



South Carolina Academy of Audiology

QUARTERLY UPDATE

SUMMER 2017

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2017/2018

New President:

Dr. Jason Wigand



Hello Academy Members,

I hope this year has been going well for you and your families! I am honored and humbled to serve as your President for 2017! I am very excited to be a part of the Academy in this great state! The seasoned audiologists and long-time members among us have done great things while in South Carolina and the new batches of Au.D.'s bring a renewed passion and fire. And we have a fabulous group of highly committed leaders serving as your board!

As the professional organization of audiologists and friends of the audiology community dedicated to providing quality hearing and balance services to the public in the State of South Carolina, we must maintain a culture of excellence and transparency. We have established a common vision, mission and goals. However, it is each board's responsibility to provide the communication and direction. To do so, we must create the path and medium for member engagement.

With that in mind, here are some specific committee initiatives we have begun working on; Conference, Membership, and Outreach. A description of each committee is provided within this newsletter. ****If you are interested in serving on any of the committees, please contact me directly at jwigand@mailbox.sc.edu or email scaaudiology@gmail.com****

I am very excited about the many things we have going on! We are looking forward to a great second half of 2017 and preparing for an even better 2018!



**2018 CONFERENCE
LOCATION:
CHARLESTON, SC**

*Alone
we are
strong,
Together
we are
stronger.*

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS:

Conference Committee: (President-Elect Meredith Holcomb, Au.D.) - Charleston, here we come! Planning of the 2018 conference has begun. Great speakers and events are being lined up. More information to come!

Membership Committee: (Rachel Van Oosbree, Au.D.) - Aiming to increase our communication with members and reach out to non-member licensed audiologists in the state. Immediately tasked with authoring and establishing a regular and quarterly newsletter to keep members up to date with pertinent information (i.e. Member spotlights, advocacy update, CEU opportunities)

Outreach Committee: (Lisa Leen, Au.D.) - Goal is to establish our presence in the state as the go-to-organization for hearing healthcare education and resources. Focused on increasing the value of our membership (i.e. Providing resources, getting involved in interprofessional education/communication, educating the general public in SC on hearing and balance healthcare.)

Ongoing Committees:

Finance (Todd Gibson, Au.D.), **Professional issues/Advocacy** (Mary Anne Larkin, Au.D.), and **Technology** (Alexandra Tarvin, Au.D.)

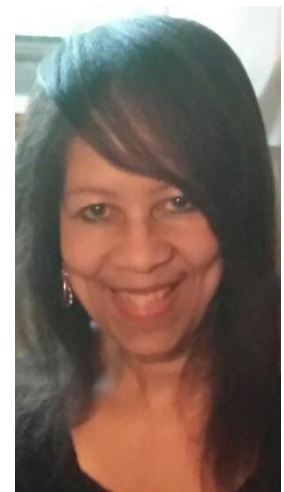
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Sharon Langley, Au.D., F-AAA

Music and the arts captivated Sharon before her father suffered an aneurysm and she was introduced into the field of speech pathology and audiology. This inspired her to pursue a career as an audiologist, opening her own practice in 1994 after holding several clinical positions in her early career.

Auditory Disorders Center offers diagnostic hearing evaluations, hearing aid services, and custom hearing protection to the NE Columbia region at Sesqui Pointe.

Contact/Location:

#803-376-0088/ 1516 Calhoun St. Columbia, SC 29201



**SOUTH CAROLINA
ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY**



UPDATE FROM OUR LOBBYISTS:



Audiologists Protected

SCAA lobbyists reviewed hundreds of bills introduced and provisos (narratives) in the budget to ensure no harmful language was introduced that would impact South Carolina audiologists or members of the SC Academy of Audiology. SCAA lobbyists are pleased to report that no bills or provisos were introduced that would negatively impact audiologists. And, none were considered that allow hearing aid specialists from impeding on the exclusive responsibilities of

audiologists.

Hearing Aid Insurance Mandate Bill Introduced

Rep. James Smith and Chip Huggins introduced a bill that would do the following:

A health insurance plan must provide coverage for hearing aids and replacement hearing aids for a covered individual with impaired hearing. This coverage must include evaluation, fitting, dispensing, programming, servicing, follow-up maintenance, and repairs, including providing ear molds as necessary to maintain optimal fit, and prescribed and dispensed by the treating licensed audiologist of the insured. A health insurance plan may not deny or refuse coverage on, refuse to contract with, or refuse to renew or refuse to reissue or otherwise terminate or restrict coverage on a covered individual solely because he is or has been previously diagnosed with hearing loss.

A covered individual must be diagnosed with permanent hearing loss by a licensed audiologist to be eligible for coverage under this section.

An insurer shall provide this coverage to an eligible individual who is eighteen years of age or younger.

Coverage for an initial hearing aid and a replacement is subject to a one thousand five-hundred-dollar minimum amount and up to a three thousand dollar maximum amount for a hearing impaired ear benefit in a thirty-six month period.

The bill has this coming Legislative Session in 2018 to be considered and adopted.

Sine Die!

Adjournment sine die (from the Latin "without day") means "without assigning a day for a further meeting or hearing."

The South Carolina Legislature adjourned sine die yesterday at 5:00pm. It will convene to take up the people's business again on January 9, 2018. However, a resolution was passed for the Legislature to reconvene May 23 to take up conference reports (a few remain) and the budget. The Legislature may appear briefly, again, in June to take up any Governor McMaster budget vetoes. Other than those issues, all other issues will have to wait for the Legislature to reconvene in January.

Road Funding Bill Passes, Finally

After years, even decades, of the state calling on the Legislature to adequately fund the roads, the House and Senate finally got it done. The final version raises the gas tax by twelve cents over the next six years to bring in another \$600M annually to go toward road and infrastructure funding.

Both the House and Senate initially passed the funding package; and, then it had to pass it again, this time by a two-thirds vote after Governor Henry McMaster vetoed the bill.



CEU OPPORTUNITIES:

- National AG Bell June 30-July 3, 2017 (Denver)
- ACIA (Pediatric CI) July 26-29, 2017 (San Francisco)
- SC AG Bell September 30, 2017 (Myrtle Beach)
- SCAA Annual Conference January 18-19, 2018 (Charleston)
- MUSC Pediatric Audiology Conference March 23, 2018 (Charleston)
- Audiology Now! April 18-21, 2018 (Nashville)

The Clinic Corner:

Be Better Today than Yesterday.



Of course not every day feels like you've achieved far more than the day before and some days it feels like the complete opposite. But we should consistently improve our care to our patients. Our techniques, knowledge, and approach should result in better patient care than at any point in the past.

A great way to start is to understand the psychology of hearing loss in patients. The idea of "motivational interviewing" is discussed in Taylor and Mueller's book, *Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids*, as a way to ask the right questions and listen actively to your patient's responses.

"One of your greatest professional challenges will be to recognize when someone is in denial and not ready to acknowledge their hearing impairment."

When asked, "How would you rate your overall hearing ability?" on a 1-10 scale (10 being the best), it was suggested that if an answer of 6 or higher was given then, "your time with these patients might be better served exploring why they might want to get help, or discussing the pros and cons of having a hearing loss." They might be more open to scheduling a follow up consultation after such a discussion.