

CSAP 2008 Spring Conference (May 16-17) Saratoga Springs, New York

ALASKA

Molly Thompson; mollyt@polarspeech.com

President

This bring ,brag and moan will prove that my daughter, Stephanie, is truly the center of the universe, or at least of the Alaska Speech-Language Hearing Association.

Stephanie's mom became the AKSHA president because after seven years of serious volunteering as her daughter's Girl Scout Leader, she was addicted to volunteering. As a Girl Scout, Stephanie visited the Sea Life Center in Seward, AK (compliments of Exxon-Valdez) and she saw seals which reminds us of our ASHA SEAL Belinda Burns, who wowed the Governors council (the governor appointed council on all things health and human services which we've been shut out of for years) and got invited to their meeting in Soldotna (and the next one too) which is near Homer where Stephanie caught her first and only fish.

-Which is what Hilary Hardwick, our most amazing grant writer/AKSHA member likes to eat. She has submitted another grant for recruitment and retention from ASHA so we can continue our quest to coordinate with the Special Ed Task Force and related groups. Alaska has a 15-30% SLP vacancy rate for over 2 years in some areas. We are trying to promote our profession and offer incentives for others to stay.

-Which is what the state of Alaska would like to do with all of their high school graduates that AKSHA's Laura Young-Campbell one of TWO AC's (we're up one now!!!) has been bombarding with flyers about the communication disorders professions.

-Which was all Stephanie was going to graduate from until she met Dr. Tommy Robinson in DC who said something so wise and profound to her that she was determined once again to pursue college after high school. Tommy took our group around DC because Stephanie's dad took him flying when he was at our conference in 2006. Dr. Robinson was a short term but powerful mentor. Mentoring is what AKSHA is also trying to implement with grant money and pure volunteer power. If you are new to the profession and live out in the middle of nowhere in a village with a different culture- you are going to need a mentor.

Mentors in Alaska may use skype and phone calls but they also fly out which is what Stephanie's mom had to do a day later than she'd originally booked for this conference because her daughter graduated a year early on Tuesday.

California

Marlowe Fischer; csa@csa.org

President

Brag

We have had a year of cooperation and creative alternatives, using conversation as a way to cultivate the conditions for change. We have viewed colleagues and situations with optimism, provided opportunities to verbalize proposals, taken a logical yet flexible approach...all within a motivating environment. We have celebrated, coached and counseled. We are a strong team which has shown we can make a difference. The CSHA Board has so many gifts...so much to offer. I have been graced by their wisdom and guidance...their **LEADERSHIP** abilities.

The April/State Convention board meeting continued to challenge us with new laws, policies, procedures, and awards to consider. The by-laws change concerning the wording "Master's degree or equivalent" was presented and unanimously passed at the Plenary. About many of the other issues, I am so pleased, again, that the Commissioners have found strength in collaborative teamwork encompassing different work settings. Professionals from all work sites will be chiming in on the CF/supervision/licensing/CEU proposals being discussed. As a result of the unresolved discussions over SLP shortages, selections have been made for credential panels that will be revising standards for all special education credentials. CSHA, fortunately and with persistent optimism, has been invited to participate. Moreover, these credentialing issues cross professional and work setting boundaries. Obviously, the other hot topic that has a serious impact on speech, language and audiology programs across the state is the budget crisis. This pervasive, underlying issue came up often during the meeting and the convention. The Governor's proposed cuts: Special Education \$480 million; University programs \$1 billion; Regional Centers mid-year budget cuts already enacted in February made permanent on-going spending reductions resulting in a reduction of \$350 million. Included also during the board meeting, a new award is being proposed which would recognize distinguished professionals within our state. As you see, our work has just begun.

We held a fabulous convention, with an attendance of 1450, in Monterey CA. We went GREEN, even though several members tried desperately to dissuade us. Our incredible Operations Chairs set up an Internet Café with 10 computers and assistants, and when that did not satisfy everyone, they got a sponsor to make 1500 Discs containing all of the handouts that each attendee received for free! Even our convention evaluations were done on-line. Our forward-thinking Program and Operations Chairs spent endless hours creating a new concept, more for less convention—one price fits all. Their "let's try this instead" attitude...all with lots of optimism and good spirit was amazing. WHAT A TEAM! Our PAC Committee came up with a new fund raiser, **CALIFORNIA COOKS!** *with* recipes submitted by CSHA members and California Celebrity Chefs. It, along with CSHA Bling T-shirts, was a big seller. We had professional cooking demonstrations using recipes from the book for the opening of our exhibit hall. Convention 2008 provided the perfect backdrop to feed our souls as well as our minds.

We now created a position for Past President which we never had. The Past President will be the ex-officio of the State Nominating Committee.

