



# WSHA NEWS WINTER 2006

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## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

### FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by Mary McCarty, President 2006

Hello WSHA members and welcome to 2006! Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President-Elect last year and as your President this year. It was a quick year and I learned so much about our organization and setting up a conference. I would recommend it highly to anyone!

**For a quick recap of last year**, Shane and Cathy (and others) worked hard on the IMASH convention held in Utah. This was a big success and WSHA was able to make a profit from the Tri State joint venture. Because of the IMASH convention we decreased our fall conference to 1 ½ days. Many members from around the state helped in getting the conference up and running. Thanks, every one! It was held in Sheridan and was successful. We all enjoyed the festivities and lovely auction items that Tempe and her gang were able to round up. I was able to attend the Council of State Association Presidents (CSAP) in San Diego before the ASHA convention. It was great to meet other professionals from around the country and to network. The sessions at the convention were informative and it was also great to see new and innovative technologies in the Exhibition Hall. I would encourage everyone to try to go to the ASHA convention if you've not been.

**In current news**, the WSHA board met in Casper January 7, 2006. We are planning lots of new and exciting things for 2006. We want to strengthen some policies, change some and try to expand our membership. We are trying to offer our members unique opportunities to network, share ideas and information and build our association by trying to put together a listserve through the University. Christiane Dechert is heading this up. (Please see the related article in this newsletter for more information.) Also, we will be having our convention in September in Laramie, and Lynda Coyle has already gotten a great jump on getting speakers and making other arrangements. We are working on another IMASH convention in Utah in 2008. We may have Montana joining us in this venture. There will be another CSAP conference in Portland, Oregon in May and Lynda Coyle and I are planning on attending. I have appointed Karyn Longstreet from Cheyenne to be the Region 7 representative. Karyn and I are making a concerted effort to expand WSHA membership in our area and will

be visiting with inactive and potential WSHA members. Jennifer Ryan is appointed as Region 3 Representative and Christiane Deschert is appointed at Region 8 Representative. As with all of us, the board is looking at increasing income to offset expenses. Shane Hunsaker, past president is working on sponsorship and funding. Also the board voted to increase advertising and exhibitor fees. We are also working on restructuring the board to make it more efficient and streamlined. Look for updates on all this information on our website ([www.wsha.info](http://www.wsha.info)) and through the WSHA newsletter.

I'd like to welcome our new board members: Lynda Coyle, President-Elect, Christiane Dechert, Laramie, Region 8 representative, Karyn Longstreet, Region 7 representative, Jennifer Ryan, Worland, Region 3 representative, and Cathy Ross, Public Awareness Chair.

In closing, I'd like to thank the entire board who helped me so much last year and I know we all look forward to a brand new year.

### FROM YOUR PRESIDENT-ELECT

by Lynda D. Coyle, President-Elect 2006

Happy New Year! I am excited to take on this position within our organization and look forward to serving the membership and community well. I bring with me to this position skills in organization, enthusiasm, leadership and a UW (football) philosophy of "G it, R Done!" I am counting on participation from our Board and from the membership to make our organization a strong presence in the Mountain West region. I hope I can count on each and every one of you for your support, ideas, and involvement.

The first order of business is the **2006 WSHA Conference**. This year it will take place in Laramie from September 28<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. My vision for this conference is to showcase the new College of Health Sciences building of which the Division of Communication Disorders is now a part. I invite all of you to come take a look at the new faces in the College and the Division. Think of this as a „homecoming of sorts as many of you are alumni from our program and/or from the University. I hope this conference time is a way to re-connect with former professors, supervisors, mentors and friends. For those of you who have had the distinct pleasure of attending a Coyle-style

BBQ (with the famous but secret sauce) there may even be time to fire up the grill!

