

P E N N S Y L V A N I A
S T A T E B O A R D O F
**EXAMINERS IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE
AND HEARING**
N E W S L E T T E R

WINTER 2007-2008



COMMONWEALTH
OF PENNSYLVANIA

Edward G. Rendell
Governor

Pedro A. Cortés
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Basil L. Merenda
*Commissioner,
Bureau of Professional and
Occupational Affairs*

Mark Vessella
*Deputy Commissioner,
Bureau of Professional and
Occupational Affairs*

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2008 Board Meetings

Feb. 7 — Harrisburg
April 11 — Pittsburgh
June 5 — Harrisburg
Sept. 4 — Harrisburg
Dec. 18 — Harrisburg

Governor's Newsletter

Sign up now at www.governor.state.pa.us
to receive the weekly e-newsletter from
Governor Rendell on important issues facing Pennsylvania.

Message from the Chairwoman

by Karen Goltz Stein, M.A., CCC-SLP

2008 will be a renewal year for our licensees. Renewal notices will be sent in May and, once again, you will have the ability to renew your license online. The importance of renewing your license cannot be understated. Failure to renew can lead to disciplinary action.

One of the duties of this board is to establish standards of eligibility for license renewal. In 2006, all licensees were informed at the time of their license renewal of the new, mandatory, 20-hour continuing education requirement. Currently, 41 states have mandatory continuing education requirements as a way to ensure continued professional competence and up-to-date knowledge and skills. States that did not initially require mandatory continuing education provisions are now adopting such requirements.

At the time of license renewal next year, all applicants will provide, on forms provided by the board, a signed statement certifying that the continuing education requirement has been met. In September, the board will randomly audit renewals to determine compliance. Applicants selected for audit must provide the board with the certified continuing education record as described in section 45.506(b) (relating to provider responsibilities) for each continuing education program completed. If you have just become licensed for the first time during the biennial renewal period, 2006-2008, you are exempt from meeting this continuing education requirement in our current biennial renewal period and will not be audited in September. However, you must accrue continuing education hours during the 2008-2010 biennial renewal period and may be audited in September 2010. Visit the board's Web site at www.dos.state.pa.us/speech and review Frequently Asked Questions and more information concerning these new regulations.

During the past three years, a priority of the board has been to reach out to licensees with updated information concerning the process and requirements of licensure. Board Counsel Roberta Silver, board Administrator Sandra Matter and members of the board have presented at the 2005, 2006 and 2007 PSHA conferences. These presentations were aimed at providing information with respect to the new continuing education regulations as well as providing general information about our licensure law, how to

become licensed and, if necessary, file a complaint. We look forward to continuing opportunities to inform our licensees and the public about licensure in PA, as such outreach remains a key aspect of the board's mission.

In 2006, the board voted to increase the number of annual meetings from four to six. As always, the board welcomes input from professionals, licensees, the public and others who help us to improve procedures and processes, protect the public and assure quality provision of services by highly competent professionals.

The State Board of Examiners has also continued to work with state professional organizations, licensees, and state lawmakers to make the licensure act consistent with current professional practice standards. The bill that was being considered during the past legislative session never made it out of committee but PSHA and the PAA are currently collaborating to develop new language for a bill that should be introduced during the upcoming session.

Among the primary duties of the board are to approve the qualifications and fitness of applicants for licensure and to adopt and revise rules and regulations for licensure. It is of primary importance for the board to ensure that the consumers of the services of the professions under its jurisdiction receive services of the highest quality from professionals who meet strict ethical standards of conduct. To this end, only the most qualified professionals are appointed to serve on the board.

The board is composed of the commissioner of the Bureau of Professional and Occupation Affairs, at least one member, who at the time of appointment, is engaged in rendering professional services in speech-language pathology, one member who at the time is engaged in rendering professional services in audiology, one member who is engaged as a teacher of the hearing impaired, two members at large who are either speech-language pathologists, audiologists or teachers of the hearing impaired (each profession, however, shall not be represented by more than two board members), two physicians licensed to practice medicine in this commonwealth, at least one of whom specializes in otolaryngology, two members of the public appointed by the governor from nominations submitted by the governing boards of groups advocating for the welfare of the speech, language and hearing impaired. The board, at present, is not operating with a full complement of

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members, and is waiting for approval from the Governor's Office for nominees.

