

Linda Klein, OTR, CHT
Secretary Treasurer- Elect



TOP 5 PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Editor of ASHT Times for 2008 and 2009.
2. ASHT Board Member at Large 2009 and 2010.
3. Member of organizing committee for WI Hand Experience/ASHT Conference years 1999 to 2009.
4. Contributed clinical study presentation at 2000 ASHT Conference.
5. Contributed article to JHT 2003.

SUMMARY OF YOUR BACKGROUND AND SKILLS YOU BRING TO THE POSITION

My background as an occupational therapist treating hands dates back to 1980. I became a certified hand therapist in 1991 and have worked full time for a group of seven hand surgeons since that time. I have provided continuing education to therapists for over 15 years, and authored three book chapters. When asked about strengths I would bring to ASHT, I consider experience to be my main strength. Experience in treating patients, working as a team member, supervising students and therapists, developing programs, writing and teaching will translate well into an ASHT leadership position. The past two years as Board Member at Large have given me insight into ASHT management and an awareness of the issues being addressed by the association. When asked about skills I would bring to the profession, it would include understanding of patient treatment, writing, organization, thoughtful consideration in decision making, and the ability to communicate clearly. My passion for advancement of the field of hand therapy is an important part of the reason I chose to run for an ASHT Board position.

THE 5 KEY ISSUES FACING THE PROFESSION OF HAND THERAPY INCLUDE

1. The need for research to support our choice of treatment and support billing for services.
2. Community/public awareness of hand therapists as the leading experts in the field.
3. Third party payer awareness of hand therapy as the leading experts in the field, to maintain or improve ability to obtain reimbursement for services.
4. The ability to fabricate and bill for orthotic fabrication.
5. Advancement of therapists' knowledge base and ability to perform research via education, to advance the field of hand therapy.