

HearSay

The Official Newsletter of HLAA-PA

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MESSAGE FROM NANCY

By Nancy Kingsley, State Director

Do you have a telecoil? And why does it matter? What's a telecoil, anyway?



If you're not familiar with this inexpensive device found in 2/3 of hearing aids and all cochlear implants, that's not surprising, since the information is rarely provided. A telecoil, or T-coil, is a small wire coil that detects the electromagnetic field generated by certain telephones and by induction loop (hearing loop) assistive listening systems. Since no other sounds are picked up, only the speech that the user wants to hear is transmitted. And unlike with FM and infrared assistive listening systems, the user doesn't need a receiver in order to pick up the transmission.

Although most hearing aids now have a telecoil, the device needs to be activated by the audiologist or dispenser in order to function. So if you have a hearing aid and don't know whether it has a telecoil, check with your dispenser. If you don't have one, it can often be added for a small charge. (There is no room for this device in the smallest hearing aids.)

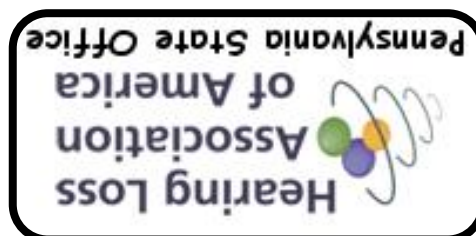
If you are shopping for a cell phone and want to use it with your telecoil, get a phone with a T3 or T4 rating. To use your telecoil with an FM or infrared assistive listening system receiver, you need to plug in a neckloop, which converts the infrared or FM signal to an electromagnetic field that the telecoil can detect. Many venues have neckloops that they can loan along with their receivers, or you can purchase one for around \$30-50.

Happy listening!

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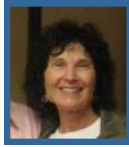


Hearing Loss Association of America
Pennsylvania State Office
126 Cedarcroft Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348
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STATE HAPPENINGS AND OUTREACH

By Carolyn Meyer, Outreach Coordinator

An important reminder to all our members, friends, and family. The Lunch and Learn event will occur every other year, skipping this year. As soon as we have the date for 2019, we will notify you in HearSay and through your chapters. Many of you have contacted me recently, and if you have any ideas for speakers or location for the Lunch and Learn, please do contact me (meyer@hlaa-pa.org). HLAA-PA is planning a social event later in 2018. Please watch for an announcement of details.



APPEAL FROM KAY TYBERG

“I really need your help! I am working on a presentation for 2 videos:

1) Myths and misconceptions of what hard of hearing people experience. I mean the real thing each of you experience. I know many of them, but I am reaching out to other HLAA members for additional input.

2) This one is critical: What experiences have you had with the public or in medical situations where the service appeared to be focused toward the deaf population (using sign language, etc.) and not toward the hard of hearing who do not use this mode of communication. Example: If a hard of hearing person goes into OVR to acquire services and a counselor assigned to you uses sign language, how do you feel? You might think certain situations are unimportant, but think again how some hard of hearing people would be offended if the person starts to sign to them.

These videos are being produced to educate the public on how to address communication needs. Many professionals are not trained to understand different disabilities. I strongly believe HLAA has an obligation to educate the public as well as people with any type of hearing loss. Please get back to me with any questions and your feedback.” Tyberg@hlaa-pa.org

DIANA BENDER HLAA NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP 2018

Please note that we have repeated the scholarship application in this issue of HearSay to remind you of the convention and the opportunity to apply for this wonderful experience. The application deadline has been extended to April 30, 2018. The convention is June 21-24 in Minneapolis. First time applicants will be given

preference, but others will be considered as they are received as well. So think summer and what it would be like to be surrounded by HLAA members and friends from all over the country. All workshops are completely accessible so you will not miss a word!

FINISDORF ADVOCACY AWARD WINNER

Dale Long, Central PA Chapter Coordinator and member of the Advisory Council is the recipient, for his outstanding efforts over the years to support people with hearing loss. He has shown a positive vision for the hard of hearing community and has worked to improve communication access for all in those in the state who struggle with hearing loss on a daily basis.

USED-HEARING AIDS FOR ARGENTINA, A ROTARIAN PROJECT

Since 2012, two Rotary Clubs: Greater West Chester Sunrise Rotary Club (PA) and Rotary Concordia (Entre Rio, Argentina) have been in a project that helps low-income, hearing-impaired people in Argentina.

With individual donors and organizations such as Project C.U.R.E., we collect used-hearing aids to send to Rotary Concordia. This club sponsors a Bank of Used Hearing Aids, collaborates with audiologists and medical professionals who calibrate and readjust the devices to be distributed to the community according to their needs. Grade and high-school students are the first to receive the listening devices to enable them to attend school. Rotary Concordia receives all kinds of hearing aids; they have been very successful in their utilization.

