

2018, Issue I

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The OSHA Communicator is a publication of the Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association and is edited by Marcia Frost, OSHA Publications Chair. If you are interested in submitting an article or advertising in the newsletter, contact the OSHA office at 503-585-0764 or OSHASTaff@gmail.com.



Letter from the President

by Lyndsay Duffus

Resolutions are often made at the start of a new year to improve several aspects of our lives: our bodies, our minds, our relationships. This year I took a different path, with a type of resolution I felt that I could actually complete – one that took the focus off of me personally. I decided to financially contribute to at least

two organizations I truly believe in. Those that I feel are making a difference in the world. In this way, I could feel that I was making a difference – and not feel guilty about (yet again) not meeting my personal goals for the year.

I truly feel that OSHA is that type of organization for speech-language pathologists and audiologists in Oregon – one that can make a meaningful difference in our state and for those that we serve. I see my annual OSHA membership payment as my declaration that I believe in our profession and want to see it thrive and prosper. As President, I see what OSHA is doing and am immensely proud to be a part of it.

In this newsletter, you will find these reminders of why OSHA is important and what it is doing for you every day: amazing continuing education opportunities, such as the Spring conference coming up in March, our annual Fall conference in October and legislative advocacy that makes a concrete difference in how we practice in our state.

Thank you all for your support of OSHA and its mission. For those who have yet to join our member ranks, please take this moment to consider making OSHA one of your organizations to support this year. We cannot do it without you!

Finally, I leave you with my wish for all of you in 2018, a New Year's quote from one of my favorite authors, Neil Gaiman:

“I hope you will have a wonderful year, that you'll dream dangerously and outrageously, that you'll make something that didn't exist before you made it, that you will be loved and that you will be liked, and that you will have people to love and to like in return. And, most importantly (because I think there should be more kindness and more wisdom in the world right now), that you will, when you need to be, be wise, and that you will always be kind.”

Advocacy Corner

Legislature Addresses Many Policy Issues in Short Session

by Genoa Ingram, OSHA Lobbyist

The Oregon Legislature is attempting to accomplish an ambitious agenda before time runs out on the constitutionally capped 35-day “short session.” February 27 is the deadline to hold work sessions (committee votes) on bills, the exceptions being House and Senate Revenue, House and Senate Rules, and the Joint Ways and Means Committees. On February 20, the Senate President issued a memo indicating that *sine die* (final adjournment) is “imminent” and committees are now under one-hour notice for hearings. Two bills of particular interest to OSHA are moving smoothly through the process:

House Bill 4104

HB 4104 will require commercial health insurers to reimburse costs of bilateral cochlear implants, if medically appropriate, including programming and reprogramming expenses, and repair costs. The bill also defines “hearing assistive technology system.” Under HB 4104, health insurers will be required to reimburse for ear molds, replacement ear molds, and hearing assistive technology system for an enrollee who is younger than 19, or 19 to 25 years of age and enrolled in a secondary school or accredited educational institution. Health insurers will also be required to ensure that members have access to pediatric audiologists, provide notice of coverage limits, and offer educational materials describing appropriate technologies.

During testimony before the Senate Committee on Health, Claire Leake, M.S. CCC-SLP, stated, “As a speech and language pathologist who works exclusively with children with hearing loss to help them develop their listening and spoken language skills, I cannot reiterate enough the importance of early diagnosis, early access to sound and quality intervention.”

