



Annual Conference 2017

Orlando, Florida



Thank you and the entire crew at AATH for an exquisite experience in every way. I learned soooo much, and am so grateful I got to play! Thank you for including me in your beautiful work! Love and gratitude to you, Heidi, and all those who made this possible!

- Sheva Car

I had a wonderful time and found it the most informative conference I have ever attended. They cover a vast array of topics with theoretical and practical information from a wide-variety of disciplines.

- Michael A. Rousell, Ph.D. Southern Oregon University.

This complimentary Humor Connection newsletter is one of the many ways that AATH fulfills our mission to study, practice and promote healthy humor. You can join our efforts by joining AATH at www.aath.org

Letter from the President

The magical memories of our 2016 Conference continue to fill my mind with joy and laughter. If you were in attendance you know this was an absolutely amazing 2016 AATH Conference. I wanted to share a few of my opening remarks and some of my reflections with you here.

1.WE ARE PIONEERS: We are thrilled to sponsor our annual AATH Conference as an opportunity to network with pioneers in the field of humor studies. In AATH, we not only study the research, but also actively put that research into practice. The applications in the field are an integral part of our Humor Academy Level II program. At the conference our Humor Academy Level II graduates shared their projects at our research poster and project session at the Saturday luncheon. Our program honored 30 new Certified Humor Professionals at the banquet on Saturday evening.

2.WE ARE VOLUNTEER-DRIVEN: Our AATH volunteers include our speakers, directors, instructors and advisors. Thank you to our incredible conference chair, Brenda Elsagher and co-chairs, Beth Slazak and Jae Pierce-Baba for going above and beyond. It takes a rare combination of talent to effectively facilitate a quality conference integrating both learning and fun. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers who made sure this was an unforgettable event. As a non-profit organization, it takes countless volunteer hours to assure that we are able to continue support our mission to study, practice and promote healthy humor.

3.WE ARE INTERNATIONAL: This year we were honored to have attendees from Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, and Canada.

4.WE ARE FUN: You just had to be there to observe the unique AATH annual business meeting involving an unexpected reporter from London. This Board of Directors purposefully integrates fun into every aspect of our work in fulfilling our mission.

5.WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE: When you review the work of our Certified Humor Professionals, you know we are making a powerful impact in the world. I am honored to be part of this incredible organization that is making a difference in the world and I am grateful to all of you who are part of our efforts. Click [here](#) to learn more about the CHP program.

Finally - a very special thanks to our staffers, Kathy Velasco and Michele St Clair, for handling all of the millions of details before, during and after the conference. We are grateful to you beyond words!

SEE YOU ALL IN ORLANDO April 27-30, 2017. I know we are in for a



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remarkable 2017 conference celebration with our amazing chair, Sporty King and incredible co-chair, Heidi Hanna. Cannot wait to see you there!

With humergy,
Mary Kay Morrison
AATH President

New board members and officers were installed at the 2016 Annual meeting and are already fast at work on association business. This year's board members are:

PRESIDENT Mary Kay Morrison Humor Quest Caledonia, IL marykay@questforhumor.com	DIRECTOR Karen Bayard Whole Body Laughter Salt Lake City, UT karen@wholebodylaughter.com
PRESIDENT-ELECT Maia Aziz With Love & Laughter Lasalle, QC, Canada maia@withloveandlaughter.com	DIRECTOR Karyn Buxman, RN, MSN, CSP, CPAE What's So Funny About... LaJolla, CA karyn@karynbuxman.com
SECRETARY Sporty King R. King & Associates Charlotte, NC sk@sportyking.com	DIRECTOR Harald Ellingsen Positive Humor Bryne, Norway harald.ellingsen@gmail.com
TREASURER Nila Nielsen Heartfelt Humor Omaha, NE ninielsen@me.com	DIRECTOR Fr. Paul Moore, M.S., Lpc, Lmft Client Focused Counseling Fayetteville, AR paul@clientfocused.org
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Jill Knox The Sunny Side Oceanside, CA jillknox@hotmail.com	DIRECTOR Melissa Mork Chair, Department of Psychology University of Northwestern St. Paul, MN mbmork@unwsp.edu
	DIRECTOR Jae Pierce-Baba LipShtick Productions Wichita, KS jaepiercebaba@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact any of the board with your ideas, suggestions, comments as we begin our work in the new "year."

AATH is in the News!

Book Review

Even in Hawaii, we're making news!
This time in an article about
National Humor Month:

[READ IT HERE](#)

Michael Rousell, who just spoke at our annual conference, had his article "Humor Adds Neurological, Cognitive, and Physiological Sustenance to Learning" published in the current issue of Information Age Education Newsletter. To read his article, [CLICK HERE](#)

Member News

Congratulations to **Brenda Elsagher**. Her book "Your Glasses Are On Top Of Your Head" has been named a finalist in the Health category of the Midwest Book Awards! The Awards are presented by the Midwest Independent Publishing Association and winners will be announced on May 13 at the annual Gala in Saint Paul, MN.

