

MESSAGE FROM NANCY

By Nancy Kingsley, State Director



Knowing your rights and how to advocate for them can make a real difference. This was recently illustrated when Joyce Edmiston, an HLAA-PA activist, desired to attend an event at the Giant Center in Hershey. The accessibility information on its website noted that this venue has an assistive listening system and that "guests requiring interpreter services for our concerts or shows should contact the ADA Coordinator at least three weeks before the date of the show." However, there was no mention of captioning or CART, which is what Joyce needed, and the Giant Center initially refused her request to provide it. I knew that the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requires public accommodations to provide effective communication and that the Disability Rights Network of

Pennsylvania might be able to help, so we contacted Carol Horowitz, a DRNPA attorney. She then spoke with the Giant Center, and they agreed to provide CART for the event. But there was one more important step, letting people know about the availability of this access for future events. I asked the Giant Center's ADA Coordinator, Drew Dillon, to put the information on their website, and he responded favorably. Information about requesting captioning is at <http://www.giantcenter.com/about/accessibility.php>. Please take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy events at the Giant Center. And when you need access elsewhere, remember the following:

- 1. Ask for the communication access you need. Do it diplomatically, but you can mention that the ADA requires the provision of effective communication.**
- 2. Know who to contact for assistance if you are unable to get an agreement to provide what you need. HLAA-PA can give you guidance on this.**

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State Happenings and Outreach

By Carolyn Meyer

STATE LEGISLATION HR 3150: THE HELP EXTEND AUDITORY RELIEF ACT OF 2013, THE HEAR ACT



Congressman Matt Cartwright, representing the 17th District of Pennsylvania, introduced this legislation September 19, 2013, addressing the need for access to hearing aids and hearing health care for Medicare recipients. HR 3150 would amend the Social Security Act to include Medicare coverage for hearing rehabilitation, including a complete audiology assessment to determine if a hearing aid is required as well as various services associated with fitting and using hearing aids. The bill would provide Medicare coverage for hearing aids and clearly define their purpose. HLAA has commended Representative Cartwright with a letter of support. Those of you in the PA 17th District (Berks, Lebanon, Perry, Schuylkill Counties) may want to go to his website and show him your support as well.

PENNSYLVANIA LONG TERM CARE COMMISSION MEETING

Kay Tyberg, President of the Lycoming County Chapter, certified peer mentor, HLAA-PA Advisory Council Member, and human services professional represented the thousands of Pennsylvanians with hearing loss on behalf of the Hearing Loss Association of America at the PA Long Term Care Commission (LTCC) Meeting at the PA College of Technology, Williamsport, PA. As part of Governor Corbett's Healthy Pennsylvania plan, the commission's focus is on improving the current long-term care system to ensure quality health care for older Pennsylvanians and individuals with

disabilities and invited public input at a series of meetings throughout PA to fulfill this mission. Topics covered included: prevention and caretaker support, accessibility, provision of service, and quality outcome and measurement.

Kay cited the daily examples that people face with hearing loss. She stressed the lack of insurance coverage or any financial aid for hearing aids and specialized assistive technology devices for those in need, except for veterans, those who use the PATF, or vocational rehabilitation clients. Some on social security disability may receive aid. Kay states "Our Hearing Loss Association of America-PA Advisory Council is willing to provide staff/personnel training about hearing loss to agencies and interested businesses". For Kay's complete powerful testimonial addressed to the commissioners and Governor Corbett please contact her at tyberg@hlaa-pa.org.

OUTREACH

June 14: Members of the Capital Region Chapter exhibited for HLAA at the Country Meadows Health and Wellness Fair in Mechanicsburg.

November 14-15: Hearing Loss Expo sponsored by ODHH

Radison Harrisburg Hotel: Bill Best will be exhibiting the HLAA-PA ALD Demo Kit and the Capital Region Chapter members will exhibit for HLAA at a separate booth. Presentations and hearing screenings will be available. The Expo is free and open to the public.

Visit www.dli.state.pa.us/odhh.

HearSay Subscription Info

To receive HearSay via email, please visit www.hlaa-pa.org and click "Get HearSay by e-mail." We would hate to see you go, but if you wish to discontinue your HearSay subscription, please send an email to Pam Reiher at reiher@hlaa-pa.org, or send a note to her home address at:
305 Woodside Circle
Dresher, PA 19025



Save the Date for the Pennsylvania Walk4Hearing 2014!