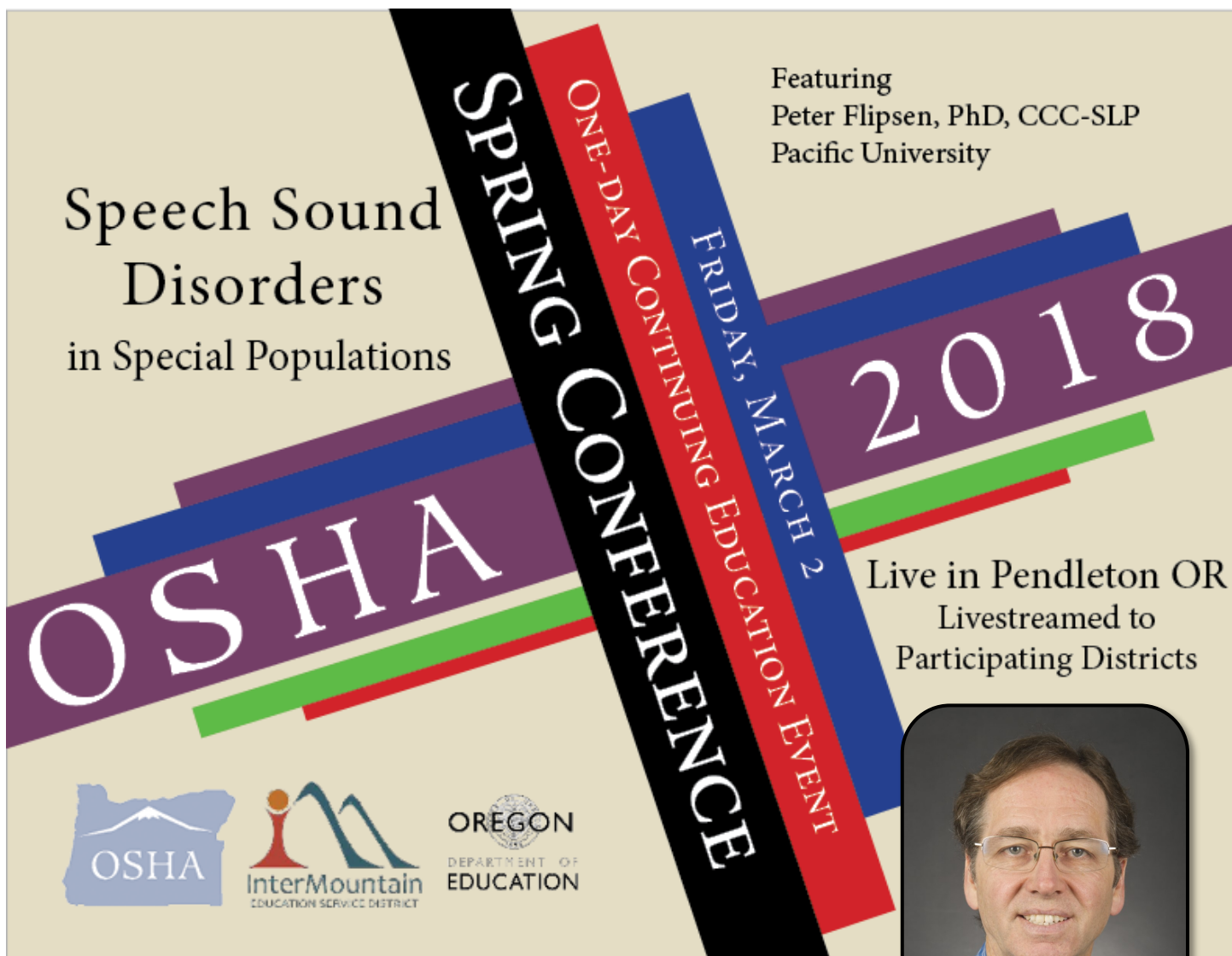
On February 21, HB 4104 passed out of the Senate Committee on Health Care by unanimous vote and was referred to the Senate Floor with a “do pass” recommendation. Since it has already passed the House, it is expected to move quickly to the Governor’s desk for signature.

House Bill 4067

A second bill, **HB 4067**, is a high priority for OSHA. As introduced, this bill proposed to add developmental delays to the list of conditions eligible for special education services, for school-age children under age 10. However, it was amended in Committee to replace “age ten” with “third grade.” OSHA Board member Daniela DeYoung spoke eloquently in favor of the bill when it was heard before the House Committee on Early Childhood and Family Supports. [Click here to see a copy of her testimony.](#)

The session is required by law to end no later than March 11, but legislative leaders are eyeing an adjournment date closer to the first of March.

Are you interested in becoming more involved in OSHA? Would you like to delve more into various aspects of our work? Consider serving on the board! Vacant positions include SLP-A, Medical, and STAMP Representative. To learn more about this exciting opportunity, contact Lyndsay Duffus at laduffus@gmail.com.



Speech Sound Disorders
in Special Populations

Featuring
Peter Flipsen, PhD, CCC-SLP
Pacific University

OSHA

SPRING CONFERENCE

ONE-DAY CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT

FRIDAY, MARCH 2


2018

Live in Pendleton OR
Livestreamed to
Participating Districts

OSHA

InterMountain
EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



2018 OSHA Spring Conference: Reaching Out Across the State

The OSHA Spring Conference will be held live in Pendleton on March 2, 2018. As with the past two years, this event will be livestreamed to participating districts across the state. This year's presenter is Pacific University Professor of Communication Sciences & Disorders [Peter Flipsen](#), Ph.D., S-LP(C), CCC-SLP. He will present on Speech Sound Disorders in Special Populations, with a focus on the unique needs of three populations: older children with persistent speech sound disorders, children with cochlear implants, and children with cleft palate.

