

Annual Report: July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association



PRESIDENT **LYNDA BARBEE**

Two years ago the TSHA's Executive Board shifted from long range to strategic planning in order to better meet the ever growing and changing needs of professionals in Texas. The vision of growing as a dynamic professional organization and being recognized as the resource for speech-language pathologists and audiologists across the state requires that we be committed

to empowering our professionals to provide the highest quality of service for individuals with communication disorders, a tall order.

The TSHA's Executive Board and Council agreed to focus on three priority outcomes to help achieve their vision:

1. Build capacity within the TSHA to move forward through the use of technology;
2. Define ourselves in a way that clearly reflects the integration/collaboration of the common core of knowledge and skills that speech-language pathologists and audiologists possess and represent that to the public; and
3. Find ways to educate members to advance the professions, including an emphasis on creative, nontraditional delivery of services.

To this end, the TSHA Executive Board, Chairs, and Committee Members have been exceptionally busy working horizontally across Vice Presidencies and work arenas to strengthen our capacity to meet needs, protect our standards, develop leaders, and provide continuing education opportunities to our membership with unparalleled quality. As my tenure as President of the TSHA comes to a close, I'd like to take this moment to thank the membership for your support through countless hours of volunteering, passion for our profession, and commitment to making the TSHA the 'Go To' Association for professionals in Texas. I hope you will take a moment to find in the following annual report evidence of our efforts to progress toward achieving the three priority outcomes listed above.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SLP VACANCY TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Cherry Wright**

The Public School SLP Vacancy Task Force held three meetings of the Joint TSHA/Texas Council of Administrators in Special Education (TCASE) Committee this year.

- September 2006: Time ordered action plans were reviewed. Plans were made for posting information collected and developed by the Committee on the TSHA website.
- January 2007: Information was reviewed and posted on the TSHA website. With the posting of the information, several short term action plans were completed.
- March 2007: Next steps for the Joint Committee were developed.

Other activities included:

- Joint Committee conducted roundtable discussions at the TCASE conference in July focusing on Recruitment/Retention, Staffing Recommendations, Supervision of SLPs, Workload Issues, and Eligibility Guidelines.

- Task Force member **Lynn Flahive** attended the ASHA Forum on Solving Shortages in SLP in September.
- Six presentations were made by members of the Joint Committee to professional associations including the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association, the Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators, the Texas Council of Administrators in Special Education, the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the Texas Association of School Administrators, and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- Four members of the Task Force participated in an Education Summit sponsored by the ASHA.
- The Joint Committee met with representatives of 14 of the universities offering degrees in speech-language pathology in January. Current university activities to address the shortage issue and the Texas Women's University (TWU) Distance Learning Program were discussed. Ideas were generated regarding ways that school districts can support universities. Other points of discussion included possible loan repayment legislation, inclusion of Eligibility Guidelines and Cultural Linguistic Diversity training in university curriculum, support of maintenance of personnel standards in the schools, support of the Texas Education Association (TEA) discretionary funding for training in Eligibility Guidelines, and future activities of the Joint Committee.
- **Cherry Wright** was named to the ASHA Cadre of Experts to assist states in their efforts to address the shortage of SLPs in the schools.
- The TSHA was selected as one of three state Associations to receive the support of the ASHA's Public Relations Department to address shortage of personnel. Representatives of the Task Force participated in a conference call with the Public Relations Department of the ASHA.
- Representatives of the Joint Committee participated in a conference call with **Nada Allender**, Project Coordinator for the Ohio Master's Network Initiatives in Education (OMNIE).
- The Joint Committee met with the Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee of Related Professions. Representatives of seven associations were invited to participate, including the Texas Association of School Psychologists, the Texas Physical Therapy Association, the Texas Association of School Administrators, the Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators, the Texas Educational Diagnosticians Association, the Texas Association of School Business Organizations, and the Texas Occupational Therapy Association. A representative of the Texas Association of School Boards will be invited to attend in the future. This Ad-Hoc Advisory Group will meet with the Joint Committee at least twice during each year, and lobbyists of the respective Associations will also meet with the group in March of odd numbered years and in July of even numbered years.
- The Joint Committee recommended to the TCASE and the TSHA Executive Boards that a bill be introduced to provide for loan repayment to SLPs and AUDs completing masters and doctorate degrees who commit to work in the public schools for a specified period of time.
- The Task Force submitted an application for the ASHA 2007 Focused Initiative State Grants for Maintenance of Standards and was awarded \$4,000 to assist efforts in developing a Collaborative University Distance Education Program with components focusing on the outlying geographic areas of

