Continuing to Reflect on the Past as We Move Forward

As leaders we have to reflect on the past in order to move forward to the future, both personally and professionally. In doing so, I find myself reflecting on my most recent experiences, including the Spring Conference (in collaboration with ASHA). I am so thankful to the many individuals and companies who helped to make the conference a success; particularly ASHA, CSAP, EBS Healthcare and South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association (SCSHA) members. I want to make a special note of thanks to the Hawaii Speech-Language-Hearing Association and SCSHA for their generous donations.

Thank you to the members of SCSHA (particularly Regina Lemmon and Tara Gregori) who helped to make our trip to Charleston memorable and personable. The carriage rides, which were sponsored by SCSHA, were interesting, intriguing and exciting. It was one of the best ways to see the city and learn of its history. Without the generosity of SCSHA, many of us would not have had the opportunity to see so much of the city.

EBS Healthcare continues to be a great supporter of CSAP. They sponsored our Friday evening reception and live auction. The items donated by the state associations were so unique. Thank you to the generosity of our donors and buyers. The auction is always a fun event that offers an opportunity to shop and bring home an item that just can’t be found anywhere – sending participants home with unique memories. I still recall my first auction in Albuquerque – it was something like I’d never experienced. No two auctions are the same – they are always entertaining, moving and amusing.

So many memories were made in Charleston, S.C., as CSAP and members of ASHA learned to “Mind our Professional Manners.” The networking opportunities were boundless. I enjoyed reminiscing with past friends and making new friendships - particularly during the time spent in rooms 1209 and 1201 of the Francis Marion Hotel. Continued collaboration occurred in those rooms on a nightly basis. My mother, whom was greeted and welcomed by so many CSAP friends, commented that she was impressed with everyone she met. She truly experienced everything that CSAP has to offer and now understands my personal feelings and admiration for the connections I’ve made through CSAP.

It’s these connections that excite me as I consider the future of CSAP. Currently, I am reflecting on and reviewing the many evaluations that were submitted to CSAP and ASHA following the conference in Charleston. Robbie Jackson, Commissioner on Issues and Planning, and I are both looking at every comment, suggestion and request as we consider programming for the fall meeting in San Diego. Comments related to what we are doing well, could do better, and suggested topics of interest will be shared with the management of CSAP and current Board of Directors. We truly appreciate your comments and will move forward based on the feedback we have received - particularly your requests to have more time to network and collaborate. We recognize those networking opportunities are one of the unique aspects of CSAP. We are considering everything as we prepare for another unique opportunity to meet, network/collaborate, and learn with state leaders in San Diego.

When reflecting on the past and preparing for the future, leaders should consider contacting past board members. Having a historical perspective is important in making decisions for the association. Too often, past officers are not consulted in current and future endeavors. Remember, the past can teach a leader and aid in future actions and potential change. Change is inevitable. The future is ours to make it what it can be. Let’s continue to work together.

Lastly, consider this – always check the back doors of the shuttle/limo service vehicle to be sure they are secured! There’s something to be said about moving forward when one is not prepared or ready for the unexpected.

Moving forward to exciting times,

Carol
Action of the Joint Committee to the State National Association Relations

The Joint Committee includes the President, Past President and President-Elect of CSAP, plus three ASHA members (two of whom are prior association Presidents). We met the morning after the CSAP meeting to celebrate the success of the meeting and conduct our business. We reviewed our work plan, timeline and the memorandum of understanding between CSAP and ASHA. We enjoyed our preliminary review of the HELP forms, identifying issues that require further discussion and action. Committee members will be contacting selected states based on the Bring, Brag and Moan sessions to follow-up on successful new initiatives. The information we gather will be shared with the CSAP membership at large to facilitate replication of these great ideas.

Lissa Power-deFur
ASHA Representative to the Joint Committee

Success in Charleston!

Congratulations on a successful spring meeting and thank you to the South Carolina delegation for being such superb hosts! The 50/50 raffle was a great success again, with CSAP splitting the $1,110 pot with Terri Massimi from New York. What a wonderful way to end the spring meeting! The net proceeds show an increase of almost 22% from the fall meeting last November in Philadelphia.

As always, the live auction was a highlight of the meeting. We made $4,327, an increase of 38% from the last live auction in San Antonio last spring. Outstanding! Remember that we are switching to a live auction in the fall in lieu of a social event. It is great fun and it helps CSAP tremendously.

Have a great summer. Let’s all start planning now for even greater success in San Diego!

Lonnie Harris
Treasurer

Those HELP Forms!

What a great CSAP conference in Charleston! Our heads were filled with new ideas and we made lots of new connections. The Joint Committee met Sunday morning and began our review of the HELP (Help Evaluate Listen Purpose) forms you completed. We are sorting these into themes and will continue our review during our summer conference call(s). Some of your comments will return as topics at future CSAP meetings, some will be forwarded to ASHA to provide technical assistance to the association, and others will be formed into recommendations to ASHA from the Joint Committee. Thanks so much for sharing your ideas and sparking action!

Lissa Power-deFur
ASHA representative to the Joint Committee

Call for Nominations

The deadline to submit your nomination for the CSAP Executive Board is August 1, 2011! The two offices open for election this year are President-Elect and Treasurer. For more information and for the vitae form, please visit the CSAP website.

Upcoming CSAP Meetings

November 16, 2011: San Diego, CA
May 18-19, 2012: Anchorage AK
May 17-18, 2013: ASHA Headquarters
HSHA Celebrates May is Better Hearing and Speech Month!

Hawai‘i Speech-Language-Hearing Association (HSHA) celebrated May is Better Hearing and Speech Month at the Hawaii State Library on May 14, 2011. They had almost twice as many children participating this year. Randy Weirather donated ASHA brochures to utilize for educational materials following the session. The most popular brochure was the one with developmental speech and language milestones written in Chinese. Several parents had speech-language questions. Yurika Matsumori-Kelly led storybook readings from selected books to promote listening and speaking. A presentation board was created with brochures, a poster and the HSHA logo. Anne Horner and Jessica Tindal provided language enrichment activities and crafts following the storybook reading. Trisha Siedman distributed door prizes, which included “May Is Better Hearing and Speech Month” balloons, pencils, notepads, penlights, totebag and thermoses. The library staff offered bottled water and presented each HSHA participant with a lei.

The celebration continued at the Hawaii Book and Music Festival immediately following Family Story Time Celebration. The goal of the event was to emphasize literacy. President Barack Obama’s sister (Maya Soetoro-Ng) helped HSHA celebrate the event. In fact, one lucky winner of the Spring CSAP raffle won a signed copy of Soetoro-Ng’s children’s book, Ladder to the Moon. Soetoro-Ng thanked HSHA for participating in Family Story Time with the children at the library. It was an AWESOME event celebrating May is Better Hearing and Speech Month!!

Yolanda Miller
Hawaii Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Am I Late?

The pages and pages of information provided at the CSAP meeting is being shared with my Executive Board to assist with our preparations for our Strategic Planning Meeting in September. The notes and handouts were sorted into areas of activities and shared with the Board members in charge of the specific areas. The notes on membership and Convention were the most extensive since they are critical activities of an association. In the chicken vs. the egg discussion, membership comes first.

We have decided that we have not “tootied” our own horn enough in our professional community. If we have “tooted,” it needs a “re-toot.” Memories are so short. We are planning a campaign with school-based clinicians. Materials will be provided that highlights “what we have done for you lately.” A darker theme would be, “Spotlight on MSHA before the lights go out!” A third theme could be about “playing fair.” It would show a teeter-totter with a few SLPs doing all the heavy lifting.

I continue to be inspired by CSAP energy!

Gloria Petit-Clair
Maryland Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Assistive Technology Industry Association and SIG 16 Collaboration

The Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) together with ASHA’s Special Interest Group 16 (School Based Services) and Special Interest Group 12 (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) have developed a partnership to better understand your needs in the area of assistive technology. We are developing a survey to do just that. The survey will be available this summer and we are asking CSAP members to assist us in reaching all speech-language pathologists. We would like to know what support is needed through potential training, mentorships or the evaluation and use of assistive technology. Watch for the poster session that is being considered for ASHA 2011 in San Diego and the survey itself via the listserv.

The ATIA is a not-for-profit membership organization of manufacturers, sellers and providers of technology-based assistive devices and/or services. Its mission is to serve as the collective voice of the assistive technology industry so that the best products and services are delivered to people with disabilities.

For additional info, please contact:

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Submitted by Sharon Spencer
Assistive Technology Industry Association Consultant
New Mexico Promotional Efforts

New Mexico has a few promotional efforts that you may find interesting. Both of these efforts were expanded by the efforts of former Vice President of Public Information, Beth Stewart, MS, CCC-SLP.

New Mexico Speech-language and Hearing Association (NMSHA) has a long history of sponsoring an award for a profession related science fair entry. In recent years, NMSHA has expanded their involvement from one fair to three fairs in the state. Related to the expansion, we began inviting the winner(s) of the science fair award to our Annual Convention business meeting where we would acknowledge their efforts and include them in some of the fun activities like drawing the raffle ticket for the $50/50 raffle. This involvement has evolved to an invitation to the science fair winner(s) to attend Convention as a guest and to set up their exhibit as part of the poster sessions. The attending guests are each assigned a liaison (a student volunteer from the CD programs in the state) who treats them as a VIP for the Convention. NMSHA Convention attendees have responded by showing an active interest in the exhibits. Members can frequently be overheard during the Convention commenting on how well designed the exhibits are.

To further expand the reach of the promotional efforts, we began creating an award certificate for the sponsoring teacher(s) of the winner(s). This has now evolved to extending the invitation to the teacher to attends the business meeting at Convention as well.

Award recipients who attend also receive some gift items to show our appreciation- past items have included NMSHA t-shirts or sweatshirts, notebooks and pens with the NMSHA logo and tote bags.

The other novel promotional activity NMSHA initiated was an annual book drive to promote our role in literacy. Each year members are asked to nominate a library in need of books. At our Annual Convention, members are encouraged to bring books to donate to the “Read Between the Lines” campaign (originally titled “Spread the Word.”) Our local Usborne books representative, Edie Henry, joined forces with us in the campaign. Edie, who is a long-time vendor and supporter of NMSHA Conventions, has assisted our efforts by hosting the drop box and selling books to members for donation to the campaign. If a predetermined goal (previously $200 in sales of donated books) is reached by Usborne, the representative donates 50% more of the amount of the donation in retail value of books.

Once the library in need is selected, a NMSHA member who lives in that community is contacted and asked to invite a representative to our business meeting to receive the donation. We have contacted local papers to print the story after the Convention.

Each donated book has a bookplate on the inner cover with the campaign logo. Recipients have included libraries affected by natural disaster, rural libraries and most recently a school on a local reservation that did not have a library but was interested in beginning one.

Bryan Tierney
New Mexico Speech-language and Hearing Association

Staying Up To Date Professionally Via Technology

A recent article in the ASHA Leader discussed a member’s comment regarding our professional journals being available online. This member was not accessing or reading their professional journals. Their reason was it was too time consuming and too difficult.

Our national and state associations are now interacting with members electronically. Professionally we need to become proficient in using basic technology. At the state and national level we are all going paperless. Does this mean we will not provide for our members needs? No it does not. But we need to support our members at all levels.

We are all going paperless. We manage our memberships electronically. Most associations have moved their entire Convention to on-line, save the date reminders, registration, hotel registration, handouts and evaluations. Our elections have gone electronic. Even here at CSAP we are providing our members with a webinar that addresses these issues.

Our national and some state Code of Ethics require us to utilize every resource possible to enable us to provide the highest quality services. Our profession is continually providing us with evidence based resources.

Our members are becoming or have become proficient technologically. We need to assist them in being accountable by staying informed. They can do this by using their technology skills. As state leaders we need to be aware of our members needs and provide them support and/or training.

I would like to request a moment of silence! My hot pink Razor cell phone died.

