

SPALS SPEAKS

A Message From the President Tammy Crawford 2011-2012

Dear SPALS Family:

It is with much excitement that I say, we have successfully completed the 2010 18th annual SPALS conference and we are beginning the adventure of the 2011 19th annual SPALS conference. The over whelming compliments on behalf of the speakers was heard throughout the halls and meeting rooms of the Shreveport Convention Center. The success of the conference is contributed not only to the hard work of the SPALS Executive Board members, but also to each member's completion of the conference evaluation form which we value highly. Without the input from the evaluations, we would have minimum foundation to begin our preparation for the upcoming conference. The SPALS organization is grateful for the completion of the large quantity of received conference evaluations. Each and every one of them was reviewed and summarized to continue to improve the conference year after year.

Remember as speech and audiology services expand and move forward, SPALS is "OUR" organization and that each and everyone one of us (you/I) must take ownership in order for continued success. Continue to take pride in supporting each other, net working and collaborating with each other. If ever a concern arises, please bring it to our attention. Region Reps are available via email and phone. Don't know your Region Rep go to the website (www.spals.org) and find out who it is or drop it in the mail to the SPALS address (SPALS – P.O. Box 12177 – Lake Charles, LA 70612).

Our job dedication as Speech Pathologists and Audiologists make us a primary link in the educational development of students classified with communication deficits. From articulation to fluency to voice and to all aspects of the realm of language and literacy skills we provide valuable techniques that enhance not only academic skills but the quality of the student's social and educational environment. Without our services those students who may have "fallen between the cracks" now have a better opportunity at educational success. With each head proudly held high, we know we do **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** Be thankful for the smile on that one child's face that feels accomplishment and confident around their peers. There is your reward of self worth and value of your skills, a reward richer than any amount of money you could receive. I congratulate and thank you for continuing in the field of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

"Fear is not having the confidence needed to know what is needed, but to overcome fear is to have the desire to challenge the fear by gaining the necessary life experiences to obtain confidence."

Looking forward to a wonderful year ahead,

Tammy



Speech Pathologists
and Audiologist in
Louisiana Schools

Volume 15, Issue 1

Newsletter Date
February 2011



Special points of interest:

- *Who is on the SPALS Board?*
- *When and Where is the next conference?*
- *What's new online for SPALS?*
- *Why should I apply for a grant or Scholarship?*

"SAVE THE DATE! The "Day at the Capitol" for Speech and Audiology is set for Tuesday, May 10, 2011!

Our attendance proves that we are concerned and committed to our profession and the future."

Apply for Your SPALS Grant Now!

The grants are designed to award up to \$1000 depending on the applicant's needs. There are no restrictions on what can be purchased with grant funds. Suggestions include needed software to support areas of deficit, professional development for a therapist, or funding an expert in a needed area to address all therapist in a district.

Overview:

Application Deadline: August 1, 2011

Awards Announced: At the 2011 Conference (those awarded to be called ahead of time)

Project Period: October 2011-May 2012

(Money to be spent by 1/31/12)

Eligible Applicants: Current SPALS members who are Licensed SLP's and Audiologist working in Louisiana Schools.

Application Materials needed for Submission: The completed application including a detailed budget and Principal's signature.

Questions:

Contact Penny James via email at pjames@lincolnschools.org

Points to Consider

- Only include your name and school name on cover page of the application. DO NOT include teacher names or school names in the proposal.
- Projects should correlate with the district comprehensive curriculum and be designed to increase student achievement. Items ordered should support goals and objectives on IEP's

Application Components

I. Coversheet

- Project Title
- Therapist/Audiologist First and Last Name
- Email Address
- Daytime Phone Number
- School Name
- School Address
- Evening Phone Number
- City
- Grade

II. Overview

- Project Title
- Number of Students impacted
- Speech/Audiology area impacted
- Budget Amount Requested
- Snapshot of the grant proposal, including who it will impact and what it will accomplish.

III. Project Description

- Detailed description of the proposed program for which the grant is intended

IV. Project Need

- Detailed description to demonstrate program need

V. Evaluation

- How will you collect data to determine if you were successful in your project-surveys, test data, teacher comments, etc.?
- How will you know how successful your project was in meeting the need described earlier?

