



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY: VIRGINIA BERRY

Welcome to 2012 and an exciting new year for the National Council of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (NCSB). 2011 was a very exciting year for NCSB, and 2012 promises to be even better! In 2011, we completed our first year of engaging a management firm, Prime Management Services, under the outstanding leadership of our representative, Robert Ranieri. His firm provided invaluable contributions in the areas of membership management, conference coordination and logistics, financial accounting and much more.

2011 also realized a very successful 24th Annual NCSB Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada in October, 2011. There were 23 states represented with a total of 53 attendees. All the feedback received was very positive and praised the outstanding agenda. The Conference was a wonderful opportunity for open discussion among state regulatory agencies and networking with colleagues. A highlight of the 2011 Conference was the presentation of NCSB Honors to Roberta Silver of Pennsylvania for her long-term contributions to state regulatory agencies and their issues. Also, another special event at the 2011 Conference was the recognition of our Corporate Sponsor, EBS, for their generous sponsorship of the Corporate Business Meeting Luncheon. Thanks to Ann Glaser for providing this support.

Following the conclusion of the 2011 Conference, the NCSB Board of Directors (BOD) welcomed newly appointed members Sherry Sancibrian and George Purvis while we said a sad farewell to long time BOD members Theresa Rodgers and Lisa O'Connor. Amy Goldman was welcomed as a returning member. The 2012 NCSB BOD officers are Virginia Berry, President, Glenn Waguespack, President Elect, Amy Goldman, Secretary, Gregg Givens, Editor and Ken Gist, Treasurer.

Another special highlight of 2011 was the NCSB Poster Session, *Professional Licensure – Coast to Coast*, presented at the 2011 ASHA Convention in San Diego, California. Thanks to the outstanding work of Glenn Waguespack and Theresa Rodgers, the NCSB poster was presented with a **Meritorious Poster Award**. In addition, 2011 included the passing of updated NCSB Bylaws which will much better reflect the goals, directions and purposes of the organization. We also now can enjoy an outstanding redesigned, user friendly website that is packed with numerous links offering invaluable information regarding NCSB and regulatory issues.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the purposes of NCSB:

- To facilitate communication and interaction among state boards concerning licensure
- To promote the protection of consumers
- To stimulate interest in and discussion of issues pertaining to licensure boards
- To provide a forum for discussion

Our established long term goals are:

- To promote uniform national standards for licensure
- Provide information and services for related professions
- Aid licensing boards in fulfilling statutory, professional and ethical obligations

With these goals in mind, one of NCSB's primary focus areas in 2012 will be membership recruitment. At the October, 2011 Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting, a Membership Ad-Hoc Committee was established with current President, Virginia Berry, as Chair and includes Sherry Sancibrian, George Purvis and Ken Gist as members. This committee along with the BOD is looking at several new incentives to encourage NCSB state board and individual memberships. Such incentives to the membership include the development of an NCSB FaceBook page and a secured, password protected members only section on our website (<http://www.ncsb.info>). In addition, another targeted goal for 2012 is the pursuit of additional revenue sources for NCSB. The BOD is considering the possibility of recruiting advertisement both in the newsletter and on the website. Also, there is the goal to further identify the interest in purchasing various NCSB materials, such as the Board Training Manual, Membership Directory, etc. (continued on page 2...)

(PRESIDENT'S CORNER continued...)

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to personally invite each state and NCSB member to attend the ***Silver Anniversary NCSB Conference to be held in historic Williamsburg, Virginia October 11 – 13, 2012 at the Woodlands Hotel and Resort.*** Not only will this Conference once again include an outstanding selection of topics, but it will be a moment in history for NCSB. You won't want to miss this!!

During 2012, NCSB will continue to address issues of importance to state boards. These efforts will focus on assisting with telepractice guidelines and practices, universal licensure and license portability.

