



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Kay Hall
2009 ArkSHA President



The goal of the Association is to *REFOCUS, REVIVE, & REORGANIZE*. We are off to a great start as your board works to improve our association. The Leadership Conference held in March jumpstarted actions as we brainstormed ideas to improve many facets of our organization. It is exciting to say the least! We have developed a wonderful convention to meet the needs of ALL of our members entitled, *Caring for Communication*. A Regional Conference will be held in Texarkana in July. We are making our presence known at the Capitol in meeting the demands of speech therapists and audiologists. It has been so fulfilling working together as partners on issues in our field. Our public school salary initiative went further than it ever had before. This is credited to the many ad hoc committee members who have worked faithfully on the stipend initiative. Grassroots got us here and grassroots endeavors will continue to prevail. Although our salary incentive was not appropriated yet again, we gained the attention of AEA and others who will work with us until success is achieved.

Perspective continued on page 2

\$2.5 MILLION COMES THROUGH FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL SLPs

Carol B. Fleming, M.S., CCC-SLP
Salary Supplement Committee Chair

Be patient; this is as much about timing as persuasion. And we always need to follow the lead of our sponsor" - words quoted by Martha Perry, ArkSHA lobbyist during the 87th General Assembly in regard to HB 1149. I am happy to say that as of June 8, 2009; ArkSHA's patience has paid off.

On June 8, 2009, the Arkansas State Board of Education met to review the 2009-2010 Budget. During this meeting, it was discovered there was a surplus fund balance that they were not originally aware of. As a result, Commissioner Dr. Ken James asked that the monies be used for the Salary Stipend for Public School SLPs. John Kunkel, Associate Director of Finance for the Department of Education, has informed ArkSHA that these are "one time funds" - because our bill was not funded during the 87th General Assembly; however there was some money left over in the budget that allowed a revision to the Public School Fund for payment of the stipend.

Currently, ADE is writing Rules and Regulations for the payment of the stipend. This entails a "Rule Making Process" which will take place over the summer. If there are more than the projected 500 SLPs, ADE will have to review the Rules and Regulations and possibly cut back on the \$5000 payment/SLP to ensure all qualifying SLPs receive payment. Payments will be made during Spring 2010, once the Rule Making Process and Rules and Regulations have been finalized.

2.5 Million Comes Through continued on page 2

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ArkSHA is omnipresent and will continue to work towards the end goal of a salary incentive for speech-language pathologists in the schools.

We are holding ArkSHA booths at area conferences and working diligently to improve our website.

We will be taking action by improving public awareness during May is Better Speech & Hearing month. If you are doing something exciting, we want to know. We have implemented a KUDOS section to our newsletter to promote the creative and diligent work that you perform on a daily basis. **Volunteerism** is a huge facet of our organization. Nothing could be accomplished without willing participants to meet the needs of our Association.

I encourage each and every one of you to **TAKE ACTION**. It can be choosing to be a moderator at the convention, nominating a colleague for an award, helping oversee a booth at a conference, or making a call to ask a colleague to be a member in ArkSHA. We value **YOU**, our members, so get involved. The economy is tough right now, but when the times get tough, the tough get going. Be sure to check out our legislative updates on our website and join our **FACEBOOK** account to learn more of what is happening with ArkSHA in Arkansas!

FACTS:

- ArkSHA membership has steadily declined over the last 3 years.
- Issues impacting our profession have increased, yet those willing to become a member to assist with paying a lobbyist to help with these endeavors have declined.
- Public school speech therapists want a stipend, yet they are outnumbered in ArkSHA membership.
- You can't get something for nothing! **Join, Volunteer and Make a difference!**

ArkSHA works until the last minute....

