

SOUND EXPRESSIONS

Vol. 5 Issue 1

JAN/FEB/MAR 2005

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



*Carol Fleming,
2005 ArkSHA President*

2005 is here! It is amazing how quickly 2004 passed. It seems only yesterday I was approached to run for office for the Association. Now, it is time to begin a new year and a new office. With the New Year comes a new resolution. As President of ArkSHA, I resolve to encourage all members to become involved. 2005 is going to be a busy year for our professions.

We have already begun our grass roots efforts to get legislation passed in the 85th General Assembly. A Task Force was formed in late 2004. Its members have worked diligently towards this effort, but more is still needed. I encourage all members to resolve to assist us in our efforts to pass legislation recognizing our national certificate (CCC) for public school SLPs.

Plans are underway for our annual convention in October. We want to get back to our "roots" – our Arkansas roots.

Our state has much to be proud. We have many professionals within the state who are nationally recognized for their skills and knowledge. It is important that we recognize them.

(President continued on page 3)

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ArkSHA Introduces Legislation to Assist Public School SLP's



**Senator
Shane Broadway**



**Representative
Betty Pickett**

Representative Betty Pickett and **Senator Shane Broadway** have come to the aid of ArkSHA and Arkansas Public School Speech-Language Pathologists by introducing **House Bill 1622** to recognize Public School SLPs who have received their CCC from ASHA, and to provide for a \$5,000 annual stipend.

HB1622 is the product of many months of work by the ArkSHA Salary Initiative Task Force consisting of :

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Kay Hall, Chair | Dorothy Farris |
| DeAndra Gibson, Exec. Bd. Rep. | Colleen Allen |
| Carol Fleming | Brandi Nixon |
| Jane Willard | Kathy Humphrey |
| Shelly Wier | Angie Shipman |
| Nita Stillwell | Mara Cole |
| Angela Moad | |

ArkSHA Lobbyists and Legal Counsel Mike Mitchell and David Ivers worked with the Task Force in December to draft the bill, and recently a group from the Task Force went to the Capitol to brief Rep. Pickett and Sen. Broadway, who agreed to sponsor the bill.

SEE MORE ABOUT HB1622 ON PAGE 5



**EMBASSY SUITES
HOTEL**

400 Convention Blvd.
(501) 624-9200



**ArkSHA Convention
October 19-21
Hot Springs Convention Center**

**Welcome to Your New
ArkSHA 2005
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ArkSHA MISSION STATEMENT

ArkSHA supports the professional interests of the members of the Association, thereby promoting comprehensive services for persons with communicative disorders

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In
Speech-Language Pathology
And
Audiology**

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Arkansas Medicaid Website
www.medicaid.state.ar.us

Arkansas Department of Education
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www.arkedu.state.ar.us

Arkansas Department of Health
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ASHA Action Center
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President's Letter - continued

Additionally, we would be remiss to not take the opportunity to learn from them. They have much to share with us. I resolve to learn as much as I can from them at the convention. I hope you will, too.

I also want to ask our members to consider running for an office. We need you! Your input is greatly appreciated. Resolve to be more involved by volunteering to be a Board member. If you feel you are not ready for a Board position, consider sitting on a committee. Being a committee member is a great way to become more involved with our Association. If interested, contact DeAndra Gibson (Past-President).

In closing, I want to thank the efforts of our outgoing Board Members: Grover Hutson, Beckie Weaver, Julie Beard, and Suzanne Miltich. Their dedication to our profession was greatly appreciated. They will be missed; however some are returning to the Board in new positions. We are glad they have resolved to stay involved and continue their work for our professions.

