

MESSAGE FROM NANCY

By Nancy Kingsley, State Director



Two thirds of hearing aids
And all cochlear implants (CI)
processors now have small,
inexpensive copper wires known as telecoils
(T-coils), which were originally intended for picking
up electromagnetic signals from telephone
handsets. When the T switch is activated, only these
signals are received, thus cutting out background
noise and making it easier to understand the phone
conversation.

Telecoils can also be used with assistive
listening systems, which improve understanding by
eliminating the effects of noise, reverberation

(echoes), and distance. The Americans with
Disabilities Act requires these systems to be provided
in settings where a sound system is used (with
certain exceptions).

A loop assistive listening system produces
electromagnetic signals that the telecoil picks up
directly, so a receiver isn't needed (receivers can be
provided for people who don't have telecoils). When
FM or infrared assistive listening systems are
provided, telecoil users can receive the signal via a
neckloop plugged into the receiver-no headphones
are needed, so no background noise will be picked up.
Sites with FM or infrared assistive listening systems
don't always have neckloops, however, these devices
are inexpensive (about \$50) and easily transported,
so it may be worth bringing one as a precaution.

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State Happenings and Outreach

By Carolyn Meyer



OUR NAME HAS CHANGED: Please note that our state organization is now Hearing Loss Association of America, Pennsylvania State Office (HLAA-PA). You will notice our logo has changed as well. When you go to the state website, the new name will direct you to the original website. However, NOTHING ELSE HAS CHANGED! We are still out there to support and educate all Pennsylvanians with hearing loss in the workplace, at home and in the community.

The Advisory Council is happy to welcome Alice Pakhtigian as the new Eastern PA State Chapter Coordinator. This position had been vacant for a while and we know Alice will help us to add new chapters in the eastern part of the state. If you wish to contact her, please do so at pakhtigian@hlaa-pa.org. Alice is a member of the GenX chapter and an active member of the 2013 Walk committee.

NEW CHAPTER ON THE HORIZON: CENTER CITY, PHILADELPHIA

Pat McGeever has volunteered to work on starting a Center City, Philadelphia chapter. He was our first Diana Bender HLAA National Scholarship Award recipient and has been very active in promoting accommodations in the city for people with hearing loss. He is a retired professor and playwright. As we go to press, he is trying to spread the word to city residents about HLAA and its mission, and he has already found a meeting venue. The chapter will be meeting at 1906 Rittenhouse Square, thanks to the generosity of the Philadelphia Ethical Society. The building is accessible by SEPTA bus and rail, and also has parking nearby. If you know of anyone in the city who might be interested or if you are anxious to be a member in this chapter, please contact Pat at

mcgeever@hlaa-pa.org. Good luck, Pat! We know you will be a great asset to our state organization!

OUTREACH

Now here is an idea for all of us to pursue! On Sunday, September 29th, Marcia Finisdore and Diana Bender will be presenting an Outreach at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church after the services. A parish nurse had several inquiries from members who have hearing loss and need support as well as education on coping with hearing loss. The Montco chapter may benefit with new members after this presentation. Which places of worship in your neighborhood could benefit from an approach like this? Why not suggest it to the administration of your own house of worship? If you do not want to give the presentation yourself, please contact Carolyn Meyer at meyer@hlaa-pa.org and she will try to set up a date with persons at your location. You would reach out to a large number of congregants and perhaps our chapters would benefit from this as well.

Thoughts from HLAA's Convention Scholarship Recipient

"Oh, you have a cochlear implant. Does it help you?"

Those are the first words I heard when I settled into my seat at the opening session of the HLAA Convention, held this past June in Portland. They propelled me into fulfilling one of my main purposes for being there—helping other people who are considering the CI journey.

Does it help me? Yes! It's enabled me to interact almost as if I've never had a hearing problem, and I am so grateful to those who advised and guided me, dispelling some of the mystery and fear by sharing their experiences. This was the perfect opportunity for me to "give back" as well, and I did! So, I give thanks for the scholarship that enabled me to be there.

Submitted by Elaine Goldberg

HAT (Hearing Assistance Technology) Training

I was one of twenty-five attendees at the Assistive and Emerging Technology Training Course given in Bethesda, MD on July 19-21, 2013. We came from as far as Honolulu, HI and as near as Bowie, MD. We were in our twenties through seventy-plus years of age, and had a wide range of familiarity with the topics covered.

The course, more loosely known as HAT (Hearing Assistance Technology) was presented by the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and supported by a grant from the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) Foundation.

The course was conducted by Brad Ingraio, AuD., a regular contributor to Hearing Loss Magazine, with help from HLAA Director of Public Policy, Lise Hamlin, HLAA board member Pat Krikos, PhD, and included a presentation by a representative of Samsung Electronics. Among the attendees was Anna Gilmore Hall, the new HLAA Executive Director, who led a tour of the national office a few blocks from the Bethesda DoubleTree Hotel, where classes were held.

We were told that the course was generally set at a higher level than previous versions of HAT. This version had less focus on specific pieces of equipment, and more on the general issues of hearing loss and general means of dealing with those issues. There was, however, a range of devices made available by Harris Communications for “show and tell” purposes, but they were illustrative of assistive technology, rather than being the focus of the course.

