



WSHA NEWS

WINTER 2007



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lynda D. Coyle

Happy New Year to Everyone! This is an exciting and challenging time to be serving as your president. The re-structured WSHA Executive Board had its first meeting on January 20th in Casper at the Holiday Inn – the site for the 2008 WSHA Convention. It was a productive meeting with lots of great ideas and discussions exchanged. Below are just some of the highlights of the meeting. For a more detailed report, be sure to read the meeting minutes that will be posted to the WSHA website.

These people have volunteered and/or been newly voted or appointed to the following positions on the Executive Board:

- Christiane Dechert, President-Elect
- Cindy Greenwald, Secretary
- Jennifer Ryan and Karyn Longstreet, Professionals-At-Large
- Tempe Murphy, Legislative Councilor
- Sue Torney, State Licensure Board liaison
- Ann Wambeke, Emily Trujillo and Mike Pilcher, SEALS reps.
- Renetta Mischke, CEU chairperson

These people will continue on the Executive Board for this year:

- Mary McCarty, Past-President (serves as Parliamentarian at meetings)
- Ramona Beach, Treasurer
- Christa Vandervort, Membership chairperson
- Cathy Ross, Public Awareness chair
- Meagan Cole and Jennifer Rosaker, NSSLHA reps.
- Gaelynn Hunsaker, Administrative Assistant

A flow chart that briefly explains the duties and responsibilities of each member is available on the WSHA website, along with the complete revised WSHA Bylaws and Constitution that all of you reviewed, voted and approved of at the September 2006 meeting.

The initial response from ASHA on our renewal application for state association recognition has been positive. ASHA will review documents beginning sometime after June 1st with a recognition ceremony to be held at the ASHA Convention in November in Boston. If ASHA approves our application, WSHA will be in good standing for another 5 years.

There has never been a better time to become a member of WSHA as the **voice of many** can be a powerful tool to implement change. WSHA strives to keep its membership informed about issues and events that may impact the profession within the state. The only way WSHA has to contact professionals around the state is if we have authorized access (i.e., permission) to contact an individual. That means that when a person submits an application for membership they have the option of receiving regular e-mail alerts, the WSHA newsletter, convention information, continuing education opportunities and communication from the WSHA list-serve to keep informed and connected to others in the state. If there are professionals who do not belong to WSHA then there is no way for those individuals to receive this valuable information. Accessing the WSHA website is open to the public which is one of the main reasons our Public Awareness chair strives to post the most up-to-date information so that even non-members may be “informed” and compelled into action by responding to pressing issues they may read about. Membership in a professional organization is a great way to

come together to debate issues, express opinions and most of all, implement change. Consider talking to other professionals that you know and inviting them to join WSHA today. And remember. . . .

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever has.



In Memory of Ann Van Trump

WSHA offers condolences to the family and friends of Ann Van Trump. Ann was a Region IV Representative of the WSHA executive board who passed away November 21, 2006 following a courageous battle with breast cancer. On behalf of the entire WSHA membership, flowers were sent to her memorial in Sheridan. In addition, WSHA members raised \$970.00 at the convention for Ann. This money was added to a fund collected in Sheridan to pay for her children to

visit her two times before she passed away. Tempe Murphy was in charge collecting the money from WSHA members. Tempe said it was so touching to realize that even students who live on strict budgets contributed money. Tempe extends thanks from Lonnie, Ann's husband, and her family for the thoughtful contributions from WSHA members. Lonnie's husband also wanted us to know how much Ann loved her profession. In recent years, she worked hard to recruit high performing high school students into the profession by mentoring students through the high school internship program. We will all miss Ann and the impact that she had on our profession and association.

2007 Convention News

Christiane Dechert, WSHA President-Elect

The 2007 WSHA Convention will take place in Casper on September 27-29 at the Holiday Inn. I am excited to have started planning for the 2007 Convention and am currently in the process of contacting speakers and exhibitors. I am also happy to report that Emily Trujillo is this year's extraordinarily capable and energetic hometown team leader. Thank you, Emily! Emily has already found some places in Casper for events that we are planning during convention. Thank you also to all of you for providing constructive feedback on the convention in 2006. Thank you to Tempe who compiled the information!

