



## Sound Expressions

A Quarterly Publication

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**Laura Smith-Olinde,  
2007 ArkSHA President**



It's 2007 and I am the ArkSHA President! A daunting yet exciting prospect. I believe 2007 will be a great year for ArkSHA because there are so many people contributing to different initiatives.

Kay Hall, Brandi Nixon and Carol Fleming, among others, are (still) working to obtain an appropriation for recognition of the CCC for public school SLPs, the legislation passed in the 2005 session. Suzanne Miltich, Frank Olinde and Donna Smiley will be working on initiatives to improve classroom acoustics. Jill Fitzpatrick is serving as an advocate for speech-language pathology to Medicare to impact coverage and reimbursement. Colleen Carter Allen is already working on plans for our annual convention in October. Putting on the convention is an unbelievable amount of work.

*President* Continued on Page 3

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### Funding for School SLPs Gains Support

Our mission this legislative session is to win appropriation and funding for Act 1187 SLP bonuses. This is a much bigger hill to take than expected. Given an \$800 million surplus one would think it not so difficult to obtain only \$2.5 million. However, getting money at the ledge is always close combat with even tougher resistance this time, because there will be a \$100 million reduction due to the food tax repeal and hundreds of millions more for schools, DHHS, hospitals and on and on..... So, Kay Hall has called the committee together. With many capable and dedicated volunteers we have been able to gain support in the Senate and House. The showdown no doubt will come when **HB 1344**, by Representative Betty Pickett and Senator Shane Broadway, is decided. This bill appropriates the money and its passage is a must win against great odds. But, we have the home front advantage and the will to win. Key contacts will continue to be assigned. The final strategic plan is being prepared by Pickett and Broadway. Be alert for further information and opportunities to help.

**Mike Mitchell**  
Lobbyist/Legal Counsel

**ArkSHA 2007  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**ArkSHA MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide leadership, professional development, and quality membership services for audiologists and speech-language pathologists; to serve as the catalyst for innovative practices in prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of communication, hearing, balance, and swallowing disorders; and to advocate for the provision of quality programs and services and for the rights of people with communication hearing, balance, and swallowing disorders.

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And  
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Little Rock, AR 72201

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[www.medicaid.state.ar.us](http://www.medicaid.state.ar.us)

**Arkansas Department of Education**  
(501) 682-4475  
[www.arkedu.state.ar.us](http://www.arkedu.state.ar.us)

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(President Continued from page 1)

Colleen will need help. Please consider volunteering for the Convention Committee. I guarantee you will have an entirely new perspective on and appreciation of the convention.

ArkSHA is currently conducting a survey on Survey Monkey which can be reached through the following link : <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=515252628362>.

If you've responded, thank you! If not, please take the five minutes needed to complete the survey, which will remain accessible until February 28, 2007. ArkSHA is interested in serving you better and your response will help us do that. As I typed the word "us" just now, it occurred to me that "us" is "**you**". ArkSHA is a volunteer organization and those of us 'serving the members' are just members, too. Please consider volunteering to serve on any of the committees we have: SLP Services, Audiology Services, Membership, Nominations & Elections, Honors & Awards, Archives & History, Publications, Marketing/Recruitment and the Convention committees.

You will notice a different look for ArkSHA. In addition to the changes to this newsletter we are planning to update the website and letterhead for the association. If you are interested in helping with the website please contact me at [lso@uams.edu](mailto:lso@uams.edu).

In closing, I want to thank our outgoing Board Members for their hard work: Jennifer Fisher, Carol Fleming, Charlie Palmer and Amy Shollenbarger. These folks did a great job. I also want to welcome our new board members: John Lowe, Kimberly McCullough and Frank Olinde.