We started with a review of the hearing process and ways to evaluate it, then considered the typical things that can go wrong. Characteriza-

tion of hearing loss led directly into a review of hearing aids (HA), cochlear implants (CI), and less familiar devices such as the bone-anchored hearing aid (BAHA), and middle ear implants. The heart of the course dealt with three primary difficulties for people with hearing loss, and three basic functions of hearing assistance technology. The difficulties, all somewhat interrelated, are:

- ◇ Distance—the microphones in HAs and CIs are not very effective beyond a range of 6-8 feet.
- ◇ Background Noise—reduces the signal to noise ratio (SNR) and degrades intelligibility.
- ◇ Reverberation—much like Background Noise.

HAT compensates by:

- ◇ Capture—use a remote microphone or other pickup to improve SNR and lessen reverberation.
- ◇ Carry—the signal to the listener by FM, IR, loop, BlueTooth (BT), or cable.
- ◇ Couple—the signal into the HA, CI, or directly to the ear.

Each of these topics was discussed at some length, with examples of specific products available for hands-on time, and the pros and cons of each were considered. We also considered other technology: captioning devices and a variety of alerting devices as well.

Lise Hamlin gave a presentation on emergency preparedness issues, while a representative from Samsung described recent developments in cell phone technology.

As a retired engineer, I am no stranger to technology, but I found this comprehensive review very valuable. It was also very helpful to meet others with interest and activity in HAT, and I am looking forward to passing along what we learned to others. A social media group has been set up for class members to communicate on topics of interest.

Submitted by Don Groff

Step Up for Hearing Loss at PA Walk4Hearing 2013!

We are gearing up for Walk4Hearing 2013! This year our Walk will take place on Sunday, September 22, 2013 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 22nd! 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.

2013 HLAA Outstanding Adult of the Year!

I recently received the 2013 Outstanding Young Adult of the Year Award, from the National office of Hearing Loss Association of America, at the Portland Convention. It means so much to me to have received this from my peers. I enjoyed working with my friends in the many activities we planned and carried out. I also learned so much about technology, and advocacy. I truly appreciate Hearing Loss Association of America, for what they stand for, and what they have done for people with hearing loss across the country. I feel very blessed to have been part of this organization for 14 years, and I look forward to many more years of learning, growing, advocating, and educating others regarding hearing loss.

Submitted by Alice Pakhtigian

Annual Walk4Hearing Kickoff Is Well-Attended

The King of Prussia Firehouse Social Hall was once again the site of the Pennsylvania Walk4Hearing's Kickoff, which was held on August 4 from 12 to 2 p.m. Approximately 100 attendees enjoyed the delicious food donated by Smoky Bones Bar & Fire Grill in Reading. HLAA-PA chapter members brought the desserts, and Pennsylvania School for the Deaf students provided the footprints artwork for the table decor. Volunteers from the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania helped to ensure that the event ran smoothly.

Gay Balsam and Bob Shilling, the Kickoff co-chairs, introduced the speakers. Melissa and Mitch Drake talked about their family's experience with their daughter Adriana's hearing loss, and Jason and Melissa Bozzone spoke about theirs with their daughter Madeline's, which Melissa wrote about in the May-June issue of *Hearing Loss Magazine*. Both families greatly appreciate the support they have received from HLAA members, and the parents are serving on the Walk committee.

Other speakers were Brett Trimble, who has a hearing loss and has been involved with the Walk (via Brett's Brigade) since 2008 when he was just eight years old, and Bill Best, HLAA-PA's assistive device coordinator, who described his experience in dealing with hearing loss later in life. Walk4Hearing director Ronnie Adler encouraged the Kickoff attendees to participate in the Walk on September 22 in Ridley Creek State Park. The event ended with distribution of Walk team folders, posters, and brochures and several door prize gift cards for the lucky attendees who found a claim note under their chairs.

Submitted by Nancy Kingsley

2013 Marcia Finisdore Award for Advocacy

Nominations Due November 15, 2013

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. Linda Heffernan, email: LHeff99@aol.com
19 Benjamin West
Swarthmore, PA 19081

Save the Date!

Advocacy & Technology Workshop
Sponsored by HLAA GenX

Saturday, October 26, 2013
9AM to 2 PM

Community Recreation Environmental Center
9000 Parkview Drive
Haverford, PA 19041

\$10 per person (includes breakfast and lunch)

Featured Speakers:

Lise Hamlin

Director of Public Policy and State Development
of Hearing Loss Association of America, National
Office

Lise will be speaking on individual advocacy in the workplace, and healthcare.

Sudan Khan

Pennsylvania CapTel Outreach Coordinator,
Hamilton CapTel®

Sudan will speak about Hamilton Captioned Telephone (CapTel) for PC/Mac Tablets and Smartphones.

HearSay Has Gone Green!

HearSay is now available via email, helping to save both mailing costs and the environment! To sign up, please visit www.hlaa-pa.org.

**New to HearSay—QR Codes!**

Scan the code on the left to receive HearSay by email. Scan the code on the right to access HLAA-PA's website.



HearSay by e-mail



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To receive HearSay, the HLAA-PA newsletter, complete and mail this form to the address below. Subscriptions are free; however, HLAA-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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About HLAA and its State Office, HLAA-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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Assist the HLAA-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@hlaa-pa.org)

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Pam Reiher, Editor of HearSay (reiher@hlaa-pa.org)

Don Groff, HLAA-PA web site (groff@hlaa-pa.org)

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

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

Chapter Coordinators:

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

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

Donor List

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The Nation's Voice for People with Hearing Loss