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THE HEARSAY

South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association

701 Gervais Street • Suite 150-206 • Columbia, South Carolina

2005 SCSHA

Convention Review



Another convention has come and gone! I can only compare it to a wedding. It requires more than a year of planning, then blink your eyes and it's over!

Kristen Eagerton My goal was to bring the best in and out of state speakers to Charleston, SC. I asked them to come, but they were willing to give their time and effort to educate us. A sincere thanks to all of the in state presenters. You shared your talents with only the reward of helping others. You are the cream of the crop!

Operating on a state convention budget, I was unsure how many out of state speakers we could afford, but it all came together. I was pleased to have short courses with **Nancy Kaufman** and **Nancy Swigert**. The attendance for Kaufman's course had to be cut off at 250 attendees due to the room's capacity. The luncheon was light and entertaining with **Shari Robertson** telling us all how to manage stress. Remember.....chocolate IS a vegetable! **Debra Beckman** gave us a taste of her knowledge in her presentation on oral motor hypersensitivity. From reading the reviews, I can tell you would like more! **Cheri Fraker** and **Laura Walbert** presented on pediatric feeding issues, from the NICU to childhood. If you are interested in this topic, you need to purchase their book, it is fantastic and so are they! All of our speakers were true professionals and a delight to work with.

I am excited to announce that we had over 750 attendees this year! I am glad that

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SCSHA Awards

Honors of the Association

The recipient of this award is recognized for distinguished contributions to the South Carolina Speech-Language Hearing Association and/or significant contributions to the fields of the speech-language pathology and/or audiology. This is the highest recognition SCSHA can award to an individual. **Sharon Webber**, president and co-owner of Super Duper, Inc. was presented with this award. For 19 years Sharon has personally authored and created a wide variety of materials for SLPs, teachers, and parents, as well as donated millions of dollars worth of complimentary therapy materials to clinicians. Sharon and her company also have established various scholarships at USC and UGA.



Sharon Webber

Frank R. Kleffner Clinical Career Award

The recipient of this award is recognized for advancement of knowledge in clinical science and practice in communication science and disorders over a twenty year or longer period. **Dr. Gwendolyn D. Wilson**, Professor of Audiology/Acting Department Chair at South Carolina State College received this recognition. Dr. Wilson is also the current chair of the South Carolina Licensing Board of Examiners for Speech Language Pathology and Audiology. Dr. Wilson has many years of experience and lends much expertise to the field of speech language and audiology.



Dr. Gwendolyn D. Wilson

Special Recognition Award (posthumous)

SCSHA recognizes those in our profession for outstanding contributions to the field. This award was presented to **Douglas Schaedel** in the fall of 2004 due to his illness. Doug had a great impact on the public treating and preventing communication disorders. He was instrumental in the development of Communication Disorders Department at Bob Jones University and was also head of that department. Doug received his masters in speech pathology from USC in 1994. In his 11 years Doug touched a wide range of clients across the state.



Douglas Schaedel

(continued on page 2)

2004 SCSHA Convention Review (continued from page 1)

so many of you came. The convention center was pleasantly crowded with SLPs! Your attendance made this year's event a success.

I have said it before, but it must be said again, thank you to **Suzette McCullough** (convention co-chair), who came to Charleston on her death bed to help for a few hours and then went back (thanks also to her mom for driving her). Thanks also to: **Debbie Brady** (president), Dave Simmons (past convention chair), **Diane Yenerall** (management office), and all of the SCSHA board members. To everyone who helped in any way, big or small, thanks.

Writing this final publication is so bittersweet. I must say that I

am happy to have an end to the tedious scheduling and stress. However, I will truly miss the daily correspondence with so many wonderful professionals. I would like to say that **Diane Yenerall** from Craven Management is at the top of that list!

It is with great confidence that I "pass the torch" to **Suzette McCullough** for the 2006 convention. With her as a leader I know it will be fantastic!

I look forward to seeing you all in 2006.

Sincerely,

Kristen Eagerton, MCD, CCC-SLP
2005 Convention Chair



Mr. Vankoevering

Ambassador Award

Mr. Vankoevering suffered from a cerebrovascular accident in 1989 that profoundly impaired his receptive and expressive language abilities. He currently communicates through using limited speech, gesturing, writing single words, and by using an augmentative communication device. Apraxia and aphasia impede Mr. Vankoevering's ability to use speech effectively and consistently. Mr. Vankoevering has been receiving individual therapy for three years, where he has demonstrated progress in improving his language skills. Additionally, Mr. Vankoevering is an active member of a stroke recovery group, and is a research participant in several studies.

