

Celebrating 45 Years of American Audiology Society Excellence: Memoirs of a Founder

Editor's Note: As a member of AAS for more than 30 years, and having lived through much of its activities and development, and in view of the 45th anniversary of the American Audiology Society (2017), I thought it fitting to document the origins and early history of the Society. This, along with the many informal conversations I have had with Ross Roeser, one of the founders of AAS and a key player in the early and mid years of the Society, made him the perfect person to write such a document (Fig. 1). I asked him to recall his memories of how AAS began, the successes and struggles of the early years, and how the foundation was laid for what the AAS is today. Along with these memories, Dr. Roeser has provided digital copies of the early executive committee and editorial board minutes of the Society, as well as all of the issues of the early AAS newsletter, Corti's Organ. I hope readers will enjoy this brief history and find the time to peruse the supplemental materials that accompany it.

Readers might think there was a typographical error when they read the title of this article. Indeed, in 1972, AAS was launched as the American Audiology Society. However, soon after, in 1975, the name was changed to the American Auditory Society through a membership vote and By-Laws revision—read on. Throughout the text, I will use AAS to represent both the “audiology” and “auditory” components of the name. This short historical summary was prepared mainly to preserve archival materials and to highlight and record the significant events and activities that formed AAS from my perspective as the elected Secretary/Treasurer and Editor for several of the AAS publications during the formative years, from 1972 to 1994. In putting it together, I was lucky to have I retained copies of most of the archival information, and I feel that the data are quite accurate (I was there). For those looking for more detailed historical information for this era, copies of all available annual and ad hoc executive committee meetings, editorial board meetings, and ad hoc meetings are provided in Appendix 1 (Supplemental Digital content 1, <http://links.lww.com/EANDH/A403>). In addition, all available copies of *Corti's Organ* (yes, that was the name of the AAS newsletter for many years—read on) are provided in Appendix 2 (Supplemental Digital Content 2, <http://links.lww.com/EANDH/A404>, *Corti's Organ*). However, from the early 1990s to the present, I relied on multiple sources and resources to fill in as much as I could and as accurately as I could.

Table 1 is a chronology of the AAS milestones that occurred during the first 22 years and shows when the office was moved from Dallas to Scottsdale; it also shows the transitions of the Editor-in-Chiefs for *Ear & Hearing*. As pointed out in the carefully scripted mission statement crafted during the formative years, AAS leaders wanted the Society to become recognized as a vital apolitical organization with membership across the professions having:

Supplemental digital content is available for this article. Direct URL citations appear in the printed text and are provided in the HTML and text of this article on the journal's Web site (www.ear-hearing.com).



Fig. 1. Ross J. Roeser was the AAS Secretary-Treasurer from 1972 to 1994, Associate Editor of *Corti's Organ* (the official house organ of the American Audiology Society), and the founder and first Editor-in-Chief of *Ear & Hearing* from 1979 to 1985.

“The primary aim of increasing knowledge and understanding of the ear, hearing and balance; disorders of the ear, hearing and balance; and preventions of these disorders and habilitation and rehabilitation of individuals with hearing and balance dysfunction. To attain these goals, the Society coordinates and disseminates information, particularly through the holding of regular meetings, and through publication of professional, scientific, educational, and informational media. Because of the multi-disciplinary nature of the Society's membership (audiology, otolaryngology, dispensing, engineering, psychoacoustics, etc.), the Society provides a formal platform for the interchange of information from allied professional fields.”

This mission statement is as valid today as it was when it was penned more than 40 to 45 years ago.

THE BEGINNINGS AND THE OFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

That Aram Glorig (Fig. 2) is the founder of the American Audiology Society is not in question. He was born in Manchester, United Kingdom, in 1906, and soon after his family moved to the United States. He completed his Medical Degree at Loma Linda University Medical School, and while completing a pediatrics residency in New York, he noted the high prevalence of ear disease and the effects of hearing loss on young children. Based on this, he changed his focus to otology. After completing his Ear Nose Throat residency at Emory University in Atlanta,

