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The OSHA Communicator is a publication of the Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association and is edited by **OSHA Publications Chair Daniela DeYoung**. If you are interested in submitting an article or advertising in the newsletter, contact the [OSHA office](#).

## New Year, New “Membership” Year

By Karen Aguilera, OSHA President



*“Change is Constant, Change is Inevitable”*  
-Benjamin Disraeli

A new year is a great time for fresh starts and renewal, and it is also a very good time to make positive changes. OSHA has implemented a new membership policy designed to help alleviate confusion about when an individual’s membership begins and when it expires. This change will ensure that everyone who joins as a new member will receive a full year of OSHA membership.

### What is the change?

OSHA now has the technical capability to implement what we call a “rolling membership year”. Beginning in 2016, when an individual joins OSHA for the first time, the “membership year” will commence on the date when the renewal payment has been received by OSHA and will expire one year from that date. That date will become the new member’s annual “renewal date” going forward.

### Whom will the change affect?

The change will affect new members who join throughout the year, including new graduates who choose to take advantage of a free year of membership.

Members who are up-to-date on their dues will not experience any change. If you are a current OSHA member, your “membership year” began on November 1, 2015 and will expire October 31, 2016. November 1 will continue to be your “renewal date” in coming years.

Lapsed members can renew at any time by paying the annual dues. A reinstated membership will continue to expire on October 31, and the new membership year for reinstated members will begin again on November 1.

### Will I still receive my membership discount for the annual conference?

Current members, and anyone who joins or renews prior to the October conference, will continue to enjoy the membership discount for conference registration. You will receive an email from OSHA staff with a renewal invoice prior to the expiration date of your membership. Invoices for membership renewal and conference registration will continue to be sent separately.

### Why the change?

Several years ago, technical issues made it necessary to send the membership renewal notices separately from the annual conference registration, which is now largely handled online.

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# 2016 Legislative Update

By Kathy de Domingo, President Elect and Legislative Chair

Legislative affairs is a great example of how OSHA is able to have an impact on our professional lives. Recently an issue brought to our attention right before our annual conference in 2015 was able to be presented to the Oregon Legislature for consideration in the form of a bill to be addressed in the short session which began on Monday, February 1, 2016. Under the guidance of Genoa Ingram and the team at Court Street Consulting, we were able to present testimony in January at an Interim Committee meeting that eventually became [House Bill 4022](#). The bill was written so it would allow Speech Language Pathologists (SLP) who are currently retired and drawing their PERS benefits, to continue to work up to 1040 hours per year. The bill was passed unanimously out of the House Education Committee for a vote by the Oregon House of Representatives on February 3, 2016. [Representative Margaret Doherty](#), who is the Chair of the Committee, championed this bill for SLPs. The law that allowed this practice for retirees in the past expired at the end of 2015, and, if HB 4022 is passed by the Senate and signed by the Governor, will extend this practice to 2025.

Written testimony was provided in the [House Education Committee](#) by John Tracy, Ph.D., MPH, CCC-SLP, and Kassie Wynveen, a former SLP and now the Program Administrator in the South Coast ESD. Both were able to paint a vivid picture of our history of staffing shortages in rural areas, as well as our continuing challenges in our local area. Donna Woods, who is one of the SLPs who brought this issue to our attention, was able to testify in person before the House Committee about why this is such a tremendous need. Highlighting what our three graduate programs have done to increase the number of new professionals in the field, as well as the SLPA program, I believe was helpful in the establishing the committee members' understanding of the issue, and that, as a profession, we are not just waiting for the State of Oregon to solve this problem for us. Rep. Doherty's knowledge of both our history and our challenges was also of great help. As she reminded those present, she worked her way through PSU in the Speech & Hearing Clinic, where she earned a degree in Speech Communication and Theatre. We also had the support of the Coalition of School Administrators and the [Oregon Education Association](#), so we would like to extend our thanks to them as well.

The year 2017 will include a full six-month session for the Oregon Legislature. If there are issues that you believe may need addressing at the state level, please do not hesitate to let us know. The position of Legislative Chair is now open, so if you have an interest in this area, please alert us about that interest. If you are intrigued but not sure you know how to get started, we've got former Legislative Chairs, Past Presidents, and others who have filled this role and are ready and eager to serve as mentors. We also have wonderful professionals at [Court Street Consulting](#) who can also help, so don't be afraid to make your voice heard on behalf of our profession and the individuals and families we serve!

## Call for Papers—2016 OSHA Conference

by Karen McLaughlin, Vice President Science & Education

This is just a quick note to update everyone on our fall conference. Most importantly, the Call for Papers will go out at the beginning of March, with the [deadline for submissions on April 18<sup>th</sup>](#). Last year, we had a wonderful variety of topics on Saturday, due to such great membership response, and the proposals and subsequent presentations were of excellent quality. I am certain we can repeat that in 2016!

