



# NCSHLA NEWS

## Neurodiversity Symposium

Registration is now open for the Neurodiversity Symposium! Don't miss this opportunity to connect and celebrate neurodiversity—sponsorship opportunities are also available. Visit our website or click the photo to secure your spot. Congratulations to Morgan Randel and Laura Wolford for winning raffle tickets for member-priced admission!

**EURODIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM**

**Monday, February 17, 2025**

**A Fully Virtual Event!**

**Early Bird Rates Through February 10, 2025:**  
 MEMBERS: \$70  
 NONMEMBERS: \$120  
 STUDENT: \$35

Featuring speakers on a variety of topics providing practical tools for SLPs, SLPAs and Audiologists

REGISTER AT [NCSHLA.ORG](http://NCSHLA.ORG) OR CLICK THIS PHOTO!

**Early bird SPECIAL on membership and convention combo, runs from now until 1 month from convention!**  
**CURRENT MEMBERS - take advantage of the SPECIAL early bird rates for you TOO!**

New members (not just first time members): Join for \$1/2 off of the typical membership rate until February 13, 2025 and receive convention for \$200

After February 13, 2025, one month from convention, regular convention and membership rates apply:

<p>Early bird rates</p> <p>New Member: \$200</p> <p>Current Members: \$175</p> <p>New Student Member: \$40</p> <p>Student Member: \$30</p> <p>New Assistant Member: \$90</p> <p>Assistant Member: \$80</p> <p>Life: \$100</p>	<p>Member: \$200</p> <p>Nonmember: \$325</p> <p>Assistant Member: \$100</p> <p>Assistant Nonmember: \$195</p> <p>Student Member: \$50</p> <p>Student Non Member: \$80</p> <p>Life: \$115</p>
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## Annual Convention

Reconnect with colleagues and experience the beauty of Western North Carolina at our hybrid convention, March 13-17, 2025, hosted at WCU University. This two-day in-person event, combined with virtual options, offers a unique chance to network, learn, and show support for the region. It's been a while since we've gathered like this—don't miss this special opportunity to retreat, recharge, and grow together in the stunning mountain setting. Mark your calendar and join us!



## Meeting Minutes

Key takeaways apart from committee updates (shared below) from the Board Meeting on December 12, 2024:

-Survey results indicate a bigger desire for more transparency, easier navigation of the webpage and paying dues, more opportunities to collaborate, and more benefits for the cost. Board discussed possible solutions being free virtual webinars targeting key needs (Ethics, DEI, etc.), sip and talks on a monthly basis with varying topics, and looking into new website hosting systems.

-The board voted to approve of transitioning the website hosting from Memberclicks to WildApricot when our previous contract expires in March. This will be a more cost effective and user friendly transition, so be on the lookout for those changes coming soon!

Next Board Meeting: February 13, 2025 at 7:30. Please email [info@nschla.org](mailto:info@nschla.org) if you would like to join!



## StAMP, StAR, and SEAL Updates

We are thrilled to share that Jovielle Coxon will be our new NC StAMP (State Advocates for Medicare Policy)! As an ASHA StAMP, Jovielle will serve as a vital liaison between speech-language pathologists in North Carolina and ASHA, advocating for Medicare policies that support our profession and improve patient care. The StAMP works to ensure our voices are heard at the national level and helps keep us informed about important policy updates.

Please join us in congratulating Jovielle on this important role!



## Board Update

We have several board members rolling off in July 2025, and need volunteers to fill these positions! If interested, please email [info@ncshla.org](mailto:info@ncshla.org) and inform us of the position that you would like to be nominated to fill! Nominations will go to vote at Convention. Vacancies include:

### **President Elect:**

Highlights include: ensuring proper order, documenting and curating minutes for all BOD meetings and the annual business meeting

### **VP Finance:**

Highlights include: chairing the Finance Committee; serving as the official fiduciary representative and banking signatory; overseeing implementation of the budget; finding alternative means, aside from dues, for generating revenue

### **VP Public Relations/University Affairs:**

Highlights include: increasing public awareness; collaborating on social media engagement; overseeing the development and implementation of public awareness and educational and University engagement opportunities

### **VP Membership:**

Highlights include: formulating and implementing recruiting strategies for membership; collaborating with VP of Public Relations and University Affairs regarding benefits and retention of members; using social media for promotional purposes and events; creating regional or statewide membership engagement events or opportunities

