



Maryland

Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

301-304-7001 | WWW.MDSLHA.ORG | INFO@MDSLHA.ORG

Quarterly Newsletter

October 2025

Vol. 6

Message From the President

Karen Miranda, M.S., CCC-SLP



Greetings, MSHA Members!

Greetings, everyone! I hope this message finds you all doing well and keeping your spirits high amidst everything going on around us. The work we do as speech-language pathologists and audiologists continues to be vital, and I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for your dedication to our clients, students, and communities across Maryland.

Capitol Hill Day: A Voice for Our Professions

On September 16, I had the privilege of representing MSHA at Capitol Hill Day, an event hosted by ASHA. It was inspiring to connect with colleagues and state association representatives from Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Delaware. While we were unable to meet directly with our congressional representatives, we met with their staff members to discuss key issues impacting our professions.

Our advocacy efforts focused on several important “asks,” including:

- Supporting continued funding for IDEA
- Protecting the Department of Education
- Advocating for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

It was a great experience, sharing our voices on matters that affect our professional community and the individuals we serve. I truly hope that in some way, our conversations helped move the needle toward positive change.

It's Election Season at MSHA!

We have three positions open for election:

- President-Elect
- Director of Public Policy
- Director of Recording and Finance

Elections are a vital part of keeping our association strong and forward-moving. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our outgoing directors for their service and dedication. Megan Miskowski, for her tireless work and wealth of knowledge in advocacy—your contributions have been invaluable. Ivlysse Claudio, for stepping so seamlessly into the role of Director of Finance and Recording—your enthusiasm and commitment have made such a positive impact. I also want to thank Lindsay Knoblauch for her time and dedication as the MSHA State Education Advocacy Leader (SEAL).

While we will certainly miss them, we are also excited to welcome new leadership and the fresh perspectives that come with it. Together, we'll continue to build on MSHA's mission to support our members and advance the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology throughout Maryland.

In Closing

Thank you all for your ongoing support and engagement. Let's continue to stay connected, advocate for our professions, and celebrate the important work we do every day.



MSHA Newsletter

From the Director of University Affairs and Clinical Education

Bethany Schwing-Chapman, M.A., CCC-SLP



University Affairs Update

Our student and faculty committees have both started this year! The student committee discussed learning theory, time management, and student role in MSHA. Our next student meeting will be held 11/5/25 and focus on. The faculty committee met and discussed glows and grows amongst the universities and decided future topics.

We will meet next on 12/3/25 and discuss navigating DEI efforts amid challenging times and continue with glows and grows with teaching practices that are working with the current generation of students. If anyone wants to join the committee, please email Bethany Schwing-Chapman at msha.university.affairs@gmail.com.

From the Director of Recording and Finance

Ivelysse Claudio, M.S., CCC-SLP



We're excited to share that MSHA's finances are continuing to grow—thanks to you! Every renewed and new membership helps keep our organization strong and allows us to invest in opportunities that support professional growth and community connection. Your involvement in our webinars, High Leverage Practice Series, and Clinical Connections not only strengthens our shared expertise but also helps us deliver even more

valuable content and expand our impact. Because of your continued support, our budget is on a healthy, upward path—giving us the confidence to plan ahead and keep providing the great resources you count on.

Thank you for being such an important part of MSHA's success—your commitment truly makes a difference!

Ivelysse Claudio, M.S., CCC-SLP
Director of Finance



"MSHA Speaks So Others Can"

From the Director of Multicultural Affairs

Norah AlJunaidi, M.A., CCC-SLP



I'm excited to share a new project we're developing within the Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC): a podcast centered on cultural and linguistic diversity in communication sciences and disorders—right here in Maryland!

The podcast will spotlight the voices and stories of Maryland SLPs and audiologists, highlight community initiatives across the state, and explore advocacy, health equity, and linguistic diversity in our field. We hope it will both celebrate our community and provide meaningful professional learning opportunities.

We're currently looking for volunteers to help bring this project to life!

Volunteer roles may include:

- Co-Host/Interviewer – help lead engaging conversations with guests
- Guest Coordinator – assist with outreach, scheduling, and communication
- Audio/Tech Support – handle recording, editing, and uploads
- Marketing & Promotion – help with social media, graphics, and announcements, applying for ASHA CEUs
- Content/CEU Research – assist with topic development and future CEU planning, show note writer
- Other (open to suggestions!)

Time commitment: approximately 2-3 hours per month, flexible and collaborative.

Our goal is to start organizing the team and planning our first episodes by mid-November, record our first pilot in December, and officially launch in early 2026.

If you're interested, please fill out this short [interest form](#) by November 15.

Thank you for considering being part of this new initiative! Your creativity, perspective, and energy will help us build something that truly reflects Maryland's diverse communication community.

Warmly,

Norah AlJunaidi
Multicultural Affairs Committee
Maryland Speech-Language-Hearing Association

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From the State Advocate for Reimbursement (STARs) Liaison

Rachael Caruso, M.S., CCC-SLP



Update from STAR (State Advocates for Reimbursement). ASHA has a resource about the impact of the government shutdown on our profession. It is being kept up to date with any new developments. [How the gov't shutdown may impact Aud/SLPs and those we serve.](#)

During our monthly STAR meeting, other states have shared an uptick in denials for duplicative services (school/outpatient, across MCO, Medicaid) and for certain CPT codes (SGD and non SGD). Please email msha.starslp@gmail.com to share if you have also noticed similar patterns.



From the Director of Advocacy and Public Policy

Megan Miskowski, SLPD, CCC-SLP



Preparing for the 2026 Legislative Session

As we approach the start of the Maryland General Assembly's 2026 legislative session in January, MSHA's Public Policy and Advocacy Committee is gearing up to advance priorities that strengthen our professions and the communities we serve. Our team continues to

monitor key legislative committees and workgroups in Annapolis that address education, healthcare, and professional practice. We invite all members to join our next committee meeting to help shape MSHA's legislative agenda—your expertise and perspective are essential in ensuring that our advocacy reflects the needs of speech-language pathologists and audiologists across the state. Meetings occur at 6 pm on the final Tuesday via of each month via Zoom. Please email MSHAPublicPolicy@gmail.com to be added to the calendar invite.

Legislative Spotlight: AI in Education

The Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families recently convened to explore the rapidly growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in education. Committee Chairs Del. Kevin Harris and Sen. James emphasized both the opportunities and challenges AI presents, particularly its potential to improve learning outcomes for underperforming students. Dr. Jin Lu from the University of Maryland shared that 40% of teachers now use AI tools for grading and lesson planning, and 86% of educational organizations have adopted generative AI—higher than any other industry. Discussions highlighted AI's applications in personalized learning, early diagnosis and support for students with disabilities, and automated feedback for teachers.

Representatives from the Maryland State Department of Education outlined ongoing pilot programs in Baltimore County and Dorchester County using AI tutoring platforms, along with plans to release statewide AI guidance by December. The committee concluded by recognizing the collaborative efforts of state agencies, local districts, and universities in promoting responsible and equitable AI integration in Maryland schools. The MSHA public policy team will continue to monitor this issue for speech language pathologists and audiologists in Maryland.

Advertise Here! Do you want to share your product, services, or any good news, the MSHA Newsletter is a good place to start! Contact info@mdslha.org for more information.

Vision Statement

Optimizing the human right of communication by amplifying the voices of all we serve.

Mission Statement

Collectively, we elevate and engage members to strive for excellence in serving those impacted by communication and related disorders through advocacy, equity, education, inter-professional collaboration, and leadership development.

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