



Brag and Moan

CSAP Spring Meeting 2010
San Antonio



TOP 10 WINNERS

- (1st) VERMONT
- (2nd) ARKANSAS
- (3rd) WISCONSIN
- (4th) GEORGIA
- (5th) CONNECTICUT
- (6th) MISSOURI
- (7th) SOUTH DAKOTA
- (8th) OHIO
- (9th) VIRGINIA
- (10th) MICHIGAN



Vermont

~ Gayle Belin

Brag:

VSHA submitted a grant to ASHA and was awarded \$3400. The grant, entitled "Vermont-State Reimbursement Advocacy" will fund the development and expansion of a VSHA working group to examine the issues and meet with stake holders regarding Medicaid reimbursement for services, especially in the birth to five population. It is our hope that we will convince legislators to raise the reimbursement rates & again pay for mileage.



Vermont

~ Gayle Belin

Moans:

Presently, Vermont has some of the lowest Medicaid reimbursement rates in the nation. Children with Special Health Needs (CSHN), a division of the Vermont Health Dept., a state agency which provides & monitors service children, has recently collaborated with Medicaid so that all reimbursement is submitted & processed through the Medicaid system. This has resulted in a significant increase in denials of reimbursement, decreased rate of reimbursement for services and elimination of reimbursement for travel (mileage costs) to serve clients.

Arkansas ~ Carol Fleming

Braggs:

- Donna Fisher Smiley awarded Nancy McKinley Award for work done in Arkansas related to Educational Audiology
- Hearing Aid Health Insurance Coverage
- Health plans offer coverage of \$1400 per hearing aid/hearing instrument per ear every three years
- Met with Superintendent's Association (Arkansas Administrative Education Association)
 - Discussed licensure and fee payments for SLPs billing Medicaid in the schools
 - Will provide training to new superintendents during summer workshops
- Two Regional Conferences have been scheduled for the Summer to meet continuing educational needs of members in the outskirts of the state.
- All convention speakers for October meeting have been secured.

Arkansas ~ Carol Fleming

Moans:

- Still need to obtain ongoing appropriations for Act 1187. Funds that were earmarked (in June 2009) were taken as a result of budgetary issues impacting the state. Arkansas Department of Education has had to cut monies to various programs since December. What is upsetting is that the NBPTS teachers received their monies and SLPs did not.
- Rules and Regulations still need to be approved
- Have met with the Department of Education and Governor's office regarding this issue

Department of Education

- State Licensure Board removed speech language pathologists (and school psych examiners) from teacher classification excluding individuals from being able to obtain a supervisory license. This recommendation prevents anyone from moving into a supervisory position without going back to college and obtaining a content area degree, first.
 - ArkSHA met with the Licensure Standards Board and they still determined SLPs were not qualified.
 - No representation on the Licensure Standards Board
- Membership and finding volunteers for committees continues to be an issue.



Wisconsin

~ Dawn Merth-Johnson

Brag:

- WSHA celebrated 70 years in existence with balloons and gourmet cupcakes at convention.
- The annual convention was successful with 325 attendees. New this year was a research symposium with expanded poster session.
- Our name has been legally changed from WSHA-P back to WSHA and our by-laws have been amended.
- **Legislative success: AB 553/SB 358** passed floor vote in the Assembly and Senate in April. This bill changes the minimum education level for Audiologist licensure from a master's degree to the Au.D, along with creating new disciplinary grounds for audiologists, speech language pathologists and hearing instrument specialists. This bill is the product of a lot of compromise between various stakeholders over the last 4 years. **AB 488/SB 323** also passed floor vote in the Assembly and Senate in April. This bill amends and creates statutes for newborn hearing screening and helps to ensure that 1400 babies that are born at home or discharged early are not missed each year.
- Our Moan from last fall has now turned into a Brag! Mandated coverage for autism services went into effect several months ago. Under the mandate, autism services provided by SLPs are covered. However, the draft rule stated that to be considered a qualified therapist, SLPs must show evidence of 1200 hours of training. **Grassroots** efforts helped to get the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance to address our areas of concern and change the language to support Wisconsin DRL licensed SLPs as qualified therapists with no stipulations for additional training to work with individuals with autism and receive insurance reimbursement.
- Another Moan from last fall turned into a Brag! We will have a full executive board in June!
- Membership issues: Our membership is currently at 740 which is a 20 member **increase** from last year! Renewals this year will include a CF and group (5 or more) discount.
- Our student webpage has been updated to include photos, quotes and a topic of the month.



