



## February 2016 Communicator

### President's Message

Dear MSHA Members,

I cannot believe it is already February 2016! It seems like yesterday I said "YES" to be President-elect and now I graciously take on the job of President. I am excited about this year! We are launching the "Why I said "YES" campaign! I want to know why you said "YES" to many things such as being an Speech/Language Pathologist or Audiologist. Why did you say "YES" to becoming a member of MSHA? Why did you say "YES" to attend a MSHA convention? Why did you say "YES" to serve on a MSHA board or committee? It is easy to say no but when we say "YES" we start out on a journey that allows us grow in ways we never expected. I said "YES" to be President because I wanted to meet others in our profession. I wanted to be part of MSHA. I love being a Speech/Language Pathologist and educating others about our profession; this matters to me. I also was terrified to say "YES". I came up with every excuse in the book, including "I am too busy, I have three kids, and I own a business." I finally realized I am always going to have all of those things but being part of a great organization is important to me too!

Check out The Communicator and see all the great things that are happening! You can also check us out on our website and Facebook!

Thank you to all of the members that make this organization great! Look for opportunities to answer "Why you said "YES" and urge your fellow professionals to SAY "YES" as well!

Sincerely Yours,  
Jennifer Rindal  
2016 MSHA President

**MSHA**  
[www.mshaonline.org](http://www.mshaonline.org)  
Email: [msha@fmdh.org](mailto:msha@fmdh.org)

### Special points of interest:

- *MSHA Review of Membership*
- *Goals for 2016*
- *Fall Convention Summary & Honors*
- *ASHA ACE State Members Recognized*
- *Medical SLP Focus*
- *Committee Reports*
- *"Why I said "YES" Campaign....*
- *SEAL Report shows great school based professional involvement in Montana.*

### MSHA Board Goals for 2016

1. Continue to maintain the high of quality Fall Conference and all MSHA sponsored activities.
2. Partner with MASP for our Fall Conference
3. Maintain membership at 275 and increase active membership.
4. Maintain our involvement and participation at the national level.
5. Be active and involved in all legislative issues that affect MSHA and its members.
6. Be active and supportive of all of our members, including medical and school based professionals, audiologists and student members.
7. Continue to improve communication and involvement with licensure board.

### Save the Date!

**MAG**  
**May 6 - 7, 2016**  
**In Chico Hot Springs**

**U of M Graduation**  
**May 14, 2016**

**MSHA Fall Convention**  
**October 20-22, 2016**  
**Helena, MT**

## ACE Award Recipients from ASHA

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 (70 contact hours) 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.

Name	Award Presented	City, State
Theresa Athman	April 2015	Hamilton, MT
Amy Glaspey	April 2015	Missoula, MT
RoseAnn Moffatt	April & June 2015	Missoula, MT
Carol Morse	July 2015	Billings, MT
Catherine Off	June 2015	Missoula, MT
Kathleen Oros	May & August 2015	Lewistown, MT
Crystal Pardy	June 2015	Billings, MT

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

## StAMP & STAR UPDATE.....

### Effective January 1, 2016 Changes to Montana Medicaid

The following changes to Montana Medicaid are effective January 1, 2016.

#### **Therapies (Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Therapy)**

Effective January 1, 2016, Montana Medicaid Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy will no longer be limited to 40 hours of therapy per state fiscal year. The limits of services have been removed and services will be provided and reimbursed according to a prescription given by an MD. Treatment plans and physician orders must be renewed every 180 days.

If you have questions, please contact Rena Steyaert at either 406-444-4066 or [rsteyaert@mt.gov](mailto:rsteyaert@mt.gov).

**Submitted by: Carol Morse**

**There is a Noisy Toys List for 2015.** The rule of thumb is that if a toy is too loud for you or another adult at arm's length, it is way too loud for little ears. Children tend to hold toys up to their ears, which compounds the issue..... 85 dB HL OR LOWER is the maximum loudness output for safe toys....conservative is better!

