

The Listening Post



Hearing Loss Association of the Capital Region

“YOU ARE NOT ALONE”

VOLUME '11, ISSUE 2

APRIL / MAY / JUNE
2011



Next Board Meeting:

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM STEVE SCHULTZ

I'm not sure if Punxsutawney Phil is deaf or hard of hearing, but he surely must have a vision problem. In February, when he predicted we would have an early Spring because he didn't see his shadow, we now know how bad his sight must be. However, it now appears that Spring has sprung, so let's be happy for that.

Although you have been reminded in this newsletter that our next chapter meeting is on

April 18th (an unusual third Monday meeting), it will be unique in other ways. Norm Kirsch (our esteemed past president) will preside at that meeting in my absence and will share the new videos on coping with hearing loss and/or the synergy between HLAA and its chapters. At our May 23rd meeting we will have presentations on some of the ways to finance assistive technology (including hearing aids). Finally,

we will end our second quarter programs on June 27th with the ever popular “open forum”. By the end of our June meeting, some of us will have attended the HLAA national convention bringing back interesting info to share with you.

In closing, let me wish you good health and encourage you to continue your attendance at our chapter meetings. We have a very special group of members.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

April 18 @ 7PM

Brief DVD topics presented on: “Communication & Hearing Loss” and “Teamwork for Hearing Loss Awareness” followed by open discussion.

Snack: Kay Erb

May 23 @ 7PM

“Ways to Finance Assistive Technology and Hearing Aids” info presented by our professional advisor, Lori Leiman, Audiologist.

Snack: Lori Leiman

June 27 @ 7PM

“Open Forum” facilitated by Claudia Dewane, board member. Bring your concerns and current issues and come to be encouraged and enriched!

Snack:
Claudia Dewane

HLAA JOINS AARP HEARING EDUCATION ADVISORY GROUP

Bethesda, MD - The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is proud to announce it has joined forces with AARP in a new hearing education and awareness effort for those over 50 at risk of hearing loss.

HLAA, America's leading consumer organization for people with hearing loss, works to make hearing loss recognized as public health issue. There is a strong relationship between age and reported hearing loss: 18 percent of American adults 45–64 years old, 30 percent of adults 65-74 years old, and 47 percent of adults 75 years old or older, have some degree of hearing loss.

AARP's educational initiative will offer new research and resources on hearing loss and hearing health, and bring increased attention to the health, social, economic, and emotional impact of hearing loss.

“We are so pleased that AARP is leading this effort to educate the public about the impact of hearing loss,” said Brenda Battat, executive director of HLAA. Hearing loss is one of the most prevalent health conditions in the United States, affecting 36 million Americans - many of whom are AARP members.

HLAA is honored to work with other nationally recognized organizations advising AARP on this awareness effort including the American Academy of Audiology and their Foundation, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the Deafness Research Foundation, and the International Hearing Society. By pooling our extensive experience and history in the hearing loss field we can change the way hearing loss is perceived, and make prevention and treatment routine.

HLAA is delighted that AARP has chosen to kick off its education and outreach efforts as a Presenting Sponsor of the HLAA National Walk4Hearing™. The Walk4Hearing is the largest of its kind in the country and raises awareness to help eradicate the stigma associated with hearing loss. The HLAA National Walk4Hearing is held in multiple cities across the country. Since 2006, more than 18,000 walkers have stepped up and helped raise money for programs and services for people with hearing loss and their families. For more information about HLAA and the National Walk4Hearing please visit our website, www.hearingloss.org. For more information about hearing loss in the over-50 population, visit www.aarp.org/hearingguide.

JANUARY'S OPEN FORUM TRANSLATED BY BARBARA SCHULTZ

The room was filled to capacity (and then some), there were young people (as young as 4) and old people (who knows?). Everyone was talking to each other, laughing, nodding their heads, smiling, the room was abuzz with sounds and...no one was complaining. Our loyal captioner, Debbie, was having a cup of tea because there was no way she could capture all this conversation.

We were finding out things about each other besides the reason we had come to a hearing loss

group meeting. We are all MORE than hearing loss. We have other lives, we have hobbies and travel experiences and families and passions. For those moments we developed other dimensions for each other.

