Advocacy Day at the Legislature was March 9. Because of COVID-19, we could not have UM NSSLHA members met to create bags for each legislator. President Shelby Midboe and President Elect Amy Glaspey, both of Missoula, traveled to Helena to be recognized in the House chamber and then got to go to the Senate, where they got to see HB 210 pass its second reading.

The 2021 Montana Legislative session has ended and we are happy to report MSHA had a busy and successful session. House Bill 210, introduced by MSHA, regulates the licensing of audiology and speech language pathology aides/assistants. This bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Gianforte and our executive board is already working with our lobbyist and the Montana Aud-SLP licensing board to provide information to our members regarding regulations. Stay tuned in the next few months for more information regarding these new rules.

MSHA was also involved with supporting HB 291, the Montana Hears bill. This legislation requires coverage of hearing amplification devices and related services for children in Montana. This effort was led by a dedicated group of parents, clients, and practitioner and MSHA was proud to support this crucial legislation.

MSHA consulted on several bills this session, providing expert testimony and recommendations to support our stakeholders. Our legislative team met with Abigail St. Lawrence, the MSHA lobbyist, once per week during the session to discuss upcoming legislation, provide support or opposition to bills related to our field, and craft responses to issues on various bills. We are so grateful to all who called and wrote to their representatives and senators to promote important changes in our state. We will see you again in two years!
MSHA Congratulates the Class of 2020 and 2021

Spring 2021 Graduates
Yolanda Bodie
Stefanie Borda-Junco
Abby Clemons
Sarah Conkle
Nadine Cooper
Kelsey Davis-Sullivan
Aubrey Enderle
Amanda Fox
Laura Grutsch-Trudeau
Hannah Hansen
Carlee Johnson
Emma Jones
Harley Kincheloe
Lindsey Lannes

Spring 2021 Graduates
Janis Nelson
Blake Nix
Caitlin Nogel
Kelley O’Toole
Zoa Phillips
Kara Picciolo
Sarah Popp
Aubrey Powell
Kelly Sandford
Morgan Simkins
Naomi Updike
Kiah Venzon
Carin Williams
William Wykoff

Bachelor of Science

Fall 2020 Graduates
Julia Dahle
Isabella Diaz
Conor Powers

Summer 2021 Graduates
Rachel Harker
Mariah Salveson

Spring 2021 Graduates
Jayden Bennion
Danielle Birney
Chloe Bryson
Claire Buehler
Mary Fahlman
Seneca Glenn
Kaelyn Hanson
Samantha Hege
Dawson Jacober

Summer/Fall 2021 Graduates
Kerry Dopler
Kristine Gregory
Esther Martinez
Haley Vining
Margaret Willoughby-Ratliff

Masters Degrees

Fall 2020 Graduates
Julia Dahle
Isabella Diaz
Conor Powers

Summer 2021 Graduates
Rachel Harker
Mariah Salveson

Spring 2021 Graduates
Janis Nelson
Blake Nix
Caitlin Nogel
Kelley O’Toole
Zoa Phillips
Kara Picciolo
Sarah Popp
Aubrey Powell
Kelly Sandford
Morgan Simkins
Naomi Updike
Kiah Venzon
Carin Williams
William Wykoff
Committee Reports, May 2021

Did You Know? We have two ASHA State Network Representatives for 3 networks?
ASHA’s Government Affairs and Public Policy department has developed networks with representatives from individual states. Each of these networks focus on a different priority issue.

STARS and StAMPs report, Submitted by Carol Morse, Billings

New information from STARS: State Advocates for Reimbursement (STARS)
Laurie Alban Havens, retired from heading this committee and will be missed by all STAR members.
Caroline Bergner, Cberner@asha.org is the new ASHA Director of Private Payer Insurance
Jacob Manthey, Jmanthey@asha.org is the new ASHA Director of Medicaid

StAMP news: State Advocates for Medicare Policy (StAMPs) Network
The reduction in speech therapy and audiology reimbursement has been revised with the passage of the stimulus package and we are all cheering! Tele Health CPT Codes have been expanded. These codes are listed in ASHA headlines and can be found in the practice management tab on the ASHA website.