Mr. Vankoevering has progressed nicely in therapy. He began therapy with only a few gestures and a limited number of automatic phrases. He now is able to write a variety of single words to begin a conversation and has much more spontaneous speech. He is also becoming adept at using his augmentative communication device in functional situations. As a founding member of the USC Stroke Recovery Group program, Mr. Vankoevering is both an active participant and a facilitator, encouraging and supporting other group members.

Mr. Vankoevering currently resides in an assisted living community. He interacts daily with several friends, and enjoys engaging in a variety of topics (especially food or sports). Professionals who have previously worked with him continue to visit him and help out when necessary. Mr. Vankoevering has a positive impact on everyone he meets because of his dynamic personality and will to succeed.



Wally Glendale Vaughn, Jr.

Jennifer Mungo Student of the Year Award

The nominee must be a full-time student enrolled in a baccalaureate, masters, or Ph.D program in speech-language pathology or audiology in South Carolina and an active member of SCSHA. **Wally Glendale Vaughn, Jr.**, a senior in the speech-language pathology undergraduate program at S. C. State University received this recognition. He is a scholar who has consistently achieved awards for academic excellence. He is not only an outstanding student, but also involved in extra-curricular activities such as Speech Pathology Club, the Speech Pathology Honor Society, and several fraternities.

(continued on page 5)



Debbie Arnold

2005 President Address

My road to becoming a Speech-Language Pathologist began when I was seven years old attending speech class in Lisle, Illinois. Then, of course, I didn't realize what an impact speech would have on my life. I must have had a pretty significant weakness with discrimination skills, as I remember my second grade teacher calling me aside one day and saying, "Debbie I don't want to hurt your feelings, but my name is not, Mrs. Stinker, it is Mrs. Dinker," as she emphasized the sound differences. That certainly left a lasting impression. Now many years later I have many memories of speech and language children, adults, and graduate students I have had the pleasure of getting to know. "Is Speech-Language Pathology the best profession, or what"? Speech Pathology is my passion, as it is so many of yours. I have had people come up to me and say, "You must have an easy job, because you are always so upbeat and full of fun". Well, I am here to tell you, it is a tough job. As president of SCSHA I hope I can stay upbeat even with all the hurdles in front of us. My goals continue to be: 1. continuing education, 2. public awareness, 3. advocacy for clients and our profession, 4. attracting more students into speech-language pathology, and 5. making the profession better for the practitioner and those we treat.

I am extremely interested in what you think and your ideas about our profession. An SLP in my district remarked that my email was very easy to remember, "darn old". So I want you to remember it too. If you have a question, comment or idea, write me at darnold@greenville.k12.sc.us.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| # of CEUs earned at convention this year..... | 1.8 |
| # of attendees at convention this year..... | 750+ |
| # of SCSHA members..... | 890+ |
| # of hits on the SCSHA web site | 8155 |
| Being an active SCSHA member..... | priceless |

In fond memory of an excellent 2005 SCSHA convention, my wish for next year is that someone will say to me after the 2006 convention " I heard SCSHA did great things this year".

Thank You to the Following SCSHA Members Who Donated to the SCSHA Foundation When Renewing Their SCSHA Membership or Registering for the 2005 Convention.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Deborah M. Arnold | Harold Powell |
| L. Christi Austin | Nancy B. Price |
| Kristina Ayers | Alyson D. Price |
| Marianne M. Casey | Carrie S Ramella |
| Leah B. Crosby | Henri D. Sandifer |
| Donna Marie Gaal | Sara S. Slice |
| Daniel J. Gaskell | Andrea G. Smith |
| Leah C. Gore | Harriet K. Stephens |
| Melanie Anderson Greene | Mary Stepling |
| Alice W. Little | Mary H. White |
| Mary Baron Poston | Gwendolyn D. Wilson |

The Silent Auction at the 2005 Convention raised over \$1,800 for the benefit of the SCSHA Foundation. The goal of the foundation is to award student scholarships and research support, but there is a continued need for donations and support. Please consider making a donation the next time you renew you membership or register for a SCSHA activity. Donations may also be made in honor of another member or as a memorial.