*Laura*

Laura Smith-Olinde  
2007 ArkSHA President

## New Year, New Legislative Session, Old Business Challenges.....

**Brandi Nixon**

Vice President

Speech-Language Pathology Services

With the beginning of a new year, we set forth many resolutions and challenges for ourselves. We also take the time to look back and reflect upon the year that we just left behind. As for reflecting, ArkSHA had a great year. In 2006, the board developed a strategic plan and held a leadership conference. We added Cheri Stevenson as the ASHA STAR (State Advocate for Reimbursement) and Jill Fitzpatrick and the MICS representative (Medicare Intermediary and Carrier State Network). ArkSHA also hosted a successful convention in October and recently sent out a membership committee survey.

As for legislative issues, in December, several members of the Salary Initiative Task Force attended the Joint Education Budget Committee meeting at the Capitol. The funding needed for Act 1187, was passed. However, two days after we achieved victory with the educational budget committee, they reconvened and everything was thrown out and the budget went back to basic. January 2<sup>nd</sup>, a group met with Governor Elect Mike Beebe. There is a strong need for contact to gain support with Senators and Legislators.

The issue is no longer 'equality.' We have proven that with the passage of our bill.

(See New Year on Page 4)

Now the issues are:

- 1 recruiting and retaining quality SLPs in our state
- 2 contracted SLPs retain the Medicaid reimbursement rather than it coming to the schools
- 3 we want to keep Medicaid dollars for the schools
- 4 we are the largest disability served in schools in our state
- 5 we generate a lot of revenue through Medicaid for our districts
- 6 we are highly qualified
- 7 we need this stipend to attract and retain SLPs in our state as all neighboring states have passed and funded similar legislation

For some of us, resolutions and challenges may include relaxing more, travel more often, call friends and of course, exercise. I am setting a New Year's challenge for all of you. I am challenging you to frequently check the Legislative Watch section on the ArkSHA website and to contact your local representatives to gain support for the appropriation of Act 1187. I hope that you all have a wonderful, productive, and successful new year.

## Hearing Conservation Needs Expansion

A report was provided by Charlie Palmer at the last meeting outlining audiology activities for ArkSHA. He reported that it appears hearing conservation is addressed adequately at the early health education (6-7<sup>th</sup> grades), but met with some resistance for expanding hearing conservation to other grade levels. This appears to be largely due to competing curriculum issues and agendas. It appears that future efforts should focus on persuading school nurses or educational audiologists to advocate for hearing conservation in order to expand such a program.

**Frank Olinde**  
Vice President, Audiology  
and Hearing Services

## **Members Recognized by CEB for Accomplishment**

The Continuing Education Board (CEB) has informed us that professionals in Arkansas earned an Award for Continuing Education (ACE) from July 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. To meet these requirements, 7.0 ASHA CEU's points must be earned within a 36-month period.

ASHA seeks to encourage professionals to continue lifelong learning and to maintain current knowledge and skills. To facilitate this, Providers are approved to offer relevant continuing education activities, and professional participation is recognized through the ACE.

We share the pride in our member's accomplishment along with the Continuing Education Board.

**American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
Registry for Continuing Education  
ACE Award Listing or 07/01/06 - 09/30/06**

<b>Carol B. Fleming</b>	<b>08/15/06</b>
<b>Kelly Fogarty</b>	<b>07/04/06</b>
<b>Thomas Guyette</b>	<b>07/11/06</b>
<b>Kasey A. McMahan</b>	<b>08/08/06</b>
<b>Matthew A. Taylor</b>	<b>08/29/06</b>



As professionals in the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology, we have all had clients that we thought would never make any progress. We would work so hard to make the smallest advancement on a goal and sometimes thought it would never happen. Then “the day” occurred. The client used the switch independently, remembered their children’s names without using a memory board or began to use some signs that we thought were beyond them. To others, outside our field, these steps may not seem like much to be so excited about, but we know just how much work it took to get there.

This year, the ArkSHA convention focuses on this concept. ***“Never Say Never!”***

The convention, October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, seems like a long way away, but it is already beginning to take shape. We will be running the same format as last year with the featured speakers presenting their sessions twice on Thursday and many more speakers of interest on Friday. We will open the convention with a very motivating general session speaker that will set the tone for the remainder of the convention. I am very excited about planning this year’s convention for all the professionals in our state, as well as those from visiting states.

