

2017, Volume III

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The OSHA Communicator is a publication of the Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association and is edited by Marcia Frost, OSHA Publications Chair. If you are interested in submitting an article or advertising in the newsletter, contact the OSHA office at OSHAStaff@gmail.com or 503-378-0595.

Letter from the President

By: Lyndsay Duffus

*“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”*

- Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

As I sit here, still taking in the experience of the 2017 OSHA Day at the Oregon State Capitol, this quote keeps popping in and out of my head. If we want something changed, we need to stand up and make our voices heard. And what better way to do that than as a cohesive and passionate group of speech and hearing professionals. One voice can be powerful; but hundreds, so much more so. In that way, OSHA can be an important instrument for change.

And what is the most tangible means of change? The legislative process, both locally and nationally.

The 2017 OSHA Day at the Oregon State Capitol helped me realize how much the average person does not know about how legislation is developed, discussed and implemented. Do you know who your legislators are? Do you know how to contact them about issues that you care about or want to see changed? I didn’t, but after this recent experience...that has changed!

Please head to this link to learn more: www.oregonlegislature.gov. Near the bottom right you will see “Find Your District and Legislators”. Enter your address and—boom!—contact information for your Representative and Senator appears. We all have a little time at the end of our day to send an email about an issue we care deeply about.

Also, take a look around at their website to learn more about the legislative process and how, as Oregonians, we can be more involved. As Genoa Ingram, our OSHA lobbyist, said about the Capitol, *“This is OUR building and we should feel comfortable in it”*.

Again, like the quote with which I started, nothing will change unless we care enough about it and that means making our voices heard! As speech-language pathologists and audiologists, communication is our ‘thing’. Let us use this gift and stand up for those we serve and for ourselves!

**2017
OSHA Day**



at *OUR*
Oregon State
Capitol

Advocacy in Action

2017 OSHA FALL CONFERENCE
October 13 & 14
Salem Convention Center



We are putting the final touches on the fall conference, and look forward to seeing you all there. We have several special changes to our usual lineup. Here are some highlights:

- **Opening session: Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.** The conference will open with a plenary session featuring **Bob Joondeph**, Executive Director of Disability Rights Oregon. He'll kick off the conference events with a talk about the current state of affairs and future directions for disability rights. This session will provide attendees one hour of continuing education.
- **Advocacy break-out sessions: Friday lunch, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.** Attendees will have the opportunity to join break-out groups dedicated to discussion of specific advocacy topics relevant to our membership. Each group will be assigned facilitators to keep the discussions moving, and our hope is that each group emerges with action items to continue working on key issues. We have three topics so far, including: 1) support for English Language Learners and their families; 2) ethical issues related to diet and swallowing recommendations; and 3) school caseloads.
 - **We need more topics**, and would love to hear from you! Send your ideas and suggestions for facilitators (or volunteer yourself) to **Karen McLaughlin**, OSHA Vice President for Science and Education/Conference Chair, at kdurany@uoregon.edu. Ideally, we'll have seven or eight topics for members to choose from.
- **Documentary Screening and Director Q&A: Friday evening. Cheryl Green**, co-director, will be joining us for a screening of her documentary, *"Who Am I To Stop It"* on Friday at 7 p.m. This illuminating documentary about three Portland-based artists with brain injuries has received wide acclaim and we're thrilled to have it featured at the conference. The public is welcome to join us so spread the word!
- **Awards and Business Meeting: Saturday lunch.** This is changed from our usual Friday time due to the inclusion of the break-out sessions that day.

Also, we have an accomplished group of invited speakers on Friday, and a number of innovative topics being presented on Saturday by people from around the state. New this year, we will have an SLP-A track so we can better meet the continuing education needs of our colleagues. The full conference program and registration should be available this summer. Here are the Friday speakers with their specialty areas listed:

- **Shelley Chabon**, PhD, CCC-SLP – Portland State University – Conflict resolution
- **Ruth Ellingsen**, PhD – UCLA PEERS© Clinic – Social skills training
- **Jessica Fanning**, PhD, CCC-SLP – University of Oregon – Early intervention for stuttering
- **Kelly Farquharson**, PhD, CCC-SLP – Emerson College – Literacy and speech sounds
- **Ianessa Humbert**, PhD, CCC-SLP – University of Florida - Dysphagia
- **Sara Starlin**, MA, CCC-SLP – Springfield School District – SLPA track

We look forward to seeing you in Salem this October!



