President’s Message

Our Commitment and Connection

“A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important. You may adapt all the policies you please, but how they are carried out depends on him. The fate of humanity is in his hands.” – Abraham Lincoln

As a parent, professional and a volunteer, these words ring true. The challenges that face our children and families seem ever increasing, while the challenges that face our communities loom as large as ever. Today our children are more worldly, more intelligent and certainly more fearful. In days of old, we feared monsters under the bed, dragons and the dark. Today, children’s fears are much scarier. Unfortunately, these words still ring as true today as when I first wrote them in a newsletter article twenty years ago.

As professionals dedicated to providing and promoting education, networking and advocacy for professionals and the public with quality and compassion; MSHA has a long history of working on behalf of children and their families and will continue to do so in the coming year. It was a pleasure to communicate and interact with so many of our members at the fall conference. The recently updated MSHA by-laws presented at that conference reflect an effort to increase communication and participation with our MSHA membership. Thank you to all of our many volunteers. Continued on Page 2…….
The governing body of this Association; the Board of Directors, is now composed of up to seventeen voting positions. These include:

President – Lezlie Pearce-Hopper
President-Elect – Kathleen DeLapp-Cohn
Immediate Past President – Catherine Drescher
Secretary – Shelby Midboe
Treasurer – Sharlene Schmidt
Two elected members at large – one being the current President of the Montana Audiology Guild – Kristy Foss, and the other a speech language pathologist – Emily Stafslien
University Representative – Julie Wolter
Student Representative - TBD
Five Regional Representatives - #1 Mary Thaden, #2 Laurie Grisham, #3 Emily Stafslien, #4 Jennifer Pierce & Lezlie Pearce-Hopper, #5 Alida Wright
Chair of the Political Action Committee – Jessica Reynolds
Chair of the Scholarship Committee – Shelby Midboe (will appoint a member of committee for voting)

Over the holiday break I had time to reflect a bit more on our past year, the amazing amount of progress made on our Strategic Plan, and about the future. I want to extend a huge thank you and congratulations for a job well done to Catherine Drescher for her year as President and for an outstanding Fall Conference. I also want to thank Jennifer Rindal for her three years of very caring and capable service. I shall be seeking, utilizing, and welcoming the knowledge and experience of the past presidents of this association. MSHA’s first Board of Director’s Meeting of the year is an electronic meeting on the morning of January 20th.

I very much look forward to the wide positive impact we can make during this coming year. In the coming months MSHA will conduct surveys for caseload number and current position openings in the state for our professions. MSHA will continue to work closely with our lobbyist, Abigail St. Lawrence, as we address issues of importance to our members and clients. This work with our lobbyist is funded in part by a grant from ASHA and we will soon be seeking to renew this grant. Please check in frequently with our website for updates and opportunities.

The continued strength of our organization depends on YOU. My passion of 40 years in this profession has been primarily children. I will continue to serve as an advocate for all professionals and the public; but for mothers, friends and neighbors I believe the children must come first. We must read to them, hug them, guide them, respect them and love them. Our success as a community depends not on what happens somewhere else but on what happens right here at home. That will enable us to tell the children of tomorrow, “It will be alright.”

Please look at the poem on Page 3.

**Vision**
Montanans will access speech, language, and audiology services from the highest trained professionals.

**Mission**
Provide and promote education, networking and advocacy for professionals and the public with quality and compassion.
We had great volunteers for the MSHA Fall Convention. Thanks so much to all of you.

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**Fall Convention Survey and Pictures**

2017 Missoula Conference Evaluation Feedback

(Rate 1-5 with 1 as poor and 5 as excellent), Average of 43 evaluators for the following feedback.

- Overall Conference Evaluation: Average 4.23, This event will help me perform my job more effectively: Average 4.27, Conference was at the education level I expected: Average 4.30, Conference content matches description: Average 4.36, Conference length relative to amount of content: Average 4.59, Would you recommend this event to a friend or colleague? Average 4.26, Number of years in the industry: Less than 1: 4, 1 to 3: 3, 4-6: 3, 7-10: 3 and 10+: 27, Your age range: Under 25: 2, 25-34: 7, 35-44: 8, 45-54: 6 and 55+: 17

**Sampling of Comments:**

- “This was my 1st MSHA conference and it was incredible. I listened to a wide range of lectures and I truly believe I am in the right field of education.”
- “Can we move to on-line CE entry?”
- “This is one of the best MSHA conventions I have attended. The mix of local presenters and experts from other places was great.”
- “Really enjoyed the poster sessions.”
- “Grateful for organization and clear communication before the conference.”
- “I was disappointed in Day 1. I felt it was mostly information I had learned during school/previous CE opportunities. LOVED Day 2! Day 2 made up for my disappointment.”
- “Would have been nice to have more space, better microphone set ups and downtown.”
- “I liked having choices, but didn’t feel you gave some speakers enough time to provide more than an overview of the topic.”
- “Loved the selection of short sessions on Thursday. Excellent speakers. Great participation.”
- “Web materials were very confusing.”
- “Thank you for Saturday popcorn bowls. Genius.”

