

HearSay

The Official Newsletter of HLAA-PA

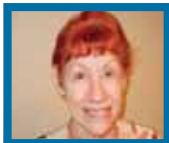
Volume 14 Issue 4 Winter 2015



MESSAGE FROM NANCY

By Nancy Kingsley, State Director

Katherine Bouton (author of the popular *Shouting Won't Help* and currently an HLAA trustee) recently wrote an AARP blog column titled "Frustrated by Silence at a Funeral." She bemoaned her inability to understand a friend's memorial service because the church didn't have a hearing loop. (An FM or infrared assistive listening system would have worked, too.)



But all is not lost. If a house of worship lacks an assistive listening system or if you are unable to benefit from one, CART realtime captioning can provide the needed communication access.

Funeral homes are required by Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide effective communication, including assistive

listening systems, CART, and sign language interpreting. Pennsylvania's Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (717-783-4912) will advocate for you if you encounter resistance. Houses of worship are exempt from the ADA but may be willing to provide CART for a funeral if this is requested.

If you will be attending a funeral Mass in a Harrisburg Diocese church, you can obtain CART or interpreting at no charge by immediately contacting Ginny Duncan, director of the Office of Ministry for People with Disabilities, at 717-657-4804 or vduncan@harrisburgdiocese.org. This access is also available (with two weeks' notice) for wedding Masses, First Communion, or Confirmation. Hopefully, other houses of worship will make similar provisions for requested communication access at important lifecycle events. So be sure to ask!

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State Happenings and Outreach

By Carolyn Meyer

State Happenings Winter 2015



The HLAA Convention 2016 will soon be here. Let's go Pennsylvania with a great turnout! HLAA will host the HLAA Convention 2016 and the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) Congress June 23-26, 2016 at the Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009. The location is so accessible for us on the East Coast by train, car, or plane. Early-bird registration is open!

Discounted registration rates are good through January 31, 2016. Register by the deadline to be entered in a drawing for an iLuv Smartshaker, a wireless alarm controlled by your smartphone (iOS and Android). Smartshakers will be awarded to 15 lucky early-birds! In addition, early-bird registrants of the full-activity package will be eligible to select their table at the Capital banquet starting in February (the next opportunity will be in April). The room block at the Washington Hilton is now OPEN! Go to <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/HLAA2016> to make your reservation, or call the hotel 1-800-HILTONS FREE and book for the Washington Hilton. Be sure to mention the Group Code, HLAA. In this issue of HearSay, see the application for the Diana Bender scholarship to the convention 2016. First time applicants will get preference but all will be considered. Spread the word in your chapters. You must be an HLAA current member to be eligible for the scholarship. If there is someone that you think deserves one of the HLAA awards, please consider nominating that person. For details on nominations go to www.hearingloss.org for the complete list of awards.

STATE NEWS

On September 10, Hamilton Relay held a Captioned Telephone Relay Service town hall meeting in Camp Hill. Sherrie LeuVay, Pennsylvania Captioned Telephone Outreach Coordinator, organized the event, which included refreshments and feedback from attendees. The presenters covered services available to people with hearing and/or vision loss. Nancy Kingsley, HLAA-PA's state


director, discussed bills to enable Medicare to cover hearing aids and provided information about hearing aid features and types. Other listed presenters were Stacy Phillips from Temple University's Institute on Disabilities; Sharon Behun from the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Natalie Barbush from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; and Londa Peterson from Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania. Marsha Drenth, program manager of Deaf-Blind Living Well Services at the Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania, provided additional information at the end.



OUTREACH

On November 19 Diana Bender and Carolyn Meyer presented a program, "Communicating with Clients with Hearing Loss" to VNACS Agency Home Health Aides (Direct Care Workers) in Abington, PA. VNACS (Visiting Nurse Association Community Services) is a non-profit serving the Community in many different ways. Their outreach is directed toward custodial home care with private and county clients. DCWs in the State of PA must obtain 12 hours of educational credit to maintain their HHA credentials. Our HLAA-PA presentation was filmed to produce a few DVDs for the agency library. This allows the agency to share the presentation with the larger DCW staff who might not have been able to attend the presentation November 19. HLAA-PA has a DVD if anyone wants to view it (contact Carolyn Meyer, meyer@hlaa-pa.org). Home care staff often make suggestions of products such as ALDs that might be helpful to clients. Relevant catalogs were distributed.