For those of you submitting for the ASHA convention, please consider submitting to OSHA as well. Our call for papers deadline is about a week after the ASHA deadline in order to give you time to do both.



I am working on securing Friday speakers, and will have more updates with the next newsletter. **For now, save the date - October 14-15, 2016 at the Salem Conference Center!**

# Dear Colleague... from the US Department of Education

The United States Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services has published a Dear Colleague letter to help clarify, support, and define the role of speech language pathologist in regard to evaluating and delivering services to children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The Dear Colleague letter was developed in response to the growing concerns that, in some cases, speech language pathologists were not included as active members of the IEP or IFSP teams. Dated July 6, the letter begins:



*Dear Colleague: It has come to our attention that there are concerns in the field regarding services delivered to children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). In particular, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has received reports that a growing number of children with ASD may not be receiving needed speech and language services, and that speech-language pathologists and other appropriate professionals may not be included in evaluation and eligibility determinations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B, or in meetings to develop the individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family service plan (IFSP) under both Parts B and C of IDEA. Some IDEA programs may be including applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapists exclusively without including, or considering input from, speech language pathologists and other professionals who provide different types of specific therapies that may be appropriate for children with ASD when identifying IDEA services for children with ASD.*

To read the published letter in its entirety, please click this link: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/dclspeechlanguageautism0706153q2015.pdf>

## First Annual OSHA Spring Conference

By Rik Lemoncello

As a benefit to our members who may not participate as frequently in our annual fall conference, the OSHA Board is trying something new this year. The fall conference, every October, rotates locations between Eugene, Salem, and Portland, all along the I-5 corridor. As part of our effort to reach out and support our affiliate members, many of whom are in Eastern, Central, and Southern Oregon, we've decided to host a first annual spring conference specifically for clinicians, particularly those in more rural and remote parts of Oregon.

Dr. Amy Donaldson (Associate Professor at Portland State University) will present a one-day, interactive workshop on Friday, March 4, 2016, in Pendleton, Oregon, entitled: *Promoting Social Competence in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. The interactive workshop will present information about evidence-based interventions for social communication, including video modeling and peer mediation. Breakout sessions will be included to allow learners to practice the skills, ask questions, and develop competency with these therapy approaches.

The presentation from the InterMountain ESD in Pendleton will stream live to other ESD offices around the state. As I write this, twelve other districts have signed up to participate, including: Columbia Regional, Douglas, Grant, Harney, High Desert, Lake, Linn-Benton, Malheur, North Central, Northwest Regional, Southern, and Willamette ESDs. Clinicians in these districts will gather at their local ESD offices to participate in the workshop and interact with each other, and the presenter, as well as clinicians in other districts via video streaming software. This workshop is appropriate for SLPs, SLP-As, OTs, educators, and anyone else working on social competence with children affected by ASD.

Cost to participate for OSHA members is \$25 before the early-bird deadline on February 19. After that date, the fee will rise to \$35. Non-members pay an additional \$10. This course is offered for 4½ hours of continuing education (0.45 ASHA CEUs).

Individual clinicians must participate at one of the participating ESD sites to access the live stream and engage in networking and collaborative activities. If you would like your district to participate, please contact your district head, and ask them to contact Robin Shobe at the Oregon Department of Education (Email: [Robin.Shobe@state.or.us](mailto:Robin.Shobe@state.or.us)).

For more information about this conference and to register online, please visit the OSHA Web site at: <http://www.oregonspeechandhearing.org>.

# Welcome New OSHA Board Member!

My name is Dani Owen and I recently accepted the position of Membership Chair for OSHA. As part of the Membership team, I want to encourage more speech-language pathologists and audiologists to join and participate in our organization and start connecting us in a more meaningful and productive way.



I am an SLP who moved to Portland one year ago from Houston, Texas. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin and my graduate degree from the University of Houston.

My clinical background includes work in private and public schools, as well as private clinics. I now work at my own pediatric private practice, The Portland Speech Clinic.

I am grateful to be serving on the OSHA board with so many individuals who are so passionate about our field.

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## What's Happening on the Schools Front?

by **Debra Levinson, SP Schools Based Professional Affiliate**

Those of us who work in schools carry a heavy load. I was genuinely touched and deeply grateful for the level of support I found from the OSHA Board at our meeting January 23. I want our school-based SLPs to know that OSHA hears us. At the Board meeting, I shared results of the survey from our OSHA Conference School-based Issues roundtable, which I co-facilitated with Teresa Roberts, another OSHA Board member. Response to the survey question, "What is the #1 barrier to your feeling successful?" No drum roll needed: caseload size and accompanying burden of paperwork.

