

Chicago, 2008 CSAP Brag and Moan Recap

State: Texas

Brag:

1. Membership has increased!
2. Convention attendance has increased!
3. We have some friends in our legislature who will sponsor our proposed bill for loan forgiveness for students who will work in the public schools.

Moans:

1. During the September/October financial crisis, TSHA lost money which had been invested. The Financial Advisory Committee met at the end of October and it was a unanimous decision to “stay the course” and hope that the economy changes and that we recover our losses.
2. The sunset of our license was to have occurred in 2009 but was postponed until 2013. This is a problem because the scope of practice for our professions is woefully outdated as written in our license and now we will have to wait until 2013 to have the opportunity to update this.
3. We have a serious shortage of speech-language pathologists in our state. We had hoped to be able to follow the OMNIE project but have not received good support from the Texas Education Agency. We had also hoped that the 19 training programs in the state of Texas might be interested in developing on-line curriculum for individuals who might want to upgrade their degree but we have experienced some stumbling blocks with the administration at the universities on this issue.
4. We had hoped that speech-language pathologists would be eligible to apply for federal student loan forgiveness but because SLPs in Texas do not have teacher certification, this may not be possible.

Submitted by: Judith P. Keller, President

State: South Dakota

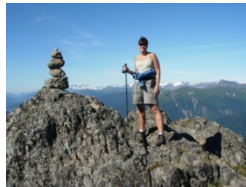
Brag:

1. Started a committee to assist in planning convention and had 3 interested persons.
2. Had 4 SLP's as part of state Part C work group.

Moans:

1. Tried to do 2 day conference on other side of state per member's requests which resulted in a flop.
2. Costs of speakers and venues.
3. Birth to Three change in state programming.

Submitted by: Shelly M. Grinde, SDSLHA president elect



State: Alaska

Brag:

1. Our SEAL (above), Belinda Burns, not only climbs mountains but she has become a valuable resource to our state's governor's council. This council is THE place where changes happen in our state's special education community. Alaska Speech Pathologists and Audiologists are being heard!!!
2. AKSHA received another grant from ASHA for our recruitment and retention efforts. We continue to work with the state's special education community and teachers to gather information on vacancies and how to best recruit folks to our state.

3. Our state had a great conference this year (Ocyt 31-Nov2) in Anchorage. We added 50 new members to our state association when we upped the membership fee for 2009 but offered them the current rate if they paid during the conference☺.
4. Our website is awesome- we also have a store on CAFEPRESS with AKSHA stuff.

Moans:

1. Medicaid rates: boo
2. Schools trying to get people to AK without a competitive pay schedule.



Lower Yukon Kuskokwim. (Photo by AKSHA member V. Machart)

Submitted by Molly Thompson

State: Missouri

Braggs:

1. MSHA is '50 and Fabulous' --50th anniversary and ability to budget adequate funds
2. Current membership of 1, 326 and convention attendance 1,002
3. Collaboration with our Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Moans:

1. Missouri recognizes 'implementer model' in the schools, which allows any teacher (History, Science, etc) to be a 'speech implementer'. They are 'supposed' to be supervised by an SLP. Currently, Missouri has ~300 implementers.

Cheers to 50 years,

Submitted by Karen Kerns, MSHA President

State: Massachusetts

Braggs:

1. Worked with SCORE, the cadre of retired executives from the SBA, to design a Business Institute specific to SLPs and Audiologists
2. Revamped membership incentives to increase visibility and value of membership
3. Initiated a re-organization of the Association's structure and update of the strategic plan

Moans:

1. Attendance at our CE events is way down this year with significant impact on revenue
2. Overall financial difficulties due to decreased revenue
3. Still fighting House Bill 2110, An Act Relative to Speech-Language Pathologists, which would allow unqualified people who have been practicing without a license to get a license from the state legislature.

Submitted by: Suzanne M. Harris, MSHA President

State: North Carolina

Braggs:

1. We continue to stay on top of current state legislation through our Executive Director.

2. Very Active committees are doing a great deal of work!
3. Several members are active both at the state and national levels.

Moans:

1. It is time for us to make some long range plans and look at our structure to make tweaks – lots of work!
2. Some drop in membership – especially in audiology.
3. Budget woes!

Submitted by: Beth Burns, President-Elect

State: Maine

Brag:

1. Conferences- well received, top-notch presenters, good quality workshops.
2. Lobbyist- especially important right now as legislative session is coming up and we need to make changes.
3. Conference calls- with Executive Council members to increase participation as our state is so big.

