

Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

TSHA ★ 2023

TSHA



AMPLIFY

67th Annual
Convention & Exhibition

FEBRUARY 23-25 ★ AUSTIN, TX

www.txsha.org

Table of Contents

Message from the TSHA President.....	2
2023 TSHA Executive Board.....	2
TSHA Mission and Vision.....	3
Top TSHA Accomplishments in 2023.....	4
TSHA 2023 Convention in Review.....	5
TSHA 2023 Membership in Review.....	6
Activities of the Association.....	7
TSHA Member Benefits.....	14
Important Contacts.....	15

Message from the TSHA President

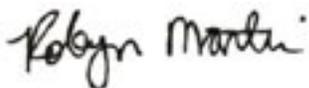
Dear TSHA Members,

As I reflect on 2023 and my two years as TSHA President, I'm left in awe of the people, our nearly 4,000 members serving consumers across the state of Texas and beyond, the richness of organizational traditions and past leaders, and the impact we all make on our clients and communities each day. The TSHA 2023 Annual Report is a summary of the tremendous work of more than 100 volunteers across Texas who have dedicated their time and talents to TSHA's vision to enhance the quality of life for the individuals we serve.

In 2023, we hosted a fantastic Convention in Austin during the legislative session, bringing together more than 2,800 speech language pathologists and audiologists in Texas and the surrounding areas. More than 50 of those TSHA members took time away from their professional development to talk to legislators about issues that are important to them and their clients. The 2023 Convention featured our first Amp-Up sessions, an opportunity for the entirety of our audience to gather together each morning and discuss important educational topics such as ethics and diversity, equity, and inclusion. It was staggering to see the energy, experience, and enthusiasm in the room.

Additionally, as we build on our 2023-2025 Strategic Plan, we laid out some important groundwork in 2023. I am pleased to share that TSHA launched a new website and website design in 2023. The new look and layout were intended to modernize the experience for our members and help ensure that the resources our committees produce are easily accessible. We celebrated May Is Better Hearing and Speech Month (MBHSM) and shared stories of our amazing members in the fields. We continued our efforts to enhance our communications to membership through social media and emails. We hope to continue to build on these efforts in 2024 with new advanced CE live webinar opportunities and new member newsletters on education and advocacy. Our future is bright! We hope you join us for our 2024 Annual Convention in Fort Worth, where we will aim to continue to illuminate your career.

I now pass the baton to Lisa Milliken, who will have the pleasure of serving you as President over the next two years. I am grateful to have had this opportunity to serve the TSHA membership. I also would like to extend a sincere thank you to some of incredible past leaders of TSHA. They are TSHA. You are TSHA. I am TSHA.



2023 TSHA Executive Board

President	Robyn Martin	Vice President for Professional Services	Suzanne Bonifert
President-Elect	Lisa Milliken	TSHF President	Donise Pearson
Vice President for Educational and Scientific Affairs	Angela Kennedy	Financial Advisory Committee Chair ...	Cherry Wright
Vice President for Social and Governmental Policy	Bobbie Kay Turkett	Publications Board Chair	Jan Lougeay
Vice President for Member Engagement	Sadaf Ali	Graduate Student Representatives ..	Emily Gruver and Alyssa Schulz
Vice President for Research and Development	Jessica Carter	Director of Governmental Affairs	Larry Higdon
Vice President for Audiology	Michelle Pho	Legal and Legislative Counsel	Mark Hanna
		Executive Director	Katie Strang

TSHA Mission and Vision

2023 Annual Report

The 2023 Annual Report of the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (TSHA) is a summary of the tremendous work that volunteers across Texas have dedicated their time and efforts to in order to ensure that TSHA continues to strive to be the leading organization that supports speech-language pathologists (SLPs), audiologists, and their consumers in Texas.

Mission

Empowering members to provide the highest-quality, life-changing care for individuals with communication and related disorders

Vision

Enhancing the quality of life for the individuals we serve

Purpose

- Encourage and promote the role of the speech-language pathologist and audiologist as a professional in the delivery of clinical services to persons with communication disorders
- Encourage basic scientific study of processes of individual human communication with special reference to speech, hearing, and language
- Encourage clinical research and the interchange of information among speech-language pathologists and audiologists, and other professionals concerned with human communication and its disorders
- Promote prevention of disorders of human communication
- Provide continuing educational activities and opportunities for professional growth and fellowship
- Promote the highest standards of preparation and practice in speech-language pathology and audiology
- Promote public awareness and influence public opinions concerning the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology and the needs of persons with communication disorders
- Encourage affiliation and cooperation with other persons and organizations having similar interests and objectives through legislative and professional advocacy

Top TSHA Accomplishments in 2023

Looking back at 2023, the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (TSHA) continued to provide its members with expanded continuing education courses and outreach to local communities in the post-COVID-19 era.

