

Brag and Moan

CSAP Fall Meeting 2009
New Orleans

TOP 10 WINNERS

- ARKANSAS
- WASHINGTON
- KENTUCKY
- CALIFORNIA
- GEORGIA
- PENNSYLVANIA
- NORTH CAROLINA
- SOUTH DAKOTA
- OHIO
- CONNECTICUT

SOUTH DAKOTA ~ Becky Cermak

- **Brags:**
SD has initiated obtaining licensure in the state
- **Moans:**
Still no licensure in our state. Ugh. One of two. Ugh

KENTUCKY ~ Lonnie Harris

BRAGS:

- We had a very successful convention- 1350 people attending. Our membership is 1300, so we have more attendees than members.
- Membership renewal and convention registration is all online. We did not print any programs or handouts for onsite distribution.
- Our convention dates and locations are locked in through 2014. We now get contracts for two consecutive years at each of three rotating cities rather than alternating each year. We get much better pricing by doing this.
- We met with Stan Dublinski in October and now have a three-year strategic plan in place.
- New lobbyist working to obtain successful passage of the salary supplement for school SLPs.
- We have signed a contract for Craven Management Associates to manage our association.
- Our use of e-mail blasts continues to be a great way to communicate with our members.

Moans:

- In the final two days of the legislature, the chair of the KY licensing board (an audiologist who is NOT a member of KSHA or ASHA) used her influence to get an amendment sponsored and added to our salary supplement bill that severely compromised the entire bill. She did this without consulting anyone in KSHA.

ARKANSAS ~ Carol Fleming

Brags:

- Salary Supplement for SLPs, article in the ASHA Leader, work with Arkansas Education Association
- Hearing Aid Health Insurance Coverage passed: \$1400 per aid every 3 years
- New Lobbyist hired
- Successful state convention this year

Moans:

- Improving membership and member involvement
- State Licensure Board removed speech language pathologists (and school psych examiners) from teacher classification excluding individuals from being able to obtain a supervisory license. Note - our Assistant Commissioner of Education in Special Education is a speech language pathologist. This recommendation prevents anyone from moving into a supervisory position without going back to college and obtaining a content area degree, first.

Virginia ~ Scott Rankins

Brags:

- Our SHAV-PAC committee has been very active in endorsing candidates and pushing issues related to insurance coverage and reimbursement, funding, hearing aid coverage and a single license for Audiologists.
- We endorsed a candidate for governor and 25 delegates
- Unfortunately, not all our candidates were elected

Virginia

Moans:

- Our Public School caseload concerns and budget constraints have affected our caseloads to this extreme. In some localities and counties, we have reached the state maximum due to the freeze on hiring more SLP's. We know from SHAV-PAC that it is a concern that is being "looked into" by delegates but this is going to become a legal battle with parents when their children are not offered services in the public school setting.
- We are having difficulty finding nominees to be Vice President of Continuing Education /Conference Chair for the next term.

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North Carolina

~ Linda Wortman Lowe

Braggs:

- The state association is following the advice from the May CSAP meeting and are updating our By-Laws and Policies and Procedures.
- NC Advocacy efforts defeated Medicaid cuts that would have "eliminated services to more than 25,000 children and could have cut approximately \$30 million from the state economy in payroll taxes". This cut would have also resulted in a "\$45 million dollar loss in matching federal funds to purchase health care services". This successful grassroots advocacy effort was highlighted on the front page of the ASHA Leader October 13, 2009.

Moans:

- Budget constraints are being implemented state wide.

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TEXAS

~ Denise Barringer

Braggs:

- TSHA scored an unprecedented victory for the state's private-practice speech-language pathologists in October, when it challenged—and defeated—an effort by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas (BCBS/TX) to recoup payments going back three years.
- TSHA was awarded a \$6500.00 grant from ASHA for a Public Service Announcement focusing on the need for speech-language pathologists in the public school work arena.
- Legislative success! SLPs were included in the annual pay raise bill along with teachers. Liability protection for SLPs, Audiologists who volunteer their services

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TEXAS

Moans:

- Defeat the the Loan Repayment bill- this would have increased the number of SLPs and Audiologists who might choose public school employment
- Sunset 2011 – This review marks the State of Texas' effort to determine which professions should be governed and regulated by the state. Decisions made during this review period will culminate during the 2011 Legislative Session at which point legislators will determine how our practice will be regulated for the next 12 years.

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Connecticut

~ Rhea Paul

Braggs:

- CSHA is preparing to celebrate our 60th anniversary in 2010. We plan to have special events at our Spring convention and throughout MBSH month.
- We are proud to say we have contracted with a website developer to upgrade our website so that members will be able to register for events, pay dues, make contributions on-line. We have also transitioned to "green" communications.
- We have revised and updated our By-Laws and in doing so have created a new VP position, VP for Public Information, to replace the position of Newsletter Editor. The new VP will have broader responsibilities for getting our message out to members and the public.
- Finally, CSHA successfully lobbied our state legislature to ward off an attempt by ENTs to limit our scope of practice and preclude SLPs from making diagnoses without input from a physician. This battle triggered a re-evaluation at the State Legislature on the process for determining scope of practice for health care licensees, which we are monitoring through our lobbyist.

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Connecticut

Moans:

- Our main obstacle is the low level of membership in CSHA by SLPs and AUDs in CT.
- A second moan is the fact the the State Legislature recently doubled our license fee.

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Georgia

~ Erica Chatelain

Braggs:

- Our Strategic Planning Committee is in the final stages of putting together a new governance structure
- All positions on Executive Council are filled (except for Division President-Audiologist) with the council welcoming "new blood" to the mix!
- Pulling together a Convention with a first time one day Schools Tract on a limited budget.

Moans:

- Money Money Money

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OHIO

~ Laura Schrock

Braggs

- NSSLHA grants,
- Professional Grant Seed Money,
- New website, data base for consumers,
- Student Leadership Program,
- Culturally Linguistically Diverse Standing Committee

MOANS

Other organizations expect OSLHA to "pick up the slack" when there's a problem. e.g. when the Ohio Governmental Affairs Coalition lost it's PAC Treasurer, OSLHA was expected to step up and take that on. Also, in the past, many organizations had agreed to help fund the Ohio party at ASHA, but when it came time for payment, OSLHA was expected to bear the burden. How can OSLHA be responsible to the membership, but not do the work that other groups should be or are responsible for doing?

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California

~ Diane Collins

Braggs:

- CSHA held a joint workshop with CA Audiology Association and plan on holding more
- We have gone almost entirely electronic in terms of sending out information to members. We are holding a partial electronic meeting in January.

Moans:

- Due to the declining economy, many SLPs are not being released from their job sites and/or they are not being reimbursed to attend conferences. As a result, CSHA has had a decline in the numbers of attendees at the state conventions. This past year, we had a huge turnout (1740 attendees), but over 50% of those attending registered for one day only, therefore, resulting in reduced revenue. We are trying to come up with ways to encourage more memberships, such as discounting new and 1 year lapsed memberships. If we do not increase our revenue soon, we will need to take out a first mortgage loan on our office building. We are hoping to avoid that.

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MASSACHUSETTS

~Suzanne Ducharme

Braggs:

- MSHA held its first highly profitable CE event since 2007, with Barbara Ehren
- Approved a new governance structure and re-wrote bylaws for the Association
- Began using Constant Contact to do member outreach regularly
- Worked with ASHA to develop a membership blast to increase membership
- Worked with ASHA to develop legislative advocacy strategies related to several bills
- Used Cap Whiz for state level alerts with a high level of response
- Working on transition to using our newsletter as a CEU vehicle
- Continued to explore a cooperative relationship with MA Academy of Audiology
- Facilitated transition in our Board of Licensure with new members recruited by MSHA

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MASSACHUSETTS

Moans:

- Volunteerism- getting people to step up, even those in leadership
- Executive Council gaps- we have been operating without a president, no elect as of yet
- Money—economy is still tight, especially when it comes to attendance at CE events (too much competition from free venues)
- Greene bill that would allow unlicensed practice still lives, although we had a big response to Cap Whiz and it has not moved out of committee
- Fatigue and overwhelm- it's always the same people who show up and do the work, and burn-out is a huge issue
- Recruitment of new leaders is challenging- everyone has a reason why they "just can't right now"

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OREGON

~ Wendy Gunter

Braggs:

Healthy membership
Healthy budget
Healthy participation

Moans:

Need more involvement of the membership at a committee level

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MISSOURI

~ Beverly Jean Zimmer

Brags:

- Missouri helped in the effort to defeat the removal of the statute requiring helmets for motorcycle riders and our Schools Affairs officer has developed a strong relationship with DESE to be part of developing better regulations for the implementer model in MO as well as other school affairs/DESE issues

Moans:

- A great concern continues to be the shortage of speech-language pathologists and the subsequent implementer model which schools abuse

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ILLINOIS

~ Mary Johnson

BRAGS:

- ISHA is celebrating 50 years
- We were re-approved by ASHA

MOANS:

- Developmental Therapists (DTs) are trying to infringe on our scope of practice in Early Intervention
- The overall budget in IL government is impacting the passage/viewing of any bills
- SLP/SLPA credentialing issues

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PENNSYLVANIA

~ Char Molrine

Brags:

- Very active executive board; exceptional annual conference slate of presenters; and development of state level advisory council with stakeholders from various Commonwealth entities addressing the state's personnel shortage.

Moans:

PDE is working behind the scenes to thwart our efforts to get a new licensure bill passed. The Board of Governors approved a new masters program at one of the State System of Higher Education institutions that is a 2-year, part-time, distance-learning master's program that provides focused training to bachelor level speech-language pathologists working under emergency teacher certification. The new degree program is a MEd in School Based Speech Language Pathology. Graduates of this specialized training program will be eligible for Pennsylvania teacher certification in speech-language impaired. Graduates are not eligible for the Certificate of Clinical Competence issued by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association as no adult course work or practical experiences are offered.

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Washington

~ Sindy Sands

Brags:

- Membership is up, more members on committees, more members from colleges
- We got certification for SLPAs through legislation and are now working on rules
- We have a good lobbyist
- We instituted Memberclicks on our website
- We have great people lines up for election. Our President Elect is great and very knowledgeable.

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Washington

MOANS

- We have a huge shortage in the schools for SLPs and are trying to be proactive in recruitment and retention
- We are trying to get stipends for folks in the schools that match the national board teachers stipend through the legislature but our state is facing a huge shortfall
- We wanted licensure for the SLPAs but the committee did not understand how an SLP without a license could supervise. They are not familiar enough with the workings of the schools to see how this is viable. Our ED SLPs are certified by OSP1 not DOH. They also have their Cs to a great extent.

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KANSAS

~ Lois Waldo

BRAGS:

- Celebrated our (Kansas Speech-Language Hearing) 50th Birthday with a party, complete with cake and candles, at our annual fall convention!
- Sent by way of membership email listings, five weekly Better Hearing and Speech Month Notes that included history and anecdotes to celebrate KSHA's 50 years.
- Collaborated with Assistive Technology of Kansas group for a pre-conference workshop with 75 attendees.
- Added "Consumer Resource" to KSHA website which allows consumers to "find a professional" in their area.
- Began using Google Analytics which provides insight into website traffic.
- Continued visits to universities to develop relationships with and recruit student members.
- Created a document to help orient students who may be attending the annual conference for the first time.
- Had a large increase in student membership attendees at our annual convention.
- Offered continuing education at legislative day.
- Held two Executive Board meetings via conference call.

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KANSAS

Moans:

- Requested a \$5.00 dues increase, which was approved.
(Also had to cut several line items in our budget to fit within projected income shortfall.)
- Realized a drop in membership numbers.

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