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the State and addressing the need for bilingual SLPs in the State.

- The TSHA Executive Board determined that the Task Force would receive Standing Committee status.

AUDIOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Co-chaired by **Tori Gustafson** and **Kathryn Martin**

The Audiology Advisory Committee increased the programming at our Houston Annual Convention this year with three major invited speakers; **Linda J. Hood, Ph.D.**; **Erin Schafer, Ph.D.**; and **Deb Carlson, Ph.D.** For the second year in a row, audiology was included in the student Praxis Bowl at Convention. **Tori Gustafson** was responsible for the coordination of this event and for securing donated prizes.

HONORS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chaired by **Melanie McDonald**

The Honors and Awards committee received nominations in January. After meetings and conferences, the following awards were submitted to the Executive Board (EB) for approval and awarded at the TSH Foundation Luncheon at the Annual 2007 Convention:

Award of Honors: **Tiffany Sears Leach, Debra Bankston**

Hall of Fame Award: **Jan Lougeay**

Jack L. Bangs Award: **Donise Pearson**

Van Hattum Award: **Judy Rudebusch**

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to several worthy members.

ETHICAL PRACTICES COMMITTEE

Chaired by **Sue Johnsen**

No formal action was taken by the Ethical Practices Committee this past year. **Sue** did examine two questions that came before her this past quarter that were resolved without need to involve the entire committee.

STATE ADVISORY TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

Co-Chaired by **Judy Rudebusch** and **Melissa Sweeney**

Representatives from seven associations were invited to join the TSHA/TCASE Joint Committee on March 23, 2007. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together perspectives from organizations representing a variety of groups affected by staffing shortages in schools to discuss the personnel shortage issue, share information about how we can work together in Texas to address this issue, and update each other on existing resources. The Texas Educational Diagnosticians Association (TEDA), the Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA), the Texas Physical Therapy Association (TPTA), the Texas Association of School Psychologists (TASP), the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO), the Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators (TASPA), and the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) were all invited.

The meeting agenda included a summary of activities of the Joint TSHA/TCASE Committee presented by **Cherry Wright**, and a summary of credentialing standards and shortage issues experienced by the Association groups represented at the meeting. There was strong consensus regarding the value of maintaining a coalition of Associations with interest in quality of services and staffing shortages in special education. The Texas

Association of School Boards will be invited to attend future meetings. Initial agreement was reached regarding a schedule of face-to-face meetings: twice a year meetings of the 10 Associations in the coalition; lobbyists or legislative liaisons will be invited to a March meeting in odd years and a July meeting in even years. Work of the coalition should be completed electronically to the extent possible. The TSHA/TCASE Joint Committee will schedule the next face-to-face meeting of the coalition.

GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Erin Ludeke (TCU) and **Amanda Hensal** (TTU)

The two graduate student representatives to the Executive Board took on the task of coordinating the volunteers for Convention in Houston. Their efforts resulted in several advantages, including increased student participation, full coverage of beverage and snack breaks, and specific scheduled time assignments that proved helpful in the organization of volunteers. Working with the other TSHA Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs was helpful in determining time slots and amount of help needed. Suggestions for next year include:

