More than half of our student members attended this year’s conference. This is the largest student attendance in recent years outside of a MSHA Conference held in Missoula. Students participated in the excellent poster sessions Thursday evening. Students were volunteers in each session of the conference, where they provided introductions and assisted where needed. In addition, students obtained donations for the MSHA Silent Auction. Proceeds are designated in part to the Student Scholarships. Many of us had the opportunity and pleasure to visit with these future colleagues and MSHA members over the three day conference.

Some of our colleagues attended the MSHA Fall Conference in Helena, others recently returned from ASHA in Boston and some have just completed parent/teacher conferences. We are very busy professionals working to improve communication for life. The conference in Helena gave us time to connect with friends, recharge, learn and make new connections.

The MSHA Board Meeting on Wednesday evening of the conference was well attended. The Board approved the MSHA Position Statement for SLP and AuD Assistants. This can be found on the MSHA website. The Board also approved a budget allowing the MSHA Board to work with an attorney to create a MSHA Foundation. This foundation will require a separate financial report and bylaws. The end result will allow donors to receive a tax deduction for their donations to Student Scholarships and Community Outreach. We have received over 200 responses to our Caseload Survey. It is not too late to return yours. The data will appear on the MSHA website in 2019.

**MSHA will host a luncheon for MT Legislators in the Capitol Rotunda on February 5th from 11:00am-1:00pm. Please plan to join us as we connect with our Senators and Representatives.**

I very much appreciate the opportunity to serve as MSHA President this year. It has been my great pleasure to serve with an outstanding board and committee chairs. I look forward to serving as MSHA Past President in 2019. I will continue to work with the MSHA Lobbyist during the upcoming legislative session and serve as MSHA liaison to the Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

Most Sincerely, Lezlie Pearce-Hopper
Fall Convention Summary

Income:
- Registration Income: $17,924.86
- Vendor Income: 1,550.00
- Community Outreach: 1,172.13
- Donation: 100.00
- Scholarship Income: 1,545.15
- Public Relations Income: 299.90
  Total Income: $22,592.04

Expenses:
- Registration Refunds: $445.00
- Speaker Fees and Expenses: 7,670.79
- Hotel, Food & Gratuities: 16,630.65
- Printing: 435.00
  Total Expenses: $25,181.44

Total Profit/Loss: $-2,589.40

Waddell & Reed Portfolio
Balance as of 9-30-2018: $48,608.76

Edward Jones Portfolio
Balance as of 9-28-2018: $49,460.63

Please thank everyone you know that helped out with this convention from working registration tables, deciding on speakers, and dealing with all the infinite details… this is a lot of work. Thanks to everyone who helped with this years’ Fall Convention. Lezlie deserves extra special thanks… Thank You.


Special thanks to our MSHA Fall Convention Speakers:
MSHA Conference Evaluation

55/65 Conference Evaluation forms were completed.
Data for each section follow. #1 Poor - #5 Excellent:

- Overall conference evaluation: 4.62
- This event will help me perform my job more effectively: 4.35
- Information presented met my expectations: 4.45
- Conference was at the education level I expected: 4.56
- Conference content matched description: 4.61
- Conference length relative to amount of content: 4.55
- Would you recommend this event to a friend or colleague: 4.60

The Community Outreach Application can be found on the MSHA website. Currently there is $1,679.24 available in this fund.

The Scholarship Fund Balance is currently at $2,972.97. Two scholarships were awarded at the MSHA Convention in October.
MSHA scholarships have been awarded to the following recipients: Haley Nelson and Marley Niland. Both awards were $750. Congratulations!

Silent Auction Donors—Thank you :) Thank you to these individuals and organizations for the donations made to the Silent Auction MSHA Fund Raiser… Thank you for your support of the Community Outreach Program and also the Scholarship Program.

