

November 26, 2006

Report on the LC Meeting at the ASHA Convention

I have just returned from the Legislative Council meeting that was held in conjunction with the ASHA Annual Convention in Miami, Florida on November 18-19. Due to the illness of her father, your other Legislative Councilor, Margaret Johnson, had to return home and was not able to attend the LC meeting. Due to the last minute substitution situation, the alternate LC, Margaret Hemm, could not fill in for Margaret Johnson. However, Patty Cline graciously agreed to serve in Margaret's position during the Saturday portion only of the LC meeting. The following are the highlights from the Miami meeting.

Membership Forum

The Membership Forum was held on Saturday, November 18th and allowed for direct input by all ASHA members. One member addressed the Council in person and for those members who could not personally attend the Forum, their submitted letters were posted on the ASHA Web site and included in the printed meeting materials. The topics of concern expressed by ASHA members included:

- Speech-Language Pathology Assistants
- Males in the professions
- Reimbursement and coding issues
- Continuing education
- Graduate education programs
- Recruitment and retention
- School caseload issues

President Alex Johnson's Address to the Council included the following subjects:

- Advocacy update
- Relationships with state associations
- Growth in membership
- Leadership development
- ASHA governance structure
- Financial summary
- Public relations update
- Concerns on vacancies in speech-language pathology, audiology and higher education and, Evidence-Based Practice
- Future activities including Fall Forum on Shortages, Audiology Summit II, SLP Summit in and Higher Education System in 2007
- What leaders can do to help ASHA members and the professions

ASHA's 2007 Budget

Information on the budget was presented by Mary Jo Schill, Vice President for Administration and Planning. She reported that ASHA is very healthy financially with revenues up and expenses down. This positive bottom line afforded ASHA the ability to contribute additional monies to the ASHFoundation in 2006 to support projects related to Evidence Based Practice. She fielded questions from councilors regarding the 2007 budget, and gave a brief forecast of 2008 budget projections.

LC Leadership, Committee and Board Election Results

The Legislative Council held elections for LC leadership and board positions as well as elections for the Committee on Honors and Committee on Nominations and Elections which were open to all ASHA members.

Report from Ad Hoc Committee on ASHA's Governance Structure & Process

The current ASHA governance model, in its basic form, has been in existence since 1969 when ASHA membership was 12,800, compared to more than 123,000 today. Recognizing that ASHA's governance structure is not up-to-date with current trends and best practices for non-profit associations, the Executive Board established an ad hoc committee in 2005 to develop a model of governance structure and process that would be responsive to ASHA member wants, needs, and trends; serve members and the professions more

efficiently and effectively; meet current and future governance challenges, and satisfy those members who are involved in ASHA governance activities.

Dr. Ray Kent, chair of the ad hoc committee and Vice President for Research and Technology, presented a review of the committee's efforts in developing a governance vision for the association, identifying change drivers, analyzing data and comments from an on-line survey of current and former ASHA volunteer leaders, and reviewing non-profit governance trends and best practices. The committee recommended a change from our current bicameral government format to a unicameral governance model. Based on survey data, our current bicameral model of shared governance between the Executive Board and the Legislative Council has not achieved high levels of efficiency and effectiveness. The committee recommended a unicameral governance structure and process which would be a single governing body elected by the total membership that would be more efficient and effective in conducting business and being responsive to the members.

Extensive time was devoted to question and answer sessions among the Legislative Councilors and members of the committee. The committee indicated it would continue to meet to consider all comments and concerns in its work to refine the proposed governance model presented. The committee's final report will be presented during the March 2007 meeting of the Legislative Council.

Resolutions

- **LC 10-2006.** RESOLVED, That the 2007 budget for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association be approved. **APPROVED.**
- **LC 11-2006.** RESOLVED, That ASHA's Executive Board shall have the authority to establish the amount of the annual nonmember certification fees be approved. **APPROVED.**

Minutes from the Legislative Council and both Assembly meetings will be posted on the ASHA Web site at <http://www.asha.org/about/leadership-projects/LC/archive/> by the end of the year.

Should you have any questions regarding the discussions or actions taken by the Legislative Council or, have issues that you would like the Council to consider, please do not hesitate to contact me or Margaret Johnson.

Thank you.

Doreen Oyadomari
reeno@bellsouth.net
(205) 943-8742

Margaret Johnson
madgey@charter.net
(205) 665-6720