



Hearing Loss Association of Michigan

Summer/Fall 2009 Newsletter

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HLA-MI Chapters

Hearing Loss Association of Michigan currently has 13 chapters and 3 Cochlear Implant chapters. Becoming a chapter member gets you in touch with others who have hearing loss, learn more about coping strategies and assistive listening devices. Please see our [chapter list](#) for more information.

[HLAA Launches New Initiative for Young Adults \(Ages 18-35\)](#)

Greetings to all of our readers!

Our editor Caroline Caughell is off to Brazil to see her son get married, so this introduction is brought to you from Brenda Neubeck who sits on the e-Newsletter committee...

Hope everyone is enjoying this wonderful mild summer we are experiencing in Michigan!

In this issue, we have wrap-up information about the convention held in Nashville and the Southeast Michigan Walk4Hearing held in Milford, MI this past spring. Other items of interest are the webchats which can be accessed through the national website, and if you are interested in learning even more about HLAA and HLA-MI, you should consider joining the Board of Trustees. See the article below for more information and the application.

This newsletter is for you - to provide you with the latest information from our national and state offices. We value your input; let us know what you would like to see in this newsletter. You may send your comments or suggestions to newsletter@hearingloss-mi.org.

Brenda Neubeck
HLA-MI e-News

2009 HLAA NAT'L CONVENTION WRAP-UP

Blog - If you missed the convention, check out the [HLAA Convention 2009 Blog](#) written by member Abbie Cranmer and sponsored by Gallaudet University - it's filled with interesting stories about workshops and events. Kudos to you, Abbie, on a job well done!

[Convention 2009 Exhibit and Program Guide](#)

If you missed the convention or misplaced your program, here it is.

[Convention Workbook](#)

For the first time in convention history, we are offering a "green" Convention Workbook, a compilation of speakers' presentation slides.

HLAA Member Patrick Holkins moderates the discussions for young adults.

Go to [HearingLossNation](#)

Quick Links

[Hearing Loss Association of America](#)

[Hearing Loss Association of Michigan](#)

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

If you were unable to attend the Opening Session, [read the transcript](#) which includes the keynote address by Vinton Cerf, Ph.D, vice president and chief Internet evangelist for Google. Thank you to Deanna Baker who provided CART for the Opening Session.

30th Birthday DVD for Sale

"30 Years in Pictures" features video clips of members Sue Miller, Pete Fackler, and Marcia Dugan, and a collection of photographs taken over our 30-year history. If you would like a copy of the DVD shown at the recent 30th Birthday Celebration in Nashville, either call our office with your credit card information (301) 657-2248, or send a check for \$12 made payable to Hearing Loss Association of America to:

Attn: Nancy Macklin
7910 Woodmont Ave.
Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814

Convention Highlights and Notes of Interest [Grand Ole Opry](#):

Nashville Made History in More Ways Than One

For the first time in its 84-year history, the Grand Ole Opry had captioning on its huge screens. Nashville's own Karyn Menck who provided CART for many of the educational workshops, provided captions for a packed house for the 7 p.m. performance at the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday, June 20th. Over 450 convention attendees sat in amazement as they listened to Vince Gill, Point of Grace, Alison Krauss and others, all in a communication accessible environment.

Attendance

Of over 1100 attendees, at least 65 were young adults - more than we've ever had in our history. Let's keep the momentum going - if you know of a young adult with hearing loss who has never been to a convention before, tell them about Milwaukee and have them visit this website for details about scholarships. In addition we welcomed over 250 guests into the exhibit hall from the local area as well as nurse practitioners who were attending the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners' conference also at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center.

Volunteers

Many of us navigated around the vast Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center thanks to the local volunteers wearing the highly visible red vests. They also greeted attendees at the airport and at the entrance to the exhibit hall, they monitored workshops and collected

session evaluations, and they answered no fewer than a thousand questions from attendees. They were ready with all the answers. Thank you, Local Host Committee and local volunteers!

Sponsors

Thank you to the many [sponsors](#) that made our convention possible. We look forward to seeing you in Milwaukee, June 17-20, 2010.



ANN LIMING RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS ROCKY STONE HUMANITARIAN AWARD AT 2009 HLAA CONVENTION



Ann Liming of Lansing, Michigan was the 2009 recipient of this prestigious award. It was presented to her by Alice Marie "Ahme" Stone, widow of Howard (Rocky) Stone at the HLAA 30th Birthday Celebration banquet in Nashville, Tennessee.

