As our children return to school and the days get cooler, I think of new beginnings. With the change of seasons comes a new perspective.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with both undergraduate and graduate students to talk about their path through school and then into their professions. Speaking to these students allowed me to reflect on our need to continually grow and learn. Their excitement about entering into careers as speech-language pathologists or audiologists was demonstrated by the questions they asked. They are just as excited to learn from us as we are to learn from our peers.

As a collective group we work with such a variety of clients. We serve clients of different ages, with different disorders, and in different settings in a profession that is continually evolving. Our professions require us to continually grow, change, and learn. Our convention committee has developed a great program that will allow us to learn from and socialize with our peers in the Tri-Cities in October.

I hope to see you in the Tri-Cities and then in Seattle in November at our workshop “AAC in Medical Settings: Quick Strategies and Beyond” by Patricia Dowden, Ph.D.

Have a great year!
CONVENTION NEWS  continued

Weaving the Vines of Success

BY Karen Simpson, Co-Chair 2014 Convention

F eeling the need for some sunshine? Looking for a chance to network with your colleagues? Is it time to add some new skills, hear about the latest research, hone and refine your treatment techniques? Come to Kennewick on October 9, 10, and 11 for the annual convention. Sessions will be held at the Three Rivers Convention Center in the heart of wine country. Come early or extend your stay and take advantage of the wine festival happening that same weekend.

There will be presentations on Evaluation and Therapy Strategies for Culturally, Linguistically Diverse Pediatric Populations, Innovative Aphasia Intervention, and Common Core State Standards for SLPs. There will be opportunities to network and socialize. Please note that it is possible to register on site and receive CEUs and/or CECHs.

Looking forward to seeing you in Kennewick!

Pumpkins and Pressure: Back to School

BY Susie Beal, WSLHA Board Educational SLP

F or those SLPs and Audiologists who work in the schools, it is time to head back to work. Personally I know that the first few weeks of school are spent making schedules, data sheets, planning, and creating as many therapy materials as possible. It also means big dreams of finally having a complete plan of therapy themes for the year. As a relatively new SLP (this is my fifth year), I still go into each year thinking I can plan the entire year in the first two weeks. While I now know this is impossible, I have a few new tools in my kit this year.

My first tool is a set of theme boxes. This summer I decided to take all my materials and divide them into themed boxes. I have a box for each season, an animal box, a fairy tale box, and several smaller themes. My plan for this year is to simply assign themes to each couple of weeks and design all my therapy tools around the themes.

This leads us to my second tool, Teachers Pay Teachers (www.teacherspayteachers.com). Teachers Pay Teachers is a fantastic resource for SLPs in the schools (and those in pediatric clinic and hospital settings as well). It is an open market website where teachers, SLPs, occupational therapists, and other professionals can sell resources and materials that they have created. There are also many free materials and resources. Another useful feature about Teachers Pay Teachers is you can search for materials in a variety of ways: target, theme, price, and subject (e.g., math, reading, special

continued on next page
Treasurer’s Report
By Julie Leonardo, M.S., CCC-SLP

Below is an update on our association’s finances.

2nd Quarter 2014 (through June 30, 2014)
At the end of the second quarter, our association’s total assets were $62,228.69, as compared to $63,632.62 at the end of second quarter 2013. The balance in the WSLHA checking account was $13,797.00 and the balance in the savings/reserve account was $48,431.69.

2Q Income
WSLHA income totaled $9,498.39.
- Membership dues $2,200.00
- Workshops $4,695.00
- Continuing Education $4,440.00
- Advertising/Exhibits $375.00
- Miscellaneous $6.04
- *Scholarships $2,717.65
- *earmarked & removed from income total

YTD Balance Sheet
- WSLHA total assets $59,180.79
- Checking $10,747.04
- Savings $48,433.75

This is compared to total assets of $62,379.77 at this same time in 2013.

