

MESSAGE FROM NANCY

By Nancy Kingsley, State Director



One of the current priorities of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is to "loop America." What is the reason for this effort?

Inductive loops are one of the three types of assistive listening systems (the others are infrared and FM), but what makes the loop special is that people with telecoil-equipped hearing aids or cochlear implants do not need to use a receiver. Loops transmit sound via an electromagnetic signal, which is picked up by the telecoil. Not long ago, only about 30% of hearing aids had telecoils, but

that number has now doubled, and all cochlear implants have them. Not needing to use a receiver means not needing to check one out and return it, not needing to worry about whether the receiver battery is dead, no possibility that not enough receivers will be available, and no need to use a visible device. All the user has to do is activate the telecoil. (Receivers can be provided to those who lack telecoils.)

Many HLAA chapters have long used portable loops for their meetings. The new push is to get loops permanently installed in such locations as houses of worship, retirement community meeting rooms, and ticket counters, and to make more hard of hearing people aware of the benefits of telecoils.

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State Happenings and Outreach

By Carolyn Meyer



Fall State Happenings

The HLA-PA Advisory Council elected 4 new members at its June 16 meeting. Present Council members elected Mitch Bilker, Dale Long, Breanna Tumelty, and Kay Tyberg to begin a 2 year term. Council members may serve for more than 2 years if they wish. Bob Kotzbauer, Newsletter Editor for the Lebanon Chapter, attended the meeting as an observer. Do you want to be an observer? Please advise Nancy Kingsley at Kingsley@hla-pa.org if you have any interest. Observers are always welcome. The Advisory Council meets 3 times a year—in person—and then often may have an online web-chat meeting if necessary. The next meeting is October 27 at this new location: Manheim Township Public Library, 595 Granite Run Drive, Lancaster, PA from 9:30 am until 3:30 pm. The location has been chosen to accommodate those who travel from different parts of the state. If you want to attend and need to carpool, please advise Nancy Kingsley.

August 22 Wyndham Garden Valley Forge Hotel, Exton, PA. HLA-PA co-hosts Reception for Congressman, Jim Gerlach of Pennsylvania's Sixth District.

Representative Gerlach is an original co-sponsor of the Hearing Aid Tax Credit Bill (HR 1479), which provides a \$500.00 tax credit every 5 years to people with incomes of less than \$200,000 a year. The credit applies to those who need hearing aids and are either over 55 or purchasing a hearing aid for a dependent. The reception dinner was complimentary to those who attended. All HLA-PA members and interested friends or family members were invited. Pictures and more details will appear in the winter issue of HearSay. Many may remember that HLA-PA organized a well-attended reception in 2009 for Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz, in honor of her sponsorship of the Hearing Aid Tax Credit Bill.

Outreach

June 16: Coatesville, PA Health Fair: Grace and Bill Pfeifer exhibited for HLA-PA, displaying our literature and new ALD Kit. The event was arranged by Coatesville Towers, a senior living facility, in conjunction with the Second Baptist Church in Coatesville.

Exciting News: HLA-PA wins grant from Louis Cassett Foundation for \$3,000.00

Carolyn Meyer, with the assistance of Diana Bender, applied for a grant to fund the "Looping Initiative" in the state to benefit all those with hearing loss who have telecoils in their hearing aids or cochlear implant processors. HLA-PA has been promoting this and now HLA-PA will be able to pursue this effort in Pennsylvania. Details about this project will be included in the winter issue of HearSay.

Spirit of HLA Award

We are pleased to announce Kay Tyberg, founder and president of the HLA of Lycoming County chapter, as winning the Spirit of HLA Award at this year's national convention!

Kay has been very active for many years in advocating for people with hearing loss at various state-level meetings and conferences in Pennsylvania. She has been accepted to serve on the Pennsylvania Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (awaiting official appointment by the Governor) and on the HLA-PA Advisory Council, and serves on the Commonwealth of PA Hearing Aid Sales Registration Law Advisory Council. In addition to numerous other responsibilities, Kay is a student at two different colleges, including Penn State University, where she has been advocating for accessibility for hard of hearing students.

Kay leads the HLA-Lycoming County chapter, which has been proactive in advertising, utilizing their local newspaper radio station and the Internet. They are meeting with nursing homes, senior citizen centers,

(Continued on page 3)

health care facilities, and veterans' organizations to tell them about HLAA. Kay and her vice president appeared on a local radio talk show and were so well received that one listener drove to the radio station to meet them! They have appeared on local TV and have written articles for several newspapers about hearing loss and their chapter. When one editor thought their meetings were not newsworthy, Kay pursued the issue with supervisors, who then agreed to publish an article about the chapter. In addition, she has organized various fundraisers, including a candy-making project that involved all members. In addition to her leadership of the Lycoming County chapter, Kay also serves as the vice president of the Central PA chapter.

