TSHA Annual Report: July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008

PRESIDENT
JUDITH KELLER

This was an exciting year for TSHA! Membership was up! Convention attendance was up! Online services increased. Our efficient State Office provided the Board with the resources and a work force to carry out the many tasks of the Association. As you read through this report from the Vice Presidents, you will be amazed at the accomplishments of the many committees and task forces of this Association.

HONORS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Chaired by **Martha Wristen**
This Committee reviewed applications for the Awards of the Association, the Jack L. Bangs and the Rolland J. Van Hattum. The Award of Honors, which is presented to speech-language pathologists and audiologists who have contributed significantly to TSHA and demonstrated outstanding leadership in the profession, was presented to **Melissa Sweeney, Denise Barringer** and **Lynda Barbee. Julie Noel** was presented with the Jack L. Bangs Award for her contributions to both TSHA and ASHA. **Cherry Wright** was selected as the Texas nominee for the Rolland J. Van Hattum award, which is presented by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation. Cherry's nomination for this award was made because of her work on the shortages of speech-language pathologists in the state of Texas. All of these recipients received their awards at the TSHFoundation Luncheon on Friday, February 22, 2008, during the Convention in San Antonio.

ETHICAL PRACTICES
Chaired by **Benna Askew**
No reports of ethical misconduct for the year were made. Benna and her committee examined a procedural issue which may be considered as policy for this committee.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
Chaired by **Carolyn Perry**
Carolyn and her committee submitted a full slate of candidates for the 2008 elections. Candidates for Vice President for Educational and Scientific Affairs were **Lauren Mathews** (elected) and **Kelly Lauck**; candidates for Vice President for Social and Governmental Policy were **Bess Fjordbak** (elected) and **Bobbie Kay Turkett**; candidates for Vice President for Research and Development were **Jan Lougeay** (elected) and **Angela Standridge.**

This was the first year members had the option to vote online or by paper ballot. The online voting was provided by Election Services Corporation, the same group who manages the ASHA online voting. The Committee is considering ways to increase participation in the election process and ways to better market the candidates to the membership. They are already looking ahead to the next election cycle, which will include President-Elect, Vice President for Public Information and Marketing, and Vice President for Professional Services.

GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
Erin Ludeke (Texas Christian University) and **Liz Mathukutty** (Stephen F. Austin State University)
Erin and Liz attended all Executive Board meetings this past year and provided valuable input from a student's perspective. They coordinated the student volunteer efforts for Convention and wrote articles for the *Communicologist*. Erin rotated off the board at the end of June, and the new student who will join the board is **Samantha Bisch** from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. She will attend her first Executive Board meeting in September.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SLP VACANCY COMMITTEE
Chaired by **Cherry Wright**
Members of the Public School Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Vacancy Committee served as representatives to the Joint Committee of the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (TSHA) and the Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education (TCASE). The Joint Committee held three meetings and continued to address their action plans. Cherry Wright participated in the TSHA Executive Board strategic planning session in order to provide input regarding the action plans and activities of the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee continued to research models of service delivery. **Diana Christiana** of the TSHA Telepractice Task Force shared information with the Joint Committee during the Annual Convention in San Antonio. Presentations were made at the TSHA Convention and TCASE Conferences and the Committee provided input to the Vice President for Educational and Scientific Affairs in reference to collection of Eligibility Template implementation information. An email contact list was established including Regional Education Service Center (ESC), SLP representatives, and District Lead SLPs to enhance input related to personnel shortages and communication of activities of the Joint Committee. A survey was developed and distributed to Directors of Special Education to gather information regarding current shortages of SLPs in the state and implementation of strategies to address the shortage. The Committee continued to dialogue with the TSHA University Task Force. A meeting was held with representatives of the 17 universities to explore the Ohio Master's Network Initiatives in Education (OMNIE) project. Representatives of five universities expressed an interest in researching the possibility of a collaborative project. Two meetings were held with the five representatives. As a result, two universities have increased enrollment and are implementing pilot projects to provide non-traditional opportunities for students to complete leveling coursework. Dialogue with the universities will continue to explore different venues for addressing the issue of shortages in the public schools. Additional information was collected and posted on the TSHA website. The Committee met with the Coalition of Related Professional Associations to share information regarding personnel shortages and strategies to address the resulting issues. The Texas Physical Therapy Association and the Texas Occupational Therapy Association expressed interest

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in working with TSHA and TCASE regarding legislation for loan repayment. Other points of discussion included the need for practicum experiences in the public schools and innovative models of service delivery. The Committee continues to seek "Best Practices" in the public schools and to publish information in the *Communicologist* and on the TSHA website.