I am now the proud owner of a Smart phone. Stay tuned for my next technology update: Joining Facebook.

Paulette Gentry
CSAP Board Reviews Strategic Plan

The CSAP Executive Board met on Thursday, June 9 via conference call to review Focus Area I and Focus Area II of the CSAP Strategic Plan. Focus Areas III and IV will be scheduled for review in August 2011. It was decided that a document as important as this needed intense scrutiny that could best be made when participants were alert and feeling fresh. So the review was decided to occur across two sessions for set periods of time (e.g., 1 – 1 ½ hours).

Participating in the review were President, Carol Fleming; President Elect, Molly Thompson; Past President, Judith Keller; Treasurer, Lonnie Harris; Secretary, Dawn Merth-Johnson; Commissioner on Issues and Planning, Robbie Jackson; and Commissioner on Technology, Paulette Gentry. Diane Yenerall from Craven Management Associates also attended.

The first focus area of the strategic plan was related to leadership training and professional development and indicators for success were determined to be the number of participants who attended CSAP meetings. Other statistics which could be indicators include the number of states represented. Although participation has decreased during 2010, factors such as a depressed national economy and restriction of funds for many state associations were considered. Overall, CSAP has been well attended at both spring and fall meetings for other years.

In addition, new leadership training and professional development activities were to be provided for the membership, and the Executive Board felt that the teleseminars were fulfilling that indicator.

Focus Area II was Communication and Collaboration. Here, the Executive Board felt that personal telephone calls to state association presidents, electronic newsletters and increased information on the CSAP website were all indicators that this area was being met successfully.

CSAP will continue to monitor attendance at spring and fall meetings and look at both number of attendees and states being represented. CSAP will also continue to explore additional leadership opportunities for the membership. CSAP will continue to provide information to its members about resources through ASHA and CSAP and will encourage state associations to be involved in ASHA governance activities (e.g., nominations for BOD, AC, etc.)

The vision and mission statements were formulated at the fall 2010 meeting of the Executive Board.

Vision Statement: CSAP is the premier organization where state leaders meet to cultivate a unique culture of growth and knowledge through collaborative efforts.

Mission Statement:
The Mission of CSAP is to:

1. Provide leadership training for state Speech-Language-Hearing Association presidents.
2. Be a forum for collaboration and networking among these leaders.
3. Promote communication of professional matters between state Speech-Language-Hearing Associations, ASHA and other related national professional organizations.

The next strategic review meeting will be scheduled sometime in August. To see the entire CSAP Strategic Plan, go to the CSAP website, www.csap.org.

Judith P. Keller

California Grants Scholarships for Graduate Students

During the Bring, Brag and Moan session of the Spring 2011 CSAP meeting in Charleston, S.C., California Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA) President, Diane Collins and President Elect, Tricia Buckles reported on a scholarship program that has been instituted in their state to support students.

Students who are members of the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association and who commit to a graduate program in speech-language pathology, communication sciences and disorders, communicative disorders, or audiology in the state of California during the fall or spring semester 2011-2012 are eligible to apply for the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association Awards Program. The 10 districts in CSHA may nominate one student for every 100 members in the district. All qualified nominations will be recognized and the number of scholarships awarded is based on the funds generated during the year. Students selected are awarded $1,000 each.

Criteria for the selection is based on GPA, pre-professional and volunteer involvement, statement of career objectives and professional interests. Students must also have two letters of recommendation and a brief statement of financial need and/or intended use of the scholarship funds.

The CSHA Honors and Awards Committee evaluates nominees for the scholarships and selection is based upon the number of available scholarships and the highest-scoring applications. Students receive letters of recognition and certificates of achievement in addition to the monetary award.

If you would like to consider implementing this in your state, contact Diane Collins at slpdicollins@aol.com and Tricia Buckles at triciabuckles@aol.com for more details.

Judith P. Keller
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CSAP Vision

CSAP is the premier organization where state leaders meet to cultivate a unique culture of growth and knowledge through collaborative efforts.

CSAP is a related association of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association