Wisconsin

~ Dawn Merth-Johnson

Moans:

A budget shortfall is predicted again this year. Several line items have been significantly reduced or cut including management services, lobbyist, funding for board members to attend meetings such as CSAP and SEALs



Georgia

~ Erica Chatelain

Brag:

- Successful 2010 Convention in which Budget was met!
- Initiation of a new membership benefit, a listserv-- will allow members to network and ask
- Professional related questions to members around the state
- Received \$4,000 Grant from ASHA for Advocacy/Legislative Issues



Georgia

~ Erica Chatelain

Moans:

- **Money, Money, Money**
- **Decline in Membership numbers due to competing state organization**



Connecticut

~ Rhea Paul

Brag:

- Our new website is up and running--we were able to have people register on line for our Spring conference

Moans:

- Low attendance at conferences,
- Limited membership by SLP/AUDs in state



Missouri

~ Jean Zimmer

Brag:

We have 1200-1300 paid members each year and an attendance of over 1000 at our annual convention each year. We have had a full slate of officers with at least 2 in many of the positions for several years. We have a fabulous student Quest for the Cup knowledge bowl that grows in attendance each year, which is attended for .1 CEU. We have national speakers at both our convention and fall workshops.



Missouri

~ Jean Zimmer

Moans:

We are continuing to address the implementer model used by many school districts. There are 356 registered with DESE and from the results of a survey of these implementers, it was discovered that at least 22% of 55 who responded to the survey, there is NO supervision by a licensed SLP. We are working with state agencies and ASHA to address this issue. Our VP for School Affairs has worked diligently and now has at least an open dialogue with DESE and we continue to work toward remediation of this issue for the benefit of those children receiving less than professional services in our state.



South Dakota

~ Becky Cermak

Brag:

- We are on Facebook! We are also actively working on grass-roots efforts this year, laying groundwork so we can seek licensure during the 2011 Legislative Session.

Moans:

- New SLP-A program being started in South Dakota (Fall of 2010) without any input, guidance or contact with SDSLHA or the Higher Education facilities within the state.



Ohio

~ Laura Schrock

Braggs:

- OSLHA goes green: newsletter provided online only to begin July 1. 2010 Convention program and handouts were online only.
- Convention CEUs submitted online by registrants. Also submitted electronically to ASHA.
- First Student Leadership Program at 2010 convention
- First research grants awarded
- OSLHA Branding: new logo, slogan and website (by Modern Media)
- Launching of Facebook
- Sponsored Silence held January 30th at Wright State University basketball game



Ohio

~ Laura Schrock

Moans:

- Finding ways to increase membership
- Finding people to run for offices on Legislative Council and Executive Council



Virginia

~ Scott Rankins

Brag:

- Virginia has a very successful Spring conference in Portsmouth Virginia with 630 registered attendees. We had three SHAV Members receive awards at our conference:
- Martha Bountress, Old Dominion University became SHAV Fellow
- Dr. Peggy Agee, Longwood University received the State Clinical Achievement Award and her name was submitted to ASHA for the Di Carlo Award in Nov.
- Valerie St. John received the Martha Mullens-Callendar Award for Excellence.
- Virginia is being noticed by ASHA as one of the few states leading in Telepractice. Dr. Carol Dudding, James Madison University and Linda Meyers, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center are conducting studies on telepractice. Medicaid has nearly approved the practice and the bill is on the Governors desk for him to sign.
- Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia (Early Intervention) is not paid for through Medicaid and therapy for services in the natural environment receive adequate reimbursement.



