



Hearsay

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW MEXICO SPEECH-LANGUAGE & HEARING ASSOCIATION

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August, 2009

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Message from the President:

Hi Everyone,

As the summer comes to an end, your NMSHA Executive Board has prepared the yearly budget, developing NMSHA's two-year plan, and diligently working on convention! While many of you have completed your membership renewals, we hope you also considered joining a committee or applying for board position. Your contributions and participation are greatly welcomed. If you didn't check off interest in a

committee please feel free to email me directly at maritruj@nmsu.edu. I'd love to hear from you. This is my last message to you as the president of NMSHA! I want to thank everyone for the wonderful opportunity of serving you, the membership, for the last 4 years. I hope you will join me in welcoming your next president, Bryan Tierney, at our 2009 NMSHA Convention in October. Sincerely,
Toni Trujillo
NMSHA-2008/2009 President



NMSHA Members

We have had our budget meeting, and face some challenges over the coming year. A number of fundraising activities from the past will be making another appearance, in order for NMSHA to provide support and CEUs to its members. I spent 4 days this month in Indianapolis attending both the American Speech-language and Hearing Association's (ASHA) State Association Workshop and the spring meeting of the Council of State speech-language hearing Association State Presidents (CSAP.) Topics included volunteerism, ASHA's public policy, political advocacy, utilizing social networking and re-imburement/ funding for services. This was an energizing conference with a great group

NMSHA WEBPAGE

www.nmsaha.net

Contact NMSHA at nmsaha@comcast.net

of people. I have already begun meeting with our local board members to discuss ideas I have brought back from the conference. I look forward to working with the other board members to re-vitalize NMSHA's committees. I have entered the world of social networking myself so I can expand our means of communication with each other and the public. I am highly motivated to increase NMSHA's presence in our member's lives, and look forward to getting to know all of you better as well. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions!

Bryan Tierney, MA CCC-SLP
President Elect
btdesert@yahoo.com
575-644-6020
or now on Facebook



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ONCE AGAIN !
NEW MEXICO SPEECH-LANGUAGE & HEARING ASSOCIATION
47TH Annual Convention

October 23 & 24, 2009 Albuquerque Sheraton-Uptown Hotel

A GREAT LINE-UP OF SPEAKERS WILL JOIN US

Rebecca Gould
dysphagia

Michelle Garcia Winner
social thinking and social skills

Mark Allen
school-age stuttering

Beth Gautereaux
*Cochle cochlear implant and Baha system
Cochlear America*

Jose Centeno
bilingual aphasia

Eileen Crowe
*impact of the economy
on the professions*

Patricia Chute
*needs of children with
cochlear implants*

Roberta Ellman
aphasia

Karen Michele Forrest
*childhood apraxia of speech-
non-speech oral-motor exercises*

Mary Spremulli
*tracheostomy and ventilator speaking
and swallowing valve
Passy-Muir*

Linda Hood
auditory neuropathy

Alejandro Brice
*Spanish-English
articulation and phonology*

Johanna Bailey
*focused service-cochlear implant
Advanced Bionics*

Hot topics in speech/language pathology and audiology
schools, private and medical settings

**GOING
GREEN**

Presenter's Handouts
will be on the
NMSHA Web Page
for down loading .
CDs will also be
mailed to all who
register early.

Questions about Convention 2009? You can contact Amelia Angel and/or Anna Lebron at: aaangel@nmsu.edu and amlebron@lcps.k12.nm.us



NMSHA Executive Board

President: Maria "Toni" Trujillo
President Elect: Bryan Tierney
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VP-Communications: Nancy J. Paullin-Vigil
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VP-Gov. Affairs: Cynthia Sanchez (School Issues)
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VP-Professional Affairs: Christine Newtonson
VP-Public Information: Beth Stewart
Student Representative: NMSU--TBA

PLEASE NOTE-

**NMSHA ADDRESS AND
TELEPHONE NUMBER!!**

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Albuquerque, NM 87199
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NMSHA Committee Chairs