1st Impressions Salon, Carol Morse, Eve Tolbert, Jennifer Pierce, Kathleen DeLapp-Cohn, Lezlie Pearce-Hopper, Lynnette Heinzen/Christina Hansen, Marilyn Thaden - Tongue River Winery, MSHA, NSSLHA, Nancy Rice, Rachel Stansberry, Scott Stansberry, Kitty Griffin - State of the Heart Therapy, Sue Bressler, Suzanne Wood, T. Olson, and Whitefish Mountain Resort.
Conference Evaluation Comments

Comments on the Conference:
* Best information and presenters and venue in years…!
* Excellent location—rooms and conference was comfortable.
* Conference space was crowded and often had to bring in extra chairs. I would have liked some of Friday speakers on Thursday.
* I would like to see more presenters from other stats.
* Set-up allowed for more socializing which was nice. Great unexpected topics.
* Good timing with lunch. Loved the interaction and meeting new people. Food was average.
* Enjoyed my first MSHA conference. I can’t wait to come back.
* Better planning time needed for ‘big ticket’ topic speakers. Very engaging hands on speaker.
* Well done! Schools & Medical were both represented. The food was a plus! I welcomed the fun events!
* Great setting, well organized.
* Top speakers were dynamic, informative, and engaging in their topic areas and going after atypical topics. Guess I’m still looking for outsiders. Very nice. This location is so much better than last year!! The documents in the Google Drive were really helpful. Great speakers! Fabulous!
* I enjoyed the experience as a student. I felt just as included and relevant as the clinicians and I learned a lot from all of the speakers. The conference was put together very well- run smoothly.
* Overall, I thought the conference and location were really great. Helena is a nice central location for traveling. An excellent conference! Day 2 and 3 Rocked it!
* Great food & socializing. Wonderful hotel.
* Great, one of the best in a long time. Venue was so far away from restaurants, shopping, etc.
* Excellent and heart-warming planning. Content research-based with excellent presenters.
* I am a new speech aide and also a special education teacher, very good info for both areas.

Ideas/Suggestions for 2019:
* Consider private practice SLPs and how they can glean information that would further collaboration between private and public school service practices.
* Plan better for # of attendees at each speaker so we have enough room! Overall excellent 3 days!!! Hard to stay on Saturday but worth it!!!
* Loved the mini conference book with all info included.
* Phonological processes, brain stuff, big presenters should be on different days.
* Earlier Promotions. Shorter conference. Two day conference.
* Augmentative Communication. Assistive Technology.
* AAC; trauma/poverty/other environmental factors that affect speech/language.
* Dysphagia for beginners. Advocacy. Burn out.
* Continue Medical Presentations and Adult topics, please! Esophageal Dysphagia topic would be helpful next year Theresa Richards?
* Keep up the good work! Enhancement of the SLP clinician to advance efficacy & quality of services for patients—and to decrease “burn out’’ for our professionals
* It may be nice to have less speakers in a day, and instead have speakers who spend the entire day on a topic, so more detailed information can be presented on one topic. Also, would love a speaker presenting about early intervention treatment.
* Continue to request speakers provide clearly defined tips, strategies and tools that can be implemented in our daily practice. Appreciated free time to reconnect with friends.
* I appreciated our lunch break allowing us to get in “before the lunch crowd”. A few lunch spot suggestions from locals would have been greatly appreciated as well.
* Bring Tal back, I would love a session on Apraxia.
* Put Silent Auction back with Thursday night events. Helena is a very expensive town.
MSHA recognized the following 9 individuals and/or organizations at the Fall 2018 MSHA Convention in Helena. Recipients were as follows:
Organizational Award: **First Interstate Bank of Helena and Kalispell Regional Medical Center**
MSHA Service Award: **Anne Juel**
Supervision Award: **Carol Morse**
Meritorious Award: **Kristy Foss**
Laura Jo McKamey Award: **Carol Morse**
MSHA Achievement Award: **Annalee Anderson**
Undergraduate Student Clinical Achievement award: **Rob Wycoff**
Graduate Student Clinical Achievement award: **Lisa Kilsdonk and Kathleen Cotter**
Undergraduate Research Award: **Carley Stone**
Graduate Research Award: **Anya Leyhe**

Full Honors Details are available for viewing on the MSHA website.

Congratulations to the 2018 MSHA Honors recipients! We appreciate all you have done and continue to do for individuals with communication impairments and our professions.

**HONORS**
**Background and Impetus for Bill**

At present approximately half of the states offer licensure for speech-language pathology and audiology assistants. Montana only offers registration pursuant to MCA 37-15-313, with the burden of oversight and training falling on the supervising professionals. By 2020, ASHA plans to have in place national licensure for speech-language pathology and audiology assistants. Moving towards licensure of assistants in Montana would put Montana in line with national trends.

