

We are CSAP!



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Congratulations ...

to Paulette Gentry, CSAP President-Elect, for winning the CSAP Alaska auction donated by ASHA.



Editor: Regina Lemmon

President's Message

Welcome to CSAP! Of all the things I have enjoyed over the time spent with CSAP, it's been the collaboration. Join CSAP and you have 50+ speech and hearing state association leaders as close as your keyboard. Our listserv is a quick and efficient means of finding answers and sharing ideas. Our [website](#) gives you access to meeting notes, speakers for your state association meetings and newsletter articles. This year, I hope to add more resources on our website from our member associations: samples of contracts, brochures and awards.

Of course, the best part of CSAP is attending the meetings. You get to take home leadership knowledge specific to your needs. Our roundtables create opportunities for brain storming as well as inspiring new ideas. Of course, there is nothing better than some face time with your peers and building new friendships. CSAP is a wonderful community of leaders. I look forward to collaborating with you this May in Anchorage!

Molly
Molly Thompson, MS, CCC-SLP
 CSAP President

CSAPers in Action

CSAP members are on the move and actively serving in ASHA positions. Molly Thompson (Alaska) and Carol Fleming (Arkansas) were nominated to serve on ASHA's Advisory Board beginning in 2013. Regina Lemmon (South Carolina) will begin her term as an Advisory Council member this year. The Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Councils are charged with identifying and discussing issues of concern to ASHA members. They provide information on these issues to the Board of Directors (BOD) and recommendations for the BOD's consideration in determining possible future programs and services to be developed and/or supported by the Association's resources. Members are subscribed to Advisory Council web-based discussion forums and group email lists to assist them in fulfilling their charge. When you see these individuals, congratulate them on their spirit of volunteerism and newly elected positions.

Please remember to check the CSAP website and your mailbox in March for the Spring 2012 Conference brochure!





There is New Leadership With CSAP's Executive Board

President:

**Molly Thompson**

polarspeech@yahoo.com

Molly is a speech language pathologist and has been a sole proprietor for 20 years working with children. She shares an office with a fabulous group of PTs, OTs and SLPs. Molly lives in Eagle River, Alaska with her husband, Steve, and all the remaining animals from when the grown children, Mike and Stephanie, moved out. She enjoys all things technological, is an iPhone addict and a big fan of social media. Molly enjoys exercising, chocolate, reading her Kindle and hiking the beautiful Alaska mountains.

President-Elect:

**Paulette Gentry**

Paulette.gentry@mnps.org

Paulette ("Willie" to old and dear friends) is a Speech Language Pathologist with the Metro Nashville Public School, Nashville TN. She has served as an itinerant SLP, Lead SLP, Consulting Special Education Teacher and Autism Specialist for the district. She previously worked as a clinical supervisor and language coordinator for Vanderbilt University Bill Wilkerson Center, Nashville TN and as an SLP for St. Paul Public School's Autism Program, St. Paul MN. In her private practice she works with preschoolers to adults with TBI, stuttering and ASD. Paulette has been active in the Tennessee Association of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists as the Public Schools Chair, Member-At-Large, convention program co-chair, President Elect and currently as President. Her two granddaughters, ReesAnne and Kennedy live in Cumming, GA with their dad, Sean (son) and mom Teresa. Her daughter, Codie, lives in Nashville, TN. She travels often, back up north, to Minnesota to visit her nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and her great-great niece. In her spare time she is very active in her church, volunteers and co chairs the annual convention for the Autism Society of Middle Tennessee and is a leader for Weight Watchers. You can find her at gym at 5:00 am reading a good spy novel on the cardio machines or lifting weights. She loves to travel, the theater, music and gather with good friends. Her greatest loves are Gary, her husband and Ryder, her two-year-old German shepherd.

Past President:

**Carol Fleming**

cbflem@swbell.net

Carol is a speech language pathologist working at Pulaski Heights Middle School within the Little Rock School District in Arkansas. She is known as the "Butter Queen" and "Cake Lady" to her family, friends, and colleagues. She loves to cook - making many birthday and holiday goodies for all. Her colleagues and students especially enjoy her homemade cocoa. Carol enjoys staying in touch with friends and family through Facebook and is always up for a game of "Words With Friends." She is married to Eric and is the mother of three teenagers - Amber and twins, Josh and Jack.

Secretary:

**Dawn Merth-Johnson**

rivcoach.johnson@gmail.com

Dawn and her husband live in rural southwest Wisconsin. They have two children, a son Caleb 11 and a daughter Taylor 7. Dawn worked in the schools for 12 years, went to the university as a clinical supervisor last year and loved it (but not the three-hour commute) and now works in skilled nursing facilities as SLP and Rehab Program Coordinator. She doesn't have too much time for hobbies/interests right now as her life is pretty much all about work and the kids activities. She does enjoy her daily cappuccino, scrapbooking and working out (when she has time), reading, skiing, mountain biking, shopping, coaching cheerleading and gymnastics and drinking sweet wine!

