

Winter Issue
February 2022



*Eleanor Roosevelt
said, "The future
belongs to those who
believe in the beauty
of their dreams."*

*Here's to a great year
together making those
dreams a reality!*

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

Thanks so much for the privilege to serve TAASLP. It has been a month of "hitting the ground running" this January. The Executive Council (EC) held its first quarter meeting and members shared goals for the year. Below are my goals during my final year as president of TAASLP.

- 1) Increased social media presence evidenced by shared posts and increased comments regarding posts.
- 2) Progression in passing the Interstate Compact.
- 3) Increased organization of file management systems digitally.
- 4) A successful convention as evidenced by typical convention attendance for Knoxville.

Several board members are moving off the board this January. They did an incredible job and will be greatly missed.

Rachel Barger served as our VP Member at Large and initiated a successful Books of HOPE drive through an ad hoc Equity and Diversity Committee.

Janani Webb, our VP of Communications forwarded social media initiatives and created a seamless system of task organization for her successor.

Jamie Seek, our VP of Legislative Affairs held the first virtual Day on the Hill in 2021 and spent countless hours dedicated to our professions through her committee, the community, and the lobbyists.

Susan Amberg, served as our Secretary Treasurer helping us in a clutch locate a chapter administrator and provide a historical perspective we needed. Thanks so much for the many hours of service!

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

TAASLP President 2021 -2023



To register for DOTH,
please visit

<https://forms.office.com/r/vgErci9wZV>

Visit
taaslp.com/advocacy
to find the schedule!

Advocacy Update!

Save the Date for our virtual TAASLP Day on the Hill: March 1st 8:30am-1:00pm CST.

Tim Boyd will be speaking on Advocacy and the Interstate Compact.

Tim Boyd has served as ASHA's Director of State Health Care and Education Affairs since July 2019. Before joining ASHA, Tim worked on state policy for the National Organization for Rare Disorders and state/federal policy for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF). Tim earned his B.A. in Political Science from the University of California Santa Barbara and an M.P.H. from the George Washington University Milken Institute of Public Health

We are also in need of the following videos to add to presentations for state representatives:



- *Audiologist- pediatrics
- *Audiologist- geriatrics
- *Audiologist- specialty practice
- *Audiologist- graduate student
- *SLP- feeding (pediatrics)
- *SLP- feeding (geriatrics)
- *SLP- speech/language (adults)

Members can share about why they chose their field/area of practice, what a day in the life looks like for them, and/or highlight the impact our professions make on the lives of people in TN.

Videos should be 30 seconds to 1 min in length and can be emailed to me. These will be shared with representatives.

I appreciate your help in finding people interested in sharing a day in the life of an AUD or SLP!

***DOTH is worth up to 4 CEUs**

Jessica M. Lenden-Holt, M.A., CCC-SLP
Vice President of Legislative Affairs

Welcome to our New Executive Council Members

Member-at-Large



Sarai Ward, Ed.D., CCC-SLP is an Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences Disorders at Austin Peay State University. Her areas of expertise are in Cultural Responsiveness and Sensitivity and Bilingualism and Childhood Speech and Language Disorders. She worked for Palm Beach County School District in West Palm Beach, Florida as a multicultural diagnostician and school based bilingual speech-language pathologist for 7 years. She also served families in private practice and home health throughout the course of those years. She is currently finishing her Bilingual Extension Certificate from Columbia University in New York. She is also a peer reviewer for ASHA CEU webinars with Northern Speech-Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations.

VP of Communications



Meagan Spencer received her B.A. in Communication Sciences and Disorders and her M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology from Harding University and her Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership in Higher Education from Abilene Christian University. She is a practicing speech-language pathologist who has mostly been school-based and is now the developer and program coordinator of the CSD program at Freed-Hardeman University. She is also a subject matter expert and adjunct professor for the CSD program at Abilene Christian University Online. She is a 2021 ASHA Distinguished Early Career Professional and was chosen for the 2021 ASHA Faculty Development Institute.

VP of Legislative Affairs



Jessica Lenden-Holt is a bilingual, CCC-SLP living in Johnson City, TN. She has been a speech language pathologist for 14 years and has experience as a speech-language pathologist in schools, hospitals, home health, teletherapy and private practice settings. Jessica was a Whittle Scholar at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville where she earned an Honors degree in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology and an Honors degree in Spanish with an emphasis on Hispanic Studies. Jessica received an MA degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders with an emphasis in Bilingualism/Multiculturalism from the University of Texas-Austin. She has studied abroad in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Peru. Jessica worked as a bilingual SLP on the Texas-Mexico border for seven years before moving back to Tennessee. To date, Jessica has nine published articles related to speech language pathology. She has won several awards related to her work and presented at multiple local and state conferences and at ASHA. Jessica is currently the Sr. Director of Clinical Services for Sidekick Therapy Partners and Owner of Speech Therapy with Lenden-Holt (Teachers Pay Teachers store). In her spare time, she loves creating resources and materials for other SLPs.

Lindsey Eastland, M.S. CCC-SLP

Past President

Membership

As audiologists and speech language pathologists, we love our professions, patients, and mostly importantly, our state community!

Help TAASLP "spread the love" this Valentine's Day by recruiting a co-worker or friend to become a TAASLP member. In addition to the very important support to our lobbyists, our membership benefits include:

***Make a difference in
your profession and
your state with
TAASLP
membership!***

- 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

Thank you for your continued support of TAASLP and our professions.

Andrea Green, AuD
VP of Membership



Explore These Avenues to Cultural Responsiveness

**Learn more about
Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion**



What is the importance of cultural responsiveness in your practice or workplace setting? ASHA Guidelines ([asha.org/practice-portal](https://www.asha.org/practice-portal)) states that cultural competence in service delivery is increasingly important in our profession in order to

- respond to demographic changes in the United States;
- eliminate long-standing disparities in the health status of people based on racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds;
- improve the quality of services and health outcomes; and
- meet legislative, regulatory, and accreditation mandates

<https://www.asha.org/>

[about/diversity-equity-inclusion/](#) The TAASLP Ad Hoc Diversity & Equality Committee encourages you to continue your own journey to embracing the cultural backgrounds of the clients and communities we serve. Here are some resources for DEI (Diversity Equity Inclusion):

ASHA Guidelines for Cultural Competence [Details here](#)

ASHA's Book: Exploring Cultural Responsiveness Guided Scenarios for CSD Professionals [Details here](#)

NSSLHA Blog About Handling Uncomfortable Conversations & DEI Bingo Card; [See Blog Here](#)

[ASHA Perspectives Article](#)

Interested in joining the TAASLP Ad Hoc Diversity & Equality Committee?
Email Member at Large Sarai Ward at mal@taaslp.org

Sarai Ward, Ed.D. CCC-SLP
Member-at-Large

Books of Hope

Books of H.O.P.E. 2021 was a success with 57 books donated! Thanks to all who donated at our convention kickoff and the continued support through the end of 2021. We collected 57 books that will be donated to Headstart Programs in Murfreesboro and Chattanooga and AGAPE Youth Services in Memphis.

Congratulations to member Jeanette Brandon who won a 1-year extension of her membership as part of our convention drawing.

Thank you for the gift of H.O.P.E. Helping Others Promote Equality!

**“Anybody can be
great...because
anybody can
serve...”**

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rachel Barger, M.S. CCC-SLP
Committee Chair Awards and Honors