If members have any suggestions on topics or speakers that they would like to hear, now is the time to pass on the information. Please feel free to contact me at [callinallen@gmail.com](mailto:callinallen@gmail.com) with any information that you would like to see. This is after all, your convention.

Colleen Carter Allen  
Vice President, Continuing Education

Thank you to those who made scholarship contributions for 2006 - 2007:

Becky Del Rio  
Monica Scott  
Cecile Sheppard  
Sharon Ross  
Suzanne Miltich  
Allison Gurley  
Janet Rossi  
Jennifer Fisher  
Linda Edwards  
Nita Stillwell  
Jim Hartz  
Richard Zraich  
Effie Heulitt  
Dr. Betholyn Gentry  
Susan Hickey  
Marilyn Harris Petruk  
Dixie Branscum  
Diana Pearson in honor of Martha Alman &  
Nancy Dunn  
Mary Ford in honor of Carolyn Raiford  
Carol Armstrong in honor of  
Dr. Evelyn Albritton  
Cynthia Johnson in honor of Amanda Zraich  
Janet Rossi  
Anna Walthall  
Pamela Burrow in honor of Jane LeBlanc  
Sue Faulkner  
Vonda Montgomery  
Mary Seitz in memory of DeDe Hogue  
Jane LeBlanc in honor of Jane Willard and  
Cindy Connor  
Donna Fisher Smiley in honor of Beth Eaton  
Jane Browne  
Donna Edgmon in memory of Carolyn Raiford

## Financially Speaking, "What are we doing for our members?"

Linda Edwards  
2007 ArkSHA Treasurer

### ArkSHA finances as of January 23, 2007

<i>Simmons Checking Account</i>	\$38,643.30
<i>Simmons Main CD</i>	\$60,871.04
<i>Simmons Scholarship CD</i>	<u>\$20,141.76</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	\$119,656.10

At the beginning of the New Year, the ArkSHA board was discussing the question "What are we doing for our members?" Sometimes as a general member, it is difficult to see beyond the Convention as a benefit for membership. For me as Treasurer, I see many answers to that question since I see exactly where your membership dues and convention fees are going. I would like to share some of this information with you.

In 2006, ArkSHA membership dues totaled \$22,535.00. That amount includes all student, associate, and full membership fees. The income from convention attendees totaled \$70,530.00. The total income from convention and membership from last year was \$93,635.00. That may sound like a lot of money, but consider these expenses from 2006:

Convention expenses:	\$37,100.00
Newsletter mailout:	800.00
Membership renewal mailing:	<u>900.00</u>
Total	\$38,800.00

General operating expenses (including contract labor) takes another 50% of the income reported above. That leaves about \$8,000.00 for other expenses. That really isn't much money considering the cost of other expenses such as mailing the newsletter (which we began doing at least once a year) and membership renewals.

As you can see, your convention fee and membership dues are spread thinly throughout the budget. The printing and mailing expenses make printing and mailing a quarterly newsletter very expensive; therefore, our website access to the newsletter is a great value.

We recently met for our Budget Committee meeting to plan the 2007 budget. As I am sure we all do at home, reviewing expenditures from the year before is a motivation to save money in the coming year. For this year, we want to give you the best value for your membership payment. The board will work to keep within the budget while finding ways to give value to you as a paying member.

As always, I welcome any comments you may have about ArkSHA finances. My e-mail address is [lindae@uca.edu](mailto:lindae@uca.edu), and my telephone number is 501-450-5486.

# Board of Directors Meeting

October 27, 2006, 7:30 a.m.