We are presently deciding how many CEUs this year's Convention will offer. As you are aware, continuing education units for Wyoming licensure are about to change from 20 hours to 12 hours a year (please consider giving your feedback to the licensure board), though this change will not go into effect until 2008. In 2008, by the way, WSHA will join adjacent states, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Colorado, for the 2008 IMASH Convention, and we will not have a separate convention. In the past, Convention planners have strived for providing WSHA membership with the full hours (20) of continuing education at Convention. Although not part of our bylaws, we have interpreted this as something that membership wanted and

expected. We have received much feedback that members also value getting together with each other, visiting and talking about professional issues in less structured venues, that the schedule might be too tight and that members prefer to have more “free” time to explore what a convention city has to offer.

I have asked Gaelynn Hunsaker to send out a brief survey to find out about your thinking about the number of CEU hours that the convention should provide and will let you know what the results of the survey will be. We are inclined to provide fewer hours for CEUs to include more opportunities for activities described above, unless the survey shows that membership truly expects the full 20 hours.

Related to this issue, I am happy to let WSHA members know that the Division of Communication Disorders will again offer a summer course with 1.5 ASHA approved CEUs. This year Timothy Kowalski will present a course on Asperger’s. It is a free course for all practicing SLPs in the state (with donations to the UW Foundation gladly accepted) and will take place at the University of Wyoming on July 16th and 17th. If you are interested in taking this short but intensive course, please contact Division Chair Dr. Hardin-Jones at MHardinJ@uwyo.edu.

State Licensure Board Report

Sue Torney, State Licensure board liaison to the WSHA board

The following are PROPOSED law changes by the State Board of Examiners:

33-33-103

- The provision of speech/language pathology or audiology services in this state, through telephonic, electronic, or other means, regardless of the location of the speech/language pathologist or audiologist, shall constitute the practice of speech/language pathology or audiology and shall require licensure in this state.

(The addition of this paragraph allows for the licensing of any person who provides services in Wyoming to Wyoming citizens through the use of telepractice/electronics.

33-33-105

- Eligibility for licensing: Possess at least a master's degree in the areas of speech pathology or audiology from an educational institution recognized by the board. Effective July 1, 2007, all **new** applicants for audiology licensing shall possess at least a doctor of audiology degree from an educational institution recognized by the board. *(Effective 2007 ASHA/AAA standards require a doctoral level degree. This wording grandfather's in currently practicing audiologists but does require all new licenses to possess the doctor level.)*

33-33-303

- The board may issue a provisional license to practice for 12 months to an applicant who has obtained Clinical Fellowship Year status provided that this person:

- (i) Has completed all requirements for licensure except for the clinical experience requirement
- (ii) Has obtained an individual currently licensed in the State of Wyoming in the same field of practice to serve as CFY supervisor
- (iii) Is seeking or accepted employment in the State of Wyoming as a Speech Language Pathologist or Audiologist, and;
- (iv) During the term of employment, continues to meet all other requirements of a person holding a full license,

Holders of this license may renew the provisional license one time.

The following are PROPOSED rule changes that are currently being acted on by the State Board of Examiners:

- Wyoming licensed SLPs/Audiologists will complete 12 hours of continuing education annually in order to maintain their license.

Note: The law changes are in the legislative process. We should know the results of these proposed law changes by the end of this legislative session. The rule change is now open for public comment (January 15, 2007 through February 28, 2007). After the public comment time period, the board will meet

again to act on the proposed rules. The proposed rules then move on to the governor who will have 75 days to act on the rule changes. Send your comments to the State Board of Examiners so we can hear your concerns.

