

**Hearing Loss  
Association of America  
and YOU!**

More than 30 million people in the U.S. have a hearing loss which can hinder daily communication! That translates to one in ten people. By age 65, one in three Americans has a hearing loss.

This invisible condition affects the quality of life of the individuals with hearing loss as well as family, friends, co-workers and everyone with whom they interact. Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) believes people with hearing loss can participate successfully in today's world. The mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy, and support.

**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 \$25 for USA individual/family, \$50 for Professionals. Make checks payable to "HLAA" and mail to:

**Hearing Loss Association of America**  
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
V/301-657-2248  
TTY/301-657-2249  
www.hearingloss.org

*In this issue:*

**Page/Topic**

- 1 **Let's Walk-4-Hearing!!!**
- 2 **Techie BOT Meeting**
- 3 **2007 Day at the State Capitol**
- 4/5 **Local Chapter Info/Activities**
- 6 **For Your Information**
- 7 **HLA-MI Page and Donors**
- 8 **Internet Captioned Telephone**

## Walk-4-Hearing!

By: Janet Haines, HLA-MI President

**Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)  
Announces Inaugural Walk-a-thons in Two Michigan Locations!**

**Southeastern Michigan Walk4Hearing Information**

Date: May 5, 2007  
Time: 9am Registration... 10am Walk starts  
Location: Kensington Metro Park  
East Boat Launch Pavilion, Shelter A  
2240 West Buno Rd.  
Milford, MI 48360  
E-mail: Walk4HearingSE-MI@hearingloss-mi.org  
Mailing: Walk4Hearing SE Michigan  
PO Box 99323  
Troy, MI 48099-9323

**Western Michigan Walk4Hearing Information**

Date: May 5, 2007  
Time: 8am Registration... 9am Walk starts  
Location: Metro Health Village  
5900 Byron Center Ave. SW  
Wyoming, MI 49509  
E-mail: Grand-Rapids-Walk4Hearing@hearingloss-mi.org  
Mailing: Grand Rapids Walk4Hearing  
3148 Plainfield NE - Suite 244  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

HLAA's goal for the Walk4Hearing is to raise awareness of the causes and consequences of hearing loss. The organization, which opens the world of communication for all who have hearing loss, will use the proceeds from this walk to continue its work to provide information, education, advocacy and support at the national, state and local levels.

To become a walker or team captain, go to the [www.Walk4Hearing.org](http://www.Walk4Hearing.org) web site. There, you can search for a walker, search for a team, make an online donation to a walker, sign-up to become a walker or register a team of your own! Once you are signed up you can do all kinds of fun, cool things! (and it's free!!) You can create your own personal walker page, write messages to your team members, family and friends, create a blog for others to read, set your fundraising goal, set your team fundraising goal and create a team web page. It's easy to do! The web site is maintained by HLAA, but if you have questions feel free to contact one of the walk locations listed above, or email me at [jhaines@hearingloss-mi.org](mailto:jhaines@hearingloss-mi.org) and if I don't know the answer, I'll get one for you.

Let's all get on board and walk, walk, Walk-4-Hearing!!!

This publication is the  
official newsletter for

## **Hearing Loss Association of Michigan:**

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jhaines@hearingloss-mi.org

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ccaughell@hearingloss-mi.org

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byagi@hearingloss-mi.org

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*This newsletter is  
published 3 times a year. Submit  
letters and questions by  
June 15, 2007 to:*

**Hearing Loss Association  
of Michigan**

**PO Box 4808**

**Troy, MI 48099-4808**

Web-site:

**www.hearingloss-mi.org**

E-mail:

**info@hearingloss-mi.org**

For information about  
Programs, call:

**517-487-2583 V/TTY**

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

*Mention of goods or services  
does not mean endorsement by  
Hearing Loss Association of Michigan,  
nor should exclusion  
suggest disapproval.*

## ***BREAKTHOUGH TECHNOLOGY FOR HLA-MI!!!***

*By: Sue Deer Hall, CSR, RMR, CRR, CCP*

*Ed. Note: Hearing Loss Association of Michigan started 2007 by accessing a new communication mode at the January 28th Board of Trustees meeting held at ELGA Credit Union in Burton, MI. Our thanks to Sue Deer-Hall, Margie Gillean and Brenda Stimson in making this a reality. Read on.....*

Most of you are familiar with CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation), sometimes called realtime captioning, but for many of you, Remote CART is something new. Remote CART simply means someone isn't present physically onsite at a meeting or event, but still participates via the Internet. It could be the CART provider (me!) or CART consumer (you!) or both.