I am looking forward to see what will happen in 2005. I am hoping it will bring increased membership and involvement for our Association. Talk to your friends and associates. Ask them to make a resolution to be more involved and **Join ArkSHA!**

Carol



EMBASSY SUITES
HOTEL*

2005 ArkSHA Convention
Headquarters Hotel
Site of All Wednesday Night Activities
(501) 624-9200



Free:
Breakfast Buffet
Parking
Fitness Center

\$109 - Single
\$119 - Double
\$129 - Triple
\$139 - Quad

Manager's Reception
Every Evening

Arkansas Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Program

The Arkansas Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Program (AFP) provides persons with disabilities access to extended-term, low interest rate loans for the purchase of assistive technology. The AFP is a **loan** program (not a **grant** program) provided in partnership by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Arkansas Development Finance Authority, and the Governor appointed Technology Equipment Revolving Loan Fund Committee.

To be eligible for the AFP an individual must be an Arkansas resident with a disability and in need of assistive technology. A family member, guardian, or authorized representative may apply on behalf of the person with a disability. Applicants must be age 18 or older or have a co-signer age 18 or older.

For program purposes, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. These activities include such things as seeing, hearing, walking, reaching, communicating, learning, working, or living independently. Assistive technology is devices or services that assist people with disabilities to live more independently and productively and to improve quality of life either at work, in school, at home, or in recreation and leisure activities. Some examples of equipment might include wheelchairs, motorized scooters, Braille equipment, hearing and visual aids, telecommunication systems, augmentative communication systems, adaptive peripherals, environmental control units, home modifications, vehicle modifications, and many others.

Individuals who might not qualify for traditional loan programs may be eligible under the AFP. Even if an individual is not employed or has poor credit they may qualify for the program as circumstances unique to each person's credit history are taken into consideration. The minimum or maximum amount a person can borrow will depend upon their ability to repay the loan and the cost/value of the specific equipment or service acquired. The interest rate offered by the AFP in effect the loan is accepted will remain fixed for the duration of the loan with repayment terms based on the amount borrowed and the expected useful life of the assistive technology purchased.

To obtain additional information or receive an application packet regarding the Arkansas Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Program you may contact:

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
Alternative Financing Program
4601 W. Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Telephone #: 501-686-2806

Treasurer's Report

Richard A. Neeley
ArkSHA Treasurer

Has it really been a year since I drafted my first newsletter article as Treasurer for ArkSHA? Though my first article doesn't seem so long ago, there have been a number of significant events that have transpired in the life of this organization in the course of a single year. I would like to list just a few of these with little or no commentary on my part. We lost the services of our association management company in May and hired a new one. We lost the services of our association's attorney and lobbyist in October and are now represented by a new firm. An election was held in the three weeks subsequent to the ArkSHA Convention in Hot Springs to elect new officers to replace those whose terms expired in December of 2004. I list all these events to amplify the old saying that "change is inevitable."

These are just a few of the changes ArkSHA experienced in the year 2004. In spite of all these events, ArkSHA succeeded in representing your professional interests without a single disruption of service to the rank and file members of the association. ArkSHA served as your advocate with Medicaid and AFMC and continues to foster significant dialogue with those agencies regarding your professional utilization of assessment tools in your practice, reimbursement issues, and criteria for post-review. ArkSHA enthusiastically conducted one of the most successful annual conventions in the history of the organization. The convention recognized and paid homage to the pioneers in speech-language pathology and audiology in this state while offering continuing education opportunities for over 700 practitioners and students from across the state. ArkSHA awarded the graduate scholarship to Mrs. Erin Clay of Arkansas State University, a very talented pre-professional. In my opinion, all of these accomplishments serve to demonstrate the evolving maturity of YOUR ASSOCIATION!!

ArkSHA, its members, and its leaders are sufficiently mature to cope with the unexpected changes that occur in the communication disorders discipline and in the daily operation of the association. Don't be misled to believe that the board members and Martinsen Management eagerly anticipate problems and changes in the way we perform our duties. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. When faced with what seems to be an insurmountable problem, we often sit around the boardroom table playing a spirited game of "Oh Ain't It Awful."

(As your treasurer, I keep score!) In spite of our occasional lapses, we have learned to work collaboratively to meet challenges, solve problems, and resolve difficulties.

