



**President's Notes
September 2014**

Dear Membership,

I hope this note finds all of you doing well and accomplishing great things!

Now that you have been receiving correspondence for a few months, some of you new to the DSHPSHWA organization may ask yourselves, what is DSHPSHWA? What are the benefits of membership? DSHPSHWA is a not-for-profit organization that represents the interests of its membership. DSHPSHWA has by-laws, a mission, well-defined leadership, federal consultants, and representation on national committees. See the DSHPSHWA website, www.dshpshwa.org for the recently posted Association By-Laws and 2014-15 Strategic Plan.

While DSHPSHWA is heavily weighted with EHDI Coordinators or state EHDI team members at this time, it has never been the sole make-up of the organization or its only focus. In the past, members also included Directors of State Speech and Hearing Programs (thus the name) as well as Early Intervention Coordinators. The program has changed over time and in five years could be heavily weighted in a different direction depending on the needs of the organization. Linda Hazard, President Elect and Eric McKiever, Vice President-Archives will share some history about DSHPSHWA in future correspondence.

One of the greatest benefits of membership is a seat at the table of national organizations. It is an opportunity for us to have a voice at the table as best practices change and new policies are written. Next month we will begin highlighting each of the committees that DSHPSHWA is a part of and the work Board members do on your behalf throughout the year!

Wow! Can you believe that the national EHDI and DSHPSHWA meetings are only six months away? In fact, as I write this note, the list of pre-session speakers for the national EHDI meeting is being finalized. This year there are a number of pre-sessions that I suspect many of you will want to attend at the 2015 national EHDI meeting so the Board will work to find another time to host the "Hot Topic" round tables that continue to be a popular networking opportunity through DSHPSHWA each year. The DSHPSHWA Board will be sending out a list of possible hot topics through Survey Monkey in the next month. We will ask you to rank them by interest as we did last year. If you have ideas for topics you think that should be included on the survey, please send an email to Tammy O'Hollearn, tammy.ohollearn@idph.iowa.gov as soon as possible. With the holidays, the next few months will go by quickly so watch for more information about meeting registrations in October.

Finally, how many of you tweet and Facebook? If you do, you should have seen a post that asked you to share what you are most looking forward to at the 2015 EHDI meeting. If you haven't done so, please visit the DSHPSHWA Facebook page at www.Facebook.com or tweet us back on Twitter, @DSHPSHWA.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the CDC grantee meeting in Atlanta next month! Until next time, take care of yourselves and each other.

Tammy O'Hollearn, DSHPSHWA President