A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Change is in the air on a daily basis in Tennessee when it comes to the weather, and this spring has been no exception. Your TAASLP Executive Council also has some changes. The results of the last election are in and I would like to welcome our newest board members:

**Alison Kemph** is our president-Elect. Alison was formerly the VP of Legislative Affairs. She worked tirelessly in her role and I expect that her future role as the president of TAASLP will be met with the same energy.

**Brittany Day** is new to our board as the VP of Legislative Affairs. She takes on this challenging and rewarding position to work closely with our lobbyist, John Williams in order to advocate for things that matter to us as professionals. Welcome Brittany! We look forward to working with you.

**Becky Brown** is also new to our board as the Member-at-Large. We also look forward to working with you, Becky!

**Kathleen O’Neal** is the new student delegate. She is a M.S. candidate from Vanderbilt University in Speech-Language Pathology. Welcome to the team!

2017 was a very successful year for TAASLP as we enjoyed another fantastic convention. We are already off to a great start in 2018 with regard to our lobbying efforts at Day on the Hill to eradicate the PPT. Please continue to reach out to your law-makers. There is an election on the horizon for Governor – what a great time to let those candidates know that PPT is important to us!

In the busyness that intrudes on many of my colleagues this time of year, I hope that you will remember to take time to enjoy life. Self-care is so important to prevent burn-out in our profession. Go for a walk... enjoy the sunshine... spend time with loved ones.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Conger, M.S. CCC-SLP
TAASLP President
We had another successful Convention this past Fall! The 25th Annual Joint Convention of TAASLP & TAA was held in Knoxville, TN and attended by over 200 speech pathologists, audiologists, and students. Attendees participated in two days of engaging breakout sessions, networked with their peers and 23 vendors, rooted for their alma mater in the College Bowl Challenge, and congratulated members awarded for their dedicated service to the professions of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. A big thank you, in particular, to our wonderful featured speakers, our enthusiastic student volunteers, and our tireless convention committee and executive council for your masterful planning and leadership skills.

Mark your calendars for this year’s upcoming Convention. It will be held at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro, TN on October 18th and 19th. This year’s Convention is sure to be full of enriching talks, fellowship among colleagues, and lasting memories. Keep an eye out for upcoming emails with updates on this year’s Convention. We hope to see you there!

2017 TAASLP Foundation Student Scholarship Winners: Virginia Acosta, AuD and Denise Schmidt, SLP
In Picture: Beth Humphreys, TAASLP Foundation Chair and Virginia Acosta
2017 College and Spirit Bowl

**College Bowl Champions:**
1st Place - University of Tennessee
2nd Place - University of Memphis

**Spirit Bowl Champions:**
Vanderbilt University
Advocacy Update

Brittany Day, AuD, CCC-A
Vice President of Legislative Affairs

On March 6, 2018, TAASLP members and students spent the day at the newly renovated Cordell Hull building for a Day on the Hill to discuss phasing out of the Professional Privilege Tax with legislators. The day started with TAASLP lobbyist, John Williams, briefing attendees on the history of and key points of discussion in regard to the PPT. Then, members met face-to-face with 20 legislators and hand delivered personal notes and literature to an approximately 20 additional legislators, all of which are members of the State or House Finance Committees and are influential in the PPT conversation. Overall, legislators are sympathetic to the unjustness of the PPT, but are hesitant to repeal the tax due to large financial note attached to it. It was repeatedly made clear that legislators need to hear from their constituents on the issue. Again, thank you to everyone who attended and made Day on the Hill a success!

Currently, there is legislation in both the House (HB41) and Senate (SB132) that would phase out the Professional Privilege Tax by reducing it $80/year over 5 years. Additionally, legislation will be presented to the Senate Revenue Subcommittee by Senator Bryan Kelsey in the coming weeks that would eliminate from the PPT all professions except lawyers, physicians, and stockbrokers at a fiscal cost of $23 million. Communicate your opinions about this to your legislatures! The most influential thing you can do is schedule a meeting with your legislators in your home district to discuss the issue in person. If you have not made the effort to speak personally with your legislators, please do so now. If you need help or resources to plan a meeting, email advocacy@taaslp.org or check out the TAASLP website.

Are you a school-based Speech Language Pathologist who feels their caseload is too large? Do you have information on caseload caps in other states? We are in the beginning stages of examining this issue for Tennessee. If you have an interest in working on this issue, please email advocacy@taaslp.org.

If you have questions about legislation and/or would like to suggest specific legislation for consideration, or if you are interested in participating on the Legislative Committee, please email advocacy@taaslp.org.
Vanderbilt AuD students at Day on the Hill 2018
Meet Our New Board Members

Alison Kemph, AuD, CCC-A  
President-Elect

Becky Brown, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Member at Large
Brittany Day, AuD, CCC-A
Vice President of Legislative Affairs

Kathleen O’Neal
Student Delegate
Vanderbilt University
M.S. Candidate
Speech-Language Pathology
The TAASLP Foundation cordially invites you NOT to attend our Gala that supports Tennessee AuD and SLP student scholarships.

PLEASE GO ONLINE TO DONATE

LEARN about the TAASLP Foundation at: https://taaslp.org/Foundation-Mission.htm

LIKE us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/TAASLPfoundation/

Pictured left to right: Kathie Self, Paulette Gentry, Melissa Grater, Virginia Acosta, Beth Humphrey, and Mary Dale Fitzgerald
26th Annual TAASLP & TAA Conference
October 18 - 19, 2018
Embassy Suites by Hilton, Murfreesboro, TN

Convention features two days of engaging presentations and panel discussions on current issues to the practices of audiology and speech-language pathology. Over 200 professionals and 25 exhibitors attend the TAASLP annual conference for professional development and networking opportunities.

Registration Opens August 6th, 2018

We look forward to seeing YOU in October!

Call for Papers
Opens April 16th and will close on June 29th

- Please submit your abstract (100 words max) and make your contribution to the local speech, language, and hearing community!
- All topics relevant to both the speech and hearing fields will be considered, with presentation times ranging from 30 to 120 minutes.
- The process to submit is simple and available on our website:
  http://taaslp.org/TAASLP-Conference.htm

We would love to hear from you!
2017 Convention Sponsors

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