PUBLICATIONS BOARD
Chaired by **Melinda Corwin**
Dee Kirby and **Lynly Stephen** continue to serve as alternating editors of the *Communicologist*, which was published on time every other month this year. **Lisanne Taylor** developed an article tracking guide for the *Communicologist* to better document the type and volume of information that TSHA is providing to its members. **Kathy Clapsaddle** devised a system for monitoring the TSHA website and all of its postings and links. This project will be implemented, evaluated, and modified as needed during the 2008-2009 year. The 2007 issue of the *TEJAS* was published and mailed to members. **Tim Meline** served as editor. Full issues of the 2006 and 2007 issues of *TEJAS* are available on the TSHA website (by entire issue and by individual article), and the State Office is currently working on archiving all previous *TEJAS* issues on the site. **Melinda Corwin, Dee Kirby,** and **Ellen Bennett Lanouette** submitted photos depicting the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology for the home page of the TSHA website. Other TSHA members sent photos as well. Go to www.txsha.org and continue to click Refresh to see all of the photos currently in the photo bank. **Lisanne Taylor** developed a working draft of writing style guidelines, which will hopefully be added to the Policies and Procedures manual for 2008-2009. The Publications Board reviewed, edited, and approved over 50 items for TSHA in the following forms: journal, children's book, newsletters, brochures, booklets, letters, posters, email blasts, flyers, billboards, and website postings. The Pub Board would like to thank Traci Miller from the State Office for her strong work ethic and efficient style. She makes our job much easier!

PAST PRESIDENT
LYNDA BARBEE

I have served on the TSHA Executive Board for 8 years as Vice President for Professional Services and as President-Elect, President, and Past President. This was my last year as a member of the Board of TSHA, and what a wonderful year it was! I enjoyed the opportunities to work with the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC), help change the bylaws to include a new Board position, and plan a wonderful party at the national Convention. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. As I transition to being a "member" again, I look forward to new opportunities to serve and experience TSHA membership!

BYLAWS
Chaired by **Lynda Barbee**
Two bylaws proposals were submitted to the membership at the 2008 Annual Business Meeting in San Antonio. Both proposals were unanimously approved. The TSHA Executive Board will now include a Vice President for Research and Development. This vice president will be responsible for the development of new topics of interest and ideas leading to the advancement of our professions, and for the promotion of selected areas of interest, which may include technology, administration, clinical technique, research, and education. The membership also approved the removal of our Mission Statement from the Bylaws, to be included with the current Vision Statement in a Preamble to the Bylaws.

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Chaired by **Lynda Barbee**
The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) held one meeting via conference call last summer to review the proposed TSHA 2007-2008 budget. The FAC submitted questions and comments to the Executive Board. In December, the FAC met in Austin to perform our first internal audit. It was a successful learning experience for all. Based on findings, the FAC submitted suggestions to the Executive Board.

STRATEGIC PLANNING
Chaired by **Lynda Barbee**
The TSHA Strategic Plan was reviewed at the Executive Board meeting in January of 2008. Stan Dublinski from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association traveled to Texas to guide the Board through the next steps in further developing and implementing the plan.

TSHA OPEN HOUSE AT THE ASHA CONVENTION
Chaired by **Lynda Barbee**
TSHA sponsored an Open House at the 2007 ASHA Annual Convention in Boston. "Paul Revere" was on hand to greet TSHA members and their friends and to share the history of his home town. A photographer mingled throughout the evening to capture the experiences of the event, with photos available for all who attended. We had a full house, and the evening was enjoyed by all!

VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS
AMY MARCINIAK

TSHA worked diligently this year to provide continuing education (CE) activities to our members. One activity was the 52nd Annual Convention: Building Bridges through Communication in San Antonio, Texas which hosted 4,153 attendees. Through the dedication of volunteers and our State Office, this Convention was the largest to date.

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COUNCILOR FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Chaired by **Karen King**
Karen King oversaw the tasks of the Continuing Education (CE) Processor, Independent Study, Speech CE, and Audiology CE Approval Chairs. She developed the continuing education codes that were listed in the onsite program book. Karen organized volunteers to review and input Convention continuing education hours and is the contact for any questions pertaining to Convention CE hours. She is currently collaborating with her Committee on a new process for inputting Convention hours for the 2009 Convention.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) PROCESSOR
Chaired by **Leon Barbee**
Leon Barbee continues to spearhead moving the TSHA CE application process to be efficient and accessible for the members. Anyone interested in hosting a TSHA CE sponsored event can easily apply for TSHA CE hours online at www.txsha.org. Leon processed 665 continuing education activities. He continues to make sure all continuing education hours are transferred to the TSHA CE registry, which is free to all TSHA members. Leon is working on a system to implement for the 2009 Convention to help upload and confirm attendees' hours efficiently.

ASHA CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) PROCESSOR
Chaired by **Loretta Lee**
Loretta Lee processed ASHA CE applications as well as all the TSHA Annual Convention ASHA hours. She also helped to ensure that all CE processes were in compliance with ASHA standards.

INDEPENDENT STUDY
Chaired by **Janice E. Stroud**
Janice Stroud met the needs and interests of many TSHA members by providing CE opportunities that were individualized. She processed the TSHA/ASHA independent study applications, supplied necessary information about the study, and approved, monitored, and processed independent study projects. The application has moved online and is user-friendly for members.

SPEECH CE APPROVAL
Chaired by **Roya Daryapayma**
Roya Daryapayma received and approved the speech CE applications. After reviewing the information, she determined if the programs met the criteria for TSHA CE hours and then submitted the approval to Leon Barbee, who completed the process.

AUDIOLOGY CE APPROVAL
Chaired by **Pam Bender**
Pam Bender received and approved the audiology CE approval applications. After reviewing the information, she determined if the programs met the criteria for TSHA CE hours and then submitted the approval to Leon Barbee, who completed the process.

REGIONAL SEMINAR FUNDING GRANTS
Chaired by **Renee Bogschutz**
Renee Bogschutz received and processed applications with her committee for the TSHA Seminar Grants. The purpose of the grants is to allow local associations, National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) chapters, or other groups to defray costs incurred in providing regionally advertised seminars or workshops for speech-language pathologists and/or audiologists. Renee worked with the State Office to place the regional seminar grant applications online to make the procedure easier for applicants. She developed a criteria rating form for the committee to use 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 San Antonio.

COUNCILOR FOR ANNUAL TSHA CONVENTION
Chaired by **Melanie McDonald**
Melanie provided a great deal of support this year by sharing her expertise and taking initiatives to help bring the 2008 Convention to a huge level of success. She participated in the program planning for both the Convention and summer symposium. She was an integral part in arranging transportation, providing hospitality, and communicating with major speakers. Melanie helped transport and was the TSHA contact for our keynote speaker, Dr. Temple Grandin. She helped monitor programming at the 2008 Convention. She recently participated in the post-Convention/pre-Convention meeting and is in the process of contacting major speakers for the 2009 Convention.

