

# THE OSHA COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE OREGON SPEECH-LANGUAGE & HEARING ASSOCIATION



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## Letter from the President

By Melissa Link-Cole, OSHA President

As summer is coming to an end and we enter the fall season, OSHA is feverishly getting ready for our fall conference on October 14-15, 2022. This year's theme, "Empowering the Leader Within through Inclusion and Belonging", is one we are embracing as an organization as we look for ways to include professionals from diverse populations not only in membership, but in the leadership of the organization. The work of the Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Committee with the leadership of their chairperson, Melissa Fryer, is integral to the future of our organization and the inclusion of professionals representing our diversity within the OSHA membership and the state of Oregon. I am proud of the work they have completed, especially with the response to the SCOTUS decision overturning Roe v. Wade which they spearheaded. As I reflect on the purpose of this committee, I'm encouraged knowing OSHA is working hard to ensure we are an inclusive organization where all belong.

I am a huge fan of Brené Brown, so while we were brainstorming ideas for the fall conference's theme the word "belong" was at the forefront of my ideas. Brené Brown says the following about belonging, "*Belonging is the innate human desire to be part of something larger than us. Because this yearning is so primal, we often try to acquire it by fitting in and by seeking approval, which are not only hollow substitutes for belonging, but often barriers to it. Because true belonging only happens when we present our authentic, imperfect selves to the world, our sense of belonging can never be greater than our level of self-acceptance.*" In order to belong, one must feel they can truly be themselves and this is done through being empowered and owning your story. Thus, our conference theme encompasses all of these ideas.

We, as a group of audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech-language pathology assistants (including future professionals), have endured many challenges the past two years and we have likely begun to really hone in on what is most important in our lives. Part of that importance for me, is feeling that I belong in the community where I live and among those with whom I work. Each of us brings perspectives, ideas, experiences that are valuable and need to be honored. My hope is that each of you know you belong here, in OSHA, so that you are empowered to lead your clients, students, and/or families in an inclusive manner so they too can find the place where they belong in their community.

If you are feeling led to be involved with OSHA, please email [oshaoregon@gmail.com](mailto:oshaoregon@gmail.com) and we will help you find your place whether it is in a leadership position or on one of our many committees. Everyone has a place at OSHA's table!

# Images in the History of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology in Oregon

Warren E. Johnson

1927-2022

Compiled by Glenn Weybright



Warren E. Johnson, audiologist and longtime executive director of the Portland Center for Hearing and Speech, passed away on June 1, 2022. He was 94 years old and had been retired since 1984.

Warren was born in Gary, Indiana. At age three, he was using a kitchen paring knife in an attempt to cut through a knot in a rope and the knife accidentally slipped and blinded his left eye. In his words, "And so my whole life I have been blind in my left eye. It happened so early I never felt handicapped, and I never really let it affect my life. I haven't really felt like I had a problem."

Warren attended Emerson High School and Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana. As a senior at Wabash College, pursuing a major in Psychology and a minor in general speech, Warren began considering a master's degree. A major paper assignment as a senior exploring the nascent field of speech pathology led to a decision to pursue a master's degree in speech correction. Because it was relatively close to his home, he decided to attend Northwestern University. A chance encounter with another new Northwestern student led Warren to change his major to Audiology with a minor in speech correction. Warren graduated from Northwestern with a master's degree in Audiology in 1950 and took a job with the Constance Brown Society or Better Hearing in Kalamazoo, Michigan, beginning a career that would last until his retirement in 1984.

In 1951 Warren joined the American Speech and Hearing Association (now known as the American Speech Language Hearing Association, or ASHA) and attended his first national convention in Columbus Ohio. While there, he attended a lecture on stuttering by Dr. Wendell Johnson. There is a story involving some identity confusion with the famous stuttering specialist. Warren remembered the event like this: "I went to my first American Speech and Hearing Association convention in 1952. I had a big badge on my chest that said W. Johnson. And one of the speakers at this convention was Dr. Wendell Johnson of the University of Iowa and nationally known as an authority on communication disorders. So, I went to his presentation, because I had done a study of stuttering when I was at Wabash, and I wanted to learn more about it. So, when his talk was over, I came out of the room and was standing just outside the door. And a young woman came gushing up to me, and she said, "Oh, Dr. Johnson I'm sorry I missed your lecture. Would you sign my program?" So, I took it from her, and I wrote W. Johnson, like my badge said. I handed it back to her and said, "If you'll excuse me, I have another appointment." She thought I was Wendell Johnson. Obviously, I wasn't."