Join us on Sunday, October 5, 2014 for the Pennsylvania Walk4Hearing at our NEW Location, The Navy Yard at 4747 South Broad Street in Philadelphia. Registration/Check-In begins at 9:00 AM. The 5K walk begins at 10:00 AM.

Visit tinyurl.com/PAWalk today to start a team, join a team or register as an individual!

Remember to bring your smart phones with you to the Walk because we will be streaming live CART to web-enabled smart phones. All pre-Walk speeches will be captioned on your iPhone, BlackBerry*, or Droid.

On Walk day all walkers who have their smart phone can go to www.quickcaption.com. There on the website homepage will be a large purple Walk4Hearing icon. Simply click the icon, click the "CC" icon next to your Walk location, real time captioning will be enabled and displayed on your smart phone. There will be information cards with instructions available at the registration/check-in table on Walk day. This great service is provided by QuickCaption.

*To view the captions on the BlackBerry, you will need to be running the BlackBerry OS version 4.6 or higher, enable JavaScript, and set the browser type to BlackBerry. Then open the live event with the BlackBerry browser.

For more info, contact Walk Chair Ronnie Adler at radler@hearingloss.org.

MARCIA FINISDORE ADVOCACY AWARD 2014

Marcia Finisdore is a tireless advocate and visionary leader who has achieved success as a nurse, hard of hearing advocate, mentor to countless people with and without hearing loss, and Director Emeritus of the HLAA-PA State Office.

A passionate advocate for the rights of people that are hard of hearing, Marcia's work in the areas of access, awareness, and the needs of people that are hard of hearing have had a huge impact on the lives of hundreds of people.

In addition to sharing her expertise and working as an advocate, Marcia also positively affected anyone with whom she came in contact. She has used her wonderful sense of humor and positive outlook on life to easily "win people over" in any situation. The Marcia Finisdore Award is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to furthering the access, rights, and dignity of people with hearing loss.

CRITERIA:

- ◆ Resident of Pennsylvania
- ◆ Leadership achievements that show a positive impact on the hard of hearing community
- ◆ At least five years of advocacy work for the rights and needs of people with hearing loss
- ◆ A positive vision for the hard of hearing community and a continuing commitment to leadership activities

To nominate a hearing loss advocate for this award, please send your nomination to:

Linda Heffernan
19 Benjamin West
Swarthmore, PA 19081
Lheff99@aol.com

Application Deadline is November 1, 2014

Reflections on the 2014 HLAA Convention

The HLAA 2014 national convention, in Austin, TX turned out to be more than some folks anticipated. Planners were reportedly expecting about 600 attendees before a 3/2/14 letter in *Dear Abby*. "Mortified" wrote to complain about having to speak loudly in a restaurant for her HOH relatives, and Abby's response led to a deluge of letters. HLAA Executive Director Anna Gilmore Hall's defense of HLAA's work led to a surge in last-minute registrants, resulting in over 1000 attending. Karen Clark of the Center-City Philly Chapter attended her first HLAA convention and found herself overwhelmed with new information. Alan Kutner with his sparkling wit presided at the Saturday evening banquet. Bill Best conducted a workshop displaying the HLAA-PA Assistive Device Demo Kit and explained how it came to fruition after a long period of careful planning. Next year St. Louis!

Submitted by Pat McGreever, Center City Philadelphia Chapter Leader

I had such a wonderful time at the Austin, Texas HLAA convention this year! I want to thank the PA State Board for awarding me the Diana Bender Scholarship. It was such a blessing to have received this! Anna Gilmore Hall, the new Executive Director, and Ed Ogiba, the new Chapter Development Coordinator presented new and exciting ideas you will see over the course of the year! There were so many great workshops, it was hard to choose! HLAA lined up 3 great entertainments as well. We had a Get Acquainted Party on Thursday night, Friday night was a Texas Swing dance, and on Saturday night, we had the Fiesta Banquet. Pennsylvania was well represented in this convention. Diana Bender, as the outgoing President of the Board of Trustees, ran her last

meeting. Bill Best gave an informative workshop on taking assistive devices on the road, The Capitol Region Chapter received the Chapter website award, and Alan Kutner was the emcee for the Fiesta Banquet. Next year's convention will be a special year for HLAA, as we will be celebrating our 35th anniversary in St. Louis! Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Alice Pakhtigian, GenX Chapter Leader and Eastern PA Chapter Coordinator

HLAA-PA Awards

HLAA-PA State Director Nancy Kingsley has received the Hamilton Relay 2014 Better Hearing and Speech Month Award Recognition Award. In a ceremony at the Lancaster County chapter meeting on May 20, 2014, Sudan Khan, Outreach Coordinator at Hamilton Relay, presented the award.