Full page ad from Super Duper.
Print Tech has this ad on file.

Convention 101

There are so many things that I never thought about as a convention attendee. Being on the planning side of it for the past two years has given me a different insight to this process.

Have you ever wondered what happens to the convention evaluation forms after you complete them? Diane at the

SCSHA office compiles the comments into one document. (This year the comments fit on seven pages.) We thoroughly read those comments and try to make improvements for the next year. I would like to address some of the comments that were made.

Several people commented on how crowded the sessions were. Some were even asked to leave a session because it was overcrowded. The rooms at the convention center in Charleston were some of the largest meeting rooms we have had at a convention. The "problem" is that we had so many people there (and what a good problem to have)! We had 610 attendees registered to attend two weeks before the convention. When I arrived in Charleston that number was higher, and even more attendees registered onsite. The attendance number jumped to over 750. It was not possible to plan for this in advance. We had no idea so many would attend, but we are so glad they did.

There were also comments on the short courses overlapping. Some did not like this and did not like that the short courses were six hours. We had requests last year to have a longer short course, but that's not the reason they were 6 hours. The only way Nancy Kaufman and Nancy Swigert would come is if they were presenting 6 hour courses. They also specified when they would present. From the numbers attending the short courses, you wanted them to come!

Scheduling is a tricky thing. When I created the first schedule for the 2005 convention, I thought it was easy. Then I received phone calls and e-mails and many, many, many changes occurred. Changes were made until the last minute.

Thanks for all of your comments, the good and the bad. There is always room for improvement. I hope I have addressed some of your concerns and explained why things were done as they were. If you would like to be on the convention committee for next year's convention, contact Suzette McCullough (next year's convention chair). I know she would welcome the help!

It was an amazing roller coaster ride. I had so much fun.....but I am glad that it is over!

Kristen Eagerton
2005 Convention Chair

Recognition Awards (continued from page 1)



Public School Program of the Year

This category recognizes outstanding and unique public school speech and/or hearing programs. The program awarded this year was The Washington Center in Greenville School District. The

principal and SLP, **Anne Poole**, and the SLPs on staff, **Tonnja Groblewski**, **Debra Harrison**, and **Susan Fincher** have established a nationally recognized home/school communication program called, "The BIG Mack Attack." This allows students to have a voice output communication aid that travels back and forth between school and home.

Thank you from Award Recipient, Dr. Gwendolyn Dr. Wilson

Dr. Gwendolyn D. Wilson, Chair of the Department of Health Sciences at South Carolina State University was this year's recipient of the Frank R. Kleffner award.

Dr. Wilson states, she wants to express her sincere appreciation to SCSHA for recognizing her as the Fran R. Kleffner award recipient this year. She stated, "this award holds a very special place in my heart because it comes from by colleagues in South Carolina. I was deeply moved and want to thank my nominator, the committee, and the Association for this honor and prestigious recognition."



Debbie Brady
Past President

My term of office as president is over, and I am slowly saying goodbye to a long involvement with many wonderful people and some important issues. I often ask kids if they think in words or in pictures. When I think "SCSHA" and then let my thoughts run free, I usually see faces in my mind. I have flashback memories of laughing around a table, of sharing a meal, of walking with some buddies to a meeting or an event. Only later come the words such as "call about the conference room" or "answer the e-mails." The relationships provided by this association are definitely first, the duties are secondary.

SCSHA has plenty of opportunities for relationships. Did you know that we currently have around 900 members?! SCSHA is part of an even broader network of speech-language-hearing professionals across the country.

I have been your representative at national meetings and conferences and thank you for the opportunity to learn from them. It has been my pleasure to share the many good things about SCSHA and to bring back ideas that I hope have helped our state as well.

There are some wonderful people who have helped this Association in other ways. The SCSHA Board and Committee Chairs are the very best. Thanks to Past President **Melanie Greene** for her excellent example, to Vice Presidents **Dan Gaskell** for keeping up with all the clinical issues, to **Gail Murph** for making sure everyone's informed and educated, to **Anita Parker** for keeping her watchful eye on the government, and to **Patty Quattlebaum** for quiet but strong fiscal responsibility. This year's convention provided continuing education and a lot of fun to over 750 attendees thanks to the talents of Convention Chair **Kristen Eagerton** and Co-Chair **Suzette McCullough**. I'm sure each Board member thanks their committees for helping them.

