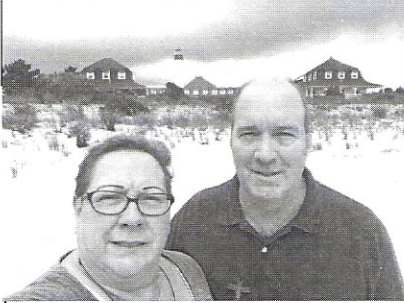


Board Profile—Brian Van Thyne, Treasurer ICDA-US



Denise and Brian at Cursillo #65 at Cape May, NJ

After the ICDA-US conference in St. Louis last July, I became the new ICDA-US Treasurer. I have made new improvements within this role including president's appeal,

membership form, PayPal and financial procedure.

I was born deaf and have one sister and two brothers. My father and grandparents were very strong in their Catholic faith. I grew up in Oak Lawn and attended Catholic deaf mainstream schools in Chicago and Evergreen Park. I spent a lot of time involved with Boy Scouts and went to Boy Scout camp every summer in Michigan. My parents worried about where I would go to high school and college. My good friend Bill's mother told them about St. Johns, a school for the deaf and also a college for the deaf their son Bob was attending, Gallaudet College. Bill and I began our attendance at St. John's School of the Deaf in Milwaukee in the fall of 1970 and graduated in 1976. I took typing class and business courses under Arvilla Rank. I am surprised that Ms Rank is still actively involved with ICDA after so many years. After graduation in 1976, I went to NTID in Rochester, NY majoring in Data Processing and taking minor in accounting classes. Before receiving an AAS degree in the spring of 1979, I had cross registration at Rochester Institute of Technology and took a few computer classes in the spring quarter with a sign language interpreter. After a good experience with the hearing class and teacher, I decided to pursue my bachelor's degree. I earned a bachelor of Computer Systems (now Management Information Systems). I met my wife at NTID and we will look forward to attending the NTID 50th Anniversary Reunion this coming June.

I started as a computer programmer with Container Corp of America in downtown Chicago. I worked there for almost 5 years and was laid off due to a spinoff unit from Mobil Corporation.

Then I worked with AT&T Bell labs where about 25 deaf people also worked in Naperville. After this I was employed by NFSD, then worked for AW Mendenhall Co. My next job was working for Sherman Hospital as Senior System Analyst. I was laid off from Sherman Hospital due to financial crisis in 2008. It was hard to find an IT job after working more than 25 years in IT field. I am currently working for Panduit Corp in Tinley Park as Sr. Engineering Tech Support. I am doing the Fiber Product Line support and part setup between Engineering and Production, and also working with global support, tech support and the engineering team in China, Romania and Costa Rica for production. Thanks to the wonderful technology, I am able to communicate with them via IM and have conference calls through Video Phone.

My wife, Denise, and I have been married for almost 36 years and for many years we were busy with traveling for sports. Our three proud and married children along with our grandchildren are: daughter, Lisa and her husband, Ben, with two daughters: Olivia (4) and Ava (2); son, Army Captain Matthew and his wife, Meghan, expecting their first baby in August; son, Andrew and his wife, Leigh, with daughter, Melanie (3) and our first Van Thyne baby boy, William, just born on March 8th. We look forward to having five grandchildren. My mom, 91, will have 8 great granddaughters and now her first great grandson.

I recall at St. John School when most of our deaf teachers were members of Milwaukee Chapter # 7 and they always had lunch gathering after mass and meetings. My wife and I started attending the masses every week after my wife had breast cancer. She has strong faith and is now breast cancer free for more than 10 years. We are blessed to have the interpreted and signed masses in DuPage County and the Chicago area. We started attending retreats & bible study and enjoyed learning more about God and prayer. I didn't know anything about the functions of ICDA. Later, I started to become involved with the local ICDA chapters and my

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wife urged me to get involved with ICDA-US Midwest as Treasurer when our CCE Chapter 10 hosted our 40th Biennial ICDA-US Midwest Conference in 2016. Since 2011, I have been co-Chairperson of Midwest Deaf Golfers Association Tournament. Our Illinois Deaf Golfers Association hosted at Eagle Resort in Galen near Iowa. I have also been a trustee with several organizations and treasurer of Greater Lakes Deaf Bowling Tournament host last year. Thanks to Patti Slisz and other members for teaching me about the ICDA-US.

Rev. Joseph Bruce from Boston gave a wonderful presentation at ICDA-US Midwest conference in 2016 and talked about the history of ICDA-US and Regional conferences with many old pictures and Deaf Catholic magazines. What an impressive history with ICDA-US! Last summer, my wife was sent to St. Louis as a delegate for CCE Chapter and they asked me if I would be interested in serving as ICDA-US Treasurer due to vacant position. I decided to accept as Treasurer of ICDA-US and now enjoy working with the board of directors and officers. Thanks to ICDA-US President, Jean Cox for

working together with me during my new treasurer transition and Paul Blicharz for being devoted to the Mission Fund. My wife, Denise went to the ICDA conferences in Chicago, Washington DC and St. Louis. I haven't been able to attend the ICDA conferences due to work and limited vacation days. I will look forward to ICDA conference in 2019 and meeting people at the ICDA-US and Regional conferences. My wife and I had a wonderful trip to Cursillo Retreat at St. Mary by the Sea resort in Cape May, NJ in the fall of 2016 and we learned a lot about the prayers, lectures and group discussions. We enjoyed staying there but there was a lot of rain over the weekend. What a good experience and meeting wonderful people from all over the United States!

Please be encouraged to get involved with an ICDA Chapter to grow good connections with the parishes. We wish to recruit anyone interested, including young people and those of all ages. God bless you all and our thoughts and prayers are with the ICDA members and their families, Pastoral workers, Priests, Deacons, and Sisters.

Brian Van Thyne



Denise and Brian with three of their granddaughters.



Denise and Brian with their children.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia