

Annual Report: July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association



DENISE BARRINGER
PRESIDENT

The Annual Report of the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (TSHA) represents the outstanding and dedicated work of over 300 TSHA volunteers who have diligently worked to ensure that TSHA is the recognized resource for consumers and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and audiologists in the State of Texas.

ETHICAL PRACTICES

Gil Hanke, Chair

No reports of ethical misconduct were made for the year.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Debra Bankston, Chair

The Award of Honor presented to speech-language pathologists and audiologists who have significantly contributed to TSHA and demonstrated outstanding leadership was presented to **Judy Rudebusch** and **Karen King**. The TSHA Hall of Fame Award was given to **Anthony P. Salvatore** for his outstanding work in the field of speech pathology. **Mark Hanna** was presented with the Public Service Award for his outstanding work on the BlueCross BlueShield recoupment issue. This year at the annual Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation (TSHF) Luncheon, two state representatives received Legislator of the Year awards, **Representative Wayne Christian** and **Representative Scott Hochberg**, for their continued commitment to the needs of the professions. **Cherry Wright** was nominated for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) Van Hattum Award.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Lynn Flahive, Chair

Lynn and her committee submitted a slate of candidates for the 2010 election. Candidates for Vice President for Educational and Scientific Affairs were **Raedeen Wingate** and **Tori Gustafson**; candidates for Vice President for Research and Development were **Judy Rudebusch** and **Tracey Gray**. **Bobbie Kay Turkett** ran unopposed for Vice President for Social and Governmental Policy and her election was accepted by acclamation during the Annual Business Meeting at Convention. The TSHA Executive Board (EB) welcomed Tori, Judy and Bobbie Kay to the board and look forward to their leadership over the next 3 years.

Online voting was continued, which resulted in approximately 10 percent of the membership casting votes for candidates. The committee has already begun the selection process for next year's elections for President Elect, Vice President for Public Information and Marketing, and Vice President for Professional Issues.

GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Barrera (AM-Kingsville) and **Kalli Donaway** (Texas Tech)

Samantha and Kalli attended the Executive Board meetings and provided valuable input from a student's perspective. They did an outstanding job of coordinating the student volunteers for convention and wrote articles for the Communicologist. Sam rotated off the Board and will graduate in August. **Rebecca Cockerham** is the newest student EB representative and will attend her first board meeting in September. Rebecca will attend University of North Texas in the fall.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SLP VACANCY COMMITTEE

Cherry Wright, Chair

The TSHA/TCASE Joint Committee met three times in Austin with representatives from TSHA, Texas Education Association (TEA), Texas Council of Administrators and Special Educators (TCASE). The Joint Committee, at the request of TEA, created a document for TEA's consideration with recommendations as to how to document direct and indirect speech pathology services on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) in the public schools. The Response to Intervention (RtI) and SLP Services document developed by the TSHA RtI Task Force has been revised per TEA's request and has been posted on the TSHA website and will be posted to the TEA's website.

Both the English and Spanish 30- and 60-second Public Service Announcements (PSAs) have been distributed to 31 stations in six key markets. The PSAs were shown and discussed at TSHA 2010 Convention and have been posted on the TSHA website, www.txsha.org. ASHA has established a link to the TSHA website.

PUBLICATIONS BOARD

Donise Pearson, Chair

The Publications Board in conjunction with the state office reviewed, edited, and approved over 150 items for TSHA in the forms of journal articles, newsletters, brochures, booklets, posters, email blasts, press releases, flyers, advertisements, and website postings. Accurate dissemination of information to TSHA members in a timely manner continued to be a priority.

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Ann Higdon and **Martha McGlothlin** began their two-year terms as alternating editors of the *Communicologist*, which was published on time every other month. **Lisanne Taylor** completed her term on the Publications Board. **Kathy Clapsaddle** completed her term and agreed to continue next year as website editor for the Association. **Tim Meline** served as managing editor of *TEJAS: Texas Journal of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology* that was successfully published in April.

The Executive Board worked through some difficult issues and finally voted unanimously to sunset the production of *TEJAS*. Revising responsibilities and restructuring the Publications Board was a challenge met with dedicated determination. It was unanimously agreed that the Vice President-Elect or current Past President will serve on the Publications Board as editor for the Policies and Procedures (P&P) Manual. Therefore, **April Smith** will become the first official P&P Manual editor. All editors are now voting members of the Publications Board along with members at large. **Melissa Whitaker** and **Diana Gonzalez** served as members at large.



JAN LOUGEAY
VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT

TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) TASK FORCE
Christy Weddington and **Sue Johnsen**, Co-Chairs

Their work this year included development of the Generic Eligibility Guideline Manual that summarizes federal law and state implementation standards to simplify and standardize assessment procedures and eligibility decisions for practice in the public schools. The manual is available on the TSHA website to anyone who wants the information. Interest in the document has not only enhanced the understanding of educational law among our members but also resulted in national visibility for TSHA.

ELIGIBILITY OPERATIONS TASK FORCE
Judy Rudebusch and **Kathy Clapsaddle**, Co-Chairs

The TOT, in collaboration with the Eligibility Operations Task Force (EOT), has begun development of online training modules for guidelines specific to each disorder. This introductory training will be accessible on the websites of various Educational Service Centers so clinicians can easily gain continuing education about procedures to efficiently manage enrollment decisions. The EOT, under the leadership of Judy Rudebusch and Kathy

Clapsaddle, has also begun valuable collaborative work with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to develop mechanisms to support districts challenged by over- and under-identification of students with communications disorders.

REVIEW/TRAINING TASK FORCE
Ann Shaw King, Chair

Training initiatives on eligibility guidelines have also been accomplished by Ann Shaw King in her role as leader of the Review/Training Task Force. The task force has ensured that short courses covering eligibility guidelines were provided at TSHA and will be provided next year to meet the demand for specialized face to face training.

CLD COMPANION-LANGUAGE TASK FORCE
Margarie Limon-Ordone and **Ellen Kester**, Co-Chairs

Eligibility issues are compounded for culturally diverse populations. The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLD) Companion-Language Task Force has nearly completed a manual to address these issues as they apply to language impairment. Margarite Limon-Ordone and Ellen Kester have directed the development process and anticipate completion early next year.

EVIDENCE BASED TASK FORCE
Jenny Katz and **Jamie Thomas**, Co-Chairs

Additional volunteer efforts on the Evidence Based Task Force and Universities Issues Committee have completed initiatives that support preprofessionals and members in knowledge and skill development. They published several articles in the *Communicologist* and are planning additional articles and presentations at the convention to support members in development of strategies to determine treatment efficacy.

UNIVERSITY ISSUES COMMITTEE
Melissa Bruce, Chair

The University Issues committee was established this year to support TSHA in their work toward alleviating the shortage of speech-language pathologists. The committee collected data concerning current student enrollment, graduation, and employment setting after graduation to provide baseline information about the numbers of new SLPs entering the profession each year in Texas. From that data, the committee worked to determine what additional resources would be necessary to expand enrollment and increase the numbers of graduates who choose employment in the schools. This data provided the information necessary for the committees dealing

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directly with shortage issues to develop an action plan to manage the shortage.



LAUREN MATHEWS VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

The committees and task forces under this vice presidency are involved with all TSHA continuing education activities. This included the 54th Annual TSHA Convention in Fort Worth, Texas which hosted 4,785 attendees. Through the dedication of TSHA volunteers and the staff members of the TSHA State Office, this convention was the largest to date.

COUNCILOR FOR ANNUAL TSHA CONVENTION Amy Marciniak, Chair

Amy provided a great deal of support this year with all aspects of TSHA's continuing education activities. Amy was the main coordinator for all of the major speakers and worked with the Local Arrangements committee to make sure the speakers were treated with TSHA's Texas hospitality. Amy continued her work at the convention, assisting in all aspects of the convention. She also participated in the post-convention/pre-convention meeting in Houston.

TSHA CONVENTION PROGRAM COMMITTEE Raedeen Wingate and Robyn Martin, Co-Chairs

Raedeen and Robyn, along with nine program strand chairs, coordinated all aspects of the speakers at the TSHA 2010 Annual Convention. Raedeen was in charge of the Program Committee's review of each Call for Papers submission and scheduling of all convention sessions. Robyn then took over the reins and coordinated the programming committee in editing the pre-convention and onsite brochures.

Programming for the convention provided 177 continuing education opportunities this year. This included: Keynote Address, three major speakers, eight short courses, six advanced courses, eight product promotion presentations, three published intervention presentations, six ethics presentations, 118 traditional presentations, and 24 poster sessions. There were three cancellations and 14 closed sessions during the three days. Recently, the program chairs met in Houston for the post-convention/pre-convention meeting. The program chairs got a jump start planning major, advanced, and short course speakers for the 2011 convention in Houston.

TSHA CONVENTION LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE Lynn Flahive and Melanie McDonald, Co-Chairs

The Local Arrangements helped make everyone feel very welcomed in Fort Worth. They were responsible for the various convention subcommittees that ensured a quality and efficient experience during convention including registration, hospitality, transportation, photography, and social committee. After convention, they compiled all subcommittee reports that contained a description of activities and expenditures and suggestions for the following year.

TSHA CONVENTION EXHIBITS COMMITTEE Monica Haynie and Michelle Mendieta, Co-Chairs

Monica and Michelle, along with TSHA State Office, did an excellent job with organizing 188 different exhibitors this year. They were responsible for registering the exhibitors and handling all events in the exhibit hall. They put their creative side to work to design and implement the ever-popular exhibit hall game. Other exhibit hall activities included Cyber Café, beverage breaks for members, exhibit drawings, and door prizes. After convention, they compiled feedback forms from the exhibitors and reported the information during the post-convention and pre-convention meeting in Houston.

TSHA CONVENTION JOB PLACEMENT COMMITTEE Erin Bellue and Katie Stollings, Co-Chairs

Job placement was a big success at the 2010 convention. There were 58 companies interviewing and 224 applicants looking for jobs, with a total of 580 interviews scheduled. They were responsible for helping design the job placement set up, gaining volunteers to work shifts, and setting up the dry erase board schedule grid. Erin and Katie submitted a post-convention report with procedures outlined and suggestions for next year and participated in the post-convention/pre-convention meeting in Houston.

TSHA CONVENTION VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR Rebecca Linke, Chair

Rebecca worked with the Student Executive Board members to organize volunteers for the 2010 convention. Rebecca had numerous professional and student volunteers who worked various shifts during the convention. The student volunteers were given \$2 bills for every two hours of work.

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TSHA COUNCILOR FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT **Karen King**, Chair

Karen and her committee worked diligently with Bill Baukwill from Designing Solutions to implement the new online CE system for convention this year. The system was an overall success. Karen submitted a post-convention report with procedures outlined and suggestions for next year and participated in the post-convention/pre-convention meeting in Houston.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) PROCESSOR **Tammy Ybarra**, Chair

Tammy began this position in November 2009. She made sure the TSHA CE application process was efficient and easily accessible for course providers. She worked with **Jennifer Hardina** in the state office to keep the TSHA CE sponsored events current on the TSHA CE calendar online at www.txsha.org. Tammy ensured that all CE hours are transferred onto the TSHA CE registry, which is free to all TSHA members. Tammy also worked on the implementation and execution of the new online CE submission process at the 2010 Convention.

ASHA CONTINUING EDUCATION PROCESSOR **Loretta Lee**, Chair

Loretta processed ASHA CE applications as well as all the TSHA Annual Convention ASHA hours. All convention hours were approved this year for ASHA credit. She also helped to ensure that all CE processes were in compliance with ASHA standards.

INDEPENDENT STUDY **Janice Stroud**, Chair

Janice approved and processed CE opportunities through Independent Study for the TSHA membership until March 2010, at which time she decided to fully retire. Janice has been in this position since 1994. During the March meeting, the Executive Board voted to discontinue offering Independent Study and focus time and resources to develop two new online ethics courses.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE AND AUDIOLOGY CE APPROVAL **Margaret McAughan** and **Pam Bender**, Co-Chairs

Margaret and Pam reviewed and approved continuing education program requests for TSHA CE hours. After reviewing the information, they determined if the program met the criteria for TSHA CE hours and then submitted the approval to **Tammy Ybarra**, CE Processor, to complete the process.

REGIONAL SEMINAR FUNDING GRANTS **Melissa Whitaker**, Chair

Melissa and the Regional Seminar Grants committee received and processed applications. The purpose of the grants is to allow local associations, NSSLHA chapters, or other groups to defray costs incurred in providing regionally advertised seminars or workshops for speech-language pathologists and/or audiologists. The application for the regional seminar grants was online to make the procedure easier and more efficient for the applicants. Melissa and her committee followed a criterion rating form to rate each individual program. Four grants were awarded this year and were announced in the *Communicologist* and at the TSHA Annual Business Meeting held during the annual Convention in Fort Worth.

SUMMER SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE **Lynn Flahive** and **Robyn Martin**, Co-Chairs

Lynn and Robyn planned for the Summer Symposium in Santa Fe, NM, August 5-7, 2010. Ten CE hours will be offered on the topic of Autism Spectrum Disorders. The invited speaker will be **Patricia Prelock**, PhD. Multiple special activities have been planned for the enjoyment of the attendees.



BESS SIRMON FJORDBAK **VICE PRESIDENT FOR SOCIAL** **AND GOVERNMENTAL POLICY**

The Committees and Task Forces under the Vice President for Social and Governmental Policy had a remarkably busy year. All of the activities were under girded by the strategic directive addressing advocacy for speech-language pathologists, audiologists and the individuals we serve. The outcomes and indicators were met; descriptions are below.

Several priorities and projects were established at the beginning of the year, and thanks to the work of a group of very dedicated volunteers, these goals have been accomplished. Sunset Review was a priority this year, as preparation for the upcoming legislative session was at the center of all the activities. Town Hall meetings were held in El Paso, McAllen, San Angelo, Lubbock, Amarillo, San Antonio, Victoria, Houston, and Beaumont. Sunset information was also shared at the Texas Regional Association Coalition (TRAC) meeting in Dallas and at the Convention in Ft. Worth.

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One of the successes was the establishment of the Key Contact Network, which involved recruiting of members across the state who would agree to serve as contacts and local resources with their senators and representatives during the election cycle as well as during the legislative session. These key contacts will make telephone calls, write letters, send e-mails, and visit with their elected officials at the local offices. At the end of FY 09-10, there were about 75 participants who had agreed to serve as members of this network.

During the TSH Foundation Luncheon at Convention, the legislative agenda presence was evident, with the presentation of Legislators of the Year awards to **Representative Wayne Christian** and **Representative Scott Hochberg**, both of whom were very grateful for the recognition of the Association for their work on behalf of speech-language pathologists and audiologists across Texas. In addition, congratulations and many thanks were extended to **Mark Hanna**, who received the Public Service Award for his work in addressing the Blue Cross/Blue Shield recoupment issue.

Bobbie Kay Turkett diligently worked as Councilor for Vice President of Social and Governmental Policy. She will spend next year as VP-Elect for this position.

SUNSET REVIEW COMMITTEE

Sherry Sancibrian, Chair

At the end of the Legislative Session in 2009, the projected schedule for Sunset Review of the licensure law and Board of Examiners was changed from 2013 to 2011. This meant that plans established as long range were suddenly brought front and center, and Sherry Sancibrian stepped up to the task. She headed an advisory committee of TSHA members, selected based on their legislative and leadership experience in the Association. **Benna Askew, Donise Pearson, Keri Gonzalez, Larry Higdon, Lee Reeves, Gil Hanke, and Denise Barringer** serve on this committee, with **Mark Hanna** in an advisory role.

One of the most effective activities of this committee was hosting **Erick Fajardo** at the Annual Convention. Mr. Fajardo is the Sunset Commission's Project Manager for the review of the Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Mr. Fajardo participated in the panel discussion of Sunset issues, and had the opportunity to meet with members, and sit in on a number of sessions, as well as observe the Praxis Bowl. He commented that the experience had given him a significantly greater appreciation of the breadth and depth of the profession. Mr. Fajardo has also disseminated the Sunset Commission Survey, the responses to which are being prepared by the TSHA Sunset Committee.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Larry Barnes, Chair

This committee took a creative approach to fundraising this year, asking members to consider how much their licenses were worth. The request was made to contribute \$5 per year of licensure held, and this was a very effective strategy to make licensees consider the investment. Opportunities for contributions were provided with membership renewal, an e-mail/postcard campaign, in-person requests at Town Hall meetings, a link on the website, the PAC Silent Auction and massages at Convention, and through a presentation and utilization of pledge cards at the keynote address. Although the goal of \$100,000 was not reached, two hundred individuals who had not contributed in previous years were counted among the donors this year. The pledge cards, envelopes, brochures and thank you cards were implemented successfully at convention, presenting a cohesive appearance and message from the PAC.

Another important activity addressed has been revisions to the PAC By-Laws, which have been in place since 1989 and revised over the years. The purpose of this was to clarify specific policies regarding membership on the PAC Board, and to bring the by-laws up-to-date with Policies and Procedures, consistent with the current state law.

LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL TEAM

Larry Higdon, Direction of Governmental Relations

Mark Hanna, Legislative and Legal Counsel

Larry Higdon and Mark Hanna have continued to provide consistently excellent services to TSHA this year, keeping us on track and ahead of the curve in several important areas. With Sunset Review as the priority, they have taken an advisory role in determining the priority for Sunset, in several ways. They have developed a list of issues that will need to be monitored during Sunset Review, and contributed to discussions and documents including preparation for District Legislative Day, and preparation of responses to the questionnaire from the Sunset Commission. With preparation for Sunset setting the agenda for their work, Larry and Mark have attended meetings of the Board of Examiners, the TSHA and Texas Council of Administrators and Special Educators (TCASE) Joint Committee, Texas Academy of Audiology (TAA) and Texas Hearing Aid Association (THAA) discussion groups. In addition, they have continued to monitor committee meetings involving related interests, including dyslexia practitioners, tele-health, and chiropractors.