TABLE 1. Chronology of AAS milestones

Year	Event
1972	Organizational meeting members vote to consider establishing the American Audiology Society
1973	First AAS member meeting/Aram Glorig elected as first President
1974	First issue of <i>Audionews</i> published Internal Revenue Service 501(C)3 tax exemption approved
1975	Name changed from the American Audiology Society to the American Auditory Society
1975	First issue of the <i>Journal of the American Audiology Society</i> published
1976	First issue of <i>Corti's Organ</i> published
1976	First Carhart Memorial Lecture presented
1980	First issue of <i>Ear & Hearing</i> published
1981	<i>Ear & Hearing</i> establishes best paper annual award Two-year term established for AAS president
1982	Membership list computerized
1984	Carhart lectures videotaped
1985	Bob Keith appointed as Editor-in-Chief of <i>Ear & Hearing</i>
1989	Videotaping Carhart Lecture terminated
1989	Last issue of <i>Corti's Organ</i> published
1993	Susan Jerger appointed as Editor-in-Chief of <i>Ear & Hearing</i>
1994	AAS office moved to Scottsdale, AZ
1995	The <i>Bulletin of the American Auditory Society</i> initiated
2001	Mario Svirsky appointed as Editor-in-Chief of <i>Ear & Hearing</i>
2007	Brenda Ryals appointed as Editor-in-Chief of <i>Ear & Hearing</i>

GA, Aram joined the U.S. Army. While stationed in London, United Kingdom, during World War II, his interest in hearing loss increased as he observed the large number of service men with hearing loss due to artillery exposure. Upon returning to the United States, the U.S. Surgeon General asked Dr. Glorig to develop a center at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC, to serve returning military personnel from World War II. The center proved so successful that other Veterans Administration Centers were established following the model Aram established. He ended his career at Walter Reed in 1952 and joined the Subcommittee on Noise Research Center for the Conservation of Hearing Committee of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology. He moved to Dallas, TX, in 1964 to become the first Director of the Callier Hearing and Speech Center, which is now the University of Texas at Dallas, Callier Center for Communication Disorders.

Aram was a proactive organizer who was passionate about hearing, hearing loss, and hearing loss prevention. He was one of the founders of the International Society of Audiology and the Association for Research in Otolaryngology. In the early 1970s, Aram began stumping for a U.S.-based multidisciplinary organization that would focus on audiology in an effort to bring all of the disciplines involved in hearing and hearing science together. Jim Jerger recalls that Aram flew to Houston in 1971 or 1972 to discuss the possibility of launching an audiology society with several key individuals. This was most likely the first informal effort Aram made to establish such a group.



Fig. 2. Aram Glorig is the founder and first elected president of the American Audiology Society, which became the American Auditory Society in 1975.

I became part of the process in 1972 when Dr. Glorig invited me to attend the first formal AAS organizational meeting. I had been in Dallas from August 1971 to June 1972 collecting dissertation data, had just finished my doctoral program at Florida State University, and had taken the position of the Head of Audiology at the Callier Center. Dr. Glorig was my boss. The meeting was held on the afternoon of Friday, September 22, 1972, during the Annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology in Dallas. There were 20 participants in attendance at the first organizational meeting of the AAS.

Dr. Glorig called the meeting to order and stated that the movement to form an American Audiology Society was needed as an “antidote to the splintering that is going on in the field.” He further stated that American Speech (Language) Hearing Association (ASHA) could not supply this type of organization. Before the meeting, a survey was sent to the approximate 1000 U.S. audiologists to determine the interest in forming such an organization, and of 337 replies, 289 were in favor. During the ensuing discussion, each member of the organizing group then provided input. Based on a vote of the members, which parenthetically was not all favorable to the idea of a new organization, a working committee was formed with the following members: Chuck Berlin, Marion Downs (Secretary), Allan Goodman, Ralph Naunton, and Ross Roeser. Dues were set at \$10.00 per year.

THE FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING

Dallas, TX, was the site for the first official AAS meeting that was held at the Callier Center a year later on Friday, September 16, 1973. Dr. Glorig presided and was unanimously elected as the first President (See Table 2). An executive committee was formed, and I was elected as the Secretary-Treasurer, a position, I did not realize at the time, that made me responsible for just about everything needed to get AAS afloat and to manage keeping all systems fully functioning. During the

TABLE 2. First AAS executive committee*, September 16, 1973

Charles Berlin, PhD
Robert Briskey, MA
Marion Downs, MA
Myer Fox, MD
Aram Glorig, MD, President
Bruce Graham, PhD
Fred Lenthicum, MD
Sam Lybarger, BS
Geary McCandless, PhD
Ralph Naunton, MD
Jerry Northern, PhD
Ross Roeser, PhD, Secretary/Treasurer
F. Blair Simmons, MD
Tom Tillman, PhD
W. Dixon Ward, PhD