Here are just a few of TSHA's accomplishments during the past year:

- TSHA held a successful 67th Annual TSHA Convention in Austin, Texas, this past February.
- TSHA held TSHA Tuesdays and Webinar Wednesdays throughout the year to offer quality, low-cost continuing education (CE) credit to Texas speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and audiologists.
- The TSHA Government Relations team helps to organize opportunities for TSHA members to meet with state representatives and senators to discuss issues affecting TSHA members and our clients.
- TSHA launched a new and improved website for the association.
- TSHA continued to foster engagement and connections with our membership through social media and member hangouts like the Three-City Medical Committee Social.

Looking forward, TSHA will continue to strive to provide its members with the most recent and up-to-date continuing education courses available across a multitude of platforms. In addition, TSHA will continue to develop resources to advance and support its members' professional careers.

TSHA 2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION & EXHIBITION RECAP <<<<

2,819 ATTENDEES



138 EXHIBITORS

**14 PRAXIS
BOWL TEAMS**



**33 POSTER
PRESENTATIONS**

Highest Rated Sessions

1. Treatment of Severe Speech Sound Disorders Including Childhood Apraxia of Speech
2. Effective Meaning-Related Emergent Literacy Intervention for Young Children with DLD or Autism
3. Amplifying Emergent Literacy Intervention Effects Through Interactive Book Sharing and Interprofessional Collaboration
4. Strategies for School-Age Stuttering Therapy: A New Era
5. Behavior, Language, and Communication: What's the Connection?



www.txsha.org

TSHA 2023 Membership in Review



2023 YEAR IN REVIEW >>>>

3,796 MEMBERS STRONG

Our community of Texas-based speech-language pathologists, students, assistants, interns and audiologists provide the highest quality life-changing care for individuals with communication-related disorders.



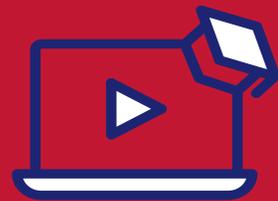
A NEW LOOK

We completely revamped our website this year, creating a seamless and engaging experience for our community.

11 LIVE WEBINARS

Our top 5 webinars with the most attendees were:

1. 2023 Texas Licensure Updates
2. How to Improve Motor Planning Skills Using ReST
3. AAC Refresh: Building and Maintaining a Strong Foundation
4. Navigate Tough Talks: How to Address the Elephant in the Room
5. Texas Technology Access Program: What's New in the World of AAC?



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The TSHA Executive Board evaluated our mission and goals and created a strategic plan and action items for committees that will be in effect beginning in 2024.

#IAMTSHA

PRESIDENT: ROBYN MARTIN

Graduate Student Representatives

- **Emily Gruver** and **Alyssa Schulz**
- Encouraged undergraduate and graduate students to join TSHA and attend TSHA Convention by attending or facilitating university visits to Texas schools' National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) chapters. This was completed at the beginning of 2023 prior to 2023 Convention and began again for the 2024 Convention in October of 2023. At the end of 2023, 14 visits were completed with five planned for early 2024
- Contributed to development of TSHA's new website and updated the student member portion of the website with new school contacts and student membership information including cost, benefits, and resources
- Updated contacts for Texas universities to include a faculty advisor or program coordinator and NSSLHA officer to limit the impact of changing NSSLHA executive boards on the coordination of university visits
- Contributed bimonthly articles to the Communicologist featuring relevant student topics and calls to action for graduate student representative (GSR) applications and TSHA Convention
- Collaborated with the State Office on swag for 2023-2024 university visits based on budget, and regularly communicated with State Office on upcoming visits for swag shipments to be sent prior to or directly after visits
- Designed and shared a graduating student/new professional membership Instagram story campaign in May 2023. This will continue into 2024 with new campaigns to be added throughout the semester regarding student-to-professional membership and the benefits of TSHA membership

