

Maine Speech Language Hearing Association

Winter Retreat * January 26, 2008

Maple Hill Farm - Hallowell

Members Present: Amy Bragg, Sabrina Jellison, Colleen Nilan, Dick Murrell, Risa Karas, Cindy Cowing, Karen Davis, Melanie Lajoie, Kim Reilly, Carolyn Eaton, Debbie Cloran, Cindy Cox, and Erika Ricker. (Facilitator Heidi Jordan also present)

I. The meeting dates for 2008 were determined as follows. Meetings will be at 5:30 PM. Conference calls will be at 7:00 PM. Meetings will continue to be held at the Waterville Weathervane. Carolyn will research possible alternate locations for meetings.

March 3

May 5 conference call

June 2 conference call

July 28 at Melanie's home

September 8

November 3 conference call

December 1 conference call

II. The purpose of the retreat was to regroup, reorganize and recharge. Ground rules established to keep up moving in the right direction were (1) Be positive and (2) Stay focus by limiting the side conversations and limiting the anecdotes. We needed to update the three year strategic plan with new action plans.

We started by reviewing what went well in 2007 and noted the following successes:

No executive council vacancies

New website

Perfect attendance at retreat

Structure of strategic plan was good

Conference calls *

New lobbyist, Dan Walker *

New site for conferences *

* Saved the organization money

We also noted what didn't work well in 2007:

Committee inactivity

Membership and conference attendance was down

Position statement(s) regarding issues was/were lacking

School SLP's having trouble getting credit with DoE for conferences

Members don't know what EC is doing or what the focus of each committee is

Legislative day was a flop – not enough people, poor timing (time of year, day of week)

Possible strategies for 2008 were noted:

Committee conference calls

Deadlines need to be honored!!

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Listserv for each committee
Reach out prior to EC meetings
Committee time built into EC meetings
Have person designate to make sure others do task
Post meeting dates and meeting minutes on website
Committee meeting schedule (in person or conf calls)
Persist! Don't stop communicating with committee members
Conference committee needs to reevaluate workload of members
Consistency in logo and "look" of correspondence coming from MSLHA
Give out two newsletters at conference – get newsletter back in circulation

II. The large group then divided into four smaller groups: (1) Continuing education/conference (2) School practices and legislative action (3) Clinical services (4) Membership and communication. Officers divided themselves amongst the group. Small groups updated last year's action plans and developed new action plans for 2008 and beyond. After lunch small groups presented their action plans to the large group for feedback. The strategic plan is on pages 3 through 17 of these notes.

III. Other issues discussed:

Posting of meeting minutes: Carolyn will send EC members the meeting minutes and provide them with a deadline for feedback. After the deadline she will post the minutes with the changes provided by the EC.

Student involvement: Erica will write an action plan to increase student involvement and provide it to the EC by Mar 1st.

Conference: Sabrina will look into the Maine author and panel of students with Asperger's syndrome and provide that information to Cindy. Erica will organize a facilitated case review/therapy share for the afternoon on the second day of the conference. Kim, Melanie and Deb will facilitate round table discussions at the conference.

Doctor referrals/CDS: Clinical services will develop an action plan to address this issue.

Ballot: Melanie will get back to Cindi regarding her willingness to serve as president-elect.

E-mail@ MSLHA.org: Committee chairs will contact website designer and set up an email account using the MSLHA address that will forward emails to their personal accounts.

BESPA: Andrea has agreed to attend the BESPA meetings. BESPA meets on alternate months in Gardiner. (Monday at 1:00 PM)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.