As of June 8, 2009, ArkSHA has been apprised of a one time stipend to be paid in spring of 2010. This has been a hard battle but this support from the Arkansas Department of Education goes a long way in assisting in securing appropriation from legislation. Please help keep this momentous occasion alive. Join ArkSHA. We need to continue securing revenues to keep this ad hoc committee alive and working on behalf of our public school members. With your support, everything is possible.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

2.5 Million Comes Through continued from page 1

Things to keep in mind: Without an appropriations bill in the next Legislative session, the monies will not be carried over to subsequent school years. A 1099 will be sent to SLPs who qualify for this stipend - this is taxable income and taxes are not held out of the payment.

ArkSHA would like to thank those who have supported us during this process. Particular thanks to Rep. Eddie Cheatham, Sen. Shane Broadway, Sen. Tracy Steele, Sen. Jimmy Jeffries, Martha Perry, Marcia Harding, and AEA (Arkansas Education Association). As a matter of fact, the call to inform us of this accomplishment came from Richard Hutchinson, Government Relations Director for AEA. Mr. Hutchinson has been instrumental in assisting ArkSHA since we began this legislative process in 2005 with the 85th General Assembly. Lastly, none of this would be possible without the vision set forth by former State Representative Betty Pickett. ArkSHA thanks her for stepping forward to represent us and get Act 1187 enacted.



**ArkSHA 2009
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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JANE H. LeBLANC IS ARKSHA LIFETIME MEMBER



Jane H. LeBlanc of Jonesboro as a Lifetime Membership recipient. Dually certified in audiology and speech-language pathology, Ms. LeBlanc has had a long and distinguished career and is most deserving of this honor.

Ms. LeBlanc became interested in the field of audiology in the 1950's when she worked as a hearing aid dealer. At the age of 50, she began her education toward her professional degree in audiology and after receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in audiology at Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis), she went on to Vanderbilt for her master's degree. A few years later, at age 66, she earned her Master of Science degree in speech-language pathology from Arkansas State University. According to Ms. LeBlanc, "I think it made me a better audiologist to have the speech path degree."

ArkSHA is proud and excited to name Ms. Her professional contributions are numerous and include working on the Cleft Palate Team at Arkansas Children's Hospital, testifying as an expert witness in court, initiating a hearing screening program at the Rehabilitation Center in Hot Springs, and providing audiological assessments to Arkansas children at the School for the Deaf.

At Arkansas State University, she worked as an instructor and clinical supervisor for audiology as well as assisted in the development of the speech-language pathology program. She states with pride that one of the first graduates of that program was Richard (Rick) Neely, who is now the Chair of the department. Ms. LeBlanc's work as a speech-language pathologist included the Exceptional School in Portia, Arkansas and The CRDC Headstart Program in Jonesboro. She was the first and only SLP for Arkansas Headstart at this time (1965) and possibly in the nation, as the program began under President Johnson. In 1981, Dr. William C. Young, relatively new to Jonesboro, hired the 65 year old Jane H. LeBlanc as his sole audiologist. Upon her retirement in 2008 at the age of 92, the Otolaryngology and Facial Service Centre had grown to six physicians, three audiologists, and a hearing aid dispenser.

Life Time continued on page 7

Clinician's Corner

Dixie Branscom: Speech Pathologist and Tooth Fairy!

What would inspire a school-based speech pathologist to dress up for the day as a tooth fairy? According to Dixie Branscom, an SLP for Westside Elementary School in Searcy, National Dental Health month (February) is celebrated by the kindergarten teachers by engaging students in various activities to include visits by the local dentists who speak to the children about proper brushing and flossing as well as curriculum-based activities prepared by the teachers to reinforce the concepts.

During the school's Dental Week, Dixie read The Tooth Fairy, by Audry Wood and incorporated activities such as counting the number of words in the title, the number of syllables in the title, & identifying the author and illustrator. The vocabulary word from this story was "kernel", so, using a can of whole kernel of corn, Dixie distributed one kernel to each student during the story, made comparisons between a tooth and a kernel of corn and made predictions about what the character in the story might do next. She and the children talked about emotions, particularly jealousy, because the character in the book was jealous because she did not lose a tooth like her brother.