Sight & Hearing Association – 1246 University Avenue W., Ste. 226, St. Paul, MN 55104

1-800-992-0424, x11 – [kwebb@sightandhearing.org](mailto:kwebb@sightandhearing.org)

*Founded in 1939, the Sight & Hearing Association is dedicated to enabling lifetime learning by  
Identifying preventable loss of vision and hearing.*

## Scholarship Opportunity...

“Hamilton Relay is seeking scholarship applicants who are graduating high school seniors and are deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind or have difficulty speaking. Awards are in the amount of \$500 and the application deadline is March 1, 2016. For questions, contact Emilie Banasiak at [emilie.banasiak@hamiltonrelay.com](mailto:emilie.banasiak@hamiltonrelay.com). She is the Montana Outreach Coordinator. Applications are available online by going to [www.hamiltonrelay.com](http://www.hamiltonrelay.com) <<https://msdbmail.msdb.mt.gov/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.hamiltonrelay.com/>> . Go to the "corporate" link, and click on "Scholarship 2016 - deadline March 1, 2016."

## Continuing Education Information

Valeria Schmauch is the Continuing Education Administrator for both MSHA sponsored and ASHA sponsored CEUs

State licensure requires 40 hours of continuing education every odd year, and ASHA certification requires 30 hours during each 3-year certification maintenance interval. MSHA sponsored CEUs follow the same standard set by ASHA. Anyone interested in organizing workshops and wish to provide documented attendance and offer CEUs, contact Valeria at [msha.vs.cea2014@gmail.com](mailto:msha.vs.cea2014@gmail.com) and she will send you the necessary forms for documentation.

*Feel free to contact Valeria if you have any questions related to CEUs.*

## MSHA for Audiologists

For reasons that we all are aware of, a vast number of audiologists have, in effect, shunned ASHA and all that it stands for. I understand. I get it. ASHA has been, and continues to be, dominated by SLPs and seemingly works only in their best interests while neglecting the voice of the audiology cohort. This has caused audiologists to search for other avenues and associations, ones where we feel like an important part of the group, ones where our concerns can be addressed, ones where our voices are heard. Again, I get it. I've done exactly the same thing. Unfortunately, I fear that this historically negative view of ASHA has bled into our state associations causing many audiologists to shy away from membership or participation in state activities, conventions, or even supporting causes brought forward by the state association.

Well, my audiology friends, I have excellent news for you. YOUR state association, MSHA, has, is and will continue to do a great deal of work for YOU. Things that matter to YOU. Things that are beneficial for YOU. Let me give you some examples. Does anyone recall a time in Montana when audiologists were required to have not one, but TWO licenses in order to practice? MSHA was instrumental in the separation of the Hearing Aid Dispensers Board which negated the need for the hearing aid dispensing license. This alone has saved each and every practicing audiologist in the state of Montana \$1500 per year.

Recently, MSHA spent many financial and manpower resources lobbying in Helena to enable audiologists and SLPs to bill E&M codes. Guess what? That means more avenues for reimbursement for audiologists. Did any of you renew your license lately? Did you notice that your licensure fee was double what it was the last time you renewed? MSHA has taken up the gauntlet and has been working tirelessly on your behalf to fight this increase. Telepractice is a current buzz word in the industry. While this may seem only to apply to our SLP colleagues, I can see it also benefitting audiologists and their patients. Imagine a network of providers, banded together, who can host a patient in office while you work with your patient remotely. Providers collaborating in this way, in a state as large as ours with vast geographical distances between clinics, offers improved care to all of our patients.

Have you attended a MSHA conference in the recent past? Thanks to the support of our SLP pals and the MSHA Board, we have been able to bring in quality, big name, audiology guru-type speakers to the fall conferences. When was the last time you had folks like Carol Flexer, Doug Beck and this year Jay Hall come to your home state to speak? MSHA makes this possible.

As a fellow audiologist and your current MSHA President-Elect, I am asking for your support of MSHA. This organization does so much for you. Think of how much more we can do with your support and participation. If you aren't a member, become one. If you are a member, get involved! Encourage your colleagues to do the same. Come to the conferences, speak up, and let your voice be heard.