Continued on next page...

In 1958, still in Cincinnati, Warren received an offer from the Portland Center for Hearing and Speech to become its new director. After some convincing from Linda, who had family in Oregon, Warren accepted the position and he and Linda and their three children moved to Portland. The center Warren inherited in Portland was an old house in NE Portland and plans had been underway for some time to build a new building. With the help of the Center's Board of Directors and Dr. David DeWeese, the Head of the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Oregon Medical School (now OHSU), a new building was built on the campus of the medical school and dedicated in May of 1962. A second floor was added in 1967. This building became the Portland Center for Hearing and Speech.

In 1965, Warren began a pursuit of a PhD degree in Audiology, finally meeting all requirements and graduating in June of 1970. To enable his doctoral education, he negotiated an agreement with the Center's Board which allowed him a year's leave of absence and payment of half his regular salary. The Board agreed. and continuing through June 1970, Warren enrolled in classes at the University of Oregon Medical School (OHSU) and also on campus at the University of Oregon. During his career Warren had appointments as an Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology at OHSU, as an Instructor in the Teacher of the Deaf Training Program at Lewis and Clark College, and as an adjunct professor in the Speech and Hearing Sciences Program at Portland State University.

Warren was an active member of the Oregon Speech and Hearing Association and served as its president in 1965. He received Honors of the Association in 1973. He was a member of the American Speech Language and Hearing Association from 1951 to 1984 and was named a Fellow of the Association in 1975.

Warren was active in the push for a licensure law in Oregon for audiologists and speech language pathologists and was one of those involved in lobbying the state legislature for its passage in 1973. Later, by appointment from then Oregon governor Vic Atiyeh, Warren served three-year term to the Oregon Board of Examiners of Speech Pathology and Audiology and was its president from 1987 through 1989.

On a personal note, Warren was my boss for ten years from 1974 to 1984. I remember him as the consummate agency developer and director, amiable and effective. He was a capable fund raiser and networker. He walked a tight rope between competing interests on his Board: OHSU, asking for research, the United Way, asking that he serve all in need without regard to ability to pay, and board members who were business owners and executives who wanted the Center to make a profit or at least show balanced books. He was instrumental in educating physicians and other professionals in Oregon about audiology. He was one of Oregon's leaders in our field in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s when our professions were growing and changing rapidly. He was a master at very dry humor and could tell great stories. And he looked after me, especially in the tumultuous last year of my time at the Center, and his last year as Director, when things were changing rapidly.

I will remember him with gratitude and fondness.

- Glenn Weybright



## **Fighting Back Against Medicare Part B Cuts: Lets Do Our Part**

ASHA recently helped craft a letter to US congressional committee leaders “calling on Congress to stop steep cuts to Medicare Part B reimbursement.” This letter was created and signed by more than 100 health care provider organizations and can be found at this link:

<https://www.votervoice.net/iframes/ASHAAction/Campaigns/90403/Respond>

When US Senators and House of Representatives receive a significant number of messages from constituents regarding a specific topic, it becomes a greater area of interest for them. Please consider taking three minutes to fill in your information and submit a message to your Oregon federal representatives to fight back against cuts to Medicare Part B reimbursements for outpatient services that would “limit beneficiary access to critical hearing, balance, speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive care.” The link is as follows:

<https://www.votervoice.net/iframes/ASHAAction/Campaigns/90403/Respond>

This is advocacy in action and...

Advocacy  
works!



# 2022 OSHA Conference Update - More Virtual Learning!



By Megann McGill, VP of Scientific and Educational Affairs

“Why is OSHA still having an online fall conference?” is a frequently asked question I receive from OSHA board members and members at large. After all, it is 2022, we are adjusting to the endemic nature of COVID-19 and a mix of hybrid, virtual, and in-person events are returning to our calendars. So, why not return to the full 2-day in-person option for the OSHA Conference? Two answers: money and access.