In closing, I want each of you to remember that NCSB is the only national organization that is dedicated to supporting the interests of licensing boards and regulatory agencies in our two professions of speech-language pathology and audiology. We need everyone's support to continue our mission and encourage all current state board and individual members to renew their commitment to membership in NCSB and to spread the word of the advantages of membership to colleagues and associates affiliated with other state boards and regulatory agencies.

Have a great 2012!!

Virginia Berry
2012 NCSB President

PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR THE NCSB FALL 2012 CONFERENCE

The 25th Annual NCSB Conference will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia, from October 11 - 13, 2012. In response to requests from attendees at the last two conferences, the 2012 conference will focus on the issue of ethics in professional regulation. A tentative outline is available, but to date not all topics and speakers have been confirmed. The NCSB Board of Directors will meet at the end of March to finalize the program, and a flyer announcing the program will be sent in early summer. The official registration form will be mailed in late summer.

Thus far conference topics tentatively include:

- Keynote address by attorney on the topic of professional ethics
- Ethics exercise that encourages interactive participation from audience members
- Considerations in Implementation of Mandated Ethics Continuing Education for License Renewal
- A Model for Imposition of Sanctions (from Virginia Dept. of Health)
- Ethical Considerations for Practicing in the Age of Social Media
- State Information Exchange - (With state information discussion and wrap-up following day)
- Update on SLP Certification Standards and Reporting of Audiology Praxis Scores
- Hot Topics Update (Definitive topics still to be determined)
 - ◊ Ethical Code of Conduct for Board Members
 - ◊ Considerations in Implementation of Support Personnel
 - ◊ National Practitioner Data Bank
 - ◊ Telepractice
 - ◊ Other Regulatory Issues

If there are other topics that might be of interest to licensees, please email your suggestions to one of the Board Members prior to March 15. Once the program has been finalized, the content will be posted on the web site, and flyers with details will be mailed. Information regarding the conference hotel is included elsewhere in this publication. The conference is designed to provide valuable information for board members, board administrators, board attorneys, and all others involved in the regulatory process. Please make the information available to the appropriate individuals and make plans to attend.

DID YOU KNOW...

NCSB membership includes access to the Members Only section of the website, <http://www.ncsb.info>. Visit the website to login, or contact the NCSB Business Office for assistance.

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WILLIAMSBURG WOODLANDS HOTEL AND SUITES HOST HOTEL FOR THE NCSB FALL 2012 CONFERENCE

The *Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Suites* is conveniently located next to the Colonial Williamsburg Regional Visitor Center in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia.

For guest information and room reservations, please contact the hotel directly:

Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel
105 Visitors Center Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23185
Phone: **800-HISTORY (800-447-8679), 757-253-2277**

The **room rate for conference attendees is \$114.00** (resort fees and taxes may apply). Be sure to mention that you are attending the NCSB conference to receive the special conference rate.

In addition to the convenient historic sites you can enjoy 45 holes of championship golf at the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club, or relax at the renowned Spa of Colonial Williamsburg. Visit <http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/visit/hotels/woodlands/> for more information.

It wasn't until America gained its independence from Britain that Virginia's capital was moved to Richmond - a more secure and centrally located city. Previously, from 1699 to 1780, Williamsburg was the prosperous center of what was then more sprawling, densely populated, and powerful than any other colony. It was during these significant years that the vision of America as an independent, liberated country was born. **George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and George Mason** were just a few of the early patriots who cultivated the seeds of our democracy in Williamsburg, founding the notions of responsible leadership, belief in public service, autonomy, and individual freedom that underlie our government today. As a political, cultural, and educational midpoint for colonial America, **Williamsburg, Virginia truly was the cornerstone for what is the United States today.**

Today, Colonial Williamsburg offers an abundance of history, entertainment, and culture to visitors from around the world. Whether it's a guided tour or a leisurely stroll, the town itself is a visual retreat to colonial days. With more than eighty preserved original colonial structures, re-enactment events, and educational forums, Williamsburg breathes life into history and provides a wealth of enlightening resources.

For more information about Williamsburg, contact the Colonial Williamsburg Visitors Center at **800-987-9852, 417-823-0981** or visit <http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com>.

