

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:

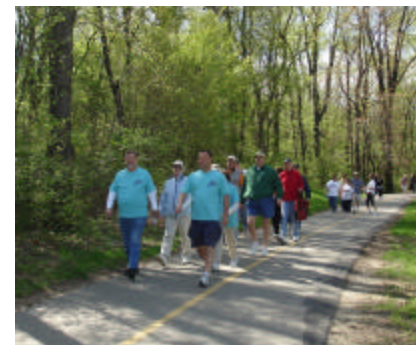
Page/Topic

1/2	Walk-4-Hearing Reports
3	2007 Day at the State Capitol
4/5	Local Chapter Info/Activities
6	For Your Information
7	Information Page and Donors
8	HLAA Members Honored

2007 Walk-4-Hearing Event *A Great Success!*

HLAA held inaugural Walk-4-Hearing events in 2 Michigan locations on May 5, 2007. Talk about a good time!!! Here are reports from both sites. If you missed this year's event, please plan to Walk-4-Hearing in 2008!

SE Michigan Walk-4-Hearing **Kensington Metro Park**



The weather was perfect, the park was beautiful and the smiles along the trail were plentiful!

A DJ and clowns provided a festive atmosphere. The music, face painting and balloon animals were very much appreciated by all! Local Boy Scouts were a big help in providing many helping hands for a variety of tasks prior to, during and after the walk.

The pavilion housed registration tables, HLA-MI information displays and plenty of yummy treats such as coffee, fruit, pastries, bottled water and granola bars. We loved our enthusiastic emcee and the brief warm up before the start of the walk.

A special thank you to **Gold Sponsor, Paul Johnson**, who attended and cut the ribbon at the start of the walk!

The babies were out in their strollers, the service dogs on their leashes, chapters with banners flying and colorful tee shirts galore! Many people stayed after the walk to picnic and enjoy the rest of the day at the park.

Many, many thanks to the committee members who helped organize the SE Michigan Walk-4-Hearing: Caroline Caughell, Thelma Czubak, Janet Haines, Liz Kobylak, Ann Liming, Audrey Pleasant, Barb Quart, Brenda Stimson Neubeck and Judy Taub.

A most special thank you to the all the Walkers! You were superb and helped us exceed our goal of \$25,000!!! A round of applause for the SE Michigan Walk-4-Hearing teams and we hope to see you in 2008!

Agile Amblers
Annie's People
Fox Hills
Hear a "Little Moore"
Hoss' Walkers

Kobylak Kommando :-)
Lansing Loafers
Michigan Ear Institute
Mighty Macomers
Moose Room

Royal Oak Rowdies
Say is Again Sams
ScreenLine CARTers
Thumb Thumpers

West Michigan Walk-4-Hearing Frog Hollow Park



West Michigan Walk-4-Hearing was a wonderful success, raising more than \$35,000!!!

It was fun to see the great team t-shirts; Karen's Krew, the Pink Panthers, the Cluley Clan, Kazoo walkers, the Village People with their Metro hats and banners! Many fun walk pictures are online at the www.walk4hearing.org web site.

It turned out to be a beautiful day, windy but a good temperature for nice brisk walking. LightSpeed provided the tunes and sound system to make the event festive and fun for all.

Gold Sponsor, Metro Health Hospital, sponsored the West Michigan walk and provided a fun look of the new hospital in progress.

Many volunteers came out very early in the chilly wind to put everything in place and it warmed up nicely when the coffee, donated by Marcia, arrived. Canteen generously provided tons of water to keep us hydrated. Meijer provided some of the goodies. As an added bit of fun, the Huntington Bank mascot joined us for the walk.

A very, very special thank you to the committee members who organized the West Michigan walk event. Sandford Freed, Chris Jacques, Nancy Cluley, Joel Westmaas, Marilyn Knol, and Vic Krause spent many hours creating signs, collecting sponsorships, collecting coupons, stuffing bags and hundreds of other tasks.

We thank the West Michigan Walk-4-Hearing teams:

Are We There Yet?
Barkleys
Blue Angels
Caledonia Hair Co.
Cluley Clan
Delta Zeta Dashers
Dyehouse
Ear Responsible
Elders Helpers
Family Walkers
Gabites Girls + 2Gs

Gnireah
Gordon
Jacques
Judy's Friends
Hearing Raiders
Karen's Krew
Kazoo Walkers
Krause House
McDonald Audiology
Merry Mega Milers
Metro Nursing

Now Hear This
Quota Club
Pink Panthers
Slow & Steady
Starbuck's
Team GROD
Tom's Team
UFI HelpDesk
Village People
Wiksail Walkers

Editor's note: The 2007 Walk-4-Hearing reports were supplied by Janet Haines (Southeast Michigan) and Marilyn Knol (West Michigan).