ASHA Liaisons

- State Advocate for Reimbursement (STAR):
Caitlin Perryman
- State Advocate for Medicare Policy (StAMP):
Mendi Lancaster
- State Education Advocacy Leader (SEAL):
Whitney Dittman
- Monthly meetings were attended and reports were given to the EB regarding topics that were discussed
- Had meetings with all three state representatives to streamline communication to TSHA members
- Made plans to start an "Advocacy Newsletter" in 2024

Financial Advisory Committee

- Chair: **Cherry Wright**
- Members: **Brad Briscoe** (Public Member), **Melinda Corwin**, **Martha McGlothlin**, **Lisa Milliken**, **Margarita Limon-Ordenez**, **Donise Pearson**, **Jennifer Watson**, **Robyn Martin** (President/Ex Officio), **Michelle Mendieta** (Past President/Ex Officio), **Katie Strang** (Executive Director)
- The Financial Advisory Committee met twice in 2023
- Responsibilities included reviewing the prior year audit, conferring with the TSHA Financial Advisor regarding the investment portfolio, reviewing the current year budget and the proposed budget for the next year, reviewing the investment policy, and making recommendations to the Executive Board
- Post-pandemic challenges for the Association continued as we observed the impact of inflation on our operations while attempting to reduce expenses, including those related to Convention, increasing membership, increasing attendance at Convention, and continuing to provide quality member benefits
- Major sources of revenue included membership and Convention registration. Major expenses included Association management, advocacy, and publications
- Following is a summary of the activities of the Committee and a synopsis of the financial status of the Association.
 - There were no identified discrepancies in the 2022 audit. Net assets at the beginning of 2022 were \$2,601,178. Net assets at the end of the year were \$2,151,563
 - The goal of the Association is to maintain a minimum of \$1,500,000 in reserves. As of September 21, the investment portfolio totaled \$1,684,024, which reflected an increase of 6.7% year-to-date. In October, \$75,000 was transferred from the investment fund to the general operating fund to cover website redesign expenses. The balance of the investment fund on December 11, 2023, was \$1,692,678
 - The 2023 budget was adopted with a projected deficit of \$265,832. In September, with three months remaining, TSHA had total revenue of \$1,354,911 and total expenses at \$1,501,160. These numbers reflect a net loss of \$146,249, which is less than was projected at the time of adoption of the budget. Although a deficit is still anticipated, the reduction in deficit is attributable to the Convention generating revenue over expenses for the first time since pre-pandemic, the streamlining of operations of the Association, minimal increase in membership and Convention registration fees, and the transfer of funds from the investment account
 - Following close analysis of the projected 2024 budget with a deficit of \$266,448, the Committee worked closely with Association management to make several

Activities of the Association

recommendations for Board consideration. These included a 3% increase in Convention registration fees, reduction of Convention expenses, conservative estimates for projected membership and Convention attendance, continued streamlining of operational expenses, and suggestions for additional sources of non-dues revenue. The adopted budget includes a \$229,923 deficit

- o The TSHA Executive Board is cognizant of the fact that we have operated on a deficit budget since 2020 and continues to work diligently to generate revenue and control expenses while withdrawing only \$151,302 from our investment portfolio through 2023. The goal continues to be to operate within a balanced budget

Publications Board

- Chair: **Jan Lougeay**

- Members:

- o *Communicologist* Co-Editors: **Lisa Carver, Hillary**

- o *Communicologist* Co-Editors: **Elizabeth Klimkowski**

- o *Communicologist* Reviewers: **Gillien Oliver**

- o TSHA Talk Co-Editors: **Andrea Nykamp, Emily**

- o Touchstone

- o TSHA Talk Reviewer: **Andrea Nykamp, Candance**

- o Bourland Hicks

- o Advisory Committee: **Donise Pearson, Martha**

- o McGlothlin, Sherry Sancibrian

- o Café TSHA: **Sarah Guigneaux**

- o Publications Editor: **Shelby O'Neill**

- All members on the publications board will continue to serve for the next term

- The Publications Chair collaborated with the VP for Member Engagement and the EB to plan ways to use social media to promote information of importance that has been published in the *Communicologist* and improve accessibility of information to our members

- The board, in partnership with Shelby O'Neill, reviewed and modified procedures to increase the efficiency of production of all publications. We will continue to work with the Member Engagement committees to better coordinate publications with social media posts to improve member engagement