SEALS REPORT

From the SEALS team: Ann Wambeke, Emily Trujillo and Mike Pilcher, (State Education Advocacy Leaders)

We have gotten the results of the survey completed at the Convention and the results indicated that most people were interested in salary supplement with caseloads being a close second. Also, with input from the ASHA SEALS coordinator and the WSHA board we have taken up working on a salary supplement.

Through the suggestions of the WSHA board we are trying to work with WEA. Our hope in working with WEA is that they can help us lobby for a salary supplements starting with those who currently have their CCC's (national certification).

This would mirror the salary supplement that the teachers who have national certification recently started receiving. We are also working on answering questions that the WEA had for us, such as how many SLP's in Wyoming have their CCC's and how many are involved or part of WEA.

You can contact the SEAL team at:

Mike: mpilcher@tctwest.net

Emily: Emily_Turjillo@ncsd.k12..wy.us

Ann: wambeke@wavecom.net

“Can you hear me now?” A Follow-Up to WSHA 2006

Written by Lynda D. Coyle from feedback prepared by Tempe Murphy, former CEU chairperson

Yes, WSHA members, we want you to know that your convention planning team, along with the Executive Board has heard your feedback about last year's WSHA convention that was held in Laramie at the University of Wyoming. We appreciate the time you took to make constructive comments about everything from speakers to hotel accommodations to snacks to the student volunteers and even the

weather! Your suggestions will be taken into account as planning gets underway for the next conference. Here is a *general* summary of what you thought:

- Total program content: 24 = Excellent; 23 = Very good; 10 = Good; 1 = Fair and 1 = poor
- Presentations: 24 = Excellent; 22 = Very good; 10 = Good; 4 = Fair
- Practicality: 21 = Excellent; 18 = Very good; 13 = Good; 3 = Fair; 1 = Poor

Comments (with commentary by Lynda Coyle):

- Program was ok, lodging wasn't. (*At the time the hotel was booked for lodging it was a “functioning” hotel with even a restaurant! Little did I know that it would end up in receivership before the conference – sorry!*)
- More food at break time. (*Yes, food is great to have at conventions but it also adds a significant dollar amount to the cost to the overall convention. We try to keep the registration cost manageable for members.*)
- Needed info about parking – where & if parking passes were to be provided. (*Hard to estimate who was going to drive vs. use the shuttle bus to and from the hotel; passes were made available at the registration table each morning.*)
- I think the University was stingy for not letting us use the Union for the convention. (*It was not the University's “fault” per se – it has to do with a thing called “priority scheduling” and our organization fell well below other UW functions for that weekend. It was a ‘presidential thing’.*)
- I like the smaller workshops so that there was time to do other things but also get the hours needed. I appreciate all the time/effort put into scheduling and students' help. (*If fewer CEU's were offered, then there might just be time for the ‘networking’ and shopping we all love to do! Plus, \$355.00 was raised towards the WSHA Student Scholarship fund!!*)

- I loved the cheerleaders, the dinner and the Train Depot with music. It was so fun to be on campus, to go to the bookstore, walk to the other buildings and eat in the student cafeteria. Great convention. *(Yeah, it was like an alumni weekend – we all had fun and showed our spirit despite not having a football game!)*
- I thought I knew most everything about dysphagia, then realized how ignorant I was. Enjoyed the neuroanatomy portion of Roger Stevee’s presentation. Loved Dr. Jones’ presentations. *(As we often tell our students, this is a life-long career of learning and humbling too.)*
- I love the silent auction and raffle tradition. The WSHA is always a wonderful networking weekend. *(WSHA raised \$1472.00 for these events – thanks!)*
- The cochlear implant sessions were wonderful. *(Audiology sessions are typically smaller than SLP sessions due to the number of members in each discipline. IMASH and WSHA welcomes input from the audiologists around the state for ways to increase membership and continuing education presentations!!)*
- David Denton – excellent, relevant. *(ASHA has others like David available for state conventions -- all we need to do is ask.)*
- Exhibitors were too spread out. *(WSHA was very fortunate to have the four vendors that we did. Collectively they contributed \$1650.00 to off-set costs of the convention. After numerous letters, e-mails, and phone calls to the SLP vendors, there were none that accepted the invitation to attend, frequently stating the reason as our convention was “too small” for the expense of sending out a representative and materials. Remember that the next time you are ordering materials from some of your favorite publishing companies.)*
- The weather was beautiful. I was grateful for the walks to various parts of the campus. I liked it all. *(Nothing more*

*needs to be said except, **THANKS** to all those who made the 2006 WSHA convention a huge success. We actually made a small profit that will help us plan for the 2008 conference.)*

Student Spotlight!