**I promise we are listening.**

Submitted by: Catherine Drescher

## MSHA Honors at Fall Convention 2015 in Billings

The following individuals were recognized:

### Undergraduate Student Clinical Achievement Award

Cailen Bosch

### Graduate Student Clinical Achievement Awards

Melissa Bunch and Jessica McCauley

### Excellence in Supervision Awards

Janis Hayes-Strom and Emily Stafslie

### MSHA Organizational Award

Deb Miller - MT Comprehensive System of Personnel Development—Region 3

### MSHA Meritorious Award

Lucy Hart-Paulson

### MSHA Achievement Award

Pam & Rick Stuckey

### MSHA Service Award

Jennifer Closson

### Laura Jo McKamey Award “Big Purse Award”

Alida Wright



Congratulations to all of these Award Recipients. We appreciate all of your efforts and we applaud your dedication.  
Thank you for everything!

## SAVE the DATE!

Our annual MSHA Fall Convention will be October 20-22, 2016 at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena. We are working on a joint offering with the Montana Association of School Psychologists. Information on speakers coming soon!

## THE DEPARTMENT OF Communicative Sciences & Disorders UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

SCHWA Student Group volunteered for 1694 hours during Fall 2015 semester.

Advocacy Day is scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup>, UC Ballroom. This full-day event features guest speakers and panelists on support services and organizations for clients of speech-language pathology. Free and open to the public.

DeWit RiteCare SCHWA Spring Autism Conference will be March 5. CEU opportunity for professionals that serves as a fundraiser for the DeWit RiteCare Clinic and SCHWA.

Supervision Conference with Lynda Coyle is scheduled for March 18. This event is free for speech-language pathologists and supported by OPI.

The University of Montana Conference for Undergraduate Research is on April 15. Our undergraduate students who are engaged in research present their original research in an adjudicated forum.

UM Graduation is May 14.

## Operation Smile

2015 was a success for Operation Smile U of M, we raised 20 smile surgeries and served over 200 hours within our community. This creative and energetic group of students have raised awareness for quality surgical care and the role that speech-language pathologists play in the post operative treatment of young children who are re-learning how to speak, swallow and smile. This cause is important to us and we are committed to making a difference in the world, one smile at a time. The newly elected officers have already begun their duties are eager to lead this group into the upcoming year.

Laura Allred - Past President

## License Fee News

We continue to work toward our goal of reducing our license fee. Thanks to Leah Jacobsen, Lucy Hart-Paulson, Sharon Dinstel and Tina Berg for serving on the licensure board. Now that there is a complete board, a board training and first board meeting is scheduled for April 28-29 in Helena. MSHA plans to have representation at this meeting to request that the budget be audited, the cost be lowered and/or we change to a two year renewal.

If you would like to be a part of the group receiving updates about the license fee issue, email Rachel at [rachelstansberry@uwalumni.com](mailto:rachelstansberry@uwalumni.com)

## MSHA Memorial Scholarship

Shelby Midboe is the new chair of the Memorial Scholarship Committee! Thanks Shelby! MSHA will once again offer two \$750 scholarships for students studying to be SLPs/Audiologist.

Check the website and Facebook page for the application. If you would like to make a donation to this scholarship please send it to MSHA and write 'scholarship' on your check. We are so thankful to be able to 'pay it forward' by supporting our students!

## WEBSITE

We had 10 responses to our website survey. We had some great suggestions for how to improve the site. We appreciate those of you who use the site to renew your membership!

Watch for updates on our president's blog. If you would like to be a guest blogger, let us know! We also post meeting minutes and convention information on the site.

## MSHA Web Gatherings

Last year, MSHA hosted several 'Telepractice Talks'. These monthly web meetings were offered to help members get started in telepractice. This year, we will continue to meet monthly via the web and we've expanded our offerings. In February, we will be sharing our favorite web based resources for face to face and teletherapy on February 23 at 5:30 pm. We will send the link prior to the meeting and you can also watch for it on Facebook.