The future of SCSHA is great. We are financially sound, have an excellent membership base, and are blessed with an astounding association manager, **Diane Yenerall**. The leadership looks pretty good, too. Presidents-Elect **Charley Adams** and **Celeste Blackmon** are working on upcoming projects and events, and **Debbie Arnold** (my right hand - running buddy - roommate) is organized, committed, and so capable. SCSHA is lucky that people of this caliber respond to the need for workers and leaders in their professional associations. My time is over. Yours is not. Those picture thoughts I have see many new faces coming together to reap the benefits of SCSHA relationships. I hope your face is there. With love and thanks, **Debbie Brady**



Patty Quattlebaum
VP for Planning and Administration

SCSHA continues to be a strong association. As this report was written on January 28, 2005, we had 812 members. This number includes regular, associate, and student members as well as 23 life members. We always have another increase in membership because some attendees join at the

convention, so we expect our strong membership base to continue. SCSHA members who recruit new members still have a chance to earn "SCSHA Bucks" which will lower their membership dues.

SCSHA has also done well financially this year. You may recall that our fiscal year has been changed to July-June to allow the board to do a better job of planning. On this schedule, the convention income will be tallied prior to the time that the upcoming budget is developed. We will have the final report of our profit when the fiscal year ends on June 30, 2005. Our management company has moved another \$5000 to our reserve account in accordance with our strategic plan goal of having one year's operating expenses in that account. SCSHA has also placed \$20,000 in savings that is separate from the reserve account. The amount we need to have in the reserve account has increased some as we have hired a lobbyist this year. Most state speech-language-hearing associations have lobbyists, and we hope to continue employing a lobbyist at some level in the future. We still have a conservative investment policy that allows us to earn income on the funds we have in our accounts. The SCSHA Foundation account has grown to over \$14,000. Members are encouraged to continue making contributions so that we can give a scholarship to a deserving student in our state at some point in the future.

Many thanks to the committee chairs who have served this year. **Mary Aitchison** chaired the Membership Committee, **Charlie Adams** chaired the Budget Committee, and **Elaine Norris-Mulligan** chaired the Finance/Fundraising Committee. Each of these volunteers has helped make SCSHA into a better organization.

My term of office ends with this convention. It has been a privilege to follow in the footsteps of so many others who through the years have been advocates for individuals with communication disorders and for our professions. Thank you for this opportunity.



Daniel Gaskell
VP For Clinical And Professional Affairs

My first year as vice president was a rewarding and challenging experience, though these challenges were largely mitigated by the capable assistance of the chairpersons and liaisons that reported to me, and by the other members of the Executive Board and **Diane Yenerall** of the management office. I hope to apply the lessons learned "on the job" to the role for the second half of my term.

Committee Reports

- Ethical Practices/Professional Standards: **Crystal Murphree-Holden** reported no ethical violation complaints this year.
- Healthcare and Community/University Clinics (HCUC) committee: This year, the SCSHA board finalized the name change proposed in 2003. **Amy Hull** chaired this committee; other members included: **Kelly Bambach, Leasonna Boozer, Carol Lee, Christa Likes, Kathy Morris, and Carol Pollock**. A two-part article with a summary of the 2003 Healthcare survey was presented in two issues of "In Touch." In addition, Amy presented the information in very nice graphic form and the results were posted on the SCSHA website. The committee assisted in

arranging Clinical Grand Rounds by The Medical University of South Carolina Evelyn Trammell Institute for Voice and Swallowing at the February 2005 SCSHA convention in Charleston, SC. Interactive case studies on voice and swallowing were presented to an excellent reception.

The committee focused on the following topics at their fall meeting in November in Columbia, SC; clinical research, blue dye assessment, guidelines for patients with tracheostomy tubes, ventilator dependence, one way speaking valves and modified barium swallow study protocols

A final committee meeting was held at the convention. Amy reported that the chairing of this committee would pass to **Christa Likes** in 2005.

