

**INFORMATION ON STARTING A STATE ACADEMY: INQUIRY FROM CT.**

<b>STATE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
FL	<p>For the state of Florida I believe we were incorporated within two months. We discussed it in May and had our first convention in September. We are now 8 years old. When we started, our dues were \$50.00. They are now about \$125.00. We started with about 50. We are now over 200. I was there for the first meeting and on the board and we managed to get established very quickly.</p> <p>Cindy Simon</p>
GA	<p>We went from an existing Atlanta organization (Greater Atl Audiology Society--GAAS) that started in the mid 70s and changed the name and by laws to make the GA Academy of Audiology (GAA). We talked about doing it for a few years. The name was changed in 2001, I believe. Dues for the first few years were \$50, but I believe they are going up to \$75 w/ a suggested \$25 PAC contribution. The GAA-PAC was formed this year. We don't even have a bank acct set up yet. Our first board mtgn. for GAA-PAC is this month.</p> <p>We had about 115 members then and about 160 now. (but bear in mind we had an existing membership w/ GAAS) We have worked hard to get audiologist from the rest of the state involved, though by far, Atl has the largest concentration. I think ballpark there are 350 licensed audios in the state.</p> <p>Katherine J Pollard, Au.D. President -elect of GAA</p>
KY	<p>Incorporation times vary by state. My husband did ours and it took only a week or two. Our dues are \$20.00. We have given free membership in the past to stimulate growth. Our initial membership was about 20 members. Not sure how many we have now. Angela Morris will probably respond with that number. We incorporated in 1994.</p> <p>Pam Ison</p> <p>Our Academy has been in existence for a long time, but it just did not function as a group. This is the first year that I know of that we actually elected officers, and are working towards getting the ball rolling. Our dues are \$20, which we find hard to get. We have about 180 Audiologists in KY and about 20 are in this group. We are working hard to have a convention this year, no matter how small it may be, because we feel that if the word can get out that we are actually doing something, more and more will join. Good luck in your efforts.</p> <p>Angela Morris, Au.D., FAAA Board Certified in Audiology SOUTHEAST KENTUCKY AUDIOLOGY 1707 Cumberland Falls Hwy. Ste. U-7 Corbin, KY 40701</p>

## INFORMATION ON STARTING A STATE ACADEMY: INQUIRY FROM CT.

STATE	COMMENTS
	606/528-9993 606/528-5553 (fax)
ME	<p>These are the answers from the Maine Academy of Audiology. How long from the opening discussion to finalizing Incorporation did it take to form your academy? A few months. We are not incorporated, but we are non-profit (503 C4). How many years old is your state academy? 9 years When you started, how many members did you start with? 20 Current number of members? 30-35 (there are only about 50 licensed audiologists in our state and not all of those are practicing).</p> <p>Lisa Klop</p>
MI	<p>The Michigan academy was incorporated in 1992. It took us about 1 year to develop a plan for start-up. We had a meeting to assess general interest in starting a MAA group during a well-attended university sponsored CEU activity. From there we asked for volunteers to start the process. We had about 10 volunteers that threw in \$100 each for seed money. We incorporated and drew up By-laws during our early meetings. We then rolled out an initial membership drive offering initial members during a 3-month period to be called the founders. All founders were listed on the membership brochure and were sent a nice plaque identifying them as a founding member of MAA. Our initial efforts generated about 50 members. We then acquired a mailing list for our state through ASHA (AAA could not give you a list) and sent a direct mail piece. Initial dues were \$60. Currently they are \$75. On the piece we listed benefits of membership and reasons why there was a need for another state audiology group. After the 1st year we had grown to almost 100 members today we have just over 150 members. We still have a MiSHA group that has about 75 audiology members. Many of those members are also MAA members. We have been working on consolidating the audiologists from our educational audiology group, MAA and MiSHA into one state audiology organization. For the past 2 years MAA and the Ed. Audiology group have held a joint conference. Next year all 3 groups will hold a joint conference. Long-term plans are to have one group with specialty areas of interest. This will allow us to combine leadership resources, website, lobbyist, conference and one united front.</p> <p>Karen Jacobs</p>
MN	<p>I will try to answer some of the questions about the formation of the MN Academy of Audiology. I believe that 14 members joined together in 1994, dues were about \$40, they are now \$75 (we didn't have a lobbyist until last year). We have about 200 members now, 99% of them Audiologists, but a few associate members, like HA reps, equipment reps, speech paths. The incorporation did not take long, I don't believe, but I will look into that.</p> <p>Shirley Fors, Administrator, MAA</p>
NJ	<p>The NJ AAA existed until about 10 years ago and then folded. There is an effort to bring it back. The problem is that some audiologists want to use it as a forum for political change, e.g., to allow audiologists to dispense without having to take a licensing exam while others are interested in having a</p>