The following are short biographical sketches of board members.

Karen Goltz Stein, Indiana, Chairwoman

Karen Goltz Stein has served as a leader in health care, initially directing a speech-language pathology program and, more recently, rehabilitation services in two community hospitals. She has demonstrated a commitment to service excellence and a creative approach to service delivery. Karen currently serves as director of the Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic at Indiana University of PA, bringing the same commitment to bear in the preparation of pre-professional speech-language pathologists. In 2006, she was elected to serve on the National Council of State Boards of Examiners in Speech, Language and Hearing and is currently serving as that board's president-elect. Ms. Stein is currently serving her second term on our state board.

Edward F. Sickel, M.D., Camp Hill, Board Member

Dr. Sickel is a graduate of Dickinson College and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Dr. Sickel completed his residency in otorhinolaryngology at Geisinger Medical Center. Dr. Sickel has served on the board since 2000.

Sean Campbell, M.D., York, Board Member

Dr. Campbell has been an actively practicing, board certified pediatrician in York for the past 14 years. He received his undergraduate degree at Florida State University and his medical degree at the University of Florida. Dr. Campbell completed his pediatric residency at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va. Dr. Campbell was appointed to the board in 2005.

Amy S. Goldman, MS, CCC, Philadelphia, Board Member

Ms. Goldman has been a leader in the profession, having served as vice president for governmental affairs as well as president of the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association, legislative councilor to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and treasurer of the Council of State Association Presidents. She is currently a member of the Steering Committee of the ASHA Special Interest Division on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). She is an

associate director of the Institute on Disabilities, Pennsylvania's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Temple University, where she directs almost \$2 million in state and federal programs focused on assistive technology and accessible information technology. She is a nationally known presenter in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and assistive technology, and has provided "expert witness" testimony in a variety of judicial proceedings aimed at improving the lives of individuals with disabilities. Ms. Goldman was appointed to the board in 2006.

Janis Williams, Pittsburgh, Public Member

Ms. Williams was recently appointed to the board and brings a wealth of experience from working in the public sector. With a thorough understanding of the importance of complying with regulatory requirements, she plans to put that experience to work for the benefit of the commonwealth through this appointment. Ms. Williams also works on accessibility issues and UFAS/ADA/Section 504 compliance in her role with the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh.

In Memoriam: George S. Osborne, Ph.D., D.D.S, Berwyn, Board Member

On June 14, 2007, Dr. Osborne passed away. The Berwyn board member was Dean of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry's School of Audiology.

Dr. Osborne was a pioneer in the field of audiology, working tirelessly to advance the profession. He was the co-founder and director of both the American Academy of Audiology and the Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education; co-founder and past chair of the Audiology Foundation of America, and founder and past president of the Pennsylvania Academy of Audiology.

Dr. Osborne had been professionally involved in audiology for over 30 years. He had participated on committees of The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and was the first president of the Illinois Academy of Audiologists and Speech Pathologists in Private Practice and the Pennsylvania Academy of Audiology. In 1999, Dr. Osborne was appointed Dean of the PCO School of Audiology, the first of its kind in the country. He had a long-standing commitment to the hearing and balance impaired

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consumer and worked as chair of the Illinois Speech & Hearing Association Legislative Committee to create the first license for speech-language pathologists and audiologists in Illinois. He was a co-author of the widely used Illinois Hearing Aid Dealers registration examination. At the time of his death, he was serving

his second term on the Pennsylvania licensure board.

Dr. Osborne will be missed by many. He leaves his wife, Joan, his son, Brian, daughter-in-law, Karen, daughter, Tonya Delborne, son-in-law, Jason Delborne and four granddaughters.

