

## ASHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT

ASHA's Board of Directors (BOD) met on June 9–11, 2023. Following are highlights of the Board's discussions.

### PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

President Robert (Bob) Augustine convened the BOD meeting at 8:30 a.m. ET on June 9, 2023, and welcomed Board members to the second BOD meeting of the year.

### CEO UPDATE

In addition to providing the written summary with the pre-meeting materials, Chief Executive Officer Vicki Deal-Williams shared the following:

### Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM)

Public outreach activities for [Better Hearing and Speech Month \(BHSM\) 2023](#) in May were extensive, varied, and impactful at both national and grassroots levels.

Leading examples of outreach activities include the following:

- The results of a survey of ASHA member audiologists and SLPs who provide services to very young children were announced in a [press release](#) that was picked up by 324 media outlets with a total potential audience reach of 85 million. Survey respondents reported an increase in referrals for concerns about hearing, speech, or language delays, or disorders among children ages 0–5 years. The survey results were covered in numerous media stories, including a prominent feature in [The Wall Street Journal](#).
- In early May, a national satellite media tour featured ASHA President Robert Augustine, PhD, CCC-SLP and President Elect Tena McNamara, AuD, CCC-A/SLP, who promoted early identification and intervention in communication disorders. Interviews were done with TV and radio stations across the country, including in New York; Hartford, Connecticut; Boston; Atlanta; Raleigh-Durham; Dallas, Kansas City; Seattle; and San Francisco. The potential audience reach of the media tour was 138 million. Also, a videotaped interview with Dr. Augustine and Dr. McNamara was disseminated to more than 200 mainstream and Hispanic media outlets. Sample TV interviews with Dr. Augustine and Dr. McNamara:
  - [WDAF Fox 4 News, Kansas City](#)
  - [KNTV NBC Bay Area, San Francisco](#)
- During the first 3 weeks of May, the [Identify the Signs campaign](#), which educates the public about the warning signs of communication disorders, had nearly 18,000 website views, an exceptionally high number for a 3-week period.
- A May 4–19 digital ad campaign focused on legislators and policymakers highlighted issues that were raised during advocacy activities supporting ASHA's May 10 Hill Day. The ads were clicked on more than 4,500 times and had a potential audience reach of 3.1 million.
- The annual BHSM month-long social media campaign, *Speaking Up For Communication*, had approximately 6,000 active participants, an increase from 2022, and the most ever since the inaugural campaign several years ago. The campaign is free and open to ASHA members, assistants, and students. The members' combined involvement this year resulted in a campaign total audience reach of more than 4 million.
- Regarding social media, ASHA made available shareables and printable handouts for consumers, press release templates, Zoom backgrounds, and a variety of other celebratory materials (e.g., posters, coloring pages, and bookmarks) for members to use as part of their own grassroots outreach—all on the [BHSM webpage](#) in English and Spanish. From April 1 through May 22, the webpage received approximately 100,000 views, 34% more than in the same period in 2022, and

21% more than in 2021. Also, a variety of content from public outreach activities was posted on ASHA's social media channels, including an article published in [HLAA Hearing Life](#), the member magazine of the Hearing Loss Association of America. The article features ASHA Vice President for Audiology Practice Janice R. Trent, AuD, CCC-A.

- ASHA launched new video ads of interviews with ASHA members as part of the [Real Stories campaign](#). The ads were launched with a [press release](#) that was picked up by 344 media outlets, for a potential audience of over 145 million.
- Intensified promotion of ASHA public service announcements (PSAs) to stations nationwide was conducted to increase their airings, which were already in the tens of thousands and viewed and heard by millions. The PSAs, [ACT NOW on Hearing](#) and the Real Stories campaign, are accessible on the BHSM page.
- In addition, ASHA and the [Screen Time Action Network at Fairplay](#) released [Be Tech Wise With Preschoolers!](#), a new bilingual resource for parents of children between the ages of 3 and 5 years. The resource is a follow-up to [Be Tech Wise With Baby!](#), released in 2020, and [Be Tech Wise With Toddler!](#), released in 2022. The guide covers ways families can support their child's budding communication, social-emotional, and learning skills—as well as tips for achieving healthy screen time habits—at a unique and critical point in child development. ASHA announced the resource with a [press release](#) that was picked up by 441 media outlets, for a potential audience reach of more than 173 million.
- ASHA also disseminated a [press release](#) encouraging families to learn the signs of common but unrecognized pediatric feeding disorder. The release was picked up by 402 media outlets and reached a potential audience of 261 million.