This is the highest annual award presented by the Hearing Loss Association of America. The recipient is elected by the HLAA Board of Trustees to honor a past trustee for an extraordinary contribution toward the furtherance of the objective and personal exemplification of the philosophy envisioned by Howard E. Stone, founder of HLAA.

While Ann was serving on the HLAA Board of Trustees, she served a term as President. She also served a term as Secretary and was on a number of committees. Ann has also been very active in Michigan, serving as State Chapter Co-Coordinator for nine years and was one of the founders of Hearing Loss Association of Michigan. She is currently on the HLA-MI Board of Trustees.

JUANITA WIKMAN RECEIVES SPIRIT OF HLAA AT 2009 CONVENTION

Juanita Wikman, Muskegon, was one of seven

people awarded the Spirit of HLAA Award at

the 2009 National Convention in Nashville.

Juanita has served in leadership roles at both

the state and local level for the past 15 years.

She has represented and advocated for people

with hearing loss on various committees and

boards on the state level as well as in her local

community. She is an original member of HLAA-Michigan State Office and has actively participated in the planning process for statewide conferences.



Juanita is a leader of the Hearing Technology Resource Specialist program and has participated in advocacy events (DASC) at the state capitol. She is dedicated to accomplishing the mission of HLAA at all levels and works passionately to that end. Juanita is outgoing and has a sense of humor and serves as a role model to others.

2009 SE MICHIGAN WALK4HEARING WRAP-UP



Our third year for the Southeast Michigan Walk4Hearing rain or shine event was a fabulous success! The brief sprinkles did not

dampen the spirits of the 148 walkers and attendees that came out to Kensington Metro Park on May 16th. The bright team t-shirts and happy smiles shone through the cloudy morning.

A live band, The Urban Outdoorsmen, kicked spirits up a notch with many original compositions of band leader Alex D'Amore-Braver. Magicians Ron Dravelo (email: dravelo1@gmail.com) and Jim Placide (Mr.Magico, phone: 248-486-3188) entertained with disappearing

coins, card tricks and other awesome magic. Face painters from Birmingham Temple, Sarah Brooks and Rachel Gerendasy, used their talents to make sure faces were decorated with the walk logo and other fun pictures. Juggler/unicyclist, Justin Finkel, brought the entertainment on the road with us as we walked the trail. The walk just wouldn't have been the same without these fabulous entertainers donating their time and talents. We can't say thank you loud enough!

An HLA-MI information display and volunteers were available to answer any questions by those unfamiliar with the organization. Yummy Panera bagels (they donated a bagel bunch of every kind they make!), cream cheese, granola bars, fruit, juices and bottled water from Kroger along with coffee from Starbucks kept everyone high energy.

A great big heartfelt thank you to the committee members who helped organize the 2009 SE Michigan Walk4Hearing event: Caroline Caughell, Janet Haines, Liz Kobylak, Ann Liming, Audrey Pleasant, Barb Quart, Brenda Neubeck, Kim Henney, Linda Hess, Dianne Strasser and Maureen Treppa.

A very special thank you to all the Sponsors, Team Captains (22 teams this year!) and Walkers. You were superb and helped us raise over \$25,000!!!

2009 Teams

BEA/Thumb Thumpers
Hear We Go!
Star Striders
Warriors
Birmingham Temple
Hearing Consultants
Team Mallory
Bloomfield DHH
Henry Ford Division of Audiology
Team Screenline
Delat Zeta
Delta Zeta Sorority
Michigan Ear Institute
Walk Over Hear
Mighty Macomers
Walking for Zoe

Earacers
MSU Spartans
Wiz Walkers
Hear For U
Royal Oak Rowdies
Say It Again Sam's

2009 Sponsors

Kickoff Event Level Sponsors:

The News-Herald
O'Connor Hearing Center

Bronze Sponsor:

Screenline

Supporting Sponsors:

Astreins
HLA-Royal Oak
Friends Sponsors:
Personalized Hearing Care
ConCorde Inn of Clinton Township
Janz & Knight
LPL Financial
Maureen Treppa
Melissa DeMong - CART Provider
Nan Johnson
Rich Baldwin
Sound Advice

FOLLOW UP NEWS-ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

At the Bergen County Chapter Meeting on April 22nd, civil rights attorney Frank Vespa-Papaleo was honored with the Jack Mulligan Memorial Award. An article about the meeting appears in the current issue of the Monthly Communicator - the publication of the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. It's available at the following link - turn to page 5:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/newsletters/communicator/current/MCJune09.pdf>

If you read through the article, it ends with this thought:

"The meeting concluded with a lively question and answer session, with attendees promising to follow up on access issues of particular importance to them."