Virginia

~ Scott Rankins

Moans:

- VA is letting preschool teachers do speech therapy for speech (including sometimes articulation, and voice)!
- Virginia has major budget shortfalls that may interfere with any advocacy for increased funding of Early Intervention, Private Insurance to cover Autism Therapy, Hearing Aid Coverage, Decreasing Public School caseloads. We may have major Medicaid funding cuts but this has not been finalized. A second bill was left without a motion for private practice to pay for therapy for children with autism. However, we were not that disappointed since that bill only named ABR as the therapy approach.
- Virginia does not have a current Medicare representative (SMAC).

Michigan

~ Elaine Ledwon-Robinson

Brag:

- 30+ years of work resulted in passing of the SLP licensure bill in 2009—which means that we plan to brag about SLP licensure for several years! The licensure board is diligently working on rules and regulations and it is projected that the first licenses will be issued in 2011.
- MSHA was awarded a \$4,000 ASHA reimbursement and advocacy grant to address reimbursement issues with insurers in the state.
- MSHA held a successful spring conference in March, 2010, with 530 attendees, which represents a 3.6% from the number of attendees in 2009.
- MSHA posted a hard-earned positive year-end financial balance!

Michigan

~ Elaine Ledwon-Robinson

Moans:

- The state of the economy in Michigan presents many challenges for MSHA members in the SLP and Audiology professions. Job openings in healthcare appear to be fewer and school systems are under tremendous pressures to reduce costs and benefits for their staff.
- MSHA continues to monitor expenses and revenue very carefully, secondary to the economic downturn and concerns about the impact of the licensure fee on membership maintenance and recruitment.
- While we have made progress on filling our Executive Board and Advisory Assembly positions, we are concerned about succession planning as several board members plan on completing their terms in the next year.



California

~ Diane Collins

Brag:

- We just had our annual state convention in Monterey, CA. We had approximately 1450 attendees which was an outstanding number! We had 84 different presentations, and all comments about this convention have been favorable. A highlight of our convention was our special guest, ASHA President-Elect Dr. Paul Rao. In addition to his presentation to a group of 160 students at our student luncheon, he also attended our SLPA and University of the Pacific breakfasts, and our Association Dinner. He also spoke on Advocacy at our plenary session. For the first time, CSHA was able to offer 45 minutes of CEU credit for Dr. Rao's plenary presentation.
- CSHA experimented with a partial teleconference board meeting. Unfortunately, the hotel was not able to accommodate phone lines for all non-attending board members (Moan), but by reducing our face-to-face attendance by about half, and having two commissioners call in (2 other commissioners were in attendance, while 2 others did not participate), we saved \$7500. The board said they would have preferred to have all members in attendance (either face-to-face) or by teleconference, so we will continue to investigate other electronic methods of meeting that are efficient and cost-effective.
- CSHA is working hard to encourage Audiologists to become more involved with our state organization. We have an audiology standing committee, and we have just approved an audiologist as Commissioner on Publications and Research to the CSHA Board. We have been sending requests for audiologists to submit papers for our future CSHA conventions.
- California is divided into 10 districts. Each district is holding events to encourage CSHA membership. Although we are experiencing a drop in membership (I think mainly due to economic times), we have been recruiting new members through new member discounts. I have been attending many of these events. Out of 10 districts, I have attended functions held in 6 of them.



California

~ Diane Collins

Moans:

- California is still fighting the proposed Special Education Teaching Credential on Communication Development. The proposal was rejected by the Office of Administrative Law and returned to the California Teacher Commission for rewrite. After making some more revisions, the proposal is now being sent back to the OAL for reconsideration. CSHA, ASHA, and the state licensing board have once again written letters of opposition.
- There was a conflict this year between the AAA (held in San Diego) and the CSHA (held in Monterey) conventions. In an attempt to prevent conflicts between CSHA, AAA, CAA, and other related organizations' conventions, CSHA will keep an ongoing calendar of the other conferences, and we are asking that the other organizations watch our scheduled conventions also.
- No Speech-Language Pathology programs in Calif. (Moan) President-Elect Dr. Paul Rao would like to help us in this area--which is a Brag!