Moan

Two huge moans hang over our heads. First, the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board of California has created regulations to require 6 hours of supervision coursework prior to supervising applicants for the Required Professional Experience, needed for state licensure. In addition, another 3 hours will be required every renewal period. The second big moan is a new Communication Development credential proposed by our state Commission on Teacher Credentialing—a special education credential aimed at “solving” our shortage issue. We are concerned about the lowering of specialists’ training standards and undercutting of initiatives to create new and/or expanded SLP training programs. Of course underlying all of the Moans is the state-wide budget cuts. Oh, Arnold....

IDAHO

Rachelle Ruffing: advancedtherapycare@clearwire.net
President

Brag

Idaho volunteers have worked with state legislators and the state Division of Medicaid to allow a rule change that provides an independent provider status for SLP’s practicing in Idaho.

On Friday, February 9th ISHA hosted a free workshop for our members to understand the process of applying for Medicaid and the process of billing Medicaid.

Moan

We continue to face a threat of reduction of standards due to the shortages by the State School Board Association.

Our membership numbers have had a slight dip this year from 285 to 225.

ILLINOIS

State of Illinois: Suzanne Kimball, VP Audiology Reporting

We are financially doing very well, but we will be hosting ASHA this year and we will take a big hit on our convention. The issue is that ASHA will be rotating to Chicago every 5 years. They are working with states to help with convention reimbursement, so hopefully that will work out well.

MISSISSIPPI

presidentelect@mshausa.org

Brag

WEBSITE : Have you visited our website? Our webmaster, Ricky Burk, has begun a live MSHA Radio on Tuesdays or download for later listening. Try it, you'll like it. Ricky will be doing a CSAP seminar.

MEMBERSHIP: Mississippi has 1000 ASHA certified members. 600 belong to MSHA. That is 60%.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: We held a one day pre-conference that was well attended by SLP's, and teachers. We offered ASHA CEU's and state education CEU's.

Moan

SLP shortage in public schools: The positive and negative is working with State Dept of Ed. Continuing to develop concept of distance learning with university programs, how to upgrade BS therapists to higher level of training or to M.S.

MISSOURI

Nancy Montgomery, 816-501-4224, nancy.montgomery@rockhurst.edu
1-800-SAY-MSHA

Brag

- ✓ Our membership is 1265!!!
- ✓ Very active listserv to allow quick communication with our members!
- ✓ Financially---we are ahead of our goal to have 100% of our annual budget in reserve.
- ✓ We offered Legislative Day in our capitol for CEU's for the first time.
- ✓ Craven Management does a wonderful job of managing our association.
- ✓ 2008 Successful Convention that included:
 - "Going for the Gold" was our theme since next year is our 50th year.
 - In-state invited speakers for the first time
 - An Ambassador who was a child with apraxia who attended convention with his family and they spoke about the value of our service
 - Raised over \$5,000 for Operation Smile
 - Lots of student involvement through a Quest for the Cup competition, student presentations, a Minority Student Leadership Scholarship, and many other highlights.

Moan

Missouri's Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) still has the Implementor Model, which allows anyone with a teaching certificate in anything to fill an

unfilled SLP opening in the public schools with supervision. Three MSHA Executive Board members have a meeting with Monday with the Director of Special Education in our state!!!

We are looking to attract more medically-based SLPs to our conference next year so we would love suggestions for dynamic speakers to attract those professionals.

MONTANA

Valeria Schmauch: vasmttalk35@yahoo.com

President

Brag

The Communication Disorders program at the University of Montana has invited members of the Montana Speech-Language Hearing Association to aid in the search for professionals to teach its curriculum. This joint committee is moving forward in its search and our association is pleased with the results. Our Association Board is working to revitalize our association by posting a summary of our Board meetings on our web-site. We are reviewing our strategic plan and by-laws, creating a mission statement, and delineating a more specific and stringent budget. We are very enthusiastic about IMAHS, our five state region convention, to be held October 2-4, 2008 in Salt Lake City. We are looking for ways to aid members in finding efficient and economical transportation to this event.

Moan

Our Association Board has had to make budget cuts to committees for out-reach and travel expenses. We have decided to review these “belt tightening” initiatives after one year to determine whether further measures and a dues increase will be necessary. Our state continues to experience a shortage in speech-language pathologists and audiologists that have in the past affected our rural and remote schools, but now affect some of our major cities also.

NEBRASKA

David F. Mendlik, MA.,CCC-A

NSLHA President

Brag

- ✓ ASHA Foundation Nominees, 2007 DiCarlo Award Winner
- ✓ NSLHA Foundation Student Scholarships and Research Grants
- ✓ Money raised at Annual Convention Live Auction
- ✓ 4 tuition scholarships (\$750 each)
- ✓ 2 research grants (\$1000 each)

Moan

Public Relations-Awareness. Need to recruit chairperson for Board Position and establish budget.

