

The Listening Post



Hearing Loss Association of the Capital Region

“YOU ARE NOT ALONE”

VOLUME '11, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM STEVE SCHULTZ

Usually I think that the lazy days of summer end much too quickly, but with all the excess rain from storms, hurricanes and flooding the summer may have lasted a little too long. However, on that late day in July when we met for our picnic at Negley Park, the weather could not have been more beautiful! It's too bad that more didn't join us for the great food and camaraderie. Some of us even had the energy to hold a post meeting to consider a

plan for the future of our chapter. Do you think it's time for a chapter "tune-up"? Do the same people serve as leaders year after year, with little or no interest of others to take a leadership position? Is the attendance at our meetings, picnic, and holiday party somewhat static? In an effort to elicit "what one thing" members would be willing to do to assist our chapter's efforts in support, education or advocacy, or what topics would be of interest at

meetings, we distributed a survey at both the picnic and the 9/26 meeting, but we got very little response. As much as I think our chapter now compares favorably to many in the country, we must always be planning to make it better in the future. I hope you will join us in that effort. In this newsletter you will note the interesting programs planned for the fall which includes the ever popular holiday party. I hope you will be part of them all!



*Next Board Meeting:
December 7 @ 7PM*

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FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

October 24 @ 7 PM

“PA Relay” : Matt Myrick, ATT Channel Manager will share info on PA Relay services.

Snack: Ron Girsch

November 28 @ 7PM

“Adapting to loss: where is the humor?”
Liza Zoll, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, will explore using humor to cope with some of the challenges of sensory loss.
Snack: Pat Brockley

December 14 5:30-9:00PM

Annual Holiday Party
Join us for dinner followed by the famous “gift auction”. Bring your wrapped gift and bid to support the chapter. Food served @ 6:00
Cost: \$7.00 per person

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA LAUNCHES A NEW WEBSITE (NEWS RELEASE—SEPTEMBER 6, 2011)

Bethesda, Maryland - The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is pleased to announce the launch of its new website, www.hearingloss.org.

HLAA's website serves as the primary source of objective information for 36 million Americans with hearing loss. The website underwent a major redesign to make it more intuitive, provide better navigation and to make it easier to find specific content in the vast collection of hearing loss resources available to all site visitors.

HLAA Executive Director Brenda Battat said, "We've made the website easier to use and packed with helpful information so that we can reach even more people looking for hearing health care resources and support for hearing loss."

The year-long project was generously supported by Cochlear Americas, a leading manufacturer of cochlear implants and Baha®. "Thanks to Cochlear for making the new website a reality," Battat continued, "The end result is a robust site containing comprehensive information about hearing loss."

The website provides extensive information on the latest in hearing assistive technology; national advocacy work on Capitol Hill and before federal regulatory agencies; HLAA's national programs including the annual Convention, the National

Walk4Hearing®, Hearing Loss Support Specialists Training, online webinars, and online communities for young adults and parents. Contact information for professional members including otolaryngologists, audiologists and hearing instrument specialists, can be found by visitors looking for a hearing health professional in their area. The site provides a directory of HLAA's national network of chapters and state organizations, ways to support HLAA's work, and much more.

About the Hearing Loss Association of America
The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979, opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support. HLAA publishes the bimonthly *Hearing Loss Magazine*, holds annual conventions (Convention 2012 is June 21 – 24 in Providence, Rhode Island), produces the national Walk4Hearing®, hosts online learning with the Hearing Loss Support Specialists Training, holds monthly webinars, and advocates for the rights of people with hearing loss. HLAA has an extensive network of chapters and state. The national headquarters is located at 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814. Phone: 301.657.2248 or visit www.hearingloss.org.

Direct Access Legislation Update by Lise Hamlin, HLAA Public Policy Director

As promised, HLAA has assessed the legislation supported by the American Academy of Audiology (the Academy), HR 2140, the Direct Access bill (officially titled, "Medicare Hearing Health Care Enhancement Act of 2011")

HLAA's position: we will continue to support the Direct Access legislation.

Direct access is not new: some insurance plans allow patients to access audiology services directly without a physician referral. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has allowed veterans to see audiologists directly since 1992 and has indicated that direct

access to audiology services is a cost effective means of ensuring quality-hearing health care. Members of Congress and federal employees may also access audiologists directly through the Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP).

HLAA continues to believe that beneficiaries in the Medicare program should have the same freedom to access audiologists for covered hearing and balance testing as those who are covered by other insurance plans.

HLAA Chapters should feel free to support this legislation!

JUST SO YOU KNOW...FLASH YOUR HLAA MEMBERSHIP CARD

Are you considering a text-only mobile phone plan for people with hearing loss? If you choose AT&T or Verizon, you can use your **HLAA Membership Card** to provide proof of eligibility.

Some of us with hearing loss spend more time texting or viewing email than we do talking on our mobile devices. Some service providers recognize that and provide plans that allow for more text and/or video than voice for people with hearing loss.

AT&T Wireless and Verizon Wireless offer wireless phone plans to people with hearing loss that may include data, text, video messaging, and/or IM, but charge for voice calls by the minute.

To qualify for these phone plans, wireless phone companies used to accept only a note from a doctor, audiologist or hearing health care provider. Now, at the suggestion of

HLAA, these service providers allow people with hearing loss to establish eligibility for these plans by showing a membership card from several national membership organizations for people with hearing loss, including HLAA, as well the traditional method of seeing a doctor, audiologist or other hearing health care professional.