CONVENTION PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
Co-Chaired by **Lauren Mathews** and **Tori Gustafson**
Lauren Mathews was in charge of the Program Committee's review of each *Call for Papers* submission and approval of all Convention sessions. It was her task to schedule each session and collaborate with the State Office to produce handouts and meet audio-visual needs. Tori Gustafson helped edit the pre-Convention brochure and onsite program. Both Lauren and Tori coordinated the many details involved with short courses and advanced speakers. TSHA offered 118 traditional presentations, 4 major speakers, 4 advanced courses, 6 short courses, and 21 poster sessions. There were 6 cancellations and 4 closed sessions (3 were in the medical speech pathology strand in 45-person capacity rooms). The Program Chairs met in May for post-Convention/pre-Convention meeting and started the planning for major, advanced, and short course speakers for the 2009 Convention in Austin, Texas.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE
Co-Chaired by **Bobbie Kay Turkett** and **Michelle Mendietta**
The Local Arrangements Committee helped everyone feel welcome in San Antonio for the 2008 Convention. They were responsible for the various Convention subcommittees to ensure quality and efficiency during Convention such as registration, hospitality, volunteers, signs, transportation, photography, and social. After Convention they compiled reports from all subcommittees with suggestions for the following year. Bobbie Kay created a timeline to facilitate local arrangements for the 2009 Convention in Austin. She participated in the post-Convention/pre-Convention meeting in Austin. Bobbie Kay and Michelle have agreed to remain as Local Arrangements co-Chairs for the 2009 Convention.

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EXHIBITS COMMITTEE
Co-Chaired by **Kathy Barker** and **Rebecca Linke**
Kathy and Rebecca did an excellent job organizing exhibitors at the 2008 Convention. They were responsible for dealing with exhibitors and their needs throughout Convention. They worked to provide over 188 exhibitors for TSHA members this year. Other Exhibit Hall activities included Cyber Café, beverage breaks for members, exhibit drawings, and door prizes. After Convention they compiled feedback forms from exhibitors and reported the information during the post-Convention/pre-Convention meeting in Austin.

JOB PLACEMENT COMMITTEE
Chaired by **Raedeen Wingate**
Job placement was a big success at the 2008 Convention. Raedeen was responsible for helping design the new job placement set up, gaining volunteers to work shifts, and setting up the dry erase board schedule grid. Many members mentioned how great the set up was this year. Sixty-nine companies and 122 applicants participated in the job placement process. Raedeen submitted a post-Convention report with the new procedures outlined and suggestions for next year. She participated in the post-Convention/pre-Convention meeting in Austin.

SUMMER SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE
Chaired by **Lynn Flahive, Sherry Sancibrian,** and **Robyn Windham**
The Committee met and planned speakers and events for the special 10 continuing education hours summer symposium held in Breckenridge, Colorado, in July of 2008. They approved the brochure and worked on the best way to market the unique continuing education opportunity during the past year. The Committee promoted the summer symposium at the TSHA 2008 Convention. They developed and sent a form to all summer symposium attendees about how to submit a case study to be reviewed at the symposium. They also developed the scavenger hunt for the evening special event.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
BECKY GONZALEZ

The Committees and Task Forces under this vice presidency reflect the many work arenas and interests of our profession. Each group has worked diligently all year long to address the needs of our membership. My heartfelt thanks goes to this very talented and dedicated group of volunteers. It is my privilege to have worked with them and to share their successes with you briefly.

COUNCILORS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
Keri Gonzalez and **Christy Weddington**
These wonderful ladies kept this vice presidency organized and task oriented by communicating with their selected Task Force Chairs to ensure that the support and information needed was available to them. All reports and financial forms were reviewed prior to submission.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Chaired by **JoAnn Wiechmann**
The Public School Advisory Committee (PSAC) researched issues of concern to speech-language pathologists (SLP) working in the public schools. These issues were highlighted at the Public School Forum held at the Convention and included information on Response to Intervention (RtI) shared by JoAnn Wiechmann, an update on eligibility templates shared by **Debra Bankston**, and ASHA initiatives shared by State Education Advocacy Leaders (SEAL) Representative **Becky Gonzalez** and State Advisory Representative **Judy Rudebusch**. A number of issues including SLP shortages, bilingual speech services, service delivery models, TEA advocacy, and dysphagia in the schools were identified, and action plans were developed for the coming year.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS COMMITTEE
Chaired by **Debra Bankston**
This was another eventful year for this Committee. Some activities included updating sessions for the trainers in each of the five eligibility templates which was conducted at Convention. For the first time, one of the templates, articulation, was offered for training to the general membership by **Lynda Barbee, Sue Johnsen,** and **Cindy Gill**, and training of trainers for the cultural and linguistic diversity (CLD) companion to the Articulation Eligibility Template was conducted by **Lynette Austin, Gina Glover, Becky Gonzalez,** and **Roxanna Ruiz-Felter** at Convention as well. Ideas for a Summer Institute for template trainings and more template trainings at the next Convention were discussed. **Allan Bird** was selected to serve in the capacity of collecting data on the eligibility templates. An email list was created to include the names of lead speech-language pathologists serving the public schools throughout the state. A survey regarding the use of the eligibility templates was developed and distributed to the lead SLPs statewide. Allan continues to monitor the template trainings and update the schedule for trainings on the website. The names of trainers are posted on the TSHA website.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE
Co-Chaired by **Angela Standridge** and **Sheryl Haeusler**
This group was instrumental in locating a major speaker for Convention. They also contributed several presentations at Convention and submitted an article to the *Communicologist*. A draft document on the role of speech-language pathologists/audiologists in assistive technology (AT), basics of AT assessment/report writing, AT intervention strategies, and resources for more AT training was developed. Work will continue over the summer in hopes of completing this document by September. Assistive Technology Task Force members have stayed in touch via the AT email list.