- The Registration Committee should be in charge of recruiting their volunteers; no student volunteers should be used.
- Include student volunteers to work the Volunteer Booth.
- Coordinate with the Local Arrangements Committee in terms of professional volunteers for better scheduling.
- Keep student incentives and increase publicity of incentives.
- Continue contacting NSSLHA school advisors regarding student sign-up.
- Ensure that realistic time slots and shifts are generated in each area.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Chaired by **W. Paul Hardee**

Blast emails were employed to request nominations as well as communications with the Executive Board. A full slate of six candidates were secured for three offices: **Denise Barringer** and **April Smith** for President; **Meredith Moore** and **Kathy Barker** for Vice President (VP) for Information and Marketing; and **Angela Standridge** and **Keri Gonzalez** for VP of Professional Services. A schedule was set for each candidate at a Convention booth to enable the membership to meet with them and ask questions. Our newly elected officers are: **Denise Barringer**, President-Elect; **Meredith Moore**, Vice President for Information and Marketing; and **Keri Gonzalez**, Vice President for Professional Services.

PRESIDENT-ELECT JUDITH KELLER



BYLAWS

Chaired by **Judith Keller**

In order for the TSHA to maintain its status as a state Association in good standing with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), a bylaws change was made at the general membership meeting during the TSHA Convention in

Houston, March 27-31, 2007. The wording under Article IV – Membership, Section 1. was changed from “Active Members must hold: 1) a graduate degree, or its equivalent, with a major

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emphasis in speech-language pathology, audiology, or speech, language, or hearing science;" to "Active members must hold: 1) a graduate degree with a major emphasis in speech-language pathology, audiology, or speech, language, or hearing science;" The words "or its equivalent" were deleted. The bylaws change passed.

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chaired by **Judith Keller**

Members: **Benna Askew, Ross Roeser, Sherry Sancibrian, April Smith, Lynn Flahive, and Debra Bankston, Lynda Barbee** (President, ex-officio) and **Don Canada** (Executive Director, ex-officio)

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) held one meeting via conference call this year. Members were presented with the annual review completed by Lockart-Atchley & Associates in October. They were also presented with the 2005 Income Tax Return.

The need for annual reviews was discussed. **Don Canada** suggested that annual reviews were probably not necessary. Due to the \$6,000 cost of a cursory analysis of association accounts annual review, Don suggested full audits be performed every 3 years. Internal reviews will be conducted by the FAC on off-years. This new policy will save the Association \$12,000. All members of the FAC were in agreement with this new policy.

An Investment Policy was adopted in June of 2006. This investment policy provides guidelines for management of the TSHA's investment portfolio with short term and long term funds and maximizes returns on investments. This Investment Policy was added to the TSHA Policy and Procedure Manual.

A repurchase agreement with the Association's bank was completed during the year and reported at the FAC meeting. This repurchase agreement insured the Association's bank deposits in excess of what the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was currently offering and provided for added security of bank deposits.

The FAC also discussed the need for face-to-face meetings and agreed that at least one meeting per year will be reinstated.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The TSHA Strategic Plan was reviewed at the annual Executive Board (EB) meeting in January, 2007, which was held at the Wildcatter Ranch in Graham, Texas. New items added to the current strategic plan included:

1. Create a one-page, bulleted document which can be used for both the *Communicologist* and a Convention poster which highlights the TSHA's accomplishments, and
2. Develop a leadership training module to be used by current or former EB members who will provide leadership training for regional Associations.

Expected outcomes of these new additions are that members will be better informed about what the TSHA has accomplished and that regional Associations will have a larger pool of volunteers and a stronger relationship with the state Association.

In addition to working on the Strategic Plan, members of the Executive Board also participated in a series of leadership

activities under the direction of Dr. **Gary Schwantz**. Executive Board members analyzed their leadership types and discovered their interactive styles.

