



PERSPECTIVES on Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (Dysphagia)



AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION **DIVISION 13**

Paula A. Sullivan

Coordinator's Column

Welcome to this, the first of four, 2004 division newsletters. By the time this issue of *Perspectives* reaches you, your Steering Committee will have completed its annual strategic planning meeting. The meeting was held in conjunction with ASHA's Health Care Conference "Dysphagia in Adults and Children" in Orlando. Division 13 was a conference co-sponsor and the entire Steering Committee participated as faculty and facilitators of dysphagia-related issues and problems at roundtable luncheon discussions. A significant number of division affiliates attended the conference and benefited from the \$40 conference discount afforded to Division 13 members.

Strategy-Focused

The purpose of the February meeting was to further assist the division in being a strategy-focused organization as strategy is the "framework of choices that define the nature and direction of one's organization" (Brache, 2002, p. 10). In other words, this meeting helped us develop a holistic plan of goals and agreed-upon strategies for 2004 to get us where we want to be. Flexibility, however, is a critical component of the plan to ensure that we have adequate resources to address the unexpected surprises and challenges that are common in our specialty area of practice which have been all too familiar to our division. Serving on the Steering Committee certainly has been exciting! In the June issue, I will summarize high-

lights of our February planning meeting.

Steering Committee Election

Active affiliate involvement is critical to ensure that the division accomplishes the goals of the plan. This year, Donna Lundy and I will be completing our Steering Committee terms. In addition, Stephanie Daniels will be ending her 3-year tenure as Editor. The Steering Committee members continuing in 2005 are Caryn Easterling, Maureen Lefton-Grief, and Nancy Swigert. Soon, nominations will be accepted for the two open seats. I encourage you to become active in this process by volunteering to run for membership on the Steering Committee or nominating individuals you feel would contribute in a leadership role. You will find the roster of eligible members and instructions for nominating online: http://www.asha.org/about/membership-certification/divs/div_13.htm

Call for 2004 Committee Appointments

Committee work is another critical vehicle for accomplishing our goals and allows affiliates to participate in the division in a significant capacity. If you have expertise or interest in a particular area, time to commit to committee business, an e-mail address that you can access every day, or a desire to contribute, now is the time to let your desire and willingness to serve on a committee be known. The time commitment varies from committee to committee, but typically involves periodic conference calls and working on committee as-

signments with other members. Most collaboration is done via e-mail or phone. If you have questions regarding the committee appointment process or activities, or if you see a need that should be addressed, please contact me at 608-256-1901, ext. 17908 or paula.sullivan@med.va.gov. The 2004 committees and working groups include:

- *Communications Committee*: List-serve Coordinator, Todd Coleman; Web Course Coordinator, Donna Tippet
- *Continuing Education Committee*: Susan Hiss
- *FEES Guidelines Dysphagia Document Task Force*: Joe Murray
- *Membership Committee*
- *Newsletter Committee: Perspectives* Editor Stephanie Daniels

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