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CULTURAL & LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY (CLD) ISSUES TASK FORCE
Co-Chaired by **Lynette Austin** and **Gina Glover**
The CLD Issues Task Force has continued to develop articles for the *Communicologist* (CLD Corner) and the TSHA website. The Diversity link on the website was re-organized and updated with a user-friendly design format. Students from 15 universities participated at the CLD student event held at Convention, which included two book scholarships and a round table discussion on evidence-based practice in serving CLD populations.

CLD COMPANION TO THE ARTICULATION TEMPLATE
Co-Chaired by **Becky Gonzalez** and **Roxanna Ruiz-Felter**
The CLD Companion to Articulation Eligibility Template was completed this year and submitted to the Executive Board for approval. Speech-language pathologists were selected as trainers of this template, and training was conducted at Convention over 2 days. A list of trainers is posted on the TSHA website.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE TASK FORCE
Chaired by **Jenny Katz**
This Task Force was created this year. Members were recruited and goals identified. In addition, an article for the *Communicologist* was developed and submitted for publication.

MEDICAL ISSUES TASK FORCE
Chaired by **Marte Hersey**
The Medical Issues Task Force established a pool of competencies and completed the minimum guidelines for competencies with modified barium swallow studies, fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing, tracheostomy evaluations with speaking valves, and videostroboscopy evaluations. The competencies have been placed on the TSHA website under the Practice Guidelines link. The Medical Issues email list has provided a means of staying in touch with members in the medical field.

PRIVATE PRACTICE ISSUES TASK FORCE
Chaired by **Barbara Samfield**
The Private Practice Issues Task Force continues to work tirelessly on issues for the TSHA membership. Three surveys were developed and distributed via email, provider network directories were updated, and Business Institute presentations at Convention were planned and implemented. The Task Force held a networking dinner at Convention. This group has also addressed provider and consumer issues related to insurance billing, developed email list discussions, and submitted articles to the *Communicologist*.

TELEPRACTICE TASK FORCE
Chaired by **Diana Christiana**
A roundtable discussion was held at Convention. The Telepractice State of Affairs PowerPoint presentation was posted on the TSHA website, and Diana Christiana spoke at the TSHA/Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education (TCASE) Joint Committee meeting about the ways that telepractice is being used in the public schools. She also attended the American Telemedicine Association Conference, where the Medicare Telehealth Improvement Act was discussed. This act would include coverage for occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, and audiology. If passed, this act will expand telepractice outside of schools and into the medical realm (Telerehab). Janet Brown, Director of Health Care Services for ASHA, was invited to present on telepractice and current trends at the 2009 TSHA Convention. Diana met with Janice Brannon, Director of State Special Initiatives, Government Relations and Public Policy for ASHA. They discussed the need for a committee or a group of representatives from across the country to work together on state licensure provisions and issues in telepractice.

