By Judith P. Keller, CSAP president

Texas, and the newest amusement park, Morgan’s Wonderland, which covers 25 acres and was created for individuals with special needs. This is the first ultra-accessible family fun park designed so that children with physical challenges can enjoy amusement parks just like their less-challenged counterparts.

Make your plans now, and remember to mention the CSAP-ASHA special rate when you call the Menger Hotel. We hope that everyone will stay at the CSAP hotel so that we can continue to offer our members these special rates. Remember, this year you will register for only one conference, and this conference will begin on Thursday evening with the ASHA Welcome Reception. Programming will start bright and early Friday morning when Tommie L. Robinson, President of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, joins me in opening the conference.

If this is your first CSAP meeting, you may have questions about the Friday night auction. State presidents bring a representative item from the representative item from their states that will be auctioned off in a fast-paced and fun-filled live auction. The auctioneer will invite you to present your item in order to show it to its best advantage (and thus increasing its potential auction value!!!) Proceeds from this auction help to support CSAP activities. We hope you will consider bringing items in the $75 to $100 range, but all items are welcome! Don’t forget to bring your checkbook or credit card so that you can take some treasures home! This is a fun evening and a big revenue generator for CSAP! Items that have been popular in the past include art, jewelry, wine, pottery, baskets, books, scarves and food items.

So, make your travel plans now! Reserve your room at the Menger!! Send in your registration and start making plans now to join us for CSAP-ASHA in San Antonio, Texas!!!
SLPA PROGRAMS: NOT ALL ALIKE by Diane Collins

When I attended the Fall 2009 CSAP meeting in New Orleans, I was surprised to discover a variance in information about SLPA Programs and requirements from state to state. As a result, I contacted all CSAP members, requesting data on each state’s SLPA programs. A compilation of the information I received from various states follows.

Virginia, Kentucky, South Dakota, and Ohio reported that they do not have any SLPA programs. In South Dakota, a technical institute has proposed, and been approved, to offer an SLPA program. The state association wants to be a resource for setting up this program to ensure that SLPA programs are regulated in the capacity that is required.

Ohio’s Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology has administrative rules for SLP and Audiology aides. The administrative rules do not indicate what kind of training the aides must have other than that they must work under a licensed SLP or Audiologist.

The state of Washington had one SLPA program. Its program is being discontinued as the enrollment has dropped. The state association worked very hard to require SLPA to be licensed; however, after a long and exhausting legislative process, SLPA are now certified, but not licensed. The issue was that there was a dichotomy of licensing between medical-based SLPs and school-based SLPs, and who would be supervising these SLPA. Since school-based SLPs do not have to be licensed via the Board of Health, having a licensed SLPA being supervised by a Board of Health non-licensed school-based SLP was problematic to the legislator who headed the committee which reviewed and approved the bill. The legislation has been passed and rule writing implementation will begin soon.

North Carolina, Alaska, and California have SLPA programs that require one to obtain a two year AA degree. Also, qualifications for supervision are specified for a licensed SLP to have an assistant registered under his/her license. In California, licensed SLPs must attend an initial six hours of coursework on supervision, with three hours every two years afterwards, in order to supervise an SLPA.

In North Dakota, SLPA students have three educational choices:
1. Complete an Arts and Science 2 year program, with the SLPA program as their “major” receiving an SLPA Certificate;
2. If a student already has the arts and science requirements, (from another 2 year college), the student only has to complete the SLPA classes to earn the SLPA Certificate.
3. If a student has a bachelor’s degree in Communication Disorders, the student needs only to take one hands-on practicum class in the public schools to complete 100 intervention hours.

Missouri has a position called Implementers. These individuals are to have a BS or BA in Communication Disorders, although this policy has not always been followed. A Schools Affairs MSHA board member has continuously consulted with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education members to remediate this issue and asked that more specific criteria be set and monitored by the state. MSHA is working with ASHA to facilitate changes by developing a plan to change this practice.

ASHA Offers Membership to SLPAs

According to Lemmie McNeilly at ASHA, SLPAs are increasing in number and do not have an organization or mechanism for communicating with SLPs. An Ad Hoc Committee, that looked at SLPAs, made a recommendation to open lines of communication between SLPs and SLPAs by opening a category of membership. The Board of Directors approved a motion establishing an associate level of membership category. Individuals in this category are not able to vote, nor can they hold an office, or serve on a standing committee, board or council. They may join ad hoc committees.
**STATE HIGHLIGHTS**

**Kentucky**

The public school salary supplement for SLPs is moving forward. It passed out of the House, and is going to the Senate. Kentucky just held its annual convention, and it was a huge success! Over 1400 SLPs, Audiologists, Hearing Instrument Specialists, and Speech and Hearing Scientists attended a line-up of 82 sessions. Craven & Associates provided much assistance with this convention which contributed greatly to its financial success.

A Convention liaison, that will remain constant from year to year, has been appointed to the Executive Council for future conventions. Convention chairs will rotate, and will include a capitol visit with a display of lip-shaped cookies with ear plugs to promote speech, hearing and swallowing.

**Mississippi**

Since July 2009, MSHA has waged a successful grassroots campaign to maintain the National Board certification supplement at $6000. Mississippi has also been successful in partnering with the MS coalition for Citizens with Disabilities (MSCCD) in the collection and reporting of data triggering legislative review and public scrutiny of the MS Department of Medicaid policy changes which caused denial and/or reduction of services to children. Collaborative efforts between MSHA, MSCCD, and the MS Center for Justice are ongoing.

**Ohio**

OSLHA just held its first Student Leadership program. This program was designed to encourage Master and Doctoral level students in the state to become leaders, to include becoming part of the state association. This program was held one day prior to the annual convention.

**Ohio**

OSLHA also initiated a research grant this year; offered online submission of convention CEUs by registrants; sponsored a Silence Event; and developed a new logo and slogan.

**South Dakota**

South Dakota is actively working on proposing licensure legislation at the 2011 South Dakota Legislative Session. The state association has been doing a lot of ground work this year,
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The Mission of CSAP is to:

Provide leadership training for State Speech-Language-Hearing Association Presidents;

Be a forum for collaboration and networking among these leaders;

Promote communication of professional matters between State Speech-Language-Hearing Associations, ASHA and other related national professional organizations