



# American Board of Fluency and Fluency Disorders

## ABFFD BOARD

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Rita Thurman  
M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F

### Vice Chair

Elyse Lambeth  
M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F

### Treasurer

Laura Johnson  
M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F

### Community Outreach

(replaced Secretary position in October  
2020)

Nola Radford, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-F

### Advocacy and Education

Glenn Weybright  
M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F

Carl Herder

M.A., CCC-SLP, BCS-F

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### Social Media Director

Risa Battino  
M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F

### Consumer Representative

Reuben Schuff

**In The  
Loop**

*Keeping Members Informed*

**APRIL 2021**

## WELCOME

As winter comes to a close and we begin to have warmer weather, we hope you and your families are healthy and safe as we continue to navigate the pandemic. We are hopeful that this year will bring an increased ability to practice our profession safely in person. The ABFFD creates this quarterly newsletter to connect our members and provide updated information about Board activities. As a board, our major goal is to unite and support speech-language pathologists and the children, teens, and adults with fluency disorders that they serve.

## BOARD NEWS

### THANK YOU TO EXITING BOARD MEMBERS:

Patty Walton, Secretary

Joe Donaher, Treasurer

We appreciate the time, service, and dedication they showed during their terms on the board.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

Nola Radford, Community Outreach (replaced the position of Secretary)

Laura Johnson, Treasurer

We appreciate their willingness to serve and further the mission of the ABFFD.

Since May of 2020, the ABFFD has sponsored a monthly **Round Table Discussion** to discuss topics relevant to the board certification process. These meetings are open to applicants for BCS-F, individuals who are considering applying for BCS-F, current or potential mentors, board members, and people with fluency disorders from the community with an interest in the process. These meetings have been well-attended and feedback has been very positive. A wide variety of topics have been presented and discussed.

The format of the Round Table Discussions has evolved over the past year. Currently, the first 45 minutes is spent on a pre-selected topic of interest. The topic could be addressed through a presentation followed by a discussion, a panel, or a discussion facilitated by a board member. The last 15 to 30 minutes is spent answering questions participants may have regarding the process of becoming a BCS-F or mentoring a candidate.

The Thursday, January 21, 2021 Round Table Discussion was facilitated by Carl Herder, CE Coordinator and included a focused discussion about **Community Resources for Children and Adults who Stutter**. Representatives of 4 different service organizations designed to help people who stutter were invited guests and each spoke briefly about their organization's purpose and activities. Following questions from participants about the organizations, the remainder of the meeting was spent addressing questions regarding the process of becoming a BCS-F.

A Round Table Discussion on Sunday, February 21, 2021 addressed **Practical Help Using Zoom and Other Platforms**. Glenn Weybright, CE Coordinator, facilitated a lively discussion where participants shared a plethora of creative teletherapy ideas. It appeared the discussion could have continued but time was reserved at the end to address questions regarding the board certification process.

On Thursday, March 25, 2021, the Round Table Discussion topic was **Client-Driven Therapy** and the meeting was facilitated by Rita Thurman, Chair of the ABFFD. This topic was selected because an area of weakness noted in some applications for BCS-F is when therapy does not appear to be client driven or individualized to reflect the particular needs and desires of that specific client. Again, round table participants contributed fabulous ideas about how to make

therapy more client-driven to meet each client's needs. The last few minutes of the meeting were devoted to taking questions from applicants or prospective applicants for board certification.

Saturday, April 24, 2021, the Round Table Discussion topic was **The Therapeutic Dance** and it was facilitated by Glenn Weybright, CE Coordinator. Glenn created a very thorough and well-thought-out presentation on this topic, exploring the "art" of doing therapy which includes all the things we were NOT taught in graduate school but which many good clinicians do intuitively or learn to do with experience. A fascinating discussion took place with a wonderful exchange of ideas.

The next Round Table will be Sunday, May 23 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time and the topic will be: **"Putting Our Heads Together"** a clinical review of targeted case studies. Members could bring a challenging therapy situation for everyone to discuss. These discussions will be facilitated by Rita Thurman.

If you have been unable to attend a Round Table discussion live, a recording of each of these sessions is available on the ABFFD website. Feedback suggests the Board is in fact making the board certification process more transparent and accessible. We want everyone to know this resource is available, even if someone can't join the discussion "live".

## **BOARD MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

Rita Thurman, Chair, attended the Oxford Dysfluency Conference in January and attended the SFA webinar "An Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Taster" in February; the FRIENDS Community Speaker Series "Stuttering Around the World" which was an international panel of teens and young adults who stutter in March; and the NSA's "PWS Panel for SLP's" and the Spring 2 Day Conference. Rita also ran monthly workshops for an adult support group, a teen support group, and a children's support group.

