2016 NJSHA Election Position Statements

One Year Term:

Nicole Ford, MS, CCC-SLP
Red Bank, New Jersey

Education
MS, Seton Hall University

Certification and License
CCC, Speech-Language Specialist, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology
New Jersey State Standard Administrative Certificate with Supervisor Endorsement
New Jersey State Elementary Teacher Certification, Certificate in Gerontology

Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities
• Published articles in NJSHA Voices
• Designed and launched a “Mommy and Me” speech-language program for children 20-36 months of age to stimulate language development and facilitate social interaction
• Integrated speech-language lessons into daily camp activities for teens with Down Syndrome
• Provided contact education hours for nursing staff on Dysphagia in collaboration with the Registered Dietitian at a local hospital
• Presented at School Affairs Update during NJSHA Convention
• Supervised CF students during their clinical practicum at Riverview Medical Center

Professional Association Membership
• New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) School Affairs Committee, Vice Chair (current), Chair (2013)
• NJSHA Telepractice Subcommittee, Member
• American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Member

Position Statement
I am honored to be nominated to run for the NJSHA Board of Directors. Over the last five years my involvement in the School Affairs Committee has heightened my understanding of just how much goes into a single committee. I have seen the hard work and collaboration that goes into advocating for our profession, mentoring others so they may advocate for themselves and continue to provide quality care to the clients that they treat. It has been an honor to serve and learn from the distinguished professionals that make up our Association. I feel it is important to give back and to continue the great work others have done for our profession. As a Board of Directors member I will continue to advocate for our profession, promote public awareness, and continue to be a resource for our members to ensure and maintain the highest quality for the clients and families we serve.
One Year Term:

**Gabrielle Haliburton, SLPD, CCC-SLP**  
Chesilhurst, New Jersey

**Education**  
SLPD, Nova Southeastern University

**Certification and License**  
CCC, Speech-Language Specialist, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology

**Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities**
- ACE Awards
- Incoming member of ASHA’s Committee on Nominations and Elections (CNE)
- Served as a mentor in ASHA’s STEP Program
- Received Certificate of Appreciation for paying it forward (from mentee to mentor) in ASHA’s STEP Program

**Professional Association Membership**
- New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJS HA)
- Tri County Speech and Hearing Association (TCSHA) – Executive Board Member
- New Jersey Education Association (NJEA)
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) – Incoming Member of CNE

**Position Statement**
I would like to be considered for a one year term position on the Board of Directors. I decided to run for a board position because I feel my current goals are aligned with NJS HA’s mission, which is service, awareness and advocacy. If elected, I hope to use my skills and expertise in order to collaborate with other board members to continue to support NJS HA’s mission. Thank you for your consideration.
One Year Term:

Susan Jarvis-Hagstrom  
Pennington, New Jersey

Education  
MA, The College of New Jersey

Certification and License  
CCC, Speech-Language Specialist, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology

Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities  
- Presenter of various speech/language/learning-related topics for professionals and parents  
- Inducted into Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education at The College of New Jersey (1978)  
- ACE Award

Professional Association Membership  
- New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) Board of Directors – Past Secretary  
- Central Jersey Speech-Language and Hearing Association (CJSHA) - President  
- International Dyslexia Association - Member  
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) – Member

Position Statement  
It is now my time to give back to the profession I so love! As an experienced SLP with over 30 years in the field (private practice, educational, healthcare, corporate settings), I have seen our profession grow in numbers and scope of practice. Through varied work environments, I have learned to meld direct care and a business mindset including performance improvement, project management and administration. If elected, I will leverage my experience and knowledge gained to promote sharing and collaboration with ASHA and among related professionals in New Jersey, mentorship of graduate students and CFs and continued expansion and outreach of NJSHA.
One Year Term:

Robyn Merkel-Walsh, MA, CCC-SLP
Fairview, New Jersey

Education
MA, Montclair State University

Certification and License
CCC, Speech-Language Specialist, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology

Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities
• NJSHA Program of the Year, Shaler Academy (2015)
• Author: A Sensory Motor Approach to Feeding, Oral Placement to Speech (OPT-S), SysteMatic Intervention for Lingual Elevation (SMILE), Sensory Stix, Teaming Up to Correct Tie Tie, Autism Spectrum Disorders: Clinical Parameters of Oral Placement Therapy (OPT), and Orofacial Myofunctional Disorders in Individuals with a Diagnosis of Down Syndrome.
• Board Chair of the Oral Motor Institute.
• ASHA poster presenter (2014, 2015)
• NJ Kids Top Doctors (2012, 2013, 2014)