### **VP Audiology:**

Highlights include: identifying the needs of audiology membership; overseeing public awareness and educational opportunities relative to hearing and balance disorders





## Legislative Update

Legislators returned to Raleigh on January 8 for the first day of the 2025 Legislative Long Session. It was both a ceremonial day and a productive day as legislators were sworn in with their families in attendance and legislative leadership was formalized. Legislators elected Sen. Berger (Rockingham, Guilford) to continue as President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Rep. Destin Hall (Caldwell, Watauga) was elected Speaker of the House. Rep. Mitchell Setzer (Catawba, Iredell) was elected Speaker Pro Tempore of the House.

The House and Senate also adopted their temporary rules for the Long Session. The House Rules provide that all public bills must be submitted to Legislative Drafting by March 6 and be introduced by April 3. House local bills must be sent to bill drafting by February 20 and introduced by March 6. The Rules also state that no House member may introduce more than 15 public bills. The public bill deadlines in the Senate Rules are February 27 for bill drafting and March 25 for introduction. Senate local bills must be sent to bill drafting by February 13 and introduced by February 27.

In addition to adopting the rules for the session, Senate leadership has also announced new chairs of key standing committees. Here are some of the chair highlights:

### **Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Co-Chairs**

Sen. Ralph Hise (Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, Haywood, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga, Yancy); Sen. Brent Jackson (Bladen, Duplin, Jones, Pender, Sampson); and Sen. Michael Lee (New Hanover)

### **Senate Appropriations on Health and Human Services Co-Chairs**

Sen. Jim Burgin (Harnett, Lee, Sampson); Sen. Amy Galey (Alamance, Randolph); and Sen. Benton Sawrey (Johnston)

### **Senate Health Care**

Sen. Jim Burgin (Harnett, Lee, Sampson); Sen. Amy Galey (Alamance, Randolph); and Sen. Benton Sawrey (Johnston)

### **Senate Appropriations on Education/High Education**

Sen. Kevin Corbin (Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Transylvania); Sen. Paul Newton (Cabarrus); and Sen. Brad Overcash (Gaston)

# Legislative Update Continued

## Senate Education/High Education

Sen. Kevin Corbin (Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Transylvania);  
Sen. Michael Lee (New Hanover); and Sen. Brad Overcash (Gaston)

## Rules

Sen. Bill Rabon (Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover)

## Finance

Sen. David Craven (Anson, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, Union); Sen. Tom McInnis  
(Cumberland, Moore); and Sen. Paul Newton (Cabarrus)

On the House side, committee chairs have not yet been named but Speaker Hall announced leadership for his office staff. Neal Inman will continue to serve as chief of staff and Lewis King has been named deputy chief of staff. Former representative Jeffrey Elmore will serve as senior policy advisor.

Newly elected Governor Josh Stein has made a number of appointments as well including the following agency heads:

Devdutta Sangvai, Department of Health and Human Services

Pamela Cashwell, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Eddie Buffaloe, Department of Public Safety

Leslie Cooley Dismukes, Department of Adult Correction

Joey Hopkins, Department of Transportation

Lee Liley, Department of Commerce

Teena Piccione, Department of Information Technology

Kristin Walker, Office of State Budget and Management

D. Reid Wilson, Department of Environmental Quality

McKinley Wooten, Jr., Department of Revenue

Staci Meyer, Office of State Human Resource

Jocelyn Mitnaul Mallette, Department of Military and Veteran Affairs

With the beginning of session, it's important to reach out to your state House member and State Senator to introduce yourself. You can find contact information for your state legislators via the [following link](#).



## Finance Update



State professional associations across the nation have faced significant transitions over the last five-plus years. Traditionally, a substantial portion of an association's income was derived from in-person conventions. However, the widespread shift to online Continuing Education Events (CEUs) and virtual conferences has made conventional fundraising methods, such as face-to-face conventions, less feasible and sustainable.

Despite these challenges, we are pleased to report that the North Carolina Speech, Hearing, and Language Association (NCSHLA) is once again in a sound financial position. Industry best practices recommend that associations maintain sufficient funds to cover one year's worth of activities. We are delighted to announce that we have achieved this benchmark!