If all goes well, there *may* even be a UW Cowboy sporting event to attend on Saturday!! It has the potential to be a great weekend for professional growth and personal fun so start making plans to be here in Laramie in the fall. *Details about the 2006 conference will be posted on the WSHA web site so remember to check it often for updates about hotels, speakers, and other events.*

## FROM YOUR PAST-PRESIDENT

By Shane Hunsaker, Past-President 2006

Welcome to a new year, everyone. I hope all of you had a great Holiday Season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support of WSHA in the past year. As a board, we have worked hard to give you the best in continuing education possible to assist each of you in your respective positions around the State of Wyoming. The IMASH convention in Ogden, Utah and our fall convention in Sheridan, Wyoming were two great opportunities to be together as colleagues, renew friendships and grow in knowledge. This coming year appears to be shaping up as another great one for WSHA. Laramie will be the site of our fall convention. Lynda Coyle, President-Elect, is busy planning and preparing for all of us to return to our college roots and feel young at heart again! I look forward to seeing each of you there.

This year is a busy one for WSHA we are up for recognition from ASHA. This means reviewing and updating our by-laws and board structure. I look forward to having all of us be a part in this process and look forward to your feedback and input as a membership. Please check the web site often for updates on this process and plan to vote at convention on the updates and changes. As all of us are aware, our professions are under pressure to make changes and cuts in our services and fees. We need to come together as an organization and assist ASHA in fighting for our professions.

I appreciate the support of the WSHA Board over the past two years as I have served as President- Elect and President. We always need your support and input- please do not ever forget that! Make 2006 a great year for WSHA!



## TECHNOLOGY TALK

### WSHA LISTSERVE!!!

The board of directors offers the opportunity to WSHA members to participate in discussions of professional (and personal) relevance through a listserv, provided through the University of Wyoming. This will allow members to receive quick input to their school-based or medical practice concerns from colleagues in the state. Other benefits? A shoulder to cry on? Possible - if only in a metaphorical sense. Staying connected? Absolutely. Workable solutions? Yes, yes, yes. Subscribe by sending a message to listowner Christiane Dechert at [cdechert@uwyo.edu](mailto:cdechert@uwyo.edu) or click on "listserv" on the homepage of the WSHA website at [www.wsha.info](http://www.wsha.info).



### MONEY MATTERS

By Shane Hunsaker, Committee Chair  
Non-Dues Revenue Committee

As committee chair I would like to remind the membership that the financial success of WSHA is very important. Without revenue we cannot exist and provide the continuing educational opportunities, student scholarships, or assistance to ASHA in progressing our professions in the great State of Wyoming. As a committee, we would like to approach corporations in the State of Wyoming to make corporate donations to WSHA. This will help us build financial stability for the distant future. We would like to show the corporations of Wyoming the importance and difference we make to the citizens of Wyoming and each community. We assist their employees and families with our services. I would ask each of you to look around your community and e-mail the committee the names of corporations you feel we could contact for a donation. Please e-mail them to me at [alpinehc@wyoming.com](mailto:alpinehc@wyoming.com) Thank you for your assistance and help in building the financial base of WSHA.



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REPORT

by Nena Germany-Greer, Wyoming Legislative Councilor

Welcome to 2006! As your Legislative Councilor for Wyoming, I have prepared for you a report of current information from various sources (credit to ASHA Website, LC ListServe, LC Email and information from working members/professionals of ASHA including the Executive Director) I have chosen to forward to you. Please refer to the Wyoming Speech-Language-Hearing Website at [www.wsha.info](http://www.wsha.info) for this report, and check your email for personal forwarded copy. An excellent summary of Legislative Council has been offered to you in the ASHA Leader on two occasions, but if you need more info or have questions please email me. Feel free to email me at any time with any ASHA related questions and I will be happy to help you in any way possible. As always, it is my pleasure to serve you and our professions. If you do not receive an email from me, and wish to do so, please email me at [ngermanygreer@yahoo.com](mailto:ngermanygreer@yahoo.com); if you do not wish to receive emails please contact me at the same address and let me know. As always, take care and Best Wishes for 2006!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS – ARE YOU ON THE LIST???

from Christa Vandervort, Membership Chair

Many thanks to those who paid their 2006 WSHA dues at convention! This was a successful effort once again with Christiane Dechert winning the special drawing of baked goods from Sage Creek Bagels and coffee from Book and Bean in Green River.

During Convention we tried to get receipts and membership cards out to everyone who paid their dues. If you did not receive a receipt and/or a membership card, please let me know.