This publication is the
official newsletter for

Hearing Loss Association of Michigan:

President: Janet Haines
jhaines@hearingloss-mi.org

Vice President: Caroline Caughell
ccaughell@hearingloss-mi.org

Secretary: Betty Yagi
byagi@hearingloss-mi.org

Treasurer: Juanita Wikman
jwikman@hearingloss-mi.org

Chapter Coordinators:

Liz Kobylak
kobylak@hearingloss-mi.org

Brenda Stimson
bstimson@hearingloss-mi.org

Newsletter Committee:

Caroline Caughell, Editor
Liz Kobylak
Ann Liming

Howard and Georgia Potrude
Barbara Quart
Betty Saputo
Marla Schindler

*This newsletter is
published 3 times a year. Submit
letters and questions by
September 1, 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.*

Second Annual Day at the State Capitol is a Huge Success!

May 16, 2007 brought more than 100 Hard of Hearing and Deaf people, as well as family members and friends, to Lansing - all eager to participate in the second annual Day at the State Capitol (DASC).

Two of this year's attendees have agreed to share their DASC experience! A brief summary of the event follows. .

From Howard Potrude - Kalamazoo Chapter President

Five members of the HLA-Kalamazoo Chapter attended the DASC. It was a wonderful experience to see our State government at work.

After the Welcome and Continental Breakfast in the Speakers Library, we had time to visit our State Representative office. Although we had not set up an appointment in advance, but were encouraged to visit his office anyway and at least talk with the secretary. When we arrived, our Representative, Jacob Hoogendyk, was out in the entryway and he was happy to spend a few minutes talking with us. We then went next door, to the office for the Representative of the city of Kalamazoo, Robert Jones. He was on his way to a meeting, but talked with us for a few minutes and walked down the hall to the elevator with us. It is important to at least touch base with your Representatives during DASC and let them know why you are there and tell them about concerns you have related to hearing loss.

We visited the Senate in session, then had a box lunch, which was provided, in the Speakers Library along with a program. (Ed. note: DASC Program highlights begin at the bottom of this page.) After lunch there was a guided tour of the Capitol Building, which was built in 1879 and has been beautifully restored. We then visited the House in session and returned to the Speaker's Library for a wrap up.

The day was very informative and worthwhile, not only for those attending, but also for making our state legislators more aware of people with hearing loss and the issues that are important to us. If you have not attended a Day at the State Capitol, you should plan on doing so next year.



Welcome in the Speaker's Library.



Pictured left to right: Virginia Hart, Howard Potrude, Kalamazoo Representative Robert B. Jones, Betty Yagi. (Photos by Howard and Georgia Potrude)

From Dottie Wendell - Downriver Area Chapter Leader

The second annual "Day at the State Capitol" was a great success and the trip to Lansing was particularly enjoyable for those of us who rode a bus from Metro Detroit and did not have to brave the hassle of battling the early morning and evening rush hour traffic. It is not only safe and avoids the confusion of trying to navigate unfamiliar territory, there is a very enjoyable side benefit as well--that of socializing with old friends and meeting new friends.

As in 2006, I arranged for a small bus to pick up a group at a Downriver location in Taylor with a second pick-up at Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield. Riding together is a lot of fun and a wonderful way to meet new friends who have common interests. There is a lot of good conversation and a lot of laughs. This year, two ladies who are Deaf were on our bus. They were very helpful to those of us who are interested in learning more about sign language and very graciously conducted an impromptu signing practice :-)

We did, however, have one very quiet passenger on board who preferred to snooze rather than spend his "off time" on chit-chat. His name is Ben, a wonderful hearing dog, who is Dianne Strasser's helpmate and best friend.

Anyone interested in learning more about local bus arrangements for DASC should contact: taylor@hearingloss-mi.org



Dottie's Bus Folks pictured left to right, front row: Audrey Pleasant, Norma Hessler, Caroline Caughell, Dianne Strasser (and Ben), Bill Hessler, Mary Luh. Back row: Jo Ann Galbo, Patricia Duties, Mary Ann Melody, Mary Ann White. (Photo by Dottie Wendell)

2007 DASC Program Highlights

The luncheon program was special with opening remarks by Representative Michael Sak, Speaker Pro Tem, who sponsored the House Resolution establishing May 2007 as Hearing Loss Awareness Month followed by remarks by Senator Deb Cherry, sponsor of the Senate Resolution establishing May 2007 as Hearing Loss Awareness Month..

HLA-MI and the Michigan Deaf Association (MDA) jointly presented Senator John Gleason with the "2007 Legislator of the Year Award" for his work on behalf of Michigan citizens with hearing loss and for his tireless efforts as Senate Spon-

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. 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 HLA-MI at: 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 HLAA 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 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

August 6 - Audiologist, Tom O'Connor will present about recent advances in hearing technology.

