

## Presidential Address - September 2007

Wednesday, 12 September 2007

It is with great pleasure and honor that I start my term as ArSHA president. My predecessors have provided a wonderful tradition of leadership and I hope to be able to call upon their experience and insight over the coming year. The ArSHA Executive Board and ArSHA officers are committed to the excellence of our professions of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology as well as the professional integrity and longevity of our state organization.

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The ArSHA Executive Board consists of many dedicated, busy individuals that I would like to introduce and congratulate on their new term: Amit Gosalia, President-Elect; Lori Taniguchi, Past-President; Kari Watson, Treasurer; Karen Lasseigne, Membership; Valorie Andrews, Recording Secretary; Amy Heck, Programs; Kim Robinson, Public Relations; Cass Faux and Anthony DeFeo, Publications; Judith Eckardt, Ethical Practices; Tom Rigo, Audiology Representative; and Kathleen Peterson and Carol Truett, Legislative Council.

As many of you are aware, ArSHA has experienced a significant financial set-back as the direct result of embezzlement of a trusted employee. Throughout the summer, the Executive Board has worked diligently to set our financial affairs on a positive course. This process is ongoing, and the Executive Board will continue to provide updates as they become available. More than ever before, ArSHA needs the financial and emotional/psychological support of its membership to remain vital and strong.

While the challenges have been and remain significant, I would like to highlight successes in several different areas:

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Over the last year, members of ArSHA have worked with the Arizona Department of Education and the Department of Health Services (DHS) to bring A.R.S. § 36-1940.04B successfully through the legislative process. This bill provided DHS the ability to grant a waiver of the requirements for licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant until September 1, 2007.

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For the last two years, several members of the ArSHA Executive Board and many audiologists in Arizona have collaborated with ArSHA lobbyist, Jason Isaak to get the audiology licensure bill drafted and passed by the Arizona Legislature. Representative Nancy Barto was instrumental in the successful passage of this bill and ArSHA owes her our gratitude. Briefly, this bill provides clarification regarding the Doctor of Audiology degree, who is required to take the hearing aid dispensing examination, as well as increases audiologists' and speech-language pathologists' continuing education requirements for state licensure from 8 credits to 10 credits per year.

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The ArSHA website has been beatifically redesigned allowing an exclusive members-only section. In an effort to streamline printing and postage expenses, ArSHA is no longer mailing newsletters and membership directories. ArSHA members can have convenient access to current as well as archived newsletters and their current membership information at a click of a mouse. News worthy information is now gathered and can be changed daily on the website. The ArSHA website committee, publication committee and webmaster guru, Matthew Roberts have worked very hard to make this service top-notch and available to

members.

Along with the other website innovations, ArSHA is now providing membership renewal reminders by email in an effort to remind our members to renew their membership and to help streamline the process of renewing ArSHA membership. The ArSHA Executive Board hopes that we will soon be able to offer members the ability to register and pay membership dues online.

Cancellation of our May, 2008 convention was a difficult decision and one that the ArSHA Executive Board made after much discussion and deliberation. At this time, the ArSHA Program Committee and Executive Board have decided to pursue other educational opportunities. Currently, ArSHA is sponsoring an Arlene Matkin Workshop in November, 2007 and we are investigating the feasibility of organizing a large conference in September, 2008.

Please remember that with each of you, ArSHA can grow and be strong for years to come. In the words of Elizabeth Andrew: "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart!" Do YOU?

Best Regards,

Debbie Venkatesh

ArSHA President {/member}

{guest} Only ArSHA members have access to the rest of this premium content. If you are a member, please log in to view the rest of this article. If you are not a member, we encourage you to join ArSHA in order to have access to the latest information impacting Arizona's AUD/SLP community!{/guest}