UNIVERSITY BASED TASK FORCE
Co-Chaired by **Ann Hillis** and **Jan Lougeay**
This year the University Based Task Force completed and distributed a PowerPoint presentation on clinical supervision. To date it has been used by four universities for workshops, and three additional universities report that it will be used this summer in either workshops or as independent study materials for supervisors.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MARKETING
DONISE PEARSON

Public Information and Marketing had a whirlwind year! A TSHA bylaws change in 2006 required the TSHA Executive Board to appoint a Vice President to fill a one-year term in this office. So began the challenge to set up external short-term and long-range plans to advertise our professions; educate legislators; market to physicians, school administrators, and insurance medical directors; and inform the general public about who we are and what we do. Internal marketing needs were also addressed in order to recruit new members and retain current members.

UNIVERSITY VISITS
Chaired by **Melissa Whitaker**
This year the current Executive Board members and elect-officers were busy visiting 17 Texas university programs in speech-language pathology and audiology. Excellent presentations to recruit student members and provide valuable information were provided under the guidance of Melissa Whitaker, University Visits Task Force Chair. TSHA was also contacted by Texas A&M International University in Laredo with the news that they recently began an undergraduate program in communication sciences and disorders. Now there will be 18 universities to visit next year!

STUDENT INTEREST COMMITTEE
Co-Chaired by **Lora Carlini** and **Paige Preston**
During the TSHA 2008 Convention, Student Interest Task Force

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Co-Chairs Lora Carlini and Paige Preston provided fabulous student initiatives. We can proudly boast that 735 students registered for Convention. These dedicated Co-Chairs hosted the world renowned TSHA Praxis Bowl entitled "Are You Smarter than a Graduate School Professor?" Once again students topped our priority list, and the Student Interests Task Force outdid themselves with unbelievable student activities.

PAST PRESIDENTS' POWERHOUSE
Chaired by **Benna Askew**
Throughout this year, Benna Askew, Task Force Chair of the Past Presidents' Powerhouse (P3), utilized the power of experience. This Task Force has been on alert 24/7 in case there was a need for expertise, information or support from former Association leaders. Many of TSHA's former presidents continue to actively volunteer time to strengthen our Association.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS/SHOPPE TSHA
Co-Chaired by **Bobbie Kay Turkett** and **Emily McRae**
Providing member benefits and impressive TSHA-logo products is always important. Shoppe TSHA was a great success at Convention and included the sale of Dr. Temple Grandin's books. Co-Chairs of the Shoppe TSHA Task Force, Bobbie Kay Turkett and Emily McRae, are to be commended for their hard work. Needless to say, the new "Future SLP" and "Future AuD" baby bibs were a sellout! Developing new leaders was strongly emphasized this year. **Meredith Moore**, Councilor for Public Relations and Vice President-Elect for Public Information and Marketing, faithfully participated in all of the various activities for this year and spent an entire day with the TSHA State Office and **Donise Pearson** planning for the next 2 years.

PUBLIC INFORMATION EXHIBIT
Chaired by **Jennifer Pate**
Public Information Exhibit (PIE) Task Force Chair Jennifer Pate worked diligently to encourage the use of the TSHA public information exhibit. TSHA purchased a beautiful new exhibit for members to use anytime it is needed. This modern PIE is compact, lightweight, easy to assembly, inexpensive to mail, and professional in appearance! The exhibit includes creative graphics and information about who speech-language pathologists and audiologists are and what they do. All TSHA members are encouraged to request the PIE display for workshops or presentations whenever the work of the state association needs to be highlighted. These will be especially helpful when presenting to student organizations. The Association pays for the shipping of the exhibit and provides giveaway items if requested. To reserve the PIE, visit www.txsha.org/advertising/publication_info_exhibit.asp.

PUBLIC INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
Chaired by **Jessica Rowe**
TSHA's literacy initiative continued this year with the fourth printing of *Matt Learns to Read,* available in English and Spanish. TSHA members touched the lives of children all over Texas by distributing the 28-page book. The back portion of the book features a letter to families explaining the importance of literacy, how to choose books for children, and tips for reading to children. TSHA members may request 25 free copies to provide to a preschool class, doctor's office, Head Start Center, library, church, or any other preschool entity. Requests for over 25 copies must be approved by the Vice President for Public Information and Marketing. Jessica Rowe, Public Information Distribution Committee Chair, spear-headed this unique initiative and worked to effectively disseminate this public information.