- Private Practice Committee: After **Eula Boylston** resigned this chair, two other individuals who expressed interest were, unfortunately, unable to do so.
- Clinical Research Committee: The committee, chaired by **Dr. Henri Sandifer** met on October 13th and December 2nd at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital. A research presentation was made at the 2005 SCSHA convention. The title was, "Research to Practice: Which Came First - The Chicken or the Egg?" The presenters were: **Dr. Leigh Ann Spell, Dr. Dimitar Deliyski, Dr. Henri Sandifer, and Ms. Leigh Morrow, Ph.D.** candidate.
- Schools Committee: **Sharon Southerlin** and **Dr. Susan Floyd** agreed to co-chair this committee. Susan attended the ASHA Schools conference in Baltimore in July. Dr. Floyd was also the SCSHA SEAL (see below). Sharon identified the following issues of interest:
 1. National Board Certification equivalency/recognition of ASHA CCC's and/or State Licensure
 2. Supplement for SLPs with regard to Medicaid Billing Practices
 3. Surveying districts and finding out what percentage of monies received from Medicaid billing by SLPs actually go into the "speech program" in their districts
 4. Examining the Impact of "No Child Left Behind" for SLPs serving students in public schools
 5. Caseload reduction— researching the possibility of a "weighted" system when serving large numbers of students with concomitant disabling conditions.
 6. Assessing the impact of reauthorization of IDEA.
 7. Considering reduction of paperwork in terms of meeting standards of IDEA and state policies.
 8. Statewide computer programs for managing caseloads and reducing the amount of paperwork. Look at EXCENT for distribution statewide and work with Don Beck and Co. for improvements and updates. The implementation of a statewide computer program would facilitate transfer of records from district to district and provide consistency in paperwork. Obtain feedback from SLPs throughout the state that currently use EXCENT, TRANQUILITY or some other program and compare program effectiveness, proficiency, costs, time, etc.
 9. Looking into the concept of training communication aides and establishing guidelines (similar to COTA's and PTAs) to assist in paperwork, filing, and conducting supervised therapy activities.

10. Investigating "dismissal criteria" and procedures and practices by the state's 86 districts, and working on a statewide list of "dismissal criteria" from this group.
11. Providing more conferences/workshops sponsored by SCSHA/SDE for public school SLPs.
12. Having more recognition in SCSHA publications (i.e. Hearsay, or on the website, that focus on public school programs or SLPs in various districts throughout the state.
13. Assisting convention/committee chairs in promoting public school programs in the state for recognition at SCSHA convention.

These were presented to the SCSHA board at the November board meeting.

- State/Federal Agencies: Betty Norman agreed to chair this committee, but external circumstances caused her to be unable to fulfill the role this year.
- NOMS: This committee was effectively "dormant" in 2004.

ASHA Liaisons

STAR (STate Advocates for Reimbursement): After **Eula Boylston** resigned this position, it was assumed in an "interim" capacity by myself. Before resigning, Eula attended the first national STAR meeting as the SC representative on May 14 in Omaha, NE, where the group participated in an all-day "reimbursement boot camp" led by ASHA staff. Eula attended this meeting as the SC representative. I participated in the listserv coordinated by **Maureen Thompson** of ASHA, participated in one of the quarterly conference calls, and attended the STAR meeting at the ASHA convention in Philadelphia in November. A major topic of discussion was lobbying private health plans to include SLP services among covered benefits. Some STARS surveyed large insurers or self-insured companies regarding such benefits. After the issue of the SC Department of Health and Human Services issuing a new interpretation on a federal regulation (CMS 440.10), which was to require that all SLPs who submit bills to Medicaid in our state have a physician's prescription to treat these patients, I posted this on the STAR listserv, and received three responses, which were presented to the board.

MICS (Medicare Intermediary and Carrier State Network): The board decided to ask the HCUC committee chair to fulfill this role. **Amy Hull** agreed to do so, and her name was forwarded to ASHA. However, she reported no contact from ASHA regarding activities or meetings.

SEAL (State Education Advocacy Liaison): **Dr. Susan Floyd** served as the SEAL in 2004. SEAL activities and information include

- July 2004: SEAL Meeting (highlights disseminated to SCSHA listserv)
- November 2004: SEAL Meeting Highlights disseminated to SCSHA listserv
- December 2004: SEALs' Conference Call Highlights disseminated to SCSHA listserv
- Letter to Susan Durant, SDE, regarding paperwork reduction initiative

A new SEAL and School Committee Chair was appointed, Peggy Neal (the SCSHA board has determined that these roles should be combined). We are thankful to Dr. Floyd for her tireless work for the association, and also glad to hear that while she has stepped down as SEAL, she has "stepped up" as our newest SC ASHA Legislative Council Representative.