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**Poster Sessions & Awards**
Mail this form and your check to: MSHA; P.O. Box 1065; Glasgow, MT 59230
You can also become a member or renew your membership online at www.mshaonline.org

PO BOX 1065
Glasgow, MT 59230

Full Membership (licensed) - $75.00
Aide/Assistant—$25.00
Student Membership—$25.00
If you are Retired—Lifetime Membership for $125.00
Membership dues include January 1 through December 31 of each year

PERSONAL INFORMATION
Name: ___________________________     Phone: ______________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________
City: ___________ State: _____ Zip: ______ Email: __________________________

EMPLOYER INFORMATION
Name: ___________________________     Phone: ______________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: ___________ State: _____ Zip: ______ Email: __________________________

Please circle all that apply: SLP AUD DUAL AIDE/ASSISTANT STUDENT
HOSPITAL SCHOOL PRIVATE PRACTICE

The information may be published in the directory yes / no on the website yes / no (please circle yes or no on each) ___________________________ (signature).
Year you first became a MSHA member: ________
Would you like to volunteer to work on a committee yes / no or be nominated for an office yes / no. If so, which one(s)?: ___________________________

Consider a Financial Contribution to one or both the Community Outreach Program
and/or the Scholarship Program. These are both great ways to help students and clients
needing MSHA support.

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<th>Dues (Full Membership $75.00) or $125.00</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dues (Aide/Assistant or Student $25.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution to Community Outreach</td>
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<td>Contribution to Scholarship Fund</td>
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WE NEED YOU!
ASHA—Independent Study Changes

ASHA has made a change in the paperwork for Independent Studies that will take effect on January 1, 2018. The new electronic paperwork to be completed by an Independent Study participant (along with the CEA—Continuing Education Administrator, Anne Juel) includes two new documents: an Independent Study Participant Worksheet and a new Independent Study Participant Time Log for documenting learning time in your Independent Study. Both of these documents will be uploaded to the MSHAonline website soon. These new documents are user friendly, and will help the participant better develop their study plan collaboratively with the CEA, and allow for ease of processing the Independent Study course in the online continuing education system with ASHA. Remember, you must pay into the ASHA CEU registry to do an Independent Study for ASHA credit. Submitted By: Anne Juel, CEA
MSHA received notification from ASHA that there are some professionals in our state who earned an Award for Continuing Education (ACE). They earned 7.0 ASHA CEUs within a 36 month period. Please join MSHA in congratulating the following individuals from Montana who were recognized. These listed individuals are also members of our state MSHA organization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award Presented</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suzanne Bender</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
<td>Billings, MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alane Dobie</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
<td>Missoula, MT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Eandi</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td>Missoula, MT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tricia Opstad</td>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>Missoula, MT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Pardy</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td>Billings, MT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Peterson</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td>Colstrip, MT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally Smith</td>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>Great Falls, MT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you all for your obvious dedication to this profession. Thank you also for your dedication to MSHA.

Regional Representatives & Territories

Region 1 - Marilyn Thaden from Miles City
m.thaden@hotmail.com or 406-234-1957

Region 2 - Laurie Grisham from Great Falls
laurieg5289@gmail.com

Region 3 - Emily Stafslien from Lewistown
emily.stafslien@gmail.com or 406-538-9012

Region 4 - Lezlie Pearce-Hopper from Helena
pearcepholpkl@gmail.com or 541-953-4178
Jennifer Pierce from Butte
cmatters@bresnan.net or 406-490-1264

Region 5 - Alida Wright from Kalispell
alida@bresnan.net or 406-892-5507

MSHA Members please feel free to contact any MSHA Board member listed on the back of this newsletter or please be in touch with your MSHA Regional Representative. We are all willing to help with any questions or concerns that arise.

Thanks to everyone on the MSHA board and those serving committees and other MSHA Board efforts. We have an organization with several dedicated volunteers and progress cannot be made without all of you! Thanks for your service to MSHA.

There have been 76 new memberships for MSHA since August of 2017 - Names and locations are too numerous to list so information will be sent to area representatives.

