009, Timothy Walsh 2014, Dr. Alexander Timofeyev 2016, Alex Hennig 2017, Roberta McHatton 2023

**Announcement of 2024 CAA recipient :** Ward Davis, Audio Visual Imagineering. Remarks by Ward.

**Reading of the ILDA Purpose and Code of Ethics**

**Election of Board of Directors** and **Election of President**

The following text was read at the meeting in order to make the elections official. This text had previously been sent to all Members via email on September 19, 2024.

**Board election:** For 2024-2025, there were three Board seats up for election: Theo Petrides, Horacio Pugliese, and Christopher Short.

Theo chose to step down after two terms of service. Horacio and Christopher chose to run for a Board seat again.

There were two new persons nominated. Bradford Kellogg accepted nomination, the other person chose not to run due to other commitments.

That left three candidates to fill the three Board seats, meaning no election was needed to be held.

**Presidential election:**The President is elected from the Board. Once the five Board members were known (e.g., the Board election was over), each Board member was asked if they wanted to be President.

In some past years there have been two or more Presidential candidates and an election is held.

However, this year only one Board member, Brian Gonzalez, chose to serve as President. As a result, no Presidential election was needed.

**Appointment or Election of Secretary**

Request for Secretary candidates. No one nominated a candidate. The Board members in attendance in the room therefore voted unanimously to reappoint David Kumpula for the 2024-2025 term.

**ILDA status report, Patrick Murphy**

**Membership numbers:** 218 members as of September 25. Compare with 221 last year (all 12 months). This is essentially unchanged. Membership by levels: Corporate Level 1, 11; Corporate Level 2, 20; Corporate Level 3, 91; Nonprofit, 10; Individual, 62; Hobbyist, 17; Student, 7.

**Membership by country:** A pie chart of ILDA Member Countries as of September 25 was presented. Top ten countries by percent: U.S., 57.3%; Germany, 5.5%; Canada and United Kingdom, both at 4.6%; Australia, 3.7%; Italy 2.3%; China, France, Japan and New Zealand, all at 1.8%.

**Cash on hand:** $37,106 in ILDA bank account Sept. 25 2024. Compare with $58,535 in ILDA bank account Sept. 18 2023, $31,896 Nov. 5 2022, $3,097 Nov. 2021, $10,918 Nov. 2020, $16,542 Nov. 2019, $10,685 Nov. 2018. The reason for nearly $20,000 more in 2023 is because in 2023 we received a $20,000 grant from the Crystal Coast tourism authority for holding our Conference in Atlantic Beach, NC.

**Income, Oct. 2023 – Sept. 2024:** $119,584. Broken down as follows: Membership dues, $51,974; Events (including laser safety classes and the Poland Conference), $60,348; Online store (primarily Award duplicates), $2,450; Donations, $1,988; Other, $2,198; Unsettled, $625.

**Major expenses, Oct. 2023 – Sept. 2024:** Conference costs including awards manufacture and shipping, $46,983; Executive Director salary paid, $25,474; payroll taxes withheld, $12,202; payroll service (Paychex), $1,862; Skyzan rights to distribute to Members, $1,600 (paid for by a donation from Roberta McHatton, Laser Safety Services).

**Conference income:** $26,186 from registrations, dinners, and laser safety classes. Conference expenses: $46,983. Both of these are preliminary estimates. Patrick and Christine will be refining this later, in order to analyze the profit/loss statement and to prevent excess expenses in future conferences.

**Summary:** “ILDA’s membership is holding steady, at historic highs. ILDA’s finances are in good shape, with $37,106 in ILDA’s bank account. However, we should reduce costs for future Conferences.”

**BREAK**

**Committee reports**

The name of either the committee chair, or the Board member supervising the committee, is listed.

