



We are CSAP!



Carol Fleming, President

## Perspectives

Fellow CSAPers,

For the past few days I've been contemplating what I would write for this first newsletter. I was thinking, "What could I write about that targeted my presidential focus?" This year my focus for CSAP is "Moving Forward – reflecting on the past and setting new goals". So, while contemplating, I was faced with an issue, within my state, which has impacted a community of professionals. You ask, "What could she be talking about?" Well, our state newspaper prints a weekly Family section. In that featured section, there is a weekly columnist who writes personal commentaries about familial issues called, "Forces of Nurture". The current column was dedicated to Early Intervention in daycares and speech language pathologists.

The columnist appeared to take journalistic privileges in recounting her experience with the recommendation for therapy with her children who were experiencing misarticulations and reduced speech volume. She wrote statements discounting the benefits of Early Intervention and the work of speech language pathologists, whom she called "speech goddesses". She mocked the mispronunciations of words; stated that children would "outgrow this cuteness"; and commented that "speech therapists are trolling for business in daycares". Rather than dwelling further on this article, I would like to talk about how leaders should be address such issues – as the membership will expect the association to address them.

Not only have I been contemplating this article; I've been working with CSAP and ASHA on our upcoming conference in Charleston, [Minding Your Professional Manners](#). Thinking about the conference sessions influenced me as I considered how I would address the negativity in the journalist's column. I had to reflect on the fact that even though someone else chooses to use a platform to state an opinion which could negatively impact the good done by so many in our profession, does not mean that my response should be given in the same manner. I did respond to the journalist; however I chose to keep the reply informative and not negative. Negativity only breeds negativity. It is important to take situations like this and make them a "teachable moment" – an opportunity to educate others on the services provided within our professional community and by our colleagues.

As leaders, we are faced with emails, phone calls, and comments that are not always positive in nature. As a result of the aforementioned communication, we have to write letters; respond to comments/emails; and advocate on behalf of our professions. We cannot let personal opinions or vendettas get in our way. We have to consider that what we say has an impact on the association we represent. Responses need to be considered carefully as word choices might be misconstrued in meaning and interpretation. An English author once said that the "pen is mightier than the sword". That statement is very true, further reinforcing the need to carefully choose words when corresponding with others.

So, moving forward, remember who you were elected to represent. There will be difficult decisions and courageous conversations. It is impossible to make all the people happy all the time; however you need to please only one person and that is the reflection seen in the mirror every day. Just remember to gather your facts, ponder and weigh your options, make the best decision you can at the time and then hold your head high and stick by it.

Moving forward –  
Carol

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Editor: Molly Thompson

**We are CSAPI!**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**



*Byron Glacier  
Near Anchorage*

- May 2013: ASHA Headquarters**
- May 2012: Anchorage AK**
- Fall 2011: San Diego, CA**
- May 2011: Charleston, SC**



From the Commissioner on Communication and Technology

Paulette Gentry

2011 will be year of techno and fun. We are all communication specialist so I am expecting great and unlimited chatter from everyone. But first let me introduce the technology committee, Colleen Visconti, Ohio and Regina Lemmon, South Carolina. We are patiently awaiting one or two of you to step forward and join us as the e-newsletter editor's!

The newsletter will be coming out quarterly. I want to encourage you to contribute articles on the exciting things happening in your states. CSAP is all about the great leaders across the country and their fantastic associations. I am hoping we have more articles than space to print them.

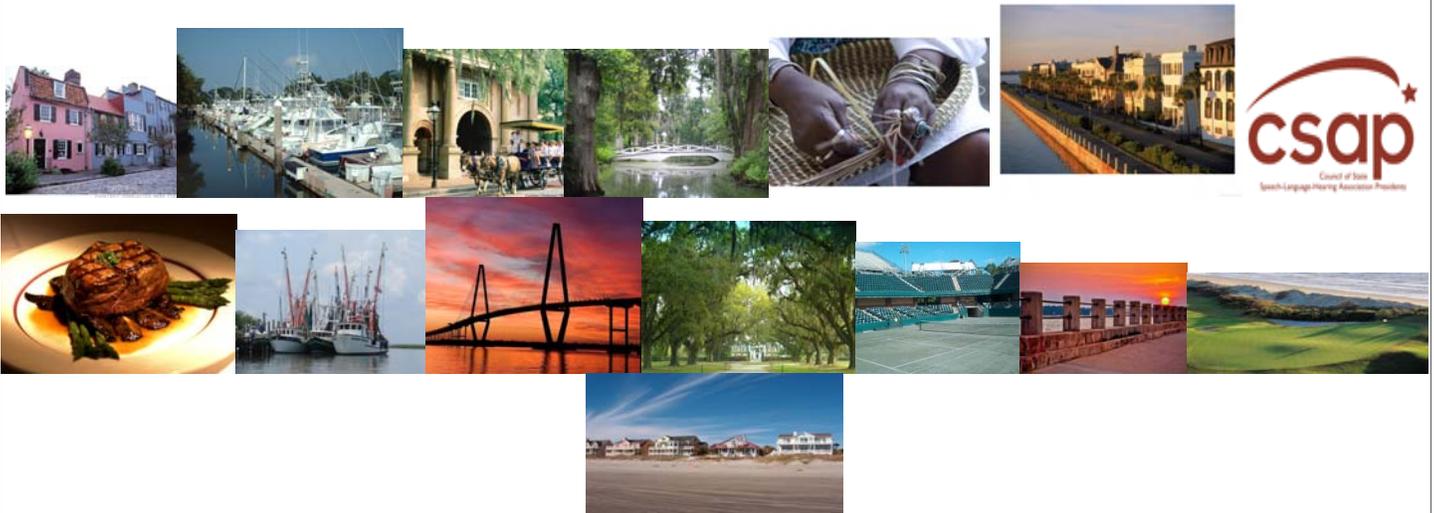
The CSAP website will be updated in a timely manner. We will be working with management, the board and committees to keep you informed. You will want to visit the web site regularly.

I hope all states have updated their data. Please go and double check your state's information. Liz and I say THANKS!



*Newsletter editor position open! You can know all the details before it's published!! You would be responsible for 2 newsletters. Contact [Molly](#) or [Paulette](#) if interested.*

**COME TO CHARLESTON IN MAY...WHY?**



*Beautiful Places, Smiling Faces -CSAP 2011!*

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[CSAP](#) is a related association of the [American Speech-Language Hearing Association](#)

What will YOU bring to the CSAP auction this spring?

**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.