Elyse Lambeth, Vice Chair, attended the Oxford Dysfluency Conference in January.

Glenn Weybright, CE Co-Coordinator, facilitated the ABFFD Round Table meeting on Teletherapy on February 21, 2021. Glenn also virtually accompanied one of his former clients, now a high school junior and a person who stutters, as he spoke to Dr. Megann McGill's Stuttering Lab students at Portland State University. He also helped interview prospective graduate students in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon in February 2021. Glenn will deliver a one hour talk on writing holistic goals for students who stutter to speech-language pathologists from the Salem-Keizer school district in Salem, Oregon in April 2021. Glenn continues to mentor a graduate student in speech-language pathology, who is a person who stutters, as she navigates her clinical externship and faces obstacles like families requesting a different SLP or a client's family member laughing when she introduced herself because of her stuttering.

Nola Radford, Community Outreach, is new to the Board and is working to "flesh out" specific initiatives relative to community outreach while encouraging students to consider pursuing

specialty certification in stuttering. Nola also published a case study: "Positive Messages and Traditional Therapy for Three Children Who Stutter" <https://doi.org/10.1080/1034912X.2021.1885630>

Carl Herder, CE Co-Coordinator, facilitated the ABFFD Round Table Discussion on January 21, 2021 concerning community resources for individuals who stutter.

Brooke Leiman Edwards, Certification Co-Coordinator, attended the Oxford Dysfluency Conference online in January 2021.

Reuben Schuff, Consumer Representative, discussed his stuttering journey on Stutter Block Party - Stamily Stories in January 2021. Reuben also will be an advisor for the Stuttering Scholarship Alliance.

Risa Battino, Social Media Director, attended the Oxford Dysfluency Conference in January 2021 and plans to attend the NSA Spring2Day Conference in April 2021.

Laura Johnson, Treasurer, is new to the Board and has been instrumental in researching options for a new ABFFD website. Laura also created case studies with the professor of the graduate class at U. of Wisconsin Whitewater and then participated in a client simulation, playing the roles of individuals of all ages who stutter. Laura, has participated in a number of SFA webinars and Montreal Fluency Center's Guest Speaker series.

Tricia Krauss-Lehrman, Public Relations and Marketing chair, interviewed graduate students from UTD for the Dallas TWST internship position and helped plan and run the monthly Dallas TWST meetings. Tricia also facilitated a support group for parents of preschool children showing signs of stuttering in January of 2021. Tricia attended the SFA webinar "An Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Taster" in February; the FRIENDS Community Speaker Series "Stuttering Around the World" which was an international panel of teens and young adults who stutter in March; and the NSA's "PWS Panel for SLP's" and the Spring2Day Conference in April 2021.

## ABFFD MANUAL CHANGES

The ABFFD voted to approve the following updates to the manual:

New Applicants for BCS-F	
	Requirement
<b>How long after obtaining CCC can an applicant apply?</b>	3 years or full time equivalent
<b>How many CEUs?</b>	Within the last 3 years, an applicant must have obtained 6 CEUs of intermediate to advanced training in fluency disorders with at least 4.8 CEUs being "live hours"
<b>How many clinical hours?</b>	Within the last 5 years, an applicant must have obtained 450 clinical hours with at least

	25 hours in each of the age ranges (preschool, school age, adolescent/adult)
<b>How many of an applicant's hours can be supervision?</b>	Up to 135 of the 450 direct contact hours may be supervision of student clinicians or certified clinicians who are working under the applicant's guidance
<b>How many of an applicant's hours can be indirect hours (e.g., program development, presentations, teaching)?</b>	None

In addition to the changes above, the letters of recommendation submitted by applicants no longer need to include one from a BCS-F.

## OTHER HAPPENINGS

**The National Stuttering Association (NSA)** ([www.westutter.org](http://www.westutter.org)) is honored to serve kids, teens, and adults who stutter, as well as their loved ones, and the professionals who serve them. They do so in part by offering a wide variety of local, regional, and national events across the United States. Here are the events which have taken place in the past few months.

In these unique and sometimes difficult days that are governed by social distancing and time at home, the NSA offers these free **NSA Connects** sessions to learn, inspire, and connect with the larger stuttering community to share, learn, and socialize in ways we aren't able to experience in person right now. Each session focuses on a specific theme of interest to those in the community - Parents, Speech Professionals, LGBTQIA+, Military Service Members, and more.