My name is Gwen Stout and I am graduate student working in Jackson, WY on my educational practicum. I am originally from Sheridan, WY and completed my undergrad and graduate classes at the University of Wyoming. I have learned a lot from my supervisor, Cathy Ross, and am enjoying working and learning more about the profession of Speech-Language Pathology. I am keeping busy in Jackson playing hockey, hiking, knitting, studying for the Praxis, finishing my thesis, and thinking of snow. In April, I will be on my way to Kansas City for my medical practicum at the University of Kansas Medical Center. After Kansas, I am looking forward to returning to Wyoming to find a job. If you would like to contact me with any questions or comments, please email me at smiles83@uwyo.edu.

Hi, my name is Katrina Fisher. I am a second year graduate student in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Wyoming. I am completing my first practicum at the developmental preschool, The Learning Center, in Jackson Wyoming. I am being supervised by Aaron Bilotta, Megan Santacroce, and Nicole Carver. Under their supervision I have gained experience with many different syndromes including Rett Syndrome, San Felipe Syndrome and Goldenhar Syndrome. A challenge unique to this area of Wyoming is the Hispanic population. It has been an exciting and interesting experience conducting therapy in Spanglish! My second practicum will begin under the supervision of Patti Drui at St. John’s Medical Center, where I’m looking forward to working with the adult population. Along with the practicum experience comes the stress of graduation and exams. I am lucky to have a roommate from the same UW program to study with. We also regularly discuss how wonderful

it will be when we can get out there and begin practicing what we have learned so much about. Following my medical practicum I'm hoping to find a job in Wyoming. If you would like to contact me regarding possible words of wisdom, my email is katrina@uwyo.edu !

Look for news about other grad students who are out on externships in the next WSHA newsletter.

NSSLHA News

NSSLHA is happy to report that they have purchased a pair of hearing aids to be donated to a low-income Laramie resident. The hearing aids were purchased for a reduced price from Phonak Hearing Systems. All money for the hearing aids was earned through the sale of t-shirts and baked goods at the annual WSHA convention last September. Once again, thank you to all who contributed!

NEW Communication Disorders T-shirts are now available. The cost is twenty dollars, including shipping. If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, please contact Meagan Cole at meaganc@uwyo.edu. Be sure to include your name, size, quantity, and mailing address if you want your shirt sent to you. Please have your orders in by March 1, 2007. All money earned from the sale of t-shirts will be put into an account which will be used to purchase additional hearing aids or other communication devices for individuals in need. NSSLHA President Meagan Cole and Vice President Jennifer Rosacker would like to thank WSHA for inviting them to attend the WSHA board meeting in January. It was an excellent opportunity to see the workings of a professional organization and a great learning experience!

An IMASH update!

The *second* Intermountain Speech and Hearing Association (IMASH) Convention has been set! This year, along with Wyoming, Idaho, Montana and Utah, IMASH-ers will welcome the 'colorful' state of Colorado as the fifth state to participate in this regional event.

Planning is underway and your comments, ideas for speakers, social events, student challenges and topics are welcome. Contact Lynda Coyle or Christiane Dechert with your input and reserve the date now! Look for regular updates on the WSHA website too!

