



Annual Business Meeting
11/8/19
DoubleTree by Hilton @ Portland, ME

Attendance #32

1. Welcome

Deb Cloran, MSLHA President, welcomed the members to our meeting. She expressed that we are having a successful conference and appreciates membership support for our vision and organization.

2. Presentation of Scholarships

Susan Shain, President-Elect, announced MSLHA is awarding two scholarships this year to UMaine graduate students in the Communication Disorders program for \$1000 each. These scholarships are in honor of Mary K. Brandt and Jon Petitt. She said we had excellent applicants and the choice was difficult, and deserving recipients are: Courtney Daly and Lauren Emery.

3. Communications Report

Jamy Parkhurst and Jessica Lewis reported for the Communications Committee that our website address has changed to www.maineslp.org. They have continued to update our website with more current information and we can post job opportunities, community events, conference details, etc.

4. Membership / Lending Library

Katie Thibodeau reported for the committee that there is a raffle for members only to receive two free membership renewals. She reviewed our new Lending Library (there is a display in the foyer) and shared some of the inventory. This is free to members and she asks for feedback for more items. She reminded membership that shipping is free and encouraged all to look on the website for more information.

5. Legislative Report by Karen

Karen Davis, Legislative Chair, shared the following update. She has a display at the conference lobby where members can discuss legislative matters and get handouts on her information.

Our lobbyist and she are reviewing a list of bill titles for the next legislative session, including:

- An Act to Facilitate Speech-Language Therapy
- An Act to Properly Fund Early Childhood Education
- An Act Authorizing and Instant Lottery Game with Proceeds to Benefit Early Childhood Education
- Resolve, To Establish the 1,000 Days Committee to Improve Health and Life Outcomes for Children.

Karen also shared the following bills that are carried over from the first session and will see final action in 2020:

- LD 512: Resolve, To Create the Task Force to Study and Plan for the Implementation of Maine's Early Childhood Special Education Services
- LD 1052: An Act to Require Regular and Transparent Review of MaineCare Reimbursement Rates
- LD 1607: An Act to Create the Dept. of Early Care and Learning
- LD 1715: An Act to Reorganize the Provision of Services for Children with Disabilities from Birth to 5 Years of Age
- LD 836: An Act to Expand Maine's School-based Health Centers

- LD 1760: An Act to Support Children’s Healthy Development and School Readiness

Karen also shared that the state has issued an RFP for a consultant to conduct an Independent Review of the State’s Early Childhood Special Education Services. An initial meeting will be held next week to look at the RFP and the scoring of proposals. The budget included \$300,000 for this study. Finally, the budget also established an advisory committee to work with the department and provide oversight of the consultant’s work. Karen is consulting with Shenna Bellow’s about her bill about SLP-A’s (allowing SLPs to supervise 3 instead of 2). Karen asked the membership to talk with her if they have ideas or concerns to pass along to Ms. Bellows as she works toward helping childhood causes in Maine.

Lastly, Karen reviewed the rate setting and need for SLPs to reply to questions about usual and customary rates with actual costs for their service delivery (not simply their current hourly wage). She wants SLPs to be paid for the higher, real cost of therapy practices. Karen has handouts for members on this matter.

This information will be shared on our website, also

6. Treasurers Report

Michelle Rochester, Treasurer, reported that our organization is sound financially. We have an investment fund that we have not needed to tap in years. She notes that our conferences generate all monies for MSLHA.

7. School Practice Report

Kim Feeney, School Practice Chair, reported on the CDS Advisory Committee work. They have met three times and have hired a company for collecting data concerning the implementation of special education services of age 3-5 children in public school. She said that soon they will choose the company and make

recommendations to DOE. The process will happen in stages with the first phase expected by April 2020.

8. Clinical Practice Report

Alice Smith, Co-Chair, reported that the committee has met with Jamy Parkhurst to develop website helpful links for members to find ASHA resources and materials for clinical practice. The committee is working on gathering resources on topics such as: ethics, autism and ESL matters.

9. Continuing Education Committee Report

Paige Lane, Becky Greenleaf and Lizbeth Richards shared the following report. This year's conference is "going great". The committee is seeking ideas and recommendations for future conferences (topics / speakers). Our annual conference will be in Bangor in 2020. The committee wants feedback on the running of our conferences and will review the surveys.

10. Elections

Margie Childs, Secretary, shared the ballots and the three open positions on the Executive Council. The following people were elected:

President Elect: Alice Smith (year one of a 3 year cycle)

Secretary: Margie Child (2 year term)

Cont Ed: Becky Greenleaf (3 year term)

11. Survey Results:

- A member requested that the next conference be held in October versus November.
- A member suggested the following topics for future conferences: ethics, language development in trauma-affected children, autism, executive functioning, and phonemic awareness.

12. Membership Concerns / Questions:

- A member notes that our Listserve (MaineLine) is not being used as much lately and wants to see more posts about news and legislation.
- A member shared that she is glad to get reminder emails about membership renewals.

Respectfully Submitted by: Margie Childs