TSHA OPEN HOUSE AT THE ASHA CONVENTION

The TSHA sponsored an open house at the Miami Intercontinental Hotel on Friday night during the ASHA Annual Convention. The event was attended by approximately 200 TSHA members and friends and the theme was "TSHA is heating up the night in Miami." Attendees were treated to appetizers, drinks, and lively music. Special guests included **Arlene Pietranton**, Executive Director of the ASHA, and ASHA President, **Alex Johnson**.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATIONAL & SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

DENISE BARRINGER

Through dedicated volunteers and an ongoing collaborative effort with the State Office, the TSHA was able to bring members a variety of continuing education opportunities throughout the year as well as the largest Convention ever. The TSHA 2007 Convention numbers have been totaled, and we are

pleased to announce that this year's Convention was the largest to date, with 500 more attendees than last year!

Amy Marciniak, Vice President Elect for Educational and Scientific Affairs, was a tremendous support this year and worked with me to bring a number of initiatives to fruition. She is well prepared for her new leadership role and is an asset to the association.

TSHA COUNCILOR FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chaired by **Karen King**

Karen King oversaw the tasks of the CE Processor, Independent Study Chair, Speech CE, and Audiology CE Approval Chairs. Karen helped to organize the CE processing during the Annual 2007 Convention and assisted with the new CE Registry process at Convention.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) PROCESSOR

Chaired by **Leon Barbee**

Leon Barbee spearheaded moving the TSHA CE application process online. Anyone interested in hosting a TSHA CE sponsored event can easily apply for TSHA CE hours online at www.txsha.org. **Leon** was also instrumental in developing the TSHA CE Registry, free to all TSHA members. To date, all of the 2007 CE activities have been uploaded to the Registry and are accessible to any member using his or her first initial and last name, and TSHA membership number.

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.

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INDEPENDENT STUDY

Chaired by **Janice E. Stroud**

Janice Stroud met the needs and interests for many of the TSHA's 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 process has moved online and is very user-friendly for the membership.

SPEECH CE APPROVAL

Chaired by **Roya Daryapayma**

Roya Daryapayma received and approved the speech CE applications.

AUDIOLOGY CE APPROVAL

Chaired by **Pam Bender**

Pam Bender received and approved the audiology CE approval applications.

REGIONAL SEMINAR FUNDING GRANTS

Chaired by **Renee Bogenschutz**

Renee Bogenschutz received and processed applications with her committee for the TSHA Seminar Grants. The purpose of the grants was 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. 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 Houston.

COUNCILOR FOR ANNUAL TSHA CONVENTION

Chaired by **Tiffany Sears Leach**

Tiffany Leach coordinated the many details necessary to bring our invited major speakers to Convention. She also worked to organize the live hippotherapy demonstration featuring SIRE Therapeutic Riding Association which featured a multidisciplinary approach to communication intervention. In addition, **Tiffany** coordinated the many details of our keynote speaker, **Monty Roberts**, and his book signing event.

TSHA CONVENTION PROGRAM

Co-Chaired by **Amy Marciniak** and **Lauren Mathews**

Lauren Mathews coordinated the online Call for Papers initiative and was in charge of the Program Committee's review of each Call for Papers submission and approving of all Convention sessions. It was her task to schedule each session and collaborate with the State Office to attend to issues such as handouts and audio-visual needs. **Amy Marciniak** and **Lauren** facilitated changing the handout book to CD and on the TSHA website. Convention handouts remain available on the website. **Amy** coordinated the many details of short course and advanced speakers.

"Thank you" to **Tiffany Sears Leach**, **Amy Marciniak**, and **Lauren Mathews** for their diligent and thoughtful planning of the major speakers, traditional courses, advanced courses, and short courses, as well as the live hippotherapy demonstration.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Co-Chaired by **Debra Hill** and **Kelly Lauck**

Local Arrangements chairs were responsible for the various convention subcommittees in order to ensure quality and efficiency during convention such as registration, hospitality, signs, job placement, photography, and social chairs.

