



Hearing Loss Association of Michigan NEWS

Focus on Issues Related to Hearing Loss
Spring 2008



WELCOME to the first electronic issue of the

Hearing Loss Association of Michigan - NEWS!

Our commitment to the quality of the newsletter remains unchanged. Future issues will continue to share and provide information about hearing loss. This will always be our primary goal. This electronic format is an exciting and positive leap to a new level for our readers.

As always, we welcome input and feedback from our readers.

Contacting the newsletter committee is now easier than ever. Send an email to: ccaughell@hearingloss-mi.org.

Caroline Caughell,
President, HLA-MI
Editor, HLA-MI NEWS

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Are you ready for February 17, 2009?

By Elizabeth Kobylak

By law, all American television stations must switch their broadcasting from analog to digital by February 17, 2009.

Television sets connected to cable or satellite will not be affected, and will continue to receive programming after that date. But those television sets not connected to cable or satellite, or without a Digital Television (DTV) converter box, will not receive any television signal after the date of the switch. Consumers Union President, Jim Guest, states that "roughly 42 million homes" get TV reception through an antenna. If you use "rabbit ears" or a rooftop antenna with an analog television, you must take some action before February 17, 2009 to continue receiving television broadcasts.

You can make the switch to DTV by following one of three steps before February 17, 2009.

- Purchase a DTV converter box that plugs into your existing analog set. The converter box will make the new digital signal viewable on an older "analog" television set by converting the digital signal to analog. To help consumers cover the cost of the converter box, the federal government is offering up to two (2) converter box coupons valued at \$40 each to households. Converter boxes are expected to cost between \$50 and \$70. (See red text below for details.)
- Purchase a new television set with a built-in digital tuner. As with older sets, you will need an over-the-air antenna that provides quality reception of over-the-air signals to pick up free digital broadcast programming from local stations. Be aware that most sets sold in the past few years and are larger than 27 inches will already likely have a digital tuner.
- Subscribe to cable, satellite or a telephone company television provider. All of these services will allow you to receive digital television signals on your analog television set. No additional equipment is required. However, be sure to check that the pay service you choose carries all of the program services provided by the local broadcast stations.

Things to keep in mind:

DTV converter boxes will be available for purchase at electronics retailers in early 2008.

Digital Television (DTV) is not the same as High Definition Television (HDTV).

CONVERTER COUPON INFORMATION

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will issue coupons for DTV converter boxes from early 2008 through March 31, 2009. Households can apply for up to two coupons, valued at \$40 each, which must be redeemed within 3 months of receipt.

For more information or to request your coupons,

CALL: 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY)

VISIT ONLINE: www.DTV2009.gov.

APPLY BY MAIL: PO Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208

FAX: 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632)

Walk4Hearing sites in Michigan



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**SE Michigan** Walk4Hearing 2008 is set for Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Kensington Metro Park. Registration will begin at 9 am with the walk starting at 10 am. Kensington is a beautiful place to visit, with a lake, rolling hills and plenty of fresh air and green spaces. The walkways are paved which helps with the baby strollers! The whole family and all your friends are invited to walk with us. We have music, clowns and many walkers plan a picnic for after the walk.

The kick-off party is Sunday, March 30, 2008, from 2:00 to 4:00pm at

#### **CK Diggs**

**2010 Auburn Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48309**

There is no charge to attend this event. Anyone interested in learning more about the walk is welcome to attend and pick up walk envelopes, posters and other materials you'll need.

RSVP requested by March 22, 2008. RSVP to Caroline Caughell at [ccaughell@hearingloss-mi.org](mailto:ccaughell@hearingloss-mi.org) or call (248)585-5075.

The 2nd annual **West Michigan** Walk4Hearing will be held Saturday, June 21, 2008, rain or shine. The event will take place on the Metro Health Hospital village campus as it did last year. Registration will begin at 8 am at Frog Hollow Park which is located on the hospital campus. The walk will start at 9 am. Please come and join the festivities this first day of summer. West Michigan collected almost \$35,000 for HLAA through the 2007 walk and have set a \$50,000 target for 2008. Your involvement is most appreciated!

West Michigan Kickoff will be held:  
Wednesday, May 7, 2008 from 5:30 - 7:30pm at the

**Hilton Hotel**  
**4747 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 4951**  
RSVP to Marilyn Knol at [mknol@hearingloss-mi.org](mailto:mknol@hearingloss-mi.org)  
or call (616)954-6648

**FYI**

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### **The Tax Man Cometh**

Michigan provides a tax exemption of \$2,000 for taxpayers and dependents who are totally and permanently disabled, deaf, blind, paraplegic, quadriplegic or hemiplegic.