MAY IS BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH
Chaired by **Katie Stoneman**
May is Better Hearing and Speech Month (MBHSM) Task Force Chair Katie Stoneman completed double duty this year by also chairing the Work Arena Public Relations Task Force. Katie provided 31 creative ideas, one for each day of May, on the TSHA website at www.txsha.org/products/better_hearing_and_speech.asp. Other great ideas to celebrate MBHSM added to the website included "Even More Ideas to Promote Hearing and Speech."

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Chaired by **Mary Beth Schmitt**
TSHA's Membership Committee Chair Mary Beth Schmitt, along with the State Office, dedicated many hours to recruit new members and retain current ones. TSHA membership benefits are amazing and include inexpensive continuing education opportunities, informative website access and resources, legislative advocacy opportunities, thought-provoking publications, effective marketing initiatives, and so much more. In Texas, there are over 11,000 licensed speech-language pathologist and audiologists. Currently TSHA boasts the largest membership in the history of the Association - 4,700 members! There are future plans in place to recruit even more members.

TEXAS REGIONAL ASSOCIATION COALITION
Chaired by **Olivia Whitefield**
Texas Regional Association Coalition (TRAC) Task Force Chair Olivia Whitefield did an extraordinary job coordinating events, providing an exchange of information, and soliciting articles for the *Communicologist* from the regional associations in Texas. All 15 Texas regional associations were represented at the TSHA-hosted statewide meeting in the summer of 2007 and are invited to attend another meeting this July 25-26, 2008, in Dallas. Through this networking opportunity, TSHA gained new members and increased our legislative contacts.

CAREER AWARENESS
Chaired by **Jenny McGlothlin**
The Career Awareness Task Force, chaired by Jenny McGlothlin, received requests for the newly developed educational presentation packets about our professions. TSHA members participated in one of our newest marketing initiatives "TSHA Talks to Texas" by scheduling a presentation to an upper-elementary school, middle school, high school, or college undergraduate program. The packets provided a beautiful new brochure that lists the 17 accredited universities in Texas with speech-language pathology and/or audiology programs. It tells

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who we are, what we do, where we work, and the wonderful career benefits associated with our professions. Along with brochures, impressive bookmarks were provided for students to keep and an easy-to-use, TSHA-developed DVD tells all about the professions. It is amazing how much TSHA accomplished with the dedication of our volunteer members this year!

Public information and marketing initiatives and activities reached a phenomenal audience. The May issue of *Texas Monthly* recognized famous country western singer Willie Nelson, who celebrated his 75th birthday. The issue targeted a circulation of 330,000 people, and TSHA was prominently advertised on page 245. Beautiful color pictures depicted our professions surrounded by a large star with text about who we are and what we do. A tiny star overlapping the larger star displayed the wishes "Happy Birthday, Willie!"

VICE PRESIDENT FOR SOCIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL POLICY
STACY REAVES

This was a busy year! Even though the Texas Legislature was not in session this year, all of the task forces under this vice presidency were busy developing innovative ways to increase member participation in the legislative process and ways to increase awareness of the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology on the part of the state policy makers.

COUNCILOR FOR LEGISLATION
Lauren Sachar Roe
The Councilor for Legislation has provided continuous support to this vice presidency and the legislative team. She has been readily available to give of her time in an effort to meet TSHA's legislative goals.

GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE
Co-Chaired by **Heather MacFadyen** and **Lori Cochran**
Through the work of this Task Force, members of TSHA were provided with various opportunities to become legislatively active this past year. Task Force Co-Chairs did a fantastic job working behind the scene to prepare for and help organize the VoterVoice campaign at the TSHA Convention. Excitedly, more than 350 TSHA members registered on VoterVoice and over 700 emails were sent to legislators. This Task Force was also extremely helpful in organizing TSHA's first District Legislative Day. Over 70 strategic legislators were identified by **Larry Higdon,** TSHA's Director of Legislation, and **Mark Hanna,** TSHA's Lobbyist and Legal Counsel, as those who should be contacted. These individuals received a gift from TSHA during May is Better Hearing and Speech Month. TSHA members from all over the state visited legislators in their home district offices during the May District Legislation Day. TSHA members in Austin, El Paso, Dallas, Plano, Grand Prairie, Houston, San Antonio, and Lubbock reported that they called on legislators. Speech-language pathologists and audiologist from private practices, school districts, in-patient hospitals, and universities took time from their schedules to build relationships with state policy makers.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)
Co-Chaired by **Melissa Sweeney** and **April Smith**
The organized efforts of the TSHA Political Action Committee (PAC) and the commitment of many TSHA members led to a successful PAC fundraiser and silent auction at the TSHA 2008 Annual Convention. Prior to Convention, members had expressed their commitment to PAC through contributions when they paid their TSHA membership dues for 2008. The TSHA PAC Board has identified key Texas Senators and Representatives who will receive contribution checks by September of 2008.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES TASK FORCE
Chaired by **April Smith**
This Task Force has been committed to seeing that TSHA members remain informed about legislative initiatives and activities. Information regarding the PAC's fundraising goal and Convention report has been added to the TSHA webpage, in addition to a recap of District Legislative Day. An additional link to VoterVoice has been added to the Legislative Information section to make "taking action" more accessible. Talking Points for visiting your legislator have also been added to the webpage.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVE STUDENTS TASK FORCE
Co-Chaired by **Marcus Neal** and **Angela Kennedy**
The Legislative Active Students Task Force worked collaboratively to form a committee of student representatives from universities around the state to support TSHA's legislative team. This committed group of students volunteered their time by working at the PAC table during Convention and soliciting baskets for the PAC silent auction. All participants expressed interest in participating in future legislative activities.

PUBLIC MEMBERS FOR LEGISLATION TASK FORCE
Co-Chaired by **Carol Nacke** and **Cori Weaver**
Public Members for Legislation consists of consumers (or their family members) who use the services of speech-language pathologists and audiologists. This Task Force has collected testimonies from consumers and their families to create a booklet titled "Texans Talk." This will be available to TSHA members to give to their legislators at the next "TSHA Takes A Stand" legislative event at the Capitol during TSHA's 2009 Annual Convention. The books will also be available at the TSHA State Office for future advocacy initiatives.

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS TASK FORCE
Co-Chaired by **Bess Fjordbak** and **Debra Kerne**r
The Regional Association Task Force spent time this year reaching out to the regional associations in Texas in an attempt to provide continuing education on legislation at the regional level. We are very excited that half of the regional associations responded to

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this educational initiative. Increased participation in VoterVoice and increased awareness of the importance of legislative advocacy have been products of this initiative.

REIMBURSEMENT TASK FORCE/ASHA STAR REPRESENTATIVE
Chaired by **Gretchen Bebb**
This Task Force has been extremely busy informing TSHA members of the importance of advocating for the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology and the clients whom we serve. This Task Force Chair presented at the Business Institute at Convention and was accompanied by a client/friend who shared her testimony in an effort to advocate for the professions. She attended the ASHA State Advocates for Reimbursement (STARS) workshop and the ASHA State Association Workshop. Organizational efforts have begun to schedule and conduct future advocacy presentations to medical directors and insurance companies.

SUNSET REVIEW TASK FORCE
Chaired by **Sherry Sancibrian**
The Sunset Review Task Force has been working with TSHA's legislative team to educate speech-language pathologists and audiologists about the importance of licensure and how it directly affects our jobs. We continue to be in close communication with this board and are always monitoring activity related to our licensure law. This Task Force is identifying stakeholders across the state and developing strategies for increasing public awareness. Efforts have been made to prepare a new draft of our licensure law.

Upcoming TSHA Conventions:

April 2-4, 2009 at the Austin Convention Center
"Tuning In... TSHA 2009 Convention"
March 25-27, 2010 at the Fort Worth Convention Center

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