

ArkSHA Board Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2020
Zoom

Call to Order by President-Rachel Glade at 2:34 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Rachel Glade-President

Present: Aleecia Starkey-President-Elect

Absent: LeeAnn Griffith-Past President

Absent: Kelli Watts-Treasurer

Absent: Shayla McCullough-Secretary

Present: Aletha Cook -VP-Continuing Ed

Present: Miriam Stafford-VP Elect Cont. Ed

Absent: Shelly Keller-VP SLP Services

Present: Donna Smiley-VP Aud. Services

Present: Marilyn Porterfield-Best Management

Absent: Lauren Rogers-ASHA SEAL

Absent: Cheri Stevenson-ASHA STAR

Absent: Portia Carr-ASHA StAMP

Present: Randy Thurman-Lobbyist

Absent: Courtney Sheppard-Lobbyist

Minutes:

Minutes from the previous board meeting were reviewed by the board.

A motion was made and carried by all to approve the minutes as presented.

Lobbyist Report (Randy Thurman): Things are slow at the Capital these days. Still on tap to give therapy presentation to give public health committee in November.

SLPs and their assistants – concerns and questions were about doing therapy with a mask. Be on the lookout on things that can impact us. Will we see any increase in lawsuits relative to students not getting served at the level they should be? We want to protect our members and the people we serve.

ASHA STAR Report: (Rachel Glade for Cheri Stevenson): No Report (check Facebook) on joined group. Pulled info from national and state organizations. Got feedback from PT, OT, and Speech Representatives from Medicaid, DHS, and advisory board. Included around 12 people on the call. Only concern expressed was that if we continue to allow telepractice it would decrease the need for home health.

ASHA SEAL Report (Lauren Rogers): Report submitted

- SEAL discussions have focused on school re-entry
- The “I Contribute” Toolkit provides school-based SLPs and Audiologists with Tools, Strategies, and Resources for advocacy and leadership opportunities to increase knowledge and awareness about their valuable contributions. The toolkit includes professional learning reflection tools, resources for promoting and implementing the “I Contribute” Campaign and Challenge, and trending issues for these school-based professionals.

ASHA StAMP Report (Portia Carr): Report submitted

- CMS proposed rule for Medicare Part B 2021 Updates: The rule confirms significant cuts to audiology, speech-language pathology, and other Medicare services due to reimbursement increases for primary care services. Cuts will lead to a 9% cut for speech-language pathologists and a 7% cut for audiologists. ASHA staff participated in several leadership calls of a coalition of physician and non-physician groups to discuss advocacy on CMS’s proposed Medicare cuts. The group is scheduling joint meetings with Senate Finance Committee members and is preparing a fact sheet highlighting the impact of the cuts on member groups.
- ASHA met with CMS on July 20th to advocate for the addition of SLP and audiology codes to be covered telehealth services during the pandemic. CMS has not provided updates yet.
- Legislative vehicles/efforts addressing permanent Medicare telehealth benefits are being developed.

Board Reports

Treasurer (Marilyn Porterfield for Kelli Watts): Report submitted

A motion was made and carried by all to accept the financials as presented.

- The board discussed the option of having a Gift-to-Grad program.

Motion was made and carried by all to implement the Gift-to-Grad program for graduate students that have been a member of ArkSHA for 2 years to receive their first year as an active member of ArkSHA for free. Those students currently in their 2nd year of graduate school will be grandfathered in and only require 1 year of membership prior to joining as an active member.

Past President (LeeAnn Griffith): No report

- The current State of officers for 2021 was presented to the board.
President-Elect: Amy Faith, Monica Scott
Secretary: Shayla McCullough, Christina Akbari
VP for Audiology: Donna Smiley
VP-Elect for CE: Danni Welch, BJ Arnold
- It was agreed to have the annual business meeting on September 14, 6:00-7:30pm. This will include the board nominations, with nominations open from the floor, convention information, possibly include Randy and/or Courtney to present on legislative efforts in 2020. We will ask people to submit questions prior to the meeting that they would like the board or lobbyist to address.

President-Elect (Aleecia Starkey): No report

Secretary: (Shayla McCullough): No report

- Deadline for next newsletter is September 3rd.

Vice-President for Speech Pathology Services (Shelly Keller): No report

Vice-President for Audiology and Hearing Services (Donna Smiley): No report

- ArAA decided not to do their spring conference for 2021. Looking at offering members 1 hour a month of CE. ArkSHA may consider sponsoring one of these sessions.

Vice-President for Continuing Education (Aletha Cook): Report Submitted

- Will be working on vendors as next big task, including community options such as banks. Looking for volunteers to call vendors.
- Marilyn contacted a company to set up a web store for attendees to purchase convention -t-shirts as well as other SLP and AUD related shirts.
- The virtual platform is in the works. This new platform can allow us to open it up to more students since they will have their own area similar to vendors and it won't be used for CEUs/CPEs. Donna will help reach out to each university program about this opportunity for more students.

Vice-President Elect for Continuing Education (Miriam Stafford):

- Working hand-in-hand with the Convention Committee. See above.
- Already thinking about next year. Working on theme and speakers for 2021. Will get with Marilyn on budget and dates.