A considerable amount of time was spent discussing the correct pronunciation of "TOOTH" and that the TH makes the /th/ sound. Dixie posed questions related to the /th/ sounds such as "what is your tongue doing?" and "where is the air coming out?" As an auditory vigilance activity, the students participated in "The Jumping Game" and were instructed to "jump when I say 'tooth'". If students jumped when they heard a similar-sounding word, they would sit and the game would start over.

Ever curious, the students asked why Dixie wasn't dressed like "a real fairy", to which she responded, "Have YOU ever SEEN the tooth fairy? How do you know what she looks like?" further explaining that the picture in the book is the illustrator's idea and her outfit was HER idea. This led nicely into a conversation about using our imaginations.

According to Dixie, "I even did LUNCH DUTY in this outfit! Everyone loved it! A little chaos is good for the soul sometimes and a smile goes a long way."



REGIONAL CONFERENCE
2009
IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION
STRATEGIES FOR
READING, WRITING, &
SPELLING DISORDERS

Thursday, July 16, 2009
9 am - 2 pm
Highland Park Baptist Church
2410 Hazel Street
Texarkana, TX 75503

PRESENTER:
Stacey Mahurin, CCC-SLP
Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology
University of Arkansas Medical Sciences and
the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

For more information please call
(877) 427-5742 or email arksha@arksha.org

Name _____

Circle One Please: Member Non-Member

Conference Fees:
Members: \$40 Non Members: \$55 (lunch provided)
4.0 CEUS have been sought for this event.

MAILING ADDRESS:

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Employer _____

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD PLEASE FAX THIS FORM TO 501-244-2333

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ArkSHA is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. This program is offered for up to 1.3 CEUs. See each individual course for CEU amount, instructional level and content area. ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products, or clinical procedures.

ArkSHA 2009 Convention



Caring for Communication

October 14 -16, 2009

Keynote Speaker:

SUE HALE

President, ASHA

Featured Speakers:

KATHRINE VERDOLINI ABBOT, PH.D, Professor of Communication Science and Disorders in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

(Two sessions)

Motor learning principles in speech and voice therapy.

(One session)

Novel concepts in pediatric and adult voice therapy.

DIANE GERMAN, PH.D, Professor at National-Louis University, Chicago, Illinois.

Seminar 1: Differential Diagnosis via Deep Assessment in Word Finding

Seminar 2: Comprehensive WF Intervention based on Deep Assessment

Seminar 3 Impact of Word Finding on Oral Reading

LISA A. NEWMAN, SC.D., Research Speech Pathologist, Army Audiology and Speech Center, Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The Speech-Language Pathologist's Role in Treating Wounded Service Members

KENNETH SMITH, PH.D, an original founders of Hearing Associates, Inc.

Seminar 1: The Gold Standard for Verifying Hearing Aid Fittings

Seminar 2: Amplifications Innovations: 24/7 Hearing aid use and other new Developments

Seminar 3: Improving the Quality of Patient Care Through a Focus on the Process of Evaluation and Treatment

ANNE VAN KLEECK, PH.D, Professor and Callier Research Scholar, School of Behavioral and Brain Science, University of Texas at Dallas.

Preparing Preschoolers and Kindergartners for Success in Classroom Interaction & Reading Comprehension

**Hot Springs Convention Center · Embassy Suites
Hot Springs, Arkansas**



Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association
P. O. Box 250261
Little Rock, AR 72225

Hello ArkSHA members! I hope you all are having a great year and a wonderful summer!

We have an excellent way for you to start you Fall! We are planning a great convention for you in Hot Springs on October 14 -16th "*Caring for Communication*". We have some wonderful speakers including the ASHA President Sue Hale. It will be fantastic! Mark your calendars and join us!

Also, I would really love for you members to volunteer! We have a wonderful time. It is not very time consuming - just a few hours at the convention. We need help with registration, the auction and moderating. It's a lot of fun! You get involved. You help our organization. Perks are involved. Please, if you are interested, contact me at:

southarkhearing@yahoo.com or
cathrynjcranford@hotmail.com.