2011 FALL CONFERENCE SYNOPSIS

Lee Reeves - Keynote Speaker

Lee Reeves, the keynote speaker, started the meeting off with a tremendous look at licensure and the role of the consumer member. He noted the primary role of this member as others is to protect the public. The consumer role has added dimension as it also requires the learning of the professions in more detail in order to make educated decisions and participate in the discussion in an active manner. Mr. Reeves noted that the consumer member adds balance to the Board in serving as a tangible reminder of the primary purpose of licensure. The consumer member may also serve to enhance the professions reputation and stature within the public as they bring unbiased actions or concerns to the public, although the public member must also guard against setting their own personal agenda.

He noted to the membership that a Board needs to provide a good orientation as to licensure and the state statutes and that all discussion and actions must comply. The professionals on the Board must also provide a clear picture to the consumer member as to current developments in the field and all sides of controversial issues. Mr. Reeves noted the difference between professional organizations and regulatory Boards. Professional organizations protect and serve the profession whereas regulatory Boards serve and protect the public (consumer).

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Attention State Board Members

NCSB is seeking contact information (specifically name and email addresses) for all licensed SLP's and Audiologists in your state. If you can provide this information, please contact the NCSB Business Office or email info@ncsb.info. This information will be used to promote the 2012 Annual Conference and to promote individual membership in NCSB. Your support and assistance is appreciated.

2011 FALL CONFERENCE SYNOPSIS continued...

Amy Goldman - Panel Discussion

Amy Goldman led the discussion regarding "consumer membership" on state boards. Participants addressed the following questions, in comparing their state's mandates and experiences with board members who are not practitioners of the communication professions.

1. What do your statute/regulations say?
Public member versus consumer?
How is this defined?
2. What is the role of the consumer or public member?
What are the ways in which the consumer or public member can make unique contributions to board deliberations and other board activities?
3. What qualities/qualifications should an effective consumer/public member possess?
Should the member be an actual consumer or family member of someone who has benefited from services from communication professionals in your state?
Should there be experience with/knowledge of government?
4. How do you recruit these board positions?
What is the role of the professional associations?
What other avenues have you used, and with what success?
5. Does your board provide formal or informal orientation to the professions to this member?
How is this accomplished?
6. How has your board benefited from its consumer/public member(s)?

Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.
Potter Stewart

2011 FALL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS FROM STATE BOARDS

Alabama

The Board is developing informational handouts for individuals supervising CF/4th year audiology registrants to improve/clarify the supervisory process. Handouts for those supervising assistants will follow. The Board is working on changes to rules and regulations to allow those with ABA certification to use in lieu of CCC to meet licensure requirements for audiology. In 2012 the act will be sunset reviewed; it is likely the state professional association for audiology may be seeking to establish a separate board at that time. That association has felt disenfranchised from the nomination process for the board and has had concerns regarding the distribution of continuing education funding to the two professional associations. For the last year, the Board has been trying to find a governmental body to conduct criminal background checks on applicants, but has been turned down already by 4 agencies. There are several board member terms that have expired and the Board is waiting for the governor's appointments to be made.

Arkansas

Arkansas is currently revising its law and regulations to reflect the changes in educational requirements for audiologists (AuD). New language will be added regarding telepractice and scope of practice. The Board has been challenged by the legislature, which wanted to control any excess funds. Beginning in 2013, Arkansas' board will use excess funds to sponsor scholarships for SLPs and audiologists, and to sponsor continuing education events. Arkansas reports a newly formed association, specifically for advocacy of audiology issues.

Kentucky

Instead of all licensees renewing at the same time, half of the licensees renew each year. They have endorsed the AuD as the entry level preparation for audiology. They do not have rules promulgated yet for telepractice. They are currently revising their application forms, as the hard copy was inconsistent with the online version of the application. The board will be having a retreat to prioritize the need for changes in the statutes.

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2011 FALL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS continued...

