

NHSLHA Board Meeting 11/5/2012

Present: Erin Fortier, June Adinah, Gina England, Pam Thomas, Barbara Ahlgren, Todd Butler, Vicki Chesterley, Laura Darling

1. The group voted to accept last meeting minutes with a change for #5 from 2011 to 2012.
2. **Board Nominations:** Vicki nominated Todd to President Elect, Gina to VP of Prof. Dev. and SLP Medical Rep. Vicki has been corresponding with Cass Chapman who is being nominated for VP of Membership, and Irene Cohen is nominated to ASHA STAR. Each nomination was seconded by a member in attendance. Heather Pattangall is having trouble getting to meetings in Concord (she is VP of Public Relations) and may be stepping down.
3. **Conferences:** The Linda Eve Seth conference was super, according to Vicki. A proposal to hold the **Spring Conference** 3/11/13, a Monday, was discussed and was passed by Board vote so the date is now changed. Vt. Has offered to hold a 5/13 joint conference with NH – Patty Prelock may be a speaker. Pam thought attendance might go down for a May conference because the NH Brain injury conference is in May as well. Todd mentioned that he'd rather see us "crawl before we run" and feels that maybe we should look towards a fall date for the VT/NH one – Gina also plans the Brain Injury group's conference and said it would be too much for her to do both.

Vicki said she has received some very negative feedback re: holding our conference in Southern NH from Northern NH residents. However, we needed to take advantage of the free facilities at Nashua Community College. There was a discussion of Plymouth State or Laconia or Littleton as a possible site to approach as a free facility. North Country Educational Services is a facility in Gorham (that is very far from Southern NH). Gina will look at possible sites for conferences. Barbara is willing to look into options for website designers. Lots of complaints were shared about how our website is working or not working and how it looks. Paypal, payment of dues, conference registration, job postings, paid advertisers, listing of Board members, etc. were mentioned as priorities.

Planning for 3/11/13 conference: Gina said she and Pam would like to have the conference planning committee meet from 5-6 before the Board meeting. Even if you haven't spoken with a member of this committee about your interest in helping plan the next conference, please feel free to attend! To all folks who plan on attending this next meeting: the focus is expected to be conference structure and what topics membership is interested in. Please read over the attachment that was recently sent out by Vicki regarding what our membership is interested in having presented.

4. **Membership:** Two people at the last conference told Vicki that they'd like to join NHSLHA but can't afford it right now. She wonders if we could consider a hardship membership. This was discussed. Would we set a max. number of these per year/ could we offer \$5 per month payment plan/ would it be first received, first served? Membership is \$60 per month. Gina suggested offering a sponsorship program: a current member could offer to pay membership for another member. Pam thought a pilot program for one year would possibly be a good way to try this. It was suggested we consider free membership for work on the Board. After discussion, we decided to not do any of this because it seems to be very problematic – a proposal was made and seconded.
Erin thinks that the annual renewal of July-July was easy to handle. When we switched to a year's renewal for whenever you send in your check to a year from then is problematic – sending out reminders on an individual basis instead of once a year for all is tricky. We discussed this a little bit but did not make a firm decision to go back to the July-July membership year.
5. **Website:** Pam mentioned that she tried to join online and couldn't. Gina said our website is not user friendly right now. Internet Explorer isn't working.....Gina suggested we consider voting next meeting to get a professional designer and a great website. There was a discussion about this but no decision was made. Barbara is willing to look into options for website designers. Lots of complaints were shared about how our website is working or not working and how it looks. Paypal, payment of dues, conference registration, job postings, paid advertisers, listing of Board members, etc. were mentioned as priorities.
6. **Board Meeting /Options for Participation:** We then discussed other options for how to participate in Board Meetings without being on site....Todd has used and liked gotomeeting.com (use a computer and headphones and can be set up for audio, audio and webcams, or typing). Barbara mentioned a virtual meeting she participated in that went really well and involved folks from all over the country. She offered to look into what system was used. Todd said he's willing to look at a few of the options before the next meeting. He thinks, as do others, that it would be good to do this for some of our meetings. Vicki has researched Anymeeting.com and BigMarker.com. Both are free but have paid upgrades with more services. The Anymeeting.com website has a useful tutorial.
7. **Priorities:** We need to decide what our focus is. Providing conferences is most likely number one. Membership, updating our constitution and updating the website were mentioned as key things but no group decision was made.
8. Do we want to have a table at the Brain Injury Conference? It is \$600 for a table (includes registration for one person). The group agreed that this is too

much for us to pay and we need to put our money elsewhere, like our website.

9. **ASHA:** ASHA's SLPA Scope of Practice Draft document states that the qualifications for a supervisor of an SLPA completion of an academic course or at least 6 hours of continuing education credits in supervisory practice, completed prior to or concurrently with the first SLPA supervision experience. We agreed that supervision would be a good topic for a future conference.
The ASHA Leader will begin highlighting 12 state organizations per year. If we want NHSLHA highlighted, we need to send in information.
10. **Legislative update:** ASHA sent Vicki information on legislative proposals and Laura filled us in on several issues. Vicki asked where the suggested topics for proposals come from. Laura said the licensing board or attorney general's office is usually the origin. Laura reminded us that detailed minutes from the licensing board meetings are available online for us to read. The meetings are 3:30- whenever they end on the first Thursday of every month. We discussed four proposals:
 1. Medicaid to Schools Program: Vicki asked for clarification of "licensed practitioner of the healing arts" and the group agreed that this includes speech-language pathologists.
 2. Required documents for full and conditional licensure: New and conditional licenses now require a background check, but renewals will not.
 3. License renewal application form, supporting material for reinstatement, continuing education, and licensee obligations: Vicki shared that continuing ed done online is being questioned by the State licensing folks. It appears that they get people listing outrageous amounts of hours done online. There is a proposal that there be a limit to 15 hours that can be done online. Having a test attached to the online education seems to be important to the licensing board. We all feel differently about online education and Laura said people can petition the licensing board if they have extenuating circumstances. It was asked if people can petition the licensing board if they have extenuating circumstances and can't do clinical continuing ed hours that are not online. Laura stated that it is.
 4. Administrative obligations of individuals certified as Speech-Language Assistants: This rule regarding SLAs and their credentials includes the language "clearly state the use of their credentials" – Vicki wanted clarity regarding what that means. It is assumed that they need to clearly state that they are a SLA not a Pathologist.

Comments are due by 12/13. A hearing is scheduled for 12/6. Vicki asked if we should have a NHSLHA Board member there. Todd asked what our position is. No decision was made on having a NHSLHA representative there.

11. Next meeting: 12/10/12 at HealthSouth classroom in Concord at 6:00. Conference call participation is an option there. The conference committee will meet at 5:00 in the same location.