North Carolina

~Beth Burns

Brag:

- We just passed proposed By-Laws changes and now have single-slate voting and a dissolution section.
- NC Advocacy Day May 18! Our Professional Affairs Committee has developed “Everyday Advocacy.” Our members get monthly emails regarding how they can advocate for our professions and clients.
- We’re making major updates to our web site. The goal is for it to be more user friendly and use it to get real-time information to members.




North Carolina

~Beth Burns

Moans:

- Governor's proposed budget limits adult Medicaid outpatients to three (3) sessions for PT, OT, and ST.
- Early Intervention folks have proposed moving to a Primary Service Provider model, which will significantly reduce or eliminate direct therapies.




Alaska

~ Nichole Lachance

Brag:

- Alaska boasts a 50% ASHA membership in the state. We have a tight knit group through Facebook. It's been fun to follow each other between our annual conferences. (We do Twitter and LinkedIN, too, but that is usually just the Past President making updates and comments.)
- Speaking of annual conferences, we are pleased that Pam Marshalla, Edythe Strand and Colleen O'Rourke are speaking at our September conference in Anchorage. We had the membership that works with children vote on the topics Pam would present. Edythe is being brought back by popular demand for adult topics.
- We are making headway with our ASHA grant on recruitment and retention. We had Nancy Alarcon come up in January to run a meeting with some serious stakeholders in our state. As a result, we are participating at a higher level in the state government.
- We are drafting Telespeech guidelines with input from the State Dept. of Education and hope to create a pool of trained (interested) SLPs and AUDs that AKSHA can list on our website.



Alaska

~ Nichole Lachance

Moans:

- Reimbursement rates plummet for our private practitioners.
- We do not have a licensing board and it is beginning to show. This is our next initiative.
- School folks are billing Medicaid with no manual to go by and inconsistent application of standards.
- Increasing involvement from our membership still a slow process.



Nevada

~ Janine Baldis

Brag:

- **NSHA/Coalition Awarded FIE Grant-** *The Coalition to Address Nevada's Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services* has recently secured a \$24,000.00 FIE appropriations grant.
- Ad Hoc committee of NSHA held a statewide meeting of 22 Nevada College and University Advisors, Counselors and Department members to participate in a statewide meeting on April 15, 2010 to discuss the critical shortage of "special education service" providers and strategies in "getting the word out" to students about the seven professions which are currently facing critical shortages.



Nevada

~ Janine Baldis

Moans:

- Through the USDOE and office of secondary education there is a loan forgiveness program for any teacher shortage information submitted. Each state was to gather statistical information and fill out some paperwork to submit to the USDOE. Nevada was the only state that failed to do this...so no one is eligible to receive the \$5000 in loan forgiveness.



Oregon

~ Wendy Gunter

Brag:

- Membership involvement increased: 21 members joined committees, board members are now chairing committees rather than "one man band"
- Multiple meaningful projects are in the works: reforming budget process, updating website, updating roles and responsibilities of board positions, increased education and training regarding leadership in the association
- Unified, prompt response of 2 ad hoc committees to address issues related to consolidated licensure



Oregon

~ Wendy Gunter

Moans:

- significant membership decrease when conference was held away from primary metro area in state
- consolidated licensure issue threatens to divide SLPs in the state



Illinois

~ Patricia Tattersall

Braggs:

- We celebrated our 50th year with a golden gala dinner honoring our past and speculating on the future
- Members were instrumental in the passage of an amendment to practice act allowing SLPs to perform flexible and rigid endoscopy
- We are working with ASHA to address lack of modification for students with SLI on the ACT
- We represent SLPs in the state on a new task force with the IL State Bd of Ed and other educators to reestablish guideline for SLPP and SLPA and address SLP shortage in the schools
- We will be sponsoring a webinar for training administrators from the IL State Bd of Ed on caseload/workload
- Members are in a leadership role in the committee to evaluate the Early Intervention System in IL; they are working with OTs and PTs on another committee regarding scope of practice for all members, including DTs, within the EI framework.
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Illinois

~ Patricia Tattersall

Moans:

- ISHA continues to dialog with ASHA regarding their conference cycle which brings the meeting to Chicago every 5 years. ISHA has seen a significant loss of attendance and revenue and membership decline during the years preceding and following the ASHA meeting. This has undermined the financial stability of the organization.