Louisiana

Louisiana has revised its rules and regulations. There are new regulations for lapsed licenses and more serious complaints including fraud, intellectual property, and supervision. Online renewals are increasing. There are concerns about the state wanting the Board's excess funds.

Mississippi

They are currently looking at another level to add a "provisional" level of licensure (to full and temporary) until transcripts can be finalized. Online renewals are at about 90%.

Montana

The personnel preparation program at the University of Montana graduated a class in May 2011. There are three levels of assistants, requiring varying degrees of direct contact supervision. There is universal licensure. Audiologists no longer have to be licensed by the hearing aid dealer association to dispense hearing aids. They are examining how to effect tele-supervision and telepractice changes via regulation vs. changing the statute.

Michigan

Speech Pathology and Audiology have separate boards. Even though licensure was signed by the governor in January 2009, rules have not yet been promulgated, so no applications have been distributed. MI's new governor has rearranged the umbrella licensing regulations so this delays licensing actions.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BSBC MI) opened the door between October 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011 for newly licensed SLPs (and OTs) in private practice to obtain a NPI number and bill. This further pushes the licensing bureau to get applications available soon. BSBS MI reports being open to re-look at coverage for cognitive rehabilitation (although ASHA has just reported that national BCBS has changed their position in the last two weeks about cognitive therapy being "experimental").

Limited licenses: Michigan has a limited license for clinical fellows that will go into effect once they are able to process applications. Meanwhile, CMS says non-licensed CFs are considered students required in-room supervision when providing services to Medicare patients. Not all employers realize this. There are school-limited licenses; however, due to state regulations that limit the ability of licensed professionals (psychologists) to bill Medicaid it is likely that licensed SLPs cannot sign for/bill for services to Medicaid-eligible students.

Telepractice: They are not able to address this because the license bureau says "medicine"; they have decided not to take this issue forward.

Continuing education: Details on promulgating/implementing continuing education is slow because the state has its own agenda for "continuing professional development plans"; the SLP board is one of five boards that will pilot this.

Nevada

Nevada is currently undergoing sunset review. Hearing aid dispensers are regulated by a separate board. The board wanted to double the number of public members and make one the board president. The number of licensees is growing. The Board has had discussions regarding the addition of endoscopy and telepractice language. There are no speech assistants in speech pathology or audiology, except in the schools.

North Carolina

Universal licensure has been obtained; as of July 2011 the Department of Public Instruction requires a license in the schools. The Board is working on rules for telepractice; an examination for applicants and CEU requirements for AuDs related to hearing aids.

Ohio

Successes and highlights: an increase in online renewals; inactive status offered for the first time, as a result of amending the statute. Rules have been adopted to require anyone who has been out of practice for five years or more to demonstrate proficiency/competency beyond the completion of required continuing education hours. Challenges/Issues: School practice setting – caseload vs. workload orientation; status of conditional licensees being eligible to seek reimbursement from Medicaid – awaiting an opinion from the attorney general; telepractice – out of state companies are contracting with school districts

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2011 FALL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS continued...

Oklahoma

SLP assistants require an associate's degree or higher by June 2013 (formerly, only a high school diploma was required), although rules for audiology assistants only require a high school diploma or higher. Individuals who had been initially grandfathered to obtain licensure and allowed their license to lapse for more than five years are required to re-apply and meet the current requirements for license. Licensees who let their license lapse and don't hold a current license in another state for more than 10 years must pass the Praxis. Before supervising others, a licensed SLP must have at least one year of full-time professional experience in speech-language pathology. Supervision missed in one week shall be completed the following week. Revisions have been made the code of ethics to have specific codes for master level practitioners and bachelor level practitioners. Telepractice language specifies that a provider must come to the state to see the patient at least once; regulation is pending. Background checks are required for all licensees. Declaratory ruling: Licensees in exempt settings still have to follow all rules pertaining to licensees.