### **Support requested from OSHA by roundtable participants:**

#### *Public-schools specific lobbying to limit caseload size:*

- Kathy de Domingo, OSHA's Legislative Chair, offered to bring this issue to the attention of legislators during the next session.
- OSHA President Karen Aguilera (also a school-based SLP) has proposed a Legislative Day for SLPs and audiologists to educate legislators about what we do.
- Claudia Meyer, OSHA Board rep from PSU, offered one of her graduate students to look into how other states have successfully dealt with this issue and offered an undergraduate brigade to do leg-work for upcoming school-based projects.

#### *Navigating the Teacher Evaluation*

- President Aguilera has suggested using [ASHA's PACE document](#) for this.

#### *Information for advocacy with administrators*

- In December I met with Corinne Thomas-Kersting, OSHA Region 2 rep, Janet Wagner, ASHA SEAL for Oregon, and Robin Shobe, an SLP who works for ODE. As a result of that meeting, I will be co-presenting with Robin at the [COSA Special Ed Conference](#) in June.
- Another outcome of the meeting is a proposed ODE/OSHA collaborative letter to all Special Ed Directors in the state reminding them of ASHA's recommended caseload limits and the ramifications of exceeding those recommendations. Janet suggested at the Board meeting that we actually make this a series of brief letters building on the topic of caseload limits. Our first letter is in the works.
- Rik Lemoncello, Board representative from Pacific University, has put me in touch with his colleague Gayatri Ram who has an Inter-Professional Education component as part of her school-based practicum program. We need more of these across the state for both teachers and administrators.

[Read More](#)

# Reflections—First Year of Graduate School

Fall is by far one of my favorite times of the year for many reasons, but largely because it marks the beginning of a new academic year. About a year and a half ago my fellow classmates and I started what was arguably one of the most arduous yet exhilarating academic years of our lives as first year graduate students in PSU's Speech-Language Pathology program. Emotions were running high as we entered our orientation to prepare for the year to come. Few students knew one another, and many were brand new to the area.

So many questions and unknowns swirled about in our heads – What clinic will I be in? How will I know what to do with my client? What will my schedule look like? You want me to study *how* many hours each week? The faculty calmly answered our questions and reassured us that they do this every year. Nonetheless, we remained skeptical that fulfilling their expectations was humanly possible.

Our first few weeks were full of excitement with new classes, new clients in the clinic and getting to know our peers. It was amazing how quickly we grew to know one another! We soon became a family, relying on each other both in and outside of the classroom. After all, we spent more time with our peers than with our loved ones at home!

Fall term flew by quickly. We adapted to our busy schedules and soon hit our stride. We became more and more comfortable with writing lesson plans and SOAP notes in the clinic. We developed our aptitude for reading academic articles. In putting our heads together, we aced our Group Readiness Assessment Tests (GRATs)! Each term brought new and diverse challenges in the classroom and clinic room. We pressed on with the support of our professors, supervisors, and perhaps most importantly, from each other (caffeine and chocolate also helped quite a bit).

[Read More](#)

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## How Mentoring Graduate Students Enriches Your Practice

**By Claudia Meyer, Placement Coordinator and Clinic Director at PSU**

Supervision of graduate students is one of the most rewarding and challenging aspects of our professional lives as speech-language pathologists. I had the opportunity to hear a little more from three Portland area externship supervisors about why they love working with students and why everyone should give it a try:

**Randi Bost, Reynolds Early Childhood Evaluation Team:**

**Why do you supervise graduate students year after year?**

I like the energy of having someone who is new and excited about their career because I am still excited about my career. I like having fresh eyes because it makes me think about how I do things. I think back to the people who mentored me and how important they were for me, especially my CF mentor (Jill Hrdlicka). I am the kind of person who asks a million questions. I called her every day in a panic. She was very calm and matter of fact. She gave me good ideas and encouraged me to be myself. She was open to anything I asked. She is still like that, but now she is teaching me tennis.

**What do you think makes a good supervisor/mentor?**

You have to be flexible and listen. A student needs to feel comfortable around you. I just saw one of my students the other day and she said "you were so scary!" and I said "ME? I am so nice!" She said the first day of her externship I told her "I want a language sample and the MLU - but," she told me "I loved it because you challenged me". I think a student needs to feel like they belong and to know that if they make a mistake, that is okay, it will be a learning experience.

