President's Message
LeeAnn Griffith, MS, CCC-SLP

As I begin my first year as your ArkSHA President, I am reminded of this quote from the famous anthropologist Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed. It is the only thing that ever has." This quote not only summarizes the mission behind ArkSHA, it also highlights the important work of our profession. In this wonderfully dynamic and evolving field of speech pathology and audiology, we are not only catalysts for change in the lives of our clients, but we must also be advocates for ourselves professionally. ArkSHA is committed to doing just that, communicating your value to lawmakers and representing your voice in administrative and public policies that impact you daily.

The Regular Session of the 92nd General Assembly convened on Monday, January 14th and most of the Governor’s agenda has unfolded, including tax cuts, reorganizing state government, creating a highway funding plan, and raising starting teacher salaries. During this fast-paced legislative session, ArkSHA has been actively reviewing and tracking bills as they have been filed. A fun fact that you may not know: expediency is crucial, because a bill can become a law in as little as three days in the state of Arkansas! [READ MORE]
Students from Arkansas State University, Harding University, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and the University of Central Arkansas joined ArkSHA board members in Little Rock for the association’s Student Advocacy Day at the state capitol. Students were welcomed by Ashlen Thomason, Past President of ArkSHA, who urged them to be civically active and engaged, understanding the importance of lobbying is to help legislators see the importance of our profession and the services that we provide to children and adults throughout the state. ArkSHA lobbyist Randy Thurman shared information about the legislative process, his typical day as a lobbyist, and lead the group to the capitol to see advocacy in action. They observed education and public health committee meetings, met representatives and senators, and observed members of the House of Representatives voting before embarking on a tour of the capitol.

During lunch, students were joined by Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair of the Education Committee, who explained the bill filing process, current proposed bills regarding licensure, the format of the legislative session, and the process for constitutional amendments that will be voted on in future elections. Rep. Cozart expressed the importance of working together to do what’s in the best interest of the children that we as speech-language pathologists and audiologists serve across the state, and shared that legislators are “fighting for our rights.” Students departed with a greater understanding of the legislative process, why advocating for ourselves and those that we serve is so important, and that it’s never too early to get involved!

Attention Students!

Your mission, should you choose to
accept it, will be to design the t-shirt for the ArkSHA 2019 Convention. The theme will be “Mission Possible.” The design cannot have more than 5 colors (3 is preferred).

Design must be submitted by email to Jennifer Fisher (jfisher1@harding.edu) by April 15th.

The winner will receive a complementary registration for the convention, as well as...their own t-shirt.

Good Luck!

Upcoming Deadlines

April 30, 2019
Call for Papers Deadline to present at the 2019 Convention

July 15, 2019
Deadline to submit Poster Ambassador nominations

May 31, 2019
Deadline to submit 2020 Board Nominations

July 15, 2019
Deadline to submit Honors & Awards nominations

ArkSHA needs strong leaders, like YOU, to continue to move the
ArkSHA would like to introduce a new program aimed at highlighting the awesome work of professional members across the state of Arkansas. If you would like to nominate a colleague to be awarded our first “ArkSHA Professional Member of the Moment” to be highlighted in our next newsletter and at the 2019 Convention please email PresidentElect@arksha.org. A nomination form will be emailed and recipients will be voted on by a committee of ArkSHA members. The deadline for nominations is May 3, 2019.

ArkSHA would like to introduce a new program aimed at highlighting the awesome work of student members across the state of Arkansas. If you would like to nominate a student to be awarded our first “ArkSHA Student Member of the Moment” to be highlighted in our next newsletter and at the Convention in the fall, please email PresidentElect@arksha.org. A nomination form will be emailed and recipients will be voted on by a committee of ArkSHA members. The deadline for nominations is May 3, 2019.

Job Opportunities

Did you know?
Employers can post Job Announcements to ArkSHA’s website. Contact the ArkSHA Office at 501-244-0621 or arksha@arksha.org to post job opportunities for Speech-Language Pathologists or Audiologists.

Click Here to view the current opportunities!
ArkSHA Mission Statement
Connecting, learning and communicating with audiologists, speech-language pathologists, future professionals and consumers through:
Advocacy
Education
Mentoring
Networking
Resources