

InFormant 

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New Leadership Issue

Dear fellow PAVA members,

As I begin my second year as president of this fine organization, I look back at the many challenges of the past year and am proud of how you, our members, came together to face them. I know we all continue to struggle with the emotional, financial, and logistical effects of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. However, I also see the many silver linings that have emerged from this challenging time. Most notably for PAVA, our 2020 symposium was a truly unique experience that allowed vocologists from all over the globe to participate and interact in a virtual community. As we look to this next year, I encourage you to continue finding creative ways to create positive silver linings out of the challenges we will inevitably continue to face. The members of the PAVA board of directors, both returning and new, are all energized and excited about continuing to grow and strengthen our organization with your help. Stay safe and keep your voice strong.

Aaron
PAVA President

Let's Meet the Board



Kittie Verdolini Abbott **President-Elect**

- 1) *How do you bring a passion for vocology into your daily practice/teaching?* Honestly, there is nothing BUT passion for Vocology in my daily practice and teaching. One could say I am “voice intoxicated.” For me, all roads lead to voice, and voice leads to any road it wants to.
- 2) *How long have you been a PAVA member? What do you love about the PAVA organization?* I have been a PAVA member for several years. I would have to look up the exact date. Among the things that I cherish about PAVA is the geographic, cultural, and linguistic diversity, which enriched all of us.
- 3) *Why did you decide to run for election to the PAVA leadership board? In what ways are you looking forward to serving our membership/region, etc.?* I have ideas that I would love to see considered in our membership – for example giving voice and all that carries with it to the community. To heal. To unite. To work and sing together. I look forward to reciprocal teaching, learning, and growth through voice.
- 4) *As the holiday season is approaching, tell us how you celebrate. What are your “must haves” throughout the season?* I’m actually not sure if there are “must-haves” for the holiday season. I have long learned that people are what count. Together with our beloved – even if socially distanced for the moment – anything can be meaningful. So I guess that a “meaningful” season, while not a “must-have,” would be lovely.
- 5) *What else would you like membership to know about you?* I am very close to vegan. I have the occasional piece of fish but I sense even that “indulgence” is on its way down. I like “clean” eating. And oh – an interesting “factoid” is I had Covid-19 in February, 2020, before it was really recognized as a “thing” here in Delaware. I don’t think I have any lasting consequences but if I start acting funny, I will attribute this to a late-emerging result.



Amanda Flynn

Communications Director

1) How do you bring a passion for vocology into your daily practice/teaching?

One of the things I love about the voice is that it is the perfect combination of art and science. I love being able to root my teaching in science and facts, but knowing that science will lead us to beautiful storytelling and creativity is my greatest joy.

2) How long have you been a PAVA member? What do you love about the PAVA organization? I have been a member of PAVA since 2016! What I love about PAVA is the interdisciplinary aspect of the organization. There are few organizations that can make voice professionals from so many fields feel truly at home.

3) Why did you decide to run for election to the PAVA leadership board? In what ways are you looking forward to serving our membership/region? I ran for PAVA membership in order to give back to this community that I love dearly. I love that PAVA is such a young organization, and being on the board allows me to be involved in decision-making that will help determine the future of the organization and our budding field.

4) As the holiday season is approaching, tell us how you celebrate. What are your "must haves" throughout the season? I put my Christmas tree up right after Thanksgiving, despite moans and groans from my husband! I also love cooking during the holidays and can't wait to spend time baking and making yummy food.

5) What else would you like membership to know about you? I have a 15 year old Devon Rex cat that I love more than any human probably should love a cat. She's been with my husband and I through SO much over the past 15 years and we treat her like the queen she is!



Reena Gupta **Western Governor**

1) How do you bring a passion for vocology into your daily practice/teaching?
Vocology defines what I do and why I do it. I have been passionate about singing and voicing since childhood, and pursued this passion through as many voice opportunities as I could. This eventually led to a med school choir where I found my future as a Laryngologist. Now, this background colors every conversation I have with my patients. We enjoy connecting over a shared language of music, voice, and function. I believe this directly feeds into improved care and a deeper empathy than I could have without this background. I have an appreciation for how the voice works but also the impact on the individual in whom it doesn't. Coming to a patient from this perspective forges a deeper connection that leads to better voice outcomes. I don't think you can do well what I do without a deep sense and respect for vocology.