Professional Association Membership
• New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSKA) - Member
• American Speech-Language-Hearing Association - Member
• Oral Motor Institute (OMI) - Chair
• AAPPSPA - Member
• New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) - Member

Position Statement:
I have been a NJSHA member for more than twenty years. With experience in the schools, private practice and publications, I have the experience to represent clinicians in a variety of settings. As a published author and lecturer, I’m actively involved in the pursuit of Evidenced-Based Practice. I would like to contribute to the Association by helping preserve the ethical standards set forth by ASHA. In particular, protecting our scope of practice to ensure that our expertise remains strong in the schools, hospitals and private sector.
One Year Term:

Juliette Skoldberg, MS, CCC-SLP
Long Valley, New Jersey

Education
MS, East Stroudsburg University

Certification and License
CCC, Speech-Language Specialist, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology
Special Education, Early Childhood, Reading

Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities
• Dyslexia Consultation Committee Chair for Great Meadow Regional School District

Professional Association Membership
• New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) School Affairs Committee – Member
• NJSHA Continuing Education Committee – Member
• American Speech-Language-Hearing Association – Member of Special Interest Division
• WCHSLA – Past President
• WCSHLA – Advisory Board

Position Statement
I am excited to have this opportunity to be considered for the Board of Directors for a one year term. If elected I will bring with me my passion for continuing education, school advocacy and service. My desire to advocate for SLS through mentorship, education and knowledge is evident through my past experiences with WCSHLA, and with NJSHA serving on both the School Affairs Committee and the Continuing Education Committee. It is my desire to continue to serve NJSHA in a broader manner through serving on the Board of Directors.
One Year Term:

Joanne Summer, MA, CCC-SLP
Morristown, New Jersey

Education
MA, Montclair State University

Certification and License
CCC, Speech-Language Specialist, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology

Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities
- Camp Shout Out
- The Stuttering Foundation: Eastern Workshop 2015
- The Stuttering Foundation: Mid-Atlantic Workshop 2005
- Undergraduate – Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa

Professional Association Membership
- New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) – Member
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) – Member
- Morris County Speech and Hearing Association – Member
- International Fluency Association – Member
- American Association for Private Practice in SLP and Audiology - Member

Position Statement
During my nearly 12 years of membership, I have appreciated the role NJSHA plays in educating its members and the public and advocating for our professions and the people we serve. In addition to attending the annual Conventions and the recent leadership training program, I have represented NJSHA at Special Olympics and an elementary school “Disabilities Awareness Day” event. I have also advised NJSHA on responding to the furor surrounding Philip Garber, who was told by his professor to stop speaking when stuttering. If elected to the Board, I hope to further help the organization achieve its vision and goals.
Three Year Term:

Sue Goldman, MA, CCC-SLP
Basking Ridge, New Jersey

Education
MS, Boston University

Certification and License
CCC, Speech-Language Specialist, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology

Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities
• Distinguished Professional Service Award - New Jersey Speech-Language Hearing Association (2015)
• Honors of the Association - New Jersey Speech-Language Hearing Association (2001)
• Volunteer of the Year Award - New Jersey Speech-Language Hearing Association (1996)
• Middlesex County Governor’s Teacher Recognition Award - Lindeneau School (1997)
• 11 ACE Awards

Professional Association Membership
• NJSHA School Affairs – Member, Past Chair
• New Jersey Association of SLSs - Board Member
• NJ Coalition of Inclusive Ed - Advisory Board Member
• New Jersey Education Association (NJEA)

Position Statement:
My wish is to advocate for the rights of language-learning impaired students. Roles of SLPs in the schools have been constantly evolving. These roles are often defined by outside influences, rather than regulations and best practice for clients. Alternatives being considered may threaten jobs and the entire profession. SLPs must make appropriate transitions in school settings to benefit both their students and the profession. As co-author of the NJDOE Technical Assistance and part of a five member ASHA committee who rewrote the document on the roles and responsibilities of SLPs in the schools, I feel I have good insight into issues.
Three Year Term:

**Madelyn Kalb, MS, CCC-SLP**  
Middletown, New Jersey

**Education**  
MS, Southern Connecticut State University

**Certification and License**  
CCC, Speech-Language Specialist, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology

**Professional Association Membership**
- New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) – Board of Directors
- NJSHA Continuing Education Committee – Vice Chair
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
- National Association for the Education of Young Children