This is precisely the situation we had at the last Hearing Loss Association of Michigan Board of Trustees meeting held near Flint. I shattered my heel and am housebound, but still have access to the Internet and can still CART. Some people were far away and weren't able to attend the meeting, but still wanted to participate and vote.

Held at ELGA Credit Union, the meeting location had three critical ingredients. They had high speed Internet, a full duplex conference phone, and software to host a secure online meeting which included a conference call capability and a chat box.

Breaking it down to its simplest components, using specialized software meant for just this purpose, I "invited" the ELGA computer to see my computer on which I captioned the meeting. The ELGA computer in turn "shared" that invitation with both people onsite who saw the captions in real time just as they would if I was physically present, AND, again using specialized software meant just for this purpose, "shared" it with other Board members who saw the captions on their home computers. The "sharing" of the captions is secure and not available to anyone else on the Internet unless they are invited.

The people at home also had the ability to type in a secure chat box, just as people do with instant messaging, so that they could participate in the meeting, ask questions, vote or make comments.

The last critical component is I had to **hear** the meeting in order to caption it! So I listened to the meeting via the conference calling feature of this specialized software, which onsite translated to the full duplex conference phone with mics placed about so that I could hear everyone as they spoke. I, in turn, wore a headset so that my hands were free to CART.

Some of the challenges we ran into for this meeting included a slight delay in receiving the captions for those offsite people who were using a dial-up modem and a problem with connecting via a Macintosh computer, though that latter problem has been corrected by the latest update in the software.

Etiquette to remember for Remote CART includes everyone being diligent about identifying themselves when they speak as well as being sure to provide names of attendees, agendas and handouts ahead of time to all who are remote.

All-in-all, this was a great success, and opens the door for more people to have full communication access no matter where they're located in the world no matter whether it's work-related or not!

# Day at the State Capitol - 2007



You are invited to the second annual **DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL** on **Wednesday, May 16, 2007** by the **Hearing Loss Association of Michigan (HLA-MI)** and the **Michigan Deaf Association (MDA)**. This is an annual event to create awareness of the communication needs of Michigan citizens with hearing loss. The event provides you the opportunity to attend Senate and House sessions and to schedule appointments with your legislators to make your views known about issues that relate to communication difficulties. You will also have the opportunity to attend committee meetings and, in general, to advocate for improved communication access in our state.

## Hearing Loss Awareness Month

May 2007 will be proclaimed Hearing Loss Awareness Month in Michigan with resolutions being read in both the House and Senate on the day of this annual event.

### 2007 Issues to Address with Legislators

- ▶ Insurance coverage for hearing aids
- ▶ Interpreter standard
- ▶ Medicaid funding
- ▶ Equipment distribution program
- ▶ Enforcement of civil rights
- ▶ Emergency notification procedures
- ▶ Audiological evaluations for seniors entering nursing homes.

### Cost of Event

Registration is free. Your only cost is transportation and parking.

### Event Sponsors

Many organizations partner with HLA-MI and MDA to make this event possible at no cost to participants. Sponsors who assist the planning process include: the **Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH)**, **Henry Ford Health System Division of Audiology and Hearing Aid Centers**, **Michigan Academy of Audiologists (MAA)**, **Michigan Association of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MADHH)** and **Voice, Inc.** M.A.A. will conduct hearing screening for legislators and their staff.

### Event Access

**Interpreters** will be provided for scheduled sessions, committee meetings and appointments. **Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART)** will be provided in the House session and during the welcome and lunch presentation. **Induction loop and FM system** will be available for the welcome and lunch presentation. **FM system** will also be available in the House and Senate.

### REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT NOW!

Complete the form below and return by **U.S. Mail** or call: **586-247-4053 V**; **FAX: 586-247-3968**; **Email: [ngibben1@hfhs.org](mailto:ngibben1@hfhs.org)**. Upon receipt of your registration, you will receive confirmation that you are registered. Within 2 weeks of the event, you will receive an information packet that will include directions, where to park and "Fact Sheets" regarding issues.

### Tentative Agenda

8:30 a.m. — 9:00 a.m.  
Welcome and Continental  
Breakfast

9:00 — 11:00 a.m.  
Appointments:  
9 — 10 Senators  
10 — 11 Representatives

11:00 — 11:15 a.m.  
Michigan Senate Session

11:30 — 1:00 p.m.  
Luncheon & Presentation

1:00 — 2:00 p.m.  
Senate Health Policy Com-  
mittee

2:00 — 2:30 p.m.  
Michigan House Session

### DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS MAY 1, 2007.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone/TTY: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Senator/Representative (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

To learn who your Senator/Representative is, visit: [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org).

