**Profile of Experience**

Kenn Apel - Experienced Leader[[1]](#footnote-1)

When I was a master’s student at San Diego State University, I was exposed to the notion of volunteering for ASHA. One of my main and influential professors, Dr. Marilyn Newhoff, was an active ASHA volunteer. She inspired me to do the same.

My volunteerism began simple: I served as a member of an ASHA Convention Program Review Subcommittee in 1988. I have since served on 15 more convention review committees, including four times as the chair of the committee. I also served as the co-chair of the entire convention in 2004. My time on these committees led to developing strong relationships and friendships with others. Through these relationships, I began looking at other ways to provide volunteer service to ASHA.

My first volunteer experience with a Special Interest Group (actually, back then they were called Special Interest Divisions) began in 1993, when I served on SIG 1’s action group re: severity ratings and eligibility requirements for preschool and school-age children. Because of this excellent experience and, again, the friendships I developed, I ran for and was elected to SIG 1’s Steering Committee (1997-2002). As part of my responsibilities on the committee, I served as the continuing education administrator. During that stint, I believe SIG 1 became the first SIG to offer CEUs for participation in an online journal discussion group (this was back when email was just taking off). I late served for a bit on SIG 10.

Being actively involved in SIGs led to many other instances of ASHA volunteerism. I served on numerous ASHA work or focus groups: the ASHA Vice President’s Research and Technology Coordinating Committee (’01-’03), the Scientific and Professional Editorial Board (’03-’04), the EBP Guidelines for Child Language Disorders committee (2004), the Joint Coordinating Committee for Child Language Disorders (2004), and chair of the revised Scope of Practice for SLP (’06-’07). I also became the Editor for *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools* (’07-’10).

Importantly, it was my exceptional volunteer experiences within ASHA that led me to volunteer for the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD). I volunteered with CAPSD in a number of different ways, including serving as the President-Elect, President, and Past President of the Council (’11-’14). Since then, I have volunteered for a number of other CAPCSD committees, including the Audit Committee, Financial Advocacy Committee, and the Council’s newly developed Education Committee (’14-present).

In sum, my volunteer experiences have been an important and rewarding aspect of my professional life. Serving as a volunteer who actually helps develop and/or disperse new ideas to the ASHA membership is exciting. Perhaps the best part of volunteering, though, is that you develop friendships that span time and geography. I am most grateful for that part of volunteering.

1. Not that I am really old! 😉 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)