Thank you in advance. See you in October!

Cathryn

Cathryn C. Hollis
VP of Continuing Education



**LOOK FOR YOUR PRE-CONFERENCE BROCHURE
COMING SOON!**

HB 1149, to fund recruitment and retention bonuses for speech pathologists employed in public schools, was the number one priority of the Arkansas Speech-Learning Hearing Association in the just completed Regular Session of the 87th General Assembly. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Eddie Cheatham (D-Crossett), and co-sponsored by Rep. Rick Green (R-Van Buren), Sen. Jimmy Jeffress (D-Crossett,) Sen. Shane Broadway (D-Bryant), and Sen. Tracy Steele (D-North Little Rock). It received a do-pass recommendation from the Joint Budget Committee, but a funding source for the \$2.5 million annual cost of the bonuses was not found, and so the bonuses remain unfunded.

Special thanks to our legislative sponsors for their support and efforts; and to Marcia Harding, Arkansas Department of Education, who volunteered to speak in support of the bill to the Joint Budget Committee; and to ArkSHA Board members Carol Fleming and Kay Hall for their involvement and lobbying efforts.

Because HB 1149 would have appropriated funds only for the first year of the biennium, a new bill will need to be introduced and passed in the Fiscal Session of the 87th General Assembly. This session will begin in February, 2010, but lobbying efforts with the Executive Branch and members of the Legislature should continue after a short break to give everyone a chance to recover and regroup from the 2009 session.

There were two other bills of interest to ArkSHA members, both sponsored by Rep. Pam Adcock (D-Little Rock). One, HB 1930, to require health benefit plans to offer coverage for hearing aids passed and became Act 1179. The other, HB 1490, to exempt hearing aids from the sales and use tax, did not pass. Rep. Adcock will be term-limited out after the 2010 Fiscal Session.

All in all, the 2009 Regular Session was a mixed bag for ArkSHA but some successes were achieved, including a professional profile-raising 'day at the Capitol' that the Association can build on in the future.

Martha Perry

ArkSHA Lobbyist

House Bill 1930 - Arkansas

This bill returned from the Senate and the House as passed on 4.6.09. The author was Pam Adcock-(D) Little Rock. The bill mandates that health insurance companies *offer* benefit plans that include coverage for hearing aids in an amount not less than 1400\$ per ear every three years. The companies won't be mandated to provide coverage in every plan, but to offer plans that include this coverage and let the individual business decide if they want to purchase them. The plan starts after January 1, 2010, and coverage for hearing aids is offered on any hearing instrument sold in the state by an individual licensed to dispense hearing aids.

House of Representative Bill 1246 - Early Hearing Detection and Innovation Act

The bill was introduced by Lois Capps (D-CA) on 3.2.09. The bill is intended to amend and reauthorize the federal portion of this initiative through fiscal year 2015. The bill authorizes CDC grants and technical assistance to states with infant hearing research and surveillance programs, authorizes Health Services and Resources grants to support statewide efforts for newborn and infant hearing loss screening and detection, and would require the Director of the NIH to establish a post doctoral program to foster research and development in the area of early hearing loss detection and intervention.. The bill also includes services for young children (currently it is limited to infants and newborns). The bill was passed in the House on 4.6.09 and now is being sent for consideration by the senate.

J. R. McCoy
Vice President
Audiology & Hearing
Services

Get involved!



Join ArkSHA TODAY!!



Wonderful Resource for Children

Pediatrics Plus in Conway (They also have companies in Little Rock and Russellville) are providing a wonderful resource for children with disabilities. They are doing a lot of communication connections and community connections. They initiated a soccer program for children with disabilities from ages 3 and up. They also have a great ACTS JR program which allows students to participate in drama events and actually perform for various events throughout the state...raising money now to take them on the road, They have an autism resource center of Arkansas for parents and community members to access. They have monthly educational support meetings, provide a summer camp, and have a parent resource guide.