February 23, 2021: **NSA Connects: Open Mic**

February 25, 2021: **NSA Connects: Passing Twice**

March 9, 2021: **NSA Connects: Parents - Understanding You Child Who Stutters**

March 11, 2021: **NSA Connects: Older Adults Who Stutter**

March 15, 2021: **NSA Teen Talk** Now, more than ever, it's important that young people who stutter stay connected to one another. Teens age 13-17 are invited to meet up online with other teens who stutter to chat, laugh, and share common experiences.

March 23, 2021: **WeStutter@Work Webinar: Resilience for People Who Stutter** This free webinar series addresses relevant issues people who stutter face in the workplace. These 1-hour webinars are informative, interactive and lead by people who stutter.

March 25, 2021: **NSA Connects: SLPs Who Stutter**

April 13, 2021: **NSA Connects: Open Mic**

April 15, 2021: **NSA Connects: PWS Panel for SLPs**

April 17-18, 2021: **NSA Spring2Day Online Conference** The NSA Spring2Day Online Conference brings the stuttering community together online to learn, laugh, and connect through interactive Zoom sessions. The agenda offers fun and interactive sessions for adults, teens, 'tweens, kids, parents, and speech-language pathologists to experience a connection and gain a new understanding about stuttering. .55 ASHA CEUs also available.

April 27, 2021: **NSA Connects: Taboo Topics**

April 28, 2021: **WeStutter@Work Webinar: Public Speaking at Work for PWS**

April 29, 2021: **NSA Connects: Stuttering & The Military**

**FRIENDS** ([friendswhostutter.org](http://friendswhostutter.org)) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support and education to young people who stutter, their families, and professionals, through annual conferences, one-day workshops, and outreach. Their vision is to help build a world in which all young people who stutter feel empowered to communicate whenever, wherever, and however they want to. At FRIENDS, they care deeply about their community and the well-being of individuals and families, especially during times like these (COVID-19). FRIENDS is coming to terms with the fact that things will not be the same for a while and is working on alternative ways to continue offering education and support for young people who stutter and their families. In an effort to stay connected in this time of social distancing, FRIENDS has been excited to offer many virtual events. Registration is required for each.

#### **January, 2021**

- **FRIENDS Winter Virtual Convention** – Saturday and Sunday, January 30-31. This was the first annual Winter Convention and included virtual workshops for kids, tweens, teens, adults who stutter, parents, siblings, and SLPs.
- **FRIENDS Kids Group** – Saturdays at 10:00 AM or 3:30 PM ET
- **FRIENDS Teens Group** - Thursday, Jan 7 & 21 @ 7:30 pm ET
- **FRIENDS Adults Group** - Wednesday, Jan 6 & 20 @ 7:30 pm ET
- **Parents Group** – Sat. Jan. 9 at 11:30 am and Tues. Jan. 26 at 7 PM

#### **February 2021**

- **FRIENDS Kids Group** – Saturdays at 10:00 AM or 3:30 PM ET
- **FRIENDS Teens Group** - Thursday, Feb. 18 @ 7:30 pm ET
- **FRIENDS Adults Group** - Wednesday, Feb. 17 @ 7:30 pm ET
- **Parents Group** – Sat. Feb. 13 at 11:30 am and Tues. Feb. 23 with Tricia Zebrowski at 7 PM

#### **March 2021**

- **FRIENDS Community Series** – Stuttering Around the World – Sat. Mar. 27 at 11 am ET
- **FRIENDS Kids Group** – Saturdays at 10:00 AM or 3:30 PM ET
- **FRIENDS Teens Group** - Thursday, Mar. 4 and 18 @ 7:30 pm ET
- **FRIENDS 20's-30's Adults Group** - Wednesday, March 10 @ 7:30 pm ET

- **FRIENDS Adults Group** - Wednesday, March 24 @ 7:30 pm ET
- **Parents Group** – Sat. Mar. 13 at 11:30 am and Tues. Mar. 23 at 7 PM ET

### April 2021

- **FRIENDS Kids Group** – Saturdays at 10:00 AM or 3:30 PM ET
- **FRIENDS Teens Group** - Thursday, April 15 @ 7:30 pm ET
- **FRIENDS 20's-30's Adults Group** - Wednesday, April 7 @ 7:30 pm ET
- **FRIENDS Adults Group** - Wednesday, April 21 @ 7:30 pm ET
- **Parents Group** – Sat. April 10 at 11:30 am and Tues. April 27 at 7 PM ET

Links to all FRIENDS virtual programs - Kids, Teens, Adults, Parents Groups & Monthly Community Series can be found at <http://www.friendswhostutter.org/virtual/>

The **Stuttering Foundation of America (SFA)** ([www.stutteringhelp.org](http://www.stutteringhelp.org)) continues its mission to provide the highest quality resources and learning opportunities to help clinicians increase their knowledge base, clinical skills, comfort, and competency, in order to best serve individuals who stutter. The SFA has launched, "Virtual Learning by Stuttering Foundation", a free online series of monthly interactive workshops with a variety of offerings for speech-language pathologists, parents, and individuals who stutter.

