



# Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association

## SOUND EXPRESSIONS

Vol. 18, Issue 2



### President's Message

LeeAnn Griffith, MS, CCC-SLP

As we welcome summer, I am reminded of this quote from *The Great Gatsby*, "And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees . . . life was beginning over again with the summer." Whether it is an end to the school year, the beginning of a career, or a much-needed vacation, summer indeed marks a time of change for many of us. For those of us at ArkSHA, this time also marks the end of a busy legislative session, as we closely monitored the Provider-owned Arkansas Shared Savings Entity (PASSE) roll out and opposed bills having a negative impact on the profession, including those involving professional licensure and fee reimbursement. Additionally, ArkSHA filed an Interim Study Proposal related to recruitment and retention of speech-language pathologists in public schools. ArkSHA is working closely with Janet Deppe, ASHA Director of State Advocacy, to prepare for hearings later this summer before the House Education Committee to further advocate in this area.

Our State Advocate for Reimbursement (STAR), Cheri Stevenson, continues to attend Therapy Advisory Council meetings in which she represents our profession in matters related to reimbursement regulations, as AFMC was replaced by eQ Health Solutions at the beginning of the year. Portia Carr, our State Advocate for Medicare Policy (StAMP), continues to monitor issues impacting Medicare coverage, including recent changes related to telemedicine. Lauren Rogers, our State Education Advocacy Leader (SEALs), has served as our liaison with ASHA on issues impacting school-based service delivery, including a reduced screen time initiative and the 21-Day Read Aloud Challenge developed by ASHA. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

## 2019 ArkSHA Board of Directors

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## Connect with ArkSHA on Social Media!

We have been working diligently to improve our website and social media platforms in order to connect with YOU better.



Be sure to use #ArkSHA when connecting with us!

Check out our website, [www.arksha.org](http://www.arksha.org), where we will continue to make updates.

## May was Better Hearing & Speech Month



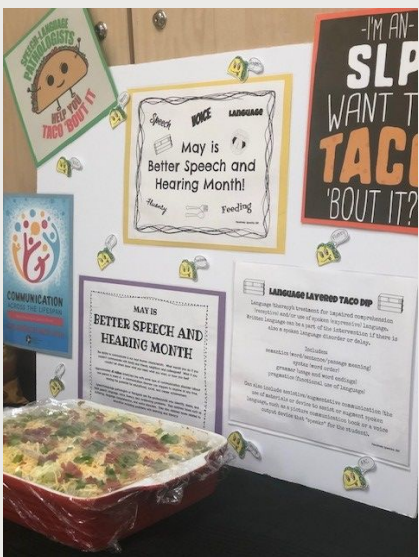
On May 6, 2019, Governor Asa Hutchinson issued his official proclamation of **Better Hearing and**

Speech Month in Arkansas. Highlights from Governor Hutchinson's proclamation include, "Audiology and speech language pathology services throughout our nation help to enable and empower individuals with communication disorders to lead independent, productive, and fulfilling lives," and "I encourage all citizens to recognize the achievements of audiologists and speech language pathologists in improving the quality of life for people with communication disorders." During the issuing of the proclamation, Governor Hutchinson had the honor of meeting ArkSHA's 2019 Poster Ambassadors, Lily Robbins and Jeff Morris. Child Ambassador, Lily, is rising second grader who is excelling her mainstream classroom setting, despite having severe speech and language delays secondary to bilateral, severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss prior to getting bilateral cochlear implants and undergoing intensive auditory verbal therapy. Adult Ambassador, Jeff, overcame his severe childhood stuttering with years of speech therapy to go on to win the regional and state Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) Impromptu Speaking Competitions, be elected to the state officer board of PBL as Communications Director, first place as Future Business Executive at the 2015 PBL State Conference, deliver numerous speeches as an Industrial Development Intern, and to presently speak and write speeches on behalf of Senator Tom Cotton as his Projects Director. Lily and Jeff each talked to Governor Hutchinson about their histories of communication disorders and how their lives have been positively impacted their clinicians.



## We want to hear from you!

How did you bring awareness to your students or clients and their families about Better Hearing and Speech Month?



*Submit your photos and information to be featured on our social media pages.*

Lauren Rogers, Speech-Language Pathologist for Conway Public Schools, provided themed snacks on Fridays throughout the month that highlighted different areas within the field. Teachers were provided with handouts about various statistics and ways to promote better speech and hearing within their own classroom.

## Upcoming Deadlines

July 15, 2019

July 15, 2019

*Deadline to submit Honors & Awards nominations*



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

*Deadline to submit Poster Ambassador nominations*



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



### **Maria Romero, MS,CCC-SLP**

Nominate by: Amy Faith

Graduate Degree Completed at: UAMS

Maria Romero has been practicing as a bilingual speech-language pathologist since she graduated from UAMS in 2008. In 2014, Maria also completed a Master's in Education, focusing on working with ESOL students. She has practiced in several settings, including hospital, private clinic/contract, and public school. I have the pleasure of working with Maria at Rogers Public Schools, where she carries a caseload of students at the middle school level and provides bilingual assessment and consultation services district-wide. From the moment you meet Maria, you understand how passionate she is about culturally/linguistically diverse students and their families. Maria is always there to go the extra mile to help her colleagues adequately assess students who speak Spanish. Earlier this school year, she approached ArkSHA with an idea to lead an ad hoc committee focusing on better assessing bilingual students. She presented at ArkSHA in October 2018 on that same topic. In addition to being a great SLP, Maria is also a great mom to adorable three year old twins. I hope ArkSHA will feature Maria as a "Member of the Moment" so that we can all take a minute to show some appreciation for this SLP who is making a difference every day!