Ontario, Canada

The Ontario board regulates 3500 practitioners (2900 SLPs and 600 audiologists). Almost 90% of renewals are done on-line. Ontario has universal licensure, but does not regulate assistants. As a result of the October 2011 provincial elections, the government was re-elected but with a reduced mandate. Prior to the election, a freeze had been placed on all agency public member appointments; the board is waiting for word on three appointments. The Board submitted to the government revised regulations addressing registration, records and quality assurance; they are preparing new regulations on professional conduct, advertising, and quality assurance. There are 50 open complaint files; there's been a rise in complaints regarding advertising. On a national level, the board is working on professional practice profiles and guidelines on telepractice.

Oregon

The 2011 legislative update of the statute included recognition of the AuD. There is a new temporary license category (that may be applied to telepractice in the future) and school-based SLPs must follow the Board rules regarding supervision of assistants. Dispensing audiologists are not required to have a separate dispensing license; since 2009 dispensing has been considered part of the audiologist's scope of practice. The Oregon professional association is working towards universal licensure, especially because the Teachers Commission calls all professionals "speech-language pathologists", even if they do not have a master's degree. There have been recent disciplinary actions (revocations or license limitations) related to professional competence for pediatric audiology and for swallowing disorders.

In process: Changes addressing criminal background checks; telepractice.

Challenges: Misleading advertising by hearing aid dealers; impact of 2006 Missouri case in the 8th Circuit regarding mail order of hearing aids; challenges related to the economic conditions - understaffed/under threat of consolidation/limited funding/no investigative staff.

Pennsylvania

In December 2010, the Board completed a strategic planning process. Efforts to update the practice act (not updated since its original passage in the 80's except for continuing education requirements) have been unsuccessful to date. Last year's challenge was from the state Department of Education, due to efforts to establish universal licensure. There are also objections from the state medical society. Although the speech and hearing associations had been collaborating, this year, the state audiology association will be introducing its own bill. Because of a failure to include an end date to grandfathering in the original legislation, applicants who are retirees from school-based practice who meet the "letter" of the grandfather requirements are now applying for licensure.

South Carolina

Renewals are only on-line, and this has been very successful. The five member board is down one audiology member. The Board is currently conducting continuing education audits of 10% of all licensees, and is finding that some licensees did not retain their records as required by law. The AuD requirement for audiologists is addressed on a case by case basis. The umbrella agency for the Board has a new director and has been reorganized and restructured; Board members have been involved. The Board has been working with the SC Department of Education and the state Speech and Hearing Association to deal with an announced 2015 deadline to upgrade school-based SLPs. There are 2063 licensees in five categories.

Texas

A sunset review was completed. New statutes passed in 2011: Require AuD for audiology license; require fingerprinting for new license or renewal; Board may order cease and desist for unlicensed practice; Board may require that refunds be made to patients. The Board must meet with Hearing Aid Fitters and Dispensers Board to standardize 30 day hearing aid trial and contract. Telepractice rules were added in 2010. There are 2690 SLP assistants, 25% of all licensees.

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2011 FALL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS continued...

West Virginia

West Virginia is considering new bill addressing universal licensure that includes public school practice. Challenges have included the state medical society which objects to cerumen management and “diagnosis/treatment” language. There is no language regarding hearing aid dispensing.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS: SHERRY SANCIBRIAN AND GEORGE PURVIS

Sherry Sancibrian

In the early years of her career, Sherry was employed as a speech-language pathologist for a public school, an early intervention program, and the Lubbock county hospital. In 1984, Sherry became the Clinic Director for the Texas Tech Speech and Hearing Sciences program which at that time was located on the TTU campus. Currently, Sherry is a Professor and Program Director in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at TTUHSC. She has served her profession on the state level as Presiding Officer of the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, President of the Texas Speech-Language Hearing Association, and Secretary for the Texas Speech-Language Hearing Foundation. Sherry chaired the 2008 convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), served on the ASHA Legislative Council and the Specialty Recognition Board for Child Language, and was made a Fellow in 2009. Locally, Sherry gives her time to organizations such as the Lubbock Cleft Palate Clinic, the South Plains Autism Network, and the West Texas Association for Infant Mental Health.