Check here if you plan to meet with your legislator and will need an interpreter.

If box above is checked: Appointment time: \_\_\_\_\_

**If registering by mail:**  
c/o The Division of Audiology  
Henry Ford Medical Center  
at Lakeside  
1450 Hall Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

## Hearing Loss Association of Michigan Chapter Activities

By: *Marla Schindler and Barbara Quart*

Everyone is always welcome at the local chapter meetings regardless of hearing ability. There have been a wide variety of activities and informative presentations given at these chapter meetings such as assistive hearing technology, the latest advancements in hearing aids and cochlear implants, and visits from Paws with a Cause. Some meetings can be in the form of a "rap" session where everyone shares their concerns and learn from others in the group. Many long-lasting friendships have formed simply from attending the local chapter meetings where members socialize and soak up new information.

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

*Please contact HLA-MI at: [info@hearingloss-mi.org](mailto:info@hearingloss-mi.org)  
for help in establishing a local chapter.*

*Liz Kobylak and Brenda Stimson  
are ready to help you reach that goal.*

### Chapter Meetings

If you do not already belong to an HLA Chapter, we hope you will find one near you and plan to attend meetings. Programs benefit not only those with hearing loss but also their families and friends. Everyone is welcome at all Hearing Loss Association functions, regardless of hearing ability.

*Please contact the individual chapters listed on these pages,  
or visit [www.hearingloss-mi.org](http://www.hearingloss-mi.org) for further meeting  
information.*

*The street addresses provide meeting locations.*

#### **ANN ARBOR CHAPTER**

Meets 1st Monday of the month

7:00 PM

Turner Senior Resource Center (Sun Room)

2401 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor 48105

Contact: [info@hearingloss-mi.org](mailto:info@hearingloss-mi.org)

**March**—Speaker on Cochlear Implants

**April**—Member Anthony will speak on text messaging

**May**—Walk4Hearing fundraiser month and speaker to be determined

**June**—Speaker from Aerial Photographers Association

#### **BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd Thursday of the month (no meeting in April)

12:30 - 2:30 PM

Birmingham Area Senior Citizen Center

2121 Midvale Avenue, Birmingham 48009-1509

Contact: [birmingham@hearingloss-mi.org](mailto:birmingham@hearingloss-mi.org)

**April 12** -- No meeting, Happy Spring!

**May 10** -- Preparing for the Day at the State Capitol

**June 14** -- Fun Times on Vacation!

Speech reading practice is part of every Birmingham chapter meeting. Speech reading begins at 1:45.

#### **DEARBORN AREA CHAPTER**

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month

1:00 - 2:00 PM

**NEW LOCATION:** Oakwood Common

16351 Rotunda, Dearborn (phone 313-943-2412)

Contact: [dearborn@hearingloss-mi.org](mailto:dearborn@hearingloss-mi.org)

#### **DOWNRIVER AREA CHAPTER**

Meets 1st Friday of the month

12:15-12:45 PM Speech reading practice

12:45-1:00 PM Social time

1:00-2:30 PM Official meeting

CART accessibility at all meetings

Ford Senior Center

6750 Troy St, Taylor 48180-1633

Contact: [taylor@hearingloss-mi.org](mailto:taylor@hearingloss-mi.org)

**March** — Audiologist presentation

**April** — TBA

**May**—Final preparation for Walk4Hearing and Day at the State Capitol

**June**—PAWS with a Cause visit

#### **GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month (*except July & August*)

7:00 - 8:30 PM except as otherwise noted

Metropolitan Hospital (West Conference Room)

1919 Boston SE, Grand Rapids 49506

Contact: [grand-rapids@hearingloss-mi.org](mailto:grand-rapids@hearingloss-mi.org)

**March 14** — 10:30 AM at the Senior Neighbors Sparta

Center location. Information on hearing loss, assistive technologies (hearing aids, etc.), and HLA services and programs.

**Also on March 14** — 7:00 PM at Metropolitan Hospital. Assistive Hearing Devices to augment your hearing aids, HARC Mercantile, Ltd.

**April 11** — 7:00 PM at Metropolitan Hospital. A briefing on Hearing Loss Awareness Month (May 2006) and a Day at the State Capitol.