Steve Schultz, President of the Capital Region Chapter of HLAA-PA, received the "2014 Spirit of HLAA Award" at the HLAA National Convention in Austin, Texas. We applaud Steve for his hard work and commitment to improve the lives of those with hearing loss.

Congratulations to both Nancy and Steve!



A NEW COMMITTEE ON THE PREVENTIVE SIDE OF HEARING LOSS EMERGES!

Patricia Cortez, the former President of the Montgomery County HLAA Chapter has enlisted the help of her husband, Dr. Emilio Cortez, a retired English teacher, to co-chair a new committee. Together the Cortez's are trying to inform the uninformed public and noise level abusers about the dangers of Noise-induced Hearing Loss. The committee is aptly named the "Turn Down the Volume Committee."

The idea for the committee was in reaction to a Zumba Class at the YMCA that Emilio attended where the noise level was outrageously loud and potentially damaging. After leaving the class almost immediately, Emilio sought out a YMCA official to complain. After analyzing the information gleaned from personally visiting and participating in 13 different YMCA Zumba classes, this committee is now aware that the problem of loud music is rampant in exercise classes and there is stiff opposition to change.

Patricia and Emilio are disheartened to find that there are hearing people who choose to ignore credible research and continue to believe that hearing loss can't happen to them.

Drawing from the research of several sources, the committee found that health experts concur that 2 hours of exposure to 91 decibels of sound can cause hearing loss, but the volume of many children's headphones and ear buds can be as loud as 100 decibels, which can cause hearing loss after just 15 minutes of exposure. The committee suggests that you buy only headphones and earbuds that clearly display the 85 decibel maximum volume range on the packaging, and even then encourage children to turn down the volume.

The Cortez's would like to thank Don Groff for sharing the information that iPhones and Androids now have free apps to transform iPhones and Androids into decibel meters. iPhone and Android users can go to the app or play store and download the "decibel meter."

This committee has drafted a 3 page hand-out for public dissemination. Please email ecort1@verizon.net to receive a copy of the hand-out. Natural hearing is much too precious to squander. Noise-induced hearing loss is insidious, but preventable.

Be decibel wise, under 85 keeps hearing alive!

Looping Advocacy

Juliette Sterkens, AuD recently retired from her private audiology practice in Oshkosh, WI to volunteer as the National Hearing Loop Advocate for the Hearing Loss Association of America. In this capacity she presents at professional conferences and consumer events on the benefits of hearing aids equipped with telecoils in hearing loops. Her efforts have leveraged over 325 hearing loops in Wisconsin and many more beyond.

She is the creator of www.loopwisconsin.com, an informational website for consumers, AV specialists and hearing care professionals. When asked why she became such an ardent advocate of hearing loops she said: "After I saw what loops did for my patients, their families and for me as audiologist, I wanted to let everyone; consumers and hearing care providers know about the technology." She further explained, "It is entirely possible that newer digital technology in the next 5-10 years may eclipse the use of telecoils, but this is something that is by no means certain to happen. At the moment, hearing loops are the only wireless, universal technology available that allows people with hearing loss to hear in places where hearing devices alone are unable to deliver and all at the touch of a button. Juliette will be visiting Pennsylvania the first week in September primarily in the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia areas. To contact Juliette directly: jsterkens@new.rr.com.

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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Enclosed is my tax-deductible, contribution of \$ _____ to support HearSay. Please make checks out to HLAA-PA.

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821 Rosehill Drive
King of Prussia, PA 19406

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.

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



hlaa-pa.org

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)

HearSay and HLAA-PA Website

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

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

Advocacy:

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

Government Affairs:

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

Outreach:

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

Arts & Entertainment

Kay Tyberg, Co-Chair (tyberg@hlaa-pa.org)

Alan Kutner, Co-Chair (kutner@hlaa-pa.org)

ALD Demo Kit

Bill Best, Chair (best@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

Florence and Harold Yates
Carolyn and Joe Meyer in memory of Larry
Casper