Mark and Larry have served as key advisors to the Political Action Committee (PAC) in terms of fundraising, identification of candidates to support, and development of the re-organization

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of the PAC By-Laws. In this election cycle, they have participated in sponsoring and attending fundraising events for numerous candidates on TSHA's behalf, while monitoring House and Senate primary elections across the state. Because of their expertise in this area, they have also been invaluable in the development of the Key Contact Network, identifying particular legislative districts where member involvement could be crucially important.

One of the other important services they provide involves preparation of a great deal of written documentation, and this year was no exception. Mark and Larry contributed to a joint letter brief to the Attorney General from TSHA and Texas Classroom Teachers Association (TCTA), participated in editing documents prepared by Vollmer, generated text for the PAC campaign, and prepared the "Mission Possible" letter to recruit Key Contacts. They have been available for advice and consultation to TSHA leadership and membership on issues such as private practice insurance reimbursement and they have attended every Executive Board meeting.

The legislative agenda for the upcoming 82nd Session of the Texas Legislature is very clear: Sunset Review is the priority; therefore, the resources and energies of the legislative team will be focused specifically in that area. Other issues that will be monitored as they arise include bills that deal with student loan reimbursement, concussion management, insurance reimbursement, dyslexia practitioners, and Early Detection of Hearing Impairment (EDHI). As resources are available, and as issues emerge across the course of the session, TSHA may become more closely involved.

GRASSROOTS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Lori Colletti, Chair

Lori Colletti was a new TSHA volunteer this year, but stepped up to the task admirably, organizing activities and recruiting volunteers. Her goal was to involve as many members of the Association as possible in grassroots activities, with the primary focus being convention activities. In the Grassroots booth, Lori and her team registered participants for Voter Voice, which was the basis for identifying participants in the Key Contact Network. As a graphic reminder of the expanse of this state, Lori had members place a pin on large maps divided into legislative districts to visually represent the locations involved. This also served as a reminder of the areas in which there was limited representation.

Other grassroots training activities at convention included three sessions with **Joel Blackwell**, "The Grassroots Guy," who had some excellent ideas about generating member involvement.

There was also a legislative update and interactive discussion with Mark, Larry, and Bess on the previous and upcoming agenda. One of the most exciting opportunities for member involvement was a panel discussion with TSHA's Legislative and Sunset leadership, and special guest Eric Fajardo from the Sunset Commission Staff.

DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE DAY

Stacy Reaves, Chair

Stacy Reaves and Jennifer Hardina worked together to coordinate the District Legislative Day activity on May 7, 2010. After much research and comparison pricing, Stacy found very nice gourmet popcorn baskets, which could be packaged and shipped by the vendor. These were delivered to the local offices of each senator and representative in the state, and included information about TSHA, the professions, and Sunset Review. TSHA members who signed up to participate received tips for talking to legislators and their staffs, specific topic-oriented talking points, and leave-behind messages. The gifts and visits were well-received by legislators and their staffs. Several thank you notes have been received, indicating an increased awareness of TSHA and our profession among the lawmakers. Almost 40 members from across the state signed up to make these visits at the home offices of their elected officials, and after the event, Jennifer prepared a user-friendly survey, which was sent to participants to get feedback on the visits. About 25 members responded to the survey indicating that meetings were held with 32 elected officials and/or their key staff people. Respondents were entered into a drawing for exciting prizes, including a flip video camera. This event involved the first implementation of the Key Contact Network, and although the response was not as extensive as was hoped, it demonstrated the functional utility of this network.

CONSUMER ADVOCACY NETWORK

Ashley Warwick, Chair

The purpose of this group was to develop a network of consumers who would be willing to serve in the same type of advocacy role as the key contacts, by responding to requests from TSHA leadership to make telephone calls, send emails, write letters, and visit local offices. There has been a very positive response from members to the request for consumers who would be willing to provide grassroots advocacy for the professions.