Advertising: Nancy J. Paullin-Vigil
Publications Editorial Board: Becky Scheib Jaramillo
Publications Editorial Board: Mary Ann Bosworth
Web Page Editorial Board: Nicole Bougie
Convention Programming/Audiology: TBA
Exhibitors: Jane Harvey
State Education Advocacy Leader (SEAL): TBA
Continuing Education: Mary Hooper
Special Projects: TBA
May Better Speech-Hearing Month: Beth Stewart
Science/Engineering Fair: Sue Satter (Albq. Region)
Science/Engineering Fair: Theresa Brobeck (Southern Region)
NOMS Coordinator for NM: Marie Vigil-Castillo
Convention Programming/SLP: TBA

NMSHA Staff/Representatives

Administrative Assistant: Michelle Webster
ASHA Advisory Council: Speech-Language Pathologist-Maria
ASHA Advisory Council: Audiologist-Robert Ivey
Lobbyist: Sue Griffith
NM Licensing Board: Vedra Baca (505-476-4890)

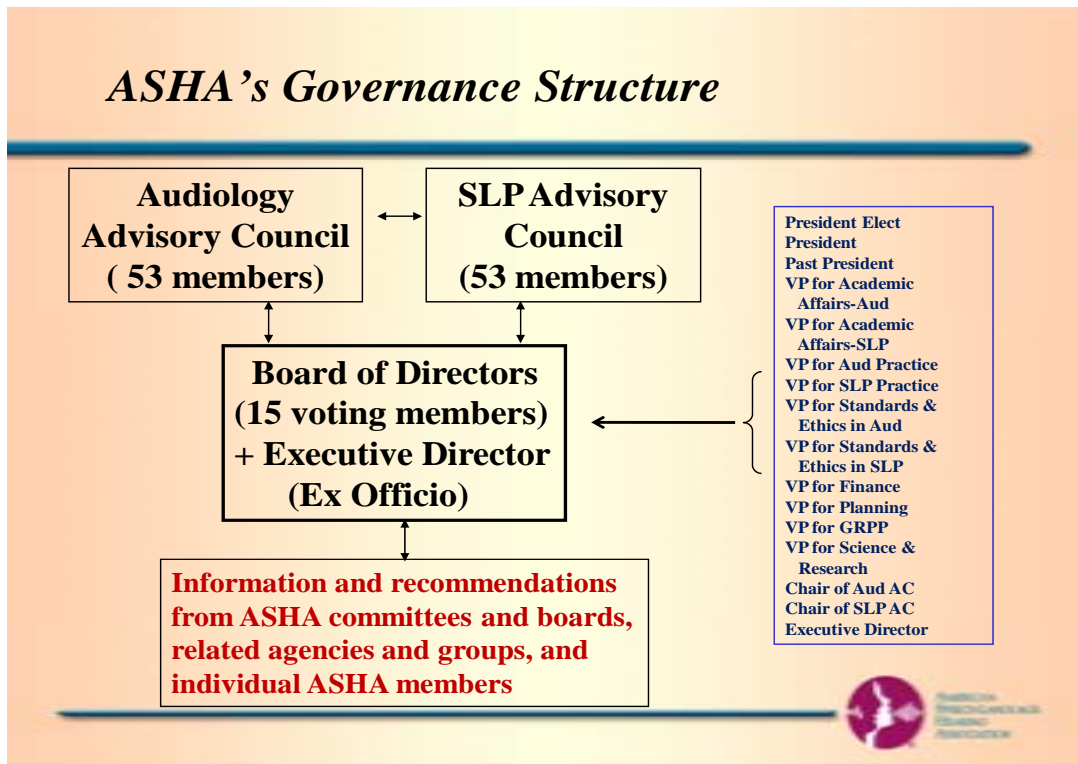
**The New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department--
Speech, Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid
Dispensers Board
Have Questions????**

Contact: Vedra Baca at 505-476-4890

SLPAC and AAC News

Maria Jaramillo (SLP) and Robert Ivey (AUD)

The new Advisory Councils have been in place since January 2009 with 53 members on each of the Audiology (AAC) and Speech-Language Pathology (SLPAC) Advisory Councils. The following depicts ASHA's new governance structure.