Other

Local SLP groups: There is a very active Upstate SLP group. We were curious to learn if any other such groups existed in SC, and I posted a question on the SCSHA listserv, but were only able to determine that one other such group existed, in the Lowcountry.

NSSLHA member convention volunteers: A letter was drafted and sent to SC universities with NSSLHA chapters, calling for volunteers for the annual convention. We received assistance from, and are quite grateful to, the following students: Columbia College - **Ashley Irvin, Rachel Hand**; MUSC - **Timothy Fiscus, Jesse Hanley**; SCSU - **Mia Loser-Hagler, Regina Jackson, Wally Vaughn**; USC - **Rachel Bane, Hannah Helton, Shayla Lloyd, Cheryl Moody**

Fall Conference: The two fall conferences have been great successes, such that some SLPs not based in schools have expressed interest in participating if a topic of greater interest to them could be included. Efforts have been ongoing to attempt to develop such a possibility, by working with the Fall Conference organizers; one possibility under investigation is Pediatric TBI and school re-integration (i.e., spanning the process from hospital to home & school). Other ideas will be considered if submitted!

It has been an honor to serve the first half of my term as VP of Clinical and Professional Affairs for the SC Speech and Hearing Association. I look forward to a productive year in 2005!



Gail Murph
Vice President of Education and Information

Two years ago I accepted this position on the SCSHA board. My experience has been very rewarding working with individuals who demonstrate a high level of dedication to our field. I am truly amazed at the amount of energy and time the board contributes to make our state association the best it can be. It has been an honor to serve with these leaders. As most of you know **Jamie Gordon** will be assuming this Vice President position for the next two years. I know you will be pleased with her leadership.

The proclamation of May is Better Speech and Hearing Month was signed by **Governor Mark Sanford**. Traditionally, an appointment with the governor and the SCSHA ambassador along with officers of SCSHA is scheduled for this event. However, the governor's office was unable to schedule this recognition in 2004.

Several committees contribute to the area of education and information. First, the Public Information Committee with **Jamie Gordon** as chair coordinated the marketing of our profession and our association, publicized member recognition, coordinated the selection of the SCSHA Ambassador, and coordinated and developed community resources. The Back

to School Bash was held July 31 at the state fairgrounds. Jamie also received and coordinated the SCSHA Ambassador nominations in the fall. She received five nominations for the Ambassador and forwarded these to the SCSHA board for voting. The SCSHA Ambassador was announced at the luncheon during the convention.

Second, **Elaine Sanders-Jackson** chairs the Recognition Committee. She coordinates the selection of members and others who receive honors and special recognition by SCSHA. Elaine received at least one nomination for each award and forwarded these to the board. The awards were presented at the convention luncheon.

Third, **Crystal Murphree-Holden**, chair of the Continuing Education Committee, coordinates and schedules a calendar of events that meet licensure and certificate requirements, as well as maintaining ASHA co-sponsorship status. The change made one year ago with CEU certificates issued when the CEU information is turned in has been successful.

And fourth, **Shannon Cothran**, chair of the Publications Committee, coordinated the publication and ad packages for the In Touch and Hearsay. The In Touch is published four times a year and the Hearsay after the convention. Shannon will be rotating off as chairperson this year, and we certainly thank her for all the work contributed to our publications.



M. Anita Parker
VP Governmental Affairs

State Legislation:

- The SCSHA 2004 Legislative Day was held on April 28th. The legislators and members of their staff were treated to a light buffet style breakfast. The event was attended by 52 legislator and staff members. Then umber of SCSHA members in attendance on that day was twenty. Members engaged in conversations of interest to our profession and the organization's mission. Members gave our guests ink pens shaped at the top like an ear or lips, as tokens of appreciation and reminders about our conversations and interests. Hearing screenings were provided for all interested persons by students form the USC Speech Department. Later, members gathered on the State House steps and enjoyed a photo-op with **Representative Catherine Ceips, Senator Clementa Pinckney, and Representative Jerry Govan**.
- The 2005 SCSHA Legislative Day is scheduled for May 4th. The schedule of activities that are planned will proceed in the same format as last year and members received notice at this convention, via the listserv, and through the organization's publications. The Governor has been requested to sign the Proclamation of the Day. We strongly encourage members to be in attendance, and in the absence of that opportunity to contact their legislators via e-mail. We hope to increase membership attendance and participation in this event. We would appreciate any suggestions for appropriate "gifts" for our guests.
- The Legislative Task Force chaired by **Sharon Brunson** has kept an eye on the Medicaid billing qualifications dilemmas that many districts are now

