



# Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association

## SOUND EXPRESSIONS

Vol. 18, Issue 1



### 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! [\[READ MORE\]](#)

## 2019 ArkSHA Board of Directors

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Shelly Keller  
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Academy

Hearing  
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UA Little Rock/UAMS

President  
Ashlen Thomas  
AR Children's Hospital

## Student Advocacy Day ~ March 5, 2019



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

Student Design Contest!

**MISSION:  
POSSIBLE**

Design the 2019  
Convention T-Shirt!

Deadline is April 15

acceptit, 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**

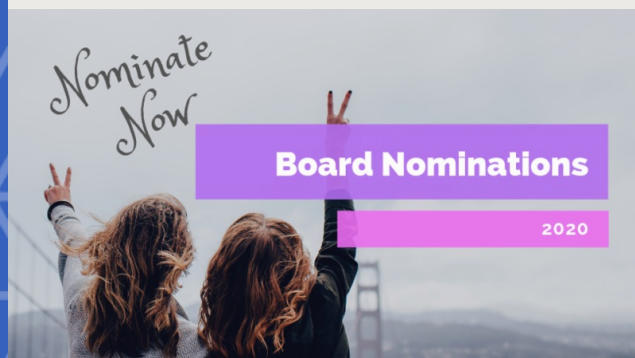
*Deadline to submit Poster Ambassador nominations*



Download the registration form or submit online. [Learn More](#)

**May 31, 2019**

*Deadline to submit 2020 Board Nominations*



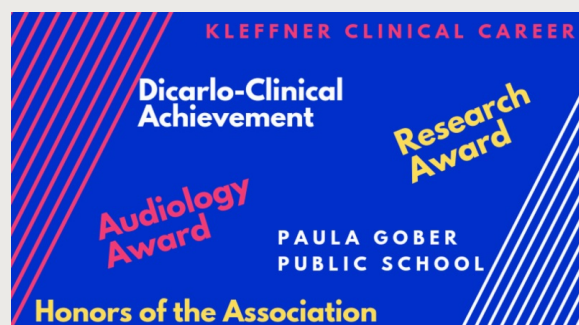
ArkSHA needs strong leaders, like YOU, to continue to move the



Nominate an individual that has inspired you as a professional! Who have you helped to make significant gains in therapy? [Learn More](#)

**July 15, 2019**

*Deadline to submit Honors & Awards nominations*



Spotlight a

association forward. If you, or someone you know, is interested email [arksha@arksha.org](mailto:arksha@arksha.org).

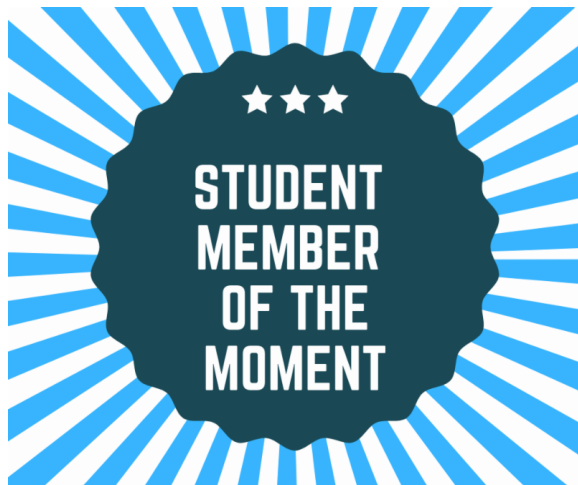
The following are open positions for 2020:

- ~President-Elect
- ~Vice President of Audiology Services
- ~Vice President-Elect for Continuing Ed.
- ~Treasurer

colleague/mentor/professional by nominating them in 2019! [Learn More](#)



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](mailto: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.



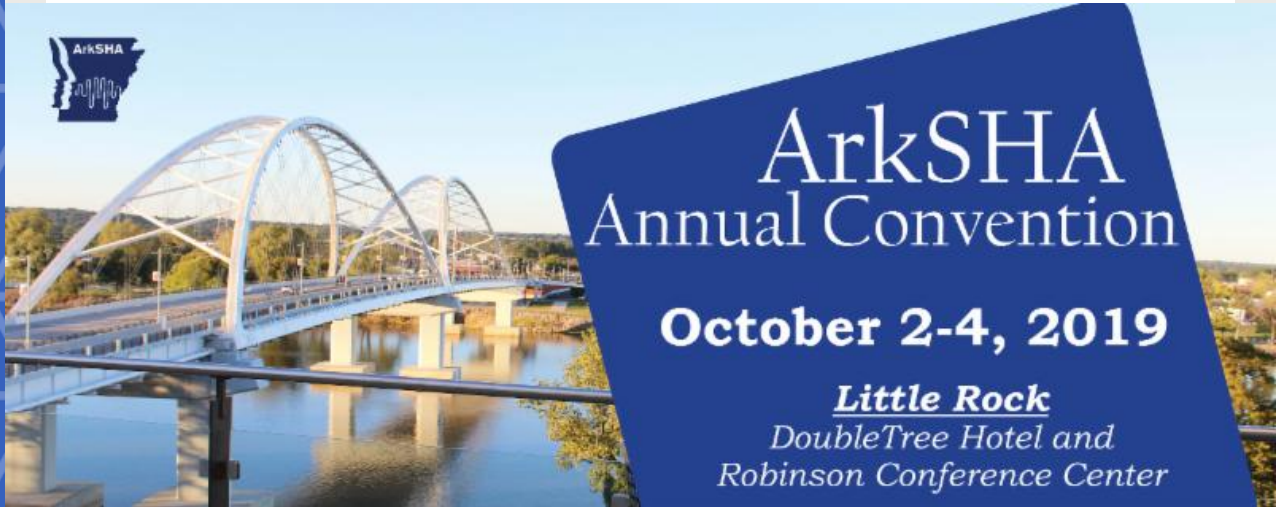
ArkSHA would like to introduce a new program aimed at highlighting the awesome work of *student members* across the state of Arkansas. If you would like to nominate a student to be awarded our first "ArkSHA Student Member of the Moment" to be highlighted in our next newsletter and at the Convention in the fall, please email [PresidentElect@arksha.org](mailto: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 Annual Convention

**October 2-4, 2019**

***Little Rock***  
*DoubleTree Hotel and  
Robinson Conference Center*

# May is Better Hearing & Speech Month



## COMMUNICATION ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

Better Hearing & Speech Month



For more information,  
visit [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)

### ArkSHA Mission Statement

Connecting, learning and communicating with audiologists,  
speech-language pathologists, future professionals and consumers  
through:

Advocacy  
Education  
Mentoring  
Networking  
Resources

Connect  
with us

