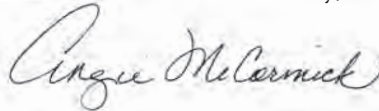


EDITOR'S NOTE

I'm in the middle of a new book, *Listening is an Act of Love*. Dave Isay wrote it. Well, actually, he compiled all of the first-person accounts—first as recorded audio and finally as transcripts. Chances are, you haven't heard of Isay. A former journalist with some pretty amazing credentials, he's the founding father of StoryCorps. It's a groundbreaking national movement to chronicle the stories of average, every day regular people—like you and me. So far, Isay and his team have captured stories of the old and young, parents, and grandparents, children, brothers and sisters, steelworkers, janitors and more. People all over the country have been taking time to record their memories and share their stories. (To see what I'm talking about, turn to page 6.)

So why do I bring this up? Isay's mission is to listen to people. He sees (and wants us to see) the value in our experiences, our stories, and our lives. I can't help but think of the GAE story—which we try to tell in every issue of this magazine, online, and to each other. It's a story that started nearly 40 years ago and is still going strong. We add another page to the story each time a new member joins or when a local association claims a victory (like CCAE on page 16). Our story grows richer each time a member steps up as an advocate at the capitol. The list goes on and on. And so does our story.

My hope is that as our collective story continues to deepen and develop, we follow David Isay's example. We remember to take time to listen to our story, to learn from it, and to share it.



5 Things Not to Miss

- 1 Turn to page 26 to read GAE Candidate Statements.
- 2 Don't forget to get the details on the GAE Spring RA on page 10.
- 3 Head to Brazil on page 11.
- 4 Check out the 2007 Teens' Top Ten Books on page 9.
- 5 ESPs! NEA is looking for leaders. Turn to page. 12.



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Patrick runs for a medal at the State Summer Games at Emory University in Atlanta.