

## **THE PROFESSION: A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION**

- I. ASHA - The Past
  - A. In Detroit and Orlando, had quack schools which were forerunners to our profession
    - 1. Were primarily related to specific disorders, particularly stuttering
    - 2. For example, one school for stuttering taught the “arm-swinging” method in which the arm was swung like a metronome to pace the speaker’s rate and rhythm
  - B. In Berlin and Vienna, had to get an MD license to provide speech and hearing services
    - 1. The WWI Germans had elaborate speech and hearing services for their service men
    - 2. In early 1900's, Americans went to Germany and Austria to study speech-language pathology and audiology
  - C. Between 1890-1915, persons working in communication disorders were known as Public Readers and Speakers of Elocution
  - D. Public schools were the first organized service providers
    - 1. 1910 - Chicago public schools hired 10 Speech Correction teachers
    - 2. 1910 - Detroit hired 2 Speech Correction teachers
    - 3. 1913 - Boston hired Speech Correction teachers
    - 4. 1916 - New York and San Francisco followed suit
    - 5. 1916-1918 - Wisconsin cities offered speech correction in their schools
    - 6. 1918 - Swift published a paper, “How to Begin Speech Correction in the Public Schools” in response to the rapid growth of speech services in the schools
    - 7. In 1915, Smiley Blanton at the University of Wisconsin developed the first program in Speech Pathology - “Speech and Mental Hygiene”. In 1921, they granted their first Ph.D. to Stinchfield

8. Throughout the Midwest in the 1920's, there was big growth, with almost all of the colleges/universities having programs by the 1930's
9. Around 1933, West and 10 of his colleagues wrote a textbook entitled *Rehabilitation of Speech*

E. Professional Associations

1. Between 1900-1925, speech correctionists were members of the National Association of Teachers of Speech (NATS)
2. On 12/29/25, The American Academy of Speech Correction was formed by Dr. Carl Seashore in Iowa. This group functioned as a subgroup of NATS, and members were required to do clinical work in the area of speech disorders, and to do research and teaching in the field.
3. In 1927, they changed their name to the American Society for the Study of Disorders of Speech since they believed the word "Academy" was too medical in orientation.
4. In 1935, they changed their name again to the American Speech Correction Association. It was this organization that originated the *Journal of Speech Disorders* for its 87 members.
5. On 12/31/47, the name was changed again to the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA).
6. In 1965, ASHA introduced the Certificate of Clinical Competence, which was to be the standard for speech-language pathologists and audiologists.
7. In 1969, Florida became the first state to introduce licensure.
8. In 1978, the word "Language" was inserted to create the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the name which is currently used.
9. In 1982, a Special Ad Hoc committee determined that speech-language pathology and audiology are one profession, and there was no need to have separate national associations for governance, guidance, and education.

F. Publications

1. During WWII, audiology developed as a field, focusing on aural rehabilitation. In 1946, audiology became a published field.
2. Between 1920-1935, less than 10 articles per year were published in speech-language pathology and audiology, and these articles were in the *Quarterly Journal of Speech Education*.
3. In 1936, Oscar Russell became the first editor of the *Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders*.
4. In 1958, the *Journal of Speech and Hearing Research* was added to the list of ASHA publications.
5. Current publications include
  - a. The ASHA Leader
  - b. ASHA magazine
  - c. The American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology: A Journal of Clinical Practice
  - d. The American Journal of Audiology: A Journal of Clinical Practice
  - e. The Journal of Speech and Hearing Research
  - f. Language, Speech and Hearing Services in the Schools
  - g. Contemporary Issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders

G. Other Items of Interest

1. In 1930, the first Code of Ethics was written.
2. The first student group (NSSLHA) was called Sigma Alpha Eta

## II. ASHA - THE PRESENT

- A. Currently, have over 80,000 members and one of the largest (in terms of attendance) national annual meetings in the United States
- B. National Office Address: ASHA  
10801 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852-3279  
1-888-498-6699  
www.asha.org
- C. At last publication, there were 109 university programs accredited in SLP and Audiology, 84 accredited only in SLP, and 2 accredited only in audiology
- D. Every state and the District of Columbia have a state association

### III. ASHA - THE FUTURE

- A. IDEA has increased the ages of children receiving services through the public schools, and increase the variety of disorders which the clinician must diagnose and treat.
- B. Over the last 10 years, there has been a significant increase in the responsibilities of SLP's in the areas of language-based learning and reading disabilities.
- C. Due to changes in our health care system structure, and improved health-care technology and practices, there is an increase in the patient population suffering from age-related and traumatic disorders who need the services of specialists in communication disorders.
- D. There is an increase in the private practice sector of our profession, necessitating growing knowledge of best business practices and finances. This is accompanied by a phenomenal growth in "for profit" agencies.