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<http://www.pennmedicine.org/otorhinolaryngology/patient-care/clinical-programs/audiology/>

2015 PA WALK4HEARING

This year's PA Walk4Hearing was held at the Navy Yard on Sunday, October 18. Over 2,000 people came to support HLAA in its mission to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. While we were joined by many Pennsylvanians at the Walk, walkers also came from New Jersey and Delaware.

Besides our walk, we enjoyed many fun activities such as the Phillie Phanatic, face painters, a clown, balloon artists, a caricature artist, a DJ and so much more!

Our 81 teams and many alliances raised over \$123K. We are looking forward to the 2016 Walk on Sunday October 9, 2016, which we are working to make even better!

For more information about the Walk4Hearing, or to volunteer, please contact Walk Chair Ronnie Adler at radler@hearingloss.org.


Special Thanks to Our Local and In-Kind Sponsors!

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When Hearing Aids Aren't Enough, Cochlear Implants Can Help

Straining to hear each day, even when using powerful advanced hearing aids? Feeling frustrated and sometimes even exhausted from listening?

Whether it happens suddenly or gradually over time, hearing loss can affect physical and emotional health. Being unable to hear impacts one's ability to socialize with friends, communicate with co-workers, and can force people to become more reliant on family members to constantly interpret for them.

By age 65, one out of three people will have a hearing loss, according to the Hearing Loss Association of America. Signs of hearing loss include:

- Difficulty understanding speech on the telephone
- Trouble following a conversation with two or more people talking at the same time
- Difficulty hearing in a noisy background
- Having to strain to understand conversation
- The need to ask people to repeat themselves
- Misunderstanding others and responding inappropriately

If you or someone you know is experiencing more than two of these signs, it could be beneficial to schedule an evaluation with a certified audiologist to learn if your loved one has a hearing loss. For people diagnosed with severe to profound hearing loss, who no longer benefit from hearing aids, there may be a solution. Unlike a hearing aid that amplifies sound, a cochlear implant is an implantable solution designed to mimic natural hearing using sophisticated software and state-of-the-art electronic components.

Ann Dexheimer, a former certified American Sign Language interpreter and teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program in Sonoma County, was diagnosed with hearing loss as a child. Starting at age 12, her progressive loss started to worsen.

Throughout her career, Dexheimer had taken professional courses and learned about cochlear implants, a technology that is often covered by many private

health insurance plans and Medicare, and may be covered by Medicaid. Because her own hearing had worsened, it dawned on her in a class one day that she should consider getting a cochlear implant herself. "For me it was a no-brainer. I'd seen the remarkable success of children with cochlear implants."

Having a cochlear implant has become more than a device to assist her in hearing. "It becomes who you are," Dexheimer says. "Some days you don't even realize or notice that you're hearing everything. Then all of a sudden you'll have a CI (cochlear implant) moment. You'll hear a leaf hitting the ground and go, "Wow I heard that. It's amazing. I'm so fortunate."

To learn more about cochlear implants and request a free information kit, visit www.CochlearAmericas.com

Editors note: Captioned videos and product information are available at www.CochlearAmericas.com



DENISE P. – Cochlear Implant user enjoys dining out, talking on the phone, listening to music and meeting new people.

"My hearing was restored with a cochlear implant!"

Struggling with your hearing aids? Cochlear implants can activate your hearing and your life! If you have severe to profound hearing loss, a cochlear implant may be able to help. Unlike a hearing aid that amplifies sound, a cochlear implant is an implantable hearing solution that delivers sound straight to your auditory nerve.

Take the next step in your journey to hearing!

Contact us to:

- Learn about medical treatment for severe to profound hearing loss
- Talk with others who hear with cochlear implants
- Learn how cochlear implants are covered by Medicare, most insurance plans, and may be covered by Medicaid.



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For more information visit www.CochlearAmericas.com or click on the link below to find an informational meeting close to you. <http://www.cochlear.com/wps/wcm/connect/us/home/stories-and-community/events-calendar/cochlear-americas-events>

You should talk to your physician about who is a candidate for implantation with a cochlear implant and the associated risks and benefits of the procedure. ©2013 Cochlear Limited. All rights reserved. Trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of Cochlear Limited or Cochlear Bone Anchored Solutions.