Welcome to 2005!! Change is inevitable! I personally invite you to become a partner with the ArkSHA Board in helping us shape the future of the association. We welcome your comments, feedback, and especially your participation.

Audiology and Hearing Services

Charlie Palmer, Au.D.
ArkSHA Vice Pres. Audiology and Hearing Services

Welcome to 2005, whether you are ready or not, here it is! Well, there's not much going on concerning legislative issues in audiology on a state level at this time but there are a few national issues that we are still keeping an eye on...

Hearing Aid Tax Credit: Sponsored by Congressman Ryun (R-KS), would propose a \$500 tax credit per hearing aid every five years and has to date approximately 64 co-sponsors. There is a flaw...the consumer can receive the tax credit even if the device is purchased via the internet or mail-order, obviously removing the key service provider from the equation.

Medicare Direct Access: Ongoing legislation is underway to eliminate the unnecessary barrier to direct audiologic care for Medicare patients. The aim is to alleviate the need of a paper trail from the physician for such audiological care. The bill will also provide for consistency between Medicare and many PPO's, where most PPO's do not require a physician referral for audiological services. This legislation has been endorsed by the American Academy of Audiology, ASHA, the Academy of Dispensing Audiologist, and the Self Help for Hard of Hearing People.

Nominations for 2006 Officers

DeAndra Gibson
ArkSHA Immediate Past- President

It is time once again to begin thinking about who you would like representing you on the Board of Directors of ArkSHA. Do you know someone that has something positive to offer the association? Have you ever thought that you could do a better job than a current member of the board? Would you like to nominate yourself? Now is the time to let us know!

The Nominations and Elections Committee invites you to nominate someone for one of the positions that will be open in the 2006 year. The board positions up for election this coming year will be: President-Elect, Treasurer, Vice-President for Speech-Language Pathology and Vice-President Elect for Continuing Education. The Past-President of the association serves as Chairman of this committee.

You may send your nominations via email to deandragibson@hotmail.com or by mail to DeAndra Gibson, 803 W. Center, Searcy, AR 72143 or call (501) 305-3004.

When nominating someone, please make sure that they are willing to serve. The committee will contact them regarding additional information. Please make nominations as soon as possible. I look forward to hearing from you.



Word from Capitol Hill

By: Carol Fleming, ArkSHA President

As a member of the Salary Initiative Task Force, I have seen first hand the tireless efforts of some of your fellow ArkSHA members. The Task Force was formed in October, following the annual convention. Its members have sent letters to legislators, met with our lobbyist/legal counsel, contacted the State Department of Education and LEAs, drafted legislation, and met with our legislative sponsors.

I want to commend the efforts of these individuals. They deserve much kudos for the time they have put into this endeavor. Now is the time to see it come to fruition.

In order to achieve this, ArkSHA needs its members' assistance. Contact your Representative and Senator to ask for their support. Have family and friends of students receiving services contact their legislators. Inform them of the necessity to keep highly qualified SLPs in the schools. Passing this initiative will help achieve this goal.

This bill will only benefit those public school SLPs who hold an Arkansas teaching certificate, are ASHA certified, and are on the teacher pay scale. Many school districts have already placed SLPs on an abbreviated/administrative pay scale. Those SLPs would not benefit from this legislation. This legislation is to bring parity for those still on the teacher pay scale.

I hope you will join us in this endeavor. In light of "No child Left Behind", it is imperative that students receive therapy from the "highest qualified provider". In order to attract SLPs, school districts need to make changes in financial reimbursement for those SLPs. For that to occur, the state legislature must recognize the national certification of the CCCs by ASHA and provide the same monetary compensations that accompany the national teaching certificate.

CNN ran a story in December regarding the salaries of school based Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) and how schools are losing SLPs to higher paying positions. To obtain more information on this, please follow the link to the article.