Moans:

1. Membership- low participation and numbers, may be due to limited “member benefits”.
2. Communications- our website and newsletter are lacking content and active involvement.
3. Conference competition- we have other companies/agencies holding conferences throughout year as well with great presenters.

Submitted by: Erica Ricker, President

State: Montana

Brag:

1. 90+% membership rate of all SLPs & Auds licensed in the State.
2. Successful participation and involvement in IMASH.
3. Reinstatement of undergraduate & graduate SL programs at University of Montana

Moans:

1. Lack of SLPs in State.
2. Bringing organization into the 21st century with a “business” focus.
3. Focus on school-based practitioners

Submitted by: Jennifer Pierce, President-Elect

State: New Hampshire

Brag:

1. Increasing use of technology – had 1st board meeting via Skype in November.
2. More documents are being sent to Membership electronically.
3. SLP regulations tightened

Moans:

1. Membership is down.
2. Money is tight

Submitted by: Amy Tyson, President

State: Utah

Braggs:

1. Participated and hosted a very successful Inter Mountain Association Speech-Language-Hearing (IMASH) Conference in Salt Lake City attracting close to 600. State Associations involved included: Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and Colorado with attendees from those states and California, Nevada, South Dakota, Washington D.C, New Mexico and Arizona.
2. Utah State Office of Education announced that school licensure has recognized the CCC's as equivalent to National Board Certification which is level 3 (highest level) licensure. This frees local school districts to now recognize the CCC's and provide compensation as part of the salary schedule or a stipend on the salary schedule.
3. Formed a Licensure task force to address the current licensure law in Utah that is due to sunset in July 2009. We have received assurance that the Utah State Legislature has no intention of having no licensing law and is open to anything that will enhance protection of our consumers.

Moans:

1. We are optimistic of our challenges with restructuring the Utah Speech Language Hearing that will update our bylaws, increase membership and establish a better trained leadership.
2. Getting members to volunteer for committees and Executive Board positions remains our greatest challenge.

State: Louisiana

Braggs:

1. LSHA Membership hit 800 plus members.
2. Louisiana funded the Salary Supplement for school SLPs/Auds that was passed in 2003.
3. LSHA had over 200 SLPs/Auds attend its annual Day at the Capitol.

Moans:

1. How to get individuals interested in running for the LSHA Board of Directors?

Submitted by: Renae F. Colwick, President

State: Oregon

Braggs:

1. We have been working collaboratively with our State Licensure Board and our Educational licensing board to streamline the process, and look at moving to universal licensure.
2. Our membership is at a record level.
3. We have started to get increased interest in members serving on our Board and committees.

Moans:

1. While we have a favorable relationship with our Audiology colleagues, and have a great representative on our Board, we are continuing to try to find ways to work together. We bring in Audiology speakers to our conference, but our attendance from Audiologists is very small in comparison and does not compare to the cost of the speakers.
2. We are in an odd stage of growth for our conferences. Our size is too big for the smaller venues we've been to in the past, and we're not quite big enough for the larger conference locations in the state.

Submitted by: Ashley Northam, President

State: Illinois

Braggs:

1. Renewed Illinois Licensure Act.
2. Revised and upgraded Association Website www.ishail.org
3. Moved to electronic registration of CEUs at ISHA Annual Convention

Moans:

1. Cancelled Downstate Fall Forum (after 4 years) due to low turn out
2. Continue to pursue legislation for trained SLPs to use Endoscopy (stalled-more discussion needed with Illinois State Medical Society)
3. Decreased funding for Newborn Hearing Screening Program (Requested \$2 million through HB 5321, but stalled in Senate, looking like a lot less-\$500,000 and may not even make it into the budget at all)

Submitted by: Mary E Kirwan-Johnson, President

State: Kentucky

Braggs:

1. Kentucky now has a new convention planner. She is an audiologist who has retired from her full time position and now works for KSHA exclusively to plan our convention, which typically are attended by around 1500 SLPs and audiologists.
2. We have recently changed to MemberClicks which will result in our online member directory, convention registration and membership renewal. Members can manage their profiles, print receipts, and access our bulletin board and events calendar. In short, it allows us to manage our association online efficiently and at less cost, allowing our dues to go further without an increase.
3. KSHA has a brand new web site which was made live just days ago. Check it out at www.kysha.org.
4. The Executive Council voted support the ASHA Foundation by sponsoring a hole at the golf tournament (\$1500).
5. We met with Stan Dublinski in October and now have a three-year strategic plan in place.
6. We used an idea from the spring CSAP and invested in an online meeting format (GoToMeetings). We have had one Executive Council meeting and several convention planning meetings with very positive feedback.