### **Pediatric Dysphagia Online Conference**

ASHA's Rethinking Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing online conference (March 22–April 3, 2023) was this year's first blockbuster learning event. The conference encouraged more than 1,000 SLPs to think critically about their current practice in pediatric dysphagia, challenge their assumptions, and prepare for current and emerging areas of clinical practice. Participants had access to more than 28 hours of educational content, including 16 recorded presentations and 11 live video conversations, and collectively engaged in nearly 16,000 hours of learning.

Members rated their experience as exceptional, with an average overall satisfaction of 4.6 out of 5 and a net promoter score of 56. (For reference, a net promoter score above 0 is considered good, above 20 is considered great, and above 50 is considered amazing.) ASHA Professional Development has six more online conferences planned for this year (including a repeat of this excellent Rethinking Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing conference, which will take place in November/December).

### **Health Care Summit**

ASHA is happy to report that the Association's first Health Care Summit—a 1-day, in-person event designed for SLPs in health care—was extremely successful. We offer our sincere thanks and congratulations to our collaborators and hosts from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, on the event, which took place in April 2023. The full day of learning showcased how the Mayo Clinic's master clinicians collaborate with their medical teams to diagnose motor speech disorders. The intimate event, which focused on learning activities that can only happen in person, sold out before the early bird registration deadline. Attendees found the experience transformative, giving it an average overall satisfaction rating of 4.9 out of 5 and a net promoter score of 87. (For reference, a net promoter score above 0 is considered good, above 20 is great, and above 50 is amazing. Above 80 is considered "world-class.") ASHA looks forward to working with other centers of excellence to hold future ASHA Health Care Summit events.

### **Lessons for Success**

ASHA's [Lessons for Success](#) program was held for the twenty-first time this year. The program aims to provide intensive training to early-career scientists in the areas of (a) grant preparation and funding opportunities, (b) development and management of a successful research program, and (c) advancement of professional competencies. With participants completing assignments prior to and during the conference, this grant-writing "boot camp" provides invaluable advice and guidance from senior faculty with strong histories of research funding. The program has been funded by the [National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders](#), the [American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation](#), and ASHA since 2005. Oversight of the program is managed by ASHA's Academic Affairs and Research Education unit in partnership with ASHA's Research and Scientific Affairs Committee and the Lessons for Success Advisory Committee. Outcomes data is collected from the program participants at 3-year and 6-year intervals following their participation. In response to the 2022 Participant Outcomes Survey, 100% of Lessons for Success participants had remained in the academic-research pipeline at 3 years (2019 cohort) and at 6 years (2016 cohort) after participation. Additionally, 100% of the participants had applied for research funding and 96% were awarded research funding within 3 years of participation. With roughly 30 participants every year, *Lessons for Success* has helped over 600 early-career researchers to advance their research careers since its inception in 2003.

### **Schools Connect**

[ASHA's Schools Connect](#) conference is being held in-person in Long Beach, California, July 13–15. Registration opened on May 1. Early-bird registration ends on June 15. In addition to curated school-based content, the in-person conference will consist of a preconference, an ASHA volunteer meet-and-greet, two "Coffee and Tea with SLPs" sessions, a book drive, networking via "Connecting Conversations", and so much more. The Workload Bootcamp preconference session is being held on July 12. This session will address the following issues and strategies to improve workload management for school-based SLPs: admission and discharge; implementation of a variety of service delivery models and schedules; utilizing the ASHA Workload Calculator; and effective communication with school administrators regarding workload and caseload. For those who are unable to attend the in-person conference, ASHA Schools Connect will also be holding an online conference from July 26 through August 7 to provide access to recorded and live sessions. This year, registration for the in-person event includes full access to the online conference too.