**Safety Committee, Greg Makhov:** We keep seeing shows on YouTube and elsewhere that are clearly unsafe. International Laser Safety Conference is March 2025 in Orlando. A good conference for interested ILDA Members to attend. ILDA has worked out masking requirements for the draft ASC Z136.10 standard on laser display safety. Both software and hardware masks will be allowed. In the Sept. 27 Safety Seminar, Greg will present information that may significantly reduce actual visual interference hazard distances. If standards bodies can agree with this information, this may make it easier for outdoor laser shows to gain approval from aviation authorities.

**Additional safety/regulatory information:** Roberta McHatton and Patrick Murphy have been working in the SAE G10 laser safety committee, both on specific lasershow-related issues and in general to show ILDA’s support of safe outdoor laser usage. Roberta noted that through participation in G10 she recommended to FAA that they not review terminated outdoor shows; FAA did adopt this policy. Roberta also noted that Australia has dropped requirements for laser shows to give notice to aviation authorities for outdoor shows.

**Ethics Committee, Roberta McHatton:** There was only one potential Ethics Complaint this year. The company was able to resolve the issue without having to file a Complaint. “I think that says a lot about how well we’re doing ethically amongst each other.”

**Technical Committee, Dirk Apitz:**

- More products use IDN and more suport has been given to implementers  
- Monthly IDN meeting still successful  
- IDN ecosystem is slowly evolving  
- Would like to see more software demos at the ILDA conference  
- OpenIDN evolving with bridging into network, USB and SPI DACs  
- Raspberry DMA driver not successful because of unfortunate SPI/DMA interaction  
- Many basic tools available now, so plan to prioritize standards for next year

**Awards Committee, Richard Gonsalves:** [from an email by Richard, read by Patrick Murphy at the Business Meeting]:

\*1 - We had 112 awards entries this year.  This is down from 125 last year

- I am proud to say that the awards categories have not changed in any way in the past 7 years since taking chair. I believe this makes it easier for entrants to navigate what category their entry belongs in when entering and shows them that the category is stable.

- This also makes it easy for members to keep in mind, while doing a show, that they could enter it into a specific (institutional) category.

\*2 - We had a small hiccup in the photo category this year, but following established procedure, it was solved before anything was affected. Procedure should always be followed. 😊

\*3 - I stand in as awards coordinator when it comes time for judges to do their viewing of the entries. I try to be as neutral as possible, not getting too familiar with the entry pieces before hand.

- Patrick has an overwhelming job sorting through entries for compliance to our rules and regular safety rules.

- This year we implemented a second pass through. After Patrick did his overview, I did a “second pass” in viewing that the entries where in compliance.

- I feel this is a good step, but more time is needed for this - especially this year when the conference was pushed up from it’s normal November time slot.

- We plan to implement this as a permanent thing with more time for a 2nd review going forward.

\*4 - There was some feedback from a new Judge this year about some category changes and/or additions, particularly with laser mapping.

- The Awards com has discussed and voted on this before, but it keeps coming up. Should we have a laser mapping category?

- As stated earlier, I am proud to have had the categories unchanged, but this one topic is on my mind every year I see a laser mapping entry end up in different categories (not a consistent category).

- Maybe this would be something for the membership to decide?

\*5 - The last bit for this report has to do with the CAA category. The way this category has been handled in the past needs to be revamped/revised.

- We have had nominations with no background information attached on the nominee.

- We have had nominations with extraordinary (indulgent) background information attached.

- I plan to take up the revamp of this category with the Awards Com this coming year. Something that is a hybrid of how the original CAA’s were handled (ie. a CAA voting committee) and how it is handled now (membership vote).

- Roughly, I would like to see a CAA committee (possibly the Awards committee members) that would go over each CAA nominee and do a background research on each. Once the CAA Com has voted a nominee in - the nominee then goes onto a list of CAA candidates. These candidates then get voted on by the general membership (as they are now).

Thank you for your time.

I am sorry I could not be there this year.

In addition, Patrick Murphy described the photo book “The First 35 Years of Photographic Awards, 1988-2023” which was researched, written, designed, produced and paid for by Richard Gonsalves. Richard shipped free copies to Poland which will be given out to all Award winners, with leftover copies for those interested. The audience applauded to thank Richard for his efforts on the book.

