

# MICHIGAN AUDIOLOGY COALITION NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EDITION

## MAC 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Another prosperous and exciting year has come to an end here at the MAC! First and foremost, we would like to thank the members of the MAC board and committees for their continued commitment and dedication to this organization while furthering the awareness and advancements of the profession in the state of Michigan. In 2024, we continued our efforts of increasing membership numbers across professionals and students, advocating at the state level regarding many legislative issues, and ensuring our financial health as an organization.

Below you will find a glimpse of what our dedicated committees accomplished this year and what they have planned for 2025!

As always, the coalition encourages you to consider going one step further to volunteer your skills, time, and passions on a MAC committee. If there is anything you would like to see from the MAC, please join us today to make it happen.

We look forward to another exciting year for the MAC in 2025!

Nicole Satkowiak, AuD  
MAC President

## Join a Committee!

We are always looking for audiologists and students to get involved with MAC! If you are interested in joining a committee, please email [info@michiganaudiologycoalition.org](mailto:info@michiganaudiologycoalition.org). More information on committees can be found on our website.

**Students** – interested in getting involved?  
Fill out this survey [here](#) or scan QR code:



## CONTACT US

### General Inquiries:

[info@michiganaudiologycoalition.org](mailto:info@michiganaudiologycoalition.org)

### Website:

[www.michiganaudiologycoalition.org](http://www.michiganaudiologycoalition.org)

### Social Media:

Facebook:

Michigan Audiology Coalition  
Michigan Hears

Instagram:

@michiganaudiologycoalition

Happy Holidays!

From the Michigan Audiology  
Coalition!

**Membership Committee**

We are ending the year with 286 active members - 24 more than last year! There are around 700 active audiology licenses in Michigan, and we are so glad you are here to help us support them all. In 2025, we hope to continue this growth as we support our members and invest in the future of audiology.

**Legislative Committee**

The MAC Legislative Committee had a busy year! We worked with Rep. MacDonnell's office to introduce two bills: HB 5915 which would amend the Public Health Code Act 368 of 1978 (Section 16801) and add "prescription of amplification systems" to the audiology scope of practice. This was to differentiate between prescriptive hearing aids and over-the-counter devices. This was opposed by the Michigan State Medical Society and the Hearing Aid Dealers Association who wanted us to include language that would give them authority to order use of amplification. We adamantly opposed this, and recommended the bill be shelved for now. The second bill - the Audiology and Speech Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) was opposed by LARA. ASHA and AAA have provided guidance on the language, and we will continue to monitor any progress. We also continue to monitor HB 5140 (CMV), which is still awaiting a vote in the Health Policy Committee, and HB 4944 and 4963 (Let My Child Hear) – both passed in the House on 12/3/24 and will move to the Senate.

We would like to thank those MAC members who donated money specifically for continued support of our lobbyist and future legislative efforts. We appreciate your continued support.

**Mug Club**

The Mug Club had an active year in 2024. We coordinated events with other MAC committees, including having a Mug Club event at the golf outing and providing Mug Club members with additional drink tickets at the Give Back to MAC event. We debuted new mugs for Mug Club members and were able to sell many of our "retired" mugs as a fundraiser for MAC. We continue to look for new ways to help promote comradery within audiologists in the state of Michigan and are looking forward to 2025!



## Finance Committee

Finance is in a good, stable position again this year thanks to an excellent conference and successful fundraising and membership efforts this year. These efforts and the participation/contributions of our members will help to fund our lobbying efforts for the year so MAC can continue to advocate for audiology and audiologists in the state and will allow us to continue to support local events like the Michigan Walk 4 Hearing through charitable contribution.

## PEAS Committee

- Quarterly meetings with 10-15 participants from across the state
- We had a data collection team of 5 audiologists who developed and facilitated completion of surveys for pediatric clinical and educational audiology sites
  - We are wrapping up data collection and will begin analysis and hope to report out with a poster for MACC 2026
  - 5 [Educational Survey](#) responses!
- LEAD-K MI (PA256): Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids is a national effort to provide language acquisition guidance for parents and guardians of young children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing signed into law by Governor Whitmer in December 2022.
  - seeks to ensure that children who are D/deaf or hard of hearing have a strong language foundation and are Kindergarten ready when they start school
  - currently the advisory committee is reviewing and formalizing information, seeking follow-up input when necessary to make recommendations by January 2025.
- Our group meetings focus on hearing assistive technology, we will have guest speakers at this years meetings for updates from Phonak, Oticon, Cochlear, and hopefully some DHH authors

## **EAA Updates:**

- Summer Conference in Portland, OR, June 2025 is in the planning stages. Erin Donnelon is the conference chair and looking for volunteers to assist with the planning committee.
- State representative opportunity available for Michigan.

## **2025**

- Looking for new subcommittee co-chair/s, Kate would like to step down and offer the opportunity to someone else!
- Nancy Gallihugh & Samantha Kesteloot to present at MAASE: Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education
- Virtual meetings are scheduled for
  - Thursday January 23rd 3:00-4:15 pm
  - Thursday March 20th 3:00-4:15 pm
  - Thursday May 22nd 3:00-4:15 pm



**Public Relations Committee**

The PR committee has been hard at work this year. We welcomed several new members, created a Michigan Hears Instagram page that has been very active as well as continued our presence on Facebook. We were involved in several events this year including Walk4Hearing where we administered hearing screenings to the community with the help of audiology graduate students in Michigan. We look forward to continuing to grow next year and have an opening for the PR committee chair. If you are interested in joining our committee or taking on the chair position, please email Lauren at [lonsway@med.umich.edu](mailto:lonsway@med.umich.edu).

**Conference Committee**

The MAC Conference Planning Committee planned and implemented a successful 2024 MAC conference in East Lansing. We welcomed 159 audiologists and audiology students from across the state. We hosted 22 speakers and 21 exhibitors. The conference profited over \$22,000, which goes toward next year's conference, lobbyist, and other MAC activities. Special thank you to our conference chair, Gabrielle Watson, and the entire committee for their dedication to planning another successful conference this year! Our committee has begun brainstorming for the upcoming 2025 conference and plan to onboard a new chair in the upcoming months. We hope to continue to bring exceptional conference programming to the state of Michigan. We are always looking for new ideas and new members. If you are interested in joining the committee, please email [michiganmacconference@gmail.com](mailto:michiganmacconference@gmail.com).

**Fundraising**

The Fundraising Committee had a very busy and successful year! We had our 1<sup>st</sup> annual Give Back to MAC golf outing in July. We had a total of 21 golfers and raised \$1178.

In October, we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Give Back to MAC event at Beggar's Banquet. The event was a tremendous success! 20 baskets were donated for the Auction and the number of Sponsorships increased. After allocating the profits to the appropriate committees, we raised a total of \$3983.

In 2025 we will be working on adding additional Sponsorships as well as working on ways to increase attendance at our Golf Outing and Give Back to MAC Event.

**Student Outreach**

This past year has been busy for the Student Outreach Committee! We are committed to uplifting the student experience in the state of Michigan and in the MAC. This year, we continued our MAC Mentor Program and presented the results of the inaugural year at this fall's MAC Conference. We've also been planning to meet with AuD student organizations to promote the MAC and the importance of getting involved on a state level. We look forward to supporting the Michigan Student Leaders in Audiology (MiSLAM) Conference this January.

We are always looking for new ways to include students in our committee and in the organization, so if you are a student and would like to know how to get more involved, please email co-chair Rachel Fryatt at [rfryatt@med.umich.edu](mailto:rfryatt@med.umich.edu).

