

### MESSAGE FROM NANCY

By Nancy Kingsley, State Director



As people with hearing loss, we often miss something that was said. Responding with "what?" doesn't indicate which part of the message we didn't understand, and having the same words repeated may not help. More effective approaches are given below.

1. Repeat the communication for clarification.

Example: "You said your sister went to Canada?"

2. Request the spelling of a word.

Example: "Please spell where your sister went."

3. Ask for repetition of the missed part.

Example: "What did you say your sister did?"

4. Ask for rephrasing.

Example: "Did you mail my package?" can be rephrased, "Did you take my package to the post office?"

5. Request the key word.

Example: The key word above is "package."

6. Ask that each digit be said individually.

Example: 1965 can be stated as "one nine six five" instead of "nineteen sixty-five."

7. Confirm important information

Example: "We're to meet in front of the theater at 2 p.m., right?"

8. Ask specific questions.

Example: "What time did you say we should meet?"

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U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Harrisburg, PA  
PERMIT 411

RETURN SERVICE

Hearing Loss  
Association of PA  
4 State Road  
Media, PA 19063

**State Happenings and Outreach**

*By Carolyn Meyer*



The Advisory Council welcomes 3 new members: Joyce Edmiston, Leslie Pirl-Roth, and Bill Best. Leslie is now The Advisory Council secretary. Joyce lives in Mt. Joy and Leslie in Robesonia, Berks County. Both Joyce and Leslie are also on the new HLA-PA social media subcommittee chaired by Mitch Bilker. Bill Best lives in West Chester and is the Assistive Device Coordinator for our state organization. We are pleased to have representatives from different areas of the state on the Council.

**STATE NEWS**

Honors: Marcia Finisdore has accepted the invitation of Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, to serve as a member of the National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Council for the term beginning June 1, 2013 and ending May 31, 2017. Marcia was recommended to the Council by Brenda Battat whose term expires at the end of May, 2013. Marcia feels honored to assume this position.

**HLA-PA: LOOPING INITIATIVE**

The Advisory Council has voted to use the \$3,000.00 Cassett Foundation Grant, received by HLA-PA, to help chapters purchase a hearing loop for their meetings. The money will be divided equally according to need. Many chapters already may have a loop that is not adequate and may be considering the purchase of a new one. In the ensuing months, we will be researching all chapters. Please contact Nancy Kingsley at [kingsley@hla-pa.org](mailto:kingsley@hla-pa.org) or Carolyn Meyer at [meyer@hla-pa.org](mailto:meyer@hla-pa.org) with your requests and reasons for this purchase. The Advisory Council hopes to be able to aid as many chapters as possible.

**OUTREACH**

HLA-PA ALD (Assistive Living Device) Coordinator Bill Best reports the following outreach presentations of the state’s new ALD Demo Kit to chapters as well as to the general public. His goal is not only to demonstrate devices in the ALD Kit, but to personally help to advise his audience by addressing their specific needs through direct one-on-one interaction. In addition, he provides pertinent brochures and resource materials to those interested in purchasing these items.

- 04/19/13 – HLA-PA Employment Conference – Harrisburg, PA
- 4/22/13 – HLA-PA Capitol Region Chapter – Camp Hill, PA
- 5/9/13 – West Chester University Communications Disorders Class – West Chester, PA – 30 students
- 5/9/13 – HLA-PA Lycoming County Chapter – Williamsport, PA
- 5/14/13 – HLA-PA GenX Chapter – Bryn Mawr, PA
- 5/17/13 – Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging: Senior Living Expo, Chester, PA – approx. 400 attendees visited various exhibits including the HLA-PA booth. Bill worked with Donna Schumacher of the Hearing Discovery Center. Donna is also president of the Delaware County chapter of HLAA. .

Is your chapter, professional organization, or community interested in a presentation by Bill? Contact him at [Best@hla-pa.org](mailto:Best@hla-pa.org)

HEALTH FAIR: May 16: Donna Schumacher exhibits for HLAA as well as for her chapter (HLAA of Delaware County) at Riddle Village, Media, PA Retirement and Assisted Living Health Fair to 200 attendees.