New Mexico elected us, Robert Ivey to the AAC and Maria Jaramillo to the SLPAC. As shown on the above graph, we serve to advise the Board of Directors. ASHA's Advisory Councils can provide valuable information on how groups of people think or feel about a particular topic, provide a way to evaluate existing Association programs, and help improve the planning and design of new programs. This information is then provided to the Board of Directors to help make informed decisions regarding the programs and services that should be provided for members and supported by Association resources.

As Mary Hooper and Mary Ann Bosworth mentioned in their last Hearsay report, **if you have a concern about a professional issue, please contact the ASHA Board of Directors directly** via the ASHA home page (www.asha.org) and click on "Contact Board of Directors" on the Quick Links tool bar. You will receive a response within 24 hours.

The Advisory Councils met at the ASHA National Office in March. We (with Mary Hooper ☺) visited Capitol Hill and met with our congressmen to lobby critical ASHA issues, which included the provision of services via telehealth, initiation of a hearing aid tax credit, the repeal of the annual cap on therapy services covered under Medicare Part B, student loan forgiveness (SLPs) and for the reauthorization of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act. We met with representatives of Jeff Bingaman, Tom Udall, and Martin Heinrich. For NMSHA members, Mary Hooper has been providing updates on the above legislative issues as they are voted on by congress. The Advisory Councils also met to discuss upcoming ASHA trends and budget suggestions/recommendations.

The next scheduled Advisory Council Meetings will occur March 2010, although we will have ongoing discussions through the ASHA Collaboration Site the entire year. Hope you all have a great summer!



Legislative News

ASHA Launches Stimulus Package (ARRA) Resource Web site

ASHA has launched a Web resource site on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) that is intended to help educate ASHA members on the timing, type, quantity, and restrictions of ARRA funds. ASHA has developed resources and analysis on the broad categories of ARRA funds related to education, health care, as well as research and academia.

ARRA (Public Law 111-5), also known as the “Stimulus Package”, was signed into law by President Obama in February with a \$787 billion mix of tax breaks and spending measures intended to help preserve jobs, create new jobs, and stimulate economic activity. The new law provides funding for education, health care, research, and infrastructure needs with \$44 billion in funds for states and schools now available and being released between April 1 and July 1, 2009. For further information or questions about ARRA, please contact or Neil Snyder at nsnyder@asha.org or 800-498-2071, ext. 5614; or Catherine Clarke at cclarke@asha.org or 800-498-2071, ext. 5611.

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BREAKING NEWS - Classroom Acoustics Included in School Modernization Bill
Representative Ben Chandler (D-KY) has introduced H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facility Act, which includes a provision that would allow federal grants to be used to reduce or eliminate exposure to classroom noise and environmental noise pollution in schools.

H.R. 2187 would require the Secretary of Education to make grants to states for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public schools, including public charter schools. The goal of the legislation is to help make schools safe, healthy, high-performing, and technologically up-to-date.

The bill is on a fast track for approval in the House of Representatives with the Committee on Education and Labor scheduling a full committee markup tomorrow, Wednesday, May 6, and consideration before the full House by the end of the month. The mark-up will be broadcasted on the committee’s Web site. For further information, please contact Neil Snyder, ASHA’s Director of Federal Advocacy, at 800-498-2071, ext. 5614 or nsnyder@asha.org.

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Dear Headliners:

The Health Care Economics Committee (HCEC) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) met at the ASHA National Office on March 13-15, 2009. The following is a summary of the meeting.

Medicare – The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin accepting applications from speech-language pathologists for private practice provider status on June 2, 2009. ASHA’s Medicare SLP Private Practice Resource Center provides information on how to navigate the CMS enrollment process and recently released federal regulations. Development of quality measures for ASHA members and Medicare’s quality reporting initiative, known as the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI), were discussed. For speech-language pathology, eight of ASHA’s National Outcome Measure System



(NOMS) functional quality measures (FCMs) were approved by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and have been sent to CMS for consideration and approval for PQRI use in 2010. In audiology, 12 measures are being submitted to NQF through the Audiology Quality Consortium – ten audiology stakeholder organizations convened together by ASHA for the purpose of developing audiology quality measures.

ASHA also now participates in the American Medical Association (AMA)-convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (PCPI).

CMS has two studies in process to address the therapy cap for speech-language pathology and physical therapy. ASHA has given input to both of these studies.