This innovative company has looked at community need and paid it forward by providing community resources. One of my students participates in the ACTS JR program and it was amazing him to see him perform in front of a rather large audience...He had come a long way.

A contact person at Pediatrics Plus in Conway is Courtney Leach. Pediatrics Plus is a company who employs SLP, OT, PT and has a developmental classroom as well. The company was started by an OT, PT and SLP who had formerly worked for Faulkner County Day School.

Life Time Membership continued from page 1

Throughout the years, Ms. LeBlanc has made professional presentations to speech-language pathologists, teachers, public school nurses, Headstart personnel and parents, hospital interns, and civic clubs. She has provided seminars and workshops to the Arkansas and Tennessee Hearing Aid Dealers State Associations. In the 1960's, hearing aid dealers became licensed professionals and Ms. LeBlanc helped to construct the first licensing examination.

Ms. LeBlanc's written works include "Memories of ArkSHA" which she wrote for the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's as well as "Memories of the ArkSHA 1970 Spring Meeting", "ArkSHA Comes of Age in 1976", and a "Clinician's Corner" article for the 2007 April newsletter .

By her own account, one of her ArkSHA favorite memories was recalled as follows... "In the 1970's, I enlisted the help of Dr. George Y. Herndon to save ArkSHA as we were about to disband for lack of leadership.

Lifetime continued on page 9

REFOCUS, REVIVE & REORGANIZE!



ArkSHA held a Leadership Conference in March to further develop the platform of **REFOCUS, REVIVE & REORGANIZE!** The conference was a huge success with many participants including past board members, current board members and future leaders of the Association. Brainstorming sessions were held to improve obtaining candidates and implementation of **AWARDS, INCREASING STUDENT MEMBERSHIP, LEGISLATIVE ALERTS, PUBLIC AWARENESS, RECRUITING AND RETAINING MEMBERS, REGIONAL CONFERENCES, VOLUNTEERISM, WEBSITE DESIGN AND ACCESS, AND OTHER.**

Action plans are being developed to implement many of the ideas generated at this leadership conference. To date, we have had the presence of an ArkSHA booth at the UCA conference, developed a side by side comparison of ABESPA/ArkSHA/ASHA, and will be holding our 2nd annual regional conference in Texarkana in July. Certificates of participation have been mailed to each leadership conference attendee and to volunteers on our numerous committees. Janice Brannon, our regional ASHA leader addressed the conference attendees as well on volunteerism. ArkSHA now has gone **GREEN!** Check out our ArkSHA Facebook account for new updates and to share with other members. It is exciting times at ArkSHA!

TAKE ACTION!

Be a part of the ArkSHA Family!

Kay Hall, MS, CCC-SLP
ArkSHA President



Kay Hall and Janice Brannon at the Leadership Conference.

Below; Cathryn Hollis, Cherin Pace, Carol Fleming. In background: Dan Tullos, Jennifer Fisher and Beckie Weaver



Our discipline relies on great teachers – because great teachers produce great audiologists and speech pathologists. ArkSHA would like to celebrate and congratulate two of our very own members for being recognized for their commitment to teaching excellence at their respective universities.



Dr. Rebecca Weaver was recently named one of the “Outstanding Teachers for 2008-2009” at Harding University in Searcy, AR. Dr. Weaver is currently serving as Chair and Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Harding. She has been on the Harding faculty since 1984. She was instrumental in initiating a Master’s program at Harding beginning in the fall of 2008. her clinical background includes work in both the public schools as well as in home health. Dr. Weaver has served on the ArkSHA board as President and as Vice President for Continuing Education. In addition, she has served as one of the Arkansas representatives to the ASHA Legislative Council (now known as the Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Council) and on the Council for Clinical Certification Audiology and Speech Pathology (CFCC). Dr. Weaver is a credit to the profession of Speech-Language Pathology and her contributions to this state and to ArkSHA are numerous and ongoing.