**Bill Summary**

The bill draft proposes to eliminate the term “aide” from Title 37, Chapter 15, Part 3 (SLP and Aud. Licensure) and use only the term “assistant.” MCA 37-15-301 would be amended to require licensure for assistants. Application forms would be as prescribed by the Department of Labor and Industry (working with the licensure board) as per MCA 37-15-302. MCA 37-15-303 requires academic, clinical, and professional experience and examination as set by the board, while 37-15-307 would allow the board to set licensure fees. MCA 37-15-311 would be amended to include assistants in the prohibition on license taxes. Finally, MCA 37-15-313 (registration) would be repealed.

**Rationale**

The bill purpose is to grant the Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists authority over assistants and, while not relieving overseeing professionals from oversight duty, putting the onus on assistants to comply with licensure requirements. By granting the board authority over licensure, renewals, and discipline, the bill offers greater consumer protection, which is the ultimate purpose of the board, while maintaining access to services that assistants currently provide, particularly in rural areas of Montana. The specific requirements for licensure are left up to the Board to determine in rulemaking so that licensure requirements may be updated to reflect changes in technology and education.

**Support**

The Montana Speech-Language Hearing Association supports the bill as proposed. The Montana Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists has voted to support the bill pending governor approval and has asked that the bill address in some way some sort of grandfathering of existing assistants. Rep. Moffie Funk has agreed to put in the bill draft request and carry the bill in the 2019 Montana Legislature.

Submitted by: Abigail St. Lawrence, MSHA Lobbyist
University of Montana Report

We have several exciting things to share from the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at the University of Montana!

The SLHS Department contributed at the 2018 ASHA Convention this fall in Boston by offering 9 presentations! ASHA members can access convention handouts on the ASHA Convention website. Search for UM Authors: Alonzo, Collins, Glaspey, Meaux, Schoffer Closson, & Wolter, and students Haley Nelson, Anya Leyhe, & Malley Kline; or by Sessions: 6089, 1413, 1740, 8099, 7866, 8094, 1570, 1701, 1855, 4531.

We were bursting at the seams with pride as our very own, Julie Wolter, was awarded ASHA, Fellowship of the Association, in front of a record-breaking attendance at the 2018 ASHA convention. “Fellowship is one of the highest honors the Association bestows. To be awarded Fellow, the nominee must have made outstanding contributions to the discipline of communication sciences and disorders.”

Also at ASHA, Amy Glaspey debuted her nationally normed standardized dynamic assessment: The Glaspey Dynamic Assessment of Phonology (GDAP) and participated in an author “meet and greet.” The new measure is in the final stages of editing and will be available in February.

The SLHS Department is accepting rolling admissions for Ph.D. applications. Al Yonovitz is retiring at the end of spring semester and we have a position open.

Some of your current board members listed from Top to Bottom: Marilyn Thaden, Jessica Reynolds, Sharlene Schmidt, Emily Stafslien, Amy Glaspey, Kathleen De-Lapp-Cohn, Kristy Foss, Shelby Midboe, Lezlie Pearce-Hopper

MSHA Board Members urge you to read the updated SLPA Bill Draft that is being proposed for this upcoming Legislative Session. This can be downloaded and reviewed from the home page of the MSHA website… www.mshaonline.org

Please contact MSHA if you have any questions!
Need to Update Your Membership? If your information has changed please email msha@fmdh.org so those changes can be made in the database.

**Full Membership (licensed or equivalent) - $75.00**
**Aide/Assistant—$25.00**
**Student Membership—$25.00**

Membership dues include January 1 through December 31 of each year

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name: ______________________________________ Phone: ______________________

Address:  ___________________________________________________________________

City: _________________ State: ______ Zip: _________

Current email: ______________________________________________________________

**EMPLOYER INFORMATION**

Name: ______________________________________ Phone: ______________________

Address:  ___________________________________________________________________

City: _________________ State: ______ Zip: _________

Please circle all that apply:  SLP  AUD  DUAL  AIDE/ASSISTANT  STUDENT

HOSPITAL  SCHOOL  PRIVATE PRACTICE  OTHER: _________

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)?: ____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution to Community Outreach</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Outreach is a MSHA program that provides modest grants to clients of speech pathologists and audiologists for funding materials or equipment necessary for our clients to reach their potential.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dues (Full Membership $75.00))</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues (Aide/Assistant or Student $25.00)</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Community Outreach</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**: $
How many MSHA members do we have currently?

12 Audiologists
2 Dual (Speech Pathologist/Audiologist)
84 Speech Pathologists
34 Students
2 Speech aides

Please remember to update your membership for the year 2019! We appreciate your support.