### **Convention**

The [2023 ASHA Convention in Boston](#), November 15–18, focuses on the theme "Igniting Innovation," developed by Convention Co-Chairs Kelly Farquharson and Jennifer Simpson and 2023 ASHA President Robert Augustine. In keeping with the theme, the Seaport area of Boston, where the Convention Center is located, is called the Innovation District. Boston also holds the Convention record for the largest number of attendees—18,312 in 2018. We anticipate similar attendance as in-person meetings rebound to pre-pandemic levels. Attendees will be encouraged to discover what inspires them to be innovators and discover their own sparks of inspiration through a number of activities and options offered throughout the Convention.

The Convention will feature a diverse program, including 3 pre-Convention workshops, 2 specialty sessions, 1,377 invited and accepted 1-hour seminars, 44 invited Masterclasses, 448 Technical Sessions, and 1,224 Posters, totaling 3,445 unique presentations. This year, we are taking a new approach to providing online access. The modified hybrid approach will allow virtual access and provides in-person registrants access to both formats. The *Convention Virtual Extra* will offer recorded e-poster and technical session content, and a select number of in-person seminars shared as live-feed sessions (not recorded but available as scheduled) on our Convention website. All virtual offerings will be available November 9–29, for anyone to view. Live-feed sessions will only be available on the date and time they are happening in person, in Boston.

Any full in-person registrant receives access to the online programming with their registration, to supplement their learning and to offer the ability to claim additional CE. Those not attending in-person can still explore the virtual offerings and can claim CE if they take advantage of the discounted Virtual Only registration (just \$99).

Exhibitors—commercial, non-profit, and member entrepreneurs—are leading the charge on being back together. Exhibit sales are already 70% of the target goal with 222 unique companies covering 343 booth spaces; many companies are taking more space and will have bigger exhibits. The Exhibit Hall will include some innovations of our own, including Demonstration Stations and an ASHA Shark Tank, providing opportunities for companies and members to showcase innovative products and ideas. Education is an essential part of the value of the Convention, but the Association aims to create an experience that promotes connection and recognizes and celebrates ASHA members, students, and exhibitors and their work. Ideally, attendees leave feeling appreciated and are reenergized as they head home.

### **Changes to the Collection of Demographic Information**

ASHA collects member and affiliate demographic information—including confidential data reflecting race, ethnicity, and gender—for a number of purposes such as when compiling the [ASHA 2022 Member and Affiliate Profile](#) [PDF]. Individual demographic information is provided by those ASHA members and affiliates who choose to respond to the opportunity to self-identify. However, some members and affiliates have shared that they cannot fully or accurately self-identify using the response options that are provided. Multiple factors and considerations were carefully reviewed, which resulted in the affirmation of related policies and procedures and the addition and/or modification of several response categories. Key related policies and procedures will remain in place. There will continue to be opportunities for members and affiliates to provide confidential demographic information. Providing this information will be optional. Personal demographic information will continue to be considered confidential. Confidential data will be reported in aggregate form. Internally, individual confidential data may be viewed on a limited basis with the approval of ASHA’s Chief Staff Officer for Multicultural Affairs.

Modifications have been made to several response options. In addition, there will be the opportunity to identify one’s pronouns and the opportunity to identify a personal disability and/or disorder.

Members and affiliates are encouraged to review and update their personal demographic profiles by logging into their [My Account page](#) or by contacting the ASHA Member Service Center (800-498-2071; [Contact the ASHA National Office](#)).