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

Co-Chaired by **Kathy Barker** and **LaVonda Brown**

Kathy and **LaVonda** were responsible for dealing with exhibitors and their needs throughout Convention. They worked to provide over 175 exhibitors for the TSHA's members this year. This year we not only had 33 more exhibitors, but 4 more dealer demos. Other Exhibit Hall activities included Cyber Café, Job Placement, President's Reception, beverage breaks for members, exhibit drawings, and door prizes.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve the membership as Vice President of Educational and Scientific Affairs. It has been a privilege to work with the many volunteers ensuring that the TSHA continues to provide the highest quality continuing education credits, a fun Convention, and new member benefits like the TSHA CE Registry. I hope to see you all in San Antonio for the next TSHA Convention, February 21-23, 2008.



**VICE PRESIDENT
FOR PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES
BECKY GONZALEZ**

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chaired by **Cecilia Hermosillo**

This committee researched issues of concern to SLPs working in the public schools. These issues were highlighted at the Public School Forum held at the TSHA Convention in March and included Response to Intervention (RTI), update on eligibility templates, and ASHA initiatives shared by Special Education Advocacy Leader (SEAL) representative, **Becky Gonzalez**. Of special interest was information on a telepractice pilot study in the public schools shared by **Diana Christiana**. A questionnaire was completed by participants in preparation for next year's focus.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Debra Bankston**

Members: **Lynda Barbee**, **Allan Bird**, **Sue Johnsen**, **Jan Lougeay**, **Linda Roth**, **Natasha Anderson**, **Becky Gonzalez**, **Lynette Austin**, **Judy Erwin**, **Cindy Gill**, and **Judy Rudebusch**

The Training of Trainers (TOT) Advisory Committee for the public school eligibility templates completed their fourth year of work on this project. What an exciting year! The first goal was to select the individuals who would be trained in the Fluency Eligibility Template during the 2007 TSHA Convention. Fifteen applicants were selected by the Committee. **Natasha Anderson**, **Ellen Germain**, and **Jan Lougeay** led the training at Convention.

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Participants reported that the training provided them with a strong foundation. They are currently scheduling template training sessions statewide. The second goal supported the completion of the CLD (Cultural & Linguistic Diversity) Companion eligibility template which was the project of the CLD Issues Task Force. The Training of Trainers for the CLD Companion will take place at the 2008 TSHA Convention. The third goal involved the monitoring of all of the statewide trainings completed during the year. Trainers in each of the four previously trained templates have continued to schedule sessions in their regions. As of this writing, almost 400 school districts and over 1,500 public school speech-language pathologists have received training in one or more of the templates over the past 2 years.

It is the ultimate goal of the TOT Committee for all school districts to be trained in each of the eligibility templates. The fourth goal was to provide the trainers with an opportunity to attend update sessions at the Convention for the four eligibility templates, Articulation, Speech Intelligibility (SI)-Only Language, Language Disorders in Children with Other Disabilities, and Voice. The update sessions for the trainers were well attended and provided the opportunity for reviewing changes in the templates, training ideas, and networking with their fellow trainers. The Articulation Template trainers were provided CDs with the updated Articulation Manual. The TOT Committee continues to contribute to the work of Public School SLP Vacancies Committee by speaking at TCASE meetings regarding the impact of the eligibility templates on public school caseloads.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Angela Standridge**

This Task Force submitted several articles to the *Communicologist* this year and participated in the solicitation of Assistive Technology (AT) presentations at the 2007 TSHA Convention. The Task Force met at Convention to plan for next year. Goals include the development of an AT "toolkit" and TSHA white paper (research paper) on AT service provision and speech-language pathology assistants. The AT listserve is being monitored and continues to be helpful.

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY TASK FORCE

Co-Chaired by **Lynette Austin** and **Gina Glover**

The CLD Issues Task Force diligently worked on the CLD Companion: Articulation Eligibility Template this year. The CLD Companion: Articulation template and manual are scheduled to be completed this summer. Two pilot trainings have been scheduled for next fall and work on the trainer criteria for the CLD Companion: Artic is in progress.