VI. Detailed Budget

- How will requested money be spent?
- List each proposed expense and include cost estimate for each item.
- If any additional funds will be used, include funding source.

VII. Mail To:

SPALS Grants

PO Box 12177

Lake Charles, LA 70612

2010 Grant Recipients

The SPALS Grants program has provided therapists the opportunity to explore creative ways to help students improve communication skills.

This year only 1 therapist was awarded \$1000. Michelle Barra, MA CCC-SLP from Eunice, LA received a grant to buy a sound-

field system for a student who is deaf in one ear and who no longer has access to the equipment through the parish as he attends a private school. The sound-field system would benefit the entire class as it would enable the speaker to be heard and understood more readily. The proposed system has a microphone for the

teacher and a portable one to be used by the students.

For the 2011 -2012 school year there will be other \$1000.00 grants given away at the Oct. 2011 conference. The deadline is August 1, 2011.

SPALS Board Members - Who we are and What we do!

President : [Tammy Crawford](#) received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from SLU. She has been in the public school profession with experience in Livingston Parish since 1996. She has 2 children, Garrett and Dawson. Her greatest joys are her family and friends. Tammy is the Speech Coordinator for Livingston Parish Public Schools and has served as Region II representative and President Elect for the SPALS board.

President Elect: [Cynthia Losavio](#) is currently serving in East Baton rouge Parish schools as Program Specialist for Pre-school Speech Therapy. I have been working in the school system for 27 years and in my current position for the last 6 years. Early childhood is my passion. My life has been full of young children. Now that my 7 children are grown I get to enjoy the 9 grandchildren with one more on the way. This is my fourth year to serve on the SPALS Board. This year as President-Elect I am the Chairperson for the 2011 SPALS conference which will be held at the Baton Rouge River Center on October 20-21, 2011. I am looking forward to working with an incredible group to support speech services in the schools and to put on the best conference ever

Past President: [Willie Glaze](#), is a retired (29 years) Associate Director for the Department of Human Services in Springfield, Illinois. After retirement he worked with the Rehabilitation Team at Memorial Medical Center also located in Springfield. Willie relocated (back home) to Houma, Louisiana where he is currently employed by the Terrebonne Parish School District as a Qualified Examiner (assessment) Speech-Language Pathologist in the Special Education Pupil Appraisal Department (to retire again at end of the 2012 school year). He also serves as the Dysphagia Coordinator for school district. He attended Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Missouri where he received a B.S. degree in Communication and Education. He received his M.S. degree in Communicative Disorders from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Willie has been a member of SPALS since 2005 and has served in various capacities including President Elect; President and is currently the Past President and Chair of the Liz Borel Committee.

Secretary: [Judi Washington](#) has been a member of SPALS since its inception. I have loved every minute of it. I am a 1977 graduate of Louisiana Tech University. I received my master's degree and plus 30 from McNeese State University I am married to Roosevelt Washington the mother of Brandi, who caught the fever and is a practicing Speech Pathologist in Katy Texas, and

Jared who has blessed me with two adorable Grandsons, Darrion and Koreyon. I My spare time, if you can call it that, is spent working with my Sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, Top Ladies Of Distinction, Inc, and my Church New Sunlight Baptist Church. I love working in the community in any fashion. Service is my Passion I and I'm ecstatic to be the 2010 Elizabeth Stokes Borel winner. Thanks to all SPALS members for allowing me the opportunity to serve.

Treasurer: [Judy Newman](#) is an SLP for Jefferson Parish, and is completing her 16th year at Strehle Elementary School. While she likes the variety that every school-based SLP has, she thoroughly enjoys the challenge she has with the class of kindergartners she sees who are learning the Visual Phonics she learned at a State sponsored workshop a few years ago. The children are always showing her the signs they are learning as she sees them in the hall. They especially like to sign 'hi, bye, and uh oh' when they see her!