**HearSay is Going Green!**  
**HearSay is now available via email, helping to save both mailing costs and the environment! To sign up, please visit [www.hla-pa.org](http://www.hla-pa.org).**

***Employment Conference***

"Working Together," an all-day employment conference sponsored by HLA-PA, was held on April 19 at the Holiday Inn East in Harrisburg. The conference opened with a presentation on the impact of hearing loss on work and life by Marcia Finisdore, HLA-PA State Director Emerita. This was followed by sessions on social media and challenges in the workplace (the latter was presented by Diana Bender, President of the HLA Board of Trustees). Lise Hamlin, HLA Director of Public Policy, gave the keynote address during lunch on breaking down barriers on the job. The afternoon sessions discussed CareerLink and accommodations in the workplace. The conference ended after a panel discussion on working with a hearing loss, which was moderated by Diana Bender. Exhibitors included Advanced Bionics, Cochlear Americas, the Job Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Loop America, Med-El, Pennsylvania Captioned Telephone Relay Service, Pennsylvania Initiative on Assistive Technology, Pennsylvania Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

*Submitted by Nancy Kingsley, State Director*



Carolyn Meyer and Bill Best at the Lunch and Learn

***HLA-PA Holds First Lunch and Learn***

On April 28, a Lunch and Learn Symposium took place at the Radisson Hotel Valley Forge in King of Prussia. Carolyn Meyer chaired the event, which was attended by 78 people, and Bill Best was the moderator. Attendees received important information on emergency preparedness and communication access from four knowledgeable presenters: Tim Elbertson, Community Outreach Coordinator, Montgomery Department of Public Safety; Robyn Slater, MPH, Regional Vulnerable Populations Coordinator, Chester County Department of Emergency Services; D. Michael Kiley-Zufelt, Manager of Community Residency, American Red Cross of Southeastern Pennsylvania; and Neil McDevitt, Executive Director, Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre.

State Director Nancy Kingsley gave a summary of HLA-PA's recent accomplishments, followed by the presentation of the Marcia Finisdore Advocacy Award to Alice Dungan for her many contributions to HLA-PA, including her service as Montco president. Elaine Goldberg received the Diana Bender HLA National Convention Scholarship, enabling her to attend her first HLA convention. In Elaine's absence, Montco President Patty Cortez accepted for her. Marcia Finisdore and Diana Bender, both HLA-PA state directors emerita, each gave the award named for them.

*Submitted by Nancy Kingsley, State Director*



Marcia Finisdore presents at the employment conference



**Save the Date – Pennsylvania Walk4Hearing!**

**Date:**  
Sunday, September 22, 2013

**Location:**  
Ridley Creek State Park  
Pavilion 11B  
Newtown Square, PA



**Schedule:**  
9am - Registration/Check-in  
10am - Walk begins  
*Distance: 5K (3.1 miles)*

**Walk Chair:**  
Ronnie Adler  
radler@hearingloss.org

**Kickoff:**  
Sunday, August 4, 2013 (12:00 pm to 2:00 pm)  
King of Prussia Firehouse Social Hall  
170 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA

**Welcome Anna Gilmore Hall!**



“I am thrilled to join HLAA as your new executive director on July 8. I’m also looking forward to meeting some of you at Convention 2013 in Portland, Oregon, June 26-30.

As the new executive director, I will partner with the Board, chapters, staff and members to increase the public’s awareness of HLAA as the go-to consumer organization for people with hearing loss and their families. We can do this by positioning HLAA in the rapidly-changing world of social media and through aggressive networking to drive brand awareness, ‘friendraising’ and fundraising.”

Learn more about Anna Gilmore Hall at:  
<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/new-hlaa-ed>

*Finally, those of us who hear with the assistance of hearing aids and/or cochlear implants no longer have to give up our favorite water activities or participate without being able to converse with family and friends! Here are a few options that are currently being tested or are available now.*

**The Best New Technology in Hearing Aids: 2013**

Hearing aid technology improves by leaps and bounds each year. 2013 doesn't disappoint: there are many new hearing aid models available for every level of hearing loss. The best of the new hearing aid designs incorporate a sleek design with power and clarity. Several hearing aids now offer water resistance, and one hearing aid is actually waterproof with an IP 6/8 rating and may be worn while swimming!

Phonak offers several hearing aids with water resistance: the Naida S and the new Nios S H2O model are two of the many options. These hearing aids do not claim they are water proof but they carry an IP 6/7 rating. This means the hearing aid is able to withstand 30 minutes under 1 meter of water with no damage to the electronics. Phonak claims these hearing aids can be worn in the bath!

The brand new Siemens Aquaris is entirely waterproof. The hearing aid is completely sealed and comes with a custom earmold designed specifically for swimming. This product gives hearing aid users complete freedom for an active lifestyle: swimming, hiking in the rain, and sailing are not a problem with the Aquaris. This hearing aid is a high-tech digital hearing aid, offering 12 or 16 digital channels (depending on the model). The Siemens Aquaris is the only hearing aid to hold an IP 6/8 rating in the current market, which means the hearing aid may be submerged to a depth greater than 1m and is completely waterproof.

