



Resound))))

November, 2004
Volume 1, Number 1

Newsletter of the National Black Association for Speech, Language and Hearing

Special points of interest:

[Highlights of 2004 NBASLH Convention](#)

[2004 Board Actions](#)

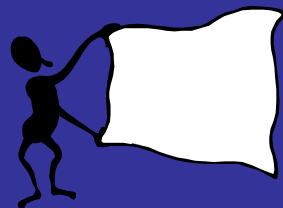
[History of NBASLH](#)

[E-publishing](#)

[Affiliates Needed](#)

[Telling the Story](#)

[2005 NBASLH Convention](#)



2004 NBASLH Convention Highlights

NBASLH's 26th Annual Convention was a tremendous success. Approximately 100 speech-language pathology and audiology practitioners, administrators, researchers, students and corporate and retail representatives converged on "The Magic City" – Birmingham, Alabama – to experience one of the Association's best conventions to date. Held at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, the 2004 Convention hosted more than 35 workshops, including several student poster sessions, 2-day PRAXIS review course, and numerous formal networking forums for NBASLH conventioners.

Dr. Horace Huntley, a professor of History at the University of Alabama Birmingham and Director of the Oral History Project at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, delivered a rousing opening session address on Friday, April 16th. True to the Convention's theme, "Rebuilding the Infrastructure: The Year of the Affiliate," Dr. Huntley's message of the enduring power of the African American legacy was echoed throughout the Convention, and most notably during the NBASLH Affiliate Workshop when Certificates of Appreciation were presented to representatives of the following past and active Affiliates:

Mississippi (1st Affiliate, chartered in 1980)
Southern California
Atlanta Metropolitan Area
Ohio North Coast Affiliate
South Carolina Affiliate
West Palm Beach, Florida
Milwaukee,
Tennessee,
New Orleans,
Illinois,

Groups expressing an interest in starting an Affiliate:
New York 10
Greensboro Student Consortium, and
North Carolina.

History of NBASLH

In December, 1977, an Ad Hoc Committee on association development was established. The committee was composed of a number of Black Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists from different parts of the country. The Committee's first formal meeting was held at Howard University in Washington D.C. on January 26, 1978. Their mission was to discuss:

- 1) the concept of a Black speech-language and hearing association
 - 2) to develop recommendations for implementing that concept
 - 3) recommendations for appointing the Board of Directors and Executive Staff
- The Association was incorporated in Washington D.C., June 30, 1978. The committee wanted to establish a viable mechanism through which the professional needs of the Black professionals, students and the communicatively handicapped community could be met.

The first official meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Staff of the National Black Speech-Language and Hearing (*NBASLH*) was held April 14-15, 1978 at the University of the District of Columbia.

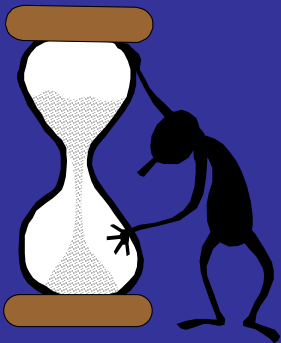
It is important to note that the concept of a National organization for Black speech-language pathologists and audiologists was a new one. For several years prior to the incorporation of *NBASLH*, a number of people had spoken favorably of the need to establish such an organization. Indeed, it was attuned to the movement of other Black professionals such as physicians, dentists, lawyers, psychologists, social workers, accountants and educators who had established organizations that focused primarily upon interests and concerns of Black professionals and students-in-training.

*Please note the term Black originally used in 1979 continues to be used by this organization to refer primarily to the populations in American having African ancestry.

Purposes of NBASLH

1. PROMOTE an increase in the number of certified Black speech-language and hearing professionals.
2. PROMOTE improvement in the quality of speech, language and hearing services of the Black communicatively handicapped.
3. PROMOTE the research and development of a body of knowledge of the identification, diagnosis and treatment of the Black communicatively handicapped.
4. SOLICIT and provide financial support for the training of Black students in the fields of speech-language and hearing.

*The NBASLH
was
incorporated
in Washington
D.C., June 30,
1978*



5. BE AN ADVOCATE for the Black communicatively handicapped at the local, state and national levels.

6. DISSEMINATE INFORMATION among the professions and to the public on communication differences and disorders among Blacks.

E-Publications ?

We, the members of NBASLH, have a decision to make. We have to decide whether we want to continue with our traditional text-based journal, *ECHO*, or transition to the use of an electronic format, an E-Journal. Quite frankly, the decision is prompted by the rising costs associated with conventional publishing methods. As a text-based journal *ECHO* costs the Association approximately \$2000 per issue, and takes 6-8 weeks to compile and distribute. In contrast, an electronic version of *ECHO* would have virtually no material costs, and the time from editing to compilation to launching (a web-term) could be reduced to 2-3 weeks.

Few will argue the continuing need for *ECHO*. It has served us well over the decades as an archival document that has catalogued the Association's many achievements and accomplishments. It has highlighted the professional services we provide, and demonstrated the scholarship and research interests and capacities of our members. Yet, the journal runs the risk of being dramatically cut-back or eliminated, if the rising costs associated with publishing are not kept under control.