Thank you also for giving WSHA any updates in your information so we can keep the Directory as current and correct as possible. When we have current information it's easier and faster to communicate with members when necessary.

Thank you to Christiane Dechert and Patti Drui for continuing to volunteer to serve on the Membership Committee! Ramona and I will definitely find ways to keep you involved! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding membership or if you know of a non-member who could use an invitation to join WSHA and a membership form.

As of January 13, 62 members have paid their 2006 dues. Since the deadline of February 1<sup>st</sup> is fast approaching, the Executive Board would like to encourage those who have not yet renewed their dues to do so now before the deadline for member information to be included in the Directory is past. *Your membership renewal must be received by me before **FEBRUARY 15** if you would like to be included in the WSHA directory.*

**Membership forms** can be found on the website: [www.wsha.info](http://www.wsha.info) or contact Christa Vandervort, at (307)875-5248 or [vandervortpc@wyoming.com](mailto:vandervortpc@wyoming.com).



## Wyoming Speech-Language-Hearing Association 2005 Awards Announcements

by Cathy Ross, Past President and Awards Committee Chair and Patti Drui, Awards Committee Member

The following awards and recognitions were announced at the WSHA members business meeting September 29, 2005

### VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

This year the Awards Committee determined that there would be two award recipients for Volunteer of the Year: Lynda Coyle and Tom Rowley.

Lynda Coyle demonstrates her commitment to our professions and to ASHA and WSHA in many ways. Since moving to Wyoming six years ago, Lynda has worked at the University of Wyoming as an instructor, Clinic Director, and clinical supervisor for speech-language pathology. For several years, she has served as the advisor for the UW chapter of National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA). Lynda has served two years for the ASHA Foundation as a scholarship reviewer. Lynda has served WSHA as a board member representing region eight for the past three years. She has also chaired the WSHA scholarship committee for the past three years. She has recruited speech-language pathology and audiology students to serve as student members on the WSHA board. For several WSHA conventions, Lynda has organized student volunteers to work various jobs during our convention. One year, Lynda volunteered to promote "May is Better Speech and Hearing Month"

within Wyoming. She asked the WSHA board for permission to let the UW NSSLHA chapter advertise this promotion under her leadership.

I believe that Lynda exemplifies the spirit of WSHA volunteerism. She is a wonderful role model for UW students as they can see how committed she is to WSHA, NSSLHA, and ASHA. She works tirelessly to support and teach students as they transition from undergraduate students to graduate student clinicians to Clinical Fellows and finally to Certified Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologist. Many former students contact her to thank her for her teaching, supervision, and support. As a WSHA member, Lynda is always prepared for meetings and volunteers to take on extra duties.

WSHA is fortunate to have a member with the commitment, dedication, and work ethic that Lynda demonstrates.”

“It is my pleasure to acknowledge Tom Rowley as Volunteer of the Year. For two years, Tom volunteered as Home Team Chairperson when the WSHA convention was in Casper. He organized a group of local volunteers who met several times before each convention to consider entertainment and restaurant options in Casper. Tom was instrumental in providing WSHA’s convention handouts to members for two years. He solicited a sponsor to donate the cost of binders and found a Casper teacher who was willing to assemble the handouts into the binders with her students. Tom set up the work schedule and organization for the Hometeam volunteers to run the registration booth and host presenters. WSHA members enjoyed interesting and enjoyable social events that he organized at two different Casper museums. While Tom was Hometeam Chairperson, he attended the conventions, checked on Hometeam members, attended sessions, worked as a vendor AND he managed to juggle his time so that he could run out to coach teams for Casper schools and watch his sons play with their sports teams. Tom helps the conventions run smoothly by helping to troubleshoot audio/visual systems and jumping in to help whenever he spots a problem.

Tom has also served as WSHA Region V Representative for the past two years. WSHA is fortunate that Tom works so cheerfully with good organization, no matter how busy he is, in order to serve our members.”

## HONORS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Last year the board of directors decided to add a new award for members of Wyoming Speech-Language-Hearing Association. This award is called Honors of the Association and I d like to describe the recipient to you.