SEALS report, Submitted by Sally Klatt, Billings, MT

SEALS Meeting for 3/22/2021  State Education Advocacy Leaders (SEALs)
* Discussed the ASHA Ambassador Program – presented by Kate Stephens, Director of Membership and Communication for ASHA – The Ambassadors of ASHA provide advocacy on and communication about the priorities of the Association to officials, constituents, peers, and the general public at the workplace, local, state, and national levels. The program is made up of 54 member audiologists and 54 member speech-language pathologists who represent each state, DC, international constituents, US territories, and NSSLHA. The term is for 3 years and each must be a member of ASHA.

The SEAL champions also updated their responsibilities and are uploading the new information on the ASHA website.

SEALS Meeting for 4/19/21
*Open reporting on SEALS activities in various states. Some states around the country have schools that are just now reopening due to COVID. Teletherapy regulation continues to be an issue in many states.

MSHA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE Report
Submitted by Barbara Doughty, Great Falls

We are looking for 2-3 more committee members!
If you are interested, please contact Barbara at bddoughty373@charter.net.

If you are, or if you know, a graduate student at the University of Montana, please apply for the 2021 MSHA Scholarship! There are two $750 awards. Applications are due September 15, 2021. More information and the application form can be found at https://www.mshaonline.org/mshascholarship or scan the QR code on your phone.
ASHA encourages professionals to continue lifelong learning and to maintain current their knowledge and skills. To help facilitate this, ASHA Continuing Education approves providers to offer relevant continuing education activities and recognize ASHA member participation through the Award for Continuing Education (ACE). In order to receive this award, individuals meet the requirements by earning 7.0 ASHA Continuing Education Units (CEUs) within a 36-month period.

Congratulations to the following ASHA members who earned this award from July to December 2020!

**July 2020:**
- Suzanne Bender, Billings
- Christa Drab, Bozeman
- Karen Gibson, Havre
- Amanda Rose Martin, Bozeman
- Carol Morse, Billings
- Amy Smith, Billings
- Emily Stafslien, Lewistown
- Chelsea Watercutter, Kalispell

**August 2020**
- Kenneth Evans, Great Falls
- Alisha Grady, Bozeman
- Morgan Malany, Billings
- Jessica McCauley, Missoula
- Morgan Schmelzer, Belgrade
- Nichole Wiltshire-Scala, Bozeman

**November 2020**
- Michelle Collins, Billings
- Marion Nielson, Missoula
- Christina Schmidt, Whitefish

**October 2020**
- Ana-Megan Babin, Butte
- Michael Crews, Lolo
- Amanda Massey, Belgrade
- Shelby Midboe, Missoula

**December 2020**
- Nicole Bronec, Butte
- Sarah Leech Berkloviuch, Missoula
- Melanie Rosenthal, Missoula
- Katie Schwartzzenberger, Missoula
- Jillian Stieg, Billings
- Sherri Widhalm, Great Falls

MSHA has awarded scholarships to support outstanding graduate students in speech-language pathology and audiology training programs in Montana, and supported community outreach, which is available to Montana residents of any age in need of monetary support for communication needs (i.e., hearing aid equipment, communication devices, education/training, etc.). The MSHA foundation is a 501c(3) nonprofit foundation that was established in January 2021. It is governed by a Board of Directors that is separate from the Board of MSHA. The MSHA Foundation was created to support the MSHA Mission, Vision, and Core Values, and demonstrates that we believe in the future of our professions. Thank you to the first ever Board of Directors: Karen Gibson, President; Anne Juel, Secretary; Kristy Foss, Treasurer. The MSHA Liaison to the Board is Lezlie Pearce-Hopper. A special thanks to Lezlie for being instrumental in the legal creation of this entity.

Visit the Foundation webpage on the MSHA website at [https://www.mshaonline.org/msha-foundation](https://www.mshaonline.org/msha-foundation)

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**Montana ASHA ACE Award Winners**  
**July 2020 – December 2020**

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