- In 2023, our website committee, under the leadership of Peggy Kipping, worked with the State Office to overhaul our website including updating information, streamlining the search function and reorganizing to make the website more user-friendly. Work on the website will continue in 2024

- The TSHA Publications Board will continue to work with members of the TSHA EB to publish the *Communicologist*, TSHA Talk, the Annual Report, and other publications as assigned by the TSHA EB

Honors and Awards Committee

- Chair: **Gina Glover**

- Members: **Erin Bellue, Martha McGlothlin, Margarita Limon-Ordonez**

- 2023 Honorees:

- o Award of Honors: **Brittany Hall and Michelle**

- o Mendietta

- o Hall of Fame Award: **Lynn Flahive**

- o Executive Council Member of the Year (new award):

- o Carmen McElfresh

- The committee completed an update of honors and awards by adding two new awards, the Rising Star Award and the Executive Council Member of the Year Award. The committee also retired outdated honors such as the appreciation certificate. The purpose of the update is to honor volunteers at all levels whether they are new volunteers or have been volunteering for years. The committee accepted nominations for the new awards for the first time in 2023

- This committee chair and the current members' terms will end June 30, 2024

Nominations and Elections Committee

- Chair: **Carolyn Perry**

- Members: **Erinn Hengst**

- 2023 Proposed Slate of Candidates:

- o President: **Jessica Carter**

- o VP for Audiology: **Brenda Fields Cross and Kelsey**

- o Hatton

- o VP for Member Engagement: **Adanna Burrell**

- o VP for Professional Services: **Marva Mount and**

- o Melanie Van Noy

Past Presidents Committee

- Chair: **Martha McGlothlin**

- This committee gave advice to the Executive Board regarding important issues throughout 2023

Past Vice Presidents Committee

- Chair: **Brittany Hall**

- This committee was available to give advice to the Executive Board regarding important issues throughout 2023

Leadership Development Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Rebecca Linke** and **Marva Mount**
- Members: **Erin Bellue, Sydney Perricone, Karla Johnson, Lori Colletti, Jill Karg, Lydia Richardson, Kathy Boland, Kenyetta Bolling**
- Contacted past participants in the TSHA Leadership Academy (TLA) to get their feedback on their participation after the program and took suggestions for the future
- Looked at the Policy and Procedures Manual and made suggestions for edits to help encourage more leadership opportunities within TSHA
- Discussed plans for 2023 and made recommendations to the Executive Board
- Held two CE events and scheduled one CE event for 2024

VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS: ANGELA KENNEDY

TSHA 2023 Convention

- The 67th Annual TSHA Convention and Exhibition, themed "Amplify," returned to Austin on February 23-25, 2023
- The Convention had a total of 2,819 attendees (2,776 without exhibitor attendees) and 138 exhibitors participating

Councilor for Education

- **Diane Longnecker**
- Supported and assisted in planning for TSHA 2023 Convention
- Led planning for TSHA 2024 Convention

Community Integration and Development Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Katie Zubia, Jenny Reynolds**
- Coordinated and executed a successful philanthropy project with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Austin
- Coordinated and executed two successful career development sessions (Board Certifications and PhD vs. SLPD) and a resume review session

Education Innovation Committee

- Chair: **Lori Cochran**
- Created presentation resources for speakers
- Led "office hours" for speakers to attend for tips and tricks and to ask questions as they are preparing for the Convention
- Worked alongside TSHA committees to create panel and forum discussion presentations

Programming Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Hesper Holland, Lydia Richardson**
- Developed two Amp-Up sessions presented by **Shari Robertson** and **Tommy Robinson**
- Reviewed, selected, and scheduled 2.15 ASHA CE credits worth of sessions for attendees
- Scheduled numerous invited and master class speakers, including **Giselle Carnaby, Jaimie Payne Anderson, Lynn Williams**, etc.