### **Interstate Compact**

The Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact legislation was introduced in 17 states this year. Five states have currently passed that legislation (Arkansas, Montana, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington). The Compact Commission’s Executive Committee is working with an organization to create and review vendor proposals for a database system to operationalize the compact and allow for its use in 2024. A special meeting of all Commission Delegates was held in April and an annual business meeting is scheduled for October 2023.

### **Specialty Certification Update**

ASHA, through the Council for Clinical Certification (CFCC) and their Committee on Clinical Specialty Certification (CCSC), formally recognizes and monitors independent Specialty Certification Boards (SCBs) that have met our criteria. Specialty certifications are currently available through [four SCBs](#). There are [three potential new SCBs](#) in various stages of application/development for recognition by the CCSC/CFCC.

The Board of Directors and CFCC are finalizing a survey for later this year to obtain feedback on specialty certification from all ASHA certificants. The CCSC recently received feedback on the preliminary survey from the SCBs and petitioning groups and hopes to finalize and distribute the survey later this year.

### **Assistant Certification Programs**

After 2.5 years, ASHA is happy to see the [Assistant Certification Program](#) (ACP) continue to grow, with 800 individuals being awarded one of the assistant certifications and with the hope to surpass 1,000 certifications awarded by the end of the year. Staff continue to promote the program to a variety of stakeholders through email and printed materials, presentations at meetings, and via assistant education programs.

ASHA is pleased that more than 10 states have proposed or made changes to their SLPA regulations that align with and/or recognize the C-SLPA. Since ASHA announced that the Assistant Certification Program would be created, the number of SLPA degree programs has doubled from 25 to 50 programs nationally. Staff are working with an outside consultant to finalize a scope of work to create model education programs for assistant education programs to help current and future programs to calibrate their program content.

### **ASHA “Assist” Mentoring Program Launches for 2023**

After a successful pilot program last summer, ASHA has opened applications for a new cohort for [Assist, the Assistants Mentoring Program](#). This year, in addition to pairing speech-language pathology assistants with SLPs, we are pairing audiology assistants with audiologists. The program is designed to allow all participants to gain new skills and knowledge, including information about professionalism, advocacy, and ASHA resources. Registration was open throughout the month of May, with the program scheduled to launch in June.

### **Certification Administration**

There has been a record number of applications through the first 4+ months of 2023. The Association attributes most of this growth to additional utilization of the [new professional membership package \(NPMP\)](#), which began in 2022.

Certificant retention for 2023 continues to be on par with previous years and should again be 97%–98%.

## ASHA Stream Top Performing Content

# ASHA Stream: Top 15 Videos (January 2022 to May 2023)

Video Title	Plays	Seconds Watched
Moving Forward Together: A New Year's Message from ASHA's CEO	3252	621966
Steve and Michel Gleason Receive 2022 Annie Glenn Award	263	208325
The Why, What, and How of Interprofessional Collaboration	207	144527
Interprofessional Practice (IPP) in Action: Cochlear Implant Center	499	110740
ASHA Ethics Process FAQ	445	106560
Creating Community. Supporting Students: ASHA Schools Connect 2023	464	73325
What is Aphasia (with Michael Settles)	498	51501
ASHA 101	426	51058
What is Aphasia (with Janet Kuffour)	586	49205
Serving Clients from Diverse Backgrounds: Speech-Language Difference vs. Disorder	122	46659
Interprofessional Practice (IPP) in Action: Head & Neck Cancer Center	190	31218
Careers in Hearing and Speech - Why Diversity Matters in CSD	336	30923
Using Coaching Strategies to Engage With Families in an Early Intervention Context	60	26330
Why I Chose Audiology (D'Essence Hampton)	312	21634
Interprofessional Practice (IPP) in Action: Cochlear Implant Center	145	20644

## STRATEGIC PATHWAY WORKSHOP

ASHA's current strategic plan ([Strategic Pathway to Excellence](#) [PDF]) is coming to an end in 2025. In 2023, the Board of Directors started working with a consulting firm to create the new iteration of the Strategic Pathway.