YTD Income
WSLHA YTD income totals $14,626.42 (against a budget of $104,966.85)
- Membership dues $6,395.00
- Workshops $4,695.00
- Continuing Education $4,605.00
- Advertising/Exhibits $1,020.00
- Miscellaneous $129.07
- *Scholarships – $2,717.65
- *earmarked & removed from income total

YTD Expenses
WSLHA YTD expenses total $26,878.92 (against a budget of $104,966.85)
- Management Services $15,026.70
- Lobbying Services $8,893.79
- Other Operating Expenses $1,986.21
- Newsletter $385.00
- Workshops $337.22
- Continuing Education $250.00

YTD Net Income = –$12,252.50

Overall, our 2014 budget is on track. As a reminder, our primary revenue influx will occur during 4th quarter from:
1. The annual convention in Kennewick (October)
2. Membership renewals (October–December)
3. Our fall workshop in Seattle (November)

The complete first and second quarter financial reports can be accessed via the Member Services section of the website by selecting “Association Documents” and “Financial Reports”. Please contact me if you have any questions and I hope to see you at the annual convention in Kennewick!

*earmarked & removed from income total

Year to Date (through July 31, 2014)
Membership numbers are generally holding steady for the first half of the year, at 415 total members. This is only slightly behind where we were at this time in 2013 (424 members). In our largest membership categories, we have 280 full members, 74 student members, 19 life members, and 16 Clinical Fellows.

What are your goals for therapy this school year? Whatever they may be, I hope that you find the tools to help you accomplish them. I wish you all a happy school year. ■
The following bylaws are being submitted to the membership for consideration, discussion, and a vote. Changes are noted in the strike-out and replaced italicized wording below.

**Article VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Section 1. Positions on the Executive Board**

Duties of the Board Positions are described in the WSLHA Policies and Procedures Manual.

- **Board Officers:**
  - President
  - President-Elect
  - Past President
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Board of Directors

- **Clinical and Private Practice Speech Language Pathologist**
- **Clinical and Private Practice Audiologist**
- **Educational Speech-language Pathologist**
- **Educational Audiologist**
  - to be replaced by one representative for both clinical and private practice SLP or Audiologist
  - to be replaced by one representative, either educational SLP or Audiologist.

**Section 2. Terms of office**

The term of office for all other board members shall be two years with staggered terms so that a minimum of two are elected each year.

Rationale: The effect of this change is to decrease the number of board members to 8 from 10. The board has been operating with less than full strength due to inability to find audiology affiliated members who are able to serve. If this bylaw passes, then there will be a change in the quorum numbers. The following change in Section 5 Meetings will be necessary:

...Business may be conducted when a quorum (2/3 of voting members or 5 of the 8 board members) is present.

These bylaw changes will be presented and discussed at the annual meeting at the October convention in the Tri-Cities. Voting will be completed by e-mail ballot sent in November after the meeting. Please discuss this with your colleagues and send questions or comments to: Robbie Jackson, Bylaws Chair, rjackson@ewu.edu

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**Washington State Health Care Authority Apple Health Update**

(Adapted from Washington State Health Care Authority website)

On July 1, 2014, Washington Apple Health (Medicaid), administered by the Health Care Authority (agency), changed the way it notifies providers that a program has changed. The agency formerly updated each provider guide at the start of each quarter: July 1, October 1, January 1, and April 1. Currently:

- The agency no longer sends provider notice (PN) e-mails.
- It is the provider's duty to access the updated provider guides on the agency's website, [http://hca.wa.gov/medicaid/billing/pages/bi.aspx](http://hca.wa.gov/medicaid/billing/pages/bi.aspx), at the start of each quarter. The agency will consider providers on notice of all material contained in the provider guides available on its website.

Each provider guide will continue to be posted on the agency's web page, and the effective date for each guide will be stated on the guide's cover. Inside each guide, major program changes will be summarized in the “What Has Changed” table, which will contain hyperlinks to the places in the guide where those changes occur. If a guide does not contain any changes, the “What Has Changed” table will simply read: NO CHANGE AT THIS TIME. If a program change occurs outside the quarterly update cycle, the agency will send providers a listserv notice alerting them that a change has occurred and hyperlinking the relevant provider guide.
When the Legislature convenes next January, legislators will be faced with the very daunting task of passing a balanced budget for the 2015-17 biennium. While our state is climbing out of the recession and getting back on track economically, several factors are at play that create another budget crisis.