Parliamentarian: [Cheryl McDaniel](#) has served on the SPALS executive board as parliamentarian since 2007 and as regional representative prior to my appointment as parliamentarian for two years for Region 4. I currently work in St. Martin Parish school system. Serving the primary and junior high school level is very challenging. My involvement with SPALS is so gratifying. It provides me the opportunity to meet my fellow colleagues and discuss the ever changing issues that affect our professional lives. The executive board allows for me to grow as a professional outside of a clinician. Being involved in the establishment of the conference every year puts many skills to work that don't involve remediating articulation sounds! I am very honored that the members of SPALS have trusted me to perform as the parliamentarian for as long as I have. I strive to learn the procedures and the bylaws/constitution that we have adopted to ensure that we remain as professional and dedicated as our colleagues that built this organization from inception.

Historian: [Celeste Mauro](#) is a Speech Diagnostician for Livingston Parish. I received my BA and MS from SLU and have been employed in both the public and private sector for 15 years. This is my first year to serve on the SPALS board and I am looking forward to being involved in conference and working on the committee that publishes the newsletter. I am hoping to establish a digital scrapbook and archive of SPALS History. I enjoy camping and competition BBQ's with my husband and friends.

Region I Co-Rep: [Gloria Childress](#) attended

undergraduate school at UL Lafayette (BA1972) and graduate school at LSUMC New Orleans (MCD1976) and is employed by St. Bernard Parish Schools. I have been working in the public school more than 30 years. During that time I have focused on assessment, supervision and literacy, working on local reading initiatives and working on the Louisiana Department of Education Phonological Awareness Steering Committee and the publication *Phonological Awareness for Speech Pathologists and their Educational Partners*. Following the devastation of St. Bernard Parish as a result of Hurricane Katrina, I worked in Lafayette Parish during storm displacement. I had the opportunity to reconnect with many professional peers and meet many new friends within the profession during my stay there. Since returning to St. Bernard Parish School Board Pupil Appraisal Services, I have been a part of rebuilding our schools and our community with the support and assistance from my SPALS colleagues. I am a member of the SALSA Task Force, a devoted group of professionals from across the state who work together as they focus on the role of the SLP in the schools. I hope members from Region I will contact me with any information or concerns they would like to share during my term as co-representative .

Region I Co-Rep: [Christy Gardes](#) received B.A. from Southeastern Louisiana University in May 1976 and my masters degree from Tulane University in May 1980. I have been a speech/language pathologist with Jefferson Parish Public Schools since August 1976. For the last 8 years I have been a speech/language diagnostician with the parish. I have 16 schools (9 public and 7 non-public). I screen and test all PreK 4 years olds and test K-12th grade students in the public schools I service. I screen and test all the students in the non-public schools. I have a small therapy caseload as well. Let me know if you need anything else.

Region II Rep: [Mona Keel](#) received a Master of Science degree in communication sci-



Elizabeth Stokes Borel Award

This award was established in 2001 and is presented to an individual who has dedicated his/her career to promoting speech language pathology and audiology within the Louisiana Schools.

Any nominee should possess the attributes embodied by Liz Borel: tenacious, compelling, dynamic, compassionate, intelligent, warm, and enthusiastic.

Requirements– Nominees should demonstrate:

- Outstanding work in the communication field
- Professional characteristics and skills required for the prevention and remediation of speech, language, and hearing disorders in children
- Current SPALS member

Procedures-Submit a resume and at least two letters of support by July 1 to:

Liz Borel Award-SPALS

PO Box 12177

Lake Charles, LA 70612

SPALS Academic Scholarship

These are awarded to graduate students in speech pathology and/or audiology programs. To apply for the SPALS academic Scholarship Award, applicants must be enrolled as a full time graduate student at a university in Louisiana and have a grade point average of at least 3.3. The funds may be used to cover tuition, books, and/or supplies.

A panel of judges from the SPALS Executive Committee will choose the recipients based on past performance,

goals, statement of purpose, and overall merit. The application form may be downloaded from the SPALS webpage.