"Deaf" in this situation - is defined by the Deaf Person's Interpreter Act PA 204 of 1982.

***"Deaf person means a person whose hearing is totally impaired or whose hearing, with or without amplification, is so seriously impaired that the primary means of receiving spoken language is through other sensory input, including, but not limited to lip reading, sign language, finger spelling or reading."***

People who have even a mild unilateral hearing loss are often dependent on speech reading (lip reading) to understand the spoken word.



### **2008 Day at the State Capitol**

**May 21 - Lansing, MI**

This annual event promotes awareness of the communication needs of persons with hearing loss and provides an opportunity to advocate for improved communication access with elected officials.

Find the registration form for this popular event in this newsletter issue! The form is also available online at: [www.hearingloss-mi.org](http://www.hearingloss-mi.org).

### **2008 HLAA National Convention**

**June 12-15**

**Grand Sierra Resort and Casino**

**Reno, Nevada**

The HLAA Convention is a highly interactive and accessible event for all people who are affected by hearing loss. The program includes dynamic speakers, dozens of instructive workshops, and an informative research symposium. Plus, our Exhibit Hall hosts a range of hearing loss related products, services and information. Don't miss it! Find out more at: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org).

## **HLA-MI Announces Board of Trustees Election Results**

On January 20, 2008 the following individuals were elected to the HLA-MI Board of Trustees. We thank everyone for dedicating their time and energies in helping HLA-MI reach their goals.

Chris Jacques (Grand Rapids)  
Darl Williams (St Joseph)  
Maureen Treppa (Lansing)  
Ruth Fox (Muskegon)  
Marilyn Knol (Grand Rapids)  
Roy Hammond (Flint)  
Ann Liming (Lansing)  
Georgia Potrude (Kalamazoo)  
Howard Potrude (Kalamazoo)

### **Executive Committee**

President: Caroline Caughell (Royal Oak)  
Vice President: Audrey Pleasant (Dearborn Heights)  
Treasurer: Barb Quart (Bloomfield Hills)  
Secretary: Ann Liming (Lansing)  
Chapter Coordinator: Brenda Neubeck (White Lake)  
Past President: Janet Haines (Vassar)

## **HLA-MI Chapter Activities**

### **By Marla Schindler and Barb Quart**

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Everyone is always welcome at the local chapter meetings regardless of hearing ability. Some of the most rewarding experiences attendees have had were the results of family members or friends coming to the meeting in support of the person with hearing loss. That kind of support can reverse years of hearing loss related isolation and frustration and make great strides toward an improved quality of life. Take a look at these pages and consider attending a local HLA-MI meeting. You won't be sorry!

### **No local chapter in your area?**

Please contact Brenda Neubeck, State Chapter Coordinator at [bneubeck@hearingloss-mi.org](mailto:bneubeck@hearingloss-mi.org) for help in establishing a local chapter. Brenda and the chapter development committee are ready to help you reach that goal.

Below are some chapters' upcoming activities. For more information, please click on the chapter name. Additional chapters can be found on our website: <http://www.hearingloss-mi.org/michapt/cindex.html>.

### **HLA of Lansing**

March - Movie, Shining Soul - Helen Keller's Spiritual Life Legacy - Call 517-351-3428 for meeting location

April - Field trip to HARC to see assistive device display

May - Cochlear Implants

June - Ice Cream Social

### **HLA of S.W. Michigan (St Joseph)**

March- No meeting due to weather

April- To be determined

May- To be determined

June- To be determined

### [HLA of Macomb County](#)

The Macomb County chapter will continue to meet at Knox Church on Crocker at Metropolitan Parkway in Harrison Township on the fourth Thursday of each month 1:00 to 3:00 pm except July and August.

March 27 - Brenda Neubeck will do a presentation about Hearing Technology during her annual visit.

April 24 - Speech reading practice and preparation for the Walk4Hearing and Day at the State Capitol

May 22 - To be determined

June 26 - Annual Picnic Potluck

### [HLA of Dearborn](#)

The Dearborn chapter will be meeting the second Saturday of each month. New location is Oakwood Commons 16351 Rotunda, Dearborn, Michigan 48126

### [HLA of Allen Park](#)

March- Audiologist presentation about tinnitus (tentative)

April- Lawyer presentation about our rights & responsibilities

May- Preparation for WALK4Hearing and Day at the State Capitol

June- TBA; probably business meeting

Speech reading practice and socializing before each meeting, CART access

Check with leaders for time and location as these change.

### [HLA of Kalamazoo](#)

March 12- 7:00 PM. Instead of our regular location, we will be meeting at the HARC showroom where the staff will give us an update on assistive devices. HARC Mercantile is located at 1111 West Centre Ave. in Portage, MI.