Treasurer:

**Tara Gregori**

taragregori@bellsouth.net

Tara, SCSHA Past President is a Speech-Language Pathologist, Board Certified Behavior Analyst and National Board Certified Teacher in the area of Exceptional Needs. Tara previously worked for 14 years as an SLP and Preschool Autism Teacher in the public schools and a PRN SLP at skilled nursing facilities and a local rehabilitation hospital. Currently, Tara maintains a private practice in speech-language pathology and is the Assistant Director of Therapeutic Services for SeaSTAR, where she does behavioral consulting for clients with ASD. Tara lives in Mount Pleasant, SC, a suburb of Charleston, where she enjoys volunteer work that supports the autism community and is the Chair of the Board of Directors for Camp Good Times of Charleston, a local summer camp for children with ASD. She is a foodie with a great love of traveling, laughing with friends and enjoying the coastal community in which she lives. Tara is newly elected to this position.

Silent Auction ... State Association Presidents Silent??

The Fall Conference in California was filled with laughs, fun and very little silence! That's because the once silent auction has been changed to a live auction format! The only silence that we experienced was the moments when auctioneer extraordinaire Carol Fleming took a drink of her water to hydrate her vocal cords. The Live Auction was a great way to end the evening at the Fall Conference. As we prepare for the Spring Conference, please remember to bring an item (\$50- or above) to donate to the Live Auction. The item may be specific to your state or something unique and appealing. It may even be frequent flyer miles to attend the next Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. We look forward to having a fun-filled evening with very little silence at the Spring Conference in Anchorage, Alaska!

Regina Lemmon
Newsletter Editor

Alaska On Our Minds

This year's annual Spring Workshop will be held in Anchorage, Alaska from May 18-19, 2012. Approximately 100 CSAPers who are speech-language pathologist and audiologists will converge in Anchorage for this event. This could conceivably be the largest amount of state association presidents that come to Alaska at any one time! The workshop will be a fun-filled event focused on learning more about leadership, volunteerism and service within your state association. Please join us in Anchorage in May!

Vanessa K. Stevenson
Newsletter Assistant

ASHA STAR Network

The State Advocates for Reimbursement (STARS) are ASHA-member audiologists and speech-language pathologists charged with advocating locally with legislators, state insurance commissioners, health plans, unions and employers in areas specific to private health plan reimbursement and Medicaid (Medi-Cal). As outlined by ASHA, "our mission is to advocate for consistent coverage and equitable reimbursement rates by private payers for speech-language pathology and audiology...targeting key decision-makers in private corporations, public agencies, and the local legislature". STAR Network members develop advocacy strategies and share skills through monthly conference calls, STARS-only email discussion groups, and twice yearly face-to-face meetings. The meetings take place at the ASHA Annual Convention and at the ASHA Annual Healthcare/Business Conference.

At this time, I am seeking to understand the issues that are important to CSHA and California ASHA members in private practice, in order to better serve as STAR Representative. To do this, I have created a survey intended to identify specific areas of interest or need.

You may access the CA ASHA STAR 2011 Private Practice Insurance Reimbursement Survey by clicking on the following link <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5DKM8Q5>

As your CA ASHA STAR Representative I plan to:

- Identify specific healthcare advocacy issues for which private practitioners require increased knowledge, understanding and/or assistance
- Develop a network of private practitioners to consult with the STAR Representative
- Establish a listserv of all interested private practitioners
- Establish a conference call schedule, to meet via phone every two months
- Establish a face-to-face meeting one time each year, at the CSHA Convention
- Establish STAR Network representation/Special Interest Table, at the CSHA Convention
- Develop an education seminar(s) to address the targeted healthcare advocacy issues
- Produce an education/information pamphlet developed from information presented in the seminar(s)

I look forward to working with you, so that together we can effect positive change in the private health plan system and create a statewide atmosphere in which our professions are valued.

Beryl Fogel
CA ASHA STAR Representative

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LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS SPRING 2012

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 Molly Thompson
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The Mission of CSAP is to:

1. provide leadership training for state Speech-Language-Hearing association presidents.
2. be a forum for collaboration and networking among these leaders.
3. promote communication of professional matters between state Speech Language Hearing associations, ASHA and other related national professional organizations.

CSAP Vision

CSAP is the premier organization where state leaders meet to cultivate a unique culture of growth and knowledge through collaborative efforts.

[CSAP](#) is a related association of the [American Speech-Language Hearing Association](#)