Application packets must include:

- SPALS scholarship application
- Statement of Purpose (max 1 page)
- Letter of acceptance from school
- 2 letters of recommendation
- Grade transcripts
- Send all materials in a single envelope, including the original application and transcripts by August 1, 2011.
- Mail to Scholarship Award
PO Box 12177
Lake Charles, LA 70612

SPALS 2010 Scholarship Award Winner

The first scholarship award went to Lisa Pardue from Amite, LA. She is a mother of 3 girls and is a graduate student in Speech pathology at SLU. She is targeted to graduate in December 2010. She has a cumulative grade point average of 4.0. She is an active NSSLHA member and worked as an SLPA for Tangipohoa Parish before pursuing her master's degree. She served as a group presenter in the student research showcase poster session for Southeastern in April 2010. In the future, Lisa aspires to pursue

a PhD and to open her own Aphasia clinic.

The second scholarship goes to Jane Heels. She attends ULL and is in her last year of graduate school. She has been a graduate assistant since 2009 and has maintained a 4.0 grade point average. She is a student member of LSHA and ASHA and a member of NSSLHA. Jane was a member of the ULL quiz bowl team and won first place at the LSHA 2010 conference. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi. In her community, Jane

received the Hearts of Hope– Volunteer Emergency Room Escort of the Year Award and volunteers for the Bridge Ministry of Acadiana. Upon graduation, Jane aspires to work in the school system with elementary and middle school aged children.

In addition a \$250 award was provided by a Shreveport Walmart. This award was given to Melissa Perrin. She attends SLU and is targeted to graduate in 2011.

SALSA website information

The SALSA Literacy Plan Document and the brochure were mailed to principals for distribution to school-based LEAs. The documents are available on the department's website at

<http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/eia/1251.html>.

The SALSA Task Force worked very hard on these two documents. Listed below are a few of these great innovators:

Patricia-Brasier Carter	Gloria Childress	Debra Dixon	Flavia Eldridge
Kaye Eichler	Tanicia Fontenot	Debbie Glynn	Steve Harris
Sandra Holloway	Emily Homer	Vicky Irwin	Sam Johnson
Shanida Mathiews	Patricia McElroy	Amanda McMorris	Steven Mire
Janet Norris	Jill Slack	Ivy Starns	Sylvia Winder

SPALS Board Members- Continued

ences and disorders from Southeastern University in 1997. She has 14 years experience working in the school setting and private practice. Currently, she is employed by the Livingston Parish School System as a Speech Diagnostician for Pupil Appraisal Services. Mona enjoys traveling, reading, and attending sports events with her husband, Steve, and five year old son, Gerard. This is Mona's first year to serve as Region II Representative. "I am excited and honored to represent Region II. I love being a speech language pathologist in the public school system, and I truly believe that we do make a difference. We teach our students the communication skills they need to achieve academic success and to become productive members of society. I look forward to working with an incredible group of people to support speech services in the public schools, and I am anxious to begin working with the legislature to resume appropriation of funding for the salary supplement for Nationally Certified Speech Language Pathologist in the public schools."

Region III Rep: Monika Marcel received her undergraduate degree from Nicholls State University and her graduate degree from LaTech University and in December of 2009 completed her coursework for her Doctor of Audiology degree (AuD). She has 15 years of professional experience as the school Audiologist for Terrebonne Parish School District. She takes pride in being a member of the Speech Pathologists and Audiologists in Louisiana Schools professional organization. She'd like to hear more from her colleagues in Region III and would appreciate SPALS members from Ascension, Assumption, St. John the Baptist, Lafourche, St. James, St. Mary and Terrebonne Parishes

contacting her monthly with progress, events and news from their parishes. She can be reached best by e-mail at monikamarcel@tpsd.org or through the new social/professional networking platform created just for SPALS, www.bigtent.com/groups/spals

Region III Co-Rep: Donna Lanclos has been an active member SPALS since 2003. She has had the honor of serving on the Board of Directors since 2006. She has more than 15 years of experience in the field of speech-language pathology and has worked in a variety of settings. Donna is currently employed at Prairie Elementary School in Lafayette. She holds a MS in Speech Pathology and a BA in Education from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, currently known as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Donna is married to Russell Lanclos and together they have 5 children and 4 grand children.

