

BULLETIN

The Wisconsin
Alliance of Hearing
Professionals

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MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703
PHONE: 608/257-3541

The Wisconsin Alliance of Hearing Professionals is a division of the Wisconsin Merchants Federation.

June 5, 1990

HEARING AND SPEECH EXAMINING BOARD TRANSITION

The Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Examining Board met on June 4. The transition is underway to the recreated and newly named Hearing and Speech Examining Board. The Department of Regulation and Licensing has asked us to make recommendations for the board seat created for a speech pathologist and for the five seats on the Council on Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. The Act takes effect on December 1, 1990. Any recommendations?



Governor Thompson signs Assembly Bill 175 into law as Act 316, Laws of 1989-90. From Thompson's left to right are Mike Thelen, Alliance immediate Past-President, Jim Ogurek, current Alliance President, Otis Whitcomb, Alliance Past-President and Doug Johnson, Alliance Executive Director and General Counsel. To Thompson's left are representatives of the Wisconsin Speech-Language-Hearing Association. State Representative Underheim is far left.

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WISCONSIN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION ENDORSEMENT

The Wisconsin Speech-Language-Hearing Association has highlighted the Alliance endorsement of the "joint board compromise". It recommends to its members, "If you haven't done so already, now is the time to become a member of the Wisconsin Alliance of Hearing Professionals".

HEARING TEST ACCEPTANCE PERMANENT

The permanent rule providing for hearing test acceptance under Title XIX took effect June 1. The department will continue to review this policy annually. To date this policy change is working smoothly. Congratulations, but don't take this for granted.

ALLIANCE BOARD PREPARING TO MEET IN AUGUST

The Alliance Board is expected to meet in mid-August. Discussion of the transition to a joint licensing board is primary on the agenda. Other topics include: Membership, Public Image, Third Party Payments, Dialogue with allied professions including medical, Refund/Return Policies, Professional Education and Continuing Education and Professional Relations ("what you do in your practice affects mine"). Any suggested topics for board consideration?

Word is that some refund/return policies and in home sales practices ("3 day cooling off notice/compliance") may be putting the profession at risk. An educational update will soon be distributed focused on in home sales. If you have any questions, let me know.

EDUCATION PILOT: VTAE

The Mid-State Technical School headquartered in Marshfield has undertaken a pilot educational program designed to educate individuals interested in becoming licensed as hearing instrument specialists. Efforts are underway to secure a lead instructor and determine the number of students interested in taking the course. If all goes well the course is expected to be offered this fall. This is the first of its kind in the VTAE system and could be expanded to other campuses depending on the response. Any thoughts? Know anyone who's interested in attending? Teaching?

NONPROFITS: PROPERTY TAXES

The property tax continued to be a political hot potato. Not surprising as local taxes increase statewide. Governor Thompson reluctantly vetoed a budget amendment that would have allowed municipalities to charge a service fee for providing such services as police and fire protection and snow removal. Nonprofits are otherwise not obligated to pay for those and other property based services.



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Marlene A. Cummings
Secretary

February 1, 1990

1400 E. WASHINGTON AVENUE
P.O. Box 8935
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53708
608 266-2112

Mr. Douglas Johnson
Executive Secretary and General Counsel
WISCONSIN ALLIANCE OF HEARING PROFESSIONALS
30 West Mifflin Street
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Doug:

I appreciate your taking time away from your busy schedule to talk with me about the position and concerns of your membership regarding regulation of Speech Pathologists and Audiologists. I am writing to follow up on that discussion and submit, to you, a proposal for your membership to consider.

Doug, the department is especially proud of the Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board. They have been in the forefront of consumer oriented initiatives since their beginning. The history of the board's forward thinking initiatives started with their beginning, when they were the first board in state history to be created without a grandfather clause and with a public member. I understand they were also instrumental in helping to get legislation passed to require all boards to have two public members. They remain the only board in the department with less professional members than public.

In recognition of this tradition, out of concern for the health and safety of people with hearing impairments and communication disorders, the increasing aging population, and our need to combine related professions under the same board for more efficient and effective regulation, we think we have developed a proposal that will respond to all of the above and regulate speech pathologists and audiologists.

Your organization was the only professional group which supported the sweeping reform proposal to create an Occupational Standards Board. Combining Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters, Audiologists and Speech Pathologists on the same board, under the present structure with minor changes, will facilitate the actualization of a more compact version of what your organization supported in 1974. I am confident that our proposal will enable the professions to work together to maximize the quality of service they deliver to the consumer.

Regulatory Boards

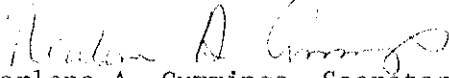
Accounting, Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors, Barbers, Bingo, Boxing, Charitable Organizations, Chiropractic, Cosmetology, Dentistry, Funeral Directors, Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters, Medical, Nursing, Nursing Home Administrator, Optometry, Pharmacy, Private Detectives, Psychology, Real Estate, and Veterinary.

Committed to Equal Opportunity in Employment and Licensing

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Doug. Johnson
Wisconsin Alliance
February 1, 1990

Doug, enclosed is an outline of the recommendations (the proposal) we provided the Speech Pathologists and Audiologists relative to their proposed legislation. Please review and share with your membership. If you have any questions, please call.

With respect,


Marlene A. Cummings, Secretary
Department of Regulation and Licensing

Enclosure: Proposal

CC: Ave Bie
John Young