Kay also serves as a resource for questions about hearing loss. She is active in her church and extended family, and finds time to teach a course in ASL in her community. Kay is dealing with health issues and coping with hearing loss while at the same time providing leadership in so many different ways, we simply don't know how she does it all!

The Hearing Loss Association of America needs more leaders like Kay, and her efforts and accomplishments are recognized by this award!

Submitted by:

Dale Long, HLA-PA State Regional Coord. (central region)

Nancy Kingsley, State Director, HLA-PA



Left to Right: Wayne Roorda (accepting for Carol Granaldi), Kay Tyberg, Florence Butler, Katharine Evans, Amy Bopp

Movie Captioning Finally Happening!

By Alan Kutner



Captioning in movie theaters is becoming a reality day by day. Within the next twelve months it is anticipated that more than 80% of all major movie chains will have all of their screens in their multiplexes captioned all day long for every showing of every movie. Can you believe it!

Now we have another job, which is just as important. We must let our deaf and hard of hearing friends and relatives know that movies are now captioned. This may seem like a small task, but it is a major job.

We need to tell our movie theater managers that they must advertise in general and local newspapers the fact that most all of their movies are now being captioned. We need to ask them to put "CC" beside the title of each movie advertised in newspapers, and they need to put signage on their box office windows to let everyone know that captioning devices are available at that theater for free. HLAA is forming a committee to market captioned movies on a national scale. Each of us can help that effort by talking to the manager or assistant manager of every movie we see and ask them to publicize the availability of captioning devices for all movie patrons. It's now our turn to get the word out.



Pictured above: Alice Dungan (left, front); Fred Dungan (left, back); Diana Bender (right, front); and Ronnie Adler (back, right)

Step Up for Hearing Loss at PA Walk4Hearing 2012!

We are gearing up for Walk4Hearing 2012! This year our Walk will take place on Sunday, September 23, 2012 at Ridley Creek State Park in Newtown Square, PA. Registration begins at 9:00 AM; the Walk will begin at 10:00 AM.

The goal of our Walk4Hearing is to raise awareness of hearing loss across the country, and we have succeeded in increasing the number of teams, walkers, and funds raised each year. The Walk4Hearing is run by volunteers with national staff support who put together a fun, family-oriented day with lots of entertainment, information about hearing loss and socializing with friends.

We hope you will join us on September 23rd! If you cannot be there, please visit www.walk4hearing.org to donate to a walker or team. For more information, contact our Walk Chair, Ronnie Adler, at RADler@hearingloss.org.

Submitted by Pam Reiher



Picnic in the Park - Southeastern Pennsylvania's 12th Annual HLAA Picnic

The Montgomery County and GenX chapters co-sponsored the 12th annual HLAA Southeastern Pennsylvania picnic on Sunday, July 15th, at Ridley Creek State Park in Newtown Square.

The Montgomery County chapter provided mini sandwiches and wraps. About 40 attendees and their families brought lots of food, desserts, and drinks. It was a great way to catch up on what had been happening in each other's lives. We were able to reconnect with familiar faces as well as meet new ones.

The fun and relaxed atmosphere at the picnic was a tonic for the spirit as genuine acceptance and caring abounded among friends. Diana Bender

was heard saying, "This type of socialization is exactly what we need."

Special thanks to Alice Pakhtigian and Melissa Pardo-Bunte for helping to make it all possible. Thank you also to Ronnie Adler for organizing water balloon games for the kids and adults, as well as a whipped cream pie eating contest! Also, a big thank you to everyone who brought food, desserts, drinks, and ice, and to David Arfaa who helped with signage to the pavilion.

The organizers are looking forward to an even bigger turn-out next year. You are all invited to join us for next year's Picnic in the Park.

****See picnic pictures on pages 3, 5, and 6**

Submitted by Pat Cortez

2012 Marcia Finisdore Award for Advocacy

Nominations Due November 15, 2012

The Marcia Finisdore Award for Advocacy was established by Hearing Loss Association of Pennsylvania in 2004. This award is presented to an individual in recognition of excellence in improving communication access for hard of hearing people.

The criteria for selection are:

- A positive vision for the hard of hearing community and a continuing commitment to leadership;
- A demonstrated record of advocacy work for the rights and needs of hard of hearing people in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Nominations should include a written statement about the nominee and why this individual deserves the award. Please include contact information for yourself, as well as for the nominee.