NORTH CAROLINA (NCSHLA)

Lisa McDonald lismcdona@uncg.edu

President

Brag

- 150 students attended convention
- Committees have been very active, meeting face to face as well as through teleconference
- Members are submitting articles to our newsletter; membership is enjoying the additions to the newsletter
- 2 people from NC chosen for ASHA Leadership Institute: Sherry Curtiss & Lisa McDonald

Moan

- Listservs available to members, however, it's not as active as the Board had hoped
- Although committees are active, often times communication between committee chairs & board liaisons is not as strong as we would like
- Numbers were down at convention this year (750 to 550)

OHIO

Katrina.zeit@cchmc.org

President

Brag

1. SCHOOL SHORTAGES OF SLPs: Passed Ohio Legislation to allow a temporary license permit for graduate students who have completed one year of graduate coursework to work in the schools with a salary. Bonuses available for rural areas and other difficult to staff school districts in exchange for working in the school system for 3 to 5 years. The OMNIE Program just received continued funding of \$10 million (I think?) to continue recruiting and retention efforts for SLPs and AUDs in the schools.
2. REIMBURSEMENT: OSLHA Lobbyist and Governmental Affairs Coalition developing a relationship with the Medical Director of Ohio Medicaid to help shape future Medicaid changes in light of the budget crisis.
3. CONTINUING EDUCATION & REVENUE ENHANCEMENT: Held another successful annual state convention with more attendees and a higher profit than ever before despite the fact that it was held during the Blizzard of '08.
4. MEETING MEMBERS NEEDS: Created two new committees in response to member feedback. One committee deals with multicultural and linguistically-diverse populations and the other deals with new professionals.
5. INSURANCE ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Received two ASHA STAR Grants and applied for a third grant. Used funding to develop two media pieces utilizing testimonials from parents and individuals who benefited from speech and hearing services. Two webvideos were created and two 30 second

public service announcement commercials were aired on the ABC affiliate station in southwest Ohio.

6. PUBLIC RELATIONS AND FUNDRAISING: Completed three successful Sponsored Silence events and working on a fourth and BIG one. For more information see the article by Coen-Cummings and Zeit in the May 6th issue of the ASHA Leader.

Moan

1. BOARD RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION – Continued difficulty in finding members willing to hold office. Professionals have more demands in their day jobs (caseload and productivity targets) that stress them out and leave them with less energy for volunteering for the association.
2. SCHOOL CASELOADS – The Chicken and the Egg – Politicians and state workers want us to fix the shortage issue before they address the caseload issue. This may be a brag for next year, though, as we do have a new committee just forming with a superintendent that gets it – we need better work conditions to recruit staff in these environments.
3. REIMBURSEMENT – Continues to decrease and more private insurance plans continue to deny coverage, particularly for pediatrics.

OKLAHOMA

Brag

- ✓ Additional specialty conference featuring autism is sponsored by OSHA and SCERTS
- ✓ Legislative Day at the Capital was May 1st. It was used to provide thank you to the individuals that sponsored our bills and to provide information concerning Speech-language and hearing.
- ✓ OSHA went paperless this year for our newsletter. We still provide about 20 members with paper copies.
- ✓ EC voted to form a new committee to address audiology issues.
- ✓ Legislative issue that we are addressing include salary supplement for individuals that are working part time in public schools

Moan

- ✓ Our EC was hoping that our salary supplement work would encourage more public schools SLPs to join; however that did not change the membership representation.
- ✓ List serves and Forums.

OREGON

Ashley Northam; anortham@chemeketa.edu

President

Moan

Regence Blue Cross had recently (11/07) started denying claims for service reimbursement when provided by a CFY candidate. OSHA has organized an ad-hoc committee and pulled together clinics, private practice settings in the state to try to form a coalition to make a group appeal and move forward on this issue.

Brag

As with many states, we have a state Board license and an educational license option. OSHA is interested in having 1 license in the state. While we know we could not sit down with the Educational license board and have this happen, we have been actively educating our members about the benefits of the state Board license. In doing so, members have been able to go to their Human Resource Departments (because its really these folks that are dictating this for the most part) and drop the district requirement for the educational license. In Oregon you don't need both to practice in the schools, you can practice in all settings with the state board license. So far, we've had a handful of districts move to the Board license standard. We've also educated a bunch of members on this issue- they really had difficulty understanding the license differences.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Leigh Ann Spell, President: lsPELL@colacoll.edu

Brag

We had a very successful 50Th Anniversary Celebration at our convention in February. We had both a record number of members this year as well as a record number of attendees at convention (over 1000 for both). After implementing several student initiatives, student membership and involvement has also increased.

Moan

Our salary supplement bill for school-based SLPs continues to stall in the legislature and private insurance reimbursement is still a challenge for our private practitioners.