IMASH

October 2-4, 2008 (Thursday to Saturday)
Sheraton City Centre Hotel
Salt Lake City, UT

Proposed Eligibility Rules for Speech-Language Impairment

Submitted by Cathy Ross:

Many of you are aware that the Wyoming Department of Education is revising special education rules to be in compliance with the reauthorization of IDEA. Of significant concern to school-based SLPs are the proposed changes for eligibility for speech-language. You can read the proposed requirements on the WDE website at <http://www.k12.wy.us/a/rules.asp> Click on Chapter 7. Speech-Language Eligibility rules begin on page 63. The following is a summary of proposed changes:

- Articulation: Proposed change is that child exhibits one or more errors of speech sound productions beyond age at which 90% of typically developing children have achieved mastery (current eligibility says 80%)
- Language: Proposed change is students must score 1.75 deviations (74 standard score, 5th percentile) below the mean. Currently students are eligible at 1.2 deviations (82 standard score, 12th percentile).
- Stuttering: Proposed change says students must exhibit stuttering on 10% or more of words spoken in a language sample of 100 words. Current eligibility says 5% stuttering.
- Voice: basically stayed the same.

Some SLPs around the state are concerned about the dramatic difference between the proposed eligibility requirements and our

current requirements. Many students that we are currently serving will no longer be eligible for speech-language services, especially for language impairment. In fact, one estimate is that it will cut most school-based speech-language caseloads by 50%. It is important that all SLPs voice their concerns by writing comments to the WDE or by attending the public meetings, which are held around the state. You can find the meeting dates and locations on the WDE website. The Wyoming Department of Education is accepting public comment on Chapter 3 Rules from Jan. 20 through Mar. 21. Please submit comments to Peg Brown-Clark, Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0050. It is also recommended that we ask parents, teacher, sped directors and principals to send comments.

Some suggestions for comments are to ask the WDE to allow SLPs to serve in Tier 2 of RTI. Another idea is to ask for edibility to remain the same for age 3 to the end of 2nd grade and then increase to the proposed 1.75 standard deviation from grade 3 to age 21. Of course, another idea is to request that the eligibility remain the same as it is currently.

You may want to consider what the authors of the proposed rules revisions have to say about speech and language eligibility. Ed and Joan Hawkinson wrote the proposed special education revised rules for Wyoming. They have a website at <http://www.wyomingspecialeducationrulesrevison.com> If you click on "IDEA 04 Part B" and then click on "Supporting Documents" and then click on "Chapter 7 Rules Submittal Process" and look at "Rules Revision-Part 4-Disability Categories" (page 9) you will find this quote: *"Changes in other categories were accomplished through an analysis of December 1 child count data with respect to whether Wyoming student counts exceeds national averages and practices reviewed from other States. Speech and Language was changed with respect to concerns by a number of individuals that suggested this category needed review and modification. Relative to practices found in other States former Chapter 7 criteria in Wyoming regulations for Speech*

and Language were more likely to include a larger percentage of children as qualifying as a child with a disability than would be experienced in the majority of States. Changes in this area reflect practices that exist in the majority of States."

Some logical questions are posed by this quote. Who were the "number of individuals who suggested this category needed review and modification?" Elsewhere in their website the Hawkinson's report the agencies and associations that they consulted with in making these revisions. They list "speech and language association" in two places. To my knowledge, they did not consult with WSHA or ask for input from our association. They did present at the 2006 WSHA convention, but their presentation was on changes to IDEA and they said that they would not speak to the upcoming changes regarding Wyoming rules.

I encourage all of you to write comments to the WDE at the address above or attend one of the public meetings to present your comments. These changes will affect our service delivery and the children in Wyoming who are supported by our services.

Did You Know?

During the 2006 Wyoming legislative session, a bill was passed for educational loan repayment for students in health care professions, INCLUDING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS, if they work in Wyoming. Preference is given to students who graduate from the University of Wyoming. For more information go to the Department of Health, Division of Community and Rural Health, Office of Rural Health at <http://wdh.state.wy.us/rural/loan.asp> When you talk to your legislator, please thank them for including SLPs in this important bill.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

WSHA has 92 paid members 2/1/2007. Thank you for paying your dues and for supporting WSHA. New membership cards will be arriving in your mailbox soon.