Moans:

1. Once again, we are entrenched in the salary supplement battle. That will begin when the legislature meets again in January.
2. An ENT wrote the Legislative Assistant to Mitch McConnell, our US Senator and Senate minority leader complaining about Medicare and Medicaid regulations. He specifically complained about a reg that was enacted in April of this year that has and will continue to reduce reimbursement to his office for audiological services that were NOT provided by an audiologist. The problem is that most of the content of the letter was inaccurate and had no merit. Kentucky audiologists had a strong, united voice, which was supported by ASHA, AAA, and CMS. If left unchallenged, the letter from the ENT would have left a very negative impression about practitioners in Kentucky, but with a lot of support, the antagonist was stopped in his tracks.

Submitted by: Lonnie Harris,

State: Ohio

Brags:

1. As an outcome of the information from last year's Fall CSAP meeting, we sought out marketing support. We went to the University of Cincinnati Marketing Department and submitted a proposal to their Capstone Project. We are anxiously awaiting news to see if we have been selected which should be coming by the end of this month.
2. Rend Al-Mondhiry, ASHA Director of State Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy came to Ohio and met with OSLHA Executive Council, Legislative Council and a break-out group of approximately 20 NSSLHA student representatives. She shared extensive information on ASHA Legislative Advocacy activities and the multitude of resources available to us through ASHA.
3. OSLHA is in the process of developing a Family Liaison Committee to be sure that Family voices are heard and we are responsive to family needs. There will be a steering committee meeting at our March convention to jump start this process.

Moans:

1. OSLHA continues our efforts in advocating for a reduction in the caseload for SLPs working in the schools.
2. OSLHA continues to work on increasing our membership numbers.
3. OSLHA has made great strides in increasing public awareness of professional issues through nationally recognized work in the areas of insurance reimbursement and the Sponsored Silence program focusing on AAC. OSLHA continues our efforts in promoting awareness of all aspect of the work of our professions to the public.

Submitted by: Jo-Anne Prendeville, President

State: Connecticut

Brags:

1. Approximately 150 people attended our fall 2008 mini-conference. This was the largest attendance ever at a fall mini-conference. Rhea Paul discussed Using Oral Language Strategies to Support Literacy Development in Preschool and Elementary Schools: The Role of the SLP on Literacy Teams.
2. All board positions are filled. I am pleased that our President-elect, Rhea Paul is attending this CSAP meeting.
3. We have a new committee focusing on Private Practice, Hospitals and SNF. This committee was formed based on the current interest of some members in private practice. This group, along with School Affairs, Early Childhood and Multi-Cultural Affairs, gives us four special interest groups for members and for board support on specific projects.

Moans:

1. Our membership is down. We offer free membership to students and first year professionals who are completing their supervised year of employment. We offer reduced conference rates for members. We would be interested in learning how other state associations are recruiting and retaining members.
2. During the past year we put, what seemed to us like a lot of money, into the development of an improved website. We still have problems with the site and are having difficulty finding anyone to take over as web master.
3. This year I have had increasing reports from speech – language pathologists and audiologists about others in our field who are operating in ways that are ethically questionable and sometimes in violation of our licensure law. The issues deal primarily with the inappropriate use of assistants and scope of practice. We are trying to address these issues by educating members through newsletter articles and a strand on ethics planned for our 2009 spring conference. Unfortunately, in one situation I did have to report someone to the Department of Public Health and the Department of Education due to the severity of the situation. This is discouraging.

Submitted by: Vernice L. Jury, President

State: California

Brags:

1. SLP Training Initiatives
 - a. Chapman University of Orange County is scheduled to begin a new SLP Masters of Sciences, Communication Sciences and Disorders program Fall 2009
 - b. Cohort SLP Programs: CSU Long Beach; San Joaquin COE-University of the Pacific; Monterey Country SELPA Masters and Credential Acquisition Program (MCAP) have been highly successful over the last two years and continuing cohort programs are under considerations
 - c. Blended Cohort Program: Nova Southeastern University and Hesperia, Victor Valley, and Ontario in San Bernardino. Blends face to face classes as well as on-line classes. SLP students from Hesperia work with their school districts which support their schooling and students agree to work for 5 years after receiving their Masters and CCC's.
 - d. CSU San Marcos is making the recommended revisions to their initial application for M.A. for In-Candidacy Status.
 - e. American River Community College SLP Assistant AA Degree Program introductory course began in Fall 2008.
2. CSHA Magazine continues to provide up-to-date information on Hot Topics and a professional showcase for CSHA. The Summer Issue topic was BLAST: Traumatic Brain Injury, Fall Issue will focus on Supervision, and the Winter Issue will focus on Apraxia. The upcoming Spring 2009 Issue will be the Convention issue. We are hoping in the future to be able to provide CEU opportunities since the magazine has been elevated to journal-like level.
3. CSHA has completed over 40 CE co-sponsored and district level activities this year.
4. We continue to support the two-tier speech-language pathology service credential including among other requirements, the masters degree. These requirements additionally align California's credential with the national Certificate of Clinical Competence and the California SLP license. We continue to fight the misperception that the profession of speech-language pathology is divided into medical and educational professionals. Speech-Language pathologists must be able to assess and provide a wide-range of therapies for a wide-spectrum of disorders. It is a gross over-simplification to assert that SLP training standards for school services can be adequately provided for in less than a master's degree program.
4. The CSHA Board continues to work collaboratively to see CHANGE as a driving force in our organization because of our forward-looking leadership. We know that the changes we make do make a difference and we make a difference. **ONE. ONE STEP. ONE WORD. ONE LIFE WE CAN CHANGE.** (the theme of our upcoming 2009 Convention in Long Beach)