faced with resolving in a manner that will not negatively impact their district. That committee suggested that possibly it would be in SCSHA's best interest to re-focus our efforts from the NBPTS issues to more concentrated efforts to have SLPs placed on the "professional" scale like school psychologists, etc.

- SDE Education Associate, **Joseph Bath** forwarded to SCSHA clarification, in response to many inquiries, that the SC State Department of Education does not recognize the position of "Speech-language assistant".
- The committee has developed a memo, questionnaire, and professional status data sheet that was sent out to all special education Directors and Coordinators in the state and is proceeding with the review of compiled data to be reported to the Board.
- **Jane Senn** has reported to members of the Executive Board that **Ellen Still** is now the new State Department of Education lobbyist who replaced Molly Sperman. Jane reports that this is likely to be a good think for SCSHA, because she has been supportive of our legislative efforts in the past.
- SCSHA members are alerted to keep a sharp eye out for House bill H.3204 "Put Parents in Charge", which is presented as providing tax breaks for families who home school, send their children to private school, or a school outside their district for a fee. State budget implications?

SCSHA Lobbyist

- SCSHA has hired **Joe Grant** of The Grant Group and **Kasey Stoner** from The Palmetto Policy Group to share duties and serve as lobbyists for the association. Joe will provide legislative assistance and Kasey will provide daily monitoring of political, legislative, and agency issues. Mr. Joe Grant spoke at the Roundtable session during the convention.
- Members are advised to monitor legislative action on their won by accessing the following websites: www.scstatehouse.net and www.myschools.com – Government-Governmental Affairs – Legislation.

South Carolina LLR

- **Dr. Gwen Wilson**, form South Carolina State University continues to serve as our representative on the Labor Licensing and Review Board. She may provide any updates, if applicable during this session of the Executive Bd. and Council. SCSHA would like to be advised as to what constitutes the "equivalent" of the CCC that would be approved by the Board of Examiners as it referred to under the "Qualifications" for licensure.

National Legislation

- **Martha Simpson McDade**, continues to provide the membership information about national issues via the SCSHA listserv. Members are encouraged to use this vehicle to stay abreast of nationally current issues. The following are issues that have been addressed over the course of this year: Health Care, Victory for Audiologists, Study for Expanded Federal Employee Hearing Benefits, CMS Proposes Change to Eligibility for Cochlear Implants, ASHA Responds to Otogram Billing Issues, Medicare Preventative Examination

Includes Hearing & Balance Screening, CMS Presents Reports on Therapy Outpatient Payment Recommendations, President Busch Signs Assistive Technology Legislation, EPA Administration Nominated to Head HHS Schools, Comprehensive Plan Approved to Confront School Qualification Challenges, Congress Finalizes Action on Spending Bill, ED Solicits Comments Prior to IDEA Proposed Rulemaking, and ED Announces Availability of FY2005 Early Reading First Grants



Diane Yenerall
SCSHA Business Manager

During the year 2004, the SCSHA Executive Board carefully planned and executed a number of events and initiatives to increase the value of being a SCSHA member. Their success was evident as membership rose to over 890 members.

During a strategic planning process three years ago, it was recognized that it was important to the future of the association to have long term financial reserves. The board developed a strategic plan to ensure that this goal was achieved. With careful planning and successful continuing education events during 2004, the board was able to achieve their strategic goal for 2004 and surpass the amount they had planned to invest in SCSHA's future. With a strong financial position, SCSHA has been able to address other important goals and objectives.

SCSHA members have long know the value of having a lobbyist. During the 2004-2005 budgeting process, SCSHA was able to include funds in the budget to retain a lobbyist. In the fall of 2004, SCSHA retained the Grant Group as their lobbyist. This is the first time in a number of years that SCSHA has been able to retain a lobbyist using funds specifically designated in the fiscal year budget.