**Professional Projector Committee, Horacio Pugliese:** A new draft has been prepared for the Professional Projector standard. It will be presented later the same day (after the Business Meeting). Necessary to improve safety, interoperability of projectors. Any manufacturer can participate in this effort, which is still in draft.

**Regulatory Committee, Brian Gonzalez:** Texas has draft standards which is in an open-for-comment period. Take a look and comment on it. Illinois passed a law requiring a third party Laser Safety Officer at all times that laser shows emit light. The law is not being enforced yet (as far as we know) since IEMA is still formulating regulatory details. Also, venues will be required to hire the third-party LSOs according to Roberta. In New York, Roberta has an LSO course that, since Feb. 2024, qualifies as one of the requirements for a person to get a Code Rule 50 license to operate a laser show. Brian reported that FDA is updating the Electronic Submissions Gateway, a portal which allows submission of documents directly to FDA.

**Conference Committee, Christine Jenkin:** She could not attend so Patrick Murphy gave a brief report based on information she provided to him earlier. For 2024 our Conference of course is in Poland. Other than the costs, the conference planning and execution seems to be going well. For 2025 we had considered a facility in Delaware. However, a hotel that is supposed to be built next to it is likely not to be finished in time for a 2025 Conference. So we have reached out to another interested north american Member and moved them up from 2027 to 2025.

**2025 Conference in Huntsville, Alabama**

Joanne Young of AVI presented a proposal from Alex Hall, Rocket City Lasers, for the 2025 ILDA Conference to take place in Huntsville, Alabama. The presentation discussed tourism and travel features of Huntsville (including many breweries), as well as the location proposed for the ILDA business meeting, and for the Lase-Off and Awards. Due to Alex’s lack of many large lasers, it would be necessary to have a laser sponsor volunteer to provide lasers. While Alex is the main host, AVI would provide substantial assistance – especially because they have hosted ILDA twice in the past.

Brian had Patrick list additional inactive committees such as History and Marketing. He asked for volunteers to work on these, especially Marketing. Patrick put onscreen his “ILDA History” directory of files with historical material. He said it could be available to persons interested in organizing it, interviewing persons, etc. Brian noted that if a person was interested in a topic or area that does not yet have a committee, they can come to the Board and ask to form it.

**Changes/updates to this Conference**

Thursday 26 Sept., 4:00 pm: The new topic for the e-stop discussion is the **draft ILDA Professional Projector Standard**. Horacio Pugliese will present the draft and the main ideas behind the standard. The room is in Meeting Room 2, floor 0.

Friday 27 Sept., 2:00 pm: The Business & Marketing Seminar will include **a discussion about insurance issues**. This is a continuation of any discussion today during this Business Meeting.

Friday 27 Sept., 4:00 pm: Patrick gauged interest in the **Cat A Laser Show Standard discussion and training**. There appeared to be low interest, so this seminar was dropped so Patrick could attend the Awards rehearsal at the same time.

Saturday 28 Sept., 11 am: There is still one more seat on the **Cultural Day electric bus tour**. Cost is USD $39.

Saturday 28 Sept., 2:30 pm: We are monitoring the **Cultural Day gondola cruise tour**. If river conditions permit, this cruise will take place. Five people have registered; there are six seats left. Cost is USD $45. [This was cancelled by the operator. Refunds will be issued.]

**Old Business**

Question from Brian: “How many people in this room would be interested in adding a Laser Mapping category to the ILDA Awards?” Almost all hands went up. Brian has a photo of the hands. Note that this was not an official motion or vote. This was more of a poll to help the Awards Committee.

**New Business from the Board**

Motion by Brian: “Vote whether to adopt the Category A Laser Show Standard as an official ILDA standard.” (No second.) Almost all hands went up. Brian has a photo of these hands as well. He stated it was a clear majority.