This year's presenter is Peter Flipsen, Ph.D., S-LP(C), CCC-SLP, Pacific University Professor of Communication Sciences & Disorders.

This full-day continuing education event will take place live at the [InterMountain ESD](#) in Pendleton, Oregon. Sites across the state will also livestream the event, hosting participants from their local areas. This structure has proven to be a valuable opportunity for professionals in regions across the state to gather, network, and learn from some of the leading experts in their topic areas in Oregon.

The Spring Conference is co-sponsored with the [Oregon Department of Education](#), which maintains the [most current list of participating livestream sites](#), and the [Douglas ESD](#), which has been one of the largest sites for live stream audiences in each of the past two years.

To participate, check to see if your district is already registered as a participating site. If it is, let them know that you would like to attend the event at their site, so they can manage their capacity appropriately. If your local district is not yet registered as a participating site, please contact your district representative to ask if they would be willing to act as a host site. District representatives should contact Robin Shobe at ODE (robin.shobe@state.or.us) for details about registering as a host site.

The OSHA Spring Conference has been an extremely popular event, with attendance exceeding 150 professionals each year across 15-20 participating sites. Please join us on March 2 for this statewide collaborative event.



SAVE THE DATE!

The 2018 OSHA annual fall conference takes place Friday-Saturday, October 12-13, at the Salem Convention Center in Salem, Oregon.

2018 OSHA Annual Fall Conference

by Rik Lemoncello, VP for Science and Education

I am excited to begin my three-year term as your Vice-President for Science and Education and Fall Conference Chair. I have greatly enjoyed participating in the annual OSHA conference as a participant, presenter, conference committee member, and even as a vendor last year.

The annual fall conference is a great opportunity to (re-)connect with colleagues, network, and update knowledge and skills for our practice. In consultation with OSHA President Lindsay Duffus, we have selected a theme based on interprofessional collaborations. I am looking forward to a fabulous fall conference this year and hope to see many of you there!

The **call for papers** will be available online on the OSHA website and the official request will be emailed in March. Proposals will be due by Friday, April 20, 2018. We look forward to reviewing many excellent proposals for session presentations and poster presentations highlighting all the great work happening in our region — especially those that highlight interdisciplinary teamwork.

If you have any specific suggestions for speakers or topics related to our theme of interprofessional collaborations, please feel free to email me at rik.lemoncello@gmail.com.

★ ★ ★ Medicare Update from the STAMP Representative ★ ★ ★

By Melissa Fryer

On January 1, 2018, the Medicare hard therapy cap was implemented for the first time since 2008. In early February 2018 Congress permanently repealed the Medicare Therapy Caps with a more flexible targeted medical review threshold. Additionally Congress permanently extended the Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act, which authorizes the purchase of speech-generating devices!

To learn more about these changes please follow this link: tinyurl.com/MedicareTherapyCapRepealed.

HUMANS OF OSHA *Stories*

Humans of OSHA is a project that has been started by the Communications Committee to learn more about the wide variety of fascinating members who comprise this organization. If you would like to nominate a colleague or you would like to be a featured Human of OSHA, please e-mail Jordan Tinsley at irj230@gmail.com. Thank you for reading, and we look forward to meeting many more members in this unique way!



DeNell Gallagher set her sights on a career in Speech-Language Pathology at 12 years of age.

Name:

DeNell Gallagher

Graduate School:

NOVA Southeastern University

Current work location:

Owner of More Than Words Speech Therapy, LLC in Medford

CFY/previous work experience:

Medford School District, 549C

Why did you choose to become a SLP or Audiologist?

My experience as an /R/ client and my desire to be a teacher or doctor from a young age led me here. When I discovered the field of Speech-Language Pathology at age 12 I felt my interests fit nicely within our large scope of practice and I set my sights on this career path.

What is your favorite part of your job?

Owning a pediatric clinic allows me to create programs to fill holes in the community and meet the direct needs of children in Southern Oregon.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Learning to navigate insurance and running a business while balancing my clinical skills to meet the diverse population in the clinic. Educating the community on tongue ties and their impact on feeding, speech and language, breathing, and dentition.

What is/are your favorite continuing education or patient education resource(s)?

I looking forward to the three conferences I am hosting in Medford this year (pediatric feeding courses by Melanie Potock and Diane Bahr and Beckman's course).