So, the next time you purchase a text-only plan, you don't need an extra visit to a hearing health care provider: you can simply show your **HLAA Membership Card**.



For more details, visit:

<http://www.wireless.att.com>

<http://aboutus.vzw.com>

Information provided by Lise Hamlin, Director of Public Policy, HLAA

HARRISBURG HOOFERS ARE AMAZING! THE RESULTS OF THE WALK4HEARING 2011 ARE IN—WE SURPASSED LAST YEAR'S GOAL!

The Harrisburg Hoofers did it again! We were a small, but mighty team which included: Steve and Barb Schultz, Norm and Ann Kirsch, Claudia and Bill Dewane, Lori Leiman, Don Deppen, Bob and Patty Brockley, and Steve and Bonnie Todd.

At this point in time our local group's team total is almost \$4,200 with the PA state total rounding off to nearly \$97,000 with that total sum expected to rise. The goal for the state is 100,000 and they are nearly there.....Go, PA!!!

What a great team we have due to the diligence in seeking out donors and advocating for the cause for people with hearing loss. We can't forget the team captain, Claudia, for keeping us spirited morally! Half of the money goes to the national office for advocacy and research efforts. The remaining half is given back to our chapter to use as the board determines. The board has already approved that we update the loop system for our meeting room. This is a wireless system that will broadcast sound directly to cochlear implants and hearing aids. This will allow us to be involved in group discussions and hear speakers.

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.

HLAA Convention: Come Sail with Us to New England * June 21-24, 2012

HLAA is excited to announce Providence, Rhode Island as the host city for Convention 2012. All workshops, plenary sessions, exhibit hall, and social events will take place at the Rhode Island Convention Center which is connected by skybridge to The Westin Providence. Located in the heart of downtown Providence, you 'll find plenty of restaurants, shopping, and points of interest. It's not too early to start planning your trip to New England.

Check for updates about the events being planned as part of Convention 2012 @ hearingloss.org website under events or follow us on Twitter ([@HLAA](#) and [@nmacklin](#)).

LATEST ACTION NEWS FROM BETHESDA (HLAA HEADQUARTERS)

EAAC Report

Another report was released July 22, 2011 from the FCC's Emergency Access Advisory Committee (EAAC). That report addresses the accessibility of Next Generation 9-1-1 for people with disabilities. Their report contains a review and analysis of a survey conducted by the FCC on the kinds of equipment and services used for reaching 9-1-1 by people with disabilities.

The survey revealed that many different types of assistive technology are used by survey respondents, including:

- Assistive listening devices (PockeTalkers, neck loops, silhouettes)
- Augmentative alternative communication devices
- Braille devices
- Screen readers
- Hearing aids and cochlear implants
- Relay services (including hearing carry over and Speech-To-Speech Relay)
- Devices for speech-to-text

In accordance with the CVAA, the EAAC will now use the results of the survey to develop and submit to the FCC recommendations to ensure equal access to the technologies used to access NG 9-1-1 services.

To see the EAAC Report:

<http://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/EAAC/EAAC-REPORT.pdf>

To see the FCC's news release:

<http://www.fcc.gov/document/closed-captioning-and-emergency-calling-reports-released>

HLAA ran a survey in April-June 2011 on their website on "What was said about the cost of hearing aids". People were asked how much they were paying for them, how they were paying for them, and whether they thought the prices were reasonable. Here are the responses:

- **667 people responded and of those 99% used one hearing aid and 75% used two**
- **57% paid out-of-pocket; 57% paid more than \$2000**
- **46% said the price was more than they expected; 46% said it was what they were expecting**
- **63% thought the cost was either too much or way too much**

To the question. "Did you ask if less expensive hearing aids were an option for you?"

- **56% said no**
- **44% said yes**
- **47% were told that, "Cheaper options are available but not an option for you"**

This info is provided by the national organization for the Hearing Loss Association of America. For more information on advocacy, public policy work, Hearing Loss Magazine, HLAA e-news, conventions, 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

Hearing Loss Association of The Capital Region Officers

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www.hlapregion.org

Upcoming Webinars online with HLAA

Due to the new updated HLAA website the fall webinars will begin in October.

Check back for the schedule or join their e-News mailing list to receive webinar announcements by e-mail.

Check out at: [Hearingloss.org/online community/webinars](http://Hearingloss.org/online%20community/webinars)

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

LIVING WITH HEARING LOSS: THE SOURCEBOOK FOR DEAFNESS AND HEARING DISORDERS 2000.

Carol Turkington

An invaluable resource for anyone who is deaf or hearing impaired or wishes to learn more about these disorders. It provides a comprehensive guide to understanding, treating, and living with hearing loss.

LIVING WITH HEARING LOSS: A workbook Sam Trychin

Exercises and strategies for living productively with hearing loss.

OUR FORGOTTEN CHILDREN: HARD OF HEARING PUPILS IN THE SCHOOLS. 2001. JULIA DAVIS

Provides up-to-date information on the education of children who are hard of hearing. An important resource for parents of children who are hard of hearing and those that educate them.

*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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Bethesda, MD 20814

Phone: 301.657.2248 (V), 301.657.2249 (TTY)

301.913.9413 (FAX)

HLAA E-mail: info@hearingloss.org

www.hearingloss.org

National Individual Membership: \$35.00



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Harrisburg, PA 17103

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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! **Holiday Party is 12/14!**