Horacio presented a request to improve submission of laser shows for the Awards, so we can see more live shows. Shows should be sent in advance, and should be trimmed to the relatively short time we have to present each show.

**New Business from the floor**

**Tim Walsh: Problems when searching the ILDA database for Members in a state.** The database has the states listed in various ways (“Texas”, “TX”, “Tex.”) according to what the Member entered when they signed up. A search for “Texas” will not return “TX” entries, and vice versa. Tim says “I talked to Patrick and I talked to Brian and all I get is excuses why this happens. And I think we’re in the 21st century and a lot of us are depending on search results to get your gigs.” Tim wanted to move that the Board look into this more closely “to get this stuff to work because this is a professional organization and we’re missing some opportunities to get some work.” Roberta seconded. No vote was taken because Brian said the Board would take this up. Patrick noted that some parts are possible but others have to be looked into.

[Note for the minutes: Later that day, Patrick worked on it but there was one intractable problem with the third-party database vendor. On October 3, Patrick contacted the vendor and was able to create a workaround. There are two web pages to find Members. One is to find Members in the U.S. and one is to find Members outside the U.S. The former has a scrollable list of states so to find “Texas” just scroll down and all Texas Members will come up. The latter has a scrollable list of countries that works in a similar way.]

**Dirk Aptiz made a motion: “That we are actually using ILDA standards at the ILDA Conference.”** Brian question: “Do you mean ‘using’ or ‘restricting’?” Dirk answered that “We are not using ILDA standards this year.” More discussion by Dirk, Horacio (as it relates to the Professional Projector standard draft). Nisha suggests that this be put into the responsibility of the Conference Committee – who is responsible for making that happen [e.g., Dirk’s motion]: Is it the Technical Committee? Is it the Conference Committee? Is it the host? Is it the Board? Is it Patrick?” Brian says it is the production crew implementing the show. Greg says it should be the Conference Committee telling the laser vendor/provider what we require. But then “we’re always at the mercy of what’s actually available.” Tim summarizes his view: “The show is more important than the standard.” Brian says it is, or could be, part of the technical rider for the host/laser provider. Horacio discusses various factors including the Professional Projector standard draft. Brian asks for a second. Nisha seconds the motion. Some additional discussion including Pieterjan saying ILDA should encourage, but not enforce, a move to standards. Brian calls for a vote. He also asks Dirk to restate the motion. Brian says based on the restatement the motion is to enforce (“require’) standards. Brian says based on the show of hands the motion does not pass. “We can table it, we can continue to discuss it, but at the moment, the majority of the people in the room are confused.” Brian makes a motion to table the discussion, there are a number of seconds, he calls for a show of hands, the motion passes.

**Additional new business: Theo Dari asks what can be done to make IDN happen.** He brings up a number of points including software that can no longer export ILDA frames. Brian says Theo’s issues need to be worked out between the implementers and inventors. He says this corresponds to his point of tabling the discussion. Patrick points out there is a monthly IDN Zoom meeting that anyone, not just ILDA Members, can attend. Theo has additional points/questions. Brian says the IDN session is the place for those.

**Additional new business: Tim would like a listserv or similar where Members can discuss among themselves.** He says Patrick can send to everyone, but there is no discussion. Brian says one reason for the one-way communication is to prevent spam being sent to Members. Another reason is so the ilda.com domain does not get blacklisted due to spam messages being sent through it. Tim asks about a forum for the membership. Patrick says we actually do have forums, plus there is The Laserist on Facebook and similar on Discord. Patrick supports a listserv if the problems can be worked out: “But it’s a tricky implementation technically.” Nisha says there is an ILDA Facebook page. Roberta says we’re going to be working on that.

Brian has two short announcements:

1. ILDA is working on developing a Category B standard for audience scanning – Will be discussed more during the Friday Safety Seminar
2. There will be an insurance discussion led by Brian Gonzalez during the Friday Business & Marketing Seminar

**Adjourn**

Brian moves to adjourn, Nisha seconds, vote by hands passes at approximately 1:40 pm.