Please consider donating your used hearing aid. For information contact:

Celia Esplugas – cesplugas@msn.com

Jim Kane – jkane1149@aol.com

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Set up your appointment today:

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

2018 PA FARM SHOW

The HLAA-PA State Office celebrated its ninth year at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, PA. Our farm hands were geared and ready to ignite awareness of hearing loss to the public. To honor Steve Schultz, our original coordinator for the past eight years, a floral arrangement and a photo of him were displayed at the center of the table. On Sunday, January 7, Steve’s relatives came by the booth and were teary eyed and appreciative of our kind gesture.

Volunteers answered various questions from people from all walks of life, from “What kind of hearing aid should I get?” to “Where can I find an attorney for a person with hearing loss?” Volunteers spoke to over 392 people during the week. Many more passed by picking up literature, and others were in denial, but their spouses shared that their partner needed help. It is gratifying when consumers leave our booth with loads of information, whether from talking to the volunteers or from reading the literature we display.

The frustration adult children have with elderly parents with hearing loss was a big issue. Professionals stopped by and talked about residents of long term care facilities who have trouble communicating, and a consumer asked whether a hearing dog could also be an epilepsy dog. We were blessed to be by the Hamilton Relay booth again this year.

Let’s take this opportunity to thank the following volunteers: Bill and Carolyn Best, Alice Dungan, Linda Eggleston, Kathy Harral, Walter Jensen, Nancy Kingsley, Ann and Norman Kirsch, Lori Leiman, Dale Long, Judie Marcus, Tracy Noll, Alice Pakhtigian, Edwin Paschall, Jr., Bill and Grace Pfeifer, Rick Rubin, Judy and Steve Shugarts, and Kay and Tom Tyberg. Please give these folks a round of applause for driving to the Farm Show in the bitter cold to staff our table. Without the help of these gracious people, we would not have been able to participate.

What volunteers enjoy doing at the PA Farm Show is viewing the array of things to see (the butter sculpture, baby chicks being hatched, prized farm vegetables, booth after booth of Pennsylvania grown products, wine and cheese tasting, etc.).

Then there are the daily events like livestock showings, a milking contest, tractor square dancing, culinary contests with well-known Food Network stars hosting the college and Armed Services cooks, and rodeos. It is definitely a time of fun and enjoyment.

The importance of reaching out to the public is critical when it comes to assisting people with hearing loss. As we snuggle in the comforts of our home following this year’s Farm Show, let’s encourage other chapter members to come and join us next year. We need your help! If you would like to consider helping at the booth next year, please contact your PA Farm Show coordinator, Kay Tyberg, via e-mail, aktyberg@gmail.com or send Kay a text message at 570-494-6419. We want to get a jump start.

Kay Tyberg, HLAA-PA Farm Show Coordinator

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CONSIDERING A COCHLEAR IMPLANT?
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Alexanna Rodgers MS, CCC-SLP
 Consumer Engagement Manager
 MED-EL Corporation

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Visit HLAA-PA on the web!
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WHEN HEARING HALF THE STORY IS NOT ENOUGH

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THE HLA A NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP

In 2018 the Hearing Loss Association of America — Pennsylvania State Office (HLAA-PA) will offer a scholarship to assist a Pennsylvania resident who is a member of the Hearing Loss Association of America to attend the HLA A convention. The Diana Bender HLA A National Convention Scholarship, will be available for a deserving person who is currently involved with hearing loss issues. The HLA A-PA Advisory Council's Scholarship Committee will select the qualifying applicant.

When and where is the 2018 HLA A convention? The convention will be June 21-24 (four days, three nights) at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, 1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403

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 HLA A member, must have demonstrated an interest in being 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 HLA A 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 e-mailed (e-mail preferred if possible). Deadline for receipt is April 30, 2018.

HLAA National Convention Scholarship

Application Form for 2018 Convention

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State: _____

Telephone _____ E-mail: _____

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

Have you ever attended an HLA A 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 April 30, 2018. E-mail information to Mitchell Bilker, HLA A-PA Scholarship Committee Chair, at scholarship@hlaa-pa.org or mail this form to HLA A-PA National Scholarship, 821 Rosehill Drive, King of Prussia, PA 19406 (e-mail preferred).

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Ask the Expert

COCHLEAR IMPLANTS – LIFE BEYOND HEARING AIDS

Straining to hear each day, even when using powerful hearing aids?

Feeling frustrated and sometimes even exhausted from listening? Whether it happens suddenly or gradually over time, hearing loss can affect you physically and emotionally. Being unable to hear impacts your ability to communicate with your loved ones, hear in noisy environments, talk on the phone, and may force you to become more reliant on your family members to interpret for you.

Cochlear implants work differently than hearing aids. Rather than amplifying sound, they use sophisticated software and state-of-the-art electronic components to provide access to the sounds you've been missing.



Thomas Roland, M.D.,
Cochlear Medical Advisor

Dr. Roland, a cochlear implant surgeon and medical advisor to Cochlear, the world leader in cochlear implants, answers questions about cochlear implants and how they are different from hearing aids.

Q: How are cochlear implants different than hearing aids?

A: Hearing aids help many people by making the sounds they hear louder. Unfortunately as hearing loss progresses, sounds need to not only be made louder but clearer. Cochlear implants can help give you that clarity, especially in noisy environments. Hearing aids are typically worn before a cochlear implant solution is considered.