September 3 - Loop systems and their future.

We are gearing up to erect and staff our booth at the Ann Arbor Art Fair (July 18-21), with staff from MADHH lending a hand. If you are at the Fair, stop by our booth in the non-profits section on Liberty Street.

We are working with a local foundation and Screenline, LLC, in offering demonstrations of remote CART to all HLA-MI chapters. Costs of providing remote CART are covered by the foundation grant for up to 2 demonstrations per chapter.

We continue to answer requests for information on looping local conference rooms and churches. We covered nine inquiries over the past 18 months and know of 4 loops that have been installed.

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

August 9 - Annual indoor picnic at BASCC in place of our scheduled meeting. Yes, indoors... no rain or bees! The chapter will provide fried chicken and everyone attending is asked to bring a dish to pass.

September 9 - Comparison of personal listening devices.

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

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

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

July 21 - Executive Board Strategy Session from 8 A.M. - 12 Noon.

September 12 - Speech Reading

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

July and August - No meetings

September 15 - We will be celebrating our Chapter's 1st Anniversary with a cake and membership drive. Bring several friends. All are welcome to attend.

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

July 11 - No meeting

August 8 - Annual family picnic at Robert Morris Park. A pavilion has been reserved. Arrive 5:30 PM. Dinner at 6:00 PM. Bring a dish to pass and table service. The chapter will furnish hot dogs and buns.

September 12 -Topic to be announced. Also a brief report on the recent 2007 HLAA National Convention.

LANSING AREA CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month
6:30 PM social, 7:00 PM Program
Foster Community Center, Room 110
200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing 48912-4104
Corner of W. Michigan & Foster St.
Contact: lansing@hearingloss-mi.org

July - No meeting.

August 13 - Ice Cream Party. For details, contact the chapter.

September 4 - Kick-Off Meeting, Plans and Goals for 2007-2008.

New meeting date for chapter begins with this meeting. As of September 4th, the meetings will take place on the 1st Tuesday of the month.

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.

July - No meeting

August - No meeting

September 28 - Topic to be determined

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

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

July - No meeting

August - No meeting

September 25 - Rap session

S.W. MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Meets 1st Thursday of the month
7:30 PM

The Chapel
4250 Washington Ave., St. Joseph 49085
Contact: St-Joseph@hearingloss-mi.org

This is Michigan's newest chapter!

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.

July 11 - There will be a change of leadership effective starting with this meeting. This will be a planning meeting for future meeting topics. HLA-MI Chapter Coordinator, Brenda Stimson will be demonstrating the Cap-Tel phone at the July or August meeting.

August 8 - Topic to be determined.

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

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

July 23 - Annual picnic

August 27 - Liz Kobylak, HLA-MI Chapter Coordinator

September 25 - What's new in hearing aids? A presentation by a local audiologist.

For Your Information!

HLA-MI Seeks Board of Trustees Candidates

The Board of Trustees of HLA-MI is seeking candidates to serve 3year terms beginning January of 2008. 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 email 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 download the BOT application, both of which are available at:

http://www.hearingloss-mi.org/mishhh1_002.htm

To apply by mail, please complete the application below, submit to the address listed with a brief statement of why you wish to serve on the HLA-MI Board of Trustees and describing your skills and talents. All applications must be received by 5PM on November 30, 2007.

Additional questions may be submitted to Ann Liming via e-mail at:

aliming@hearingloss-mi.org

Important Note From the Editor!

As stated in the Spring issue, this newsletter will switch to an electronic format beginning with the Fall 2007 issue. Newsletters will no longer be sent to your homes. Only a very limited amount of newsletters will be printed for distribution to audiologists.

It is easy to sign up for the e-mail notification that will alert you when the newest issue of the newsletter is available online! All you need to do is send an e-mail to the following address:

newsletter@hearingloss-mi.org

No computer at home? Did you know you can establish a free e-mail account through your local library? They even provide support to help you through the process!

Additionally, in order to keep our database up to date, please complete the form on page 7 and be sure to include your e-mail address.

We are excited about this new venture!

Caroline Caughell, Editor

FYI! continues on top of Page 7

HLA-MI Board of Trustees Application

Please complete this application and mail to:

HLA-MI Nominating Committee
PO Box 4808
Troy, MI 48099-4808

-OR-

Email to: hla-mi-bot-applicants@hearingloss-mi.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **ZIP:** _____

Preferred Phone Contact: _____

Indicate above number by circling: Cell - V - CapTel - TTY - VCO or Relay number

Email: _____ **FAX:** _____

HLA-MI Affiliation:

Number of years as an HLAA National member (must have current membership) _____

Designate HLAA Chapter membership, if applicable _____

Signature

Date

For Your Information!