While we were talking, we were using skills we had developed because of our hearing loss or our exposure to a loved one with hearing loss. There are always many sides to our challenges. Often in spite of our difficulties, we grow in ways we would never have imagined. While living with

OPEN FORUM TRANSLATED CONTINUED.....

hearing loss in order to stay in touch with the world, we develop communication skills previously unknown to us. So after our lively conversations we spent some time talking about some of these skills.

Some of the observations of those present who did NOT have hearing loss were: Speak more slowly, Use gestures, Repeat or paraphrase differently, Lower your voice tone, Speak louder, Look at the person directly in the face, Keep hands away from your mouth, Keep eye contact, Avoid background noise as much as possible.

Those WITH hearing loss made these suggestions: Tell the person to whom you are talking what would be helpful, Talk to your peers, Ask to have the word spelled, Suggest the person use another word, Explain why you don't

look people in the eye (you are busy watching their lips,), Let the speaker know when you have not heard them, and LAUGH!

Many people stayed after the meeting to enjoy the refreshments and more conversation. The parents of twin 4 year old boys came to the meeting because they wanted their children to meet others with cochlear implants. By chance another young boy came that night who also had cochlear implants. The children spent much of the evening playing outside in the hall, just being kids... how wonderful is that????

It was a great evening and we hope all our "first timers" as well as our "old timers" will return and help our group to continue to grow stronger.

“in order to stay in touch with the world, we develop communication skills previously unknown to us.”

6TH ANNUAL ESTERN PA HEARING LOSS ASSOCAITON BANQUET SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2011 12 NOON TO 2:30PM

Please join Hearing Loss Association members, family, and friends as HLA-PA presents its most prestigious award to Pastor Angela Lundy of Philadelphia. Come and learn more about the activities of the PA state office of HLAA and the new national program for parents of children with hearing loss. CART (real time captioning) and ALS interpreters will be provide and the room will be looped for T-coil users. Cost: 35.00 per person with a deadline set for April 25, 2011 to sign up. Any questions can be directed to Diana Bender (610-731-9387) or Carolyn Meyer (Meyer@HLA-PA,org) with subject "HLA-PA Banquet". Directions and hotel info can be found by visiting this website: www.radissondestinationguide.com/locationMap.process/OID_EB39EA2D/?hotelCode=PAVALLEY. You may also mail your check payable to HLA-PA to Alice Dungan, 6906 Shalkop Street, Philadelphia, PA 19128-3217 with your name, address, e-mail, number of attendees, local chapter you belong to, along with your amount enclosed.

LOOKING FOR SPONSORSHIPS: Group / Company / Individuals willing to sponsor an issue of this newsletter will receive free advertising! Help us defray HLAA's printing and mailing cost of each quarterly newsletter. If you know of a potential interested sponsor, contact one of the officers listed on page 5.

MEMBER PROFILE

Ron Girsch

ADDRESS: Susquehanna Township

HOBBIES: watch old movies (1930s,1940s,1950s); read Play Poker with the boys

FAMILY: married 49 years in August; 2 grown children and 6 grands

JOB: Tobacco Educator; Quit-smoking counselor

HOW LONG INVOLVED WITH HLA: 2010

HOW LOST HEARING: born with mal-formed stapes

YOUR GREATEST STRUGGLE WITH HEARING LOSS: background noise; miss hearing what is said

LATEST ACTION NEWS FROM BETHESDA (HLAA HEADQUARTERS)

HLAA Executive Director Brenda Battat participated in the Ida Institute's seminar on Living Well with Hearing Loss held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Ida Institute's challenge is to provide greater insight and a more holistic understanding of the complex journey of hearing loss to better assist hearing care professionals and people with hearing loss. Brenda brought the consumer perspective to this seminar and the Ida Institute agreed to include consumers when gathering input on Living Well with Hearing Loss. She will discuss the IDA Institute in her column in the May/June 2011 *Hearing Loss Magazine*. IDA Institute's staff will attend the HLAA Convention in June and will test some of their tools that have been developed as a result of the 18 seminars they have held over the past three years. To learn more about the institute go to: <http://www.idainstitute.com/>

HLAA States and Chapters Coordinator Elizabeth LeBarron is making it a priority to get to know the chapters. During March, she visited the Manhattan (NY) and Harrisburg (PA) Chapters. This April she will visit the Bucks and Montgomery County's (PA) Chapters and the Williamsburg (VA) Chapter. She is collecting ideas for outreach to younger populations and delving into issues of concern to HLAA leaders.

