The Listening Post

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER
2026

"YOU ARE NOT ALONE"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM AUGUSTA SPANDLER

Greetings!
It's been another busy summer for me with Jordan starting up his baseball career again playing for the Enola Yankees. Between baseball, horses, cats, and Ben, we sure know how to keep busy!

Unfortunately, we didn't see most of you at the Chapter picnic. In fact, we almost cancelled because only 3 Board members planned to attend. We had two others join us, but I must say it was so sad seeing a picnic that once used to be close to 50 people in attendance, struggle to muster up a tenth of that to make 5. I'm not sure what we can do, but we need your support. Desperately.

We're trying something new with the Holiday party in hopes that it'll be easier for you all to attend.

As noted later, 2027 Officer elections will be in November. Please consider serving a 1-yr term as an Officer or Board member. With the loss of our dear friend, Paul, last year, we are in desperate need of another Board member.

I hope to see you all for our Holiday Party in December! It's a wonderful time and you can see our youngest member, Benjamin! Wishing you all a very wonderful holiday season!

- Augusta Spandler,
President

Next Board Meeting
Dec 16th @ 7PM

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FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

October 26 @ 7 PM	November 23 @ 7 PM	December 19 @ 12PM
Open Forum—Come join us to tell us your story, ask questions, learn more, or whatever you want to bring up!	**Open Forum Following Chapter Elections;** **Chapter Elections (must be present & a current member in good standing to vote)**	**HLAA Capital Region Chapter's Annual Holiday Party** **More details on the next page!**

Snacks/drinks are being withheld at this time!

HLAA CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

SATURDAY, December 19th

Doors open at 12PM | Food Served at 12:30PM

$15/person

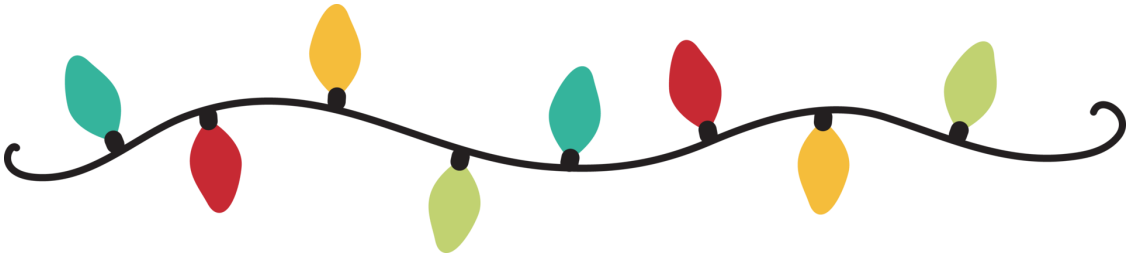
GIANT Food Store Community Center, 3301 E. Trindle Road, 2nd Floor, Camp Hill, PA

Bring your friends and family, and join us for an afternoon of lunch and holiday cheer!

No auction! In lieu of a gift, please consider making a donation to support the Chapter.

Please RSVP to Augusta by December 9th

Note: If you have a food allergy that we need to accommodate, please let us know.



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

Duncan & Nulph
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Meet: Augusta Spandler

President of HLAA Capital Region Chapter

Augusta Osman Spandler - full-time working mom, long-time HLAA member, former HLAA CRC Secretary, current HLAA CRC President, the list goes on really.

Some of you may remember and know me from the SHHH days, back when I was just 3 years old...31 years ago, wow! My mom, Jeanine Osman, who later went on to serve as President, Treasurer, I think Secretary at one point, and is back as a current Board Member (do you see the pattern yet?), joined when she was looking for support as a new parent whose kid happened to have hearing loss in both ears and wear two hearing aids. Now at the time, I didn't do much paying attention at meetings. This was back in the days of meeting in that room beyond the cafeteria at Holy Spirit. Most meetings, you could find me under the tables crawling around with Flicka, a hearing dog that accompanied one of our members at the time. As the years went on, I think it's safe to say I became a bit more involved. I used to bring my keyboard along to our holiday dinner parties, where we'd play and sing Christmas carols and served as Secretary during my high school years.