Information from your State Advocate for Medicare Policy

There is a lot of attention around healthcare in the United States these days. ASHA is very aware of how any legislative changes can have vast impacts on the services, habilitative and rehabilitative, that SLPs offer. The House and Senate have active bills with bipartisan support to repeal the Medicare outpatient therapy caps (with co-sponsors from Oregon!). And, *very excitingly*, there is proposed legislation that would allow Medicare reimbursement to audiologists and speech-language pathologists. The Medicare Telehealth Parity Act of 2017 seeks to expand services to beneficiaries who may not otherwise have access to quality care. The best resource for SLPs to access current and trending topics of advocacy at the state and national level is takeaction.asha.org. Please visit the site and learn how you can easily advocate for your profession. They make it so easy!



OSHA Board Vacancies

Serving on the OSHA Board can be a rewarding way to give back to your professional community and enhance your resumé. We are hoping to fill three vacant OSHA Board positions immediately, including:

1. **Ethics** - In this position, the Board member will respond to inquiries to OSHA regarding ethical questions by members, work with other Board members to learn about ethical issues in their regions, etc.
2. **School-based SLP** - In this position, the Board member will advise the Board on issues pertaining to school-based practice, help with possible legislative language on school-based issues, etc.
3. **Medically-based SLP** - In this position, the Board member will advise the Board on issues pertaining to the practice of speech pathology in health care settings, help with possible legislative language on school-based issues, etc.

The Board meets in person approximately four-five times per year in Salem.

If you or someone you know may be interested in serving on the OSHA Board or would like more detailed descriptions of board responsibilities, please contact us at OSHAOregon@gmail.com.

Getting Social with OSHA

By Jordan Tinsley, Social Media Chair

Did you know that OSHA is working to expand our presence on social media? As a member, you can help us build our network while staying up to date with the latest information from OSHA. See you online!

Please search for and follow OSHA on the following social media sites:

 [Oregon Speech-Language & Hearing Association](#)

 [osha_insta](#)

 [Oregon Speech-Language & Hearing Association](#)

 [@OregonSHA](#)

Nominate a Colleague for an OSHA Award!



Who do you know that is deserving of an award? An inspiring professor or colleague, an encouraging mentor, or skilled supervisor? An Oregon researcher doing impactful work? A tireless advocate or leader in your profession, or someone who passionately supports the work you do? Please review the categories below, then nominate a worthy colleague or organization for an award today!

Visit oregonspeechandhearing.org/page-1836750? to view nomination instructions. Deadline for submission is **August 20, 2017**.

If you have questions, contact Karen Aguilera, Chair of Nominations and Honors Committee, at OSHAOregon@gmail.com.

HONORS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- Designated as a “lifetime achievement” award. The intent of this award is to recognize an individual for outstanding history of clinical practice in the field of speech-language pathology, audiology, or education of the deaf/HOH.
- This award may also be used to recognize outstanding advocacy or program sponsorship by an agency or organization.

OUTSTANDING CLINICIAN AWARD: SCHOOLS/EI/ECSE

- Recognizes a speech-language pathologist, speech-language pathology assistant, audiologist, or educator of the deaf/HOH who consistently demonstrates outstanding clinical, advocacy, or leadership skills in the public school system. This award may recognize general clinical work or a specific, recent clinical achievement.

OUTSTANDING CLINICIAN AWARD: CLINICS, HOSPITALS, PRIVATE PRACTICE

- Recognizes a speech-language pathologist, speech-language pathology assistant, audiologist, or educator of the deaf/HOH in a clinic, hospital, or private practice who consistently demonstrates outstanding clinical, advocacy, and/or leadership skills. This award may recognize general clinical work or a specific, recent clinical achievement.