Private Health Plans - The committee reviewed the streamlining of the State Advocates for Reimbursement (STAR) grant process for state associations. Strategies are being developed with the American Academy of Audiology to address recent health plan decisions about posturography to help members with the rejections of claims for this procedure. Committee member Becky Cornett chairs an Ad Hoc committee that is working to develop medical review guidelines for speech-language pathology. The guidelines will assist private insurers in making better informed decisions with regard to speech-language pathology services.

Coding and Valuation - The committee reviewed timelines for presentations to both CPT and RUC. Three bundled audiology codes are being surveyed for presentation at the April RUC meeting. Four SLP codes were presented at the January RUC meeting to be valued for professional work. This was the first time SLP codes have ever presented for valuation of professional work.

Medicaid - HCEC member Bernard Henri described trends in Medicaid in various states. The School Finance Committee (SFC) has prepared a document that lists Medicaid and IDEA side by side. The committee participated in a conference call with Judy Rudebusch, SFC chair. During this call, strategies were discussed for understanding Medicaid differences across all of the different state programs. A document which lists all state Medicaid directors and links to state Medicaid fee schedules will be posted on the reimbursement Web site in the near future.

Education - Nancy Swigert, chair of the HCEC subcommittee on Education of Reimbursement & Coding in Universities, gave a progress report. The subcommittee plans to develop on-line, on-demand educational modules on coding, documentation, and reimbursement as well as modules on specific coding topics of interest.

For further information, please contact Steven White, ASHA's Director of Health Care Economics & Advocacy at swhite@asha.org.

Stuart Trembath, MA, CCC-A

Chair, Health Care Economics Committee

House Passes School Modernization Bill with Classroom Acoustics Provisions

Provisions allowing school districts to address classroom noise and acoustics in their school buildings remained intact in H.R.2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, as the U.S. House of Representatives considered fourteen amendments and approved the bill 275-155. H.R. 2187 would authorize \$6.4 billion for school renovation and modernization projects for fiscal year 2010 and would ensure that school districts quickly receive funds for projects that improve schools' teaching and learning climates, health and safety, and energy efficiency. The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has been working with several congressional offices over a number of months to improve and expand schools abilities to address excessive noise and poor acoustics in their classrooms. Similar legislation (H.R. 3021) that was considered by the House last year contained no reference to noise or acoustics. H.R.2187 now allows allow federal grants to be used by districts to take, "measures designed to reduce or eliminate human exposure to classroom noise and environmental noise pollution." Further during consideration of H.R.2187 in the Education and Labor Committee, Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) offered a two-word amendment allowing schools to use money on "ceilings [and] flooring", key elements in addressing noise and acoustics in a building.

During Representative Sestak's remarks on his amendment he informed the committee that he was late to the markup because he was visiting with his daughter's audiologist. He indicated that his daughter is recovering from surgery for a brain tumor and is receiving chemotherapy which has resulted in some degree of hearing loss. Sestak further noted that his congressional district is in the flight path of Philadelphia International Airport with planes flying as low as 500 feet above the ground. He has received reports of children not being able to hear in their schools and has been fighting with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on noise abatement.



ASHA also worked with Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) to provide further direction for the classroom noise provisions in the bill's report language that reads: "The Committee encourages school districts that undertake projects to reduce or eliminate human exposure to classroom noise and environmental noise pollution, and the Secretary, in providing technical assistance concerning reducing background noise and reverberation in classrooms, to consider the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved Standard S12.60- 2002, [Acoustical Performance Criteria, Design Requirements, and Guidelines for School]."

Further information on the bill can be found on the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor Web site. For additional information, please contact Neil Snyder, ASHA's Director of Federal Advocacy, at 800-498-2071, ext. 5614 or nsnyder@asha.org.

ICD-9-CM Voice and Resonance Codes Revised Starting in October 2009.

There will be new and revised diagnostic codes for voice and resonance disorders beginning on October 1, 2009. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention coordinates and maintains the disease and disorder codes for the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification. NCHS recently posted the ICD-9-CM Tabular Addenda that goes into effect for fiscal year 2010 (October 1, 2009).