**May 5** — Walk4Hearing, a community awareness and fundraising program embracing all of West Michigan.

#### **Executive Board Meetings:**

March 14 — 5:00-6:30 PM Metropolitan Hospital

April 11 — 5:00-6:00 PM Metropolitan Hospital

June — TBD

#### **GREATER FLINT AREA CHAPTER**

Meets 3rd Saturday of the month 1:00 - 2:30 PM

ELGA Credit Union Community Conference Center

2305 S. Center Rd.

Burton, MI 48519

Contact: [flint@hearingloss-mi.org](mailto:flint@hearingloss-mi.org)

**March 17** — Kenya Lowe from SBC on CapTel phone and training.

**April 21** — Greg Hillaker on Family Issue and Communication.

**May 19** — Ann Liming, Hearing Awareness Month

**June 16** — Last meeting, bring a dish social event.

We will also be working on Walk4Hearing and Day at the State Capitol. Sheila will be doing a news release showcasing her CapTel phone in her work place.

### **KALAMAZOO AREA CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month  
7:00 - 9:00 PM  
First Congregational Church  
129 S. Park St., Kalamazoo  
Corner of W. Michigan & Park St.  
*Contact:* kalamazoo@hearingloss-mi.org

**April 11** -- Dr. John Tecca will speak on the topic of Hearing Aid Technology for Severe-Profound Loss.

**May 9** -- No meeting

**June 13** -- Using a Cell Phone with Hearing Loss. Bring your cell phone to the meeting.

### **LANSING AREA CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month  
6:30 - 8:00 PM  
Foster Community Center, Room 110  
200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing 48912-4104  
Corner of W. Michigan & Park St.  
*Contact:* lansing@hearingloss-mi.org

**April 10** — Grab and Go. This meeting will have members packing bags for evacuation of their homes in the event of various disasters.

**May 8** — Hotel Access. Chapter members will visit a hotel and evaluate access for guests with hearing loss. There will also be a vendor giving an assistive device demonstration.

**June 12** — Ototoxicity. A pharmacist will speak about drugs that can damage hearing.

### **MACOMB COUNTY CHAPTER**

Meets 4th Thursday of the month (*except July & August*)  
1:00 - 3:00 PM  
Knox Presbyterian Church  
25700 Crocker Blvd., Harrison Township  
*Contact:* macomb-co@hearingloss-mi.org  
All meetings include speech reading practice and a Q&A with group discussion.

**March 22** — Effects of drugs and environment on hearing loss (tentative).

**April 26** — Emergency preparedness for those with hearing loss (tentative).

**May 24** — Update on Legislative Day at the Capitol and Walk4Hearing.

### **MI COCHLEAR IMPLANT CHAPTER**

This is a "mobile" chapter, meeting in 3 different locations throughout Michigan.  
*Contact:* ann-arbor-ci@hearingloss-mi.org  
grand-rapids-ci@hearingloss-mi.org  
mt-pleasant-ci@hearingloss-mi.org

### **MID-MICHIGAN CHAPTER**

Meets 4th Monday of the month  
7:00 - 8:30 PM  
1447 North Harrison, Saginaw 48602  
*Contact:* saginaw@hearingloss-mi.org  
This chapter is going to focus on Walk4Hearing for the next few months.

### **NORTHERN LIGHTS CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd Sunday, monthly (*except July & August*)  
1:30 PM  
Traverse Area District Library  
610 Woodmere Ave, Traverse City 49686  
*Contact:* traverse-city@hearingloss-mi.org

### **ROYAL OAK CHAPTER**

Meets 4th Tuesday monthly (*except July & August*)  
6:30 PM social, 7:00 PM meeting  
1st Presbyterian Church  
529 Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak 48068  
*Contact:* royal-oak@hearingloss-mi.org

**March** - Memory quilt presentation by one of our members.

**April** - Working on Walk4Hearing details and informal discussion.

**May** - Thelma Czubak and Joyce Sheehy will do a presentation on Early Identification and Educational Services for Children with Hearing Loss.

**June** - Annual picnic.

### **WATERFORD CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month  
9:30 - 11:30 AM  
Former Leggett School  
3621 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford 48328  
*Contact:* waterford@hearingloss-mi.org

Each meeting includes speech reading practice.

