



Fall Newsletter November 2021



Letter from the President

Dear Members,

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "A stumbling block for the pessimist is a stepping stone to the optimist." In the professionals of Speech Pathology and Audiology, we certainly face stumbling blocks but it's really all about how we perceive them, isn't it?

It's an exciting time to be involved in TAASLP. We are so fortunate to have an incredible Executive Council working hard to impact change. We have also been fortunate to work with our gifted lobbyist, Courtney Atnip and Heather Meschell.

Our recent live annual convention, in Franklin Tennessee was chocked full of inspirational speakers in all three focus areas. We have some gifted professionals in our state and we need to continue to support each other through these learning and growing experiences. Please mark your calendars for next year at the Knoxville Hilton in Downtown Knoxville, TN.

Hopefully, over the next year we can perceive and tackle stumbling blocks as we gather our knowledge, wisdom and tools. We can do this through creating a strong front. Please consider joining TAASLP and strengthening our state organization.

-Jennifer Wilson, M.A., CCC-SLP, BCS-S
TAASLP President 2021 -2023



Representation matters.

As our lobbyist, Courtney Atnip, reminded us at our convention: "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." Each year, your membership dues help support the representation of speech pathologists and audiologists to our state legislators.

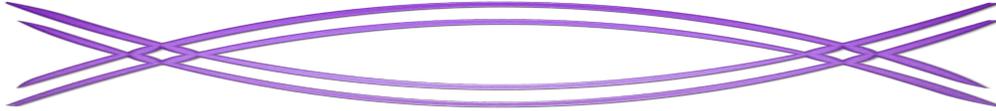
The only way we can make an impact for our professions is with your support! I challenge each TAASLP member to recruit one colleague to join TAASLP before the end of the calendar year. In addition to the very important support to our lobbyists, our membership benefits include:

- Receiving important state and national legislative updates and "advocacy action requests"
- Receiving discounts on annual convention/continuing education costs
- Helping identify and solve problems affecting our fields of practice
- Finding out about networking and leadership development opportunities
- Staying up to date on local job postings, research notifications, and continuing education opportunities
- Accessing the TAASLP newsletter, membership directory, and other resources

Are YOU up for the challenge? Recruit another TAASLP member today! Thank you for your continued support of TAASLP and our professions.

-Andrea Green, AuD, VP Membership

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, so we will need to make sure payment parity is addressed as we move forward.

TAASLP continues to make moves toward stepping into the ASHA Interstate Compact in the January legislative session as well – we will be partnering with the Tennessee OT Association on this legislation, and we are so excited to be able to work on this project for our SLPs and Audiologists in Tennessee!

TAASLP Advocacy will continue to work with the Tennessee Department of Education and the General Assembly on the needs of school SLPs in Tennessee based upon the results of the recent school SLP survey that was conducted and that will be reviewed in the Education Committee in January. Stay tuned for more information about this advocacy effort!

More advocacy efforts that TAASLP will be monitoring along with TAA is the cerumen management bill that could come back up in this upcoming legislative session as well as hearing aid coverage from Blue Cross Blue Shield. The cerumen management legislation would allow for hearing instrument specialists to manage cerumen, which encroaches significantly upon the scope of practice for our Audiologists. Blue Cross Blue Shield currently does not effectively compensate Audiologists for hearing aid services, which is having a detrimental effect not only on Audiologists in Tennessee but also on patients who have BCBS. Stay tuned again for more information as TAASLP and TAA partner on these advocacy efforts!

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

Books of H.O.P.E. is back! Donate a book today!



Participate in TAASLP's Multicultural Book Drive in 2021! Open now through December 31! Scan the QR code above or [Click here](#) to see this year's book titles. Last year we collected and distributed 151 books. Our goal this year is to reach 200! These books will be donated to local Head Start Classrooms and youth outreach agencies across Tennessee. Each book tells an inspiring story to promote positive mindsets across cultures.

-Rachel Barger, M.S., CCC-SLP-Member at Large

Convention Highlights

Thank you to everyone who joined us this year for our annual convention. It was a great success! We had some amazing speakers and fantastic sponsors. Although this year's convention has just wrapped up, we are already planning to make next year's convention even better. So, if you have any feedback that you did not add to your survey, please feel free to send it directly to me at convention@taaslp.org. We look forward to hearing from you soon and we look forward to seeing you all next year in **Knoxville from October 6-7!** Thank you again for all of your support and feedback.

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



Featured Speaker: Jennie Bjorem

TAASLP Foundation President Barb Jacobson and \$2500 TAASLP Foundation Award recipient Talia Liu from Vanderbilt University

Convention VP: Lucas Magee



TAASLP Executive Council & Courtney Atnip-Lobbyist

Speaker: Dominique Kennedy, Atlanta



University of Memphis

University of Tennessee

Spirit Cheer

2021

Tennessee State University

Vanderbilt University

Awards & Honors at TAASLP Convention

TAASLP was proud to honor 7 recipients of Honors and Awards this year at our 2021 Convention. These individuals represent hardwork and dedication to individuals with communication needs. Congratulations to all of our award recipients! [Click here](#) to read their full bios.

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



Not Pictured Above



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