Scholarship/Volunteer Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Casey Taliencich-Klinger, Naomi Arcos-Hernandez**
- Reviewed and selected professional and student scholarships to the TSHA 2023 Convention
- Prior to Convention, they solicited and scheduled volunteers, and while on site, coordinated volunteers to support the operations of the Convention
- While on site, they provided answers, assistance, directions, and smiling faces to all who graced their booth

Spirit Day Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Zeth Collum, Susan Sneed**
- Coordinated University Meet and Greet for speech-language pathology and audiology programs on site
- Coordinated tailgate games on site for all student attendees
- Revamped, restricted, and executed Praxis Bowl on site with excellent success and feedback from participants

Activities of the Association

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: SUZANNE BONIFERT

Business Management Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Ronda Polansky, Pam Ragland**
- Produced two articles for the *Communicologist*
- Curated new and updated information for TSHA webpage
- Submitted a proposal for a presentation for the TSHA 2024 Convention

Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CLD) Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Maria Resendiz, Lauren Weathers**
- Produced two articles for the *Communicologist*
- The new CLD companion has been distributed to members by TSHA
- Working on additional resources to update TSHA website

Medical Speech Pathology Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Julian Garcia, Ashley Brown**
- Produced one article for the *Communicologist*
- Presented two TSHA webinars
- Completed two social media events for medical SLPs (one social media Q&A session and working on an in-person social event)
- Hosted a Medical Speech-Language Pathology Forum at the TSHA 2023 Convention (pediatric and adult) followed by a successful medical speech happy hour attended by more than 100 SLPs

Public School Committee

- Chair: **Kendall Cain**
- Updated the TSHA public schools webpage
- Highlighting school-based SLPs through social media campaign on the TSHA social media channels

Public School Advisory/Joint TSHA-Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education (TCASE) Committee

- Chair: **Cherry Wright**
- Updating website resources regarding considerations for staffing for administrators
- Met with the Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education (TCASE) to discuss legislative agendas of both associations
- Held annual Public School Forum at TSHA Convention
 - Responded to identified need for developing advocacy skills

SLP Assistants/SLP Assistants' Supervisors Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Venessa Grandjean, Elisa Martinez**
- Published an article in the *Communicologist*
- Continuing to revise modules for website
- Presented at TSHA Convention

Telepractice Committee

- Chair: **Maria Resendiz**
- Continuing to revise/update resources on the TSHA webpage
- Presented a course at the TSHA Convention

University Issues Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Chris Bolinger, Karen Hennington**
- Held an all-directors meeting at the TSHA 2023 Convention as well as a fall virtual meeting in October
- Submitted website updates
- Throughout the last year, a number of programmatic questions and issues have been discussed virtually among university members, which has proven to be an efficient and productive exchange of clinical and academic-related ideas and information

VICE PRESIDENT FOR AUDIOLOGY: MICHELLE PHO

Councilor for Audiology

- **Tori Gustafson**

Audiology Issues Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Brandi Murphy, Matthew Randal**
- Hosted an audiology social and fundraising event for the Frank Brister and Larry Higdon audiology scholarships at the TSHA 2023 Convention and raised more than \$700
- Provided testimony on three different bills during the 2023 legislative session on topics ranging from pediatric hearing aid coverage to targeted screening for congenital cytomegalovirus. All three bills passed
- Connected with new professionals during May Is Better Hearing and Speech Month by sending new audiology graduates a congratulations flier with information on joining TSHA
- Continues to be dedicated to advancing the professions through engagement in legislative issues and began a collaborative effort with the Texas Academy of Audiology to address legislation related to Texas Medicaid funding for hearing aids and for the Medicare Audiology Access Improvement Act. They have already met several times and provided testimony at a Medicaid rate hearing

Audiology Education Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Lara Dilollo, Kelsey Hatton**
- Student Member: **Danielle Coy**
- Recruited nationally acclaimed clinicians and researchers for the TSHA 2023 Convention, including Dr. Ryan McCreery, director of pediatric research at Boys Town National Research Hospital, and Dr. Devin McCaslin, director of audiology at University of Michigan
- Hosted its third annual Audiology Student Research Symposium and awarded monetary prizes to four students presenting original research

VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBER ENGAGEMENT: SADAF ALI

Membership and May Is Better Hearing and Speech Month (MBHSM) Committee

- Chair: **Jana Parker**
- Student Member: **Emily Rangel**
- Provided feedback on membership renewal campaigns and graphics
- Worked in conjunction with other committees to provide quality content for MBHSM

Social Media Committee

- Members: **Amanda Weissberg, Jennifer Guzman**
- Worked on revamping social media messaging
- Created a Google Form to facilitate VPs and committees requesting content
- Worked with State Office marketing department to refine strategy and procedure

Diversity Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Dana Burrell, Elizabeth Surita**
- Presented the Diversity Committee Panel at the TSHA 2023 Convention
- Advised on member surveys for new TSHA website