Nominations should be sent to:
Ms. Iris Boshes, Director, irisb@dhcc.org
Deaf Hearing Communication Centre
630 Fairview Road, Suite 100
Swarthmore, PA 19081

The Reverend Paul Harris

The Reverend Paul Harris, a United Methodist Pastor, died on July 24, 2012 at the age of 96, at Cornwall Manor where he and his wife Jane lived after their retirement. Paul was an active member of the Hearing Loss Association (formerly SHHH) almost since its inception. He started a chapter of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People at the Methodist Church in Media, PA in 1982, 3 years after the founding of our national organization. This chapter, The Delaware County Group for the Hard of Hearing (DELHOH) grew by word of mouth and announcements in local newspapers. This chapter still exists.

Paul had a deep understanding of human nature and understood the importance of allowing people to talk about the pain and often humor that accompanied their need to cope with their hearing loss. He understood the need to educate people about strategies to deal effectively with their hearing loss. He was the first person I ever knew to have parts of his home "looped" so he could better hear what people were saying.

Paul recognized that many people with hearing loss did not know where to turn for help. When he moved to Cornwall Manor he started the Lebanon Chapter for the Hard of Hearing (LEBHOH). Paul led this group and edited their newsletter for as long as he could. Interestingly, this area of PA has the largest HLAA membership in the Commonwealth of PA. I attribute this to Paul!

This kind and gentle man has created a living legacy for people who are hard of hearing. He leaves many people who can cope with hearing loss because of his initiative. Thank you, Paul.

Submitted by Marcia Finisdore

Pictured: Don Groff (left) and Nicole Groff (right)



HLAA Convention 2012

My actual hearing loss was first noticed in high school wrestling; I was 16 years old at the time. Unfortunately, surgery was not successful. I then appreciated my hearing so much more, and then also understood those who have had this gift taken away.

So, as an adult, I was excited about the HLAA Convention 2012, my first. A very generous gift from HLA-PA made my attendance possible, and I am grateful to everyone who helped create this scholarship. Certainly my intention was and is helping others, and thus, through this scholarship, I hope to return that gift in many humanitarian ways.

The conference was fantastic, and there was a lot to learn for those looking to the future, especially in the areas of technology, science, advocacy, and activism. What I especially appreciated concerning the future is how research may be guiding treatment, understanding, funding, and the next step in best practices for those with hearing loss.

The presenters were approachable and honest, and there was a lot to learn. See you at the 2013 convention!

Submitted by Dom Spino



Pictured above: Pat Cortez (left) and Alice Pakhtigian (right).

To receive HearSay, the HLA-PA newsletter, complete and mail this form to the address below. Subscriptions are free; however, HLA-PA is a not-for-profit organization run exclusively by volunteers, so we are grateful for donations. Donations are tax-deductible.

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Email: _____ Phone _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible, contribution of \$ _____ to support HearSay.

I would like to remain anonymous.

I cannot donate but would like to receive HearSay.

Mail to: Marcia Finisdore
4 State Road, #109
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Donor List

We would like to express our sincere apologies to those who generously contributed in memory of Victor Baker, as their names were not included in the previous edition of HearSay.

- Mary Tarbel
- Patricia Casey
- Karen Decesare
- Stuart and Jacqueline Goldstein
- Joseph and Denise McCauley
- Louis and Colleen Calabrese
- Joyce and Terrence Kirschner
- Edward and Barbara McDade
- John and Mary Lou Baker

Memorial in Memory of Stewart Klein - Carolyn and Joe Meyer

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Assist the HLA-PA State Director by serving on the Advisory Council or one of its committees. The Council meets periodically at locations convenient to its membership. But committees conduct most of their business by e-mail and occasionally meet in various parts of the state. If you think you would like to serve on the council or any of its committees, please contact one of the state leaders listed here:

State Director:

Nancy Kingsley (kingsley@hla-pa.org)

Communication:

- Donna Schumacher (schumacher@hla-pa.org)
- Pam Reiher, Editor of HearSay (reiher@hla-pa.org)
- Don Groff, HLA-PA web site (groff@hla-pa.org)

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Government Affairs:

Steve Schultz, Chair (schultz@hla-pa.org)

Outreach:

Carolyn Meyer, Chair (meyer@hla-pa.org)

Chapter Coordinators:

- Debra Cannon, Eastern PA (cannon@hla-pa.org)
- Dale Long, Central PA (long@hla-pa.org)
- Teresa Nellans, Western PA (nellans@hla-pa.org)



Pictured above from left to right: Bill Pfeifer, Zachary Rejonis, Chase Adler, Mitch Adler, Alice Pakhtigian, Jarod Rejonis and Jack Samms

HLA-PA is the all-volunteer 501(c)3 state office of Hearing Loss Association of America providing advocacy, information, education and support to Pennsylvanians with a hearing loss.