

# Minnesota Cues Flash

*A quarterly newsletter by the Cued Speech Association of Minnesota*



## *Cued Speech: Making Languages Visible*

### **Wow! What a Year!**

It is hard to believe it has already been a year, since the CSAM board had a chance to sit down with it's members and talk about CSAM's future. The board has had a very successful year, fulfilling the CSAM mission. We started off the year frantically putting the finishing touches on Cue Camp MN 2004.

In June, we held a very successful cue camp with our theme being "Literacy: a Great Catch!" Cue camp gave families and professionals a long weekend to emerse themselves in cueing. Youngsters attending camp, were constantly exposed to cueing with out even knowing it. They thought they were at camp to have fun! Approximately 170 people from across the country attended the camp.

The summer continued with a new CSAM adventure, Play and Cue. Four Play and Cue events were held at different parks through out the metro area over the summer. These events were such a hit that plans are in the works for Play and Cues to occur again this summer. CSAM also held it's 2nd annual Cue at

the Zoo. CSAM provided a transliterator for the Sparky the Sea lion performance and wrapped up the day with a member picnic.

Other social opportunities CSAM offered this year were the fall festival and Cueing Santa. At the fall festival, young cuers had the opportunity to play games and make crafts. The festival also gave parents a chance to mingle and catchup. The second annual Cueing Santa event was another major success. Children had the opportunity to talk to Santa as well as make Gingerbread houses and other crafts.

During the past year, CSAM also focused much of it's energy on teaching individuals to cue. In addition to the awesome workshops offered at camp, CSAM also offered 3 cue classes over the course of the last year. Beginning and intermediate cue classes were held this fall. Each class had record breaking numbers in attendance. A beginning cue class was also offered in December. This cue class was designed specifically for Deaf adults and taught entirely through ASL. This is the first time that CSAM has

offered this type of class outside of cue camp. The class was very well recieved.

CSAM continues to be an affiliate of the National Cued Speech Association. Our affiliation with NCSA offers us insurance for cue camps as well as national resources as needed. CSAM is also pursuing becoming an affiliate of the Cued Language Network of America (CLNA).

If you are interested in helping to plan CSAM's future, please attend our annual meeting on March 4, at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

In addition to a planning session, annual board elections will also take place at this meeting. Offices that are up for election this year are President (2 year term), Treasurer, ( 2 year term) and several at large positions. If you are interested in any of these board positions, please contact Katherine Burns-Christenson at KBC29@aol.com or (952) 929-3965.

#### **Contact Us...**

- Katherine Burns-Christenson, co-President, KBC29@aol.com
- Amy Voorhees, co-President, aand-voorhees@charter.net
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- Tom Johnston, secretary, thomasmjohnson@mn.rr.com
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## NCSA Gets Federal Monies to Support Cueing

Dear Cueing Supporters

For the past 10 months, the NCSA and its supporters applied for and lobbied heavily for a federal appropriation under the Labor HHS-Education Bill of \$650,000 for FY 05. I am thrilled to report that I received a phone call today from Cong. Steny Hoyer's office that the NCSA is in the budget for \$350,000.

This an incredible accomplishment for the NCSA and shows that our support is national. I need to let you know that we had a number of champions who pushed our agenda forward. First, cue parent Barry Scher was incredible at helping me work through the process. Barry and I walked the halls of Congress last February and we each followed up over and over again.

On the Senate side, Sen Edward Kennedy led the effort with support from Senators Charles Schumer, Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Maria Cantwell, John Kerry, Paul Sarbanes, Barbara Mikulski, Olympia Snowe, Susan Collins, and Mary Landrieu. On the House side, our request was put through by Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Montgomery County, Maryland and a letter was sent

by Congressman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones of Cleveland, Ohio. The letter was signed by Major Owens, Jerry Nadler, Anthony Weiner, Dutch Ruppensberger, Ed Towns, Jim Gerlach, James McGovern, Barbara Lee, Steny Hoyer, Carolyn McCarthy, James Moran, Chris Van Hollen, Richard Neal, and Dale Kildee.

However, the most important advocate we had was Congressman Steny Hoyer, the minority leader on the House Appropriations Committee. Congressman Hoyer made sure our request made it onto the list and because our amount was small and we had such incredible national support, it got through.