**March 14** — Audiologist Rosalind Leiser of Oakland Audiology speaks of adventures about Austria vacation.

**April 11** — Discussion on Walk4Hearing and member participation.

**May 9** — Visit from HLA-MI Co-Coordinator Liz Kobylak and/or Brenda Stimson.

**June 13** — TBD

### **WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY CHAPTER**

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month (*except July & August*)  
6:30 - 8:30 PM  
Garden City Hospital  
6245 Inkster Rd., Garden City 48135-4001  
*Contact:* wayne-co@hearingloss-mi.org

**March** — We had Marcy Colton from Deaf C.A.N. as a speaker.

### **WESTSHORE IN MUSKEGON CHAPTER**

Meets 4th Monday of the month  
6:30 PM social, 7:00 - 8:00 PM meeting  
First Baptist Church  
1070 S. Quarterline Rd., Muskegon 49442  
*Contact:* muskegon@hearingloss-mi.org

**March** — Communication problems with Police, ER personnel, etc.

**April** — Scott Payton from DHHC will give a demonstration on the Video Relay System.

**May** — Identity Theft

# *For Your Information!*

## **Michigan Tax Tip!!!**

Michigan offers a tax exemption of \$2100 for tax payers and dependents who are senior citizens, 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 speechreading (lipreading) to understand the spoken word.

Some Michigan communities offer the same exemptions for city income taxes.

## **2007 HLAA National Convention**

The 22nd annual convention for our organization will take place on the following dates:

**Thursday, June 21 - Sunday, June 24, 2007**

Mark these dates and plan to be part of this year's event in Oklahoma City!

The 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, the Exhibit Hall hosts an array of hearing loss related products, services and information.

An exciting and educational convention program is being planned for this year. You can check updated information and register online at:

[www.hearingloss.org/convention/index.asp](http://www.hearingloss.org/convention/index.asp)

## **CAPTIONING THREAT?**

Technology is changing and because of that some of the benefits we have gained, like TV Captioning, may be affected. Brenda Battat, Associate Executive Director of HLAA, recently sent a message to advocates throughout the country urging us to be alert as new TV technology enters our culture.

Brenda reminds us that the changeover from analog to digital TV will take place on February 17, 2009. This means

that persons with an analog set will need to purchase a converter box in order to receive the new digital signal, or buy a new TV.

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has announced the final rule for the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Program (coupon program) designed to help consumers continue receiving free, over-the-air television when full-power television stations cease analog broadcasting after February 17, 2009.

To compensate, the government is issuing coupons to offset the cost of purchasing the converter boxes. Go to the website below to find out about the coupon program:

**[www.ntia.doc.gov/otiahome/dtvDTVconsumers.pdf](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/otiahome/dtvDTVconsumers.pdf)**

There may be a big problem looming for viewers with hearing loss who use captioning. There has been no reassurance from the industry that these converter boxes will be manufactured to deliver the closed captioning used by millions of persons with hearing loss.

We are urged to contact the NTIA, the agency handling the coupon information and outreach programs, to ask whether the converter boxes will provide the captions on which we rely. The NTIA e-mail address is:

**[couponinfo@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:couponinfo@ntia.doc.gov)**

Let's all keep a close eye on this important issue. It is not just a matter of entertainment access but also access to important emergency information!

## **MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Vic Krause, chairperson of the HLA-MI Legislative/Advocacy Committee, shares the following great news!

*I'm pleased to report to you that on December 12, 2006, the Michigan House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 266 to memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact the Hearing Aid Tax Credit Bill.*

*You'll recall that we testified on HR 266 at a Health Policy Committee meeting in September, and now that HR 266 has passed the full House copies will be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation. Even though Congress has adjourned without taking up the Hearing Aid Tax Credit bill this year, we are sending a strong message to Washington that Michigan legislators and citizens support this legislation.*

## NEWSLETTER GOES ELECTRONIC!

Regular readers of this newsletter are aware of our recent efforts to continue providing this publication in its' present format, without cost to all who requested it. After several years of various strategies, we have been unable to make the newsletter a self-sustaining publication.

The time has come to make a bold and courageous move that will continue to provide the type of hearing loss related issues our readers expect without draining our limited financial resources.

Beginning with the Fall 2007 issue, this newsletter will switch to an electronic format. There will be several ways to access the electronic newsletters. We will continue to print a very limited amount of newsletters for distribution to audiologists. Please look for full details in the Summer 2007 issue.

The newsletter is only one of the excellent programs provided by HLA-MI. However, it continues to be the largest annual expense. Our commitment to the quality of the newsletter remains unchanged and we are excited about the positive aspects of an electronic newsletter!