<http://www.cnn.com/2004/EDUCATION/12/30/speech.pathologists.ap/index.html>.

To stay abreast of the latest information regarding our bill, you can access the 85th General Assembly link via the ArkSHA website. Updates will be posted as they become available. A copy of the bill, a draft letter to legislators, and a script from ASHA ("Legislators Say/We Say") will also be available for members.

If you wish to become a member of this Task Force, please contact us. We look forward to seeing you on "the Hill".

State of Arkansas
85th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1622

By: Representative Pickett
By: Senator Broadway

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY AND RETENTION OF CERTIFIED SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR THOSE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS WHO HOLD A NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE IN SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY FROM THE AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speech-Language Pathology Services

Jeffery C. Adams, M.S., CCC-SLP
ArkSHA Vice Pres. Speech-Language Pathology Services

On Wednesday, January 26, 2005 the Medicaid Therapy Workgroup met to continue addressing issues related to the provision of therapy services across the state. A special thanks is in order to workgroup members Cheri Stevenson and Shelly Weir who helped to represent ArkSHA. In the ongoing effort to improve clinical practice for Medicaid speech therapy providers, the workgroup discussed the following information:

♦**IQ Scores:** No IQ scores are required for evaluation reports on children under 10 years of age. This became effective for dates of service after 1/1/2005. AFMC will work to update their website and Medicaid will work to update the provider manual to reflect these positive changes for speech-language pathologists. Changes to the manual and website may take as long as 60 days because of the various agencies involved.

♦**Complaints on timely referrals:** Medicaid officials are interested in knowing about any physician referral difficulties (i.e. not recommending necessary therapy, not producing referrals in a timely manner) that may be occurring around the state. If any of the families you serve are experiencing such difficulties, please encourage them to write the Arkansas State Medical Board and Cheryl Freeman with Medicaid. www.Cheryl.Freeman@medicaid.state.ar.us.

♦**SLPA's:** In 2004, Medicaid was interested in exploring the regulations on occupational, physical, and speech therapy assistants to see if the guidelines for all therapies could be better synchronized. Due to the many procedural and supervisory differences between PTA's, COTA's, and SLPA's, Medicaid has agreed to keep the guidelines that are currently in place. No changes will be made to the supervision requirements for speech-language pathology assistants at this time.

♦**Reading Therapy:** At the current time, Medicaid requires that a language component (that meets the stated guidelines for language therapy qualification) be present for any provision of reading intervention. Some providers have questioned Medicaid about the usage of only reading assessments for therapy qualification. According to Jarrod McClain with AFMC, the use of only reading tests will not be accepted by AFMC reviewers as a basis to qualify for speech and language therapy. The evaluation must show a significant language deficit under the current stated guidelines.

♦**Therapy Review Process:** Hopefully speech pathologists are noticing a positive change with the therapy review process. Currently Medicaid is conducting a 25% retrospective review of therapy via random sampling. If any ArkSHA member is experiencing difficulty with repeated audits or excessive denials, please contact Jeff Adams, Vice President for Speech Pathology Services via email. jeffreycadams@comcast.net.

♦**Open Meeting:** An open meeting addressing the above listed issues and other topics that have been discussed by the work group will occur on May 5th, 2005 from 10:00-12:00. The location of the meeting is not yet confirmed.

♦**Northwest Arkansas Meeting:** AFMC, Arkansas Department of Education, and representatives from the Therapy Workgroup are planning a spring meeting to address Medicaid related issues in Northwest Arkansas. This meeting will be open to all therapists, and school based therapists are strongly encouraged to attend.

An Experience with Conditioned Dysphagia

By: Stephanie Thomas, MCD CCC-SLP

The job of a Speech-Language Pathologist is to assess and treat communication disorders. We tell parents and families that their loved one has an impairment. Recently, I had the opportunity to be on the other side of the fence when my daughter was diagnosed with conditioned dysphagia. As a school based speech pathologist, I had limited experience with dysphagia. I was desperate to find out what it meant, what caused it, and most importantly, how to treat it.

