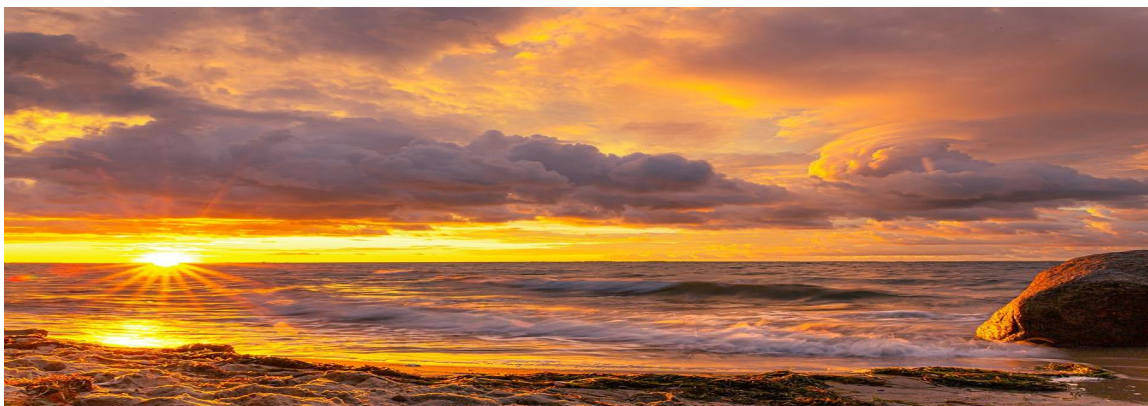




Summer Newsletter June 2021



Letter from the President

Dear Members,

As summer is in full swing, we are so excited about the LIVE convention coming this fall. As our communities continue to get back to normalcy, I cannot wait to celebrate what we have accomplished in person this October. I have learned so much through the pandemic and virtual learning, and one of those things is how much I miss the energy of in-person events.

As we contemplate the last several months, I know that it has forever changed my practice patterns and I would love to know your thoughts as well. Please feel free to send me an email introducing yourself and providing insight about how the pandemic has affected your practice patterns. I can be reached at taaslpresident@gmail.com.

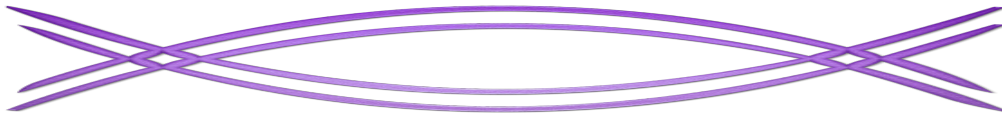
On another note, many of those reading this realize the importance of advocacy. I wanted to share a wonderful presentation from ASHA's Director, State Health Care & Education Affairs, Tim Boyd, presented on advocacy. I hope you enjoy it and can share with graduate students in speech pathology and audiology.

<https://community.asha.org/viewdocument/student-advocacy-video?CommunityKey=2575a51c-fd32-4ecb-a9d8-1723a7a2b5a1&tab=librarydocuments>

Thanks so much for all the work you are doing! Hope to see you TAASLP Convention October 21-22, 2021 at the TAASLP Convention in Franklin Cool Springs Marriott.

-Jennifer Wilson, M.A., CCC-SLP, BCS-S

Advocacy Update!



What is coming up next in the world of advocacy? In the next legislative session, TAASLP will continue to work on telepractice with a shift in focus to making sure there continues to be payment parity provided for telepractice. Our current legislation (SB8003/HB8002), which allows for payment parity, has an ending date of April 2022. TAASLP continues to make moves toward stepping into the ASHA Interstate Compact in the January legislative session as well – we have been so pleased to hear from so many of you about the excitement around the Interstate Compact, and we are excited to start on this project!

TAASLP Advocacy will be working with the Tennessee Department of Education in developing the School SLP survey to be distributed to all Tennessee school districts, with a direction toward gathering information for legislators that will help toward workload/caseload assistance. Also, TAASLP Advocacy will be holding Community of Practice calls geared toward school-based speech pathology services as we work toward different advocacy tools and caseload management.

-Jamie Seek, M.A., CCC-SLP, VP Legislative Affairs

CMS Telehealth Coverage Expansion

It appears that we made some headway, baby steps right? Advocacy is the essential and necessary means by which ASHA and affiliated state associations support and advance the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology in the areas of public policy and popular opinion

Former Speaker of the House James Wright said it best about why advocacy is necessary. "If you are wondering whether or not to communicate your views..., consider that others who disagree with you are doing so constantly."

KEY GOALS

- Secure reintroduction of the Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act
- Obtain expanded coverage of services delivered via telepractice
- Support increased funding for IDEA Parts B and C

Thanks again for all your efforts, passion, patience, flexibility, and enthusiasm!