Besides holding a work session with all Task Force members at Convention, the CLD Task Force also hosted two round table discussions. One round table was traditional, targeting professionals wanting to discuss CLD issues faced in the workplace. The second round table, hosted for the first time by the Task Force, invited students to participate in discussions concerning how CLD issues were addressed in their university programs as well as how the Task Force could support both students and university programs. CLD Corner submissions continue in every issue of the *Communicologist* and are posted on the TSHA website.

ELIGIBILITY-FLUENCY TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Natasha Anderson**

The Fluency Eligibility Task Force completed development of the template, conducted a pilot presentation in February, made revisions, selected trainers, and trained on this template at the 2007 TSHA Convention in Houston. Feedback has been excellent, and Fluency Eligibility Trainers are scheduling trainings through the state!

MEDICAL ISSUES TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Marte Hersey**

The Medical Issues Task Force realized the year's goals by sharing information during a panel discussion on Current Issues in Medical Speech Pathology by Task Force members **Marte Hersey, Jenny Clark, and Gil Hanke** at the 2007 TSHA Convention. Interest was expressed in suggested minimum guidelines for supervision of procedures, such as modified barium swallow studies and Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) exams, in addition to placing the ASHA Competencies Guidelines on the TSHA website. More advanced sessions were requested, as well as sessions focusing on "practical" rather than "theoretical" ideas. Available resources for using evidence-based treatment techniques were provided, and SLPs were encouraged to consider obtaining specialty recognition in swallowing disorders and board certification in neurological communication disorders. Data were also provided on university training programs in Texas regarding prerequisites for medical speech pathology externships.

A medical speech pathology (MSP) list serve was initiated during the month of April. All current members of the Task Force and those who attended the panel discussion at convention were added to the list serve.

PRIVATE PRACTICE ISSUES TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Barbara Samfield**

The Private Practice Issues Task Force has had a busy year. Besides monitoring the Private Practice listserve and job listing service on the website, this group has also created an ongoing ad for the *Communicologist* about the Private Practice listserve, Find a Provider listings, and Job Postings information for prospective graduates. At Convention, the Task Force held two round table discussions, one for experienced practitioners and the other for beginners. They also promoted private practice presentations, hosted a networking dinner for private practitioners, and submitted questions to the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Bowl.

This group has also been active in gearing up for the coming fiscal year. Numerous meetings have been held to discuss goals which would include insurance reimbursement reform, the need for business management training, education, and advocacy issues. A survey is being developed that will gather information in all of these areas. It is the desire of this Task Force to encourage SLPs in private practice to join the TSHA, thus giving them a unified voice in accomplishing next year's objectives.

TELEPRACTICE TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Diana Christiana**

The Telepractice Task Force reports that the focus this year

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has been on recruiting members to the Telepractice Task Force, informing the TSHA membership about telepractice, and keeping informed of current issues as they pertain to telepractice. As Chair of the Telepractice TF, **Diana Christiana** spoke at the Public School Forum at TSHA in March 2007 regarding the application of telepractice in the schools. **Diana** attended the Texas Distant Learning Association Convention in March, where the focus was on understanding the current networks in Texas that may be available for SLP application. She also attended the American Telemedicine Association (ATA) Convention in May and will be writing an article on the use of a "business plan" when presenting telepractice as an adjunct to a current program. Questions concerning telepractice and licensure were discussed with the ASHA networking group and other related professions (physical and occupational therapy). The State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and the ASHA were contacted regarding telesupervision. The Texas Education Association (TEA) was reached regarding admission, review, and dismissal meetings (ARD) participation via video. The Task Force intends to update the TSHA's current telepractice recommendations (available on TSHA's website) in the coming year.