*Caroline Caughell, Editor*

Here are the results of the elections held at the state meeting on January 28, 2007. Thank you to the following individuals who volunteer tirelessly for the benefit of HLA-MI!!!

### HLA-MI 2007 Board of Trustees

Allan Feldt	Ann Arbor
Sandford Freed	Grand Rapids
Liz Kobylak	Troy
Audrey Pleasant	Dearborn Heights
Barb Quart	Bloomfield Hills
Cindy Shapiro	Beulah
Brenda Stimson	White Lake
Caroline Caughell	Royal Oak
Janet Haines	Vassar
Twyla Neidfeldt	Grand Ledge
Juanita Wikman	Muskegon
Betty Yagi	Kalamazoo
Anne Bolander	Westland
Thelma Czubak	St. Clair Shores
Marlene King	South Lyon
Vic Krause	Grand Rapids
Ann Liming	Lansing
Georgia Potrude	Portage
Howard Potrude	Portage
Nancy Wright	Jerome

*Continued from page 8*

ing persons with low vision, because they can take advantage of the large text, variable fonts, and variable colors that are available.

For more information go to:

[www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov)

Or e-mail media contact Rosemary Kimball at:

[rosemary.kimball@fcc.gov](mailto:rosemary.kimball@fcc.gov)

## SUPPORTING HLA-MI

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

▶ Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the outreach programs of Hearing Loss Association of Michigan. Donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in the next issue. A receipt for your records will be mailed to the address provided above.

? I wish to remain anonymous.

**Checks should be made payable to HLA-MI and sent to:**

**HLA-MI  
PO Box 4808  
Troy, MI 48099-4808**

# Thanks

*It costs approximately \$1500 to print and mail out each edition of this newsletter. Please consider helping to defray our costs. We are a non-profit, all-volunteer organization. Without your generous support, we are unable to continue this newsletter.*

*Thank you! To the following donors:*

Dolores Beyer	Joy Porterfield
Marian Davies	George Rouman
Louise Kraska	Patricia Sandstrom
Joseph F. Manzo	Frances Borgo Schaaf
Lee Moroski	Mary Jean Stevens
Joan Morris	

Downriver Area Chapter

Liz Kobylak - In Memory of Bobby J. Stimson

Anonymous - 4

**Hearing Loss Association of Michigan is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your donation is deductible within the limits of the law.**



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## ***Internet Captioned Telephone Approved by FCC***

### ***HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (HLAA) APPLAUDS THE FCC FOR ITS DECISION TO APPROVE INTERNET CAPTIONED TELEPHONE FOR PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS***

Washington, D.C., December 20, 2006: In October 2005 the Hearing Loss Association of America petitioned the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to include Internet-enabled captioned telephone for reimbursement from the telecommunications relay fund. This petition was supported by more than 30 other organizations who support full telecommunications access for people with hearing loss. Today that petition was approved, bringing captioned telephone into the broadcast world.

Brenda Battat, associate executive director of HLAA commented: "We are delighted that the FCC listened and took a great leap forward by approving Internet Protocol captioned telephone. IP telephone captioning gives the most transparent, flexible and portable telecommunications service for those people with hearing loss who use their residual hearing and use spoken language. This is indeed a great way to finish up the year and gives us hope for other work that needs to be done in 2007.

Terry Portis, Ed.D., executive director of HLAA stated: "The vast majority of people with hearing loss in our

country need communication choices that maximize residual hearing through technology or visual cues. This technology has the potential to be the most utilized relay service in the United States. We are thrilled that the FCC demonstrated their support for technology advances to improve communications access for people with hearing loss.

#### **Statement from the FCC**

The Commission adopted a Declaratory Ruling finding that Internet Protocol (IP) captioned telephone service (IP CTS) is a type of telecommunications relay service (TRS) eligible for compensation from the Interstate TRS fund. Chairman Kevin J. Martin stated: "Today we take another step to help improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. By finding that IP captioned telephone relay service is eligible for reimbursement for the TRS Fund, we make progress in fulfilling our statutory goal of ensuring that every person has equal access to this nation's communication services."

Internet captioned telephone will benefit consumers by giving them the flexibility of using a computer, PDA, or wireless device to make a call, without having to purchase special telephone equipment. It will be particularly helpful in the workplace.

In addition, captions provided on a computer screen can accommodate a much wider group of individuals, includ-

*Continued on page 7*