*Academic degrees are included in this information to show the interdisciplinary mission of AAS from the very beginning.

meeting, as the newly elected Secretary-Treasurer, I reported a treasury balance of \$1223.08. Open discussion resulted in two very important decisions that set the stage for AAS in the years to come: to explore the possibility of a new journal with Williams & Wilkins (W&W) as a publisher, and to hold an annual meeting that would rotate between existing professional societies; the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology and the American Speech and Hearing Association were named specifically, but later the Acoustical Society of America was included. Based on this, starting in 1974 and through 1994, annual meetings were held in conjunction with these and other organizations. Table 3 lists meeting locations, associated meetings, presidents, Carhart Memorial speakers, and available membership numbers from 1972 to 1994.

PUBLICATIONS

Newsletters

The *Bulletin of the American Audiology Society* was the first AAS newsletter, a bi-fold; Bob Briskey was the editor and it only had 2 to 3 issues. Unfortunately, no copies survived the 40+ years since it was first published. The *Bulletin* was followed by *Corti's Organ*, which was subtitled "The Official House Organ of the American Audiology Society." Marion Downs (Fig. 3) was the first editor, and I was the Associate Editor. It was a tri-fold, half-page, newspaper that was sent periodically 2 to 4 times per year to all AAS members. Volume 1, No. 1, was sent on January 1976 (See Fig. 4), and the last issue was Fall 1989, Volume 12, No. 2 (see all volumes of *Corti's organ* in Appendix 2, Supplementary Digital content 2, <http://links.lww.com/EANDH/A404>). AAS members, at the time, never knew that the name *Corti's Organ* was conceived in a Las Vegas elevator when Marion and I had a chance encounter during the annual AAS meeting. We were pondering the question of what to call the new newsletter and Marion said "The name has to be associated with the ear, something that has a catchy name that people will remember." I responded, "Well, *Ear Drum*, or *Ossicular Chain* doesn't seem to do it. How about something risqué like the Organ of Corti." Marion jumped in "That's it! The name *Corti's Organ* should grab everyone, so they'll never forget it." I am sure the other elevator occupants thought us

somewhat eccentric or maybe just loose from a local hospital. The purpose of the newsletter was to keep members informed of Society events, and the annual program and membership directory were included.

Marion and I wanted to keep the AAS membership informed about Society activities through the newsletter, but we also wanted to provoke curiosity and interest in audiology topics and have some fun as well. We occasionally had items such as "name that famous audiologist" by having photos of notable audiologists at a young age, and providing the answer on a back page, or "name that lesion" by having symptoms of an auditory disorder and providing the answer on a back page. I also wrote a history of Alfonso Giacomo Gaspare Corti (1822 to 1876), who was a fascinating Italian anatomist who provided the initial insights of the sensory organ of hearing. One of my most memorable events surrounding *Corti's Organ* was from 1976 when AAS sponsored a trip to the International Society of Audiology in Florence, Italy, and one member (Roger Angelelli) sent photos, with some from the local venue. I placed one of his full-size photos of the nude statue of Michelangelo's David on the front page of *Corti's Organ*, but when Marion received the page proofs, she made an urgent call to me saying that it would be irreverent to have a naked man on the front page of a newsletter with the name of "*Corti's Organ*." For some reason, I never associated a naked man with the name of the AAS newsletter. Readers might want to peruse archival issues of "The Organ" in Appendix 2 (see Supplemental Digital content 2, <http://links.lww.com/EANDH/A404>) for some additional insights on how Marion and I tried to help make *Corti's Organ* attain our goal of delivering a publication that AAS members might remember.

In 1995, Wayne Staab (Fig. 5) initiated the *Bulletin of the American Audiology Society*, and he was the editor. The *Bulletin* had a 14-year history, the last issue being published in 2009. The *Bulletin* carried on the longstanding history of keeping AAS members up to date on Society activities.