Activities of the Association

VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: JESSICA CARTER

Assistive Technology Committee

- Chair: **Sara Loving**
- Gathered content for the TSHA website designed to support professionals' alternative and augmentative communication (AAC)/assistive technology (AT) knowledge
- Hosted an AT Round-Up at the TSHA 2023 Convention during which individuals interacted with various AT/AAC devices and vendors
- Gathered AT/AAC resources for membership

Continuing Education Approval Committee

- SLP Chair: **Carmen McElfresh**
- Audiology Chair: **Sharon Miller**
- Recruited and trained new reviewers
- Designed and implemented improvements for streamlining the CE submission, review, and approval process
- Implemented new procedures for onboarding new reviewers
- Reviewed hundreds of CE submissions for TSHA CE credit approval

Continuation of Guidelines Committee

- Co-Chairs: **Sarah Kelly, Judy Rich**
- Updates are being conducted for the *Disability Determination Guidelines* in the area of Fluency to reflect current issues in neurodiversity
- Published the *Disability Determination Guideline for Language for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students* in early 2023. The document can be found on the TSHA website
- The *Disability Determination Guideline for Specific Language Disorder* is in the peer-review process and expected to be published in 2024
- Development of *Disability Determination Guidelines for Language and Intellectual Disability and Articulation for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students* are in progress

Professional Development Committee

- Chair: **Whitney Dittman**
- Reviewed and provided recommendations regarding updating and categorizing existing on-demand CE opportunities available through TSHA
- Coordinating with the Diversity Committee to design a DEI series for continuing education
- Conducts ongoing reviews and organization of CE content on the TSHA website
- Developed informational videos for social media spotlights

Swallowing and Feeding in Schools Task Force

- Chair: **Lisa Gore**
- Drafted an initial document designed to support speech-language pathologists within the public school system related to dysphagia services and considerations. The document is in the peer-review process and expected to be published in 2024

Webinar Committee

- Chair: **Jyutika Mehta**
- Refined systems for developing, scheduling, and advertising webinars
- Planned for and executed six Webinar Wednesday webinars (free to TSHA members)
- Planned for and executed six TSHA Tuesday webinars for advanced CE credits (discounted rates for TSHA members)

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVOCACY: BOBBIE KAY TURKETT

- Director of Governmental Relations: **Larry Higdon**
- Legislative and Legal Council: **Mark Hanna**
- VP-Elect: **Lori Colletti**

TSHA Political Action Committee (PAC)

- Chair: **Rolando Vasquez**
- Dispersed \$20,000 to Texas legislative candidates supporting issues important to the professions

Activities of the Association

TSHA
2023

- Funding desperately needed for fiscal year 2024-2025 to support legislative friends of TSHA

88th Legislative Session

- More than 7,000 bills were filed during the 88th Legislative Session
- The TSHA Legislative Team identified 157 bills as possibly directly impacting the professions and followed them throughout the session. Members were informed of the TSHA positions on these bills via the *Capitol Watch*
- Examples of major bills filed significantly affecting the professions:
 - Interstate Compact bill for speech-language pathology and audiology passed House but failed in the Senate
 - Multiple bills related to school finance, vouchers, and teacher pay-raises were introduced that TSHA actively addressed. TSHA actively supported restructuring base school financing to support schools, teacher pay raises and increase in cost-of-living adjustments for retired teachers. TSHA was very instrumental in opposition to school vouchers by any name
- Governor Abbott called four special sessions to attempt to pass school voucher legislation. TSHA opposed all efforts to pass the bills. The Senate supported the bills, and the House opposed them, and thus they failed



TEXAS SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING FOUNDATION

- President: **Donise Pearson**
- President-Elect: **Judy Erwin**
- Past President: **Gina Glover**
- Treasurer: **Candace Hicks**

The Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation (TSHF), a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation, supports student scholarships, clinical research, and exceptional programs for the benefit of audiologists and speech-language pathologists who serve individuals with communication disorders.