RHODE ISLAND

Kathy Lake, CE Administrator

Brag

We have faced many challenges in RI but we are proud of our advocacy efforts. The recent issuance of the federal regulations governing special education in the schools prompted our mobilization of parents, SLPs and educators. The RI Board or Regents proposed changing speech/language impaired to a related service. Therefore it would not stand alone as an IEP service. Through letters, e-mails, testimony and ASHA's help we were able to have them change the proposal.

Moan

Unfortunately The Board of Regents chose to enact the regulation allowing speech/language impaired as a stand alone service up through age 8. After 8 years 11 months it becomes a related service. Therefore a child would not have an IEP for speech/language therapy unless they were receiving another educational service. We realize we still have more work to do and ASHA continues to help us strategize and bring about results.

TEXAS

Brag

1. 4100/4500 members attended the most successful state convention in the history of the state in San Antonio, Texas in February, 2008.
2. Membership numbers were not affected by a \$5.00 increase in dues.
3. Convention attendance was not affected by a \$5.00 increase in registration rates.
4. Revenues are up!!! Executive Board came under budget and raised more than than projected.
5. On-line voting for a full-slate of officers occurred for the first time. TSHA used the same on-line voting service used by ASHA and enjoyed a return rate of 11% which is twice as high as that for ASHA.
6. Added a new Vice President so that the voting board increased to 6 voting members.
7. Added a leadership development activity during the convention. Identified up and coming leaders were invited to have dinner with one of the executive board members on the evening before convention started.

Moan

1. There are approximately 11,000 potential members in the state, but only 4500 join TSHA.
2. Wrote a bill to create loan repayment for speech-language pathologists who go to work in the schools which would pay student loans up to 20% each year up to 5 years or 100%. This did not get to committee and was not voted on.
3. Sunset of our license (which is already 20 years out of date for scope of practice) was due to sunset in 2009. In the last hour of the last day of the state legislature, the date for the sunset was changed to 2013.
4. We still have a serious shortage for all work sites but especially serious for public schools. There is a lot of concern that the license will be opened and that standards could be lowered.

UTAH

Dave Lambert (president-elect) dlambert@infowest.com 435-467-7301

Brag

The Association with active leadership from our President and SEAL representative helped assure that the Speech Language Technician position, recently enacted as a rule

governing speech language pathologists, have aggressive supervision and guidelines incorporating the CCC's and preventing language that would have made it possible to move the entry level of SLP's in the schools to the BS/BA level even though it was promised that there was no desire to such. Public comments outnumbered any other proposal/rule ever presented by the Board. The overwhelming majority of comments supported the Masters Entry Level for SLP's and specific opposition to any language which would do anything to relax the guidelines.

Moan

After the last several days of training, the State of Utah sees nothing but Opportunities addressing what our moans are and how they soon will become Brags.

WASHINGTON

David Lundgren, President, davidlundgren@fhshealth.org

Brag

We are coordinating an active state-wide coalition to obtain State recognition for all Educational Staff Associates (including SLPs, OTs, PTs, counselors, etc) who have national certification (such as CCCs) in the form of an annual salary stipend. Teachers with national board certification are currently recognized with \$5000 stipend.

- ✓ Introduced legislation to establish licensure for SLPAs.
- ✓ Excellent attendance at our spring continuing education event and anticipate same for our summer event.
- ✓ We have full and active committees. We have identified at least one nominee for each Board position that will be open in 2009.
- ✓ Completed comprehensive review and revision of our Bylaws and our Policies & Procedures.

Moan

The current economy in Washington State is our biggest moan. The state budget is stagnant and the legislature is not inclined to add new expenditures.

WYOMING

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Anna Anderson (president-elect) Anna.Anderson3@va.gov

Brag

- We had the opportunity in Wyoming to collaborate with our liaison to the state licensure board to make changes in the licensure law concerning telepractice, CFY provisional licensure, and the doctorate in audiology. It was an exciting process to network with our legislative representatives and to get membership involved and talk to people at the local level. And the bill passed!
- Wsha signed up with Job-target and it is generating regular income.

- We are looking forward to the IMASH convention at the beginning of October with 5 states participating and another state expressing an interest to join.
- Wsha board is working on developing a policy and procedure manual and is making progress.

Moan

We found out last minute that there was another bill introduced that asked for a salary supplement for ASHA certified school SLPs (excluding audiologists) by tagging on to an existing, privately funded, program that is intended to fund teachers to seek national certification. The stakeholders in the state were not consulted or informed. Of course, WEA did not support this bill, as they were being asked to share the pie. Lots of emotions on the side of teachers and SLPs resulted. The good news is that this has helped to form a task force in the state that is working in many communities to find a source of funding for the SLP bill and increase support for the cause. The bill will be reintroduced later.