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN AUDIOLOGY/ AUDITORY SOCIETY AND EAR & HEARING

After the 1973 Dallas meeting, a steering committee was formed to explore the possibility of publishing the scientific journal with W&W. The publisher had been approached by Jerry Northern about such a venture before AAS was formed, and W&W already had an interest in publishing a journal in audiology. After several meetings, the result was that the publisher agreed to contract for the *Journal of the American Audiology Society (JAAS)* with J. Donald Harris as the Editor-in-Chief and Jerry Northern as the Associate Editor. Volume 1, No. 1, was published in 1975 and sent to all AAS members. Before his appointment as Editor-in-Chief of *JAAS*, Dr. Harris had been the Chief Editor of the *Journal of Auditory Research*, a publication he started and literally ran out of his home basement/garage. The assumption was that once he became the Chief Editor of *JAAS*, he would discontinue the *Journal of Auditory Research*. However, that was not the case, and unfortunately, *JAAS* issues suffered due to few submissions; the page allotment was not being filled, and revenues were in the red. The senior administration at W&W was alarmed by the lack of growth and revenue and threatened to discontinue the journal. At a meeting held in Baltimore, MD, at the W&W corporate

TABLE 3. American Auditory Society meeting locations, presidents, and Carhart memorial speakers

Year	Meeting Location	Meeting With	AAS President	Carhart Memorial Speaker	No Members
1972	Dallas, TX	AAOO	—	—	NA
1973	Dallas, TX		Aram Glorig	—	NA
1974	Las Vegas, NV		Aram Glorig	—	NA
1975	San Francisco, CA	ASA	Aram Glorig	—	NA
1976	Las Vegas, NV	ARO	W. Dixon Ward	Jim Jerger	NA
1977	Miami, FL	ASA	Geary McCandless	Hallowell Davis	NA
1978	San Francisco, CA	ASHA	F. Blair Simmons	Scott Reger	NA
1979	Dallas, TX	AAOO	Sam Lybarger	Aram Glorig	NA
1980	Detroit, MI	ASHA	Laura Ann Wilber	Marion Downs	NA
1981	New Orleans, LA	AAO/HNS	Ralph Naunton	Paul Ward	NA
1982	New Orleans, LA	ASHA	Ralph Naunton	Merle Lawrence	NA
1983	Cincinnati, OH	ASHA	Charlie Anderson	J. Donald Harris	1319
1984	Santa Barbara, CA	ISA	Charlie Anderson	Gunnar Liden	1467
1985	Atlanta, GA	AAO/HNS	Don Worthington	Sam Lybarger	1686
1986	Detroit, MI	ASHA	Don Worthington	Joseph Hawkins	1903
1987	Chicago, IL	AAO/HNS	LaVonne Bergstrom	Peter Dallos	2002
1988	Boston, MA	ASHA	Wayne Staab	Harold Schuknecht	1954
1989	New Orleans, LA	AAO/HNS	Wayne Staab	Ira Hirsh	2355
1990	Seattle, WA	ASHA	Wayne Staab	Ralph F. Naunton	2352
1991	Kansas City, MO	AAO/HNS	David Lilly	Hiroshi Shimizu	2441
1992	San Antonio, TX	ARO	David Lilly	Josef J. Zwislocki	2842
1993	Denver, Co	AAO/HNS	Deborah Hayes	Earl Harford	2717
1994	Halifax, Nova Scotia	ISA	Deborah Hayes	Mo Bergman	2669
1995	Dallas, TX	AAA	Pat Brookhouser	Donald D. Dirks	2620
1996	Salt Lake City, UT	AAA	Mead Killion	Wayne O. Olsen	2410
1997	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	AAA	Mead Killion	Charles I. Berlin	2301
1998	Los Angeles, CA	AAA	Christopher Bauch	Margo Skinner	2214
1999	Scottsdale, AZ		Christopher Bauch	Robert J. Ruben	1996
2000	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Brenda Ryals	Arthur Boothroyd	1820
2001	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Brenda Ryals	Susan W. Jerger	1730
2002	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Debara Tucci	Edwin Rubel	1720
2003	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Debara Tucci	Brian C. J. Moore	1732
2004	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Tom Powers	William E. Brownell	1520
2005	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Tom Powers	David Kemp	1516
2006	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Roger Ruth	Joseph Nadol	1482
2007	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Roger Ruth	A. James Hudspeth	1496
2008	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Michael Gorga	Jos Eggermont	1462
2009	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Michael Gorga	Michael Merzenich	1386
2010	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Jay Rubinstein*	Robyn Cox	1210
2011	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Karen Doyle*	Charles Liberman	1162
2012	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Tim Trine*	Judy R. Dubno	1156
2013	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Yvonne Sinninger*	Richard J. H. Smith	1134
2014	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Linda Hood*	Eric D. Young	1113
2015	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Konstantina M. Stankovic*	Brenda L. Lonsbury-Martin	1273
2016	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Harvey Abrams*	Michael Gorga	1145
2017	Scottsdale, AZ	—	Beth Prieve*	Robert Dobie	1199
2018	Scottsdale, AZ		Anil Lalwani*		

*Two-year presidential terms ended in 2009. 2010 to 2011 was a transition with each individual otolaryngologists holding office for one of the transitioning 2-year terms. Beginning in 2012, terms are represented as the end date of presidency (terms run from March to March).