### Kyndl Mason

Profession Pursuing: Speech-Language Pathology

Training: Completed undergrad at UCA, finishing grad at Harding, graduates in May.

## EBP Corner

### EBP Corner



Did you know that ASHA has a resource to quickly and easily integrate the latest evidence into your clinical practice? The *Evidence Maps* is a searchable online tool to find appraised and summarized systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and clinical practice guidelines on 42 clinical topics (and counting). The Evidence Maps

help you find and understand what the research says about different screening, assessment, treatment, or service delivery approaches. Along with the Practice Portal, this ASHA tool can help you provide the best possible care for your clients. Visit: [www.asha.org/Evidence-Maps](http://www.asha.org/Evidence-Maps)

## Arkansas NSSLHA Chapter Spotlights

### University of Arkansas



“Having the opportunity to attend the 2018 ASHA Convention in Boston has been the highlight of my time in NSSLHA! Attending ASHA is truly a unique experience because you are surrounded by thousands of motivated students and professionals

with similar goals as you. At ASHA I was able to present my research, attend educational sessions, network and meet NSSLHA members from

across the country. As I spoke with NSSLHA Executive Council members and state/local NSSLHA officers I learned about new ideas to bring back and implement in our local chapter. The ASHA Convention is truly a one of a kind experience and I can't wait to go back." - Amy Meek, UA NSSLHA Chapter President

## University of Central Arkansas



"In April of 2018, NSSLHA participated in the University of Central Arkansas' Relay for Life event in honor of Dr. Jimmy Ishee, Dean of College of Health and Behavioral Sciences. After learning about Dr. Ishee's diagnosis of cancer,

we decided to show our support for him by participating in Relay for Life, the main fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. All of the donations that each organization collected during this event, were donated to the American Cancer Society. With the help of almost every member's participation, our organization won the award for the "Best New Organization" at the event. Participating in the Relay for Life event not only allowed our members to develop more personal relationships, but also allowed us to gain knowledge regarding speech, language, and swallowing treatment for those diagnosed with cancer. We admire Dr. Ishee and everything that he has done for the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences and look forward to participating in this event again this year!" - Olivia Cash, UCA NSSLHA Chapter President

## Harding University



"My favorite NSSLHA event this semester was our Alzheimer's Awareness event. We raised money for the Alzheimer's Association by selling donuts and t-shirts. This event was very special to our university because we were able to host a

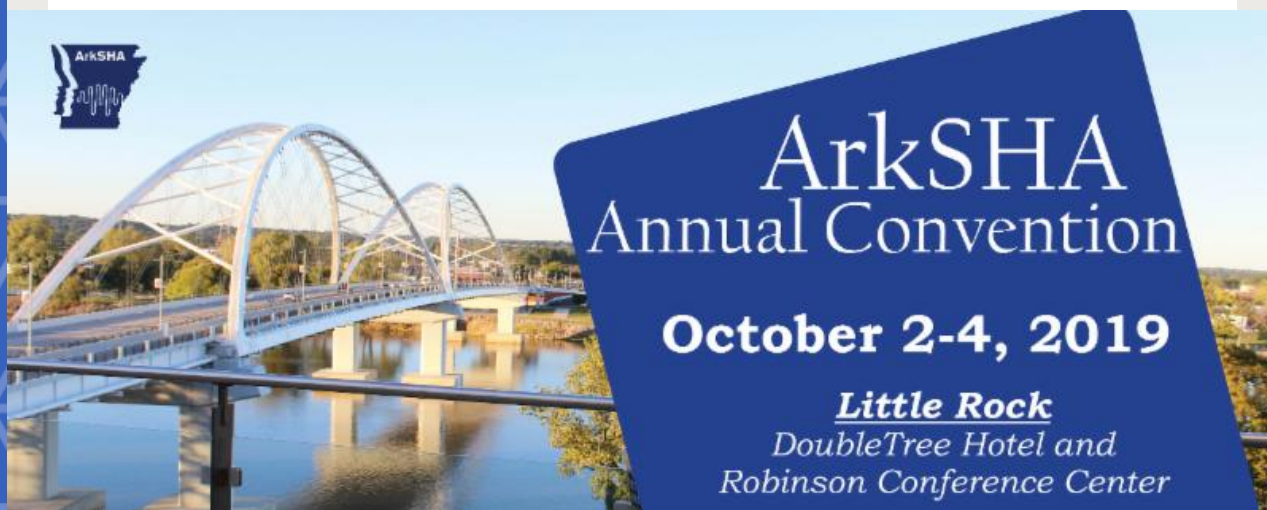
balloon release in honor of the spouses of two of our faculty members. In addition, several of our members volunteered at the Walk to End Alzheimer's event in Little Rock." - Leah Taylor, Harding NSSLHA Chapter

## 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](mailto: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

Connect with us