April 9 - Kalamazoo Public Safety Officer, Joshua Breese, will speak on "Identity Theft."

May 14 - To be announced

June-No regular meeting as we will be taking part in the West Michigan Walk4Hearing on June 21. Also, several of our chapter members will be on their way to the HLAA National Convention in Reno at the time of our regular meeting.

### [HLA of Royal Oak](#)

March- Brenda Neubeck will give a presentation on the Michigan Deaf/Hard of Hearing Rights Handbook

April- Rap Session

May- To be announced

June- To be announced

### [HLA of Western Wayne](#)

March- Speaker to be determined

April- Speaker to be determined

May- Discussing WALK4Hearing

June- To be announced

### [HLA of Ann Arbor](#)

March- Round Robin

April- Dr. Philip Zazove from University of Michigan Health Service will speak

May- Round Robin

June- Linda Igsasiak will describe her experiences on a Deaf Cruise she took last fall

In addition to participating in state wide HLA activities in May and June, we expect to operate our information booth for 4 days at July's Ann Arbor Art Fair.

August- No meeting

### [HLA of Grand Rapids](#)

April - On April 9 - Will be sharing more details about the upcoming Walk4Hearing on June 21st and the Day At the Capitol in May.



## **Bionic Ears HERE**

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With universal newborn hearing screening many children are being implanted at/by 12 months of age. If the family has decided on spoken language as the mode of communication for their child, speech and language intervention is initiated as soon as the child is fit with amplification (hopefully before 6 months of age). The following is an excerpt from an article titled "Early Intervention for Children with Cochlear Implants: A Paradigm Shift in Expectations" **written by Carol Flexer, Beth Schmidt Robb, Denise Wray, and Ron Sommers** all from the University of Akron. This article gives a glimpse into how a child is taught to listen and speak with a cochlear implant using an auditory-verbal approach.

Sample Lesson Plan for a Beginning Pediatric Cochlear Implant Listener

Client: BR: **Note:** In addition to the core lesson plan content, a rationale and brief explanation of the goals, objectives and activities will appear in italicized text.

A. Long Term Auditory Goal:

To integrate hearing and listening in a meaningful way into BR's life; to assess and develop BR's auditory skills through continued evaluation and management of his sensorineural hearing loss and his auditory perception skills. Meaningful auditory activities stimulate and develop BR's brain, thus providing BR with skills to communicate effectively in the home, with family, and with age-matched peers. *(Always keep in mind that the overall purpose of activities is to stimulate and develop the extensive auditory centers of the brain. Note that BR's mother/caregiver will be actively participating in the therapy session. The rationale for each activity will be explained and the parents will be given specific home activities for daily use.)*

Short Term Auditory Objectives:

1. To check functioning of BR's cochlear implant *(without proper implant function, therapy activities are of no value).*

Procedure: With the caregiver's participation, the therapist will complete a partials map/program check (troubleshooting checklist) and verify that all dials are set appropriately on BR's cochlear implant *(Each cochlear implant company provides guides for troubleshooting their equipment. Contact the implant company for the*

necessary troubleshooting equipment and written material)

1. BR will detect all Ling 6 sounds (oo, ah, ee, sh, s, m) at distances of 3, 9, 12, and 20 feet (Ling, 2002) *(Distance hearing is critical for incidental listening and learning; the greater the distance hearing, the better the access to background knowledge and conversations that occur in the environment. A well-programmed CI should allow detection of all speech sounds to at least 20 feet in a quiet environment. A chief value of a cochlear implant is that it allows far greater distance hearing than does a hearing aid; a hearing aid may allow sounds to be available for only a few feet for a child who has a severe-profound hearing loss. In fact, reduction of distance hearing is often the first signal of a faulty CI map. The Ling sounds should be administered using an acoustic screen - no visual cues - and spoken at the loudness level and duration that the phonemes would occur in a sentence. Beware of speaking each sound too loud, and protracting the sound unnaturally long. To do so will over-estimate the child's casual access to spoken language. Once you know BR's distance hearing in a given environment you need to administer the Ling Sounds only once at that distance - which should be at least 20 feet. There is no need to spend time determining if he can hear at closer distances once you know that his detection is at 20 feet.)*

Procedure: Therapist will administer Ling 6 Sound Test (Ling, 2002) at distances of approximately 3, 9, 12, and 20 feet (or only once at his distance hearing limit, once that is known). BR will hold a small plastic bear up to his ear, listen for sound and place the bear into bucket of water once he hears the sound to indicate detection of each Ling 6 sounds. *(Of course BR first must be conditioned for this "listen and drop task;" such conditioning is a priority. Until he is conditioned, one can observe behavioral changes to the sounds).*

1. BR will demonstrate recognition of when a speech signal begins and ends, when a continuous vowel or fricative is presented (see Biedenstein, Davidson, & Moog, 1995, the SPICE Curriculum: Detection Goal B1)

Procedure: Therapist will demonstrate the activity by producing a continuous sound such as "eee" or "shhh" while moving a toy care on the table. Therapist starts the movement when the speech sound starts, and stops the movement when the speech sound ends.