Between March and June 2023, the consultants conducted a thorough environmental scan, which focused on four primary areas:

- critical external factors influencing the professions over the next 3–5 years,
- opportunities and challenges for ASHA as a result of these factors,
- ASHA's strengths and weaknesses overall and with respect to these factors and their associated opportunities and challenges,
- expectations of ASHA's strategic plan.

The consultants facilitated a discussion on the Board's top takeaways from the environmental scan, and a debate on current conditions, key trends, and assumptions about the future. These were discussed along with possible implications for ASHA and its stakeholders. Taking all these factors into consideration, the consultants helped the Board develop an envisioned future, and ASHA's core ideology (vision, mission, and core values) was revisited. Finally, the Board engaged in an exercise to determine key areas of focus for the Association over the next few years, and how the Board will prioritize that work (goals, objectives, and strategies).

The strategic planning activities are expected to continue throughout the remainder of the year.

## STRATEGIC PATHWAY UPDATE

Vice President for Planning Akilah Heggs, Chief Executive Officer Vicki Deal-Williams, and ASHA's Senior Director, Office of Business Excellence, Rozsa Felix, provided an update on ASHA's Strategic Pathway to Excellence.

The update focused on highlights and major accomplishments for current Strategic Objectives. Information about the work underway and a more detailed description of all accomplishments to date can be found on ASHA.org: [Strategic Pathway to Excellence: Strategic Objective Highlights](#), which is updated biannually (the last update was posted in April 2023).

### **SIAB LISTENING SESSIONS REPORT**

In follow up to the report from the Schools Issues Advisory Board (SIAB) summarizing listening sessions held at the end of 2022, President Robert Augustine led the BOD through a discussion designed to identify priorities for addressing the needs of members working in school settings. Chief Executive Officer Vicki Deal-Williams also asked the BOD to identify specific outcomes to achieve in addressing those priorities. The information gathered will be used to develop a draft plan to be submitted for consideration by the BOD.

### **COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

For several years, the BOD has been working intentionally to increase the diversity of committees, boards, and councils with regard to dimensions such as age, profession, gender, employment setting, and underrepresented racial/ethnic backgrounds. President-Elect Tena McNamara and Chief Staff Officer for Multicultural Affairs Megan-Brette Hamilton reviewed with BOD members their commitment to increase diversity in the Committee on Committees nomination and appointment process.

The BOD's agreements and data related to dimensions of diversity including profession, age, years of affiliation with ASHA, gender, race/ethnicity, setting, position/role, and participation in ASHA's Minority Student Leadership Program, Leadership Development Program, and/or National NSSLHA Executive Council were reviewed. The BOD members considered this information as they reviewed the proposed nominees and made appointments with terms to start in 2024 for 22 of the Association's committees and boards. Once finalized, these appointments will be approved by the BOD and members selected for these positions will be notified. The resulting changes in the overall demographic composition of ASHA's committees and boards will be reviewed at the October 2023 BOD meeting.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Vice President for Finance Lawrence (Larry) Molt presented ASHA's financial report. He reported on the 1st quarter through March 31, 2023, which showed total operating revenue of \$20,451,256 and total operating expenses of \$14,492,115, equating to preliminary net revenue (revenue minus expenses) of \$5,959,141.

Molt then provided an Audit Committee report. ASHA received an unmodified opinion, which is the best audit opinion an organization can receive. A motion was made and passed to acknowledge and accept the 2022 Annual Audit Report. The BOD also approved a motion that the 2024 ASHA dues will remain at the same rate as the 2023 dues. The last time that ASHA's dues increased was in 2010.

### **AUDIOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

The BOD Audiology Subcommittee met on June 10, 2023, as a part of the June BOD meeting with Board Member At Large for Audiology Elizabeth Walker facilitating. The topics discussed are detailed below.

