

The Listening Post

APRIL / MAY / JUNE
2025

“YOU ARE NOT ALONE”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE FROM AUGUSTA SPANDLER

*Greetings!
Can you feel it? Warm weather is almost back! Flowers are starting to bloom, the birds are chirping, and your HCAA Capital Region Chapter is meeting.*

If you aren’t a member, please consider sending in the \$10 membership fee so that you can help support our Chapter. If you’d like to be a Board Member, just reach out to me and let me know. We only meet 4 times a year via Zoom to allow for flexibility for our Board members!

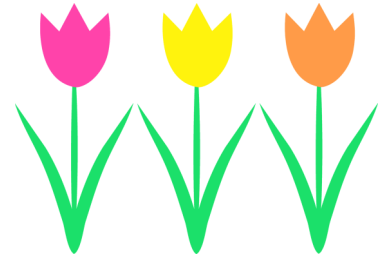
We are still continuing to struggle with attendance. We would love to see more of you join us for meetings, whether in person or virtually! If

there is something you’d like to learn about, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Remember, one of the best things about this group is the friendship and understanding for what we experience and live with every day. Others out there may feel alone, unaware that they are not! Help us spread awareness of our Chapter!

Save the Date—our Annual Summer Picnic will be on Sunday, August 3rd at Negley Park (Lower Pavilion) in Lemoyne. Come enjoy a great time with new & old friends!

*- Augusta Spandler,
President*



Next Board Meeting
June 18th @ 7PM

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FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

<p>April 28 @ 7 PM PA Yellow Dot Program & What to Do If You're Pulled Over Speaker: PA State Trooper First Class Michael Myers</p>	<p>May 19 @ 7 PM An Update from Cochlear Americas Speaker: Sharon Carroll</p>	<p>June 23 @ 7 PM Balance & Dizziness Speaker: Tonya Wasielewski</p>
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Meetings are open to all and free of charge!



REGISTRATION CLOSES ON JUNE 14TH

www.hearingloss.org/get-involved/hlaa-2025-convention/

Registration Options: Individual, Couple, Student, Day Rate, and Research Symposium only. Details listed below. Please visit the website listed above for pricing.

What else does the registration include?

- Exhibit Hall Grand Opening and Opening Session, Thursday, June 12
- Welcome Back Bash, Thursday, June 12
- Research Symposium, *Stigma and Hearing Loss*, Friday, June 13
- Unlimited entry to Exhibit Hall and Socials
- All workshops, demo presentations and featured speakers

Parents' Education Track—Saturday, June 14th

Workshop topics on issues related to children's hearing loss and parenting with hearing loss—including emotional and technological support for families.

What is NOT included? (*Be sure to purchase tickets for the below event if you plan to attend!*)

- Indianapolis Indians baseball game, Saturday, June 14

Location: JW Marriott Indianapolis

When you're not learning, discovering new technology, or connecting with new & old friends, step outside and explore central downtown Indy or venture to the beautiful White River State Park. One of the largest JW Marriott properties in the world, it is recognized by Condé Nast as a Top Midwest Hotel, known for its exceptional service and amenities, luxurious, modern guest rooms, panoramic city views and a wide variety of dining options.

Our deepest gratitude to Dr. Duncan & Dr. Nulph of Hearing Associates, Mechanicsburg, who have been media sponsors of our website and now partially underwriting the newsletter!

The logo for Duncan & Nulph Hearing Associates. It features the company name in a serif font, with 'Duncan & Nulph' in red and 'Hearing Associates' in black. Below the name is a graphic of a human ear with a soundwave passing through it. The text 'Kristen Duncan, Au. D.' and 'Donette Nulph, Au. D.' is centered below the ear, with 'Doctors of Audiology' underneath. Contact information is provided at the bottom: 'Tele. (717) 766-1500', 'Fax. (717) 766-5200', 'E-mail. dnhearing@comcast.net' on the left, and '5020 Ritter Rd, Suite 106', 'Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-4837' on the right.

Wearable Ring Translates Sign into Text

SpellRing is trained on 20,000 words in ASL

American Sign Language (ASL) has long enabled real-time conversations for English-speaking people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. But discussions often face significant lags when one or more [conversants] aren't fluent in the language system. But by combining deep learning artificial intelligence and micro-sonar technologies, researchers at Cornell University are developing a new wearable to help overcome the communication barriers. With further refinement, SpellRing may one day facilitate entire conversations regardless of your ASL comprehension skills.

Today, around 400,000 people in the US utilize modern ASL, including a large number of children of deaf adults (CODA). Like any language, ASL often takes years of education and practice to reach fluency. Given that the majority of Americans don't regularly occupy spaces requiring it, however, the language still remains mostly relegated to populations that are deaf and hard-of-hearing. In the meantime, technological innovations haven't caught up with them.

"Many other technologies that recognize fingerspelling in ASL have not been adopted by the deaf and hard-of-hearing community because the hardware is bulky and impractical," Hyunchul Lim, a Cornell information science doctoral student, said in a university profile on March 17. "We sought to develop a single ring to capture all of the subtle and complex finger movement in ASL."