Paulette Gentry, M.A., CCC-SLP TAASLP Public Schools Chair

Billing for Hearing Aids



TAA is currently working with TAASLP and ASHA to make changes to the way BCBST pays claims for hearing aids. They currently pay invoice only and will not cover service fees for our time to program, dispense or follow up with patients. Ultimately, they pay for us to order and handover the instruments to the patient with no instruction. It is our understanding that very few audiologists in Tennessee are billing for hearing aids without referring to a 3rd party. We are trying to schedule a meeting with BCBST to educate them on the process of ordering and fitting hearing aids which they currently do not understand. We are also asking the State of Tennessee Insurance Commission and our political representatives for their help and guidance since this not only affects us but patients who may find they have nowhere to use their benefits. If you have questions or are willing to share your experience with billing BCBST, please contact us at BoardofTAA@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Wendy Halsey-Richardson, AuD, TAA Private Practice Representative

Time again for nominations for 2021 TAASLP Awards!



If you work with or know a TAASLP member or individual outside of TAASLP who has gone above and beyond in the field to **support, innovate, create, or serve others**...Make sure they are recognized by TAASLP! The 2021 Nominees are now being accepted and will be awarded at our 2021 Convention. ***Nominations are due by September 15, 2021***

The three awards given annually are:

- ★ **Honors of the Association**: Awarded to a member for outstanding service to the Association, outstanding contributions towards the purposes of the Association, or outstanding service to persons with speech language or hearing disorders.
- ★ **Distinguished Service Award**: Awarded to a member or non-member individual(s) or group(s) residing in the state of Tennessee for significant contributions to speech, language, and hearing on a statewide or national basis.
- ★ **Public School Incentive Award**: Awarded to individual TAASLP members in a public school system for providing innovation or exceptional communication services to school-aged children.

Click [here for Nomination Packet 2021](#)

Rachel Barger, M.S., CCC-SLP-Ad Hoc Diversity & Equality Committee

ALSO, The Ad Hoc Diversity & Equality Committee is gearing up for our 2021 Books of H.O.P.E. (Helping Others Promote Equality) Campaign. If you would like to be a part of the Diversity & Equality Committee and help develop our programming for Books of H.O.P.E., our mentor program, and diversity education opportunities for members, we meet monthly via Zoom. Contact Rachel- mal@taaslp.org

Convention Update: How can YOU Contribute?



As previously mentioned, we are looking forward to seeing all of you in person for our annual convention in Franklin TN on October 21-22. We are still in need of presentations across all areas (Audiology, Adult populations, and pediatric populations). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lucas at convention@taaslp.org. We ask that presentations be a minimum of 30 minutes. If you wish to submit a presentation, you can find the link at <https://taasp.memberclicks.net/callforpapers2021#/> or simply go to www.taaslp.org and click on the convention tab. If you, or your company wish to donate to our convention, that link can also be found on the convention home page, or at <https://taasp.memberclicks.net/convention-2021-exhibitor-registration#/>. Lastly, we will need volunteers to help run the convention. If you would like to volunteer your time or would like more information, please contact Lucas at the email listed above. We are looking forward to seeing you in Franklin this year!

-Lucas Magee M.S. CCC-SLP VP Convention

For more updates and information follow us on all social media platforms

[Facebook](#)

[TAASLP \(@taaslp\)](#)

<https://mobile.twitter.com/TAASLP>

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership!

Support speech pathology and audiology in Tennessee through your TAASLP membership. A few benefits of membership include:

- Receive important state and national legislative updates and “advocacy action requests”
- Fund Lobbyists' efforts to advocate for our professions
- Receive discounts on annual convention/continuing education costs
- Help identify and solve problems affecting our fields of practice
- Find out about networking and leadership development opportunities
- Stay up to date on local job postings, research notifications, and continuing education opportunities
- Access the TAASLP newsletter, membership directory, and other resources

Membership reminders are going out soon for colleagues who may not have renewed this year. Unsure of your membership status? E-mail membership@taaslp.org, and we are happy to help. Thank you for your continued support of TAASLP and our professions!

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TAASLP Website Upgrade!

If you have trouble renewing your membership or receive an incorrect renewal reminder, please reach out to Amy Breedlove

TAASLP Chapter Administrator

Amy Breedlove

Phone: 629-255-0870

Address: 1483 N. Mt. Juliet Rd, # 175

Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

info@taaslp.org

Need to join or renew your membership? Click [here to reach the membership portal.](#)

Career Opportunity: Roane County Schools



Roane County Schools, located in East Tennessee, is looking to hire a full-time SLP to join our team for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year!

Job Description:

- Assess, screen and evaluate students and effectively share results with parents and educational staff, and participate in the eligibility determination process in accordance with state, federal and district guidelines.
- Provide direct and consultative speech and language services.
- Develop and implement individual Education Plans for eligible students within a timely manner.
- Maintain ongoing assessments to verify progress towards annual goals.
- Work with school staff to share and demonstrate specific techniques and interventions.
- Maintain records and information concerning individual students in a confidential manner and comply with all FERPA regulations.
- Establish and maintain cooperative professional relationships with administrative and school staff, and families.
- Participate in meetings for the purpose of addressing student goals and needs.
- Maintain all required records for individual students.

- Maintain consistent attendance and conform to regular work hours.
- Travel between multiple schools.
- Perform related duties as assigned by administration.

Qualifications:

- Tennessee Speech Pathology Certification
- Pre-employment drug screening
- Fingerprinting/Background Check

To apply, [click here](#). Further questions or concerns regarding the open position should be directed to Ms. Marti Sparks, Supervisor of Special Education for Roane County Schools. Email: mrsparks@roaneschools.com Phone: (865)376-5592 ext. 1124