2) How long have you been a PAVA member? What do you love about the PAVA organization? I've been a member since the creation of the organization and held a position previously. My desire to work with this organization comes from a belief that a mission of unity around the shared purpose of voice is vital to advancing vocal health care. With shared purpose, these disparate people from varied walks of life can accomplish great things. I believe PAVA will unite these forces in voice the way no other organization has because it is inclusive and forward-thinking. *cont...*

3) *Why did you decide to run for election to the PAVA leadership board? In what ways are you looking forward to serving our membership/region? I ran for this position because I feel that there is good work to be done by bringing different professionals together to collaborate. PAVA doesn't have airs about it, excluding certain disciplines or types of professionals. I want to build on this energy and continue to open doors for vocally-passionate people. The more we hear from people who don't typically have a seat at the table, the broader our perspectives can be.*

4) *As the holiday season is approaching, tell us how you celebrate. What are your "must haves" throughout the season? Holidays are big in my family. As a combined faith family (Catholic and Hindu), we get double the holidays at the end of the year. Diwali is the Hindu New Year and it's followed closely by Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hanging lights are a must - Diwali is the festival of lights so it starts there and then we build as we approach Christmas. The only must-have I have is time with my family. We are so busy all year long and I take the holidays as a real breather from the year. This year, in particular, I'm looking forward to disconnecting from the world and snuggling in with the family.*

5) *What else would you like membership to know about you? I am a New Yorker who is somehow happily settled in Los Angeles, aided greatly by the eternal sunshine and beautiful hikes. I always imagined myself on stage as a performer but I am enjoying the backstage view of my patients far more. I am obsessed with coffee and when Trader Joe's stopped making their soy creamer (3 long weeks ago), I felt a part of me go missing and I worry I may never be the same. I have since been to 6 Trader Joe's and they all confirm it is not coming back any time soon and that they are "reformulating." I am a deeply cynical person and find this impossible to put any faith in, and so I am embittered and quite angry. They got me hooked on their creamer and now I can't enjoy my coffee without it. I've tried 12 different creamers (yes in these 3 weeks) since then and have been sorely disappointed by all.*



Annika Wilson Treasurer

1) *How do you bring a passion for vocology into your daily practice/teaching?*

Working as an SLP at the Duke Voice Care Center, I have so many opportunities to "vocangelize". I blissfully spend my days teaching people about vocal hygiene, resonant voice therapies and optimizing their laryngeal functionality. One of the best parts of my job is doing diagnostic therapies in real time during a stroboscopic evaluation so I can visualize how specific RVT tasks may impact that individual.

2) *How long have you been a PAVA member? What do you love about the PAVA organization?*

I was introduced into the PAVA family in 2017 by one of my professors in grad school. I became a member as a student, then upgraded to full membership when I graduated. I love the camaraderie and inter-disciplinary expertise that each member uniquely brings. As of late, I have very much enjoyed the social gatherings after our monthly seminars (via PAVA village). It has been wonderful to connect with other members that I had not previously met.

3) *Why did you decide to run for election to the PAVA leadership board? In what ways are you looking forward to serving our membership/region?*

The first PAVA conference that I attended was in Toronto in 2017. I was in the thick of my first grueling semester as an SLP grad student, and I desperately needed a reminder of why I was going back to school after so many years of being out of undergrad. PAVA offered me that reminder. One of the first people I met at the conference was Dr. Ingo Titze. Having spent hours and hours poring over his research and textbooks, I was star-struck. I timidly asked if we could have a picture together. I printed that picture and hung it at my desk to motivate me to keep pushing forward. I promised myself that if I made it to graduation, I would reward myself with an application to the Summer Vocology Institute and hope to study directly under Dr. Titze and so many other great vocologists. (I was accepted into the program - 2019 SVI grad). *cont...*

It is funny to think how a kindness as small as standing next to someone for a picture can help them push forward and reach their goals. These gestures of kindness (that I see happen throughout our organization) are some of the many beautiful things about PAVA. I also met Tara Nixon and Leda Scearce at that Toronto conference. After a year or so of correspondence (and another conference in Seattle), I ended up applying for and being offered an internship at the Duke Voice Care Center. I applied for an open SLP position about a year after completing my internship, and now I work there! Needless to say, PAVA has changed my life for the better in so many ways. It is these connections, made at PAVA conferences, sending on me toward my professional goals (and making lifelong friends), that make me so passionate about volunteering my time serving this organization. I want to be on the front lines to continue to create opportunities for other people to have similarly life-changing experiences.

4) As the holiday season is approaching, tell us how you celebrate. What are your "must haves" throughout the season? Well, I suppose it is a bit cliché, but my must have for the holiday season is my family. I lost my mom to cancer 10 years ago, which has made holiday time with my family a non-negotiable and ever so precious. I married into a wonderful family on my husband's side, and now it's not a happy holiday unless we are with them too. Lastly, I absolutely must dress my dogs up as elves or something ridiculous and take too many pictures- preferably after a few glasses of spiked eggnog and lots of laughter.

5) What else would you like membership to know about you ? My immediate family is made up of three tiny special needs yorkies (all under 5 lbs) and my husband of 7 years, Nathan. Some interesting things about us: we sold our brick and mortar house and lived in a motorhome for a few years as I completed my grad school internships (in 4 states). It was a blast and comes highly recommended. We also love to scuba dive, preferably in the warmer Caribbean waters. We proudly ride recumbent bicycles like old people even though we are in our early 30's, and we ride a very fast scooter with 3 wheels when we feel like being dangerous.

