



# In the Loop: SUMMER

## June 2025 Edition

### WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings Everyone!

I hope you are enjoying some warmer weather with the start of Spring. I'm excited to share some exciting updates from the Board. First, several members of the Board have been busy planning our annual on-line conference, which will be by June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> from 12-5:30pm EDT. I hope you can join us! We have a wonderful line-up of speakers including Nan Bernstein Ratner, Shelley Brundage, Kathy Scaler-Scott, Elyse Lambeth, Naomi Eichorn, Naomi Rodgers, Chaya Goldstein-Schuff, Kia Johnson, Kristin Fox Teran, and Board members of the ABSCF. A wide variety of topics will be covered including language encoding, attention, culturally responsive practices, new considerations for mindfulness, complex trauma, a holistic approach to atypical disfluencies, cluttering, and a client's journey to find their voice. We will also have an adult panel.

In the new year, we are also excited to report that many important updates to the manual have been approved by the Committee on Clinical Specialty Certification and the Council for Clinical Certification at ASHA. These updates are the result of feedback from specialists, candidates, applicants and Board members. Thank you all for your input! The updated manual is available on our website. In addition, Laura Johnson, Vice Chair of the Board, has been working diligently on clarifying the process and differences between Lifetime and Retired specialists. Some of you may have received a call from her! [HERE](#) is the link from our May Roundtable where we reviewed changes to the manual and clarified the requirements for Lifetime versus Retired members.

Another important update is the revision of the seal. The Board realized that the initial seal did not align with the name change and did not represent the full scope of our specialty, as such appropriate revisions were made. As a reminder, please discontinue use of the original seal that was sent out and use the more recent version below, which was shared in an announcement as well.

I wish you all well and hope to see you at the next Roundtable and our Annual Conference!

Best Regards,  
Rob Reichardt, MA CCC-SLP, BCS-SCF  
Chair, the Executive Board of the American Board of Stuttering, Cluttering, and Fluency Disorders



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



**If you are interested in assisting the Board with any of our current projects, please contact us via our website:**

**<https://www.stutteringspecialists.org/>**

## **ANNUAL DUES**

**It's time for annual dues renewal!**

**Specialists should renew by June 15, 2025 to avoid a late fee.**

## **CANDIDATE FORUMS**

Candidate Forums were initiated by the ABSCF in July 2024 to provide an additional avenue of support for current candidates as well as SLP's who are interested in possibly applying to become specialists and want to learn more about the portfolio process. These Candidate Forums are held every other month and are an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the board-certification process.

Next Candidate Forum:

Thursday, June 26, 2025, 8:00 PM (EST)

Register here:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/i9Qpck\\_uQF2tvYFgAYVBDA](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/i9Qpck_uQF2tvYFgAYVBDA)

## ROUND TABLES

Since May of 2020, the ABSCF has sponsored a Round Table Discussion most months, to cover topics relevant to the board certification process. These meetings are designed to for applicants for BSC\_SCF, individuals who are considering applying for BCS-SCF, current or potential mentors, and people with fluency disorders from the community with an interest in the process. You can view past Round Table Discussions from the following link:

<https://www.stutteringspecialists.org/Roundtable-Discussion>

Below are the topics that have been discussed in 2025, as well as the link to access them:

January 2025: State of the Board

<https://vimeo.com/1049349863/c1d226953d?share=copy>

March 2025: Finding the Middle Ground in Therapy

<https://vimeo.com/1069280198/b9a84c4cea?share=copy>

May 2025: What's New with the Manual

<https://vimeo.com/1082304171/c9491d1d97?share=copy>

## BOARD CERTIFIED SPECIALIST IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In this newsletter, we highlight one of our many members who has been doing interesting, exciting, and impactful work with clients in the stuttering community. This issue, we are spotlighting ROSSANNA "ROSS" PORTLEY, MS-CCC-SLP, BCS-SCF:

### Tell us about yourself:

My name is Rossanna "Ross" Portley. I earned the Master of Science Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD)

after completing my undergraduate degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Texas Woman's University (TWU) in Denton, Texas. I am a Lifetime Member of the ABSCF and serve a small caseload of children and adults who stutter.



## **Why did you want to become a Board Certified Specialist in Stuttering, Cluttering and Fluency?**

I appreciate that the field of Speech-Language Pathology is very diverse with regard to work settings and types of cases. As generalists we all have no doubt found special interests in various areas during our career paths. I thoroughly enjoyed the wide array of communication disorders and differences in which I gained experience and skills. Along with stuttering, other very fulfilling areas of special interest for me in previous work settings were disorders of voice and swallowing. I was first drawn to an interest in stuttering as a curious teen who saw friends struggling. As a professional in a large public school district, my interest became fueled by a "fluency study group" which was spearheaded by our colleague, Janice Westbrook, who some in our field may know. That year-long reading and study group preceded my being accepted into the Stuttering Foundation of America's two-week "Workshop for Stuttering Specialists" held at Northwestern University. I later became part of the inaugural cadre of ASHA Board Certified Specialists in Stuttering.

## **What do you LOVE about being a BCS-SCF?**

My forty-five plus year career has included thirty years as a public school SLP and administrator of SLPs. In my district, I also was a resource clinician supporting campus therapists with fluency and voice cases. For five years I was a staff SLP then Director of Rehabilitation (DOR) in a Long-Term Acute Care (LTAC) hospital. I enjoyed an additional five years working with similar adult cases in home health and continued my remaining years in private practice.