AWARD OF CLINIANSHIP

- Recognizes a speech-language pathologist, speech-language pathology assistant, audiologist, or educator of the deaf/HOH whose dedication to the field is reflected in strong clinical and/or leadership skills paired with compassion, empathy, humor, and acts of support to colleagues and clients. Beyond clinical skills, this person’s spirit touches and inspires those around them. This award may also be used to recognize an individual who has made a contribution to the profession in an unusual way.

AWARD OF OUTSTANDING RESEARCH OR TEACHING

- Recognizes a colleague whose published research or teaching (professional preparation or continuing education) has contributed to advancing clinical knowledge and/or practice in the fields of speech-language pathology, audiology, or education of the deaf/HOH.

OSHA PROFESSIONAL ADVOCACY AWARD

- Honors a person who has contributed to the advancement of the visibility, viability, or vitality of our professions. Potential nominees include legislators, philanthropists, SLPs, SLPAs, Audiologists, or any public figure who has shown outstanding advocacy for our professions.

I am happy to announce that there will be an SLP-A track at this fall's conference on Friday, October 13. Sessions and topics are in the planning stages. Some topics may include: techniques on teaching articulation, behavior management techniques and reading strategies; to name a few. There will be an open discussion scheduled during lunch. This will be a valuable opportunity to network with other SLP-As in the state and give you a voice to offer your comments, suggestions, and concerns in an open and friendly format. I encourage you to invite others in the field to join us at the conference. There were approximately 30 Speech-Language Pathology Assistants in attendance at last year's OSHA conference. Help me spread the word so we can make that number grow. See you in October!

Shannon Picinisco



Congratulations New Graduates!

The Oregon Speech and Hearing Association would like to be one of many to congratulate YOU on your accomplishments. We are so excited to welcome you to the profession and have a small token of our esteem for you. We are delighted to give you a year of FREE membership!

Membership includes reduced registration to our Annual Conference, representation in the Oregon Legislature, and access to a network of professionals across the state. Begin your membership today at <http://oregonspeechandhearing.org/JoinorRenew>.



Your stories matter. They need to be heard.

Oregon Education Association invited educators to share their stories about Oregon's school funding crisis. Every day during the 2017 Legislative Session, OEA Lobbyists delivered a different educator's story with each of the 90 legislators.

A Speech Pathologist at Maple Elementary, Sara Starlin's story "No Budget, No Equipment" was featured on May 25. "OEA was excited to have my perspective as a speech path and I was pleased to be asked!"

Read the stories that were shared at <https://medium.com/@oregoned> or <https://www.instagram.com/oregoneducation/>.



Everyone Communicates!

The Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association supports the rights of individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (IDD) to engage, interact and socialize by building their communication skills to ensure active participation and inclusion in all environments across their lifetime.

When to Refer to an SLP

By: Corinne Thomas-Kersting

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) are communication professionals who are specialists trained to evaluate, develop and support successful communication for all people.

The Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association (OSHA) Communications Committee is coordinating a series of “When to Refer to a SLP” publications written by a variety of OSHA volunteers with community input. The first one focuses on children and adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and will be distributed at the DHS Service Coordinators/Personal Agent Conference this summer. In the works is a publication for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). These will be available for download on the OSHA website soon and will be valuable resources for educating family members, physicians, case managers and the general public about the services we provide to support successful communication.

When working with children and adults with IDD, contact a SLP when there are communication challenges, such as:

- ◆ An individual has limited or unsuccessful social interactions.
- ◆ It is difficult to understand an individual’s verbal language or an individual is only able to communicate with people familiar with his/her way of talking.
- ◆ Communication is a barrier to any opportunity (e.g., community, social and/or employment).
- ◆ People feel they need to “interpret” for an individual or an individual relies on others to understand or communicate their needs, choices, and ideas.
- ◆ An individual’s current communication system restricts them from communicating and engaging successfully, across environments and conversation partners.
- ◆ Challenging behaviors occur possibly because of communication difficulties.
- ◆ An individual needs assistance in developing nonverbal communication skills through the use of gestures, pictures, or communication devices.

To find a SLP who can evaluate an individual’s communication skills and provide direct support for developing skills in communication, self- advocacy, and independence, visit www.oregonspeechandhearing.org.



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YouTube