Region III Co-Rep: Jacqueline Gradnigo from Opelousas, LA. I'm currently employed with the St. Landry Parish School System. I have worked as a Speech Language Pathologist for over 14 years in various settings including schools, hospitals and home health. In addition to being a member of SPALS, I am also a member of ASHA and LSHA. I am married and have two daughters. In my spare time (if any), I enjoy pageants and hanging out with my family.

Region V Co-Rep: Alosia Sterling is employed by Calcasieu Parish School Board as a Speech Pathologist for the past 28 years. I am working at J.D. Clifton Elementary and Ray D. Molo Magnet Middle Schools. Clifton Elementary also houses a Headstart Program. I previously provided services at Robinswood School, an Intermediate

Healthcare Facility for Adults for 13 years. I am currently working part-time with Early Steps. I am married to Arthur Sterling, III. I have two children, Brandon and Jaden. I also have two adorable grandchildren, Keelan and Kadence. I have been part of SPALS since its inception and I look forward to serving on the Executive Board.

Region V Co-Rep: Altha Jordan Green a native of Lake Charles, believes with education comes opportunity. She is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church and also worships with her husband, Oscar, at New Covenant Baptist Church in the city. She is a mother of one daughter, Desiree' Antoinette, stepmother of two, Farrell & Tiara. Altha is "Grammie" to one grandson, Damond. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders from Lamar University. She is an employee of Calcasieu Parish Schools and has been a member of SPALS for several years. She is happy to have the opportunity to serve as one of the Region V Co-Representatives on the SPALS Board. She is actively involved in her church, professional and civic organizations and is very active in the community working with Zeta Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., serving as President, Zeta Psi Omega Educational and Charitable Foundation, Inc., serving on the Board of Directors. She has also been inducted into Phi Delta Kappa, a national teacher's organization and Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. She strives to strengthen communication skills as they impact the student's overall education performance. She believes "a student who is able to effectively communicate with the world around him / her is an explorer and the adventures are limitless."



SPALS 2011

Nineteenth Annual SPALS Conference
River Center
Baton Rouge, LA
October 20 and 21, 2011

Conference Brochure to Follow with
More Details

Regional News

Region I: St Bernard, Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemine, St. Charles

Region II: St. Tammany, West Feliciana, Tangipahoa, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Washington, St. Helena, Iberville, West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, City of Bogalusa, City of Baker, Zachary Schools, and Central Community Schools

In correlation with SALSA (Speech and Language Support for All) initiative Livingston parish speech language pathologists attended an in-service, presented by Rick Wormeli, titled : *Fair Isn't Always Equal, Assessment and Grading in the Differentiated, Standards-based classroom*. Rick Wormeli discussed strategies for assessing individual students based on their individual needs. He described a hierarchy of teaching and testing strategies comparable to many speech language pathologists' therapy programs in which the skill is taught until mastery is achieved.

We are eager to hear from you. Please email news from your district to Mona Keel (mona.keel@psb.org)

Region III: Ascension, Assumption, St. John, St. James, Terrebonne, Lafourche, and St. Mary

The SLPs in St. John the Baptist Parish have recently acquired iPads to use in therapy. Both students and SLPs are loving it! Region III LATI staff came to the parish to present an inservice on using iPads and incorporating apps into speech therapy.

Region IV: St. Martin, Acadia, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, Evangeline, and Vermillion

The St. Landry Parish Speech Pathologist attended an in-house workshop on Progress Monitoring and Graphing. Speakers were Jacqueline Shilo-Gradnigo and Emily Pitre.

Region V: Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, and Allen

Mrs. Annie L. Mowton - Supervisor of Speech Therapy Services in Calcasieu Parish and Past SPALS President was nominated for the Martin Luther King, Jr Unsung Hero Award. She was the first of four recipients to receive this honor on January 14, 2011. Over 100 individuals were nominated for this award.

Region VI: Sabine, Grant, LaSalle, Winn, Vernon, Rapides, Natchitoches, and Avoyelles

Region VII: Bossier, Caddo, Webster, Claiborne, Bienville, Desoto, and Red River

Region VIII: Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Monroe, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll

Speech Therapists in Lincoln Parish were trained in "Visualizing and Verbalizing" and some are moving into the upper grades to implement classroom based literacy strategies.