The protocols for consumer involvement are in the developmental stage, including appropriate releases regarding confidentiality and public exposure. The plan is that TSHA members will provide contact information to the individual consumers, who will then contact TSHA if they are interested in participating. The goal is

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to have at least 50 consumer advocates from different regions of the state, representing different age ranges and diagnostic categories. Participants are being recruited through member contacts, and as Sunset approaches, these folks will be asked to fulfill specific tasks, including coming to Austin to provide committee testimony as advocates for and beneficiaries of the services provided by professional speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Allie Atkinson and **Bobbie Kay Turkett**, Co-Chairs

Allie and Bobbie Kay are active in their local associations, and were well positioned to make contact with regional associations around the state to provide the opportunity for them to host a Town Hall meeting and receive two free hours of continuing education.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVE STUDENTS

Alyssa Valles and **Nathan Stephens**, Co-Chairs

Nathan and Alyssa made contact with each of the university programs to encourage their participation in legislative activities and university visits by TSHA leadership. This task force provides a good opportunity for involvement of emerging leaders in the Association.



MEREDITH MOORE
VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC
INFORMATION AND MARKETING

It has been a very busy year for Public Information and Marketing Task Force. In January 2008, the Executive Board members, along with an American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) representative, created a wonderful strategic plan for TSHA in

the upcoming years. With this strategic plan in place, it became apparent that the task forces under Public Information and Marketing would be challenged to meet the expectations, which they not only met, but also exceeded this past year. Each of the following task force chairs and co-chairs have worked diligently all year long to address the needs of our membership and our consumers. Heartfelt thanks go out to every single one of these amazing individuals, who so willingly gave of their precious time, energy and efforts. It is truly an honor to be a part of such an outstanding group of leaders and our amazing Association.

COUNCILOR/MEMBER BENEFITS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Olivia Whitefield, Chair

Olivia kept this vice presidency organized and goal oriented. Her continuous support was evident as she was readily available and willing to jump in and help wherever needed. She regularly communicated with all of the task force chairs to provide guidance as needed. Olivia gathered and reviewed Quarterly Reports from all of the task force chairs and committee members. She is truly an outstanding leader and will do an excellent job as Vice President for Public Information and Marketing.

SHOPPE TSHA/MEMBER BENEFITS TASK FORCE

Jaclyn Molina and **Willow Sauermlch**, Co-Chairs

Jackie and Willow worked diligently to bring great items to TSHA members at convention. Shoppe TSHA was a huge success again this year. Shoppe TSHA included the sale of convention and TSHA shirts, sweat pants and jackets, water bottles, blinking pins and many other wonderful products. I hope that everyone got a chance to stop by and enjoy TSHA paraphernalia. Jackie Molina and Willow Sauermlch are to be applauded for all of their efforts in creating another successful Shoppe TSHA.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Katie Stoneman, Chair

A vital goal on the TSHA Strategic Plan was membership recruitment and retention. With the help of our State Office and Katie Stoneman, TSHA is pleased to announce that membership is on the rise! People across the state are recognizing this outstanding organization and joining the Association. A few TSHA member benefits include: inexpensive continuing education, job placement, grassroots opportunities, FREE Career Awareness packets, 25 FREE *Matt Learns to Read* books, FREE use of the Public Information Exhibit (PIE), the *Communicologist*, and so much more. Take advantage of all that TSHA has to offer. Katie also worked with local school districts to advertise and recruit membership.

MAY IS BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH (MBHSM) TASK FORCE

Ashley Barnes, Chair

Ashley Barnes created a MBHSM postcard that went out to all members reminding everyone about our professions. Included on the postcard was a list of ideas on various ways to raise public awareness of the vital roles that our professions play in their lives, as well as to celebrate a special month that is dedicated to all speech-language pathologist and audiologists. I hope you all did something special in your area to let others know about our incredible professions.

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CAREER AWARENESS DISTRIBUTION TASK FORCE **Jenny McGlothlin** and **Suzanne Bonifert**, Co-Chairs

The Career Awareness Task Force co-chairs, Jenny McGlothlin and Suzanne Bonifert, created a dynamic power point presentation and giveaways for TSHA members to use when presenting to middle and high school students. They received numerous requests for the educational packets that promote our professions. The packets are FREE to all members and very easy to use. The Career Awareness packets include a power point, brochures that list the 18 accredited universities in Texas, book marks to give away and a DVD that highlights all of the great things that speech-language pathologists and audiologists do everyday. It is never too early to get students interested in a career in speech-language pathology or audiology. Order your packets today and start telling others about our rewarding professions. To order, please call TSHA at 888-SAY-TSHA (888-729-8742).

UNIVERSITY VISITS TASK FORCE **Jackie Molina**, Chair

University Visits are a great way for the students to hear about TSHA and visit with various professionals. The current Executive Board members and the newly elected officers contacted and visited the Texas universities that offer graduate and undergraduate programs in the area of speech-language pathology and audiology. Jackie created an excellent power point that was informative and encouraging to the students. It was exciting to see how many students are interested in our professions.