B. Long Term Language Goals:

BR will use appropriate language in order to express his wants and needs in his environment *(The initial goals of therapy focus on auditory stimulation, not on vocal production. Meaningful sounds/words cannot be produced until the brain has had sufficient stimulation and growth to provide the auditory infrastructure that can support spoken language production. If BR is not yet spontaneously producing meaningful sounds, don't force it. Use the following activities as auditory stimulation activities - input - and not as required spoken output activities.)*

Short Term Language Objectives:

1. BR will engage in finger play activity to enhance language.

Procedure: BR will engage in finger plays such as "Wheels on the Bus," "Five little Monkeys." And "itsy Bitsy Spider." Therapist will begin the verse and BR will join in with the corresponding finger play and spontaneous imitative sounds as his brain develops. *(These activities are the beginning stages of specific phonologic awareness training that will follow in later lesson plans as preparation for literacy development).*

1. BR will demonstrate comprehension of 3 different verb phrases. 4 articles of

clothing and 4 body parts by following one-step verbal directions, two-thirds of the time. *(Once again, this is an auditory stimulation activity, not a verbal output activity).* Visual cues can be added as needed following the initial presentation of the verbal direction. If visual cues, such as pointing, are added, be sure to then revert to an auditory-only presentation.

Procedure: BR will respond to the following types of instructions for 3/5 trials:

- "put on _____"
- "take off _____"
- "show me Mr. Potato Head's _____"
- etc.

(Mr. Potato Head and items including hat, shoes, eyes, mouth, ears, nose, glasses, etc. will be used as props.)

1. BR will demonstrate book handling skill that involve attending to the pictures, turning the pages, and focusing auditorally for the length of the story. The story to be read is, *Where's Spot* (Hill, 1994).
2. BR's caregivers will begin the creation of an *experience book*. Examples of experience books will be displayed. Part of the home program will be to collect photos of BR with family members to start his first experience book. The home program also will emphasize reading to BR on a daily basis.

Short Term Language Objectives:

1. BR will imitate the following speech sounds within the context of Learning to Listen Sounds: /w/, /h/, /p/, and /m/. *(Until VR's brain has developed sufficiently for him to spontaneously imitate, the following activities should focus on meaningful auditory stimulation. Don't force the verbal output until he is ready).*

Procedure: therapist will present the "Learning to Listen Sounds" before BR is presented with the corresponding object. *(That is, the sound of the object precedes the visual presentation - "hearing first." The objects can be hidden under a colorful blanket or in interesting and mysterious container).* BR will imitate the sounds, or demonstrate a listening attitude in the beginning stages of therapy, and then be given the object to play with. Examples include:

- Slide = up, up, up, wheee
- Bunny = hop, hop, hop
- Boat = puh, puh, puh, puh, puh
- Food items: mmmmmmmmm

1. BR will imitate syllables through syllable play. *(If BR's CI has just been mapped and he is not yet producing many sounds, clapping, marching, and dancing are appropriate output measures.)*

Procedure: Therapist will use a drum, streamers, and clapping to demonstrate repetitive syllables such as ahh-ahh, eee-eee-eee, shhh-shhh, and mmmm-mmmm. Syllables are first presented verbally, with addition of drum, streamers, and clapping, with secondary presentation as needed.

HLA-MI Contact Information

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This publication is the official newsletter for

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*This newsletter is published 3 times a year.*

*Submit letters and questions by May 1, 2008 to:*

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*Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the person submitting the information and not necessarily of Hearing Loss Association of Michigan (HLA-MI).*

*Mention of goods or services does not mean endorsement by HLA-MI, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.*

## Hearing Loss Association of America Contact Information

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Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is the largest international consumer organization dedicated to the well-being of people who do not hear well.

If you are not a member of HLAA, you are encouraged to join. Membership includes the bi-monthly journal, Hearing Loss, an outstanding information resource.

Dues are \$35 for USA individual, \$40 for couple/family and \$60 for Professionals. Pay by credit card at: <http://www.hearingloss.org/membership> or make checks payable to "HLAA" and mail to:

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