(continued from page 6)

Unique Opportunity to Educate Persons With Hearing Loss

HLA-MI has received a grant to conduct a one day hearing assistive technology (HAT) training for selected individuals.

The training will take place on Saturday, August 25, 2007 in Ann Arbor.

Training participants will learn how to demonstrate several pieces of HAT equipment and will be required to conduct demonstrations to interested individuals or groups using equipment provided. The demos will focus on comparison of similar types of technology. Training participants will be given surveys for use after the demonstrations, gathering data about the completed demos.

All trainees are asked to commit to doing 2 comparison demonstrations and turning in the completed surveys for each demo before October 31st, 2007. A few spots in the training are open at the time of this newsletter publication.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact:

htrs@hearingloss-mi.org

DASC continued from Page 3

son of SB 25, Sign Language Interpreter Bill, which has now been signed into law. Senator Roger Kahn, Representative Dudley Spade -House Sponsor of HB 4208, Sign Language Interpreter Bill, Representative Tom Pearce, and Representative Glen Steil, Jr. were on hand to say a few words to the group gathered in the Speakers Library for lunch. Many other Legislators also stopped by to wish us well.

Another highlight of the program paid tribute to an individual who has, for many years, worked tirelessly to benefit Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Michigan. Christopher Hunter, who recently retired as Director of the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH) was honored twice. The first honor came from Senator Gleason who presented a "State of Michigan Legislative Tribute" to Chris which was signed by Governor Granholm, Senator Gleason, Senator Whitmer and Representative Byrum. The tribute highlighted major accomplishments of the DODHH under Chris' leadership. The second honor was from Keith Cooley, Director of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, who presented Chris with a "Retirement Service Award." Director Cooley addressed the effectiveness of Chris' leadership during the many years he served as director of DODHH.

Thank you to Vic Krause and the DASC organizing committee.

The third annual Day at the State Capitol will take place on May 21, 2008.

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

Our most sincere thanks to the following donors:

Dave and Carol Meyers Foundation

Marian Davies

Doug Fredenburg

In Memory of Bob Wendell

S. Deer-Hall

M/M M. Moore

R. Finedell

A Pleasant

P. Howey

L. Posa

J. Klarich

M/M B. Swick

L. Kobylak

M/M J. Thomas

M. Luh

M.A. White

A. McJunnion

Dot Wendell - In Memory of H. Illes

Anonymous - 2

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



**PO BOX 4808
TROY, MI 48099-4808**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TROY, MI
PERMIT No. 355

Michigan HLAA Members Receive Recognition

The following 3 individuals received national awards during the Annual Awards Breakfast held on June 22nd, at the 2007 HLAA National Convention in Oklahoma City.

Margie Gillean - Greater Flint Area Chapter Outstanding Employer Award, Honorable Mention

Ms. Gillean is the Chief Information Officer for ELGA Credit Union, located in Burton, Michigan. She is a very strong advocate for employees with hearing loss as well as for consumers of ELGA who have hearing loss. Margie's efforts have ensured that the credit union is accessible technologically for all and that employees understand the communication needs of those with hearing loss.

Liz Kobylak - Birmingham Area Chapter Nancy Weston Outstanding Chapter Coordinator Award

The recipient of this award is selected by HLAA national staff. It was presented to Ms. Kobylak for her outstanding performance as Michigan Chapter Coordinator during the past six years. Since assuming the position in the fall of 2000, Liz has visited each Michigan chapter annually and has conducted annual Chapter Leadership Workshops for HLA-MI Chapter Leaders.

Vic Krause - Grand Rapids Area Chapter HLAA Advocacy Award

Mr. Krause was honored for leading a statewide advocacy effort in Michigan - Day at the State Capitol - that culminates in an all day event which provides people who are Hard of Hearing or Deaf an opportunity to address issues related to hearing loss with their elected officials. As a former state legislator, Vic's experience has made this a very successful and much anticipated event in Michigan. Under his leadership several state-wide organizations have become part of this effort.

In other news... the following individuals have been recognized for their advocacy and volunteer efforts.

Al Buck - Kalamazoo Area Chapter

Received the *Community Champion Award* from Quota International and Quota Kalamazoo. This award honors persons with hearing loss whose accomplishments have made their communities a better place to live.

Thelma Czubak - Macomb County Chapter

Honored for her exceptional efforts as a *Distinguished Volunteer* by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP).

Brett Holt - Mid-Michigan Chapter

Recognized in the January, 2007 issue of *The American Legion* magazine for advocacy efforts related to communication access at national meetings.