## Prevention Committee

Each month MSHA's Prevention Committee has been featuring different topics to provide ideas and resources for awareness and prevention on our MSHA Facebook and Pinterest pages. Here is the list of the remaining months and the featured topics. Please check us out on Facebook and Pinterest.

### MONTHLY TOPICS

February: Swallowing and Voice Disorders Awareness  
 March: Listening Awareness  
 April: Autism Awareness  
 May: Better Speech and Hearing Month  
 June: Aphasia Awareness Month  
 July: Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness  
 August: CAS and Highly Unintelligible Children

## MAG Details

"Just a reminder that the MAG Spring Conference will be held on May 6th and 7th, 2016 at Chico Hot Springs. Oticon will be presenting on Friday, May 6th. There will be a medical strand and a hearing aid strand for the AM/PM sessions. We hope you can join us! To reserve your rooms, call 406-333-4933 and tell them you are with the Montana Audiology Guild. We look forward to seeing you in May!"

Submitted by: Lisa Cannon

## New for Medical Based SLP's.....

## "Come and join the conversations!"

"A new closed, web based forum for medical based SLPs in the state of Montana was just initiated in January. We are a unique group of SLPs with different needs, concerns, and questions than our school based comrades, or even SLPs in other states. Some of us have the privilege of working with other SLPs and a lot of us are by ourselves with no other SLP in their facility. This group was established as a communication forum to support one another especially the lone SLP who doesn't have the support of another SLP!

***We are already 45 members strong and growing weekly!***

***Please contact Kathleen Cohn at [rcna.kdc@gmail.com](mailto:rcna.kdc@gmail.com) and provide your email address and a link will be sent to you to join the group!***

Need to Update Your Membership? If your information has changed please email [msha@fmdh.org](mailto:msha@fmdh.org) so those changes can be made in the database....



PO BOX 1065  
Glasgow, MT 59230

# Montana Speech - Language - Hearing Association

**MEMBERSHIP**

*...Improving communication for life*

**Full Membership (licensed or equivalent) - \$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**

**Mail this form and payment to:  
MSHA; PO Box 1065; Glasgow, MT 59230**

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Current email: \_\_\_\_\_

## EMPLOYER INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Current 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 or the Scholarship Program. These are great ways to help students and clients needing MSHA support.**

Dues (Full Membership \$75.00) or \$125.00	\$
Dues (Aide/Assistant or Student \$25.00)	\$
Contribution to Scholarship Fund	\$
Contribution to Community Outreach	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>

## Why I Said "Yes" .... To Being a MSHA Board Member

I said "Yes" to MSHA because MSHA is my voice. MSHA advocated to bring the CSD program back to UM, they lobbied for telepractice to serve our rural constituents, they are fighting for fee reduction. Alone, I can't make this happen but, as a part of MSHA, I can fight for my profession and my clients.

Jennifer Schoffer Closson  
Missoula, MT

I said "Yes" to joining MSHA: I first joined MSHA to take advantage of the educational activities and opportunities for professional growth that were offered at the convention. Since that time, I continue to join each year for the fellowship and cooperation with other SLPS and AUDs that have similar interests and objectives, especially for the legislative and professional advocacy!

Kathleen DeLapp Cohn  
Billings, MT

I said "Yes" to joining the MSHA board with some encouragement from Joan Smith. Through my years on the MSHA board, I developed some fantastic lasting friendships, discovered the "leader" in me and realized that great things happen when a few people say Why Not!

Diane Simpson  
Fort Shaw, MT

I said "Yes" to MSHA because . . . It never once occurred to me that there was an Option of NOT being a MSHA member. Since I graduated from my Master's program at the University of Oregon, I have always been a member of my state association in every state in which I have worked as a speech-language pathologist. I am a proud Montana resident and a proud MSHA member!