On behalf of the TSHF, we are proud to share the following 2023 highlights:

- The Foundation proudly awarded \$57,850 in scholarship, research grants, educational awards, and service awards at the TSHA 2023 Convention in Austin
- The Foundation is prepared to give scholarships, grants, and awards to deserving recipients in 2024
- The breakfast awards event at the TSHA 2023 Convention was a great success with the highest attendance ever recorded. Thirteen Texas universities showed support by purchasing tables as well as the Association and a table in memory of Mary Irene Burtis
- During the TSHA 2023 Convention, the online auction and Kendra Scott pop-up were exciting and successful
- The Thelma Zirkelbach Pediatric Scholarship Fund was awarded for the first time
- The Judson Erik Mount Memorial Fund was fully funded
- The Foundation increased social media notifications through the website, an annual newsletter, Facebook, and Instagram
- The Board of Directors is extremely grateful to everyone who supported the Foundation through monetary donations, auction prize gifts, participation in fundraisers, and attendance at the awards event
- Article contributions were submitted and published in every *Communicologist*
- To learn more about the Foundation, browse awards, or donate, visit <https://www.tshfoundation.org/>.

TSHA Member Benefits

AS A TSHA MEMBER, YOU RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

Continuing Education: TSHA's Professional Development, Webinar, and Convention Committees work throughout the year to provide you with a challenging variety of online education and in-person workshops to help you maintain your Texas state license and your ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC). ASHA will accept your TSHA registry as proof of your CEUs! Remember that conference registration fees are considerably reduced for TSHA members. Visit the [Continuing Education](#) section on the TSHA website.

TSHA CE Registry: View your continuing education credits online through the TSHA website. When you attend a TSHA approved course, the hours you earn will be posted on a special page made available to you to print and send to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. This benefit is available only to TSHA members! Visit the [TSHA CE Registry](#) page on the TSHA website for more information.

Disability Determination Guidelines: The purpose of these guidelines is to provide structure within which the SLP can work with the multidisciplinary team to complete a comprehensive Full and Individual Evaluation of a student's speech, language, and communication skills and abilities, and make recommendations regarding eligibility for speech-language pathology services. Manuals, training handouts, and recorded webinars for CEs are available. The cost is free for TSHA members. Visit the [Disability Determination Guidelines](#) section of the website for further details.

Online Ethics Courses: Complete your TDLR-mandated ethics requirements for license renewal by participating in online courses from TSHA. TSHA members can participate in these courses at the reduced rate. For more information, visit the [Professional Development](#) section of the TSHA website.

Legislative Advocacy: TSHA advocates in the legislature and with regulatory agencies for the rights and protection of speech-language pathologists and audiologists and the consumers we serve. TSHA supports legislative candidates for state office whose records and policy positions demonstrate an understanding of our professions and the needs of our consumers. TSHA also supports legislators who are in a position to further the legislative goals of our association. Find out more in the [Advocacy](#) section of the TSHA website.

Publications: TSHA offers several informative publications to its membership each year. As a TSHA member, you will receive all of these publications at no charge. TSHA's [Communicologist](#), is published six times annually and includes current professional news, legislative updates, member news, upcoming events, continuing education opportunities, and much more! Published biweekly, the [TSHA Talk e-newsletter](#) provides TSHA members with timely information related to TSHA news, the latest in research breakthroughs, national and state policy updates, and mainstream media stories of interest to the professions. [TSHA Capitol Watch](#) is published as needed and provides TSHA members with a synopsis of state legislative and regulatory activity impacting the professions.

Scholarships, Research Grants, and Education and Service Awards: Members of TSHA may be eligible to apply for certain Scholarships, Grants, and Awards offered through the TSH Foundation. Visit the [TSH Foundation](#) website for more information.

Career Awareness Information: TSHA acknowledges that there is a shortage of speech-language pathologists and audiologists in Texas. To encourage students to pursue careers in the professions, TSHA developed an information kit with brochures, PowerPoint, and a short 8-minute video. Visit the [Career Awareness](#) page to view and order these materials.

Online Membership Directory: Ability to search for members by name, city, professional setting, and/or employer. Search results include name, city, email, professional setting, employer, and phone numbers. Members can access the [Membership Directory](#) in the Member Center section of the TSHA website.

Important Contacts

TSHA STATE OFFICE

2001 K Street NW, Third Floor North
Washington, DC 20006

Email: staff@txsha.org

Phone: (855) 330-TSHA or (202) 973-8742

Website: www.txsha.org

TSHA SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/txsha>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/TSHAtweets>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/txsha/>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYg8rpYsxlwledP7ODImA8GA>

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

General Questions (Including Membership)

staff@txsha.org

Continuing Education Questions

ceprocessor@txsha.org

Convention Questions

convention@txsha.org

Exhibit Questions or Sales

exhibits@txsha.org

Convention Registration Questions or Issues

registration@txsha.org

Speaker Questions

programming@txsha.org