Q: Are cochlear implants covered by Medicare?

A: Yes, Medicare and most private insurance plans routinely cover cochlear implants.

Q: How do I know a cochlear implant will work for me?

A: The technology is very reliable. In fact, it has been around for over 30 years and has helped change the lives of over 450,000 people worldwide. For many people, cochlear implants are better than hearing aids in noisy environments.¹

Q: What does a cochlear implant system look like?

A: There are two primary components of the Cochlear[®] Nucleus[®] System, the implant that is surgically placed underneath the skin and the external sound processor. Cochlear offers two wearing options for the sound processor, one that's worn behind the ear – similar to a hearing aid – and the new Kanso[™] Sound Processor which is a discreet, off-the-ear hearing solution that's easy to use. The Cochlear Nucleus System advanced technology is designed to help you hear better and understand conversations.



Call **1 800 354 1731** to find a Hearing Implant Specialist near you.

Visit **Cochlear.com/US/HLAA** for a free guide.

1. The Nucleus Freedom Cochlear Implant System: Adult Post Market Surveillance Trial Results, 2008 June.
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CAM-MK-PR-293 ISS1 NOV16



Introducing the N7 Processor: **HearYourWay.com/US**

BONE ANCHORED HEARING AIDS

When a patient is diagnosed with hearing loss, the first thing that typically comes to mind is traditional hearing aids. These may be the most common treatment option, but for a small subset of patients with specific needs due to the type of hearing loss, anatomy, and other otologic factors, they may not be the most appropriate. A bone anchored hearing aid may provide a solution for some of these patients.

A bone anchored hearing aid is a surgically implanted system. Several are now available, but the most common system is composed of an implant, a titanium abutment or screw, and an external sound processor worn behind the ear. The implant and abutment are surgically placed during an outpatient procedure. After a recovery period of six to eight weeks, this implant becomes integrated into the surrounding tissue and bone so that the external processor can snap on and off.

A bone anchored hearing aid works by capturing sound vibrations via the external processor, which then transfers this signal through the abutment to the implant within the bone. These vibrations travel through the bone to the cochlea in the inner ear. The cochlea is able to convert the signal into electrical impulses that are sent to the brain, where they are perceived as sound. This process is different from a traditional hearing aid, by which sound is amplified and pushed through the entire damaged auditory system. In a bone anchored hearing system, sound bypasses the outer and middle ear completely and travels through the bone directly to the inner ear.

Another type of system available consists of an implant, magnetic attachment, and the same external processor previously discussed. In this system, there are both an internal and an external magnet, which take the place of the abutment. This system works in a similar way in that the sound is captured by the external processor and converted into vibrations, which the magnet then transfers to the implant.

A bone anchored hearing aid may also be worn on a softband or other external headband. This is a non-surgical option that allows use by patients for whom surgery may be contraindicated, or for children who cannot undergo the surgical procedure until they are at least five years old. This headband also allows patients to try the device and assess benefit before undergoing a surgical procedure.

To determine candidacy for a bone anchored hearing aid, it is necessary to determine the type of hearing loss.

Hearing loss may be characterized as sensorineural, conductive, or mixed. Sensorineural hearing loss, which is the most common, involves damage to the sensory hair cells inside the cochlea and is usually permanent. Some causes include noise exposure, genetics, and aging. Conductive hearing loss involves a disturbance in the outer or middle ear; the inner ear still functions normally, but sound is disrupted before it can reach the sensory hair cells of the cochlea. Common causes include wax impaction, ear infections, a perforated eardrum, and malformations of the outer ear, ear canal, or middle ear. The third type of hearing loss is mixed, involving both sensorineural and conductive components. An example would be a history of noise exposure as well as recurrent ear infections.

A patient with conductive hearing loss is the most suitable candidate for a bone anchored hearing system. Because the sensory organ and nerve of hearing are still intact, the bone anchored hearing system is able to bypass the problem occurring in the outer or middle ear and stimulate the inner ear directly. Patients with mixed hearing loss may also benefit from a bone anchored hearing system, depending on the severity of the sensory loss. Many patients are not able to wear a traditional hearing aid due to chronic drainage or malformations, so a bone anchored hearing aid may be their only option.

One other group of patients that sometimes benefit from a bone anchored hearing aid is people diagnosed with single sided deafness (SSD). In SSD, a patient has one normally functioning ear and one ear with little or no hearing. A bone anchored hearing aid may be used on the deaf ear. The external processor functions as a transmitter, capturing the sound on the deaf ear and converting it into vibrations, which the normal hearing ear then processes. This system allows patients to hear conversations on both sides and facilitates hearing in a noisy environment.

A bone anchored hearing system is just one surgically implanted system available for those facing the challenges of hearing loss. Taking the first step and speaking to your hearing healthcare provider about your options can lead you on the journey to better hearing.

Natalie Watts, Au.D
Clinical Audiologist
Penn Medicine

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

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

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ABOUT HLAAPPA AND ITS STATE OFFICE, HLAAPPA

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979, is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. HLAAPPA 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. HLAAPPA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

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

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

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