STUDENT INTEREST COMMITTEE **Liz Mathukutty** and **April Davis**, Co-Chairs

The Student Interest Committee co-chairs, Liz Mathukutty and April Davis, worked diligently to create another outstanding event at convention. You could feel the energy as you entered the convention hall where the Praxis Bowl was being held. Each university was represented by a student team; all participants and spectators were bubbling with excitement. With the help of **Carolyn Perry**, the Praxis Bowl questions were up to date and practical for the students. The Praxis Bowl was a great way for the students to review their knowledge as they prepared for the Praxis exam. Not to mention the food and the giveaway prizes were a highlight to all!

PUBLIC INFORMATION EXHIBIT TASK FORCE **Jennifer Colvin**, Chair

The Public Information Exhibit (PIE) task force chair, Jennifer Colvin, enthusiastically worked to encourage the use of the TSHA PIE. The TSHA PIE is available to all members at no cost! The PIE comes complete with graphics and up to date information regarding our professions. It is compact, light weight, easy to assemble and best of all the TSHA State Office will ship it anywhere you would like to take it! The TSHA PIE is the perfect display for any presentation or workshop. To reserve the PIE, please visit www.txsha.org/advertising/publications_info_exhibit.asp

PUBLIC INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION TASK FORCE **Erica Dinkins**, Chair

Public Information Distribution Task Force chair Erica Dinkins was extremely busy and *Matt Learns to Read* has become tremendously popular this past year. TSHA helped increase literacy skills and awareness throughout Texas by providing children with their own copy of *Matt Learns to Read*. In 2008, the fourth printing of *Matt Learns to Read* was completed in both English and Spanish and the fifth printing is in process. As a member benefit, you can receive 25 copies free each year to distribute. Many of our members have used these books as therapy tools, given them to children as they master various speech and language skills, given them to Head Start libraries or provided them to doctor offices. To receive your free copies, please download a request form at www.txsha.org/publications/matt_learns_to_read.asp.

PAST PRESIDENTS' POWERHOUSE (P³) TASK FORCE **Judith Keller**, Chair

Judi Keller worked to develop a TSHA leadership track that draws new volunteers and strong leaders into the Association. She was busy developing her great ideas into reality with the first leadership program planned for the near future. Members interested in leadership or volunteering in any way may visit the TSHA website for more information.

TEXAS REGIONAL ASSOCIATION COALITION TASK FORCE **Michelle Medietta**, Chair

The Texas Regional Association Coalition (TRAC) Task Force chair, Michelle Medietta, has done an outstanding job of drawing together the various regional associations. The primary goal of the coalition task force is to help support and encourage each other, along with organizing the regional associations, coordinating events, maintaining contact among

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the members, providing information and generating articles for the *Communicologist*. The majority of the Texas regional associations were represented at the TSHA-hosted statewide meeting in the summer of 2009.

The Public Information and Marketing Task Force chairs and committee members were extremely busy and TSHA members benefitted from their hard work! To help with all of the Association efforts, Vollmer Public Relations firm assisted with internal and external public relations, marketing, and legislative efforts. They helped develop English and Spanish Public Service Announcements that have been broadcast across the state. They also wrote numerous press releases to promote the professions.



KERI GONZALEZ **VICE PRESIDENT FOR** **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Under this vice presidency, the task forces and committees worked diligently to address the needs of TSHA members and the various work arenas where Texas speech-language pathologists and audiologists work. Wow! What a year we have had! A big “thank you”

goes out to everyone who volunteered their time, energy, and commitment to TSHA. Every volunteer makes this Association truly outstanding!

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PSAC)

Janet Leone, Chair

The Public School Advisory Committee (PSAC) continues to keep the members updated on the “current issues” involving the public school work arena. The committee met at the annual 2010 convention along with members from the Response to Intervention (RtI) Task Force. Needs and issues that affect the public school work arena were identified and discussed. The Committee facilitated a well attended presentation at the annual convention, which included speakers such as **Cherry Wright**, **Sherry Sancibrian**, **Judy Rudebusch**, and **JoAnn Wiechmann**. A card survey was taken and PSAC members are compiling this information. This information will be shared with the Executive Board and also be used to plan for future convention presentations.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE

Tina Lombardi and **Lisa Zimmerman**, Co-Chairs

This task force provided our membership with some amazing resources about Assistive Technology in the April 2010 *Communicologist*. The members have completed the “AT Resource Guide” and the document is ready for editing. Once the guide is edited and approved, it will be posted on the website for our TSHA members. One goal this past year has been to increase the activity on the AT Email Distribution List. The word is getting out and TSHA members are benefiting and increasing their knowledge about Assistive Technology!