For the 2010-2011 school year the Lincoln Parish school board will provide ASHA certified speech therapists the same amount provided by the state for national certification. No promises were made for next year.

SPALS Board Members continued

Region VI Co-Reps: Virginia Ratliff and Yvonne Donaway

Region VII Co-Reps: Toni Durman and Cheryl Winborne

Region VIII Rep: Penny James is the Speech Coordinator, Speech Evaluator with Pupil Appraisal, and Child Search for Lincoln Parish Schools in Ruston, Louisiana. Although the school setting is her area of primary experience she has also worked in nursing home and rehabilitation settings PRN. Penny is married and has two grown children. Her daughter is a speech pathologist in a hospital setting in Shreveport, LA, and her son is working in construction.

SPALS online

Dear SPALS Members,

We are very excited to announce the new net-working opportunities we have created just for you as a member of SPALS. In addition to our website www.spals.org <<http://www.spals.org/>> , Speech Pathologists and Audiologists in Louisiana Schools now has an interactive home on the world wide web. If you go to <https://www.bigtent.com/groups/spals> you can request an invitation to join, then just complete your SPALS Bigtent membership and prepare to network with your colleagues all over the state.

Bigtent is a FREE online community group that is a safe and secure way for us to connect, share therapy tips and keep in touch.

Once you've filled out the simple membership form, you can then also customize your "My Bigtent" to receive messages as they are sent, or in a daily digest format or viewing them as you wish to by going "web only". The forums are set up in categories and can serve as "chat threads" that are archived and searchable.

For a brief tutorial on exactly how Bigtent works you can click here:

<http://bigtent.zendesk.com/entries/176006-video-tutorials>

As with anything new, please give yourself some time to become familiar with it. We hope you'll see the value in establishing a professional and social networking group for Speech Pathologists and Audiologists from all across Louisiana to come together to share their vast experience and knowledge with each other.

Best wishes for a terrific rest of the 2010-11 School Year,

Tammy Crawford

Monika Marcel

President, SPALS

Region III Representative, SPALS

Liz Borel Award Recipient 2010

Judy Washington was the recipient of the 2010 Elizabeth Stokes Borel Award. Judy encompasses all the qualities of Liz Borel award which includes enthusiasm, tenaciousness, and compassion. Judy was a leading speech language pathologist for Calcasieu Parish. She has been a member of the SPALS Board for over 10 years and has served in numerous capacities including President Elect, President, Past President, AV Coordinator for the SPALS Conferences and has been the SPALS Secretary for the past two years. Mrs. Washington also is engaged in numerous philanthropic activities in the Lake Charles Community and is a very deserving recipient of the prestigious Elizabeth Stokes Borel Award.

Legislative Buddies ...



We are rounding up and hoping for 144 volunteer SLPs /AUDs by February, 2011 – so that each La Legislator can have at least one SLP/AUD “buddy” for their very own.

REWARD for being a Buddy:

Ok, well, we can't offer you a pot of gold, however, by volunteering to connect or keep your Legislator informed about SLP and AUD issues, you are effectively showing that we are;

- 1) Committed to and united within our Profession
- 2) Care about the quality of services we provide the people and, especially, the children of Louisiana, and,
- 3) Concerned and aware of the current and future laws that affect us.

To Volunteer:

E-mail slpmire@yahoo.com or legislation@lsha.org

Put “Leg Buddy” in the subject line THEN Add your first and last name and the name of the legislator you will or would like to be a buddy for.

If you do not have one in mind—NO PROBLEM! Just add your address next to your name. Steve Mire will contact you with your new buddy's information (either a house or senate member).



Do you want to participate but feel unsure of your “Buddy-readiness” skills? Don't worry! Training and information on issues will be provided to all legislative buddies.

PLEASE e-mail today!!!!

NOTE: We are revising our Buddy list from two years ago so, if you had previously signed up as a Legislative Buddy, please e-mail Steve Mire and sign up again so you can be added to our Legislative Buddy e-mail list