ASHA presented a proposal for the revision and expansion of codes to the ICD-9-CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee on March 12, 2009. As the result of the work of Dee Adams Nikjeh of the ASHA Health Care Economics Committee and Special Interest Division 3, the 784.4 series is modified from "voice disturbance" to "voice and resonance disorders" and will be as follows:

- 784.4 Voice and resonance disorders
- 784.40 Voice and resonance disorder, unspecified (revised)
- 784.41 Aphonia, Loss of voice
- 784.42 Dysphonia (new code), Hoarseness
- 784.43 Hypernasality (new code)
- 784.44 Hyponasality (new code)
- 784.49 Other voice and resonance disorders (revised)

NCHS expanded the 784.5 series to read as:

- 784.5 Other speech disturbance
- Excludes: speech disorder due to late effect of cerebrovascular accident (438.10 – 438.19) (added)
- 784.51 Dysarthria (new code)
- Excludes: dysarthria due to late effect of cerebrovascular accident (438.13)
- 784.59 Other speech disturbance (new code)
- Dysphasia
- Slurred speech
- Speech disturbance NOS (not otherwise specified)

Please visit the NCHS Web site to view the ICD-9-CM Tabular Addenda October 1, 2009 (FY2010). The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) also recently published ICD-10-CM/PCS Myths & Facts to respond to questions regarding the ICD-10-Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System. For questions or further information, please contact Steven White, ASHA's Director of Health Care Economics and Advocacy, at swhite@asha.org.

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Private Practice SLPs May Retroactively Bill Medicare

Private practice speech-language pathologists (SLPs) can now enroll in Medicare. ASHA has received confirmation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that if a speech-language pathologist has submitted an enrollment application, but still does not have their provider number by July 1, 2009 they can retroactively bill for services starting on July 1, 2009 once they receive their Medicare provider number. For further information or questions, please contact Kate Romanow, ASHA's Director of Health Care Regulatory Advocacy, at kromanow@asha.org or 800-498-2071, ext. 5671.



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Senator Harkin Introduces Hearing Aid Tax Credit Legislation

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) has introduced the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act (S. 1019) which will provide the opportunity for an individual to receive \$500 per hearing aid tax credit every five years. The bill is similar to H.R. 1646, introduced earlier this year by Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY). The House bill, however, limits access to the tax credit to children and individuals over the age of 55 whose income does not exceed \$200,000, whereas the Senate version is inclusive to all individuals, regardless of age or income.

Please contact both your members of Congress in the House and Senate and ask that they support this important legislation through ASHA's Take Action Web site. For more information, please contact Stefanie Reeves, ASHA's Director of Political Advocacy, by e-mail at sreeves@asha.org or 800-498-2071, ext. 5613.

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ASHA STATEMENT ON DRAFT AMA DOCUMENT REGARDING AUDIOLOGY SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Some members have become aware of a document being developed by the AMA that addresses the Audiology Scope of Practice. ASHA is aware of this document and would like to inform you of our understanding of its status and the role the association will play in responding to it.

The American Medical Association (AMA) established the Scope of Practice Partnership in 2006 to focus on organizing resources to aid state medical societies in opposing "unwarranted scope of practice expansions by non-physician practitioners". The Scope of Practice Partnership has drafted Practice Data modules for 10 non-physician providers including audiology. The AMA intends the draft modules to be used by state medical societies in their advocacy efforts to help educate legislatures, regulators, and other government decision makers about the training and education of "non-physician" providers and are specifically designed to counter 'expansion of scope of practice' of these professions.

The Coalition for Patient Rights, whose mission is to ensure that the growing needs of the American health system can be met and that patients everywhere have access to quality health care providers of their choice, was created in response to the intent of the AMA to develop such scope of practice documents. ASHA is a leading member of the Coalition for Patient's Rights and as a member of the coalition has been aware of the AMA's interest in developing scope of practice documents for certain non-physician professions.

It is our understanding that the 10 draft modules are in varying stages of review and revision by the state medical societies. In addition to audiology, the other modules include: dentists, naturopaths, nurse anesthetists, nurse practitioners, optometrists, pharmacists, physical therapists, podiatrists and psychologists.