There is strength in numbers and we can make a louder voice if we continue to forge together as a strong organization. Continue to encourage friends and coworkers to join MSHA in support of our professions.
All audiologists in the state of Montana are welcome to join this meeting. We will be meeting on the 4th and 5th of May. This year it will be held at Chico Hot Springs south of Livingston, MT near Pray, MT. To arrange a room please call 406-333-4933; there is a block of rooms currently on hold for MAG. If you have never been involved in this group we always have a great time and we look forward to meeting new audiologists in the state.

If you have questions or need more detailed information please contact Kristy Foss at kfoss@billingsclinic.org

GENEROUS DONATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mary Hardin-Jones, who spoke at the MSHA Fall Convention wrote to say “I noticed that MSHA awarded a couple of scholarships to University of Montana graduate students during the award ceremony on Friday night. I would like to donate my honorarium of $1000.00 to the scholarship account. Please extend my thanks to the MSHA Board and the 2017 Convention Committee for the invitation to talk at your fall conference. I enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones.”

Scholarship Recipients in October 2017 were:
Cailen Bosch - $750.00 & Erin Powers - $750.00
Congratulations Ladies!

Fall Convention Summary

Income
Fall Convention Registration $18,081.46
Vendor Income 393.90
Scholarship Income 2,092.00
Total Income: $20,567.36

Fall Convention Attendance Summary
Students = 74
Speech Aides = 2
SLP attendance = 93
Audiology Attendance = 9
Dual = 3
181 Participants

Expenses
Food $6,529.17
Meeting Room Rental 1,200.00
Printing 163.80
Speaker Fees 3,350.00
Speaker Lodging 738.88
Speaker Meals 113.41
Speaker Travel 2,217.56
Convention Supplies 204.26
Speaker Gifts 511.13
Total Expenses $15,028.21
Overall Total Profit $5,539.15

We are still waiting to receive the funds from an OPI Grant for Fall Convention.

Thank you to Kitty Griffin for all of her work on the MSHA Public Relations Products.

Please send your suggestions to Lezlie for 2018 speakers for October 2018 conference and for webinars, etc. throughout the year if you did not already make suggestions on conference feedback forms.

Special Thanks to the professionals who helped out with the speed-networking student luncheon:
Kim Kaftan, Amy Anderson, Catherine Drescher, Christina Hansen, and Annie Ellingwood.

Special Thanks to the students who did a great job organizing the silent auction: Beth Sutter, Lindsay Hutton, Carlee Johnson, Emma Bozarth, Sarah Popp, and Taylor Perius
We appreciate your spirit of volunteerism:)

Montana Audiology Guild—MAG
## Improving communication for life...

You ARE a current MSHA member for 2018  
You ARE NOT a current MSHA member for 2018  
Does MSHA need your membership support? **YES** Please renew your membership soon!

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### MSHA Voting Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Lezlie Pearce-Hopper</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pearcehopplk@gmail.com">pearcehopplk@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Catherine Drescher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cdrescher@rmeec.com">cdrescher@rmeec.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Elect</td>
<td>Kathleen DeLapp-Cohn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rcna.kds@gmail.com">rcna.kds@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Shelby Midboe</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shelby.midboe@gmail.com">shelby.midboe@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Sharlene Schmidt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sharlene.schmidt@fmdh.org">sharlene.schmidt@fmdh.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audiology Member @ Large</td>
<td>Kristy Foss</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kfoss@billingsclinic.org">kfoss@billingsclinic.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Path Member @ Large</td>
<td>Emily Stafslien</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emily.stafslien@gmail.com">emily.stafslien@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UM CSD Chair</td>
<td>Julie Wolter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:julie.wolter@mso.umt.edu">julie.wolter@mso.umt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UM CSD Student Liaison</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region #1 Representative</td>
<td>Marilyn Thaden</td>
<td><a href="mailto:m.thaden@hotmail.com">m.thaden@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region #2 Representative</td>
<td>Laurie Grisham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:laurieg5289@gmail.com">laurieg5289@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region #3 Representative</td>
<td>Emily Stafslien</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emily.stafslien@gmail.com">emily.stafslien@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region #4 Representative</td>
<td>Jennifer Pierce</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cmatters@bresnan.net">cmatters@bresnan.net</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lezlie Pearce-Hopper</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pearcehopplk@gmail.com">pearcehopplk@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region #5 Representative</td>
<td>Alida Wright</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alida@bresnan.net">alida@bresnan.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Action Committee</td>
<td>Jessica Reynolds</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mshapoliticalaction@gmail.com">mshapoliticalaction@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Committee</td>
<td>Shelby Midboe</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shelby.midboe@gmail.com">shelby.midboe@gmail.com</a></td>
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</tbody>
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Please rejoin us—With your support MSHA can do great things!