The Governor’s budget office, the Office of Financial Management (OFM), is projecting additional revenue for the state of $2.4 billion for the 2015-17 biennium. That’s the good news. The bad news is that most of this additional revenue will be necessary to cover “maintenance level” spending. This means that in order for the state to provide the same services in the next biennium as it does now, it will cost almost as much as the projected new revenue. This does not leave much funding left over for other budget priorities.

In addition to maintenance level spending, the Legislature has a mandate from the Supreme Court to appropriate additional funding for K-12 education under the McCleary court decision. The estimates for this spending are between $1.2 billion and $2 billion for the 2015-17 budget. The Supreme Court also recently decided a case regarding mental health patients that will cost the state approximately $30 million to comply with.

To prepare for this bleak budget outlook, Governor Inslee required state agencies to perform a budget reduction exercise this summer, asking for each agency to propose cuts totaling 15% of the agency’s budget. Those reductions are being forwarded to the Governor for consideration as he drafts his proposed biennial budget. The Constitution requires the Governor to produce a balanced budget without using any new revenue. So the first budget we see from him will likely include cuts to vital state programs serving vulnerable populations. It is expected that Governor Inslee will then produce a second budget that “buys back” those cuts with new revenue. We will see these budgets in mid-December.

Then it will be the Legislature’s turn to draft its 2015-17 budget. There will be many deliberations on funding priorities, possible new revenue, along with state program cuts during the legislative session. Unfortunately, there will be no easy answers. But WSLHA will be working with our partners in health care and education to minimize the impact on the students and patients we work with every day.

On July 31, 2014, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a final rule confirming the new ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision) implementation date of October 1, 2015, after the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 delayed the planned October 1, 2014, transition. The final rule also requires the health care industry to continue using ICD-9 (9th Revision) through September 30, 2015.

HHS waived the normal rulemaking requirements—which include a notice of proposed rulemaking and comment period—in order to alleviate uncertainty regarding next steps for implementation. In explaining its decision to move forward with the October 1, 2015, date, HHS stated that “A delay of longer than 1 year would slow or stop progress towards ICD-10 implementation, and create wasteful spending.”

ASHA will continue to monitor progress towards implementation and will provide updates as HHS and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) move forward.

**Background**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires ICD-10 to be used for health services billing and record-keeping. However, on April 1, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, which included a provision that delayed the October 1, 2014, implementation of ICD-10. This is not the first time that implementation of ICD-10 has been delayed due to congressional action.

**continued on next page**
**ASHA UPDATES**

New 2015 ICD-10 Implementation Date Confirmed

Once implemented, ICD-10-CM (Clinical Modification) will replace ICD-9-CM (9th Revision, Clinical Modification) as the official system of assigning codes to diagnoses and procedures in the United States. The ICD-9-CM is 30 years old, has outdated and obsolete terminology, and produces limited data. ICD-10-CM will allow for more codes and greater specificity and better data tracking of incidence and prevalence of disease.

**Resources**

ASHA had developed extensive resources ([www.asha.org/Practice/reimbursement/coding/ICD-10](http://www.asha.org/Practice/reimbursement/coding/ICD-10)) to assist audiologists and speech-language pathologists with the transition to ICD-10, including an ICD-9 to ICD-10 mapping tool and discipline-specific ICD-10-CM code lists. For questions regarding the transition, please contact reimbursement@asha.org.

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**Future Convention Sites**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 10–11, 2014</td>
<td>Three Rivers Convention Center &amp; Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 9–10, 2015</td>
<td>Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 7–8, 2016</td>
<td>Hotel Murano, Tacoma, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13–14, 2017</td>
<td>Holiday Inn and Convention Center, Everett, WA</td>
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**UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS**

Check out the Upcoming Continuing Education events in WA by visiting the Members Only section of our website [www.wslha.org](http://www.wslha.org).

You can also find many upcoming workshops, 4–6 months in advance by using the ASHA website: [http://www.asha.org/CE/ASHA-courses/](http://www.asha.org/CE/ASHA-courses/).

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*We all know how vital communication is... So let’s communicate with each other!*

Join the WSLHA **e-mail listserv**

and

Join us on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com)! 🌐

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Communique

Third Quarter 2014
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