I have been overwhelmed all day with this delightful victory for CS and the NCSA. Many companies hire expensive lobbyists to do what we have accomplished together. We owe this success to the overwhelming support of people, school systems, parents, professionals, Dr Berlin, CLNA, and the TECUnit, but most importantly to Congressman Steny Hoyer.

As I walked into offices all over Washington last week, it was clear that the letters of support I kept asking people to fax had been received and that the staff people were impressed that this was such

a grass roots effort and that we were all volunteers. Our joint effort has united the CS community and this appropriation will enable the NCSA to move ahead with programs valuable to the CS community.

I wish I could hug each of you personally and that we could celebrate

together.

Sarina Roffé, President

National Cued Speech Association

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## Cue Camp 2006 ??? 2007???

CSAM is considering hosting another cue camp in either June of 2006 or June of 2007. Either way, plans for a future Cue Camp need to begin soon. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Katherine Burns-Christenson,

KBC29@aol.com or Amy Voorhees, aandjvoorhees@charter.net.

Individuals are needed to help with securing a location and fundraising as well as finding staff, picking a theme and planning activities.

## Santa Makes Young Cuers Smile

.One Saturday afternoon, early in December Santa headed south to spend a special afternoon with some young cuers and their families.

Santa took Christmas requests in one room, while other children made Gingerbread Houses and did craft projects in another room while waiting their turn on Santa's lap. Approximately 17 children told Santa their Christmas wishes that afternoon. It was hard for parents not to become teary eyed when they saw the look on their children's faces when Santa

started cueing to them. Thanks to a donation by a former CSAM board member, each Santa was able to give each child in attendance a stuffed ani-

mal.

The event was made extra special this year thanks to the baking skills of Carol Feeser. Carol baked and put together over 20 gingerbread houses for the children to decorate at the party. CSAM also recruited high school senior Marja Poulsen and high school junior Angela Zellen to be Santa's helpers for the day. The two girls were covered from head to toe with icing by the end of the day. Over and over the teens were heard saying they wished there had been events like this when



Some of the participants at CSAM's cueing Santa event.

## Volunteer of the Quarter

CSAM would like to send a special Thank You out to Carol Feeser, our Volunteer of the Quarter. Carol is the mother of three children, Sarah, Derek and Justin. Justin was born deaf and has been cueing since he was 2 years old. Carol spend numerous hours in December baking homemade gingerbread houses for our Cueing Santa event. Carol made more than 25 houses for our event. Carol even made homemade royal icing to stick the houses together. By the end of making the houses, Carol had lost the feeling in her arm, but continued build houses, just to see the smile on the kids faces. Thank you Carol, for making our huge success!



The Feeser boys and Santa celebrate the season. HO-HO-HO

## Thank you for thinking of us!

CSAM would like to send out a special thank you to those families who remembered CSAM this past holiday season. Several families decided to use some of their money designated for charitable giving to promote the activities CSAM sponsors. Your donations will help CSAM continue to promote the use of cueing in Minnesota and the surrounding states. Because CSAM is a non-profit organization, all donations made to CSAM are tax deductible.

Thank you again!

## *Cued Speech: Making Languages Visible*

Cued Speech Association of Minnesota

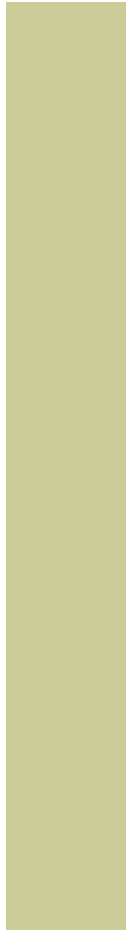
Katherine Burns-Christenson

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## **Moose Tracks**

March 4, 2005

CSAM annual meeting

10:00– 12:00 at Diamond Lake Church, Minneapolis

All CSAM members are welcome to come and share their ideas and opinions with the CSAM board. Elections for new board members will also take place at the meeting. Can't make the meeting, fill out and return the enclosed survey so your voice can be heard.

March 12, 2004

Cueing Game Night

4:00p.m.

Hosted by the Stadleman Family.

Burgers and Brats will be provided. Please bring your own beverages and a dish to share. See enclosed flyer.

RSVP to Mary at 952-

April 15, 2005

MN Statewide DHOH Teachers Conference

CSAM has been invited to man a booth at the State DHOH teachers conference. This will be an awesome opportunity for CSAM to share information about cueing with MN educators.



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