First, let's discuss money. OSHA's annual operating budget is predominantly influenced by the OSHA Fall Conference in terms of both income and expenditures. In 2019, the total cost of the in-person OSHA Conference was \$71,952, including \$12,500 in honoraria and travel expenses for invited speakers and \$52,400 for food and beverages, venue fees, and audiovisual equipment. In 2020, Rik Lemoncello (past-OSHA VP of Scientific and Educational Affairs) led the transition to OSHA's Virtual Conference in an effort to keep attendees safe from COVID-19 and to adhere to the state and federal regulations regarding physical distancing. Our expenses for the 2020 inaugural virtual conference totaled \$11,800, including \$5,000 for a virtual conference platform and \$6,800 for speaker honoraria. In 2021, we continued the virtual conference platform option for the OSHA Conference because of the ongoing presence of the COVID-19 pandemic and because of the amount of money saved by organizing an online option compared to returning in-person. For the 2021 OSHA Conference, we spent \$5,000.00 on the virtual conference platform (Underline) and paid \$12,000.00 in honoraria to invited speakers. Thus, the 2021 OSHA Conference expenses totaled \$17,000 - less than the 2019 in-person conference budget for food and beverages only! As the OSHA Executive Board discussed conference options for 2022, it was apparent that our organization's fiscal wellbeing was dependent on continuing to increase income through additional conference registrations while also maintaining fewer expenditures related to conferences. Our 2022 OSHA Conference expenses will remain at the same operating cost as the 2021 OSHA Conference - **approximately \$50,000 less than the 2019 OSHA Conference budget!**

Additionally, registration fees for the conference have decreased as a result of our transition to a virtual conference. In 2019, member registration for the OSHA Conference was \$265. This year, our 2022 OSHA Virtual Conference registration fee for members is \$195. **Thus, attending virtual conferences saves our membership \$70 in registration fees annually!**

Our second rationale for continuing OSHA's Virtual Conference is access. In 2021, our OSHA Conference was attended by ~350 participants from across the U.S. and internationally. The online option for the conference resulted in a more geographically diverse set of attendees and was lauded by Oregonians who live in rural areas of the state. Additionally, online learning opportunities provide access to folks who may have limited financial resources for travel expenses, hotel accommodations, childcare costs, etc. Our goal is to reduce the barriers associated with traveling to a conference while increasing the impact of our professional development opportunities.

Thus, to maintain our organization's financial wellbeing and to provide increased access to participants across Oregon (and beyond!), we're continuing to offer our conference as a virtual option. If, like me, you are hoping for more in-person connections with OSHA members, I offer the following suggestions:

- **Attend (or host!) an OSHA Night Out event in your community - visit the @oshainsta page on instagram for updates and announcements**
- **Plan an OSHA Conference watch party - coordinate with your colleagues and friends to meet in-person together to watch and participate in the OSHA Conference!**

We look forward to seeing you virtually at the 2022 OSHA Conference and in-person at one of the many upcoming membership connection events! If you have any questions or comments about this information, please feel free to email me at [Megann.McGill@pdx.edu](mailto:Megann.McGill@pdx.edu).

# OSHA Award Nominations



Consider nominating a colleague for one or more of the OSHA Awards listed below! Access the easy to complete, online nomination form is on the [Honors & Awards page](#) of the OSHA website. Winners will be announced at the OSHA Members Meeting during lunch at the Fall Conference on Friday, October 14, 2022. Deadline for submission: September 16, 2022. Questions can be sent to [OSHAOregon@gmail.com](mailto:OSHAOregon@gmail.com).

## **-Honors of the Association**

- Designated as a “lifetime achievement” award. The intent of this award is to recognize an individual for outstanding history of clinical practice in the field of speech-language pathology, audiology, or education of the deaf/HOH.
- This award may also be used to recognize outstanding advocacy or program sponsorship by an agency or organization.

## **-Outstanding Clinician Award: Schools/ EI/ECSE**

- Recognizes a speech-language pathologist, speech-language pathology assistant, audiologist, or educator of the deaf/HOH who consistently demonstrates outstanding clinical, advocacy, or leadership skills in the public school system. This award may recognize general clinical work or a specific, recent clinical achievement.

## **-Outstanding Clinician Award: Clinics, Hospitals, Private Practice**

- Recognizes a speech-language pathologist, speech-language pathology assistant, audiologist, or educator of the deaf/HOH in a clinic, hospital, or private practice who consistently demonstrates outstanding clinical, advocacy, and/or leadership skills. This award may recognize general clinical work or a specific, recent clinical achievement.