**Position Statement:**
My 30+ years in the field of speech-language pathology prepared me for “what’s next” moments. As a NJSHA member since 1989, I have witnessed a constant within the organization, namely its vibrancy and ability to remain current as well as being able to resonate with core issues (state and national) that impact on speech pathology and audiology. NJSHA is interested in serving and meeting its members’ needs and I believe its mission needs to be highlighted through increased public relations both within the organization and outside. Current members have opportunities to recruit future members at their employment sites, at local and county meetings, etc. Serving one’s own professional needs is fine - however, advocacy takes a “small village”. What I have learned through the years is that opportunities come to those who are ready. I believe I am ready for the opportunity to serve NJSHA for three more years.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I will bring my cumulative years of experiences to the organization. If elected, I will provide opinions and thoughtful suggestions which reflect professional standards representative of those within the scope of our practice.
Three Year Term:

Robin Kanis, MS, CCC-SLP
Wayne, New Jersey

Education
MS, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York

Certification and License
CCC, Speech-Language Specialist, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology

Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities

- NJSWA Honors of the Association (2009)
- Seven ASHA ACE Awards
- Recipient of ASHA 2000 Professional – Consumer Advocacy Grant
- Professional development Presenter: ASHA; NJEA; NJ Association for the Education of Young Children (NJAEC); NJ Coalition for Inclusive Education (NJICE); NJSHA SAC-North; Millburn, Paterson, and Wayne Public Schools
- Co-authored peer reviewed research articles:
- 1999 Teacher of the Year Paterson Public Schools – Governor’s Teach Recognition Award Program

Professional Association Membership

- NJSWA School Affairs Committee – Member
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
- Autism NJ
- New Jersey Branch of The International Dyslexia Association

Position Statement:
As a past president, board member and School Affairs Committee chair, I have seen us make great strides in our ability to provide speech, language and hearing professionals with quality professional development, networking opportunities, legislative advocacy and information addressing member concerns. We must continue to develop a united front, regardless of our employment venues, as we tackle the economic and political issues impacting our members. With that said, I hope that you once again will allow me to represent you as a NJSWA Board Member during these challenging professional times.
Three Year Term:

Robynne Kratchmann, MS, CCC-SLP
West Orange, New Jersey

Education
  MS, Teachers College, Columbia University

Certification and License
  CCC, Speech-Language Specialist, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology
  Teacher of the Speech and Hearing Handicapped

Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities
  • ASHA Award for Continuing Education (ACE) two times
  • Presented at NJSHA (Auditory processing disorders), Morris County Speech and Hearing Association (Running a successful private practice), Parkinson’s group (Communication and eating issues associated with Parkinson’s disease), various pre-school and school parent teacher association meetings (typical speech and language development, red flags, helping your child to talk)

Professional Association Membership
  • New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSQA) Board of Directors - Treasurer (2011-2016), Secretary (2009-2011)
  • NJSQA Committees – Healthcare, Membership, Finance, Policy & Procedures, Telepractice Task Force
  • American Speech-Language-Hearing Association - Member

Position Statement:
Today’s dramatically changing healthcare and political environment significantly affect speech-language pathologists and audiologists. Addressing these new challenges to ensure our professions can continue to serve effectively is best addressed through a united, concerted effort. Having served on NJSQA’s Board as secretary and treasurer, and participating on the Healthcare, Policy & Procedures, Finance, Membership and Telepractice committees, I have shared my knowledge and experience with clinical supervision, personnel issues, insurance coverage of speech and language services, professional education, marketing and program development, developed while working in a private practice. I believe my diverse experience and background will allow me to continue to provide a broad perspective to support the mission of NJSQA.
Three Year Term:

Elisabeth Mlawski, PhD
Springfield, New Jersey

Education
PhD, Seton Hall University

Certification and License
Licensed Speech-Language Pathology

Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities
• ACE Award

Professional Association Membership
• American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

Position Statement:
If elected, I would be honored to serve the membership of NJSIA: audiologists, speech-language pathologists, speech, language or hearing scientists and students. I will support efforts to grow its membership as well as the retention of students as they transition to full members. Additionally, I would hold the mission of NJSIA in the highest regard by helping to provide resources, information, programs and services to all. I would continue to teach and promote advocacy and provide support in any capacity I am needed.

It would be a privilege to serve on the Board of Directors as I believe the organization’s first priority is to support its members.
Three Year Term:

Kathleen Palatucci, MA, CCC-SLP
Verona, New Jersey

Education
MA, Montclair State University

Certification and License
CCC, Speech-Language Specialist, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology

Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities
- Excellence in Caring, St. Barnabas Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers (2003)
- Excellence in Caring, West Hudson Hospital, St. Barnabas Healthcare System (2003)
- NJSHA Honors: Myra and Alan Kaplan Scholarship (1997)
- NSSLHA National Student Honors for Outstanding Leadership and Achievement (1996)

Professional Association Membership
- New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) Healthcare Committee – Chair, Vice Chair (2008-2016)
- NJSHA Board of Directors (2012-2013)
- ASHA Advisory Council – New Jersey SLP Representative (2011-2016)

Position Statement:
If elected to serve on the NJSHA Board, I will seek to engage a greater number of current members while broadening our membership base, encourage increased participation in advocacy efforts, promote leadership development and provide innovative experiences for clinical development as change occurs across our clinical environments.