UNIVERSITY BASED TASK FORCE

Co-Chaired by **Sherry Sancibrian** and **Ann Hillis**

The major project of this Task Force this year has been to develop training modules that all university programs can use with externship supervisors. Topic areas include ASHA requirements, supervision styles, and documentation. The goal is to place these supervision modules on the TSHA website and arrange for them to be taken for continuing education (CE) credit. While the focus is training university externship supervisors, this material could be useful to any TSHA member supervising students or assistants. The Task Force will continue with this project with the hopes of completing it in late spring.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION & MARKETING ANN KING

MAY IS BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Meredith Moore**

The May is Better Hearing and Speech Month Task Force worked diligently with **Mark Hanna** and **Martha Wristen** to obtain a proclamation from the

Governor's office for May is Better Hearing and Speech Month (MBHSM) in Texas, and they are proud to announce that their efforts were successful. In addition to having May designated as Better Hearing and Speech Month in Texas, the following have also been achieved:

- Texas-shaped peanut patties were given to state legislators to promote MBHSM;
- Posters were on display in the Capitol
- A billboard was strategically placed in Austin; and
- Lists of resources were made available on the TSHA website to publicize MBHSM.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chaired by **Jennifer McGlothlin**

The State Office obtained a list of licensed speech-language pathologists and audiologists who were not current members of the TSHA and created a brochure and membership application that was mailed to these individuals in an attempt to encourage them to join the Association. Membership data for the 2006-2007 fiscal year reflects 868 new members, 3,572 renewals, and 4,440 total memberships. Tomball Independent School District (ISD) was the winner of the membership drive in conjunction with the 2007 Convention.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS/SHOPPE TSHA

Co-Chaired by **Bobbie Kay Turkett** and **Jennifer McGlothlin**

The Membership Benefits/Shoppe TSHA team are pleased to report that, once again, Shoppe TSHA at Convention was a rousing success! There were times, especially right before and immediately after **Monty Roberts**, when we didn't even have standing room in the Shoppe TSHA area. Thanks to their efforts and the support of the State Office staff, Shoppe TSHA items are available for purchase online via the TSHA website.

PUBLIC INFORMATION EXHIBIT (PIE) TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Judy Erwin**

Judy Erwin reported that the PIE exhibit enjoyed heightened visibility at Convention this year as a result of its prominent location, updated signage, and the preview of the new Career Awareness DVD available at the booth. This year **Ann King** also had additional signage created for the PIE for use at Career Awareness Day at the University of Texas at Dallas in April.

CAREER AWARENESS

Chaired by **Chris Caspersen**

The Career Awareness Task Force is putting the finishing touches on a DVD that spotlights the careers of speech-language pathology and audiology. A "draft" of this DVD was made available to the Executive Board at the June, 2006, meeting and several edits were requested. The TF addressed these edits, and the revised DVD was reviewed by the Board in Fort Worth in June, 2007. As soon as final Board approval has been obtained, the presentation will be made available via the TSHA website and as a DVD upon request. The State Office is researching eye-catching and durable packaging for the product. ASHA brochures that describe the careers of speech-language pathology and audiology have been purchased, and copies will be sent with the DVD. It is also recommended that the TSHA purchase copies of the ASHA product entitled *Express Yourself: Building Awareness of Speech-Language Pathology Services in Schools*, for inclusion with the DVD.

TSHA BROCHURES TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Tracey Gray**

The TSHA Brochures Task Force has been collaborating with **Judy Erwin** and **Chris Caspersen** to identify and obtain any additional brochures/print materials that might also be appropriate for inclusion with the career awareness DVD.

PUBLIC INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

Chaired by **Terri Haynes**

Approximately 2,625 hard copies of *Matt Learns to Read* have been disseminated during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. An

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effective/efficient means of distributing these books continues to be a concern.

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS MARKETING NETWORK TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Heather Soper**

The TSHA Regional Association Marketing Network (RAMN) has worked diligently to gain a better understanding of the needs of the Texas Regional Associations and to provide ongoing information and support. During the meeting held on the Wednesday evening before Convention, the RAMN/Texas Regional Association Coalition (TRAC) members in attendance identified some priorities and concerns:

- Identify mentors who would be available to support new and/or struggling Associations.
- Create a list of speakers available to Regional Associations for presentations/trainings free of charge, or for a reduced fee.
- Eliminate RAMN and have TRAC become a Standing Committee of the TSHA.
- Continue to network in order to provide support for each other and to share ideas.