## INFORMATION ON STARTING A STATE ACADEMY: INQUIRY FROM CT.

STATE	COMMENTS
	<p>professional forum that is not politically driven. My concern is that a group founded to tackle one issue like changing the licensing laws may not be able to sustain itself as interest wanes. This has happened with a vocal group that wanted to get rid of tolls on the highway. Interest waned and the last meeting was poorly attended. The lesson is to balance the concerns of the members who have specific issues with a broader mission of developing professional interests. Not an easy task.</p> <p>Gran Brady, Au.D.</p>
NJ	<p>It took our Academy about 3 - 4 months from the opening discussion to finalizing incorporation - mostly getting registered with the IRS as a <u>501.c. 6</u> non-profit corporation (so we could lobby) and registering with the Secretary of State. Our state Academy is 13 years old. When we started dues were, \$50.00...the Academy went dormant for several years in 1996 and will be starting up again soon...I'm anticipating the same dues. There were 400 audiologists in NJ in 1992 when we started. We had 60 members, and membership stayed at 60 for several years but waned. Our CEU meetings were poorly attended even with national speakers. 15 people would show up! There was an air of apathy that clouded our goals. We are in active at this time.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Hire a good attorney with lobbying experience; have your Board members have different areas of expertise...don't stack the Board with dispensing audiologists and no educational audiologists or industrial audiologists.</p>
OH	<p>I am the immediate past president of the Ohio Academy of Audiology, but have been involved with the group for a number of years. Our academy is 10 years old, however there was a group called the Ohio Council of Audiology, which began in 1975 from which the academy was formed. We applied for our trade name in April 1995 and received our charter approximately two months later. We then applied for non-profit status, which took a bit longer. I would say six months. Our dues in 1995 were \$25.00 and are currently \$60.00. (Approximately 67% of our dues go to pay our lobbyist.) We hold a convention every other year and two day long workshops annually. They both help us to keep membership dues low. I don't have the membership numbers from back in 1995 but our current membership is 206. Hope this information helps, if you need anything else, please feel free to email or call.</p> <p>Good luck.</p> <p>Erin L. Miller, Au.D.  Board Certified in Audiology  Neuro-Communication Services, Inc.  755 Boardman-Canfield Road  Southbridge West, Bldg. C-1  Youngstown, Ohio 44512  330-726-8155  FAX 330-726-8612  auderin@zoominternet.net</p>

## INFORMATION ON STARTING A STATE ACADEMY: INQUIRY FROM CT.

STATE	COMMENTS
SC	<p>Good luck in forming your state academy! It think you all will find it very worthwhile. Here's our response from South Carolina: <b>How long from the opening discussion to finalizing Incorporation did it take to form your academy?</b> One member without discussion formed the South Carolina Academy of Audiology (SCAA). He had a charter drawn up by an attorney (using AAA as a model) and then contacted 10 audiologists to serve as charter members. An invitation was then sent out to all audiologists in the state to become part of the academy. This invitation was well received, and now most audiologists in the state are members of SCAA vs. SCSHA (SC Speech and Hearing Association). This type of initial organization worked for SC since we are a small state and since the audiologists here are a pretty cohesive group. <b>How many years old is your state academy?</b> 16 years old (formed in 1989) <b>When you started, what were your dues? Current Dues?</b> Dues were originally \$40 (I think); they were later raised to \$60. Just this year, we raised dues to \$100 to help support the fee we pay our lobbyist. <b>When you started, how many members did you start with? Current number of members?</b> SCAA started with 10 charter members. We now have approximately 100 Members.</p> <p>Lynn Lehman, Au.D. (<a href="mailto:Llehman@aol.com">Llehman@aol.com</a>) President, South Carolina Academy of Audiology</p> <p>The South Carolina Academy was the first to form. It is fifteen years old. I am not sure how long it took to form as it has been so long, but really it is just paperwork, and lawyers. Initially our dues were \$40. Now they are \$100. I would suggest that you start with that as a minimum to build up a bank account. You will become politically active and need a lobbyist at some point, as we have. We have just a regular non-interest type business account to keep our non-profit tax status. We had about 20 members, and we now average 95, which is almost the entire number of licensees in our state.</p> <p>Susan Valenti, Sect-Treas.</p>
TX	