

Pennsylvania State Board of Speech-Language and Hearing Examiners Newsletter

March/April 2009

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Message from the Chairperson

By Amy S. Goldman, MS, CCC

This is the first issue of your board's newsletter following our first biennial renewal period requiring continuing education, and the first "online" newsletter!

Continuing education helps ensure an up-to-date workforce of qualified practitioners serving individuals with communication disabilities. In preparation for the next renewal period, I encourage you to explore all of the ways by which continuing education hours may be earned and the process and timelines for obtaining approvals, as necessary.

You probably noticed a series of questions that appeared with your application for renewal. Your answers will provide a baseline for subsequent surveys and help us understand the future supply of speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and teachers of the hearing impaired in Pennsylvania. The following findings may be of interest:

- **Retirement:** 8 percent of speech-language pathology licensees, 5 percent of audiologists, and 25 percent of teachers of the hearing impaired intend to retire or stop practicing in Pennsylvania in the next five years.
- **Higher Education:** 73 percent of speech-language pathology licensees, 61 percent of audiologists, and 81 percent of teachers of the hearing impaired completed the educational requirements for licensure in an institution of higher education in Pennsylvania.
- **Prolonged Vacancies:** 23 percent of speech-language pathology licensees, 14 percent of audiologists, and 27 percent of teachers of the hearing impaired reported they or their employer experienced a three-month or longer vacancy in a speech-language pathology, audiology or teacher of the hearing-impaired position.

Thanks to all who responded to these voluntary questions!

I am pleased to announce that the board now has its complete complement of members, including a representative teacher of the hearing impaired! Join me in welcoming our new members. You will be able to read their biographies in our next newsletter.

The board continues to follow the progress of legislation designed to update our licensure act. It is anticipated that a new bill will be introduced shortly. Contact your state professional association for more information and to learn what you can do.

Lastly, I remind you that licensure exists as a consumer protection. Let the people you serve know that you are a licensed professional and the standards you meet to obtain and maintain your license! Become aware of the process for reporting any suspected unlicensed practice, to make sure Pennsylvanians with speech and hearing disabilities receive only quality services!

Board Meeting Dates

- April 16, King of Prussia
- June 25, Harrisburg
- Sept. 18, Harrisburg
- Dec. 17, Harrisburg

View the board's online [meeting schedule](#) for updates and locations.

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