

## NHSLHA Board Meeting 7/18/2011

Present: Vicki, Laura, Angela (new student rep), Heather (new PR person), June, Roxanne, Stephen, Christopher by SKYPE

1. Minutes from June Board Meeting: minutes approved.
2. Treasurer's report: \$2,327.01      Owe bounced check fee of \$20 – only \$ owed at this time. Vicki tried to get it waived, but it wasn't possible.
3. Macy's Shop 4 A Cause. Vicki had the envelopes with coupons in it. She will collect \$ in cash or check at the next Board meeting. They are to be sold for \$5 and may be used on 8/27 in person at a Macy's store or on-line. You do not have to write down buyer's names. Just collect the \$ and note how many coupons you sell. We took our stacks to sell. Remember, we get to keep the \$5 for NHSLHA.
4. We looked at draft copies of the brochure. We like the photos of people of different races. It is written with the general public in mind. June will look into getting a copy place to print a box of these for free – we would put their name up on our website.
5. Website : being worked on by our new guy, Edward Goodnow, for free. Vicki has thanked our previous web guy for his work. She relayed that he understood how we couldn't pass up free help. It was mentioned that our website is "owned" by Amy T. and needs to be transferred away from her and over to the NHSLHA. When the website is updated, folks will be able to sign up on line and pay on line. Pay Pal doesn't charge us when we aren't using it (there is a fee to us per transaction when it is in use/ the calendar part will alert folks to upcoming events / Erin and Vicki will get some training from Edward who has assumed working on the site.
6. Membership: Roxanne wrote a letter to our membership which hasn't been emailed but we were given a copy to read over this evening.

In May, when we ran a half price sale!, we had 52 renewals with 13 new people joining. We lost 7 folks in June and have 23 needing to renew this month. Our total membership is now 108. We are moving in the right direction.

7. Vicki asked if we should survey all the SLPs in the state regarding the licensing issue brought up by HB 446. This amendment, if passed, would allow for the practice of speech pathology by anyone so long as they do not hold themselves out as having a license. Roxanne shared her draft of a letter that the group read and said they liked. We discussed sending this out to our membership. We discussed an ASHA e-blast and Vicki had a copy of ASHA's eblast info. Christopher suggested we blast our membership and have ASHA do one as well. Spec Bowers is a "free stater" who is a House member and lives in Sunapee. He tried to pass this as a bill in the past. Free staters believe the less government the better. Laura said it didn't pass and so he's trying to send it through as an amendment. It'll be up for discussion in August. Laura will meet on Wed. of this week with the PT Assoc. Laura stated some tips for people who would want to speak at the discussion time –

parents and patients who were treated by qualified and/or unqualified SLPs are very good at testifying. It would be to our benefit to get parents to come and speak. Christopher suggested that this is an excellent opportunity for NHLHA to get our membership rallied around an important issue. Laura talked about each person contacting their own reps to share your dismay at this being introduced. June shared that we might want to hold on asking people to contact their reps until closer to the vote, which won't happen for many months. We should get people to attend the hearing/discussion first.

-Heather asked if the Board of Allied Health Professionals would have a role in speaking out in favor of licensure. Laura said it really depends upon who is on the Board and what things they feel are important.

-people shared their personal frustrations with the Board and how they run things. Their website was said to be a disappointment – hard to find things.

-Roxanne suggested we survey two things: how we feel about licensure and then how we feel about the Board of Allied Health. Christopher doesn't feel that a survey is necessary. He also thinks creating an initiative for changing the Board of Allied Health's approach to things might be good....

-Stephen asked Christopher if he knows any newspaper folks. He suggested an article be written about this proposal. Laura suggested letters be written to newspaper editors as a way of getting our feelings out.

-June asked how insurance and Medicaid fits into this proposal...

-we tossed about how this doesn't seem to fit with "highly qualified" teaching requirements and IDEA.....

TO DO:

1. Educate our members about the proposal and ask people to talk to patients/parents/clients who might testify
2. a blast later to tell folks the date of the hearing, get patients/parents/clients to come and SLPs need to come – the room needs to be overflowing with people who are against the proposal
3. if the amendment gets moving toward a vote, then we blast it out later for people to email/call their reps

We want to give folks ideas about what to not say/what to say regarding letters to the editors. Important thoughts might be: the idea of "highly" qualified teachers being important, insurance reimbursement and Medicaid reimbursement, consumer protection...

Roxanne will take care of the letter she showed us (with changes as spoken about) / E-Advocacy Action Alert-Message will be taken care of by Stephen who will send the info. to Vicki before sending it on / Laura will meet with PTs and then tell June what they think, especially re: writing letters to the editors and what to do about that / right now,

Laura and Stephen will contact reps (Bowers lives in Sunapee where Stephen lives, Laura will contact Seth Cohn who lives down the street from her). Christopher will speak to his own state rep who he knows very well.

Next meeting will be August 24th – Wed. at 6:30 pm at NCC

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

Minutes taken/typed by June Adinah