Moans:

1. State budget--\$10 billion in the hole for 2009 versus 2008. In 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger signed 772 bills and vetoed 415 bills. The Governor declared that he was only approving bills with the highest priority due to the prolonged budget discussions. The high number of vetoes angered many legislators.
2. Commission on Teacher Credentialing continues to push forward with the new Special Education Teacher "Communication Development" Credential and we continue to oppose it. The written document about the specifics of the new credential should be available in November. Final draft of the credential is anticipated at the December 11-12, 2008 Commission meeting. It is anticipated that legal issues will be raised following implementation of the new credential over the next few years regarding violations of due process requirements.
3. Recruitment—Retention continue to be problematic even though our entire Board continue to use logic and communication, creativity and magic to challenge, stimulate, and inspire members to become actively involved. You can't complain if you don't get involved.

Submitted by: Marlowe Fischer, President

State: New Jersey

Braggs:

1. New website up and running; attractive and user friendly
2. Better dialogue with the NJDOE
3. New membership incentives in place with vivacious new membership chair

Moans:

1. Continuance of Speech-Language Specialist "emergency certification" with only a BA in S-L *or* 12 graduate credits in S-L.
2. Financials for July 2008-June 2009 budget came in late; management firm fired the accountant in April 2008
3. Because of budget delay, late mailing of membership renewal notices resulting in lower membership numbers for this time of year

Submitted by: Robin Kanis, NJSHA President

State: Pennsylvania

Braggs:

1. Licensure act was introduced in the PA Senate
2. Met with PA Dept of Ed., who promised to establish new "Educational Specialists" certificate--which is a plus because such certificates usually recognize state licensure.
3. Making progress in establishing a statewide Higher Education Network and Advisory Committee (with ASHA state mini-grants as a spark), to address issues such as the shortage of SLPs.

Moans:

1. Licensure act remained bottled up in committee, because the legislature had too few workdays this fall (thanks to the election)
2. PDE's Teacher Cert Bureau is so tied up with new special ed regs that they haven't acted on replacing our current instructional certificate yet.
3. School districts are cutting back on taking SLP interns because of a previously little known agreement between DPW and PDE--that interns can't provide service that is billed to ACCESS (even though healthcare interns certainly can do so!).

Submitted by: David Stein, PSHA President

State: Nevada

Braggs:

1. We have all Board positions filled for the first time in 6 years
2. We have an audiologist who has volunteered to help with planning our state convention
3. We had salary supplement pass about 3 years ago and lobbied to keep it last year when our new governor was going to cut it from the state budget

Moans:

1. Low membership numbers
2. Low audiologist participation
3. Low participation from all geographic areas

Submitted by: Rebecca Bailey-Torres, President

State: Rhode Island

Moans:

RISHA has "moaned" the same moan for the past 3 CSAP meetings but it continues to be a thorn in the side of speech-language practitioners in the public schools of Rhode Island. Since the Department of Education's Board of Regents has changed the Federal Regulations regarding services to children over the age of nine, school based speech-language pathologists struggle with how to serve these "abandoned" children. Many school departments will allow service to be provided through a "regular education" initiative, such as RTI (Response to Intervention) or programs like "Quick Artic," but many school departments are not allowing service at all and parents are scrambling to find private practitioners or are on waiting lists at hospital based Speech-Language Clinics. RISHA will now seek a legislator to propose a bill in the legislature to overturn the Board of Regents decision, similar to the law which was passed on July 1, 2008, which allows parents of privately placed students to continue access IEP's or Service Plans or both !