Those present also voiced their willingness to help distribute the new career awareness DVD and related materials to school districts and other interested entities in their areas. **Tiffany Sears Leach** was congratulated on her efforts to establish a Regional Association in the Wichita Falls area. **Ann King** reported that Tiffany and the Association are the recipients of one of the TSHA "start-up" grants now available to new Associations.

STUDENT INTEREST COMMITTEE

Co-Chaired by **Lora Carlini** and **Paige Preston**

The Student Interest Committee did an outstanding job of identifying presenters for the student strand at Convention and planning, coordinating, and serving as facilitators for the Praxis Bowl and the dinner that was held immediately after the Bowl.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR SOCIAL & GOVERNMENTAL POLICY

MELISSA SWEENEY

GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Heather MacFadyen** and **Martha Wristen**

This Task Force was busy coordinating many activities that allowed the members of the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association to be active in the Texas legislative process. At the Annual Convention this Task Force provided the TSHA members with information about their legislators and an update of some of the legislation that the TSHA legislative team was following.

The Grassroots Task Force also had postcards for TSHA members to send to their legislators for May is Better Hearing and Speech Month (MBHSM). Over 640 postcards were mailed to Texas legislators. Fun giveaways were also provided to the first 150 TSHA members who wrote postcards. The Grassroots Development Task Force was also responsible for obtaining a proclamation from the governor for May is Better Hearing and

Speech Month. This Task Force also encouraged the TSHA members to invite their legislators to their workplace.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Co-Chaired by **Lauren Sachar Roe** and **April Smith**

The Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association Political Action Committee (PAC) created a cookbook using recipes from TSHA members. The cookbook was given to those members who made contributions at the TSHA PAC table at Convention. A silent auction containing fabulous items was also held during the Convention. The TSHA PAC successfully delivered numerous contribution checks to Texas legislators identified by the TSHA PAC Board.

PROFESSIONAL COALITIONS TASK FORCE

Co-Chaired by **Keri Gonzalez** and **Debra Kerner**

This Task Force participated in numerous activities throughout the year. They were in attendance at "TSHA Understands and Takes a Stand" legislative event. This Task Force also created a list of organizations throughout the state with which the TSHA may have some common legislative interests.

PUBLIC MEMBERS FOR LEGISLATION TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Kathi Martin**

The Public Members for Legislation Task Force consists of consumers (or their family members) of the services of speech-language pathologists and audiologists. Members of this Task Force attended the "TSHA Understands and Takes A Stand" legislative event. These consumers made a significant impact when visiting the offices of Texas legislators. Two of these Task Force members' "stories" were published in the *Communicologist* during the year.

UNIFYING LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TASK FORCE

Co-Chaired by **Carol Nacke** and **Stacy Reaves**

The Unifying Legislative Efforts Task Force completed the reprint of the "We Speak for Texans" books. These books were modified slightly to include real pictures of actual consumers of the services of speech-language pathologists and audiologists. These books were distributed at the "TSHA Understands and Takes A Stand" legislative event in February, 2007.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVE STUDENTS TASK FORCE

Co-Chaired by **Michelle McFarlin** and **Amanda Graves**

The Legislative Active Students Task Force participated in numerous legislative activities this year. This Task Force, consisting of students from around the state, played an important role in the "TSHA Understands and Takes A Stand" legislative event. The members of this Task Force visited many legislators' offices to educate them about the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology. This Task Force also worked with the TSHA PAC to assist them in raising funds at Convention and organizing baskets for the silent auction.

REIMBURSEMENT TASK FORCE

Chaired by **Diana Asimakis**

The Reimbursement Task Force looked at information available related to Medicaid billing. Additional members were requested through the *Communicologist*, but unfortunately there was no response. Some information related to reimbursement from the ASHA was obtained. This Task Force also participated in legislative events at Convention.