ArkSHA Convention  
Hot Springs, AR

## MINUTES

Board members present: Colleen Allen, Linda Edwards, Jennifer Fisher. Suzanne Miltich, Donna Fisher-Smiley, Amy Shollenbarger, Carol Fleming, and Brandi Nixon Also present were Jill Fitzpatrick, Arkansas's MICS representative; Mike Mitchell, Association Lobbyist; and Randy and Nancy Martinsen, ARKSHA administrators

Board members absent: Beckie Weaver, Laura Smith-Olinde

President Suzanne Miltich called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Presentation and approval of minutes

Amy Shollenbarger, Secretary, presented the minutes from the June August 2006 meeting. Amy asked that a misspelling be corrected in her name. Also, an addition to a motion had to be made. **Charlie made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Carol seconded.** The minutes were approved as corrected.

### Treasurer's Report

Summary of Accounts:	Balance	Interest	
➤ Simmons Checking	\$52,312.83	\$48.62	
➤ <i>Simmons CD 2.79%</i>	\$20,000.00	(Scholarship CD)	Matures 9/4/07
➤ Simmons CD 4.35%	\$60,228.37	(Main CD)	Matures 3/4/08

Linda Edwards, Treasurer, faxed the August Board meeting minutes to the bank for our credit card approval. There will be a Budget Committee meeting to prepare the 2007 budget.

### Scholarship Committee

The 2006 scholarship recipient was Debra Vittitow from UALR/UAMS. She was awarded \$725.00 at the 2006 convention. As of 10-23-06, \$365.00 in additional monies had been collected for the scholarship fund.

### Committee & Strategic Planning Reports

- **Focus Area 1: Advocacy**

**Advocacy Education for ArkSHA Members:** Brandi Nixon, Vice President for Speech-Language Pathology, and Kay Hall, Chair of the Salary Supplement Task Force will present a session at the convention on advocacy and how members can advocate for funding of Act 1187. Brandi reported that the Salary Initiative Task Force met and has a plan of action which includes: Every area of the state have a contact person who will cover the counties in their assigned area. The area contacts will discuss our Salary Initiative with state legislators, or schedule face to face visits.

**School-based SLP Caseload:** Kay Hall, in her written report, noted that she and Brandi met with Marcia Harding to gather information concerning needs and future events for public school speech-language pathologists in the state. Kay and Brandi recommend accessing the Rules and Regulations for caseload policies at [www.arksped.k12.ar.us](http://www.arksped.k12.ar.us) website for information regarding caseload size.

**Medicaid Billing in the Public Schools:** Brandi and Cheri Stevenson, discussed Act 1527 that addresses Medicaid billing in the public schools.

**State-level Advisory Group:** ArkSHA is working on initiating a state-wide advocacy group to address the critical shortages that we face in the public schools and address recruitment/retention issues. Kay will be contacting Susie Brannon to possibly join with a group that is already formed, so ArkSHA can work with other disciplines that have faced shortages.

**Marketing/Recruitment Committee:** Carol reported that the Arkansas-Democrat Gazette published an ad with pictures of the ArkSHA 2006 poster ambassadors in their October 20<sup>th</sup> edition. The marketing committee also created a power point presentation to highlight activities of ArkSHA. It was suggested that it be played on the ArkSHA website.

**Hearing Conservation:** In Charlie's report, he stated that he had met with Arkansas' educational audiologists regarding hearing conservation as mandated by IDEA for children in special education. The recommendation of this committee is to refocus the objective to the promotion of Educational Audiology as a whole. Charlie's written report included the following statement from IDEA, Part B law: Audiology includes "creation and administration of programs for prevention of hearing loss". Arkansas educational audiologists have several programs at their disposal, but have a difficult time implementing such programs due to lack of interest of school administrators.

**Classroom Acoustics:** Suzanne stated that this area will be discussed at the December board meeting.

**Medicaid Reimbursement Rate:** Cheri Stevenson reported that \$10 million dollars has been dispersed for therapy reimbursement. An hourly rate increase will likely occur. The Medicaid therapy work group, Shelly Weir, Kim Jones, and Cheri Stevenson are working together to provide a definition of Articulation, Phonology, and Phonemic Awareness to AFMC.