Brag:

On a happier note, in the late summer RISHA's Executive Board met to develop a 3 Year Strategic Plan with the help of Stan Dublinski from ASHA. RISHA is looking to change its governance, increase membership, provide Continuing Education opportunities for its members, and make the website more interactive and user-friendly. RISHA is happy to announce that we have hired an Office Manager and have returned to the 2 day multi-speaker format for our Annual Conference which will be held in March of 2009.

Submitted by: Brenda Mallicoat

State: Wisconsin

Brag:

1. Lots of CEU opportunities available – successful Audiology Fall Update and Grand Rounds in January; student conference with free WSHA memberships given to nearly all attendees; February convention with great speaker line-up in various tracks, Quest for the Cup for students will be offered for the 2nd year.
2. 1st Web-Ex Board Meeting held in October.
3. Currently have a membership survey on the website with an incentive of free convention registration drawing for completion.
4. New and engaged board.
5. Lobbyist working on legislation for AudD entry level, insurance coverage for Autism including SLP therapy, mandated hearing aid coverage.

Moans:

1. Website in need of revamp.
2. Low percentage of school-based membership (30%) as compared to audiology membership (90%).
3. Failed to obtain graduate credit for Fall Schools Conference and experienced low registration.
4. Past President quit.

Submitted by: Dawn Merth-Johnson, President

State: Tennessee

Moans:

1. Membership down.
2. Convention attendance down
3. SDOE is attempting to broadly interpret the roles and responsibilities of the SSLT with no input from TAASLP
4. No PAC chair so no funds so no contribution to legislatures
5. Nominations for EC Board we had to push pull and drag. We are recycling.

Brag:

1. President elect is an audiologist
2. School districts are recognizing non school years of experience for school SLPs
3. School committee has held a forum on supervision and a chat room on swallowing in the schools.
4. Legislatures are listening to our concerns regarding our \$400.00 Privilege to practice tax for licensed SLPs
5. The speech-language & audiology program at University of Tennessee was SAVED by a united effort nationally, state wide with ASHA and TAASLP.
6. Sue Hale is the President Elect for ASHA and comes from Tennessee
7. GO TITANS!!!!!!

Submitted by: Paulette W. Gentry, President Elect

State: Michigan:

Brag:

1. Licensure in Michigan is as close as it has been in 20 years. Licensure Bill has passed through State Senate and House of Representatives. It now goes back to Senate for approval of House changes and then on to the Governor's desk for signature.
2. We are currently restructuring our Board, and are re-writing by-laws and procedures, responsibilities, organizational chart. This is in hopes of increasing efficiency of Board function and involving more members in the activities of the association.
3. We have dealt with SLP shortage by resurrecting our Council of University Chairs and Presidents, each of which has agreed to increase enrollment in SLP training programs. A side benefit has been more collaborative effort to provide CE opportunities to members in our state.
4. 5th successful year of the Michigan Audiology Coalition fall conference – coalition of Michigan Speech Language Hearing Association, Michigan Academy of Audiology and the Michigan Educational Audiology Association. 180 attendees of 250 audiologists in the state. Our board continues to look for opportunities to collaborate with audiology colleagues.

Moans:

1. Shortage of speech language pathologists in the state. CFYs are not able to work in the schools due to an oversight in state education regulations, but this will be corrected by 1 year provisional license being provided to CFYs under new licensure bill.
2. Our membership numbers are down and revenues are down. The economy of Michigan is problematic.

Submitted by Mary Peterson, President

State: Maryland

Brag

1. The Maryland State Department of Education's response to the enactment of the Comprehensive Licensure Law passed in 2007 was to propose a regulatory change that would have removed the professional status from SLPs, Audiologists, OTs and PTS employed in school setting. The result would be that we would lose our rights to be members of our professional teachers associations and all benefits of a negotiated agreement. We would become "at will" employees.
2. MSHA 's Public Policy Committee rallied the targeted groups and formed a coalition. The Coalition of Educational – Health Occupations Providers (CE-HOP) generated over 2,000 letters, calls and e-mails to each of the members of the committee, altered legislators who took action, joined with Maryland State Teacher's Association, and forced the Deputy Superintendent of Schools to withdraw the request for regulatory change after the first 7 days of the 30-day comment period.

3. MSHA is making efforts to attract undergrad and grad students to the professional organization by providing opportunities for support at convention, development of an inter-intercollegiate Praxis Bowl with the awarding of prizes, and development of a competitive scholarship award.

Moans:

1. Not enough members
2. Not enough volunteers
3. MSHA withdrew a bill in the Maryland General Assembly due to lack of documentation in support of a request for changes from the insurance industry.

Submitted by,
Gloria Petit-Clair, MSHA