New Committees

Archive Committee, Leda Searce (chair)

This committee, established Fall 2020, is charged with organizing and assembling documents related to PAVA's founding through 2017 including:

- Summary Report from the 2013 summit in Salt Lake City
<http://www.ncvs.org/SpecialtyTraining.php>
- Establishing PAVA as a 501-C3 organization
- 2013-2015 (creating PAVA from the ground up)First PAVA Election (2015)
- Inaugural BOD and Symposium (2015)
- First and Second BOD years (2015-17)

The PAVA Archive and History of PAVA will ultimately be housed on the PAVA Website

Diversity Committee, Beth Falcone (chair)

The Diversity Committee is a new committee, so it's mission is first to provide a safe space in which to educate ourselves and our members about the lack of equity in our organization, why it may exist, and to take the time to listen to and honor one another's perspectives. This process of education takes time, but it is necessary to build the solid ground we will walk on as we take action in 2021. Would you like to be on the diversity committee? Help us to co-create what PAVA will look like in the future? Please volunteer on the PAVA website.

Ethics Committee, Marina Gilman (chair)

The Ethics Committee was asked by the Board of Directors to 'oversee and maintain adherence to the PAVA Code of Ethics and hear and resolve any alleged violations of the Code of Ethics'. The initial mandate for this committee is to: develop educational material for PAVA members regarding ethics and scopes of practice. create a Grievance Policy to deal with potential complaints and violations of the ethics and scope of practice guidelines. reach out to ASHA, NATS and VASTA to include PAVA in the joint statement on scope of practice from 2005: The Role of the Speech-Language Pathologist, the Teacher of Singing, and the Speaking Voice Trainer in Voice Habilitation. The committee will regularly review Ethics, Scope of Practice and Grievance Policies as well as review and adjudicate complaints and grievances by PAVA members brought to the committee.

PAVA-Recognized Vocologist Implementation Committee, Ed Reisert (chair)

The culmination of the work of the PAVA Credentialing/Specialization (C/S) Committee (dissolved in May of this year) was a two-part, hybrid process for those seeking PAVA-RV status: 1) a portfolio demonstrating experience and knowledge in an array of vocology disciplines, and 2) a comprehensive test, with questions that are germane to what any vocologist should know as a multi-disciplinary vocologist. The mission of the PAVA-RV Implementation Committee is to set this work into action for PAVA members. The committee, which has been meeting monthly since March 2020, is made up of the following PAVA Members: Ed Reisert (chair), Ken Bozeman, Troy Castle, Amanda Flynn, Marci Rosenberg, and Mary Sandage. The hybrid model for PAVA Recognition ensures that each applicant has attained a high level of professional experience and expertise in at least one area of vocology, and requires candidates to demonstrate core knowledge competencies across a range of interdisciplinary vocology disciplines. The PAVA Implementation Committee is excited to share our work in the new year!

Regional News

Western Region

- Chapter meetings in May and August of 2019 (with guest speakers Lynn Maxfield and Reena Gupta, respectively).
- Upcoming event with an acting voice trainer.
- Nevada PAVA Chapter up and running in the Las Vegas area, led by Suzanne Stone.

Canada & Eastern Hemisphere

- We are a newer region, so look for more next year!

Central Region

- Welcomed Ken Bozeman to Fort Hays State University for a two-day joint workshop with the Kansas Chapter of NATS on acoustic voice pedagogy.
- Involved in the Health of the Voice Artist Midwest Regional Symposium held at the University of Kansas in 2019 with plans to assist in a second symposium in the near future.

Latin America

- Connections with voice professionals that are considering opening local chapters in Parana, Brazil as well as Chile.

Eastern Region

- A webinar starring Julia Gerhard.
- Lots of new possible Chapters including: New England Chapter, Mid-Atlantic Chapter, and a Miami Chapter or broader region of Florida.

Call to Action

Amanda Flynn,
Communications Director

It is my great honor to step into the role of Communications Director for the next two years. I am eager to serve PAVA and create more pathways for communication. In that spirit, I am sending out a “Call to Action” to all PAVA members to encourage you to share your ideas and voices with us. Here are some ways you can get involved:

- Share your InFormant ideas with us! If there’s a topic you’d love to see covered, or if you have an article you’d like to write, let us know.
- Volunteer to serve on a committee! PAVA is continually looking for members to serve, especially if you have a skillset that we need such as being bilingual, being a tech wiz, or having a knack for organization.
- Follow and tag us on social media! Social media is a great way to reach non-members, so follow us, repost us, and tag us so we can spread the word about PAVA to the entire voice community.
- Join our members only Facebook group! This group is for PAVA members only and is a great place to share a fun article you read recently, ask questions, or share your research.

You will find volunteer forms and all our social media information on the PAVA website. We look forward to hearing your ideas and working together.

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