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It has been a busy summer for your PAA board of directors. From legislation to convention planning to transitions on the board, the summer has been busy and productive.

On the legislative front, SB 1342 remains in the Senate Consumer Protection and Licensure Committee. Our lobbyist, Ted Mowatt has been told that this bill is "low on the list..." How do WE make it a priority for our senator's? It comes down to time and money. Write, write, write, call, write.....the summer is a great time to be the squeaky wheel. If you want your licensure act to be updated, then you need to write to your state senator and better yet, ask your patients to write. There are sample letters in the member's section of the PAA website for professionals and consumers. Feel free to edit the letters to your own needs and circumstances. And now about the money, donate what you can to the PAA PAC. It isn't fun, it isn't fair, but the status quo is to the advantage of the ENT organizations that want to keep audiology stuck in the 80's.

Several important transitions on the PAA board have occurred over the summer. With great regret on my part, we accepted the resignations of two valuable board members, Lisa Keen and Maxine Young. Lisa Keen has resigned from her Treasurer's position because she and her family are moving to New Zealand where she will work in an audiology clinic. We wish her and her family the best on their new adventure. Some of you may not be aware that Maxine Young's husband passed away this spring following a sudden and unexpected heart attack. With her usual and amazing grace under the circumstances, Maxine has resigned her position as VP of Government Affairs. Please keep Maxine and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Kelly Kaufman been appointed to fill the remainder of Maxine's term. Judy Albright will take over as Publications Director to fill Kelly's position.

In another milestone transition, the board has hired Wanner and Associates to provide administrative support. This will allow our Treasurer and VP's of Membership and Education to focus on the issues that will benefit the membership of PAA. Wanner and Associates has extensive experience providing administrative and management support to professional organizations and will help PAA continue to grow into the future.

Membership in PAA has been slowly growing, if you are reading this, thank you ever so much for your support. Take a moment and log onto the web site (www.paaudiology.com) and look to see if your colleagues in the area are members. If not, give them a call and ask them to join. It is always great to meet up with other audiologists who you may talk with or refer to, at the annual convention.

Speaking of the convention, by now you have received the convention program and you should definitely plan to attend. Jackie Davie has put together a terrific program covering hearing science to cerumen management, and everything in between. Send in your registration (or register on line), reserve your room and see you in September!

Regards,

Jim Zeigler, Au.D.
2008 President
Pennsylvania Academy of Audiology

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Message from Vice-President - Education - Jackie Davie, Ph.D.

Spring 2008 Education Report submitted by Jackie Davie, Ph.D., VP of Education

The 15th Annual Convention is scheduled for September 25 through 27th, 2008 at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey. This year's keynote speakers will include Dr. Larry Humes, recipient of the 2009 American Academy of Audiology Distinguished Achievement Award for his strong commitment to Audiological research. Dr. Humes will be discussing the impact of hearing loss on speech perception in adults. Our second Keynote address will be from is Dr. Stephen Smith, a leading presenter on Auditory Steady State Response (ASSR). ASSR is an up and coming technology that is an alternative to tone-burst auditory brainstem response.

For those of you in private practice, we have several special sessions on in-office hearing aid repair, fitting assistive devices on adults, cerumen management, private practice management. New to this year's convention will be a session on human resource management. Ms. Brenda Vester, a human resource management specialist, will discuss Intergenerational Communication, a must-hear discussion on issues for improved communication between employees and clients of various generations.

Thursday September 25, 2008

11:00-12:00 pm: Registration

12:00-12:30 pm: Welcome and Opening Remarks

12:30-2:00 pm: KEYNOTE

Session 1. Speech Perception in the Elderly

Larry Humes, Ph.D. Professor, Indiana University

2:30-4:00 pm: Concurrent Sessions

Session 2. Aural Rehabilitation

Sheila Pratt, Ph.D., Professor, University of Pittsburgh

Session 3. Interoperative Monitoring

Mary Dietz, Au.D., Impulse Monitoring

4:00-5:00 pm: Session 4: PA's Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Update

5:00-7:00pm: Opening Night with Exhibitors

Friday September 26, 2008

7:30 - 8:30am: Registration & Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors

9:00-10:30am: KEYNOTE

Session 5: Auditory Steady State Response

Stephen Smith, Au.D., Adjunct Professor, PCO and ASU

11:00-12:30pm: Concurrent Sessions

Session 6: Hearing Science Overview

Diana Emanuel, Ph.D., Professor, Towson University

Session 7: Forensic Audiology: The Expert Witness

Marc Kramer, Ph.D.

