

## Top stories in this newsletter

SPRING 2021



7th...ish Annual LAA Conference Sept. 16-18, 2021.



President's Message by Bridget Garrido, AuD



MAASA or the Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act



Member Spotlights



### Don't Miss

## Annual LAA Conference

The Louisiana Academy of Audiology is hosting its **7th...ish Annual Conference** this year. Conference dates are September 16-18, 2021 and the location is the amazing Hyatt Centric on Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

Come roll the dice or try your hand at(20)21 in Blackjack while earning CEUs and networking with colleagues.

## President's Message

What a time to be in the field of Audiology! With 2020 now in our rearview mirror there is much to look forward to in 2021. Joining your state's premier Audiology organization, the Louisiana Academy of Audiology (LAA) is one of the best investments you can make in yourself and your profession. One thing we have learned from the trials of 2020 is that **Audiologists are ESSENTIAL**. As we all have move forward to happier and more prosperous times, keep in mind what LAA is doing for our profession. In the Louisiana legislature and with the help of LAA lobbyists, - the Duke Firm- we backed and provided pivotal testimony which allowed for SB 34 which was sponsored by Sen. Barrow Peacock, to pass in our state. This legislation provides for the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). This is a AAA and ASHA supported initiative that would allow for practitioners with licensure in states within the compact to practice in the other compact states without applying for additional licensure. Also, we are striving to add cerumen management as a part of the Louisiana Audiologist's Scope of Practice and eliminate the need for a Physician's order to conduct Vestibular management. On the national front, our LAA board member, Ram Nileshwar, AuD., has worked tirelessly with the Academy of Doctors of Audiology, ADA, on the Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act (HR 4056/ SB 2446), MAASA, which will bring Audiologists into the direct access realm for Medicare beneficiaries. We continue to support the upcoming generations of student Audiologists through a student leadership conference, Future Leaders of Audiology Student Conference (FLASC), annual scholarships as well as special interest speakers geared for them as a part of the Fall, LAA conference.

The only way we can move the field forward is with your membership and financial support through joining LAA and attending our Fall Conference in New Orleans September 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Be apart of the machine rather than sitting on the sidelines and join your colleagues IN PERSON for a fantastic conference and great time. Check it all out on the [www.louisianaaudiology.org](http://www.louisianaaudiology.org) website.

See you there!

**Bridget Garrido AuD**

# LAA TODAY

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the Louisiana Academy of Audiology

## MAASA Update Provided by Ram Nileshwar, AuD - Member at Large

SPRING 2021

MAASA (Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act) H.R. 1587 was introduced on March 3, which was World Hearing Day, in the 117th Congress by Rep. Tom Rice with 20 sponsors and Bi-Partison support. The Senate Bill is expected to be introduced very soon. Visit [www.chooseAudiology.org](http://www.chooseAudiology.org) to learn more about this legislation which is endorsed by AAA, ADA, and ASHA. The passage of this federal legislation would allow for:

1. Practitioner Status for Audiologist, within Medicare— Would allow audiologists the autonomy to make clinical recommendations and practice the full scope of audiology and vestibular care as allowed by their state license and as dictated by their educational requirements and competencies.
2. Medicare Direct Access—Would eliminate the need for the physician order required for a Medicare beneficiary to receive coverage of medically necessary, covered audiology and vestibular services.
3. Comprehensive Medicare Benefit—Would allow for expanded coverage to include all Medicare-covered services that audiologists are licensed by their states to provide, including medically necessary, covered treatment services such as vestibular rehabilitation, cerumen removal, and aural rehabilitation.

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## Board Member Spotlights

### Stephanie Solorzano, LAA President Elect

Stephanie has been busy working on conference planning and membership committees. Her undergrad is from LSU and her AuD is from Arkansas. Stephanie has been an audiologist for 10 years and she currently works at Hearing Clinic of Greater New Orleans. Stephanie is married to Rod, a police lieutenant for Tulane. They love traveling and visiting their big Italian/Latino family.