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY (CLD) TASK FORCE

Ellen Stubbe Kester and **Gina Glover**, Co-Chairs

The CLD Task Force has been very busy this past year serving as a resource in support of the TSHA membership. So many positive comments come from the information provided in the CLD Corner of the *Communicologist*. TSHA membership continues to find well researched articles and methodologies from these informative articles. The task force members have been very active in researching and responding to questions asked regarding CLD issues from within the state and out-of-state. The task force was also very busy participating and hosting the CLD Round Table discussions and provided some outstanding presentations on CLD issues at the TSHA 2010 Convention. As our diversity expands, so does the CLD Task Force and its members. Student leadership involvement continues to be a goal for this task force as it supports two student members each year. If you are a TSHA member and have questions regarding any CLD issues, contact this task force!

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RtI) TASK FORCE

JoAnn Wiechmann and **Judy Rudebusch**, Co-Chairs

This task force is still very new, but continues to work hard to support our TSHA membership who work in the public school setting. The task force members are very busy posting and sharing RtI information on the TSHA website. This information on RtI has also been shared with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and its members. Informative articles continue to be provided in the *Communicologist* by task force members on the framework of RtI. TSHA members can keep updated on RtI through the TSHA website and the *Communicologist*!

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Annual Report... (continued)

PRIVATE PRACTICE TASK FORCE

Lisa Famiglietti and **Barbara Samfield**, Co-Chairs

This task force had a very busy year! In October, TSHA supported private practitioners in a victory to stop recoupment from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas. While negotiations were successful, insurance issues continue to be a goal for private practice members. Are you a TSHA member who wants to go into private practice? If so, you can keep updated on "It's Your Business..." in the *Communicologist*. Informative articles about private practice and healthcare business matters are answered in this column. The task force members planned and coordinated 13.5 CE hours at the Business Institute Programs held during the 2010 convention. A successful Networking Dinner at the convention was attended by 50 participants. For the first time, an after-dinner business roundtable discussion was facilitated by eight task force members. The task force members continue to monitor a very active email distribution list for specific healthcare business issues.

TELEPRACTICE TASK FORCE

Angie Geurin, Chair

Angie and the task force members of Telepractice have been very busy updating our membership with several informative articles in the *Communicologist*. Task force members also presented a well attended presentation and demonstration of teletherapy at the 2010 convention. As the advancement in technology grows, this task force continues to network across the United States with others to gain and share knowledge regarding issues and concerns in teletherapy.

conducted the TSHA financial audit, also attended. Mr. Walker explained the audit proceedings and declared that TSHA was sound in its bookkeeping practices and record keeping. He made no suggestions for changes in procedures and agreed with the schedule of the three year audit rotation. Internal audits occur the first and second year, with an external audit on the third year, which is the current TSHA procedure. His figures were consistent with the 2009 IRS Form 990, which CPA Bob Green completed. The committee also reviewed the TSHA investments. Long-term investments were considered to be secure and short-term investments were recovering from the downturn in the stock market last year. The committee agreed with moving the designated Governmental Relations CD to a money market account so that the money would be accessible as the Association prepares for the sunset of the our license. The committee also reviewed expenditures from 2008-2009 and the projected budget from 2009-2010.

At the end of this past fiscal year, TSHA continued to be strong financially, with secured long-term and short-term investments. Revenues for the past five years have consistently exceeded expenditures which means that TSHA continues to contribute to investments.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Judith Keller, Chair

The TSHA Strategic Plan was reviewed by the Executive Board and updated in January 2010. Joel Blackwell attended the January meeting and contributed to legislative planning as the Association prepares for sunset review of our state license.

TSHA OPEN HOUSE AT THE ASHA CONVENTION

Judith Keller, Chair

TSHA sponsored an open house at the ASHA 2009 Convention in New Orleans. The event was attended by approximately 200 TSHA members and friends of Texas. Attendees were treated to appetizers and drinks. The Texas Party is one of the more popular events during the Friday night state parties.



JUDITH P. KELLER
PAST PRESIDENT

BYLAWS

Judith Keller, Chair

There were no TSHA by-laws changes this past year.

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Judith Keller, Chair

Members: **Lynn Flahive**, **Amy Marciniak**,

Lynda Barbee, **Tiffany Sears-Leach**, **Judy Rudebusch**, **Becky Gonzalez**; **Denise Barringer**, President and ex-officio member and **Don Canada**, Executive Director and ex-officio member.

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) held a face-to-face meeting, Friday October 16, 2009, in Austin. Harlan Walker, who