AAA, American Academy of Audiology; AAOO, American Academy of Otolaryngology Ophthalmology; AAO/HNS, American Academy of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery; ARO, Academy of Research in Otolaryngology; ASA, Acoustical Society of America; ASHA, American Speech (Language) Hearing Association; ISA, International Society of Audiology; NA, not available.

headquarters in the spring of 1979, an agreement was made that a new Editor-in-Chief would be appointed, and the journal would require a total makeover if W&W was going to continue with their contractual agreement. AAS president Sam Lybarger and I assured the W&W management team that, without hesitation, the AAS Executive Committee would “get right on it.” For the next several weeks or more, sleep was difficult.

Finding a qualified Chief Editor for the new AAS publication as well as carrying out the work of getting the new journal off the ground were huge challenges. Over the ensuing weeks, after polling the executive committee members, every senior audiologist/hearing scientist identified was contacted to see if there was interest in the editorship, unfortunately without success. I was in Denver with Marion Downs in her kitchen on a Saturday morning in 1979 and we had called about a half-dozen



Fig. 3. Marion Downs was the Editor of *Corti's Organ*, first published in 1976, through 1989.

individuals in an attempt to recruit one for the journal editorship. As we hung up with the last candidate, Marion looked at me and said, "Well Ross, I guess you'll just have to do it." To which I said, "You gotta be kidding!" With her very persuasive personality and commitment to be available as a resource, I very, very reluctantly accepted the nomination, which was approved by the Executive Board several weeks later. Following this, there were many, many more sleepless nights. The name *Ear & Hearing*

also came about on that Saturday morning kitchen experience when Marion suggested that the new journal be called "*Ear*," to which I replied that audiologists are concerned with hearing, and with most of the members being audiologists the word "hearing" had to be in the journal name. I said, "Just like the journal *Brain and Language*, the name should be *Ear & Hearing*." Eureka! That is the story how the name *Ear & Hearing* came to be as it is today.

Because there was no backlog of papers and no structure for the editorial board, a call for papers was sent to any and all of those who might want to publish in the new journal, and editorial board members were recruited with nine volunteer members. Each of the editors represented a topic area and was given the title Section Editor. Volume 1, No. 1, of *Ear & Hearing* was published in January 1980, with seven papers, and the rest is history. I held the Chief Editor post through 1984, and Bob Keith was my successor. In 1993, the post was turned the post over to Susan Jerger who held the post until 2000. Mario Svirsky then became the Chief Editor until 2007 when Brenda Ryals assumed the position, and as we know, she continues in that position to this day (Figs. 6A-D). Even though there are questions about the suitability of the measure, the current gold standard to assess the impact of a journal is its "impact factor," as calculated by Journal Citation Reports. *Ear & Hearing* was ranked no. 2 in the otorhinolaryngology category in 1997, and it ranked no. 1, no.

The image shows the front cover of the first issue of 'Corti's Organ'. At the top left, it says 'American Audiology Society, 1966 Inwood Road Dallas, Texas 75235'. The main title 'CORTI'S ORGAN' is in large red letters, with '(Audionews)' in blue below it. Underneath that is 'The Official House Organ of the American Audiology Society'. At the bottom of the cover, it says 'Published Quarterly', 'Vol. 1, No. 1', and 'January 1976'. The main headline is 'Glorig Passes Reins Ward Named President' in large red letters. To the left of this headline is an 'In Memoriam' box for Raymond Carhart. To the right is a column of text about Aram Glorig. At the very bottom, in large red letters, is the theme: 'Rehabilitation through Research' Theme of Annual A.A.S. Meeting.

Fig. 4. Front cover of the first issue of *Corti's Organ*, the official house organ of the American Audiology Society. Note that it was published in January 1976, and a lead story was the sudden death of Dr. Raymond Carhart on October 2, 1975.



Fig. 5. Wayne Staab became Secretary-Treasurer in 1994 to 2013 when the operations transferred to Enchancia Management, LLC. He was also the editor of the *Bulletin of the American Auditory Society* and held the position of AAS president in 1989 to 1990.