We understand that the current draft documents will be revised following input from the state medical societies and will be sent to non-physician professional associations for their review & comment. As a member of the coalition ASHA will be responding both individually and collectively at the time the AMA seeks input from the non-physician professional associations.

ASHA will also seek input from other audiology organizations to ensure that appropriate and comprehensive feedback is provided to the AMA



PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

NMSHA Science Fair Award

Our Central New Mexico Science and Engineering Research Challenge winners this year were St. Pius High School junior, Alexander S. Caldwell for his Senior Biology Division project "Is Autism Both an Environmental and Genetic Disorder?" and Roosevelt Middle School eighth grade exhibitor, Nicolas A. Kennedy for his Junior Division Physics project, "Extreme Sounds: Lessons in a Noisy World." Fifty-dollar awards were presented to these young scientists, who have been invited to present their research in poster-session format at the NMSHA Convention. Alexander's teacher sponsor is Bre-Anne McKeman, and teacher, Suzi Miller, sponsored Nicolas. Thank you to our judges, Mary Bolton Koppenhaver, Charlean Raymond, and Susan Satter, Committee Chair.

BHSM at NMSHA

The highlight of our BHSM activities this year was the Proclamation of May as Better Hearing and Speech Month by Gov. Bill Richardson. Sponsored by Representative Jeannette O. Wallace of Los Alamos, Sandoval, and Santa Fe Counties and by Senator Clinton D. Harden, Jr. of Colfax, Curry, Harding, Quay, San Miguel, Taos, and Union Counties, the moving proclamation was read on the House and Senate floors and received by NMSHA board members seated on the rostrums.

Thank you to those who incorporated ASHA materials and brochures provided by NMSHA into your work and community activities around the state. ASHA's Activity Book, Helping People Communicate, including the page, "Can you help the whales hear each other?" was especially popular.

NMSHA Library Project

One of our wonderful collection of books donated by NMSHA members at Convention and awarded to Espanola Public Library will be used to kick off their children's summer reading program. The local newspaper, the Rio Grande Sun, is expected to be on hand to cover the event and take photos. We appreciate the help of Usborne Books, who gave books valued at 107.32, in addition to those purchased by convention-goers. Each book is identified by a name plate recognizing NMSHA as the donor and providing our contact information, as we continue to take opportunities to spread the word. Do you have a nomination for our next library recipient?

Beth Stewart
VP-Public Information

News from Vice President of Professional Affairs

I have found four daycare centers in the Albuquerque vicinity of our hotel, and only one of those will do day care for children who are not established clients. Contact info for that daycare center: Maria at *Southwest Child Care*. Location = 2626 Texas, Phone: 505-293-2626. You will need to complete application, so you must contact them soon, before all slots fill up. Friday only--no Saturday hours. Full day = \$60/ 1/2-day = \$48. NMSHA is not responsible for the quality of day care provided, nor affiliated with this day care center in any way.

I am also pleading for assistance between now and NMSHA, for anyone interested in shadowing me, or interested in taking over as VP of Prof. Affairs. I will need to step down after the convention due to personal reasons. They can contact me at: cmnewt@nmsu.edu or newtsonk@comcast.net. for further information.

Christine Newtonson
VP-Professional Affairs

News from Vice President of Administration and Planning

The 2008-2009 NMSHA Membership Drive is under way, currently 341 members strong. NMSHA is an approved sponsor for ASHA and state continuing education credit. Each year, the NMSHA Convention features nationally known speakers and local professionals. As a member you receive a discount on the convention registration fee. We urge you to join our organization and continue receiving the great benefits NMSHA has to offer. We look forward in seeing all of you dedicated members at Convention!

Carolina Sanchez M.A., CCC-SLP
VP-Administration and Planning



Would you like to see your business card here? Be a sponsor of the Hearsay and reach over 400 SLPs and Audiologists in New Mexico! Contact Nancy J. Paullin-Vigil, VP of Communications, at 575-644-4225 for prices, or email at njpvigil@gmail.com

Are you interested in sponsoring the NMSHA website with a business ad? Reach people worldwide through the internet every time they access the NMSHA website! This is an affordable method of advertising! Please call Nancy J. Paullin-Vigil at 575-644-4225 for assistance, or email at njpvigil@gmail.com

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