Chief Staff Officer for Audiology Donna Smiley provided an update from the ASHA Government Affairs and Public Policy unit that was provided by Director, Federal & Political Affairs Jerry White and Director, Federal Affairs, Health Care Josh Krantz related to ongoing audiology advocacy.

## Telehealth

- During the public health emergency (PHE), CMS waived requirements that specify the types of practitioners that may bill for telehealth services when furnished to Medicare Part B beneficiaries. Though the PHE came to an end on May 11 of this year, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 extended many telehealth waivers through December 31, 2024, including the authority for audiologists and SLPs to bill for Medicare telehealth services.
- ASHA continues to build support for the Expanded Telehealth Access Act, and support reintroduction of a companion bill in the Senate, as is currently under discussion with congressional staff for Senators Steve Daines (R-MT) and Tina Smith (D-MN).

## Medicare Audiology Services

- ASHA staff, in collaboration with the American Academy of Audiology and Association of Doctors of Audiology, is working with Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), and Rand Paul (R-KY) on reintroduction of the Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act.
- ASHA staff are also working with this group of Senators to ensure proper oversight of CMS implementation of the new AB modifier, which allows patients to access certain audiology services without a physician order once every 12 months.

## CMV

- ASHA is analyzing draft legislation from Senator Blumenthal (D-CT) that would support the goal of universal cytomegalovirus screening for newborns.

As part of an ongoing discussion related to screening and early identification of hearing loss across the lifespan, Chief Staff Officer for Science and Research Margaret Rogers discussed ASHA's involvement with The Hearing Loss project at NORC (National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago). An epidemiologist with a grant from CDC has conducted a county-level mapping of bilateral hearing loss through the United States. Major findings include a significant effect of rurality and poverty on prevalence of hearing loss. ASHA was able to provide zip code data to the researcher so that he could map where audiologists are across the country (in comparison to where people with hearing loss are). A publication is under review.

The Audiology subcommittee engaged in a robust conversation about how we might have more engagement with the CDC for recognition and research into the importance of adult hearing loss identification and the impact of untreated hearing loss.

## **SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

The BOD Speech-Language Pathology Subcommittee met on June 10, 2023, with Board Member at Large in Speech-Language Pathology Treasyri Williams Wood facilitating. Topics of discussion included the following:

1. The LGASP–LGBTQ Caucus request that the Association consider making a statement of support of the LGBTQ+ community in light of recent discriminatory legislation across several states.
2. Reviewed an InTouch concern regarding the lack of readily accessible Better Hearing and Speech Month collateral in Spanish.

Both topics were explored at length with considerable attention given to generating possible solutions on how to improve and advance procedures and communications that support and respond to members.



Further consideration of the request will continue in the context of a process under development for how similar issues should be managed by the Board and staff.

This meeting's topic for in-depth discussion explored the recently released consensus statement by The Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions (FASHP). The FASHP has declared the low number of historically underrepresented men of color (HUMOC) graduating and entering the health care professions is a national crisis. Representing 16 CEOs of associations focused on educating health professionals, FASHP has released a consensus statement addressing this critical issue, and is calling on local and national educational, health care, governmental and community leaders to raise awareness regarding this critical issue and to identify barriers and provide resources to dramatically increase the number of men of color graduating from the health professions. While ASHA is not a member of the FASHP, opportunities for collaboration, partnership and support were discussed to ensure that the Association's current work regarding this issue is maximized.

### **NSSLHA Update**

National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) National Advisor Belinda Daugherty provided updates on National NSSLHA governance, activities, and upcoming programs for students.