Dr. Kim McCullough received the 2008 Teaching Excellence Award at the 55th Annual Faculty Excellence Awards Ceremony in April, 2008 at the University of Central Arkansas. Dr. McCullough has been at UCA since 2001 and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology. Her profound impact on her students can most clearly be witnessed through their effusive praise of her ability to bridge the academic to the clinical aspect of speech language pathology. Her students express consistently their admiration for Dr. McCullough’s empathetic regard for the patients whom she serves with dedication. In fact, Dr. McCullough is described time and again as “a model for sensitivity towards patients,” a characteristic her students seek to cultivate and emulate. Dr. McCullough has been able to impact not only her community of students but the community at large through her pedagogical mastery of and passion for her field of study. She has served ArkSHA most recently as the Vice President for Continuing Education.



ArkSHA congratulates both of these members for their outstanding teaching abilities and for their service to the discipline of communication sciences and disorders. Their accomplishments challenge each of us to strive to be better clinicians and teachers.

Please tell us about your accomplishments or those of your colleagues. We want to share in our members’ accomplishments and we love bragging on you!

THE 3RD ANNUAL
JANE H. LEBLANC
 CONFERENCE IN
COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

SPONSORED BY:
 ASU
 Department of Communication Disorders

ArkSHA members Dr. Richard Neely, ASU and Nita Stillwell, Jonesboro School District visit at the ArkSHA booth with ASU graduate students, Lekshmi Hymavathy and Rachel Dunigan



Lifetime continued from page 7

After years of numbering perhaps 20-25 members, we registered approximately 90 as members at that one convention and for the first time in history had someone from ASHA come (at his own expense) as a speaker. Then in 1976, George and I convinced ArkSHA to hold the convention in Jonesboro where ArkSHA for the first time had two nationally known speakers as presenters”.

Ms. LeBlanc served on the first board of examiners for audiology and speech pathology in Arkansas (ABESPA). After months of consulting with ASHA and the few states with licensure, writing procedures and guidelines, she and the other members of this first ABESPA submitted to the Attorney General what ultimately became the State Practice Act. With the support of ArkSHA and the work of Ms. LeBlanc and her fellow board members, Arkansas was one of the first states to have licensure and a licensing board.

Her service to the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology is quite extensive and has earned her many awards and recognition state-wide. Ms. LeBlanc received the Frank R. Kleffner Clinical Achievement Award in 1989 and 2005, as well as ArkSHA’s Arkansas Audiology Award in 1998 and Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. She states that her two most favorite awards are her 1995 OSCAR, which was presented to her in honor of the impact she has had on ArkSHA.

Of this award she states, “I love this tongue in cheek award and keep it on a desk in my living room while my other awards languish in a closet”. The other favorite is “The Audiology Song” which was written and sung for her by Rick Neely in 1977 when he graduated from the speech-language pathology program and performed for her again in 1995 at the ArkSHA convention when she received the OSCAR.

In her honor, Arkansas State University holds the Annual Jane H. LeBlanc Symposium in Communication Disorders presented by the ASU chapter of NSSLHA. Additionally, the Jane H. LeBlanc Clinical Scholarship in Communication Disorders was established and first awarded to an ASU student in January 2009.

One would think that Ms. LeBlanc is a workaholic, but she is quick to disagree and points out that she has traveled extensively to include China, most European countries, Cuba, Panama, and Central America, Australia and New Zealand, the Canadian Rocky Mountains, as well as most of the United States and Alaska. She is also an active member in her church and in a Jonesboro women’s literary club. In the July 2007 issue of a local magazine, *Celebrate*, Ms. LeBlanc was named as one of Jonesboro’s “Most Fascinating People”. Ms. LeBlanc, 93, states that she “had to retire” when she was 92 and adds, “I have never understood why people are ashamed of growing old and have never hidden my age”.

Jane H. LeBlanc has given much to the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology and ArkSHA says, “Congratulations and thank you”!