Read the article in its entirety at:  
<http://leahlefler.hubpages.com/hub/Whats-New-in-Hearing-Aids-2011>



### ***Cochlear Americas Receives FDA Approval for the First and Only Ear Level Accessory for Waterproof Hearing with Cochlear Implants***

Cochlear Americas announced today that the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a one-of-a-kind Aqua Accessory compatible with the Cochlear Nucleus 5 Sound Processor. The Aqua Accessory is a custom cover with a double zip lock seal designed to hold the processor and coil inside, and can be worn behind the ear in the normal position. It is designed to be used in any water based activities to a depth of four meters for up to one hour.

The Aqua Accessory is a simple solution for protecting sophisticated cochlear implant technology from water damage. It is designed to provide more underwater options for people that currently use a Nucleus 5 Sound Processor, which already has the highest level of water resistance for an ear level device. Prior to the availability of the Aqua Accessory, people using the Nucleus 5 Sound Processor could be in and around water, but could not swim under water. However, now people have the ability to swim worry-free in chlorinated pools, partial salt water/chlorinated pools, saltwater, soapy and fresh water. With the new Aqua Accessory, an IP68 waterproof rating is achieved without the need to purchase an additional sound processor for swimming, and it is quick and easy to put on and take off during normal water activities.

The Aqua Accessory can be pre-ordered from the Cochlear Americas store in packs of 5, 15 and 30 for a low cost. The Aqua Accessory is also available in Latin America and Canada. For more information, visit [Cochlear.com/US](http://Cochlear.com/US).

*Read the article in its entirety at:*

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/cochlear-americas-receives-fda-approval-for-the-first-and-only-ear-level-accessory-for-waterproof-hearing-with-cochlear-implants-209682211.html>



### ***Trouble hearing?***

### ***Advanced Bionics' waterproof implant is paddling your way .***

Advanced Bionics (AB) announced that it received approval in the United States and Canada for Neptune™\*, the world's first and only swimmable, waterproof sound processor.

Developed for all weather, terrain, ages and lifestyles, Neptune allows recipients to enjoy an abundance of water and sports activities thanks to its durable, waterproof design. Parents of pediatric recipients will appreciate the bonding and learning that comes with hearing during bath time, as well as the safety of hearing in the pool.

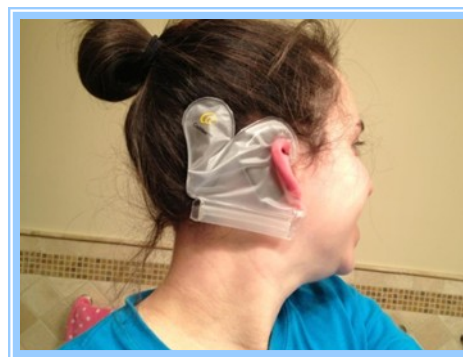
Neptune garnered an enthusiastic response from the cochlear implant professional community when it was announced at the European Symposium on Pediatric Cochlear Implantation (ESPCI) in Athens, Greece and the 13th Symposium on Cochlear Implants in Children that took place in Chicago, IL, USA.

For more information about Neptune, contact a local Advanced Bionics representative or visit [www.advancedbionics.com](http://www.advancedbionics.com).

Note: the Neptune is now available for purchase.

*Read the article in its entirety at:*

<http://www.engadget.com/2011/12/02/trouble-hearing-advanced-bionics-waterproof-implant-is-paddlin/>



The Cochlear Nucleus 5 Aqua Accessory

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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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: Bill Pfeifer  
126 Cedarcroft Road  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

### About HLA and its State Office, HLA-PA

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979, is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. HLAA opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy. The national support network includes the Washington, DC area office, 14 state organizations, and 200 local chapters. HLAA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Hearing Loss Association of America  
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
www.hearingloss.org

HLAA-PA is the all-volunteer state office of Hearing Loss Association of America. We were established in 2001 to carry out the mission of HLAA for Pennsylvanians with a hearing loss, their families and friends.

### Save the Date: GenX/Montgomery Annual Picnic!

GenX and Montgomery County Chapters Welcome You to the Annual Picnic:

Sunday, August 11th from noon to 5:00 PM

Ridley Creek State Park, Pavilion 11B

\$8 per person, \$14 per family

For more info, contact Pat Cortez at pattypeep@gmail.com

## 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)

### Advocacy:

Nancy Kingsley, Chair (kingsley@hla-pa.org)

### Government Affairs:

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

### Outreach:

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

### Chapter Coordinators:

Alice Pakhtigian, Eastern PA (pakhtigian@hla-pa.org)

Dale Long, Central PA (long@hla-pa.org)

Teresa Nellans, Western PA (nellans@hla-pa.org)

### Donor List

Jeffrey Swisher  
Esther Behr Ryan  
Jeff and Lynn Slote  
Lucille Magnousson  
5 anonymous donors



Lunch and Learn panelists from left to right: Tim Elbertson, Robyn Slater, D. Michael Kiley-Zufelt and Neil McDevitt