Here is a list of the new SFA Virtual Learning workshops that were offered live and for free during the first quarter of 2021. Past sessions, are now available for a small fee on our Streaming Video Library ([www.stutteringhelp.org/streaming](http://www.stutteringhelp.org/streaming)).

January 13, 2021: **The 3Es: A Framework for Figuring Out What To Do In Stuttering Therapy** by Katie Gore, M.A., CCC-SLP and Courtney Luckman, M.A., CCC-SLP.

February 15, 2021: **Acceptance and Commitment Therapy- a Taster!** by Jane Harley, BA, MSc., (Psych Couns), PGDip CT, Trained to Teach .b, MRCSLT, Reg. HCPC.

March 15, 2021: **Fluency Plus: Cases for Understanding Clients With Fluency Disorders and Concomitant Diagnoses** by Kathy Scaler Scott, Ph.D, CCC-SLP, BCS-F.

April 29, 2021: 12pm ET: **Mindfulness Speaks: Considerations in Stuttering Therapy** by Kristin Chmela,

May 6, 2021: 7 PM ET: **Choose the Career you Love OR Love the Career you Choose** by Vivian Sisskin, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F.

**Stuttering Foundation Podcast:** Podcast **Season 3, Coming April 2021!** After two hugely successful seasons, we're excited to announce a new monthly episode format. The same great mix of clinical discussions, research updates, and special segments coming your way—with a few surprises to come as well! Be sure to subscribe and follow us on social media, so that you are alerted to new episodes as soon as they become available! Listen through: Apple Podcast, Spotify, Stitcher, or directly through our website: [www.stutteringhelp.org/podcast](http://www.stutteringhelp.org/podcast).

### **Other general SFA updates:**

- We are getting more and more letters/ drawings from kids for our magazine as more schools are meeting in person.

- We have started offering one course a week for \$5, video and ASHA CEUs included ([www.stutteringhelp.org/training](http://www.stutteringhelp.org/training)), make sure to subscribe to our mailing list to be alerted!

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

You should have received an email with information about the new ABFFD website. Our goal in updating our website was to make the website more user-friendly, contemporary, and to make certain that all links go to the same and most recently updated version of the manual. In addition, updating the website is part of the Board's attempt to balance our budget - the new website will be significantly more cost effective than the previous website. Please bear with us as we work out the glitches which can be expected when unveiling a new website.

## BOARD SPONSORED 2-DAY WORKSHOP FOR LIVE CEU'S

When specialists received information about their upcoming renewals, the Board received MANY inquiries about how to obtain live CEU's, since obtaining them has been difficult over the past year. For this reason, the Board has decided to sponsor a 2 day online **live** workshop on **June 27 and 28, 2021**. The theme of the 2-day event will be "Therapy for Fluency Disorders Across the Lifespan" and **10 live CEUs will be offered**. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!! More information to follow.

## FEE INCREASE

We appreciate all of your support of the American Board of Fluency and Fluency Disorders. After careful consideration of dues associated with other specialties, the increase in administrative fees for the Board and the fact that a fee adjustment **has not occurred in the last ten years**, the Board has approved the following fee adjustments, effective June 2021.

- Application fee \$250.00
- Active Member annual renewal \$110.00
- Life-Time and Retired Member annual renewal \$75.00

**Please watch for your renewal invoice, which will be sent in an email, coming soon.**

## 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 4 different slides the Board has created which promote board certification in fluency disorders. In an attempt to increase the number of board-certified specialists in fluency disorders, this is one way for the Board to increase awareness 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/ABFFD-Promo-Slides/>. Thank you for helping to promote specialty certification in fluency disorders!



## **ABOUT THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FLUENCY AND FLUENCY DISORDERS**

The American Board of Fluency 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.

### **FACEBOOK PAGE**

Please visit the [ABFFD Facebook page](#). Send Risa Battino, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F, Social Media Director ([rbattino@gmail.com](mailto:rbattino@gmail.com)) information regarding upcoming presentations, publications, events, or accomplishments so that we can keep our members informed!