- In spring 2023, National NSSLHA engaged with more than 1,500 students through virtual events including the National NSSLHA Office Hours, Raw Conversations, and Instagram Sweepstakes. Additional information about upcoming virtual events can be found at <https://www.nsslha.org/programs/virtual-events/>.
- In April, National NSSLHA hosted a joint virtual event with the Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) and Student Academy of Doctors of Audiology (SADA) on the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Landscape and Implications for Students.
- Each year, National NSSLHA recognizes chapters, advisors, and members who are recipients of NSSLHA's Honors. To earn Chapter Honors, chapters are encouraged to engage in legislative advocacy, increase CSD awareness, and support the NSSLHA Grad Scholarship fund through the ASHFoundation. This year, 140 chapters, a new record, earned Gold, Silver, and Bronze Chapter Honors. These chapters...
  - increased awareness of CSD on local college campuses and communities across the country (mostly virtually),
  - increased ASHA's legislative advocacy efforts by sending more than 5,400 Take Action letters,
  - provided scholarships to students in CSD programs by contributing more than \$22,500 to the Graduate NSSLHA Scholarship through the ASHFoundation, and
  - supported CSD-related organizations by donating more than \$60,000 and approximately 25,000 hours of time.
- This year, Carlos Albizu University was recognized as National NSSLHA's Chapter of the Year.
- National NSSLHA voted to extend their strategic plan while onboarding new staff and student leaders. In the meantime, they continue to make steady progress towards the [2020–2022 Strategic Plan](#). Student representatives from National NSSLHA attended the American Academy of Audiology Conference and the National Black Association for Speech-Language & Hearing (NBASLH) Convention to further support initiatives related to collaboration and growth.

- The National NSSLHA Executive Council has also voted to revise the letter of recommendation requirement for their [undergraduate scholarship program](#). The new requirement will be a standardized reference form to make the process quicker and easier for applicants and recommenders.
- National NSSLHA offers 124 unique student leadership opportunities. This includes 12 positions on the National NSSLHA Executive Council (EC); 104 Student State Officer (SSO) positions; and 8 member positions on the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Action (IDEA) Workgroup. The call for applications closed in May. Terms for National NSSLHA's EC will begin July 1, and terms for SSOs and the IDEA workgroup will begin September 1.

## **Q&A SESSION**

The following topics were posted prior to the BOD meeting for review by each BOD member, with the opportunity to provide feedback or have questions answered during the BOD meeting.

## **InTouch Report**

[InTouch Forms](#) and member feedback are summarized monthly and reviewed with the BOD at Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Subcommittee meetings and at each BOD meeting. InTouch Forms received from members since the last BOD meeting with a cumulative summary of the messages were shared prior to the meeting. Chief Staff Officer for Communications Selena A. Ramkeesoon answered BOD members' questions regarding topics covered in the InTouch forms. Emerging issues and trends that require consideration by the BOD or select Committees, Boards, or Councils were also reviewed.

## **HILL DAY 2023**

ASHA Board Member at Large in Audiology Elizabeth Walker and Board Member at Large in Speech-Language Pathology Treasyri Williams Wood reported on ASHA's May Hill Day advocacy event, including number of attendees and states/territories represented, key meetings held with congressional representatives and staff, and progress made on legislative priorities since those meetings. This was the first in-person Hill Day held since 2019.

## **BOD GROWTH GOALS**

Based on the 2021 BOD self-assessment results, President Robert Augustine led a discussion about the impact the current BOD growth goals have had on their BOD service.

Every 2 years the BOD completes a BOD evaluation to assess the BOD's strengths, identify areas of opportunity, and determine any actions to close gaps. President Augustine thanked the BOD for their participation in the 2023 BOD Evaluation and Individual Evaluation. He noted that the results are being compiled and will be presented at the August BOD meeting which will help determine 2024 and 2025 BOD goals.

## **REQUEST TO DEVELOP NEW SLP CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF**

In February, ASHA received a letter requesting that we consider changes in the certification process to provide a path for individuals who are fluent in ASL and who are Deaf that would allow them to become ASHA certified SLPs. The BOD engaged in a robust discussion and identified some areas that need to be explored further in order to fully consider all options. Additional fact finding and discussion on this topic is planned.

The Board of Directors meeting was adjourned on June 11 at 12:00 noon ET.