2, or no. 3 nine times between 2004 and 2016; it has consistently been ranked in the top 10 journals in that category for more than 20 years. This accomplishment is even more impressive when we consider that some of the journals that beat *Ear & Hearing* in a given year may have had titles such as “Rhinology” or “Dysphagia”.

Membership

From the very beginning, a working AAS principle was the society would be nonpolitical, and open to a wide range of those involved in some aspect of hearing/hearing loss. This provided an opportunity to all those who had an interest in hearing, a venue to meet and exchange information. There was a requirement that members have a university (bachelor’s) degree, the area not being specified, and have sponsorship from two active AAS members. Membership grew slowly at first (unfortunately

records are not available for the early years), but as shown in Table 3, as the Society became more widely known, it grew to over 2000 members in 1987 and reached a highpoint of over 2800 members in 1991. A significant positive factor affecting membership was that AAS was the only multidisciplinary organization that focused only on audiology/hearing science, with regular annual meetings and a journal with a growing reputation for scholarly publication. The formation of the American Academy of Audiology in 1988 with its own annual meetings and a scientific journal resulted in a sizeable decline in AAS membership after the high point in 1992. When the AAS office was transferred from Dallas to Scottsdale, membership was on the decline dropping to under 2000 by 1999. Membership continued to drop during the ensuing years, but has remained stable at about 1100 since 2010.

The Name Change

About the time that AAS was formed, there was a contentious battle for the use of the words audiology and audiologist, mainly between professional organizations representing nonaudiologist hearing aid dispensers and audiologists holding the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence. In the early 1970s, the profession of audiology was struggling for identity. Very few states had audiology licensure, and anyone could represent themselves as being an audiologist without penalty. The use of the word audiology/audiologist was up for grabs. Trademark litigation between ASHA and the National Hearing Aid Society resulted in a successful outcome for ASHA, which restricted individuals from referring to themselves as audiologists without holding the minimum educational and clinical background (the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence). Being a member of the American Audiology Society, with the AAS membership certificate hanging on an office wall, for those without the necessary minimum requirements put AAS in jeopardy of possible litigation. Before it reached such a state, through a vote of the AAS membership and a by-laws change, the name was changed in 1975 and “Audiology” officially became “Auditory.”

Meetings

The annual meetings were grand affairs, with a scientific program having luminary audiologists, otologists, hearing



Fig. 6. From left to right: Bob Keith (A), Editor-in-Chief of *Ear & Hearing* from 1985 to 1992; Susan Jerger (B), Editor-in-Chief of *Ear & Hearing* from 1993 to 2000; Mario Svirsky (C), Editor-in-Chief of *Ear & Hearing* from 2001 to 2006; and Brenda Ryals (D) was appointed as Editor-in-Chief of *Ear & Hearing* in 2007 and currently serves in this role.

scientists, psychologists, and others who had made significant contributions to the field presenting a wealth of their knowledge. A full day of science and translational research was followed by an evening social event that included great conversation, entertainment, and dancing. The meetings were held at spectacular venues, such as the Space Needle in Seattle, dinner boat rides in several cities, the Boston Aquarium, Arnaud's restaurant in New Orleans, etc. The social portion of the event proved to be as valuable as the scientific program because of the networking that occurred and the bonds that were formed between the various individuals representing the broad array of disciplines involved in hearing and hearing disorders.

Transitioning

For a new perspective and new ideas and directions, and with expanding professional and personal responsibilities as well as increasing family commitments, in early 1992, I felt it was time for new blood. I tendered my resignation from the AAS Secretary/Treasurer post at the annual board meeting. When asked by the AAS executive committee, Wayne Staab graciously accepted the offer to take over as the new Secretary/Treasurer, which officially went into effect in 1994. Wayne held the position for 19 years (as Secretary/Treasurer and then Executive Director). He retired from that position in 2013 when Enchancia Management, LLC, assumed the operational oversight of the Society.

Changes have been made from the "old days," and Dr. Staab and the ensuing executive board members have transitioned the Society to a new format with annual meetings in Scottsdale,

Arizona (one of the best choices in the United States for a spring venue), that attract the world's best scientist/clinicians. *Ear & Hearing* is ranked among the top audiology/hearing journals in the world. The National Institutes of Health has supported the AAS annual meeting for the past several years to promote and sponsor innovative research from both AuD and PhD students, who are our future scientist/clinicians and who have an important and defined role in the Society. I am sure that Aram Glorig would be smiling broadly if he was here today.

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