Prosecution's Charging Unit Celebrates One-Year Anniversary

By Basil Merenda, Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs

Since the charging unit hit the ground running in August 2006, it has saved time and resources for the prosecution department. Under the direction of Peter Marks, executive deputy chief counsel, and C.A.L. Shields, Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation (BEI) director and a former four-term elected district attorney from Schuylkill County, the unit consists of four prosecutors, BEI's director and deputy director.

The unit meets daily to review and analyze complaints and investigations of professional misconduct on behalf of the 27 boards and commissions. The unit makes prosecutorial decisions, including dismissals, reinvestigations, negotiated consent agreements, re-reviews, and recommendations for formal action by trial prosecutors. It allows decision-making at a much earlier time in the process and subjects each case to analysis by at least two or more experienced prosecutors. The result is quicker, better and more efficient decision-making and processing of professional complaints.

The charging unit is a concept that Governor Edward G. Rendell used while he was district attorney of Philadelphia. As district attorney, Governor Rendell used the charging unit to reduce the criminal case backlog in Philly. In fact, most, if not all, of the district attorneys in Pennsylvania use a charging unit of some sort to process criminal complaints and to control the criminal caseload in their counties. Based on my experience as an intern with the Philly DA's office during that time, I wanted to adapt a charging unit to what we do here at BPOA.

As you see, the charging unit solves two problems: it coordinates the legal office, professional compliance office and BEI under a single unit; and it brings a legal analysis into the complaint review process as soon as a consumer files a complaint with the bureau.

Keep up the great work streamlining the processes and saving time and resources to better serve the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Reminder...

Renew Your License Online

You are eligible to renew online if:

- You are currently in your license renewal period
- Your license is delinquent by no more than 30 days

First-time users will need the following information:

- Pennsylvania License Number
- Registration Code
- Current mailing address
- Credit Card information
- E-mail address

Go to the Department's Web site at
www.dos.state.pa.us

Click on **RENEW** a Professional License
(www.myLicense.state.pa.us).

Then simply follow the instructions
to renew your license online.

Use of Assistants by Speech-Language Pathologists, Audiologists and Teachers of the Hearing Impaired

Subchapter E of the regulations of the State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language and Hearing, 49 Pa. Code §§ 45.301-45.308, regulates the use of assistants by speech-language pathologists, audiologists and teachers of the hearing-impaired.

Any licensee employing an assistant is required to complete a form, which can be downloaded from the board's Web site or received in hard copy from the board office. Licensees must provide the name of the assistant, the location where the assistant will work, certification that the assistant has met the

education and training requirements mandated by § 45.304 of the regulations and an attestation by the assistant and the licensee that the assistant has read the chapter of the regulations relating to assistants. Beginning with the 2006 biennial licensee renewal period, no licensee who employs one assistant or a maximum of three assistants will be permitted to renew his or her license unless the completed form has been filed with the board. Please be sure that, if you employ assistants in your practice, you have a completed form on file in the board's office.

Disciplinary Actions

Catherine L. Reardon, license no. AT005845 of Downingtown, Chester County, was assessed a \$1,350 civil penalty because Reardon practiced on a lapsed license. (02-16-06)

Florence Walters, license no. AT000252L, of Lansdale, Montgomery County, was assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty because she practiced audiology while her license was expired. (06-08-07)

Emily Tinley Cipalla, license no. SL008454, of Lumberton, N.C., agreed to an indefinite suspension of her speech-language pathology license because she had disciplinary action against her license in N.C. She may seek reinstatement after her professional license in N.C. is reinstated. (06-08-07)

UNETHICAL OR UNLICENSED ACTIVITY

If you believe the practice or service provided by a licensed professional to be unethical, below an acceptable standard or out of the scope of the profession; or if you are aware of unlicensed practice, please call the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs hotline:

In Pennsylvania: 1-800-822-2113

Out of State: 1-717-783-4854

A complaint form is available on the Department of State's Web site:
www.dos.state.pa.us

P E N N S Y L V A N I A

**EXAMINERS IN SPEECH-
LANGUAGE & HEARING**

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