Also, this group is working to rewrite the regulations for the Birth to 3 population to make the EI criteria on assessments one standardized measure and one criterion referenced measure.

### **Focus Area 2: Membership Recruitment and Retention**

- **Membership Committee:** The board reviewed Laura's report in her absence.

### **Focus Area 3: Member Participation and Leadership Development**

**Nominations and Elections Committee:** Carol reported that she has secured a slate of nominees for each office. The slate is as follows: President Elect – John Lowe III, VP Elect of Continuing Education: Kim McCullough, Secretary: Arianne Pait, and VP Audiology/Hearing Science: Becky Del Rio and Frank Olinde. There were no nominations from the floor. **A motion was made by Carol to accept the slate of officers. Amy seconded the motion. After a vote, the motion carried.** Carol reported that ballots will be sent to the membership after the Convention.

**Honors and Awards Committee:** Carol reported that the Arkansas candidates for the Kleffner and DiCarlo awards were not chosen by ASHA, but they will be recognized as state winners by ASHA. Rick Neely received the Kleffner Award, Donna Fisher Smiley received the ArkSHA Audiology Award, Suzanne Miltich was given the ArkSHA President's award, and John Halloran received an Award of Appreciation at the 2006 ArkSHA convention.

### **Focus Area 4: Continuing Ed & Professional Development**

**Convention Committee:** Jennifer reported that her Focus Area 4 committee will meet and finalize a proposal in time for the December board meeting. The date for the 2007 Convention is October 4-5, 2007 in Hot Springs.

### **Focus Area 5: Website**

**Increase use of ArkSHA website:** Various options to make the ArkSHA website more user friendly and interesting are being researched.

- **Focus Area 6: Association Structure & Operations**

**Policy & Procedures Manual for Board:** Carol reported that the Policy and Procedures manual is in the works.

### **Old Business**

Suzanne reported that Dan Tullos has agreed to serve as Chair of the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee. Terry Baggs will serve on the committee. This committee is reviewing the bylaws as a whole and may make recommendations with regard to changes.

### **New Business**

Suzanne stated that the December board meeting may be moved to Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. She will contact board members via email at a later date.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

## **CLINICIAN'S CORNER**

### **A Clinical Educators Post-Game Analysis**

As I wished farewell to the guests following the small Superbowl party at my house, I started to think about the speeches made by the new champions. I had just witnessed the game of a lifetime for several young professional athletes. One thing that struck me as the speeches began was how they all made reference to the efforts of the **team** and how each player understood their role as part of the championship team.

Most CD professionals would agree that our patients are best cared for when they have a team of well-educated professionals working together. In my position as Director of Clinical Services at ASU, we have been able to facilitate teamwork within our clinical education curriculum. On our campus we divide the student clinicians into clinical teams. Each team meets weekly to discuss and brainstorm clinical challenges. Each team has a faculty facilitator who serves as a mentor. The other positions within the team rotate each week and include the following roles:

- Leader - composes an agenda and keeps the meeting moving in an orderly fashion
  - Recorder- takes minutes
  - Inspiration Leader- brings a positive message or even a joke to share - keeps the tone of the meeting positive
  - Host- brings snack (never met a student who could turn down punch and cookies)
- Contributing Member(s)

The teams typically share clinical challenges and successes. The team members have eagerly aided one another as they brainstorm clinical solutions. The advantages have included such benefits as (1) giving the students the opportunity to learn about 4-5 times the number of clients they would in a typical one clinician/one supervisor relationship environment, (2) clinician absenteeism declines because a team mate substitutes in the event that a clinician cannot attend a session, (3) students connect with their cohort group on a professional level, (4) students receive practice in the area of professional relationships and networking.

We are so excited about this new twist on clinical education here in Northeast Arkansas and I just wanted to share with all Arksha members how important we think the team approach to therapy is to our patients. I challenge you to think about your patients as the focus of the team and to truly understand your role on that team for maximum patient success.

Arianne Pait, M.A., CCC-SLP  
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Arkansas State University