This person has been working in our field for 46 years. She graduated from Kansas University as a speech-language pathologist and worked in Kansas from 1957-

59. She moved to Montana and worked there until 1972. Then she moved to Wyoming and joined WSHA in 1973. When her employer suggested that there was a need for someone to work on hearing aids and conduct hearing evaluations, she went to the University of Wyoming to study audiology in 1976 and was certified in this area in 1980. This award recipient has worked in both school and medical settings and she has even commuted to Kansas to work there.

WSHA has benefited from our recipient’s commitment. She has served as treasurer for 3 terms. She has attended almost every state convention; in fact, she was the first to register for this convention. Most of our members have noticed that she listens to the session presentations while tating many items. She is always positive, cheerful, and willing to pitch in when necessary. When I was president-elect and stressed about the convention, she made a point of talking to me and assuring me that everything would be ok. She is truly a supporter of our profession and our state association.

I am pleased to award the 2005 Wyoming Speech-Language-Hearing Association Honors of the Association to Gladys Larson.”

## WSHA Executive Board 2006

President: Mary McCarty  
President-Elect: Lynda Coyle  
Past President: Shane Hunsaker  
Secretary: Kati Sherwood  
Treasurer: Ramona Beach  
Parliamentarian: Marcia Kelley  
Region I Representative/Membership Chair: Christa Vandervort  
Region II Representative: Patti Drui  
Region III Representative: Jennifer Ryan  
Region IV Representative: Ann Van Trump  
Region V Representative: **Open**  
Region VI Representative: **Open**  
Region VII Representative: Karyn Longstreet  
Region VIII Representative: Christiane Dechert  
NSSLHA Representative: **Open**  
Public Awareness Chair: Cathy Ross  
Legislative Council: Nena Germany-Greer  
Continuing Education Chair: Tempe Murphy  
Licensing Representative: Cindy Paylor

## ASHA Advocacy Networks:

State Education Advocacy Leader (SEAL): Nancy Axthelm  
State Licensing network (SLN): Carole Martin  
State Advocate for Reimbursement (STAR): Kati Sherwood  
Medicare Intermediary and Carrier (MIC): **Open**

WSHA Administrative Secretary: Gaelynn Hunsaker

If you are interested in filling one of the OPEN positions, please contact Mary McCarty, WSHA President at [mmccarty@goshen.k12.wy.us](mailto:mmccarty@goshen.k12.wy.us) or 834-0169.

## 2006 WSHA CONVENTION NEWS

Mark Your Calendars for **SEPTEMBER 28--30 2006**. WSHA 2006 Convention will be held on these dates in **LARAMIE**

### Call for Poster Sessions and Presenters

WSHA members are doing some wonderful things around the state in schools, hospitals, nursing care facilities, home health agencies, private practice, pre-schools, and at the University of Wyoming. Are you a WSHA member who has an interesting project OR topic to present that you would like to share with colleagues? If yes, YOU are invited to submit a poster and/or presentation proposal for the 2006 WSHA Conference.

The *early* information about the 2006 conference is that you will join a host of other presenters on topics such as dysphagia, ethical and legal issues related to telepractice, sign language, vestibular assessment, laryngeal function and text comprehension strategies. Please continue to visit the WSHA web site ([www.wsha.info](http://www.wsha.info)) as more information becomes available.

If you **are** interested, please submit your information to Lynda D. Coyle, WSHA President-Elect for 2006 at: [ldcbears@uwyo.edu](mailto:ldcbears@uwyo.edu)

Poster and/or presenter submissions are due: **February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006**.

Please include the following information:

- Title of poster or presentation
- Name of presenter(s)
- Brief description of poster or presentation
- Target audience (e.g., SLP, Audiologist, Graduate student, mixed audience, etc.)
- Amount of time needed **IF** a presentation
- Type of A-V equipment needed **IF** a presentation



Make sure you have renewed your WSHA membership for 2006! Membership must be received by **FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>** to be included in the WSHA Directory, and if you haven't renewed your WSHA membership for 2006 this will be the last newsletter you receive.