



2023 LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Letter of Welcome

Dysphonia International Leaders, welcome to our **2023 Dysphonia International Leadership Workshop!** Since 2005, we have hosted an annual leadership program. You are here because of your commitment to our mission, and we thank you for your service. At the core of the Dysphonia International community are our amazing support network volunteer leaders who drive and shape our organization. From our Board of Directors to our Regional Coordinators, our local Support Group Leaders, and our Area Contact Leaders, we are all moving in the same direction. With our expanded mission to include related voice conditions and our transition to Dysphonia International, we have the potential to impact more people in more places around the world.

This is our 19th annual leadership program. This is no minor feat when you consider that we are a small non-profit, patient-driven organization. The fact that we continue to invite our leaders to participate in these events points to the high value that Dysphonia International places on our support network leaders. We encourage you to connect on Dysphonia International Zoom calls. If a day, time, or topic works for you, register and join the meeting.

Like all previous leadership programs, this year's agenda promises to be informative, interactive, and inspirational. Because we are in-person in Detroit, the 'Motor City', we have selected a theme acronym of: **MOTOR: Making/ Opportunities/ Together (for)/ Outreach/Research**. We are mindful that our outreach is international and that we have expanded our mission to include related voice disorders. We are working to further engage our leaders with virtual calls and projects to become involved in.

The Dysphonia International support network is one that promotes leadership development and empowerment. Some of you are with us today for the very first time. Some of you have been with us for every one of our nineteen leadership programs. Regardless of the tenure you have held within the Dysphonia International organization, each of you is valued and appreciated. Because of the tireless efforts of people working together as a team, the support arm of Dysphonia International is alive and well. We are grateful for our progress, and we look forward to making further strides in the future.

Dysphonia International believes that it is our challenge and our duty to ensure that our volunteer support network leaders have the knowledge and support that they need to be educators, spokespeople, and support providers. The goal of Dysphonia International is to equip leaders with the most comprehensive and relevant information they need. View the leadership resources on our website, look at the documents in the Materials Packet, and listen to the topics being discussed here today. You will realize that we have the staff, volunteers, and resources that are needed to carry out your important work.

Remember that you are not alone. We are in this fight against SD and related voice disorders together. Make your voice heard and find your place in service. Dysphonia International is here to listen and help in any way that we can. We celebrate your essential activities which breathe life into our organization. You are our ambassadors, and you carry our Dysphonia International banner high. Since our founding in 1989, we have the same mission, values, and vision.

Dysphonia International is a community which cares about you and your voice. "Your voice matters" is the theme of World Voice Day 2023. Your voice as a leader of Dysphonia International truly matters. Each one of us has a tremendous opportunity to make a difference for our small non-profit. Let us be grateful to be on the journey together. " If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." (**John Quincy Adams**)