The transition of *ECHO* to an e-journal will require the cooperation and participation of the Association's members. Although we have no direct evidence of our members' computer usage, it appears from the membership rolls that over 90% of current members have e-mail addresses. This means that *ECHO* and other Association announcements, such as this one (Resound))) could be sent electronically in opposition to conventional mailings.

For the approximate 10% without e-mail addresses the Association could afford to use more conventional postings for them, if they prefer.

Has the time come for NBASLH to venture into the digital world? Write or E-mail (preferably) us to let us know what you decide.



"As a text-based journal, *ECHO* costs the Association approximately \$2000 per issue."



“ Now at the close of the 50th anniversary year of the Brown vs. the Board of Education decision it is fitting that we reflect, privately or publicly, on the history of speech-language pathology and audiology; particularly during that period before the principles of cultural and linguistic diversity became popular. “

We need NBASLH Affiliates!

The NBASLH Board of Directors is committed to growing the organization by recruiting new members where they live and work and in colleges and universities across the country. We want to build the organization so that NBASLH members are meeting and working together throughout the year and not just once a year at the annual convention. The development, growth, and continuation of affiliate chapters will expand our membership and help members maintain their excitement about the organization. NBASLH's purpose is to support African-American speech and hearing professionals, to represent their interests to ASHA and other organizations, and to provide member services. We can achieve these goals more effectively if we are larger, stronger, and have more human and financial resources.

Elise Davis-McFarland, 2004-05 Chair
NBASLH Board of Directors

Telling the Story by Ron Jones

During a recent visit to the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association I ventured into the library and began perusing back issues of the Association's three professional journals, JSHR, JSHD and LSHSS. A half a day later, I left with a rekindled respect and appreciation for the lineage of our venerable professions. I was mostly impressed with the dutiful and steadfast spirit our professions' pioneers had, and the skill they showed at remedying the ills of communication disorders. I was reminded of the bedrock of clinical expertise and research that under girded my own academic and clinical training. And I chuckled at some of the notions these research/scholars had and then ventured to have documented in the pages of the journals. However, despite being inspired, impressed and bemused, I became disturbed by a startling absence of any social historical relevance. I mean, what was missing from these early issues, 1936 to 1960, was any hint of the critical social events that were saturating the nation at the time. Void were any studies, articles, essays, letters, etc., addressing the racial and ethnic discrimination that existed in this country. There was nothing to reflect the critical nature of the communication problems people of color were experiencing. There were no demographics, no statistics, no research, nothing. In fact, literally all of the research studies conducted during this early period used "Caucasian" only subject populations.

During my foray into these journals, I did not actually expect to see any reference to *cultural and linguistic diversity*. These are strictly modern terms. I had hoped, however, to see something that expressed concern for the plight of "Negro" children and other minorities, and the services they would or would not have been receiving in the separate and unequal schools of the 1920's, 30's, 40's and 50's. Or possibly, articles addressing the kind of clinical services and facilities available in the then racially segregated hospitals and clinics. What I saw instead were articles

**National Black
Association for
Speech-
Language and
Hearing**

**Attn: C. D. Qualls
P.O. BOX 816**

**State College, PA
16804-0816**

(843) 574-6441

**Fax: (843) 820-
5026**

**Email: [treasurer
@nbaslh.org](mailto:treasurer@nbaslh.org)**

Website: nbaslh.org



**To Contact the
Resound)))
managing editor
send E-mail to
editor@nbaslh.org**

that reflected, apparently, the clinical and academic expertise and experiences of a handful of white clinicians, academicians and researchers, published, presumably, with the best interests of the Association in mind.

In this the close of the 50th anniversary year of the Brown vs. the Board of Education decision I think it is fitting that we reflect, privately or publicly, on the history of speech-language pathology and audiology; particularly during that period before the principles of cultural and linguistic diversity became popular. I also think it is necessary to retell the story of NBASLH, its birth in the 1970's, and the continued struggle in which NBASLH is engaged for recognition and viability. This is particularly important today with the slow growth of African-American speech-language pathologists and audiologists. At no other time in the history of NBASLH has it been so important that we reach out and connect to our youth, encouraging them to excel in school, to seek professional careers like speech-language pathology and audiology. At no better time in the history of NBASLH, than now, to communicate with each other, using the latest in information technologies. At no better time in the history of NBASLH, than now, to explore the growing divergence of the American society and the shifting role African-Americans are experiencing. Yes, 'now is the time to tell the story.'

In all fairness to the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association, to the past editors and contributors to its journals, they could only reflect the prevailing knowledge and clinical experiences and professional interests of their members. They did and continue to do what they should be doing to promote the collective interests of the Association. Therefore, in the absence of racial and ethnic minority clinicians, researchers and scholars, ASHA did what they had to do. They told their story. We, the members of NBASLH, in our own interests, should do no less.

A special thanks and recognition to Karen Beverly-Ducker, Office of Multicultural Affairs, who facilitated my access to the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association library.

Announcing The 2005 NBASLH Convention

**The 2005 NBASLH National Convention will be held in Richmond, Virginia
at the**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel
555 E. Canal Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
1800.2CROWNE
crowneplaza.com**

April 22-24, 2005

For information about the 2005 convention or Registration materials, E-mail:
2005conventionchairperson@nbaslh.org