12:30-1:30pm: Lunch Banquet/ Business Meeting/ AAA update

2:00 - 3:30pm: Concurrent Sessions

Session 8. Cochlear Implants

Monita Chatterjee, Ph.D., Professor, University of Maryland

Session 9. Hands-On Hearing Aids Repairs

Michael Phillips, Unitron

4:00 - 5:30pm: Concurrent Sessions

Session 10. Aural Rehabilitation and FM Systems

Catherine Liebner, Phonak

Session 11. Hands-On Hearing Aids Repairs

Michael Phillips, Unitron

5:30 - 6:30pm: Session 12: Exhibitor's Forum and Happy Hour

Saturday September 27, 2008

7:30 - 8:30am: Registration & Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors

9:00-10:30am:

Session 13. Cerumen Management Workshop

Jorge Gonzalez, Ph.D., Professor, Bloomsburg University of PA

Session 14. Issues in Private Practice Management

Stephen Seipp, Au.D., Adjunct Professor, Towson University

11:00-12:30pm: Concurrent Sessions

Session 15. Cerumen Management Workshop

Jorge Gonzalez, Ph.D., Bloomsburg University of PA

Session 16. Communication Across the Generations

Brenda Vester, Human Resource Specialist

12:30pm: Adjourn

The 2009 Convention will be back in the Harrisburg Hilton on October 8 through 10th, 2009. We are in preliminary negotiations to bring you speakers focusing on Auditory Processing Assessment and Remediation.

Please remember that the annual convention helps to pay for the majority of PAA's efforts including getting our licensure changed to meet the changes in our field. Please continue to support our convention so we can bring you the best in speakers at reasonable prices.

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Message from Vice-President - Governmental Affairs - Kelly Kaufman, Au.D.

We are continuing to work on the passage of **SB 1342**. With your help, we can make this happen! So please contact your Senators and Congressmen and ask your patients to do the same! Information is posted on the website at www.paaudiology.org.

According to a report received from our Lobbyist, Ted Mowatt, the following new bills were introduced.

It is highly unlikely that any bills introduced at this late date will be able to make it through the process, but may be reintroduced next session.

HB 2727 RE: Health Care Practitioner Identification Badge Act (by Rep. Tom Killion, et al)

Requires a health care practitioner to wear an identification badge when treating a patient, working in a health care facility or when engaged in face-to-face contact with the public in a professional capacity. The bill provides for the type of badge and information displayed on the badge. The badge would be issued by the pertinent board (State Board of Medicine, the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, the State Board of Dentistry, the State Board of Podiatry, the State Board of Nursing, the State Board of Optometry, the State Board of Chiropractic, the State Board of Physical Therapy, the State Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Psychology, the State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language and Hearing, the State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure and the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors). The bill provides for exceptions and alternative badges.

Referred to House Professional Licensure Committee, 8/5/2008

HB 2733 RE: Office for People with Disabilities Act (by Rep. John Maher, et al)

Provides for the establishment of the Office for People with Disabilities within the Office of the Governor. The office would have the power and duty to: (1) Assure that all citizens of PA who have disabilities and their families and guardians have access to adequate and coordinated quality services and programs; (2) Establish interagency agreements and working relationships with other governmental bodies and public and private agencies; (3) Identify gaps in disability services and programs and funding shortages in collaboration with the advisory committee and report this information annually to the Governor and to the General Assembly; (4) Act as a system advocate to expand the availability of disability services and programs and access to generic services and programs; (5) Plan for Statewide improvements in services and programs for persons with disabilities and their families and guardians; (6) Develop and enforce all program requirements and regulations necessary and appropriate for the proper accomplishment of the duties imposed by this act; and (7) Employ an executive director to carry out the duties of this section.

Referred to House Health and Human Services Committee, 8/7/2008

Message from Vice-President - Professional Issues - Melanie Appler, Au.D.

OVR - Thanks to all of your communication with OVR, they have taken the manufacturer's invoice price off the patient copy. Another goal is to remove the mark-up price. Most importantly, some surrounding state's OVR's have a much higher reimbursement to the provider than Pennsylvania. We are working on getting a more substantial mark-up and dispensing and aural rehabilitation fees.

Medicaid Plans - The problem with state plans (i.e. Mercy, Access, Gateway) is that we are losing 50% of kids to follow-up. Pennsylvania needs to have more qualified providers willing to work with these programs. In order to have more audiologists willing to see these patients, there needs to be a reasonable reimbursement within a reasonable time span. Currently, when an audiologist tries to get information from many of these plans, they get the run around and the customer service person does not know about audiology. It would be helpful if we could get one contact for each of the state Medicaid programs. We are in the process of finding out what each plan has to offer.

AuDs and Endz**Message from Vice-President - Membership - MaryLou Astorino, Au.D.**

PAA currently has a total of 273 members. This includes 29 members who are currently students in residential Au.D. programs. Each year, as we approach the annual convention we hope to see an increase in our membership numbers. The PAA Listserv has been active for over two years now and has generated some interesting discussions. Over 152 of our members are currently subscribed to the Listserv. Attendance at annual convention as well as use of the Listserv are only two ways that allow networking among PA audiologists. Comments we have received from many audiologists is that although they may not post onto the Listserv they receive valuable information from reading all the posts. We hope this continues to be an informative service to our members. Please encourage your Audiology colleagues who may not be PAA members, to join your organization. Looking forward to seeing you at convention.

Don't Forget
PAA's 15th Annual Convention
September 25-27, 2008
Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey
4650 Lindle Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111
717-564-5511

See you at the Convention!

AuDs and Endz Newsletter
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