I am pleased to report that one of our HLA-NJ members did exactly that! She had a bad "hearing-related" anesthesiology experience during a recent hospitalization, so she wrote to the President of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), cc'ing me on the correspondence. She got an immediate reply, with the news that an article about the needs of hard of hearing patients will be written by a prominent physician and published in the ASA newsletter that reaches 43,000 anesthesiologists! I was able to provide additional resource material to ensure that key points are covered. We look forward to reporting on that article when it appears!

This shows that one person can make a difference - and one letter can make a difference!

Do you have a problem that you think "somebody" should know about? Let me know - and let's see if we can keep up the momentum!!

Arlene Romoff
President, Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey
Author, "Hear Again - Back to Life with a Cochlear Implant"
aromoff@aol.com

FREE! FREE! FREE DEMONSTRATIONS!

There is a wide range of hearing assistive technology (HAT) available for persons living with hearing loss. However, it can be confusing trying to determine which piece of equipment is right for you. That's where our trained volunteer Hearing Technology Resource Specialists (HTRS) can help. Each Specialist has a "kit" of hearing assistive technology that contains devices which can help you hear better in many every day life situations. You are able to try and compare devices to explore features which will help you the most.

HTRS volunteers are prepared to demonstrate equipment to

individuals or groups. Our Specialists care about people with hearing loss. Most have experienced it first hand, having hearing loss themselves. They know how difficult it can be to function in a hearing world.

All presentations are completely free and there is no obligation to purchase anything. In fact, HTRS do not sell equipment!

Email us today to set up your free demo!

htrs@hearingloss-mi.org.

NEXT WEBCHAT

Mark Ross, Audiologist

"Answers the question: What should I expect from my audiologist or hearing instrument specialist?"

August 20, 2009 at 9 PM (EDT)

For more information and instructions to log-on, please go to:

<http://www.hearingloss.org/Community/schedule.asp>.

WHARTON CENTER RECEIVES TDF FUNDING FOR 2010!

THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND (TDF) has played a unique role in strengthening live theatre and dance in New York City for the past 40 years. This not-for-profit service organization's programs have filled over 72 million

seats at discount prices (with theatre lovers who would normally not be able

to attend live performance) and returned over 1.6 billion dollars in revenue

to thousands of theatre, dance and music productions. Best known for its

TKTS Discount Booths, TDF's membership, voucher, access and education

programs as well as its Costume Collection, help to make the unique experience of theatre available to everyone. For more information, go to:

www.tdf.org .

"We're thrilled to bring open captioning at the Wharton Center in East Lansing" says Lisa Carling, Director of TDF Accessibility Programs for Theatre Development Fund, the New York based not-for-profit organization that is sponsoring open captioned performances during

The Wharton Center's 2009-2010 season. "We've had great success expanding this accessibility service in New York, from Broadway and Off-Broadway to shows across the country! It's wonderful to see theater become part of the lives of so many people with mild to severe hearing loss who were unable to attend prior to open captioning."

Open captioning is a service for people with hearing loss that uses a text display to provide a simultaneous translation of dialogue and lyrics during a live performance, as well as a description of any sound effects on stage.

The service is open to everyone for viewing in a designated seating area without any special equipment needed by the audience member. Because of this, open captioning is considered passive assistance and is part of the Universal Design concept, which means that it can be used by all people, regardless of age or ability.

Below are the dates the Wharton Center will provide captioning:

White Christmas, Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 7:30 PM
101 Dalmatians, Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 7:30 PM
Young Frankenstein, Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 7:30 PM
A Chorus Line, Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 7:30 PM
South Pacific, Thursday, April 29, 2010 at 7:30 PM
The Phantom of the Opera, Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 7:30 PM

To order your theater tickets or for more information, contact the Wharton Center at:
<http://www.whartoncenter.com/boxoffice/default.aspx>, or (517)432-2000.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE HLA-MI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees (BOT) of HLA-MI is seeking candidates to serve 3-year terms beginning January of 2010. HLA-MI serves as an extension of National HLAA, making hearing loss and related issues a concern within the state. Candidates must be a member of the national organization. In addition, candidates must have access to e-mail and

be willing to serve on committees and participate in fundraising activities. Quarterly HLA-MI meetings are generally held on the 3rd Sunday of January, April, July and October.

Anyone interested in applying to the BOT is encouraged to review the by-laws of HLA-MI and to complete the BOT application, both of which are available at: http://www.hearingloss-mi.org/hla-mi_002.htm. Email: nominations@hearingloss-mi.org