## **Tell us about your involvement in the stuttering community:**

I have attended many workshops, seminars, and conferences to stay abreast of the changes in all of my special interests and in the area of stuttering in particular. Through the years I have been involved in the stuttering community through Support for Parents of Preschoolers who Stutter (S-POPS) which is bi-monthly presentations and discussions for families of age seven and under children who stutter in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. I also participated in NSA conferences, local NSA adult group social outings, and NSA-sponsored day events in the Dallas area. As a past Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association volunteer, I was a TSHA Convention presenter and a TSHA Committee Co-chair for Career Awareness and Public Information. I was also a past co-presenter for the Stuttering Foundation of America's (SFA) Western Workshop. I love being an ASHA Board Certified Specialist in Stuttering, Cluttering, and Fluency Disorders (BCS-SCF) because I get to focus all my professional attention on the area that I have strived to learn the most about and where I believe I can continue to make a positive impact on families' lives. I have met adults who have hidden their stuttering for their entire lives, and I have loved helping them to learn to embrace opening up and educating others.

## What advice do you have for people who are considering becoming a BCS-SCF?

I recommend that those interested in becoming a Board-Certified Specialist in Stuttering, Cluttering, and Fluency Disorders (BCS-SCF) find ways to spend time getting to know people who stutter and gain knowledge from these experts, their stories, and their experiences. Learn to be an unwavering ally.

## Anything else you want people to know about you?

In my personal time, I enjoy attending concerts including R & B, jazz, and classical music, as well as local theater with family and friends. My husband and I spend valuable time with our two adult children, their spouses, and our four grandsons.

## 2025 ABSCF ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE: EXPANDING CLINICAL SKILLS IN STUTTERING, CLUTTERING AND ATYPICAL DISFLUENCY

**June 8 & 9 via Zoom  
12:00–5:30 PM EDT**

This year's interactive online conference will bring in presenters from across the United States to provide you with the latest research and clinical understanding in stuttering, cluttering, and atypical fluency disorders. A variety of topics will be covered including language encoding, attention, culturally responsive practices, new considerations for mindfulness, complex trauma, a holistic approach to atypical disfluencies, cluttering, and a client's journey to find their voice. The adult panel will provide further insights into the lived experience of people who stutter. Click here for the conference schedule.

This intermediate level course will provide participants with a broader understanding of how to better serve children and adults who stutter, clutter, or have fluency disorders.

Registration fees:

\$150.00 for Professionals

\$100.00 for BCS-SCF who are serving as mentors to active candidates for board certification.

\$50.00 for Parents and Other Attendees who are not SLPs, including graduate students.

**Click  
HERE  
to register!**

## OTHER HAPPENINGS

Here are a few upcoming events sponsored by various organizations in the stuttering community. If you have anything that you would like highlighted in a future newsletter, please reach out to Robyn Martin (robynwmartin@gmail.com).

### 28th Annual FRIENDS Convention

July 10-12, 2025

Charlotte, NC

[REGISTER HERE](#)



### National Stuttering Association

42nd Annual Conference

July 2-6, 2025

Denver, CO

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### Stuttering Association for the Young

Camp SAY 2025

July 19-August 1

San Antonio, TX

[REGISTER HERE](#)



### CAMP SHOUT OUT

August 3-9, 2025

Middleville, Michigan

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### SPERO STUTTERING

Strides for Stuttering Virtual 5K Fun Walk/Run

August 1-25, 2025

[REGISTER HERE](#)



## **STUTTERING FOUNDATION OF AMERICA**

Virtual Learning by The Stuttering Foundation

Advocacy Skills for School-Age Kids and Teens Who Stutter: Application of a Conceptual Model

Speaker: Kirstin Chmela M.A., CCC-SLP, BCS-SCF

Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 12:00-1:15 EST

<https://www.stutteringhelp.org/Virtualearning>

## **HELP PROMOTE BOARD CERTIFICATION IN FLUENCY DISORDERS**

The Board would like to invite all individuals who are creating a PowerPoint Presentation in the area of Fluency Disorders, to include one of the four different slides the Board has created which promote board certification in fluency disorders. To increase the number of board certified specialists in fluency disorders, this is one way for the Board to increase awareness and visibility of the specialty certification, hopefully sparking interest in individuals who might consider looking into the process. These slides can be found here: <https://www.stutteringspecialists.org/specialists/>. Thank you for helping to promote specialty certification in fluency disorders!

## **ABOUT THE AMERICAN BOARD OF STUTTERING, CLUTTERING AND FLUENCY DISORDERS**

The American Board of Stuttering, Cluttering and Fluency Disorders was the first clinical specialty program approved by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 1998. The idea of a specialty program was driven by the need to give consumers access to professionals with advanced knowledge and skills, and to educate and recognize expert clinicians. The specialty program, initially known as the Specialty Board on Fluency Disorders, came into being through the efforts of both professionals and consumers. It was championed by ASHA's Special Interest Division 4, Fluency and Fluency Disorders, with support from the National Stuttering Association and the Stuttering Foundation of America.



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## FACEBOOK PAGE

Please visit the ABFFD Facebook page. Send Shelby Potts, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-SCF, Social Media Director (shelbypotts@oakcityspeech.com) information regarding upcoming presentations, publications, events, or accomplishments so that we can keep our members informed!



## The BOARD

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The mission of the American Board of Stuttering, Cluttering, and Fluency Disorders (ABSCF) is three-fold: \*To promote among speech-language pathologists the highest standards for training and service delivery to impact positively the communication skills and thereby the lives of those who demonstrate fluency disorders. \*To verify knowledge of fluency disorders and mastery of skills of professionals who seek and maintain the credential of Board-Certified Specialist-Stuttering, Cluttering and Fluency Disorders. \*To publicize the benefits of working with specialists in fluency disorders and to provide an up-to-date listing of individuals who maintain the status of Board-Certified Specialist-Stuttering, Cluttering, and Fluency Disorders.**