**Thomas Appenzeller, one of Randi's former students, comments on what he learned from her:**

Randi and I would often talk about the job of assessing communication as 'detective work,' and she is a very thorough detective. I learned to be a keen observer from her. I enjoyed working with her so much, because I think Randi really enjoys passing her knowledge on to new clinicians. Also, she is pretty hilarious when she gets going.

[Read More](#)



# 2015 OSHA Award Recipients

By Laretta Manning, OSHA Past President

One of the greatest roles as the past-president of OSHA is bestowing awards to very deserving colleagues. This year, I had the pleasure of presenting awards to the following individuals (included are comments from those who nominated them):



## **Loni Gobel, Speech-Language Pathologist, Aloha – Outstanding Clinician/Teacher**

- “Works diligently to bridge the gap between school and practice”
- “Gives 110% - highly respected by everyone”
- “Has an openness and desire to learn herself”
- “Shows deep compassion for the many students she serves”
- “Has clear expectations and confidence that I would meet those expectations”



## **Amy Wilde – Student Recognition, Pacific University**

- “Outstanding student”
- “Rocks” as a clinician
- “Reflective with a spirit of inquiry”
- “A leader among her peers”



## **Jillie Jennings – Student Recognition, Portland State University**

- “Excellent student”
- “Puts full effort into all aspects of the program”
- “Positive influence on her peers”
- “Cheerful, humble and respectful”



## **Alexis Aiello – Student Recognition, University of Oregon**

- “Consistent ‘can-do’ attitude”
- “Positive energy”
- “Demonstrates excellent critical thinking skills”
- “Her professionalism is an excellent model”

No photo available



## **Sandy Leybold, Executive Director, Board of Examiners of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists – Advocacy Award**

- “Brings agencies and stakeholders together”
- “Amazing ambassador”
- “Champion of Universal Licensure”
- “Patient, with great communication skills”

# 2016 OSHA Awards – Nominate Now!

By Andy McMillin, Honors and Awards Chair

*“Appreciation is a wonderful thing: It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.” - Voltaire*

Recognition is important to us all. Each year at the Fall OSHA conference, we take time to acknowledge and pay tribute to exemplary individuals or organizations across the state. It is time to start thinking about your colleagues and peers who serve as powerful role models or provide valuable inspiration within our professional community. Nominees can be colleagues with whom you work every day, people who have served as your professional mentors, tireless professional advocates, or organizations that support our professions.

The process is simple. A basic description of each award is provided below. More details can be found on the OSHA website. Please consider nominating a worthy colleague or organization today!

## 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.



*Former OSHA President  
Andy McMillan (right) with  
2015 President's Award  
Recipient Paul Terdel.*

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## Volunteering and Student Initiative at PSU

By Malica Ly

Standing in as my sister's sidekick, I accompanied her to a local non-profit organization event which would fulfill our school requirement for community service hours. Having the opportunity to engage with working professionals and develop skills necessary to function within an office was mature and ideal for a high school underclassman wanting to grow up fast. A bit weary of immersing myself into a new environment, I was comforted by the thought of supporting the non-profit's mission, while working alongside my sister. Little did I know that this service experience would set the stage for my growing passion to volunteer and help others. Soon my newfound interest led me to explore other volunteer opportunities such as participating in various road clean ups, food shelter nights, human rights campaigns, and senior home visits, to name a few. In all of my community efforts, one common theme was evident; the idea of bringing positive change to my community. Volunteering encourages a connection to the classroom, peers, and community members, which continually serves to inspire my pursuit of learning.

As a recent returnee from expatriate living and teaching English abroad, I pondered how I would maximize my time in transition to living back at home. Volunteering screamed out to me loud and clear. Each week, I head up the hill to OHSU where I conduct newborn hearing screening assessments. The opportunity presented itself through my basic audiology course. At the time, I thought what better way to further explore concepts learned in class, while helping the community. Through intensive training and an audiology “boot camp,” I now run on autopilot, placing electrodes and headphones on newborn babies to assess the responsiveness of the brainstem and hearing nerve. Fortunately, concepts learned from clinical audiology and human anatomy and physiology have provided a backdrop to all of the technical steps. Though the technical routine typically stays the same, the conversation and time spent interacting with families is always unique. I look forward to explaining the procedure I am set to perform, addressing the concerns of newly inaugurated parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings. In a short, limited amount of time, I am able to achieve a vital component necessary for newborns and their families to expedite the process of going home.

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# Do More Together



## OSHA 2016 Annual Conference

October 14-15, 2016  
Salem, Conference Center



OREGON  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE  
& HEARING  
ASSOCIATION

The Oregon Speech-Language & Hearing Association (OSHA) is dedicated to providing the highest level of communication potential to people of all ages. To learn more about OSHA, click on the links below:

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