Through support of past continuing education events, the members have shown the need for continuing education opportunities. In 2004 SCSHA held two successful opportunities for continuing education, the 2004 Convention in Hilton Head and the Fall Workshop in Greenville. SCSHA started 2005 with another successful event, the 2005 Convention in Charleston. This year's convention drew one of the highest attendance with over 750 attendees.

SCSHA members also saw additional value in their SCSHA membership as communication resources increased. The In Touch publication grew from a two to four page publication, to an eight page publication during 2004. The SCSHA listserv usage increased this year with increased communication disbursed through the listserv. Members were informed on professional issues that may affect them and were provided with updates on events and activities of the association. The listserv also saw an increase in the number of members who requested to subscribe to the service.

As 2005 begins, SCSHA members will continue to see the value of their membership as communication continues to improve with publications, continuing education opportunities, and the SCSHA lobbyist who will continue to advocate for you and your profession.

Full page ad from SpeechEasy.
Print Tech has this ad on file.

Team Building Meeting

"I have enjoyed life more by saying yes than by saying no" (Richard Branson)

On March 5, a group of approximately 20 SCSHA members met to form committees, share ideas and develop strategies for the coming year.

The VP of Education/Information filled many committee chair positions. The group would like to develop two SCSHA brochures, one for SCSHA information and one for public speech-language information. They would also like to develop a parent hand-out which would be available to download from our web site for members to distribute to the community. In other business, they decided that in the future, all award



nominations would go to one person on the awards committee. A development of a new award, called the "SCSHA member of the year", was discussed.

The convention committee reviewed evaluations from this year's convention and discussed several strategies for monitoring CEU activities for next year. **Juliet Stoute-White** graciously said "yes" to co-chair the convention in the future. The convention committee agreed that SCSHA needed a fun night at the convention. This will probably be on Thursday night after the college receptions. The possibility of a short course on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday was discussed, as well as, ideas for speakers for the next convention.

The school's committee, facilitated by our new chair, **Peggy Neel**, discussed pertinent issues for school-based practitioners. They reviewed results from a recent survey and letters from members. The committee began to make plans for "May is Better Speech and Hearing Month", which will involve all members. Topics for Grand Rounds and the Public School Forum for next year's convention were discussed.

The VP for Clinical and Professional Affairs (HCUC) reviewed the convention evaluations. The Public School and Clinical Forums and Grand Rounds were favorites at the convention. The Round Table was also a popular session. It was decided by the committee that the fall conference would be expanded to a two-day workshop. Friday will be primarily school based with **Barbara Moore Brown** speaking on "Response to Intervention". Saturday will be clinical and hospital based. Several speakers were discussed for the Saturday session.

Anita Parker, VP for Governmental Affairs filled several of her committees and introduced a new committee for "Legislative Action". They also worked on the strategic plan and set priorities for the coming year. Anita plans to add a column in the "In Touch" and "Hearsay" for legislative issues. Details and plans were made for SCSHA "Legislative Day", May 4th.

A committee to work on policy and procedures for the Foundation met and reviewed current by-laws, policies and procedures. **Debbie Brady** facilitated the committee as they discussed procedures, for selection and awarding a Foundation Scholarship. A proposal will be submitted to the executive board in June.

For those SCSHA members who could not come to this meeting, we will contact you. We still have committees that need your help. Thanks to all of you who said, yes.

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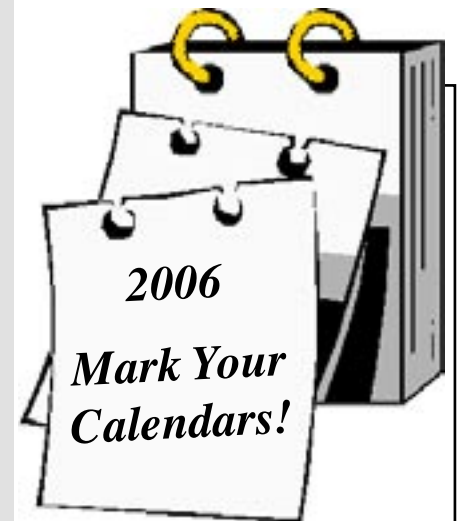
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2006 SCSHA Convention

March 2-4, 2006
Myrtle Beach, SC

Convention Chair:

Suzette
Freeman-McCullough
Uscslp2002@msn.com



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