Lim and his colleagues previously worked on similar inventions through Cornell's Smart Computer Interfaces for Future Interactions (SciFi) Lab, including interpretational tools for facial expressions, virtual reality hand poses, and silent speech recognition.

SpellRing builds off a previous iteration called Ring-a-Pose and relies on multiple inputs to analyze, interpret, and translate ASL fingerspelling gestures. The principle component is a quarter-sized 3D-printed ring casing that contains a small microphone and speaker, worn around the thumb. When the user begins fingerspelling, the microphone emits inaudible soundwaves that are subsequently detected by the microphone as a miniature gyroscope measures the hand motions. Meanwhile, a computer featuring a deep-learning algorithmic program analyzes and translates the resultant sonar images into individual letters in real-time on a computer screen.

Researchers trained SpellRing with the help of 20 experienced and novice ASL signers as they spelled out over 20,000 words. Depending on length and difficulty, SpellRing's accuracy eventually ranged from 82–92 percent.

"There's always a gap between the technical community who develop tools and the target community who use them. We've bridged some of that gap," said Cheng Zhang, an assistant professor of information science paper co-author.

Despite the advances, SpellRing's designers know it is only an early phase. (continued on page 5)

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 our Newsletter Editor listed on page 5.

Did you know??

- Our own “Hospital Kits” are available at any meeting on the resource table! OR (see option below)
- Make your own hospital kits using this website: hearinglosslane.org/how-to-make-your-own-hospital-kit
- Midtown Cinema, 250 Reily Street, Harrisburg offers a captioned movie EVERY Monday of the last show time! You can check their website / call to find the movie playing
- Any member can be featured in a quarterly member profile...just let the newsletter editor know!

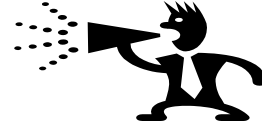
LATEST NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Pick and choose what you want to be informed on. To view the *entire article* go to the hearingloss.org website and look under NEWS & UPDATES on the home page and click on the article to view.

CURRENT NEWSROOM FEEDS:

2025: New Year, New President, New Congress, New HLAA Advocacy Efforts (03/18/2025)

Southern California Fires Bring Personal Loss, Highlight Disaster Preparedness for People with Hearing Loss (11/11/24)



FUTURE WEBINARS

No Currently Scheduled Webinars

Be sure to check out the HLAA National website to see when they post the next webinar!

Visit <https://www.hearingloss.org/get-involved/hearingu-webinars/> to view their schedule and access webinars!

Don't forget to view our CHAPTER WEBSITE for information, links, meetings, events, newsletters, pictures and much more! The link is on the top header of each newsletter page.



HLAA UPDATES:

Veterans Across America Virtual Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, May 20 @ 8-9pm

Veterans Across America Virtual Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, April 15 @ 8-9pm

This information is provided by HLAA National. To learn more about HLAA, *Hearing Life*, *Hearing Life e-News*, annual conventions, Walk4Hearing, and more, go to www.hearingloss.org.

LOCAL CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FEES - 2025

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ TTY/ Voice

E-mail: _____

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Newsletter Preference (circle one): Paper OR Email

Annual Fee: \$15 (Includes Newsletter) \$ _____

Additional Contribution: \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Payable to: **HCAA Capital Region Chapter**

Mail to: Jordan Holmes
6308 Auburn Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

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www.hlcapregion.org

Thank you to everyone who has paid their 2025 annual membership dues! Your dues help us cover the costs of *The Listening Post*, live captioning, our Annual Summer Picnic & Annual Holiday Party, and more!

(continued from page 3)

The wearable is currently limited to fingerspelling. ASL relies on a wider set of upper body movements, facial expressions, and other physicalities, and has more than 4,000 word signs.

“Fingerspelling, while nuanced and challenging to track from a technical perspective, comprises but a fraction of ASL and is not representative of ASL as a language,” said Jane Lu, study co-author and a linguistics doctoral student. “We still have a long way to go in developing comparable devices for full ASL recognition, but it’s an exciting step in the right direction.”

Moving forward, the team plans to expand on SpellRing’s capabilities to adapt the micro-sonar system for eyeglasses that assess a user’s face and upper body.

Note: Content edited to fit. See source for full article.

Source: Paul, Andrew. “Wearable Ring Translates Sign Language into Text.” Popular Science: Technology - Engineering, Popular Science, 18 Mar. 2025, www.popsci.com/technology/sign-language-translator-ring/.



Mission Statement of Hearing Loss Association of America:

The mission of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy. Founded in 1979, HLAA is the nation's leading organization representing people with hearing loss. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 48 million (20%) Americans have a hearing loss making it the third largest public health issue after heart disease and arthritis.

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA (HLAA)

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www.hearingloss.org

NEW Membership Plan: *Make a gift in any amount and automatically become a member!*

Note: Donations of \$45 and higher have option to receive magazine by mail.

<https://www.hearingloss.org/get-involved/donate/>

HLAA Capital Region Chapter meets on the 4th Monday of each month from September – June. The Annual Summer Picnic is during August, and our Annual 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. Live captioning is provided at all meetings! **New Programs for 2020—Join us!!**

J. Holmes
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The Listening Post
Address Correction Requested