## **-Award of Clinicianship**

- Recognizes a speech-language pathologist, speech-language pathology assistant, audiologist, or educator of the deaf/HOH whose dedication to the field is reflected in strong clinical and/or leadership skills paired with compassion, empathy, humor, and acts of support to colleagues and clients. Beyond clinical skills, this person's spirit touches and inspires those around them. This award may also be used to recognize an individual who has contributed to the profession in an unusual way.

## **-Outstanding Research or Teaching**

- Recognizes a colleague whose published research or teaching (professional preparation or continuing education) has contributed to advancing clinical knowledge and/or practice in the fields of speech-language pathology, audiology, or education of the deaf/HOH.

## **-Professional Advocacy**

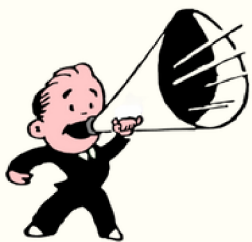
- Honors a person who has contributed to the advancement of the visibility, viability, or vitality of our professions. Potential nominees include legislators, philanthropists, SLPs, SLPAs, Audiologists, or any public figure who has shown outstanding advocacy for our professions.

# Calling All OSHA Past Presidents

Please join us for the

**Past President's Happy Hour Celebration**

Thursday, September 29th  
6-7 pm via Zoom



A Zoom link will be provided via email prior to the event. If you have not received a prior message about this gathering, please contact [OSHAOregon@gmail.com](mailto:OSHAOregon@gmail.com) to provide us with your current email address.



# Welcome New Board Members



OSHA would like to welcome the following individuals to the OSHA Board of Directors:

Kylan Taylor, SLP Clinic-based Professional Affiliate

Natalie Griffin, SLP School-based Professional Affiliate

Nicole Collings, STAR Representative

## OSHA Board of Director Openings

**The following positions remain open on the OSHA Board of Directors. If you are interested in a position, please email [oshaoregon@gmail.com](mailto:oshaoregon@gmail.com).**

### 1. SLPA Professional Affiliate

**Role:** The role of the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Professional Affiliate is to provide guidance to the Board on matters relating to speech-language pathology assistants, facilitate continuing education activities specific to speech-language pathology assistants, and provide information regarding issues of practice for speech-language pathology assistants.

**Qualifications:** The Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Professional Affiliate shall be an OSHA member in good standing.

**Term:** SLPA Professional Affiliate is elected by the Executive Committee and serves a 2 yr term. This position was vacated prior to the end of the current term which ends on 12/31/2023. The person in the position may be re-elected to this position.

**Responsibilities:** Responsibilities of the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Professional Affiliate include:

- Advise the OSHA Board on issues pertaining to speech-language pathology assistants.
- Assist the Conference Committee in developing the Fall Conference continuing education activities specific to the needs of speech-language pathology assistants.
- Assist the Association lobbyist and Vice President of Governmental Affairs with preparation of testimony for governmental entities on issues affecting the practice of speech-language pathology assistants.
- Gather and report information regarding speech-language pathology assistants to the OSHA Board and to the membership at the annual business meeting, newsletter, etc.
- Recruit committee members and chair meetings as needed to fulfill the duties of the position, and maintain appropriate records of committee meetings.

### 2. Website Committee Chair

**Role:** The role of the Website Committee, headed by the Website Chair, is to ensure updated and accurate information is available to members and to the public on the OSHA website.

**Qualifications:** The Website Committee Chair shall be an OSHA member in good standing.

**Term:** The Website Committee Chair is appointed by the OSHA President. The Website Committee Chair's term shall be one year with the option to renew for additional one-year terms as approved by the OSHA President. This position was vacated early and the current term ends on 12/31/2022.

**Responsibilities:** Responsibilities of the Website Committee Chair include:

- Serve as a member of the Communications Committee.
- Recruit committee members and convene committee meetings as needed; document proceedings of committee meetings.
- Report to the OSHA Board on the activities of the Website Committee.
- Solicit and generate material for the Association website.
- Plan, organize, design material on the Association website.
- Update website as needed.
- Coordinate with the Advertising Chair for acceptance and placement of advertisements on the Association website.

*please join us!*

THE OREGON SPEECH-LANGUAGE &  
HEARING ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS THE 2022 FALL VIRTUAL  
CONFERENCE

## EMPOWERING THE LEADER WITHIN

THROUGH INCLUSION AND  
CONNECTION

OCTOBER 14-15, 2022



OREGON  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE  
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