What do you do to relax/decompress?

Walking, reading, taking a bath.

What are your non-SLP passions?

Wine tasting and traveling.

What is your favorite quote?

"Be passionate."



Ethics + OSHA membership = Great triumphs for our professions

by Susan Ginley. M.A., CCC-SLP, Clinical Associate Professor, Portland State University

As the chair of the Ethical Practices Committee on the Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing (OSHA) board, I am tasked to assist other SLPs, SLP-As and AUDs in making ethical judgments as needed. I also believe that I am in a position to help each of us understand how our professional Codes of Ethics and our personal ethics are brought into play every day in relation to our professions. And it is to this end that I am writing about ethics and OSHA membership.

In the literature on ethics, the concept of 'right vs. good' ethical principles is posited and indicates that we must consider both values simultaneously. The term *good* can be applied when we consider the benefits of an action (achieving a goal such as a clinician's goal to enable a client through improved communication, etc.), and the word *right* when we consider "moral rules" (e.g., following rules such as adhering to our licensing boards regulations).

We follow our Code of Ethics and we adhere to our licensing board directives. Contained within these documents are guidelines as to how we should conduct ourselves/work in terms of what is good **and** what is best. In consideration of accomplishing what is best for our clients, for ourselves and for our professions, the ASHA and AAA Code of Ethics documents guide our behaviors with stated principles as to how to safeguard our clients' welfare, how to become and

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Ethics + OSHA membership = Great triumphs for our professions
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remain competent within our field, how to act without a conflict of interest, how to present ourselves without misrepresentation, how to conduct ourselves when in the role of a professional supervisor or instructor, and how to maintain our ethical behavior within professional relationships. These guidelines are a part of our everyday working life.



During the recent board meeting a review of the finances revealed that a decline in membership renewal was attributed as one of the many causes that has led to a decrease in the funds available to the board. Given the organization's mission "*to empower its members and facilitate advocacy for those we serve,*" **this decrease in available funds limits the organization's ability to accomplish our goals.** Additionally, the number of newly certified and licensed SLPs, SLP-As and AUDs has traditionally never been high, which also adds to the decrease in funds. I asked if there was any explanation or theory as to why there was a decline in renewals, and why few new SLPs or AUDs joined OSHA. Of course, members explained that there are many reasons as to why individuals do not renew, or do not renew at a particular time in their life, or do not join at all. As the conversation continued I learned that the percentage of licensed, certified clinicians in the state of Oregon who are also members of OSHA is low—surprisingly low! According to the Board of Examiners for SLP, SLP-A and AUD (BPSA) there are 2,405 licensed AUDs. SLPs and SLP-As in Oregon as of February 1, 2018, (down from 2,805 on December 1, 2017; which may be related to the rolling renewal dates OSHA allows). Of those licensed clinicians, there are currently 392 active members of OSHA and 162 members considered 'pending renewal.' That equals 23 percent of all licensed clinicians in all three categories in Oregon! Yet all SLPs, SLP-As and AUDs in Oregon benefit from the work of OSHA and its board.

So how are OSHA dues and ethics connected? For me the connection arose as I listened to this information and reflected on what is right/good vs. what is best. In this case, the question is what is best for all licensed clinicians in the state of Oregon?

If we use the concepts used in the literature about ethics as we consider the low percentage of OSHA membership, I believe we will see the connection between what is ethically best/good and what is ethically right in terms of professional organization membership. To make an ethical decision we must be informed of the benefits of that option and of the principled rules associated with that choice. With regard to membership in OSHA, we need to be informed of the potential returns on the associated cost. An arrived at solution from the board's discussion is that there is the need for transparency concerning how the use of monies received are used. In this newsletter, you have been given that information. Knowing the benefits we all receive because of the work of OSHA, and how the funds generated from membership dues allows the organization to accomplish these tasks, allows each of us to make the decision as to whether being a paying member of OSHA is cost effective. It is a personal decision and it is a professional decision.

Additionally, becoming informed as to what areas the board has either successfully negotiated on our behalf, or is currently working on is of importance. Each of us has either personally benefited from the work of our organization or we know someone who has. Use the links below to learn more about what OSHA has done for us:

Mission: <http://www.oregonspeechandhearing.org/AboutOsha>

Resources: <http://www.oregonspeechandhearing.org/Clinicians>

Legislative Update: <http://www.oregonspeechandhearing.org/page-1799755> — Log in to view content!



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