Conditioned dysphagia is caused by the formation of bad swallowing habits. My daughter sucked her thumb in the womb and developed an abnormal suck-swallow-breathe pattern. She became accustomed to munching instead of sucking. Therefore, she could not form a seal, produce suction, or couple her tongue during feeding. Some of her symptoms were a hard swallow, raspiness, and reflux. After consulting with a medical based speech pathologist, we began therapy. Two therapy techniques implemented were: 1) pressing her cheeks together while lifting up on her mandible to help form a seal, and 2) using my finger to press gently in the middle of her tongue to help her learn to couple. We did this therapy everyday, three times a day for three months. She is now four months old, gaining weight, and no longer has the raspiness or reflux. I was really impressed with how quickly her dysphagia was resolved.

During this time, I found two good sources on how to treat children with swallowing problems, and I wanted to share them with you. The first was a book titled [Pediatric Dysphagia Resource Guide](#) by Kelly Daily Hall. The second source was the website www.asha.org/public/speech/swallowing. I think they will be of help to you.



ABESPA News

The 2004-2005 Licensure Directories have been mailed to all active licensees. If you have not received your directory, please contact the ABESPA office. The ABESPA website may be found at www.abespa.com

At the January 14th Board meeting, the following two policies were adopted:

1. The board voted unanimously to accept Interim Resolution 2003-11, of the House Interim Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Military and Legislative Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth which requests leniency to members of the Arkansas National Guard and Reserves. This resolution requests leniency to members of the Arkansas National Guard and Reserves and includes a grace period for continuing education requirements, renewal requirements, and timelines for activated members of the National Guard and Reserves. The Board has voted to extend this policy to any licensee on current active military duty.
2. The Board will accept the signed clinical summary statement by the program director of an accredited college or university verifying completion of clinical practicum requirements for the degree in speech-language pathology or audiology.

With the increased number of audiologists holding the Au.D. and the new university program in "Doctor of Audiology", the Board has discussed the use of this title and credential in advertising, professional reports and within the provision of health care services. The Board has researched the healing arts law and has been advised by the Board attorney that speech-language pathology and audiology fall within the healing arts profession.

According to 17-80-114(a) "*healing arts* means the practice of any type of profession requiring special education and skill that promotes healing of the human body or that relates to the prevention of illness or disease." According to 17-80-110, "Using 'Doctor' as title in documentation", 17-80-111, "restrictions on 'Doctor' as title in advertising," 17-80-112, "use of 'Doctor' as title in provision of health care services," and 17-80-113, "authorized use of 'Doctor' as title", a person in the healing arts profession may use the term "Doctor" if "that person has been granted a doctoral degree in any healing arts profession and is licensed in that profession."

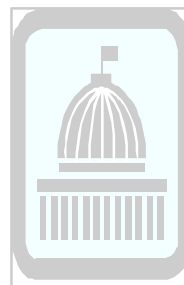
The rules and regulations adopted by the Board, effective April 19, 2002, Section 2.7 state that "applicants must hold a master's or doctoral degree in communicative disorders (speech-language pathology or audiology) which encompasses the specific educational requirements listed in Section 2.8."

The position of ABESPA is that any ABESPA licensee holding

a doctoral degree in that area of license (Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology) is entitled to use the title "Doctor" in advertising, documentation, and in the provision of health care services.

According to 17-81-315 Professional titles, (b) " Nothing in this section shall exclude the use of titles issued by colleges or universities accredited by the United States Department of Education granting degrees such as B.S., M.S., M.A., Ph.D., or other similar degrees."