South Carolina

~ Tara Gregori

Braggs:

- After many years of hard work, our SLP Bill for Salary Supplement for having the CCC has moved through the House and through Senate Committee to the Senate floor.
- With the assistance of our consulting firm, we have developed a working relationship with DHHS and have had several meetings with the Medicaid Executives and the Medical Directors of the HMOs to voice our concerns and assist in fostering the role of the SLP in early intervention.
- SCSHA had another excellent convention, our first in our state capital, Columbia, in recent history. It was well attended (over 900 participants) and profitable, even though it snowed more than five inches
- SCSHA has a new logo (designed by Charlie) and a new website, still updating the website, but both are a big improvement and give a fresh face to SCSHA as we move into a new decade.

Old:



New:





South Carolina

~ Tara Gregori

Moans:

- Salary Supplement Bill: Due to pressure from the SDE, two Senators put their name on our bill, holding up having it read on the floor for a vote. Through a tremendous effort of our membership and friends of SCSHA, we have successfully removed one name from the Bill and are currently working toward removal of the second name.
- Medicaid! In October of 2009, Medicaid MCOs began operation in South Carolina. Provider approval, claim denials, reimbursement and IEP requirements have become new Medicaid hurdles for SLPs in South Carolina.
- Because SC rarely has inclement weather, we had no policy in place in this instance and need to develop a policy for inclement weather for future events.



New Mexico

~ Bryan Tierney

Brag:

- Asking individuals to volunteer has resulted in new involvement for projects. May is Better Hearing and Speech Month and NMSHA day at the legislature proclamations both signed by governor. Public Education Department appears to be starting the process to include CFYs in their licensure process (A former moan.) Launched NMSHA Facebook page.



New Mexico

~ Bryan Tierney

Moans:

- Lost 3 board members since the beginning of the year. Consistently facing challenges with hotel conference bookings. Conference lost money in October- hoping economy/ cutbacks from employers was to blame. NMSHA web page re-design stalled a bit due to resignations.



Louisiana

~ Nancye Roussel

Braggs:

- Successful strategic planning which helped to focus our efforts on specific goals to obtain each year for the next three years.
- Planned 3 year rotation for the annual convention to different parts of the state.
- Outreach program to student groups on each university campus housing a COMD program.
- Leadership program for young professionals



Louisiana

~ Nancye Roussel

Moans:

- Difficulty getting information/submissions for the newsletter, lack of focus for newsletter issues.
- Volunteer recruitment for standing committees and for board members.
- Need for continuity in some positions (CE Administrator, Legislative Liaison, Convention Chairman) instead of a different person each year.



Tennessee

~ Paulette Gentry

Brag:

- **Tennessee survived the great floods of 2010**
- Membership is up from 2009
- Legislative Day on the Hill was well attended. It was a joint effort with the OT and PT associations. We had students from all three associations. Our audiology students represented TAASLP very well.
- Legislatively we had support for the “Hearing Aid” bill and the bill to reinstate the benefits for speech and language services in TennCare.
- We successfully transitioned management



Tennessee

~ Paulette Gentry

Moans:

- **Tennessee is still recovering from the great flood of 2010**
- Nominations are still difficult to secure for honors and vacant EC positions
- Transitioning new management
- Limited budget



Washington

- Robbie Jackson

Brag:

- Completed certification of SLPAs through the department of Health speech and hearing licensing.
- Will have our first ever electronic board meeting in June 2010
- Memberclicks addition to our WSHA website – online registration, membership renewal and extended communication through the website for members and board.



Washington

-Robbie Jackson

Moans:

- Legislation challenge for licensure language regarding the use of Audioprosthologist by hearing instrument fitter/dispensers
- Recruitment challenges for recruiting for board member positions and committee chairs and members