This financial stability comes after years of uncertainty and is the result of the unwavering dedication and generosity of our members and volunteers. We extend our deepest gratitude to those who have contributed their time, energy, and expertise in numerous ways, including:

- Presenting CEUs: Offering high-quality CEU sessions at low or no cost.
- Volunteering: Devoting countless hours to organize CEU events, host conventions, and ensure their success.
- Advocacy and Engagement: Coordinating member surveys and advocacy initiatives that support our profession and community.

We also want to recognize and thank our loyal members whose dues, sponsorships, and participation in CEU events have been pivotal to our financial wellbeing. New members who have recently joined NCSHLA are an integral part of our continued success. Together, your collective efforts and support have kept our association strong and resilient during these transformative times.

Looking ahead, NCSHLA remains committed to providing exceptional resources, advocacy, and educational opportunities to our members. Thank you for your continued dedication to our mission and for ensuring the future of our organization remains bright and secure.

# Finance Update Continued

## Budget Information

### Budgeted Income (Major Categories)

- Membership dues: \$23,300
- Sponsorships: \$9,500
- CEU events: \$15,000

\*\*It is worth noting that we are at 30% of our overall income goal for these major categories, but at 45% towards our overall income goal. A significant amount of income in these areas typically occurs around the annual convention.

### Budgeted Expenses (Major Categories)

- Lobbying, advocacy, and education: \$36,000
- Operating expenses (phone, insurance, email, etc.): \$18,000

\*\*It is worth noting that we are at 40% towards our total expenses budgeted. We are halfway through the fiscal year, so this is on track.

If you are interested in more detailed information, please reach out to [info@ncshla.org](mailto:info@ncshla.org).



## Public Relations/ University Affairs Updates

We are excited to welcome our student representatives. Ashley Cook and Ricki Speigner will be wonderful additions to share the student perspectives at our board meetings.

We will be hosting our annual quiz bowl for students at the convention in March.

We are also looking for students interested in doing poster sessions at our convention this year! The deadline for submission is February 1, 2025.

Look for information coming soon about an SLP job panel for students to learn more about different roles they could take on during their career as a speech pathologist

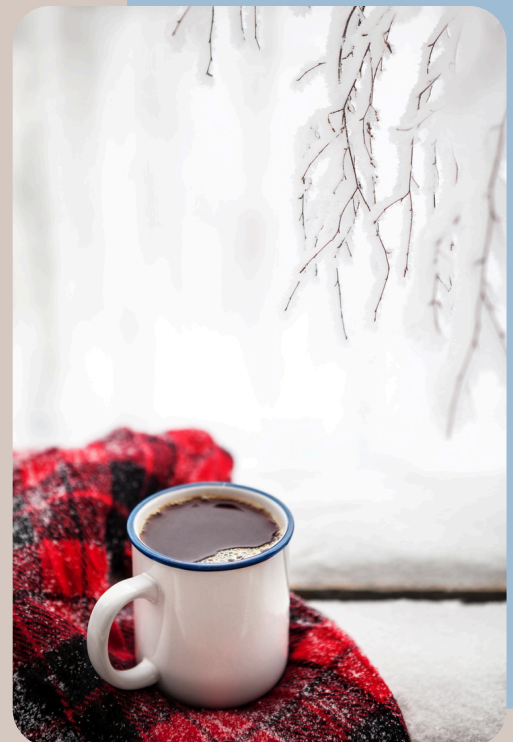


## Audiology Update

Congratulations to Johnnie Sexton for his appointment to the NC SLP/A Board! With his recent acknowledgement through the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, he has had an amazing year! NCSHLA is so happy to recognize these amazing professional feats!


We are looking forward to celebrating World Hearing Day on March 3.

Amy Meyers' term as Audiology Chair will be ending in July. If you are interested in serving as the chair, or on the Audiology Committee, please email [info@ncshla.org](mailto:info@ncshla.org) to express your intents!





## Professional/Governmental Affairs Updates



The long session begins in January where we expect budget talks to begin in earnest with a budget being passed this year. Please take the time to welcome your new and returning representatives ([found here](#)) and let them know that you look forward to working with them. Look to [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) toward the end of January for information about our next push for increased reimbursement rates!

NCSHLA Board members and Committee Leaders will be participating in a day of advocacy arranged by Lobbyist Ashley Perkinson in Late January with data provided by the Private Practice Survey completed last month and the new [School-Based SLP Survey](#) to advocate for NC SLPs, SLPAs and Audiologists.