### Steve Madix, LAA Founding President & Executive Director

Steve is an academic faculty member at Louisiana Tech University where he also serves as the Student Academy of Audiology chapter advisor. He is currently a Member at Large for the American Academy of Audiology. Steve also served on the Council of Academic Accreditation for Audiology and Speech Language Pathology which is one of the accreditation bodies for doctoral programs in Audiology.

### Amy Smith, Aud - LAA Member at Large

Amy has been busy boosting LAA membership by creating ways to keep in touch with membership and encourage audiologist to renew and/or join as a new member. She also explains benefits of membership and why membership is important for all of us.

### Melody Benedic, AuD - LAA Past-President

Melody has been recruiting potentially new board members and she is taking nominations for open board positions. She also is working on keeping everyone updated on important events. Melody also helps other board members as needed.

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## Board Member Spotlight

### Claire Hess, LAA Secretary

Claire main role is to record and distribute notes of the LAA board meetings. Additional responsibilities include organizing conference guest speakers, and participate in Day at the Capital.

### Bridget Garrido, LAA President

Bridget's mission is to add cerumen removal to the scope of practice for Louisiana audiologists. She is also working to remove the physician order requirement from the scope of practice.

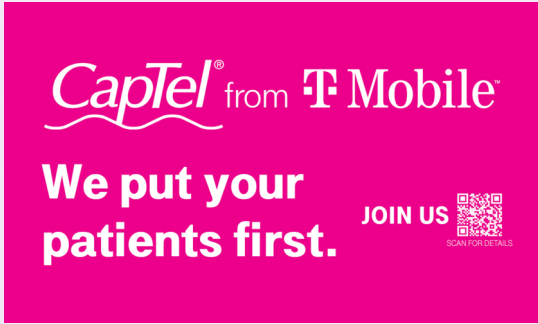


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SCAN FOR DETAILS

## Board Member Spotlight

### Brooks Bohte, LAA Education/Conference

I'm currently working with our conference sponsors on getting in their information for the conference. I'll also begin working with our conference speakers this month getting their information all set up!

### Courtney Stewart, Co-Executive Director

I help with Conference dealings as well as a liaison to members who have questions. I also deal with Legislative issues since I live here in Baton Rouge. I also am responsible for organizing the student liaisons on the board.

### Fred Boudreaux, LAA Treasurer

As treasurer I record votes and minutes and provide details back to the board. Organize and give notice of all meetings. Monitor corporate seal and handle corporate funds and securities.

### Angie Ponthier, AuD - LAA Public Relations

My role is creating our new quarterly newsletters, updating Facebook, and maintaining our website. You may have noticed a couple recent updates to the website. Also, we will announce the opening of registration for our Annual 7th 'ish Annual LAA Conference in September.

### Jennifer Bobo, Special Contributor

I coordinate sponsorship levels and communications with our industry partners and others. These partners contribute financially to the LAA Conference, as well as, to the Future Leaders in Audiology Student Conference (FLASC). FLASC is jointly hosted by and coordinated with the Texas Academy of Audiology (TAA).



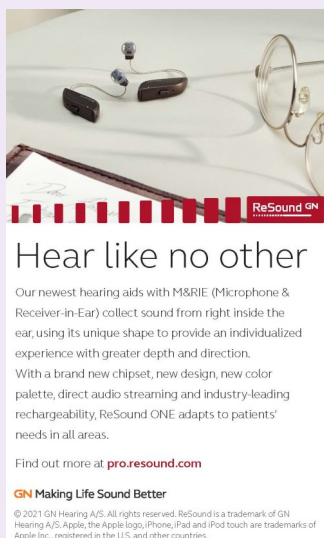
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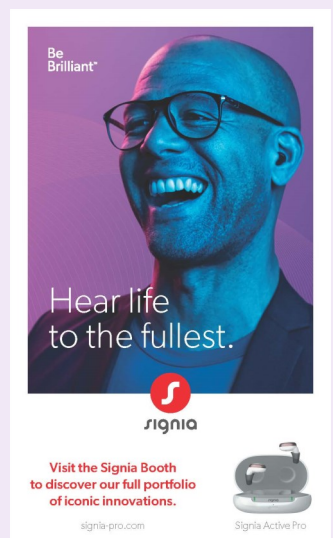
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