Submitted by **Becky Del Rio**
Board Chair



Recent ASHA Legislative Council meeting in Philadelphia

Arkansas Legislative Councilors
Donna Fisher Smiley
Rebecca Weaver

The ASHA Legislative Council met during the recent ASHA convention in Philadelphia (November, 2004). Here are some of the highlights from that meeting:

The entire LC made the following decisions:

- Approved the ASHA 2005 budget
- Rejected a resolution to urge the Executive Board to develop a program proposal to recognize SLPA training programs
- Passed a resolution that will permit ASHA members who are full-time doctoral students to join Special Interest Divisions as "students" in the Special Interest Division Associate Affiliate categories
- Rejected a resolution that would have required CE providers to indicate the level of evidence available to support the efficacy of the clinical procedures advocated in the course
- Passed a resolution that will establish an Ad Hoc Committee to review the efficiency and effectiveness of Council's committees and groups, including both Assemblies

In addition to voting on these policies, the Legislative Council heard a report from the outgoing ASHA President, Larry Higdon. The Speech Language Pathology/Speech Language Sciences Assembly and the Audiology/Hearing Sciences Assembly met. Dr. Weaver participated in the SLP/SLS Assembly, while Dr. Smiley participated in the A/HS Assembly. Both of your legislative councilors will continue to serve you during 2005 and will attend the spring LC meeting in April in Washington, DC. Do not hesitate to contact either of them with issues related to ASHA.

Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association

COMMITTEE POOL FORM

Name: _____ Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mail to: ArkSHA, P.O. Box 250261, Little Rock, AR 72225 or Fax to: (501) 244-2333

I would like to participate in the following:

COMMITTEES	
<input type="checkbox"/> Archives & History	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention	<input type="checkbox"/> Nominations & Elections
<input type="checkbox"/> Honors & Awards	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Practices
<input type="checkbox"/> Marketing/Recruitment	<input type="checkbox"/> Publications

CONVENTION	
<input type="checkbox"/> Association Luncheon	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality
<input type="checkbox"/> Audio/Visuals	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderators
<input type="checkbox"/> Evening Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Research Forum
<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibitors	<input type="checkbox"/> Registration

I am interested in serving on the ArkSHA Board

Service, Support Groups, and Agency Information for the 2005 ArkSHA Directory

Question? Call (501) 244-2332

SERVICES / REFERRAL SECTION:

Business Name: _____ Business Phone: _____

Contact Name: _____ Business Fax: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Website: _____

Disciplines: _____ Counties Served: _____

1. Please check the area(s) listed below in which you feel you have achieved competency, have specialized training, or have extended interest.
2. We have deliberately left off areas that may be common and do not require special training or expertise.
3. ArkSHA does not advocate the people or facilities in this portion of the directory.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accent Reduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Speech Disorders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autism | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Voice Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleft Palate | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cochlear Implants | <input type="checkbox"/> Tracheotomy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dementia Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Traumatic Brain Injury – Adult |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dysphagia – Adult | <input type="checkbox"/> Traumatic Brain Injury – Pediatric |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dysphagia – Pediatric | <input type="checkbox"/> Voice Disorders – Adult |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Voice Disorders – Pediatric |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laryngectomy Rehabilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

AGENCY OR SUPPORT GROUP SECTION:

Group Name: _____ Contact Name: _____

Business Phone: _____ Website: _____

Group Name: _____ Contact Name: _____

Business Phone: _____ Website: _____

Summary of ArkSHA October 22, 2004 Board Meeting Minutes

Suzanne Miltich, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friday, October 22, 2004,

7:30 a.m.

Hot Springs Convention Center

MINUTES

This meeting was held in conjunction with the Annual Convention. Board members present included: Beckie Weaver, DeAndra Gibson, Carol Fleming, Richard Neely, Jeffrey Adams, Grover Hutson, Julie Beard, Donna Fisher, Suzanne Miltich. Randy Martinsen, ArkSHA Administrator, was also present. A group of ArkSHA members was also in attendance.

President, DeAndra Gibson, called the meeting to order.