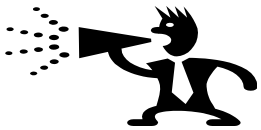
Truthfully, there's no way that I can fit everything about me in this little section, but I'll try to sum it up. First, I've worn my hearing aids since 1 year, 4 months. I have a bilateral sensorineural hearing loss, which my mom suspects I might have developed from vaccines I received as a newborn in Peru, where I was born and adopted. I can honestly say that I sometimes fail to self-advocate. I'm working on it, but I do love knowing that my other half, Jordan (you'll meet him in a different newsletter), acts as my ears in tricky situations. I don't let my hearing loss hold me back though. Music has always been a huge part of my life—I grew up playing piano and clarinet, and I can dabble on the saxophone, oboe, and flute a bit. Now, if only I could sing—guess I'll have to stick to my solo car-ride concerts! In addition to music, horses have been my life for almost my entire life. Maybe to Dr. Leiman's dismay, but I sure do give my hearing aids a workout and put them to the test (they tend to fail that test every couple of years) between all the dirt and sweat that comes with being around horses. My one hearing aid even once accidentally ended up in my pony's tail...I'm not going to tell you what I did that led to that mishap though!

In addition to the horse life and obvious husband (yes, I shamelessly used a wedding picture because I don't have many of just myself that are more recent than our Oct. 12, 2023 wedding), as of January 2025, we also have a wonderful son, Benjamin, whom some of you have met. I work full-time for enGen (subsidiary of Highmark Health), and I have my real estate license. I attended Harrisburg Academy 1st-12th grade, which I loved the small class sizes, and went on to graduate from Hood College. Like I said, there is way more, but I'm quite literally out of room. Perhaps I'll be back with another "meet me" follow up in the future.

<u>LOOKING FOR SPONSORSHIPS</u>: 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, OR if you cannot attend a meeting, please feel free to reach out and we will arrange to get one to you however convenient to you**
- **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!**



FUTURE WEBINARS

Hearing Loss at Work Series
Beyond Performance: Building a Personal Brand with Hearing Loss
Tuesday, October 29th from 2-3pm

Visit https://www.hearingloss.org/get-involved/events/ 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.

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 CURRENT NEWS or HLAA UPDATES on the home page and click on the article to view.

CURRENT NEWSROOM FEEDS:

How to File a Complaint About Television Closed Captions (08/06/2026)

The Americans with Disabilities Act and Assistive Listening in Places of Public Accommodation (07/22/2026)

Hearing Aid Battery Packaging—What You Should Know (07/02/2025)

HLAA UPDATES:

Veterans Across America Virtual Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, Oct 20/Nov 17/Dec 15 @ 8 -9pm

PA Walk4Hearing: October 18 @ 9-2pm

HLAA Convention 2027 in Atlanta Dates: June 24-26, 2027

HLAA joins the Hearing Industries Association's "Sounds of America" campaign for hearing health education (09/24/2026)

Shari Eberts interviews Dan Reiner, HLAA director of communications and marketing (09/08/2026)

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 - 2027

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____TTY/ Voice
E-mail:_____

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Newsletter Preference (circle one): Paper OR Email

Annual Fee: $0 $COVERED
Additional Contribution: $_____
Total Amount $_____

Payable to: **HLAA Capital Region Chapter**

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

Hearing Loss Association of America Capital Region Chapter Officers

President: Augusta Spandler (802.6918; polocrossgirl1@yahoo.com)
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Treasurer: Jordan Holmes (418.7280; jholmes1210@yahoo.com)
Secretary: Augusta Spandler (802.6918; polocrossgirl1@yahoo.com)

Appointed Board Members:
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Professional Advisor: Lori Leiman, AuD.CCC-A (461-7052)
Website Editor: Augusta Spandler
Newsletter Editor/Publisher: Augusta Spandler
Newsletter Contributor: Augusta Spandler
www.hlacapregion.org

At our November meeting, we will have elections for 2026 Chapter Officers. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else for one or more of the positions, please let Augusta know before the meeting. All members are welcome to run for Officer positions, and we are also in need of and welcome additional Board members.

Chapter Dues Waived for 2027

It is no secret that we continue to struggle with membership. A Chapter once thriving with members, meeting attendees, and special event attendees, we now struggle to have more than just the 5 of us Board members attend monthly meetings and even our Chapter picnic. Even with the Zoom option, we do not have more attendees, minus Board member, Jeanine Osman, who takes the time to join all the way from Mexico! At any rate, your support is what helps our Chapter continue. Whether you volunteer, provide a meeting topic idea, make a donation, spread the word, enlist a sponsor/donor, your help is worth more than you know.

We used to average around 35 members, and this year, we have 8. Yep, that's right, 8 members.

Thanks to the generous donations from Carlisle Area Sertoma Club earlier this year and from Duncan-Nulph Hearing Associates, the Board has decided to waive all membership dues for 2027.

Please. Even though dues are waived for 2027, we ask you all to please consider making a donation to help keep this Chapter going.

As my favorite TV station as a kid (we only had 3!), PBS, used to say, "Made possible by contributions to your [HLAA Capital Region Chapter] from…**[readers] like you**. Thank you.**"**

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.

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https://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/hlaa-membership/

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 2027—Join us!!

The Listening Post
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