SEND YOUR MEMBER NEWS:
info@aath.org

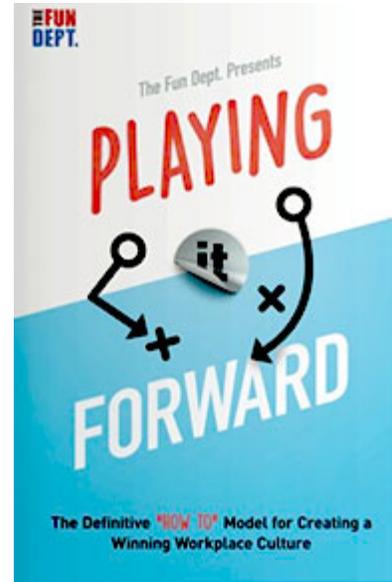
AATH Voice Request!

You may have seen the new AATH Humor Voice. If not, the next one should be arriving around June 1. It is a newsletter by, for and about AATH members.

We are writing because we need your help! Our association has an abundance of interesting and talented writers, speakers and performers. It is time we got to know each other a bit better.

Here is what we plan:

- We want to publish four times a year-Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.
- Each issue will include between 3-5 Member Spotlights. Are you interested in writing a profile? Or do you know someone we should learn about? Send us your ideas!
- Each issue will feature a book reviewed by AATH author Kelly



Playing it Forward

Having Fun has some heroes: Nick Gianoulis and Nat Measley of The Fun Dept.

It's about fun! Say these authors. Fun is fundamental to employee satisfaction, customer service and it will go far to influence your company's success.

It won't surprise you that the authors' backgrounds spring from sales, production and entertainment nor will it surprise you that Dr. Paul McGhee, AATH star, was their early mentor. His Laughter Remedy verified what they were learning about the value of fun at work. Paul's early research helped us to learn how to use humor in the workplace.

The authors feel that fun in the workplace needs to be as normal as the commute and the coffee break. Yes, a company needs consistent fun breaks, rather than one big expensive party, as at the holidays. Companies with "fun built in" notice morale increases, quality of connections improve at work and it fuels employees' relationships with clients. The authors also remind readers that management needs humor and playful managers are catalysts for productivity.

Epperson. Send her your book if you would like it to be considered for a review.

- We plan to focus each time on themes. For the June edition, coming to your inbox soon, will be Teaching, Learning and the Brain. Future themes:

Fall-International
Winter-Health and Humor
Spring-Play

- Articles can vary in length, but should be no longer than 2 pages, or about 600 words. We like lots of pictures, so think about adding photos or illustrations with your article. We will give you the submission deadlines in each issue.

- Each issue will include some actual humor! Look at the last page for a contest to enter (fabulous prizes) or something funny written by our lovely members. Please do submit your ideas!

We hope to hear from you!
Laurie@LaughWays.com

Complaint department-
Kay@LaughWays.com

International Humor conferences abound!

[ISHS \(International Society of Humor Studies\) conference](#) will be June 27-July 1 2016 at Trinity College: Dublin, Ireland.

[16th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter](#) will take place in Brasov, Romania, July 4-9, 2016.

'The Science of Laughter' at LOCO London Comedy Film Festival April 28, 2016, Barbican Cinema 3, 8.30pm. [Click here for tickets.](#)

Each company consulting with The Fun Dept. is assessed in order to find the type of fun they are seeking. Then employees proceed to build their own fun and reap the benefits. Though each company is unique, here are some fun infusions that provided the desired zip:

- Morning icebreakers
- Put fun into employee orientation, and extract boredom
- Mini picnics
- Trivia games designed for your workplace
- Mini golf competition
- Tricycles. Imagine your employees in a "trike-a-thalon"
- "Spring Break" themed activity with optional arts, team challenges and a Hawaiian luau lunch. Tastes better if you wear a lei.

Improve your workplace culture by embracing the tools here...yes you can have your own personalized Fun Department!

I'm Florence Ditlow RN, your new book reviewer. I'm a long time AATH member, a midwife of humor in hospitals, author of two books and student of two dogs who are revealing to me that the secret of nonverbal humor is inner joy. If you've written a book you'd like reviewed, please submit it to author@thebakerygirls.net

Members who would like their book to be considered for an upcoming Humor Connection book review, should contact info@aath.org. Please use Book Review Submission in the subject line.

DONATIONS TO AATH ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Thank you for your continued support of AATH!

You can write a check to AATH and send to the office or you can:

1. [AATH 2017 CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP](#): There are many

ways that you can be a sponsor for our AATH conference for as little as \$50.

2. **SCHOLARSHIP DONATION:** You can designate your gift to the William Fry, Patty Wooten or Ed Dunkelblau scholarship fund.

To make a tax-deductible gift to AATH, you may send check donations to the AATH office at:
*220 East State St., Floor G
Rockford, IL 61104*

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: If you need help with renewing your membership, or if you forget your member website log-in information, reach out to Michele St. Clair and her team at **815-708-6587**.

REMINDER: AATH is officially recognized as a 501c3 and has been vetted by UNITED WAY. If you or anyone you know makes donations through United Way, please consider designating a portion of your generous gift to AATH and please let others know of this opportunity.