Presentation and Approval of Minutes Suzanne Miltich

The minutes were presented and approved with the addition of the phrase, "in light of preferred practice patterns" to the sentence, "Beckie reported that an ASHA task force is looking at supervision," in the Legislative Councilor's report on p. 3.

Committee Reports

Nominations & Elections Committee

Beckie Weaver

Beckie presented the slate of candidates for ArkSHA's offices: President, Suzanne Miltich; Secretary, Amy Shollenbarger; Vice President for Audiology and Hearing Services, Charlie Palmer and Mary Martha Henry; and Vice President for Continuing Education, Jennifer Fisher. Beckie then called for nominations from the floor. No other nominations were presented, and Beckie moved that the nominations be accepted. Julie seconded. Nominations presented by the committee were approved, and Beckie will send ballots to members.

Marketing Committee

Beckie Weaver

Beckie noted that sticky notes with the Association's new address and contact information were in the bags given to registrants at the convention.

Honors & Award Committee

Beckie Weaver

Beckie announced Honors & Awards winners who were presented awards at

yesterday's luncheon: Patti Martin, Honors of the Association; Grover Hutson and Donna Fisher, Audiology Award; Paul Gober Public School Award, Shelly Weir; Gary McCullough, Research Award; and President's Award, DeAndra Gibson. She also noted that Heidi Courtway was ArkSHA's Poster Child.

Membership Committee

Carol Fleming

Carol reported that 200 members have been approved since February. She will send Board members via e-mail a list of members from convention registration for approval.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Neely

Rick reported on expenses incurred for the convention, indicating that the figure is a rough estimate and other expenses are yet to be determined. He noted that a scholarship was presented from the scholarship fund at yesterday's luncheon.

VP for Audiology & Hearing Services

Grover Hutson

Grover reported that he has contacted Congressman Vic Synder's office to ask that he co-sponsor or support HR3103 which would allow a \$500 tax credit to some individuals for the purchase of a hearing aid. He said he has also corresponded with AAA regarding reimbursement issues in Arkansas.

VP for Speech-Language Pathology

Jeff Adams

Jeff reported on AFMC supervision requirements for Speech-Language Assistants and said that the meeting with this group has been rescheduled. He has continued to contact other state SLP associations regarding services for language-based reading disorders and will present this information to the Board at a future meeting. Jeff reported on the AFMC /Medicaid Therapy Workgroup meeting he attended on ArkSHA's behalf, saying that a comparison between IQ and language test scores is no longer needed for approval of payment of services. Jeff also noted that he received an e-mail from a public school based SLP requesting that ArkSHA take the initiative to increase public school compensation for SLP's who have national certification. Beckie moved that ArkSHA take this initiative and

establish a Salary Supplement Task Force. Julie seconded the motion. Motion passed. This task force will be chaired by Carol Fleming. Rick noted that some schools in Arkansas have already increased SLP compensation.

VP for Continuing Education

Julie Beard

Julie reported that Convention registration is near 600 attendees.

Legislative Councilors

Donna Smiley

Donna reported that she and Beckie will attend the ASHA Legislative Council meetings while at the ASHA Convention in November. If they wish, Donna will send Board members an e-mail of issues to be voted on at the November meeting. She noted that she and Beckie will be presenting a session today regarding these issues. Donna said that the CSAP Board will meet sometime in October, and their agenda includes consideration of Arkansas' proposal for hosting the CSAP meeting in 2007.

New Business

DeAndra reported that Sara Israel has resigned as Association Lobbyist and legal counsel. She will be returning to the Bureau of Legislative Research and has recommended possible replacements for her position. The Executive Board will review her recommendations for a replacement.

Randy Martinsen reported that he has developed a customer account for each member, and this will allow for tracking of memberships.

Julie asked the Board to consider coordinating dues with convention registration.

An announcement was made that Larry Evans is forming a work committee regarding the regression model to look at models for diagnosing language disorders and articulation/phonological disorders.

Donna offered congratulations to Ann George of Bentonville for her recent appointment to the ABESPA Board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

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