Amy Glaspey  
Missoula, MT

I said "Yes" to MSHA when I first joined in 1989. I said yes again when I started working on the convention planning committee in 1997 and over the years helped organize conventions in Lewistown, Great Falls, Billings, Helena and Chico Hot Springs. I said yes to serving as MSHA president in 2002 and again in 2015. Along the way of connected with so many amazing professionals, made friends and grown as a person. I plan to continue to say YES to MSHA for as long as I can!

Rachel Stansberry  
Lewistown, MT

I said "Yes" to joining MSHA because I wanted to become a part of my professional community. Montana is such a big state that I felt this would be the best way to stay in touch with my colleagues. What I have discovered is that MSHA is a hard-working organization that accomplishes so much on behalf of its members. And, I have made many lifelong friends along the way. I said YES to joining the Board because I wanted to give back to my community and have the opportunity to help MSHA move forward.

Catherine Drescher  
Missoula, MT

I joined MSHA when I first got to Montana in 1999. After getting through the early years with my children I decided that it was time to give back to this organization and that's when I said "Yes" to MSHA. I've been on the board since and I love serving the MSHA members and colleagues. Getting to know the people better is my favorite part.

Sharlene Schmidt  
Glasgow, MT

I said "Yes" to MAG first, which led me to MSHA. If not for the Montana Audiology Guild, it would have taken me longer to connect with MSHA, and I'm so glad that connection was made! It's been an honor to be on the MSHA Board, and I've met other professionals from around the state who are now valued peers. MSHA is an amazing group of energetic, supportive, and motivated people!

Lisa Cannon  
Clancy, MT

### A Look at MSHA Membership

2004: 77

2008: 90

2012: 154

2005: 81

2009: 73

2013: 166

2006: 82

2010: 93

2014: 194

2007: 82

2011: 126

2015: 300

At the start of 2016 we currently have 159 MSHA Members. Lots of renewals are needed to continue our growth. Please renew your membership for 2016 and encourage a friend or colleague to join as well. Together we CAN make a difference!



Montana Speech-Language & Hearing  
Association  
PO Box 1065  
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Phone: 406-228-3530  
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Website: [www.mshaonline.org](http://www.mshaonline.org)  
MSHA on Facebook

*Improving communication for life...*

*Are you a current MSHA Member?  
With your support MSHA  
can do great things!*

## Executive Board Members

Title	Name	Contact Information
President	Jennifer Rindal	<a href="mailto:jrindal@lewistown.k12.mt.us">jrindal@lewistown.k12.mt.us</a>
Past President	Rachel Stansberry	<a href="mailto:rachelstansberry@uwalumni.com">rachelstansberry@uwalumni.com</a>
President Elect	Catherine Drescher	<a href="mailto:cdrescher@rmeec.com">cdrescher@rmeec.com</a>
Secretary	Bridgitte Watters	<a href="mailto:brigittewatters@gmail.com">brigittewatters@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Sharlene Schmidt	<a href="mailto:sharlene.schmidt@fmdh.org">sharlene.schmidt@fmdh.org</a>
Audiology member at large	Lisa Cannon	<a href="mailto:lcannon@msdb.mt.gov">lcannon@msdb.mt.gov</a>
Speech Pathology member at large	Kathleen DeLapp-Cohn	<a href="mailto:delappk@earthlink.net">delappk@earthlink.net</a>
UM—CSD Chair	Amy Glaspey	<a href="mailto:amy.glaspey@umontana.edu">amy.glaspey@umontana.edu</a>
UM—CSD Student Liaison	Sara Schied	<a href="mailto:sarah.schied@umontana.edu">sarah.schied@umontana.edu</a>

How many MSHA members do we have currently?

- 15 Audiologists
- 2 Dual (SLP & AUD)
- 96 Speech Language Pathologists
- 6 Speech Aides
- 40 Students

159

If you have ideas for topics in the Communicator please email  
[sharlene.schmidt@fmdh.org](mailto:sharlene.schmidt@fmdh.org) and share your requests.....