George Purvis

George Purvis is currently Chief of the Audiology and Speech Pathology Service at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Louisville, Kentucky. In addition he is Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery, Division of Communicative Disorders at the University of Louisville. George has been active in professional licensure serving as Chair of the California and Kentucky Boards of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. He is currently a member of the Kentucky Board and serves on the complaint committee. He has served on the Board of Directors of the National Council as a member and President. George has recently completed a term on the ASHA Board of Directors. He has also served as Chair of the Audiology Advisory Council. Currently George is a member of the ASHA Board of Ethics.

ASHA MERITORIOUS POSTER AWARD TO THE NCSB!!

The 2011 ASHA poster received a special recognition by the Program Committee

The ASHA Convention Program Committee initiated a recognition category for posters judged to be exceptional at the 2011 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s annual meeting. The are posters that received the highest ratings from topic committee reviewers, across the rating categories of professional education submissions and research submissions. Each Topic Area Committee has the option of recommending one to two posters for this special, “Topic Coordinator Choice Poster Award” recognition. These posters are noted in the convention program with a ribbon icon and identified with a ribbon when displayed during their presentation.

Special thanks goes to Theresa Rodgers and Glenn Waguespack for their hard work on this presentation.

2011 - 2012 NCSB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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2012 BOARD TRAINING AND CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Thursday, October 11, 2012 thru Saturday, October 13, 2012.

The Hotel: Williamsburg Woodlands, which is part of the Colonial Williamsburg Hotels.

Room Rates: Standard room, single or double occupancy, \$114.00.
Suite, \$144.00
Taxes are 10% plus \$2.00 per night occupancy tax.

The special guest room rates will apply 3 days before and after the dates of the conference. Complimentary Breakfast: A complimentary continental breakfast is offered daily in the main lobby of the hotel.

Reservations:

Individual reservations must be made on or before Monday, September 10, 2012, by calling 800-261-9530 between the hours of 8:30 am to 5:00 pm EST, Monday through Friday. There is no charge for self parking. You must provide the NCSB group name in order to obtain the group rates. Check-in time is after 4:00 pm and check-out time is 11:00 am.

Airports: Newport News - 20 minutes
Richmond - 45 minutes
Norfolk - 50 minutes

Ground Transportation:

Please note that prices quoted below are estimates and are subject to change and current prices should be requested when making reservations.

Tidwater Coach (<http://www.tidewatercoach.com>)

Order online or call (757) 218-9539 At least one day notice required. More notice is better.
Newport News Airport \$35 single/\$45 couple
Richmond/Norfolk Airports - \$75 single/\$90 couple

James River Transportation (<http://www.jamesrivertrans.com>)

Reservations made online or call (866) 823-4626. Walk up airport shuttle is available at Norfolk Airport booth.
Richmond/Norfolk Airports - \$104.50 per person
Group rates with a minimum of 4 passengers are available.

Marrow Transportation, LLC (<http://www.marrowtransit.com>)

Call for reservations at (757) 564-5466
Provides chauffeured limo service to all area airports

Hotel Location: 105 Visitor Center Drive
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
757-253-2277
1-800-HISTORY

Hotel Description:

Set near a pine grove adjacent to Colonial Williamsburg's Visitor Center, Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel & Suites is a family haven with recreational choices including miniature golf, shuffleboard, table tennis, bike rentals, and swimming. Plus, a continental breakfast buffet is included in the room rate. Walk or shuttle to the Historic Area.

Suites offer a lounging room with queen sofa bed, desk, and a convenience counter with small refrigerator, microwave, sink, and coffeemaker plus a separate master bedroom with a king-size bed and second TV. Standard Rooms feature two full-size beds, a sitting area with desk, and a comfortable lounge chair (convertible to a single bed).

Convenient, on-site laundry facilities include coin-operated machines and same-day valet service (for requests made by 9 a.m.).