Hear now. And always.



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HLAA-PA AT THE FARM SHOW:

For the seventh consecutive year, members of various Pennsylvania HLAA chapters will staff the HLAA-PA State Office's Information Table at the PA Farm Show. The 100th Farm Show will be held from Saturday, January 9 through Saturday, January 16, 2016, and our exhibit presents a wonderful opportunity to reach out to the 400,000 or more people who visit each year.

For details and information, visit the event website, www.agriculture.state.pa.us/farmshow, and when you come, look for us on the Main Floor, Booth 5174. Many thanks to Steve Schultz for organizing this exhibit for us once again.

SAVE THE DATE : 2016 HLA-PA LUNCH AND LEARN

The annual HLA-PA Lunch and Learn is Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 11:00 AM until 3:00PM at the Radisson Hotel Valley Forge in King of Prussia, PA. Plan to join us for a wonderful afternoon.

Many exhibitors will be on site. The day will begin with welcome coffee, registration, and an opportunity to visit our exhibitors from 11:00 AM-12 noon. A buffet lunch will follow.

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Victor Bray, Dean of the Osbourne College of Audiology of Salus University. Dr. Bray will discuss the relationship of the audiology community with its patients.

He will explain possible legislative bills that may serve to redefine the government's control of access to audiology services. Dr. Bray will provide the latest information so that members of HLA-PA and guests will be able to express educated opinions in the next few years to become advocates for themselves as the dynamics of audiology services change. He will welcome questions from the audience. The afternoon will be fully accessible with CART (real time captioning), ASL interpreters, and a hearing loop. This event is open to the community. We are grateful for a grant from the Louis N. Cassett Foundation to help us to subsidize this event.

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Diana Bender HLAA National Convention Scholarship

The Hearing Loss Association of America Pennsylvania State Office (HLAA-PA) has established the Diana Bender HLAA National Convention Scholarship to assist Pennsylvania residents who are members of the Hearing Loss Association of America to attend the HLAA convention. (Note that membership in a chapter is not the same as membership in HLAA; the latter is required for scholarship eligibility.) One scholarship will be available for a deserving person who is currently involved with hearing loss issues. The HLAA-PA Advisory Council's Scholarship Committee will select the qualifying applicant.

When and where is the 2016 HLAA convention? The convention will be June 23-26 (four days, three nights) at the Washington Hilton 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

Who is eligible as a scholarship candidate? Any Pennsylvania resident with hearing loss, regardless of age, is eligible as long as he or she meets the following qualifications. The applicant must be a current HLAA member, must have demonstrated an interest in remaining actively involved with hearing loss issues, and must indicate that a scholarship would enable his or her attendance. Preference will be given to those who have never attended an HLAA convention.

Scholarship amount: The recipient will be awarded \$500 (to be applied to transportation, lodging, and meals) plus the cost of registration for the full-activity convention package (includes banquet). Any amount exceeding \$500 will be his or her responsibility. The awardee must attend the convention or return the \$500.

Submission date: Application forms may be mailed or emailed (email preferred if possible). Deadline for receipt is March 23, 2016.

Diana Bender HLAA National Convention Scholarship Application Form for 2016 Convention

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State: _____

Telephone _____ E-mail: _____

What is the expiration date of your HLAA membership? (See your *Hearing Loss Magazine* label.)

Have you ever attended an HLAA convention? (Check one) yes no

Describe the reasons why you should be selected (necessary for consideration). Continue on a second page if necessary. _____

Date: _____

Application must be received by March 23, 2016. E-mail information to Mitchell Bilker, HLAA-PA Scholarship Committee Chair, at scholarship@hlaa-pa.org or mail this form to him at 821 Rosehill Drive, King of Prussia, PA 19406 (email preferred).

To receive HearSay by mail, send 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.

Name _____

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

I would like to remain anonymous.

I cannot donate but would like to receive HearSay.

Mail to: Mitch Bilker, Treasurer
821 Rosehill Drive
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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 hearing loss, their families and friends.

DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed in HearSay are those of the authors. Mention of goods and services in articles and advertisements does not mean HLAA-PA endorsement, nor does absence suggest disapproval.

To reach readers of HearSay, contact Lee Williams (leewilliams@hlaa-pa.org) for information.

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:

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ALD Demo Kit

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