I currently serve as the NJSHA Healthcare Committee Chair and as the NJ –SLP representative to the ASHA Advisory Council. My motivation is to provide leadership that will inform and empower our members as advocates for the profession as well as for the individuals we serve.
Three Year Term:

Lina Slim-Topdjian, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCBA
Millington, New Jersey

Education
PhD, Seton Hall University

Certification and License
CCC, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology, BCBA, Supervisory Certificate

Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities
- ACE Award (2015)
- NJSHA Distinguished Clinical Achievement Award (2014)
- Children’s Empowerment Award

Professional Association Membership
- American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) - Member
- New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) - Board of Directors
- NJSHA Private Practice Committee - Chair
- Fill-A-Need Foundation - Board of Directors
- The New Jersey Association of Behavior Analysis (NJABA) - Member
- Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) - Affiliate Member
- Association of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA) - Affiliate member
- Morris County Speech and Hearing Association (MCSHA) - Member
- Union County Speech and Hearing Association (UCSHA) - Member
- Judith Wharton Music Center - Advisory Board Member

Position Statement:
It is an honor to be considered to serve on NJSHA Board of Directors. My educational background and professional work has been focused on creating and strengthening ties across health professionals and disciplines. Being dually certified (SLP/BCBA) I plan to foster the development of interdisciplinary ties bridging the gap between developmental and behaviorally based approaches, and promote science-based effective interventions in the field. Having a doctoral degree in Leadership and Interprofessional Health Sciences and Health Administration, I plan to support the development of effective programs for supervision and clinical certificate concentrations in different interest areas (i.e., Autism, AAC, etc.) in collaboration with ASHA. Being an ASHA S.T.E.P. Mentor and having mentored for over 28 years, I plan to increase mentoring opportunities for students and those graduating as well as colleagues across disciplines. I have seen the impact of what I do with regards to effective mentorship and collaborative approaches, and hope to be able to increase my impact and influence through guiding others to make a difference in the lives of our student graduates, our growing professional body and our families and their children with special needs. Being a part of NJSHA will support my goal to increase the impact and awareness of Evidence-Based Practice while building a resource base for the community. I look forward to being a part of NJSHA’s innovative and dynamic team!
Three Year Term:

**Kristie Soriano, MS, CCC-SLP**
Basking Ridge, New Jersey

**Education**
MS, Boston University

**Certification and License**
CCC, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology

**Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities**
- Research in area of dysphagia
- Presenter at numerous conferences on ethical issues in swallowing management

**Professional Association Membership**
- New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) – Board of Directors
- NJSHA Board of Directors – Secretary (1991-1993)

**Position Statement:**
*As the Clinical Director of Speech Services at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute I encounter many challenges in providing the best care for our inpatients and outpatients keeping quality, safety and service at the forefront. I coordinate the student program at JFK and I am an adjunct professor at Kean University, which allows me to see the challenges that lie ahead for the future of our professions. On the Board of NJSHA I will be able to watch how these issues unfold and provide current input into the decisions we are faced with.*
Three Year Term:

Joan Warner, MS, CCC-SLP
Kinnelon, New Jersey

Education
MS, William Patterson University

Certification and License
CCC, Speech-Language Specialist, Licensed Speech-Language Pathology
Speech Correctionist, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Teacher of Handicapped
Teacher of Nursery School

Honors, Awards and Other Professional Activities
• ACE Award
• Teacher of the Year (2009)

Professional Association Membership
• New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) – Member
• NJSHA Convention Committee – Member (since 2007), Vice Chair (2014), Chair (2015-2016)
• American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) – Member
• MCSHA, Member
• West Milford Education Association
• New Jersey Education Association

Position Statement:
It has been an honor to serve NJSHA as Convention Committee Chair these past two years. I was able to participate in NJSHA’s 2015 Leadership Conference and the strategic planning meeting for the future of NJSHA. Both of these meetings gave me an insight into where our Association leaders envision the future path to be. If elected to NJSHA’s Board of Directors, I will continue to assist in generating topics for continuing education during future Conventions. Additionally, I will continue to support and assist our members within the field and advocate for those we serve with communication disorders.