HLAA Director of Public Policy Lise Hamlin attended the Hearing Industries Association Annual meeting in Florida. This is the meeting of the trade association of the hearing aid industry. Lise presented our findings from the Hearing-Aid-Compatible Phone Survey.

Hearing Aid Tax Credit Bill - During April 2011, Congressman Tom Latham of Iowa and Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy of New York will again reintroduce the Hearing Aid Tax Credit Bill. Representative Latham is the current chair of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus. Senators Olympia Snowe of Maine and Tom Harkin of Iowa will lead the bill in Senate. We are hopeful that the original co-sponsors in both House and Senate will be on board.

The **Video Programming Accessibility Advisory Committee (VPAAC)** for the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 is charged with developing recommendations for the provision of closed captioning of internet programming. During the first meeting of the VPAAC Working Group, specific tasks were delegated. HLAA is tasked with the identification of performance objectives for captioning video programming delivered over the Internet.

This information is provided by the national organization for the Hearing Loss Association of America. For more information about HLAA national advocacy and public policy work, *Hearing Loss Magazine* and the HLAA e-news, annual conventions, the Walk4Hearing, the Academy of Hearing Loss Support Specialists, and more, go to www.hearingloss.org.



LOCAL CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FEES Year 2011

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ TTY/ Voice

E-mail: _____

Birthday: _____

___ New Member ___ Renewal

Annual Fee: \$10. (Includes Newsletter) \$ _____

Newsletter Subscription only: \$5 \$ _____

Additional Contribution: \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Make Checks to: **Hearing Loss Association
of The Capital Region**

Mail to: Don Deppen
37 South 24th St.
Harrisburg, PA 17103

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Upcoming Webinars Online with HLAA

Next date: April 28, 2011; 7:00PM**Topic: "Hearing with Two ears: Hearing aids, Cochlear Implants or Bilateral Cochlear Implants"****Speaker: Ellen Beer, Cochlear Americas****Future webinars:**

Schedule of topics not listed at date of this newsletter; view www.hearingloss.org website for future topics

Reminder: Webinars viewed "live" allow you to submit your questions at that time or they can be submitted in advance. Webinar transcripts are available within 24 hours after the online date if you are unable to view it at the time provided. You can view past topics and even print them off for your convenience. You can find these on the Hearing Loss website: www.hearingloss.org under web chats to keep up with future topics and dates.

Mobile Library Book/DVD's of the Quarter Highlight:

Hear: Solutions, Skills and Sources for people with hearing loss by Ann Pope 1997

This book explains the principles of sounds, how the ear works, and what can go wrong, accompanied by full-color illustrations. Valuable advice is given on choosing a hearing aid, as well as information about other assistive listening devices and skills such as speech-reading.

Lets Make it Clear (DVD) 2006

A 20 minute video that illustrates the everyday difficulties posed by hearing loss, and offers clear and useful tips for effective communication.

*Mission Statement of Hearing Loss
Association of America:*

HLAA and our members are catalysts that make mainstream society more accessible to people who have hearing loss. We strive to improve the quality of life of people who are hard of hearing through education, advocacy, support, and self-help!

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION (HLAA)

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www.hearingloss.org

National Individual Membership: \$35.00

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Address Correction Requested

HLA of the Capital Region meets on the 4th Monday of each month from September– June. The annual picnic is during July or August and the Holiday party is in December. Our meeting location is in the GIANT Food Store, Community Room, 2nd floor in the Camp Hill Shopping Center. An elevator is available for easy access.
CART is provided at meetings! **Save the Date: Summer Picnic Date is July 31!**